

Goggin takes Memorial lead

Associated Press
DUBLIN, Ohio — Jack Nicklaus always envisioned the Memorial as a northern version of the Masters, from the superb course conditions to super slick greens, from caddies wearing white coveralls to grounds so immaculate that nary a cigarette butt is to be found.

He got his wish Thursday, at least with the greens.

Mathew Goggin spent as little time on them as possible, taking only nine putts over his final nine holes on his way to a 7-under 65 and a one-shot lead over Jerry Kelly and two-time Memorial champion Kenny Perry.

Goggin holed out a bunker shot for birdie on the par-3 fourth, then ended his round with a 12-footer for par from off the green, giving him only 22 putts for his round.

Perry found the right speed and ran off six straight birdies on his way to a 66, also taking 22 putts.

GOLF ROUNDUP

Kelly birdied four of his last six holes. Ten other players also managed to break 70 on a day when the average score was 73.7.

Ginn Tribute

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. — Annika Sorenstam's name is everywhere at the Ginn Tribute except near the top of the leaderboard after Thursday's opening round.

Sorenstam's even-par 72 left her seven shots behind co-leaders Karrie Webb and In-Kyung Kim, and tied for 60th at RiverTowne Country Club.

Sophie Gustafson was third at 66. U.S. Open winner Cristie Kerr led a group of seven another stroke back at 67.

The event lost world No. 1 Lorena Ochoa earlier this week when she left to be with her sick uncle in Mexico.



Hour photo/MATTHEW VINCI
University of Connecticut head football coach Randy Edsall paid a visit to Norwalk Thursday morning — not as part of a recruiting trip but as the guest speaker at the inaugural Fairfield County Sports Commission Celebrity Breakfast at Continental Manor. A crowd of nearly 200 was on hand to hear Edsall's message.

NORWALK LITTLE LEAGUE ROUNDUP

MAJORS

**Monker Grotto 14
Laurel AC 1**

Nick Lampman pitched and hit Monker Grotto to victory leading the way with four hits including a double and a home run.

Other hitting stars for Monker were Kevin Cronin, Nick Schwartz, Matt Savona, Maxwell Lawrence, and Guillermo Rosales.

Leading the way for the Laurel A.C. were Thomas Clyne, James Campbell, and Roger Quiroga with doubles.

**Eagles 4
Lions 0**

For the Eagles, Tyler Annunziata fired a three-hit complete game shutout and drove in a run with a triple and scored a run to help his own cause.

Trey Newcomb and Jared Smith paced the offense. Brendan Hanzlik drove in a run with a single, while Brent Besterly chipped in a double.

For the Lions, Trevor Remy had a single and double to go with a walk and Zach LaRusso added a single. Sean Butler and LaRusso both pitched well combining for seven strikeouts with no walks. Billy Passero was excellent behind the plate.

Jaycees 12

Brendan's 101 11

In a back-and-forth game, the Jaycees rallied in bottom of the sixth to pull out the win.

John Luke Kanzler picked up victory, holding off a strong charge by Brendan's 101.

In the fourth a leadoff single followed by a two-run home run by Conor Mulford started a big inning for Jaycees. With two out in the bottom of the sixth Daniel Romanello hit a game-winning two-run single.

Kiwanis 13

Matarese 9

Materese's Sam Starkman, Keegan Roberts, and Corey Hayes had singles. Nick Lockwood and Shaun Davis had two hits apiece.

Chris Winthrop led Kiwanis with four hits. Sean Welch added two hits and four RBI. Tristen Opdahl, Mark Ballard, Tom Henderson and Austin Wooten also had one hit each.

James Henderson pitched four innings to pick up the victory.

Rotary 21

Rowayton Pizza 7

A home run by Luis Santos and a grand slam by Jack Careccia powered Rotary past Rowayton Pizza.

Mike Boguski allowed seven runs on six hits with three walks and six strikeouts.

Paul Salata came on in relief to get the final out in the fourth.

