

# Woodard, Hield carry Oklahoma by Aggies

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

ANAHEIM, California — Guard Jordan Woodard had 20 points and five 3-pointers and guard Buddy Hield added 17 points as Oklahoma advanced to the **NCAA MEN'S TOURNAMENT** West Region final with a 77-63 victory over Texas A&M on Thursday night.

Woodard and Hield had seven of the Sooners' 11 3-pointers and freshman guard Christian James tied a second high with the other four threes, and the Sooners were never threatened after using a 34-9 run in the first half to take a 19-point half-time lead.

The Aggies, who overcame a 12-point deficit in

the final 44 seconds of its 92-88 double-overtime victory over Northern Iowa in Oklahoma City on Sunday, went to a man-to-man press in the final six minutes but never were closer than 11 points.

Freshman center Tyler Davis, the focal point of the offense early in the second half, had 17 points and eight rebounds for Texas A&M (28-9) He had 13 in the second half.

Woodard had his fifth 20-point game of the season and added five assists. Hield had 10 rebounds.

Oklahoma (28-7) made 11 of 25 from 3-point range while shooting 49.2 percent from the field.

Texas A&M shot 34.4 percent from the field and made only 13-of-24 free throws.

They were 11 for 22 from the line in the second half, unable to take advantage of the Sooners' early foul trouble.

Davis scored seven points in the first 3 1/2 minutes of the second half as the Aggies pounded the ball inside and cut their deficit to 53-42 five minutes into the second half.

Hield and Woodard hit three to lift the Sooners back in front 64-46.

Woodard had 14 points and three 3-pointers and Hield scored 11 points in the first half as the Sooners blew out to a 45-26 lead.

James' 3-pointer from the left baseline with 11:38 remaining tied the score at 18 and came in the early stages of a 34-9 run that gave Oklahoma a 40-22 lead. The Aggies were 3 of 17 from the

field after Woodard's tying 3-pointer.

Woodard had two 3-pointers and Hield scored six points during the run, including a 3-pointer with 1:46 left in the half for the 40-22 lead.

Oklahoma committed only one turnover in the first 15 minutes and had four in the first half compared with Texas A&M's 10.

Aggies guard Jalen Jones made two 3-pointers in the final four minutes but did not score again in the first half.

**GAME NOTES:** Oklahoma, appearing in its 30th NCAA Tournament, has made the Final Four in three of its previous nine trips to the West Regional. The Sooners advanced in 1993, 1947 and 2002, the last time

led by guard Hollis Price, who played in four straight NCAA tournaments. ... Texas A&M set a school record with 28 victories after its 92-88 double-overtime victory over Northern Iowa on Sunday. ... Texas A&M was 4-0 against the Big 12 during the regular season, beating Texas, Kansas State, Baylor and Iowa State. ... Oklahoma's Lon Kruger is the only coach to take five teams to the NCAA Tournament. Kansas State, Florida, Illinois and UNLV are the others. ... The West Regional is the only one that featured the top four seeds.

**TOURNAMENT NOTES:** It will be a contrast in styles when No. 1 seed Virginia puts its shutdown defense up against No. 4 seed Iowa State's high-powered attack

in an NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 matchup in Chicago at 7:10 p.m. Friday in the Midwest Regional. The Cavaliers, who are seeking their first visit to the Elite Eight since 1995, own the second-ranked scoring defense (59.5) in the country, while the Cyclones have the third-best offensive output (82.1) among remaining tournament teams. ... Syracuse and Gonzaga are two of the most surprising teams in the Sweet 16, but they also have been two of the most impressive teams through the first two rounds of the NCAA Tournament. The 10th-seeded Orange and the 11th-seeded Bulldogs eye another strong effort — and a spot in the Elite 8 — when they clash in Friday's nightcap in Chicago at 9:40 p.m.



DAVID SANTIAGO | EL NUEVO HERALD | TNS

The Miami Heat's Dwyane Wade (right) greets the Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James after the Heat's 122-101 win at the AmericanAirlines Arena in Miami on Saturday.

## NBA

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The scenario played out once before with Wade and James, who toured NBA cities such as Chicago and Los Angeles only to team up in Miami with Chris Bosh to form a "Big Three" that went to the NBA Finals four consecutive seasons. James announced he was leaving Cleveland in the nationally televised "Decision" in July 2010.

