AREA CALENDAR

### SCOREBOARD

#### **GOLF** SDGA HUSBAND-WIFE

CHAMPIONSHIPS Saturday-Sunday at Brookings CC Final Results

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Oakland

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Miller-Cindy Miller 177 Leonard Kadel-Lori Kadel 180, Larry Meyer-Anne Meyer 181, Jim Karabetsos-DeeDee Karabet-sos 181, Gail Gubbels-Deb Gubbels 182, Jim Schlingman-Carla Schlingman 183, Dick Quam-Lois Quam 183, Keith Jensen-Cherie Jensen 184, Gordie Skyberg-Marilyn Skyberg 185, Gary LaFollette-Grace LaFollette 185, Warren Luke-Wilma Luke 185, Dick Ellis-Barb Ellis 186. Richard Wilson-Sharon Wilson 186, Joe Vig-Patti Vig 189, Dan Lammers-Joan Lammers 195

					Aliania	აი	40	.4/4	
D/	CE	RΛ	ш		Miami	31	46	.403	1
BASEBALL MERICAN LEAGUE					Philadelphia	27	50	.351	18
					Central Division				
East Division						W	L	Pct	
	W	L	Pct	GB	St. Louis	50	24	.676	
altimore	41	34	.547	_	Pittsburgh	42	33	.560	8
impa Bay	42	35	.545	_	Chicago	39	34	.534	10
ew York	41	35	.539	1/2	Cincinnati	34	40	.459	
ronto	41	36	.532	1	Milwaukee	29	48	.377	22
oston	34	43	.442	8	West Division				
Central Division						W	L	Pct	
	W	L	Pct	GB	Los Angeles	43	34	.558	
ansas City	44	28	.611	_	San Francisco	42	35	.545	
innesota	40	35	.533	5 1/2	Arizona	36	39	.480	
etroit	39	36	.520	6 1/2	San Diego	37	41	.474	6
eveland	33	41	.446	12	Colorado	33	42	.440	
hicago	32	42	.432	13	Saturday's Games				

Minnesota 5 Milwaukee 2 West Division Washington at Philadelphia, ppd. Pittsburgh 8, Atlanta 4 38 38 34 42 34 44 San Francisco 7, Colorado 5 Cincinnati at N.Y. Mets, susp. Miami 3, L.A. Dodgers 2

Saturday's Games Texas 4, Toronto 0 St. Louis 8, Chicago Cubs 1 San Diego 7, Arizona 2 N.Y. Mets 2, Cincinnati 1, 13 in-Kansas City 3, Oakland 2 nings, comp. of susp. game Washington 3, Philadelphia 2, 1st Chicago White Sox at Detroit, ppd.,

Tampa Bay 4, Boston 1 N.Y. Yankees 9, Houston 6 L.A. Angels 4, Seattle 2 L.A. Dodgers 2, Miami 0 Atlanta 2, Pittsburgh 1 Milwaukee 5, Minnesota 3 Cleveland at Baltimore, ppd., rain nday's Games Toronto 3. Texas 2 San Francisco 6, Colorado 3 Arizona 6, San Diego 4 Philadelphia 8, Washington 5, 2nd Detroit 5, Chicago White Sox 4
Boston 5, Tampa Bay 3
Baltimore 4, Cleveland 0, 1st game Chicago Cubs at St. Louis, 8:05 Milwaukee 5. Minnesota 3 Houston 3, N.Y. Yankees 1

N.Y. Mets 7. Cincinnati 2

Milwaukee (Nelson 4-8) at Philadel-phia (O'Sullivan 1-5), 6:05 p.m. L.A. Dodgers (Bolsinger 4-2) at Ari-zona (Webster 1-1), 8:40 p.m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE LEADERS

BATTING—Fielder, Texas, .351; MiCabrera, Detroit, .350; Kipnis, Cleve-land, .346; Jlglesias, Detroit, .330; Paredes, Baltimore, .326; Moustakas,

