

SPORTS INSIDER

Compiled from staff and news services

PRO BASKETBALL

Carter close to signing

Vince Carter is staying with the Toronto Raptors, his agent strongly hinted Tuesday night.

"There is a press conference (today)," Carter's agent, Merle Scott said. "You can read into that."

The NBA star is close to signing a six-year contract extension that would keep him with the team through 2008. He would receive the maximum salary allowable under the collective bargaining agreement — more than \$85 million over the length of the deal.

Today is the first day NBA teams can offer players extensions that would effect for the 2002-03 season.

The Raptors recently locked up three key free agents, re-signing Antonio Davis, Jerome Williams and Alvin Williams to long-term contracts.

Carter has been Toronto's most prolific player in its six-year history, averaging 24.6 points a game in his first three seasons with the club.

"It's obvious that Vince is certainly a player that qualifies for whatever the maximum allows. I don't know if there is any issue on what the contract will be," Toronto general manager Glen Grunwald said. "We've been talking about Vince about his desire to make sure that he's happy here. We want him to be a Raptor for life."

Under the NBA's collective bargaining agreement, Carter would become a restricted free agent next summer if he doesn't sign an extension by Oct. 31.

GOLF

Mickelson stages rally

Phil Mickelson let a \$180,000 skin slip away on the 17th hole Tuesday before rallying to capture \$220,000 on the final hole of the Par 3 Shootout golf tournament in Gaylord, Mich.

That pushed Mickelson's two-day winnings to \$330,000 at Treetops Resort, second behind Lee Trevino, who earned \$1,120,000.

Trevino all but clinched the title Monday when he sank a \$1 million hole-in-one.

Mickelson played well down the stretch with birdies on four of the last five holes. His first birdie was an 11-foot putt on No. 14 that kept Paul Azinger from winning \$140,000. Azinger returned the favor by matching Mickelson's birdie on the next hole.

Mickelson finally broke through on No. 16 when he sank a 13-foot birdie putt worth \$180,000. But to pocket the cash, players must "validate" a skin by winning or tying the next hole, something Mickelson was unable to do.

Mickelson's tee shot on No. 17 was his worst of the day, sailing over the green and into the heavy brush, leaving him with no chance for par. So the \$180,000 skin, along with an additional \$40,000 for the final two holes, carried over to the 18th.

Mickelson regrouped and dropped his tee shot on No. 18 within 16 feet on the 139-yard uphill hole. After Azinger and Trevino missed birdie tries, Mickelson buried his putt to win.

Raymond Floyd, the defending champion, finished fourth with \$30,000.

AUTO RACING

Seatbelt maker resigns

Bill Simpson, who found himself at the center of controversy following Dale Earnhardt's death, has resigned as head of the company that manufactured Earnhardt's safety belts.

Simpson said the stress of the controversy "got to be too much." He has maintained for months that NASCAR made him a scapegoat in the wake of Earnhardt's death.

"It's just been one thing after another," Simpson said. "Like I come with new (safety equipment, such as a head-restraint device) and NASCAR takes it away, and they don't give it back. I deserve more respect than that."

"The amount of disrespect shown me in



Senior PGA golfer Lee Trevino chips onto the 18th green during the Par-3 Shootout Tuesday in Gaylord, Mich. Trevino won the shootout, earning \$1,120,000 which included a hole-in-one Monday.

my position over the last five months has been too hard for me to swallow."

Simpson said he submitted his resignation to Charlotte, N.C.-based Carousel Capital, majority owner of Simpson Performance Products, on July 17. He found out last week that his resignation had been accepted.

Simpson received death threats and saw his employees harassed after NASCAR announced on Feb. 23 that it had found a broken Simpson lap belt in Earnhardt's crashed No. 3 Chevrolet. Earnhardt wrecked on the final lap of the Feb. 18 Daytona 500.

NASCAR's report on Earnhardt's death is due out in August.

"I haven't heard the first thing" about what might be in the report, Simpson said. "I don't have any information. I know nothing. And I don't really care. I know that I didn't do anything wrong."

TRACK AND FIELD

Ex-Badgers to run

Suzi Favor Hamilton and Kathy Butler, two former members of the University of Wisconsin women's track and cross country teams, will be competing in the World Track and Field Championships. The championships begin Friday and run through Aug. 12 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Favor Hamilton, a nine-time NCAA champion at the UW, will be competing in the 1,500 meters for the United States. The first of three round will take place on Saturday. Favor Hamilton is currently ranked fifth in the world in the 1,500.

Butler, a five-time NCAA champion for the Badgers, will be competing in the 5,000 meters for Great Britain. The first round will begin on Thursday, Aug. 9.

