

IT'S RACE DAY  IN DAYTONA!

THE DAYTONA BEACH
NEWS-JOURNAL
 NEWS-JOURNALONLINE.COM HOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS BEACH

SATURDAY

JULY 5, 2014

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INSIDE: 10-PAGE SPECIAL SECTION, TODAY'S DRIVER LINEUP AND MORE!

SUMMER SPEEDWEEK 2014

SHOCK AND AWE

A surprising front row for tonight's 400, an amazing finish to Friday's 250



News-Journal/ NIGEL COOK

Kasey Kahne in the No. 5 Chevrolet wins by a hood over Regan Smith, No. 7, in a wild but clean finish Friday night to the NASCAR Nationwide Series Subway Firecracker 250 at Daytona International Speedway.

By **KEN WILLIS**
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DAYTONA BEACH

Look what the rain washed up. Viewers of Friday's group-qualifying session saw NASCAR's new format get its Daytona debut — in February, the Daytona 500 used the age-old single-car qualifying. No one knew exactly how the group strategy would shake out, and certainly few expected to see it result in a Coke Zero 400 front row of David Gilliland and Reed Sorenson.



KASEY KAHNE

While Cup Series qualifying served up a surprise, Friday night's Nationwide Series race — the Subway Firecracker 250 — delivered a wild but clean final lap that concluded with Kasey Kahne finishing inches ahead of Regan Smith, who led until the final few feet before an estimated crowd of 25,000.

Now, attention fully turns to the 400 and its unlikely duo at the front of the grid. Gilliland and Sorenson will approach the starting line side by side tonight, leading a field of 43 toward the first turn of Daytona's annual July show, known these days as the Coke Zero 400. The "Firecracker" tag might have shifted to Daytona's Nationwide Series race these days, but given the nature of restrictor-plate racing — particularly here at night — short fuses and explosions are never out of the question. This week, neither are rain delays.

SEE **SHOCK**, PAGE 7A



ONLINE: Photos, live coverage at news-journalonline.com/sports

TWEET: Up-to-the-minute racing coverage on Twitter @nascardaytona



Today At The Track

- 10 a.m. - Midway opens outside Turn 4
- 1 p.m. - Grandstand gates, Sprint FanZone open
- 3 - NASCAR Sprint Cup Series garage opens
- 5:30 - Country music singer and songwriter Lee Brice concert on pit road stage
- 7 - NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver introductions
- 7:30 - Start of the Coke Zero 400

Nationwide Race

Get the full story on Friday's Subway Firecracker 250, **PAGE 6A**.

Weather

Another cross-your-fingers forecast: Hot and scattered storms through the day, 30 percent chance of rain tonight during the race.

Coming Sunday

Go behind the scenes with News-Journal reporter Annie Martin, who embedded with Brian Scott's No. 2 Nationwide Series team for Friday's Subway Firecracker 250.

Charlie Crist's name stripped from race car

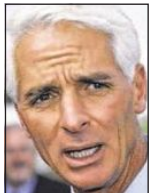
By **SKYLER SWISHER** and **CHRIS GRAHAM**
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DAYTONA BEACH — Charlie Crist is out of the race — at least the Coke Zero 400.

Country superstar Lee Brice and NASCAR legend Richard Petty are in.

The Republican-turned-Democratic candidate for governor's name was going to appear on Josh Wise's No. 98 car, but his decals were removed Friday after the Republican Party of Florida filed a complaint earlier in the week alleging the sponsorship broke campaign finance laws, said car owner Phil Parsons and Mike Curb, the car's entrant and associate sponsor.

Parsons, a former NASCAR driver, said he took Crist's name off the vehicle after talking with Curb, who is a supporter of Republican Gov. Rick Scott.



CHARLIE CRIST

SEE **CRIST**, PAGE 6A



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 Media Group

ABBY 3D	FAITH 1D
BUSINESS 12A	HOROSCOPE 5D
CLASSIFIED 1E	OPINION 4A
COMICS 4-5D	PUZZLES 3D, 5D
DEATHS 5C	TELEVISION 2D



FORECAST
 A couple of thunderstorms.
 High 88; low 72.
WEATHER 8C

CHRISTIAN COFFEEHOUSE
 Jakob's Well provides a safe location for the community to socialize and connect spiritually.
FAITH 1D

FEELIN' THE FOURTH
 From bear suits to barbecue, crowds find holiday fun across Volusia and Flagler counties.
LOCAL 1C

0002081485

SATURDAY JULY 5TH

WSOF 11

LIVE ON NBC

JON FITCH vs DENNIS HALLMAN

JUSTIN GAETHJE vs NICK NEWELL
 LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP FIGHT

JL CAVALCANTE vs MELVIN GUILLARD

OCEAN CENTER DAYTONA BEACH
 TICKETS ON SALE NOW 2PM FIRST FIGHT

Kahne wins Subway Firecracker 250

By GODWIN KELLY
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Kasey Kahne was not a factor in the Subway Firecracker 250 until it mattered — on the last lap.

Kahne, driving the No. 5 JR Motorsports Chevrolet, came from seventh on the final restart to beat teammate Regan Smith by 0.021 seconds before 25,000 spectators at Daytona International Speedway on Friday night.

The margin of victory was the third-closest Nationwide finish at Daytona and eighth-closest in series history.

Two late cautions bunched the field and allowed Kahne to make a run to the top of the leaderboard, with a big push from Ryan Sieg in the No. 39 Chevy.

“Everything I did, I thought was wrong,” Kahne said from Victory Lane. “I didn’t do a whole lot right, but in the end, I had a huge push from Sieg.

“The car was good. I had speed all night. I was able to get by Regan there. I just had tons of momentum coming off of Turn 4 (on the last lap).”

Chase Elliott, who was Smith’s wingman for much of the race, could not get his No. 9 JR Motorsports Chevy up to



News-Journal/NIGEL COOK

Kasey Kahne stands on his No. 5 Chevrolet in Victory Lane on Friday after winning the Subway Firecracker 250.

speed on the penultimate green flag, which led to the final caution, with several cars colliding trying to get around his machine.

The last green flag was waved on Lap 102 with Smith in control. Smith

said his mistake was trying to block an inside pass by Kyle Larson in the No. 42 Chevy.

“I blocked the No. 42 (Larson) a little bit and the No. 5 got a huge run on the outside,” Smith said. “I’m disappointed I

didn’t win, but a one-two finish was great for JR Motorsports.”

Kahne’s victory gave JR Motorsports a sweep of Daytona’s Nationwide Series races. Smith won the 300-mile race here in February.

The team is co-owned by Dale Earnhardt Jr., who will attempt to sweep both NASCAR Sprint Cup Series races today in the Coke Zero 400. Earnhardt opened the Cup Series by winning the Daytona 500.

“I’m really proud of the job Kasey did and Regan did,” Earnhardt said. “Chase did an awesome job, too, until he had his trouble at the end. They did a great job of staying where they needed to and stay in the right position.”

JR Motorsports boasts six Nationwide wins this season, as Smith went to the top of the points standings.

Sieg was third followed by Ryan Reed, Larson, Joey Logano, Darrell Wallace Jr., Jeremy Clements, Trevor Bayne and Mike Wallace.

“This is a win for our team, to finish third,” Sieg said. “It was awesome.”

The race start was delayed 90 minutes for rain.

Subway Firecracker 250 Results

Friday

At Daytona International Speedway
Daytona Beach

Lap length: 2.5 miles

(Start position in parentheses)

1. (13) Kasey Kahne, Chevy, 103 laps, 99.9 rating, 0 points, \$81,500.
2. (8) Regan Smith, Chevy, 103, 124.5, 44, \$67,525.
3. (21) Ryan Sieg, Chevy, 103, 76.6, 41, \$48,600.
4. (4) Ryan Reed, Ford, 103, 103.2, 40, \$37,050.
5. (10) Kyle Larson, Chevy, 103, 102.3, 0, \$26,600.
6. (11) Joey Logano, Ford, 103, 76.9, 0, \$24,350.
7. (9) Darrell Wallace Jr., Toyota, 103, 95.8, 0, \$28,810.
8. (36) Jeremy Clements, Chevy, 103, 68.8, 36, \$27,770.
9. (2) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 103, 102.7, 36, \$29,350.
10. (17) Mike Wallace, Dodge, 103, 73, 34, \$27,275.
11. (16) Ty Dillon, Chevy, 103, 99.2, 33, \$25,425.
12. (3) Chris Buescher, Ford, 103, 109.3, 32, \$24,875.
13. (23) Derrick Cope, Chevy, 103, 61.6, 31, \$24,350.
14. (18) James Buescher, Toyota, 103, 81.6, 30, \$23,825.
15. (20) Johnny Sauter, Toyota, 103, 84.1, 0, \$24,450.
16. (15) Brian Scott, Chevy, 103, 78.3, 29, \$23,350.
17. (5) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 103, 107.9, 0, \$17,225.
18. (27) John Wes Townley, Toyota, 103, 66.7, 0, \$17,100.
19. (1) Dakoda Armstrong, Ford, 103, 83.5, 26, \$23,475.
20. (7) Chase Elliott, Chevy, 103, 103.7, 25, \$23,550.
21. (6) Elliott Sadler, Toyota, 103, 94.5, 24, \$22,700.
22. (32) Eric McClure, Toyota, 103, 52, 22, \$22,570.
23. (31) David Ragan, Ford, 103, 68.6, 0, \$16,420.
24. (26) Dylan Kwasniewski, Chevy, 103, 73.4, 20, \$22,270.
25. (30) David Starr, Toyota, 103, 65.3, 19, \$22,645.
26. (12) Chad Boat, Chevy, 103, 54.2, 19, \$16,020.
27. (40) Joe Nemechek, Toyota, 102, 58.2, 0, \$15,870.
28. (14) Brendan Gaughan, Chevy, 102, 72.2, 17, \$21,695.
29. (33) Ross Chastain, Chevy, 101, 36.6,

0, \$21,570.
30. (25) Landon Cassill, Chevy, 101, 45, 14, \$21,745.
31. (28) Scott Lagasse Jr., Toyota, 101, 40.8, 13, \$15,315.
32. (35) Josh Wise, Chevy, 100, 39.8, 0, \$21,180.
33. (39) Jeffrey Earnhardt, Chevy, 100, 33.4, 11, \$21,065.
34. (34) Carlos Contreras, Chevy, 99, 33.6, 10, \$20,955.
35. (19) J.J. Yeley, Dodge, accident, 98, 58, 9, \$20,834.
36. (24) Tanner Berryhill, Dodge, 97, 32.6, 8, \$19,700.
37. (38) Joey Gase, Chevy, 92, 24.9, 7, \$19,665.
38. (29) Mike Bliss, Toyota, rear end, 62, 50.3, 6, \$19,611.
39. (22) Mike Harmon, Dodge, overheating, 58, 30.3, 5, \$19,495.
40. (37) Robert Richardson Jr., Chevy, rear end, 13, 26.9, 4, \$13,430.

RACE STATISTICS

Average Speed of Race Winner: 157.012 mph.

Time of Race: 1 hour, 38 minutes, 24 seconds.

Margin of Victory: 0.021 seconds.

Caution Flags: 3 for 12 laps.

Lead Changes: 14 among 11 drivers.

Lap Leaders: T.Bayne 1-7; E.Sadler 8-35; D.Armstrong 36; B.Gaughan 37-39; B.Scott 40; K.Busch 41-46; K.Larson 47-51; R.Smith 52; C.Elliott 53; C.Boat 54-55; R.Smith 56-69; K.Busch 70; R.Smith 71-102; K.Kahne 103.

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Laps Led)

R.Smith, 3 times for 47 laps; E.Sadler, 1 time for 28 laps; T.Bayne, 1 time for 7 laps; K.Busch, 2 times for 7 laps; K.Larson, 1 time for 5 laps; B.Gaughan, 1 time for 3 laps; C.Boat, 1 time for 2 laps; K.Kahne, 1 time for 1 lap; B.Scott, 1 time for 1 lap; D.Armstrong, 1 time for 1 lap; C.Elliott, 1 time for 1 lap.

Top 10 in Points:

1. R.Smith, 577; 2. E.Sadler, 565; 3. C.Elliott, 562; 4. T.Dillon, 545; 5. B.Scott, 523; 6. T.Bayne, 518; 7. B.Gaughan, 465; 8. J.Buescher, 448; 9. C.Buescher, 446; 10. R.Reed, 423.

NASCAR DRIVER RATING FORMULA

A maximum of 150 points can be attained in a race. The formula combines the following categories: Wins, Finishes, Top-15 Finishes, Average Running Position While on Lead Lap, Average Speed Under Green, Fastest Lap, Led Most Laps, Lead-Lap Finish.

POOL OF THE DAY



News-Journal/CHRIS GRAHAM

From left, Sarah Thompson, 34; Skipper Adams, 41; Skyler Adams, 16; Riley Adams, 14; and Courtney Absher, 27; sit in their pool in the infield at Daytona International Speedway on Friday.

‘Today is all about chilling and sightseeing’

By CHRIS GRAHAM

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Sarah Thompson and her friends quickly learned from their first two trips to Daytona International Speedway that they needed a way to beat the heat.

“We came the first two years and realized it was crazy not to have a pool,” said Thompson, 34, who was with friends from Vidalia, Georgia. “It was miserable, we camped on the asphalt. It had to have been 120 degrees.”

On Friday afternoon, the group lounged in

one of two pools set up outside their camper while the guys tried to get autographs.

“Today is all about chilling and sightseeing,” Thompson said, “and getting ready for tomorrow.”

The group is already thinking of ways to add to their pool area next year, as well as some possible themes.

“We find something new each year that we need to bring, we absolutely love it,” Thompson said. “We go to all of the races and support our drivers.”

DAYTONA RISING

Speedway tour creates media buzz

By DINAH VOYLES PULVER

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National news media in town for the Coke Zero 400 took a hike on Friday, climbing 177 steps to the top of the new grandstands at Daytona International Speedway for a tour of the \$400 million renovation.

Speedway President Joie Chitwood III was in his element as he showed off the work that has run at full speed ever since the Daytona 500. Just a year ago, the reporters watched a group of drivers crawl onto heavy equipment and help the Speedway break ground on its Daytona Rising project.

“A year ago none of this existed. We’ve done so much,” Chitwood told reporters surrounding him as he stood in front of one of the new escalators that will be put into commission before next year’s Daytona 500.

The Speedway’s lack of escalators was the “number one thing that came out in our fan focus surveys,” said Chitwood, joking that the reporters could empathize after the climb to the top of the grandstands.

Fans will breathe a “sigh of relief” when the project is complete, Chitwood promised.

Reporters asked which facilities Chitwood and the Speedway staff visited to get ideas and also asked which other special events they might try to attract.

Chitwood explained they visited sports facilities all over the country while preparing plans for the project, including facilities where the Dallas Cowboys and Orlando Magic play.

The Speedway, he said, has to “strike a balance” between the stick and ball sports and motorsports.

Many of the questions focused on what the Speedway’s plans are once



News-Journal/DINAH VOYLES PULVER

Joie Chitwood III, Daytona International Speedway president, talks to Motor Racing Network Radio reporter Woody Cain during a tour of the Speedway grandstand renovations on Friday.

the project is complete. They’ve heard the Speedway hopes to attract concerts, football games and other events.

The Speedway already is adding more motorsports events, he said, such as the national playoffs for the Sports Car Club of America in October next year.

“I would envision a music festival and some other unique sporting events on the ball field,” he said. The ball field is the grass area between pit road and the grandstands. “It fits goal posts and a football field just perfect,” he said. “NFL, NCAA and soccer are all great choices for us.”

However, Chitwood said he wants to make sure that any event added to the schedule “is done right.”

And they have to make sure any additions fit with the current schedule. Those events are likely to occur in the fall and summer, he said, rather than during the Speedway’s busiest season in January through

March, when the staff works non-stop to get the facility ready for each new event.

Music festival promoters believe the property is “perfect,” Chitwood said, “with three or four distinct areas to create multiple stages.”

Then, within hours of that quick tour, stories began popping up online, just as the Speedway hoped as it works to build enthusiasm for the renovations, expected to be complete in January 2016.

On Yahoo Sports: “Year later, Daytona Rising rapidly becoming reality.”

On the USA Today website: “Daytona has big plans: NFL, NCAA and music festivals.”

During the tour, Chitwood, known widely for his skills as a promoter, wouldn’t even rule out a hockey game.

“I’m not sure you could have a hockey game here,” he said. “But with the way technology is, I’ve seen crazier things.”

CRIST FROM PAGE 1A

“Mike is a huge supporter and partner of ours on this team and Mike just wasn’t comfortable with that on the car, so in respect to Mike we decided to take it off,” Parsons said.

Crist’s name appeared in six spots and the phrase “Charlie Crist for Florida” was featured across the hood before it was removed. Instead, Curb, a prominent music producer, said he reached an agreement with Parsons to make his company Curb Records the car’s primary sponsor.

“We tried to turn it into a positive,” said Curb, a longtime Republican and former lieutenant governor of California. “Crist will not be on the car in any capacity.”

“The decals are being made right now,” Parsons added.

The car, which will ap-



News-Journal/NIGEL COOK

The “Charlie Crist for Florida” decals, seen at left Thursday, were pulled from the car Friday after a campaign spending complaint was filed.

pear in tonight’s Coke Zero 400, will feature decals promoting Curb Records’ recording artist Lee Brice, who is providing the pre-race entertainment. The car also will honor the 30th

anniversary of Richard Petty’s 200th win, which happened in a car owned by Curb Records at the 1984 Firecracker 400 in Daytona Beach.

Parsons will pay back

the money he received for the Crist sponsorship, Curb said.

James Finch, a Panama City businessman, told The News-Journal on Thursday he brokered a roughly

\$25,000 deal with Parsons to promote Crist during the nationally televised Sprint Cup race at Daytona International Speedway. Curb put the deal’s value at \$50,000. Parsons declined to discuss how much the sponsorship cost.

Finch said he talked to Parsons on Thursday night, telling him to take Crist’s name off the car. He blamed the uproar on “cheap politics,” saying he’s friends with both Crist and Parsons and wanted to help them.

The GOP’s complaint accuses the Crist campaign of exceeding the \$3,000 per-person limitation on in-kind donations.

“I told Phil, ‘It ain’t that big of a deal, let it go,’” said Finch, who is planning to be at the Coke Zero 400 with Crist. Scott is also scheduled to attend the race, but Crist has not confirmed that he will be there, Speedway officials said.

Brendan Gilfillan, the

Crist campaign’s spokesman, wrote Thursday the sponsorship doesn’t violate election laws because it was made to the Charlie Crist for Florida political committee, which is not bound by the \$3,000 campaign contribution limit.

Reached Friday, Gilfillan wrote in a text message he did not have any information on Crist’s name being removed from the car.

“Charlie has nothing but respect for Phil Parsons, both as a racer and a car owner, and we hope Josh has a good run on Saturday night,” Gilfillan wrote.

Parsons said he did not contact the Crist campaign before taking the decals off the car. He said he was disappointed about the backlash over Crist’s name being on the car but in the end it wasn’t worth fighting.

“We just race, we try to keep the doors open and try to keep a competitive car on the race track,” he said.

DAYTONA INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY

PRIDE, PRECIPITATION



News-Journal/ALYSON BOWEN

Race fans gather to take photos with NASCAR legend Richard Petty on Friday at Daytona International Speedway.



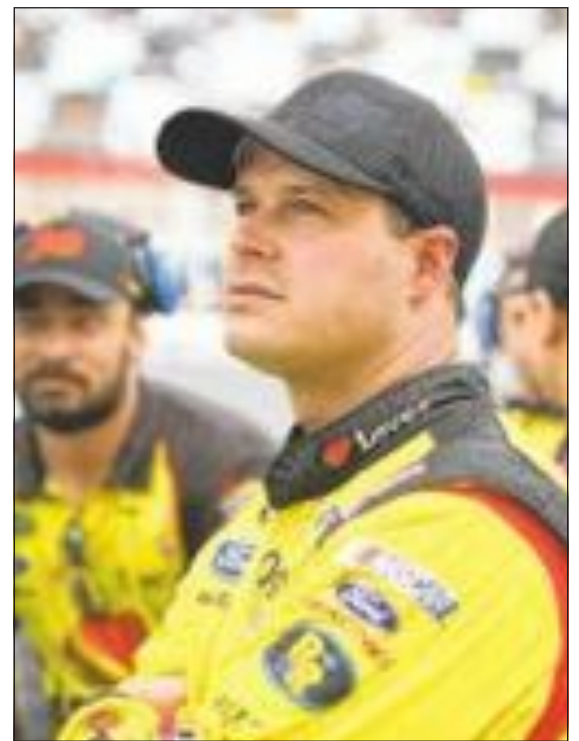
News-Journal/JIM TILLER

Track dryers work in Turn 1 as fans wait out a rain delay before the start of the Subway Firecracker 250.



News-Journal/JIM TILLER

Rookie Kyle Larson signs autographs in the FanZone before qualifying for the Coke Zero 400 at the Speedway on Friday.



News-Journal/NIGEL COOK

David Gilliland won the pole for the Coke Zero 400 during a rain-shortened qualifying.



News-Journal/PETER BAUER

Kyle Busch, left, and Dale Earnhardt Jr. share a laugh along pit road during Sprint Cup Series qualifying.



News-Journal/STEVEN NOTARAS

Martin Truex Jr. (No. 78), Trevor Bayne (No. 21) and Ryan Truex (No. 83) speed three wide through the tri-oval Friday during Sprint Cup qualifying.

NASCAR pays tribute to Medal of Honor recipients

By DINAH VOYLES PULVER
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Patrick Henry was stunned. After hearing about the heroism and humility of four Medal of Honor recipients, the one word that came to the Daytona Beach city commissioner's mind was, "Wow."

As Henry presented a key to the city of Daytona Beach

to recipient Melvin Morris during a special luncheon at Daytona International Speedway on Friday, he said it was a moment he'd remember all of his life.

Dozens of local officials and community leaders attended the lunch, organized by the Speedway's Checkered Flag Committee. Four Medal of

Honor recipients, all veterans of the United States Army, were brought into town for this year's Coke Zero 400, an annual tradition that is part of a larger NASCAR effort to salute the nation's military. But the luncheon, falling on the Fourth of July, had an extra measure of patriotism.

Morris, 72, received the

medal for heroism in 1969, as a staff sergeant with the Special Forces Airborne in Vietnam.

In his remarks, he paid homage to the men and women now serving in the nation's Armed Forces. "They never know when they will be called on to make the ultimate sacrifice," Morris said.

The three other recipients

honored at the luncheon — also Vietnam veterans — were Staff Sgt. Don Jenkins, 66; Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Littrell, 69; and Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Patterson, 66.

Littrell reminded the group that freedom isn't free.

"It will continue to be paid for by the lives and limbs of service members," said Littrell.

SHOCK FROM PAGE 1A

The continuation of hit-and-miss showers hit three times Friday, including after the first round of pack-qualifying for tonight's 400. The next two rounds were washed

out, but that didn't dampen the spirits of Gilliland, a journeyman racer from California who has started no higher than 16th this year and finished no higher than 20th.

"Things like this go a long way for an organization like ours," Gilliland understated.

While Gilliland might indeed qualify as a mild long-shot for victory tonight, it's worth mentioning recent history. Last spring at Daytona's sister track at Talladega, Gilliland and teammate David Ragan — Front Row Motorsports — were first across the checkers for the biggest upset in recent

Cup Series history. Ragan was first, Gilliland second that day for the only real highlight of their season.

Both Ragan, who starts eighth tonight, and Gilliland had just one other top-10 finish last year, and it was back at Talladega in the fall. And that explains Gilliland's upbeat attitude

entering a "plate race."

"David Ragan and I both have cars good enough to win ... and that is an exciting feeling," said Gilliland, a 38-year-old native of a long-ago NASCAR haunt — Riverside, California.

Tonight's race, as usual, is the main event but hardly the Speedway's

only activity. A pre-race concert from country star Lee Brice, a salute to four Medal of Honor recipients and assorted other pre-race festivities are on the slate.

But what's on the slate will continue to depend on what's on the radar. Today's forecast is more of the same — scattered showers.

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

World Series of Fighting 11

When: Doors open at 1 p.m., prelims begin at 2 p.m.

Where: Ocean Center

Tickets: \$29-\$149

TV: Main card airs on NBC, 4-6 p.m.

SHOWTIME



World Series of Fighting
Justin Gaethje lands an upper cut in his fight against Richard Patishnock at World Series of Fighting 8. Gaethje stopped Patishnock via first-round TKO and said he has similar plans for Nick Newell when they meet in the main event of World Series of Fighting 11 today at the Ocean Center.

Confident lightweight champion Gaethje planning to put on a show against one-hand fighter Newell

By BRIAN LINDER
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Justin Gaethje is a tough-as-nails son of a miner and former college wrestler who makes his money by punching people in the face.

But that does not mean he can't appreciate a good story. And so, Gaethje understands why there are a lot of people who would like to see Nick Newell walk away from today's World Series of Fighting 11 at the Ocean Center with a title belt around his waist.

"I want to see it, too," Gaethje said.

Newell, who has forged an 11-0 record despite being born without a left hand and part of his left arm, has the type of story that people love to get behind.

SEE **WORLD SERIES**, PAGE 4B

"I wish I didn't have to be the person to do this. I don't want to sound overconfident, but this camp has had me twisted up. It's an emotional thing. I don't like hurting people."

JUSTIN GAETHJE

World Series of Fighting 11 fighter



News-Journal/JEFF WILEN
Lightweight champion Justin Gaethje, left, and Nick Newell pose Friday at the weigh-ins for World Series of Fighting 11.

INSIDE THE SECTION

- » Breaking down the fight card, **4B**
- » As far as World Series of Fighting president Ray Sefo is concerned, today's event on NBC is just a taste of what is to come for his promotion, **4B**

GET TO KNOW THE WORLD SERIES OF FIGHTING

» THE PROMOTION:

WSOF was founded in 2012, and is, arguably, the United States' third-most popular mixed martial arts promotion behind the UFC and Bellator. The UFC is currently the clear-cut industry leader while Bellator, which had its first pay-per-view earlier this year, airs on Spike and is backed by Viacom. But WSOF, with its deal with NBC, has positioned itself to be a big-time competitor in the industry. Currently, WSOF is slated to have 14 events televised by NBC Sports in 2014.

» ON TV

WSOF has averaged a reported 217,000 viewers per show on NBC Sports Network and is coming off its strongest showing to date with a reported 365,000 viewers tuning in to see WSOF 10.



World Series of Fighting
UFC veteran Jon Fitch, right, who has fought some of the best fighters in the world, is coming off a split-decision win.

» THE FIGHTERS

WSOF features a talented roster that includes UFC veterans **Melvin Guillard**, **Jon Fitch** and **Jake Shields**, as well as up-and-coming fighters like lightweight champion **Justin Gaethje**. Fighter pay is competitive with **David Branch** taking home \$36,000 after WSOF 10 — \$18,000 to show, \$18,000 to win — as reported by MMAFighting.com from numbers released by the Nevada State Athletic Commission.

» LOCAL TIES

Dustin Holyko (2-0), who attended Spruce Creek and trains at The Armory in Port Orange, is scheduled to face **Neiman Gracie** (1-0) on the preliminary card. Gracie is the nephew of mixed martial arts legend **Renzo Gracie**. Also, **Mo De'Reese** (1-0), a native of Titusville who trains at Fight Sports Daytona, is slated to take on **Rashaun Spencer** (5-6) in a light heavyweight match.

WORLD CUP SOCCER

GERMANY 1, FRANCE 0



Associated Press/MARTIN MEISSNER

Germany's Mats Hummels blows a kiss at the end of the World Cup quarterfinal match in Rio de Janeiro on Friday.

Hummels' goal lifts Germany to semis

By STEVE DOUGLAS
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Germany relied on its big-game experience to hold off France 1-0 on Friday, with Mats Hummels' first-half header securing the German team a spot in the semifinals for the fourth straight World Cup.

The center back settled a cagey match in muggy conditions at Maracana Stadium with his 13th-minute goal, outmuscling his marker at a free kick to glance a header in off the underside of the crossbar.

Criticized for its poor defending in earlier matches, Germany selected a more robust team, tightened up at the back and restricted a flat-looking France team to only a handful of clear-cut opportunities.

While the French exited with a whimper, Germany can look forward to a match against the winner

SEE **GERMANY**, PAGE 5B

TODAY'S GAMES

Argentina vs. Belgium
Noon | ABC
Netherlands vs. Costa Rica
4 p.m. | ESPN

BRAZIL 2, COLOMBIA 1

Neymar's injury mars Brazil's win

By TALES AZZONI
The Associated Press

FORTALEZA, Brazil — Not long after celebrating another all-important win at the World Cup, Brazil was jolted by the loss of Neymar.

The tournament's poster boy with the dyed-blond fauxhawk fractured a vertebra in his back during Brazil's 2-1 quarterfinal victory over Colombia on Friday. The injury has ruled the striker out of the rest of the competition, dealing a massive blow to the team's chances of finally winning a World Cup at home.

Brazil advanced to the semifinals for the first time in 12 years, with the goals coming from defenders Thiago Silva and David Luiz. But the jubilation was quickly tempered when Brazil team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar said Neymar broke his third vertebra and is expected to be out for several weeks, ruling him out of Tuesday's semifinal

SEE **BRAZIL**, PAGE 5B

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TV AND RADIO

ARENA FOOTBALL		
6 p.m.	Portland at Cleveland	CBSSN
AUTO RACING		
2 p.m.	Formula One qualifying	NBCSN
7 p.m.	IndyCar pole qualifying	NBCSN
7:30 p.m.	Sprint Cup Coke Zero 400	TNT
11 p.m.	NHRA qualifying	ESPN2
CANADIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE		
3 p.m.	Saskatchewan at Toronto	ESPN2
CYCLING		
6 a.m.	Tour de France stage 1	NBCSN
2 p.m.	Tour de France stage 1	NBC
GOLF		
8 a.m.	European PGA Tour Open de France	GLF
1 p.m.	PGA Tour The Greenbrier Classic	GLF
3 p.m.	PGA Tour The Greenbrier Classic	CBS
3 p.m.	Web.com Tour Nova Scotia Open	GLF
HORSE RACING		
5 p.m.	Thoroughbreds Belmont Oaks	NBCSN
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL		
2 p.m.	Seattle at Chicago White Sox	WGN
2 p.m.	Miami at St. Louis	FSN
4 p.m.	Arizona at Atlanta	FS1
4 p.m.	Tampa Bay at Detroit	Sun
7 p.m.	Baltimore at Boston	FOX
10 p.m.	Toronto at Oakland or Houston at Angels	MLB
MAJOR LEAGUE LACROSSE		
7 p.m.	Rochester at Charlotte	NBC
MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL		
1 p.m.	Daytona at Lakeland	1230/1490 AM
MIXED MARTIAL ARTS		
4 p.m.	World Series of Fighting 11	NBC
MOTORSPORTS		
3 p.m.	AMA Motocross	NBC
4 p.m.	AMA Motocross	NBCSN
SOCCER		
Noon	Argentina vs. Belgium	ABC
4 p.m.	Netherlands vs. Costa Rica	ESPN
TENNIS		
9 a.m.	Wimbledon women's championship	ESPN

Sources: AP, tvguide.com; subject to change

ODDS AND ENDS



Associated Press/NATACHA PISARENKO

Michael Bradley and the U.S. lost in the quarterfinals for the second straight trip.

SOCCER

Bradley back in Toronto FC fold

When Michael Bradley stepped off the plane in Toronto after the United States' loss to Belgium at the World Cup, he made his intentions immediately clear.

"He came up to me and said, 'I want to train,'" Toronto coach Ryan Nelsen said. The 26-year-old midfielder is expected to play tonight when Toronto hosts D.C. United, returning to his Major League Soccer squad with mixed feelings about the Americans' World Cup run — sad that it ended when it did but proud of his team's performance.

FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE

Cubs' game postponed

Daytona's game against Brevard County on Friday was postponed due to field conditions. The teams will play doubleheaders on Aug. 12 and Aug. 14.

TENNIS

Duval has Hodgkin's lymphoma

Victoria Duval, an 18-year-old American, was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma but expects to make a full recovery within months after undergoing treatment for the cancer. Duval, who lost in the second round at Wimbledon last week, was diagnosed after a biopsy was taken in England before Wimbledon and further tests in the United States confirmed the results.

NHL

Senators agree to deal with Legwand

Ottawa agreed to terms with center David Legwand on a two-year contract. Legwand split last season between the Nashville Predators and the Detroit Red Wings.

CANUCKS RE-SIGN KASSIAN, WEBER: Vancouver re-signed forward Zack Kassian and defenseman Yannick Weber.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Texas Tech player suspended for fight

Texas Tech guard Amber Battle was suspended for a month for her involvement in a fight with a football player at the university's recreation center.

HORSE RACING

Slim Shadey wins at Monmouth Park

Slim Shadey took the lead in the backstretch and drew off in the stretch to win the \$75,000 Elkwood Stakes at Monmouth Park, beating Midnight Cello.

SAYSAAD WINS FORBIDDEN APPLE STAKES: At New York, Sayaad held off even-money favorite Kharafa by 2.25 lengths in the \$150,000 Forbidden Apple Stakes on the rain-softened turf at Belmont Park.

— Staff and Wire Reports

Chestnut eats 61 hot dogs to defend title

By JULIE WALKER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — High-ranking chowhound Joey "Jaws" Chestnut dropped to one knee and proposed to his longtime girlfriend before Friday's annual hot dog eating contest, then packed away 61 franks and buns to hold onto his coveted mustard yellow winner's belt.

The San Jose, California, resident fell far short of his record last year of 69 dogs and buns, but he still easily beat second-place finisher Matt Stonie, also of San Jose, who downed 56.

"Winning was the only option," the newly engaged champion said afterward. "I wasn't going to taint today with a loss."

Chestnut took a quick timeout before the annual



Associated Press/JOHN MINCHILLO

Joey Chestnut scarfed down 61 hot dogs in 10 minutes to win his eighth consecutive championship on Friday.

Nathan's Famous Fourth of July Hot Dog Eating Contest at Coney Island to make it official with his longtime girlfriend, Neslie Ricasa,

who is also a competitive eater.

In the women's division, defending champion Sonya "Black Widow" Thomas lost

her title to Miki Sudo.

Sudo, of Las Vegas, wolfed down 34 franks and buns.

Thomas, of Alexandria, Virginia, devoured 27.75

Chestnut has won eight times in a row. In 2010, his former rival Takeru Kobayashi refused to sign an exclusive contract with Major League Eating, the food equivalent of the NFL, and was banned from competition.

This year, the Japanese native, nicknamed the Tsunami, competed against five other eaters at a separate event in Manhattan in a quest to down the most hot dogs without buns in 10 minutes.

He was victorious in that bun-less eat-off, downing 113 frankfurters, an event spokeswoman said.

For late scores, stories, stats, standings and more visit news-journalonline.com/sports

SCOREBOARD

LOCAL TODAY

DOG RACING: At Daytona Beach Kennel Club, 1:05 p.m. and 7:25 p.m.; **FLORIDA COLLEGIATE SUMMER LEAGUE:** College Park at DeLand, 7 p.m.; **MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL:** Daytona at Lakeland, 1 p.m.

BASEBALL

FSL Standings

North Division				
	w	l	pct.	gb
Brevard (Brewers)	10	3	.769	—
Tampa (Yankees)	10	4	.714	½
Daytona (Cubs)	8	5	.615	2
x-Dunedin (Jays)	6	9	.400	5
Clearwater (Phillies)	5	10	.333	6
Lakeland (Tigers)	3	11	.214	7½

South Division				
	w	l	pct.	gb
St. Lucie (Mets)	10	3	.769	—
Palm Beach (Cards)	11	4	.733	—
Fort Myers (Twins)	9	5	.643	1½
Bradenton (Pirates)	8	6	.571	2½
Charlotte (Rays)	3	13	.188	8½
Jupiter (Marlins)	2	12	.143	8½

x-clinched first half

Friday's Games
Fort Myers 6, Charlotte 1
Dunedin 5, Clearwater 1
Tampa 1, Lakeland 0, 12 innings
Bradenton at Palm Beach, late
Jupiter at St. Lucie, late
Daytona at Brevard, p.p.d., rain
Today's Games
Daytona at Lakeland, 6 p.m.
Charlotte at Fort Myers, 6:05 p.m.
Tampa at Dunedin, 6:30 p.m.
Jupiter at St. Lucie, 6:30 p.m.
Bradenton at Palm Beach, 6:35 p.m.
Clearwater at Brevard, 6:35 p.m.
Sunday's Games
Daytona at Lakeland, 1 p.m.
Jupiter at St. Lucie, 1 p.m.
Bradenton at Palm Beach, 1:05 p.m.
Charlotte at Fort Myers, 4:05 p.m.
Tampa at Dunedin, 5 p.m.
Clearwater at Brevard, 5:05 p.m.

