

World Cup: Dutch Leader Robben Won't Mind Winning Ugly

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Arjen Robben doesn't really care how the Netherlands beats Spain on Sunday as long as he can lift the trophy.

"I'd rather play an extremely ugly game and win, instead of a beautiful one and lose," Robben said.

Winning ugly is fine, especially after what happened on June 5.

In a warm-up match against Hungary, he tried a delicate back-heel flick, a flash of flair for which the Dutch are famous. He flinched in pain and fell to the ground with a left hamstring injury.

Suddenly it seemed the Netherlands had lost one of its best players less than a week ahead of the World Cup opener. Tender hamstrings are notoriously difficult to recover from in a short span.

"If you would have told me then what would happen here, I simply would not

have believed it," Robben said heading to the final.

The Dutch squad even left for South Africa without him because medical tests still needed to show he was fit to play.

On Friday, just over a month later, he was nominated for the World Cup Golden Ball for the best player of the tournament. This despite starting in only three of the six Dutch games and playing only 267 of a possible 540 minutes. He completed his first full training session only three weeks ago.

Yet in less than half the possible playing time, he has become a star of the World Cup.

Without Robben, the Dutch forward line was in trouble as the team struggled despite getting early wins. Robben's first touch of the ball came in the last group game against Cameroon in the 73rd

minute. It took him only 10 minutes to make a difference.

With his trademark move that also highlighted his season at Bayern Munich, he cut inside, beat defenders and curled a long-range drive that hit goalpost, allowing Klaas Jan Huntelaar to easily poke in the rebound.

The Netherlands won 2-1, and Robben's World Cup was launched.

Robben was voted man of the match and scored his first goal in the second-round 2-1 win over Slovakia. His toughest challenge came against Brazil, when defenders Juan and Michel Bastos denied him the space to cut inside and move the ball to his left foot.

It was a momentary blip. Robben was essential again in Tuesday's semifinal. Leaning far back to receive a cross from

Dirk Kuyt, he still managed enough power and precision to head it into the low corner of the net in a 3-2 victory over Uruguay.

Robben is known for his left foot, not his headers.

"My hidden talents are perhaps starting to show," he told the Dutch official supporters website.

He still is struggling with his hamstring. "I am not yet at my peak, but that is because, every now and then, I still feel pain," Robben said. "I can play, but it is just that I still play with pain."

"It is getting better, but it has not been ideal."

It has not stopped coach Bert van Marwijk from relying heavily on the winger. Robben is, after all, a born winner.

He already won league titles with PSV Eindhoven, Chelsea and Real Madrid

before winning the Bundesliga title and German Cup with Bayern Munich this year. He also helped the German club to the Champions League final with a series of spectacular goals. The only blemish on a great season was the loss to Inter Milan in the final.

Robben does not want to lose a second final, and he now gladly embraces the win-at-all-cost mentality that the Dutch generation of Johan Cruyff in the 1970s rejected so vehemently.

The great Netherlands teams of the '70s reached two finals, losing both.

"In the past, we heard often enough how beautiful it was, but there was no pay-back. So far, it has produced," Robben said of the Dutch "result football."

"We have yet to show our most beautiful football. But we have always been able to fall back on a good organization."

BALL

From Page 7A

Grey Sox 6, Wagner 5

Alex Rehurek singled home Dustin Hopper with the game-winning run in the seventh and the Yankton Grey Sox beat Wagner 6-5 on Friday afternoon.

Each team traded big innings early in the game, as Wagner scored four runs in the first and Yankton plated four in the third.

Evan Schroeder picked up the win, and also singled twice and scored twice.

Dakota Valley 10, Wagner 6

Thanks to a six-run bottom of the sixth inning, Dakota Valley rallied past Wagner 10-6

on Friday night.

Justin Peterson, Evan Steemiken and Mike Rennerfeldt all scored two runs, while Rennerfeldt picked up the win in relief of Steemiken.

For Wagner, which cut the eventual deficit with three runs in the seventh, Derek Dickerson took the loss. He also tripled. Chris Kucza scored twice.

Black Sox 10, Dakota Valley 2

Zach Benjamin struck out 11 batters in five innings as the Yankton CorTrust Black Sox won their second game of the day, 10-2 against Dakota Valley in Friday's final game.

Benjamin also doubled twice and had an RBI for Yankton, while Chris Kanaly had two hits and two RBI. Alex Mueller had two hits and scored twice, and Alex Wagner tripled.

Tom Binder and Rob Schmitt both added a hit and scored a run.



