Vikings Still Value LB Greenway Even If End Is Near

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP) — Chad Greenway did his best Superman impression this week.

For his next feat, Greenway could further endear himself to new Minnesota Vikings coach Mike Zimmer by figuring out how to clone himself.

"If we had 90 of those kinds of guys we would really be good," Zimmer

The world wouldn't be any worse

Greenway grabbed some headlines on a windy Monday at a popular Twin Cities area lake when he spotted an anxious couple trying to keep their malfunctioning boat from slamming into the rocks or tumbling over a nearby spillway. So Greenway hopped in the knee-deep water and pulled

them a safer spot. He then waited with round out of lowa. That pick has more them for the arrival of the sheriff's patrol, which he also helped avoid getting stuck in a precarious place.

They had control of the boat, but we had to just help them pull it away,' Greenway said.

NBC affiliate KARE just happened to be filming a story on high water levels for that night's TV newscast and documented Greenway's gracious act on Lake Minnetonka. That, coincidentally, is where a group of rowdy Vikings players once generated news of another kind following that infamous bawdy boat party in 2005.

Greenway, who turned 31 in January, has become the second-longest tenured player on the Vikings, eight years after they drafted him in the first than paid for itself with his durability and production, but there's a problem in the NFL is once a player's age starts with a 3 instead of a 2. Only quarterbacks and specialists are mostly immune to the league-wide preference toward younger, cheaper players who haven't hit their physical peak.

Greenway, whose performance suffered last season while playing through a broken left wrist, agreed to restructure his contract in the offseason with a \$1 million pay cut in exchange for a fully guaranteed \$5.5 million in salary. He could prove to be a valuable cog for Zimmer in an unproven group of linebackers, but beyond 2014 his future is unclear. Greenway has one year left on his

deal, but if he's no longer at Pro Bowl level there would be little disincentive for the Vikings to cut him next offsea-

So in the meantime, Greenway has been busy soaking up Zimmer's system. He said he's been carrying his iPad around with him constantly and that this year has been the most he's ever studied in his entire career.

"I like that. I do. It's important to him. That's why he has been a good player for a long, long time, because

it's important to him," Zimmer said. Said Greenway: "They're getting their point across right away with the type of people they want on this team, type of people they want in this building and the mentality we should take while we're in this building. I think

once you get the point across early, you set a foundation for what you want to create during the season.'

In Zimmer's scheme, Greenway will be the weak side linebacker. Firstround draft pick Anthony Barr is in line to be the strong side starter. Jasper Brinkley, Audie Cole and Michael Mauti are in the mix at the middle spot. But the coaches will move players around in certain situations in ways that will be different than the previous system under coach Leslie Frazier. Greenway, then, could find wind up playing more than one position.

He's a good guy. He's smart. He's very conscientious. He's a pro's pro. He should fit in very well," Zimmer

Somsen Sent Back To Dayton

DAYTON, Ohio — Yankton High School graduate and former South Dakota State standout Lavne Somsen has been sent back to the Dayton Dragons, the Class A affiliate of the Cincinnati

Reds. The move was announced Thursday. Somsen, who turned 25 on Thursday, opened the 2014 season with the Dragons and was outstanding in seven relief appearances, allowing just one run (1-1, 0.87 ERA, 17 strikeouts in 10.1 innings). He was promoted to Bakersfield — the Advanced A affiliate — on April 24 and posted a 1.74 ERA over his first five outings, but struggled over his last six appearances. His record in Bakersfield was 1-2 with a 6.88 ERA and one save

SDSU Signs Three-Year Deal With Drake

BROOKINGS — The South Dakota State University football program plans to christen the new Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium with a Sept. 10, 2016, matchup ágainst Drake (lowa).

The stadium-opening game versus Drake kicks off a three-game series between the two programs. Other matchups are slated for Sept. 16. Ž017, in Brookings, with a Sept. 14, 2019, game set to be played in Des Moines.

"Again, I am appreciative of our administration in supporting the pursuit of great competition for

our players." SDSU head coach John Stiegelmeier said. "Having quality opponents remains a priority in both our programs and the Jacks look forward to competing against Drake. This series also allows each of our fan contingencies an easy opportunity to travel and support their program.