Perry Hoye had a double, a single, three RBI and a run scored. Salata had two doubles and two runs scored. Ryan Evans also had two doubles, an RBI, and a run scored.

Santos added a double and three RBI. Jimmy Anderson had two hits and a walk, and scored twice. Justin Edwards, Ber Evans, Kevin Love, Thomas Boguski and Careccia added singles and scored runs.

Triple AAA

Italia 18

John's Best Pizza 4

Italia's offense was led by Jack Potochney who went 4-for-4 with two RBI.

Lead-off hitter Allison Pitachi scored three times and drove in one run. Dominic Teal, Matt Crowley, BJ Buckle and Harrison Hefferan all had two hits apiece.

Matt Crowley started the game by throwing two shutout innings and Harrison Hefferan and Isaiah Rodriguez closed out the game by allowing no hits in the last two innings.

For John's Best Pizza, Michael Waring, Joshua Tilton, Jefferey Joslyn and Mickey Mannella led the offensive charge.

**John Glover Agency 9
Pizza & Pasta 5**

The Delio brothers led John Glover to victory. Sam Delio went 2-for-3 with two singles, two runs and one RBI. Kevin Delio had an RBI single which gave John Glover the lead.

Spencer Wellen had three singles and a RBI. Tyler Welch went 1-for-2 with two RBI. Chris Trowbridge had an RBI single. Mike Kenez had two walks and scored a run.

Rj Kenez and Tyler Welch pitched three innings and Justin Wargo came in to close out the game with a save.

Pete Kotulsky drove in three runs for Norwalk Pizza&Pasta and pitched well in defeat.

Matt Iannacone and Andrew Goldstein also pitched well for P&P.

G&G Pizza 16

Marinello's Deli 5

For G&G Pizza, a strong pitching effort by Matt McDonald, Jake Somma, and Evan Uva, topped Marinello's Deli. McDonald went 3-for-3.

Victor Vega also singled and scored.

For Marinello's Deli, Joey Benincaso singled three times, Nick Covino had two singles, Mike Powers and Sam Zaref singled and had an RBI. Mike Dilorio and Paul Powers singled.

Will Smith pitched well in his AAA debut, hurling 1-1/3 innings, allowing one run on two hits.

**Fairfield County Bank 11
C&C Landscaping 7**

C&C Landscaping was led by Magnus Hermans who had two hits.

Stephen Howard had a hit and two walks, Matt Howard and Joel Ayala, reached base three times, and Nicholas Howard, who had a hit and a walk, and pitched three innings.

Codi Mastropietro finished the game with three shutout innings with five strikeouts.

Partners 12

Stew Leonards 0

Partners had a fierce pitching effort delivered by Kyle Mossop with five strikeouts in three innings and Matt Diurno with six strikeouts in two innings.

Partners offensive firepower came from Mossop with two singles, two doubles and an RBI, Matt Diurno with a triple a double and two singles with four RBI, Sean Geercken had two singles, a double and two RBI, Anthony Granchelli with a single, double and three RBI, Reid Singewald with a double and an RBI, Alec Esmond and Amari Brown each with singles.

Stew Leonard's recieved hits from Scott Whalen, William Lash, Andre DeNunzio and Hugh Clyne.

Diamond Deli 10

Pizza & Pasta 3

Diamond Deli's timely hitting decided the game.

Tony Glasser started things going with a two-out bases loaded single in the first followed by Kyle Piscarita bases-loaded double and Michael Mclaughlin pair of RBI.

Kevin Pisacrita scattered five hits and three runs while striking out seven.

Maurice Torian stopped a bases-loaded threat in the third inning with Evan Cybart closing the door for the save.

For Pizza & Pasta, Alex Escalante had an RBI triple in the first and Robert Essig had an RBI double in the third. Matt Iannacone and Victor Silano also had hits for Pizza&Pasta.

Escalante, Silano and Nick Granata pitched well in the loss.

Rowayton Market 10

TNS Group 4

TNS Group's bats were held in check by the strong pitching of Rowayton Market.

