

Briefs

AP, Daily News

Emperors blank Hot Rods 3-0

Mac Horvath extended his on-base streak to 16 games, but the Bowling Green Hot Rods’ offense was held quiet in a 3-0 loss to the Rome Emperors in South Atlantic League action Tuesday at Advent Health Stadium in Rome, Georgia.

The Emperors (33-41 overall, 4-5 second half) plated the first run of the game in the bottom of the first inning against Hot Rods starting pitcher Gary Gill Hill. Patrick Clohisy singled and stole second. Mason Guerra singled to right, scoring Clohisy, giving the Emperors a 1-0 lead.

Rome added to its lead in the bottom of the fifth inning against Gill Hill. Lizandro Espinoza worked a one-out walk, and Clohisy put runners on first and second with a bunt single. Will Verdung doubled, scoring Espinoza, making it 2-0 Rome.

Another run came around to score for the Emperors in the bottom of the seventh inning against Hot Rods reliever Drew Dowd. Clohisy collected a one-out double and stole third base. Mason Guerra grounded into a fielder’s choice, and Clohisy was safe on the play at the plate, increasing the Rome lead to 3-0.

The offense was slow to pick up for Bowling Green (40-34, 6-4) and couldn’t muster any offense the rest of the way, ending in a 3-0 Rome victory.

Logan Samuels (1-2) earned the win, going three scoreless innings, allowing just one hit and one walk while striking out two batters. Gill Hill (3-6) was given the loss, tossing 5 2/3 innings, surrendering two runs on nine hits, walking three and striking out four. Rome’s Ryan Bourassa picked up the save, pitching 1 1/3 scoreless innings, giving up one hit while striking out one.

Harris wins division at BGT Combo

Bowling Green’s Rowdy Harris won the boys’ 12-14-year-old division of the Blue Grass Tour Combo two-day event at Park Mammoth and Willow Oaks Golf Club.

Harris finished with a two-day score of 8-under par 133 to finish 16 shots ahead of Bowling Green’s Paxton Fuqua.

Bowling Green’s Caroline Fuqua claimed the 12 and under (9-hole) division finishing with a two-day score of 3-over 73. Bowling Green’s Ally Jean Stephens was second, eight shots back.

Bowling Green’s Eli Wade finished second in the boys’ 15-18-year old division with an even-par 141. Wade finished four shots behind division winner Noah Rager from Elkton.

Red Wings legend Delvecchio dies

DETROIT – Alex Delvecchio, a member of the Hockey Hall of Fame who helped the Detroit Red Wings win the Stanley Cup three times in the 1950s, has died. He was 93.

Delvecchio died at his home in Rochester, Michigan, according to a Red Wings spokesperson. A cause of death was not immediately available, though his family said in a statement released by the team that Delvecchio died peacefully Tuesday surrounded by loved ones.

Delvecchio spent his entire NHL career with the Red Wings from 1951-73, recording 1,325 points in 1,671 regular-season and playoff games.

Inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1977, Delvecchio decades later was named one of the 100 greatest players in league history.

NHL

Marner looks forward to fitting into the family culture of Vegas

By W.G. RAMIREZ
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS – Family. Winning. Culture. All three have become synonymous with the Vegas Golden Knights through their first eight years in the NHL.

They matched the attributes on Mitch Marner’s list and why he agreed to a sign-and-trade from Toronto to Vegas, ultimately leaving the organization that drafted him fourth overall in 2015, two years before the Knights entered the league.

“Obviously, the winning regimen they’ve put up through the last five years, really since they’ve been in the league,” Marner said during his introductory news conference Tuesday. “The living arrangements from talking to (Max) Pacioretty and Reavo (Ryan Reaves) just through the last couple weeks, it seemed like every-

thing was a pretty good fit for my wife and I and our new son.

“And you know, the great players they have here. It’s where we wanted to be.”

Of course, a \$96 million contract for a maximum of eight years didn’t hurt, either.

Both Marner and Vegas general manager Kelly McCrimmon said it was important to get the deal done before July 1, when Marner would have been eligible to go anywhere else and would have been the most sought-after player beginning at noon EDT.

“This was a spot that was very high on my list,” said Marner, with his wife Stephanie and 3-month-old son Miles in the front row, along with his parents, Paul and Bonnie. “We wanted to come here and went back to my agent and said I’m open to doing this if we can find a way to do it. A couple hours

later Kelly called me and said we got a deal going on.

