

Rondo A 'Naptime' Decision

WALTHAM, Mass. (AP) — If Rajon Rondo knows whether he will play in the Boston Celtics opener on Wednesday night, he isn't saying.

The star point guard, who has missed most of training camp with a broken bone in his hand, told reporters that he will make up his mind after he awakens from his usual pregame nap on Wednesday afternoon.

"I'll make the call at the end of the day, as far as my comfort level," Rondo told reporters before practice on Tuesday. "I don't want to have any second thoughts when I go out there and play."

After missing the first half of last season recovering from reconstructive knee surgery, Rondo seemed healthy heading back to camp this fall before he slipped in a shower and injured his left hand. Given an initial recovery period of 6-8 weeks, Rondo would miss only five if he returns on Wednesday.

Rondo had an X-Ray on Monday and was scheduled for another test on Tuesday. If that goes well, it will come down to how he feels.

"I think it's more about his comfort," coach Brad Stevens said. "I think they feel like he's progressed well and healed appropriately."

Rondo said he would take a nap in the afternoon and participate in warmups. Then he is planning to address the crowd for the traditional opening night welcome from the team's elder statesman.



Avon quarterback Logan Mudder puts his head down to get extra yardage as Burke-South Central's Zach Sebern, left, and Tyson Serr try to take him down during their Class 9A football playoff game on Tuesday in Avon.

JAMES D. CIMBUREK/P&D

Avon

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5-yard runs turn into 10-yards, and then we eventually break some big ones."

After Tolsma opened the scoring with a 35-yard touchdown run — and Mudder added the two-point conversion to put Avon up 8-0 less than 2 minutes into the game — the Cougars answered with their lone first-quarter touchdown. Following a 50-yard run by Rain Liewer, Sebern connected with Liewer for a 22-yard touchdown pass. With the conversion failing, the Cougars were within 8-6

with 8:44 to go in the first quarter.

It was Avon's next 28 points that proved to be one of the differences in what was a back-and-forth second quarter. Mudder setup many of those points with either long kickoff returns or intercepting Sebern on defense.

After the Cougars' initial touchdown, Mudder returned the ensuing kickoff to the S-BC 18. Five plays later, Tolsma scored from 2 yards out. Mudder then stopped the Cougars' next possession with an interception. Tolsma raced in for a 32-yard touchdown a play later.

"The kids a two-time all-star for a reason," S-BC coach Mike Sebern said of Tolsma. "Their line's so big

up front. They're physical and then we just can't match up. We knew that their weakness was our strength and that their strength was our weakness.

"You could see that offensively. They had more plays than we did."

Despite making those plays and getting the win, Tolsma was one of the Pirate captains after the game talking about Avon needing to improve in order to continue its quest to the DakotaDome for a sixth state championship.

"Running for all those yards doesn't matter," Tolsma said. "... I'd rather have a win in the Dome than me rushing for 400 yards in one playoff game and then losing the next one."

Royals Rout Giants 10-0, Force Game 7

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Lorenzo Cain looped a two-run single and Eric Hosmer chopped a two-run double over shortstop in a seven-run second inning as the Kansas City Royals battered the San Francisco Giants 10-0 Tuesday night to force a decisive Game 7 in the World Series.

Pitching with the initials of late St. Louis outfielder Oscar Taveras on his cap, 23-year-old rookie Yordano Ventura allowed three hits over seven innings for his first Series win.

Jeremy Guthrie starts Wednesday night for Kansas City and Tim Hudson for San Francisco in a rematch of Game 3, won by Kansas City 3-2. The 39-year-old Hudson will become the oldest Game 7 starter in Series history.

Lurking is Madison Bumgarner, ready to pitch in relief after stifling the Royals on a total of one run in winning Games 1 and 5.

Home teams have won the last nine Game 7s in the World Series, and the Giants are 0-4

when the Series is pushed to a decisive game. Most recently, Barry Bonds and San Francisco lost Game 7 to the Angels in 2002.

In a Fall Classic full of one-sided games, the Royals chased Jake Peavy in the second. When Omar Infante doubled in the third, every Kansas City batter already had a hit. Ventura made the one big pitch he needed to keep it a rout. After walking the bases loaded with one out in the third, he got Buster Posey to ground into a first-pitch double play. The young fireballer gave up two hits through the sixth.

There was a pregame moment of silence for Taveras, killed in a car accident Sunday in the Dominican Republic. Ventura wrote a tribute to his friend and countryman on his hat — RIP O.T (hash)18 — and bent down behind the mound to write something on the dirt before his first pitch.

Shut out by Bumgarner in Game 5 at AT&T Park, and fac-

ing a 3-2 deficit, Kansas City hoped for a break to bust loose at Kauffman Stadium. The Royals certainly got one the only other time they hosted a Game 6 in the Series, when umpire Don Denkinger's missed call in 1985 helped them rally past St. Louis for their lone crown.

This time, everything seemed to go Kansas City's way. Hosmer & Co. had 14 hits after the sixth, and six different players had doubled.

How much did things tilt in the Royals' favor? Hosmer came up with two runners on base in the second, and hit what appeared to be a hard RBI single off Yusmeiro Petit. But time had been called just before Petit released the ball, and the hit didn't count. Plate umpire Jeff Kellogg patted Hosmer on the chest as if to say, better luck next time.

