

PREP BOYS SOCCER / SECTION 7AA CHAMPIONSHIP / DULUTH EAST 4, BLAINE 1

'HOUNDS BOUND FOR STATE

No. 1 East beats Blaine, begins quest for a more important title

By Rick Weegman
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After a nail-biting one-goal victory over Forest Lake in the Section 7AA semifinals, the Duluth East boys soccer team didn't want to leave anything to chance in the final.

No overtimes or shootouts were wanted this time of season.

So the top-ranked Greyhounds came out against Blaine and did what they do best: attack.

Leading scorers Will Francis and Seth Hoffman scored in the opening nine minutes and East controlled the game throughout, winning 4-1 and clinching a return trip to next week's Class AA state tournament.

"I'm not much for sitting back and waiting and letting a team come to me," first-year East coach Corey Bachand said. "I'm going to make them change their game and see what they got. I feel like we can take some chances early and see what happens. When we get a lead, we're a hard team to beat."

Francis, a senior forward, needed only 2 minutes, 14 seconds to score his single-season school-record 25th goal and extend his school-record career total as well. Hoffman, a Class AA Mr. Soccer finalist, recorded his 23rd assist of the season on the play.

"We just went out and played exactly how we always play; we didn't change anything," Francis said. "We went and tried to dominate the game, keep the ball the whole time and dominate the midfield."

Moments later, it was Hoffman striking off a teammate's through ball

and beating goalkeeper Ben Greenberg for the midfielder's 13th goal of his senior season.

"I saw the goalie going one way, so I put it the other way," Hoffman said. "He got a hand on it, but luckily it went in."

The rout was on. "If teams are going to pressure us, we're going to expose that," Bachand said. "We have good speed with Seth and Will, and they know to hit each other."

Senior midfielder Michael Reichhoff knocked in a loose ball off a corner kick in the 22nd minute and Hoffman nailed a sweet strike from the top of the penalty area in the opening minutes of the second half to end any drama, unlike the team's 1-0 semifinal win over Forest Lake.

"Against Forest Lake, they were in the game way too long, so we talked about coming out with energy and putting a few away early and giving them no hope," Hoffman said.

The Greyhounds (17-0-2), winners of 37 games the past two seasons, will find out later this week who, when and at what neutral site they will play a state quarterfinal. The semifinals and championship rounds will be held at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

"This is the greatest feeling ever," Francis said. "There's no better feeling than going to the state tournament."

East finished third a year ago, losing its semifinal at U.S. Bank Stadium before rebounding to win its finale.

"We are excited to get back, but we want more than last year," Hoffman said. "We want to be No. 1."

EAST: Page B3



Clint Austin / caustin@duluthnews.com

Michael Reichhoff (13) of Duluth East and Dawson Penner (21) of Blaine compete for the ball during Tuesday's Section 7AA championship game at Ordean Field. East won 4-1 to advance to the Class AA state tournament.

Bulldogs remember 'Butch'

Longtime assistant men's basketball coach made lasting imprint

By Jon Nowacki
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Former Minnesota Duluth men's basketball assistant James "Butch" Kuronen went to St. Luke's Hospital in Duluth last



Kuronen

week for surgery to clear his arteries and alleviate blood clotting and internal bleeding, but the procedure went terribly wrong.

"There's always a risk in surgery," said his best friend, Jim MacDonald. "This wasn't supposed to happen, but he had complications."

Kuronen went into cardiac arrest and died Saturday. He was 59. Kuronen is being remembered by former players and peers for his deep knowledge and love of basketball, his mentorship and friendship, and his wise-cracking sense of humor.

"Butch was such a component to the overall success UMD experienced during that time," former UMD All-American Jay Guidinger said. "There were some really special years, and now everyone is aware of what's happened. There's a collective grief and disappointment right now."

'Butch' is born

Kuronen grew up on Lake Superior, three miles up the North Shore from Two Harbors. He'd often ride his bike into town to

KURONEN: Page B3



Minneapolis Star Tribune file photo
Jimmy Butler's status with the Timberwolves is a dominant story line as the season tips off.

Despite all their offseason drama, Timberwolves believe they can be good

By Jace Frederick
St. Paul Pioneer Press

MINNEAPOLIS — An offseason filled with discontent, a massive contract extension and a high-profile, hyper-public trade request officially comes to an end for the Timberwolves tonight, when they open the 2018-19 season in San Antonio.

And Jimmy Butler is slated to be there for it.

Minnesota ended a playoff drought last spring that weighed the franchise down for the better part of 14 years, but the Wolves are saddled with so much more baggage this fall. This drama doesn't figure to end when the Wolves finally play a game that counts, but rather flips to the next chapter in what feels like a never-ending saga.

The question is whether the Wolves' undeniable talent will be enough to outweigh the disdain

and distractions present in and around the franchise as the team embarks on another 82-game journey.

It certainly wasn't in the pre-season, an exhibition campaign in which the Wolves won just one game and rarely looked competitive as players fielded as many questions regarding Butler's trade situation as anything they did on the court.

"It's awfully tough to have situations like they are having right now and not allow it to impact your team," ESPN analyst and former NBA coach Mark Jackson said on a conference call. "So that's the concern. They're still talented enough to win games, but it wears on you."

Wolves coach Tom Thibodeau has downplayed the effects of any such distractions in training camp, but that's no surprise.

WOLVES: Page B5

Dubnyk leads Wild past Coyotes

Goalie makes 31 saves in comeback win

Field Level Media

Eric Staal and Mikael Granlund each scored their second goals of the season, and Devan Dubnyk made 31 saves as the Wild beat the Arizona Coyotes 2-1 on Tuesday in St. Paul.

Staal slipped the puck into an open net after a scramble in front of the goal at 6:18 of the third period following a hard shot by Ryan Suter for the winning tally in a game that featured strong play by goaltenders Dubnyk and Darcy Kuemper.

Brendan Perlini scored on a power play for the Coyotes, who are last in the league with three goals and have not scored even-strength in five games this season. They have been shut out three times.

Dubnyk made a pad save on a point-blank shot by Oliver Ekman-Larsson to protect the Wild's lead with seven minutes remaining.

WILD: Page B2



Brace Hemmelgarn / USA Today Sports
Wild goalie Devan Dubnyk makes a save during the third period Tuesday night at Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul.

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SCOREBOARD

TODAY'S EVENTS

Basketball
NBA
Timberwolves at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m. (FSN/KDAL-AM 610/KDAL-FM 103.9)

Cross country
HIGH SCHOOL BOYS AND GIRLS
Iron Range Conference meet, at Hoyt Lakes G.C., 3:30 p.m.

Football
HIGH SCHOOL
At 7 p.m., unless noted
Cook County at South Ridge, 5 p.m.
Hibbing at Duluth East, 6 p.m.
Aitkin at Moose Lake-Willow River (WMOZ-FM 106.9)
Chisholm at Silver Bay
Duluth Denfeld at Grand Rapids Ely at North Woods
Esko at Mora
Floodwood at Lake of the Woods Area
Hermantown at Cloquet (WKLK-AM 1230)
International Falls at Virginia
McGregor at Isle
Mesabi East at Braham
Mountain Iron-Buhl at Ogilvie
North Branch at Proctor
Onamia at Carlton
Rush City at Deer River
Two Harbors at Eveleth-Gilbert

Soccer
COLLEGE MEN
St. Scholastica at Macalester, 7:30 p.m.
COLLEGE WOMEN
Wisconsin-River Falls at St. Scholastica, 3 p.m.
Volleyball
HIGH SCHOOL
Lakeview Christian Academy at Barnum, 7 p.m.

BASEBALL
MAJOR LEAGUES
Playoffs
American League
Championship Series
(Best-of-7)
Tuesday's Result
Boston 8, Houston 2 (Boston leads 2-1)
Today's Game
Boston (Rick Porcello) at Houston (Charlie Morton), 7:39 p.m. (TBS)
National League
Championship Series
(Best-of-7)
Monday's Result
Brewers 4, Los Angeles 0 (Brewers lead 2-1)
Tuesday's Result
Brewers at Los Angeles, night
Today's Game
Brewers (Wade Miley) at Los Angeles (Clayton Kershaw), 4:05 p.m. (Fox Sports 1)

Sports sidelines

AWARDS
College men's cross country: Minnesota Duluth senior Luke Lahr, who captured his first collegiate individual title at Saturday's Ron Pynn Classic, has been named NSIC runner of the week. Lahr posted a career-best 8,000-meter time of 25 minutes, 3.9 seconds to top the 71-runner field at the event at Grand Forks, N.D.