. Mondav's Games

L.A. Angels 3, Seattle 2, 10 innings Kansas City 5, Oakland 3 Baltimore 8, Cleveland 0, 2nd game Monday's Games
Texas (W.Rodriguez 4-3) at Baltimore (B.Norris 2-6), 6:05 p.m. Boston (Buchholz 5-6) at Toronto

(Dickey 3-7), 6:07 p.m. Cleveland (Co.Anderson 0-0) at Tampa Bay (Karns 4-3), 6:10 p.m. Minnesota (Pelfrey 5-4) at Cincinnati

(Leake 5-4) 6:10 n m Kansas City (Blanton 2-0) at Houston (McCullers 3-2), 7:10 p.m.
Colorado (Hale 2-2) at Oakland (Graveman 4-4), 9:05 p.m. N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 3-7) at L.A.

sota, 57; Trout, Los Angeles, 55; Bautista, Toronto, 50; Kipnis, Cleveland, 49; MMachado, Baltimore, 49.

RBI—MiCabrera, Detroit, 53;
Teixeira, New York, 53; Vogt, Oakland, Angels (C.Wilson 5-6), 9:05 p.m NATIONAL LEAGUE 53; Bautista, Toronto, 50; BMcCann, **East Division** New York 49: Donaldson Toronto 48: W L Pct 42 34 .553 40 37 .519 36 40 .474 GB

Texas, 48; KMorales, Kansas City, 48.
HITS—Fielder, Texas, 101; Kipnis, Cleveland, 100; MiCabrera, Detroit, 92; Donaldson, Toronto, 91; MMachado, 5 1/2

Baltimore, 88; Cespedes, Detroit, 86; Pedroia, Boston, 86. DOUBLES—Kipnis, Cleveland, 24; Dozier, Minnesota, 23; Brantley, Cleveland, 22; Cespedes, Detroit, 22; Cano, 8 1/2

Seattle, 19; Gardner, New York, 19; KMorales, Kansas City, 19. TRIPLES—RDavis, Detroit, 6; Eaton, Chicago, 6; Kiermaier, Tampa Bay, 6; Orlando, Kansas City, 5; 7 tied at 4. HOME RUNS—Pujols, Los Angeles, 23; NCruz, Seattle, 19; UMartinez, Detroit, 19; Trout, Los Angeles, 19; Valbuena, Houston, 19; Donaldson, To-

ronto, 18: Teixeira, New York, 18. STOLEN BASES-Altuve, Houston 21; Burns, Oakland, 15; Cain, Kansas City, 15; Gardner, New York, 15; RDavis, Detroit, 14; Ellsbury, New York, 14; DeShields, Texas, 13; LMartin, Texas,

Deshields, Texas, 13; Liwarnin, Texas, 13; Springer, Houston, 13.
PITCHING—FHernandez, Seattle, 10-4; Keuchel, Houston, 9-3; Gray, Oakland, 9-3; McHugh, Houston, 9-3; Archer, Tampa Bay, 9-5; Carrasco, Cleveland, 9-6; 5 tied at 8. ERA—Gray, Oakland, 2.09; Keuchel, Houston, 2.17; Archer, Tampa Bay, 2.31; Santiago, Los Angeles, 2.58; Price, Detroit, 2.62; Gallardo, Texas, Price, Detroit, 2.0.2; Gallardo, Texas, 2.72; Kazmir, Oakland, 2.79.
STRIKEOUTS—Archer, Tampa Bay, 133; Sale, Chicago, 129; Kluber, Cleveland, 127; Price, Detroit, 100; FH-ernandez, Seattle, 100; Salazar, Cleve-

and, 99; Gray, Oakland, 97; Carrasco, Cleveland, 97.
SAVES—Perkins, Minnesota, 24; Britton, Baltimore, 22; Street, Los Angeles, 21; Boxberger, Tampa Bay, 20; Gregerson, Houston, 18; AMiller, New York, 17; Soria, Detroit, 17.