The agreement marks the renewal of a series that dates back to 1945. Drake, which is a member of the Pioneer Football League, leads the all-timeseries by an 8-2 count; however, the Jackrabbits won the last meeting, 20-3, in Des Moines during the 1983 campaign.

"We are excited to renew this rivalry and thank the officials at Drake for working with us to put this series together," SDSU Director of Athletics Justin Sell said. "This agreement meets many aspects of our scheduling philosophy by being able to play quality regional opponents with the ability to fill out our home schedules.'

By filling the stadium-opening date, SDSU has completed its football scheduling through 2016, with six home games in each of the next three sea-

Construction on the 19,340-seat Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium is scheduled to begin this fall. The project will be completed in phases at the current Coughlin-Alumni Stadium site, starting with completion of the south and east sides prior to the start

SDSU's Carpenter Named

Summit League POY

BROOKINGS — South Dakota State's Hudson Carpenter was named The Summit League Men's Golfer of the Year Wednesday following a vote of the head coaches.

The senior from Stillwater, Minn., finished the season ranked first in the league with a 72.77 stroke average after 31 rounds. Čarpenter had two first-place finishes this season, winning the Jackrabbit Fall Invitational and the ASU Red Wolf Intercollegiate, and placed in the top 10 in 6 of 11

At The Summit League Championship, Carpenter placed in a three-way tie for seventh, shooting a 227 (75-73-79) and helped the Jackrabbits finish third.

The three-time first-team all-league selection is the second Jackrabbit to be honored as The Summit League Golfer of the Year. Former Jack Trent Peterson won the award in 2009.

SDSU's Albu Named **Academic All-American**

BROOKINGS — South Dakota State University men's swimmer Phil Albu has earned a spot on the Capital One Academic All-America Men's At-Large Second Team for his efforts both in the classroom and the pool.

A native of Charlie Lake, British Columbia, Albu was selected to the 15-member University Division second team with a 3.96 grade-point average

while majoring in computer science. Albu finished his collegiate swimming career this winter as the school record inthree individual backstroke events. as well as a member of the school-record 200-yard freestyle relay that won the Summit League title in

Albu advanced to the national ballot last month after being named to the Capital One Academic All-District 6 Team for the second consecutive year. The University Division at-large team consists of Division I student-athletes competing in fencing, golf, gymnastics, ice hockey, lacrosse, rifle, swimming and diving, tennis and wrestling. Candidates must be at least a sophomore in ath letic and academic standing, a starter or key reserve on his team and carry at least a 3.3 GPA.

NE Nebraska All-Star Football Classic June 14

NORFOLK, Neb. — The second annual Red vs. White Northeast Nebraska All-Star Football Classic will be played on Saturday, June 14 at Veteran's Memorial Park in Norfolk. Game time will be 1 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased at both the West Stadium and South Stadium ticket booths on game

Jeff Bellar of Norfolk Catholic will be the head coach of the Red team, while Joe Anderson of Oakland-Craig will coach the White team. Bellar's assistant coaches will include Tony Hoffman of

Crofton, Blair Kalin of Hartington and Terry Kathol of Hartington Cedar Catholic

Area members of the Red team are Aaron Carlson (Ponca), Charlie Carlson (Ponca), Austin Conn (Wausa), Ty Dybdal (Hartington), Austin Gubbels (Randolph), Jake Guenther (Crofton), Ethan Hirschman (Laurel-Concord-Coleridge), Lane Jacobsen (Creighton), Taylor Kathol (Hartington Cedar Catholic), Eric Kleinschmit (Crofton), Jacob Morrill (Creighton), Nolan Nordhues (Randolph), Connor Wieseler (Hartington Cedar Catholic), Davis Wieseler (Wynot), Seth Wilmes (Creighton) and Evan Woockman (Crofton).

More information can be found at nenallstarfootballclassic.com.

Kentucky Gives Calipari 7-Year, \$52.5 Million Deal

LEXÍNGTON, Ky. (AP) - Kentucky gave coach John Calipari a seven-year, \$52.5 million contract extension that will pay a base package of \$6.5 million next season and \$8 million over each of the final three seasons.