Today's Games	
Dallas.....0 0.000	Northwestern (3-3).....3-1
Houston.....0 0.000	Iowa (5-1).....2-1
Memphis.....0 0.000	Wisconsin (4-2).....2-1
New Orleans.....0 0.000	Purdue (3-3).....2-1
San Antonio.....0 0.000	Illinois (3-3).....1-2
	Minnesota (3-3).....0-3
	Nebraska (0-6).....0-4
Tuesday's Results	
Boston 105, Philadelphia 87	
Oklahoma City at Golden State, night	
Today's Games	
Milwaukee at Charlotte, 6 p.m.	
Brooklyn at Detroit, 6 p.m.	
Memphis at Indiana, 6 p.m.	
Miami at Orlando, 6 p.m.	
Atlanta at New York, 6:30 p.m.	
Cleveland at Toronto, 6:30 p.m.	
New Orleans at Houston, 7 p.m.	
Minnesota at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.	
Utah at Sacramento, 9 p.m.	
Denver at L.A. Clippers, 9:30 p.m.	
Dallas at Phoenix, 9:30 p.m.	
Thursday's Games	
Chicago at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.	
Miami at Washington, 7 p.m.	
L.A. Lakers at Portland, 9:30 p.m.	

FOOTBALL

NFL	
National Football Conference	
East	
Washington	3 2 0.600 106 104
Philadelphia	3 3 0.500 137 117
Dallas	3 3 0.500 123 103
N.Y. Giants	1 5 0.167 117 162
South	
New Orleans	4 1 0.800 180 140
Carolina	3 2 0.600 121 114
Tampa Bay	2 3 0.400 141 173
Atlanta	2 4 0.333 167 192
North	
Chicago	3 2 0.600 139 96
Green Bay	3 2 1.583 148 144
Minnesota	3 2 1.583 140 148
Detroit	2 3 0.400 125 137
West	
L.A. Rams	6 0 0.000 196 118
Seattle	3 3 0.500 143 117
Arizona	1 5 0.167 82 139
San Francisco	1 5 0.167 148 179
American Football Conference	
East	
New England	4 2 0.667 176 148
Miami	4 2 0.667 130 145
N.Y. Jets	3 3 0.500 165 139
Buffalo	2 4 0.333 76 138
South	
Jacksonville	3 3 0.500 109 126
Houston	3 3 0.500 135 137
Tennessee	3 3 0.500 87 107
Indianapolis	1 5 0.167 152 180
North	
Baltimore	4 2 0.667 153 77
Cincinnati	4 2 0.667 174 158
Pittsburgh	3 2 1.583 171 154
Cleveland	2 3 1.417 128 151
West	
Kansas City	5 1 0.833 215 172
L.A. Chargers	4 2 0.667 175 144
Denver	2 4 0.333 120 154
Oakland	1 5 0.167 110 176

MAJOR LEAGUES

NBA	
Eastern Conference	
Atlantic	
Boston	1 0.000
Brooklyn	0 0.000
New York	0 0.000
Toronto	0 0.000
Philadelphia	0 1.000
Central	
Chicago	0 0.000
Cleveland	0 0.000
Detroit	0 0.000
Indiana	0 0.000
Milwaukee	0 0.000
Southeast	
Atlanta	0 0.000
Charlotte	0 0.000
Miami	0 0.000
Orlando	0 0.000
Washington	0 0.000
Western Conference	
Northwest	
Denver	0 0.000
Minnesota	0 0.000
Oklahoma City	0 0.000
Portland	0 0.000
Utah	0 0.000
Pacific	
Golden State	0 0.000
L.A. Clippers	0 0.000
L.A. Lakers	0 0.000
Phoenix	0 0.000
Sacramento	0 0.000
Southwest	
W L Pct GB	

PREP PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

FOOTBALL	
SECTION 7A Tuesday's Results Semifinals	2 Rice Lake (Hopkins H.S.), 7 p.m.
SECTION 7B Friday's First Round	Grand Rapids 3, Duluth Marshall 0 Duluth Denfeld 1, Hermantown 0, 2OT
SECTION 7C Friday's First Round	Thursday's Championship at Ordean Stadium Grand Rapids (13-4-1) vs. Duluth Denfeld (14-3-1), 8 p.m.
SECTION 7D Friday's First Round	WISCONSIN DIVISION 1 Sectional 1 Tuesday's Result First Round Hudson 5, Superior 0
SECTION 7E Friday's First Round	DIVISION 3 Sectional 1 Thursday's First Round No. 7 Ashland (3-16-1) at No.
SECTION 7F Friday's First Round	2 Rice Lake (Hopkins H.S.), 7 p.m.
SECTION 7G Friday's First Round	WISCONSIN DIVISION 3 Friday's First Round No. 7 Sparta (4-5) at No. 2 Ashland (8-1), 7 p.m.
SECTION 7H Friday's First Round	DIVISION 4 Friday's First Round No. 7 Ellsworth (3-6) at No. 2 Northwestern (9-0), 7 p.m.
SECTION 7I Friday's First Round	WISCONSIN DIVISION 1 Sectional 1 Tuesday's Result First Round Hudson 5, Superior 0
SECTION 7J Friday's First Round	DIVISION 3 Sectional 1 Thursday's First Round No. 7 Ashland (3-16-1) at No.
SECTION 7K Friday's First Round	2 Rice Lake (Hopkins H.S.), 7 p.m.
SECTION 7L Friday's First Round	WISCONSIN DIVISION 3 Friday's First Round No. 7 Sparta (4-5) at No. 2 Ashland (8-1), 7 p.m.
SECTION 7M Friday's First Round	DIVISION 4 Friday's First Round No. 7 Ellsworth (3-6) at No. 2 Northwestern (9-0), 7 p.m.
SECTION 7N Friday's First Round	WISCONSIN DIVISION 1 Sectional 1 Tuesday's Result First Round Hudson 5, Superior 0
SECTION 7O Friday's First Round	DIVISION 3 Sectional 1 Thursday's First Round No. 7 Ashland (3-16-1) at No.
SECTION 7P Friday's First Round	2 Rice Lake (Hopkins H.S.), 7 p.m.
SECTION 7Q Friday's First Round	WISCONSIN DIVISION 3 Friday's First Round No. 7 Sparta (4-5) at No. 2 Ashland (8-1), 7 p.m.
SECTION 7R Friday's First Round	DIVISION 4 Friday's First Round No. 7 Ellsworth (3-6) at No. 2 Northwestern (9-0), 7 p.m.
SECTION 7S Friday's First Round	WISCONSIN DIVISION 1 Sectional 1 Tuesday's Result First Round Hudson 5, Superior 0
SECTION 7T Friday's First Round	DIVISION 3 Sectional 1 Thursday's First Round No. 7 Ashland (3-16-1) at No.
SECTION 7U Friday's First Round	2 Rice Lake (Hopkins H.S.), 7 p.m.
SECTION 7V Friday's First Round	WISCONSIN DIVISION 3 Friday's First Round No. 7 Sparta (4-5) at No. 2 Ashland (8-1), 7 p.m.
SECTION 7W Friday's First Round	DIVISION 4 Friday's First Round No. 7 Ellsworth (3-6) at No. 2 Northwestern (9-0), 7 p.m.
SECTION 7X Friday's First Round	WISCONSIN DIVISION 1 Sectional 1 Tuesday's Result First Round Hudson 5, Superior 0
SECTION 7Y Friday's First Round	DIVISION 3 Sectional 1 Thursday's First Round No. 7 Ashland (3-16-1) at No.
SECTION 7Z Friday's First Round	2 Rice Lake (Hopkins H.S.), 7 p.m.

FOOTBALL

WISCONSIN DIVISION 3
Friday's First Round
No. 7 Sparta (4-5) at No. 2 Ashland (8-1), 7 p.m.

DIVISION 4
Friday's First Round
No. 7 Ellsworth (3-6) at No. 2 Northwestern (9-0), 7 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER
MINNESOTA SECTION 7AA
Tuesday's Result
Championship
Duluth East 4, Blaine 1

GIRLS SOCCER

MINNESOTA SECTION 7A
Tuesday's Results
Semifinals
Chisago Lakes 1, Hermantown 1, 2OT (Chisago Lakes wins shootout)
Duluth Marshall 2, Cloquet-Carlton 0

Thursday's Championship
at Ordean Stadium
Duluth Marshall (13-5-1) vs. Chisago Lakes (15-4), 6 p.m.

