UMF softball team drops two in Florida

sin-Oshkosh and Wisconsin-Ste-Maine-Farming-**COLLEGE**

ton Beavers on **ROUNDUP** Tuesday. Wisconsin-Os-

hkosh beat UMF 7-0 and then Stevens Point prevailed 14-4. Pitcher Paige Giese aided her

first game as she hit a three-run UMF.

CLERMONT, Florida - Wiscon- home run, singled and finished with four RBIs. She didn't allow a vens Point each recorded softball run and gave up four hits while victories over the University of not walking a batter and striking out three

> Lauren Torborg chipped in with two doubles and a single for Oshkosh (5-3) and Caitlin Hoerning had two hits and two RBIs.

Haley Felkel, Ashley Gleason, Margaret Fogarty and Alison own cause for Oshkosh in the Hamilton each notched a single for

In the second game, Sydney Opdahl hit a three-run homer and Katie Uhlenbrac added a two-run blast to power Stevens Point (4-7) by the Beavers.

Gleason singled twice for UMF (1-7) while Hamilton, Kylie Cunningham, Tasha DeRoche and Kiana Thompson each added a

Hamilton, Moesha Harrington and Ashley Bosio each drove in a

Thomas splits twin bill

At Clermont, Florida, Thomas College beat Worcester State (Massachusetts) 8-2 after dropping an 11-6 decision to D'Youville (New

York) in its first game of the day. Sonja Morse earned the win for Thomas (1-2) as she scattered seven hits, walked three and struck out five. Courtney Veilleux sparked the offense with a double, two singles and an RBI. Korrie Laren, Lindsay Hoopingarner and for Thomas.

Madison Bentz each added two

Taylor Daniels and Courtney Salisbury each had two hits for

Worcester State (3-5). Lydia Monin doubled, singled twice and drove in two runs to lead D'Youville (3-5) in the first game. Mackenzie Kehlenbeck added three hits and two RBIs.

Hoopingarner and Bentz each contributed two hits and two RBIs

Spieth grouped with former college rival

Jordan Spieth will face a familiar foe at this week's WGC-Dell Match Play tournament after he was drawn in the same group **GOLF**

as former college rival Justin Thomas on

The two played together as U.S. teammates at the 2007 Evian Junior Masters but went head to head in the 2012 NCAA Championship final, where Spieth got the better of Thomas to help his Texas Longhorns beat Alabama to the title.

Spieth, who went on to become world number one and won two majors last year, plays Thomas on Friday and will also face Frenchman Victor Dubuisson and Jamie Donaldson of

The event at Austin Country Club in Texas features 16 four-player groups, with the advancing knockout stages.

The new match play format was adopted last year, with Rory Mcilroy taking the title.

World number three McIlroy, still looking for his first win of the season, has landed what seems an easier group with Kevin Na, Smylie Kaufman and Thorbjorn Olesen, but the Northern Irishman said he would not take anyone lightly.

"A big key to match play

Continued from Page B5

"We had 28 inches of snow

Joe Perdue, the owner

15. He would like to open April.'

and golf pro at Hidden Mead-since 2010 and, my first year,

ows Golf Course in Old we opened on March 15. The

Town, said he sets up his last two years, we didn't

budget from April 15 to Oct. open until the last day of

at this time last season," he

Golf



ROB SCHUMACHER | USA TODAY

Jordan Spieth waves to spectators on the 18th green during the final round of the Valspar Championship on March 13 in Palm Harbor, Florida.

is you can't underestimate anyone," McIlroy told the Golf Channel. "You have to fully expect for them to play their best golf. You have to go out and make as many birdies as you can."

World number two Jason Day, a winner at Bay Hill on Sunday, has been drawn in a tough group with Graeme McDowell, Paul Casey and Thongchai Jaidee.

Adam Scott, who has already won twice this year, is grouped with Bill Haas, Chris Wood and Thomas Pieters, while U.S. Ryder Cup duo Dustin Johnson and Jimmy Walker have been drawn together.

within two weeks and hopes

all the frost will be out of the

over the next couple of days.

I figure we get about 185

"We'll see what happens

European Ryder Cup standouts Sergio Garcia and Lee Westwood will fight to escape Group 13, while Phil Mickelson and Patrick Reed are in Group 9 and long-hitters Bubba Watson and J.B. Holmes doing battle in

Kim moves up to No. 5 in Rolex Rankings

South Korean's Sei Young Kim, who tied an LPGA record for 72-hole scoring while winning the JTBC Founders Cup in Phoenix over the weekend, moved up two spots to No. 5 in the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings released Monday.

Ice was the culprit for the

late opening two years ago

and snow was the reason

the winter really well. We

"The course came through

"We're ahead of the game

this year," said John Snyer,

the owner of the Hermon

Meadows Golf Club.

last vear.

days of golf and any more had a little bit of winter kill

than that is a bonus," he in the fairways but the

"I've only been here greens and tees look really

Kim fired a 10-under 62 in the final round Sunday to give her a four-day score of 261 — 27 under par.

