

ONLINE SPORTS POLL

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Wednesday, July 27, 2005

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Rain cancels Tuesday JMS races

MCCOOL JUNCTION — Due to two inches of rain and no sunshine the Mini Sprint at Junction Motor Speedway races for July 26 were cancelled. The Midget, Mini Sprint and Modified races for Wed. July 27 are still a go due to a favorable weather forecast.

Cross County Athletic Meeting

STROMSBURG — All Cross County athletes and parents are requested to attend a meeting at the high school at 8 p.m. on August 1, 2005. The meetings objectives will be:

1. Introduce athletes, parents, coaches and administrators.
2. Review athletic liability and sportsmanship issues.
3. Address questions and concerns about school permit/transportation issues. All sports physical examinations need to be current prior to the beginning of the 2005-06 sports season on Monday, August 15.

Please contact your personal medical provider for scheduling information. The current Cross County physical examination forms are available at the local clinics or at the high school office.

Omaha's AHL team names head coach

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Ryan McGill has been named the head coach of the Omaha Ak-Sar-Ben Knights.

Calgary Flames General Manager and head coach Darryl Sutter and the Omaha team's president, Doug Soetaert, made the announcement Tuesday. The American Hockey League team is the farm team for the National Hockey League's Calgary team.

McGill, 36, comes to Omaha after three years as coach of the Hartford Wolf Pack, the New York Ranger's AHL affiliate, where he had a winning percentage of .613.

He has also coached in the Western Hockey League and was a second-round draft choice of the Chicago Blackhawks in the 1987 NHL Draft. He played seven years in the NHL for the Blackhawks, Philadelphia Flyers and Edmonton Oilers. McGill also played in the AHL and International Hockey League.

The team was announced in March. It will play at the Omaha Civic Auditorium this fall.

Hackett warms up for showdown with Phelps

MONTREAL (AP) — Grant Hackett of Australia tuned up for his showdown with Michael Phelps by leading the preliminaries of the 800-meter freestyle Tuesday at the World Swimming Championships.

Hackett, who already won has one gold medal in Montreal, covered 16 laps of the pool in 7 minutes, 47.62 seconds. He was challenged in the heat by American Larsen Jensen, who wound up second-fastest overall at 7:48.89.

Hackett smiled and waved to the sparse morning crowd as he walked off the deck. He didn't even appear winded, leaving him in good shape heading to the evening's much-anticipated matchup against Phelps.

"I was thrilled with that heat swim," Hackett said. "I'm unsure what to expect from myself swimming so many events, but I'm learning how to pace myself. Every race has been hard, but I've put myself in this position and I'm determined to give it my all."

Progress being made on Memorial Stadium renovations

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Completion of a new indoor training facility at Memorial Stadium is the first step toward putting the football program back on the cutting edge, university officials say.

In addition to the practice field, the \$50 million project includes a new football locker room, weight room, sports medicine area, office space and new seats and sky boxes at Memorial Stadium.

Construction is expected to continue through 2006.

However, sports department officials are heralding the completion of the state-of-the-art indoor facility that boasts adjustable lighting and doors that open to two adjoining grass practice fields.

"I thought we were always ahead of the curve, and we got behind the curve," athletic director Steve Pederson said last month. "Now we're playing catch-up fast."

Work continues on the Tom and Nancy Osborne Athletic Complex, the flagship of the project unveiled in 2003 with the fanfare of the "Are You N?" campaign.

Once completed, seating capacity at Memorial Stadium will top 80,000. The new seats and 13 sky boxes being constructed on the top floor of the complex will provide more than \$5 million in additional revenue each year.

That money is needed to pay for what Pederson and others say are long-overdue behind-the-



\$50 million project: Includes new locker room, weight room, sports medicine area and sky boxes.

scenes improvements. The new locker room and weight room, for example, are necessary to compete in recruiting.

Big 12 Conference powers Oklahoma and Texas have spent \$164 million on stadium improvements in recent years.

