

Iowa RB Weisman A Likely Key For Hawkeyes

IOWA CITY, Iowa (AP) — Last summer, even the biggest Iowa fans barely knew who Mark Weisman was.

The walk-on fullback is now one of the most important parts of Iowa's offense, and his health will be crucial for the Hawkeyes in 2013. Weisman unexpectedly emerged as one of the top running backs in the Big Ten a year ago before nagging injuries limited his effectiveness.

Iowa was at its best last season when Weisman was on the field, and the Hawkeyes are counting on him being available all season.

They're also hoping that all the extra bodies at running back with Weisman will help. They include Damon Bullock, Jordan Canzeri — who's back after missing 2012 with an ACL tear — and youngsters Barkley Hill and Michael Malloy.

"As far as I know his health is great. He was fine in the spring," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz said Tuesday of Weisman. "One thing we can do to help him and Bullock and help everybody is just to have a little bit more depth where those guys don't have to shoulder the whole load."

Iowa has had bad luck with running backs in recent years. With Weisman, the Hawkeyes finally got lucky.

The Chicago-area native — who proudly sported a Blackhawks shirt on Tuesday, a day after the team won the Stanley Cup — transferred to Iowa after never playing a down at Air Force. He redshirted in 2011 and hardly figured in Iowa's plans as a sophomore in 2012. But as back after back became unavailable for various reasons, Weisman was forced into action.

It was quickly apparent that he was just what the Hawkeyes sputtering offense needed.

Weisman scored three touchdowns in his first real action at running back, helping Iowa survive against Northern Iowa. He got his first start at tailback against Central Michigan and was nearly unstoppable, rushing for 217 yards and three more TDs.

Weisman followed up with 293 yards in his first two Big Ten games, but he injured his right ankle in a win at Michigan State in October. He wasn't able to carry the offense much after that, missing close losses to Indiana and Purdue, and failing to gain 100 yards in a game the rest of the season.

Weisman's injury issues were just one of a litany of problems that caused Iowa to finish with six

straight losses and a 4-8 record.

"When Mark had to go, he was basically the only guy we had back there. Hopefully we'll have a little bit more balance this year," Ferentz said.

Weisman, who said Tuesday that he's "feeling great," hasn't changed much about his workout routines to accommodate his switch from fullback to full-time tailback.

The 6-foot, 236-pound Weisman is working more with the skill position players while incorporating extra drills for cutting and flexibility. But for the most part, Weisman is preparing for 2013 just like he did when few outside of the Iowa football complex knew who he was.

"I don't think it impacts it at all. You're just trying to get stronger, faster, more durable and just more flexible," Weisman said. "You're just

trying to work as hard as you can and just get better as fast as possible."

Of course, added depth means more competition for carries.

Weisman and Bullock are expected to start the season as the featured ball carriers. But Canzeri looked very strong in spring ball, and certainly the Hawkeyes know as well as anyone that things can change very quickly at running back.

Weisman insists that he won't change the approach that helped him blossom from backup to star last season.

"You've just got to have that walk-on mentality no matter what out there," Weisman said. "Just working like someone's trying to outwork you because everyone is trying to outwork you."

Sorenson, Boomsma Win State Hershey Track Titles

BELLE FOURCHE — Several area youth earned top finishes at the S.D. State Hershey Track and Field Meet, held Saturday in Belle Fourche.

Vermillion's Justin Sorenson won state titles in both the 400 (1:08.28) and 800 (2:42.42) in the boys' 11-12 year-old division. He also tied for seventh in the standing long jump (6-6).

Yankton's Jaiden Boomsma won the girls' 11-12 year-old standing long jump (6-11). She also finished fifth in the 100 (14.75).

In the boys' 13-14 year-old division, Yankton's Ethan Kanable placed sixth in the softball throw (146-5) and seventh in the 800 (3:16.79).

In the girls' 13-14 year-old division, Vermillion's Rachel Okine placed second in the standing long jump (7-6), Yankton's Kara Ulmer finished seventh in the 200 (30.23) and Yankton's Megan Hirsch placed seventh in the 800 (2:56.73).

Also in the boys' 11-12 year-old division, Wagner's Malcolm Janis placed fourth in the 200 (30.08) and fifth in the 100 (14.57). Yankton's Corbin Sohler finished fifth in the standing long jump (6-9.25).

Also in the girls' 11-12 year-old division, Vermillion's Erica Okine finished third in the standing long jump (6-9) and Parkston's Izzy Hohn finished sixth in the 800 (3:05.21).