Already one of college basketball's highestpaid coaches, Calipari led the Wildcats to the 2012 NCAA championship and is coming off his third Final Four appearance in five years with Kentucky, a 60-54 title-game loss to Connecticut in April. He has often been rumored as a potential candidate for NBA coaching openings, most recently this spring with the Los Angeles Lakers.

SCOREBOARD

GOLF

SDGA JUNIOR TOUR

June 5 at Brookings CC NOTE: Play was reduced to nine holes because of weather GIRLS 16-18: Kayla Ovall, White 36;

GIRL'S 16-16: Kayla Ovalı, wrille Jo, McKayla Poppens, Lennox 39; Kate Brockevelt, Vermillion 43; Kaila Kuehn, Brandon 43; Kayla Stammer, Vermillion 46; Meredith Turner, Sioux Falls 49 BOYS 16-18: Sam Olson, Sioux

Falls 36; Jacob Rice, Mitchell 36; Greg Koehn, Brandon 36; Taylor Fjerestad, Brandon 37; Ben Prisbe, Sioux Falls 37; Andrew Huntington, Sioux Falls 38; Nick Mahowald, Watertown 38; Parker Klitzke, Sioux Falls 40; Ben Rogers, Sioux Falls 40; Brenden Bassing, Sioux Falls 40; 40; Brenden Bassing, Sioux Falls 40; Ben Clarke, Sioux Falls 40; Brandon 43; Cooper Williams, Vermillion 43; Jonathon Neswick, Sioux City 43; Brendan Foughty, Orange City 44; Austin Bormann, Stickney 49

GIRLS 14-15: Brooke Piearson, Brookings 42; Sydney Winter, Volga 50; Linze Cowman, Yankton 52; Hanna Liddiard, Sioux Falls 54: Alexa Arends, O ange City 55; Cassidy Bridges Brookings 55; Madison Hollingshead Sioux Falls 58; Hayley Bothun, Brooking

BOYS 14-15: Zane W. Swenso Brandon 35; Tate Arends, Orange Cit 36; Bronson Vasa, Sioux Falls 38; Sar Sutcliffe, Sioux Falls 38; Alec Johnson Tyndall 39; Cade Carpenter, Mitchell 39 Devlin Rue, Hartford 40: Sam Batta, W. tertown 42: Carsten Archer, Sisseton 4 Justin Kolb, Sioux Falls 43; Christoph Zahn, Sioux Falls 44; Sam Mock, Mitche ness, Webster 48; George Mickelso Sioux Falls 51; Payton Foxley, Platte 54 Alec Anderson, Watertown 59; Cad Poppen, Arlington 60; Trevor Case, Wel

GIRLS 12-13: Taylee Indahl, Burke 53; Nicole Steen, Brookings 55; Natalie Poppens, Lennox 57; Jenna Sutcliffe, Sioux Falls 58; Sophie Jansa, Sioux Falls 59; Sophia Salter, Sioux Falls 61; Courtnev Heath Sisseton 77

BOYS 12-13: Ben Serie, Luverne 41; Jack Lundin, Sioux Falls 41; Max Honner, Sioux Falls 41; Ethan Vikander, Aberdeen 42; Declan Beers, Garretso 44; Teegan Schlimgen, Sioux Falls 45; Austin Swenson, Brandon 45; Ethan Huber, Mitchell 47; Karter Lein, Harrisburg 49; Max Martin, Sioux Falls 50; Devin Vasa, Sioux Falls 51; Logan Steffensen, Volga 53; Alec Rice, Volga 53; er, Volga 59; Brayden Buthe, Sioux

GIRLS 11-UNDER: Sunni Josephson, Sioux Falls 47: Reese Jansa, Sioux Falls 56: Lauren Sutcliffe, Sioux Falls 64: Keva Bursheim, Flandreau 65; Emily Kolb, Sioux Falls 73; Kelsey Heath, Sis-

BOYS 11-UNDER: Jimmie Cunningham, Yankton 42; Jack Hilgenberg, Sioux Falls 44; Landon Moe, Brookings 48; Sam Mahowald, Watertown 50; Drew Norberg, Watertown 51; Jake Olson, Watertown 52; Cooper Long, Garretson 52; Luke Honner, Sioux Falls 53; DJ Heiberger, Sioux Falls 55; William San-ford, Sioux Falls 57; Cayden Paulson, Watertown 57; Gavin Hatch, Sioux Falls 60: Liam Sarmiento, Sioux Falls 61: Mark Mahowald, Watertown 67: Caleb Kinzle