Kim captured her fourth LPGA title by five strokes over second-place Lydia the world's No. 1-ranked player, who shot a 7-under-par 65, including four birdies in her last five

Ko of New Zealand (11.44 point average) is comfortably ahead of South Korea's Inbee Park (9.15) in the rank-

Lexi Thompson (7.37) remains No. 3 over fellow American Stacy Lewis (6.88), followed by Kim (6.20).

Hermon Meadows, like several other golf courses statewide, including Orono's Penobscot Valley Country Club, had already opened.

We've been open for three to four weeks," said Snyer. "We'll reopen when the snow melts. The greens came through the winter in great shape. We never had any ice. When it snowed, it drained. Everything looks real good."

NY lawmakers end last statewide ban on mixed martial arts

BY MARK LA MONICA

New York's State Assembly has voted to legalize mixed martial arts, making the state the last to allow the sport some critics feel is too violent. Tuesday's vote was 113-25 in favor of overturning the sport's ban, which was enacted in 1997 under Gov. George Pataki amid safety concerns.

"I have been waiting for this day for a very long time," former UFC middleweight champion Chris Weidman, 31, of Baldwin, New York, told Newsday in a text message. "I am beyond excited that it finally happened. It's going to be a dream come true to fight in my home state in front of my family, friends and fans!"

The legislation now goes to Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo for his signature. The governor included MMA revenue in his executive budget proposal earlier this year, his most overt act of support for the bill. Should Gov. Cuomo not sign the bill within 10 days of it being sent to him, it automatically will take effect after the 10th day.

"This has been a long time coming," UFC chairman Lorenzo Fertitta said in a statement. "And on behalf of our New York UFC athletes and fans, I want to offer heartfelt thanks to Speaker Heastie, Majority Leader Morelle and all the Members of the Assembly - Democrats and Republicans who voted for this bill."

Cuomo, at a political event in Niagara Falls on Tuesday, reiterated his support for MMA.

"I do support MMA because it is an economic generator," the governor said. He added that MMA organizers are committed to staging bouts "in areas that would bring people from out of state into New York.

According to the bill, the state would collect three percent tax on both gross receipts of ticket sales and broadcast fees (each is capped at \$50,000 per event). There also is the economic impact of events, which include hotel stays, food and beverage and other spending associated with travel and tourism.

"I'm extremely excited to see New York State lift the ban on MMA," UFC bantam-

Honors

Continued from Page B5

a 21-9 record, the North-

east-10's Northeast Division

championship and an NCAA

Division II East Region tour-

nament berth. He led the

Falcons in both scoring and

rebounding for the fourth

straight year, averaging 22.6

McFarland's 678 points

this season was the second

points and 7.5 points.

weight Aljamain Sterling of Uniondale, New York, told Newsday in a text message. "I look forward to being able to train hard and perform in front of all the passionate MMA fans of New York.'

The New York State Athletic Commission will have 120 days to adopt guidelines and regulations for use as the sanctioning body, clearing the way for events in New York later this year.

Joe Morelle, the Assembly Majority Leader and the bill's main sponsor, told reporters in Albany, New York, after the vote that six months is a reasonable timetable to expect the first pro MMA fights to take place in New York.

Mixed martial arts is a sport that combines boxing, kickboxing, wrestling, judo, Muay Thai and other singlediscipline martial arts.

"I have been waiting for this day since driving to New Jersey for my first amateur fight in 2006," UFC fighter Al Iaquinta of Wantagh, New York, told Newsday via text message. "I can't wait to finally fight at home in front of my family and friends!'

Tuesday's vote marked the culmination of an eight-year fight to bring sanctioned and regulated fighting to New York. The State Senate has passed the legislation each of the past seven years, including twice in 2015. Each year, the bill stalled in the Assembly.

The Assembly debated for more than three hours Tuesday before the vote.

What we seek to do essentially is to take the sport out of the shadows in New York," said Morelle, referring to amateur MMA events that have been happening in New York for several years without sanctioning or regulating bodies there to oversee them.

Assembyman Dean Murray, R-East Patchogue, a longtime proponent of MMA, supported Morelle's safety language in the bill then highlighted the economic impact of bringing the sport to New

"It's time to take the vote," Murray said. "It's time to pass it. It's time to legalize mixed martial arts in the state of New York.

The Ultimate Fighting Championship, the biggest promotion in the sport, says it has a date reserved in November to host a fight card at Madison Square Garden.

Cavs' James begins social media blackout

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

LeBron James created a stir this week when he unfollowed the Cleveland Cavaliers' Twit-**NBA** ter account.

Was that NOTEBOOK

a sign that the all-star forward wanted out of Cleveland? That he's not happy with management? That he was trying to motivate his teammates?

None of the above. James said Tuesday that it's part of his annual social media blackout as the playoffs near to help him focus on trying to lead the Cavaliers to an NBA championship. Only this year his social media fast is coming a little earlier than normal.

After the Cavs' 124-91 victory over Denver on Monday night, James refused to discuss his unfollowing of the Cavaliers' account. On Tuesday after practice, the four-time NBA Most Valuable Player addressed his social media blackout.