And Hosmer did have better luck. He reached out, chopped a ball in front of the plate and it hopped over shortstop Brandon Crawford's head, with Hosmer hustling and diving headfirst for a double that made it 6-0.

Before the game, in fact, the Giants and Royals both

talked about how the infield in Kansas City was much harder than the dirt in San Francisco.

Mike Moustakas was able to ground an RBI double between first baseman Brandon Belt and the bag for a 1-0 lead in the second. But the dirt didn't have any effect moments later when, with runners at second and third, Alcides Escobar hit a bouncer to Belt.

Belt ranged far off the base, looked to see if he had a play at home — the runner held — and then missed his tag on a diving Escobar. The misplay seemed to open the door for the Royals, and they charged through.

Cain walked in the first, hit a two-run single in the second and added an RBI double in the third. The speedy center fielder also made a fine running catch.

Well before the game, dozens of Giants fans dressed in team colors crowded behind the San Francisco dugout as their favorites warmed up. Among the signs they held was one by a young boy: "Hunter Pence Goes to the Dentist Every 6 Months."

NCAA Graduation Rates Improve; Critics Cry Foul

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — NCAA President Mark Emmert keeps touting the record-breaking graduation rates of Division I athletes. Critics keep balking at the interpretation of those numbers, citing recent academic scandals.

The NCAA's newest graduation report, released Tuesday, showed 84 percent of athletes who entered college in 2007-08 earned a degree within six years, a 2 percentage-point increase over last year's previous high mark. The four-year average of 82 percent is another record, up 1 percentage point from the 2013 report. Emmert also said there were increases in almost all demographics in the one-year measurement — some rare good news for a governing body in tumult.

"It's the highest (rate) ever by a good measure and it's up virtually across the board — football, basketball, all other sports, men, women, all races included," Emmert told The Associated Press. "So it's the best academic performance we've ever seen."

The federal numbers show a similar trend.

Over the four-year period

covering freshmen classes from 2004-07, athletes graduated at a rate of 65 percent, 1 point higher than the general student body. The 2006-07 freshmen class also set a record, 66 percent, compared with 65 percent of non-athletes.

The difference in rates is that the NCAA counts athletes who transfer in good academic standing and graduate from another school. The feds do not.

Those who question the NCAA's stats contend the higher numbers are skewed because athletes have more access to tutors, learning specialists and multimillion-dollar academic centers — all of which are intended to keep players academically eligible and on track to graduate. They also believe athletes are sometimes being advised to take easier courses.

"What really is happening is that athletes are being funneled into the majors of least resistance," said Oklahoma professor Gerald Gurney, president of The Drake Group, an NCAA watchdog. "They really, based on their athletic commitment, do not have an opportunity to pursue an education at all, much less a world-class education."

Football

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matchup against Madison next week.
CHAMBERLAIN6 14 15 7 - 42
TODD COUNTY0 8 0 8 - 16

Chamberlain 42, Todd County 16

MISSION — Shawn Foote ran for 179 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Chamberlain Cubs to a first round road playoff win against Todd County.

The Cubs totaled 409 yards of total offense in the win, including 353 rushing yards. Jeremy Herron also helped the Cubs rushing attack totaling 56 yards and a touchdown.

For Todd County, quarterback Austin Hammer threw for 196 yards and 2 touchdowns. Ty Herman caught both of Hammer's touchdown passes and added 122 yards receiving.

Todd County finished their season with a 5-4 record, while Chamberlain advances to a second round

Canton 45, Sioux Valley 7

CANTON — The Canton C-Hawks, the defending class 11B state champions, topped Sioux Valley by a score of 45-17 in the opening round of the playoffs.

Andrew Oliver led the Canton rushing attack with 188 yards and three touchdowns. As a team, the C-Hawks ran for 461 yards in the game. Jacob Toso also added 71 yards and a touchdown of his own to help the C-Hawks.

Collin Kramer of Sioux Valley rushed for 126 yards, while Daymein Lucas had a 33 yard interception return for a touchdown.

Sioux Valley finishes the season with a record of 4-5, while Canton (6-3) advances to the second round of the playoffs next week.

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CANTON6 16 7 14 - 45

Parkston

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their season with a record of 3-6. Parkston advances to the second round and will face Canton on Monday night. The game is a rematch of last year's state championship game, won by Canton.

You can follow Ben Hegge on Twitter at twitter.com/bigheaddbenny13. Discuss this story at www.Yankton.net/

cited for these playoffs," said Wesley Dvorak. "We are 0-0 coming into every week, and we cannot look passed anyone."

The Goldiggers finished

Cubs

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Cubs learned from last season what it takes to win in the post-season, Haak added.

"Any time you can get experience, it definitely helps you," he said. "We were young two years ago, and last year we won close games.

"Now these kids are hungry to keep going."

Alcester-Hudson finished with 475 yards of total offense, including 373 on the ground. Lyle LaFramboise caught six passes for 59 yards.

Gayville-Volin had 205 yards of total offense, led by 74 on the ground and 62 receiving from Alec Barta. Rice completed 9-of-18 passes for 94 yards and the touchdown, but was intercepted twice.

While the Cubs are the ones moving on in the playoffs, the Raiders — and their five seniors — are left to keep the program moving forward, Beeman said.

"We told the kids, there's obviously disappointment right now, but these seniors are helping build this program," he said.

"There are things we can learn from this, from being in a playoff game."

You can follow Jeremy Hoeck on Twitter at twitter.com/jhoeck. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net.

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