HILLCREST GOLF & CC SDSU GOLF OUTING

June 4

MEN'S DIVISION: First — Dan Somsen, Michael Kuchta, Tom Kuchta, Dan

WOMEN'S DIVISION: First — Cindy Stenstrom, Christi Williams, Sharry Willard, Hannah Zimmerman 72 COED DIVISION: First — Dave Mingo, Megan Mingo, Chris Luke, Duane

BASEBALL

NCAA DIVISION I SUPER RE-

GIONALS

Best-of-3; x-if necessary Host school is Game 1 home team; visiting school is Game 2 home team; coin flip determines Game 3 home team At Jim Patterson Stadium, Louisville

Friday: Kennesaw State (40-22) at Louisville (48-15), 6:30 p.m. Saturday: Kennesaw State vs.
Louisville, 7 p.m.
x-Sunday: Kennesaw State vs.

At Hawkins Field, Nashville, Tenn.

Friday: Stanford (34-24) at Vanderbilt (44-18), 1 p.m. Saturday: Stanford vs. Vanderbilt, 3

x-Sunday: Stanford vs. Vanderbilt, 3 At Allie P. Reynolds Stadium, Stillwater, Okla. Friday: UC Irvine (38-23) at Oklahoma State (48-16), 9:30 p.m.

Saturday: UC Irvine vs. Oklahoma State, 10 p.m. x-Sunday: UC Irvine vs. Oklahoma State, 9 p.m. At UFCU Disch-Falk Field, Austin,

Friday: Houston (48-16) at Texas

(41-19), 4 p.m. Saturday: Houston vs. Texas, 2 p.m. x-Sunday: Houston vs. Texas 2 p.m.
At Davenport Field, Charlottesville, Va.
Saturday: Maryland (39-21) at Vir-Sunday: Maryland vs. Virginia, Noon

x-Monday: Maryland vs. Virginia, 4

At Charlie and Marie Lupton Stadium,
Fort Worth, Texas
Saturday: Pepperdine at TCU, 4

Sunday: Pepperdine vs. TCU, 6 p.m. x-Monday: Pepperdine vs. TCU, 7

Saturday: College of Charleston (44-17) at Texas Tech (43-19), 1 p.m.

0;	<u>AMERICAN</u>	<u>LEAG</u>	<u>iue</u>		
d-	East Division				
)r-		W	L	Pct	GB
s,	Toronto	37	24	.607	_
d,	Baltimore	30	27	.526	5
gs	New York	30	29	.508	6
90	Boston	27	32	.458	9
n,	Tampa Bay	23	38	.377	14
ty	Central Division				
m		W	L	Pct	GB
n,	Detroit	31	25	.554	_
9;	Chicago	31	30	.508	2 1/2
a-	Cleveland	30	30	.500	3
2;	Minnesota	28	29	.491	3 1/2
er	Kansas City	29	31	.483	4
ell	· W	visio	n		
rt-		W	L	Pct	GB
n,	Oakland	37	23	.617	_
4:	Los Angeles	31	28	.525	5 1/2
de	Seattle	31	28	.525	5 1/2
b-	Texas	29	30	.492	7 1/2
-	Houston	26	35	.426	11 1/2

Wednesday's Games Seattle 2, Atlanta 0 Cleveland 7 Roston 4 12 innings Oakland 7. N.Y. Yankees 4 Miami 5, Tampa Bay 4

Baltimore 6, Texas 5 L.A. Angels 4. Houston 0 Minnesota 6 Milwaukee 4 St. Louis 5, Kansas City 2, 11 in-Chicago White Sox 2, L.A. Dodgers Thursday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 2, Oakland Toronto 7, Detroit 3 Miami 11. Tampa Bay 6 Houston 8, L.A. Angels 5

Baltimore at Texas, 8:05 p.m.
Kansas City 3, St. Louis 2
Milwaukee at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m. Friday's Games Oakland (Milone 3-3) at Baltimore

Chen 6-2), 6:05 p.m.
St. Louis (Lynn 6-3) at Toronto (Stro-Boston (R.De La Rosa 1-0) at Detroit nyly 2-4), 6:08 p.m.

