

NORTHWOODS LEAGUE

Stingers rally late to beat the Bucks

Willmar scores three in the bottom of the eighth to top Waterloo, 7-6

By Joe Brown

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WILLMAR — The Willmar Stingers have an early season winning streak going after picking up their third straight win Thursday at Bill Taunton Stadium.

The Stingers rallied to beat the Waterloo Bucks, 7-6.

Down 6-4 in the bottom of the eighth inning, Willmar tallied three runs with two outs. Reid Homan hit a two-run single that scored Brady Hill and Tyler Small.

Two batters later, Daniel Sayre dropped a single into left field that allowed Homan to score the winning run.

Homan, a junior from the University of North Alabama, was 3-for-4 with three RBIs, two runs and a stolen base. TJ Curd, from the University of Arizona, was 4-for-5 with an RBI for the Stingers.

Weston Lombard, a left-handed pitcher from Stillwater who plays at Gustavus Adolphus College, was credited with the win after tossing four innings of relief, striking out four. Jacob Webb, from Miami (Ohio) University, got his second save of the season, striking out two in the ninth.

Emiliano Gonzalez and Paul Steffensen each had two hits for Waterloo.

Waterloo and Willmar play again at 7:05 p.m. Thursday at Bill Taunton Stadium.

Willmar 7, Waterloo 6

Waterloo 000 402 000-6 9 2
 Willmar 102 100 03x-7 15 2
Hitting - Waterloo: Chris Seng 1-3 bb hbp, Daniel Irisari 0-4 r bb, Gabe Garcia 1-5 r, Garrett McGowan 1-4 r 2b rbi, Max Jung-Goldberg 1-3 sf, Cameron Repetti 0-3 bb, Emiliano Gonzalez 2-3 r-2 hbp sb, Gabe Baldovino 1-3 r bb sb, Paul Steffensen 2-4 rbi-3 sb ... **Willmar:** Carter Howell 1-4 r sf sb, Tyler Small 1-4 r rbi bb, Tanner Tweedt 2-4 hbp, Reid Homan 3-4 r-2 rbi-3 sf sb, Asa Awbrey 1-4 r rbi hbp, Daniel Sayre 1-5 rbi, T.J. Curd 4-5 rbi, Drey Dirksen 1-4, Brady Hill 1-3 r-2 bb
Pitching (ip-h-r-er-bb-so) - Waterloo: Blake Corsentino 4-10-4-4-0-2, Braden Burcham 3-2-0-0-0-3, Eli Emerson (L, 0-1) ½-1-3-2-2-1, Camren Landry 1/3-2-0-0-0-0 ... **Willmar:** Chandler Freeman 3-2-0-0-0-1, Brett Bateman 0-1-2-2-1-0, Tyler Stone 1-4-2-2-1-0, Weston Lombard (W, 1-0) 4-2-2-0-2-4, Jacob Webb (Sv-2) 1-0-0-0-0-2

LITCHFIELD: Page AB2



Photos by Joe Brown / West Central Tribune

The Litchfield softball team celebrates after getting the final out in a Section 3AA playoff win over St. James on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at the Schwans Regional Amateur Sports Complex in Marshall.

SEASON ON THE BRINK

Defense shines as Litchfield moves into section final

By Joe Brown

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Marshall

Litchfield's best hopes for a section softball title were on the brink.

St. James had runners on second and third base with no outs in the bottom of the seventh. The Dragons huddled up with their coach to devise a plan and settle things down.

"I told them stuff they've heard a dozen times: Outfield in, infield in, it's do-or-die right now," said Dragons head coach Luke Braaten.

Said pitcher Taylor Draeger, "He just said we're going to go home with it and I need to do my part and I got this. Throw strikes and let my defense make plays."

A timely defensive play ended the Saints' threat. Then in extra innings, an RBI single by Emma DeWolf put the Dragons into the Section 3AA championship game with a 2-1 victory at the Schwans Regional Amateur Sports Complex.

"It was just fun to see them execute," said Braaten, whose team is in the section finals for the first time in his eight seasons as coach.

The Dragons look to make state for the first time since 1995 when they face Pipestone for the 3AA championship Thursday back in Marshall. The Arrows beat St. James 9-3 on Tuesday night in an elimination



Litchfield's Taylor Draeger sets to fire off a pitch during a Section 3AA playoff game against St. James on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at the Schwans Regional Amateur Sports Complex in Marshall.

game. With Tuesday's victory, Litchfield has to win one game while Pipestone would have to win twice to advance to state and win 3AA for the fifth straight season.

"We're all excited. That was the goal: the section final first, then the state tournament," Luke Braaten said. "Seeing the girls work so hard and to see it unfold and get better and better, it's fun to watch as a coach."

In the seventh-inning jam, Draeger struck out Samantha

Tetzloff for the first out. The Dragons hurler had seven strikeouts, allowing one run on an RBI single by Tori Mohlwinkel in the fourth inning.

"We knew they were going to be tough," Draeger said. "They just beat Pipestone (on Saturday), which has been the leader of our section for some time now. We knew we had to bring our 'A' game and I tried to keep them off-balance and throw my best stuff."

With the defense pulled

in, the Saints' Mackenzie Christensen hit a blooper to left field. Thinking it would fall to the ground, the runner on third was sent home. But, left fielder Liv Holmgren caught the pop up, then made the throw to third for the inning-ending double play.

"I don't think they realized that we pulled in the outfield so close," Luke Braaten said.

Said Draeger after surviving the seventh, "I don't think I celebrated that

Flying Dutchmen pound KMS, 14-1

Fighting Saints can't quell Edgerton/SWC in Section 3A



Matthew Curry / West Central Tribune.

Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg senior Maret Gjerde prepares herself before stepping into the batter's box against Edgerton/SWC on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, in Cottonwood.

By Matthew Curry

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COTTONWOOD — The second-seeded Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg Fighting Saints came into Tuesday's matchup hoping for an upset over the top-seeded Edgerton/Southwest Christian Flying Dutchmen.

Instead, their hopes sank with a 14-1 loss.

Prior to defeating Wabaso in the Game 2 elimination game 10-7, the Saints struggled against the Flying Dutchmen, who had 18 hits in four innings. KMS notched four hits, including two doubles, and one run in the second.

The two will meet for

the Section for the Section 3A championship at 4 p.m. Thursday at the Schwans Regional Amateur Sports Complex in Marshall. KMS needs to beat the Flying Dutchmen twice to advance to state.

"They're just built bigger, stronger, faster and they sure looked it here," KMS coach Eileen Suter said. "We were just trying to keep the ball low, trying to change up the speeds."

"But even if you let it hang a little bit, they'll take advantage of it. They're strong hitters that had strong at-bats."

The Flying Dutchmen notched four runs in the first inning.

Saints' senior Lauren Krieger connected for a double in the top of the second for the team's first hit of the ball game. Krieger scored on an RBI by junior Grace Collins.

The second inning seemed to repeat the first inning for the Flying Dutchman. The same four runners who scored in the first inning scored in the second, extending their lead to 8-1.

Edgerton/SWC offense scored six runs in the fourth.

"(Edgerton/SWC) just has big strong girls and I haven't seen them put runs like that up on the board all year," Suter said.

SOFTBALL: Page AB3

Charles leads Mystics past Lynx

Field Level Media
Tina Charles converted half of her six 3-point attempts and all 10 free-throw tries, scoring 31 points as the host Washington Mystics topped the Minnesota Lynx 85-81 on Tuesday night, snapping the Lynx's three-game winning streak.

Charles shot 9-for-18 from the field, Myisha

Hines-Allen notched 19 points, and Natasha Cloud contributed 11 points and eight assists for the Mystics, who outscored the Lynx 27-18 in the third quarter in taking control before hanging on late.

The Mystics (3-5) sank 42.6 percent of their field-goal attempts and were 6 of 20 (30 percent) from behind the arc.

Meanwhile, the Lynx (3-5) were 6-for-22 from 3-point range. Napheesa Collier led the team with 22 points and nine rebounds, but was 0-for-5 from beyond the arc.

Sylvia Fowles registered 15 points, five rebounds and three steals for the Lynx. Layschia Clarendon racked up 14 points, seven

rebounds and six assists, while Crystal Dangerfield scored 10 for Minnesota.

Kayla McBride tied the game by converting a 3-pointer from the corner with 6:38 left in the third quarter. On the next possession, Fowles gave the Lynx their first lead since the 7:15 mark in the second quarter, 48-47.

The Mystics pulled away midway through the third quarter, orchestrating a 12-0 run led by Charles and Hines-Allen.

The Mystics entered the fourth quarter up 70-56; the Lynx outscored the Mystics 25-15 in the fourth quarter.

With 1:33 remaining in the game, the Lynx cut the Mystic's lead to

78-73. Clarendon later hit a 3-point shot with 31.3 seconds left, making it 80-76 and preserving hope for the Lynx.

Charles scored four of the Mystics' final six points in the final half-minute, with her last shot stretching the Mystics' lead to 85-78, effectively ending any possibility of a Lynx comeback.

SCOREBOARD

NORTHWOODS LEAGUE STANDING

Northwoods League

Great Plains West

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Willmar	7	2	.778	—
Bismarck	6	3	.667	1
Mankato	5	4	.556	2
Rochester	4	5	.444	3
St. Cloud	3	4	.429	3

Tuesday's Games
Willmar 7, Waterloo 6
Bismarck 3, Mankato 1
St. Cloud 8, Rochester 7

Wednesday's Games
Waterloo at Willmar, 7:05 p.m.
St. Cloud at Rochester, 6:35 p.m.
Bismarck at Mankato, 6:35 p.m.