NATIONAL LEAGUE LEADERS BATTING—DGordon, Miami, 353; Goldschmidt, Arizona, 349; Harper, Washington, 339; YEscobar, Washington, 324; Aoki, San Francisco, 317; Tulowitzki, Colorado, 313; Panik, San

Through June 28 (x-played prior to 1901; y-active)

Kansas City, .322; Pedroia, Boston, .306; MMachado, Baltimore, .306. RUNS—Donaldson, Toronto, 58; Gardner, New York, 58; Dozier, Minne-RUNS-Frazier Cincinnati 54: Goldschmidt, Arizona, 54; Harper, Washington, 53; Arenado, Colorado, 49; Fowler, Chicago, 48; Pollock, Arizona, 48; Stanton, Miami, 47

RBI-Arenado, Colorado, 68: Stanton, Miami, 67; Goldschmidt, Arizona, 62; Harper, Washington, 58; Frazier, Cincinnati, 53; Posey, San Francisco, 53; Braun, Milwaukee, 49. HITS—DGordon, Miami,

1. Stan Musial

Tris Speaker

6. Derek Jeter 7. x-Honus Wagne

. Paul Molitor

Eddie Collins

Willie Mays
 Eddie Murray
 A-Nap Lajoie

. Cal Ripken 5. George Brett 6. Paul Waner 7. Robin Yount 8. Tony Gwynn

9. Dave Winfield

20. Craig Biggio 21. Rickey Hende 22. Rod Carew 23. Lou Brock

24. Rafael Palmeiro

26. Wade Boggs 26. y-Alex Rodriguez 28. Al Kaline

29. Roberto Clemente

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

SOCCER

QUARTERFINALS

United States 1, China 0

England 2, Canada 1
SEMIFINALS

Japan 1, Australia 0 At Vancouve

At Montreal

THIRD PLACE

At Edmonton, Alberta

Japan vs. England, 6 p.m

Semifinal losers, 3 p.m. CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday, July 5 At Vancouver, British Columbia

Semifinal winners, 6 p.m.

25. x-Cap Anson

Carl Yastrzemsk

Goldschmidt, Arizona, 94; Panik, San Francisco, 87; Markakis, Atlanta, 86; YEscobar, Washington, 85; Frazier, Cincinnati, 85; AGonzalez, Los Angeles 85; Pollock, Arizona, 85; Revere, Phila delphia, 85.

DOUBLES—AGonzalez, Los An

geles, 23; Rizzo, Chicago, 23; Frazier Cincinnati, 21; MCarpenter, St. Louis, 20; Duda, New York, 20; FFreeman, Atlanta, 20; McCutchen, Pittsburgh, 20; DeNorris, San Diego, 20; Panik, San Francisco, 20.

TRIPLES—Revere, Philadelphia, 6; Grichuk, St. Louis, 5; Ethier, Los Angeles, 4; Fowler, Chicago, 4; Realmuto, Miami, 4; 16 tied at 3. HOME RUNS—Stanton, Miami,

27; Frazier, Cincinnati, 25; Arenado, Colorado, 24; Harper, Washington, 24; Goldschmidt, Arizona, 20; Pederson, Los Angeles, 19; Braun, Milwaukee, 15;

Rizzo, Chicago, 15.
STOLEN BASES—BHamilton,
Cincinnati, 36; DGordon, Miami, 25;
Blackmon, Colorado, 21; Revere, Philadelphia, 18; GPolanco, Pittsburgh, 17;
SMarte, Pittsburgh, 15; Pollock, Arizona, Friday, June 26 At Montreal Germany 1, France 1, Germany won 5-4 on penalty kicks At Ottawa, 15; Upton, San Diego, 15. PITCHING—GCole, Pittsburgh.

