

Golf | U.S. Senior Open

Allen’s 63 Gives Him Five-Shot Lead

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Michael Allen raised his arms and looked skyward.

The long, hard-breaking eagle putt that defined his round of 7-under 63 Friday had just finished its uphill journey to the back of the cup on the 14th hole.

“The miracle shot,” he called it.

Allen said he wanted to lag the ball to within 10 feet. That it went in was a bonus.

“It wasn’t about me,” he said. “Obviously, something else happened. What do you say? The Lord did it or whatever. It was nice it went in, and it was kind of out of my control.”

Just about everything else went right for the 54-year-old Allen, too. His best round of the year put him at 10 under

after the second round of the U.S. Senior Open and allowed him to break away from the pack for a five-stroke lead.

The cushion was the largest after 36 holes in the tournament’s 34-year history.

“Man, oh, man. The biggest lead?” Allen said with a smile. “So I can blow the biggest lead. Is that what you’re telling me?”

Rocco Mediate was Allen’s closest pursuer after he shot a bogey-free, 3-under 67. Jeff Sluman also had a 67 and was another shot back.

“We’ve got to go out and get him,” Mediate said. “He ain’t going to come back, more than likely.”

Allen started the day sharing the lead with six other players. He birdied five of the first eight holes and went out

in 30 in hot, breezy conditions at the Omaha Country Club. He hit a rough patch after he made the turn, chunking a ball in the long grass on No. 12, but everything was right after he went birdie-eagle on Nos. 13 and 14.

Allen was short with his birdie putt on the last hole, ending his bid to match the U.S. Senior Open record of 62 by Loren Roberts at Prairie Dunes in 2006. His two-round total of 130 was lowest in tournament history.

“You kind of look at the way things have gone so far,” Allen said. “I’ve chipped in a couple times. I’ve played some bad shots and kind of gotten away without killing myself. There’s too far to go, though. Hopefully, in the end,

it’s predestined, but I’ve got a long way to go. Only halfway there.”

Allen never won in 394 starts on the regular tour, but he has four victories since joining the Champions Tour four years ago, including the 2009 Senior PGA Championship.

He had top-10 finishes in the U.S. Senior Open in 2010-11 and tied for 33rd last year. His game has been on the upswing lately. He won the Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic in March and came to Omaha with three top-10 finishes in his last four events.

It looked as if Allen and Mediate would match birdies early. Mediate had three in four holes to start the afternoon and took a brief lead.

But Allen, playing in the

group behind him, went on a tear. He hit every green in regulation and made the turn with a 3-shot lead.

Allen’s strength is his irons, and he was hitting them pure on the front nine, seemingly oblivious to the southerly winds gusting to 25 mph and the course’s elevation changes.

The most impressive of his six birdies came on the 477-yard eighth hole, which has been playing as the toughest on the course. He hit a 210-yard 4-iron to 15 feet, then raised his right hand and gave a quick thumbs-up after his straight putt dropped into the cup.

His eagle came after he hit driver-hybrid to the bottom shelf of the two-tiered 14th green. With his long putter

anchored to his chest, there was no threat of Allen coming up short on the putt that measured 50-60 feet.

The ball went up the ridge and broke about 20 feet to the left before it hit the back of the cup, popped up and dropped in.

“I could hit that putt 100 times and not get it within 5 feet, I guarantee you,” Allen said. “So I hit a good putt. I did what I was trying to do, but then it went in. It’s one of those days, things were going right, and that was one of the things that really went right.”

Defending champion Roger Chapman was among the players who missed the cut. He followed his first-round 74 with a 76.

“Just played rubbish, that was it,” he said.

Lightning 1-1 On Opening Day

SIOUX FALLS — The Yankton Lightning went 1-1 on the opening day of the South Dakota ASA Girls’ Fastpitch Tournament, which began on Friday at Sioux Falls’ Sherman and Harmodon Park.

The Lightning will play either the Rage or the South Dakota Flash in an elimination game at 6:30 p.m.

The Yankton Spitfire, competing in the 18-under ‘A’ Division, played a late game on Friday night.

The Yankton Fury, competing in the 10-under ‘B’ Division, open play at 8 a.m. today against the Fusion Crush.

Play continues through Sunday at Sherman and Harmodon Parks in Sioux Falls. Championship games are set for 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, with “if” games to follow.