DOG RACING

Daytona Beach Kennel Club

Friday Afternoon Results				
First TM 550 31.32				
4 Mchoney	15.60	17.80	4.80	
5 Rck Rising Sun		9.20	3.60	
1 Yo Kim's Sweetie			4.80	
\$2 Quiniela: (4-5-1) \$50.00	.50	Exacta: (4-5)		
\$20.05 \$1 Trifecta: (4-5-1) \$370.80		Dime Superfecta: (4-5-1-2) \$102.75		
Second E 550, Third D 550 30.96				
8 Amf Poppedaset	7.60	4.80	3.40	
6 Pj Rapid Fire		7.40	9.80	
4 Oshkosh Tabitha			5.20	
\$2 Quiniela: (6-8) \$37.00	.50	Exacta: (8-6)		
\$11.00 \$1 Twin Trifecta: (8-6-4) \$203.20		Dime Superfecta: (8-6-4-1) \$145.99		
Fourth C 550 30.94				
7 Atascocita Vesta	10.60	5.20	3.40	
1 Bs Hi N Mity		19.40	10.00	
2 Gs Carter			4.00	
\$2 Quiniela: (1-7) \$18.00	.50	Exacta: (7-1)		
\$31.00 \$1 Trifecta: (7-1-2) \$581.40		Dime Superfecta: (7-1-2-5) \$191.52		
Fifth TB 550 30.37				
8 Atascocita Bunko	8.60	3.60	2.60	
4 Rck Lovely Lady		2.80	2.40	
6 Gs Mystic			5.40	
\$2 Quiniela: (4-8) \$10.00	.50	Exacta: (8-4)		
\$6.70 \$1 Trifecta: (8-4-6) \$206.60		Dime Superfecta: (8-4-6-3) \$172.84		
\$1 Twin Trifecta: (carryover) \$1251.36				
Sixth TA 550 30.46				
8 Kiowa Hastings	3.00	3.80	2.40	
5 Besulu		5.40	3.00	
6 Count On Me			3.00	
\$2 Quiniela: (5-8) \$13.20	.50	Exacta: (8-5)		
\$5.70 \$1 Trifecta: (8-5-6) \$39.10		Dime Superfecta: (8-5-6-1) \$25.20		
Seventh D 550 31.15				
1 Barr Carne N Went	22.40	9.20	13.20	
4 Hll's Pochontas		5.00	4.20	
8 Chasmos Kamikaze			4.00	
\$2 Quiniela: (1-4) \$59.60	.50	Exacta: (1-4)		
\$15.75 \$1 Trifecta: (1-4-a) \$80.70		Dime Superfecta: (1-4-8-2) \$119.90		
Eighth C 550 31.02				
8 Kiowa To Me	9.00	6.60	5.20	
6 Bo's Napa Valley		5.40	5.00	
1 Kells Spark			7.40	
\$2 Quiniela: (6-8) \$26.40	.50	Exacta: (8-6)		
\$17.60 \$1 DNC Tri Super: (8-6-1) \$268.50		Dime Superfecta: (8-6-1-4) \$91.35		
Ninth TB 550 31.02				
3 Walkabout Napalm	13.00	4.20	2.60	
2 Gs Bowser		5.00	2.40	
1 Amf Pernicious			3.60	
\$2 Quiniela: (2-3) \$37.20	.50	Exacta: (3-2)		
\$9.10 \$1 Trifecta: (3-2-1) \$114.10		Dime Superfecta: (3-2-1-7) \$35.15		
Tenth D 550 30.98				
3 Jack's Buzz Home	9.40	4.00	2.40	
2 Gs Chevy		3.20	2.20	
6 Mad Dog Madison			3.00	
\$2 Quiniela: (2-3) \$17.60	.50	Exacta: (3-2)		
\$10.80 \$1 Trifecta: (3-2-6) \$75.60		Dime Superfecta: (3-2-6-1) \$54.46		
\$1 DNC Tri Super: (carryover) \$3005.91				
Eleventh C 550 31.39				
2 Kevin Garnett	23.40	8.60	5.80	
1 Kiowa Free Fly		11.80	5.80	
7 How She Rolls			4.80	
\$2 Quiniela: (1-2) \$33.80	.50	Exacta: (2-1)		
\$41.90 \$1 Trifecta: (2-1-7) \$254.30		Dime Superfecta: (2-1-7-6) \$170.29		
Twelfth TA 550 30.77				
1 Gs Ava Marie	10.00	7.40	5.80	
7 Hell Raisen Fool		6.80	3.40	
4 Kiowa Kay Saga			3.00	
\$2 Quiniela: (1-7) \$54.40	.50	Exacta: (1-7)		
\$22.55 \$1 Trifecta: (1-7-4) \$546.70		Dime Superfecta: (1-7-4-5) \$1316.88		
Thirteenth TB 550 30.94				
7 Gs Brice	45.20	7.80	4.20	
8 Be Safe Outthere		2.80	2.60	
2 Mr. Preston			2.80	

\$2 Quiniela: (7-8) \$26.40 **.50 Exacta:** (7-8) \$18.60 **\$1 Trifecta:** (7-8-2) \$567.00 **Dime Superfecta:** (7-8-2-6) \$137.68

Fourteenth C 550 30.92
5 Foxy Amore 10.40 4.80 4.80
6 Dk's Kiatta 4.40 3.60
3 Jb's Ferrari 3.40

\$2 Quiniela: (5-6) \$36.00 **.50 Exacta:** (5-6) \$14.80 **\$1 Trifecta:** (5-6-3) \$349.60 **Dime Superfecta:** (5-6-3-8) \$62.98

Fifteenth TA 550 30.31
3 Hallo Bozena 11.00 3.80 4.80
5 Pmb Jax 2.60 3.40
8 Amf Over Excited 3.40

\$2 Quiniela: (3-5) \$23.20 **.50 Exacta:** (3-5) \$12.55 **\$1 Trifecta:** (3-5-8) \$54.40 **Dime Superfecta:** (3-5-8-6) \$27.11
Attendance: (1007)
Handle: (\$79950.20)

Friday Evening Results

First TM 550 31.27
4 Kc Fire An Ice 8.20 3.20 2.10
1 Moon Mtn Wirecup 2.20 2.10
3 Cee Bar Sophie 2.10

\$2 Quiniela: (1-4) \$8.00 **.50 Exacta:** (4-1) \$3.70 **\$1 Trifecta:** (4-1-3) \$34.90 **Dime Superfecta:** (4-1-3-2) \$24.23

Second TB 550 31.10
1 Debit Card Hole 8.40 7.00 4.00
5 Sassy Donald 4.60 3.20
2 Chattanooga Girl 5.00

\$2 Quiniela: (1-5) \$18.00 **.50 Exacta:** (1-5) \$8.15 **\$1 Trifecta:** (1-5-2) \$108.30 **Dime Superfecta:** (1-5-2-7) \$75.12 **Daily Double:** (4-1) \$70.40

Third TD 550 31.20
8 Gs Shadow 3.80 3.80 2.80
3 Go Bon Blackhawk 23.80 4.60
5 Sandman Soul 2.60

\$2 Quiniela: (3-8) \$66.40 **.50 Exacta:** (8-3) \$24.45 **\$1 Twin Trifecta:** (8-3-5) \$167.20 **Dime Superfecta:** (8-3-5-2) \$578.99

Fourth B 550 30.93
2 Ethereal Magic 19.40 3.60 2.60
5 Kc Chantelle 2.40 2.20
3 Mike The Waiter 4.80

\$2 Quiniela: (2-5) \$16.80 **.50 Exacta:** (2-5) \$11.05 **\$1 Trifecta:** (2-5-3) \$135.30 **Dime Superfecta:** (2-5-3-6) \$52.02

Fifth TD 550 31.31
1 Lookout Lassy 13.60 6.80 3.60
2 Lk's Expectation 4.60 6.80
4 Rc Goodready 8.00

\$2 Quiniela: (1-2) \$32.40 **.50 Exacta:** (1-2) \$24.50 **\$1 Trifecta:** (1-2-4) \$207.70 **Dime Superfecta:** (1-2-4-8) \$61.81 **\$1 Twin Trifecta:** (carryover) \$1585.86

Sixth TA 660 37.57
2 Double Check 17.20 4.80 6.00
8 Maddy's Marquee 3.20 8.00
4 Amf Open Arms 8.00

\$2 Quiniela: (2-8) \$23.20 **.50 Exacta:** (2-8) \$15.20 **\$1 Trifecta:** (2-8-4) \$635.00 **Dime Superfecta:** (2-8-4-1) \$118.57

Seventh TA 550 30.33
3 Cals Lotsa Bling 4.20 3.20 3.00
8 Hey Denver 3.40 2.40
4 Cassandra 2.40

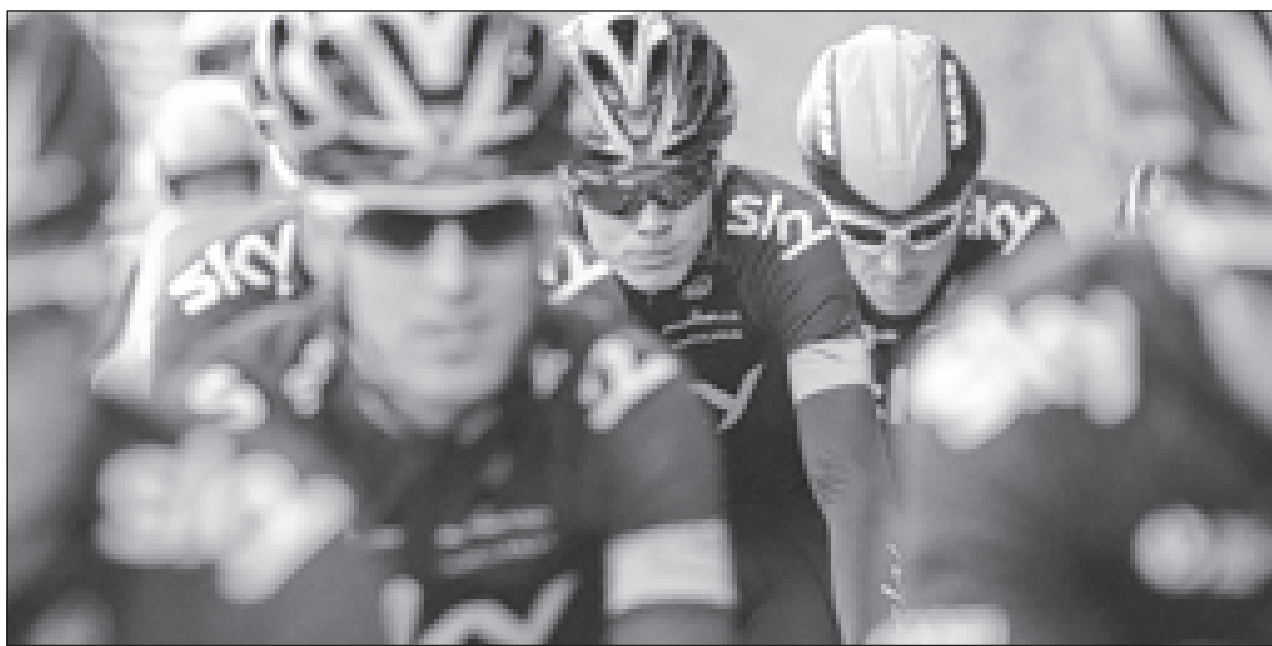
\$2 Quiniela: (3-8) \$10.60 **.50 Exacta:** (3-8) \$4.35 **\$1 Trifecta:** (3-8-4) \$32.90 **Dime Superfecta:** (3-8-4-7) \$14.15

Eighth TC 550 30.96
8 Ale Taylor Swift 3.60 4.40 2.80
1 Hk Brindle 7.20 2.60
3 Grimaldi 3.20

\$2 Quiniela: (1-8) \$7.40 **.50 Exacta:** (8-1) \$3.15 **\$1 DNC Tri Super:** (8-1-3) \$20.20 **Dime Superfecta:** (8-1-3-7) \$13.18

Ninth TD 550 30.75
4 Atascocita Numo 5.80 3.20 2.60
7 Friendly Frank 3.00 3.00
8 Gs Glory 2.80

TOUR DE FRANCE: 5 STAGES TO WATCH



Associated Press/CHRISTOPHE ENA

Changes to the Tour de France routes could hinder defending champion Chris Froome, center.

CYCLING GREATNESS

More mountains, cobblestones will challenge contenders

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

LEEDS, England — With more mountain stages, only one time trial, and cobblestones on the menu, there's an exciting smorgasbord of routes in store on the Tour de France.

The three-week race, which starts today in Leeds, features only 33.5 miles of time-trialing, all on the Tour's penultimate stage between Bergerac and Perigueux. This could disadvantage defending champion Chris Froome of Britain, who beat his main rival, Alberto Contador, in both of last year's individual time trials.

"Given the structure of the Tour this year and the diversity of all the different challenges — we've got the cobbles, we've got these tricky stages up here north, and we've got 5 summit finishes, we've got a (33.5-mile) time trial — it's not possible to say that this guy is going to win," Froome said Thursday.

Here's a look at five stages where the Team Sky leader and other contenders could win, or lose the race:

STAGE 5: Wednesday, Ypres, Belgium, to Arenberg Porte du Hainaut, France — At 97 miles, this stage is

not particularly long. But it features nine patches of cobblestones, many of them familiar in the joint-jarring Paris-Roubaix one-day race. The key for the big guns will be to stay at the front of the pack to avoid crashes on a treacherous and dusty terrain usually tackled at a frenetic pace. Punctures are also frequent on cobblestones, and can end a rider's hopes of winning the race. Both Froome and Contador have carefully reconnoitered the stage, with the Spaniard having a final workout on the 15 kilometers (10 miles) of cobblestones this week. "Sensations over the cobbles have been very good," Contador said.

STAGE 10: Monday, July 14, Mulhouse to La Planche des Belles Filles — The first major test in the mountains. The 100-mile stage finishes in the ski resort where Froome got his first Tour stage win two years ago. It features seven tough climbs and a hilltop finish with a patch of super-steep, 20-degree gradient.

STAGE 14: Saturday, July 19, Grenoble to Risoul — The Queen stage of the Tour. This 110-mile ride features two classic mountain passes, the Col du Lautaret and the Col d'Izoard, and ends with a summit finish in the

Alps. The ascent to the ski resort is not the most difficult of the race, but riders will have been worn out by 19 miles on the slopes of the two mythical mountains beforehand.

STAGE 17: Wednesday, July 23, Saint-Gaudens to Saint-Lary (Pla d'Adet) — The penultimate day in the mountains is a short 77-mile ride through the Pyrenees that will offer no rest to the peloton. After 31 relatively flat miles, the riders won't stop climbing and descending over three category 1 ascents — the Col du Portillon, Col de Peyresourde and Col de Val Louron-Aze — before the last climb to Pla d'Adet, which is so hard that it is defying cycling's ranking system for climbs. The race's final top three are likely to be known at the finish line.

STAGE 20: Saturday, July 26, Bergerac to Perigueux — At 33.5 miles, it is one of the longest time trials in recent Tour history. On the eve of the mostly ceremonial finale on Paris' Champs-Elysees, the trial will be decisive if the mountains haven't been already. The distance and the rolling terrain make the stage difficult. After three weeks of racing, expect TT specialists like Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland and Tony Martin of Germany to be challenged.

TOUR DE FRANCE

Contador back on top of his game

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

LEEDS, England — Chastened by a miserable season on his bike last year when all he saw of chief rival Chris Froome was his back, Alberto Contador vowed to do better and changed his training.

An instinctive rider gifted with natural abilities in the mountains, the leader of the Tinkoff-Saxo outfit had long been reluctant to accept innovative training methods, usually

preferring quantity to quality, and spending long hours on the road during the winter months.

This year, Contador rode less. He consented to increase his workload in altitude on the slopes of the Mount Teide in Tenerife, as well as using a power meter, and worked with Stephen De Jongh, a former Team Sky sports director who is said to

have helped him control his weight.

"For more than 10 years, he stuck to the same program over the winter, accumulating kilometers and hours in the saddle," Tinkoff-Saxo sports director Laurent Mauduit said. "This year, he has replaced quantity with quality. He has worked with great intensity, and tried to dig into his reserves."

The payoff has been worth it so far. Contador is back to his best form in years, and the Spaniard lines up for the start of the Tour de France today believing a third victory is within his grasp.

"This is a very special Tour for me," said Contador, who was stripped of the 2010 Tour title for a doping violation and lost a podium spot in the 2013 Tour on the penultimate stage.

"Froome is the man to beat, he has been the best in the last two years, and has shown his form in the Tour before. But I'm in a better shape than last year. I don't know if it will be enough to beat him but I'll try."



ALBERTO CONTADOR

TOUR DE FRANCE SCHEDULE

TODAY — First Stage: Leeds to Harrogate, England, flat (118.3 miles)	JULY 17 — 12th Stage: Bourg-en-Bresse to Saint-Etienne, medium mountain (115.2)
SUNDAY — Second Stage: York to Sheffield, England, hilly (124.8)	JULY 18 — 13th Stage: Saint-Etienne to Chamrousse, high mountain (122.6)
MONDAY — Third Stage: Cambridge to London, flat (96.3)	JULY 19 — 14th Stage: Grenoble to Risoul, high mountain (110)
TUESDAY — Fourth Stage: Le Touquet-Paris-Plage to Lille Metropole, flat (101.5)	JULY 20 — 15th Stage: Tallard to Nimes, flat (137.9)
JULY 9 — Fifth Stage: Ypres to Arenberg Porte du Hainaut, flat/cobbled roads (96.6)	JULY 21 — Rest Day, Carcassonne
JULY 10 — Sixth Stage: Arras to Reims, flat (120.5)	JULY 22 — 16th Stage: Carcassonne to Bagneres-de-Luchon, high mountain (147.5)
JULY 11 — Seventh Stage: Eprenay to Nancy, flat (145.6)	JULY 23 — 17th Stage: Saint-Gaudens to Saint-Lary Pla d'Adet, high mountain (77.3)
JULY 12 — Eighth Stage: Tomblaine to Gerardmer La Mouselaine, medium mountain (100)	JULY 24 — 18th Stage: Pau to Hautacam, high mountain (90.4)
JULY 13 — Ninth Stage: Gerardmer to Mulhouse, medium mountain (105.6)	JULY 25 — 19th Stage: Maubourguet Pays du Val d'Adour to Bergerac, flat (129.5)
JULY 14 — 10th Stage: Mulhouse to La Planche des Belles Filles, high mountain (100.3)	JULY 26 — 20th Stage: Bergerac to Perigueux, individual time trial (33.5)
JULY 15 — Rest Day, Besancon	JULY 27 — 21st Stage: Evry to Paris Champs-Elysees, flat (85.4)
JULY 16 — 11th Stage: Besancon to Oyon-	TOTAL — 3,663.5km-2,275.2 miles

MOTORSPORTS ROUNDUP

Higgins wins NASCAR honor

Staff and Wire Reports

Longtime The Charlotte Observer reporter Tom Higgins won the 2015 Squier-Hall Award for NASCAR Media Excellence. Higgins was the first beat writer to cover every race on the NASCAR schedule, a role he held from 1980 until his retirement in 1997.

He will be honored during NASCAR Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony festivities on Jan. 30, 2015

"Tom Higgins helped establish what it means to be a NASCAR beat reporter," said NASCAR Chairman and CEO Brian France. "For more than five decades, his words have told the story of NASCAR, and the people and emotions that define the sport. He has been much more than a reporter to those in the NASCAR industry — serving as friend and confidant to compet-

itors, administrators and his fellow journalists."

Higgins was among eight nominees voted upon by a panel comprised of NASCAR and NASCAR Hall of Fame executives, journalists, public relations representatives and former drivers.

Other nominees were Norma "Dusty" Brandel, the first woman to report from inside the NASCAR garage; Russ Catlin, one of the best-known early racing writers and historians, served as editor of Speed Age Magazine; Shav Glick, covered motorsports for the Los Angeles Times for 37 years, bringing NASCAR coverage to the West Coast; Bob Jenkins, who served as the lead NASCAR lap-by-lap anchor at ESPN from 1982-2000; Bob Moore, who spent more than 20 years as a NASCAR beat writer including stints

with the Daytona Beach News-Journal and The Charlotte Observer; Benny Phillips, who spent 48 years covering NASCAR for the High Point (N.C.) Enterprise, 27 years for Stock Car Racing and 12 years on TBS; and T. Taylor Warren, best known for his three-wide photo of the 1959 Daytona 500 finish, he covered every Daytona 500 until his death in 2008.

TAGLIANI SUSPENDED 1 RACE FOR UNJUSTIFIABLE RISK: IMSA suspended Alex Tagliani for one race for "unjustifiable risk" during a practice session for last week's United SportsCar Championship race at Watkins Glen. Tagliani triggered an accident last Saturday with Chris Miller that considerably damaged Miller's car. In addition to the suspension, IMSA on Friday placed Tagliani on probation for one additional race.

FORMULA ONE BRITISH GRAND PRIX

Red Bull back in form in England

Associated Press

SILVERSTONE, England — Australian Daniel Ricciardo was all smiles Friday after his Red Bull team bounced back to form in practice for the British Grand Prix.

The champion team struggled badly in Austria two weeks ago where Ricciardo finished eighth and four-time champion German Sebastian Vettel retired with electrical problems.

At Silverstone, they turned that form around as Ricciardo was fourth and Vettel fifth on the opening day.

"For me, the car definitely behaved better today in the faster corners and I feel we are back to our stronger point there ... Austria for now was a one-off

bad weekend for us," Ricciardo said.

Vettel said: "I think we need to improve and it was quite windy today which didn't make life easy out there. But it was a decent day for us."

Lewis Hamilton said he would gain very little from access to teammate Nico Rosberg's data after Rosberg topped the times but then stopped on track.

Hamilton, champion in 2008 and desperate to win Sunday's race to reboot his title bid, missed the final half hour of the afternoon's second free session while Rosberg ran without problems.

Hamilton, 29 points behind German Rosberg in the title race, had an engine problem stranded him out on the circuit.

SCOREBOARD

New Smyrna Speedway
Thursday Results
Clyde Hart Memorial
Super Late Model 100: 1. Stephen Wallace; 2. David Rogers; 3. Daniel Keene Jr.; 4. Travis Cope; 5. Joe Boyd; 6. Jake Perkins; 7. Rich Clouser; 8. Ray Black, Jr.; 9. Chris Fontaine; 10. Anthony Sergi; 11. Daniel Webster; 12.

Michael Atwell; 13. Jesse Dutilly; 14. George Gorham; 15. Johanna Long; 16. Stephen Nasse; 17. Tim Russell; 18. David Green; 19. Bobby Good; 20. Mario Maresca; 21. Dakotah Stephens; 22. Michael Lira DNS; 23. TJ Duke DQ Left side weight
Modifieds: 1. Jerry Symons; 2. Josh Todd; 3. Alan Bruns; 4. Ricky Moxley; 5. Matthew

Wheeler; 6. Earl Beckner; 7. Arnold Mills; 8. Art Kunzman; 9. Chris Harvey; 10. Robert Glover; 11. George Dahm; 12. Mike Dahm; 13. Robert Deal DNS; 14. Kurt Jett DNS
Mini Stocks: 1. Pat Wells; 2. Brad Blanton; 3. David Russell; 4. Jeffrey White; 5. Daniel Brown; 6. Mark Broat; 7. Michael Seay; 8. Reid Christensen; 9. Tyler Simpson DNS

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BREAKING DOWN THE MAIN CARD

By **BRIAN LINDER**
brian.linder@news-jrnl.com

MAIN CARD (4 P.M. ON NBC)

Justin Gaethje (11-0) vs. Nick Newell (11-0) MAIN EVENT



Justin Gaethje

About the fight: This is a five-round fight for the lightweight title. Newell (5-10, 155), who was born without a left hand and part of his left arm, is the feel-good story and deserves all the attention he has received. A former wrestler at Western New England University, only one of his fights has made it out of the first round with eight of his wins coming via submission. But Gaethje (5-11, 154.8), the lightweight champion, is also a talented former college wrestler, having competed at Northern Colorado, who has vowed that Newell will not take him down. Newell said he is confident in his striking, but if Gaethje can keep the fight standing it could spell trouble for Newell. Called "The White Mike Tyson" by World Series of Fighting president Ray Sefo, Gaethje is not afraid to take risks standing up and that makes him dangerous. He has stopped nine of his fights via knockout or technical knockout, so while Newell is talented and has a ton of heart, Gaethje might be too good.



Nick Newell

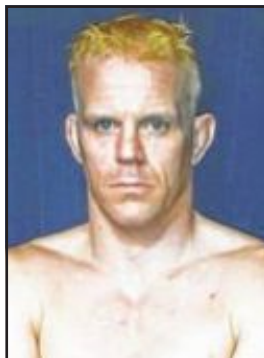
Pick: Gaethje via second-round TKO.

Jon Fitch (25-6-1) vs. Dennis Hallman (53-14-2)



Jon Fitch

About the fight: This is an interesting fight featuring two UFC vets who normally fight at welterweight but will meet at middleweight. Fitch (6-0, 183) is a former UFC title contender who has faced some of the best welterweights in the world, including current UFC champion Johnny Hendricks, former UFC champion Georges St. Pierre and legendary fighter B.J. Penn. Hallman's resume includes fights against UFC legends Matt Hughes and Jens Pulver. Both of these guys are skilled grapplers, so expect this fight to hit the ground. Hallman (5-9, 181.2) comes in the hotter fighter, having won his last three fights. Fitch is coming off a split-decision win over Marcelo Alfaya at World Series of Fighting 6, but that snapped a two-fight losing streak for him.



Dennis Hallman

Pick: Fitch via unanimous decision.

Pablo Alfonso (9-5) vs. Cody Bollinger (15-2)



Pablo Alfonso

About the fight: Bollinger (5-10, 138.2) has a nice resume, but may be best known as the fighter who was asked to leave "The Ultimate Fighter 18" by UFC president Dana White after failing to make weight for a fight against Anthony Gutierrez. Alfonso (5-7, 136) is on a three-fight win streak, but Bollinger may be too big and too talented for him.



Cody Bollinger

Pick: Bollinger via unanimous decision.

Melvin Guillard (31-13-2) vs. Gesias 'JZ' Cavalcante (18-7-1)



Melvin Guillard

About the fight: The winner of this fight will, likely, get a shot at the winner of the Newell-Gaethje lightweight title fight. Cavalcante (5-8, 155.6) has already faced Gaethje at World Series of Fighting 2, losing via TKO due to a doctor's stoppage. This will be Guillard's first fight with WSOF after a near nine-year run with the UFC. Cavalcante is a game veteran, but if Guillard (5-9, 157.2), who has stopped 20 of his fights by knockout or technical knockout, is on his game it could make for a short night.



Gesias Cavalcante

Pick: Guillard via second-round KO.

PRELIMINARY CARD (2 P.M.)

Kendrick Miree (5-1) vs. Jake Heun (5-3)

About the fight: This might be one of the day's most exciting fights. Last time Heun (6-3, 205) was seen, he was laying a beating on Todd Monaghan on "The Ultimate Fighter 19" before Monaghan was able to catch him in an armbar. Miree (6-2, 204.8), known as "Big Problem," has four submission wins.

Pick: Heun via first-round knockout.

Neiman Gracie (1-0) vs. Dustin Holyko (2-0)

About the fight: Gracie (6-0, 176) is the guy with the famous family name. Holyko (6-0, 175.8) is the guy that trains at The Armory in Port Orange while also running a tree-trimming business. You have got to love the underdog, fighting in front of his hometown crowd, with nothing to lose.

Pick: Holyko via unanimous decision.

Jose Caceres (7-5) vs. Walber Brito De Barros (8-5)

About the fight: Caceres (6-2, 173.6) is 2-2 in his last four, while Brito De Barros (6-1, 174.8) has lost his last two. Brito De Barros will probably be bigger when the cage door closes though.

Pick: Brito De Barros via unanimous decision.

Mo De'Reese (1-0) vs. Rashaun Spencer (5-6)

About the fight: Local fight fans may know De'Reese (6-0, 206.2), who trains at Fight Sports Daytona. He spent some time at UCF on a football scholarship before moving to MMA where, as an amateur, he captured a handful of title belts including Breakthrough MMA's light heavyweight and heavyweight titles. Spencer (6-2, 200.8) has fought some tough guys, including former "The Ultimate Fighter 17" participant Clint Hester, but he comes in on a three-fight losing streak.

Pick: De'Reese via third-round TKO.

NOTEBOOK



News-Journal/JEFF WILEN

World Series of Fighting president Ray Sefo, left, is shown with Melvin Guillard. The "Young Assassin" missed weight by nearly 5 pounds, weighing in for his scheduled lightweight fight at 159.2 pounds. He was given two hours to cut the additional weight, but managed to get to just 157.2 pounds.

Sefo says WSOF wants to be MMA's top promotion

By **BRIAN LINDER**
brian.linder@news-jrnl.com

As far as World Series of Fighting president Ray Sefo is concerned, today's World Series of Fighting 11 on NBC is just a taste of what is to come for his promotion.

"The vision is to be number one," Sefo said. "And the goal is to be the best at what we do."

Saying that is much easier than actually being able to pull it off, especially with the UFC — a company whose name is seemingly synonymous with the sport to the casual fan — still going strong.

But Sefo and the World Series of Fighting definitely have some ammunition to go into battle with. The former kickboxing legend pointed to today's card — the first mixed martial arts event to air on NBC — a new, multi-year deal the promotion recently signed with NBC, a distribution contract with IMG that he said puts WSOF in 80 countries, and a WSOF record 350,000 viewers who tuned in to see WSOF 10, as milestones.

"In the process of (trying to be number one), our goal is to stay focused on challenging ourselves," he said. "We want to challenge ourselves and continue to get better."

Sefo said those deals, along with continuing to put on exciting fights and build a talented roster, can lead World Series of Fighting to the top.

"We understand what is out there," he said. "And we continue to sign big names like Jon Fitch, Jake Shields, Melvin Guillard, JZ Cavalcante and we are building our own young talent like Marlon Moraes. If we continue to do that, continue to challenge ourselves, we are going to continue to grow."

"We are not going anywhere."

Guillard, Bollinger fail to make weight

Melvin Guillard came to the World Series of Fighting looking for a fresh start after a near nine-year run in the UFC.

Heading into today's lightweight fight against Gesias "JZ" Cavalcante, Guillard is not off to a good start.

The fighter known as the "Young Assassin" missed weight by nearly 5 pounds, weighing in for his scheduled lightweight fight at 159.2 pounds. Guillard was given two hours to cut the additional weight, but managed to get to just 157.2 pounds. Cavalcante weighed in at 155.6 pounds.

Guillard was not the only fighter to miss weight, however. Cody Bollinger, who was kicked out of The Ultimate Fighter 18 by UFC president Dana White for failing to make weight, weighed in at 138.4 pounds and did not try to make weight a second time for his bantamweight fight against Pablo Alfonso, who weighed in at 136.

WSOF officials said Guillard would be docked 15 percent from his purse and Bollinger would be docked 20 percent for his purse.

"Cody was actually advised by a doctor that he should (not cut more weight)," Sefo said. "So, obviously, he's not going to be able to cut any more weight."

"(Guillard) said something about (missing weight) due to a time difference," Sefo said. "Whatever that is ... as far as I'm concerned, everybody is professional."

Also, the fight between Jon Fitch and Dennis Hallman, originally scheduled for welterweight, will be fought at middleweight after Fitch weighed in at 183 pounds and Hallman 181.

Paging Chael P. Sonnen

Former UFC fighter and commentator Chael Sonnen has been a hot topic of discussion in the mixed martial arts world after recently being released by UFC and Fox following a second failed random drug test.

Turns out, Sonnen might not be out of a job for long if he calls Sefo.

Sefo originally floated the idea of Sonnen joining the World Series of Fighting on Twitter. "Absolutely," Sefo said when asked if he would like to talk to Sonnen about working for WSOF.

"Chael is a great guy," Sefo said. "I've sparred Chael a few times. I've worked with him in training, and I like Chael. I have a lot of respect for him. It's just unfortunate that he is going through this situation in his life at this moment, but listen, he is a great human being and a super intelligent guy."

WORLD SERIES FROM PAGE 1B

Even Gaethje.

The only problem is, it is Gaethje's lightweight title that Newell will be out to get when the two meet in the Ocean Center in the main event of the first mixed martial arts card broadcast live on NBC.

"I wish I didn't have to be the person to do this," Gaethje said. "I don't want to sound overconfident, but this camp has had me twisted up. It's an emotional thing. I don't like hurting people."

That may be true, but Gaethje, whom World Series of Fighting president Ray Sefo called the "White Mike Tyson," has left a trail of battered bodies in his wake while also forging a perfect 11-0 record.

Only two of his fights have

made it out of the second round. Nine have been stopped by knockout or technical knockout, and even those haven't all been typical fist-to-jaw affairs.

In his first professional bout, Gaethje scored a first-round TKO over Kevin Croom with a slam. He picked up a TKO win over JZ Cavalcante via doctor stoppage and another TKO over Brian Cobb via leg kicks.

Famed mixed martial arts coach Trevor Wittman, who trains Gaethje at Grudge Training Center in Colorado, envisions a similar outcome for his fighter today.

"I respect Nick and what he has done," Wittman said. "It just shows that you can do anything in the world that you want to. I tip my hat to him, but I want to see us face the best in the division."

And Wittman said he does not consider Newell to be in that

category.

"I think if you have looked at his record, I think he has been kind of padded into this position," Wittman said. "And I kind of feel bad for him facing Gaethje because Gaethje is going to show you what world class is about."

While Gaethje said he doesn't believe his power is quite Tyson-like, he did say he throws his myriad of weapons — kicks, punches, knees and elbows — with bad intentions.

"Once I land that one shot ... whether it's a right head kick, a right hand or a right body kick, it's going to land and he's not going to be able to take it," Gaethje said. "He has never been hit like I'm going to hit him."

Newell said he has heard Gaethje's talk and expects nothing less.

"Yeah, he is going to finish the fight," Newell said. "He is going

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR:

Two legends in the world of fight sports will be on hand for WSOF 11. The promotion's president, "Sugarfoot" Ray Sefo, is a six-time Muay Thai kickboxing world champion, and an eight-time K-1 World Grand Prix Finals tournament participant. He has a record of 56-21-1 in kickboxing, 2-2 in mixed martial arts and 5-1 in boxing. Also, former UFC heavyweight champion and three-time King of Pancrase champion Bas Rutten is slated to be a part of the announce team. Rutten retired with a 28-4-1 record, including a streak of 22 fights (21 wins, one draw) without a loss before retiring.

to finish the fight with a flash-light in his eyes. The fight has to end, I'm just going to be the winner.

"If he didn't want to knock me out, if he was like, 'Oh, I'm going to decision this guy,' I'd think

he was a weirdo," Newell added. "He should want to knock me out and finish me because I'm going to knock him out or choke him out. He is great, and he has been knocking people out so that is probably what he expects. But that is not how I see it playing out."

Likewise, while Gaethje plans on putting on a show in front of a national audience, he is not underestimating Newell's desire.

"This is huge," Gaethje said. "I've worked my butt off every fight and every training camp. I know why I'm in this position. I deserve it. But I wish I wasn't the one that had to do this to (Newell)."

"He has more heart than anybody I've ever fought," he added. "I can guarantee you that. There is no quit in him, so I do think I'm going to have to work my butt off to make Nick quit."

GERMANY FROM PAGE 1B

of Friday's later quarterfinal match between Brazil and Colombia.

"There was not much in it," said France coach Didier Deschamps, whose young and revamped side hadn't been expected to advance further than the last eight. "We don't have the international experience Germany has."

France was not given many chances to impose the kind of attacking game that made Les Bleus one of the most exciting lineups in Brazil during the group stage, although Karim Benzema could have sent the game into extra time with an opportunity in stoppage time. Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer swatted the angled shot away.

"We played like a team again," said Germany captain Philipp Lahm, who was returned to right back in one of a string of tactically astute changes made by coach Joachim Loew.

"Overall it was a good performance from us. It

wasn't easy today."

In Loew's eight-year tenure, Germany has reached the last four in every major tournament it has played — but remains without a title since winning the European Championships in 1996.

While the German team seemed comfortable on the big stage, the occasion was perhaps too much for a young, revamped France team playing together in football's marquee tournament for the first time.

It guaranteed Europe at least one representative in the semifinals — the Netherlands and Belgium also have chances to qualify today — and continued Germany's recent dominance over France at World Cups.

The most notorious of those was the meeting in the 1982 semifinals in Spain, when Germany won on penalties following a 3-3 draw in a match marked by a late and high tackle by Germany goalkeeper Harald Schumacher on France defender Patrick Battiston that escaped punishment.



Associated Press/MANU FERNANDEZ

Brazil star Neymar, center, will miss the rest of the World Cup after suffering a fractured vertebra in Friday's quarterfinal win over Colombia. Neymar was Brazil's leading scorer with four goals.

BRAZIL FROM PAGE 1B

match against Germany in Belo Horizonte.

"It's a situation that leaves us in a difficult position for the match against Germany," Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said. "But we have great players and if I have to change something I will do it and we will be OK."

The 22-year-old Neymar has been the focal point of both the Brazilian team and the entire World Cup, and he lived up to expectations with four goals in the first three matches.

But he took a knee to the back late in the match against Colombia at the Arena Castelao in a collision with Juan Camilo Zuniga. The Brazilian star was crying in pain as he was carried off the field, and was taken to a private clinic. He has since been released.

"He will not be in condition to play, he will need a few weeks to be fit again," said Lasmar, the team doctor. "He is very, very sad."

The foul on Neymar came toward the end of one of the dirtiest games of the tournament as Brazil committed 31 fouls and Colombia had 23.

Brazil will also be without Silva for Tuesday's match against Germany. The captain must sit out after getting his second yellow card of the tournament after impeding Colombia goalkeeper David Ospina.

Brazil, which is trying to become the first host to win the World Cup since France in 1998, had been eliminated in the quarterfinals at the last two tournaments. The "Selecao" lost to the Netherlands in the quarterfinals in 2010 and to France in 2006 after winning its fifth title in 2002.

Back in 1950, Brazil needed only a draw in the final match to win

the World Cup, but the team lost to Uruguay in a match known as the "Maracanazo."

This time around, Brazil won its group and then beat Chile on penalties in the second round.

On Friday against Colombia, Silva gave Brazil the lead in the seventh minute, scoring with his left knee after a corner from Neymar passed through the Colombian defense. He celebrated the goal by pointing to the emblem on his jersey and shouting, "This is Brazil, this is Brazil."

Luiz added the second from a free kick in the 69th, side-footing a long-range shot into the top of the net.

Colombia got one back in the 80th.

James Rodriguez scored his tournament-leading sixth goal from the penalty spot after Brazil goalkeeper Julio Cesar brought down substitute Carlos Bacca inside the area.

WORLD CUP GLANCE

ROUND OF 16 Saturday, June 28 Brazil 1, Chile 1, Brazil advanced 3-2 on penalty kicks Colombia 2, Uruguay 0	Argentina vs. Belgium, noon At Salvador, Brazil Netherlands vs. Costa Rica, 4 p.m.
Sunday, June 29 Netherlands 2, Mexico 1 Costa Rica 1, Greece 1, Costa Rica advanced 5-3 on penalty kicks	SEMIFINALS Tuesday At Belo Horizonte, Brazil Brazil vs. Germany, 4 p.m.
Monday, June 30 France 2, Nigeria 0 Germany 2, Algeria 1	Wednesday, July 9 At Sao Paulo Netherlands-Costa Rica winner vs. Argentina-Belgium winner, 4 p.m.
Tuesday, July 1 Argentina 1, Switzerland 0 Belgium 2, United States 1	THIRD PLACE Saturday, July 12 At Brasilia, Brazil Semifinal losers, 4 p.m.
QUARTERFINALS Friday Brazil 2, Colombia 1 France 0, Germany 1	CHAMPIONSHIP Sunday, July 13 At Rio de Janeiro Semifinal winners, 3 p.m.
Today At Brasilia, Brazil	

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

Machida ready for bout with champ Weidman

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — While the rest of Lyoto Machida's lunch party digs into steaks and cheesecake, he eats from a small plastic container of vegetables and pasta.