11-3; Wacha, St. Louis, 10-3; Scherzer, Washington, 9-5; BColon, New York, 9-6; CMartinez, St. Louis, 8-3; Bumgar-Saturday, June 27 At Edmonton, Alberta ner, San Francisco, 8-4; Heston, San Francisco, 8-5; deGrom, New York, 8-5. ERA—Greinke, Los Angeles, 1.58; Scherzer, Washington, 1.79; SMiller, Atlanta, 1.94; Burnett, Pittsburgh, 2.01; Tuesday, June 30 United States vs. Germany, 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 1

deGrom, New York, 2.15; GCole, Pittsdecrom, New York, 2.15; GCole, Pitts-burgh, 2.16; Hammel, Chicago, 2.65. STRIKEOUTS—Kershaw, Los An-geles, 140; Scherzer, Washington, 130; Shields, San Diego, 116; Bumgarner, San Francisco, 110; Liriano, Pittsburgh, 108; Hamels, Philadelphia, 106; TRoss,

Tuo; Hameis, Priladelpinia, Tuo; TROSs, San Diego, 105. SAVES—Melancon, Pittsburgh, 24; Storen, Washington, 23; Rosenthal, St. Louis, 22; Grilli, Allanta, 21; Familia, New York, 21; Casilla, San Francisco, 21; Kimbrel, San Diego, 19.

3,000 HITS

**TRANSACTIONS** 

3.515

3,465 3,430 3,419

3,319 3,314

3,283 3,255 3,252 3,184 3,154

3,152 3,142 3,141

BASEBALL, LEGION S.F. Post vs. Yankton (6 p.m., KYNT-AM) GOLF, DAKOTAS TOUR Siouxland Federal Credit Union Pro-Am at

Dakota Dunes
Tuesday, June 30
BASEBALL, LEGION Yankton
at Harrisburg (6 p.m.); S.F. West at
Yankton Juniors (DH, 5 p.m.); Can-

ton at Vermillion (6 p.m.)

BASEBALL, VFW TEENER

Yankton Reds at S.F. West (DH, 5

SOFTBALL, GIRLS' Yanktor Fury Red vs. Yankton Fury Black U12 (DH, 6 p.m., Summit South); Thunder vs. Yankton Fury Xtreme (DH, 6:30 p.m., Riverside

BASEBALL, AMATEUR Vermil-lion Greysox at Canton (7:30 p.m.); Wynot at Freeman (7:30 p.m.) BASEBALL, LEGION Vermillion

at Yankton Juniors (DH, noon)

BASEBALL, VFW TEENER

Renner at Yankton Lakers (DH, 5

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Agreed to terms with OF DJ Stewart on a minor BOSTON RED SOX — Assigned RHP John Cornely outright to Portland (EL). Sent C Ryan Hanigan to Portland

for a rehab assignment.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Optioned LHP Brett Oberholtzer to Fresno (PCL). Recalled RHP Michael Feliz from Corpus Christi (TL). Agreed to terms with 3B Bobby Wernes on a minor league

NEW YORK YANKEES — Ontioned INF Gregorio Petit to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL). Selected the contract of RHP Esmil Rogers from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. Transferred OF Slade Heathcott

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Agreed to terms with LHP Phil Coke on a minor league contract

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Optioned 2B Tim Beckham and RHP Matt Andriese to Durham (IL). Selected the contract of OF Grady Sizemore from Charlotte (FSL). Transferred OF Desmond Jennings to the 60-day DL. Sent C John Jaso to Charlotte (FSL) for a rehab assignment. TEXAS RANGERS — Sent OF De-lino DeShields and LHP Martin Perez to Round Rock (PCL) and OF Antoan Richardson to the AZL Rangers for rehab

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Ontioned LHP Rob Rasmussen to Buffalo (IL). Selected the contract of LHP Matt Boyd from Buffalo

National League
ATLANTA BRAVES — Optioned
RHP Sugar Ray Marimon to Gwinnett
(IL). Selected the contract of RHP Ryan

Kelly from Gwinnett. CHICAGO CUBS — Optioned RHP Yoervis Medina to Iowa (PCL). Designated C Rafael Lopez for assignment. Selected the contract of RHP Donn Roach from Iowa. Placed LHP Tsuyoshi Wada on 15-day DL. Activated RHP Neil

Ramirez from the 15-day DL. MIAMI MARLINS — Placed OF Giancarlo Stanton on the 15-day DL. Assigned RHP Vin Mazzaro outright to New Orleans (PCL). Optioned 3B Do-novan Solano to New Orleans. Recalled SS Miguel Roias from New Orleans, Selected the contract of OF Cole Gillespie from New Orleans. Reinstated RHP Bryan Morris fromthe 15-day DL. Sent RHP Jose Fernandez to Jacksonville (SL) for a rehab assignment.