BROOKINGS OUTLAWS 13, LIGHTNING 3: Jaclyn Arens had a triple, a single and a RBI to lead Yankton. Heather Hauer also had two hits. Abby Bartlett posted a double and a RBI. Bailey Kortan added a hit for the Lightning.

LIGHTNING 7, S.F. RUSH 0: Four different Yankton players had two or more hits as the Lightning blanked the S.F. Rush 7-0 in opening round action.

Brynn Albers had a team-high three hits, and Kalyn Peterka had a double, a single and a RBI for Yankton. Sophie Drotzmann and Bailey Kortan had two hits each. Morgan Rothschadl had a hit and two RBI, Heather Hauer had a hit and a RBI, and Madison Dangler added a hit in the victory.

Jaclyn Arens picked up the win, striking out four.

Puig & Pirates, Homer & Harper Highlight First Half

NEW YORK (AP) — Just for fun, let’s turn back the baseball clock a few months.

A well-rested Stephen Strasburg and the Washington Nationals are destined to face Josh Hamilton and the Los Angeles Angels in the World Series. The Houston Astros have the best record in baseball. Manny Ramirez is playing in Taiwan. And no one is quite sure how to pronounce the name of this Puig guy.

Well, a few things are still the same: Homer Bailey remains the last guy to throw a no-hitter, Miguel Cabrera swings the most devastating bat in the majors and, well, the drug cloud isn’t going away anytime soon.

As the All-Star game approaches next week at Citi Field, a look at the first half of the season:

EXTRA! EXTRA!: By the time Matt Harvey and the New York Mets let the hovering seagulls take over AT&T Park well past midnight, they were wiped out. This week’s win at San Francisco took 16 innings — the Mets already had lost a 20-inning game and a pair of 15-inning contests.

“I’ve never heard of anything like this. It’s unbelievable,” manager Terry Collins said. “At least we’re used to it.”

All over, fans are getting way more than their money’s worth. Going into this weekend, 19 games had lasted at least 14 innings; there were a total of 20 last year, according to STATS.

“Is a lunar eclipse coming?” Oakland outfielder Josh Reddick wondered. “I have no idea. Probably more of a coincidence than anything. That’s how the game goes sometimes.”

WACKY WEATHER: Even in ski country, this was a bit extreme: When the Atlanta Braves and Colorado Rockies started up at Coors Field in late April, it was 23 degrees. That made it the coldest game-time temperature in STATS’ records, dating back more than two decades.

Braves pitcher Mike Minor threw six innings and won — in short sleeves, no less. He figured long sleeves wouldn’t help much. He also got a trainer to rub his arms, back and thighs with a heating ointment.

“I was burning up there,” he said, smiling.

Snow at Target Field, hail at Yankee Stadium and buckets of rain from coast to coast. More than 30 games postponed so far, going in the weekend. Last year? Just 21, the whole season.

The crummy conditions have wreaked havoc with the schedule. With interleague games most every day, there’s not a lot of wiggle room for makeups. So there’s been a push to get the games in — Tampa Bay waited out almost

five hours of rain delays in Cleveland to win a game that started on a Friday night in May and finished on an early Saturday in June. The Mets, meanwhile, played in three different time zones in three days.

In St. Louis, there was a 4 1/2-hour rain delay in the ninth inning before Kansas City outlasted the Cardinals. The game ended at 3:14 a.m. at Busch Stadium, and created travel trouble for the umpires, too — they worked at Wrigley Field in Chicago the next afternoon.

“We worry about that game when we get to that one,” crew chief Joe West said. “We had to worry about this game tonight.”

And recently, a Giants-Reds rainout in Cincinnati had the teams talking about making it up at Coors Field, of all places. A neutral site in Denver might indeed be the most convenient spot for both clubs later this year.

NEW WAVE: Be it Manny Machado, Bryce Harper or Mike Trout, the face of baseball is changing. Young stars are dominating, and also revving up the debate: Should Dodgers sensation Yasiel Puig — that’s “Pueeg” — be on the All-Star team?

Jeff Locke is trying to pitch Pittsburgh toward its first playoff spot in two decades, Shelby Miller is dealing in St. Louis and Wil Myers is finding his stroke in Tampa Bay while Paul Goldschmidt and Patrick Corbin are leading Arizona. They were all excelling at the same time former perennial All-Stars Derek Jeter, Alex Rodriguez and Ramirez were toiling in the minors.