Machida doesn't mind. It's no small thing to drop 20 pounds as a mixed martial artist, and the Brazilian veteran believes he'll get the payoff for his sacrifices at UFC 175.

Machida has won and lost a UFC championship belt during his lengthy career, and he moved down from light heavyweight to middleweight in his quest to win another title.

"I feel good and strong," Machida said through a translator. "I knew I could do it, and I did it the right way. Now I'm going to show everybody that I can win at any weight."

Machida (21-4) takes on middleweight champion Chris Weidman in the main event at UFC 175 in Las Vegas tonight, headlining the promotion's biggest event of the summer. Bantamweight champion Ronda Rousey also faces Alexis Davis on the card in the UFC's hometown.

Machida changed his body last year to move down from the 205-pound light heavyweight limit to the 185-pound middleweight class, but he didn't change his approach. Machida's slippery, unortho-

dox, karate-based fighting style is still a puzzle for his opponents, and respected middleweights Mark Munoz and Gegard Mousasi failed to solve it in his first two 185-pound bouts.

Machida believes his agility and power haven't suffered in the change. He feels quicker than most of his opponents, and his highly technical fighting style has worked well against the smaller men.

Yet nobody has ever figured out how to take on Weidman (11-0), the former Hofstra wrestler with remarkable punching power.

Weidman is back in the cage for the first time since his second victory over Anderson Silva in devastating fashion. The former middleweight king broke his shin while kicking Weidman's knee in the second round of their December bout, sending him howling to the Vegas canvas in pain.

Weidman first beat Silva a year ago, stunning the long-reigning champion with a second-round knockout. He was slated to defend his title against Brazil's Vitor Belfort in March, but Belfort missed the bout after the Nevada Athletic Commission banned testosterone replacement therapy.

Weidman then was scheduled to face Machida at UFC 173 on May 24, but sustained a minor knee injury that required surgery. He is back at full strength for his second title defense, eager to prove his two strange victories over Silva weren't flukes.



RONDA ROUSEY

0002082328

UFC 175 Fight Card MAIN CARD (10 p.m.)

Middleweight title fight: Chris Weidman (11-0-0) vs. Lyoto Machida (21-4-0)
Ronda Rousey (9-0-0) vs. Alexis Davis (16-5-0)
Stefan Struve (29-6-0) vs. Matt Mitrione (7-3-0)
Uriah Hall (9-4-0) vs. Thiago Santos (9-2-0)
Marcus Brimage (6-2-0) vs. Russell Doane (13-3-0)

PRELIMS (8 p.m., Fox Sports 1)

Urijah Faber (30-7-0) vs. Alex Caceres (10-5-0, 1 NC)
Kenny Robertson (13-3-0) vs. Ildemar Alcantara (20-6-0)
Chris Camozza (19-7-0) vs. Bruno Santos (13-1-0)
George Roop (15-11-1) vs. Rob Font (10-1-0)

EARLY PRELIMS (7 p.m.)

Luke Zachrich (13-3-0) vs. Guilherme Vasconcelos (3-1-0)
Kevin Casey (5-3-0) vs. Bubba Bush (8-2-0)

Source: ufc.com

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AMERICAN LEAGUE

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows for Baltimore, Toronto, New York, Boston, Tampa Bay.

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows for Detroit, Kansas City, Cleveland, Chicago, Minnesota.

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows for Oakland, LA, Seattle, Texas, Houston.

TODAY'S GAMES

Baltimore (Mi. Gonzalez 4-5) at Boston (Lester 9-7), 1:05 p.m., Game 1 Yankees (Phelps 3-4) at Minnesota (Pino 0-2), 2:10 p.m. Seattle (F.Hernandez 10-2) at White Sox (Quintana 5-7), 2:10 p.m. Tampa Bay (Archer 4-5) at Detroit (A.Sanchez 5-2), 4:08 p.m. Kansas City (Guthrie 5-6) at Cleveland (House 0-2), 6:05 p.m. Baltimore (J.Jimenez 3-8) at Boston (Lackey 9-5), 7:15 p.m., Game 2 Texas (Lewis 5-5) at Mets (B.Colon 8-6), 7:15 p.m. Houston (Feldman 4-5) at Angels (H.Santiago 0-7), 10:05 p.m. Toronto (Buehrle 10-5) at Oakland (Kazmir 9-3), 10:05 p.m.

FRIDAY

Baltimore at Boston, p.p.d., rain Yankees 6, Minnesota 5 Oakland 1, Toronto 0 (12) Kansas City 7, Cleveland 1 Tampa Bay 6, Detroit 3 White Sox 7, Seattle 1 Texas at Mets, late Houston at Angels, late.

SUNDAY

K.C. at Cleveland, 1:05 p.m. Texas at Mets, 1:10 p.m. Baltimore at Boston, 1:35 p.m. Yankees at Minnesota, 2:10 p.m. Seattle at White Sox, 2:10 p.m. Houston at Angels, 3:35 p.m. Toronto at Oakland, 4:05 p.m. Tampa Bay at Detroit, 8:05 p.m.

FRIDAY'S ROUNDUP



Associated Press/BEN MARGOT

Oakland's Nick Punto hit a one-out double in the 12th inning to lift the Athletics.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

ATHLETICS 1, BLUE JAYS 0 (12): At Oakland, Calif., Melky Cabrera couldn't corral Nick Punto's double with one out in the 12th inning, sending Oakland to a victory over Toronto.

WHITE SOX 7, MARINERS 1: At Chicago, Jose Abreu hit his 27th home run, Chris Sale struck out a season-high 12 in a complete game and Chicago beat Seattle.

YANKEES 6, TWINS 5: At Minneapolis, Brian Roberts hit three doubles and a triple, leading the Yankees to the road win.

ROYALS 7, INDIANS 1: At Cleveland, Yorlano Ventura pitched 8.1 stellar innings and Mike Moustakas hit a three-run homer to help Kansas City beat Cleveland.

RAYS 6, TIGERS 3: At Detroit, Evan Longoria homered, Ben Zobrist doubled twice and Tampa Bay finally broke through offensively against Detroit.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

PIRATES 8, PHILLIES 2: At Pittsburgh, Andrew McCutchen had four hits and Jordy Mercer drove in a career-high four runs, powering Pittsburgh to the victory.

BRAVES 5, DIAMONDBACKS 2: At Atlanta, Freddie Freeman drove in two runs and Ervin Santana won his second straight start.

REDS 4, BREWERS 2: At Cincinnati, Alfredo Simon moved into a tie for the National League lead with his 11th win and Billy Hamilton homered.

CARDINALS 3, MARLINS 2: At St. Louis, Lance Lynn bounced back from his worst start of the season with 6.2 scoreless innings to lead St. Louis.

CUBS 7, NATIONALS 2: At Washington, Justin Ruggiano homered for the second straight game for the Cubs, who got another solid outing from Jason Hammel.

PADRES 2, GIANTS 0: At San Diego, Eric Stults pitched seven strong innings to win for the first time in nearly two months and Alexi Amarista homered.

- The Associated Press

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows for Atlanta, Washington, Miami, New York, Philadelphia.

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows for Milwaukee, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Chicago.

Table with columns: W, L, Pct, GB, WC, L10, Str, Home, Away. Rows for LA, San Fran, San Diego, Colorado, Arizona.

TODAY'S GAMES

Miami (Heaney 0-3) at St. Louis (S.Miller 7-2), 2:15 p.m. Cubs (Samardzija 2-7) at Washington (G.Gonzalez 5-4), 4:05 p.m. Philadelphia (D.Buchanan 4-4) at Pittsburgh (Volquez 6-6), 4:05 p.m. Arizona (Bolsinger 1-4) at Atlanta (Harang 7-6), 4:10 p.m. Dodgers (Garen 8-4) at Colorado (J.De La Rosa 8-6), 4:10 p.m. Milwaukee (Harza 5-5) at Cincinnati (Bailey 8-4), 4:10 p.m. San Fran (Hudson 7-5) at San Diego (Despaigne 2-0), 7:15 p.m. Texas (Lewis 5-5) at Mets (B.Colon 8-6), 7:15 p.m.

FRIDAY

Cubs 7, Washington 2 Pittsburgh 8, Philadelphia 2 San Diego 2, San Fran 0 Cincinnati 4, Milwaukee 2 Texas at Mets, late St. Louis 3, Miami 2 Atlanta 5, Arizona 2 Dodgers at Colorado, late

SUNDAY

Milw. at Cincinnati, 1:10 p.m. Texas at Mets, 1:10 p.m. Arizona at Atlanta, 1:35 p.m. Cubs at Washington, 1:35 p.m. Philly at Pittsburgh, 1:35 p.m. Miami at St. Louis, 2:15 p.m. Dodgers at Colorado, 4:10 p.m. San Fran at S.D., 4:10 p.m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

White Sox 7, Mariners 1

Box score for White Sox vs Mariners. Seattle: Bloomquist ss 4, J.Jones cf 4, Cano 2b 4, Hart dh 3, Seager 3b 4, Zunino c 3, Morrison 1b 3, M.Saunders rf 3, Ackley lf 3. Totals: 31 1 6 1 0 12.

Box score for Chicago vs Oakland. Chicago: Eaton cf 3, G.Beckham 2b 4, J.Abreu 1b 4, Viciofio lf 4, Al.Ramirez ss 4, Konerko dh 4, Gillaspie 3b 4, Sierra rf 4, Flowers c 2. Totals: 32 7 9 7 1 8.

Box score for Tampa Bay vs Detroit. Tampa Bay: De.Jennings cf 5, Zobrist ss 5, Guyer lf 5, Longoria 3b 2, Forsythe 2b 4, Loney 1b 4, S.Rodriguez dh 3, J.Molina c 4, Kiermaier rf 4. Totals: 36 6 9 6 4 6.

Box score for New York vs Minnesota. New York: Gardner lf 4, B.Roberts 2b 5, Ellsbury cf 4, Teixeira 1b 4, Beltran dh 3, I.Suzuki rf 4, Cervelli c 4, Ke.Johnson 3b 4, S.Wheeler 3b 3, Ryan ss 3. Totals: 35 6 10 6 1 6.

Box score for Tampa Bay vs Detroit. Tampa Bay: Cobb W, 4-6 Boxberger 2, Jo.Peralta 1, McGee S 1. Detroit: Smily L, 4-8 C.Smith 1, B.Hardy 1, McCoy 1. Totals: 39 7 12 6 0 8.

Box score for Kansas City vs Cleveland. Kansas City: Ventura W, 6-7 Crow 0, C.Coleman 1. Cleveland: Bourn cf 4, A.Cabrera ss 4, Brantley lf 4, C.Santana 1b 4, Kipnis 2b 4, Chisenhall 3b 4, Swisher dh 3, Y.Gomes c 2, Dav.Murphy rf 2. Totals: 32 1 6 1 2 5.

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Box score for Athletics vs Blue Jays. Toronto: Reyes ss 6, M.Cabrera lf 5, Bautista dh 5, Encarnacion 1b 3, D.Navarro c 5, Glenn rf 4, B.Col.Rasmus cf 4, St.Tolleson 3b 4, C.Lind ph 1, J.Francisco 3b 0, Mastroianni cf-rf 5, Kawasaki 2b 4. Totals: 43 0 9 0 2 7.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

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NOTES

Damon eager for big league return

Obviously, 3,000 hits would be great but winning is the reason I started playing this game. I'm going to continue to stay in shape and I'll be ready."

Over the next few weeks before the non-waiver trade deadline on July 31, contending clubs will contemplate dealing prospects to acquire a player they feel will help them make a postseason run. It'll be hard to find someone with Damon's resume available for nothing.

Damon, who is best known for helping the 2004 Boston Red Sox end an 86-year championship drought, has a .284 career average with 235 home runs, 1,139 RBIs

and 408 stolen bases. He has 2,769 hits and his lifetime on-base percentage of .352 is higher than every current leadoff hitter this season except Jose Altuve, Coco Crisp, Matt Carpenter, Shin-Soo Choo and Brett Gardner.

Rob Potts, a batting practice pitcher for the Philadelphia Phillies, ran into Damon last month in Wilmington, Delaware. Damon was there because his number was retired by the Single-A Blue Rocks that night.

YANKEES' SABATHIA LIKELY DONE FOR YEAR: New York is no longer expecting CC Sabathia to return to their rotation this

year, given the persistence of inflammation in his injured right knee. Asked Friday whether he believed Sabathia's season was over, manager Joe Girardi said: "I think that's about fair to say."

The six-time All-Star left-hander has been out with a degenerative cartilage problem in his right knee since mid-May, when his ERA reached a career-high 5.28. The Yankees were targeting a post-All-Star-break return for Sabathia, who had begun a rehabilitation assignment. In his second start, Wednesday for Double-A Trenton, Sabathia was hit hard: five hits, five runs and one walk while striking out two in 3-2-3 innings.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

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AL LEADERS

Table with columns: g, ab, r, h, pct. Rows for Altuve Hou, Beltre Tex, V.Martinez Det, Cano Sea, Brantley Cle, Trout LAA, MiCabrera Det, AJones Bal, Kinsler Det, KSuzuki Min.

Table with columns: g, ab, r, h, pct. Rows for J.Abreu, Chicago, 27; N.Cruz, Baltimore, 26; Encarnacion, Toronto, 26; V.Martinez, Detroit, 21; Moss, Oakland, 19; Ortiz, Boston, 19; Los Angeles, 19.

Table with columns: g, ab, r, h, pct. Rows for Tanaka, New York, 12-3; Porcello, Detroit, 11-4; Hernandez, Seattle, 10-5; Scherzer, Detroit, 10-5; Buehrle, Toronto, 10-5; Richards, Los Angeles, 9-2; Kazmir, Oakland, 9-3.

Table with columns: g, ab, r, h, pct. Rows for Tulowitzki Col, 92 283 66 99 .350; Lucroy Mil, 80 309 41 103 .323; AMcCutchen Pit, 84 319 45 103 .323; Monroney Col, 81 302 35 96 .318; McAdams StL, 72 268 27 85 .317; McGahey Mia, 85 329 37 103 .317; Gennett Mil, 78 248 35 77 .310; Puj LAD, 81 307 45 95 .309; Stanton Mia, 86 324 60 100 .309; Goldschmidt Ariz, 87 329 62 101 .307.

Table with columns: g, ab, r, h, pct. Rows for Altuve Hou, 84 349 43 121 .347; Beltre Tex, 71 269 43 90 .335; V.Martinez Det, 80 302 45 99 .328; Cano Sea, 82 317 46 102 .322; Brantley Cle, 81 312 57 98 .314; Trout LAA, 80 303 56 95 .314; MiCabrera Det, 83 319 54 100 .313; AJones Bal, 85 347 50 107 .308; Kinsler Det, 82 346 60 106 .306; KSuzuki Min, 70 246 22 75 .305.

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WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONSHIPS: MEN

Federer, Novak in men's final

By HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

LONDON — Roger Federer was on the decline — or so the thinking went.

He was past 30. Had back problems. Tried experimenting with a larger racket. Was a family man, a father to two sets of twins now. Slid down the rankings. Reached zero Grand Slam finals over the past two years. Started losing before the quarterfinals at majors, including in 2013's second round at the All England Club, of all places, to a guy ranked 116th.

Look at him now. Federer moved one victory away from a record eighth Wimbledon championship and 18th Grand Slam title by beating 11th-seeded Milos Raonic of Canada 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 Friday. He will face Novak Djokovic in Sunday's final.

Federer was asked how much it would mean to add to his trophy collection.

"A lot," said Federer, who turns 33 next month and would be the oldest Wimbledon winner in at least a half-century. "I know I don't have 10 left, so I'll try to enjoy it as much as I can."

Could he have imagined 12 months ago, after his startlingly early exit, being back in this year's final?

"I wasn't sure," Federer replied. "I hoped."

After so much buzz about the rise of a new generation to challenge the supremacy of tennis' "Big 4," — a quartet, including Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray, that will have won 36 of the past 38 Slams — Federer and Djokovic turned aside up-and-comers in Friday's semifinals.

Djokovic, the 2011 champion, went first on Centre Court, overcoming dips in his play to beat 11th-seeded Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (7) and reach his third final at Wimbledon and 12th in the past 16 majors.

Federer, tied with Pete Sampras and William Renshaw with seven Wimbledon titles, followed with his victory. Returning serves that topped 130 mph (210 kph), Federer broke Raonic once in each set and took 61 of 80 points on his own serve.

Dimitrov (who beat defending champion Murray in the quarterfinals) and Raonic (who beat the man who beat Nadal in the fourth round) are 23 and were making their debuts in a Slam semifinal.

Federer was in his 35th; six-time major champion Djokovic was in his 23rd.



Associated Press/BEN CURTIS

Roger Federer will be playing for his 18th Grand Slam title overall when he faces Novak Djokovic on Sunday.

WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONSHIPS: WOMEN

King holds court, excited by youth

By DENNIS PASSA
Associated Press

LONDON — Billie Jean King believes Wimbledon finalists Petra Kvitova and Eugenie Bouchard are creating one of the most exciting times in women's tennis in decades.

King ought to know. She helped start the Women's Tennis Association more than 40 years ago.

The 24-year-old Kvitova of the Czech Republic won the 2011 Wimbledon title. She'll face the 20-year-old Bouchard, who will play in her — and Canada's — first Grand Slam final today.

They're from a generation of fitter and stronger players who have "closed the gap on power and belief" with their older contemporaries, King said. "They have definitely caught up. Women have more confidence overall, Serena (Williams) is not in the same place as she was, she's a little more vulnerable.

"The men have had their 'Top 4.' Now we've got a lot of younger women who want to be here. They like the show time."

Bouchard, the only woman to have advanced to all three Grand Slam tournament semifinals this year, is projected to improve to

Today's Show Court Schedules

Play begins at 9 a.m.

Women's Singles Final

Eugenie Bouchard (13), Canada, vs. Petra Kvitova (6), Czech Republic

Women's Doubles Final

Timea Babos, Hungary, and Kristina Mladenovic (14), France, vs. Sara Errani and Roberta Vinci (2), Italy

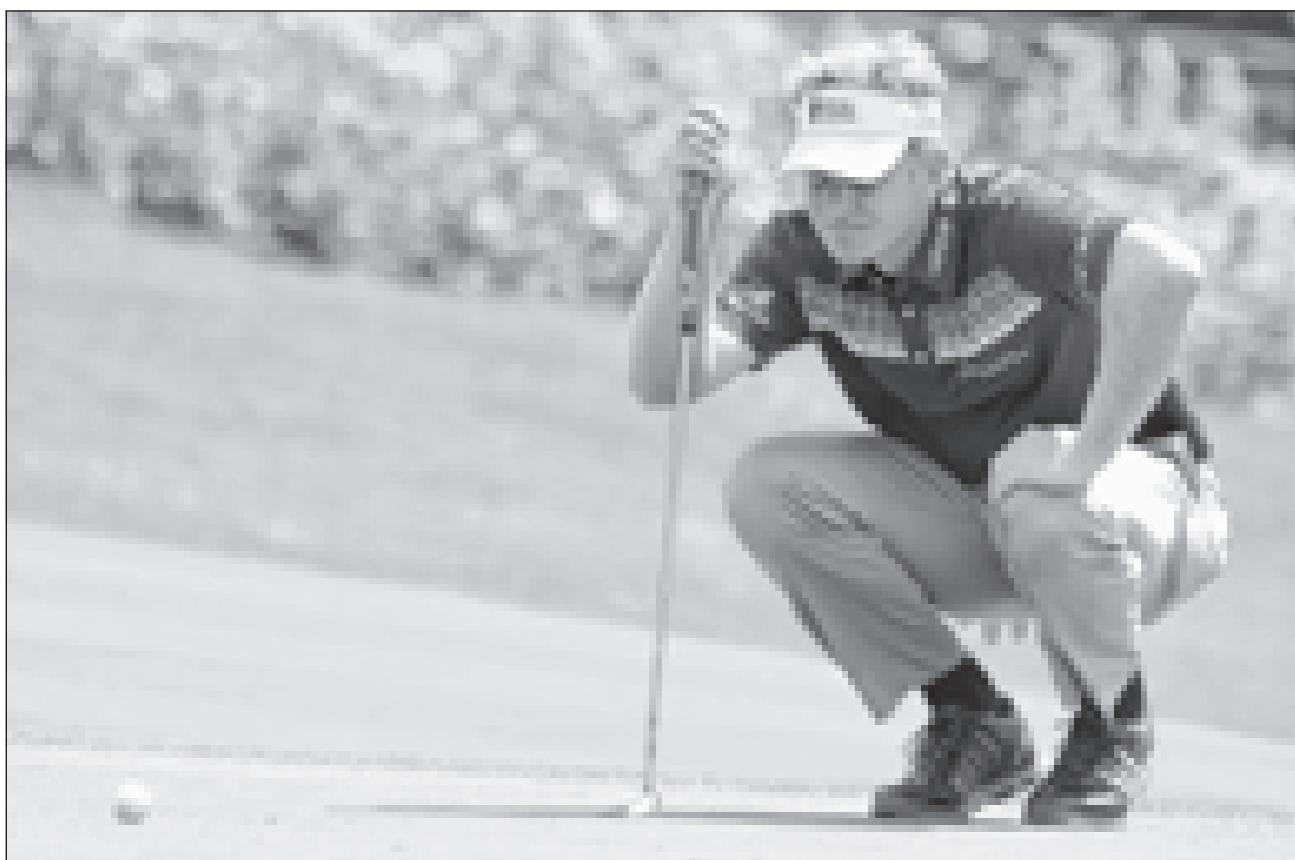
Men's Doubles Final

Bob and Mike Bryan (1), United States, vs. Vasek Pospisil, Canada, and Jack Sock, United States

No. 7 — the highest ranking for a Canadian woman — by reaching the final. She would be the youngest Grand Slam champion since Maria Sharapova won the 2006 U.S. Open at 19.

"Bouchard is playing very solid game," Kvitova said. "She's a very good mover. She's nearby the baseline. I think it's very similar to my game. I beat her for the first time last year, but it's long time ago. This is totally different. So, I mean, I really have to be focusing on everything and try to push her."

GOLF ROUNDUP



Associated Press/CHRIS TILLEY

Greenbrier Classic leader Billy Hurley III, lining up a putt on No. 10 on Friday, is a retired U.S. Navy officer whose missions included steering a destroyer through the Suez Canal.

Navy vet takes lead

Hurley rifles a 63, surges to top at Greenbrier Classic

Staff and Wire Reports

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — Billy Hurley III has been waiting for a breakthrough moment on the PGA Tour. On Independence Day, the former U.S. Navy officer might have set himself up for one this weekend in the Greenbrier Classic.

Hurley shot a season-best 7-under 63 on Friday to take the second-round lead.

Hurley's bogey-free round included a chip-in from 29 feet on No. 4 in cool conditions before the wind picked up considerably late in his morning round.

"You know, anytime you play good, it's great, right?" Hurley said. "There's special days of the year for our country, and having served ... adds something to it. It's kind of pretty cool, I guess, to shoot 7 under on the 4th of July." It's a nice storyline. Then again,

having military experience wasn't on his mind in jumping to the top of the leaderboard.

"I was just trying to keep getting the ball in the hole," he said.

Hurley was at 9-under 131 at Old White TPC. Eleven players were within four shots of him.

Kevin Chappell (65) and Chris Stroud (66) were a stroke back. Troy Matteson had a 61 to vault into fourth place at 7 under. He has made the cut in all five years of the Greenbrier Classic.

New Smyrna Beach transplant Robert Streb shot a 72 and was tied for 69th at even-par 68-72—140, good enough to make the cut.

Port Orange's Rod Perry shot an 80 and missed the cut at 78-80—158.

STADLER UP BY 3 AT FRENCH OPEN: At Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, France, American Kevin Stadler increased his lead to three strokes in the French

Open, following his opening 64 with a 68. Stadler had a 10-under 132 total on Le Golf National's Albatross Course, the site of the 2018 Ryder Cup. France's Victor Riu was second after a 67. Defending champion Graeme McDowell was tied for fourth at 3 under after a 69, and U.S. Open winner Martin Kaymer was another stroke back after a 68.

SLOAN, RODRIGUEZ SHARE LEAD: At Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada's Roger Sloan shot a 6-under 65 for a share of the second-round lead with Mexico's Jose de Jesus Rodriguez in the Web.com Tour's Nova Scotia Open. The 27-year-old Sloan, a former Texas-El Paso player from Calgary, Alberta, matched first-round leader Rodriguez at 10-under 132 on Ashburn Golf Club's New Course. Rodriguez had a 69. American Zack Sucher and England's David Skinnis were tied for third at 7 under.

PGA TOUR: GREENBRIER CLASSIC

Friday		At The Old White TPC		White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.	
Purse: \$6.5 million		Yardage: 7,287; Par 70		Second Round	
a-denotes amateur					
Billy Hurley III	68-63-131	Greg Chalmers	69-69-138	Jamie Lovemark	68-72-140
Kevin Chappell	67-65-132	Brendon Todd	71-67-138	Shawn Stefani	73-67-140
Chris Stroud	66-66-132	Steven Bowditch	68-70-138	Martin Flores	70-70-140
Troy Matteson	72-61-133	Matt Bettencourt	70-68-138	Mark Wilson	68-72-140
Steve Stricker	66-68-134	Cameron Tringale	72-66-138	Sang-Moon Bae	66-74-140
Chris Kirk	65-69-134	Josh Teater	69-69-138	J.J. Henry	70-70-140
Brice Garnett	68-66-134	Andrew Loupe	69-69-138	Davis Love III	67-73-140
Camilo Villegas	68-67-135	Oliver Goss	70-68-138	Scott Brown	72-68-140
Jim Renner	65-70-135	Brendan Steele	70-68-138	D.A. Points	65-75-140
Pat Perez	66-69-135	David Toms	69-69-138	Woody Austin	68-72-140
Bubba Watson	68-67-135	Michael Thompson	66-72-138	John Daly	68-72-140
David Lingmerth	67-68-135	Charles Howell III	67-71-138	Andrew Svoboda	72-68-140
Luke Guthrie	67-69-136	Justin Leonard	71-67-138	Robert Streb	68-72-140
Johnson Wagner	68-68-136	Troy Merritt	66-72-138	Patrick Rodgers	65-75-140
Angel Cabrera	68-68-136	Tim Wilkinson	68-71-139	Failed to make the cut	
J.B. Holmes	68-68-136	Chad Collins	66-73-139	Nick Watney	70-71-141
Keegan Bradley	67-69-136	Richard H. Lee	71-68-139	Justin Hicks	68-73-141
David Hearn	68-68-136	Ken Duke	72-67-139	Bobby Wyatt	67-74-141
Danny Lee	65-71-136	Gary Woodland	69-70-139	Chad Campbell	69-72-141
Bronson La'Cassie	70-66-136	Carl Pettersson	71-68-139	Marc Leishman	68-73-141
Joe Durant	65-71-136	Tom Watson	71-68-139	Ricky Barnes	68-73-141
Patrick Reed	67-69-136	Kyle Stanley	71-68-139	Will MacKenzie	70-71-141
Kevin Na	66-70-136	Brendon de Jonge	70-69-139	John Peterson	71-70-141
Charlie Beljan	67-69-136	Steve Marino	69-70-139	Jim Herman	68-73-141
Robert Allenby	67-70-137	Hudson Swafford	72-67-139	John Huh	73-69-142
George McNeill	70-67-137	James Hahn	65-74-139	Vijay Singh	71-71-142
Stephan Ames	69-68-137	Gonzalo Fdez-Castano	68-71-139	Jonathan Byrd	71-71-142
Bud Cauley	69-68-137	Michael Putnam	67-72-139	Daniel Chopra	71-71-142
Jason Bohn	65-72-137	Jeff Maggert	69-70-139	Kevin Foley	72-70-142
Jonas Blixt	64-73-137	Bill Haas	69-70-139	Alex Aragon	70-72-142
Tyrone Van Aswegen	67-70-137	Scott Stallings	70-69-139	Ben Curtis	67-75-142
Patrick Cantlay	69-68-137	Robert Langley	68-71-139	Jhonattan Vegas	71-71-142
Will Wilcox	68-69-137	Heath Slocum	70-69-139	Scott McCarron	71-71-142
Scott Gardiner	70-67-137	Steph Inkelman	69-70-139	Edward Loar	72-70-142
		Andres Romero	72-68-140	Brian Harman	72-71-143
		Jason Gore	70-70-140	Chesson Hadley	75-68-143
		Derek Castro	72-68-140	Jeff Curl	73-70-143
		Roberto Ernst	71-69-140	Miguel Angel Carballo	73-70-143
		Webb Simpson	71-69-140	Kevin Tway	69-74-143
		Ted Potter, Jr.	70-70-140	Scott Verplank	75-68-143
		Wes Roach	69-71-140	Rory Sabbatini	72-71-143

NBA ROUNDUP

Spurs' Ginobili has right leg stress fracture

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs said Manu Ginobili has a stress fracture of the lower fibula of his right leg.

The injury could knock the key reserve for the NBA champion Spurs out of the upcoming World Cup of Basketball, where he was scheduled to play for Argentina.

The tournament starts at the end of August in Spain. Ginobili wrote Tuesday on his Facebook page that his availability will depend on how he feels in about three weeks, but that he remains optimistic.

It's unclear when Ginobili was injured. He averaged 14.4 points in the NBA Finals, when the Spurs

beat Miami in five games to give Ginobili his fourth championship.

SOURCE: HAWKS, SEFOLOSHA AGREE:

A person with knowledge of the deal said Atlanta and small forward Thabo Sefolosha agreed to a three-year, \$12 million contract. The 6-foot-7 Sefolosha averaged 6.3 points as a starter in 61 games last season for Oklahoma City. He is known as a strong defender but his 3-point percentage fell from 41.9 percent in 2012-13 to 31.6 percent.

MIROTIC IN TALKS WITH BULLS:

Spanish website HoopsHype.com reported Nikola Mirotic has chosen to leave Real Madrid and pay his buyout of roughly \$3 million. Per league rules, the Chicago Bulls are able to pay

up to \$600,000 of that buyout, with anything over getting charged to their salary cap. That's a salary cap that they were hoping to preserve for Carmelo Anthony. But with reports that the Knicks and Lakers both have offered Anthony a maximum contract, the Bulls already started moving to a contingency plan with Thursday's meeting in Los Angeles with Pau Gasol.

KAMAN, BLAZERS AGREE:

Free agent center Chris Kaman agreed to a two-year deal with Portland. The deal, worth a reported \$9.8 million, was first reported by Yahoo! Sports. Kaman confirmed the deal with a post on his official Twitter account.

SCOREBOARD

Friday		At The All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club	
London		Purse: \$42.5 million (Grand Slam)	
Surface: Grass-Outdoor		Singles	
Men's Semifinals			
Novak Djokovic (1), Serbia, def. Grigor Dimitrov (11), Bulgaria, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (2), 7-6 (7).	def. Michael Llodra and Nicolas Mahut (12), France, 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-2.		
Roger Federer (4), Switzerland, def. Milos Raonic (8), Canada, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.	Vasek Pospisil, Canada, and Jack Sock, United States, def. Leander Paes, India, and Radek Stepanek (5), Czech Republic, 7-6 (5), 6-3, 6-4.		
Women's Doubles			
Bob and Mike Bryan (1), United States,	Sara Errani and Roberta Vinci (2), Italy, def. Andrea Hlavackova, Czech Republic, and Zheng Jie (9), China, 6-3, 6-2.		
	Timea Babos, Hungary, and Kristina Mladenovic (14), France, def. Andrea Petkovic, Germany, and Magdalena Rybarikova, Slovakia, 6-1, 6-3.		

In The News-Journal

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Wrap-up from Saturday plus Sunday Preview

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VICTORY EDITION

THE DAYTONA BEACH NEWS-JOURNAL

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2014

JUNIOR'S LATE SHOW

DALE EARNHARDT JR. WINS RAIN-DELAYED DAYTONA 500



TODAY'S NEWS-JOURNAL IS INSIDE THE VICTORY EDITION



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News-Journal/DAVID MASSEY

Dale Earnhardt Jr. leads the pack across the finish line to win the Daytona 500 on Sunday at Daytona International Speedway.

Junior wins; Earth back on axis

DAYTONA BEACH

Worth the wait? For a large segment of the NASCAR neighborhood, Dale Earnhardt Jr. crossing the checkers ahead of the field — and ahead of a wild mess — made everything right Sunday night.

And Junior, so calm and collected during these years of victory droughts and overall frustration, let loose in a big way after winning his second Daytona 500 and just his second win of any type in more than five years.

Everyone did, it seemed. "The world is right, right now," was how Earnhardt's teammate, Jeff Gordon, summed it up in the afterglow.

Through a series of late-race wrecks, Junior maintained a presence in the lead pack, and on the final restart with two laps left, he was at the front and showed no interest in letting Daytona fans see a third straight day with a side-

MY TWO
CENTS
KEN
WILLIS



by-side finish.

As one final group of cars went into a long crash in his mirror, most eyes stayed fixed on Junior, whose victory reaction told us all we needed to know about the relief and ecstasy he was feeling.

"Man, winning this race is the greatest feeling that you can feel in this sport," he said. "Didn't know if I'd ever get the chance to feel that again. I'll never take this for granted."

Something none of us will again take for granted: a smooth and orderly day at the Daytona 500.

In many ways, the Daytona 500 has replaced the Indianapolis 500 as North America's biggest motorsports event. But Daytona also seems to have stolen

all types of Indy thunder, such as Indy's penchant for weather issues. And that's why no one was shocked when rain arrived at the 38-lap mark. Forecasts no longer make exceptions for Daytona.

The majority of the estimated 120,000 who saw the race's start returned — after six-plus hours, by the way — to see its resumption, and they were treated to some 100 laps of tight green-flag action until the inevitable Big One ignited on Lap 145. It claimed Danica Patrick and involved 13 cars overall.

Another inevitability: Some fans will howl about the lengthy delay. Going to all extents to complete a race on the day it's scheduled, however, is a consistency that should remain.

And guess what. "Daytona Rising," even at a reported \$400 million, won't do a thing to remove Daytona from the mercy of the weatherman. But those new concourses will give fans a neat place to kill time during future rain delays. How's that for a silver lining?

Follow Us on Twitter



The Sprint Cup Series won't be back in Daytona until July, but we've got you covered. Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/nascardaytona for the latest news, photos, video and more of NASCAR's premier national touring series.

Online Racing Extras

Don't forget to check out all of our photo galleries, videos and more from Sunday's big day at Daytona International Speedway: www.news-journalonline.com/sports



ON THE COVER: Dale Earnhardt Jr. celebrates in Victory Lane on Sunday after winning the delayed Daytona 500. Photo by Nigel Cook.

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News-Journal/DAVID MASSEY

The No. 88 National Guard team celebrates after Dale Earnhardt Jr. wins his second Daytona 500 on Sunday at Daytona International Speedway.

DALE REIGNS SUPREME

Junior captures his 2nd Daytona 500 in 6-hour, 21-minute delayed race

By **GODWIN KELLY**
godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com

DAYTONA BEACH — Dale Earnhardt Jr. held off a hungry pack of wolves over the last two laps to win the super rain-delayed Daytona 500 on Sunday night at Daytona International Speedway.

"Unbelievable," shouted Earnhardt into his two-way radio. "I can't believe this — better than the first one!"

The 200-lap run produced several spectacular multicar crashes, including on the last lap, and a crowd-pleasing winner in Earnhardt, who won this test of man and machine in 2004.

"Trust me, we're going to have a blast this year," said the 39-year-old driver, who qualified for the season-ending Chase with the victory.

An estimated 120,000 spectators watched the start and about 90,000 returned, after a race-record 6-hour, 21-minute and 40-second delay caused by persistent rain showers.

The race started at 1:30 p.m. and ended at 11:17 p.m.

Earnhardt, who had just two Sprint Cup wins since joining Hendrick Motorsports in 2008, started the two-lap shootout with teammates Jimmie Johnson and Jeff Gordon behind him.

Earnhardt, who led six times for 54 laps, credited Gordon for the push to the front that allowed him to hold off second-place finisher Denny Hamlin, who lost radio contact with his spotter after the rain delay, and Brad Keselowski, trying to earn team owner Roger Penske his second 500 victory.

"Winning this race is the greatest feeling you can feel in this sport," Earnhardt said. "I never knew if I'd get that chance again."

"We got a little help from Jeff on the (final) restart. This doesn't happen twice, let alone once."

Hamlin was one of the favorites coming into Sunday's Speedweeks' finale after winning the Sprint Unlimited and a Budweiser Duel



News-Journal/NIGEL COOK

Dale Earnhardt Jr. holds up the Harley J. Earl Trophy after winning the 56th running of the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway.

qualifying race.

"There's a lot to be disappointed about, a lot to be happy about," said Hamlin, who saw a three-race Cup Series winning streak come to an end.

"We lost our luster after the rain. Without a spotter, it was me trying not to get into anyone."

The competition was tight, so tight it ignited three big-league wrecks and six caution periods covering 38 laps.

While there were lots of sparks and twisted sheet metal, no driver was reported injured.

Keselowski had one of the best handling cars in the 43-car field, and

he was hawkish from the opening green flag.

He forced his way into the conversation in the last 20 laps.

"I never saw a lull in the action," Keselowski said. "It was probably one of the best ever."

As the field rolled to the final green flag, the 30-year-old driver felt he was in position to win.

"We came up a little short in our car," said the 2012 Cup champion. "We had a really fast car. I thought I'd get the lead when I had the No. 18 (Kyle Busch) behind me, but the No. 18 and No. 11 (Hamlin) got separated and stalled my run, and that's all she wrote."

Other Rainy Daytona 500s

1965: Fred Lorenzen won after race was called after 133 laps.

