

Piller leads Texas Shootout by 1 Belgrade standout earns All-SEC honors

THE SPORTS XCHANGE

Gerina Piller birdied her final hole and claimed a one-shot lead after two rounds of the suspended Volunteers of America Texas Shootout on Friday in Irving, Texas.

Play was suspended because of inclement weather at approximately 4 p.m. local time. The second round will resume early Saturday for 70 players who were still on the course before the third round begins later in the morning at Las Colinas Country Club.

Pillar, who has not won on the LPGA Tour, finished her round with a 6-under-par 65 and was at 10-under 132. Eun-Hee Ji of South Korea also completed play, shooting a 5-under 66 to get to 9 under after 36 holes.

First-round leader Mi Jung Hur of South Korea made it through 12 holes before the suspension. She was at 3 under for the round and 8 under for the tournament.

Ariya Jutanugarn of Thailand posted a 66 and was alone in fourth at 7 under. Another shot back at 6 under was Amy Yang, who was 3 under on her round through 11 holes.

Piller, who lives nearby in Fort Worth and is married to PGA Tour player Martin Piller, had six birdies and no bogeys and capped her round in impressive fashion, hitting an approach shot on No. 18 to within 2 feet of the hole and tapping in for birdie.

"I mean, the course is actually in soft conditions so that always helps to get the ball to stop," Piller said. "These greens are pretty tricky. So getting it

close is definitely huge out here because the greens, some of them are pretty big, and some of the breaks you can get pretty fast putts going downhill down grain, and you can also get really slow putts going the opposite way. It definitely helps to be hitting it really well."

Ji, the 2009 U.S. Women's Open champion, started slowly with a bogey on her first hole but found her groove and made six birdies.

"Yeah, I was sleeping there," Ji said. "Yeah, I three-putt over there (on her first hole), but the greens are a lot faster than yesterday because I played in the afternoon yesterday. I just figured out with the putting speed. It was better after that."

Jutanugarn overcame three straight bogeys with six birdies and an eagle.

"Focus on all shot by shot," Jutanugarn said of her approach going into the weekend. "Not like thinking about in the future too much."

Brooke Henderson, an 18-year-old who is No. 5 in the women's world rankings, led a group at 5 under after a 68.

"It was a little bit softer after the rain last night and the greens were holding and you were able to be aggressive," Henderson said. "I didn't really take advantage as much as I would have liked, but 3 under is a solid round. I'll have to be better on the weekend."

Also at 5 under were 19-year-old University of Alabama freshman Cheyenne Knight and Sei Young Kim of South Korea. Knight, an amateur, has four holes to play in the second round and Kim has seven left.

Jerebko

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themselves but I felt no pressure," Jerebko said of the Celtics' poor shooting on the night.

Acquired from the Detroit Pistons in February 2015, Jerebko quickly became a key player in the Celtics rotation with his tough defense and ability to come off the bench and spread the floor.

Finally given the chance to start, he finished the season strongly and posted double-doubles in the two home victories that sent the series back to Atlanta, and though he and the Celtics came up short, Jerebko is not too disappointed.

"It feels good, that's how you want to play. That's what I've worked for the whole season. I got to finish the season in the best possible way (as a starter), so that was good."

The Celtics, who have a slew of prime picks to use in the upcoming NBA draft, also have an option to re-sign Jerebko in the summer, and he feels he has shown enough make it worth their while to do so.

"It was a long season with a lot of games, it's been up and down, like every other NBA season. For my part it feels like I've gotten better. I've felt better and better the more I've played," he said.

With Boston's playoff journey at an end, Jerebko's focus now switches to fatherhood, as his partner gave birth to a baby daughter three weeks ago. "I'm going to take some time off and be with the family and take it easy," he said.

A promising season for the Celtics ended with some jekyll-and-hyde performances.

Boston won 48 games during the regular season,



MARK L. BAER | USA TODAY

Boston Celtics forward Jonas Jerebko (8) shoots the ball against Atlanta Hawks center Al Horford (15) during the second half in Game Six of the first round of the NBA Playoffs at TD Garden on Thursday night.

highlighted by a 109-106 win to snap the Golden State Warriors' NBA-record 54-game home winning streak on April 1, and won 19 of their final 22 games at home.

A pair of sluggish starts, including a seven-point first quarter in Game 2 that was the lowest for a playoff team in the shot clock era, did the Celtics in on the road, but they snapped back into form once they returned home for Games 3 and 4.

But in Game 5 in Atlanta, Boston again suffered from a lack of energy and couldn't get its mojo back in Game 6.

"We learned a lot through this playoff series, but one of the things that I learned is we've got to get better," Celtics head coach Brad Stevens said.

Isaiah Thomas had a double-double with 25 points and 10 assists Thursday night to lead Boston. Jae Crowder finished with 15 points.

Boston shot 36.2 percent (34 of 94) Thursday and was held to 38.4 percent (206 of 537) in the series.

Despite their struggles, Thomas hopes he won't be seeing too many new faces in the locker room next year.

