

LSU Changes Mojo By Putting On Gold, Shuffling Batting Order

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — LSU was so disappointed in its performance in its College World Series opener Sunday that change was in order for Tuesday's game against Cal State Fullerton.

The Tigers came out in gold jerseys — their usual uniform rotation would have had them wearing purple tops Tuesday and gold Thursday — and even coach Paul Mainieri put one on. He typically wears a wind shirt in the dugout.

Oh, and Alex Bregman batted leadoff for the first time this season after having been in the No. 3 hole every game since Feb. 20.

By late afternoon, Alex Lange had pitched his second complete game in three starts in a 5-3 win over the Titans and Bregman had matched his career high with four hits.

And Mainieri was relieved that LSU had won for the first time in TD Ameritrade Park after two tries in 2013 and two more this year.

"We did change the jersey for mojo," he said. "And I did wear a jersey at the request of the players. I hadn't worn a jersey in a while. They've been trying to get me to wear a jersey all year. So desperate times call for desperate measures."

The Tigers committed four errors in their 10-3 loss to TCU on Sunday, and Mainieri called it the worst performance of the year.

LSU, which batted .320 in the regular season, came into the Fullerton game at .256 in six NCAA Tournament games. Mainieri said he wanted more production from the top of the order after Mark Laird and Jake Fraley, who had

been batting 1-2, were a combined 5 for 22 the previous three games.

Mainieri said he mentioned that to Bregman at Monday's practice.

"Alex was like, 'I'd like to lead off,'" Mainieri said. "I said that's what I was hoping you would say. But I really didn't want to move him out of the 3-hole because he's been there all year, and he's our dude. He was excited about it, and I thought, OK, that's what I want to do."

Bregman, who was 2 for 4 against TCU on Sunday after going 1 for 16 in his first five NCAA Tournament games, led off innings the first three times he came to bat against Fullerton and singled four straight times before dribbling out to the pitcher.

"I didn't necessarily expect him to get four hits,

but I thought he would make the pitcher work," Mainieri said. "As it turns out, he had a big day."

VANDERBILT 1, TCU 0: OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Zander Wiel's home run leading off the seventh inning broke up Alex Young's no-hit bid, Philip Pfeiffer and Kyle Wright combined on a five-hitter and the Commodores defeated TCU 1-0 in the College World Series on Tuesday night.

The defending national champion Commodores (49-19) earned two days off and would have to be beaten twice by either TCU (50-14) or LSU to be denied a second straight trip to the best-of-three finals. Those teams will play an elimination game Thursday.

Young (9-3) flummoxed Vanderbilt for six innings, striking out a career-high 12 batters. Wiel drove out the junior left-hander's 2-1 breaking ball just inside the left-field foul pole for his 15th homer of the season.

Pfeiffer (5-5) and Wright allowed five singles and walked four. Wright earned his fourth save.

LSU 5, CAL STATE FULLERTON

3: OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Alex Lange pitched his second complete game in three starts, allowing only three base runners after a rocky first inning, and LSU knocked Cal State Fullerton out of the College World Series with a 5-3 win on Tuesday.

The Tigers (54-11), the No. 2 national seed and the No. 1 team in the major polls, scored four times in the third inning to wipe out an early deficit. They'll play Thursday against the loser of the Tuesday night game between Vanderbilt and TCU.

Alex Bregman, the No. 2 overall draft pick by the Houston Astros, matched his career high with four hits while batting leadoff for the first time this season.

The Titans (39-25) used four straight hits and a squeeze bunt to jump out to a 3-0 lead against Lange (12-0). He allowed only two singles and a walk the rest of the way.

His 10 strikeouts gives him 33 over his last three starts.

SLAIN OFFICER HONORED: Virginia is honoring slain Omaha police officer Kerrie Orozco, hanging in the dugout a T-shirt designed in her memory and displaying a specially made bat with her name and unit engraved on it.

Orozco, a member of the police department's gang unit for about three years, was fatally shot May 20 while trying to apprehend a fugitive. One of Orozco's colleagues, Lt. Ken Kanger, was stationed in the Virginia dugout at last year's CWS and became friends with players, coaches and staff.

The equipment staff had the wooden bat made, and the players signed it. The bat will be sold after the CWS, with proceeds going to her family.

"What an unbelievable gesture! For Kerrie's benefit! Go Hoos!" Kanger tweeted.

STRIKE UP THE BAND: The old ballpark organ will have some competition Friday and during next week's best-of-three finals. The basketball pep band from Southeast High School in Lincoln will play the participating teams' fight songs and some baseball-themed ditties from the seats in center field.

"We're going to inject a little more of a collegiate feel in the College World Series this year," NCAA director of championships and alliances Damani Leech said. "That'll be a great fan enhancement for those who are in the stadium."

Area Athletes Feed 'Year-Round Passion'

Team Camp Concludes At Mount Marty

BY JEREMY HOECK
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For Grant Wragge, basketball is a year-round passion.