Seattle (C.Young 5-2) at Tampa Bay edard 2-4), 6:10 p.m. Cleveland (Bauer 1-2) at Texas (Darvish 5-2), 7:05 p.m. Houston (Keuchel 6-3) at Minnesota

(P.Hughes 6-1), 7:10 p.m. N.Y. Yankees (Whitley 0-0) at Kansas City (Guthrie 2-5), 7:10 p.m. Chicago White Sox (Rienzo 4-2) at

L.A. Angels (Weaver 6-4), 9:05 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division GB Miami .533 .517 .467 .414 Central Division Pct GB Pittsburgh .475 6 1/2 Cincinnati .466 .404 10 1/2

GB San Francisco 39 Los Angeles 31 .650 .508 8 1/2 30 .483 33 .450 36 .410

Wednesday's Games Seattle 2, Atlanta 0 San Diego 3, Pittsburgh 2 Washington 8, Philadelphia 4 Miami 5, Tampa Bay 4 San Francisco 3, Cincinnati 2 Chicago Cubs 5, N.Y. Mets 4

Minnesota 6. Milwaukee 4 Arizona 16, Colorado 8 Chicago White Sox 2, L.A. Dodgers

Thursday's Games San Francisco 6, Cincinnati 1 Washington 4, Philadelphia 2 Miami 11, Tampa Bay 6

Chicago Cubs 7, N.Y. Mets 4 Friday's Games Miami (Eovaldi 4-2) at Chicago Cubs

(Hammel 6-3), 3:05 p.m. Milwaukee (Lohse 7-1) at Pittsburgh (Cumpton 0-2), 6:05 p.m. Philadelphia (Hamels 1-3) at Cincinnati (Cueto 5-4), 6:10 p.m.

L.A. Dodgers (Ryu 6-2) at Colorado Butler 0-0), 7:40 p.m. Atlanta (Teheran 5-3) at Arizona (Mc-Carthy 1-7), 8:40 p.m. Washington (Roark 3-4) at San ego (T.Ross 6-4), 9:10 p.m. N.Y. Mets (Niese 3-3) at San Fran-

At M.L. 'Tigue' Moore Field, Lafayette,

Saturday: Mississippi (44-18) at siana-Lafayette (57-8), 8 p.m. Sunday: Mississippi vs. Louisiana-Lafayette, 9 p.m. x-Monday: Mississippi vs. Louisiana-

At Rip Griffin Park, Lubbock, Texas

Sunday: College of Charleston vs.
Texas Tech, 3 p.m.
x-Monday: College of Charleston vs. Texas Tech, 1 p.m.

cisco (M.Cain 1-3), 9:15 p.m.

HOCKEY STANLEY CUP FINAL Wednesday, June 4 NY Rangers at Los Angeles, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, June 11

Friday, June 13 x-NY Rangers at Los Angeles, 7 Monday, June 16 x-Los Angeles at NY Rangers, 7

x-NY Rangers at Los Angeles, 7

BASKETBALL

NBA FINALS

Thursday, June 5 Miami at San Antonio, 8 p.m. Sunday, June 8 Miami at San Antonio, 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 10

San Antonio at Miami, 8 p.m. Thursday, June 12 San Antonio at Miami, 8 p.m. x-Tuesday, June 17

San Antonio at Miami, 8 p.m. x-Friday, June 20 Miami at San Antonio, 8 p.m. **AUTO RACING**

NASCAR SPRINT CUP SCHEDULE

x-non-points race Feb. 15 — x-Sprint Unlimited (Denny Feb. 20 — x-Budweiser Duel 1 (Matt Feb. 20 — x-Budweiser Duel 2

(Denny Hamlin) Feb. 23 — Daytona 500 (Dale Earn-March 2 — The Profit on CNBC 500, Avondale, Ariz. (Kevin Harvick)

March 9 — Kobalt 400, Las Vegas (Brad Keselowski) March 16 — Food City 500, Bristol, Tenn. (Carl Edwards) March 23 — Auto Club 400,

Fontana, Calif. (Kyle Busch)
March 30 — STP 500, Ridgeway,
Va. (Kurt Busch)
April 7 — Duck Commander 500,
Fort Worth, Texas (Joey Logano) April 12 — Bojangles' Southern 500, Darlington, S.C. (Kevin Harvick) April 26 — Toyota Owners 400, Richmond, Va. (Joey Logano) May 4 — Aaron's 499, Talladega,