BASEBALL

Professional MLB

American League East

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	39	23	.629	—
Boston	37	24	.607	1.5
NY Yankees	32	29	.525	6.5
Toronto	30	28	.517	7.0
Baltimore	22	38	.367	16.0

Central

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Chi. White Sox	37	23	.617	—
Cleveland	32	26	.552	4.0
Kansas City	29	29	.500	7.0
Detroit	25	35	.417	12.0
Minnesota	24	36	.400	13.0

West

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Oakland	35	26	.574	—
Houston	34	26	.567	.5
Seattle	30	32	.484	5.5
LA Angels	28	32	.467	6.5
Texas	23	39	.371	12.5

National League East

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
NY Mets	29	24	.547	—
Atlanta	29	29	.500	2.5
Philadelphia	28	31	.475	4.0
Miami	26	34	.433	6.5
Washington	24	33	.421	7.0

Central

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	34	26	.567	—
Chi. Cubs	33	27	.550	1.0
St. Louis	31	30	.508	3.5
Cincinnati	28	30	.483	5.0
Pittsburgh	23	36	.390	10.5

West

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	38	22	.633	—
San Diego	37	25	.597	2.0
LA Dodgers	35	25	.583	3.0
Colorado	24	37	.393	14.5
Arizona	20	41	.328	18.5

Monday's Results
San Diego 9, Chi. Cubs 4

Tuesday's Results
LA Dodgers 5, Pittsburgh 3
Atlanta 9, Philadelphia 5
Milwaukee 5, Cincinnati 1
Miami 6, Colorado 2

Chi. Cubs (Davies 2-3) at San Diego (Lamet 1-0), 9:10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Chi. Cubs (Arrieta 5-6) at San Diego (Darvish 6-1), 3:10 p.m.
Atlanta (Davidson 0-0) at Philadelphia (Eflin 2-5), 6:05 p.m.

LA Dodgers at Pittsburgh (Anderson 3-5), 6:05 p.m.
Colorado (Gomber 4-5) at Miami, 6:10 p.m.
Milwaukee (Anderson 2-3) at Cincinnati (Gutierrez 1-1), 6:10 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Milwaukee (Peralta 6-1) at Cincinnati (Castillo 2-8), 11:35 a.m.
LA Dodgers (Urias 8-2) at Pittsburgh (Keller 3-6), 11:35 a.m.
Atlanta (Anderson 4-3) at Philadelphia (Wheeler 4-3), 12:05 p.m.
San Francisco (DeSclafani 5-2) at Washington (Gonzalez 2-3) at Miami (Rogers 6-3), 6:10 p.m.

Interleague
Monday's Results
Boston 5, Miami 3

Tuesday's Results
Baltimore 10, NY Mets 3
Tampa Bay 3, Washington 1
San Francisco 9, Texas 4
Cleveland 10, St. Louis 1
Arizona (Duplantier 0-1) at Oakland (Bassitt 5-2), 8:40 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
San Francisco at Texas (Gibson 4-0), 1:05 p.m.
Arizona at Oakland (Manaea 4-2), 2:37 p.m.
NY Mets (Walker 4-2) at Baltimore (Harvey 3-6), 6:05 p.m.
Washington (Corbin 3-5) at Tampa Bay (McClanahan 2-1), 6:10 p.m.
Cleveland (Mejia 1-0) at St. Louis (Wainwright 3-5), 7:15 p.m.

AL leaders

BATTING

Batter	G	AB	R	H	AVG
Guerrero Jr., TOR	58	206	44	69	.335
Gurriel, HOU	55	201	27	67	.333
Mullins, BAL	63	231	33	75	.325
Bogaerts, BOS	60	218	34	70	.321
Martinez, BOS	56	213	41	68	.319
Madrigal, CHW	54	197	30	60	.305
Anderson, CHW	49	196	34	59	.301
Walsh, LAA	60	208	30	62	.298
Altuve, HOU	49	202	39	60	.297
Alvarez, HOU	47	183	32	54	.295

HOME RUNS
Guerrero Jr., TOR, 18; Ohtani, LAA, 17; Garcia, TEX, 16; Devers, BOS, 15; Olson, OAK, 15; 6 tied 14.

RUNS BATTED IN
Devers, BOS, 48; Meadows, TB, 48; Guerrero Jr., TOR, 47; Abreu, CHW, 46; Mancini, BAL, 45; Ohtani, LAA, 44; Garcia, TEX, 43; Grichuk, TOR, 43; Gurriel, HOU, 42; 3 tied 40.

PITCHING
Civale, CLE, 8-2; Pettit, OAK, 7-0; Lynn, CHW, 7-1; Eovaldi, BOS, 7-2; Bieber, CLE, 7-3; Pivetta, BOS, 6-1; Berrios, MIN, 6-2; Greinke, HOU, 6-2; Cole, NYY, 6-3; Matz, TOR, 6-3.

NL leaders

BATTING

Batter	G	AB	R	H	AVG
Castellanos, CIN	54	213	37	76	.357
Winker, CIN	52	205	44	71	.346
Frazier, PIT	58	233	35	77	.330
Riley, ATL	59	192	32	60	.313
Turner, WAS	57	231	31	72	.312
Bryant, CHC	58	211	40	65	.308
Acuna Jr., ATL	56	198	48	57	.288
Smith, ARI	60	215	34	62	.288
Reynolds, PIT	57	206	35	59	.286
Arenado, STL	60	234	30	66	.282

HOME RUNS
Acuna Jr., ATL, 18; Tatis Jr., SD, 17; Winker, CIN, 17; Baez, CHC, 14; Crawford, SF, 14; Escobar, ARI, 14; 6 tied 13.

RUNS BATTED IN
Aguilar, MIA, 46; Crawford, SF, 41; Escobar, ARI, 41; Arenado, STL, 40; Baez, CHC, 39; Tatis Jr., SD, 39; Acuna Jr., ATL, 38; Bryant, CHC, 38; Naquin, CIN, 38; 2 tied 37.

PITCHING
Flaherty, STL, 8-1; Urias, LAD, 8-2; Gausman, SF, 7-0; Hendricks, CHC, 7-4; Kershaw, LAD, 7-5; Darvish, SD, 6-1; Peralta, MIL, 6-1; Rogers, MIA, 6-3; Suter, MIL, 6-3; Bauer, LAD, 6-4.

Washington 129, Washington 112

Brooklyn 4, Boston 1
Saturday, May 22: Brooklyn 104, Boston 93

Tuesday, May 25: Brooklyn 130, Boston 108

Friday, May 28: Boston 125, Brooklyn 119

Sunday, May 30: Brooklyn 141, Boston 126

Tuesday, June 1: Brooklyn 123, Boston 109

Milwaukee 4, Miami 0
Saturday, May 22: Milwaukee 109, Miami 107

Monday, May 24: Milwaukee 132, Miami 99

Thursday, May 27: Milwaukee 113, Miami 84

Saturday, May 29: Milwaukee 120, Miami 103

Atlanta 4, New York 1
Sunday, May 23: Atlanta 107, New York 105

Wednesday, May 26: New York 101, Atlanta 92

Friday, May 28: Atlanta 105, New York 94

Sunday, May 30: Atlanta 113, New York 96

Wednesday, June 2: Atlanta 103, New York 89

Western Conference Utah 4, Memphis 1
Sunday, May 23: Memphis 112, Utah 109

Wednesday, May 26: Utah 141, Memphis 129

Saturday, May 29: Utah 121, Memphis 111

Monday, May 31: Utah 120, Memphis 113

Wednesday, June 2: Utah 126, Memphis 110

Phoenix 4, L.A. Lakers 2
Sunday, May 23: Phoenix 99, L.A. Lakers 90

Tuesday, May 25: L.A. Lakers 109, Phoenix 102

Thursday, May 27: L.A. Lakers 109, Phoenix 95

Sunday, May 30: Phoenix 100, L.A. Lakers 92

Tuesday, June 1: Phoenix 115, L.A. Lakers 85

Thursday, June 3: Phoenix 113, L.A. Lakers 100

Denver 4, Portland 2
Saturday, May 22: Portland 123, Denver 109

Monday, May 24: Denver 128, Portland 109

Thursday, May 27: Denver 120, Portland 115

Saturday, May 29: Portland 115, Denver 95

Tuesday, June 1: Denver 147, Portland 140

Thursday, June 3: Denver 126, Portland 115

L.A. Clippers 4, Dallas 3
Saturday, May 22: Dallas 113, L.A. Clippers 103

Tuesday, May 25: Dallas 127, L.A. Clippers 121

Friday, May 28: L.A. Clippers 118, Dallas 108

LOCAL CALENDAR

Wednesday, June 9

Track and Field
Section 8AA prelims, 12:30 p.m. at Sartell
Section 5A championship: 10:30 a.m. at Collegetown

Amateur Baseball
Willmar at Paynesville, 7:30 p.m.
Dawson at Minnetonka, 7:30 p.m.

Northwoods League Baseball
Waterloo at Willmar, 7:05 p.m.

Thursday, June 10

Section 6AAA championship: Willmar vs. TBD, 6 p.m. at Delano

Section 3AA championship: ACGC vs. Paynesville, 5 p.m. at Spicer

Section 2A championship: BOLD vs. Springfield, 5 p.m. at Mankato

Section 3A championship: YME vs. Adrian/Ellsworth, 5 p.m. at Milroy

Section 6A elimination: KMS vs. Ashby, 2:30 p.m. at New York Mills

Section 6A championship: KMS/Ashby winner vs. New York Mills, 4:30 p.m. at New York Mills

Softball
Section 3AA championship: Litchfield vs. Pipestone, 5 p.m. at Marshall
Section 3A championship: KMS vs. Edgerton/SMC, 4 p.m. at Marshall

TV CALENDAR

Wednesday June 9

Baseball
MLB: New York Yankees at Minnesota, 7 p.m., BSN
MLB: Kansas City at Los Angeles Angels, 8:30 p.m., ESPN

Basketball
NBA playoff games, 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m., TNT
WNBA: Indiana at Chicago, 7 p.m., CBSN
WNBA: Dallas at Phoenix, 9 p.m., CBSN

Hockey
NHL playoff games, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., NBCSN

Soccer
International friendly: U.S. vs. Costa Rica, 6 p.m., ESPN2

Softball
College softball: Women's College World Series game, 6 p.m., ESPN

Track and field
College track and field: NCAA outdoor championships, 8 p.m., ESPN2

Section 6A elimination: Benson vs. Hancock, 1 p.m. at Browerville

Section 6A championship: Benson/Hancock winner vs. Browerville/Eagle Valley, 3 p.m. at Browerville

Track and Field
Section 6A championship: 11 a.m. at Fergus Falls

Section 3A championship: 3:30 at Redwood Falls

Boys Tennis
Class A individual tournament, 8 a.m. at St. Cloud

Northwoods League Baseball
Mankato at Willmar, 7:05 p.m.

Minnesota Twins - Activated LF Rob Refsnyder from the 7-day IL. Optioned CF Gilberto Celestino to St. Paul (AAA-East). Outrighted RHP Juan Minaya to St. Paul (AAA-East). Sent CF Byron Buxton on a rehab assignment to St. Paul (AAA-East).

New York Yankees - Sent LHP Zack Britton and LF Ryan LaMarre on a rehab assignment to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (AAA-East).