1966: Richard Petty ran 198 laps and was declared the winner. He had more than a lap lead.

2003: Michael Waltrip won after race called after 109 laps. This is the shortest Daytona 500.

2009: Matt Kenseth won after race was called after 133 laps.

2012: Race postponed one day. Kenseth won the night after the race had been scheduled.

— Godwin Kelly

Gordon wound up fourth, followed by Johnson, last year's Daytona 500 winner and series champion.

Hendrick Motorsports had three cars among the top-five finishers as Earnhardt averaged 145.290 mph for the 500-mile adventure. He was one of 18 drivers who swapped the lead 42 times.

Earnhardt, who finished second in three of his last four Daytona 500 starts prior to Sunday's race, said the team spends hundreds of man-hours working on these Daytona machines.

"If you are going to win one, this is the one," said Steve Letarte, Earnhardt's crew chief, who will be an NBC Sports broadcaster next season.

Speedweeks opened with a spotlight on the No. 3 Chevy, last raced at Daytona in 2001 by Dale Earnhardt Sr., who died on the last lap of that race.

Car owner Richard Childress put the number in storage for 13 years before bringing it back to the Cup Series with grandson Austin Dillon at the wheel.

Dillon, 23, started on the pole in the No. 3.

He dodged several bullets in the variety of wrecks, but came home ninth.

DAYTONA 500 WINNERS

2014: Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet
2013: Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet
2012: Matt Kenseth, Ford
2011: Trevor Bayne, Ford
2010: Jamie McMurray, Chevrolet
2009: Matt Kenseth, Ford
2008: Ryan Newman, Dodge
2007: Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet

2006: Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet
2005: Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet
2004: Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet
2003: Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet
2002: Ward Burton, Dodge
2001: Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet
2000: Dale Jarrett, Ford
1999: Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet

1998: Dale Earnhardt, Chevrolet
1997: Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet
1996: Dale Jarrett, Ford
1995: Sterling Marlin, Chevrolet
1994: Sterling Marlin, Chevrolet
1993: Dale Jarrett, Chevrolet
1992: Davey Allison, Ford
1991: Ernie Ivan, Chevrolet

1990: Derricke Cope, Chevrolet
1989: Darrell Waltrip, Chevrolet
1988: Bobby Allison, Buick
1987: Bill Elliott, Ford
1986: Geoff Bodine, Chevrolet
1985: Bill Elliott, Ford
1984: Cale Yarborough, Chevrolet
1983: Cale Yarborough, Pontiac

1982: Bobby Allison, Buick
1981: Richard Petty, Buick
1980: Buddy Baker, Oldsmobile
1979: Richard Petty, Oldsmobile
1978: Bobby Allison, Ford
1977: Cale Yarborough, Chevrolet
1976: David Pearson, Mercury
1975: Benny Parsons, Chevrolet

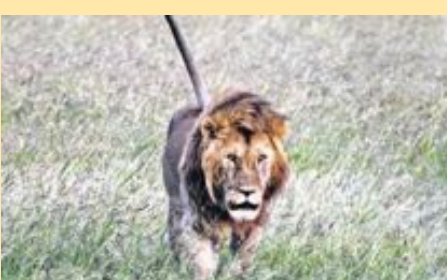
1974: Richard Petty, Dodge
1973: Richard Petty, Dodge
1972: A.J. Foyt, Mercury
1971: Richard Petty, Plymouth
1970: Pete Hamilton, Plymouth
1969: LeeRoy Yarborough, Ford
1968: Cale Yarborough, Mercury
1967: Mario Andretti, Ford

1966: Richard Petty, Plymouth
1965: Fred Lorenzen, Ford
1964: Richard Petty, Plymouth
1963: Tiny Lund, Ford
1962: Fireball Roberts, Pontiac
1961: Marvin Panch, Pontiac
1960: Junior Johnson, Chevrolet
1959: Lee Petty, Oldsmobile

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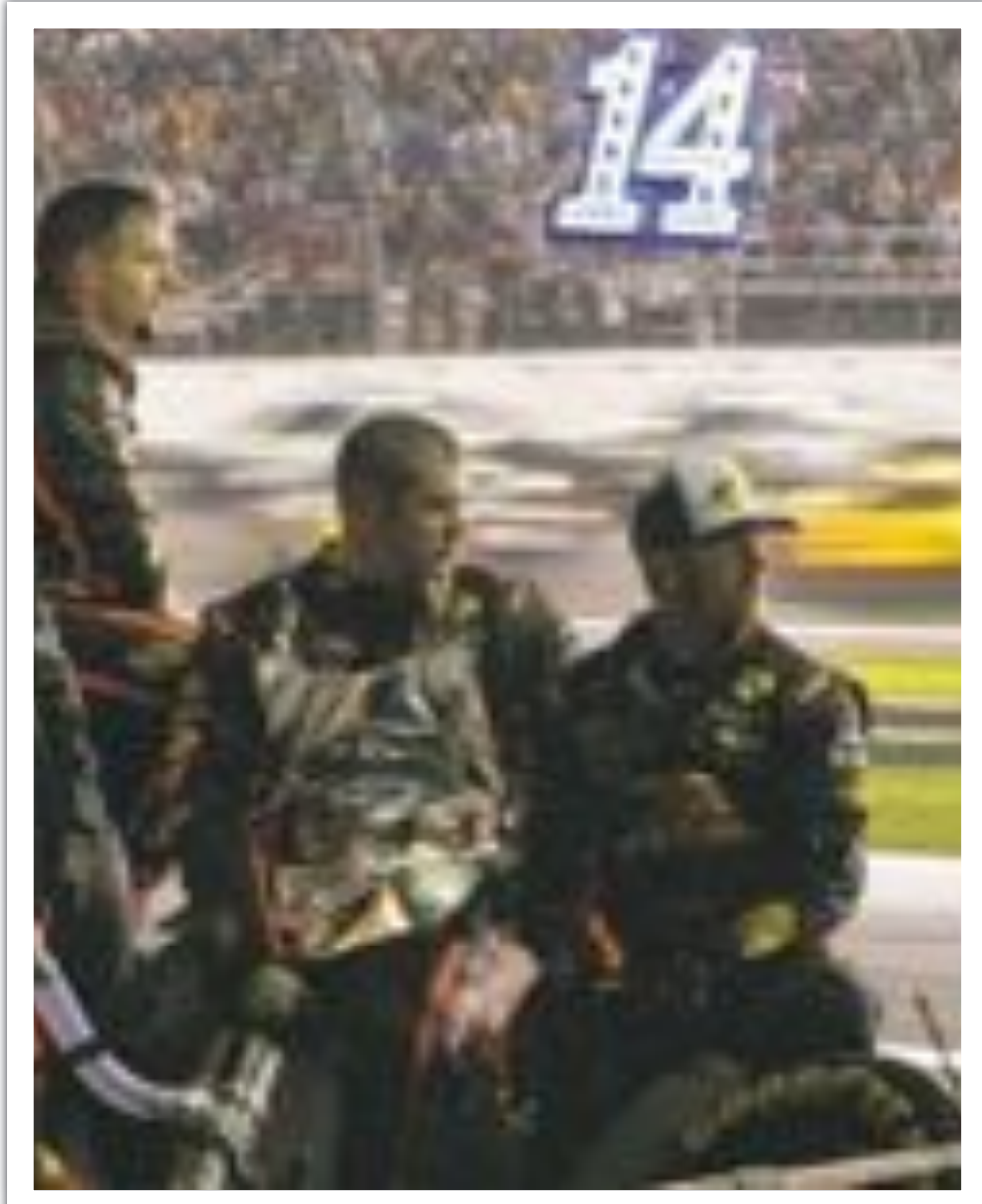
Cathy Smith, ARNP

THE DAYTONA 500



News-Journal/PETER BAUER

Kyle Larson (42) spins in front of a pack of cars after contact with Austin Dillon (3) in Turn 4 on Sunday night during the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway.



News-Journal/DAVID TUCKER

Tony Stewart's pit crew waits on the wall as the field flies past after the race restarted following a 6-hour rain delay.



News-Journal/DAVID MASSEY

Danica Patrick exits her car after a crash during the 56th running of the Daytona 500.



News-Journal/DAVID TUCKER

Matt Kenseth (20), Marcos Ambrose (9) and Greg Biffle (16) run three-wide through the tri-oval.

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Stars shine at 500

Blacc nails anthem; Evans starts race; Bryan thrills crowd



News-Journal/NIGEL COOK

Aloe Blacc performs the national anthem prior to the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway on Sunday.



News-Journal/DAVID TUCKER

Gary Sinise, honorary starter for the Daytona 500, takes a question from the media Sunday morning.



News-Journal/STEVEN NOTARAS

Luke Bryan performs for race fans before the start of the Daytona 500 on Sunday.

Fans wait out long rain delay

By DINAH VOYLES PULVER
dinah.pulver@news-jrnl.com

The Daytona 500 had a little bit of blue sky and sunshine on Sunday at Daytona International Speedway and a lot of sitting around and waiting for the rain to stop.

The skies opened just 38 laps into the race and the action on the track was stopped by 2:14 p.m. The showers eventually turned into severe thunderstorms, prompting the National Weather Service to issue tornado warnings and severe storm warnings across much of the area.

Speedway officials evacuated the grandstands, sending fans fleeing for shelter and corners to stay as dry as they could. The rain continued for several hours.

The Air Titan drying equipment worked off and on throughout the afternoon, but once the rain stopped it took more than an hour and a half to get the track dry enough to go racing. The green flag finally dropped again at about 8:53, ending a six-hour and 21-minute red flag.

It proved a long day for everyone. Many fans made the best of it, donning ponchos and seeking shelter where they could.

Mitch and Sarah Whitman of Hilliard waited it out with 2-year-old son Slade and Sarah's father, Rick Conner, of Phoenix.

"We just hung out in the garage area," said Mitch Whitman, after they moved back to the Fan Deck to watch the Speedway's Air Titan equipment working to dry the track. The Whitmans said they talked with some fire rescue guys, who gave Slade a lug nut.

Drivers spent time in their haulers, many engaging with their fans over Twitter.

The day started early with fans flocking into the Speedway shortly after the gates opened at 7 a.m. Pre-race activities went off without a hitch. Guests crowded into the drivers' meeting, including Medal of Honor winners, soldiers, famous athletes, musicians and other celebrities. A few politicians were also in the mix, including Florida Gov. Rick Scott.

The grandstands, infield and pit road were packed when actor Gary Sinise dropped the green flag to start the race. Sinise remained in the flag tower for several laps, getting an up close view of the action.

But when the storms arrived, some of the fans who left the Speedway said they did not plan to return, citing the need to go to work Monday morning.

Jerry and Kim Waugh from South Dakota waited with son Grayson and wore ponchos as they stood under an awning in the grandstands. They planned to return to their hotel room and said they probably wouldn't return to the Speedway for the remainder of the race.

"But it's our first Daytona 500, so we are glad we at least got to see a couple laps," Jerry Waugh said.

Like the Whitmans, others waited it out at the Speedway or in their cars and campers. Mike Hovis of Orlando huddled under a stairwell, shortly after the rain started.

"When you pay 100 bucks for tickets, you are going to try and stay as long as possible," Hovis said. "It's an investment."

Dan Eden, wearing a Daytona 500 souvenir shirt, and his father, Erv, headed back to their car at one point, after getting soaked.

At Erv's suggestion, the pair had traveled "all the way from Arizona, 2,500 miles, to see the rain," Dan Eden said. "But that's Mother Nature."

Staff writers Frank Fernandez and Lacey McLaughlin contributed to this report.

"... It's our first Daytona 500, so we are glad we at least got to see a couple laps."

Jerry Waugh
Fan who said his family likely wouldn't return when the race resumed

By CHRIS GRAHAM
chris.graham@news-jrnl.com

DAYTONA BEACH — When Aloe Blacc first started writing songs, he never expected any recognition.

On Sunday, the 35-year-old performed the national anthem in front of thousands for NASCAR's biggest race at Daytona International Speedway with millions watching on TV.

"I don't want to, a day after rock band Madison Rising's rendition at the Nationwide Race hit a sour note with fans and critics and went viral, mess this one up — not on this stage," he said before performing a rousing version of the national anthem. Blacc, best known for his song "Wake Me Up,"

said before the performance that every time he sings it he feels like an ambassador for the country.

He said officials didn't have to worry about another controversial version of the song.

"You don't have to worry about that with me," he said hours before he kicked off the 56th running of the Daytona 500.

As he wrapped up the national anthem, the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds returned in thrilling fashion to the Speedway after a year hiatus due to a low-cloud ceiling last February and the federal sequester grounding after that. They made their run this year before severe weather halted the race.

Actor Chris Evans, best known

for his role as Marvel hero Captain America, said the Daytona 500 stage was a bit unnerving.

"I'm a little intimidated at this point," said Evans, who calmly delivered the famous starting phrase, "Drivers, start your engines."

Country music star Luke Bryan already had the crowd revved up with a rowdy pre-race concert.

Other celebrities and big names seen at the track included actor Gary Sinise, rapper 50 Cent, Denver Broncos cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, Gov. Rick Scott, stand-up comedian Dan Whitney aka "Larry the Cable Guy" and snowboarder Kaitlyn Farrington, fresh off a gold medal performance in the halfpipe at the Sochi Olympics.

IDLE CHATTER

DeSantis meets No. 3's nemesis

By KEN WILLIS
ken.willis@news-jrnl.com

DAYTONA BEACH — Among Sunday's Daytona 500 visitors was Ron DeSantis, the Republican congressman whose district includes the Speedway. A sling holding his right arm limited his handshaking duties.

Are you an actual race fan?

"Oh yeah, absolutely. When you go in my office in Washington, you see a picture of the original beach track, and next to it you see the modern track. It's surprising how many people from other states recognize it."

Do you think the EPA would ever allow us



RON DESANTIS

to race on the beach again?
"They don't let us do very much anymore. That's part of the problem."

What's up with the arm?
"I had some lingering stuff from being an athlete, and it finally got to the point that I had it checked out. They said I had a labrum tear."

Do you have a favorite driver?
"I've always liked Dale Jr., but I've gotten to meet some of these other guys. These are good folks. They're not like the typical arrogant athletes. I was a No. 3 fan back in

the day, and I've always liked Dale Jr., too. But today I bumped into Jeff Gordon, and that was pretty neat."

But if you were an Earnhardt fan, you can't be a Gordon fan.

"Exactly. But it was cool to see him for the first time. Great experience."

Was the drivers' meeting more fun than a congressional session?

"It's good to be at something where it's not always about politics, where people are focusing on competition and having a good time. And it's cool to see how NASCAR recognizes the military and the people who have given for our country."

QUESTIONS AND ATTITUDE

A rain jinx? Did Jimmie Johnson win again?

By KEN WILLIS
ken.willis@news-jrnl.com

Can we please move the 500 back to its earlier date?

There are some who think the Daytona 500 has been jinxed since it was moved to one week later on the calendar. That move came two years ago, and two of the first three 500s at the later date have been hit by rain — that didn't prevent the track from catching on fire in 2012, though. But the recent "issues" go back further than that — there was a rain-shortened race in 2009 and, lest we forget, the 2010 pothole.

Fox is a big network; shouldn't there be better filler programming?

You'd think so. Why is "last year's Daytona 500" automatically cued up when "this year's Daytona 500" is delayed by rain? If you really want to entertain TV-viewing race fans, drag out coverage of the Daytona 500 from 1969, '76 or '79, and let everyone see why their dads became NASCAR fans in their youth. Nostalgia sells, and we're always game for a blast of Chris Economaki.

Was Jimmie OK with the 2013 replay?

Sure was, but not as excited as many of his fans. Defending 500 winner Jimmie Johnson said Sunday evening that he'd been receiving congratulations from people who watched Fox's re-airing of last year's race and thought he'd done it again. If they'd shown the 1976 race instead, you doubt

David Pearson would get a lot of phone calls. Then again, maybe he would.

Did the national anthem survive?

It thrived, actually. You might not have known much about Aloe Blacc before lunchtime Sunday, but he made a bunch of new fans before the Daytona 500 when he gave traditional — and effective — treatment to "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Is that really newsworthy?

These days, with the anthem so often victimized, yes it's newsworthy. This particular time, a day after rock band Madison Rising took the anthem in a direction that offended so many onlookers, it was very much big news that Blacc handled the chore with care.



News-Journal/JIM TILLER

During the rain delay, some TV fans thought Jimmie Johnson had won with Fox rebroadcasting last year's race.

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THE RAIN DELAY



News-Journal/JIM TILLER

The Speedway track dryers were out in force when rain delayed the Daytona 500 on Sunday after 34 laps at Daytona International Speedway.



News-Journal/JIM TILLER

Danica Patrick and other drivers head to dry ground before the long delay.



News-Journal/JIM TILLER

Race fans leave the grandstand as the rain gets worse and thunder rumbles.



News-Journal/JIM TILLER

Fans try to stay dry by packing under the roofed eating area in the FanZone at the Speedway.



News-Journal/JIM TILLER

A message flashes for people camping in the infield as the weather gets worse and a tornado warning is announced Sunday.



News-Journal/NIGEL COOK

Tarps cover race cars while drivers and fans take cover during the storm.

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THE DAYTONA 500



News-Journal/NIGEL COOK

Garrett Lauer takes a selfie on the high banks before the start of the Daytona 500 on Sunday at Daytona International Speedway.



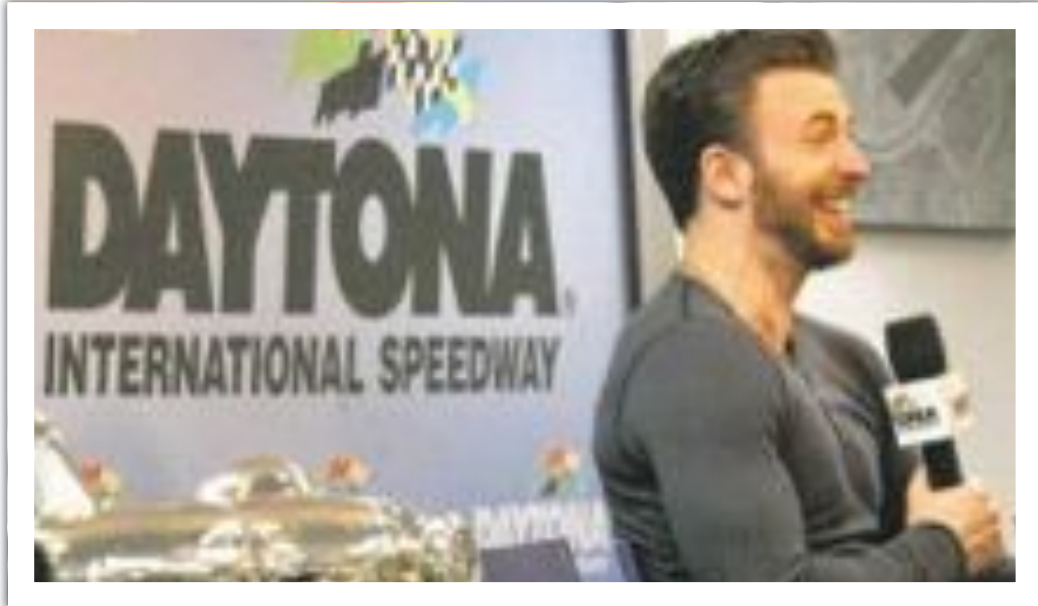
News-Journal/DAVID MASSEY

Graeme Drewett traveled from South Australia and did up his beard properly before his first race at the 56th running of the Daytona 500.



News-Journal/JIM TILLER

Fans and photographers snap pictures of country music singer Luke Bryan during his performance before the start of the race.



News-Journal/DAVID TUCKER

Actor Chris Evans, grand marshal for the Daytona 500, takes a question from the media Sunday morning.



News-Journal/DINAH VOLYES PULVER

Olympic snowboarder Kaitlyn Farrington shows her gold medal from the Sochi games Sunday in the media center.

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RACING RECAP

FEB. 15: THE SPRINT UNLIMITED

Crash-Crazy: Hamlin wins wreckfest

BY KEN WILLIS
ken.willis@news-jrnl.com

DAYTONA BEACH — Of course the pace car caught on fire. Come on, with all we've seen at Daytona over the past several years, was anyone honestly shocked at the sight of driver Brett Bodine and fellow NASCAR official Buster Auton scrambling from the smoking pace car last weekend?

The night of Feb. 15 ended — finally — with Denny Hamlin in Victory Lane after opening up a big lead in the closing laps of the Sprint Unlimited. It was a second straight win for Hamlin, who took the 2013 season finale at Homestead-Miami Speed-

way. But it's not what everyone will be talking about in the aftermath.

We've become accustomed to the Big One wiping out a swath of cars at Daytona on race day. But when you only have an 18-car field to begin with, the Big One can eliminate half the field, as it did last weekend. Matt Kenseth's move from the middle of the track to the lower lane was halted by the presence of Joey Logano. The contact ignited a series of crashes and spins through the tri-oval area of the frontstretch.

Among the victims was three-fourths of the Stewart-Haas Racing lineup. That included three-time champ and team co-owner Tony

Stewart, competing for the first time since a serious leg injury last August.

The wreck also claimed Stewart's teammate Danica Patrick, who initially avoided all contact and went into a lazy spin, only to be side-swiped by beau Ricky Stenhouse.

Six-time Cup Series champ Jimmie Johnson wrecked out at the end of the Unlimited's first segment. The second segment featured the Big One. As a final blow, the sport's most popular driver — Dale Earnhardt Jr. — was pinched into the wall and exited early during the final, 20-lap segment. In the end, eight of the 18 starters rolled under the checkers.



News-Journal/NIGEL COOK

Denny Hamlin celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the Sprint Unlimited.

FEB. 16: POLE QUALIFYING

No. 3 is No. 1 again on the 500 pole

BY KEN WILLIS
ken.willis@news-jrnl.com

DAYTONA BEACH — Nostalgia was king last Sunday at Daytona, and it was delivered by a 23-year-old driver who's brash enough to enjoy the spotlight, yet grounded enough to enjoy the backing of the old-timers who might not otherwise be on board.

Austin Dillon, on his first official day of big-league competition with "Dale Earnhardt's number" on the side of his car, turned a qualifying lap that secured a spot extremely familiar to the No. 3 car: Up front at Daytona.

Dillon's average speed of 196.019 mph topped the scoring pylon and

earned the rookie driver the pole for today's Daytona 500.

Dillon's Chevrolet is owned by his grandfather, Richard Childress, who promoted his grandson to the Cup Series and dusted off the No. 3, which was chauffeured by Dale Earnhardt until his death in the 2001 Daytona 500.

Earnhardt, whose biggest-ever win came at the 1998 Daytona 500, won 34 races overall at Daytona International Speedway in his career. Because it was also the track where he lost his life, the return of the No. 3 was big news here even before last Sunday's qualifying laps.

Some will suggest it couldn't have

been scripted any better. But don't get any ideas, the Childress team said.

"Back in the day, when they didn't have the sophisticated tech inspections that they have now, you might've been able to sneak through with something ... but nobody is gonna get away with anything today," said engine builder Danny Lawrence, whose career at Childress Racing goes back nearly 30 years.

Dillon, whose childhood playgrounds and Sunday schools were race shops and speedways, shakes off the inevitable chatter and knows how he'll deal with it.

"Just keep your blinders on, man."



News-Journal/DAVID MASSEY

Austin Dillon wins the Coors Light Pole Award for the Daytona 500.

FEB. 20: BUDWEISER DUEL

Gibbs Racing gets double win at duel

BY GODWIN KELLY
godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com

DAYTONA BEACH — Joe Gibbs Racing was undefeated in the first three Sprint Cup Series races this year at Daytona International Speedway after a double win Thursday night in the Budweiser Duel.

Matt Kenseth, who drives the No. 20 Toyota, won the first Duel while teammate Denny Hamlin captured the second crash-ending qualifying race in the No. 11 Toyota before an estimated 50,000 spectators.

Hamlin also won last weekend's Sprint Unlimited for JGR, so he was undefeated in Cup Series

starts dating back to 2013's season finale.

"Once that snowball starts to roll, it's hard to stop," Hamlin said from Victory Lane.

There were 120 laps of racing Thursday night and the first 119 didn't produce a yellow flag. Lap 120, or Lap 60 of the second Duel, was a different story.

Jimmie Johnson's No. 48 Chevy ran out of fuel on the last lap and got clipped by Jamie McMurray's No. 1 Chevy in the tri-oval sparking a major melee.

At least eight cars were involved, including Clint Bowyer's No. 15

Toyota, which did a remarkable 360 degree revolution in the air before landing back on all fours.

"I feel terrible and apologize to everyone," said Johnson, the defending 500 champion. "To tear up that many race cars; to see the No. 15 flip. I knew I was going to get run over if I ran out (of fuel) because my guys warned me about it and it did."

The first Duel had an exciting finish, without a caution period. Kenseth fended off a challenge from Kevin Harvick and Kasey Kahne as the leaders reached for the checkered flag.



Associated Press

Clint Bowyer's car (15) becomes airborne after being hit by David Ragan (34).

FEB. 21: NEXTERA ENERGY RESOURCES 250

Kyle Busch wins truck race by whisker

By GODWIN KELLY
godwin.kelly@news-jrnl.com

DAYTONA BEACH — Timothy Peters yanked everything out of his racing repertoire to keep hawkish Kyle Busch at bay in the frantic last lap of Friday's rain-delayed NextEra Energy Resources 250.

But Busch could not be stopped in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series opener, winning by a whisker before an estimated 30,000 fans at Daytona International Speedway.

The race had another dramatic moment on Lap 73 when a 17-car melee broke out in Turn 1.

The No. 35 Toyota of Mason Mingus went heavy into the Turn 1 wall, nose first, on Lap 73, sparking the chain-reaction accident with trucks dodging left and right and crashing into each other and the wall.

Mingus was in the middle of the pack causing havoc for those behind him. No drivers were injured.

Ben Kennedy, great-grandson of NASCAR founder Bill France Sr., started on the pole and led the first 52 laps before settling on a 15th-place finish.

On the last lap, the leaders thundered to the finish line. Busch pulled his No. 51 Toyota high, got even with

Peters' No. 17 Toyota, then stole the victory by .016 seconds, extending Toyota's winning streak in this race to eight consecutive races.

"All circumstances worked to our favor," Busch said. "My move worked, and I'm elated for this team. Timothy did everything he needed to do. He was a little slow blocking me on that last move."

Over the last two laps, Peters swerved low and high to block the two lines of traffic trying to overtake him. It didn't faze Busch.

"It was a phenomenal race," said Peters. "We knew we could be there at the end."



News-Journal/JIM TILLER

Kyle Busch celebrates after winning the NextEra Energy Resources 250 truck race.

FEB. 22: DRIVE4COPD 300

Smith gets Nationwide redemption

By STEVE MASTER
Correspondent

DAYTONA BEACH — A year ago Regan Smith endured one of the difficult moments of his career when, racing for the win, he triggered a devastating last-lap crash that resulted in damaged cars, injured fans and a lost opportunity.

Opportunity presented itself once again Saturday in the closing stage of the NASCAR Nationwide Series DRIVE4COPD 300. This time was different.

Keyed by a pivotal push from Trevor Bayne, Smith beat Brad Keselowski to the finish line by 0.13

seconds to claim his first career victory at Daytona International Speedway.

"It's a very special moment," said Smith, driver of the No. 7 Chevrolet for JR Motorsports. "Last year was a tough pill to swallow. There were a lot of circumstances around it, and nobody felt worse than me."

The race, the second-closest in Nationwide Series history at DIS, came down to a dramatic sprint off of Turn 4.

The finish was a far cry from the eerie conclusion of the 2013 event, which ended with Kyle Larson's car hurling into the catch fence. Debris

and car parts flew into the stands and injured more than 30 fans.

Car owner Dale Earnhardt Jr. said it took time for Smith's guilt to subside.

"I think it hurt him deeply that the fans were involved in the accident," Earnhardt Jr. said. "I think that he personally and privately bore some responsibility for his involvement in the crash."

Smith credited Earnhardt Jr. with helping him to move past it.

"He offered up a lot of good advice through that situation, and it did bother me. I'd be lying if I said it didn't."



News-Journal/NIGEL COOK

Regan Smith celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the DRIVE4COPD 300.

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THE DAYTONA 500



Austin Dillon greets fans during driver introductions Sunday before the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway.

News-Journal/NIGEL COOK



Race fans sign the start/finish line Sunday prior to the start of the Daytona 500.

News-Journal/NIGEL COOK



Kasey Kahne rounds the track after driver introductions.

News-Journal/DAVID MASSEY



Race fans take pictures of the No. 3 pole-sitting car on pit road at Daytona International Speedway before the Daytona 500.

News-Journal/PETER BAUER

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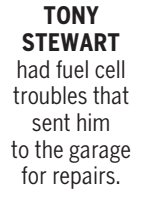
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Stewart's woes continue

By SEAN KERNAN
sean.kernan@news-jrnl.com

DAYTONA BEACH — Tony Stewart had hopes that this would be the year. But, instead, the streak has been extended to 16 Daytona 500s without a win for the three-time Sprint Cup champion. Sunday, in the longest rain-delayed 500 (nearly 6 hours and 22 minutes) in race history, Stewart was unable to snap his dubious streak. His 0 for 16 string in the "Great American Race" is the third-longest of active drivers behind brothers Terry Labonte (33 races) and Bobby Labonte (23).



TONY STEWART had fuel cell troubles that sent him to the garage for repairs. Part of what makes Stewart's string of Daytona 500 disappointments stand out is he's had no problem winning at Daytona International Speedway. He's won four Coke Zero 400s and seven Nationwide events on the 2.5-mile tri-oval. But Sunday's 35th-place finish — some 26 laps down because of time spent in the garage with fuel cell troubles — was the latest disappointment. Stewart, who was racing in a Cup points race for the first time since suffering a broken leg in August, had little to say afterward. "You're asking the wrong guy; I drive the cars," Stewart, who also is an owner with Stewart-Haas, said when asked about the No. 14 Chevrolet's problems. The veteran driver, who has 48 Cup wins in 522 career starts, has described his desire to win the 500 as No. 1 on his bucket list. He'll have to wait at least a year for another shot.



Danica Patrick hits the wall during a multicar crash on Lap 145 off Turn 4 during the 56th Daytona 500 on Sunday at Daytona International Speedway. Patrick was later released from the infield care center.

Danica's bad luck

13-car wreck on Lap 145 sends Patrick nose-first into wall

By BRIAN LINDER
brian.linder@news-jrnl.com

DAYTONA BEACH — Danica Patrick said she felt like her car could catch anyone in Sunday night's Daytona 500. But instead of another historic run at Daytona — she made history last year by becoming the first woman to start on the pole at the 500 — Patrick's night ended far from Victory Lane at the infield care center at Daytona International Speedway. All things considered, it could have been worse. Patrick was caught up in the race's first "big one," a wreck involving 13 cars on Lap 145, and her No. 10 GoDaddy Chevrolet took the roughest ride. The wreck appeared to start back in the pack when the cars of Kevin Harvick and Brian Scott made contact and set off a pinball-like reaction. Scott's car shot up the track, connected with Aric Almirola and sent him zipping down the track into Patrick. That turned Patrick's car up the

track, sending it slamming into the wall nose first. "Everybody was on older tires right there," Almirola said. "And I think somebody got loose up under me and the next thing I knew I was pounding the fence." But nobody hit harder than Patrick, who somehow managed to pick herself up and walk away from the scary crash. Still, the impact was evident on her face and in her eyes. Asked if it was the hardest blow she had ever taken in a wreck, she said they all feel pretty hard. "I think more than anything, I am just upset," she said. "The GoDaddy car felt really good and it was the best car we had all Speedweeks." And that is when Patrick said she felt like she could have caught anyone. "It seemed like we could move around," Patrick said. "Mark lanes and just move around and move forward at the end of the day. I felt like everything was going pretty well, so it's just upsetting.

"It's the culmination of sitting around all day." Several sizable wrecks followed Patrick's race-ender. Almirola blamed it on the conditions at DIS late Sunday. Despite a six-plus hour rain delay, he said the track had plenty of grip and that encouraged drivers to take chances. "It has been a lot more chaotic for sure," he said. And, as dejected as she appeared, that was a reality Patrick seemed to come to grips with before fading away into the night. "It's a bummer, but you know that is the excitement of speedway racing that anything can happen," she said. "And it was unfortunate that I was on the short end of the accident." She was not happy, but just like Almirola and, it seemed, most of the rest of the drivers retired from the 500 before the checkered drop, she promised better things to come next week. "I appreciate everyone sticking around and watching," she said. "We will go get them at Phoenix."

Dillon feels like pinball

By BRENT WORONOFF
brent.woronoff@news-jrnl.com

DAYTONA BEACH — Dale Earnhardt never shied away from contact. His successor in the No. 3 — Austin Dillon — rubbed his share of sheet metal Sunday night and found himself in the middle of controversy in the rain-delayed Daytona 500. On a night when Dale Earnhardt Jr. won his second 500, Dillon, the rookie who earned the pole position behind the wheel of Dale Sr.'s iconic No. 3, was involved in three of the race's major crashes and survived them all. Dillon led just the first lap, but he hung around and finished ninth. "First, I want to congratulate Dale Earnhardt Jr.," Dillon said. "For me I felt like a pinball. I got into some different stuff. And I learned a lot." Dillon survived the 13-car crash on Lap 145 after he was collected by a sliding Aric Almirola. Then he got loose on consecutive laps on 159 and 160. He recovered the first time without making contact, but running in the middle of three-wide racing the second time, he clipped fellow rookie Kyle Larson. "It happened so quick," Dillon said. "I didn't mean to hit him." The crash knocked Larson out of the race. He finished 38th. And Dillon got involved in one more crash before his night was done. He hit teammate Ryan Newman on Lap 194. "Hopefully, I can take this and go to the next superspeedway and do a little better," Dillon said.



AUSTIN DILLON was no stranger to rubbing sheet metal, but still finished ninth.

DAYTONA 500 RESULTS

Sunday
At Daytona International Speedway
Lap length: 2.5 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

- (9) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevy, 200 laps
- (4) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 200
- (33) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 200
- (6) Jeff Gordon, Chevy, 200
- (32) Jimmie Johnson, Chevy, 200
- (3) Matt Kenseth, Toyota, 200
- (34) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Ford, 200
- (25) Greg Biffle, Ford, 200
- (1) Austin Dillon, Chevy, 200
- (28) Casey Mears, Chevy, 200
- (15) Joey Logano, Ford, 200
- (18) Kevin Cassill, Chevy, 200
- (38) Landon Harvick, Chevy, 200
- (22) Jamie McMurray, Chevy, 200
- (26) Bobby Labonte, Chevy, 200
- (39) Reed Sorenson, Chevy, 200
- (7) Marcos Ambrose, Ford, 200
- (37) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 200
- (24) Terry Labonte, Ford, 200
- (8) Kurt Busch, Chevy, 199
- (19) Ryan Newman, Chevy, 199
- (29) Alex Bowman, Toyota, 198
- (11) Josh Wise, Ford, 196
- (12) Brian Scott, Chevy, 196
- (15) A. J. Allmendinger, Chevy, 194
- (40) Justin Allgaier, Chevy, accident, 193
- (23) Cole Whitt, Toyota, accident, 193
- (41) Parker Kligerman, Toyota, accident, 193
- (31) Brian Vickers, Toyota, 192
- (5) Kasey Kahne, Chevy, 192
- (10) Paul Menard, Chevy, 184
- (14) Trevor Bayne, Ford, accident, 183
- (22) David Ragan, Ford, 176
- (21) Tony Stewart, Chevy, 174
- (17) David Gilliland, Ford, 171
- (36) Michael Annett, Chevy, accident, 161
- (16) Kyle Larson, Chevy, accident, 160
- (13) Aric Almirola, Ford, accident, 146
- (40) Danica Patrick, Chevy, accident, 145
- (42) Michael Waltrip, Toyota, accident, 144
- (20) Clint Bowyer, Toyota, engine, 127
- (2) Martin Truex Jr., Chevy, engine, 30

Engine failure ends day for Truex Jr.

By BRIAN LINDER
brian.linder@news-jrnl.com

DAYTONA BEACH — Martin Truex Jr. might have been the only driver in the garage at Daytona International Speedway on Sunday who wished the rain would have showed up a little sooner. That is because, just eight laps before the rain came, the engine in Truex Jr.'s No. 78 Furniture Row Racing ride went. For much of the week, Truex Jr. was one of the fastest drivers on the track. He qualified second and

started on the outside of polesitter Austin Dillon. And, despite having to go to a backup car after wrecking in the Budweiser Duel, he was fast through the Daytona 500's first 30 laps. "This was definitely a tough break for the team," Truex Jr. said. "We were fast today, and I went to bed last night thinking this was probably my best chance to win the Daytona 500. I really felt that way, even today. The car was just so good."

Truex Jr. said he believed something knocked his oil pump belt off to cause the engine failure. "I don't know if it was debris on the track or what," he said. "But, typically, when that belt comes off you have about two seconds to shut it off before it blows up. I just didn't get enough warning. "It's definitely a shame, and definitely a tough break for this team. They built a great race car. I guess the only good news is we have a car in one piece to race next time."

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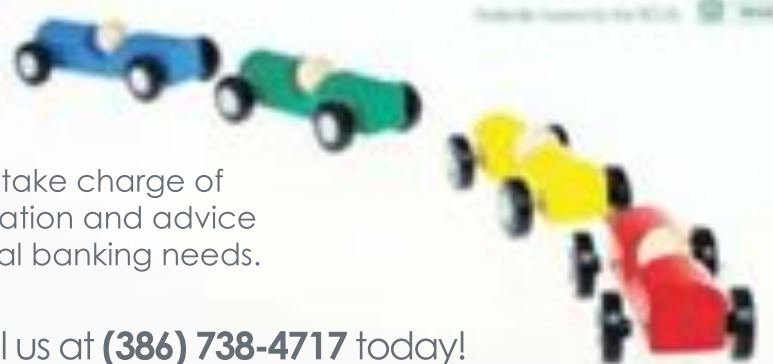
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THE DAYTONA 500



News-Journal/**DAVID TUCKER**

Austin Dillon (3) and Matt Kenseth (20) lead the field to the green flag Sunday to start the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway.



News-Journal / **STEVEN NOTARAS**

Dale Earnhardt Jr. (88) speeds down the backstretch early in the Daytona 500.



