

Timberwolves Take Kentucky's Towns To Open NBA Draft

NEW YORK (AP) — The Minnesota Timberwolves got their man in the middle. The Lakers got a play-making partner for Kobe Bryant. Knicks fans just got mad — though not for long. Minnesota selected Kentucky's Karl-Anthony Towns with the first pick in the NBA draft on Thursday night, the first of three straight freshmen chosen before New York chose Latvian forward Kristaps Porzingis, triggering loud, long boos from their fans inside Barclays Center.

They were cheering later in the first round when the Knicks acquired the rights to Notre Dame

guard Jerian Grant from Atlanta for Tim Hardaway Jr. Before that, the Timberwolves went for a center in their first time owning the No. 1 pick. They can add him to a young roster featuring Rookie of the Year Andrew Wiggins, who was picked first last year by Cleveland and later dealt to Minnesota in the Kevin Love trade.

Towns' selection wasn't a surprise — though he said he didn't know until it was announced. "When Mr. Adam Silver came out, I saw him, and he said, 'with the No. 1 pick', I was racing," said Towns, who was sitting with Kentucky coach John Calipari.

"I told Coach Cal before when he first came out that I was trying to drink the water and I was shaking uncontrollably, and I told him, 'Coach, don't give me the ball right now for the last-second shot. I wouldn't make it.'"

The Los Angeles Lakers then took guard D'Angelo Russell of Ohio State, who was wearing a red jacket, bowtie and shoes that matched the Buckeyes' school colors.

Red was the color of choice in the green room, though Towns wore a grey jacket and Russell's table later turned gold when his supporters donned Lakers hats.

He drew huge cheers when he

was announced but his crowd was dwarfed by Towns'. The New Jersey native said he had above 50 family and friends in attendance.

"This is home to me," he said. "Been able to come here and have all my closest friends and love ones come out here. It's the most special moments in my life."

The 6-foot-11 Towns averaged 10.3 points and 6.7 rebounds in just 21 minutes per game, as Kentucky used a platoon system in winning its first 38 games and reaching the Final Four.

It was Kentucky's third No. 1 pick in the last six years, joining Anthony Davis in 2012 and John Wall

in 2010. The Wildcats were hoping to have a record seven players picked and were well on their way when Sacramento took center Willie Cauley-Stein with the sixth pick, Utah grabbed Trey Lyles at No. 12 and guard Devin Booker followed one spot later to Phoenix.

Booker, at 18 the youngest player in the draft, gave the Wildcats a record-tying four players among the top 14 selections. Duke in 1999 and North Carolina in 2005 also had four lottery picks.

"Just shows our team was special. Unlike any other," Lyles said. "Still got three other guys going to

DRAFT | PAGE 7A

A 'Great Experience'

Tryout Camp Provides A Showcase For Area Players

BY JEREMY HOECK
jeremy.hoeck@yankton.net

Devin Gieselman could very well have a bright future in baseball.

He's not sure yet. All he knows is that a trip to Yankton on Thursday morning could provide him with a good barometer of his skills.

"This is great experience," said Gieselman, an 18-year-old graduate of Bloomfield (Nebraska) High School who will be attending Wayne State College this fall. "I thought it'd help me out a lot for my future."

Gieselman, who plays legion baseball for Creighton, was one of 57 area youth players to attend Thursday's tryout camp hosted by San Diego Padres regional scout Hank Krause at Yankton's Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

Rather than an outlet for older players seeking one last attempt to catch the eye of a professional scout, Thursday's camp was more of an opportunity for regional college coaches to see up-and-coming talent.

"It's not so much for me. It's for these college coaches," Krause said as he watched the action. "They're always looking for players, and the more they can see these kids, the better."