LOCALLY

Jenny Larson has been named the 2001 Edgewood College NCAA Woman of the Year.

Larson, a senior guard on the Eagles' basketball team, averaged 9.2 points, 4.7 rebounds and 4.1 assists per game. She also played on the Edgewood golf team.

Five area athletes, along with seven competitors from Minnesota, will represent the United States in the indoor tug-of-war competition at the World Games in Akita, Japan on Aug. 25-26.

Madison's Linda Barry, Hollandale's Amy Breuscher, Oregon's Shelby Richardson, Monroe's Donna Witt and Beloit's Chris Woodward are members of the U.S. contingent.

QUOTE, UNQUOTE

Arnold Palmer, after shooting an opening round 84 at the British Senior Open:

"I didn't enjoy my golf, particularly playing that way in front of the crowd. That's the thing that bothers me most. It is terrible. It hurts when you play as poorly as this. That will eventually run me off."

TODAY'S TRIVIA

What was Lou Gehrig's highest salary? Answer in Scorecard, Page 6C.

Punchless Brewers fall

Florida pitcher throws 3-hitter

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The beat — or rather, the beatings — go on for the beleaguered Milwaukee Brewers.

On a day when the Brewers put left fielder Geoff Jenkins on the disabled list and had manager Davey Lopes suspended for two games, the Florida Marlins opened a three-game series at Miller Park Tuesday night with a 5-1 victory.

The loss was Milwaukee's 25th in its last 32 games.

For the third time this season, Marlins pitcher Ryan Dempster stopped a four-game losing streak. This time, he did it with a three-hitter for his fourth career complete game.

The Marlins came into Milwaukee having lost 13 of 16 games on the road, but Dempster won his fourth straight decision on the road.

Dempster (12-9) allowed Devon White's double in the fourth, pinch-hitter Luis Lopez's single in the seventh and Richie Sexson's ninth-inning single.

"We cannot put together

NATIONAL LEAGUE

enough runs to compete," said Brewers bench coach Jerry Royster.

Royster took over for Lopes, who served the first game of a two-game suspension for threatening to have his pitchers hit San Diego's Rickey Henderson in retaliation for his uncontested taking of a base in a blowout Sunday.

Brewers rookie Ben Sheets (10-8) is winless in five starts since June 29. He gave up five runs and eight hits in 6 1/3 innings.

The Brewers have scored just 15 runs in Sheets' eight losses.

The Marlins went ahead, 4-1, with three runs in the sixth. Alex Gonzalez doubled home the first run and scored on Derek Lee's two-run single.

Cliff Floyd's sacrifice fly off reliever Mike DeJean in the seventh made it 5-1.

The Brewers got an unearned run in the second. White reached on Lee's error at first base, stole second and later scored on Raul Casanova's groundout.

Thumb sidelines Jenkins: Jenkins was placed on the 15-

day disabled list with a partially torn muscle in his left thumb.

The move was retroactive to Sunday, so Jenkins will be eligible to return to the active roster on Aug. 13.

Outfielder Alex Sanchez was activated from the 15-day DL. Sanchez had been on the DL since July 16 with a strained left groin.

Jenkins was examined by hand specialist Curtis Crimmins and underwent an MRI Tuesday that revealed a partial tear of the muscle.

Jenkins, who has had a variety of ailments all season, is batting .262 with 15 home runs and 48 RBI.

Roster moves: Milwaukee purchased the contracts of outfielder Mark Sweeney and infielder-outfielder Lou Collier from Class AAA Indianapolis after Tuesday night's loss to Florida.

The Brewers optioned Sanchez and third baseman Mike Coolbaugh to Indianapolis to make room for Sweeney and Collier.

Outfielder Jeffrey Hammonds, out for the season after successful surgery on his right shoulder, was moved from the 15-day disabled list to the 60-day DL.



Todd Anderson-Goldworthy competes in the boys 10-and-under division at the All-City Diving Meet Tuesday at the Nakoma Pool.

Ridgewood divers win; Middleton runner-up

Ridgewood captured its second title in three years Tuesday at the 11-team All-City Diving Meet, with strong performances by its younger divers.

Ridgewood, which took command following Monday's competition at Nakoma Golf Club, finished with 280 points, while defending champion Middleton (197) was second.

Ridgewood's 10-and-under divers delivered 79 of the 158 points the team earned on Tuesday. David Merrick had a third-place finish in the boys division, while teammates Mitch Stamm and Kenneth Winters were fourth and sixth, respectively.

John Welton of West Side won the boys 10-and-under title.

Ridgewood's Sam Webb and Beth Bauman earned silver medals in the 15-18 division.