He penned a heartfelt letter five years later with Phil Taylor of Sports Illustrated to announce he was "Coming Home" to Ohio.

But James has intentional-

ly set up his contract options to go year-to-year, maximizing his earnings while keeping open exit strategies should the opportunity to team with fellow All-Stars ever become reality.

### Warriors fixed on wins record

Steve Kerr is ready to talk 73. The Golden State Warriors are nine wins from breaking the single-season wins record set by the 72-10 Chicago Bulls in 1995-96.

"We're right there," said Kerr, the Warriors head coach who missed more than three months recovering from complications due to back surgery, "that's pretty enticing."

The Warriors beat the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday night and have a 64-7 record with 11 games to play.

Klay Thompson and Draymond Green openly discussed chasing down the Bulls during All-Star Game media sessions. Green said it was a way to immortalize the team and what it has accomplished not only this season, but last season and in the years ahead with most of the team's core locked up contractually and 2015 NBA MVP Steph Curry ready to cash in with a massive contract.

Green said last week after a loss in San Antonio that the goal remained setting the wins mark. The Warriors draw the Spurs twice in a

three-game span next month — at home April 7 and in San Antonio on April 10.

The Spurs enter Thursday 60-11, four games back of the record-tracking Warriors. San Antonio could tie the all-time wins record by going 10-1 the rest of the season.

"I'm not going to shy away from saying we want the record," Green said. "We want the record, and we're going after it."

Golden State was 39-4 under the watch of assistant coach Luke Walton. When Kerr came back Jan. 22 for the Warriors' home game against the Indiana Pacers, the team responded with its 38th consecutive win at Oracle Arena and a 122-110 victory.

## UM-Farmington sweeps doubleheader

AUBURNDALE, Florida — The University of Maine-Farmington baseball team recorded 14 **COLLEGE ROUNDUP** and 11 in

the second to earn a doubleheader sweep of D'Youville (N.Y.) College, 16-8 and 9-1, Thursday in the Russ-Matt Invitational.

Dustin McCrossin, Ben Keene, Grayson Beressi, Jimmy Parks and Mark Leahy each drove in two runs to spark the Beavers (6-2) in the first game. Beressi and Parks each notched three singles while McCrossin and Leahy each had two. Keene and Sean Cabaniss each tripled.

Kyle Peterson (2-0) picked up the win for UMF after giving up seven hits, six runs and three walks. He struck out three.

Thomas Brummer tripled, singled twice and drove in three runs to lead the Spartans (0-9).

In the second game, UMF's Riley Chickering (1-0) held the Spartans to five hits and a run to help UMF pick up its sixth win. He didn't walk a batter and struck out two before Jory Humphrey came on to pitch a scoreless seventh.

Cabaniss and Tom Grady each drove in two runs with Grady collecting a triple and two hits and an RBI while Beressi doubled and drove in a run.

Nick Stimpfel singled twice for the Spartans and Matt Critelli had an RBI.

**Thomas, Grove City split**  
At Auburndale, Florida,

Derek Kane smacked an RBI double in Thomas' two-run first inning and added a run-producing triple in its three-run second in a 6-3 victory over Grove City (Pa.) in the first game of a doubleheader.

Grove City won the second game 4-1.

Anree Benitez chipped in with two singles and an RBI for Thomas (3-5) in the first game while Zach Mathieu and Joe Quinlan each added a hit and an RBI.

Connor Hope notched the win for Terriers of Waterville with four hitless innings. He gave up a run while walking five and striking out two.

Travis Auth had an RBI for Grove City (11-5).

In the second game, John Bini shut down the Terriers as he scattered seven hits while walking two and striking out six.

Nolan Myers had a solo homer and singled to lead Grove City while Nolan Myers added a double and single.

Mathieu and Aron Smetad each notched two hits for Thomas while Kane added a hit and an RBI.

### USM 7, Wisconsin-Oshkosh 4

At Winter Haven, Florida, senior right-hander Shyler Scates pitched a complete game as the University of Southern Maine Huskies held off the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Titans.