College coaches from South Dakota State (NCAA Division I), Wayne State (NCAA D-II), Buena Vista (NCAA D-III), Briar Cliff (NAIA), Mount Marty (NAIA) and Northwestern (NAIA) were in

TRYOUT | PAGE 7A



Showing Their Stuff

ABOVE: A young pitcher from Tyndall delivers to home plate while San Diego Padres scout Hank Krause (with clipboard) looks on during Thursday's tryout camp at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

LEFT: Mount Marty College head baseball coach Andy Bernatow, left, and Briar Cliff assistant coach Justin Malenosky compare times during Thursday's Hank Krause tryout camp at Bob Tereshinski Stadium at Riverside Field.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

U.S. Faces Offensive Challenge In Defense-Minded China

BY ANNE M. PETERSON
AP Sports Writer

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — The last time the United States played China in the Women's World Cup was in the 1999 final at the Rose Bowl, when the Americans won on penalty kicks for their second title and Brandi Chastain famously ripped off her jersey.

The teams meet again Friday night, with the winner advancing to a semifinal against top-ranked Germany or No. 3 France, and the Americans still are seeking their third title.

The United States has a 24-game unbeaten streak against China dating to 2003.

After scoring just six goals in their first four games, the Americans look to Alex Morgan for offense. The 25-year-old star forward was sidelined by a bone bruise in her left knee from April 11 until June 8, made her first start of the tournament in the group-stage finale against Nigeria and scored her first goal in Monday's 2-0 round-of-16 win over Colombia.

"I feel better and better each game," Morgan said. "I'm seeing my speed, my change of direction, my shot coming back. It feels good and hopefully in the next games it will feel great."

The Americans will be missing midfielders Megan Rapinoe and Lauren Holiday,

suspended because of yellow card accumulation. Morgan Brian, 22, and 26-year-old Christen Press are likely to take their spots in the starting lineup against China.

Rapinoe has been one of the most creative and dangerous players in Canada, while Holiday has been steady and dependable.

"They're definitely both incredible players, great for our team. They're going to be missed, for sure," fellow midfielder Carli Lloyd said. "But it is what it is. We kind of have to get on with it. We can't really dwell on the fact we won't have them out on the field."

China coach Hao Wei was peppered with questions

Thursday about whether the team was seeking revenge — either for that 1999 loss or the winless streak.

"I don't think it is vengeance or anything like that," Hao said. "It is just a match. We just have our usual mindset about the game."

THE REPLACEMENTS: Coach Jill Ellis has said Brian will likely replace Holiday in the middle of the midfield alongside Lloyd, while it's widely expected Press will start in Rapinoe's left flank spot.

Brian is the youngest player on the U.S. team.

"Mo has played significant minutes in our games," Ellis said. "We've partnered her specifically with Carli and

Lauren at times so she could be confident in that position. She's a tremendous ball distributor, good on services, so we have other options there for us."

Ellis could slide Tobin Heath to the left flank and use Press on the right. Press started against Australia in the team's World Cup opener and scored a goal.

Veteran Heather O'Reilly is also available.

BRANDI ON THAT MOMENT: Chastain told The Associated Press that it wasn't that singular moment that was special to her; it was about the process of getting there.

SOCCER | PAGE 7A

Hard Times Toughened Virginia Players For Their Run To Title

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Winning, and winning big, has been the standard for the Virginia baseball program since coach Brian O'Connor took over in 2004, and no excuses were allowed when the most trying circumstances cropped up.

The Cavaliers entered the season without six everyday players and four key relief pitchers from the team that was College World Series runner-up to Vanderbilt. But with one of the nation's top recruiting classes coming in, there was reason to believe Virginia could make another trip to Omaha.

No one, however, could have foreseen the injuries that left the Cavaliers with just 11 healthy position players in March. O'Connor went so far as to pick up a couple guys from the school's club team to fill out the roster.

It wasn't until the last week of the regular season, when there was doubt about the Cavaliers even making the ACC Tournament, that Virginia was primed to make a run.

The Cavaliers wrapped up their first baseball national championship Wednesday night by winning a CWS finals rematch against the defending champion Commodores in three games. When they returned to campus Thursday evening, about 4,000 fans awaited in John Paul Jones Arena, cheering wildly through a highlight video and player and coaches introductions.