The incoming junior at Crofton (Nebraska) High School jumps at every opportunity he has to play during the summer. And this week, that brought him to Yankton.

Wragge and his Crofton teammates were among 10 teams to compete at the Mount Marty College boys' basketball team camp, held Monday and Tuesday at Cimpr Arena.

Any chance to work on their game during the summer is beneficial, according to Wragge.

"It's very important," he said after Tuesday afternoon's game against Yankton. "It's your time to improve."

Each of the 10 teams at the camp played three games each day. South Dakota schools Yankton, Bon Homme, Tri-Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson and Scotland sent teams to the camp, while Nebraska schools Crofton, Norfolk Catholic and Pierce were also in attendance.

The main goal, Wragge said, is utilize the time to prepare the teams for basketball season, which won't begin for



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Yankton High School boys' basketball coach Chris Haynes talks with one of his players during their game Tuesday at a Mount Marty College team camp at Cimpr Arena.

Softball: Xtreme Extend Win Streak To 11 Straight

NORFOLK, Neb. — The Yankton Fury Xtreme extended their win streak to 11 straight games with a doubleheader sweep of the Norfolk Impact on Tuesday in Norfolk, Nebraska.

In the opener, seven different Yankton players each recorded a hit in a 7-3 Xtreme victory.

Holly Mines had a hit, two RBI and a run scored to lead a balanced Yankton effort. Traia Hubbard had a hit, a

RBI and a run scored. Megan McCorkell had a hit and two runs scored. Alix Peterka, Bailey Peterka, Britney Davis and Dani Dvorak each had a hit in the victory.

Hanna Cummins picked up the win, striking out five in the five-inning contest.

In the nightcap, Yankton scored five runs in the bottom of the fourth and final inning to claim a 9-8 victory.

Megan McCorkell had two hits and Alix Peterka had a

triple and two RBI to lead Yankton. Bailey Peterka, Liz Suing, Cummings, Davis and Lexie McCorkell each had a hit in the victory.

Holly Mines picked up the victory.

Yankton, now 22-14-2, hosts Brookings on Thursday. Start time is 6 p.m. for the twinbill at Riverside Park.

Fury Crush 10-7, Norfolk Kelley's 3-6

The Yankton Fury Crush took a pair

of victories over Norfolk Kelley's in girls' softball action on Monday at Yankton's Sertoma Park. The games were played in Yankton, instead of the scheduled Norfolk, due to wet field conditions in Norfolk.

In the opener, Elsie Marquardt had three hits, including a double, four RBI and a run scored as Yankton downed Norfolk 10-3.

Payton Vellek had two hits, three RBI and two runs scored for Yankton. Bailey Sejnoha had a hit, a RBI and two runs scored. Trinity Fitch had a hit and a run scored. Rachel Hamburg also had a hit. Brooke Madson scored two runs and drove in another. Chloe Koletzky and Larkyn Mason each scored a run

in the win.

Sejnoha picked up the win, striking out three and allowing four hits.

In the nightcap, Koletzky's shoestring catch of a line drive in the final inning preserved a 7-6 Yankton victory. The catch came with two outs and the bases loaded.

Nolz had three hits, two RBI and two runs scored, and Vellek had three hits, a RBI and a run scored to lead Yankton. Sejnoha had a double, a single and a run scored. Fitch doubled and scored. Hamburg had a double and a RBI. Marquardt scored twice in the win.

Nolz picked up the victory, striking out three.

Baseball: Post 12 Downs West; Tappers Power Past Freeman

SIOUX FALLS — Yankton Post 12 scored a region victory with a 4-3 decision over Sioux Falls West in American Legion baseball action on Tuesday.

Brad Ulmer had two hits, a RBI and a run scored, and Mason Townsend had two hits and a run scored to lead Yankton. Levi Schmidt had a double and two RBI. Austin Johnson added a hit in the victory.

Sam Lang had two hits and Reece Mimmack doubled for West.

Townsend sent the distance for the win, striking out two. Stuart Baruth took the loss despite striking out six batters in five innings of work. Justin Kautz pitched two innings of relief for West.

Yankton, 11-5 overall and 2-0 in region play, hosts Harrisburg on Thursday. Start time for the contest is 6 p.m.

Crofton 10, Hartington 3

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Crofton pounded out 14 hits on the way to a 10-3 victory over Hartington in American Legion senior baseball action on Tuesday in Hartington, Nebraska.

Austin Hegge had three hits to lead a balanced Crofton attack. Tyler Koch, Brock Mueller, Christopher Kleinschmitt, Devin Munter and Tristen Wieseler each had two hits in the victory.

Seth Lackas homered and Jared Wiebelhaus doubled for Hartington.

Mueller went the distance for the win, striking out 11 in the seven-inning



JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Lesterville shortstop Tanner Termansen, left, reaches back to tag out Menno base runner Macon Oplinger during their South Central League game Tuesday night in Lesterville.

contest. James Kaiser took the loss.