The win was the second straight for the Huskies and improved their overall record to 6-2. The Huskies are 4-2 to date on their annual spring trip. The Titans dropped their second

College Softball	
<b>MAINE vs. QUINNIPIAC</b>	
<b>Time, site:</b> Friday, 3 p.m.; Saturday noon doubleheader; Quinnipiac University softball field, Hamden, Connecticut	
<b>Records:</b> Maine 8-10, Quinnipiac 8-12	
<b>Series, last meeting:</b> 2-2, Maine 3-2 on March 8, 2014	
<b>Key players:</b> <b>Maine</b> — C Janelle Bouchard (.433 average, 1 homer, 15 runs batted in), 2B-3B Meghan Royle 2B-3B (.385-1-8), 3B-DP Maddie Decker (.378-1-11), LF Rachel Harvey (.358-1-8), CF Rachel Carlson (.316-0-4), RF-3B-2B Alyssa Derrick (.293-5-18); <b>Quinnipiac</b> — 2B Emily Czaja (.324-0-1), 3B Miranda Magana (.311-0-7), LF Sarah Heimbach (.309-0-3), C Dani Edmands (.293-1-6), DP-P Sydney Robey (.286-0-5), CF Kellani Finley (.235-3-13)	
<b>Pitching matchups:</b> <b>Maine</b> — RHP Annie Kennedy (3-3, 2.41 earned run average), RHP Molly Flowers (5-4, 2.58), LHP Erin Bogdanovich (0-3, 7.08); <b>Quinnipiac</b> — RHP Sydney Robey (3-6, 3.38), RHP Casey Herzog (4-6, 3.73), RHP Kendall Brummett (1-0, 5.87)	
<b>Game notes:</b> Both teams have won two of their last three games on their spring trips to Florida. Maine is hitting .302 as a team and has averaged 5.1 runs per game while the Bobcats have had their struggles at the plate, hitting just .238 and averaging only 2.8 runs per game. Quinnipiac graduated its top two hitters, All-MAAC first teamers Nikka Barba and Jordan Paolucci. Czaja has been a pleasant surprise. She hit .107 in limited service last year. The 6-foot-3 Derrick was the America East Rookie of the Week. Flowers has 58 strikeouts in 40 1/3 innings and has surrendered only 23 hits. Sophomore right fielder Erika Leonard has 10 of Maine's 21 stolen bases and she hasn't been caught. Both teams have received important contributions from freshmen as Maine has received a lot of production from Royle, Decker and Derrick while Heimbach has stood out for Quinnipiac.	

straight game falling to 3-8 overall.

### Softball

#### UMF drops two

At Clermont, Florida, Oswego State and St. Lawrence each recorded victories over UMaine-Farmington, 12-2 and 9-5, respectively.

In the first game, Erin Sweeney, homered, doubled and drove in four runs to lead Oswego (4-3). Tori Trovato added three hits and two RBIs and Ashley Lyman slammed a three-run homer.

Kyle Cunningham singled twice and drove in a run for UMF (1-9). Ashley Gleason chipped in with an RBI double and Alison Hamilton had two hits.

Kelsey Murphy doubled, singled and drove in three runs to spark St. Lawrence (5-5) in the second game. Mylea Mann chipped in with a double,

single and two RBIs.

Cunningham recorded three hits and an RBI to lead UMF. Meryl Bond chipped in with a single and a double while Haley Felkel and Tasha Deroche each had two singles.

#### USM splits twinbill

At Winter Garden, Florida, junior Danni Humphrey was 2-for-2 with four RBIs to lead the University of Southern Maine Huskies to a 7-4 win over the Union College Dutchwomen in their second game of the day to salvage a split at the Foundation Academy Fields.

Southern Maine fell 5-4 to the Elmhurst College Bluejays in its first game.

The loss to the Bluejays halted a five-game win streak for USM, but the win over Union lifted USM's record to 8-2. Elmhurst improved to 6-5, while Union fell to 3-6.

## A-Rod

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His every word must be discounted, because he has proven to be at best unreliable, at worst deceitful.

Debate that, then, for the next two years and into eternity. The reality is that it appears unlikely Rodriguez will land in Cooperstown, because the Baseball Writers Association of America, which makes up the electorate, has thus far prevented the entry of Bonds and Roger Clemens and Mark McGwire and others who, though otherwise deserving, have been caught up in PED scandals.