ALL-CITY DIVING

Marcus Neish of Middleton won the boys 15-18 title for a second straight year, while teammate Kristin Strnad took the girls 15-18 title. Neish defeated Webb by one point.

Strnad edged Bauman on the final dive, a 2 1/2 forward flip.

The Efficiency Trophy, a new award given to the team with the best score-to-diver ratio, went to Nakoma.

The nine-diver team scored 82 points for a 9.11 ratio. Rachel Becker, Kylie Rosenstock and Claire Flickinger swept the girls 10-and-under division for Nakoma.

Results in Scorecard, 6C.

Chelios vows better behavior

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Chris Chelios promises that the U.S. men's hockey team will be on its best behavior at next year's Winter Olympics.

U.S. players at the 1998 Nagano Games trashed three dorm rooms at the Olympic Village hours after the team was eliminated by the Czech Republic.

OLYMPICS

"What was done in Nagano was unfortunate for everybody, but that is over," said Chelios, the captain of that U.S. team. "I guarantee something like that will not happen again."

No U.S. player admitted wrongdoing. Chelios, a defenseman for Detroit, presented a \$3,000 check to Japanese officials to pay for the damage.

To help the Americans reach the medal round in February, as they failed to do in Japan, the former University of Wisconsin skater wants the NHL players' union to lighten rules for Olympic training camps by the U.S. and Canadian teams.

Under an agreement made before the 1999 world championships, teams are limited to 48 hours of practice and coaches aren't allowed on the ice if players not named to the Olympic team are present.

Chelios said eight to 10 players recently had a conference call with NHLPA executive director Bob Goodenow, telling him they wanted as much preparation time as possible.

"We are willing to give up four days because the Olympics are in North America and it presents such a great opportunity for us," Chelios said.

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Astros make key pitching moves

The Associated Press

The Houston Astros hope Pedro Astacio will benefit from a change of ballparks.

Arming themselves for a late-season run against the first-place Chicago Cubs in the NL Central, the Astros acquired Astacio from Colorado and reliever Mike Williams from Pittsburgh as several contenders scrambled Tuesday to beat baseball's trade deadline.

Relievers Ugueth Urbina, Mike Trombley and Terry Mulholland also changed teams, and Atlanta filled a need by getting shortstop Rey Sanchez. There were eight deals in all, and every one involved at least one pitcher.

The Astros got Astacio and cash from the Rockies for pitcher Scott Elarton and a player to be named, and obtained Williams from the Pirates for pitcher Tony McKnight.

Astacio was 6-13 with a 5.49 ERA and won just once in his last 10 starts. Elarton also struggled, going 4-8 with a 7.14 ERA.

"Astacio is a guy that obviously is not having a great year," Astros general manager Gerry Hunsicker said. "But take him away from Coors

BASEBALL TODAY

Field, and he's pitched better away from home."

The Los Angeles Dodgers also made two trades, both to bolster their bullpen. They got Trombley from Baltimore for two minor leaguers and Mulholland from Pittsburgh for pitcher Mike Fetters and a minor leaguer.

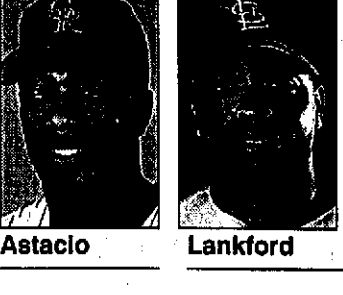
The NL East-leading Braves got Sanchez from Kansas City for a pair of minor leaguers, pitcher Brad Voyles and second baseman Alejandro Machado.

Atlanta is aiming for its 10th straight postseason appearance and wanted to make a move at shortstop after losing 2000 NL Rookie of the Year Rafael Furcal to a season-ending shoulder injury.

Sanchez, hitting .303, is better known for his outstanding glove.

"It's hard to turn your back on a guy who can add that kind of defense to your club," Braves general manager John Schuerholz said.

Williams had 22 saves for Pittsburgh and joins a Houston bullpen that includes closer Billy Wagner, Octavio Dotel and Mike Jackson.



Urbina, nearly traded to the New York Yankees in June, instead was sent to the rival Red Sox for minor league pitchers Tomo Ohka and Rich Rundles.

BRAVES' GILKEY IN TROUBLE
 Atlanta outfielder Bernard Gilkey could face up to five years in prison if convicted in the latest drunken driving case against him.

Gilkey was arrested Sunday night as the Braves arrived at the St. Louis airport for a series against the Cardinals. He was released Monday on a \$10,000 bond and a preliminary hearing was set for Aug. 31.