"A little bit sooner than normal," he said. "But you know I understand that it's right around the corner and I want to start mentally preparing myself for the distance. So mentally I'm just being a little more sharper

minded as of late, just gear- Famer posted on social

The Cavaliers have the best record in the Eastern Conference heading into the final weeks of the regular season. But their inconsistency — losses at Utah and Miami in the past week has James and others con-

"At the end of the day, we're 9-3 in our last 12, so, I mean, we're playing some good ball," he said. "We just didn't play how we want to play in the Utah game and in Miami, but we're playing some good ball.

James has been to the Eastern Conference finals each of the past five years with Miami and Cleveland and understands what it takes. He sees this team

starting to come around. Championship-starved Cleveland hasn't won a title in any of the major professional sports since 1964.

Mutombo unhurt in attack

at Brussels airport Former NBA player Dikembo Mutombo was unharmed Tuesday morning at the Brussels airport during the deadly attack that left 31 dead and more than 200 in-

The Basketball Hall of

media from Belgium after the tragedy: "I am safe here. God is good.

Mutombo was passing through Brussels' Zaventem Airport, International where two bombs went off during an attack carried out by ISIS terrorists.

The 7-foot-2 Mutombo is a global ambassador for the sport and a humanitarian who works with his charitable foundation in his native

The Dikembe Mutombo Foundation posted the fol-

lowing on Facebook: "Today we bow our heads in remembrance for those who lost their lives in Brussels. And we give thanks for all of the first responders offering support, strength and solidarity to everyone impacted by these horrible tragedies.

"To those who are asking for an update — Dikembe was at the Brussels airport when the bombing happened this morning and was thankfully unharmed. Local authorities are working to move everyone to safe locations while the city navigates through this act of terror. Please join us in keep-Brussels in your thoughts and prayers.'

The 49-year-old Mutombo was an eight-time NBA All-Star during his 19-year career that ended in 2009. He was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame last year.

Season likely over for **Mays' Parsons**

The Dallas Mavericks drive to the Western Conference playoffs is about to hit a road bump that could derail their chances to play in the postseason.

Forward Chandler Parsons probably will have arthroscopic surgery on his right knee that will end his season.

Parsons has been diagnosed with a meniscus tear. He is expected to get a second opinion, but reports out of Dallas indicate Parsons is done for the season meaning that both of Parsons' first two seasons in Dallas ended prematurely with right knee problems.

In the past 27 games, Parsons has averaged 18.9 points, 5.9 rebounds and 3.2

Last season, he missed the end of the regular season and all but one playoff game against Houston and ended up having major reconstruction of that same right knee.

highest total in program history, as were his scoring average and minutes per game (36.4)."This is a very special recognition for Tyler to re-

ceive and one that shows the respect he has earned from the coaches across the East Region, especially in a year where there were so many outstanding players to be considered," longtime Bentley head coach Jay Lawson said in a news release. "We are very proud of the way Dame, speculation revolves Tyler has represented our program and university over the past four years and couldn't be more pleased to see him chosen for this prestigious team.'

McFarland, who started all 112 games Bentley played over his career, ranks No. 1

in Bentley annals in points (2,118), field goals (785) and minutes per game (34.8). He also is second in program history in scoring average (18.9), free throw percentage (.867) and blocks (162), as well as third in total minutes (3,897).

Hyland, a two-time CoSI-DA Division II first-team Academic All-American, was second to McFarland in scoring and rebounding, averaging 20.4 points and 7.2 rebounds. He finished his Falcon career with a 17.8 scoring average, fifth best in program history and totaled 1,373 points, ranking 22nd in Bentley history.

Maine teams gain academic honor

The Husson University, University of Maine at Farmington and Thomas College field hockey teams have been selected to receive the 2015 ZAG Field Hockey/NFHCA Division III National Academic Team Award.

The National Academic Team Award recognizes those institutions that achieved a minimum team grade point average of 3.0 or higher during the first semester of the 2015-16 academic year.

Irish

Continued from Page B5

Fighting Irish will be facing off against future conference opponent Michigan at the Midwest Regional in Cincinnati on Friday night.

It will be Notre Dame's second NCAA Tournament appearance in three seasons ing Irish qualified in their first season, but lost to St. Cloud State in the first round.

Notre Dame had its best finish in Hockey East this season when it wound up third with a 15-5-2 record, including a two-game sweep over the University of Maine. The Fighting Irish

in Hockey East. The Fight- were swept in a best-ofthree series by Hockey East tournament champ Northeastern in the quarterfinals.

They are 34-21-9 in league play in three seasons and had a 4-1-1 record against UMaine.

Bertagna has long been an advocate of having an even number of teams in the were 19-10-7 overall but league so all teams are play-

ing league games on weekends. If Hockey East looks to add a team to replace Notre

around ECAC teams Quinnipiac University from Hamden, Connecticut; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute from Troy, New York; and Atlantic Hockey member Holy Cross from Worcester, Massachusetts.