"And it's not just Oklahoma and Texas that are doing this, it's Oklahoma State and Texas Tech and Missouri that are putting a lot of money into what they're doing right now," Pederson said. "And if you don't take those competitions seriously, you'll be sorry someday."

Outside the conference, California announced in May that \$40 million had been pledged toward a \$200 million project to renovate its football stadium and make improvements to the business and law schools.

At Oregon, the football team's renovated locker room cost more to build than the

school's original stadium. It's two stories with 120 lockers, each with its own ventilation system, outlets for video games and the Internet and a security system that takes a scan of a player's thumbprint.

"They talk about a race in facilities, and there really is," said Boyd Epley, Nebraska's associate athletic director for facility development. "There are some amazing facilities out there."

Pederson visits the construction site at least once a week.

"Every time I go over there, I get more excited about what it's going to be," Pederson said. "It's going to be the kind of facility that will take us to the top echelon of college football."

Women's British Open

It's a teen scene

Teens push Sorenstam from the headlines

By Doug Ferguson
AP SPORTS WRITER

SOUTHPORT, England — Annika Sorenstam has not given up on winning the Grand Slam, for no other reason than she is very determined and very good.

It just won't happen this year. And considering what has transpired since her dream evaporated in the mile high air at the U.S. Women's Open, she might look back at 2005 as the best chance she ever had to capture all four majors.

Morgan Pressel, 17, and Brittany Lang, 19, tied for second that week at Cherry Hills. Michelle Wie, 15, turned in two more captivating performances by nearly making the cut on the PGA Tour and advancing to the quarterfinals of the U.S. Amateur Public Links in her improbable quest to qualify for the Masters.

Paula Creamer, 18, left Sorenstam and everyone else in her wake last week at the Evian Masters to win by eight shots for her second victory this year.

The LPGA Tour was all Annika all the time for the first half of the season.

Now, some of the focus has shifted to girls half her age, and that has given women's golf even more sizzle.

"It doesn't get much better, really," Laura Davies said Tuesday. "It just shows how strong the women's game is now, and it is exciting, because there are so many different characters involved."

The leading role is still played by Sorenstam.

For now, all she can hope for is to win the Women's British Open this week and join the elite company of Pat Bradley (1986), Mickey Wright (1961) and Babe Zaharias (1950) as the only women to win three majors in one season.