But Rodriguez's case is even more interesting than those because, even from quite a distance, he seemed to care so much of what others thought. His every move seemed orchestrated, driven by ego. There are all kinds of indelible images from his career, but which will you remember more? The fist pump after his 600th home run or the slap at the arm of Red Sox pitcher Bronson Arroyo in Game 6 of the 2004 American League Championship? The celebration of his lone World Series ring with the Yankees in 2009 or Rodriguez staring at his reflection in the mirror, kissing himself, in that vaguely creepy photo shoot for Details magazine?

This is all further complicated by his return from exile last year, which was odd for its quietness and effectiveness. He played in 151 games, so his health wasn't an issue. He hit 33 home runs and posted an on-base-plus-slugging percentage of

.842, so his performance wasn't an issue. He made not a peep, sought no attention beyond helping the Yankees to the playoffs — which they accomplished, despite being quite flawed, with A-Rod's help.

In some ways, it was the strangest campaign of his career. Now, his career has an official expiration date, even though that was predictable because who would sign him beyond that, such a combination of poison and production? He will make \$21 million this summer, \$21 million more next. With 28 more home runs, he will pass Ruth. With 69 more, he would pass Aaron, which seems unlikely.

But how will those milestones be marked, in the Bronx and elsewhere? In 2014, Derek Jeter played his final season for the Yankees and was feted everywhere, the full rocking-chair-into-retirement world tour. The All-Star Game that summer in Minneapolis was a celebration of Jeter's career, which was viewed quite simply: He played the game the right way every single night, made nary a headline off the field (save for dating supermodels), and won. Wrap a bow on that storybook, neat and tidy.

It's nearly impossible to imagine Rodriguez standing at midfield in, say, Boston, receiving congratulations on a fine career from his old nemeses. Maybe in Seattle, where it all started as a teenager? Maybe Texas, where he first became an MVP?

Still, doubtful. Rodriguez will walk away having earned more than \$420 million. He could solicit nearly that many opinions on how he should be remembered.

## Golf

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The memberships vary on a variety of factors. It is \$600 per year for greens fees only; \$800 for greens fees and free access to the 25-tee driving range; \$1,110 for greens fees and a motorized cart and \$1,510 for greens fees, cart and the range.

There are discounts for those over 55 years of age, 18 years old or under, students 19 and over, active or retired military, couples, senior couples and a family of three with further discounts for more than three family members.

There will probably be a slight increase for the use of carts because they have to be repaired.

"I've already ordered all kinds of stuff. We're going to

get them up to par," Morgan said.

She said that any lingering problems with the course will be addressed.

"We'll do what it takes to make things right. We're going to be on top of things," said Morgan.

She speculated that the course will officially open for walkers only the first week of April.

But she also said the back nine, which is the drier of the two nines, is open for play now for a \$10 fee which can be dropped into a bucket on the clubhouse steps.

She said one of her goals this year will be to attract more families and younger golfers.

And she will give it another shot with a different mindset. She won't be trying to drill the ball as hard as she can.

"I'm going to ease into it," she said.

## NCAA

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basket by Arcidiacono and two free throws by Ochefu boosted the margin to 58-44 with 12:43 to play.

The Hurricanes never got closer than 10 points the rest of the way. The Wildcats later scored on seven straight possessions, a run that ended with an Arcidiacono 3-ball that extended their margin to 20, 81-61, with 4:47 remaining.

Arcidiacono set the tone from the outset, leading a Villanova offense that connected on 10 of its first 15 shots. Its defense also was doing the job, forcing six turnovers in the first 10 minutes.

When Arcidiacono drained his second 3-pointer with 11:07 left in the first half, he was personally outscoring the Hurricanes 13-10. That 3-point basket followed his own conventional three-point play which touched off a 10-0 run in which Miami went scoreless for 2 1/2 minutes. Mikal Bridges' layup and Ochefu's dunk finished off the spurt and gave Nova a 24-10 lead with 10:18 remaining.

The Wildcats made it a 15-point game a short time later, 29-14, on Jenkins' 3-pointer with 8:35 left to play in the half. But the Hurricanes swiftly and suddenly got back into the game thanks to four consecutive 3-point baskets on as many possessions within a span of 2:07.