Oakland Athletics - Activated LHP Reymun Guduan from the 10-day IL, designated him for assignment.

Seattle Mariners - Designated C Jacob Nottingham for assignment. Selected the contract of RF Dillon Thomas from Tacoma (AAA-West). Sent SP Kendall Graveman on a rehab assignment to Tacoma (AAA-West).

Texas Rangers - Designated LF Khris Davis for assignment.

Toronto Blue Jays - Placed C Danny Jansen on the 10-day IL, retroactive to June 7. Recalled C Riley Adams from Buffalo (AAA-East).

National League
Chicago Cubs - Activated RHP Alec Mills from the 10-day IL. Optioned RHP Cory Abbott to Iowa (AAA-East). Placed RP Adbert Alzolay on the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Kohl Stewart from Iowa (AAA-East). Signed 2B Carlos Sepulveda to a minor league contract.

Cincinnati Reds - Activated 1B Joey Votto from the 10-day IL. Placed RHP Michael Feliz on the 10-day IL, retroactive to June 7.

Miami Marlins - Placed LHP Daniel Castano on the 10-day IL, retroactive to June 7. Recalled LHP Braxton Garrett from Jacksonville (AAA-East).

Milwaukee Brewers - Selected the contract of 2B Jake Peterson from Nashville (AAA-East).

New York Mets - Sent CF Albert Almora Jr. on a rehab assignment to Syracuse (AAA-East). Signed CF Cesar Puello to a minor league contract.

Philadelphia Phillies - Activated RHP Chase Anderson and RHP David Hale from the COVID-19 IL. Optioned 2B Nick Maton and LHP Christopher Sanchez to Lehigh Valley (AAA-East). Placed RHP Brandon Kintzler on the 10-day IL, retroactive to June 7. Selected the contract of 3B Luke Williams from Lehigh Valley (AAA-East).

Pittsburgh Pirates - Activated 3B Phillip Evans from the 10-day IL. Activated RHP Mitch Keller from the COVID-19 IL. Designated 2B Wilmer Difo for assignment. Optioned LHP Austin Davis to Indianapolis (AAA-East).

San Francisco Giants - Activated 1B Brandon Belt from the 10-day IL. Sent SP Caleb Baragar on a rehab assignment to Sacramento (AAA-West).

Washington Nationals - Placed SP Austin Voth on the 10-day IL, retroactive to June 7. Recalled RHP Ryne Harper from Rochester (AAA-East).

Atlanta or Philadelphia vs. Milwaukee or Brooklyn Western Conference Utah or L.A. Clippers vs. Phoenix or Denver

WNBA Eastern Conference

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Connecticut	8	2	.800	—
New York	5	4	.556	2.5
Atlanta	4	4	.500	3
Washington	3	5	.375	4
Chicago	2	7	.222	5.5
Indiana	1	9	.100	7

Western Conference

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	7	2	.778	—
Las Vegas	7	3	.700	0.5
Phoenix	5	3	.625	1.5
Los Angeles	4	3	.571	2
Dallas	3	5	.375	3.5
Minnesota	3	5	.375	3.5

Tuesday's Games
Washington 85, Minnesota 81
Dallas at Phoenix, 9 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Seattle at Atlanta, 6 p.m.
Indiana at Chicago, 7 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Los Angeles at Washington, 6 p.m.

HOCKEY

Professional NHL Playoffs

Sunday's Games
Montreal 5, Winnipeg 1
Vegas 5, Colorado 1

Monday's Games
NY Islanders 5, Boston 4
Montreal 3, Winnipeg 2, OT

Tuesday's Games
Tampa Bay 2, Carolina 0
Vegas at Colorado, 8 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Boston at NY Islanders, 6:30 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

Tuesday

Baseball
Baltimore Orioles - Activated 3B Pat Valaika from the bereavement list. Activated RHP Mac Scerolar from the 10-day IL. Optioned 2B Ramon Urias to Norfolk (AAA-East). Sent LF Austin Hays on a rehab assignment to Norfolk (AAA-East).

Detroit Tigers - Placed 3B Jeimer Candelario on the bereavement list. Recalled 3B Isaac Paredes from Toledo (AAA-East).

Houston Astros - Activated LF Michael Brantley from the 10-day IL. Placed SS Aledmys Diaz on the 10-day IL.



Joe Brown / West Central Tribune

Litchfield's Grace Braaten greets teammate Izzy Pennertz after scoring a run in the first inning of a Section 3AA playoff game against St. James on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at the Schwans Regional Amateur Sports Complex in Marshall.

LITCHFIELD

From Page AB1

much. It was a huge weight off my shoulders. ... You just have to trust your defense at that point. I have a great defense behind me and they make big plays. That's what they did with that double play."

Now, the Dragons' offense had to get going in the eighth, which was a tough task. St. James sophomore pitcher Addie Bowers had 14 strikeouts Tuesday.

"She throws hard," Luke Braaten said. "We put some runners on base and had our chances but she did a nice job keeping us off-balance, especially in scoring position."

The one Litchfield player who had Bowers figured out was DeWolf. She opened the scoring in the first with a two-out RBI single that brought home Grace Braaten.

Then after Sydney McCann opened the top of the inning with a walk, DeWolf blasted the ball off the fence in left field, allowing McCann to score from first for the game-winning run.

"Emma's just been a great hitter all season long," Luke Braaten said. "Her approach is see ball, hit ball, and she does a nice job with that."

Draeger and the Litchfield defense closed the door in the bottom half of the eighth, putting the Saints down in order.

First pitch for Thursday's section final is scheduled for 5 p.m.

Section 3AA Litchfield 2, St. James 1
Litchfield 000 000 01-2 6 0
St. James 000 100 00-1 6 1

Hitting - Litchfield: Avery Stilwell 2-4 2b, Emma DeWolf 3-4 2b rbi-2, Izzy Pennertz 1-4, Sydney McCann 0-3 r bb, Grace Braaten r ... **St. James:** Chloe Michelson 1-4, Taylor Sodeman 1-3, Kelsey Grunewald 2-3 r, Tori Mohlwinkel 2-3 2b rbi.

Pitching (lp-h-r-er-bb-so) - Litchfield: Taylor Draeger (W) 8-6-1-1-0-7 ... **St. James:** Addie Bowers 8-6-2-2-1-14.

AREA BASEBALL

Paynesville emerges back in the 3AA title game

Bulldogs eliminate Luverne to get a rematch with ACGC

By Joe Brown
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MARSHALL
Paynesville is back in the Section 3AA baseball championship game after defeating Luverne 14-5 in an elimination game Tuesday at Legion Field.

Looking to reach state for the third straight season, the Bulldogs (19-7) take on Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City (21-2) in the 3AA championship at 5 p.m. Thursday at Green Lake Diamonds in Spicer. If Paynesville wins the first game, Game 2 follows.

Paynesville took advantage of four Cardinal errors, scoring eight runs in the second inning. Luverne finished with five errors.

During the regular season, ACGC was 2-0 against Paynesville: winning 3-2 on April 15 and 6-1 on May 24.

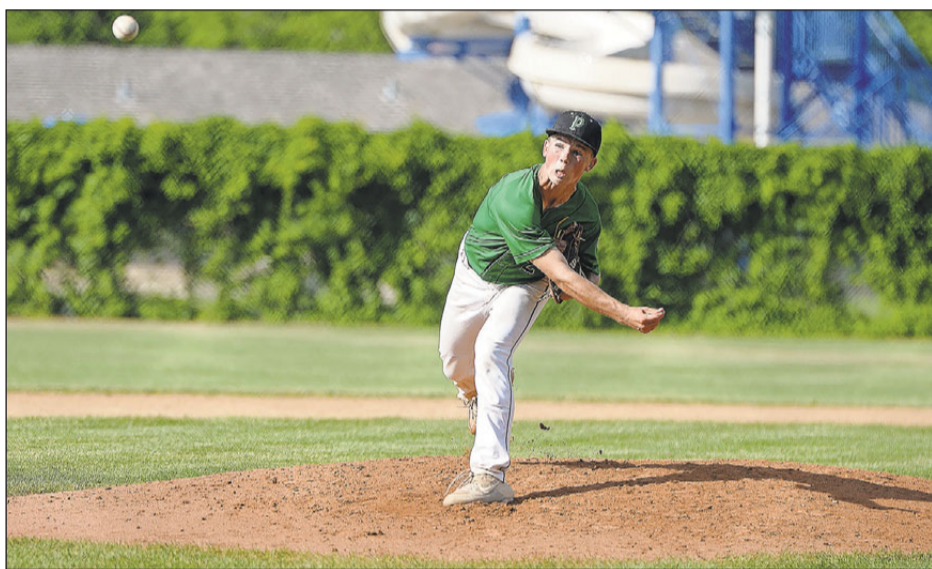
Drew Tangen, Eli Nelson, Tanner Stanley and Chase Bayer each had two hits for the Bulldogs. Nelson had a double and three RBIs. Tangen scored three times.

Nelson was also the winning pitcher, going 4 2/3 innings. Ryan Messer and Trent Wendlandt combined for 2-1/3 innings of scoreless relief.

Cade Wenninger was the top hitter for Luverne (20-5), going 2-for-3 with a triple, a run scored and an RBI.



Paynesville's Chase Bayer celebrates at home plate after scoring a run in the second inning of a Section 3AA elimination game against Luverne on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at Legion Field in Marshall.



Paynesville pitcher Eli Nelson tosses a pitch during a Section 3AA elimination game against Luverne on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at Legion Field in Marshall.

1-0, Trent Wendlandt 1-0-0-0-0-1.