Yankton's Cora Schurman took home four top-five finishes in the girls' 9-10 year-old division, placing third in both the 50 (8.39) and 100 (16.10), fourth in the standing long jump (5-10 3/4) and as part of a fifth place 400 relay (1:11.42). Madisyn Bietz, also a part of that relay, finished second in the 400 (1:17.31) and seventh in the softball throw (76-9). Callie Boomsma and Ellie Karlovitz completed the four-some. Parkston's Tiah Holzbauer finished fifth in the softball throw (76-9).

Four meet records fell during the meet, including two held by girls who were famous in S.D. track circles.

Rapid City's Kyah Watson set the standard in the girls' 11-12 year-old 200-meter dash (28.62), breaking a mark set by Mitchell's Jill Theeler in 1994 (28.82). Also in that division, Spearfish's Kennedy Kaitfors set the mark in the 400 (1:04.39), breaking a mark set by Belle Fourche's Mandee Williamson last year.

In the girls' 13-14 year-old 800, Spearfish's Tori Glazier won in 2:20.40, shattering the mark set by Black Hawk native and former Stevens standout Cherise Thompson (2:23.73) back in 1997.

In the boys' 13-14 year-old 1,600, Pierre's Daniel Burkhalter won in 4:51.78, breaking the mark of 4:56.09 set by Watertown's Chris Larson in 1991.

NHL: Game 6 Viewership Up

NEW YORK (AP) — The Blackhawks' Stanley Cup-clinching win was watched by almost two-thirds more viewers than last year's Game 6.

Chicago's 3-2 victory Monday night over the Bruins had 8.16 million viewers on NBC, up from 4.93 million for the Los Angeles Kings' clincher over the New Jersey Devils last year.

It was down slightly from the 8.28 million for Game 6 between the Blackhawks and Philadelphia Flyers in 2010.

The series averaged 5.76 million viewers on NBC and NBC Sports Network, making it the most-watched Stanley Cup Final since records started being kept in 1994, though the population was smaller then.

Legion Baseball



Sioux Falls West shortstop Jaden Holzer, right, waits for the ball as Yankton's Dustin Hopper dives back to second base during the opening game of their American Legion baseball doubleheader on Tuesday at Yankton's Riverside Field. West won the opener 8-1, but Yankton rallied to claim the nightcap 3-2.

Post 12, West Split Pair

Kaleb Bromley's RBI single in the bottom of the ninth scored the game-winner as Yankton First Dakota Post 12 split a doubleheader with Sioux Falls West in American Legion baseball action on Tuesday at Yankton's Riverside Field.

Bromley's hit that scored Ben Cameron also made him the winning pitcher, after he came on in relief in the ninth.

Brady Hale and Adam Walter each had two hits in the win.

West took the opener 7-1. Andrew Hummel had a hit

and a RBI for Yankton. Lane Sawatzke and Dustin Hopper also had hits. Brad Ulmer scored the lone Yankton run.

Termansen took the loss. Yankton travels to South Sioux City, Neb., for a doubleheader today (Wednesday).

VFW Teener

Lakers 5-8, BV 3-7

VALLEY SPRINGS — The Yankton Lakers took two games from Brandon Valley in VFW Teener baseball action Tuesday, winning the opener 5-3 and the nightcap 8-7.

Nathan Heine had two hits, and Michael Heine had a hit and two runs scored to lead Yankton in the opener. Jordan Payer also scored twice. Hunter Cameron had a hit and a RBI. Kade Larson had a hit and Nate Stephenson scored in the win.

Heine picked up the victory on the mound.

In the nightcap, Larson went 4-4 and Hein had two hits and two RBI to lead Yankton. Stephenson had two hits and a RBI, and Heine and Cameron also had two hits.

Justin Leader earned the

win. Yankton is off until a July 2 game with Tabor.

Amateur

Crofton 5, Yankton 0

Crofton's Scot Donner held Yankton to three hits and struck out seven Tappers in a 5-0 Bluejays victory over Yankton on Monday at Yankton's Riverside Field.

Aaron Losing and Carl Schieffer each doubled and singled for Crofton. Alex Mueller and Joe Wiebelhaus also had two hits. Rand Thygeson had a

double and two runs scored. Kyle Muller and Donner each had hits in the win.

Derrick Nelson, Heath Arens and Ross Heine had hits for Yankton.

Donner went the distance in the win. Josh Cleveland took the loss, allowing two earned runs over seven innings while striking out five.

Crofton travels to Scotland on Thursday. Yankton travels to Elk Point to face the Vermillion Red Sox today (Wednesday) in non-league action.