"It would be great to bounce back after the



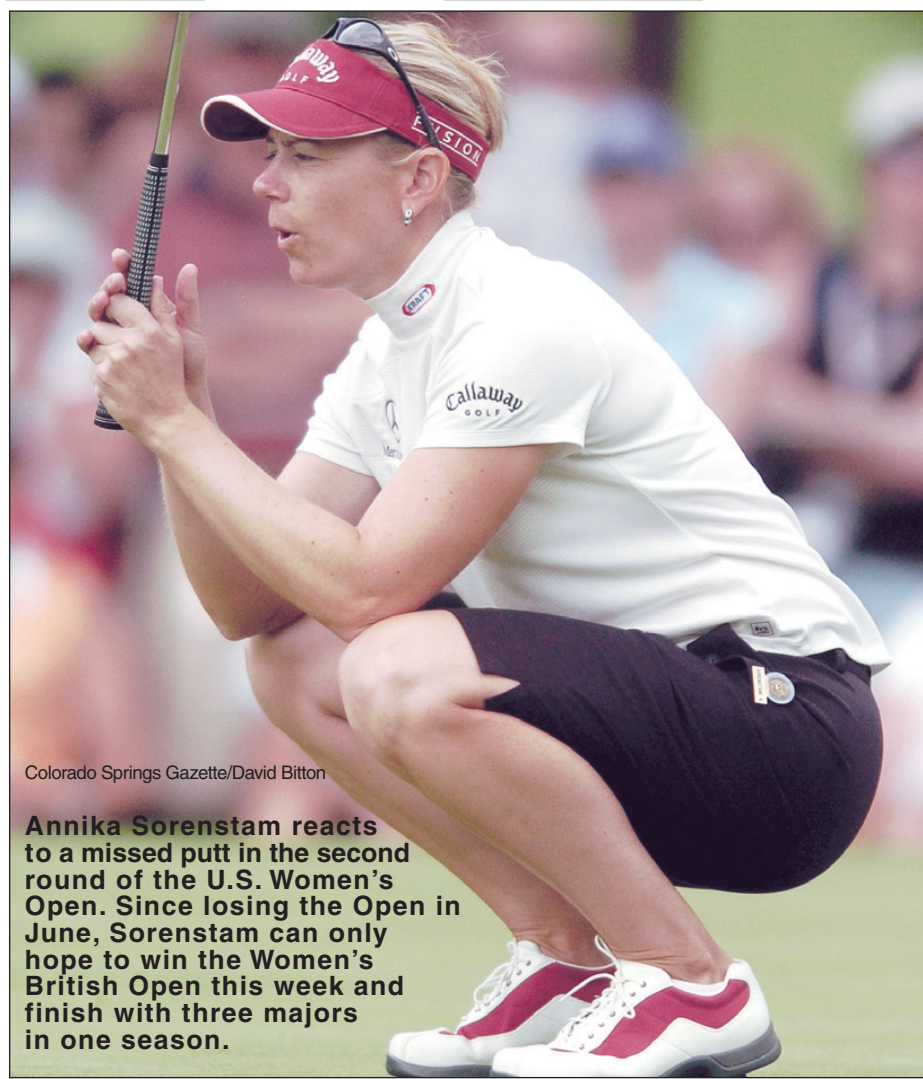
Michelle Wie

15-year-old Wie stole Annika's thunder by nearly making the cut on the PGA Tour and advancing to the quarterfinals of the U.S. Amateur Public Links.



Paula Creamer

18-year-old Creamer made headlines by beating Sorenstam by eight strokes at the Evian Masters for her second victory this year.



Colorado Springs Gazette/David Bitton

Annika Sorenstam reacts to a missed putt in the second round of the U.S. Women's Open. Since losing the Open in June, Sorenstam can only hope to win the Women's British Open this week and finish with three majors in one season.

TURN TO FERGUSON, PAGE 2B

Smith officially inks pact; first-rounders begin to sign

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Alex Smith officially signed with the San Francisco 49ers on Tuesday and other first-rounders began to fall into line as teams prepared to open their training camps.

The former Utah quarterback, the first overall pick in April's draft, put his name on a \$49.25 million deal that could be worth as much as \$57 million with incentives. It includes \$24 million in guaranteed money.

"Now it's time for me to go earn this money and prove that I deserve this money," said Smith, who will try to take the 49ers' starting job from Tim Rattay. "The primary goal is to get on the field. I don't think this team is paying me this money to sit on the sideline."

Smith agreed to terms on Monday with the 49ers. Two players at the bottom of the first round, offensive linemen Logan Mankins of New England and defensive tackle Mike Patterson of Philadelphia, signed deals Monday.

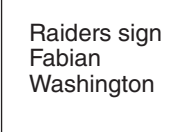
Defensive tackle Luis Castillo agreed to terms with San Diego and cornerback Fabian Washington signed with Oakland. Castillo was the 28th overall choice and Washington was 23rd.

Castillo's deal is potentially worth \$7,035,000, including guaranteed money of \$4,664,000. Washington got a five-year, \$7.8 million contract that calls for about \$5 million for a signing bonus and other guarantees.

The normal procedure at all levels of the draft is that once salaries are determined at a cer-



Page 2B: Chiefs sign three draftees



Raiders sign Fabian Washington

tain level, teams and players in that area reach agreement. Thus, the flurry of first-rounders reaching deals.

But because Smith is a quarterback — salaries for the position tend to be higher than for players at other spots — that makes it a little more difficult to establish criteria for such players as running backs Ronnie Brown of Miami, Cedric Benson of Chicago and Carnell Williams of Tampa Bay. They were the second, fourth and fifth choices in the first round; No. 3 was wide receiver Braylon Edwards of Cleveland, also unsigned.