LEFT: Yankton CorTrust Black Sox runner Dustin Hopper (8) slides into second base during Friday morning's game against Vermillion. (Clay Stoddard/P&D). ABOVE: Dakota Valley pitcher Even Steemiken delivers to home plate in the first inning of Friday night's game against Wagner. (Jeremy Hoek/P&D)



NBA: T'Wolves' Transformation Moves Forward With Beasley

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — When David Kahn sat down on Thursday night to watch LeBron James announce his decision, he wasn't waiting to hear the Minnesota Timberwolves' name called.

Kahn was simply waiting to hear ANY team name called. Like much of the rest of the league, the Timberwolves were essentially handcuffed from continuing their offseason renovations until King James decided what city would win the bid for "his talents."

Once the decision came down, Kahn said, the rest of the dominoes would begin to fall. It didn't take long for him to be proven right.

Less than two hours after James said he was going to the Miami Heat, the Wolves agreed to send a second-round pick to the Heat for Michael Beasley, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press. The person requested anonymity because the deal has not been officially announced.

Kahn declined to comment about the trade Friday because NBA rules prohibit teams from discussing deals before the league has approved them, but that didn't stop several Timberwolves players from eagerly anticipating Beasley's arrival.

"That's a great pickup," point guard Jonny Flynn said.

Beasley was the No. 2 overall draft choice in 2008 and averaged 14.8 points and 6.4 rebounds last season for the Heat. His disappointing stint in Miami featured off-the-court distractions, including getting kicked out of the NBA rookie symposium, being fined for breaking rules and receiving substance-abuse treatment at a facility in Houston.

"He's so misunderstood. I think his demeanor and the way he is as a person, a lot of people think he doesn't care about basketball," Flynn said. "But that's just the way he is. A lot of things

he went through growing up, a hard lifestyle, can shape a person in different ways. A lot of people just misunderstand Mike and I'm happy he's a teammate."

The Timberwolves like Beasley's athleticism and versatility, and he could play some small forward as well.

"He's an animal," said Wolves rookie Wes Johnson, who played against Beasley in college.

It's the first of many moves that could be on the horizon for a team that won just 15 games last season and needs to show a disenchanted fan base that it is making an effort to quickly get things turned around.

Suddenly the Timberwolves have a logjam at power forward, with Beasley, Al Jefferson and Kevin Love in line to play next to centers Darko Milicic and Nikola Pekovic, who have agreed to deals to join the team.

Kahn has been open about his consideration of trading Jefferson, the main cog the team received in a seven-for-one trade with Boston that sent Kevin Garnett to the Celtics in 2008.

Jefferson was once considered the keystone for the team's post-Garnett rebuild, but Kahn and coach Kurt Rambis were not around when that plan was hatched. They want to run a faster, more up-tempo style and don't think Jefferson's back-to-the-basket, half-court game meshes as well as it did here in the past.

Jefferson will make \$13 million this year, which means the team could get a solid piece in return for shipping out one of the best low-post offensive players in the league.

"This time of year, everybody on our roster is open for discussion," Kahn said earlier this week.

The players know it, too.

"Around this time of year there's a lot of rumors and you don't know what's true or not true," Flynn said. "All you can do is come in and keep working hard and continue to get better."

Golf: Defending Champ Leads Deere Classic By One Shot

SILVIS, Ill. (AP) — As he chatted about his day at the John Deere Classic, Steve Stricker was reminded that he now held the tournament's 36-hole record.

"So far," he said with a smile. Stricker had good reason to be cautious because Paul Goydos, who had sent a buzz through the golf world by shooting only the fourth 59 in PGA Tour history on Thursday, was just starting his round.

But the deft putting touch that had put Goydos in golf's most exclusive club deserted him Friday and he settled for a 68, leaving him one stroke behind Stricker, the defending champion, heading into Saturday's third round.

"Reality kicked in today,"

Goydos said.

Stricker, who almost matched Goydos with a 60 in Thursday's round, came back with a solid 5-under par 66 for a two-day total of 126, which is 16 under at the TPC Deere Run. The old 36-hole record was 127 by David Frost in 2000, the first year the tournament was played at Deere Run.

Showing no ill-effects from a shoulder injury that sidelined him for six weeks earlier this year, Stricker overcame a bogey on his fifth hole with accurate approaches that left him with makeable birdie putts.

"It's always tough to follow up a good round with another good round and for whatever reason, I thought I did a pretty good job of that today," Stricker said.