News-Journal/**NIGEL COOK**

Danica Patrick gets turned sideways while attempting to make a pit stop.



News-Journal/**DAVID MASSEY**

Cars blur on the Lap 21 at Daytona International Speedway during the 56th running of the Daytona 500 in Daytona Beach.



News-Journal/**DAVID MASSEY**

Cars drive three-wide at the Daytona International Speedway before the race was delayed by afternoon thunderstorms.



News-Journal/**JIM TILLER**

The pace car leads the field past the front grandstands before the start of the race Sunday afternoon.

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WINTER OLYMPICS

TWICE AS NICE

America's Holcomb wins 2nd bobsled bronze medal in Sochi



Associated Press/NATACHA PISARENKO

USA-1, with Steven Holcomb, Curtis Tomasevicz, Steven Langton and Christopher Fogt, celebrate after they won the bronze medal during the men's four-man bobsled final in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Steven Holcomb might as well be driving USA-62.

Seems like that's his lucky number at the Olympics.

For the third time in four years and second in just a week, Holcomb snapped a 62-year drought inside the five rings. By finishing third in the four-man competition on Sunday and winning his second bronze medal of the Sochi Games, Holcomb became the first U.S. driver since

Inside

Canada takes hockey gold. PAGE 15B

Stanley Benham in 1952 — 62 years ago — to win two medals in the same games.

Holcomb won the first gold for the U.S. in four-man since 1948 at the Vancouver Games four years ago, ending another 62-year barren run. Not long after having his second bronze placed around his neck, Holcomb was asked if he knew how long it had been since an American

driver had snagged a pair of bobsled medals in the same games.

"Please say 62," Holcomb said, flashing a smile. "It's mind-blowing. It's meant to be."

So, it seems, was his third-place finish. Unable to catch Russia's Alexander Zubkov, who became the first driver to win Olympic golds in two- and four-man for a host nation, Holcomb did just enough to hold off Russia-2 driver Alexander Kasjanov. It was the second time Holcomb

SEE **TWICE**, PAGE 15B

New sports help U.S. medal count

United States officials defend team performance

By TIM DAHLBERG
Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — The speedskaters flopped, and the hockey team was blanked when it mattered most. If it wasn't for some brand new sports, the medal count would be paltry.

Yet U.S. Olympic officials insist this was one of the country's best Olympics ever.

"I couldn't be more proud of our Olympic team," said Larry Probst, chairman of the U.S. Olympic Committee.

A bronze in the four-man bobsled on a day Russia put an exclamation point on its games gave the U.S. 28 medals in Sochi, putting it behind just the host country in total medals. But Norway won more gold than the U.S. (11-9) and the 28 total medals were nine less than Americans won in a record-setting performance four years ago in Vancouver.

That total — five less than won by Russia — would have been far less if

SEE **MEDAL**, PAGE 15B



Associated Press/GERO BRELOER

Mikaela Shiffrin celebrates winning the slalom Friday.

PREP TENNIS

NSB's Amendolare dedicates season to friend's memory

By CHRIS BOYLE
chris.boyle@news-jrnl.com

NEW SMYRNA BEACH — Alyssa Amendolare's love for Cody Goodrich knew no bounds.

A year after moving to Oak Hill from New York, when she was in the seventh grade, Goodrich quickly became her best friend. The duo spent the next four years dating in secret, mostly against the wishes of Amendolare's parents.

"I knew that they loved each other," Alyssa's mother, Debbie Amendolare, said. "We knew going through the years that they always tried to see each other. ... We couldn't keep them away."

Goodrich, 16, died in a car crash July

24 while riding in a 2005 Dodge Dakota driven by his 17-year-old cousin on West Halifax Avenue near Eleanore Street. Investigators said the truck went airborne as it crossed the railroad tracks.

Amendolare, the No. 1 girls singles tennis player for New Smyrna Beach, has dedicated her season in Goodrich's memory. The Barracudas have started the season undefeated, including Thursday's win over Seabreeze.

While she is "100 percent" committed to tennis this season, Amendolare's mind constantly wanders to think about her fallen friend.

SEE **FRIEND**, PAGE 14B

MERCER 73, STETSON 52



Stetson/DAN FORCELLA

Stetson's Kentwan Smith dunks against Mercer on Sunday in DeLand.

Bears rout Hatters

Mercer's 1st-half run dooms Stetson

By JERRY SCHAEFFER
Correspondent

DELAND — Once league-leading Mercer shifted into high gear, it became obvious that Stetson didn't have the fuel to play catch-up. So the visiting Bears poured it on and ran away with a 73-52 Atlantic Sun Conference victory Sunday at the Edmunds Center.

The shift occurred when Mercer (22-7, 13-4) used a 9-0 run close out the first half.

It continued at the start of the second period when the Bears broke off a

17-2 run to put an exclamation point on their final road win of the season.

"We wanted to win this one badly," said Stetson senior Willie Green, whose 16 points shared game-high honors with Mercer's Langston Hall. "We played hard, but we just couldn't do it."

The Hatters (7-21, 5-11) made a game of it for 16 minutes before a Senior Day crowd, leading seven different times by a point. But they could never extend the margin. After a 27-26 lead late in the first half, the Hatters' shooting turned frigid.

"We got some terrific looks at the basket — some point-blank shots — but they just wouldn't fall," Stetson

SEE **STETSON**, PAGE 15B

Up Next

Stetson at N. Kentucky, 7 p.m. Thursday

MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP

Day tops Dubuisson for title

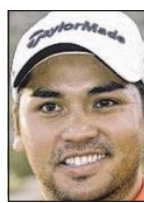
By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

MARANA, Ariz. — Jason Day never stopped believing he would win the Match Play Championship, even in the midst of so many shots by Victor Dubuisson that simply defied belief.

With his ball at the base of a cactus, Dubuisson took an all-or-nothing swing though the sharp needles and a TV cable and incredibly hit it to 4 feet to save par. Seemingly out of it on the next playoff hole, the 23-year-old Frenchman somehow whacked a wedge through a desert bush and rocks and onto the green for another par.

Day finally ended the madness Sunday on the 23rd hole with a pitch to 4 feet on No. 15 for birdie.

Mon dieu! It was the first time the championship match went overtime since the inaugural year in 1999 at La Costa, when Jeff Maggert chipped on the second extra hole of a 36-hole final. That was like watching paint dry compared to the show



JASON DAY defeated Victor Dubuisson in 23 holes for the title.

Up Next

Honda Classic, Thursday-Sunday

SEE **DAY**, PAGE 16B



News-Journal/NIGEL COOK

New Smyrna Beach's Alyssa Amendolare has dedicated this season to her friend, Cody Goodrich, who died in a car crash July 24.

TV AND RADIO

Table listing TV and radio schedules for Men's College Basketball, NBA, Soccer, and Women's College Basketball.

ODDS AND ENDS



Ronda Rousey, right, and Sara McMann exchange punches Saturday at UFC 170.

COLLEGE BASEBALL Powers leads Stetson over Boston College

Josh Powers gave up one run on five hits to lead Stetson to a 3-1 win at Melching Field and series victory over Boston College on Sunday. Powers (1-1) struck out three and walked four.

Stetson (2-5) managed just six hits. Boston College fell to 4-3. 'We've got to feel pretty good about getting a series win against an ACC squad,' Stetson head coach Pete Dunn said.

Patrick Mazeika was 3 for 4 with a double, RBI and run scored for the Hatters. Stetson visits B-CU at 6 p.m. Tuesday at Jackie Robinson Ballpark.

FLORIDA GULF COAST 13, B-CU 10: Jordan Thomas and Matt Noble had three RBIs apiece, but host Bethune-Cookman (2-4) lost to Florida Gulf Coast (5-3). Thomas had three hits, and Eric Sams scored two runs.

ERAU 8, STILLMAN 4: Embry-Riddle (6-7) recorded 13 hits and six RBIs in a win over host Stillman (5-8). ERAU's Corey Tufts gave up two runs on six hits and struck out four in five innings in the win.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL Gardner agrees to \$52M deal with Yanks Outfielder Brett Gardner and the New York Yankees agreed to a four-year contract worth \$52 million.

ROCKIES' CHACIN OUT WITH SORE SHOULDER: Colorado starting pitcher Jhoulys Chacin is being shut down in spring training due to inflammation in his throwing shoulder.

RANGERS' HARRISON LIKELY TO MISS OPENER: Matt Harrison concedes he likely won't be ready to start for the Texas Rangers by opening day.

PADRES' HEADLEY SCHEDULED FOR MRI: Chase Headley is out for at least the next two weeks, and said he's not optimistic about himself and the team coming to agreement on a long-term contract before the start of the season.

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS Rousey keeps women's title, wins in 1st Ronda Rousey kept her UFC women's bantamweight title, using a left knee to the liver to take down Sara McMann at 1:06 of the first round at UFC 170 on Saturday night.

TENNIS Nadal, Nara win Rio Open titles Rafael Nadal returned from a troublesome back injury to win the Rio Open, defeating Alexandr Dolgoplov in straight sets 6-3, 7-6 (3).

Bronson, Sheppard grab DIRTcar wins

Staff and Wire Reports

BARBERVILLE — Kyle Bronson upset the World of Outlaws Late Model Series stars and three-time Super DIRTcar Series champion Matt Sheppard charged to his fifth big-block modified victory at Volusia Speedway Park on Saturday night at the DIRTcar Nationals finale.

Bronson, 23, held off two-time series champion Darrell Lanigan, World 100 winner John Blankenship and Scott Bloomquist and Don O'Neal to win his first World of Outlaws Late Model Series race. 'This is unbelievable,' said Bronson, of Tampa, whose win came in the just the eighth Super Late Model start of his career.



DIRTcar/CHRIS DOLACK

Matt Sheppard, front, powers his big-block modified to a DIRTcar Nationals win Saturday at Volusia Speedway Park.

right now.' Sheppard, who is starting fresh in 2014 with a new team and teammate in Jimmy Phelps at Heinke-Baldwin Racing, powered from fourth to second behind Phelps, then slid past his

new teammate and eventually held off Stewart Friesen to the checkered flag. Friesen and Phelps rounded out the podium. Bloomquist earned the big Gator as overall champion of the late model portion of the

event. Friesen earned the overall big-block modified event Gator trophy.

WILLIAMS WINS AT NEW SMYRNA: Michael Williams captured the 50-lap Sportsman at the World Series of Asphalt at New Smyrna Speedway on Saturday night.

DEJORIA GETS 1ST FUNNY CAR WIN: At Chandler, Ariz., Alexis DeJoria raced to her first career Funny Car victory in the CARQUEST Auto Parts NHRA Nationals, beating Robert Hight in the final. DeJoria, the wife of television personality Jesse James and daughter of entrepreneur John Paul DeJoria, had a run of 4.043 seconds at 309.63 mph in her Toyota Camry.

For late scores, stories, stats, standings and more visit news-journalonline.com/sports

SCOREBOARD

LOCAL TODAY

COLLEGE BASEBALL: Daytona State at Eastern Florida State at Melbourne, 5 p.m.; DOG RACING: At Daytona Beach Kennel Club, 1:05 p.m. and 3:05 p.m.; PREP BASEBALL: Oviedo Master's Academy at Trinity Christian, 3:30 p.m.; Titusville Astronaut at Flagler Palm Coast, 6:30 p.m.; PREP BOYS LACROSSE: St. Johns Bartram Trail at Flagler Palm Coast, 7:30 p.m.; PREP BOYS TENNIS: Mainland at Pine Ridge, 3:30 p.m.; PREP GIRLS TENNIS: Flagler Palm Coast at Atlantic, 3 p.m.; Pine Ridge at Mainland, 3:30 p.m.; PREP SOFTBALL: Taylor at Trinity Christian, 4 p.m.; Seabreeze at Atlantic, 4 p.m.

GLANTZ-CULVER LINE

Table showing NCAA Basketball and NBA game results and scores.

MOTORSPORTS

NHRA At Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park Chandler, Ariz. Final Finish Order Top Fuel 1. Antron Brown, 2. Brittany Force, 3. Doug Kalitta, 4. Steve Torrence, 5. Shawn Langdon, 6. Spencer Massey, 7. Khalid alBalooshi, 8. Tony Schumacher, 9. David Grubnic, 10. Leah Pritchett, 11. Richie Crampton, 12. Clay Millican, 13. Scott Palmer, 14. Bob Vandergriff, 15. Terry McMillen, 16. Troy Buff.

Pro Stock 1. Allen Johnson, 2. V. Gaines, 3. Dave Connolly, 4. Vincent Noble, 5. Jason Line, 6. Shane Gray, 7. Erica Enders-Stevens, 8. Shane Tucker, 9. Chris McGaha, 10. Jimmy Alund, 11. Rodger Brogdon, 12. Greg Stanfield, 13. Larry Morgan, 14. Steve Kent, 15. Matt Hartford, 16. Jeg Coughlin.

World Series of Asphalt At New Smyrna Speedway Saturday night Sportsman (WSA 50 Laps): 1. Michael Williams; 2. George Gorham Jr.; 3. Derrick Wood; 4. Garrett Hill, 5. Phillip Bessette; 6. Aaron Williamson; 7. Jason Praysner; 8. Ron Gustafson; 9. Richard Maguire; 10. Sandy Lee; 11. Dwight Farr Jr.; 12. Todd Allen; 13. Patrick Thomas; 14. David Williamson; 15. Michael Seay; 16. Richard Nelson; 17. Chris Brannon; 18. Michael Soukup; 19. Jason Foster; 20. Shelton Bowers; 21. Earl Beckner; 22. Steve Barnes; 23. Timothy Todd Jr.; 24. Martin Pierce; 25. Ted Helmes; 26. Richard Fiore.

Pro Late Model (WSA): 1. Brad May; 2. Alex Guenette; 3. Spencer Davis; 4. Harrison Burton; 5. Garrett Jones; 6. Austin Nasson; 7. Michael Lira; 8. Timothy Sargent; 9. JJ Haley; 10. Marc Jacobs; 11. Jaxson Jacobs; 12. Erica Thiering; 13. Justin Ashburn; 14. Travis Miller; 15. Hunter Baize; 16. Sheldon Creed.

Super Late (WSA): 1. Kyle Benjamin; 2. Travis Cope; 3. Brandon Watson; 4. Stephen Wallace; 5. Alex Labbe; 6. Stephen Nasse; 7. Brendon Bock; 8. David Rogers; 9. Joey Mucciacciaro; 10. Daniel Webster; 11. Daniel Keene Jr.; 12. Anderson Bowen; 13. Anthony Cataldi; 14. Gus Dean; 15. Jerry Artuso; 16. Natalie Decker; 17. Kyle Maynard; 18. Cameron Hayley; 19. Denver Foran; 20. Steven Simpson; 21. Stephen Weaver Jr.; 22. Tim Sozzi; 23. Matt Tiff; 24. Ryan Moore; 25. Spencer Davis; 26. Ray Black; 27. Anthony Sergi Racing LLC; 28. William Catania; 29. TJ Duke; 30. William Gallaher; 31. Jake Griffin; 32. Dakotah Stephens; 33. Tyler Dippel

DIRTcar Nationals

Volusia Speedway Park Saturday night Super DIRTcar Series A-Main (50 laps): 1. (9H) Matt Sheppard (\$5,000), 2. (1wgc) Stewart Friesen, 3. (98H) Jimmy Phelps, 4. (20) Brett Hearn, 5. (1) Billy Pauch, 6. (6m) Mat Williamson, 7. (07) Tim Kerr, 8. (85) H.J. Bunting, 9. (55) Anthony Perrego, 10. (3h) Justin Haers, 11. (5) Jimmy Horton, 12. (21k) Randy Chrysler, 13. (54) Steve Bernard, 14. (22J) Jeremy Wilder, 15. (7z) Dale Planch, 16. (22c) Mario Clair, 17. (48Too) Dave Rauscher, 18. (1G) Darwin Greene, 19. (323) Neal Williams, 20. (14) C.G. Morey, 21. (3a) Kevin Albert, 22. (21) Yan Bussiere, 23. (8) Rich Scagliotta, 24. (88) Dave Allen, 25. (30) Jamie Mills, 26. (10V) Billy Vanlnwegen, 27. (21a) Peter Britten, 28. (42) Kyle Sheldon, D.N.C. (8R) Rob Bellinger, (29) Chris Ostrowsky, (64) Daniel Nadeau.

World of Outlaws Late Model Series A-Main (50 Laps):

1. (40B) Kyle Bronson (\$10,000), 2. (29) Darrell Lanigan, 3. (23) John Blankenship, 4. (0) Scott Bloomquist, 5. (5) Don O'Neal, 6. (99J) Frankie Heckenast Jr., 7. (24) Rick Eckert, 8. (15) Steve Francis, 9. (1) Brandon Sheppard, 10. (2) Brady Smith, 11. (44) Clint Smith, 12. (14M) Morgan Bagley, 13. (18V) Eric Wells, 14. (19) Tim Fuller, 15. (21L) Ivedent Lloyd Jr., 16. (22) Gregg Satterlee, 17. (99) Rick 'Boom' Briggs, 18. (25) Shane Clanton, 19. (39) Tim McCreadie, 20. (101) Casey Roberts, 21. (1*) Chub Frank, 22. (28) Dennis Erb Jr., 23. (21) Billy Moyer, 24. (17M) Dale McDowell, 25. (81) Brian Shirley, 26. (38) Kenny Pettyjohn, 27. (20) Jimmy Owens.

NBA LEADERS

Table showing NBA leaders in Scoring, FG Percentage, Rebounds, and Assists.

BASEBALL

Table showing Spring Training Schedule for Tuesday's Games.

BASEBALL

Table showing MLB game results and scores.

TENNIS

ATP World Tour Open 13 Sunday At Palais des Sports Marseille, France Purse: \$850,900 (WT250) Surface: Clay-Indoor Singles Championship Ernests Gulbis (3), Latvia, def. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (2), France, 7-6 (5), 6-4.

BASEBALL

Table showing MLB game results and scores.

TENNIS

Rio Open Sunday At Jockey Club Brasileiro Rio de Janeiro Purse: Men, \$1.99 million (WT500) Women, \$250,000 (Int'l.) Surface: Clay-Outdoor Singles Championship Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, def. Alexandr Dolgoplov, Ukraine, 6-3, 7-6 (3).

BASEBALL

Table showing MLB game results and scores.

TENNIS

NEW YORK YANKEES — Agreed to terms with OF Brett Gardner on a four-year contract. NATIONAL LEAGUE LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Designated SS Justin Sellers for assignment. BASKETBALL National Basketball Association NEW JERSEY NETS — Signed C Jason Collins to a 10-day contract. HOCKEY National Hockey League TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Claimed D Mike Kostka off waivers from Chicago. AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE SAN ANTONIO RAMPAGE — Recalled D Josh McFadden from Cincinnati (ECHL). Loaned G Rob Madore to Cincinnati.

FRIEND FROM PAGE 13B

it," Alyssa said. "I still get real emotional about it. I'm not over it." The night of the crash, Amendolare was visiting another friend in the hospital who had suffered a serious leg injury. She spoke with Goodrich an hour beforehand, making plans to spend the following weekend together. When news broke of the wreck, she refused to believe it. "I kept saying, 'No, he's not gone. We're supposed to

hang out next weekend." Alyssa said. "I got closer, and I saw all the people crying and whatnot." Through the holidays, Amendolare visited the cemetery on multiple occasions. She brought Goodrich a jack-o'-lantern for Halloween and a Christmas ornament to hang on a tree placed by his family. Goodrich's mother, Brandy Chivers, has been touched by Amendolare's actions. "He liked the girls, but when it came to Alyssa, she was the probably the only girl that ever really captured his heart," Chivers said. "I

just think it's so sweet that she continues to think about him all the time, do things for him and for me." Chivers said she misses so many things about Cody, who she described as her "best friend." She visits the cemetery every day, rain or shine. The laughs and good memories, she said, carry her through each day. "He just had this personality that was larger than life," Chivers said. "He just walked into a room and could make anybody smile, no matter what kind of mood you're in." "That's what gets me

through — just thinking of what a wonderful, happy kid he was." Goodrich, who grew up playing baseball and riding four-wheelers, was far from a tennis fan. But, he would constantly be in attendance for Amendolare's matches. With so much more at stake this season, Amendolare increased her training workload this off-season. In her mind, there is only one fitting tribute to Goodrich, who constantly pushed her to be her best. "I'm most definitely going to win districts this year," she said. "I want that."

WINTER OLYMPICS

Canada men win gold in hockey

By FRED LIEF
Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — The Olympic flame was snuffed out. No chance of that for the Canadian hockey team, champions again.

The Sochi Games completed a 17-day run Sunday with Canada's 3-0 victory over Sweden in the men's hockey final, the last of 98 gold medal events.

The end of the \$51 billion extravaganza came on a day when Russia captured the medals race, and IOC President Thomas Bach lauded the host city for its "amazing" transformation.

Only three sports were on the schedule, with the other gold medals coming from Russian cross-country skier Alexander Legkov and bobsledder Alexander Zubkov leading the way for the hosts in the four-man.

The fifth and sixth doping cases surfaced, involving NHL and Sweden star Nicklas Backstrom — by far the standout name of the group — and Austrian cross-country skier Johannes Duerr.

HOCKEY: The Canadians won gold for the third time in the last four Olympics, taking all six of their games in Sochi. Jonathan Toews scored in the first period and captain Sidney Crosby scored his

first goal of the tournament in the second. Chris Kunitz also scored and Carey Price made 24 saves for Canada. Henrik Lundqvist stopped 33 shots for the injury-depleted Swedes.

"We're just an amazing team to watch, the way we work together," Toews said. "We were just all over them."

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING:

Alexander Legkov got down to work in a hurry. He led a Russian sweep of the men's 50-kilometer cross-country race. He was followed by Maxim Vylegzhanin and Ilya Chernousov. That assured Russia of finishing with the most medals. It was also the host nation's first gold in the sport in Sochi. "This is priceless," Legkov said. "It's more valuable than my life."

DOPING:

Sochi had six doping cases; Vancouver had one four years ago. As IOC President Thomas Bach sees it, that's good news — the drug cheats are getting caught. "The number of the cases for me is not really relevant," he said. Backstrom, who plays for the NHL's Washington Capitals, tested positive for a substance found in allergy medication that Sweden's Olympic Committee said he had been taking for seven years. Duerr was cited for the blood booster EPO, the most serious of the Sochi cases.

FLORIDA STATE 71, PITTSBURGH 66



Associated Press/KEITH SRAKOCIC

Pittsburgh's Lamar Patterson shoots around Florida State's Boris Bojanovsky on Sunday during the first half in Pittsburgh.

'Noles stop Panthers

FSU's stifling defense keys road win over Pittsburgh

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — Okaro White scored 22 points and Florida State played stifling defense to beat Pittsburgh 71-66 on Sunday.

Ian Miller added 19 points and Aaron Thomas 14 for the Seminoles (16-11, 7-8 Atlantic Coast Conference), who have won two of their past three.

Lamar Patterson led Pitt (20-7, 8-6) with 22 points.

The Panthers have lost three in a row and five of their past seven. They are in danger of falling out of contention for the NCAA tournament after winning 15 of 16 games to start the season.

Florida State led 37-31 at halftime.

After making 13 of 24 shots in the first half, the Seminoles started the second half 1 for 11 from the field

and went 7 1/2 minutes without a field goal. Despite those struggles, Florida State never lost the lead.

Pitt's own offensive problems during that stretch were the reason for that.

The Panthers could only manage two field goals during the Seminoles' drought. They briefly tied the score at 42, but the Seminoles quickly regained control of the contest with back-to-back dunks by White, who was 7 for 13 from the field and also grabbed eight rebounds.

Pitt came back to tie the score again at 48, but the Seminoles made the big plays down the stretch. White scored nine points in the final 6:50, including a 3-pointer as the shot clock expired for a 58-52 lead that took the air out of the Panthers' sails.

The Panthers shot 37 percent from the field. They have shot more than 40 percent just twice in the past seven games.

The Seminoles used an 11-1 run midway through the first half to begin to pull away from the Panthers.

The score was tied at 18 when the Seminoles held the Panthers without a field goal for almost 5 minutes.

Miller scored five of his 12 first-half points in that stretch. White gave Florida State its biggest lead of the half at 29-19 with 4:07 to go before intermission.

Pitt, which made 10 of its 26 shots from the field in the first half, used a 7-0 run to make it 34-31 late in the half, but Thomas made a 3-pointer from the corner at the buzzer for the six-point lead at the break.

FINAL OLYMPIC MEDALS TABLE

Nation	G	S	B	T
Slovenia	2	2	4	8
Russia	13	11	9	33
United States	9	7	12	28
Norway	11	5	10	26
Canada	9	10	5	24
Netherlands	8	7	9	24
Germany	8	6	5	19
Austria	4	8	5	17
France	4	4	7	15
Sweden	2	6	6	14
Switzerland	6	3	2	11
China	3	4	2	9
South Korea	3	3	2	8
Czech Republic	2	4	2	8

— The Associated Press

TWICE FROM PAGE 13B

had nipped Kasjanov on the Sanki Sliding Center track, both coming by 0.03 seconds.

"It was intense," Holcomb said.

Holcomb has become the face of American bobsledding. The chubby, everyman face.

Although he doesn't look like he should be hanging out with his muscle-bound, All-American crew of Steve Langton, Curt Tomasevich and Chris Fogt, elite athletes and the high-powered motor that propels USA-1, Holcomb is arguably the world's best driver on ice. Zubkov may have gotten the best of him in Russia, but on a neutral surface, the safe money would go

on Holcomb, who won the World Cup overall title in two-man and finished second in four-man.

He's the one everyone aims to beat. It's been a remarkable run for Holcomb, who nearly lost his sight to a degenerative disease, overcame bouts of deep depression, climbed his way up the American bobsled program and had to prove to the world's top pilots that he could find his way to the podium outside North America.

With two more Olympic medals, he's done that.

He came to these games hoping to win a gold to match the one he got in Whistler, and although he finished behind Zubkov and Oskars Melbardis in Latvia-1, Holcomb's two bronze medals gleamed brightly.

MEDAL FROM PAGE 13B

U.S. athletes didn't win nine medals, including five gold, in sports that made their debut in these games.

To make matters worse, Canada won more gold medals than its much bigger neighbor for the second Olympics in a row.

"We came here to compete," said Alan Ashley, managing director of sport performance for the USOC. "We came here with a great team and they've done a great job. Things don't always shake out exactly the way you think they're going to, but the surprises are sometimes way more surprising than the disappointments."

Among the disappointments were the biggest U.S. stars going into the games.

Shaun White got shut out in snowboard and Lindsey Vonn didn't even make the trip because of injury.

But one new star was born. Teen skiing sensa-

tion Mikaela Shiffrin won gold in the women's slalom and liked it so much that she was already making plans for a record-setting performance four years from now in South Korea.

"Right now, I'm dreaming of the next Olympics (and) winning five gold medals, which sounds really crazy," Shiffrin said the day after her win. "I'm sorry I just admitted that to you all."

Shiffrin's win in her first Olympics couldn't make up for the collapse of the U.S. speedskating team, which was blanked in old suits and new. Speedskaters were kept off the medal podium for the first time since 1984, despite a switch midway through the games back to their old suits.

"Worst Olympics ever," two-time gold medalist Shani Davis said.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

MEN'S TOP 25

(11) CREIGHTON 72, SETON HALL 71: At Omaha, Neb., Doug McDermott had 29, and Creighton survived shaky free-throw shooting at the end.

(20) MICHIGAN 79, (13) MICHIGAN STATE 70: At Ann Arbor, Mich., Nik Stauskas scored 21 of his 25 points in the second half, and Michigan beat Michigan State.

SMU 64, (21) UCONN 55: At Storrs, Conn., Nick Russell and Nic Moore each scored 15 points to lead SMU to a win over UConn.

DSC MEN CLINCH SPOT IN STATE TOURNEY: Daytona State (24-5) will meet Panhandle Conference runner-up Pensacola State (20-10) in a first-round game at 1 p.m. March 5 at the College of Central Florida in Ocala.

WOMEN'S TOP 25

(2) NOTRE DAME 81, (7) DUKE 70: At South Bend, Ind., Kayla McBride scored 31 points and Notre Dame jumped to an 18-point lead early and held on to win.

(3) LOUISVILLE 73, NO. 25 RUTGERS 58: At Louisville, Ky., Asia Taylor had 25 points and 15 rebounds to lead Louisville to a win over Rutgers.

(4) SOUTH CAROLINA 69, FLORIDA 55: At Columbia, S.C., Tiffany Mitchell scored 20 points as South Carolina won its ninth straight game with a victory over Florida.

(8) MARYLAND 79, GEORGIA TECH 62: At Atlanta, Alyssa Thomas had 15 points and 10 rebounds and Maryland won.

(10) TENNESSEE 56, MISSOURI 50: At Columbia, Mo., Meighan Simmons scored 20 points and Mercedes Russell grabbed 11 rebounds to help Tennessee.

VIRGINIA TECH 50, (11) NORTH CAROLINA 47: At Chapel Hill, N.C., Vanessa Panousis tied a career-high with 24 points as Virginia Tech upset North Carolina.

(12) OKLAHOMA STATE 63, TEXAS TECH 62: At Lubbock, Texas, Tiffany Bias went the length of the court for the game-winning basket with 1.5 seconds left.

(14) N.C. STATE 68, VIRGINIA 66: At Raleigh, N.C., Markeisha Gatling scored 22 points and grabbed 11 rebounds as N.C. State slipped past Virginia.

(15) KENTUCKY 83, NO. 16 TEXAS A&M 74: At College Station, Texas, Jennifer O'Neill had 17 points to lead Kentucky.

(18) CALIFORNIA 76, SOUTHERN CAL 67: At Los Angeles, Reshanda Gray scored 22 points to lead California past USC.

ARKANSAS 57, (19) LSU 53: At Baton Rouge, La., Jessica Jackson scored 25 points to lead Arkansas in an upset of LSU.

(20) ARIZONA STATE 60, UTAH 40: At Tempe, Ariz., Promise Amukamara hit a 3-pointer in the closing second seconds of the first half in a win for Arizona State.

(21) PURDUE 70, WISCONSIN 54: At West Lafayette, Ind., April Wilson scored 18 points to lead Purdue.

CREIGHTON 65, (22) ST. JOHN'S 62: At Omaha, Neb., Marissa Janning scored 24 points to lead Creighton to an upset win.

SCORES

MEN'S SCORES

- EAST**
Bucknell 63, Boston U. 53
Columbia 62, Yale 46
Drexel 69, Delaware 65
Holy Cross 74, Navy 57
Iona 86, Marist 67
SMU 64, UConn 55
Siena 69, Rider 60
Stony Brook 83, Maine 79
Vermont 72, Hartford 47
- SOUTH**
Florida Gulf Coast 78, Kennesaw St. 68
Mercer 73, Stetson 52
UNC Greensboro 88, Chattanooga 84
- MIDWEST**
Miami (Ohio) 55, Bowling Green 52
Michigan 79, Michigan St. 70
W. Michigan 75, E. Michigan 67

WOMEN'S SCORES

- EAST**
Marist 81, Manhattan 54
Northeastern 78, Drexel 73, 2 OT
Syracuse 67, Pittsburgh 36
UMass 69, Rhode Island 56
Villanova 65, Georgetown 52
- SOUTH**
Alabama 66, Vanderbilt 62
Arkansas 57, LSU 53
Auburn 67, Georgia 59
Florida 59, Clemson 48
Louisville 73, Rutgers 53
Maryland 79, Georgia Tech 62
Miami 72, Wake Forest 64
Mississippi St. 72, Mississippi 70, OT
NC State 68, Virginia 66
South Carolina 69, Florida 55
Virginia Tech 50, North Carolina 47
- MIDWEST**
Creighton 65, St. John's 62
Illinois St. 66, Missouri St. 57
Indiana St. 63, Wichita St. 51
Milwaukee 90, Cleveland St. 78
Notre Dame 81, Duke 70
Ohio St. 71, Northwestern 62
Purdue 72, Wisconsin 54
Tennessee 56, Missouri 50
- SOUTHWEST**
Kentucky 83, Texas A&M 74
Oklahoma St. 63, Texas Tech 62
- WEST**
Arizona St. 60, Utah 40
California 76, Southern Cal 67
Washington St. 108, Oregon 88

STETSON FROM PAGE 13B

coach Corey Williams said. "Then it was like the snowball effect. Things just seemed to get worse."

Stetson could not buy a basket in the final 3:58 of the first half. The Hatters had taken their final lead, 27-26, when Hunter Miller sank a pull-up jumper at that juncture. But the next six shots by the Hatters failed to connect.

Meantime, the Bears, who finished the opening frame with a sizzling 60 percent shooting percentage, capitalized by ringing up

nine straight points to take a 35-27 advantage at the break.

Mercer, which has won 12 of its last 13 games, continued to cash in the Hatters' inept shooting (0 for 9) to start the second period. The Bears raced to a 23-point lead, 52-29, with 12:26 remaining.

So, in closing the first half and starting the second, Stetson went 11:52 on the clock with only two free throws by Raymone Andrews in the book.

That was a 26-2 domination by the Bears, sealing their seventh straight conquest of Stetson.

The Hatters, still in line for a A-Sun Tournament berth, close

with road games at Northern Kentucky on Thursday and at Lipscomb on Saturday.

Mercer 73, Stetson 52

MERCER (22-7)
Thomas 1-4 0-0-2, Gollon 3-4 0-0-6, Coursey 4-7 0-0-8, White Jr. 5-9 0-0-12, Hall 5-9 4-4 16, Leonard 0-0 0-0-0, Canevari 1-2 0-0-2, Nwamu 4-6 1-1 11, Hallice 0-0 0-0-0, Moten 3-4 0-2-6, Bryan 1-2 1-1-3, M. Brown 2-3 3-4-7. **Totals 29-50 9-12 73.**

STETSON (7-21)
Green 7-17 0-0-16, Pegg 3-10 2-3 9, Andrews 2-7 2-2-7, Miller 2-4 2-2-7, Graham 0-4 0-0-0, Smith 5-5 1-3 11, Glasford 0-7 0-0-0, Solanke 0-0 0-0-0, Baral 0-2 0-0-0, Sikora 1-1 0-1-2. **Totals 20-57 7-11 52.**

Halftime—Mercer 35-27. **3-Point Goals**—Mercer 6-16 (Nwamu 2-3, Hall 2-4, White Jr. 2-6, Bryan 0-1, Thomas 0-2), Stetson 5-22 (Green 2-4, Miller 1-3, Pegg 1-3, Andrews 1-5, Baral 0-1, Glasford 0-3, Graham 0-3). **Fouled Out**—None. **Rebounds**—Mercer 35 (Coursey 7), Stetson 27 (Green 7). **Assists**—Mercer 15 (Thomas 6), Stetson 12 (Miller 6). **Total Fouls**—Mercer 17, Stetson 15. **A**—1,015.

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RAZOR-THIN WIN

Regan Smith's narrow Nationwide win sets the stage for a Daytona 500 thriller



News-Journal/DAVID TUCKER

Regan Smith (7) beats Brad Keselowski (22) and Trevor Bayne (6) to the finish line to win Saturday's DRIVE4COPD 300 at Daytona International Speedway.

By **KEN WILLIS**

ken.willis@news-jrn.com

DAYTONA BEACH — The table — and expectations — have been set for the Daytona 500. The appetizers are hinting at a memorable main course.

For the second straight day, the finish to Saturday's race provided a fast and loud illustration as to why, over the decades, hundreds of thousands of race fans have migrated to Daytona Beach in February.



REGAN SMITH

When you have to go two notches to the right of the decimal point to find the margin of victory, you can assume the fans got their money's worth. About 18 hours after Kyle Busch's eyelash-margin win in the truck race, Regan Smith won the DRIVE4COPD 300

by a mere piece of that eyelash — 0.013, 13 thousandths of a second.

This time, the big Nationwide Series wreck came *after* the checkered flag, and while it again involved Kyle Larson, among others, it was confined to the business side of the fence.

A year ago, the last lap of the Saturday race saw Smith in the lead and blocking hard to keep Brad Keselowski behind him. The results weren't pretty — the ensuing free-for-all sent Larson's car into the fence and some fans to the hospital.

This year's 300 also had Smith up front, but this time he couldn't block Keselowski because Keselowski was on his immediate left. They barreled through the tri-oval side by side, and only the



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Daytona 500 Weather Forecast

Will wet weather put the brakes on the big race? A high of 77 degrees is predicted, with thunderstorms likely during the afternoon.

More Inside

Pit road depends on highly trained athletes, **5A**
Regan Smith wins Nationwide DRIVE4COPD 300, **6A**
Band's anthem hits sour note with fans, **6A**
Victory celebrations are carefully planned, **8A**
Longtime fan attends his 51st Daytona 500, **8A**

National Anthem Video

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scoring computers could tell you that Smith finished in the lead, a "fraction of a fraction" ahead of Keselowski.

"Last year was a bitter pill," said Smith, whose post-race mood was light years different this time.

As soon as Smith finished the Victory Lane festivities — when the confetti was swept away

and the champagne hosed toward the drain — the final pieces of preparation were put into motion in advance of today's Daytona 500. The descriptive "Great American Race" may seem a bit overblown to many, but there's no denying the 500's role as driver for an entire season of NASCAR racing.

What makes the 500 so frustrating for the competitors is also considered, by onlookers, as one of its major charms: Anything can happen, and usually does.

The nature of restrictor-plate racing practically guarantees the crapshoot nature of races at Daytona and its sister track, Talladega. The horsepower-sapping plates serve as an equalizer that brings the Haves and Have Nots into the same huge pack of cars.

Those huge packs bring two factors front and center: 1. Given the physical rules and occasional whims of high-speed aerodynamics, favorable jet streams are found in various place at various times and therefore give luck a bigger-than-usual role; and 2. The Big One.

The Big One at Daytona can be compared to the bucket-of-confetti trick at a Harlem Globetrotters show — you pretty much know it's coming, and can only hope the shrapnel is harmless.

The Daytona 500 is scheduled for 200 laps, and the list of contenders is long. Even more than usual, it seems to be anyone's game.

There's only one safe prediction: The vast majority of those 200 laps will be run in large packs of cars going 190-plus mph. You just hope it'll be safe and dry, because you can rest assured it'll be dramatic.