TNS had hits from Marco Monteiro, Mike Pascarelli, and Max Chermayeff and a pair of singles by Grayson Brandfellner.

Blake exits French Open

Associated Press

PARIS — James Blake's frustration rose to a crescendo Thursday.

The top U.S. man in the French Open was talking to himself, and the words were growing louder. He was bothered by the clay underfoot. By the chair umpire. By his own play. And, most of all, by the drop shots and assorted other winners his up-and-coming foe produced.

For the fifth time in six career trips to Roland Garros, Blake departed before the third round, losing this time to 80th-ranked Ernests Gulbis of Latvia 7-6 (2), 3-6, 7-5, 6-3. It was part of a 1-3 showing by American men Thursday, when Mardy Fish and Bobby Reynolds also lost.

The 88th-ranked Robby Ginepri knocked off No. 27 Igor Andreev 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-2 to join Wayne Odesnik as the only players from the United States in the third round.

"Americans a lot of times don't have the highest expectations on clay," the No. 7-seeded Blake said. "But I really felt like this match today was a match I could have won."

There were moments, if ever so brief, that similar thoughts ran through the minds of the men facing No. 1 Roger Federer and No. 2 Rafael Nadal.

Federer's opponent, 60th-ranked Albert Montanes of Spain, staked himself to a one-set lead — and then was overwhelmed the rest of the way in a 6-7 (5), 6-1, 6-0, 6-4 victory for the owner of 12 Grand Slam titles.

Nadal's opponent, 148th-ranked Nicolas Devilder of France, was one point from serving for the first set, holding a break point at 4-all — and then was completely overwhelmed the rest of the way in a 6-4, 6-0, 6-1 victory for the owner of the past three French Open titles.

"His forehand was not a big problem for me to start with. And I thought, 'Why not? Why not?'" Devilder said.

And then?

"The games go by so quickly," he said. "They go by so quickly, and you think: 'When is it going to end?'"

Nadal improved to 23-0 at Roland

Garros and said he's "improving with each match."

Federer, meanwhile, called his outing "a good test."

He saved all six break points he faced, including two during a rain shower while trailing 5-4 in the first set. After a 1 1/2-hour rain delay — making it the fourth of the tournament's five days with wet weather — he came out and lost the tiebreaker.

But as Federer put it: "Bounced back strong."

Talk about understatement. From Montanes' perspective, Federer was "like a hurricane. I couldn't do anything. You can tell that he's here to win this tournament."

In the third round at the only major tournament he hasn't won, Federer faces a familiar foe: Mario Ancic of Croatia, the last man to beat him at Wimbledon, back in 2002.

Blake's exit in the second round in Paris — only in 2006 did he make it to the third — was followed shortly by that of No. 6 David Nalbandian. Unlike Blake, Nalbandian has had success at the French Open, twice reaching the semifinals, but the Argentine wasted a two-set lead — and four break points in the opening game of the third set — and was eliminated 3-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-2 by Jeremy Chardy of France.

"The best match I've ever played," said Chardy, a wild-card entry who had won only two tour-level matches in his career before this tournament — and now has doubled that total.

The 19-year-old Gulbis is more experienced than that, but not by much. He moved to Munich when he was 12 to work with Niki Pilic, the same coach who helped mold Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic.

"We were practicing a little bit together when we were kids. I was 12, 13, and he was a little bit older," Gulbis said of Djokovic. "He was more serious than me at that age."

Against Blake, it was Gulbis who seemed to have a better grasp of when to go for winners and when to wait for the right opening.

Blake grouched afterward about hearing "too many commentators"

and "people that talk about tennis that don't play tennis" say he should tone down his aggressiveness and make fewer errors. Apparently, that was his approach Thursday.

"Today was a perfect example of what not to do," said Blake, who compiled far fewer winners (54-29) and enforced errors (33-16) than Gulbis. "Just being a little too passive."