Ala. (Denny Hamlin) May 10 — Kansas 400, Kansas City, May 10 — Karlsas 400, Karlsas City, Kan. (Jeff Gordon) May 16 — x-Sprint Showdown, Con-cord, N.C. (Clint Bowyer) May 17 — x-NASCAR Sprint All-Star ce, Concord, N.C. (Jamie McMurray) May 25 — Coca-Cola 600, Concord,

N.C. (Jimmie Johnson)
June 1 — Dover 400, Dover, Del. (Jimmie Johnson) June 8 — Pocono 400, Long Pond, June 15 - Quicken Loans 400, Brooklyn, Mich.

June 22 — Toyota/Save Mart 350. June 28 — Quaker State 400, Sparta, Ky.
July 5 — Coke Zero 400, Daytona Beach, Fla.

July 13 — Camping World RV Sales 301, Loudon, N.H. July 27 — The Brickyard 400, Indianapolis. Aug. 3 — GoBowling.com 400, Long Pond, Pa.
Aug. 10 — Cheez-It 355 at the Glen, Watkins Glen, N.Y. Aug. 17 — Pure Michigan 400, Brooklyn, Mich.

Aug. 23 — Irwin Tools Night Race, Bristol, Tenn. Aug. 31 — Atlanta 500, Hampton, Sept. 6 — Federated Auto Parts 400. Richmond, Va. Sept. 14 — Chicagoland 400, Joliet,

Sept. 21 — Sylvania 300, Loudon,

sh at Yankton Xtreme (DH, 10:30 Sunday, June 8 BASEBALL, AMATEUR Lennox

AREA CALENDAR

BASEBALL, LEGION Milt Simns Tourn. at Sioux Falls (Yankton)

BASEBALL, TEENER Milt Simmons Tourn. at Sioux Falls (Yankton Lakers, Yankton Reds)

Saturday, June 7 BASEBALL, LEGION Milt Simmons Tourn. at Sioux Falls (Yankton); Morrie Wachendorf Classic at Yankton (Yankton Juniors vs. Beresford, 11 a.m.; Beresford vs. West Central, 1:30 p.m.; West Central vs. Millard Sox, 4 p.m.; Millard Sox vs. Yankton Juniors, 6:30 p.m.)

BASEBALL, TEENER Milt Sim-

BASEBALL, IEENER Mill SIm-mons Tourn. at Sioux Falls (Yankton Lakers, Yankton Reds) GOLF, SDGA Two-Man Champi-onships at Lakeview GC, Mitchell SOFTBALL, GIRLS Brandon Tourn. (Yankton Fury Red); Golden Girls Tourn. at Norfolk, Neb. (Yankton Spitfire, Yankton Shamrocks); S.F.

Tourn. (Yankton Fury Red); Golden Girls Tourn. at Norfolk, Neb. (Yankton Spitfire, Yankton Shamrocks) Sept. 28 - AAA 400, Dover, Del.

Reds at Vermillion Grey Sox (2 p.m.); Avon at Yankton (7:30 p.m.); Free-man at Lesterville (7:30 p.m.); Menno at Crofton (7:30 p.m.); Tabor at Scot-

and (7:30 p.m.); Wynot at Irene (7:30

mons Tourn. at Sioux Falls (Yankton); Morrie Wachendorf Classic at Yank-

ton (Yankton Juniors vs. West Central, 10 a.m.; Millard Sox vs. Beresford, 11:15 a.m.; Third — 2:30 p.m.; Championship — 4:45 p.m.);

rke at Tabor (3 p.m.)