Section 3AA Paynesville 14, Luverne 5

Luverne 200 030 0-5 7 5
Paynesville 081 230 x-14 12 0
Hitting - Luverne: Bailey Cowell 1-3 r-2 sb-2 bb, Cade Wenninger 2-3 3b r rbi bb, Casey Sehr 1-2 r bb-2, Connor Overgaard 1-2 rbi bb hbp, Brayden Ripka 1-3 rbi-2 hbp, No. 10 1-1 ... Paynesville: Grayson Fuchs 1-5 r-2, Drew Tangen 2-4 r-3 sb bb, Eli Nelson 2-4 2b rbi-3, Abe Bullard 1-4 r, Tanner Stanley 2-3 r-2 rbi-2 sb bb, Cooper Bast 1-4 r, Tori Olschheid 1-3 r-2 bb, Chase Bayer 2-3 r-2 rbi bb, Ryan Messer 0-4 r.
Pitching (ip-h-r-er-bb-so) - Luverne: Ethan Beyer (L) 1-3-7-1-0-2, Connor Connell 2-5-4-3-1-2, Wenninger 2-4-3-3-1-1, Ripka 1-0-0-0-2-1 ... Paynesville: Nelson (W) 4 2/3-4-5-5-6-2, Messer 1 1/3-3-0-0-

Section 3A YME 9, MACCRAY 7

Yellow Medicine East advanced to the section championship bracket by eliminating MACCRAY at Montevideo. The Sting (17-7) play Adrian/Ellsworth (13-11) at 5 p.m. Thursday at Yankee Field in Millroy. YME, the North's

second seed, must win twice to advance to the state tournament. Adrian/Ellsworth is the sixth seed in the South. MACCRAY (16-4) was the top in the North. The Wolverines beat YME 10-6 in six innings on June 1 to send the Sting to the losers' bracket. Cole Fischer went 2-for-5 with an RBI for YME. For MACCRAY, Eli

DuHoux was 2-for-3 with a home run, two runs and two RBIs. YME 100 305 0-9 6 2
MACCRAY 200 121 1-7 7 3
Hitting - YME: Nikson Knapper 1-4, Cole Fischer 2-5 rbi, Cody Dahlager 1-3 r-2 sb bb hbp, Ty Schulte 1-3 r-2 r bb-2, Tyler Nordaune 1-4 rbi-2 sb, Hunter Wilke 0-3 r bb hbp, Bryce Sneller 0-3 r rbi bb, Nolan Hildahl 0-0 r rbi sb bb-3 hbp, Jake Odegard 0-0 r sb, Isaac Jimenez 0-0 r ... MACCRAY: Brady Kienitz 1-3 r bb, Dreyer Homan 1-3 r rbi bb, Eli DuHoux 2-3 hr r-2 rbi-2 sb hbp, Brooks Asche 1-3 rbi-2 sf, Joe Heidecker 1-4 rbi, Gavin Husman 1-3 r bb, Isaac Strommer 0-3 r bb, Mitch Brynjtson 0-2 r sb bb-2.
Pitching (ip-h-r-er-bb-so) - YME: Caleb Jans 4-3-4-3-4-0, Sneller (W) 1 1/3-1-2-3-1-1-1-1-2 ... MACCRAY: Homan 4-1-4-1-7-8, Carter Wrede (L) 2/3-2-3-3-0-2, Kienitz 1 1/3-

Section 6A New York Mills 2, KMS 1

Derin Gaudette tossed a two-hitter to out-duel Alex Call and advance host New York Mills to the championship bracket in 6A. Gaudette struck out nine, walked four and allowed one earned run. Call went the distance for Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg, striking out 11 and walking one. He allowed five hits and one earned run.

KMS (19-1), the top seed in 6A-South, moves into the elimination bracket. The Fighting Saints play Ashby at 2:30 p.m. Thursday in New York Mills. The winner then plays New York Mills (20-2), the top seed in 6A-North, for the championship. A third game, if needed, would follow. KMS 000 100 0-1 2 1
NYM 000 000 0-2 5 3
Hitting - KMS: Isaac Call 1-3 2b, Jared Cortez 1-3, Wylee Lottman 0-2 r bb, Alex Call 0-2 rbi bb ... NYM: Jake Guck 1-2 rbi bb, Jonah Johnson 2-3 rbi, Braden Ehnert 1-3 r, Cale Rudolph 1-3 r.
Pitching (ip-h-r-er-bb-so) - KMS: A. Call (L) 6-5-2-1-1-11 ... NYM: Derin Gaudette (W) 7-2-1-1-4-9.

Ashby 8, BBE 2
Ashby (22-2), the No. 2 seed in the North, eliminated Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa from the 6A tournament at New York Mills. BBE finishes the season with a 12-11 record.

Legion baseball Glenwood-Lowry 4, BE/WC 2

Mitchell Gruber tossed a four-hitter to lead Glenwood-Lowry past Brandon-Evansville/West Central at Glenwood. Gruber struck out four and walked two. He allowed two earned runs. Glenwood-Lowry scored four runs in the fourth. BE/WC 000 000 2-2 4 4
Glenwood-Lowry 000 400 x-4 4 1
Hitting - BE/WC: Not available ... Glenwood-Lowry: Mitchell Gruber 1-2 r rbi, Darion Alexander 1-2 r rbi-2 bb sb, Aaron Ver Steeg 0-2 bb, Riley Johnson 1-3 rbi, Jace Lindemann 0-3 r, Hunter Johnson 1-2 r rbi sb
Pitching (ip-h-r-er-bb-so) - BE/WC: N/A ... Glenwood-Lowry: Gruber (W) 7-4-2-2-2-4

VFW baseball Willmar 13, BOLD 0

Mattix Swanson went 2-for-3 with a run, two RBI and a triple in Willmar Post 1639's victory over BOLD at Willmar. The game was called after five innings because of the 10-run rule. Willmar heads to the 27th Annual Central Central Minnesota VFW Baseball Classic on Friday and Saturday in Cold Spring. Post 1639 opens play with Becker at 9:30 a.m. Saturday at Sartell High School. The Cardinals then are scheduled to play Chaska at noon at Orthopedic Sports Filed in Sartell. Also participating in the tournament are Litchfield and Paynesville.

BOLD 000 00-0 1 5
Willmar 940 0x-13 7 0
Hitting - BOLD: Not available ... Willmar: Ramero Trevino 0-2 r-2 bb, Henry Michelson 0-1 r-2 sb, Cullen Gregory 1-3 r-2 rbi sb, Carter Kallewig 0-0 r sb, Dylan Staska 1-3 r rbi sb, Mattix Swanson 2-3 r rbi-2 3b sb, Chase Birchard 0-0 bb-2, Kadin Brabender 1-2 rbi 2b sb, Landon Ogdahl 0-2 r hbp, Mason Thole 1-3 rbi, Jaydon Garnhardt 1-2 r-2 rbi
Pitching (ip-h-r-er-bb-so) - BOLD: N/A ... Willmar: Birchard (W) 3-1-0-0-2-6, Jaydon Garnhardt 1-0-0-0-0-2, Ogdahl 1-0-0-0-1-1

SOFTBALL

From Page AB1

Aside from crediting the Flying Dutchmen with its offensive onslaught, Suter wished her team could follow suit by connecting more at the plate. "Their pitcher didn't throw anything special. We should have hit her hard," she said. "But our hits just seemed to go right at them."

The Saints then won the elimination game over Wabasso. "(I) told the girls to let that one go," she said of the loss to Edgerton/SWC. "It's in the past and we can't change the past. We definitely just got try to win one more game and get back on Thursday to get another shot at (Edgerton/SWC.)"

Section 3A Edgerton/SWC 14, KMS 1

KMS 010 000 0-1 4 2
Edgerton/SWC 444 600 0-14 18 0
Hitting - KMS: Maret Gjerde 2-2 2b, Lauren Krieger 1-2 r, Grace Collins 1-2 rbi, Edgerton: Mackenzie Snyder 3-4 r-3, Paris Van Dyke 2-4 rbi-2 hr, Addison Fleischman 3-4 2b rbi-3, Maren Heren 2-3 hr rbi-2, Brooklyn Moss 3-3 rbi, Hannah Pap 3-3 rbi, McKenna Moss 1-3, Tyra Snyder 1-3.
Pitching (ip-h-r-er-bb-so) - Visitor: Lauren Krieger 2-1-15-14-11-0-1, Madison Anderson 1-2-0-0-3-0-2 Home: Addison Flechamn 4-4-1-1-0-3, Van Dyke 1-0-0-0-0-1

Section 3A Edgerton/SWC 14, KMS 1

Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg played its way into the Section 3A championship after beating Wabasso in an elimination game in



Sophomore Paris Van Dyke hit 3 of 4 with a two-run homer and was the closing pitcher for the Edgerton/Southwest Christian Flying Dutchmen against KMS on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at Cottonwood.

Cottonwood. "I'm just glad that they played hard and never gave up," said Fighting Saints head coach Eileen Suter. "It was just a fun win." Maret Gjerde finished 3-for-5 with two runs and an RBI. Josie Gjerde was 2-for-4 with two runs and an RBI and Halie Nichols was 2-for-5 with three runs. Madison Anderson tossed the first 3 2/3

innings for the Fighting Saints, striking out three. Lauren Krieger came in and tossed the final 3-1/3 innings, getting the win. KMS 400 051 0-10 12 2
Wabasso 300 300 1-7 9 5
Hitting - KMS: Halie Nichols 2-5 r-3, Josie Gjerde 2-4 rbi r-2, Maret Gjerde 3-5 rbi r-2, Lauren Krieger 0-5 r-2, Shakira Olson 0-4 rbi, Katlyn Peters 1-4 rbi, Grace Collins 1-3, Elsa Gjerde 1-4 rbi-2, Madison Anderson 1-2, Julia Carlson 1-2 r ... Wabasso: Sarah Franta 2-2 r, Kelsey Frank 2-4 rbi r-2, Kelsey Fischer 2-4 2b, Halle Huhnerkoch 1-3 r, Callie Burns 1-3 r, Kylie Wilkinson 1-1.
Pitching (ip-h-r-er-bb-so) - KMS: Anderson 3 2/3-6-4-3-1-3, Krieger (W) 3 1/3-3-3-3-1-2 Wabasso: Sarah Franta (L) 7-12-10-7-0-7

Wabasso 10, LQPV 0

Lac qui Parle Valley bowed out of the Section 3A playoffs after losing an elimination game to Wabasso in six innings in Cottonwood. Isabel Gerdes had two of the Eagles' three hits, with Macie Lund collecting the other. The Rabbits were led by Cassidy Irlbeck, who was 2-for-4 with three RBIs and a run scored.

Madeline Hanna added two hits and two runs. Getting the victory was Sarah Franta, who struck out four with no walks. LQPV wraps up the 2021 season with a 20-5 record. LQPV 000 000-0 3 3
Wabasso 110 026-10 11 0
Hitting - LQPV: Macie Lund 1-3, Isabel Gerdes 2-2 ... Wabasso: Madeline Hanna 2-4 r-2, Sarah Franta 1-3 r rbi, Sophia Hanna 1-2 r-2, Kelsey Frank r rbi-2, Cassidy Irlbeck 2-4 rbi-3 r, Halle Huhnerkoch 1-2 r, Avery Carlson 2-2 r-2 rbi.
Pitching (ip-h-r-er-bb-so) - LQPV: Rylee Sawatzky 5 2/3-11-10-7-3-4 ... Wabasso: Franta 6-3-0-0-0-4.