Tweet of a lifetime: Harvick hosts Twitter fan at Daytona 500

By **CHRIS GRAHAM**

chris.graham@news-jrn.com

DAYTONA BEACH — It never hurts to ask, so long as you do it politely.

That's what Oregon resident Louise Groomer learned in a chance encounter on Twitter with Kevin Harvick, one of her favorite drivers in NASCAR. Now she'll get to watch in person as the driver competes in the 56th running of the Daytona 500.

"All because I said please and I looked like a nice, older woman," Groomer, 56, said Friday with a chuckle

as she toured Daytona Beach with her husband, Bill.

Last December, as Harvick was making a six-hour flight to Las Vegas for a driver's banquet, Harvick said he got bored and fired up his Twitter account.

"It was random. I needed something to do," said Harvick, who has 23 Sprint Cup victories including wins at the Daytona 500 and Brickyard 400 — one of eight drivers to have done so.

While the Stewart-Haas Racing driver is an avid Twitter user, he rarely follows anyone — currently

he is following 157 people, though he has 379,000 followers — but Groomer's tweet asking him to follow her caught his attention.

"I thought, 'What the heck,' " Harvick recalled. "I saw she was a (Tony) Stewart and Harvick fan and a race fan in general and she asked nicely — that's not something people always do."

He followed Groomer and a frenzy ensued with fans asking Harvick to follow him.

"@LouiseGroomer can you

SEE **TWITTER**, PAGE 7A



Harold Hinson Photography/HAROLD HINSON

Louise Groomer of Oregon, center, sent a tweet that struck a chord with driver Kevin Harvick, right, who footed the bill for Louise and husband Bill, left, to come to the Daytona 500.



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Meet this year's crop of nominees from Volusia and Flagler counties
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President flees capital city, orders crackdown on protests as chaos grips nation.
WORLD 3A



The pit crew hurries to service John King's No. 20 Chevrolet on Friday night during the NextEra Energy Resources 250 Truck Series race at Daytona International Speedway.

Pit crew: Every second counts

Job requires team of athletes to be in top physical condition

By LACEY McLAUGHLIN
lacey.mclaughlin@news-jrnl.com

As a pit crew tire changer, Mike Hicks can remove five lug nuts from NASCAR driver Denny Hamlin's tires in one second.

When it comes to winning a Sprint Cup Series race every second counts. The 27-year-old North Carolina resident is one of the over-the-wall pit crew members for Joe Gibbs Racing. The men who fly over the wall on pit road to change tires, fuel up race cars and make minor adjustments during a pit stop strive to complete each stop in less than 15 seconds. It's a sport that comes with high demands and stress.

"You just have to blow the pressure off," Hicks said. "You can't let the pressure get to you because it will ruin you." Often described as the unsung heroes of racing, pit crew members are more than mechanics. They are athletes who undergo rigorous physical workouts and training to help drivers race to the finish line.

"You don't want a driver to worry about coming down pit road and losing



Mick Hicks, right, is a tire changer for Sprint Cup driver Denny Hamlin. Trainer Mike Lepp, left, calls Hicks "the best in the sport."

a spot," Hicks said. "You want to keep him confident."

For most people, changing a tire requires using a socket wrench to remove lug nuts off a tire. But Hicks uses a compression air gun to remove the lug nuts as quickly as possible. It's a skill that requires exact precision and impeccable hand and eye coordination. A tire carrier is responsible for bringing a 70-pound tire over the wall and a jackman raises the car before Hicks secures the lug nuts to

the new tire with the gun.

Joe Gibbs Racing, owned by former Washington Redskins coach Joe Gibbs, fields the No. 11 FedEx Toyota Camry driven by Hamlin, as well as cars for Sprint Cup series drivers Matt Kenseth and Kyle Busch.

Kenseth won Thursday's first Budweiser Duel race and Hamlin won the second part of the qualifying race for today's Daytona 500. Kyle Busch took the truck race Friday night. The team's success re-

lies in large part on the pit crew members who travel to 36 races each year with a medical staff comprised of physical therapists, massage therapists and sports medicine doctors. It is important for the pit crew members to stay in peak physical conditions, said Mike Lepp, athletic director for Joe Gibbs Racing.

"Mike is the best tire changer in the sport and I don't have someone else to go into that position," Lepp said. "He can change five lug nuts in less than a second. Tire changers are like quarterbacks. They are valuable because it's hard to do."

Lepp said many of the pit crew members are recruited from other racing teams. Others are young athletes that didn't make it to professional sports organizations like the NFL.

"When they go over that wall it's like a football play," Lepp said. "Their heart rate goes up to 180 beats per minute. Over the last few years we've run pit stops in as little as 11 seconds and that's due to a move toward more athletes than mechanics."

Track star on blades to be honored

By LACEY McLAUGHLIN
lacey.mclaughlin@news-jrnl.com

Blake Leeper says he wasn't supposed to be the honorary race official for today's Daytona 500.

He also wasn't supposed to walk, run or break records in track and field. Leeper, who was born with a congenital defect that left him without legs, has defied the odds by becoming one of the fastest double amputee sprinters in the world. When he was born, doctors told Leeper he would never be able to walk. Leeper said he never dreamed he would become the honorary race official for one of the biggest sporting events in the world.

As the honorary race official Leeper will participate in pre-race ceremonies and ride ahead of the 43 cars for one lap on the superspeedway today. On Saturday, Leeper took a flight with the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds, who are scheduled to perform a flyover before the race.

"I feel like I am the face for people living with disabilities and the fact that NASCAR gets that and has invited me to come here is huge," Leeper said during an interview Saturday.

The 24-year-old Tennessee native has worn prosthetic legs since he was 9 months old. A pivotal moment came when Leeper met football and baseball legend Bo Jackson at the age of four. Leeper said he looked up to Jackson who continued to succeed as an athlete despite wearing a prosthetic hip after a football injury. Last year, Jackson and Leeper were reunited during a surprise visit while Leeper was a guest on the Arsenio Hall Show.

Leeper played baseball and basketball during high school but it wasn't until three years ago that he started competing in track and field. He was motivated to try the sport after discovering the Paralympics Games on ESPN while studying at the University of Tennessee.



Photo courtesy Blake Leeper Paralympic athlete Blake Leeper is the honorary race official for the Daytona 500.

A donation of blade prosthetics from the Challenged Athlete Foundation changed everything for Leeper, who had worn traditional metal prosthetic legs his whole life. The light weight and flexible blades allowed Leeper to compete on a different level, he said.

"It was like trading a pair of heavy boots for track shoes," Leeper said.

Leeper won the silver medal in the 2012 Paralympic Games and the gold medal in the 400 meter relay at the IPC World Athletic Championships in Lyon, France, last year. He is currently training for the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, where he would become the first double-amputee American to compete in the Olympic Games. He now lives in California where he trains six days a week at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista.

"It's a big risk and I'm putting everything I have into it," Leeper said about his goal of being a U.S. Olympian. "I feel like you succeed when failure is not an option."

Track helps fans find seats during construction

By ANNIE MARTIN
annie.martin@news-jrnl.com

You won't see construction workers at the Speedway during the Daytona 500, but you may see a few more employees helping fans find their seats.

If you're sitting in the frontstretch, expect a few tweaks as you enter the track as a result of the \$400 million Daytona Rising overhaul, which will be done in 2016. The Speedway has added paved pedestrian walkways on the north side of the track around the construction area and pushed the ticket gates out 100 to

200 yards. The Speedway will add employees and banners that should help fans navigate the construction zone, said Joie Chitwood III, president of Daytona International Speedway.

"Any time we change something that we've done for years — and we've had the same system for years and years — people will be uncomfortable with it," he said.

The Speedway also mailed maps of the facility to race attendees. Where you should enter depends on where you're seated: Fans with frontstretch

tickets will enter on the south side of the track. For the easternmost grandstand sections, Oldfield and DePalma, enter through Gate 6; for the Weatherly and Campbell sections and Earnhardt Tower enter through Gate 8; for the Sprint Tower, Roberts, Petty Tower and Hospitality Village, enter through Gate 18; for the Segrave or Keech sections, enter through Gate 22; and for the Lockhart section, the westernmost area, enter through Gate 32.

Fans with backstretch seats should enter the track through gates on

the south side, as in past years. Infield access is through the Turn 1 tunnel, off Williamson Boulevard, on the westside of the track, and through the Turn 4 tunnel, located off Midway Boulevard, on the east side of the track.

Parking remains the same as in previous years. Fans with frontstretch seats should park in lot 7 at Clyde Morris Boulevard and Bill France Boulevard. For backstretch seating, park in lot 10, at the intersection of Bellevue Avenue and Williamson Boulevard. Both lots are free.

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NASCAR NATIONWIDE DRIVE4COPD 300

Redemption on the track

Regan Smith wins at Daytona one year after causing infamous finish-line wreck



News-Journal/DAVID TUCKER

Regan Smith celebrates in Victory Lane Saturday after winning NASCAR Nationwide DRIVE4COPD 300 at Daytona International Speedway.

By **STEVE MASTER**
Correspondent

DAYTONA BEACH — A year ago Regan Smith endured one of the difficult moments of his career when, racing for the win, he triggered a devastating last-lap crash that resulted in damaged cars, injured fans and a lost opportunity.

Opportunity presented itself once again Saturday in the closing stage of the NASCAR Nationwide Series DRIVE4COPD 300.

This time was different. Keyed by a pivotal push from Trevor Bayne, Smith beat Brad Keselowski to the finish line by 0.13 seconds to claim his first career victory at Daytona International Speedway.

"It's a very special moment," said Smith, driver of the No. 7 Chevrolet for JR Motorsports. "Last year was a tough pill to swallow. There were a lot of circumstances around it, and nobody felt worse than me."

The race, the second-closest in Nationwide Series history at DIS, came down to a dramatic sprint off of Turn 4.

Smith was working the outside line, getting pushed by Bayne. Keselowski led the inside line, with Kyle Busch in tow.

With the checkered flag in view,



News-Journal/DAVID TUCKER

Regan Smith stands on his No. 7 Chevrolet Saturday after his fraction-of-a-second victory in the DRIVE4COPD 300.

Bayne — mulling the possibility of creating a middle lane between Smith and Keselowski — delivered the slightest of bumps to the left rear that appeared to help Smith inch in front for the win.

Bayne held on for third, followed by Kyle Busch and Elliott Sadler.

"(Bayne) stuck with me," Smith said. "I don't know how it would have worked out if he would have tried to pull out and go three-wide. Maybe he gets shuffled. Maybe I get shuffled. Maybe all of us get shuffled."

"I got a bump from Trevor at almost the exact same time I was pulling off of (Keselowski), and it was just enough to surge us forward."

The finish was a far cry from the eerie conclusion of the 2013 event, which ended with Kyle Larson's car hurling into the catch fence. Debris and car parts flew into the stands and injured more than 30 fans.

Car owner Dale Earnhardt Jr. said it took time for Smith's guilt to subside.

"I think it hurt him deeply that the fans were involved in the accident," Earnhardt Jr. said. "I think that he personally and privately bore some responsibility for his involvement in the crash."

"I think that really shook everybody. I think it shook the whole sport, to be honest. Obviously, everybody involved in the accident was a lot closer to it."

Smith credited Earnhardt Jr. with helping him to move past the incident.

"We went to dinner the night (of the race) and he just basically said, 'You've got to shake it off. It's racing. It's no fault of anybody's. Things happen. Circumstances sometimes happen.'"

"He offered up a lot of good advice through that situation, and it did bother me. I'd be lying if I said it didn't."

In addition to redemption, the triumph represents a perfect start to what Smith believes can be a championship season. He led the point standings for 10 consecutive weeks last year before faltering in the second half of the season, finishing third in points.

"It's good to come out of the blocks strong like this," Smith said. "It's Daytona. It's tough to win here."

NASCAR Nationwide DRIVE4COPD 300 Results

Saturday
Daytona International Speedway; Daytona Beach
Lap length: 2.5 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

1. (19) Regan Smith, Chevy, 121 laps, 109.7 rating, 47 points, \$122,152.
2. (17) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 121, 101.3, 0, \$92,585.
3. (31) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 121, 86.1, 41, \$87,066.
4. (4) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 121, 129.5, 0, \$74,785.
5. (5) Elliott Sadler, Toyota, 121, 118.1, 39, \$70,051.
6. (27) Brendan Gaughan, Chevy, 121, 87.2, 38, \$65,276.
7. (23) Ty Dillon, Chevy, 121, 110.6, 37, \$63,776.
8. (1) Dylan Kwasniewski, Chevy, 121, 102.2, 36, \$65,601.
9. (29) Ryan Sieg, Chevy, 121, 73.5, 0, \$60,851.
10. (2) Kyle Larson, Chevy, 121, 106.9, 0, \$61,001.
11. (16) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevy, 121, 90.4, 0, \$52,195.
12. (24) Joe Nemechek, Toyota, 121, 73.2, 32,

\$58,026.
13. (25) Mike Wallace, Dodge, 121, 70.3, 31, \$51,345.
14. (6) Matt Kenseth, Toyota, 121, 82.4, 0, \$51,020.
15. (26) Chase Elliott, Chevy, 121, 90.5, 29, \$57,576.
16. (14) James Buescher, Toyota, 121, 89.8, 28, \$56,826.
17. (20) Brian Scott, Chevy, 121, 82.4, 27, \$56,376.
18. (39) Ryan Reed, Ford, 121, 65.2, 26, \$56,251.
19. (3) Danica Patrick, Chevy, 121, 72.4, 0, \$50,070.
20. (12) Mike Bliss, Toyota, 121, 85.8, 24, \$56,701.
21. (34) Landon Cassill, Chevy, 121, 58.9, 23, \$55,876.
22. (11) Blake Koch, Toyota, 121, 77.2, 22, \$55,746.
23. (30) Dakoda Armstrong, Ford, 121, 55.8, 21, \$55,571.
24. (40) Chad Boat, Chevy, 121, 58.4, 20, \$49,240.
25. (10) David Starr, Toyota, 121, 65.4, 19, \$55,796.
26. (22) Scott Lagasse Jr., Toyota, 121, 56, 18, \$55,171.
27. (7) Jamie Dick, Chevy, 121, 84.6, 18, \$55,071.

28. (9) Johnny Sauter, Toyota, 120, 79.2, 0, \$48,765.
29. (33) Jeremy Clements, Chevy, 120, 40.2, 15, \$54,871.
30. (37) Jeffrey Earnhardt, Chevy, 120, 36.9, 14, \$55,046.
31. (28) Jason White, Toyota, 119, 36.6, 13, \$54,571.
32. (36) Joey Gase, Chevy, 119, 48.9, 12, \$54,476.
33. (18) Bobby Gerhart, Chevy, 118, 36.3, 11, \$54,426.
34. (38) Mike Harmon, Dodge, 117, 31.3, 10, \$54,371.
35. (13) Eric McClure, Toyota, accident, 115, 43, 9, \$54,204.
36. (32) Josh Wise, Chevy, 114, 37.4, 0, \$48,391.
37. (35) Derrick Cope, Chevy, 114, 30.3, 7, \$48,326.
38. (21) Robert Richardson Jr., Chevy, engine, 12, 35.2, 6, \$42,059.
39. (15) Harrison Rhodes, Toyota, engine, 8, 29, 5, \$40,960.
40. (8) Jeff Green, Toyota, vibration, 3, 26.2, 4, \$40,910.

Race Statistics
Average Speed of Race Winner: 148.204 mph.
Time of Race: 2 hours, 2 minutes, 28 seconds.
Margin of Victory: 0.013 seconds.
Caution Flags: 5 for 20 laps.
Lead Changes: 9 among 6 drivers.
Lap Leaders: K.Busch 1-11; J.Dick 12-13; D.Earnhardt Jr. 14-41; K.Busch 42-53; K.Larson 54; K.Busch 55-75; R.Smith 76-109; B.Keselowski 110-120; R.Smith 121.
Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Laps Led):
K.Busch, 3 times for 44 laps; R.Smith, 2 times for 35 laps; D.Earnhardt Jr., 1 time for 28 laps; B.Keselowski, 1 time for 11 laps; J.Dick, 1 time for 2 laps; K.Larson, 1 time for 1 lap.

Top 10 in Points
1. R.Smith, 47; 2. T.Bayne, 41; 3. E.Sadler, 39; 4. B.Gaughan, 38; 5. T.Dillon, 37; 6. D.Kwasniewski, 36; 7. J.Nemechek, 32; 8. M.Wallace, 31; 9. C.Elliott, 29; 10. J.Buescher, 28.

Rock band's national anthem hits sour note with race fans

By **ANDREW GANT**
andrew.gant@news-jm.com

The self-described "most patriotic rock band" in America drew some confused and, in some cases, angry reactions to its rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" Saturday to open the Nationwide Series at Daytona International Speedway.

Driver Brad Keselowski, who'd been caught on camera seemingly holding back laughter at the performance, said: "I wish they'd just sing the damn song, that's my reaction." The band was Madison Rising, whose latest album "American Hero" is a collection of original patriotic rock songs. The Speedway announcer in-



News-Journal/JIM TILLER

Madison Rising's hard-rock version of "The Star Spangled Banner" on Saturday took some flack from fans, drivers and the Twitterverse.

It had the look and

enthusiasm of a patriotic performance, culminating with lead singer Dave Bray raising a folded American flag over his head, guitarists thrashing behind him. Bray and the band started with a more traditional, slower pace, then kicked into a heavier metal gear at "rockets' red glare."

Afterward, the sports news website Deadspin headlined the performance as "America's Worst Anthem Rendition." The band was soon rising up the topics of discussion, mostly derision, on Twitter.

They didn't get very good reviews in the grandstands, either.

"I'm the biggest rock fan there is, and I was cussing and spitting bullets when they played that," race fan and Speedway volunteer Richard Lytle of Ocala said afterward. "That's one song you show respect for. It's so simple. Have somebody sing it the way it's written. It's not much to ask; it's three minutes or less."

Another fan and volunteer, Ray Tyrrell of Beaufort, S.C., agreed and added: "I'm a Vietnam veteran, so it means something to me."

Speedway president Joie Chitwood said the decision to use Madison Rising was ultimately his, and track officials were aware what kind of performance was coming.

"That's the rendition we knew they were going to play," Chitwood said. "We thought it was unique and

interesting." He added: "Our fans are known to have very strong opinions and they're sharing that with us. Some fans did not like it. Duly noted. Our fans, we want to listen to every single one of them."

Bray had hinted to reporters before the performance that it probably wouldn't be a traditional one. He said the band would take "some liberties. The reverence is still there, but it has sort of taken on the death march in a way. It's very sullen and sung in a very sullen way."

Staff writer Dinah Voyles Pulver and The Associated Press contributed to this report.



News-Journal/NIGEL COOK

Race fan Anthony Wright of New Jersey wears his Dale Earnhardt colors during the Nationwide DRIVE4COPD 300.



News-Journal/DAVID TUCKER

Kevin Harvick and son Keelan Harvick walk around the garage before the start of the final Daytona 500 practice.

DAYTONA DRAMA

Nationwide DRIVE4COPD 300 proved fast, furious race



News-Journal/NIGEL COOK

Regan Smith gets a kiss in Victory Lane while celebrating winning the NASCAR Nationwide DRIVE4COPD 300 at Daytona International Speedway.



News-Journal/NIGEL COOK

Danica Patrick makes a pit stop during the NASCAR Nationwide DRIVE4COPD 300.



News-Journal/NIGEL COOK

Madison Rising perform the national anthem prior to the start of the NASCAR Nationwide DRIVE4COPD 300.



News-Journal/NIGEL COOK

No. 24 Harrison Rhodes kicks up a wall of dirt while sliding through the tri-oval.

TWITTER FROM PAGE 1A

please help these people figure out why I followed you? It's so simple. #ask-louise," Harvick later tweeted. Groomer said fans started following her by the hundreds. "My twitter went crazy," said Groomer, an emergency medical technician. But that wasn't the end

of the fun for Harvick as he decided to have Groomer and her husband be his guests at the Great American Race. "Hey @LouiseGroomer why don't you come to the Daytona 500 as my guest? Everything's on me! Flight, room, tickets you name it!" Harvick tweeted. Groomer said all she could do was scream and show her husband the message. But she won-

dered whether it was true. "When he said, 'I'll have my people get in touch with you,' I knew he was serious," she said. Sure enough, Groomer and her husband arrived in Daytona Beach Thursday night and were out shopping for Harvick gear on Friday. On Saturday, the two took a ride in a pace car, were treated to a VIP concert by country music artist Jake Owen and met Harvick. Today,

Groomer and her husband will watch the race from the Sprint Tower. "It's overwhelming, we have so much to do," she said. Groomer isn't the only fan to have a recent interaction with Harvick. In January, Harvick tweeted a photo of a Daytona restaurant where he and his crews were eating. Jacksonville resident Mike Mitchell recognized the surroundings, and

the former Navy submariner and his wife found Harvick and hung out for more than an hour. "It was a blast," he said. "He was a bit surprised that somebody found him." As he left, Harvick picked up the rest of the tab for patrons drinking Budweiser, spending about \$1,200 total. Harvick has previously said it was his friend Jake Owen who told him

to be more interactive with his supporters. Now it's hard not to find him with fans. "I think for our sport it's easy because drivers and fans come from a pretty normal life," he said. But Groomer's trip has been anything from normal. She said she hopes Harvick's generosity will mean good karma on the track. "Going to Victory Lane with Kevin, that's what I want to see," she said.

Wild victory celebrations carefully planned

By DINAH VOYLES PULVER
dinah.pulver@news-jrnl.com

Victory Lane at Daytona. For competitors, it's one of the sweetest places to stand in all of racing.

For the folks at Daytona International Speedway who will make it happen today at the conclusion of the Daytona 500, it's a matter of preparation and team work to help ensure the moment goes off without a hitch. It may look spontaneous from the television coverage, but in reality, it's carefully orchestrated.

To be in Victory Lane is "the culmination of a lot of hard work and effort," said Speedway President Joie Chitwood III. The goal is to make the event special, not only for the driver, but for his entire team and crew and their sponsors.

It's also important to keep the process running smoothly and on time, to meet the needs of the news media trying to broadcast



News-Journal file/JIM TILLER

Jimmie Johnson celebrates in Victory Lane at Daytona International Speedway after winning the 55th annual Daytona 500 in 2013. The confetti and other aspects of the celebration are carefully choreographed.

the race conclusion and interviews to the fans, Speedway officials said.

The preparation for the 500 victory celebration started well before the race.

"We have a script," said Jason Lucas, se-

nior manager consumer marketing. Throughout race day, a crew ticks carefully through the list. Confetti cannons are prepared with red, white and blue confetti. Gatorade coolers are stocked with ice. Stacks of hats

are delivered. The Speedway works with NASCAR and the sanctioning body of the race to get everything planned out. On race day, Lucas and his crew head to Victory Lane when 40 to 50 laps remain in the

race. The crowds begin to arrive when 10 to 15 laps remain. For the big events this weekend, the coolers are stocked with Gatorade. After the Rolex and the motorcycle races, the champagne bottles are on standby.

Once the driver finds his way to Victory Lane, NASCAR gives the cue when the driver is set to get out of his car, and Fireworks by Santore will get the cue to fire the confetti. Then in quick succession, the winner will give a quick television interview, then a radio interview and the celebration will continue.

"It's a balancing act to get it all done, and to try to balance the needs of everyone at this point," Lucas said. Perhaps as a testament to their planning, he can't remember any flubs.

For teams and drivers, the experience becomes a lifelong memory.

Kyle Busch hopes he'll be that driver in Victory

Lane today, repeating a trip he made Friday night after the NextEra Energy Resources 250.

Busch said he still clearly remembers his first ever visit to Victory Lane after winning the ARCA race in 2004.

"They're all special here in Daytona, just pretty special," said Busch, who Friday night became the first driver ever to win a Nationwide Series race, an ARCA race, a Sprint Cup race and a Camping World Truck Series race at Daytona.

When Billy Venturini, general manager for Venturini Motorsports wound up in Victory Lane after the 2013 Lucas Oil 200 ARCA race, he cried, even though he'd been in Victory Lane other places before.

"This was definitely the highlight of our entire racing career," Venturini said. "I think we've won at just about every other track we go to except here."

Longtime fan attends his 51st Daytona 500

By FATIMA HUSSEIN
fatima.hussein@news-jrnl.com

Bob Kvach, 80, remembers traveling dirt roads to get to his first Daytona 500, back in 1963.

"After you hit Clyde Morris from ISB," the Iowan said, "it was just a dirt road — and if you wanted to get to Nova, that was dirt too."

Kvach attended as a pit crew man changing front tires for Ramo Stott, a No. 7 Plymouth Superbird driver whose claim to fame in NASCAR included starting on the pole at the 1976 Daytona 500.

Kvach said until the 1980s, drivers would party with fans in the infield and "buy everyone so much booze they couldn't fit it in the trucks they left to go get it in."

This year is Kvach's 51st Daytona 500. He came along with his wife Gayle, who has attended 49 Daytona 500 races and their son, Brad, who has attended 41.

They set up their Mountain Aire RV at the Daytona International Speedway earlier last week.

"This is a family tradition for us," said Kvach, who added that he has never missed a Daytona 500. "We save all year for this," he said, referring to the \$585 fee to park their RV outside of the track and



Bob Kvach, who is attending his 51st Daytona 500 this year, talks about his lifelong experiences outside his motor home at the track Wednesday.

News-Journal/JIM TILLER

other costs to make the trek from Cedar Rapids.

Kvach said the biggest change he has seen in NASCAR is the increase of safety mechanisms added for drivers and spectators.

"After Dale (Earnhardt) died, that really changed the safety aspect of racing," he said, referring to Earnhardt's death in 2001.

NASCAR officials said they strike a balance to keep longtime fans like Kvach coming to the races, while attracting new fans that will keep the sport alive.

"We are fortunate to have the most loyal and passionate fans in all of sports and we continue to offer them exciting, side-by-side racing," said Steve Phelps, NASCAR's chief

marketing officer.

He said NASCAR's change to its rules package, and the new Chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup format modernizes the sport, while keeping the original spirit of NASCAR alive.

"These changes appeal to both our core fans and to the youth, millennial and multicultural fans that we're trying to attract," Phelps said.

Kvach said that some things never change, though, like the camaraderie fans have between each other.

"Everyone might have their own favorite driver, or come from different places in the world," he said, "but they're all here for the love of racing."

Bob Kvach is seen in Victory Lane in 1970. Bob's first trip to the Daytona 500 in 1963 he was a crew man. Fifty one years later he still comes to the big race.



News-Journal/JIM TILLER

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GOLF

Els reaches Match Play Championship semifinal.
PAGE 3C

SPORTS



NEWS-JOURNAL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2014

WINTER OLYMPICS

(2) FLORIDA 75, MISSISSIPPI 71

UF ESCAPES

Gators hold off Rebels to push winning streak to 19 games



Associated Press/ROGELIO V. SOLIS

Florida guard Scottie Wilbekin, center, is defended by Mississippi guard Jarvis Summers, left, and Marshall Henderson on Saturday in Oxford, Miss.

By **DAVID BRANDT**
Associated Press

OXFORD, Miss. — Mississippi's Marshall Henderson unleashed a first-half scoring spree that put No. 2 Florida's school-record winning streak in danger.

The Gators were impressed. And then they made sure it didn't happen again.

Jolted awake by Henderson's 22 points in the first half, Florida clamped down to keep him scoreless in the second half and then fought its way to a 75-71 victory on Saturday afternoon.

Scottie Wilbekin scored 18 points and Michael Frazier II added 17 as the Gators (25-2, 14-0 Southeastern Conference) extended their winning streak to 19 games.

"We had a heightened sense of urgency to start the second half,

especially on (Henderson)," Frazier said. "We did a better job of staying locked in on him and staying locked in as a whole."

Ole Miss (16-11, 7-7) has lost four in a row. Jarvis Summers added 20 points for the Rebels.

The game was tied at 59 with eight minutes left, but Florida scored the next seven points to take control. Henderson missed all six of his shots in the second half.

The Gators could very well be the No. 1 team in the country when the new polls are released on Monday. The current No. 1 Syracuse lost on Wednesday to Boston College.

But Frazier and Florida coach Billy Donovan said that won't mean much.

"This team understands that the whole is greater than its parts," Donovan said. "But we need to play

better and I'm talking about that from an effort standpoint."

Ole Miss badly needed a quality win for its mediocre NCAA tournament resume and played like a desperate team for much of the afternoon.

But the Gators steadily put the Rebels away with quality offensive possessions late in the second half.

"We gave a winning effort," Ole Miss coach Andy Kennedy said. "But we've got to make plays and we didn't make plays."

Florida had to survive Henderson's impressive barrage in the first half just to have a chance.

It's not the first time Henderson has had a big moments against the Gators. He scored 21 points against Florida last season in the SEC

SEE **UF**, PAGE 6C

FLORIDA A&M 80, BETHUNE-COOKMAN 75

Wildcats outdueled by Rattlers

FAMU senior duo too much for B-CU's defense



News-Journal/DAVID MASSEY

B-CU's Tony Kynard, right, drives past FAMU's Christopher Rozier on Saturday in Daytona Beach.

By **BRENT WORONOFF**
brent.woronoff@news-jrnl.com

DAYTONA BEACH — Mikel Trapp hit big shot after big shot for Bethune-Cookman.

But in the end he couldn't keep up with Florida A&M's senior duo of Jamie Adams and Reggie Lewis, who combined for 33 second-half points to lead FAMU to an 80-75 Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference victory Saturday.

"Adams and Lewis are seniors," B-CU coach Gravelle Craig said. "They're going to cherish the moment and be aggressive. We only have one senior and that shows at the end of games."

Trapp, a redshirt junior, scored 26 points for the Wildcats (6-23, 4-10), while freshman Clemmye Owens had a career-high 24 points. Owens hit 10 of 13 field goals, including 4 of 6 from 3-point range.

B-CU led 33-28 at the half, FAMU (11-16, 7-7) started the second half with a 7-2 run to force a 35-35 tie. The lead would change hands seven more times before Lewis and Adams hit consecutive 3-pointers to put FAMU up 76-71 with 37 seconds left.

Trapp hit two free throws with 28 seconds to play to make it a

SEE **B-CU**, PAGE 6C

COLLEGE BASEBALL: BOSTON COLLEGE 8, STETSON 0

Hatters' offense sluggish against Chin, Eagles

By **JERRY SCHAEFFER**
Correspondent

DELAND — Andrew Chin hand-cuffed Stetson hitters for nearly six innings, then handed the baton to his bullpen, which promptly followed suit.

Together, three Boston College pitchers combined on a five-hit shutout, and the Eagles' batters complemented with 12 timely hits en route to an 8-0 victory at Conrad Park's Melching Field.

"It simply comes down to this,"

Stetson coach Pete Dunn said. "If you can't score, you can't win."

The Hatters set themselves up with opportunities to score, getting runners to third base in four different innings, but they couldn't push any runs across.

"There's no room for error with the way we are playing offensively right now," Dunn said. "By not hitting, we are making it too hard on our defense and on our mound. When you're not swinging the bat well, you must be doing those other

things that give you a chance to win, and we didn't do them today."

Boston College (4-2) squared the weekend series at a game apiece after Stetson (1-5) had won the Friday opener, 5-3. The two clubs will close out the series at noon Sunday.

Chin (2-0), who lowered his season earned run average to 0.84, allowed only two hits and two walks in facing 21 batters.



PETE DUNN
was impressed with Boston College starter Andrew Chin

SEE **HATTERS**, PAGE 3C



Associated Press/PETR DAVID JOSEK

U.S. goalie Jonathan Quick skates off the ice after losing to Finland 5-0 in the men's bronze medal game Saturday in Sochi, Russia.

Finland shuts out U.S.

Selanne's two goals lead Finns to bronze

By **LARRY LAGE**
Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Teemu Selanne led his team around the ice, with a bronze medal draped around his neck, after he finished off his sixth Olympics with a sweet victory.

If the Finnish Flash is retiring and hanging up his skates after the NHL season, he picked a pretty good way to go out on the world's stage.

Selanne scored two goals and Tuukka Rask had a 27-save shutout, helping Finland rout the United States 5-0 Saturday to win hockey bronze at the Sochi Games.

The 43-year-old, smooth-skating forward with a lightning-quick shot and Jussi Jokinen scored 11 seconds apart early in pivotal second period.

Selanne and his teammates were not finished, scoring three goals in the third against a team that looked like it would rather be at home.

"It was just something special," Selanne said. "I'm so proud."

The Americans, meanwhile, were humiliated.

"I'm kind of embarrassed where we're at now," U.S. defenseman Ryan Suter said.

Selanne has helped Finland win four medals in the last five Olympics, more than any other nation in the NHL era.

Before the match became a rout, it was a game of missed opportunities for the Americans.

Patrick Kane couldn't convert on a penalty shot in each of the first two periods. He missed the net to the right on his first one-on-one duel and hit the right crossbar on his second.

"Just didn't really capitalize on anything," he acknowledged.

Kane, who also missed a breakaway in overtime against Russia, said Saturday's setback was one of the most frustrating games of his career.

"Whether it was confidence or not getting enough chances, who really

SEE **U.S.**, PAGE 4C



Associated Press/MATTHIAS SCHRADER

Norway's Marit Bjoergen celebrates winning the gold.

Norway's Bjoergen becomes most decorated winter Olympian

Marit Bjoergen won her sixth career gold medal and 10th of her career.

PAGE 4C

Austria's Matt becomes oldest alpine champion

Mario Matt, who turns 35 in April, won gold in the men's slalom.

PAGE 4C

TV AND RADIO

ATHLETICS		
3:30 p.m.	USA Indoor Track & Field	NBCSN
AUTO RACING		
Noon	Sprint Cup, Daytona 500	FOX MRN
8 p.m.	NHRA, Carquest Auto Parts	ESPN2
BOWLING		
3 p.m.	USBC Masters.	ESPN
GOLF		
9 a.m.	Accenture Match Play Championship	GLF
1:30 p.m.	LPGA Thailand	GLF
2 p.m.	Accenture Match Play Championship	CBS
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL		
Noon	Michigan St. at Michigan	CBS
Noon	Bucknell at Boston	CBSN
1 p.m.	Mercer at Stetson	1230 AM 1490 AM
1:30 p.m.	Yale at Columbia	NBCSN
2 p.m.	SMU at Connecticut	CBSN
5 p.m.	Seton Hall at Creighton	Sun
6 p.m.	Florida St. at Pittsburgh	ESPNU
6 p.m.	Providence at Butler	FS1
8 p.m.	Arizona St. at Utah	ESPNU
8 p.m.	Southern Cal at California	FS1
NBA BASKETBALL		
1 p.m.	L.A. Clippers at Oklahoma City	ABC
3:30 p.m.	Chicago at Miami	ABC
6 p.m.	Orlando at Toronto	FSN
9 p.m.	Brooklyn at L.A. Lakers	ESPN
SOCCER		
8:25 a.m.	Swansea City at Liverpool	NBCSN
10:55 a.m.	Tottenham at Norwich	NBCSN
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL		
1 p.m.	Duke at Notre Dame	ESPN
1 p.m.	Wake Forest at Miami	ESPN
1 p.m.	Florida at South Carolina	Sun
1 p.m.	Georgetown at Villanova	FS1
2 p.m.	Kentucky at Texas A&M	ESPN2
3 p.m.	Oklahoma St. at Texas Tech	Sun
3 p.m.	St. John's at Creighton	FS2
4 p.m.	Maryland at Georgia Tech	ESPN2

Sources: AP, tvguide.com; subject to change
Winter Olympics schedule on Page 4C

ODDS AND ENDS



Associated Press/KAMRAN JEBREIL

Venus Williams defeated Alize Cornet for her third Dubai Championship on Saturday.

TENNIS

Venus wins Dubai title for 3rd time

Venus Williams won her 45th career WTA title at the Dubai Championships in an impressive 6-3, 6-0 victory over Alize Cornet of France in the final on Saturday.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Nelson throws no-hitter in ERAU loss

Stetson Nelson threw the fifth no-hitter in Embry-Riddle history in the second game of Saturday's doubleheader against Stillman, but the Eagles' offense was non-existent in a 1-0 loss. Stillman scored the game's lone run after Nelson hit a batter to lead off the third inning.

In the first game, the Tigers won 2-1 on a walk-off squeeze play.

WILDCATS HOLD OFF EAGLES: Bethune-Cookman improved to 2-3 with a 3-2 win over Florida Gulf Coast. John Sever (1-0) picked up the win from the mound, striking out nine in 6.1 innings.

TRACK AND FIELD

Hawks' relay sets mark

Spruce Creek's girls 4X800 relay team of Jennifer Burns, Morgan Kumm, Kristina Harris and Shelby Thomas posted a time of 9 minutes, 43.22 seconds for first place at the Flagler Palm Coast Invitational.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Wildcats lose twice in tournament

Bethune-Cookman (1-11) dropped a 3-2 decision to Mt. Saint Mary's and a 12-2 setback to Illinois-Chicago in the Jacksonville University tournament.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE TENNIS

Hatters edge Owls

Stetson improved to 4-1 with a 4-3 victory over Florida Atlantic on Friday. Andrea Crespo (7-6, 7-2, 7-5), Cari Berry (6-0, 7-6, 7-4) and Carolina Meregalli (6-2, 6-2) won in singles. Diana Bukajeva/Isabella Fernandez (8-6) and Andrea Crespo/MayaBlue Stauffer-MacDowell (8-6) won in doubles.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE LACROSSE

Loya nets three in Hatters' loss

Stetson freshman Christina Loya scored three times and added an assist as the Hatters fell 17-5 to Cincinnati on Friday night.

COLLEGE TRACK AND FIELD

Embry-Riddle posts 6 standards

The Eagles had six NAIA qualifying standards at the ERAU Last Chance meet. Halle Green-Anderson set the school record in the long jump (5.82 meters). She was also second in the 60-meter hurdles (8.92) and sixth in the 60-meter dash (7.83). Reta Woodard won the weight throw (18.21). Maite Moscoso qualified in the 3,000 (14:58.84). Kristina Kendrick was third in the 400 (58.69). Rebecca Love had a personal best time in the 5,000 (1:38.69). Marina LeVine ran a 1:38.69 in the 600 and Ellie Staker had a 4:48 in the mile.