WILD

From Page B1
Kuemper had 26 saves in his first start of the season. The Coyotes outshot the Wild 32-28 and have outshot their opponents in all five

games thus far. Perlini scored on a power play at 13:12 of the first period for a 1-0 lead. Perlini skated in on the right side and flipped a wrist shot that glanced off Dubnyk's left shoulder and into the top of the net from a severe angle on the right side. Granlund tied the game 1-1 at 3:40 of the second period, beating a partially screened Kuemper high on his glove side with a shot from high in the slot. Kuemper kept the game tied with two sprawling saves in the

Atlantic Division

W	L	OT	SO	Pts
Toronto.....6	1	0	0	12
Boston.....4	1	0	0	8
Montreal.....3	1	1	0	7
Ottawa.....3	2	1	0	7
Tampa Bay.....3	2	1	0	6
Buffalo.....3	2	0	0	6
Florida.....2	0	2	2	2
Detroit.....0	4	1	1	2

Metropolitan Division

W	L	OT	SO	Pts
Carolina.....4	2	1	0	9
New Jersey.....4	0	0	0	8
Columbus.....3	2	0	0	6
Pittsburgh.....2	1	1	1	6
Philadelphia.....3	3	0	0	6
Washington.....2	2	1	0	5
NY Islanders.....2	2	0	0	4
NY Rangers.....2	4	0	0	4

Monday's Results
Toronto 4, Los Angeles 1
Montreal 7, Detroit 3
Ottawa 4, Dallas 1
Nashville 4, Minnesota 2

Tuesday's Results
New Jersey 3, Dallas 0
NY Rangers 3, Colorado 2, SO
Philadelphia 6, Florida 5, SO
Vancouver 3, Pittsburgh 2, OT
Tampa Bay 4, Carolina 2
Minnesota 2, Arizona 1
Edmonton 5, Winnipeg 4, OT
Buffalo at Vegas, night

Today's Games
St. Louis at Montreal, 6 p.m.
NY Rangers at Washington, 6 p.m.
Boston at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.
NY Islanders at Anaheim, 9 p.m.

COLLEGE MEN

NCHC
Friday's Games
Maine at Minnesota Duluth, 7:07 p.m. (My9/KDAL-AM 610/KDAL-FM 103.9)
Massachusetts-Lowell at Miami, 6:30 p.m.
Western Michigan at Michigan, 6:30 p.m.
Notre Dame at Nebraska-Omaha, 6:38 p.m. (CBS Sports Network)

Big Ten
Friday's Games
Massachusetts at Ohio State, 6 p.m.
Niagara at Penn State, 6 p.m.
Wisconsin at Clarkson, 6 p.m.
Western Michigan at Michigan, 6:30 p.m.
Notre Dame at Nebraska-Omaha, 6:38 p.m. (CBS Sports Network)

COLLEGE WOMEN

WCHA
Friday's Games
Bemidji State at Minnesota Duluth, 3:07 p.m.
St. Cloud State at Minnesota State-Mankato, 7:07 p.m.
Ohio State at Minnesota, 7:07 p.m.
Princeton at Minnesota, 7:07 p.m.

SOCCER

MLS	
Eastern Conference	
Atlanta United FC	20 6 6 66
New York Red Bulls	20 7 5 65
New York City FC	15 9 8 53
Philadelphia Union	15 12 5 50
Columbus Crew SC	13 10 9 48
D.C. United	12 11 8 44
Montreal Impact	13 15 4 43
New England	9 12 11 38
Toronto FC	9 16 6 33
Chicago Fire	8 17 7 31
Orlando City SC	7 20 4 25
Western Conference	
FC Dallas	16 7 9 57
Los Angeles FC	16 8 8 56
Sporting Kansas City	15 8 8 53
Portland Timbers	14 9 5 51
Seattle Sounders FC	15 11 5 50
Real Salt Lake	13 12 7 46
LA Galaxy	12 11 9 45
Vancouver Whitecaps FC	12 12 7 43
Minnesota United FC	11 18 3 36
Houston Dynamo	9 15 8 35
Colorado Rapids	7 19 6 27
San Jose Earthquakes 4	20 8 20

Today's Games

Toronto FC at D.C. United, 6:30 p.m.
Seattle Sounders FC at Orlando City SC, 6:30 p.m.
Sporting Kansas City at Vancouver Whitecaps FC, 9 p.m.

Thursday's Game
New England Revolution at Real Salt Lake, 8 p.m.

Sunday's Games
New York City FC at D.C. United, 2 p.m.
Columbus Crew SC at Orlando City SC, 2 p.m.
Toronto FC at Montreal Impact, 2 p.m.
New York Red Bulls at Philadelphia Union, 2 p.m.
Chicago Fire at Atlanta United FC, 2 p.m.
LA Galaxy at Minnesota United FC, 4 p.m.
Real Salt Lake at Portland Timbers,

LOCAL NAMES & NEWS

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

UWS moves into first-place tie
Wisconsin-Superior moved into a first-place tie atop the UMAC volleyball standings by sweeping fellow frontrunner Northwestern 25-22, 25-22, 25-23 on Tuesday night at Mertz Mortorelli Gymnasium in Superior.
The Yellowjackets' balance — four attackers with at least nine kills, led by Taylor Howe's 11 — proved too much for the Eagles (19-7, 12-1 UMAC), who received a game-high 21 kills from Jenay Fuglestad.
Hannah Goggleye and Cami Sletta chipped in 10 kills apiece for UWS (18-9, 12-1), which avenged its 3-0 loss to Northwestern on Sept. 26 in St. Paul, and Emily VerWay recorded 39 set assists and 11 digs.
► Visiting Hamline rolled past host St. Scholastica 25-22, 25-22, 25-14 in a nonconference affair in Duluth.
The Pipers (11-10), winners of five straight, amassed a .314 hitting percentage, compared to .179 for the Saints (8-17), who were led by Sofia Rajala's 11 kills.

COLLEGE SOCCER

UWS men stretch winning streak to nine
The Wisconsin-Superior men's soccer team extended its winning streak to nine games by doubling up Northwestern 4-2 in a UMAC contest Tuesday in St. Paul.
Hugo Roos, James Bruce, Blake Perry and Aaron Blanchard scored for the Yellowjackets (13-2-1, 8-0-1 UMAC). Fernando Bicalho and Leonardo Paredes picked up assists for conference-leading UWS, which is 13-0-1 in its past 14 games.
Derrick Aminga and Tyler Hurley scored for the Eagles (4-10-1, 2-6-1).
► Anna Welch opened and closed the scoring for the Northwestern women's team, which blanked UWS 4-0 in St. Paul.
The Yellowjackets (4-10-1, 4-5 UMAC) mustered just two shots on goal, or 16 fewer than the Eagles (6-5-4, 6-2-1).

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Gophers' Brooks cleared to play
Minnesota Gophers running back Shannon Brooks, coming off rehab for a surgically repaired knee, was cleared to play for the first time this season for Saturday's game against Nebraska, but an ongoing Minneapolis city attorney's office investigation into allegations of domestic assault against him have put that season debut in serious doubt.
"His status is evolving each day," Gophers coach P.J. Fleck said Tuesday.
After Brooks was released from jail Monday as the city attorney's office declined to press charges over a fight with his male roommate Sunday, he returned to the team but did not practice Tuesday. It doesn't appear Brooks will practice until the city attorney's office comes to some resolution in its investigation.
"One thing that we are always going to make sure is that we have every bit of information that we possibly can before we make decisions," Fleck said. "Shannon understands that, and I know our administration understands that as well."
Fleck said a decision on Brooks' playing status will be made jointly by him and athletic director Mark Coyle. Fleck said he had no timeline to make a decision about Brooks' status.
► Ohio State junior defensive end Nick Bosa intends to withdraw from the school to focus on rehab and training as he prepares for the NFL draft, the school announced Tuesday.
The announcement came shortly after the Columbus Dispatch reported that Bosa and his family have decided to focus on preparing him for his NFL career rather than returning to play for the No. 2 Buckeyes this season. Per the report, Bosa met with Meyer and other coaches on Sunday to inform them of the decision.

GYMNASTICS

Interim president Bono resigns
Facing criticism from several high-profile gymnasts, Mary Bono announced her resignation Tuesday as interim president and CEO of USA Gymnastics after less than a week on the job.
The former U.S. Congresswoman's hiring last Friday drew immediate ire from Olympic gold medalists Simone Biles, Aly Raisman and others.
The gymnasts expressed concern about Bono's association with a law firm that advised USA Gymnastics during the Larry Nassar sex abuse scandal.
"Why hire someone associated with the firm that helped cover up our abuse?" Raisman tweeted Monday.
The USA Gymnastics' board of directors released a statement saying it had accepted her resignation.
"We believe this is in the best interest of the organization," it read. "We, as a Board, are committed to taking action when we believe a change of course is necessary and to being responsive to our gymnastics community."
Bono was expected to hold the position while USA Gymnastics searched for a permanent successor to Kerry Perry, who resigned under pressure in September.