NEW YORK METS - Recalled LHP called RHP Severino Gonzalez from

Lehigh Valley (IL). Agreed to terms with OFs Drew Heid, Mark Laird and Joshua Tobias on minor league contracts.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Designated RHP Chris Volstad and Jose abata for assignment. Recalled INF/OF

Steve Lombardozzi from Indianapolis (IL). Selected the contract of OF Gorkys Hernandez from Indianapolis.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Agreed to terms with RHP Phil Bickford on a minor league contract.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS —
Agreed to terms with 3B Dalton DiNatale

and RHP Andrew Lee on minor league American Association

AMARILLO THUNDERHEADS —
Signed RHP Will Rankin.
LAREDO LEMURS — Traded RHP Omar Bencomo to Wichita for INF Dustin Geiger.
WINNIPEG GOLDEYES —

leased C Ramon Ortega.

Atlantic League
SUGAR LAND SKEETERS ned INF/OF Ryan Adams

BASKETBALL National Basketball Association MIAMI HEAT — Declined their contract option on F Michael Beasley

## Los Angeles Stepping In On 2024 Summer Games If Boston Stumbles?

BY DAVID WHARTON

(c) 2015 Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES - Five months have passed since Boston defeated Los Angeles in a close race to represent the U.S. in bidding for the 2024 Summer Olympics.

It has been a difficult stretch for organizers in the Massachusetts capital, who have faced persistent opposition and watched public support dip below 40 percent amid concerns about the cost of the Games.

The bid committee has reshuffled its leadership and promised a revamped master plan on Tuesday. The clock is

U.S. Olympic Committee board members will meet in Northern California this week and, though they will probably not take decisive action now, there is increasing pressure to abandon the Boston bid.

Pulling the plug would leave two options: Submit no American city for 2024 or make a last-minute switch.

Los Angeles – with an llympic track record and array of world-class venues could be an easy solution, said individuals close to the situation who are not author-

ized to speak publicly. "The Boston bid is in

serious trouble," said Jules Boykoff, a political science professor at Pacific University in Oregon who tracks Olympic affairs. "These next few weeks are so important.

USOC and Los Angeles officials say they have not discussed - and will not comment on - the possibility of a switch. A Boston 2024 executive says his group remains confident as it presents a new plan to USOC directors.

"I know the board is curious," said Richard Davey, the bid committee's chief executive. "I don't sense this is anything other than keeping our trusted partner informed

and getting their advice." The U.S. has until mid-September to submit an application to the International Olympic Committee. After that, the process slows considerably, with almost two years of planning and presentations before the IOC selects a host in 2017.

That gives Boston officials a chance to fix their problems if they remain the candidate. Last week, USOC leaders took a first look at the revised bid plan and were encouraged, Davey said.

If nothing else, Boston might have bought itself time. The bid committee has scrambled to rebound from

early missteps that included a lack of communication with residents about the proposal's details.

"Bostonians like to be heard early and often," Davey said. "We did not get the 'early' part right but now we're getting the 'often' part

A recent poll by radio station WBUR showed only 39 percent of residents favor hosting the Games. Forty-nine percent were opposed.

Not that Olympic leaders expect overwhelming support with cities around the world becoming more sophisticated about the billions of dollars it costs to host the Games. Boykoff said: "The word is out - the Olympics aren't the economic deal we were always told they would be.'

Still, the IOC prefers something around 70 percent approval.
"Ultimately, public sup-

port is very important," said Michael Payne, a former IOC marketing director who also advised the successful London 2012 and Rio de Janeiro 2016 bids. "Two years from now, the IOC wants to know that a majority of the local population thinks hosting the Olympic Games is a good idea.

## Wild Agree To Deal With Goalie

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Wild have been searching for a reliable goalie for years, an issue that almost cost them dearly before Devan Dubnyk arrived to save their season

Their investment in Devan Dubnyk shows they don't believe his stellar play over the final four months of last season was a fluke.