"I'll ride with these guys until the wheels fall off," Thomas said. "This was a special group. Hopefully we can all stick together and have something special in the future."

UMaine

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local children and families dealing with cancer at Mahaney Diamond. Before the game, Zak Mills of LaGrange, who has successfully battled bone cancer, will throw out the first pitch.

The donations from UMaine baseball's Vs. Cancer Foundation effort will be split 50-50 between the EMMC children's cancer unit and national research.

Trimper praised Derba for taking the initiative with that project.

"I give a lot of credit to Nick Derba," Trimper said. "He took the lead on the hospital visits and he's been spearheading this."

Fans and supporters can donate by visiting the UMaine team page at the Vs. Cancer website.

UMaine started doing more outreach projects in 2014, when baseball team members formed a leader-

ship council made up of two student-athletes from each class, along with the Black Bear captains.

"They talk about how practices are going, communication between the team and the coaches," Trimper said, "and we also have some initiative programs and team bonding activities that they come up with."

The leadership council set in motion an effort it named "Pitching In," which identified ways the team could make contributions off the field.

Last fall, the UMaine baseball team arrived at the Hampden home of Black Bears fan Linda Mosley. Trimper knew she was in need of assistance with a handful of projects.

"I am on the wrong side of 50, all by myself with the house and the yard," Mosley said. "I work a full-time job and a part-time job, and there are just certain things that are really a struggle."

The Black Bears were eager to put their "Pitching In" skills to good use. They have split and stacked firewood, cleaned out the gutters on the house and even painted the eaves for Mosley.

"It feels good as a player to do something like that and help out the community as much as we can," said UMaine senior Logan Fullmer. "We try and be a presence in the community because they support us, they go to our games."

"For me, it makes a huge difference. That was a huge gift of time [to be able to work on other things]," Mosley said.

Mosley, who calls herself "a pretty good Black Bear athletics supporter," is a longtime fan of UMaine baseball and men's hockey. Her interactions with the baseball players on her home turf have left a lasting impression.

"They're so gracious and they're fun. They're always incredibly polite and personable," Mosley said.

second baseman Zack Grant, with the ball going into center field.

Ireland then reached as Colford was forced out at second, stole second and went to third on a wild pitch before scoring on a passed ball.

Brunswick (1-4) tied the game with a two-out rally in

the top of the third. Bessey lined a single just off the glove of the outstretched Stevenson at shortstop, stole second and scored when Elias Henze blasted a triple to left-center.

Cleanup hitter Josh Goddard then grounded a single up the middle to drive home Henze and make it 2-2.

Deshaies lifts Husson lacrosse into semis

BANGOR — Amanda Deshaies scored on a free position shot with 3:11 remaining on Friday afternoon, lifting fourth-seeded Husson University to a 12-11 victory over No. 5 Green Mountain College in a North Atlantic Conference women's lacrosse quarterfinal at Boucher Field.

Deshaies connected for six goals to propel Husson (7-6) into a Sunday semifinal at No. 1 Castleton University (10-5) in Vermont. Alissa Fallon scored twice and assisted on two goals for the

semifinals of the Ohio Valley regional in singles.

In dual-match play, Hammond played first singles and first doubles throughout the season for the Volunteers and on March 16 was named SEC Player of the Week after scoring ranked-singles victories over No. 21 Andie Dikosavljevic of Auburn and No. 31 Andie Daniell of Alabama, the 2016 SEC Freshman of the Year.

Hammond leads Tennessee in ranked wins with seven in singles and three in doubles

Hammond is ranked 51st in singles and 86th in doubles with junior Eve Repic, according to the latest Intercollegiate Tennis Association national seedings.

With her singles ranking, Hammond is in consideration for the NCAA Singles Championships, which will be held May 25-30 in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

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winners, while Samara Oliver provided two goals and an assist.

Mattie Russell scored once and Theresa Butler added three assists to support Kaitlin Dolloff, who made 12 saves.

Green Mountain College (5-9) of Poultney, Vermont, was paced by four goals from Catie Brewster and three by Maegan Laymon. Rachel Arambu came up with two goals and two assists, Megan Scully had a goal and an assist and Martha Howe scored once.

Chelsea Wimble made six stops for the visitors.