GIRLS TENNIS

MINNESOTA SECTION 7A
Monday's Results
at Virginia Semifinals
Pequot Lakes 4, Eveleth-Gilbert 3
Virginia 5, Pine City 2

Championship
Virginia 5, Pequot Lakes 2

DIVISION 2
Sectional 1
Tuesday's Results
First Round
Ellsworth def. Northwestern 25-9, 25-11, 25-12
Barron def. Ashland 25-17, 25-18, 25-21

VOLLEYBALL

WISCONSIN DIVISION 1
Sectional 1
Thursday's First Round
No. 12 New Richmond at No. 5 Superior (20-8)
No. 9 Wausau West at No. 8 Eau Claire Memorial
No. 13 Wis. Rapids at No. 4 Eau Claire North
No. 14 Menomonie at No. 3 Wausau West
No. 11 Marshfield at No. 6 Chipewewa Falls
No. 10 D.C. Everest at No. 7 Hudson

MINNESOTA SECTION 7A

Monday's Results
at Virginia Semifinals
Pequot Lakes 4, Eveleth-Gilbert 3
Virginia 5, Pine City 2

Championship
Virginia 5, Pequot Lakes 2

DIVISION 2
Sectional 1
Tuesday's Results
First Round
Ellsworth def. Northwestern 25-9, 25-11, 25-12
Barron def. Ashland 25-17, 25-18, 25-21

MINNESOTA SECTION 7A

Monday's Results
at Virginia Semifinals
Pequot Lakes 4, Eveleth-Gilbert 3
Virginia 5, Pine City 2

Championship
Virginia 5, Pequot Lakes 2

DIVISION 2
Sectional 1
Tuesday's Results
First Round
Ellsworth def. Northwestern 25-9, 25-11, 25-12
Barron def. Ashland 25-17, 25-18, 25-21

WISCONSIN DIVISION 1

Sectional 1
Thursday's First Round
No. 7 Ashland (3-16-1) at No.

Minnesota 2, Arizona 1	
Arizona	1 0 0 1
Minnesota	0 1 1 2

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Red Sox slam Astros for ALCS lead

Field Level Media

HOUSTON — Jackie Bradley Jr. crushed a two-out grand slam in the eighth inning, and the Boston Red Sox stunned the Houston Astros 8-2 on Tuesday in Game 3 of the American League Championship Series.

The Red Sox grabbed a 2-1 series lead in the best-of-seven set with Game 4 set for Minute Maid Park today. The Astros have dropped consecutive games for the first time since Aug. 30-31 against the Los Angeles Angels.

Bradley capped a nightmarish outing for Astros closer Roberto Osuna, who made his series debut and his first appearance in 10 days. Osuna was at first undone by bad luck, with Red Sox shortstop Xander Bogaerts reaching on a swinging bunt with one out before Rafael Devers added a single with two outs on an 0-2 count.

Osuna, who entered seeking to keep the deficit at 3-2, then grazed pinch-hitter Brock Holt on the left foot with a 1-2 pitch to load the bases. He followed by hitting another pinch-hitter, Mitch Moreland, with another two-strike pitch to force in a run and extend the deficit to 4-2.

Bradley then drilled a 1-1 fastball into the right-field seats, a 386-



Jayne Kamin-Oncea / USA Today Sports

Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Austin Barnes is safe beneath leaping Brewers second baseman Jonathan Schoop on a pickoff attempt during the second inning Tuesday night at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. The teams' Game 4 of the National League Championship Series was not completed when this edition went to press.

foot blast.

Red Sox right-hander Nathan Eovaldi (1-0) limited the Astros to two runs on six hits and two walks over six innings. He struck out four. Four Boston relievers blanked the Astros while allowing just one hit total over the final three innings.

Astros left-hander Dallas Keuchel survived a rocky start, allowing two runs on four hits and two walks over five

innings despite surrendering three consecutive hits to open the top of the first.

Boston's Mookie Betts, Andrew Benintendi and J.D. Martinez reached in succession to open the game, with Martinez plating Betts with an opposite-field double to right. Benintendi scored on an RBI groundout from Bogaerts, but Keuchel held the line there.

In the third inning,

Houston got a sensational leaping catch at the wall from left fielder Tony Kemp to rob Steve Pearce of a two-RBI hit.

Pearce got his revenge in the sixth, launching a 456-foot solo home run to left off Astros right-hander Joe Smith (0-1), snapping a 2-2 tie in the process.

Eovaldi allowed back-to-back-to-back homers in his previous outing at Minute Maid Park, as a member of the Tampa Bay Rays earlier this season. On Tuesday, he surrendered only an RBI single to Marwin Gonzalez in the first inning and a run-scoring double by Alex Bregman in the fifth.

Boston 8, Houston 2

BOS	ab	r	h	bi	HOU	ab	r	h	bi
Betts rf	5	1	1	0	Springer cf	5	0	1	0
Bnnnd lf	5	1	2	0	Alluve dh	3	2	2	0
Martinz dh	4	0	1	1	Bregman 3b	3	0	2	1
Bogarts ss	4	0	1	1	Gurriel 1b	3	0	0	0
Pearce 1b	4	2	1	1	Gonzalez 2b	4	0	1	1
Nunez 3b	2	0	1	0	Reddick rf	4	0	0	0
Devers pr	1	1	1	0	Correa ss	4	0	1	0
Kinsler 2b	3	0	0	0	McCann c	3	0	0	0
Holt ph	0	1	0	0	White ph	1	0	0	0
Vazquez c	3	0	0	0	Kemp lf	3	0	0	0
Morland ph	0	0	0	1	Gattis ph	1	0	0	0
Leon pr	0	0	0	0					
BrdlyJr cf	4	1	1	4					
Totals	35	8	9	8	Totals	34	2	7	2

LOB—Houston 8, Boston 5. 2B—Bregman (2), J.D. Martinez (1). HR—Bradley Jr. (1), Pearce (1).

Boston

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Eovaldi W, 2-0	6	6	2	2	2	4
Brasier H, 3	1	1	0	0	0	1
M.Barnes	2	0	0	0	1	1
J.Kelly	1	0	0	0	0	0
E.Rodriguez	1	0	0	0	0	2
Houston						
Keuchel	5	4	2	2	2	0
J.Smith L, 0-1	1	1	1	1	0	0
Sipp	2	0	0	0	1	1
Pressly	1	0	0	0	0	2
R.Osuna	2	3	5	5	0	0
McHugh	1	0	0	0	0	0
H.Rondon	1	1	0	0	0	0

Inherited runners-scored—J.Kelly 1-0. HBP—Moreland, Holt (by R.Osuna). WP—J.Kelly (1). Umpires—Home, Joe West; First, Mark Carlson; Second, Chris Guccione; Third, Mark Wegner.

T—3:52. A—43,102 (43,836)

EAST

From Page B1

That's exactly what the Greyhounds are ranked heading into the eight-team state field.

And it's where they expect to be ranked when the tournament ends Nov. 2.

"The big difference is we're more of a team and not so individual," Bachand said, comparing the 2017 version with the current one. "With that mentality that we have this year and the boys believing in each other a lot more and trusting each other, it's proven to work."

Blaine 0-1-1
Duluth East 3-1-4
First half — 1. DE, Will Francis (Seth Hoffman), 3rd minute; 2. DE, Hoffman (Scott McInerney), 9th; 3. DE, Michael Reichhoff, 21st.
Second half — 4. DE, Hoffman (McInerney), 43rd; 5. B, Pablo Alfini, 45th.
Saves — Ben Greenberg, B, 19; Oliver Hasler, DE, 4.

Clint Austin / caustin@duluthnews.com

Scott McInerney (6) of Duluth East and Melvin Keita (8) of Blaine compete for the ball during Tuesday's Section 7AA championship game at Ordean Field. East won 4-1 to advance to the Class AA state tournament.



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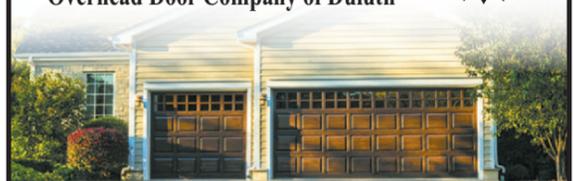
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KURONEN

From Page B1

play basketball and later drove his dad's car into town, even before he had a driver's license.

MacDonald gave "Butchie" his name when Kuronen was in seventh grade. Two Harbors had just played in the state basketball tournament in 1971, and Melrose had a star player by the name of Butch Moening who reminded MacDonald of Kuronen.

"The guy from Melrose got a bloody nose, so they put cotton in his nose, and later we were playing a summer open gym game, and Butch got a bloody nose and they put cotton in there," MacDonald said. "I said, 'Oh my gosh, that's Butchie.' They were both left-handed, built solidly and had cotton in their nose, and it just stuck. You never heard the name Jim Kuronen again. It was just Butchie."

Kuronen and MacDonald later played for the Two Harbors High School team.

"I was the star of that team along with another guy, but Butch was our leader," MacDonald said. "He'd call us out if the effort wasn't there. He was just that guy. He just had that thing that every team needs. He always went hard. He never coasted, because his ability wouldn't let him coast."

On to UMD

Kuronen, a 1977 Two Harbors graduate, played a year at UMD in 1977-78 and it was at that time he grew a mustache that would become his signature. He started student coaching, a role in which he actually coached his buddy and college roommate MacDonald.