While both rely on powerful forehands, it was Gulbis who displayed a knack for nuance, repeatedly using drop shots against the speedy Blake. Not all worked, of course, but Gulbis did end six points with drop winners, including when he broke Blake to claim the third set.

"It paid off in a lot of situations," Gulbis said.

Blake's take? "I was angry that I wasn't doing anything with them. ... That's probably just not growing up on clay and not being as comfortable in those situations," Blake said. "That's maybe something I need to work on."

Maria Sharapova still has some kinks to work out with her serve, because she served another four double-faults and was broken three times — and her match didn't even finish. She was leading Bethanie Mattek of the U.S. 6-2, 2-3 when play was suspended because of darkness.

Venus Williams and Jelena Jankovic played in the morning and won in straight sets, while No. 6 Anna Chakvetadze — who is hiring Justine Henin's coach, Carlos Rodriguez — and two-time major champion Amelie Mauresmo all lost.

Williams used a six-game streak to take control and beat 241st-ranked qualifier Selima Sfar of Tunisia 6-2, 6-4. Jankovic was troubled by a painful right forearm but defeated Marina Erakovic of New Zealand 6-2, 7-6 (5).

Mauresmo, who was seeded 22nd but never has enjoyed much success at her home country's major championship, barely put up a fight in a 6-3, 6-4 loss to Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro.

"All I can say," the Frenchwoman sighed, "is that I feel sorry about the way I played."

White Sox win battle of division leaders

Associated Press

While the Tampa Bay Rays have been the hottest team in baseball, the Chicago White Sox haven't exactly been slouches.

The AL Central leaders won the first Tropicana Field game between teams in sole possession of first place in their divisions Thursday night, cooling off the AL East-leading Rays 5-1 before a crowd of 12,636.

John Danks (4-4) allowed one run and six hits in six innings to beat Edwin Jackson (3-4) for the second time this season. He pitched seven scoreless innings to beat the right-hander 6-0 on April 20, a loss that left Tampa Bay in last place at 8-11.

The Rays have gone 24-11 since then and entered Thursday tied with the Chicago Cubs for the best

record in the major leagues. They've won nine of their last 11 series, including six straight at home since the White Sox won two of three games from them here six weeks ago.

Joe Crede and Paul Konerko homered and Carlos Quentin, Jim Thome and Orlando Cabrera also drove in runs for the White Sox, who are on a roll of their own with 12 wins in their last 15 games. Danks walked one and struck out eight to improve to 3-0 lifetime against the Rays.

Blue Jays 12, A's 0

Jesse Litsch won his fifth straight decision and extended his scoreless streak to 16 innings and Rod Barajas had three doubles and drove in three runs.

Litsch (7-1), coming off a seven-hit shutout of Kansas City on Saturday, hasn't lost in seven starts since a defeat

at Tampa Bay on April 22. He allowed seven hits in seven innings, struck out three and walked one in throwing a season-high 108 pitches.

Dana Eveland (4-4) allowed a career-high seven earned runs.

National League

Pirates 7, Reds 2

Jason Bay and Xavier Nady each had a homer and a double Thursday night, leading the Pittsburgh Pirates to a 7-2 victory that ended the Cincinnati Reds' home winning streak at nine games.

The Pirates salvaged the finale of a three-game series by taking it more than one base at a time. They piled up six doubles and the two homers off a pitching staff that's still out of kilter from a marathon game.

The Reds couldn't extend

their best home winning streak in 28 years because they couldn't do anything against Phil Dumatrait (2-2). The left-hander allowed one unearned run and two hits in seven innings, beating the team that let him get away last October.

Padres 5, Nationals 2

Jody Gerut hit a three-run homer with one out in the eighth inning to give the San Diego Padres a 5-2 win over the Washington Nationals on Thursday.

The Padres took two of three in the matchup of last-place teams.

Gerut's second homer of the season came three batters after Washington's Ryan Langerhans made a spectacular leaping catch to rob Kevin Kouzmanoff of a home run leading off the eighth inning. Langerhans got his glove above the wall to snag Kouzmanoff's drive.