“We thought about going to free agency, but this is the place we want to be. We didn’t want to lose that opportunity. And we want to join this hockey team.”

Marner joins Vegas’ talented and successful core of Mark Stone, Jack Eichel, William Karlsson, Shea Theodore and Adin Hill, which has made the playoffs three years in a row under coach Bruce Cassidy, including winning the Stanley Cup in 2023.

“You want to be in a place where you want to win,” Marner said. “That’s the whole goal of why we do this, you want to hoist that Stanley Cup. This team has shown that they can do it. I’m lucky enough now to hopefully bring another piece in to help bring it back here.”

The deal for Marner opened up after Vegas

announced veteran defenseman Alex Pietrangelo was stepping away from hockey because his hip injury would require bilateral femur reconstruction that McCrimmon said had “no guarantee of success.” Pietrangelo going on long-term injured reserve in part paves the way for the Golden Knights to fit Marner in under the salary cap.

McCrimmon said Tuesday he doesn’t believe Pietrangelo will ever play hockey again.

Marner, however, has plenty to offer the Knights, as the two-time All-Star winger leaves the Maple Leafs as their fifth-highest scorer in franchise history at 741 points in the regular season on 221 goals (14th) and 520 assists (fourth).

The 28-year-old’s 521 assists since his rookie season (2016-17) ranks fifth in the NHL, while he ranks eighth with 741 points.

WNBA

Cunningham no fan of adding teams in Cleveland and Detroit

By The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS – On Monday, the WNBA announced its plans to add three more expansion teams by 2030.

On Tuesday, a prominent player questioned the league’s choice of markets.

Indiana guard Sophie Cunningham raised her concerns during the shootaround before the Fever’s 74-59 victory over the Minnesota Lynx in the WNBA Commissioner’s Cup final.

The league already had plans to add franchises in Toronto and Portland next

season. The three new teams will play in Cleveland (2028), Detroit (2029) and Philadelphia (2030), giving the league 18 teams.

Cunningham, a seven-year veteran who spent her first six years in Phoenix, expressed skepticism over the latest choices, two of which – Cleveland and Detroit – have already seen WNBA franchises come and go.

“You want to listen to your players, too. Where do they want to play? Where are they going to get excited to play and draw fans? I do think that Miami would have been

a great (location). Nashville is an amazing city. Kansas City, amazing opportunity,” said Cunningham, who played in college at Missouri.

“I’m not so sure what the thought process is there, but at the end of the day, you want to make sure that you’re not expanding our league too fast. I think that that’s also another thing. It’s kind of a hard decision-making situation. But man, I don’t know how excited people are to be going to Detroit or (Cleveland).”

Cunningham scored 13 points to help the Fever, who were missing star Caitlin

Clark because of a groin injury, beat the league-best Lynx. She did not speak to reporters after the game.

All five expansion franchises will play in markets with NBA teams, and Fever coach Stephanie White said she sees that as an advantage.

“I think it’s a positive thing,” White said. “Having built-in fan bases, shared expenses ... and the way that we’re filling NBA arenas. We are at a point where we’re outgrowing some of the smaller, independent ones, and opportunities to play in those arenas is big-time.”

From Page 1B

NBA

\$48 million contract and the Heat will receive wing Simone Fontecchio in what will be a sign-and-trade.

Robinson started his college career at Division III’s Williams in Massachusetts, before finishing at Michigan. He was an undrafted success story with the Heat, part of the 2020 and 2023 teams that went to the NBA Finals.

SCHRÖDER TO KINGS

Veteran point guard and German Olympic teamer Dennis Schröder has agreed to join the Sacramento Kings on a three-year deal, the third of which is not fully guaranteed, a person with knowledge of that agreement said Tuesday. ESPN reported the total value of the deal is \$45 million.

Schröder, who is entering his 13th NBA season, is joining his 10th club – and ninth in the last seven years. He spent the first five seasons of his career with Atlanta, then was with Oklahoma City, the Los Angeles Lakers (twice), Boston, Houston, Toronto, Brooklyn, Golden State and Detroit at various times over the past seven seasons.

He has averaged 13.9 points and 4.9 assists in 849 regular-season games.

TIM HARDAWAY JR. JOINING NUGGETS

Sharpshooting wing Tim Hardaway Jr. will be signing a one-year contract with the Denver Nuggets, a person familiar with the player’s plans said Tuesday.