— Staff and Wire Reports

By DAVE CAMPBELL

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Michael Sam needed no introduction.

He provided one anyway, subtly spelling out his desire to be known simply as a football player whose sexuality isn't a national story.

"Good afternoon. My name is Michael Sam. I play football for the University of Missouri," he said to commence his first public appearance since announcing he's gay.

Sam smiled and laughed often during a 12½-minute news conference at Lucas Oil Stadium, looking relaxed, jovial and confident while taking questions from the hundreds of reporters surrounding the podium.

Though Sam said he's been too busy working out to absorb the coverage in the two weeks since his revelation, he chided the media a bit for the volume of analysis of this watershed moment in sports. Sam will be the first open homosexual in the NFL.

"I wish you guys would just say, 'Michael Sam, how's football going? How's training going?' I would love for you to ask me that question. But it is what it is. And I just wish you guys would just see me as Michael Sam the football player instead of Michael Sam the gay football player."



Associated Press/NAM Y. HUH

Missouri's Michael Sam speaks on Saturday during a news conference.

CLOWNEY EAGER TO IMPRESS:

Jadeveon Clowney wants NFL scouts to rethink their draft strategy. Instead of settling for one of those glitzy, franchise quarterbacks, he's urging teams to build a fast, physical defense that can stop all those high-powered offenses, and he has the perfect suggestion about where to start. Himself. "That's one of my goals here, to go No. 1," this year's top-rated defensive end said softly Saturday at the NFL's scouting combine. "I came out of high school as the No. 1 player so I want to come out here as the No. 1 guy."

Nobody doubts the former South Carolina star has the physical tools to go No. 1 in May. He measured in Saturday at 6-foot-5, 266 pounds, with an 83-inch wingspan and hopes to finish the 40-yard dash in the 4.4s, maybe the low 4.5s if he's a little off. With numbers like that, it's no wonder Clowney is projected to go in the top five in May. But going ahead of quarterbacks such as Johnny Manziel, Blake Bortles and Teddy Bridgewater will take a lot more than athleticism. The biggest questions Clowney will answer this week focus on his work ethic and desire,

and it sure didn't help when he missed Friday night's first round of team interviews because of travel problems.

BROWNS DISMISS REPORT:

New Cleveland coach Mike Pettine called a report "noise" that the Browns tried to trade for Jim Harbaugh. The Pro Football Talk website reported Friday that before hiring Pettine last month Cleveland had a deal in place with San Francisco, but Harbaugh decided to stay. Via Twitter, 49ers CEO Jed York denied that was true. Pettine said the issue "has no bearing" on his job. The Browns didn't deny their attempt to acquire Harbaugh, but Pettine said that didn't bother him, either. He said he thought that shows the organization's commitment to turning around the struggling franchise.

RAVENS GM CONCERNED:

Baltimore general manager Ozzie Newsome expressed concern after watching an online video that shows running back Ray Rice dragging a woman out of a casino elevator last weekend, though he is withholding judgment on his star running back until the team collects more information about the incident. Newsome acknowledged he watched the TMZ video online and that it "doesn't look good." But Newsome said he has not yet spoken with Rice, who was charged with simple assault after allegedly knocking out his fiancée during an argument last weekend in Atlantic City, N.J.

For late scores, stories, stats, standings and more visit news-journalonline.com/sports

SCOREBOARD

If you have a story idea or question, contact Sports Editor **Burke Noel** at 386-681-2416 or burke.noel@news-jrnl.com

LOCAL TODAY

COLLEGE BASEBALL: Florida Gulf Coast at B-CU, 11 a.m.; Boston College at Stetson, noon.; ERAU at Stillman at Tuscaloosa, Ala., 2 p.m.; **COLLEGE INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD:** USA Championships: B-CU at Albuquerque, N.M., all day; **COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL:** Mercer at Stetson, 1 p.m.; **COLLEGE SOFTBALL:** Jacksonville Tournament: B-CU vs. Mount St. Mary's at Jacksonville, 11:15 a.m.; Jacksonville Tournament: B-CU at Jacksonville, 1:30 p.m.

PREPS

Boys Lacrosse

St. Augustine 10, FPC 8

FPC 3 2 0 3 - 8
St. Augustine 3 3 2 2 - 10
Highlights — FPC, Alec Noble had two goals, two assists. Keenan Ordonez had one goal. Mike Forte had three goals, one assist. Paul Pechmann added two goals, one assist. Kurt Bock had six saves and Karter Kusek had 15 saves. Robie Gober led St. Augustine with three goals.

DOG RACING

Daytona Beach Kennel Club

Saturday Afternoon Results
First E 550 31.76
3 Ww's Gemey Bits 16.40 8.00 3.40
2 Pg Lunacy Lady 14.20 2.80
8 Ethereal Phantom 2.20
\$2 Quiniela: (2-3) \$62.40 **.50 Exacta:** (3-2) \$40.80 **\$1 Trifecta:** (3-2-8) \$306.00 **Dime Superfecta:** (3-2-8-1) \$79.87
Second TM 550 31.48
5 Tnt Bo Jangle 10.00 8.20 3.60
1 Rc Goodready 6.40 4.20
2 Tomco Sandra Lee 2.80
\$2 Quiniela: (1-5) \$73.80 **.50 Exacta:** (5-1) \$24.85 **\$1 Trifecta:** (5-1-2) \$290.40 **Dime Superfecta:** (5-1-2-3) \$68.68 **Daily Double:** (3-5) \$97.80
Third D 550 31.11
3 Wwv Delta Dawn 7.00 3.40 3.20
2 Skeet's Rocket 7.00 5.60
8 K's Purify 3.00
\$2 Quiniela: (2-3) \$63.60 **.50 Exacta:** (3-2) \$14.80 **\$1 Twin Trifecta:** (3-2-8) \$213.30 **Dime Superfecta:** (3-2-8-6) \$367.27
Fourth TB 550 30.85
8 Shy's Sugardaddy 4.80 2.80 2.80
7 Cassandra 7.40 4.40
4 Amf Gas Guzzler 3.40
\$2 Quiniela: (7-8) \$17.00 **.50 Exacta:** (8-7) \$6.35 **\$1 Trifecta:** (8-7-4) \$67.00 **Dime Superfecta:** (8-7-4-6) \$37.01
Fifth D 550 31.23
3 P Kay Buy 7.00 2.60 3.00
6 Atascocita Metea 3.60 3.40
4 Mchoney 3.80
\$2 Quiniela: (3-6) \$25.80 **.50 Exacta:** (3-6) \$7.85 **\$1 Trifecta:** (3-6-4) \$166.30 **Dime Superfecta:** (3-6-4-5) \$119.53 **\$1 Twin Trifecta:** (Carryover) \$2077.49
Sixth TC 550 31.09
5 Wild Pitch 8.40 6.40 3.20
7 Dunkirk 6.40 3.60
3 Kelsos Back Chat 2.60
\$2 Quiniela: (5-7) \$31.20 **.50 Exacta:** (5-7) \$16.30 **\$1 Trifecta:** (5-7-3) \$123.70 **Dime Superfecta:** (5-7-3-6) \$85.89
Seventh TA 550 30.58
6 Hally Bozena 9.60 5.20 4.40
5 Sasso Donald 14.80 5.20
1 Milo Blakley 4.80
\$2 Quiniela: (5-6) \$116.80 **.50 Exacta:** (5-6) \$60.00 **\$1 Trifecta:** (5-6-1) \$1265.70 **Dime Superfecta:** (5-6-1-2) \$404.06
Eighth D 550 31.50
4 Kiowa Free Fly 11.60 8.00 4.00
6 Hs Remington 6.20 3.40
2 Gable Sowell 6.80
\$2 Quiniela: (4-6) \$46.00 **.50 Exacta:** (4-6) \$28.35 **\$1 Trifecta:** (4-6-2) \$231.30 **Dime Superfecta:** (4-6-2-5) \$107.63
Ninth TM 550 31.67
6 Friendly Frank 5.60 5.00 2.80
5 Kiowa City Lynn 4.60 2.80
1 Kiowa City Sara 2.40
\$2 Quiniela: (5-6) \$43.20 **.50 Exacta:** (6-5) \$19.10 **\$1 Trifecta:** (6-5-1) \$94.90 **Dime Superfecta:** (6-5-1-2) \$66.84
Tenth D 550 31.72
1 Ww's Dogged 15.40 4.00 2.60
5 Amf Noodle Soup 3.20 2.40
8 Gale Grace 3.20
\$2 Quiniela: (1-5) \$51.20 **.50 Exacta:** (1-5) \$38.05 **\$1 Trifecta:** (1-5-8) \$365.70 **Dime Superfecta:** (1-5-8-3) \$78.43 **\$1 DNC Tri Super:** (Carryover) \$11347.38
Eleventh TB 550 30.90
6 Kenorocknobbie 13.80 8.40 5.80
2 Cool Beans 3.60 4.00
7 Amf Step Over 5.20
\$2 Quiniela: (2-6) \$24.80 **.50 Exacta:** (2-6)

\$6.65 **\$1 Trifecta:** (6-2-7) \$140.70 **Dime Superfecta:** (6-2-7-5) \$34.62
Twelfth TA 550 31.21
4 Where's Torture 6.40 5.80 3.40
1 Ww Crystal Creek 7.20 3.60
2 Chubbawubba Man 3.80
\$2 Quiniela: (1-4) \$20.20 **.50 Exacta:** (4-1) \$7.85 **\$1 Trifecta:** (4-1-2) \$90.12 **Dime Superfecta:** (4-1-2-5) \$52.64
Thirteenth TD 550 31.33
5 Tv Diaz 23.20 5.60 6.40
6 Ww's Mandate 5.60 19.60
7 Atascocita Hetty 4.60
\$2 Quiniela: (5-6) \$76.20 **.50 Exacta:** (5-6) \$42.35 **\$1 Trifecta:** (5-6-7) \$718.50 **Dime Superfecta:** (5-6-7-4) \$74.55
Fourteenth TC 550 31.01
3 Tomco Anna Lee 7.20 5.20 3.00
7 Atascocita Grit 5.60 3.60
8 Amf Soul Singer 4.20
\$2 Quiniela: (3-7) \$47.00 **.50 Exacta:** (3-7) \$27.20 **\$1 Trifecta:** (3-7-8) \$189.70 **Dime Superfecta:** (3-7-8-5) \$95.23
Fifteenth B 550 31.10
7 Maddy's Rainbow 11.20 6.80 4.00
2 Alana 6.80 5.40
5 Lady Canada 4.20
\$2 Quiniela: (2-7) \$60.80 **.50 Exacta:** (7-2) \$32.35 **\$1 Trifecta:** (7-2-5) \$620.20 **Dime Superfecta:** (7-2-5-4) \$230.20
Attendance: (1098)
Handle: (\$70,396.97)

Twelfth TB 550 31.01
4 Get Real Brad 9.00 3.20 2.20
8 Turbo Charmer 4.80 2.40
2 Nb's Proud Siren 2.80
\$2 Quiniela: (4-8) \$14.80 **.50 Exacta:** (4-8) \$9.10 **\$1 Trifecta:** (4-8-2) \$52.40 **Dime Superfecta:** (4-8-2-5) \$27.75
Thirteenth C 550 31.28
6 Kiowa Stop Fast 18.20 4.40 3.00
1 Mad Dog Madison 3.00 2.20
8 Transparent Look 2.20
\$2 Quiniela: (1-6) \$146.00 **.50 Exacta:** (6-1) \$59.15 **\$1 Trifecta:** (6-1-8) \$366.20 **Dime Superfecta:** (6-1-8-4) \$283.75
Fourteenth TD 550 31.40
1 Kb's Condor 16.00 6.00 3.00
8 Kb's Barmaid 3.20 2.60
6 Atascocita March 3.20
\$2 Quiniela: (1-8) \$36.60 **.50 Exacta:** (1-8) \$10.15 **\$1 Trifecta:** (1-8-6) \$252.40 **Dime Superfecta:** (1-8-6-4) \$77.33
Fifteenth TB 660 37.31
1 Ww's Leader 5.00 2.60 3.20
5 Spirits R Here 3.80 5.00
2 Double Check 6.20
\$2 Quiniela: (1-5) \$41.20 **.50 Exacta:** (1-5) \$11.10 **\$1 Trifecta:** (1-5-2) \$70.20 **Dime Superfecta:** (1-5-2-4) \$86.53
Attendance: (1028)
Handle: (\$136,445.28)

Abigail Spears, United States, 6-2, 5-7, 10-8.

ATP World Tour

Open 13 Results

Saturday
At Palais des Sports
Marseille, France
Purse: \$850,900 (WT250)
Surface: Hard-Indoor
Singles Semifinals
Ernests Gulbis (3), Latvia, def. Richard Gasquet (1), France, 6-3, 6-2.
Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (2), France, def. Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, 7-6 (4), 7-5.
Doubles Semifinals
Julien Benneteau and Edouard Roger-Vasselin (2), France, def. Gero Kretschmer and Alexander Satschko, Germany, 6-1, 7-5.

ATP World Tour Delray Beach

International Results
Saturday
At Delray Beach Stadium & Tennis Center
Delray Beach, Fla.
Purse: \$539,730 (WT250)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles Semifinals
Kevin Anderson (4), South Africa, def. Steve Johnson, United States, 6-2, 6-4.
Doubles Semifinals
Frantisek Cermak, Czech Republic, and Mikhail Elgin, Russia, def. Sam Groth, Australia, and Max Mirnyi, Belarus, 6-4, 3-6, 10-8.

Rio Open Results

Saturday
At Jockey Club Brasileiro
Rio de Janeiro
Purse: Men, \$1.99 million (WT500)
Women, \$250,000 (Int'l.)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles Men Semifinals
Alexandr Dolgoplov, Ukraine, def. David Ferrer (2), Spain, 6-4, 6-4.
Klara Zakopalova (1), Czech Republic, def. Teliana Pereira, Brazil, 6-2, 6-1.
Women Semifinals
Kurumi Nara, Japan, def. Nastassja Burnett, Italy, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.
Klara Zakopalova (1), Czech Republic, def. Teliana Pereira, Brazil, 6-2, 6-1.

BASEBALL

Spring Training Schedule
Tuesday
Florida Southern vs. Detroit at Lakeland, 1:05 p.m.
Florida State vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, 1:05 p.m.
Wednesday
U. of Miami vs. Miami at Jupiter, 1:05 p.m.
Detroit vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, 1:05 p.m.
Toronto vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, 1:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, 1:05 p.m.
Oakland vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Cincinnati vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
LA Dodgers vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz., 3:10 p.m.

Transactions
Baseball American League
BOSTON RED SOX — Agreed to terms with LHP Chris Capuanu on a one-year contract. Placed RHP Ryan Dempster on the restricted list.
National League
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Agreed to terms with SS Ernie Barrearruena on a five-year contract.

Basketball National Basketball Association
GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS — Signed C Hilton Armstrong to a 10-day contract.

Hockey National Hockey League
DETROIT RED WINGS — Recalled Fs Tomas Jurco and Riley Sheahan and D Gleason Fournier from Grand Rapids (AHL).

College
MINNESOTA — Signed football coach Jerry Kill to a contract extension through the 2015 season.

GLANTZ-CULVER LINE

FAV	LINE	DOG
at Michigan	2½	Mich. St.
at UConn	7	SMU
at Creighton	14	Seton Hall
STATE		
at Pittsburgh	9½	Florida St.

FAVORITE	LINE	O/U	UNDERDOG
at OKC	5	(210%)	L.A. Clippers
at Miami	6	(187%)	Chicago
at Toronto	10½	(196)	Orlando
at Cleveland	1	(199)	Wash
at Denver	4	(213%)	Sacramento
Houston	1½	(210)	at Phoenix
at Portland	4	(205)	Minnesota
Brooklyn	4	(203%)	at Lakers

NCAA BASKETBALL

Atlantic Division	g	w	l	ot	pts	gf	ga
Boston	57	37	16	4	78	176	125
Tampa Bay	58	33	20	5	71	168	145
Columbus	59	32	21	6	70	148	142
Toronto	60	32	22	6	70	178	182
Detroit	58	26	20	12	64	151	163
Ottawa	59	26	22	11	63	169	191
Florida	58	22	29	7	61	139	183
Buffalo	57	15	34	8	38	110	172

Metropolitan Division

g	w	l	ot	pts	gf	ga	
Pittsburgh	58	40	15	3	83	186	138
Rangers	59	32	24	3	67	155	146
Philadelphia	59	30	23	6	66	162	167
Columbus	58	29	24	5	63	170	161
Washington							

MATCH PLAY CHAMPIONSHIP



Associated Press/MATT YORK

Ernie Els advanced to the semifinals at the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championships on Saturday, defeating American Jordan Spieth 4 and 2. Jason Day, Rickie Fowler and Victor Dubuisson also moved on.

Old dog, new tricks

Els beats Spieth, reaches semifinals for first time in 13 years

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

MARANA, Ariz. — The love-hate relationship Ernie Els has with the Match Play Championship is taking a major turn for the better. Els made a birdie from the desert on the par-5 eighth hole to take the lead for good Saturday against 20-year-old Jordan Spieth, reaching the semifinals in this fickle tournament for the first time in 13 years.

It was the first time all week that Els made more birdies than bogeys, yet he somehow has survived.

“At times I haven’t played my best, as you guys have well-documented and know,” Els said with a laugh. “But it’s match play. I’ve just done enough to get through.”

Graeme McDowell was the only other player with greater fortune on his side, but that ended Saturday.

McDowell had reached the quarterfinals even though he never led a single hole while any of his three matches were in progress. Just his luck, he finally took a lead and wound up losing the match to Victor Dubuisson of France.

Match Play Results

Jason Day (8), Australia, def. Louis Oosthuizen (32), South Africa, 2 and 1.
Rickie Fowler (53), United States, def. Jim Furyk (20), United States, 1 up.
Ernie Els (31), South Africa, def. Jordan Spieth (10), United States, 4 and 2.
Victor Dubuisson (27), France, def. Graeme McDowell (14), Northern Ireland, 1 up.

Typical of his week, it went down to the wire.

They were all square with five holes remaining when Dubuisson hit a beautiful chip from the rough in front of a corporate suite behind the 16th green and saved par, while McDowell missed a 6-foot par putt to fall behind.

After matching pars on the 17th, Dubuisson’s shot into the 18th rolled off the false front. He chipped perfectly and was conceded his par, and McDowell then missed a 25-foot putt to extend the match.

“Lucky, lucky to even be here today,” McDowell said. “But actually played quite nicely most of the day. It all boiled down to my putter actually let me down. I had a chance on 14 for the hole, chance on 15 for the hole, missed a short one on 16. My luck is going to run out sooner than later.”

Els plays Dubuisson, a rising star in the European ranks who won the Turkish Open when Tiger Woods finished third.

In other quarterfinal matches, Jason Day reached the semifinals for the second straight year with a 2-and-1 win over Louis Oosthuizen, who played with a nagging back injury.

Rickie Fowler lost a 3-up lead to Arizona grad Jim Furyk, only to win the last two holes for a 1-up victory for a shot at Day. Furyk was in the same spot as Dubuisson on the 18th hole, but his first chip rolled back down the hill toward his feet.

Fowler is the No. 53 seed, the highest to reach the semifinals since Zach Johnson was No. 59 in 2006 when it was held at La Costa.

“It’s nice to get a win no matter how it happens,” Fowler said.

BASEBALL ROUNDUP

Orioles sign slugger Cruz

Two-time All-Star served 50-game suspension last year

By BEN WALKER
Associated Press

A person familiar with the deal told the Associated Press that free agent slugger Nelson Cruz and the Baltimore Orioles have reached agreement on a one-year contract.

The person spoke Saturday on condition of anonymity because the contract was not complete.

Cruz will earn about \$8.5 million, and can make more in performance bonuses.

Other media outlets had reported a deal was in place.

The 33-year-old Cruz was suspended 50 games last year while with the Texas Rangers as a result of Major League Baseball’s investigation into the Biogenesis drug scandal.

Cruz is a two-time All-Star and is expected to become Baltimore’s designated hitter. The Orioles started full-squad workouts at spring training earlier this week.

INSTANT REPLAY: Major league teams will each have at least five games this spring where managers can challenge plays as part of the major expansion of instant replay which begins this season.

The new rules allow each manager to challenge one call a game. If he wins the first one, he’ll earn another challenge.

The crew chief can request a review after the seventh inning if the manager has used his challenges.

Baseball has been reluctant to use replay and became the last major professional sport in North America to implement it late in the 2008 season.

But it was very narrowly used — only close home runs could be reviewed.

Now almost every call can be contested, with the exception of ball-and-strikes and checked swings. They also won’t allow reviews of what is known as the “neighborhood play” at second base on potential double plays.

The reviews during the

regular season will be done by current MLB umpires at the replay center in MLB.com’s office in New York. The manager or other team officials in the dugout can talk with someone in the clubhouse watching a live feed of the game.

RED SOX SIGN CAPUANO: Chris Capuano has had his first workout with Boston. Capuano gets a one-year contract for \$2.25 million after spending the past two seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

SORIANO OUT WITH FLU: New York Yankees outfielder Alfonso Soriano missed his third straight spring training workout due to the flu and will be evaluated Monday.

DODGERS SIGN CUBAN SS: Los Angeles signed Cuban shortstop Erisbel Arruebarrena to a five-year contract. New reports say the contract is worth \$25 million, including a \$7.5 million signing bonus.

BONDS TO INSTRUCT GIANTS: All-time home run leader Barry Bonds is returning to the San Francisco Giants as a spring training instructor.

METS’ HARVEY THROWS: New York Mets ace Matt Harvey threw a baseball for the first time since having elbow ligament-replacement surgery. The right-hander threw 20 times from 60 feet to a bullpen catcher.

MARLIN MOVES FAMILY: Miami pitcher Henderson Alvarez brought his wife and infant daughter to Miami from Caracas, Venezuela, to keep them away from the violent and deadly protests in his native country.

GARCIA TO HEAD HOME: Cardinals pitcher Jaime Garcia will return to St. Louis on Sunday to have doctors examine his surgically repaired throwing shoulder, making it unlikely he’ll be ready for the start of the season.

HEADLEY STRAINS CALF: San Diego third baseman Chase Headley is expected to be sidelined a couple of weeks because of a strained right calf.

LPGA

Nordqvist keeps lead in Thailand

Associated Press

CHONBURI, Thailand — Swede Anna Nordqvist shot a 5-under 67 at the LPGA Thailand on Saturday for a 4-stroke lead over top-ranked Inbee Park and American Michelle Wie.

The 27th-ranked Nordqvist sprinkled her third round at the Siam Country Club with four birdies and an eagle on the 10th against a bogey on No. 5.

Leading since the first round, the 26-year-old Nordqvist has an overall 11-under 205. She is chasing her first win on the U.S. LPGA Tour since 2009.

Park shot 67 and Wie 69.

“I think the great players out

there, Inbee, Stacy (Lewis), they’ve been up there so many times, so they look pretty comfortable out there,” Nordqvist said.

“For me, it’s a matter of keep putting myself in those positions and the win will happen eventually.”

Defending champion Park, playing her first tournament of the season, birdied the opening two holes and Nos. 10-13, with a lone bogey on the eighth.

“I hit a lot of great irons shots out there today, I think I still left four birdies out there,” the four-time Major champion said.

The 2010 runner-up Wie had an error-free round.

“Couple hard pins, couple easy pins. Didn’t really take advantage of the par 5s like I wanted to, but I can’t really complain about it. Hopefully tomorrow I’ll just have a lot more birdies,” Wie said. “I really want that win, but I’m not going to put the added pressure on myself.”

Paraguay’s Julieta Granada (71) was a further stroke behind in fourth.

Tseng Yani of Taiwan, winner here in 2011 and ‘12, carded a 6-under 66 for an overall 5-under 211 and a share of fifth with Americans Cristie Kerr (68) and Lexi Thompson (69) as well as New Zealand teen prodigy Lydia Ko (69).

MOTORSPORTS ROUNDUP

Bonsignore claims 2nd straight modified win

Staff Report

NEW SMYRNA BEACH —

Rain may have pushed the Richie Evans Memorial into the late hours of Friday night, but it was well worth the wait for Justin Bonsignore.

Bonsignore pulled off his second straight win, closing out the Modified races at the 48th annual World Series of Asphalt Racing. The 26-year-old from Holtsville, N.Y., passed Eric Goodale with two laps to go to take the win.

Ron Silk finished in third to claim the overall week-long championship. Chuck Hossfeld and Doug Coby, Tuesday’s nights UNOH Battle at the Beach winner, rounded out the top five.

Points leader and defending Whelen Modified Tour champion Ryan Preece took

eighth.

Preece suffered a collision in the Battle at the Beach, causing him to finish fourth after leading the first 147 laps.

MOORE WINS IN SUPER LATE MODELS:

Ryan Moore captured his second straight Super Late Model win, holding off Steve Wallace and Cameron Hayley to take the Bruce Gowland Memorial 100 to conclude the World Series.

Kyle Benjamin and David Rogers also claimed top-five finishes.

Stephen Nasse, who won three of the first four World Series races, had a tire issue while battling for a top-three spot and finished 15th.

BURTON WINS IN PRO LATE MODELS:

Harrison Burton, the 15-year-old son of former Sprint Cup driver Jeff Burton, also won a second

straight race in the Pro Late Model series.

Brad May crossed the line second, ahead of both points leader Spencer Davis and 2013 NASCAR Canadian Tire Series rookie of the Year Alex Guenette.

STORM POSTPONES DIRTCAR FINALE:

Rolling afternoon thunderstorms forced Volusia Speedway Park officials to postpone Friday night’s schedule DIRTCar Nationals events.

The World of Outlaws Late Models and the Super DIRTCar Series Big-Block Modifieds raced Saturday.

VULPUS WINS MINI STOCK RACE:

Ted Vulpus won Friday night’s 50-lap Mini Stock-WSA race at New Smyrna Speedway.

Pat Wells, Shaun Cater, James Dixon and Jason Reynolds rounded out the top five.

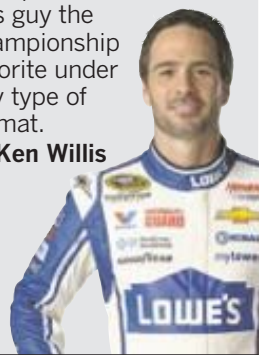
CONTENDER COUNTDOWN

We’re counting down the drivers who will make a run at the Sprint Cup title.

1. Jimmie Johnson

Unless Chad Knaus leaves to manage a Jiffy Lube, Rick Hendrick loses his checkbook or Jimmie’s right foot falls asleep, let’s consider this guy the championship favorite under any type of format.

— Ken Willis



Associated Press/LM OTERO

Baltimore signed outfielder Nelson Cruz to a one-year deal Saturday. He smacked 27 home runs last season.

HATTERS FROM PAGE 1C

“It was a good win for our team, and I’m happy I could contribute,” said Chin, who threw 85 pitches before retiring after two walks that loaded the bases in the sixth. “For the most part, I was able to keep my fastball down in the zone, and my change-up seemed to have some of the hitters off balance.”

Dunn complimented Chin: “He’s a good lefty who was drafted in the fifth round by the Toronto Blue Jays. He was throwing 92 miles per hour, which isn’t dominant, but it was enough today.”

Right fielder Chris Shaw used a double, a single and a sacrifice fly to produce three Boston College runs.

Center fielder Tom Bourdon drove in two more with a fielder’s choice groundout in the seventh and a single in the ninth.

Stetson managed only three hits through the first eight innings.

Boston College 8, Stetson 0

B.C. 002 100302 — 8 12 0
Stetson 000 000000 — 0 5 1
W — Chin (2-0); L — Perez (0-2). **Leading Hitters** — Boston College’s Chris Shaw was 2 for 4 with 3 RBIs and John Hennessey was 2 for 4 with 2 runs and 1 RBI. **Records** — Boston College (4-2), Stetson

0002054178



MEDAL TABLE

Nation	G	S	B	T
Russia	11	10	8	29
United States	9	7	11	27
Norway	11	5	10	26
Canada	9	10	5	24
Netherlands	8	7	9	24
Germany	8	6	5	19
Austria	4	8	5	17
France	4	4	7	15
Sweden	2	6	6	14
Switzerland	6	3	2	11
China	3	4	2	9
South Korea	3	3	2	8
Czech Republic	2	4	2	8
Slovenia	2	2	4	8
Japan	1	4	3	8
Italy	0	2	6	8
Belarus	5	0	1	6
Poland	4	1	1	6
Finland	1	3	1	5
Britain	1	1	2	4
Australia	0	2	1	3
Latvia	0	1	2	3
Ukraine	1	0	1	2
Slovakia	1	0	0	1
Croatia	0	1	0	1
Kazakhstan	0	0	1	1

TODAY'S BEST BET ON TV

MEN'S HOCKEY: Unbeaten teams, Canada and Sweden play for the gold medal in men's hockey. **7 a.m., NBC**

ALSO ON TV TODAY

7 a.m.	Men's Hockey: Final and Bronze Medal Match (LIVE)	NBC
2 p.m.	Men's Cross Country: 50KM Freestyle Final; Four-Man Bobsled: Final Runs	NBC
8:30 p.m.	Closing Ceremony	NBC
5 p.m.	Game of the Day: Hockey	NBCSN

CHANNEL GUIDE

	Bri	Dir	Dish
NBC	4	2	2
NBCSN	102	220	151

Bri: Brighthouse
Dir: DirecTV
Dish: Dish Network.

Channels may vary by area.

TODAY'S FEATURED EVENTS



Associated Press/NATHAN DENETTE

Sidney Crosby will lead Canada against Sweden for the gold medal in men's hockey.

SWEDEN, CANADA MEET IN MEN'S HOCKEY FINAL

Sweden and Canada are the last two Olympic champions in men's hockey, and they've both gone undefeated so far in Sochi.

One team will leave the Bolshoy Ice Dome with Olympic perfection when the games wrap up with the gold-medal match.

Defending champion Canada has dominated the rest of the world's best with depth, defense and championship experience. Sweden, which won it all in Turin eight years ago, is in the same position as Canada for almost exactly the same reasons.

The winner will be the first unbeaten Olympic champion since the Soviet Union won in Sarajevo in 1984. No team in the NHL era has gone through a tournament unbeaten on the way to gold, but both Canada and Sweden have avoided every obstacle so far.

4-MAN FINALE LOOKS TO BE EPIC: Just about every sliding race — luge, bobsled or skeleton — until now at these games was decided by the midway point of the competition, with someone either running out to a huge lead or the medal winners basically needing only to avoid disaster on their way to the podium. Not in four-man bobsledding, where the leader at the midway point isn't guaranteed anything.

Russia's Alexander Zubkov, looking to add four-man gold to his two-man victory earlier in these games, is the leader after two runs over the Latvian sled driven by Oskars Melbardis. On their heels is the German sled piloted by Maximilian Arndt, and right behind him is USA-1 driven by Steven Holcomb, the 2010 Olympic four-man gold medalist.

— The Associated Press

Olympics 24/7

For up-to-the-minute news, complete results and more news-journalonline.com/sports

SATURDAY'S OLYMPIC ROUNDUP



Associated Press/DMITRY LOVETSKY

Norway's Marit Bjoergen leads the pack of skiers on her way to winning the gold medal Saturday in the women's 30K cross-country race in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

STRIKING GOLD

Norwegian women, Dutch speedskaters dominate

Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — The Norwegian women revived their cross country skiing dominance at the Sochi Olympics on Saturday and the Dutch added two more speedskating gold medals to their record haul.

Marit Bjoergen won her sixth career gold medal by leading a Norwegian sweep in the women's 30-kilometer cross-country race. A week ago, Norway's heavily favored women's relay team finished a disappointing fifth, touching off a mini-crisis in the ski-crazed Scandinavian country.

The Netherlands won both men's and women's team pursuit races in speedskating, giving the Dutch eight gold medals out of 12 events, and 23 total in the sport. That's two more golds than the Soviet Union won in speedskating in 1960, the previous record, and 10 more than East Germany's 1988 total medals mark.

Elsewhere, Russia won the 4x7.5-kilometer men's biathlon relay to take its games-leading 11th gold medal; Mario Matt of Austria won gold in the men's slalom; Vic Wild of Russia captured his second gold by winning the Olympic debut of men's parallel slalom snowboarding; and Julia Dujmovits of Austria won the women's snowboarding race.

On Day 16, the Sochi Olympics also was hit by two more doping cases. Cross-country skier Marina Lisogor of

Ukraine became the third athlete to test positive for banned substances in two days. The 30-year-old Lisogor competed in two cross-country events in Sochi, and did not win a medal. The IOC later announced that Latvian hockey player Vitalijs Pavlovs tested positive for the stimulant methylhexanamine following his team's loss to Canada in the quarterfinals on Thursday.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING: Bjoergen is now the most decorated female Winter Olympian in history with 10 total medals and six gold, including three in Sochi and three from Vancouver. Her career total puts her one ahead of Russian cross-country skier Lyubov Egorova, who had six golds and three silvers. Two other women — Stafania Belmondo of Italy and Soviet skier Raisa Smetanina — also have 10 medals, but fewer golds. Therese Johaug took silver in the 30K race, while Kristin Stoermer Steira completed the Norwegian sweep by winning bronze.

SPEEDSKATING: The Dutch men's team of Sven Kramer, Jan Blokhuijsen and Koen Verweij set an Olympic record of 3 minutes, 37.71 seconds in the team pursuit. The Netherlands also held the old record of 3:39.95, set in Vancouver four years ago. South Korea took the silver and Poland the bronze. In the women's race, the Netherlands trio of Ireen Wust, Marrit Leenstra and Jorien ter Mors also set an Olympic record of 2:58.05.

Poland took silver and Russia bronze. Wust now has won five medals in Sochi, more than any other athlete — two golds and three silvers.

ALPINE SKIING: Matt's victory in the men's slalom makes him the oldest Alpine champion in Olympic history. Matt, who turns 35 in April, surpasses now-retired Norwegian great Kjetil Andre Aamodt as the oldest skier to win an Alpine race.

BIATHLON: Russian anchor Anton Shipulin beat Germany's Simon Schempp on the final lap to give the host nation its first biathlon gold of the Sochi Games. The 4x7.5-kilometer relay was the last biathlon competition at the games. Defending champion Norway led for most of the race but dropped to fourth after anchor Emil Hegle Svendsen missed three targets in his final shooting. Germany got the silver and Austria the bronze.

SNOWBOARDING: The American-born Wild, who became a Russian citizen in 2011 after marrying Russian snowboarder Alena Zavarzina, won gold in parallel giant slalom earlier this week. Wild and another adopted Russian, former South Korean short track speedskater Viktor Ahn, have won five of Russia's 11 gold medals in Sochi. Zan Kosir of Slovenia took silver behind Wild, and Benjamin Karl of Austria won bronze. In the women's parallel slalom, Dujmovits edged Anke Karstens of Germany at the finish. Amelie Kober of Germany won bronze.

RESULTS

Alpine Skiing
Men's Slalom
Final Ranking

(First and second runs in parentheses)
1. Mario Matt, Austria, (1, 46.70; 6, 55.14) 1:41.84.
2. Marcel Hirscher, Austria, (9, 47.98; 2, 54.14) 1:42.12.
3. Henrik Kristoffersen, Norway, (15, 48.49; 3, 54.18) 1:42.67.
4. Fritz Dopfer, Germany, (14, 48.46; 4, 54.26) 1:42.72.
5. Stefano Gross, Italy, (3, 47.45; 7, 55.27) 1:42.72.
6. Adam Zampa, Slovakia, (26, 49.34; 1, 53.94) 1:43.28.
U.S. Finishers
13. Nolan Kasper, Warren, Vt., (18, 48.70; 10, 55.52) 1:44.22.
NR. Ted Ligety, Park City, Utah, (6, 47.56, DNF), DNF.
NR. David Chodounsky, Crested Butte, Colo., DNF.

Biathlon

Men's 4x7.5km Relay

(Penalties in parentheses)
1. Russia (Alexey Volkov, Evgeny Ustyugov, Dmitry Malysheko, Anton Shipulin), 1:12:15.9 (0+0).
2. Germany (Erik Lesser, Daniel Boehm, Arnd Peiffer, Simon Schempp), 1:12:19.4 (0+0).
3. Austria (Christoph Sumann, Daniel Mesotitsch, Simon Eder, Dominik Landertinger), 1:12:45.7 (0+0).
4. Norway (Tarjei Boe, Johannes Thingnes Boe, Ole Einar Bjoerndalen, Emil Hegle Svendsen), 1:13:10.3 (0+1).
5. Italy (Christian de Lorenzi, Dominik Windisch, Markus Windisch, Lukas Hofer), 1:13:15.5 (0+0).
U.S. Finish
16. United States (Lowell Bailey, Lake Placid, N.Y., Russell Currier, Stockholm, Maine, Sean Doherty, Center Conway, N.H., Leif Nordgren, Marine on St. Croix, Minn.), 1:17:39.1 (3+0).

Cross-Country Skiing

Women's 30km Mass Start

1. Marit Bjoergen, Norway, 1:11:05.2.
2. Therese Johaug, Norway, 1:11:07.8.
3. Kristin Stoermer Steira, Norway, 1:11:28.8.
4. Kerttu Niskanen, Finland, 1:12:26.9.
5. Eva Vrabcová - Nyvltova, Czech Republic, 1:12:27.1.
U.S. Finishers
24. Liz Stephen, East Montpelier, Vt., 1:14:11.8.
27. Holly Brooks, Anchorage, Alaska, 1:14:58.3.
28. Kikkan Randall, Anchorage, Alaska, 1:15:10.7.
40. Jessie Diggins, Afton, Minn., 1:18:13.0.

Snowboard

Men's Parallel Slalom Semifinals

Bronze Medal
W, (1) Benjamin Karl, Austria, (0.00, 0.00).
L, (13) Aaron March, Italy, (+0.26, +16.25).
Gold Medal
W, (3) Vic Wild, Russia, (0.00, 0.00).
L, (7) Zan Kosir, Slovenia, (+0.12, +0.11).

Women's Parallel Slalom Semifinals

Bronze Medal
W, (5) Amelie Kober, Germany, (0.00, 0.00).
L, (28) Corinna Boccacini, Italy, (+0.44, +0.13).
Gold Medal
W, (13) Julia Dujmovits, Austria, (+0.72, 0.00).
L, (9) Anke Karstens, Germany, (0.00, +0.12).