Manager Bobby Cox said Gilkey believed the matter had been resolved before the team got to St. Louis.

"It caught him by surprise," Cox said. "He thought it was all taken care of by his lawyers. It wasn't."

Gilkey, a St. Louis native who has played sparingly for the Braves this season, was originally arrested on the charge in April, his third DWI arrest in seven months. Prosecutors filed felony charges because Gilkey was deemed a habitual offender, spokesman Don Schneider said.

The April arrest came less than six

weeks after Gilkey had pleaded guilty Feb. 27 to misdemeanor DWI charges stemming from arrests on Oct. 10 and Nov. 8. All three arrests occurred in St. Louis County, where Gilkey lives in the off-season.

LANKFORD GRANTED LEAVE
 St. Louis outfielder Ray Lankford was granted a leave of absence from the Cardinals on Tuesday after complaining about a lack of respect.

Lankford, who has been with the team since 1990, is expected back Thursday, general manager Walt Jocketty said. Jocketty was unable to trade Lankford before Tuesday's deadline and said the outfielder won't play much when he returns.

The outfield is set now that right fielder J.D. Drew, sidelined 35 games with a broken hand, was activated from the disabled list on Tuesday. Albert Pujols moves to left field and Jim Edmonds is in center.

Lankford was willing to waive his no-trade clause to accommodate a deal, but the Cardinals were unable to make a trade.

KENDALL SUSPENDED
 Pittsburgh catcher Jason Kendall reacted angrily to the two-game suspension and fine he received Tuesday from the commissioner's office for bumping and arguing with an umpire last week in Chicago.

"I just think it's ridiculous," Kendall said before the Pirates opened a three-game series in San Francisco. "They're trying to do too much to change the game now. What I did was absolutely in the wrong, but I thought I would get a fine, not a suspension."

The players' association immediately appealed the penalty, meaning it cannot start until after a hearing before Paul Beeton, baseball's chief operating officer.

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Packers may sign vet if Bidwell has trouble

Last in a series By Pete Dougherty

Special to The Capital Times

The Green Bay Packers will always admire punter Josh Bidwell for the courage and optimism with which he faced testicular cancer, and the hard work he's put into football since recovering.

But there's little room for sentimentality in the NFL, so his career in Green Bay will come down to only one thing: How he punts over the next six weeks.

Bidwell missed the 1999 season because of surgery and chemotherapy to treat his cancer. He punted for the Packers all last season as much on the promise of his youth and strong leg as his actual performance.

The Packers are looking for the dividends this season and saw promising signs in their June minicamp. Over the course of the 1 1/2 weeks of practice, Bidwell punted the ball better than he has during any similar stretch since coming to Green Bay as a fourth-round draft pick in April 1999.

The Packers still are concerned enough that they're leaning toward bringing a veteran punter into training camp if Bidwell doesn't make the necessary strides. But they've opened camp with Bidwell and Green Bay Preble High School graduate Kevin Stemke, a rookie from the University of Wisconsin, as the only punters on the roster.

"We'll see how (Bidwell) does (early in camp)," Frank Novak, the Packers' special teams coach, said about bringing in another veteran. "But I'd say right now, the talk we've had with (coach) Mike (Sherman) is we'll possibly do that as this preseason goes on. It may not be right away. We may wait a while and see how it

Ferguson working overtime

By Adam Mertz

The Capital Times

GREEN BAY — The ball came like a cannon shot, flying 20 feet over Robert Ferguson's head before hitting the fence on the other side of the Green

Bay Packers' practice field.

Even Brett Favre doesn't throw that hard.

"Hey, turn that down a little bit," Ferguson kidded.

For all the work he's done the past few years with the JUGS passing machine, Ferguson probably could have made the adjustments himself.

The rookie wide receiver has made a regular habit of renewing his acquaintance with the catching drill over the first few days of training camp, sticking around for an extra 15 minutes after Monday's morning practice to catch ball after ball.

Then, he showed up 15 minutes before the afternoon session to resume his workout.

"I'm just trying to catch up with the older guys," Ferguson explained. "It's not like where I've got freshman, sophomore, senior season coming in. I'm expected to help the team right now."

Indeed, the Packers traded up in the second round to select Ferguson with the idea that he could provide immediate help to a receiving corps which has underperformed the past two years.

Because Ferguson played just one season of major college football — he entered the draft after his junior season at

PACKERS PREVIEW



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Punter Josh Bidwell, practicing at training camp, may be in jeopardy of losing his job with Green Bay. If his performance in camp doesn't meet up to expectations

goes. But eventually, we're talking about bringing somebody in there to compete against him."