Section 6A Benson 9, C-G-B 8

A two-run base hit by Marissa Connelly in the bottom of the fifth inning gave Benson the lead for good in a Section 6A elimination game against Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley in Browerville. With the win, the Braves take on Hancock at 1 p.m. Thursday in an elimination game to determine a spot in the section championship. Earlier in the playoffs, the Owls beat Benson, 6-2. The winner takes on Browerville/Eagle Valley at 3 p.m. If Browerville/Eagle Valley loses, another game follows to determine the 6A champion. Against the Wolverines, Zoe Doscher was 4-for-4 with a double, a triple, two runs and four RBIs. Connelly was 3-for-4 with a double, two runs and two RBIs and Sarah Brandt finished 3-for-4 with two RBIs.

Bella Wolter got the victory in the circle after tossing all seven innings. C-G-B 102 410 0-8 8 0
Benson 320 220 x-9 19 4
Hitting - C-G-B: Jessica Moberg 2-2 hr r-3 rbi-4 hbp-2, Hayley Ward 1-4 rbi-2, Lara Botker 1-4, Grace Cardwell 1-3, Emma Wulff 1-3 r, Mikaelyn Johnson 2-4 2b r-3 ... Benson: Ellie Moesenthin 2-4 2b r-2 bb, Adysen Himley 2-4 r-3 bb, Marissa Connelly 3-4 2b r-2 rbi-2 bb, Zoe Doscher 4-4 2b 3b r-2 rbi-4, Sarah Brandt 3-4 rbi-2, Rachel Berens 2-4, Bella Wolter 1-4 rbi, Leah Thompson 1-4, Madi Wrobleksi 1-3 2b sb bb.
Pitching (ip-h-r-er-bb-so) - C-G-B: Moberg (L) 5-18-9-9-3-2, Botker 1-1-0-0-1-2 ... Benson: Wolter (W) 7-8-9-3-2-1.

Benson 9, Parkers Prairie 1

Benson won its first Section 6A elimination game, beating Parkers Prairie in Browerville. Leading 7-0 through three innings, the Braves were led by Rachel Berens, who went 3-for-4 with a triple, two runs and two stolen bases. Zoe Doscher finished 2-for-4 with a double, two RBIs, a run and two stolen bases. Ellie Moesenthin was 2-for-4 with two runs and a stolen base. Benson collected 12 hits. After Bella Wolter threw two innings, Adri Buboltz came in and got the victory after five innings of work. Benson 331 011 0-9 12 2
Parkers Prairie 000 000 0-1 2 1
Hitting - Benson: Ellie Moesenthin 2-4 r-2 sb, Adysen Himley 1-3 r-2 rbi sb-3, Marissa Connelly 1-3 r hbp, Zoe Doscher 2-4 2b r rbi-2 sb-2, Sarah Brandt 1-4 rbi, Rachel Berens 3-4 3b r-2 sb-2, Madi Wrobleksi 1-2 r rbi sb sac, Leah Thompson 1-1 rbi ... Parkers Prairie: Megan Blake 1-2 sb bb, Darian Booker 1-3, Cora Johnson 0-1 r bb-2.
Pitching (ip-h-r-er-bb-so) - Benson: Bella Wolter 2-1-0-0-2-2, Adri Buboltz (W) 5-1-1-0-2-3 ... Parkers Prairie: Kieda Wagner (L) 7-12-9-8-0-7.



Adrianna Candelaria / NAU Athletics

Northern Arizona's Jessa Hanson, a Willmar Senior High School graduate, has qualified for the NCAA Division I national championships in the 10,000-meter run.

A MOMENTOUS OCCASION

Ex-Card Jessa Hanson competes in nationals for Northern Arizona

By Tom Elliott
telliott@wctrib.com

Flagstaff, Ariz.

For Jessa Hanson, qualifying for the NCAA Division I National Championships is definitely a highlight.

The 2017 Willmar Senior High graduate has been through a lot, overcoming a stress fracture in her left foot. Getting to run this week and representing her school, Northern Arizona University, feels momentous.

"For me, it kind of feels like for one of the first times, I've seen my personal hard work pay off," Hanson said by phone. "It hasn't been an easy road to get here.

"I've faced my fair share of adversity."

The redshirt junior on the NAU outdoor track and field team qualified by finishing with a time of 34 minutes, 14.64 seconds in the 10,000-meter run on May 27 at the West Regional in College Station, Texas.

She looks forward to competing Thursday at nationals. The national meet takes place Wednesday through Saturday at the University of Oregon in Eugene. Hanson's race is set for 8:08 p.m. CDT Thursday.

"When I think about what I've been through, getting there is one of the biggest moments I've had in running," she said.



Adrianna Candelaria / NAU Athletics

Northern Arizona's Jessa Hanson has qualified for nationals. Hanson is a Willmar Senior High School graduate.

That she can talk about such things is a huge positive after she struggled with a stress fracture in her foot.

"I've just had my first truly healthy track seasons since my freshman year," she said.

The stress fracture has slowed her down until this year.

"It's slow to heal," she said, listing off the possible

causes, from bad luck to improper footwear to over-training. "It's myriad of things.

"I actually felt it happen." Also slowing her and all college athletes down in 2020-21 has been the novel coronavirus pandemic.

"We didn't have much of an indoor season because cross-country (in the Big Sky Conference) was moved to winter and the outdoor

season (in 2020) was canceled," she said.

The joy of getting to Eugene isn't the end of a successful 2021 outdoor season.

"I'm still going to race and compete," she said.

"I don't like to super-concentrate on goals. To me, it seems counter-intuitive. When I step off the track, I

HANSON: Page B4

PREP ROUNDUP

BOLD keeps going In 2A

Warriors advance to championship bracket with two more wins

By Tom Elliott
telliott@wctrib.com

MANKATO — The BOLD baseball team won two games to stave off elimination in the Section 2A playoffs.

First, the Warriors eliminated second-seeded New Ulm Cathedral 7-2 Monday night at ISG Field.

Then, BOLD beat third-seeded Mankato Loyola 5-1 to eliminate the Crusaders.

That puts the top-seeded Warriors (19-6) into the championship bracket against Springfield at 5 p.m. Thursday at ISG Field.

Fourth-seeded Springfield (17-6) had put BOLD into the losers' bracket by beating the Warriors 6-4 on June 3.

BOLD has won three straight to get back to the championship, where it will have to beat Springfield twice to advance to the state tournament. Springfield is on a seven-game winning streak. BOLD won the last time there was a state Class A championship game in 2019.

Against Loyola (17-5), Avery Herdina ent 2-for-3 with two RBI, a run and a sacrifice and Zeke Walton went 2-for-3 with a run and a hit-by-pitch.

Walton also pitched five innings to get the win, allowing five hits and one earned run. He struck out five and walked one.

Section 2A BOLD 5, Loyola 1

Mankato Loyola 100 000 0-1 2 1
BOLD 001 103 x-5 9 1
Hitting - Loyola: Logan Carlson 1-3 r sb, Mason Stoffel 1-3, Jake Sizer 0-0 sac ... BOLD: Braeden Tersteeg 0-2 r hbp, Avery Herdina 2-3 r rbi-2 sac, Aidan Elfering 1-3 rbi, Zeke Walton 2-3 rbi hbp, Tim Peppel 1-4, Eli Walton 0-3 r, Ryan King 1-3 r, Tate Sheehan 1-2 rbi sac, Drew Sagedahl 1-3 r sb
Pitching (ip-h-r-er-bb-so) - Loyola: Matthew Gartner (L) 5²-9-5-4-2-3, Jaxon Libby ³/₂-0-0-0-0 ... BOLD: Z. Walton (W) 5-1-1-1-1-5, Elfering (Sv) 2-1-0-0-1-2

BOLD 7, NUC 2

Aidan Elfering was 2-for-4 with two RBI and Drew Sagedahl went 2-for-3 with a double, two runs and two RBI to help BOLD win an elimination game over New Ulm Cathedral in Mankato.

Avery Herdina went five innings for the pitching win, striking out two and walking four. He allowed four hits and one earned run.

Cathedral, the second seed in 2A, finishes 19-6.

NUC 100 000 1-2 7 0
BOLD 020 023 x-7 9 4
Hitting - NUC: Isaiah Rieser 2-4 r, Sam Knowles 1-4, Jacob Berg 2-2 2b sb, Justin Berg 1-4 rbi, Kyle Seidl 1-3 r ... BOLD: Braeden Tersteeg 1-3 rbi-2 hbp sb-2, Avery Herdina 1-4 sb, Aidan Elfering 2-4 rbi-2, Zeke Walton 1-4 rbi, Tim Peppel 1-2 r sb, Owen Flann 0-0 r-2 hbp sb, Tate Sheehan 1-2 r, Drew Sagedahl 2-3 r-2 rbi-2 2b-2
Pitching (ip-h-r-er-bb-so) - NUC: Carter Haala (L) 4²/₃-6-4-4-1-1, Sam Knowles 1 1/3-3-3-3-1-0 ... BOLD: Herdina (W) 5-4-1-1-4-2, Elfering 1-0-0-0-0-0, Tersteeg 1-3-1-1-1-1

ROUNDUP: Page B3

Is this the last time for USA dominance?

The Tokyo Olympics could be the end of an era

By David Wharton
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — The story goes back a ways, back to the mid-1980s, when Michael Johnson was still in high school.

The famous sprinter was years away from winning gold medals at three consecutive Summer Olympics. He wasn't yet known for those glittering golden spikes.

A nerdy kid, Johnson was running track at a small magnet school in Dallas. The team's coach, Joel Ezar, who taught health class during the day, knew only a little about technique but could spot raw talent.

"No one was paying attention to me," Johnson recalls, "until he started writing let-

ters to all these colleges." Baylor University offered the unpolished athlete a chance to hone his skills with a coaching staff versed in speed and strength training.

"It was a critical moment for me," says Johnson, who wonders whether he might otherwise have fallen through the cracks and never become an Olympian. "I made a huge leap when I got to college."

This story might sound quaint but it shows how college sports have served as a vast feeder system, helping the Americans dominate every Summer Games for the past 25 years and making them favorites to again win a lion's share of medals at the Tokyo Olympics.

People need to know how

it works, Johnson says. They need to understand because the U.S. winning streak could be history — no more piles of gold, silver and bronze — by the time the 2028 Los Angeles Games come around.