UMaine Capsules

Baseball

MAINE vs. UMASS LOWELL

Time, site: 1 p.m. Saturday (2), 1 p.m. Sunday, Mahaney Diamond, Orono
Records: Maine 12-27 (2-9 America East), UMass Lowell 17-20 (5-10 AE)
Series, last meeting: Maine leads 4-2, UML 10-6 on 4/11/15
Key players: **Maine** — 3B Danny Casals (.308, 3 home runs, 13 runs batted in, 11 stolen bases), LF Colin Ridley (.288-4-24), RF Tyler Schwanz (.277-4-20, 6 SB), 1B Brenden Geary (.258-2-12, 7 SB), CF Brett Chappell (.257-3-16, 5 SB); **UML** — OF Joe Consolmagno (.288-1-19, 10 SB), 1B Steve Passatempo (.261-8-35), OF Chris Sharpe (.221-0-13), 2B Oscar Marchena (.219-0-15)
Pitching matchups: **Maine** — RH Logan Fullmer (2-1, 2.38 earned run average, 50 strikeouts), RH John Arel (0-7, 4.37, 50 K), RH Chris Murphy (0-2, 7.18, 33 K); **UML** — RH Andrew Ryan (3-4, 2.15, 46 K), RH Steve Xirinachs (1-5, 3.25, 25 K), RH Nick Kuzia (2-5, 4.24, 27 K)

Game notes: The Black Bears are badly in need of some confidence and momentum as they sit last in the conference, 2½ games out of fifth place. UMaine continues to be plagued by a lack of offensive punch (.248, 3.7 runs per game) and has lost four of its last five before edging Rhode Island 1-0 in the second game of a Tuesday doubleheader. The River Hawks also have lost four of five, including a 9-4 setback to Harvard on Wednesday. UML, which remains ineligible for the AE tournament during its four-year transition to Division I status, also has struggled offensively with a league-low .231 team batting average. However, the River Hawks are setting the pace with a conference-best 3.50 ERA, having given up only 28 hits in 311 innings.

Softball

MAINE vs. HARTFORD

Time, site: Saturday, noon (2); Sunday 11 a.m.; West Hartford, Connecticut
Records: Maine 20-18 (7-4 America East), Hartford 6-36 (2-9)
Last meeting: Maine 10-0 on 4/26/15
Key players: **Maine** — C Janelle Bouchard (.392-3 home runs-28 runs batted in), LF/C Rachel Harvey (.342-2-14), 3B Maddie Decker (.339-2-17), CF Rachel Carlson (.330-0-14), 3B Meghan Royle (.324-2-10), 3B-RF Alyssa Derrick (.298-7-32), RF Erika Leonard (.294-1-11, 17 stolen bases, 28 runs); **Hartford** — CF Jenice Aloyo (.284-0-4, 14 SBs), RF Peyton Fisher (.271-0-12, 10 SBs), 3B Danielle DeMarco (.256-3-14, 16 runs), P-DH Lexi Wilkerson (.237-0-5), 2B Marisa Ferguson (.227-0-6), SS Kylie Dazalla (.223-0-2), C Sawyer Fried (.217-0-7)

Pitching matchups: **Maine** — LH Erin Bogdanovich (6-4, 3.37 earned run average), RH Molly Flowers (8-10, 2.91, 117 strikeouts in 86½ inns.), RH Annie Kennedy (6-4, 2.75); **Hartford** — RH Bianca Ross (4-14, 4.39), RH Lexi Wilkerson (2-12, 5.87), RH Melissa Pereira (0-3, 4.47)
Game notes: The Black Bears had their hopes of winning the regular-season title and hosting the league tournament all but dashed last weekend when they dropped two of three games at Albany. Maine must win its last six games and get a lot of help to claim the championship. Albany is 9-1 in the conference, Binghamton is 10-2 and Stony Brook is 9-5. Hartford has lost six of its last seven games. Royle was the America East Rookie of the Week, hitting .375 in five games. Maine has won the last five meetings and is 9-6 over the last 15 games. Hartford is hitting just .221 and has scored only 2.1 runs per game. Maine is hitting .303 as a team while averaging five runs per contest.

Stevens

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ing farther back," said Stevens, who also will bunt from the right side from time to time.

She said she almost always steps into the batter's box on the left side unless she finds herself in a situation where it calls for her to try to drive the ball instead of bunting or slapping it.

"Like if the bases are loaded," explained Stevens, who has more power from the right side.

"I prefer to see her swinging away from the right side," said Roberts.

She often will switch from the left to the right side of the plate when she gets two strikes because the bunt is taken out of play.

Stevens also said if she doesn't feel like she's having good at-bats from one side of the plate, she will switch to the

other side.

"It will depend on which side I feel more comfortable hitting at the time," she said.

Stevens said she feels comfortable from both sides of the plate.

"I'm pretty ambidextrous," said Stevens. "I'm right-handed but I shoot left-handed in basketball."

She is working on a couple of other things, too.

Stevens, who is also an outstanding outfielder, is developing a normal swing from the left side which will mean she will stay in the batter's box rather than running up the line and slapping it.

"And I've been trying to push my bunts from the right side farther [past the pitcher]," she said.

Old Town coach Jenn Plourde applauded Stevens' creativity and versatility.

"A lot of players would have a hard time with it," said Plourde. "Everyone has a more prominent eye. Good for her."

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Bangor

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by senior center fielder Will Bessey. The Bates College-bound football standout for the Dragons rapped two dou-

bles and a single and was hit by a pitch in his four plate appearances.

Bangor took a 2-0 lead in the bottom of the second. Kemble drew a leadoff walk, took second on a wild pitch and scored when Colford singled off the glove of Brunswick