Crofton, 8-2, travels to Stanton on Friday. It follows with an appearance in the Morrie Wachendorf First Dakota Classic on Saturday and Sunday in Yankton.

Platte-Geddes 8, Gregory County 7

GREGORY — Platte-Geddes scored twice in the top of the ninth to rally past Gregory County 8-7 in American Legion baseball action on Monday.

MMC standout Hunter Hallock had three hits, including two doubles, to lead Platte-Geddes. Payton Foxley had a double and two singles. Tanner Van Genderen doubled and singled, driving in three runs. Riley Hoffman added a pair of hits in the victory.

For Gregory County, Jayde Vander Werff led the way with a pair of doubles. Mason Juracek had a triple and a single in the effort.

Coby Johnson pitched four innings of relief, striking out six, to pick up the win. Hallock struck out three batters in the ninth for the save. Sky Soesbe went the distance in the loss, striking out nine.

Juniors

Hartington 2, Crofton 0

HARTINGTON, Neb. — Kelby Schomer's two-run double provided all the offense needed as Hartington edged Crofton 2-0 in American Legion junior baseball action on Tuesday.

Tanner Kiefer had a triple and Casey Lammers singled for the other Hartington hits.

Amateur

Yankton 10, Freeman 0

FREEMAN — The Yankton Tappers hit four home runs on the way to a 10-0 victory over Freeman in South Central League amateur baseball action on Tuesday.

Colton Thomas homered twice, go-

ing 3-3, to lead Yankton. Dave Schmidt went 4-5 with a home run and three runs scored. Lane Sawatzke also homered for Yankton.

Also for the Tappers, Kenny Tomek and Kory Bromley each had two hits and a run scored, with Tomek recording a double.

Joe Weier had two hits for Freeman. Chris Wolfgang doubled for the Black Sox.

Brandon Nickolite struck out eight in the eight-inning game for the victory. Wolfgang took the loss.

Yankton, 8-3 overall and 6-1 in the SCL, hosts Crofton on Sunday. Freeman travels to Tabor on Thursday.

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Brandon Nickolite and Kory Bromley, Chris Wolfgang, (other relievers not listed) and A.J. Scherschligt

Wambach Powers U.S. Past Nigeria

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Abby Wambach scored late in the first half and the U.S. women's national team went on to beat Nigeria 1-0 on Tuesday night for a first-place finish in its group at the Women's World Cup.

It was Wambach's 14th World Cup goal, pulling her even with Birgit Prinz for second on the all-time list behind Brazil's Marta, who has 15.

Wambach came off the bench for the United States in the team's last match against Sweden. Tuesday, she started up top with Alex Morgan, who was making her first World Cup start in Canada after working her way back from a bone bruise in her left knee.

The United States, ranked second in the world behind Germany, has two World Cup titles, but hasn't won since 1999.

Four years ago in Germany, the U.S. advanced to the final but fell to Japan on penalty kicks.

The win sent the United States through as the leader of its group for the sixth time in seven Women's World Cups. The team heads to Edmonton, Alberta, for the first match of the knockout stage. The opponent has not been determined.

Nigeria, which has won seven of nine African championships, has been to every World Cup since it started for the women in 1991. The Super Falcons were eliminated after the loss to the United States after playing to a 3-all draw with Sweden in the opener and falling 2-0 to Australia.

The U.S. opened Group D with a 3-1 victory over No. 10 Australia, before playing to a 0-0 draw with No. 5 Sweden.

Morgan hadn't started a match since April. The speedy 25-year-old played 12 minutes as a sub in the draw with Sweden.

Wambach also came in as a sub in the match against Sweden last Friday. It was the first time she had played off the bench at a World Cup since her first in 2003.

Wambach, who didn't score in the first two U.S. group stage matches, had never gone without a goal in the opening round in four World Cup appearances.

Julie Johnston had the best chance for the United States early, but her strike in the eighth minute was ruled offside. Minutes later, U.S. goalkeeper Hope Solo dove to stop Nigeria forward Asisat Oshoala's attempt.

Nigerian goalkeeper Precious Dede had to punch Megan Rapinoe's long 25-foot blast in the 17th minute. Johnston battled to catch Oshoala on a fast break, sliding to deflect the ball as Solo charged.

Wambach finally put the United States ahead just before the end of the half when she rushed in on a corner kick from Megan Rapinoe and volleyed the ball into the goal at the far post.

Dede stopped a shot from an onrushing Morgan to open the second half.

A scary moment came when Wambach and Josephine Chukwunonye appeared to bump heads. Wambach got up quickly, but Chukwunonye — who got a yellow card on the play — was helped off but returned a few moments later.

Sydney Leroux, who grew up in the Vancouver area, replaced Morgan in the 65th minute. Leroux, who has an American father, left Canada as a teenager to pursue her goal of playing for the United States.

Nigeria, which was physical all game, was hurt when Sarah Nnodin was sent off with her second yellow of the night for a tackle on Leroux in the 69th minute. That put Nigeria at 10 players for the rest of the match.