Specialized training

Countries such as China, Russia and Germany follow a different method, identifying a relatively small number of prospects at an early age and funneling them into specialized training academies.

The U.S. relies instead on its broad network of colleges to serve as a kind of minor leagues. Casting a wide net, this system has a history of identifying and developing talent such as sprinter Carl

OLYMPICS: Page B4



FABRICE COFFRINI / AFP via Getty Images / TNS

In this photo from July 11, 2017, US Olympic track and field legend Michael Johnson answers to reporters after the Los Angeles 2028 bid presentations before the International Olympic Committee (IOC) members in Lausanne.

SCOREBOARD

NORTHWOODS LEAGUE STANDINGS

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Northwoods League, Great Plains West, and various teams like Willmar, Bismarck, Mankato, Rochester, St. Cloud.

BASEBALL

Professional MLB table with columns: American League East, Central, West; National League East, Central, West.

LOCAL CALENDAR

Wednesday, June 9 Track and Field Section 8AA prelims, 12:30 p.m. at Sartell Section 5A championship: 10:30 a.m. at Col-legeville Amateur Baseball Willmar at Paynesville, 7:30 p.m. Dawson at Minneota, 7:30 p.m. Northwoods League Baseball Waterloo at Willmar, 7:05 p.m. Thursday, June 10 Baseball Section 6AAA championship: Willmar vs. TBD, 6 p.m. at Delano Section 3AA championship: ACGC vs. TBD, 5 p.m. at TBD Section 2A championship: BOLD vs. Spring-field, 5 p.m. at Mankato Section 3A championship: TBD vs. Adrian/ Ellsworth, 5 p.m. at Milroy Section 6A elimination: TBD, 2:30 p.m. at New York Mills Section 6A championship: 4:30 p.m. at New York Mills Softball Section 3AA championship, 5 p.m. at Mar-shall Section 3A championship, 4 p.m. at Marshall

Section 6A elimination: TBD, 1 p.m. at Browerville Section 6A championship: 3 p.m. at Brow-erville Track and Field Section 3A championship: TBD at Redwood Falls Section 6A championship: TBD at Fergus Falls Boys Tennis Class A individual tournament, 8 a.m. at St. Cloud Northwoods League Baseball Mankato at Willmar, 7:05 p.m.

TV CALENDAR

Wednesday June 9 Baseball MLB: New York Yankees at Minnesota, 7 p.m., BSN MLB: Kansas City at Los Angeles Angels, 8:30 p.m., ESPN Basketball NBA playoff games, 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m., TNT WNBA: Indiana at Chicago, 7 p.m., CBSSN WNBA: Dallas at Phoenix, 9 p.m., CBSN Hockey NHL playoff games, 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., NBCSN Soccer International friendly: U.S. vs. Costa Rica, 6 p.m., ESPN2 Softball College softball: Women's College World Series game, 6 p.m., ESPN Track and field College track and field: NCAA outdoor championships, 8 p.m., ESPN2

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Milwaukee (Houser 3-5), Colorado (Senzatela 2-5), Chi. Cubs (Davies 2-3), Chi. Cubs (Arieta 5-6), Atlanta (Davidson 0-0), Colorado (Gomber 4-5), Milwaukee (Anderson 2-3), Interleague Sunday's Results, Monday's Results, Tuesday's Games, Wednesday's Games.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Winker, CIN, Frazier, PIT, Turner, WAS, Bryant, CHC, Riley, ATL, Smith, ARI, Arenado, STL, Reynolds, PIT, Cronenworth, SD, HOME RUNS, Acuna Jr., ATL, Tatis Jr., SD, Winker, CIN, Baez, CHC, Escobar, ARI, Aguilera, MIA, Escobar, ARI, Arenado, STL, Baez, CHC, Suter, MIL, G-3, Bauer, LAD, G-4.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Seattle, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Los Angeles, Minnesota, Dallas, Sunday's Games, Monday's Games, Tuesday's Games, Wednesday's Games, Thursday's Games, Friday's Games, Saturday's Games, Sunday's Games, Monday's Games, Tuesday's Games, Wednesday's Games, Thursday's Games, Friday's Games, Saturday's Games, Sunday's Games.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include San Francisco, San Diego, LA Dodgers, Colorado, Arizona, American League, Sunday's Results, Monday's Results, Tuesday's Games, Wednesday's Games, Thursday's Games, Friday's Games, Saturday's Games, Sunday's Games.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include San Francisco, San Diego, LA Dodgers, Colorado, Arizona, American League, Sunday's Results, Monday's Results, Tuesday's Games, Wednesday's Games, Thursday's Games, Friday's Games, Saturday's Games, Sunday's Games.

Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Seattle, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Los Angeles, Minnesota, Dallas, Sunday's Games, Monday's Games, Tuesday's Games, Wednesday's Games, Thursday's Games, Friday's Games, Saturday's Games, Sunday's Games.

Table with columns: Batter, G, AB, R, HAVG. Rows include Guerrero Jr., TOR, 57, 204, 44, 68.333; Guirriel, HOU, 54, 197, 27, 64.325; Mullins, BAL, 62, 227, 32, 73.322; Bogaerts, BOS, 59, 215, 34, 69.321; Martinez, BOS, 55, 209, 41, 67.321; Madrigal, CHW, 53, 193, 30, 59.306; Altuve, HOU, 48, 199, 39, 60.302; Walsh, LAA, 60, 208, 30, 62.298; Anderson, CHW, 48, 192, 34, 57.297; Judge, NYY, 57, 200, 32, 59.295.

Table with columns: Batter, G, AB, R, HAVG. Rows include Guerrero Jr., TOR, 57, 204, 44, 68.333; Guirriel, HOU, 54, 197, 27, 64.325; Mullins, BAL, 62, 227, 32, 73.322; Bogaerts, BOS, 59, 215, 34, 69.321; Martinez, BOS, 55, 209, 41, 67.321; Madrigal, CHW, 53, 193, 30, 59.306; Altuve, HOU, 48, 199, 39, 60.302; Walsh, LAA, 60, 208, 30, 62.298; Anderson, CHW, 48, 192, 34, 57.297; Judge, NYY, 57, 200, 32, 59.295.

Table with columns: Batter, G, AB, R, HAVG. Rows include Guerrero Jr., TOR, 57, 204, 44, 68.333; Guirriel, HOU, 54, 197, 27, 64.325; Mullins, BAL, 62, 227, 32, 73.322; Bogaerts, BOS, 59, 215, 34, 69.321; Martinez, BOS, 55, 209, 41, 67.321; Madrigal, CHW, 53, 193, 30, 59.306; Altuve, HOU, 48, 199, 39, 60.302; Walsh, LAA, 60, 208, 30, 62.298; Anderson, CHW, 48, 192, 34, 57.297; Judge, NYY, 57, 200, 32, 59.295.

Table with columns: Batter, G, AB, R, HAVG. Rows include Castellanos, CIN, 53, 209, 37, 75.359.

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Table with columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Rows include Seattle, Las Vegas, Phoenix, Los Angeles, Minnesota, Dallas, Sunday's Games, Monday's Games, Tuesday's Games, Wednesday's Games, Thursday's Games, Friday's Games, Saturday's Games, Sunday's Games.

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College Football Playoff could expand to 12 teams

The College Football Playoff could expand from four teams to 12 over an eight-team system, Yahoo Sports reported Tuesday, citing influential stakeholders. Expanding the playoff will be the topic of dis-

ussion next month in Chicago when a working group evaluating the topic presents its findings to a committee of influential administrators. In concept, a 12-team playoff likely would include automatic bids for the Power Five conferences, plus the highest-ranked Group of

Five teams. The other spots would be filled by at-large teams. Under the current four-game system, all participants are selected on an at-large basis. The CFP has been in effect since after the 2014 season, and only 11 teams have appeared in the seven years: Alabama (six times), Clem-

son (six), Ohio State (four), Oklahoma (four), Notre Dame (two) and one each for LSU, Georgia, Washington, Michigan State, Oregon and Florida State. The working group will outline the options to the management committee - composed of conference commissioners Greg Sankey

(SEC), Bob Bowlsby (Big 12) and Craig Thompson (Mountain West), and Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick - in meetings July 16 and 17. The following week, the larger College Football Playoff board of managers will receive the group's findings and is expected to make a decision on future play-

offs, per the report. A new CFP system would not be implemented before the 2023 season. In the meantime, much remains to be worked out, including television contracts and how the existing bowl games would figure into the expanded playoff. -Field Level Media

Advertisement for Willmar Golf Club featuring a 'Golf Quiz' titled 'HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR SPORT?'. The quiz includes questions about golf history and trivia. Answers are provided at the bottom. Includes an image of a golfer and a 'UPCOMING GOLF EVENTS' calendar.

COMMENTARY

It's an '06 turnaround, or time for trades

Twins are at a crossroads for the 2021 season

By Michael Rand
Star Tribune

When trying to conceive of a highly improbable event like the Twins rallying over the final four months of the season to reach the playoffs after this dreadful start, it helps at least to have some sort of precedent.

That's the way my mind works, anyway: If I've seen it happen at least once, I have an easier time imagining it happening again.

So as the Twins have stumbled all over themselves for two months, piling misfortune onto misplays — all at the mercy of questionable roster construction and decision-making — I've still had 2006 in the back of my mind.

In that season, on this same June 7 date in fact, the Twins dropped to 25-33 with a walk-off loss in Seattle. There was nothing about that team to make you think anything good would happen, let alone this: 71-33 over their final 104 games to win the AL Central at 96-66.

This year's Twins, at 24-35, are in roughly the same spot in terms of record, place in the AL Central (12 games back as opposed to 11.5 back in 2006) and also in terms of general sentiment. It sure feels like this just isn't their year and that the whole organization could be at a crossroads of sorts.



David Joles / Minneapolis Star Tribune / TNS

The Minnesota Twins reliever Francisco Liriano throws in 2006.

Patrick Reusse and I talked about that on Monday's Daily Delivery podcast, with Reusse imagining a fire sale of sorts coming soon if the Twins don't stun us with another run of improved play.

He mentioned Jose Berrios as a likely trade candidate, given his lack of a long-term contract and his impending free agency after the 2022 season — the general time frame for which a trading team could still get value in a trade.

Taylor Rogers' name also came up.

In other words: Their most dependable starter this season in Berrios, the only real homegrown success story in the starting rotation in a long time. And their only consistently dependable relief pitcher. Take those guys off the 2021 team and ... woof, not great. But if you're 24-35 with them, you're going nowhere so far.