Oh, and let’s salute Orioles slugger Chris Davis, who’s proven HR-or-K hitters can learn the strike zone. Davis hit his major league-best 35th homer in Baltimore’s 8-5 victory over Toronto on Friday night.

SUMMER SURPRISES: Overhauled Toronto and R.A. Dickey, the powered Angels and Hamilton, plus the revamped Dodgers have all struggled to reach the .500 mark. The Nationals also hit a wall — rather, Harper did while chasing a ball and landed on the disabled list.

Houston moved to the American League and got off a terrific start, beating Texas in the major league opener. Reality quickly set in, however. Their next time out, the overmatched Astros came within one out of having Yu Darvish throw a perfect game against them.

Much harder to figure, Matt Cain and the World Series champion San Francisco Giants.

A year ago, Cain pitched a perfect game. This year, he had one start when he gave up nine runs in an inning, another start when he permitted nine hits in an inning and, earlier this week, he was chased in the first inning.



Freeman's Geoff Pfeiffer lines a single to left during Friday night's South Central League amateur game in Scotland. Results from the game were not available at presstime.

Baseball Season Winding Down

Baseball: Post 12 Wins At Gopher Classic

APPLE VALLEY, Minn. — Tanner Termansen tossed a complete game shutout, striking out four, as Yankton First Dakota Post 12 blanked West Fargo, N.D., to open the 2013 Jim Hanus Gopher Classic American Legion baseball tournament on Friday.

Lane Sawatzke had two hits, and Andrew Hummel had a double and a run scored to lead Yankton. Mitch Gullikson had a hit and a run scored, Adam Walter had a hit and Dustin Hopper scored a run in the victory.

Yankton has four more games of pool play in the event, two today (Saturday) and two on Sunday. Post 12 faces Coon Rapids (Minn.) and Rosetown (Roseville, Minn.) at 9 and 11:30 a.m. today, and Mankato (Minn.) National and pool host Apple Valley at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Each of the 15 pool champions and one wild card will advance to Monday’s bracket play, with the Apple Valley pool champion playing in Bloomington, Minn. The championship is set for Tuesday in Minnetonka, Minn.

Teener: S.F. Classic
SIOUX FALLS — The Yank-

ton Black Sox, Lakers and Reds all won their opening games in the Sioux Falls Classic VFW Teener baseball tournament on Friday.

BLACK SOX 15, S.F. CENTRAL 4: Hunter Ryan went 3-3 with four runs scored, four stolen bases and three RBI to lead the Black Sox to a rout of Sioux Falls Central.

Tyler Guthmiller had two doubles, four runs scored and two RBI for the Black Sox. Colin Muth, Sheldon Gant, Mason Townsend, Skyler Schick, Levi Schmidt and Adam Heine each had hits.

Bradey Sorenson picked up the victory on the mound.

The Black Sox face Minnetonka, Minn., and Pierre., today.

LAKERS 17, S.F. CENTRAL 2: Nathan Hein went 4-4 and four other Lakers had two or more hits in a 17-2 rout of Sioux Falls Central on Friday.

Chase Vogt had three hits, and Jordan Kathol, Michael Heine and Jordan Payer had two hits each for Yankton. Kade Larson, Tyler Strahl, Nate Stephenson and Drew Wenande each had a hit in the victory.

Justin Leader picked up

the win.

The Lakers play two games today (Saturday), facing Jackson, Minn., and Mitchell.

REDS 14, HARRISBURG 0: Five different Reds hitters had two or more hits as Yankton blanked Harrisburg 14-0.

Miles Carda, Trey Bakke and Jack Schoenfelder each had three hits for Yankton. Caid Koletzky and Carter Peterson had two hits each. Garrett Tennant, Nate Eichacker, Jackson Somsen and Kellen Franzen added hits for the Reds.

Franzen pitched three innings and Isaiah Woods pitched two innings in the victory.

Amateur

Lesterville 10, Avon 9
LESTERVILLE — The Lesterville Broncs rallied from deficits of 5-0 and 9-7 to claim a 10-9 victory over Avon in amateur baseball action on Thursday.

Ian Powell had three hits, including a home run, to lead Lesterville (6-9). Cody Ulmer had three hits, including a double. Zach Johnson and Jason Bierle each had two hits. Darren Svacina added a double in the victory.