"Needless to say, there were some times where we didn't know how the head coaches were finding stuff out about us," MacDonald said, laughing.

Kuronen served as a Bulldogs assistant for 26 seasons (1979-82 and 1983-2006) during a golden age of UMD basketball. An excellent golfer, he also doubled as the head coach of the now-defunct but highly successful UMD men's golf team from 1984-91.

Kuronen and Gary Holquist served as UMD basketball assistants under Dale Race, with Kuronen later serving as Holquist's right-hand man when Holquist was named head coach in 1998.

Holquist said his phone hasn't stopped over the past week of guys wanting and needing to talk about Kuronen.

"I've been involved with college basketball for over 40 years and coached 35, and I have never been around a

more brilliant basketball mind," Holquist said of Kuronen. "As far as strategy and expertise on seeing the game and coaching it, I've never been around a better guy. He was amazing, and he challenged us to get better every day."

MacDonald, who is entering his 32nd season as the boys basketball coach at Fridley (Minn.) High School, recalled a national coaching clinic he went to in Chicago in the 1990s that included legendary Northern State coach Don Meyer who made a point to cite Kuronen in regards to how to play great post defense.

"At the time I was mad because I had spent all this money when I could have just gotten it from Butch," MacDonald said. "Now, I smile whenever I think about that."

Kuronen later worked in pharmaceutical sales.

"Butch's job was pharmaceutical sales, but his profession was coaching," MacDonald said. "It was so much who he was, and he was so, so good at it. He just had such a huge IQ for it. It was the same thing that made him a great golf coach. He could just break down technique."

Kuronen focused on the big guys inside.

Guidinger, who followed his older brother, Jeff, to UMD in 1987-91 and later had a stint with the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers, recalled the first time he saw the 5-foot-11 Kuronen.

"I met the guys, and he was running the big men, but he didn't look like a big man," Guidinger said. "But boy did he have a knowledge of the game and an understanding of the position."

Kuronen is survived by his wife, Amy, and two teenage daughters, Anna and Maria. A visitation will be 5-7 p.m. today at Dougherty Funeral Home in Duluth, with funeral services at Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary at 11 a.m. Thursday, with a visitation at 10 a.m.

Guidinger, who relocated in January from Milwaukee to York, Pa., said "it kills me" that he can't make it back to Duluth this week, but he said the Bulldogs would plan something special to honor Kuronen's legacy with the program, something more alumni could attend.

"Butch had such an impact on so many of us in our formative years," Guidinger said. "I can't say enough about how much we appreciated what he did to help groom us to help us realize our potential, not only as basketball players, but as productive adults. He was an asset to the coaching staff, and he was a great mentor to the players."

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PREP STATISTICS

FOOTBALL

Table with columns: Player, Att., Yds. Sub-sections: RUSHING, PASSING, RECEIVING, SCORING, ALL-PURPOSE YARDS, PUNTING, TACKLES.

Table with columns: Player, No., Yds. Sub-sections: SACKS, INTERCEPTIONS, BLOCKS PER GAME, SET ASSISTS PER GAME, DIGS PER GAME, SERVE PERCENTAGE.

PREP REPORT

Marshall girls upset Lumberjacks

News Tribune Duluth Marshall went on the road to stun No. 1 Cloquet-Carlton 2-0 in a Section 7A girls soccer semifinal Tuesday night.

Lucy Campbell scored in the first half and Gianna Kneepkens doubled the margin in the second for the fourth-seeded Hilltoppers, who kept the Lumberjacks' high-powered senior, Kendra Kelley, off the scoreboard.

Natalie Welinski made five saves for Marshall, which moves into Thursday's section final vs. No. 2 Chisago Lakes, a shootout winner over Hermantown after the teams played to a 1-1 double-overtime tie.

BOYS SOCCER Duluth Denfeld 1, Hermantown 0

Julian Beckrich's heroics late in double overtime lifted the Hunters to a heart-stopping Section 7A semifinal win at Public Schools Stadium. Beckrich scored in the 96th minute off a feed from Jon Faynik, and goalkeeper Eric Gibson notched his ninth shutout of the season as No. 1 seed Denfeld advanced to Thursday's section final vs. Grand Rapids.

A.J. Harris finished with 18 saves for the fifth-seeded Hawks. The Hunters' Scott Anderson on Tuesday was named the Class A boys soccer coach of the year by the coaches association.

Grand Rapids 3, Duluth Marshall 0

David Chandler and Seamus Stanley scored on penalty kicks three minutes apart in the first half, and Hayden DeMars made it stand as the Thunderhawks blanked the visiting Hilltoppers in a Section 7A semifinal.

DeMars stopped all nine shots he faced for second-seeded Grand Rapids, which opposes Denfeld at 8 p.m. Thursday at Ordean Stadium.

Chandler fed Stanley in the 52nd minute for the night's final goal.

GIRLS TENNIS Eveleth-Gilbert duo wins 7A

Senior Audrey Delich and eighth-grader Lydia Delich defeated Virginia's Anna Seitz and Ava Warren 6-2, 6-2 to win the Section 7A doubles title Tuesday at Virginia.

The Deliches and Seitz and Warren all advance to next week's Class A state tournament at the Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center in Minneapolis.

Virginia's Mary Skorich was the only Northland player to win a singles match, downing Pine City's Ella Sell in the quarterfinals and Pierz' Val Gall for third place.

VOLLEYBALL Greenway 3, Virginia 0

Claire Vekich's 24 kills powered the Raiders to a 25-20, 25-21, 25-10 sweep in the Iron Range Conference championship match in Coleraine.

Cloquet 3, Hermantown 1

The host Lumberjacks snapped the Hawks' six-match winning streak via a 25-14, 27-25, 17-25, 25-23 victory in Lake Superior Conference action.

PREP PERFORMANCES OF THE WEEK

DOMINIC KLAAS Duluth Denfeld Football Senior fullback needed just six rushing attempts to amass 207 yards in rout of Hibbing, with touchdown runs of 59, 92 and 23 yards. MASON OLLMAN Silver Bay Football Mariners junior carried 22 times for 233 yards and three touchdowns, including a 73-yarder, in the program's first win over Ely since 2005. POPO PERRAULT Duluth Marshall Boys soccer Senior's four goals highlighted a first-round playoff win over Hibbing, and he scored two more in a quarterfinal victory over Proctor.

STATE PREP POLLS

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY By Minnesota Coaches Association CLASS AA Teams 1. Edina; 2. Wayzata; 3. Mounds View; 4. Stillwater; 5. Eden Prairie; 6. Red Wing; 7. St. Paul Highland Park; 8. White Bear Lake; 9. Buffalo; 10. Eastview. Individuals 1. Max Manley, Edina; 2. Andrew Brandt, Wayzata; 3. Addison Stansbury, Stillwater; 4. Luke Labatte, Rosemount; 5. Nicholas Scheller, Chanhassen; 6. Acer Iverson, Roseville; 7. Caleb Haugland, Minneapolis Washburn; 8. Austin Streit, Mounds View; 9. Isaac Basten, Buffalo; 10. Willem Gokemeijer, Edina. CLASS A Teams 1. Perham; 2. West Central Area; 3. Staples-Motley; 4. Lac Qui Parle Valley; 5. Nova Classic Academy; 6. St. James Area; 7. Minnehaha Academy; 8. Mankato Loyola/Cleveland; 9. Mora; 10. East Grand Forks. Individuals 1. Geno Uhrborn, Greenway/Nashwauk-Keewatin; 2. Harris Anderson, Math & Science Academy; 3. Emmett Anderson, Staples-Motley; 4. Brandon O'Hara, Perham; 5. Cooper Lennox, Mora; 6. Cameron Stocke, Virginia; 7. Luke Olson, Ely; 8. Mitchell Johnston, Mankato Loyola/Cleveland; 9. Hugo Ruiz, Tri City United; 10. Drew Hastings, Belle Plaine.

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY By Minnesota Coaches Association CLASS AA Teams 1. Wayzata; 2. St. Michael-Albertville; 3. Edina; 4. Eden Prairie; 5. Farmington; 6. Stillwater; 7. Andover; 8. Forest Lake; 9. Marshall; 10. Minneapolis Washburn. CLASS A Teams 1. Minnetonka (14); 2. Waterville-Elysian-Morristown; 3. Mayer Lutheran; 4. Wabasso; 5. Pine River-Backus; 6. Mabel-Canton; 7. ADA-Borup/Norman County West; 8. BOLD; 9. Windom; 10. Belgrade-Broten-Eirosa.

NEWS TRIBUNE PREP RANKINGS

FOOTBALL LARGE SCHOOLS (Classes AA through AAAAA) 1. Hermantown; 2. Northwestern; 3. Cloquet; 4. Ashland. SMALL SCHOOLS (Class A and Nine-Man) 1. Cromwell-Wright; 2. Cook County; 3. South Ridge; 4. Deer River. VOLLEYBALL LARGE SCHOOLS (Enrollment over 400) 1. Duluth Denfeld; 2. Superior; 3. Hermantown; 4. Grand Rapids. SMALL SCHOOLS (Enrollment under 400) 1. Carlton; 2. Greenway; 3. Virginia; 4. Esko.