The Wild agreed to terms with Dubnyk on a six-year contract Saturday, cementing the 29-year-old as the unquestioned man between the pipes for the foreseeable future.

We've been chasing our goaltending a little bit the last couple years, chasing stability in the goaltending position," Wild GM Chuck Fletcher told reporters at the NHL draft in Sunrise, Florida. "And we're hopeful that Devan can be a steadying influence back there.

Dubnyk was so much more than that for the Wild last season. The team was languishing at 18-19-5 in mid-January, one of the biggest disappointments in the league thanks in large part to its shaky goalies. That's when Fletcher sent a third-round draft pick to Arizona for Dubnyk, who was a backup for the Coyotes after five uneven years with the woeful Edmonton Oilers.

From the moment he first hit the ice for the Wild, Dubnyk was a force in net. He posted a 1.78 goals-against average while starting 39 of the final 40 games of the season as the Wild frantically climbed back into the playoff picture.

They finished the season as the sixth seed in the Western Conference and beat the St. Louis Blues in the first round before getting swept by the Chicago Blackhawks in the semifinals. Players and coaches widely credited Dubnyk's calming influence with turning things around and saving the team's season.

While the Wild and Dubnyk went back and forth in negotiations, there was some debate about whether Dubnyk's relatively short burst of dominant play could be relied upon for years to come. At 29, Dubnyk was looking for some long-term security. while the Wild were looking to keep the average annual value as reasonable as possible to give them more

flexibility going forward. The Star Tribune of Minneapolis reported that Dubnyk received \$26 million, a \$4.33 million average annual salary.

We've analyzed it to death," Fletcher said. "We've looked at it every which way and we're very comfortable with this signing."

That doesn't mean Fletcher is expecting the same kind of dominant performance from Dubnyk over the next six years that he gave them over the second half of last season. But he also made it clear that the Wild believe he is just starting to play his best as he enters his eighth NHL season.

"I don't think we're asking him to duplicate what he did this year every year. Maybe that's not realistic," Fletcher said. "But we believe he can be a good goaltender in this league and he's right at the stage of his career where he's ready to take off. He's right in his prime.'

Fletcher also said that the team is "very close" with center Mikael Granlund on a new contract. Fletcher said he had yet to speak with Granlund's agent, Todd Diamond, on Saturday, probably because his time was being occupied while he put the finishing touches on Dubnyk's deal. But Fletcher hoped to have something finished with Granlund by Monday.

"We'll see if we can't close the gap," Fletcher said. "If (Diamond) just gets a little more reasonable we'll get it done."

## Twins

FROM PAGE 7

Twins: Molitor hasn't determined yet how to reshuffle the starting rotation after RHP Ervin Santana returns July 5 following his 80-game suspension after testing positive for a performanceenhancing substance. "It's not a no-brainer as far as what the solution will be,' Molitor said. The 32-yearold right-hander, thought

to be the No. 2 starter, is in his first year with the Twins after signing a four-year. \$55 million contract in the offseason. He also has a \$14 million team option for a fifth

Brewers: No date has been set for LF Khris Davis' rehab assignment. He's been on the 15-day DL with a torn meniscus in his right knee.

**UP NEXT** Twins: RHP Mike Pelfrey (5-4) makes his eighth career start and ninth career appearance against the Reds in Cincinnati on Monday. He

last faced the Reds on July 27, 2011, while with the New York Mets.

Brewers: RHP Jimmy Nelson (4-8) aims for his seventh quality start and first ever against the Phillies in Philadelphia on Monday.

**MOLITOR BOBBLEHEAD** Molitor was honored by his former team with a bobblehead. "For them to do one for the visiting manager, I thought that was a pretty nice gesture," he said. "The players are giving me a hard time, which makes it fun.

## USD's Glisar Finishes 13th At USA Meet

EUGENE, Ore. — University of South Dakota senior Megan Glisar finished 13th in the women's high jump at the U.S. Outdoor Track and Field Championships held at historic Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore.

Glisar cleared 5 feet, 8 inches during Sunday's competition. Nike's Chaunte Lowe won the event with a mark of 6-3 1/4.

