

UMF softball team drops two in Florida

CLERMONT, Florida —Wisconsin-Oshkosh and Wisconsin-Stevens Point each recorded softball victories over the University of Maine-Farmington Beavers on Tuesday. Wisconsin-Oshkosh beat UMF 7-0 and then Stevens Point prevailed 14-4.

Pitcher Paige Giese aided her own cause for Oshkosh in the first game as she hit a three-run

COLLEGE ROUNDUP

home run, singled and finished with four RBIs. She didn't allow a run and gave up four hits while 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 Hamilton each notched a single for UMF.

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 single.

Hamilton, Moesha Harrington and Ashley Bosio each drove in a run.

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 Hoopingartner and

Madison Bentz each added two hits.

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.

Hoopingartner and Bentz each contributed two hits and two RBIs for Thomas.

Spieth grouped with former college rival

REUTERS

Jordan Spieth will face a familiar foe at this week's WGC-Dell Match Play tournament after he was drawn in the same group as former college rival Justin Thomas on Monday.

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.

PRO 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.

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 Group 4.

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.

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 Ko, the world's No. 1-ranked player, who shot a 7-under-par 65, including four birdies in her last five holes.

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

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

Golf

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"We had 28 inches of snow at this time last season," he added.

Joe Perdue, the owner and golf pro at Hidden Meadows Golf Course in Old Town, said he sets up his budget from April 15 to Oct. 15. He would like to open

within two weeks and hopes all the frost will be out of the ground.

"We'll see what happens over the next couple of days. I figure we get about 185 days of golf and any more than that is a bonus," he said. "I've only been here since 2010 and, my first year, we opened on March 15. The last two years, we didn't open until the last day of April."

Ice was the culprit for the late opening two years ago and snow was the reason last year.

"The course came through the winter really well. We had a little bit of winter kill in the fairways but the greens and tees look really good," Perdue said.

"We're ahead of the game this year," said John Snyder, the owner of the Hermon Meadows Golf Club.

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 Snyder. "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."

Cavs' James begins social media blackout

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

LeBron James created a stir this week when he unfollowed the Cleveland Cavaliers' Twitter account.

Was that 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

NBA NOTEBOOK

mind as of late, just gearing toward it."

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 concerned.

"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 Dikembe Mutombo was unharmed Tuesday morning at the Brussels airport during the deadly attack that left 31 dead and more than 200 injured.

The Basketball Hall of

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

Mutombo was passing through Brussels' Zaventem International Airport, 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 Congo.

The Dikembe Mutombo Foundation posted the following 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 keeping 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 Mavs' 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 assists.

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.

Honors

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a 21-9 record, the Northeast-10's Northeast Division championship and an NCAA Division II East Region tournament berth. He led the Falcons in both scoring and rebounding for the fourth straight year, averaging 22.6 points and 7.5 points.

McFarland's 678 points this season was the second 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 receive 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 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 CoSIDA 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/NFCA 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

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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

in Hockey East. The Fighting 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 were 19-10-7 overall but

were swept in a best-of-three 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 league so all teams are play-

ing league games on weekends.

If Hockey East looks to add a team to replace Notre Dame, speculation revolves around ECAC teams Quinnipiac University from Hamden, Connecticut; Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute from Troy, New York; and Atlantic Hockey member Holy Cross from Worcester, Massachusetts.