Zach London had two hits, including a home run, to spark Avon (6-8). Logan Tyzc and Jeff Sands each doubled and singled. Nick Honke added two hits for

the Bards.

Alex Wagner picked up the win in relief. Tyzc took the loss.

Lesterville travels to Freeman and Avon hosts Yankton on Sunday.
AVON (6-8)31 000 220 — 9 9 2
LESTERVILLE (6-9)000 331 03X — 10 13 4

Zach London, Logan Tyzc (7) and Joey Cuka; Cody Ulmer, Alex Wagner (7) and Ian Powell

Yankton 12, Irene 9

IRENE — Nine different players had one hit each for both teams, but the Yankton Tappers did more with their 17 hits in a 12-9 victory over Irene in South Central League amateur baseball action on Thursday.

Each team had 17 hits and committed two errors, but Yankton held leads of 6-0 and 12-5 before holding on for the victory.

Heath Arens went 3-5 with a home run, and Kory Bromley had three hits and three runs scored to lead Yankton. Derrek Nelson, Nik Davis, Devin Gullikson and Tate Bruckner each had two hits. Ross Heine, Julian Cutolo and Jason Miller added hits in the victory.

Brett Jensen went 4-5 and Matt Sees had a double, two singles and three runs scored to lead Irene. Wes Robertson also had three hits. Ben Sees had two hits, Mike King doubled, and Simon Healy, George Sees, Pat Sees and Adam Gale added hits for the Cardinals.

Josh Cleveland picked up the win, with Jason Miller striking out six in three innings of relief. Ben Sees took the loss.

Yankton, 11-4, takes on Avon on Sunday. Irene travels to Wynot on Sunday.

YANKTON141 210 030 — 12 17 2
IRENE004 100 013 — 9 17 2

Josh Cleveland, Jason Miller (8), Jake Broscha (9) and Kory Bromley; Ben Sees, Mike King (6) and Pat Sees

Toronto Fails To Sign Its Top Pick In MLB Draft

NEW YORK (AP) — Just one first-round selection failed to sign under the second year of baseball’s new draft restrictions, with Toronto unable to reach an agreement with No. 10 pick Phil Bickford.

Only nine players taken in the first 10 rounds didn’t strike deals. There were fewer deadline-day contracts Friday than in recent years after more players signed in the weeks after the draft was held from June 6-8.

“That was one of the goals, getting guys signed and getting them out there earlier,” Major League Baseball Executive Vice President Rob Manfred said. “It’s obviously good for the clubs, because it allows the development process

to start, but we think over the long haul it’s good for the players because they get to the major leagues faster.”

In the hours leading up to the deadline, the Chicago Cubs finalized a deal with No. 2 pick Kris Bryant (\$6,708,400). Miami agreed with No. 6 selection Colin Moran (\$3,516,500) and the New York Yankees completed a contract with No. 32 pick Aaron Judge (\$1.8 million).

Five first-round picks signed on the final day last year, down from 22 in 2011, the last year before restraints on signing bonuses were put in place.

In addition to Bickford, the other picks who failed to sign among players in the first 10

rounds were left-hander Matt Krook (Miami with the 35th selection), shortstop Ben Deluzio (Miami, 80), left-hander Ben Wetzler (Philadelphia, 151), outfielder Jason Monda (Philadelphia, 181), right-hander Stephen Woods (Tampa Bay, 188), third baseman Dustin DeMuth (Minnesota, 230) and second baseman Ross Kivett (Cleveland, 291).

Bickford, who turned 18 on Wednesday, is a right-hander with a 97 mph fastball from Oaks Christian High School in California, and he appears set to attend Cal State Fullerton. His pick had a slot value of \$2,921,400. The Blue Jays will get the No. 11 pick in next year’s draft as compensation. Teams are given bonus

pools in the labor contract, which imposes penalties on clubs that exceed their threshold — the total of the slots for a team’s selections in the first 10 rounds. A team that goes as much as 5 percent above its threshold incurs the first level of penalty, a 75 percent tax on the overage. Ten teams went above their thresholds last year, but none by more than 5 percent. Going over means losing a first-round pick the next year.

Spending on amateur draft picks dropped 10 percent last year, to \$209.4 million from \$233.6 million in 2011, but it was the second-highest total. Figures for this year will not be available until next week.