CROFTON .002 101 010 - 5 11 2
YANKTON .000 000 000 - 0 3 3
Scot Donner and Carl Schieffer, Josh Cleveland, Jake Broscha (8) and Korey Bromley, Julian Cutolo (6)

Franklin Takes National Title With Fast Finish

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Missy Franklin is fine tuning that victory smile for her next summer international tour.

America's biggest female swimming star in London made her grand reappearance on the national stage Tuesday night, winning the U.S. national championship in the 100-meter freestyle with the second-fastest time in the world this year and assuring herself of a spot on the U.S. world championship team.

The 18-year-old phenom who is headed to the University of California

this fall, celebrated in typical fashion — with that wide-eyed, toothy-grin and plenty of hugs.

"I took five weeks off after London, then I went back to full training," she said after setting a meet record in 53.43 seconds. "But I am tapered for this meet."

And ready to keep cutting time when she heads to Barcelona for the world championships next month. The winner of each event and the top four finishers in each of the 100 free events get automatic berths on the world team.

If there were any doubts that Franklin could repeat last summer's incredible success, there aren't now.

She charged past the top three swimmers — Olympic gold medalist Natalie Coughlin and NCAA national champions Megan Romano of Georgia and Margo Geer of Arizona — during the second half of the race and held off another Olympic gold medalist (Shannon Vreeland) and the hard-charging youngster Simone Manuel as she sprinted to the wall over the final 25 meters.

Vreeland, Romano's college team-

mate, finished second in 53.83 while the 16-year-old Manuel of Texas was third in 53.86. Manuel broke the national age group record that she already held. Coughlin wound up fifth in 54.04.

Franklin beat three Olympic gold medalists in a star-studded final, winning a race she didn't even compete in at London. Two other Olympic gold medalists, Allison Schmitt and Dana Vollmer, didn't even make the final. Schmitt, who helped Georgia win the

NATIONALS | PAGE 9

Softball: Yankton Spitfire Split In Wayne

WAYNE, Neb. — The Yankton Spitfire split with the Wayne Dirt Devils in U-18 girls' softball action on Tuesday. Wayne won the opener 8-2, but Yankton rallied in its final at-bat to win the nightcap 7-6.

In the opener, Elly Miiller and Paige Thieman each had a hit and a RBI. Jessica Wirth, Taylor Rube, Andi Sprakel and Abby Schulte added hits. Katie Koletzky took the loss.

Wirth had two hits and three RBI, and Karlee Kozak had two hits and a RBI to lead Yankton in the nightcap. Schulte had a hit and two RBI, and Sprakel drove in a run in the victory.

Koletzky pitched the final three innings in relief of Ruby to pick up the win.

The Spitfire play the USSSA Tournament beginning on Saturday at Sioux Falls' Sherman Park.

Xtreme 15-13, Shamrocks 6-6

The U-14 Yankton Xtreme swept two games from the U-12 Yankton Shamrocks in girls' softball action on Tuesday. The Xtreme took the opener 15-6 and the nightcap 13-6.

In the opener, Bailey Peterka had three hits and a RBI, and Lexie McCorkell had a triple, a single and two RBI for the Xtreme. Kara Ulmer also had two hits. Taylor Weber had a hit and three RBI, Alix Peterka had a hit and two RBI, and Holly Mines and Madie Cordell had hits in the win.

Tori Herrboldt, Baylee Kenney and Lily Ryken had hits for the Shamrocks. Bailey Peterka and Kara Ulmer combined on the win, with Ulmer striking out three. Herrboldt took the loss, striking out two.

In the nightcap, Ulmer had three hits, including a double, and three RBI, and Mines had three hits and two RBI for the Xtreme. Traia Hubbard had a double, a single and three RBI. Bailey Peterka had two hits and a RBI. McCorkell doubled, Weber had a hit, Grace Roy drove in two and Cordell drove in one in the win.

Noel Kusek doubled, and Hannah Muth and Herrboldt had hits for the Shamrocks.

Cordell, Weber and Ulmer pitched for the Xtreme. Kenney took the loss.



The Yankton Spitfire won the U-18 division of the Lowell Rang girls' softball tourney on Sunday in Mitchell. Team members include (front) Jessica Wirth, Kenedee Kozak, Brooke Loecker, (middle) Abby Schulte, Karlee Kozak, Haley Hinseth, Elly Miiller, (back) Katie Koletzky, Taylor Ruby, Andi Sprakel and Lizzy Bye.