BASEBALL, TEENER Milt Sim-

ns Tourn. at Sioux Falls (Yankton ers, Yankton Reds) GOLF, SDGA Two-Man Champi-

ships at Lakeview GC, Mitchell SOFTBALL, GIRLS Brandon

BASEBALL, LEGION Milt Sim-

Oct. 5 — Hollywood Casino 400, Kansas City, Kan.
Oct. 11 — Bank of America 500, Oct. 19 — GEICO 500, Talladega,

Oct. 26 - Goody's Headache Relief turday, June 7
NY Rangers at Los Angeles, 6 p.m.
nday, June 9
Los Angeles at NY Rangers, 7 p.m.
dnesday .line 11

Cut. 26 — Goody's Headache Relief
Shot 500, Ridgeway, Va.
Nov. 2 — AAA Texas 500, Fort
Worth, Texas
Nov. 9 — Onlicken Loans 500, American Loans 500, Ame

DRIVER STANDINGS

Through June 1 1. Matt Kenseth, 463. 2. Jeff Gordon, 461. 3. Carl Edwards, 438. Jimmie Johnson, 436 5. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 429

6. Joey Logano, 414.
7. Kyle Busch, 411.
8. Brad Keselowski, 404. 9. Denny Hamlin, 379. 10. Kyle Larson, 377. 11. Ryan Newman, 374. 12. Kevin Harvick, 373. 14. Paul Menard, 362. 15. Austin Dillon, 358. 16. Greg Biffle, 357. 17. Clint Bowyer, 350. 18. Kasey Kahne, 349.

19. Aric Almirola, 344. 20. A J Allmendinger, 337. **TRANSACTIONS**

BASEBALL American League NEW YORK YANKEES

TEXAS RANGERS — Activated RHP Tanner Scheppers from the 15-day DL. Optioned LHP Aaron Poreda to Round Rock (PCL). Transferred OF Jim Adduct from Frisco (TL) to Round Rock

(PCL). National League
COLORADO ROCKIES — Placed
RHP Jordan Lyles on the 15-day DL. Recalled RHP Chris Martin from Colorado Springs (PCL).

NEW YORK METS — Recalled OF Andrew Brown from Las Vegas (PCL). FOOTBALL

National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed S CHICAGO BEARS — Signed QB my Clausen to a one-year contract. Waived LB Lawrence Wilson. CINCINNATI BENGALS - Claimed WR Jasper Collins off waivers from Pitts-

burgh.
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Agreed to terms with LB Chris Kirksey. DETROIT LIONS — Signed LB Kyle Van Noy to a four-year contract.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS —
Claimed WR Kevin Smith off waivers from Arizona. Waived LS Trevor Gillette. OAKLAND RAIDERS - Signed G

Michael Palardy and WR Rahsaan /aughn. PITTSBURGH STEELERS Signed Ryan Shazier to a four-year con-

Gabe Jackson, WR David Gilreath, K/P

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
MINNESOTA WILD — Signed F Michael Keranen to a one-year contract. NEW YORK ISLANDERS - Ac quired D Dan Boyle from San Jose for a conditional 2015 fifth-round draft pick.

COLLEGE ARIZONA STATE — Named David en senior associate athletics director

AUBURN — Named Chad Prewett special assistant to the men's basketball coach and Jordan VerHulst video coordinator for men's basketball. CHARLESTON SOUTHERN Named Mark Kost women's assistant ketball coach. CHATTANOOGA women's basketball coach Jim Foster to a one-year contract extension through the 2018-19 season. KENTUCKY — Signed men's bas-

ketball coach John Calipari to a seven-

year contract extension through 2021.

tennis coach Phil Birnbaum, effective

RICHARD STOCKTON

Schmidt From Page 7A

hit before two strikes. Today, hitters refuse to shorten their swing, wait longer and hunt the ball with two strikes. In fact, I can't cite one hitter today, now that Placido Polanco isn't in the majors, who is known for being

tough to strike out. Who am I to give advice about contact hitting, you say? I'm in the top 10 all-time in strikeouts, I averaged over 100 a year. Yes, 1,883 career Ks, but my goal each and every year was to be a better two-strike

hitter. My final two productive years, 1986 and ⁶87, I did just that. I cut them back to 84 and 80, a big reason for my third NL MVP in 1986. I figured out how to correct my one flaw, the propensity to strike out.

Why couldn't I have done it ırs earlier? That's m beef: Today's hitters should be motivated to make more contact, especially when the pitchers are getting better at punching them out at a ridiculous rate.