PREP FOOTBALL STANDINGS

MINNESOTA At 7 p.m., unless noted Northeast Red Hermantown; Cloquet; Duluth Denfeld; North Branch; Duluth East; Hibbing; Grand Rapids; Proctor. Today's Games Hibbing at Duluth East, 6 p.m.; Duluth Denfeld at Grand Rapids; Hermantown at Cloquet (WKLK-AM 1230); North Branch at Proctor.

NORTHEAST WHITE

Greenway/NK; Two Harbors; Eveleth-Gilbert; International Falls; Virginia. Today's Games International Falls at Virginia Two Harbors at Eveleth-Gilbert.

NORTHEAST BLUE

Mora; Aitkin; Moose Lake-WR; Esko; Pine City. Today's Games Aitkin at Moose Lake-Willow River (WMOZ-FM 106.9); Crosby-Ironton at Pine City; Esko at Mora.

NORTHEAST SILVER

Mesabi East; Barum; Deer River; Braham; Rush City; Hinckley-Finlayson; East Central. Today's Games East Central at Hinckley-Finlayson; Mesabi East at Braham; Rush City at Deer River.

DISTRICT 9 WHITE

Cromwell-Wright; Ogilvie.

CROSS COUNTRY

Proctor Lions Invitational Boys Class AA Teams 1. Cloquet, 20; 2. Duluth East, 57; 3. Duluth Denfeld, 82; 4. Hermantown, 90.

Individuals 1. Jordan Allen, C, 16:41.2; 2. Jesse Bahen, C, 17:17.8; 3. Aidan Ripp, C, 17:21.0; 4. Isaac Fink, DD, 17:26.5; 5. Griffin Flaa, H, 17:35.0.

Girls Class AA Teams 1. Duluth East, 22; 2. Cloquet, 44; 3. Hermantown, 71.

Individuals 1. Ashlee Siegle, DM, 19:49.2; 2. Zoe Devine, E, 20:28.0; 3. Emma Stattelmann, DM, 20:33.1; 4. Coriella Sheetz, MLWRB, 20:34.6; 5. Kate Nelson, MIB, 20:54.5.

BOYS SOCCER

Duluth Marshall; Grand Rapids. First half — 1. David Chandler, 35th minute (pk); 2. Seamus Stanley, 38th (pk). Second half — 3. Stanley (Chandler), 52nd. Saves — Charles Eginton, DM, 3; Hayden DeMars, GR, 9.

Hermantown; Duluth Denfeld. First half — No scoring. Second half — No scoring. First overtime — No scoring. Second overtime — 1. Julian Beckrich (Jon Faynik), 96th.

PREP SUMMARIES

Saves — A.J. Harris, H, 18; Eric Gibson, DD, 3. Wisconsin Division 1 Sectional 1 First Round Hudson 5, Superior 0. GIRLS SWIMMING Duluth East 116, Superior 66 200-yard medley — DE (Katie Braaten, Kathryn Kirby, Addy Swor, Clara Kramer), 2:08.11; 200 freestyle — Kirby, DE, 2:20.37; 200 individual medley — Kramer, DE, 2:28.85; 50 freestyle — Emma Anderson, DE, 26.94; 100 butterfly — Clara Wodny, DE, 1:03.89; 100 freestyle — Hazel Kemp, DE, 59.94; 500 freestyle — Sophia Hanson, S, 6:04.90; 200 freestyle relay — DE (Swor, E. Anderson, Emily Pearson, Wodny), 1:51.43; 100 backstroke — Maddie Casey, S, 1:08.04; 100 breaststroke — Erin Walpole, S, 1:13.01; 400 freestyle relay — DE (Wodny, Harriet Anderson, Kemp, E. Anderson), 4:03.69; Diving — Taylee Anderson, S, 177.05.

PREP OFF SCHEDULE IS ON PAGE B2

PREP SUMMARIES

breaststroke - 1. Overby, TH, 1:13.98, 2. Kylie Meyer, ME, 1:14.02; 400 freestyle relay - 1. EG (Albrecht, Carey, George, Janikila), 3:50.57, 2. TH (J. Larson, R. Larson, Overby, Thomasen), 3:54.04; Diving - 1. Kailey Fossell, ME, 239.70, 2. Kiarra Moehlenbrock, ME, 188.65.

GIRLS TENNIS Section 7A Individuals Singles Quarterfinals — Lydia Adams, Pine City, def. Katie Scherf, Virginia, 6-0, 6-0; Val Gall, Pierz, def. Allison Jondahl, Duluth Marshall, 6-3, 6-2; Courtney Boller, Pequot Lakes, def. Brenna Bollins, Duluth Marshall, 6-0, 6-2; Mary Skorich, Virginia, def. Ella Sell, Pine City, 6-1, 6-0. Semifinals — Adams def. Gall 6-1, 6-0; Boller def. Skorich 6-3, 6-3. Championship — Adams def. Boller 6-2, 6-2. Third place — Skorich def. Gall 6-4, 6-2.

Doubles Quarterfinals — Megan Muller/Morgan Mudgett, Pequot Lakes, def. Bekah Davidson/Anneka Lundgren, Virginia, 6-0, 6-0; Anna Seitz/Ava Warren, Virginia, def. Kalya Grizmacher/Abby Andrea, Pierz, 6-0, 6-0; Helena Orr/Claire Boettcher, Duluth Marshall, def. Laura Skiba/Becky Langer, Pierz, 3-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-2; Audrey Delich/Lydia Delich, Eveleth-Gilbert, def. Shelain Lewis/Kalina Spalj, Crosby-Ironton, 6-1, 6-1. Semifinals — Seitz/Warren def. Muller/Mudgett 6-1, 6-3; Delich/Delich def. Orr/Boettcher 6-0, 6-0. Championship — Delich/Delich def. Seitz/Warren 6-2, 6-2. Third place — Muller/Mudgett def. Orr/Boettcher 6-0, 6-3.

VOLLEYBALL

Carlton def. Cook County 25-13, 25-16, 25-13 — C: Taylor Nelson 10K; Alaina Bennett 10K; Brynne Mickle 30SA. Cloquet def. Hermantown 25-14, 27-25, 17-25, 25-23 — C: Savannah Sears 15K, 14D, 6B; Lucy Sinkkonen 7K, 5B, Alahna Ninneman 7K, 4B; Ellie Peddle 7K, 14D; Natalie Spath 21D; Emerson Rood 23SA, 3AS; Olivia Diver 13SA, H; Maddy Foster 15K; Natalie Arntson 14K; Kennedy Barrett 25SA; Rachel Menzel 23SA; Katie Bergeron 18D; Hannah Michalik 14D. Cromwell-Wright def. Moose Lake-Willow River 25-18, 23-25, 25-5, 25-21 — MLWR: Maddie Olson 11K, 4B; Donna Mae Smith 10D; Ellen Anderson 5K; Kennedy Janke 5K, 5D; Skyia Thompson, 10D; Maren Mesojedec 2AS; Kjersten Weisert 10D. Duluth Denfeld def. Superior 25-18, 25-

PREP OFF SCHEDULE IS ON PAGE B2

James' move has reset the entire NBA

By Tim Bontemps
Washington Post

When the NBA season began Tuesday, it was the first time in more than a decade that LeBron James, the biggest star in the sport, wasn't playing on opening night. For the first time in 15 years he also isn't part of the league's Eastern Conference.

James' offseason decision to join the Los Angeles Lakers shook up the entire league.

While it will probably take many a long time to get used to seeing the face of the league in Lakers purple and gold, the team's coach understandably had a different reaction.

"It's awesome," Luke Walton said before a recent pre-season game in San Jose.

Walton and the Lakers aren't alone in feeling that way. Anyone associated with making money in the basketball world should be thrilled to see James playing for the sport's flagship franchise, a team whose presence lifts all boats around it. Half the teams in the league, meanwhile, have to be excited to see him out west.

The teams atop the East, such as the Boston Celtics and the Philadelphia 76ers, finally can see daylight in a conference James has reigned over since creating a superpower in Miami eight years ago.

This is the moment the

Celtics have been building toward since pulling off the blockbuster trade that sent Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce to the Brooklyn Nets in 2013. With a roster teeming with young, athletic players, a gifted scorer in Kyrie Irving, one of the league's most versatile big men in Al Horford and one of its best coaches in Brad Stevens, good luck finding something not to like about the Celtics. Philadelphia, meanwhile, has what could soon become the league's best one-two punch in Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons, as well as the potential to add another max contract in free agency next summer.

But despite those plaudits, it is far from a certainty that one of these ancient rivals will be representing the East in the NBA Finals next June.