And those are the guys who have value.

Not Miguel Sano, whose streakiness is plain to see from your couch and therefore evident to every team. Not Nelson Cruz, who is still productive but won't command much in return because of his age and contract. Not any number of other disappointing players.

Some of those players might get dealt away anyway, but if you're talking about reloading with prospects on the cusp of contributing in 2022 and beyond, Berrios and Rogers are

the Twins' main assets.

They also would almost certainly lead any sort of 2006-esque charge, if by some slim chance there is going to be one. There would need to be some help, too, from some sort of Francisco Liriano-like reinforcements. None have appeared so far.

The Twins have a handful of weeks to try, before the math of a comeback and the trade deadline converge. That team 15 years ago followed two months of dreadful

baseball with a 21-2 run that put them 11 games over .500 by July 3.

It started with a June 8 win at Seattle, a game pitched by Johan Santana.

This year's team, if it is going to try to go down a parallel path, will need to start its journey Tuesday against the Yankees with Michael Pineda on the mound.

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Vikings beat Texans to Mond on draft day

By Chris Tomasson
St. Paul Pioneer Press

Quarterback Kellen Mond will play next season for the Minnesota Vikings, 1,250 miles north of his hometown of San Antonio. For an instant, though, it looked as if he might have stayed in his native Texas.

Mond was drafted out of Texas A&M with the No. 66 pick in the third round by the Vikings on April 30, the second day of the NFL draft. They apparently snatched him away from the Houston Texans, who had the No. 67 selection.

"(There was a) phone call from his agent, text message, and the agent said, 'Hey, the Houston Texans are getting ready to select (Mond) at pick 67,'" Mond's father, Kevin, said. "So, we're sitting (at the San Antonio family home) on the couch and (Mond) gets the phone call a couple of minutes later and it's a team."

"Then, when he hung up the phone, he goes, 'I'm going to the Vikings.' The Texans had already told his agent they're getting ready

to take him at pick 67. The Vikings happened to have the pick 66."

Houston wound up choosing Stanford quarterback Davis Mills with the next pick.

"It wasn't supposed to be Mills," Kevin Mond said. "It was going to be Kellen."

Mond is expected to back up Kirk Cousins this fall. Had he gone to the Texans, he might have found himself in the mix to start as a rookie considering the uncertain future of Deshaun Watson, who is facing 22 civil lawsuits accusing him of sexual assault and inappropriate behavior. Watson has denied the accusations.

Nevertheless, Kevin Mond said his son is pleased he instead ended up with the Vikings.

"I think he's comfortable and he likes the decision," Mond's father said. "He's thrilled about being in Minnesota. ... In Houston, he might be rushed into it. (He can) sit back and watch and learn. But he's a fast learner."

Kevin Mond said his son has no issues with playing far from home after it had looked as if



Craig Lassig / Special to the St. Paul Pioneer Press

Quarterback Kellen Mond (11) during the Minnesota Vikings rookie minicamp at Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center in Eagan, Minn. on Friday, May 14, 2021.

he might stay in Texas. Houston is about 200 miles from San Antonio, and about 100 from Texas A&M in College Station.

"He wanted to get away," the senior Mond said. "He wanted to start his own life, his own career and get away and do things away from family and Texas, and A&M is right down the

highway. He just wants to start his own journey, and I think that's good."

"You work with the hand you're dealt," he continued. "If that's the hand you're dealt, you go and you work and you work to get better and you've got to do that no matter where you're at. He's got to do that in Minnesota, so he would

have handled (going to Houston) fine."

For now, Mond is busy getting acclimated in Minnesota. He took part Tuesday in the seventh practice of organized team activities, which will conclude Friday. The Vikings on June 15-17 will complete spring drills with a mandatory minicamp.

"Kellen has done a

good job," head coach Mike Zimmer said last week. "He's hanging in there mentally with everything. The coaches are working all the time with him, continually working. He's still got a long way to go. But as far as the mental aspect of things, he's hanging in there pretty good."

ROUNDUP

From Page B1

Legion baseball Glenwood-Lowry 11, Wheaton 4

Glenwood-Lowry opened the 2021 American Legion baseball season with a victory Monday night at Wheaton.

Dalton Friedrichs homered for Glenwood-Lowry and Aaron Ver Steeg threw five hitless innings for the victory,

striking out seven and walking three.

Glenwood-Lowry 122 104 1-11
11 3
Wheaton 000 001 3-4 4 3
Hitting - Glenwood-Lowry: Mitchell Gruber 0-3 r bb, D. Alexander 1-1 r, Torri Johnson 2-5 r rbi-2, Darion Alexander 2-3 r-2 rbi hbp-2, Aaron Ver Steeg 2-3 r rbi 2b, P.J. Johnson 0-0 bb rbi, Dalton Friedrichs 1-2 r-2 hr hbp, Logan Rood 1-2 rbi-2, Jacob Blair 0-2 sac, Alec Larson 0-0 r hbp, Jace Lindemann 1-3 r rbi bb sb ...
Wheaton: Not available.
Pitching (ip-h-r-er-bb-so) - Glenwood-Lowry: Ver Steeg (W) 5-0-0-0-3-7, T. Johnson 2-4-4-2-1-1 ... Wheaton: Not available

Honors Card earns CLC award

Willmar's Nina Daw-

son has been named a Central Lakes Conference performer of the week. Dawson made all-conference in three track events, the 800-meter run, the 1,600 and on the 4x400 relay. She had two personal-bests.

Also earning performer-of-the-week honors were:

* From Sartell, baseball player Kalen Lewis and track and field athlete Anthony Mahowald;

* From Sauk Rapids, baseball pitcher Landon Lunser;

* From Rocori, softball player Bree Griffin;

* From Fergus Falls, boys track athlete Conrad Lobb;

* From Brainerd, track and field athlete Hanna Caughey

* From Alexandria, boys golfer Braeden Sladek; girls golfer Cora Larson and boys tennis players Jacob Partington and Gannon Lueck.

Bowling

Three advance

Three Willmar youth bowlers competed in the Storm Youth Bowling Championships at Bogart's Entertainment Center in Apple Valley.

First, they competed in the district competition at McPetite's Bowling Center in Big Lake. In the 12-and-under age group, Nathan Nesges took second with a 657 series. Quinnton Hauck had a 683

series in the 18U age group. And, Nevaeh Molash took first place in the girls' 15U with a 650 series.

At the state competition in Apple Valley, Molash finished 15th of 18 bowlers with a 604 series. Hauck took 23rd place of 36 bowlers with a 611 series. Nesges was fourth of 28 bowlers. The coach is Chuck Loso. they compete at Ally on Ash in New London.

Baffert demands Medina Spirit urine tested

Attorneys for Kentucky Derby-winning trainer have gone to court

By Janet Patton
Lexington Herald-Leader

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Attorneys for Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert and the owner of Kentucky Derby winner Medina Spirit have gone to court in Frankfort to force the state's racing commission to allow more testing.

In a lawsuit filed Monday in Franklin Circuit Court, Baffert and Zedan Racing Stables asked the court to make the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission allow testing on the urine samples taken at Churchill Downs on May 1.

A hearing on the request is scheduled for 9 a.m. Friday. Medina Spirit won the Kentucky Derby but tested positive for betamethasone, a steroid that cannot be used during racing. Baffert contends that the horse was treated for a

skin condition with an ointment that contains betamethasone.

A second test of the split sample of Medina Spirit's blood confirmed the presence of betamethasone last week, according to Craig Robertson, Baffert's attorney.

The finding prompted Churchill Downs to announce that Baffert and his employees would be barred from racing or training any horses at tracks owned by the Louisville company for two years.

Clark Brewster, attorney for horse owner Amr Zedan, has said that veterinary records support Baffert's contention that the horse must have acquired the drug through the application of the ointment because there is no indication Medina Spirit was given a joint injection of betamethasone.

According to the attorneys, the first test found a level of 21 picograms per milliliter of blood, a level they allege is consistent with using the ointment once a day for weeks.

However, the method of administration is not spelled out in racing regulations. The Kentucky Horse Racing Commission has yet to act on the case.

At issue: Whether or not Medina Spirit will be stripped of the Kentucky Derby win, which was Baffert's seventh, and the \$1.68 million purse that goes with it.

The racing commission agreed to allow the remainder of the original blood sample to be tested for other ingredients found in the Otomax ointment but not in the injection.

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Andy Lyons / Getty Images / TNS
Trainer Bob Baffert of Medina Spirit, raises the trophy after winning the 147th running of the Kentucky Derby with Medina Spirit, his seventh career Kentucky Derby win, at Churchill Downs on May 1, 2021, in Louisville, Ky.

Are our days of domination over?

NCAA programs cutting Olympic sports; medal count could decline

By David Wharton
Los Angeles Times

The story goes back a ways, back to the mid-1980s, when Michael Johnson was still in high school.

The famous sprinter was years away from winning gold medals at three consecutive Summer Olympics. He wasn't yet known for those glittering golden spikes.

A nerdy kid, Johnson was running track at a small magnet school in Dallas. The team's coach, Joel Ezar, who taught health class during the day, knew only a little about technique but could spot raw talent.

"No one was paying attention to me," Johnson recalls, "until he started writing letters to all these colleges."

Baylor University offered the unpolished athlete a chance to hone his skills with a coaching staff versed in speed and strength training.

"It was a critical moment for me," says Johnson, who wonders whether he might otherwise have fallen through the cracks and never become an Olympian. "I made a huge leap when I got to college."

This story might sound quaint but it shows how college sports have served as a vast feeder system, helping the Americans dominate every Summer Games for the past 25 years and making them favorites to again win a lion's share of medals at the Tokyo Olympics.

People need to know how it works, Johnson says. They need to understand because the U.S. winning streak could be history — no more piles of gold, silver and bronze — by the time the 2028 Los Angeles Games come around.

Countries such as China, Russia and Germany follow a different method, identifying a small number of prospects at an early age and funneling them into specialized training academies.

The U.S. relies instead on its broad network of colleges



James Lang / USA TODAY Sports
Americans Brianna Rollins, Nia Ali and Kristi Castlin celebrate with American flags after sweeping the women's 100m hurdles final in the Rio 2016 Summer Olympic Games at Estadio Olimpico Joao Havelange.

to serve as a kind of minor leagues.

As a result, the American team can choose from thousands of candidates to restock its roster every four years.