In other developments Tuesday: Green Bay coach Mike Sherman professed not to be concerned about the potential absence of four starters when training camp opens Friday. "The guys that are here are my focus, not the guys that aren't," Sherman said of possible hold-outs by wide receiver Javon Walker, tight end Bubba Franks and possibly defensive linemen Grady Jackson and Cletidus Hunt.

— St. Louis re-signed veteran guard Tom Nuten, who came out of retirement last year to help the team for whom he start-



Contra Costa Times/Bob Pepping

San Francisco 49ers head coach Mike Nolan, left, and team owner Dr. John York, right, pose with Alex Smith, their first round draft pick, during a press conference on Tuesday, July 26, 2005 in Santa Clara, California.

ed in their Super Bowl-winning season of 1999.

— Jacksonville signed its sixth-round pick, wide receiver-return man Chad Owens.

— Michigan cornerback Marlin Jackson, the Colts' first-round selection, could be close to a deal.

Jackson's agent, Doug Hendrickson, said: "It sounds, from the tone, like they want to get something done and we want to get something done, so we've just got to come together and get a fair deal. I think something will get done."

Indianapolis expects Jackson to start.

— Less optimistic were the Bears concerning top pick

Cedric Benson. The fourth pick in the draft out of Texas, the running back's agent, Eugene Parker, has not spoken with the team since the start of training camp.

"We're certainly on top of this," GM Jerry Angelo said. "We're very motivated to get him into camp. We made a very, very strong offer — something we felt should have gotten it done. Obviously, they didn't think that. We have to respect their side, obviously. We'll just wait and see what the next step is."

— The Cardinals will move their training camp from Flagstaff, Ariz., because of a

TURN TO NFL NOTEBOOK, PAGE 2B

Weekender Outlook 8th Annual Jason C. Barrett Trap Shoot

Tom Boyd returns after surgery to continue his "Weekender Outlook" column...

Sorry you have not heard from me for a while but I was kinda under the weather and really didn't even make it into the outdoors myself, but I'm feeling better now and back at the keyboard.

I had the opportunity to compete in a local trap shoot that is defiantly going into my book as a shoot that I am planning to attend every year from now on.



Tom Boyd

Even if I do not shoot in it I will be there for the food.

This was the 8th Annual Jason C. Barrett Memorial trap shoot held at the Waco trap club. Jason was a trap shooter from the York area and his parents Dan and Evie Barrett host this shoot every year in his honor.

Proceeds from this shoot go into a scholarship fund in Jason's name and Dan and Evie, with the help of York teacher's and counselors, offer a \$500.00 scholarship each year to a York senior.

It was a real honor to see some of the trap shooters that shot with Jason on the York High School team come back to shoot at this memorial event.

Not only did those shooters come back but the Barrett's had a lot of friends, family and fellow trap shooters from the area come to participate and indulge in the food that a lot of the friends had brought.

I really liked the way they set up the self serve line by putting the deserts as the first thing you get to. I personally didn't even make it to the hamburgers before my plate was full.

The Barrett's friends, family and fellow sportsman came all the way from Omaha to Missouri and a shooter from Colorado.

Over 60 total shooters participated in the fun event and here are the winners:

- AA — John Molgaard
- A — Mike Picard
- B — John Martin
- C — Jim Siedhoff
- D — Cole Anderson
- Lady — Sara Voboril
- Junior — Cole Pearson
- 4H — Clinton Brahmstead

Page 7: Winners of each category pictured on page 7.

I also need to make a note of a tournament with in a tournament that was going on between a few of the shooters — and I was informed that this has been going on for a few years — that the shooter in this bunch gets to have his head shaved by the shooter that shoots the highest score.

Well this year Don Novak didn't fair too well and got to have his head shaved by his son Dustin.

Wait till next year Don.

Till next time, get out there and enjoy God's Country.