Bidwell has a major-league leg, but his 38.5-yard average per punt ranked 29th in the 31-team NFL last season, and his net average of 34.6 yards ranked 19th. That suggests he wasn't consistently punting the ball far or consistently hitting it high in what was in effect his rookie season.

"Our concern now is, can he take his practice performance (from June) into this extended period in preseason and perform that way? I don't know that," Novak said. "Some things he wasn't doing well a year ago he did better in mini-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Green Bay quarterback Brett Favre chats with coach Mike Sherman Tuesday during training camp.

Texas A&M following two years at Tyler (Texas) Community College — he is still relatively raw.

For that reason, the extra work caught Sherman's eye.

"That's why we drafted him," said Sherman, who relied heavily on his former boss at A&M, coach R.C. Slocum, while evaluating Ferguson. "I knew in our research that he had a high work ethic, and we want that with our receivers — particularly in our offense. That's why we took him. It's not a surprise."

"He did miss a fair amount of minicamp practices — he's just trying to get caught up. But I think he'll continue to do that even after he gets caught up. That's the type of guy he is."

The 6-foot-1, 209-pound Ferguson no longer is hampered by the back pain that sidelined him during the June minicamp, and his athletic ability has been evident during the start of camp. So much so that he is expected to be fighting Bill Schroeder and Corey Bradford for a spot in the starting lineup alongside top dog Antonio Freeman.

But he isn't satisfied, so the ball machine figures to be a regular companion in camp.

"I think it just came from the way I was raised. Nothing ever came easy," said Ferguson.

Special Teams Depth Chart

- Kicker: 8 Ryan Longwell
Punter: 9 Josh Bidwell, 6 Kevin Stemke
Holder: 18 Doug Pederson, 9 Josh Bidwell, 6 Kevin Stemke
Punt returner: 20 Allen Rossam, 82 Charles Lee, 42 Darren Sharper
Kick returner: 20 Allen Rossam, 22 De'Mond Parker, 29 Herbert Goodman, 32 Rondell Mealey
Long snapper: 60 Rob Davis, 52 Frank Winters

Amateur

Table with columns for W, L, Pts, GB for various amateur leagues like Northwest League and Wisconsin.

Pro

Table with columns for W, L, Pts, GB for professional leagues like NASCAR Winston Cup and IndyCar.

Auto Racing

Table with columns for W, L, Pts, GB for various auto racing series.

Basketball

Table with columns for W, L, Pts, GB for various basketball leagues like WNBA and NBA.

Soccer

Table with columns for W, L, Pts, GB for various soccer leagues like MLS and UEFA.

Tennis

Table with columns for W, L, Pts, GB for various tennis tournaments.

Baseball

Table with columns for W, L, Pts, GB for various baseball leagues like MLB and AA.

Softball

Table with columns for W, L, Pts, GB for various softball leagues.

SCORECARD

TV/Radio Highlights

Table listing TV and radio highlights for various sports events, including tennis, baseball, and golf.

Transactions

Major League Baseball: MLB suspended Pittsburgh's Jason Kendall two games and fined him an undisclosed amount for excessive arguing and causing contact to be made with umpire Jim Wolf in the Cubs' win over the Atlanta Braves.

PGA TOUR MONEY WINNINGS

Table listing PGA TOUR money winners and their earnings.

WISCONSIN STATE OPEN QUALIFYING

Table listing Wisconsin State Open qualifying results.

CITY/AREA

Table listing city/area sports highlights and results.

Baseball

Table listing baseball game results and scores.

GOLF

Table listing golf tournament results and scores.

SOCCER

Table listing soccer game results and scores.

TENNIS

Table listing tennis match results and scores.

Playoffs out of reach for Mallards

MANKATO, Minn. — The Madison Mallards' playoff hopes officially ended with Tuesday night's 7-1 loss to host Mankato Mashers at Franklin Rogers Park.

The Mallards' record fell to 9-16 for the second half of the season and 25-32 overall. The loss was Madison's 10th in its last 12 games.

The Mallards, who have seven games left this season, are last in the four-team South Division. They trail division leader Wisconsin (17-8, 29-27) by eight games.

With the game tied, 1-1, the

NORTHWOODS LEAGUE

Mashers (17-10, 32-25) took control with a six-run sixth inning. Madison pitcher Brady Endl gave up 10 hits in six innings, was charged with all seven of Mankato's runs and dropped to 3-4 with the loss.

Madison's last two home games of the season are Thursday and Friday at 7:05 p.m. at Warner Park against Brainerd.

Table with columns for W, L, Pts, GB for various Northwoods League teams.

TRIVIA ANSWER

\$39,000, for the New York Yankees in 1937.