The Toronto Raptors lurk somewhat in the shadows, with Kawhi Leonard again looking like a possible top-five talent, and with a roster that might even exceed Boston's in both length and depth. There remains plenty to sort out north of the border, however, after President of Basketball Operations Masai Ujiri shook up the team not once, but twice — first firing head coach Dwane Casey and replacing him with lead assistant Nick Nurse, then sending franchise icon DeMar DeRozan to the San Antonio Spurs for Leonard

and Danny Green.

The Raptors will not only be attempting to finally reach the East's summit now that their annual bogeyman — James — is out of the way, but to convince Leonard that he should remain in Toronto once he hits free agency next July.

"There is nothing we are going to do different," Ujiri told reporters last month of how he'll recruit Leonard to stay. "We are going to be ourselves."

Rather than debating whether James will make a ninth straight NBA Finals this season, the basketball world is wondering if James can get the Lakers into position to have home court in the West — or, in some cases, even make the playoffs at all.

What isn't in doubt is that the Lakers are, for the first time in years, relevant. Even in the waning moments of Kobe Bryant's career, he was what made the Lakers matter — not the team's play on the court. Now, with James surrounded by young talents such as Brandon Ingram, Lonzo Ball, Kyle Kuzma and Josh Hart — plus mercurial veterans in Rajon Rondo, Lance Stephenson, Michael Beasley and JaVale McGee — whether the Lakers are good or not, they will undoubtedly be entertaining.

"I think it's great for the league to see LeBron in a

Laker uniform," Golden State coach Steve Kerr told reporters last week. "For me, growing up with the purple and gold, there's an extra sentiment there. Doesn't mean I cheer for them, but that was my team growing up. So they've always had a lot of star power."

James' arrival has even managed to overshadow the Warriors, who are trying to become the first team in five decades to make it to five straight NBA Finals, and only the fifth franchise in NBA history to win three straight. Golden State remains the favorite to win another title this year, though both conferences offer challengers.

Last season, the Houston Rockets came within poor second halves in both Games 6 and 7 of the Western Conference finals of eliminating the Warriors. But after losing key defensive forwards Trevor Ariza and Luc Mbah a Moute in free agency, and replacing them with Carmelo Anthony and James Ennis, the Rockets will have to prove they can stop the Warriors enough times to beat them.

The Utah Jazz, on the other hand, will look to prove its blistering close to last season (29-6 over their final 35 games) wasn't a mirage, and that second-year guard Donovan Mitchell is ready to lead Utah deep into the playoffs. Beyond that, a glut of teams

will simply be trying to make the playoffs in the cutthroat West.

James and the Lakers are just one of those teams. Golden State's opponent in Tuesday night's opener, the Oklahoma City Thunder, is another, fresh off successfully convincing Paul George to stay in free agency. So, too, are the Minnesota Timberwolves, though no one knows what is going to happen with their best player, Jimmy Butler, and his active trade demand. The Denver Nuggets, who lost what was essentially a playoff play-in game to the Wolves on last season's final day, will be hoping for a postseason breakthrough this year, while the San Antonio Spurs are trying to make it back for a 22nd straight year despite Leonard leaving via trade, Manu Ginobili retiring, Tony Parker exiting in free agency and promising guard Dejounte Murray going down for the year with a torn anterior cruciate ligament.

That doesn't even account for the New Orleans Pelicans, led by MVP candidate Anthony Davis, the Portland Trail Blazers, who finished third last season, or the Los Angeles Clippers, who lack star power but have as much depth as any team in the league.

All eyes, though, as always, will be on James.

NFL NOTES

Giants owner calls out OBJ

Field Level Media

New York Giants owner John Mara is ready for Odell Beckham Jr. to start making headlines on the field and cease fire behind the microphone.

"I think he needs to do a little more playing and a little less talking," Mara said at the NFL fall owners meetings on Tuesday.

Mara said he did not confront Beckham about critical comments regarding the team made to ESPN, but Fox Sports reported the wide receiver was fined. Beckham also was asked by coach Pat Shurmur, described in the Fox report as "livid," to apologize to the team for being critical of quarterback Eli Manning and the offense in general.

Mara said Tuesday he has confidence the right staff is in place — general manager Dave Gettleman and Shurmur — to produce winning results despite a 1-5 record to start the season.

Around the league

The DallasCowboys.com columnist who tweeted about an impending contract extension for coach Jason Garrett is "pulling one out of the air," team owner Jerry Jones said.

Replying to a tweet about Garrett on Mon-

day, writer Jeff Sullivan said: "Sounds like another extension could be signed soon he's not going anywhere." Later, Sullivan added: "I have no reason to lie."

"I don't know where Jeff is getting his information," Jones said on a Tuesday morning radio show. "He's pulling one out of the air there as far as any knowledge. My response should not in any way indicate that I'm thinking about it or whether it's going to be there, it's just not something that I would have visited with anybody about, least of all Jeff."

► Buffalo Bills rookie quarterback Josh Allen is unlikely to play this week against the Indianapolis Colts due to an elbow injury, and his status going forward could be in the hands of Dr. James Andrews.

ESPN's Chris Mortensen reported that Allen is out for Week 7 with an injury to the ulnar collateral ligament in his right elbow. Andrews is reviewing MRI exam results of Allen's throwing arm to provide guidance for the Bills' handling of the prized first-round pick, per the report.

Without Allen, veteran Derek Anderson could leapfrog Nathan Peterman and start at Indianapolis.

► The Atlanta Falcons

placed running back Devonta Freeman on injured reserve due to foot and groin injuries, though they are hopeful he can return late this season.

Coach Dan Quinn said the team thought Freeman just had "general soreness" in his groin, but after further testing, the running back will need a procedure to repair the issue. Quinn expects to know more in a few weeks about whether Freeman can return this year.

► Denver Broncos linebacker Von Miller didn't mince words about what he expects against the Arizona Cardinals in the Thursday night game at Glendale, Ariz.

"I wouldn't say it's a must win, but we're gonna kick their (expletive), though," Miller told reporters. "Make sure you put that up there. We're gonna kick their (expletive). They're gonna get our best this week."

► The San Francisco 49ers signed quarterback Tom Savage, making room on the roster by releasing tight end Cole Wick.

The team worked out Savage and other quarterbacks after Jimmy Garoppolo went down with a torn ACL in Week 3, but no signing was made until Tuesday.

to keep the drama going. We're not going there."

Thibodeau's plan seems simple: Put your head down, keep working and charge forward. Will it work? It has to if Minnesota is to keep pace in the high-powered Western Conference. The truth is the Wolves' chances of doing just that are better with Butler on the roster, regardless of any distractions that may come with his presence.

The team has vowed to continue to look for a trade for Butler, but until then the Wolves have their leader back on the floor, which is probably a positive for their short-term prospects.

"I want to help everybody be better," Butler said Sunday. "I want y'all to win games. My name is still attached to this thing, I'm still here, so we better win."

Thibodeau said he's sure Butler will give the team everything he has while he's in a Wolves uniform. Teammate Anthony Tolliver isn't sure Butler is capable of anything less.

"It's not in his DNA to slack," Tolliver said. "He only knows one way. No matter what's going on off the court, whatever, once he's between the lines and has our jersey on, he's going to play and everything is going to be about winning, and that's it."

Butler's mere presence figures to help raise the Wolves' play from their anemic pre-season performance. Tolliver said the Wolves didn't take the pre-season as seriously as they should have — an inexcusable mentality for a team that has still accomplished so little. But Butler's energy and intensity is a likely

Cousins' speeches pump up Vikings

By Dane Mizutani

St. Paul Pioneer Press

EAGAN, Minn. — To the shock of most of his teammates, Kirk Cousins barreled into the pregame huddle a couple of weeks ago with the Minnesota Vikings ready to run onto the field for kickoff against the Philadelphia Eagles.

"I'm changing it up today!" Cousins screamed. "I've got it, guys!"

With everyone's eyes fixated on him, the 30-year-old quarterback ripped off his helmet, fixed his hair, and dove headfirst into a passionate 30-second sermon. The son of a preacher, he mixed fire and fury with a few choice words (sorry, Dad) following his grand entrance.

"We talked all week about finishing!" Cousins hollered as his pregame speech built toward a crescendo. "Finish every block! Finish every tackle! Finish every play! Finish the damn game!"

That got the Vikings pumped and headed toward a rousing 23-21 victory over the reigning Super Bowl champions. They didn't look anything like the team that lost its previous two games.

Coincidence?

Well, nose tackle Linval Joseph, who is more or less in charge of the Vikings' pregame speechifying, wasn't ready to mess with the juju. Instead, he implored Cousins to take the mic again before Sunday's game against the Arizona Cardinals.

"He told me on the flight back, he said, 'You got it next week,'" Cousins recalled, noting he quickly obliged. "In pregame he looked at me and pointed. That was enough for me to know I better bring it. I gave him the thumbs up."