Goydos appeared to be on his way to another sizzling round when he birdied his 11th hole, the par-5 No. 2, to go 17 under and move ahead of Stricker by a stroke. Then his game unraveled. He failed to break par on any of the last seven holes and bogeyed two of them. After needing only 22 putts on Thursday, he slugged through this round with 32, essentially the difference in his scores.

Women's Open

OAKMONT, Pa. (AP) — Heavy rain that began with 100 of the 156 golfers still to begin or complete the second round caused play to be suspended Friday at the U.S. Women's Open.

Play is scheduled to resume at 7:30 a.m. Saturday at Oakmont Country Club, with the third round to begin with threesomes teeing off at 2:30 p.m.

Normally, golfers play in pairs the first two rounds.

Sophie Gustafson was the leader on the course at even par when play was halted, but she had completed only one hole of the second round.

Cristie Kerr, coming off her 12-stroke victory in the LPGA Championship two weeks ago, and first-round leader Brittany Lang were the clubhouse leaders at 1-over 143. Kerr shot an even-par 71 on Friday and Lang followed her opening-round 69 with a 3-over 74.

Scottish Open

LUSS, Scotland (AP) — Darren Clarke was nearly flawless in miserable conditions in the Scottish Open, opening a four-shot lead on a dreary Friday at Loch Lomond.

Clarke chipped in for birdie on the tough 16th and holed a series of 20-foot birdie putts on the front nine for a 4-under 67.

Perhaps more impressive than being at 10-under 132 going into the weekend is that Clarke has made only one bogey — a three-putt from 20 feet on the par-3 11th hole on Friday.

LEE

From Page 7A

place to be, and they got that without me having anything to do with it."

Texas went into Friday night 5 1/2 games ahead of the Los Angeles Angels in the AL West, the largest lead in any of baseball's six divisions. The Angels have won five of the last six AL West titles.

"It won't be fun to face Cliff Lee like that, but we'll do what we have to do," Angels center fielder Torii Hunter said.

Smoak is considered one of the top prospects in the majors, though the switch-hitter batted only .209 with eight homers and 34 RBIs in 70 games for the Rangers this season. Seattle also obtained right-handers Blake Beavan and Josh Lueke, and

"We got the best pitcher on the market. He'll add to what we already do, which is to play hard."

— RANGERS INFIELDER MICHAEL YOUNG

infielder Matt Lawson.

The Mariners were expected to contend for the AL West title this season but quickly fell off the pace. They had lost four straight going into Friday night and were 16 games out.

"It was a pleasure to have (Lee) here. We all wish things would have gone a little better," Seattle GM Jack Zduriencik said. "We felt we were at the point where something had to be done for the long-term good of the organization."

Seattle's problems made Lee one of the biggest commodities available, and about a dozen teams were believed to have inquired about the pitcher.

"We got the best pitcher on

"They're trying to make a real run, huh? They're not playing around," Oakland outfielder Rajai Davis said.

Also leaving Seattle is Lowe, who went to college only a few miles from Rangers Ballpark at Texas-Arlington. He has been one of the Mariners' most consistent relievers in recent seasons but likely is out for the year following back surgery last month.

Smoak and Beavan are the big pieces headed to Seattle. Smoak was the Rangers' No. 1 draft pick in 2008 and Beavan was their top selection a year earlier. Beavan was 10-5 with a 2.78 ERA in 110 innings for Double-A Frisco this season.

"(Lee) is a great pitcher. They want to take it to the next level here," Smoak said. "It's tough, being new to this business. You think you're going to be on a team for a while and then things change overnight."

Fan Appreciation Night
Monday, July 12th
Riverside Park
Yankton Tappers vs. Wynot Expos
 Game starts at 7:30pm **FREE Hot Dogs & Beverages**

www.smilesforsioxland.com

Vermillion/Brower Dental Health
 Josh Brower DDS
 Gary Prosser DDS
 605-624-8695 or 712-548-4615
 Accepting New Patients & Late Appointments Available

FREE Braces Exam
 Includes Orthodontic Exam, X-rays, and Consultation
\$99 per month braces

FREE Wisdom Teeth Consultation
 Includes necessary x-rays. We answer your questions. I.V. sedation in office available. Same day tooth removal!

Dental Implants
 Placing and restoring implants for use in the same day! Implants under \$1,000.
Free Consultations!

309 W. 11th Street • Yankton, SD 57078
 800-249-3837 • 605-668-2168
www.tkplaceyankton.com

the Kitchen Place

- Kitchens
- Baths
- Office & more

SHOWPLACE Wood Products