Speedskating

Men's Team Pursuit

Bronze Medal
2. (W) Poland (Zbigniew Brodka, Konrad Niedzwiedzki, Jan Szymanski).
2. (L) Canada (Mathieu Giroux, Lucas Makowsky, Denny Morrison).
Gold Medal
1. (W) Netherlands (Jan Blokhuijsen, Sven Kramer, Koen Verweij) (OR).
1. (L) South Korea (Joo Hyong Jun, Kim Cheol Min, Lee Seung Hoon).

Women's Team Pursuit

Bronze Medal
2. (W) Russia (Olga Graf, Yekaterina Lobysheva, Yuliya Skokova).
2. (L) Japan (Misaki Oshigiri, Maki Tabata, Nana Takagi).
Gold Medal
1. (W) Netherlands (Marrit Leenstra, Jorien ter Mors, Ireen Wust) (OR).
1. (L) Poland (Katarzyna Bachleda - Curus, Katarzyna Wozniak, Luiza Zlotkowska).



Associated Press/ANDY WONG

Russia's Vic Wild celebrates his win in snowboard parallel slalom Saturday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

U.S.
FROM PAGE 1C

knows at the end of the day," he said. "I thought I had opportunities. ... You think you're in three times against the goaltender alone and hopefully you could score a couple of times out of that. It just wasn't meant to be."

No, it wasn't.

The Americans wasted a chance to earn medals in consecutive Olympic hockey tournaments for the first time since winning gold in 1960 and silver in 1956.

Finland, meanwhile, took advantage of two power plays in the third period with goals to put the U.S. away in a game it didn't look interested



Associated Press/PETR DAVID JOSEK

Finland defenseman Olli Maatta shoots against U.S. goalie Jonathan Quick on Saturday in Sochi, Russia.

in after falling behind 2-0.

If the league and players' union do not let the world's

best players go to South Korea in four years, Kane and Co. may never get a shot to

help the Americans win gold that has been elusive since the 1980 "Miracle on Ice."

Jonathan Quick, starting ahead of silver-medal winning goaltender Ryan Miller, stopped all eight shots that got to him in the first before giving up five goals on just 21 shots over the last two periods.

"Absolutely not second-guessing the decision to go with Quick in net," U.S. coach Dan Bylsma said. "He was our best player in the semifinal game."

"He was excellent again tonight. He made five, six or seven excellent saves in the first half of this game. And no, I did not consider pulling him as the game went to four and five."

LOCAL MEN'S ROUNDUP

Daytona State moves to 24-5

Staff Reports

Rashaun Stimage scored 22 points, Ayinde Sprewell added 18, and Daytona State held off the College of Central Florida for a 69-65 win on Saturday. Stimage and Sprewell each added nine rebounds for the Falcons (24-5). Tanksley Efanayi added 17 points and five rebounds. Chris Bryant led the College of Central Florida with 15 points and eight rebounds. Rasham Suarez had 13 points and five assists. Will Ferguson chipped in with 11 points.

ERAU ROLLS PAST WARNER: Cesar Pastrana scored 10 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to help the Eagles to a 70-52 win over the Royals. ERAU finished the regular season 24-6 and 13-5 in Sun Conference play. DeForest Carter led all scorers with 14 points. Reed Ridder and Jason Powell each chipped in with 11 points, while Rico Saldana tacked on six points and pulled down eight rebounds. Eddie Delegal led the Royals (11-18, 4-14) with 13 points. Antonio Annsley added 12 points and Mitch Rice contributed 10 points. Warner jumped out front

early, running ahead 12-3 in the first four minutes. Back-to-back 3-pointers from Powell and Ridder pulled the Eagles to within two (14-12) with 13:15 left in the half, and a Hudson Cadet tip-in put the Eagles in front for the first time, 20-19 with 7:54 until halftime. Just 2:06 later, a Powell layup pushed the lead to six and Embry-Riddle would go into the locker room with an eight-point cushion at 37-29. The Eagles will now await the result of Monday's Northwood-Thomas game to determine the seeding for the Sun Conference tournament. If Northwood wins, the Eagles will be the No. 4 seed. If Thomas wins, a coin flip will determine whether Northwood or ERAU gets the third seed.

ERAU 70, Warner 52

WU (11-18, 4-14) Delegal 5-10 2-4 13, Annsley 4-8 4-5 12, Rice 4-7 0-0 10, Lubin 2-4 3-6 7, Ellis 2-5 1-2 5, Maduro 2-4 0-0 5, Poore 0-0 0-0 0, Hall 0-0 0-0 0, Jackson 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals: 19-39 10-17 52**

ERAU (24-6, 13-5) Carter 3-7 6-9 14, Ridder 4-10 1-1 11, Pastrana 5-9 0-3 11, Saldana 3-6 0-0 8, Barnes 1-9 4-4 6, Powell 4-6 0-0 11, Kiesling 3-8 0-0 8, Cadet 1-2 2-4 4, Sciano 0-0 0-0 0, Schleiwiler 0-0 0-0 0, Serle 0-1 0-0 0. **Totals 24-58 13-21 70.**

Halftime—ERAU 37, WU 29. **3-Point Goals—** WU 4-13 (Delegal 1-3, Annsley 0-1, Rice 2-5, Lubin 0-1, Maduro 1-2, Jackson 0-1), ERAU 9-24 (Carter 2-6, Ridder 2-5, Barnes 0-2, Powell 3-4, Kiesling 2-6, Serle 0-1). **Rebounds—**WU 20 (Annsley 5), ERAU 42 (Pastrana 11). **Assists—**WU 8 (Delegal 2), ERAU 14 (Carter 4). **Total Fouls—** WU 20, ERAU 14. **A—** 450.

TODAY'S GAME

Mercer (21-7, 12-3) at Stetson (7-20, 5-10)

WHERE — Edmunds Center, DeLand

TIPOFF — 1 p.m.

WORTH NOTING — This is Stetson's final home game. The Hatters suffered their worst loss of the season, 87-49, at Mercer on Jan. 25. The Bears are tied for first place in the Atlantic Sun Conference with Florida Gulf Coast, which topped Mercer 75-61 Friday night. The Hatters are coming off a 67-63 home loss to last-place

Kennesaw State. Junior forward Kentwan Smith had 19 points after starting 7 for 7 from the floor against the Owls. Senior forward Willie Green continues to pace the Hatters with a scoring average of 14 points per game. The Bears are led by senior point guard Langston Hall (14.7 ppg) and senior forward Daniel Coursey (10.0 ppg, 6.7 rpg).

UP NEXT — At Northern Kentucky, 7 p.m. Thursday

— Sean Kernan

SCORES

MEN'S SCORES	
EAST	Hartford 80, UMBC 64
American U. 58, Army 54	Iona 69, Canisius 52
Baylor 88, West Virginia 75	LIU Brooklyn 77, Wagner 51
Bryant 68, CCSU 65	Mount St. Mary's 70, Fairleigh Dickinson 35
Canisius 90, Fairleigh 78	Navy 64, Holy Cross 57
Colgate 84, Loyola (Md.) 60	Niagara 85, Monmouth (NJ) 57
Dayton 57, Duquesne 54	Princeton 69, Harvard 64
Fairleigh Dickinson 73, Sacred Heart 66	Providence 61, Xavier 59
Georgetown 74, Xavier 52	Quinnipiac 67, St. Peter's 44
Mass.-Lowell 58, New Hampshire 52	Rhode Island 87, St. Bonaventure 78
NJIT 99, Fisher 67	Robert Morris 71, St. Francis (NY) 70, OT
Penn 74, Dartmouth 65	Saint Joseph's 87, Fordham 72
Quinnipiac 90, Niagara 88	St. Francis (Pa.) 83, LIU Brooklyn 64
Rhode Island 87, St. Bonaventure 78	Towson 83, Hofstra 77
Robert Morris 71, St. Francis (NY) 70, OT	Villanova 57, St. John's 54
Saint Joseph's 87, Fordham 72	Wagner 71, Mount St. Mary's 66
St. Francis (Pa.) 83, LIU Brooklyn 64	SOUTH
Towson 83, Hofstra 77	Alabama St. 92, Alcorn St. 86
Villanova 57, St. John's 54	Arkansas 73, Mississippi St. 69
Wagner 71, Mount St. Mary's 66	Charleston Southern 86, Presbyterian 47
SOUTH	Clemson 63, Georgia Tech 55
Alabama St. 92, Alcorn St. 86	Delaware St. 84, Md.-Eastern Shore 71
Arkansas 73, Mississippi St. 69	East Carolina 67, Rice 55
Charleston Southern 86, Presbyterian 47	Elon 66, Georgia Southern 61
Clemson 63, Georgia Tech 55	Florida 75, Mississippi 71
Delaware St. 84, Md.-Eastern Shore 71	Florida A&M 80, Bethune-Cookman 75
East Carolina 67, Rice 55	Furman 68, Appalachian St. 53
Elon 66, Georgia Southern 61	Georgia 73, South Carolina 56
Florida 75, Mississippi 71	High Point 85, Longwood 59
Florida A&M 80, Bethune-Cookman 75	Jackson St. 79, Grambling St. 59
Furman 68, Appalachian St. 53	Jacksonville 88, SC-Upstate 82
Georgia 73, South Carolina 56	Kentucky 77, LSU 76, OT
High Point 85, Longwood 59	Liberty 79, Campbell 59
Jackson St. 79, Grambling St. 59	Miami 69, Boston College 42
Jacksonville 88, SC-Upstate 82	Middle Tennessee 56, Marshall 53
Kentucky 77, LSU 76, OT	NC Central 72, NC A&T 55
Liberty 79, Campbell 59	NC State 71, Virginia Tech 64
Miami 69, Boston College 42	Nicholls St. 68, McNeese St. 59
Middle Tennessee 56, Marshall 53	Norfolk St. 73, Coppin St. 68
NC Central 72, NC A&T 55	North Carolina 105, Wake Forest 72
NC State 71, Virginia Tech 64	Richmond 62, La Salle 49
Nicholls St. 68, McNeese St. 59	SE Missouri 77, UT-Martin 74
Norfolk St. 73, Coppin St. 68	Savannah St. 75, SC State 65
North Carolina 105, Wake Forest 72	Southern Miss. 77, UTEP 68
Richmond 62, La Salle 49	Texas Southern 73, MVSU 65
SE Missouri 77, UT-Martin 74	Tulsa 77, FIU 65
Savannah St. 75, SC State 65	UAB 64, Charlotte 62
Southern Miss. 77, UTEP 68	UNC Asheville 100, Coastal Carolina 85
Texas Southern 73, MVSU 65	VMI 88, Radford 76
Tulsa 77, FIU 65	Vanderbilt 67, Auburn 59
UAB 64, Charlotte 62	Virginia 70, Notre Dame 49
UNC Asheville 100, Coastal Carolina 85	W. Carolina 70, The Citadel 52
VMI 88, Radford 76	William & Mary 81, Northeastern 67
Vanderbilt 67, Auburn 59	MIDWEST
Virginia 70, Notre Dame 49	Buffalo 78, Kent St. 69
W. Carolina 70, The Citadel 52	Chicago St. 73, CS Bakersfield 68
William & Mary 81, Northeastern 67	Cleveland St. 74, Milwaukee 50
MIDWEST	IPFW 84, IUPUI 60
Buffalo 78, Kent St. 69	Louisville 58, Cincinnati 57
Chicago St. 73, CS Bakersfield 68	Marquette 96, DePaul 94, OT
Cleveland St. 74, Milwaukee 50	Missouri St. 77, Indiana St. 66
IPFW 84, IUPUI 60	N. Dakota St. 74, S. Dakota St. 59
Louisville 58, Cincinnati 57	Ohio 66, Akron 50
Marquette 96, DePaul 94, OT	Ohio St. 64, Minnesota 46
Missouri St. 77, Indiana St. 66	South Dakota 64, W. Illinois 54
N. Dakota St. 74, S. Dakota St. 59	Valparaiso 68, Youngstown St. 66
Ohio 66, Akron 50	Wisconsin 79, Iowa 74
Ohio St. 64, Minnesota 46	SOUTHWEST
South Dakota 64, W. Illinois 54	Houston 88, UCF 84
Valparaiso 68, Youngstown St. 66	Iowa St. 71, TCU 60
Wisconsin 79, Iowa 74	Oklahoma 86, Kansas St. 73
SOUTHWEST	Oklahoma St. 84, Texas Tech 62
Houston 88, UCF 84	Oral Roberts 63, Cent. Arkansas 50
Iowa St. 71, TCU 60	Texas A&M 68, Tennessee 65, OT
Oklahoma 86, Kansas St. 73	WEST
Oklahoma St. 84, Texas Tech 62	BYU 91, Loyola Marymount 67
Oral Roberts 63, Cent. Arkansas 50	Boise St. 75, UNLV 72
Texas A&M 68, Tennessee 65, OT	CS Bakersfield 99, Chicago St. 58
WEST	Fresno St. 72, Utah St. 70
BYU 91, Loyola Marymount 67	Gonzaga 72, Portland 61
Boise St. 75, UNLV 72	Idaho 68, Grand Canyon 54
CS Bakersfield 99, Chicago St. 58	Montana 76, Idaho St. 67
Fresno St. 72, Utah St. 70	Montana St. 75, Weber St. 71
Gonzaga 72, Portland 61	N. Arizona 86, N. Colorado 70
Idaho 68, Grand Canyon 54	Pacific 83, San Francisco 65
Montana 76, Idaho St. 67	S. Utah 86, Portland 79
Montana St. 75, Weber St. 71	San Diego 73, Pepperdine 46
N. Arizona 86, N. Colorado 70	San Diego St. 53, New Mexico 48
Pacific 83, San Francisco 65	Santa Clara 89, Saint Mary's (Cal) 83
S. Utah 86, Portland 79	UC Davis 56, Hawaii 52
San Diego 73, Pepperdine 46	Utah Valley 49, UMKC 43
San Diego St. 53, New Mexico 48	Wyoming 75, Colorado 24
Santa Clara 89, Saint Mary's (Cal) 83	
UC Davis 56, Hawaii 52	
Utah Valley 49, UMKC 43	
Wyoming 75, Colorado 24	

WOMEN'S SCORES

EAST	Army 64, American U. 60
Bowling Green 73, Buffalo 63	Bucknell 62, Boston U. 50
CCSU 63, Sacred Heart 53	Cornell 78, Brown 53
WEST	Colorado St. 82, Wyoming 67
Idaho 83, Grand Canyon 77	Nevada 75, Air Force 56
Saint Mary's (Cal) 76, Santa Clara 54	San Francisco 64, Pacific 59
Stanford 83, UCLA 74	UC Santa Barbara 80, Cal St.-Fullerton 65
Washington 86, Oregon St. 62	

(11) LOUISVILLE 58, (7) CINCINNATI 57



Louisville's Russ Smith shoots over Cincinnati's Sean Kilpatrick on Saturday during the second half in Cincinnati.

Smith's shot lifts Cardinals

By COURTNEY RATKOWIAK
Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Three weeks ago, Louisville fought back from a 17-point second-half deficit against Cincinnati before fizzling down the stretch and losing a heartbreaker at home.

On Saturday, it was time for the Cardinals to return the favor.

No. 7 Cincinnati fought back from a 10-point second-half deficit to take a 55-52 lead with 90 seconds left in the game. Freshman Troy Caupain made two free throws with 11 seconds left to give the Bearcats a 57-56 lead.

On Louisville's last possession, Terry Rozier passed the ball back to Russ Smith, catching the notoriously stingy Cincinnati defense off guard.

Smith hit an open 18-foot jumper with 2.2 seconds left to give Louisville a 58-57 victory.

"Honestly, it felt really good leaving my hands," Smith said. "I was always ready. When I gave it up, I thought Terry might shoot. But when he raised up, he threw it to me, and I got a decent look at the basket."

The win was Louisville's sixth straight and 11th in 11 games. The winning streak started after the 69-66 loss to Cincinnati on Jan. 30. They snapped the Bearcats' 19-game home winning streak.

"Obviously, that was a hard fought game, better described as a blood-

bath," Cincinnati coach Mick Cronin said.

Montrezl Harrell, who was just 5 of 12 from the free throw line, led the Cardinals (23-4, 12-2 American Athletic Conference) with 21 points, Rozier had 11 and Smith finished with 10 on 3-of-10 shooting.

Sean Kilpatrick had 28 points for the Bearcats (24-4, 13-2).

Feeding off the intensity of a sellout crowd at Fifth Third Arena, the game started fast-paced and physical in a matchup of two of the nation's best defenses. Louisville held Cincinnati to 6-of-31 shooting and the Bearcats limited Louisville to 8-of-30 shooting from the field in the first half.

Louisville had held seven of its last 10 opponents to under 40 percent shooting from the field, and continued that trend Saturday. Unlike in the teams' first matchup, when Cincinnati shot 48.9 percent, the Bearcats started 3 of 27 from the field. Louisville swarmed the Bearcats, intercepting passes, swatting away shots and forcing Cincinnati to rush its offense.

"The thing that bugs me is that if they miss a shot, they let it bother them," Louisville coach Rick Pitino said. "I tell them that I will never take them out because of missed shots. Defense makes the difference. Play defense, play your butts off on defense, and they did today."

WOMEN'S ROUNDUP

Wildcats, Taylor top Rattlers

Staff and Wire Reports

DAYTONA BEACH — Only one current player was on the team when Bethune-Cookman last played at the Ocean Center three years ago. So coming into Saturday's game, the Wildcats didn't share the distaste for the facility that their coach has developed over the years.

"You know, I hate playing here," B-CU coach Vanessa Blair-Lewis said. But not on this day.

Senior Chastity Raye led five Wildcats in double figures as B-CU defeated Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference rival Florida A&M 76-62 at the Ocean Center.

"This is our first win here in all my years as the coach," Blair-Lewis said. "It's not a shooter's gym for us. And we usually don't get a lot of practice time here. But I'm proud of the way my young ladies played (Saturday). They had great energy. It was a great way to send our seniors out."

It was the last home game of the season for the Wildcats (10-16, 7-7), who have two more regular-season games remaining — at Morgan State next Saturday and a rematch at FAMU on March 6.

STETSON WOMEN WIN 14TH STRAIGHT: Freshmen Amber Porter and Brianti Saunders combined for 40 points to lead Stetson to an 85-62 win over Jacksonville on Saturday. The victory extended the Hatters' school-record winning streak game to 14 games.

(1) CONNECTICUT 92, HOUSTON 41: At Houston, Bria Hartley and Stefanie Dolson scored 24 points apiece and Connecticut beat Houston, extending the Huskies' winning streak to 34 games.

(6) BAYLOR 69, TCU 46: At Fort Worth, Texas, Odyssey Sims matched her season low with 17 points, and Baylor overcame a sluggish showing in a rare morning start for its 10th straight win, beating TCU.

(13) WEST VIRGINIA 61, KANSAS STATE 40: At Manhattan, Kansas, Christal Caldwell scored 21 points as West Virginia won its seventh straight while holding an opponent to fewer than 62 points for the fifth time in six games.

(25) GONZAGA 71, PORTLAND 61: At Spokane, Wash., Haiden Palmer scored 12 points as Gonzaga picked up a win over Portland, assuring the Bulldogs of a share of their 10th-straight West Coast Conference title.

TOP 25 ROUNDUP

'Nova avoids upset

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Darrun Hilliard scored 18 points and Ryan Arcidiacono had 12 for No. 9 Villanova in a 57-54 win over St. John's. It was the second straight win for Villanova (24-3, 12-2 Big East) since its second loss of the season to No. 11 Creighton.

(3) WICHITA ST. 83, DRAKE 54: At Wichita, Kan., Tekele Cotton had 21 points, Darius Carter came off the bench to score 15 and Wichita State pounded Drake.

(8) KANSAS 85, (19) TEXAS 54: At Lawrence, Kan., Andrew Wiggins scored 21 points, Joel Embiid briefly flirted with a triple-double and Kansas trounced Texas to seize control of the Big 12.

(14) VIRGINIA 70, NOTRE DAME 49: At Charlottesville, Va., Akil Mitchell and Anthony Gill both scored 15 points and Virginia used a 30-2 second-half run to blow open a close game and go on to its 11th straight win.

(16) WISCONSIN 79, (15) IOWA 74: At Iowa City, Iowa, Frank Kaminsky had 21 points and a crucial late steal as Wisconsin won for its fifth straight.

(17) IOWA ST. 71, TCU 60: At Fort Worth, Texas, DeAndre Kane scored 20 points and Georges Niang had 19 points and eight rebounds as Iowa State kept TCU winless in the Big 12.

(18) KENTUCKY 77, LSU 76, (OT): At Lexington, Ky., Julius Randle scored in the lane with 3.9 seconds remaining in overtime to give Kentucky the hard-earned win.

STANFORD 83, (23) UCLA 74: At Stanford, Calif., Chasson Randle made a career-high seven 3-pointers and scored 26 points to help Stanford boost its case for an at-large NCAA tournament berth with the victory.

(24) OSU 64, MINNESOTA 46: At Columbus, Ohio, Sam Thompson scored 16 of his 19 points in the second half, leading Ohio State back from a 12-point deficit.

STATE ROUNDUP

Houston holds off UCF

Staff and Wire Reports

HOUSTON — Danuel House had 18 points, including 8 of 8 from the line, as Houston held on for an 88-84 win over Central Florida Saturday.

Jherrod Stiggers added 17 points on 5 of 7 shooting from behind the arc, and L.J. Rose chipped in 12 points and seven assists for Houston (13-14, 5-9 American Athletic Conference).

TULSA 77, FIU 65: At Miami, Shaquille Harrison scored 17 points and Tulsa used a big second half to take down Florida International.

EAST TENN. ST. 88, UNF 85: At Jacksonville, Jalen Riley scored 19 points and hit two key free throws late as East Tennessee State edged North Florida. With the game tied, Riley was fouled with 3.2 left and hit both free throws for an 87-85 lead. Kinard Gadsden-Gilliard intercepted a long inbounds pass and hit 1 of 2 free throws to make it 88-85.

NORTH TEXAS 78, FAU 76: At Boca Raton, Jordan Williams scored 19 points to lead North Texas to a win over Florida Atlantic.

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(5) DUKE 66, (1) SYRACUSE 60

NBA ROUNDUP



Associated Press/GERRY BROOME

Syracuse freshman Tyler Ennis (11) splits two Duke defenders — Andre Dawkins, left, and Marshall Plumlee.

Double down

Unbeaten to start the week, Syracuse loses second straight

By LAURA KEELEY
The News & Observer

DURHAM, N.C. — The first installment of Duke-Syracuse was an instant classic. The rematch followed a similar script.

Clearly, Mike Krzyzewski's Blue Devils found "it," that factor he said Duke was missing in its lifeless second-half collapse at North Carolina on Thursday. No. 5 Duke won the rematch, besting No. 1 Syracuse, 66-60, on Saturday night.

In the end, with Syracuse down two, C.J. Fair drove to the basket. Rodney Hood set up to block his path and successfully drew the charge. Referee Tony Greene rewarded Hood's effort, and he kicked out his leg, flexed his arms and let out a scream.

Meanwhile, up the court, Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim was screaming, too, running out into court, screaming profanities and drew a technical. Boeheim kept going and received his second technical, bringing on an automatic ejection. He was escorted out

by police, as the crazies waved their arms as they do at opposing inbounders.

An Amile Jefferson free throw in 20 seconds into the second half gave the Blue Devils their first lead of the game, at 28-27 (the Orange shot just 28.6 percent in the field from the first half - Duke was a bit better at 41.7 percent).

From there, the second half was a collection of signature plays for Duke.

In a parallel moment that showed the difference between the game in the Carrier Dome and the one in Cameron, Rakeem Christmas went up to block a tomahawk dunk attempt. This one came from Jabari Parker (not Rodney Hood, like at the end of overtime in the first game). And this time, the foul was called. Parker sank one free throw to put Duke up 34-32.

Right after the Cameron crazies chanted "We don't miss you" at Michael Gbinije - who transferred from Duke after an utterly forgettable freshman season - Parker

drove and sank a bucket over him as he was called for the block. Parker made the free throw, too, putting Duke up 44-41.

A 3-pointer by Quinn Cook - he sank to the ground dropped three fingers on each hand and ran back down the floor with them not quite touching the floor - put Duke up 51-45 and forced a Syracuse timeout with 7:36 remaining. That gave Duke its largest lead of the game.

A Jabari Parker drive from the high post with the shot clock winding down extended Duke's lead to 59-56 with 1:23 remaining.

(5) Duke 66, (1) Syracuse 60

SYRACUSE (25-2)
Grant 8-15 1-4 17, Fair 6-12 0-0 12, Christmas 3-6 0-0 6, Cooney 1-5 2-2 4, Ennis 2-13 5-6 9, Gbinije 2-5 2-2 8, Keita 2-6 0-0 4. **Totals 24-62 10-14 60.**

DUKE (22-6)
Parker 6-9 4-6 19, Hood 6-15 0-3 13, Jefferson 2-2 1-2 5, Thornton 2-2 3-4 8, Sulaimon 3-6 2-4 8, Cook 2-10 3-4 9, Dawkins 0-2 0-0 0, Plumlee 2-2 0-2 4. **Totals 23-48 13-25 66.**

Halftime—Tied 26-26. **3-Point Goals**—Syracuse 2-9 (Gbinije 2-4, Ennis 0-2, Cooney 0-3), Duke 7-21 (Parker 3-3, Cook 2-8, Thornton 1-1, Hood 1-6, Sulaimon 0-1, Dawkins 0-2). **Fouled Out**—Grant. **Rebounds**—Syracuse 37 (Keita 9), Duke 34 (Parker 10). **Assists**—Syracuse 8 (Ennis 6), Duke 15 (Sulaimon 7). **Total Fouls**—Syracuse 20, Duke 15. **Technical**—Syracuse Coach 2. **Ejected**—Ejections—Syracuse Coach. **A**—9,314.

Walker scores 31 in Bobcats win

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Kemba Walker scored 31 points and the Charlotte Bobcats won for the fourth time in five nights, defeating the Memphis Grizzlies 92-89 Saturday night.

Charlotte is 4-0 since the All-Star break, marking its longest winning streak since March 2011.

The Bobcats used an 18-3 run in the fourth quarter to break open a tight game and then held on down the stretch with Walker making four free throws in final 25 seconds to snap Memphis' four-game win streak.

The Bobcats won even though the Grizzlies held Al Jefferson to just six points on 2-of-13 shooting. Jefferson came in having scored 29 points or more in eight of his last 11 games and at least 20 points in 17 of the last 19.

The Grizzlies were led by Mike Conley, who had 16 points, but twice missed 3-point attempts when he had a chance to tie the game on Memphis' final possession.

WIZARDS 94, PELICANS 93: At Washington, Nene made the go-ahead dunk with 0.3 seconds left and matched a season high with 30 points to propel Washington past New Orleans.

MAVERICKS 113, PISTONS 102: At Auburn Hills, Mich., Dirk Nowitzki scored 24 points, Mainland product Vince Carter added 18 and Dallas held off Detroit.

HAWKS 107, KNICKS 98: At Atlanta, Mike Scott scored a career-high 30 points, Jeff Teague added 28 and Atlanta snapped an eight-game losing streak.

Carmelo Anthony finished with 35 points for the Knicks, who blew a double-digit, third-quarter lead.

KNICKS BUYING OUT 2 VETS: The New York Knicks are preparing to buy out the contracts of veterans Metta World Peace and Beno Udrih.

TERRY DONE FOR YEAR: The Sacramento Kings said recently acquired guard Jason Terry will spend the remainder of the season rehabilitating his left knee.



Associated Press/BOB LEVERONE

Kemba Walker scored 31 points to lead Charlotte to its fourth consecutive win following the All-Star break.

SCOREBOARD

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	w	l	pct	gb
Toronto	30	25	.545	—
Brooklyn	25	27	.481	3½
New York	21	35	.375	9½
Boston	19	37	.339	11½
Philadelphia	15	41	.268	15½
Southeast Division				
	w	l	pct	gb
Miami	39	14	.736	—
Washington	27	28	.491	13
Charlotte	27	30	.474	14
Atlanta	26	29	.473	14
Orlando	17	40	.298	24
Central Division				
	w	l	pct	gb
Indiana	41	13	.759	—
Chicago	29	25	.537	12
Detroit	23	33	.411	19
Cleveland	22	34	.393	20
Milwaukee	10	44	.185	31
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
	w	l	pct	gb
San Antonio	40	16	.714	—
Houston	37	18	.673	2½
Dallas	34	23	.596	6½
Memphis	31	24	.564	8½
New Orleans	23	32	.418	16½
Northwest Division				
	w	l	pct	gb
Oklahoma City	43	13	.768	—
Portland	37	18	.673	5½
Minnesota	26	28	.481	16
Denver	25	29	.463	17
Utah	19	35	.352	23
Pacific Division				
	w	l	pct	gb
L.A. Clippers	37	20	.649	—
Phoenix	33	21	.611	2½
Golden State	33	22	.600	3
L.A. Lakers	19	36	.345	17
Sacramento	18	36	.333	17½
Friday's Games				
Chicago 117, Denver 89				
Memphis 102, L.A. Clippers 96				
Phoenix 106, San Antonio 85				
Portland 102, Utah 94				
L.A. Lakers 101, Boston 92				
Saturday's Games				
Washington 94, New Orleans 93				
Charlotte 92, Memphis 89				
Dallas 113, Detroit 102				
Atlanta 107, New York 98				
Indiana at Milwaukee, late				
Minnesota at Utah, late				
Boston at Sacramento, late				
Brooklyn at Golden State, late				
Today's Games				
L.A. Clippers at Oklahoma City, 1 p.m.				
Chicago at Miami, 3:30 p.m.				
Washington at Cleveland, 6 p.m.				
Orlando at Toronto, 6 p.m.				
Sacramento at Denver, 8 p.m.				
Brooklyn at L.A. Lakers, 9 p.m.				
Minnesota at Portland, 9 p.m.				
Houston at Phoenix, 9 p.m.				

Bobcats 92, Grizzlies 89

MEMPHIS (89)
Prince 1-4 0-1 2, Randolph 5-12 2-4 12, Gasol 5-15 5-6 15, Conley 6-16 4-5 16, Lee 4-13 1-1 10, Calathes 2-2 0-0 4, Koufos 2-2 0-0 4, Allen 4-7 1-1 9, Miller 4-6 0-0 11, Johnson 1-2 4-4 6, Davis 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals 34-79 17-22 89.**

CHARLOTTE (92)
Kidd-Gilchrist 2-5 2-2 6, McRoberts 3-11 4-4 12, Jefferson 2-13 2-2 6, Walker 9-20 10-10 31, Henderson 4-9 1-2 9, Tolliver 3-5 0-0 9, Zeller 2-6 3-3 7, Gordon 1-7 2-2 4, Biyombo 3-3 0-2 6, Pargo 1-3 0-0 2. **Totals 30-82 24-27 92.**

Memphis 21 27 15 26 — 89
Charlotte 28 14 22 28 — 92
3-Point Goals—Memphis 4-15 (Miller 3-5, Lee 1-4, Johnson 0-1, Conley 0-5), Charlotte 8-20 (Tolliver 3-5, Walker 3-7, McRoberts 2-5, Gordon 0-1, Pargo 0-2). **Fouled Out**—None. **Rebounds**—Memphis 51 (Randolph 11), Charlotte 54 (Jefferson 9). **Assists**—Memphis 17 (Conley 5), Charlotte 16 (Walker 5). **Total Fouls**—Memphis 24, Charlotte 18. **Technical**—Calathes, Charlotte Coach Clifford, Charlotte defensive three second. **A**—18,317 (19,077).

Wizards 94, Pelicans 93

NEW ORLEANS (93)
Aminu 2-5 0-0 5, Davis 11-18 4-4 26, Stiemsma 0-1 0-0 0, Roberts 2-13 3-4 7, Gordon 3-10 3-3 10, Ajinca 3-9 3-9 9, Evans 3-8 1-1 8, Morrow 7-8 1-2 18, Rivers 3-5 1-2 7, Babbitt 0-2 0-0 0, Withey 1-2 1-2 3. **Totals 35-81 17-21 93.**

WASHINGTON (94)
Ariza 2-5 0-0 4, Nene 13-19 4-6 30, Gortat 6-9 4-7 16, Wall 4-9 2-3 10, Beal 4-13 3-3 11, Webster 4-9 1-1 12, Booker 0-3 0-0 0, A.Miller 1-3 3-4 5, Seraphin 2-4 2-6 6, Harrington 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals 36-74 19-26 94.**

New Orleans 21 22 23 27 — 93
Washington 24 19 23 28 — 94
3-Point Goals—New Orleans 6-13 (Morrow 3-3, Aminu 1-1, Evans 1-2, Gordon 1-3, Babbitt 0-1, Roberts 0-3), Washington 3-14 (Webster 3-6, Ariza 0-1, Wall 0-2, Beal 0-5). **Fouled Out**—None. **Rebounds**—New Orleans 46 (Davis 11), Washington 49 (Gortat 10). **Assists**—New Orleans 20 (Roberts 9), Washington 23 (Wall 12). **Total Fouls**—New Orleans 22, Washington 15. **Technical**—Stiemsma, New Orleans defensive three second, Washington defensive three second. **A**—18,385 (20,308).

B-CU FROM PAGE 1C

one-possession game, but Lewis and Willie Conner each hit a pair of free throws to give the Rattlers an 80-73 cushion with 16 seconds on the clock. Maurice Taylor hit a layup with eight seconds to go for B-CU.

"It was a very tough game but an enjoyable one because we won it," FAMU coach Clemon Johnson said. "It's a rivalry game and what it comes down to is who wants it the most."

Adams hit 10 of 10 free throws and matched Trapp with 26 points, while Lewis scored 20. Trey Kellum added 11 points and 12 rebounds for the Rattlers, who outrebounded the Wildcats 43-35.

"They made a couple of tough shots down the stretch," Craig said. "But they also beat us on the glass. I don't think we played tough enough on the 50-50 rebounds in the second half."

Trapp went 5 of 7 from the 3-point arc. He sank a 3-point-er with 11:07 left to put the Wildcats up 54-51, hit a driving layup to tie the score at 68 with 4:06 left and then drilled another 3 with 2:17 remaining to give the Wildcats their final lead at 71-70.

"I was just trying to win the game," he said. "But we gave



News-Journal/DAVID MASSEY

Bethune-Cookman redshirt junior Mikel Trapp led the Wildcats with 26 points.

up too many second-chance points."

FAMU 80, B-CU 75

FLORIDA A&M (11-16)
Bradshaw 5-11 3-8 15, King 0-3 0-0 0, Kellum 3-6 5-10 11, Adams 7-12 10-10 26, Lewis 6-15 3-3 20, Conner 0-2 2-2 2, Spiller 0-1 0-0 0, Bullard 0-1 0-0 0, Nelson 0-0 0-0 0, Crawford 0-0 0-0 0, Davis 2-2 0-0 4, Odi 1-3 0-1 2. **Totals 24-56 23-34 80.**

BETHUNE-COOKMAN (6-23)
Jackson 1-10 0-0 2, Elliott 2-4 1-1 5, Simmons 1-4 1-2 3, Trapp 8-15 5-7 26, Owens 10-13 0-0 24, Kyndard 1-4 1-1 3, Taylor 1-6 4-5 6, Dempster 2-4 2-4 6. **Totals 26-60 14-20 75.**

Halftime—Bethune-Cookman 33-28. **3-Point Goals**—Florida A&M 9-19 (Lewis 5-11, Adams 2-2, Bradshaw 2-6), Bethune-Cookman 9-18 (Trapp 5-7, Owens 4-6, Simmons 0-1, Taylor 0-1, Jackson 0-3). **Fouled Out**—Elliott, Kellum. **Rebounds**—Florida A&M 43 (Kellum 12), Bethune-Cookman 35 (Trapp 8). **Assists**—Florida A&M 12 (Adams 4), Bethune-Cookman 14 (Simmons 5). **Total Fouls**—

UF FROM PAGE 1C

tournament championship — adding a memorable Gator Chomp motion as the Rebels ended up winning 66-63.

And it was quickly apparent on Saturday that the 6-foot-2 senior was feeling good again. He shot 7 of 14 from the field — including 5 of 11 from 3-point range — as the two teams fought to an entertaining 42-all tie by halftime.

The Gators' vaunted defense, which is easily the best statistically in the SEC, had few answers for Henderson early. He made several difficult shots with a hand in his face.

It didn't last. Henderson cooled off in the second half — missing those tough looks that had gone in during the first half — and Florida did enough offensively to win.

"You're not going to prevent (Henderson) from shooting and in the first half it was a wash — him versus our team," Donovan said. "In the second half, it just didn't go in."

(2) Florida 75, Mississippi 71

FLORIDA (25-2)
Young 4-5 4-4 12, Wilbekin 6-12 2-2 18, Yeguete 2-3 3-4 7, Frazier II 5-12 2-2 17, Prather 3-10 1-2 7, Finney-Smith 1-5 2-2 5, C. Walker 1-1 0-1 2, D. Walker 2-6 1-2 7, Kurtz 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals 24-54 15-19 75.**

MISSISSIPPI (16-11)
Perez 4-9 2-2 10, Henderson 7-20 3-3 22, Coleby 2-3 2-2 6, Summers 8-12 2-4 20, Jones 3-8 0-0 6, Newby 2-3 0-0 5, Millinghaus 0-1 0-0 0, Cox 0-0 0-0 0, White 0-0 0-0 0, Saiz 1-4 0-0 2. **Totals 27-60 9-11 71.**

Halftime—Tied 42-42. **3-Point Goals**—Florida 12-33 (Frazier II 5-10, Wilbekin 4-10, D. Walker 2-6, Finney-Smith 1-5, Yeguete 0-1, Prather 0-1), Mississippi 8-25 (Henderson 5-16, Summers 2-3, Newby 1-1, Millinghaus 0-1, Jones 0-1, Perez 0-3). **Fouled Out**—None. **Rebounds**—Florida 34 (Finney-Smith, Prather, Yeguete, Young 5), Mississippi 32 (Jones 9). **Assists**—Florida 19 (Wilbekin 7), Mississippi 15 (Coleby, Millinghaus, Summers 4). **Total Fouls**—Florida 12, Mississippi 16. **A**—8,140.