Once again, Cousins managed to set the Vikings ablaze, this time turning his focus to the defense.

"I've been a rookie quarterback before," Cousins said, referring to Cardinals signal-caller Josh Rosen. "You can suffocate him! Make his life miserable! All game long! Get us the ball back!"

At that point, it seems, Cousins could have started speaking in tongues and it wouldn't have mattered. He was preaching to the choir. He closed his sermon with an ode to legendary wrestler Dan Gable.

"I shoot, I score!" Cousins shouted, imploring his teammates to join in. "You shoot, I score!"

What followed was another stellar performance from the Vikings (3-2-1), who beat the Cardinals 27-17.

For those keeping track at home, that means the Vikings are 2-0 when Cousins gives a pregame speech. Not bad for a guy who refers to himself as "a reluctant leader" when it comes to being a vocal presence.

Maybe that's what has made the pregame speeches so effective.

"Well, a guy like Kirk he doesn't really say much, so when he gets in there, he gives us that juice," safety Jayron Kearsse said. "It's like, 'Dang. This is Kirk saying this.' It's different from when a guy like Everson Griffen is saying it because he's always juiced up. It's different when it comes from a guy like Kirk because he usually doesn't say much."

While some players, including Kearsse, have been surprised by Cousins' recent outbursts, left guard Tom Compton has come to expect them from one of his best friends.

"That's just Kirk," Compton said with a laugh. "He gets fired up. I've seen it before. That's just how he is on game day. He's always ready to go. He's got really good energy, and when a guy has that, he can say pretty much anything to get the guys going."

WOLVES

From Page B1

"It's rare to get a reaction out of him," guard Derrick Rose said. "With him, he's been calm. We haven't talked about it. It don't seem like it's bothering him much."

Not much usually does, besides a question from a reporter Tuesday asking Thibodeau about discrepancies between accounts of exactly when the All-NBA guard asked to be traded. Thibodeau said it was just before training camp; Butler told ESPN it was days after last season ended.

"We're not going to keep getting into that. We're going to talk about the Spurs, that's what we're going to talk about," Thibodeau said. "I mean, you guys want

to be around. Thibodeau was asked how Butler will gel with the starters after just re-entering practice last week.

"That's a great question," he answered. "We'll see when we get there."

It's hard to find a situation with more uncertainty than the one the Wolves are entering. Yet Towns' faith is resolute. Regardless of the distractions, feuds and unknowns, in his mind, the Wolves will be a good team this season.

"I feel confident in the guys we have in the locker room, I feel confident in the competition that's here in practice, I feel confident in everyone's talents," Towns said. "So I feel very confident going in. We've just got to do what we need to do."

antidote for the lifelessness the Wolves put on display for most of the exhibition season.

As for the team's current chemistry, which was questioned for much of last season and highlighted this summer, Rose said there's "room for growth."

"We don't even have an identity of how we're going to play offensively and defensively. So you've just got to build those things along the way," Rose said. "We all know it's going to take some time. It's going to take all of us being on the same team and fighting through the hard times together."

The situation Minnesota finds itself in appears to be an uphill battle, but the Wolves remain confident they're a better team than what they've shown to this point.

"I think we've come

and we've made some adjustments, we've fixed some things and we've been able to work on ourselves more," center Karl-Anthony Towns said. "I feel very confident."

Not just in Minnesota's ability to compete, but to contend.

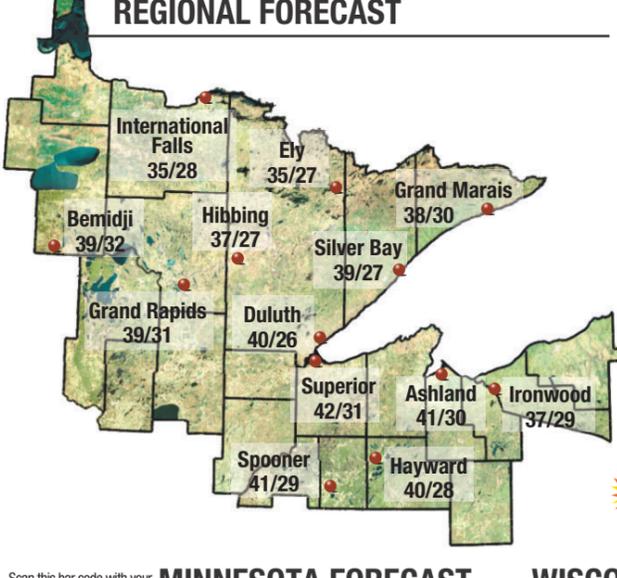
"Teams could be who they are and where they're from, I don't care. We're here in the north, we're chilling here in Minnesota and we're expected to bring that competition and that hunger to every single team we play," Towns said. "Where we stand? I feel we stand next to anyone in this league, and that's how I truly feel."

That's a bold statement for a team that has no idea how many minutes or what type of play it's going to get from its All-NBA wing — or how long said wing is going



Weather forecast for the week: TODAY (26/40), THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY. Includes icons for sun, clouds, and rain, along with wind speeds and directions.

Just hold on for one more day! Hold on for one more day. Temperatures will again be on the cooler side of normal Wednesday. By Wednesday afternoon high pressure takes over along with southerly winds and a ridge of warmer air. We are going to see the warmest temperatures we've had since the beginning of October. The last time we hit 50 degrees or higher was October 3, over two weeks ago. Many parts of the Northland are likely going to see mid to upper 50s and even a few spotty lower 60s to our south.



THE DULUTH PLAYHOUSE AT THE NORSHOR. RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S 'It's a Grand Night for Singing' OCTOBER 19, 20 & 21. FRI & SAT @ 7:30PM - SUN @ 2PM. Featuring the vocal talents of MAMMA MIA! stars Jen Burleigh-Bentz, Shad Olsen & Vicki Fingalson, our leading lady of MARY POPPINS Ali Littrell Finstrom, and NorShor newcomer Andrew Hey. duluthplayhouse.org - 218.733.7555 - norshortheatre.com

POLLEN: Predominant: Trees. Air Quality Index: GOOD, MOD., UNHEALTHY, VERY UNHEALTHY, HAZARD. Primary pollutant: Ozone. Source: airnow.gov.

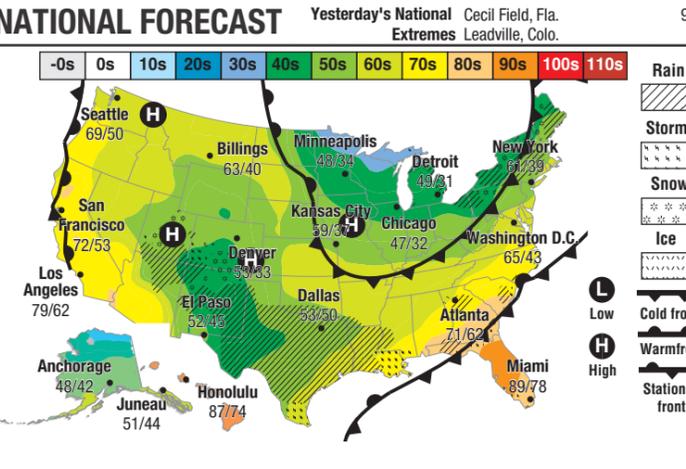
SUN & MOON: Sunrise Today 7:29 a.m., Tomorrow 7:31 a.m. Sunset Today 6:15 p.m., Tomorrow 6:13 p.m. Moonrise Today 3:26 p.m., Tomorrow 3:59 p.m. Moonset Today No Set, Tomorrow 2:51 a.m.

MINNESOTA FORECAST table with columns for City, Hi/Lo/W, Tue., Wed., Thu.

WISCONSIN FORECAST table with columns for City, Hi/Lo/W, Tue., Wed., Thu.

AROUND THE NATION table with columns for City, Today Hi/Lo/W, Today Hi/Lo/W, Today Hi/Lo/W.

AROUND THE WORLD table with columns for City, Today Hi/Lo/W, Today Hi/Lo/W, Today Hi/Lo/W.



BOATING FORECAST: Inland: Northwest wind 10 to 15 knots easing to 5 knots late in the afternoon. Sunny. Waves 2 to 4 feet subsiding to 1 to 3 feet in the late morning and afternoon. Coastal: Northwest wind 15 to 20 knots. Chance of flurries in the morning. Waves 2 to 4 feet. Lake Superior: Northwest winds 15 to 25 knots diminishing to 10 to 20 knots late. A slight chance of rain and snow showers through early afternoon.

HP - HERMANTOWN / PROCTOR C - CHARTER

WEDNESDAY EVENING OCTOBER 17

Large TV schedule table with columns for HP, C, 4 PM, 4:30, 5 PM, 5:30, 6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30, 12 AM, 12:30. Lists various channels and their programming.