Glisar concludes her collegiate high jump career as a two-time All-American, four-

time Summit League champion and with South Dakota school records indoors and outdoors.

The meet concluded the Coyotes' 2015 outdoor

now on whether to make

same-sex marriage legal

of a local company that

sponsors LGBT tours and

veled from behind a fence

not far from the catcher as

some of what turn out to be

part of Sonoma County and

left as soon as he could be-

cause the anti-gay hostility

not get booed and have his

teammates support him, its heartwarming," he said.

Vogler grew up in another

'To see Sean walk out and

he watched Conroy throw

events in wine country, mar-

Mark Vogler, 50, co-owner

across the nation.

140 pitches.

was so high.

# AP Source: James To Be Free Agent

BY JON KRAWCZYNSKI

AP Basketball Writer

For the third time in six seasons, LeBron James is an unrestricted free agent. The difference this time

is he has no plans to move

The Cleveland star will not exercise a \$21.6 million option on his contract for next season, a person with knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press on Sunday. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity

because neither the Cava-

liers nor James were publicly

discussing the process. James' decision has been widely expected for months. The approach allows him to sign a new maximum contract — likely another two-year deal with a player option for 2017-18 —that will pay him more than he would have made under his previous contract. His max number for next season, which is tied to how high the salary cap rises, is expected

to be more than \$22 million. The last time James became a free agent from Cleve-

land in 2010, he famously left his home state team to play for the Miami Heat. James won two championships and played in four NBA Finals in his four years in Miami before making the celebrated decision to return home last summer.

This time around, James plans to stay put while Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert and GM David Griffin set about improving the roster in hopes of surrounding James with the talent he will need to end Cleveland's 51-year championship drought.

The Cavaliers have plenty of decisions to make and negotiations to conduct for free agents Kevin Love, Tristan Thompson and Iman Shumpert. But the process with James will be fairly straight forward. He's made it clear through actions and words to Cavaliers management that he isn't going anywhere. "We've heard from him

every day pretty much relative to our roster," Griffin

said last week. "It's been

great. He's been very much

engaged with us on a lot of

different levels, so it's been positive. James led the short-

handed Cavaliers back to the finals in June and put on a breath-taking performance to make the Golden State sweat it out for six games before Steph Curry and Co. captured the Warriors' first title since 1975. With Love and Kyrie Irving out with injuries, James averaged 35.8 points, 13.3 rebounds, 8.8 assists and almost 46 minutes in the series.

If James signs another two-year contract with a player option on the second year, it would allow him to reap the financial windfall that is expected when the NBA's new television contract kicks in next summer and sends the salary cap sky-rocketing.

ing with players on July 1 and sign them to contracts beginning July 8. James' deal will likely be tabled while the Cavaliers address Thompson, Love

and Shumpert, who is a

restricted free agent.

Teams can start negotiat-

family he was gay at age 16 and been open with his high school, summer league and college teams. It would have been strange not to do the same once he moved across the country and started making friends on the team in

**Gay Pro** 

FROM PAGE 7

Sonoma, he said. As far as coming out publicly, Conroy said he saw it as a way to help his team and to set an example for other players.

"It's not that I wanted it to go public, but I didn't care if it was open information. It's who I am," he said. "I am definitely surprised that no one else has been openly gay in baseball yet.

Conroy says he hopes to

catch the eye of a big league scout but hasn't focused on much beyond this season.

The life of a Stomper is certainly a far cry from the majors. Players live with host families during the June-to-August season, earn \$650 a month on average and supply their own cleats, batting gloves and elbow guards.

Bean, who serves as Major League Baseball's ambassador of inclusion, said none of that diminishes his contribution to professional sports.

"It doesn't matter if he pitches in the big leagues or not, he's going to become a leader (tonight) in many ways," Bean said.

Conroy's history-making start came at a watershed moment for gay rights, with the U.S. Supreme Court scheduled to rule any day

**COFFEE** WEEKDAYS 7:40AM MONDAY THRU FRIDAY Yankton's Home Team!