Hardaway spent last season with Detroit – he averaged 11 points in 77 games as a starter for the Pistons – and Denver becomes his fifth club. He also has been with Dallas, New York and Atlanta.

POELTL REMAINS WITH RAPTORS

Center Jakob Poeltl gets a raise and some job security in a contract extension that keeps him with the Toronto Raptors, a person familiar with that agreement confirmed Tuesday. Poeltl will be finalizing a four-year deal worth about \$26 million per year, or about \$7 million more on average than what he was in line to make this coming season.

Poeltl – a career 63% shooter – is coming off a season in which he averaged career bests of 14.5 points and 9.6 rebounds.

GORDON STAYS WITH 76ERS

Philadelphia announced Tuesday night that guard Eric Gordon has re-signed with the team. Because it’s a veteran minimum contract, there was no need for the 76ers to wait until the offseason moratorium is lifted Sunday to announce the deal.

“Eric is a prolific shot maker whose ability to space the floor will serve our rotation well. He’s been a great fit on and off the court with this organization and we’re fortunate to have him back,” 76ers basketball operations president Daryl Morey said.

Gordon averaged 6.8 points in 39 games for Philadelphia this past season. He is entering his 18th NBA season.

From Page 1B

GAUFF

to tell me (is): ‘You did well at Roland-Garros. Don’t be so upset.’ Things like that.”

But as much as she’ll want to move on and focus on what’s to come, the 21-year-old American acknowledged as she dabbed away the tears welling in her eyes during her news conference that she felt “a little bit disappointed in how I showed up today.”

It’s instructive to remember – setting aside that captivating 2019 debut, which featured a victory over Venus Williams – that Wimbledon’s grass courts actually have produced Gauff’s least successful Grand Slam results.

Yastremska’s take? She said she considers Gauff “much better on clay court and hard court than on grass.”

This was the second time in the past three years that she was sent home in the opening round. She’s never been past the fourth round at the All England Club, whereas at every other major tournament, including the hard-court Australian Open, she’s at least reached the semifinals.

Her first Slam trophy arrived on the hard courts of the U.S. Open in 2023 when she was 19. She already was the 2022 runner-up on the red clay at the French Open before going one step better this time.

Sabalenka’s self-described “unprofessional” comments after last month’s title match in Paris became a real topic of conversation and, perhaps, a distraction.

From Page 1B

SABALENKA

On Wednesday, the record-breaking heat of the first two days gave way to rain that delayed the start of play on smaller courts for about two hours, along with temperatures that dropped from above 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 Celsius) to below 68 F (20 C).

At Centre Court, the 48th-ranked Bouzkova went ahead 6-5 in the first set with the match’s initial

service break thanks to a double-fault by Sabalenka. Bouzkova served for that set, and was two points away from it at 30-15 in that game, again at 30-all, then once more at deuce.

But on the last such occasion, Sabalenka came through with a forehand volley winner she punctuated with a yell, followed by a down-the-line backhand winner that was accompanied by another shout.

“That was a tough moment,” said Sabalenka, who will face 2021 U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu

or 2023 Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondrousova next. “Until that point, (my) return wasn’t great enough to break her serve. I’m really glad ... everything clicked together and I was able to break her back. I kind of like felt a little bit better.”

That sent them to a tiebreaker, and from 4-all there, Sabalenka took the next three points, ending the set with a powerful forehand return winner off a 67 mph second serve. In the second set, the only break arrived for a 3-2 lead for Sabalenka, and that was basically that.

Sabalenka compiled a 41-17 edge in winners while making only 18 unforced errors in a match that lasted a little more than 1 1/2 hours.

What else happened Wednesday at Wimbledon?

Australian Open champion Madison Keys, who is seeded sixth, joined Sabalenka in the third round, beating Olga Danilovic 6-4, 6-2. Other players in action later included 2024 runner-up Jasmine Paolini among the women and two-time defending champion Carlos Alcaraz, Taylor Fritz, Frances Tiafoe among the men.



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH / AP

Coco Gauff reacts during Tuesday’s first round women’s single match against Dayana Yastremska at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London.

– and a reason that woman was Serena Williams.

By the end of the night, Gauff was eager to look ahead to the upcoming North American hard-court circuit, culminating with a trip to New York in late August.

“I mean, obviously I’m not going to dwell on this too long, because I want to do well at the U.S. Open. Maybe losing here (in the) first round isn’t the worst thing in the world,” she said, “because I have time to reset.”