But that pipeline is now in danger of slowing to a trickle, in large part because of the COVID-19 pandemic and its financial impact, with scores of universities cutting costs by downsizing their athletic departments.

Football, a non-Olympic sport, and basketball, a prominent Olympic sport, but one that yields few medals, have been spared because they generate tens of millions through ticket

sales and broadcast rights. The ax has fallen instead on such sports as the Summer Games trinity of track, swimming and gymnastics, which operate at a deficit. So far, hundreds of teams have been eliminated nationwide.

Prominent NCAA schools such as Iowa, Minnesota and Connecticut have made cuts, as have many smaller Division II and Division III campuses.

A few universities, including Brown and Clemson, have backed down in the face of public pressure. Stanford, which ranks with USC and UCLA in sending athletes to the Olympics, reinstated 11 teams it planned to drop.

Still, officials see a worrisome trend.

"Eighty percent of our Summer Olympics teams come from college," says Sarah Wilhelmi, a U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee executive. "When college programs are cut, there are dominoes related to those cuts."

A smaller talent pool means fewer athletes to choose from, fewer chances to strike gold. If the trend continues, Americans could soon be knocked off their perch atop the medals table, the unofficial scorecard that fans watch so closely at every Games.

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Refugee team to compete at Tokyo games

Team includes people from Syria, South Sudan, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Iran

By Karolos Grohmann
Reuters

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (Reuters) — An expanded refugee team of 29 athletes competing across 12 sports at next month's Tokyo Games will provide hope and inspiration to the world, the International Olympic Committee said on Tuesday.

The team, which will compete under the Olympic flag and include people from countries including Syria, South Sudan, Eritrea, Afghanistan and Iran, is almost three times as big as the inaugural team at the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympics.

Syrian swimmer Yusra Mardini, who swam to safety when her boat capsized between Turkey and Greece in 2015, will be back for her second Games after taking Rio by storm.

Also on the team are Kimia Alizadeh, Iran's first female Olympic medalist when she won bronze in taekwondo at the 2016 Olympics and fellow Iranian canoe racer Saied Fazlola.

Alizadeh left in 2020 saying she was oppressed as a woman, while Fazlola reached Germany in 2015 via the Balkans.

"I speak on behalf of the entire Olympic Movement when I say that we cannot wait to meet you in person and to see you compete in Tokyo," IOC President Thomas Bach said at a virtual presentation of the team.

"It will send a powerful message of solidarity, resilience and hope to the world ... You are an integral part of our Olympic community, and we welcome you with open arms."

The athletes, who will march into the stadium during the opening ceremony in second place behind ancient Games founders Greece, were selected from a pool of 56, supported by Olympic scholarships from 13 different countries.

The IOC unveiled its first refugee team at the Rio Games to raise awareness of the issue as hundreds of thousands of people were pouring into Europe from the Middle East and elsewhere escaping conflict and poverty.

That 10-member team from Syria, Congo, Ethiopia and South Sudan competed in athletics, swimming and judo.

Jim Fassel, longtime NFL coach, dies at 71

By Sam Farmer
Los Angeles Times

Jim Fassel, a longtime NFL offensive coach who was the league's coach of the year in 1997, has died at age 71.

Fassel's son, John, confirmed his father's death to the Los Angeles Times on Monday night, saying he got the news during a phone call in the afternoon. John Fassel formerly was the Rams' special teams coach and briefly served as the team's interim head coach.

Jim Fassel, who lived in Las Vegas, suffered chest pains Monday and was taken to a

local hospital by a friend. He died of a heart attack while under sedation, his son said.

John Fassel provided The Los Angeles Times with a statement Tuesday morning on his father's death:

"It is with a very heavy heart to announce that we lost our Dad yesterday. Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. While our Dad will be remembered as a longtime fan and face of the football world, his legacy will live forever in our hearts as the greatest Dad and Grandpa of all time. He leaves behind his wife Kitty,

their 5 kids and spouses, as well as 16 happy and healthy grandkids. We love you Dad."

Jim Fassel was coach of the New York Giants from 1997 to 2003. He is one of three coaches to lead the Giants to the Super Bowl. His team lost to the Baltimore Ravens in Super Bowl XXXV at the end of the 2000 season.

He spent the bulk of his career as a quarterbacks and offensive coordinator in the college ranks (Utah — where he was later head coach — Weber State, Stanford) and NFL (Denver, Oakland, Arizona, Baltimore). His last foot-

ball job was as head coach of the Las Vegas Locomotives of the United Football League from 2009 to 2012.

A graduate of Anaheim High, Fassel played quarterback at Fullerton College, USC and Long Beach State. He was the Chicago Bears' seventh-round selection in 1972. It led to stints that year with the San Diego Chargers and Houston Oilers before brief stops with the Canadian Football League's Toronto Argonauts and The Hawaiians of the World Football League.

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OLYMPICS

From Page B1

Lewis and volleyball great Misty May-Treanor. It has given late bloomers such as Johnson, with his awkward, upright style, a few more years to mature.

As a result, the American team can choose from thousands of candidates to restock its roster every four years.

But that pipeline is now in danger of slowing to a trickle, in large part because of the COVID-19 pandemic and its financial impact, with scores of universities cutting costs by downsizing their athletic departments.

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A smaller talent pool means fewer athletes to choose from, fewer chances to strike gold. If the trend continues, Americans could soon be knocked off their perch atop the medals table, the unofficial scorecard that fans watch so closely at every Games.

The U.S. squad headed for Tokyo won't be affected — one forecast has the team winning 114 medals, comfortably ahead of all other countries. But officials worry about the 2024 Paris Games and Los Angeles beyond that. They have created a think tank, inviting dozens of university administrators, coaches and former athletes to brainstorm solutions.

"This effort will take

a village," USOPC chief executive Sarah Hirshland told members during a recent videoconference. "We will not solve all of the issues all at once ... but certainly we can start to chip away."

Their agenda ranges from the practical (bottom-line economics) to the esoteric (discussions about how sports align — or should align — with higher education). These diverse issues intersect with America's love for the Games and the unusual, often shifting, path the country has followed in nurturing athletes.

It's all about the quest for gold.

NCAA influence

The first time French aristocrat Pierre de Coubertin invited the world to his new-fangled athletic festival, modeled after ancient Greek competitions, only a dozen or so nations showed up. From this 1896 debut, the modern Olympics slowly grew.

Americans never approached the Games like other countries where governments select and fund their teams. Early on, the U.S. sent a mishmash of college and private clubs, everyone wearing different uniforms. Two medals from the 1900 Paris Games belonged to

a University of Pennsylvania student who was actually Canadian.

Then, in 1908, the American Athletic Union assumed control of organizing the roster.

"The AAU was a very big deal at the time," says Mark Dyreson, an Olympic historian at Penn State University. "It was running every amateur sport in the country."

For nearly five decades, the AAU remained the key to assembling squads that often led the medals table because of the U.S.'s population, prosperity and cultural affinity for playing games. But in the 1950s, as college sports became more prominent, the NCAA muscled in.

The rival organizations began squabbling over money, each hungry for a slice of appearance fees that American athletes earned at foreign events. They soon wrestled for control of the Olympic roster.

Into this drama barged the USSR, which had focused on sports as a means of boosting its international profile. The effort paid off with a victory in the medals count at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics and in Rome four years later, the U.S. relegated to second place.

"There had to be a change," Dyreson says.

"We were losing to the Soviets."

Congress eventually got involved and, in 1978, passed the Amateur Sports Act, giving the U.S. Olympic committee authority over the American squad. Olympic historian Bill Mallon says this forced the AAU into the background and shifted more influence to the NCAA.

By the mid-1990s, the USSR had dissolved and Americans once again prevailed. It did not matter that the medal count wasn't really official or that it made traditionalists cringe — fans liked to see the U.S. on top with colleges supplying much of the talent.

"You've got that element of a pipeline," says Rick Adams, USOPC chief of sport performance. NCAA teams offer "coaching, facilities, nutritionists, sports psychologists ... all of the things we provide for Team USA but the college system provides it at hundreds of campuses."

Nowhere else in the world are college sports played so avidly, in such numbers. This mechanism has continued to outpace the state-run model, with the Americans winning 121 medals in Rio de Janeiro five years ago, their most-ever for a widely

attended, non-boycotted Games.

"There's a lot of competition you have to go through" in college, wrestler Kyle Dake says. "I think it gives us an advantage as a country."

College crucial

College is not the only path to the Olympics. In sports such as gymnastics and swimming, athletes often peak as teenagers, honing their skills at elite private clubs. It's the American version of the academy system.

Janet Evans took this route, earning three gold medals as a teenage swimmer at the 1988 Seoul Games. Still, upon returning home to Southern California, she enrolled at Stanford.

"It was appealing to me," says Evans, who now works for the LA 2028 organizing committee. "I thought I would swim better."

Coaching and facilities were only part of her decision. Evans and others talk about the benefits of maturing in ways that have nothing to do with sport.

"College allowed me to grow up as a young man," says Quincy Watts, a USC alumnus and a two-time gold medalist in sprints. "I had dreams of being an Olympian but I needed to understand my goals."

HANSON

From Page B1

know what I've accomplished and I'll know that I've given it my best effort."

She has a seed time of 33:56.97. In the field of 24, that puts her in the middle of the pack. The top-seeded runner is Alabama sophomore Mercy Chelangat, who

has a time of 33:06.83. Her goal, besides a successful national 10,000 run, is to finish out her career strong.

She arrived in Eugene on Tuesday. It's her first trip there since high school, when she ran cross-country there in the NXN, a national championship.

She still has another season left and running at NAU for distance

runners is ideal because of the mountainous terrain with high altitudes. Plus, she wanted to try college away from Willmar.

"I get home Thanksgiving and Christmas and then a few weeks in the summer," she said. "That's about it. ..."

"I always wanted to go to college farther away," she said.

She is a double major in biology and Spanish. She added another minor to pair with her chemistry minor, Latin American studies, to continue her undergraduate work. She's a redshirt junior, granted an extra year of eligibility by the NCAA because of the pandemic.

"My adviser is telling me I kind of went to

college twice," she said.

She has done well, receiving an NAU Golden Eagle award as a top-performer academically.

She's not sure what's next.

"I don't have a super set plan," she said. "I'm trying to keep my options open."

"Once I get my degree, I may take a

year or two to decide."

Whether it's traveling, a job or pursuing her master's degree, she'll continue to run.

"I'm interested in exploring past collegiate running," she said. "It depends how the next few seasons go. It (turning pro) is definitely something I'm interested in."



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