The biggest cheers went to senior third baseman Kenny Towns, the last player introduced; to Nathan Kirby, who pitched the final two innings in the decisive game; and O'Connor, who has transformed the program in 12 years as coach.

The way the season unfolded, the title was nothing if not hard-earned.

"The one thing that coach O'Connor and the other coaches kept preaching to us is you've just got to grind through it," senior third baseman Kenny Towns said. "We had a lot of ups and downs, but they didn't expect less out of us. I think going through those ups and downs, we were kind of able to become a tougher team. That showed for us in the postseason."

This was the fourth team in seven years that O'Connor brought to the CWS and, on paper, the least likely to win it.

Statistically, Virginia was a middling team. And at 44-24,

VIRGINIA | PAGE 7A

Baseball: Menno's Oplinger Tosses One-Hitter Against Broncs

MENNO — Menno's Macon Oplinger came within an out of a no-hitter, giving up a hit with two outs in the seventh of a 12-0 Mad Frogs victory over Lesterville in South Central League amateur baseball action on Thursday. The game was shortened to seven innings due to the 10-run run.

Dylan Lehr went 5-5 and Jared Nelson had a home run, a double and four RBI to lead the Menno offense. Oplinger, Ryan Liebl and Kyler Pekarek each had two hits in the victory.

Darrin Svacina's single in the seventh broke up the no-hit bid.

Oplinger struck out four in the win. Tanner Termansen took the loss.

Menno hosts the Vermillion Grey Sox in a non-league game today (Friday). Lesterville hosts Scotland today.

LESTERVILLE 000 000 0-0 1 2
MENNO 040 530 X-12 14 1

Tanner Termansen, Ian Powell (5) and Powell, Cody Ulmer (5); Macon Oplinger and Kyler Pekarek

Wynot 12, Wakefield 11

WYNOT, Neb. — The Wynot Expos scored seven runs in the bottom of the ninth to rally to a 12-11 victory over Wakefield in amateur baseball action on

Wednesday.

Kyle Wiepen went 3-5, and Lance Heine, Devon Lammers and Dave Schenk each had two hits for Wynot.

Dylan Rose and Aaron Hample each had three hits for Wakefield, which outhit the Expos 13-10.

Brady Stratman picked up the win, going the final 2 2/3 innings. Hample took the loss.

WAKEFIELD 500 002 400-11 13 4
WYNOT 010 300 017-12 10 4

Tyler Nissen, Aaron Hample (9) and Tyler Rose; Brett Wiebelhaus, Brady Stratman (7) and Heath Schmidt

Legion

Crofton 4, Tabor 2

TABOR — Crofton jumped out to an early lead and held on for a 4-2 victory over Tabor in American Legion baseball action on Wednesday.

Christopher Kleinschmidt's two-run single in the first led the way for Crofton, which was held to three hits.

For Tabor, Chase Kortan had three hits, including two triples, and Hunter Young doubled and singled.

Tabor, 3-3, hosts Menno on Monday.

Brandon Valley 6-8, Yankton Juniors 5-6

BRANDON — Brandon Valley swept Yankton in American Legion junior baseball action on Wednesday, taking the opener 6-5 and the nightcap 8-6.

In the opener, Nathan Hein and Chase Vogt each had two hits to lead Yankton. Justin Leader, Jack Schoenfelder, Jakob Larson, Miles Carda and Nate Eihacker each had a hit.

Schoenfelder took the loss, going the distance while striking out three.

In the nightcap, Vogt went 3-4 and Leader 2-3 to lead the way. Michael Heine, Carda, Jackson Somsen, Kellen Franzen and Isiah Woods each had a hit.

Trey Bakke took the loss, allowing two earned runs in 5 1/3 innings of relief.

Yankton, 11-13 overall and 2-2 in region play, hosts Sioux Falls West on Tuesday. Start time for the twinbill is set for 5 p.m.



JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Ryan Heimes, 8, and Yankton third baseman Colton Thomas race to third base during their South Central League amateur baseball game on Thursday in Wynot. Heimes was called out on the play.

BASEBALL | PAGE 7A