In defense of the hitters, if there must be one, today's pitchers are a tough challenge for several reasons. In the 1980s, there were a handful of guys who could reach 95 mph and that was occasionally. The average fastball speed was 87-88 and fastballs in the mid-90s were reserved for one-inning

closers. We had starters like Tom Seaver in the '70s and Nolan Ryan and Doc Gooden in the '80s who stood above all the rest because of speed. Most were two-pitch pitchers sinker-slider or fastball-curve

It's nothing now for a staff to include several guys 6-foot-5 and over who average around

— with great control.

93-95 mph. Add to that the development of the splitter, cutter and changeup, some marginal control, and the knowledge that hitters are aggressive and willing to strike out, and you have a K rate of 20 percent. Not always easy, either,

different pitchers in a game, with specialists coming out of the bullpen for specific situations. Is there an answer? Hitting coaches don't have the clout to demand a twostrike approach. Hitters are paid very handsomely for .250, 80 RBIs and 130 Ks. They don't

when hitters are facing three

realize making contact another 50 times could mean 100 RBIs. They don't understand how important contact is to winning in close games. Often a simple` groundball will advance a runner or score a run. The great 100-RBI men get 20-30 a year

with a simple grounder. The pitch count issue affects this as well. The concept of making the pitcher work, taking pitches and long at-bats has definitely increased the strikeout rate. Hitters are seldom aggressive early in the count, leading to more twostrike hitting.

What I did was learn to hit the fastball, in play, hard, early in the count, more often. I learned that a downward path to the ball would hit it hard and fair more consistently. It also allowed me to wait longer and identify the pitch because I was shorter and more direct to the ball.

Mentally, I gave up wanting to lift the ball at the point of contact. Most hitters today have a built-in desire to lift it.

They refuse to allow themselves the experience of success that goes with the descending swing plane. It's a commitment to a process that rewards you as a hitter over

Here are some names of hitters who swung down through the ball: Jackie Robinson, Joe DiMaggio, Hank Aaron, Barry Bonds, Cal Ripken, Al Oliver, Dick Allen, Dave Winfield and today, Albert Pujols and Carlos Beltran. Of course there are great

hitters that had a slight uppercut, start with Ted Williams. But underachievers with uppercuts are going to remain just that. I can't understand why

many hitters won't make

changes. Very few have the built-in motivation. Try something different! Stand closer to the plate, close your stance, open your stance, use a different bat, control your breathing, lighten your grip, don't take practice swings, spread out, swing softer, copy a great hitter or just swing down through the

I tried all of these and they worked because if they did nothing else, they gave me a sense that I was trying to get better by changing.

There's is a saying I believe: "If you keep doing what you're doing, you're gonna keep getting what you're gettin'.'

If what you're "gettin" is good, keep "doin" it. If what you're "gettin" isn't, change. Through the '90s and into the next decade, offense dominated baseball. The tide has

swung totally in the opposite direction. Will the K rate ever go down? For the sake of the game's future, let's hope so.

take over. The Wolves were

expected to reach out to

Mitchell, a former Timber-

wolves player and Raptors

head coach, and David Blatt,

who has spearheaded Rus-

sia's return to Olympic rele-

vance and coaches in Israel,

to gauge their interest in join-

Saunders

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team's stirring run to the Western Conference finals.

Saunders was also hopeful that he could find someone other than himself to take over the team. But with Love's status preventing them from pursuing the coaches they felt would fit best, the two decided that Saunders should take over for at least this season if not longer.

The Timberwolves have not given up on convincing Love to play out this season in Minnesota and re-sign next summer to a contract that can pay him and extra year and about \$26.5 million more than any other team. It was not immediately clear what the appointment of Saunders would do for Love's desires to stay or go. The Timberwolves planned to meet with Love to see where he stands now that the head coaching vacancy has been filled.

Love has yet to make the playoffs in his six seasons in the league and is believed to be growing impatient with the Wolves, who finished 40-42 and in 10th place in the West this year. Love created a stir when he spent last weekend

in Boston, where the Celtics are rumored to be making a run at trading for the 25-yearold power forward before the June 26 draft. Just how long Saunders

will coach remains to be seen. There is the possibility

that Saunders will add assistants to his staff who could be groomed to eventually

2014

2015

SEASON



ing his staff. BOYS & **GIRLS**

AGES 3-18

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7:00 - 8:30p.m. TUESDAY, JUNE 10.... 7:15 - 8:15p.m.



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