

Vikings decline comment regarding contact with Favre

Associated Press
MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Vikings declined Thursday to talk about allegations by the Green Bay Packers that they made inappropriate contact with quarterback Brett Favre.

Vikings spokesman Bob Hagan issued a two-sentence statement on Thursday. It said the Vikings "are not commenting on the issue. These types of matters are handled by the league."

A person familiar with the Packers' complaint told The Associated Press Wednesday night that Green Bay has filed tampering charges against the Vikings.

The person, who requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject, said Packers officials believe Vikings offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell had discussions with Favre that would violate league

NFL

rules. Presumably, such discussions would include the possibility of Favre leaving the Packers for their NFC North rivals in Minnesota.

"They feel like Favre had something (in place), and that's why he was so anxious to get his release all of a sudden," the person said.

Favre and Bevell are friends going back to Bevell's days as quarterbacks coach in Green Bay. The three-time MVP retired in March, but has since said that he wants to return, which has led to a messy back-and-forth with Packers GM Ted Thompson.

The Packers said they were ready to welcome Favre back to the team later in March when Favre expressed reservations about his decision to retire, only to be assured by the quarterback that he was finished.

Favre has said that he felt pressured by the Packers to retire and now has been told that if he returns to Green Bay, he wouldn't necessarily get the starting job back.

Vikings coach Brad Childress called the situation a "soap opera," and said Tuesday that it has been interesting to watch but he remained committed to Tarvaris Jackson as his starting quarterback.

But the Packers think the Vikings have had other ideas since Favre held a tearful retirement press conference on March 6.

The team told the league that it believes an investigation of phone records will show more than "normal contact" between Favre and Bevell, even before he formally asked for his release to play for another team.

Bevell was Green Bay's quarterbacks coach from 2003 to 2005.



AP photo
Quarterback Brett Favre accepts an award as a record breaker at Wednesday's ESPYs Awards in Los Angeles. Even as Favre was accepting his award, stories were swirling that a Minnesota Vikings assistant coach had talked with Favre about joining the Vikes.

S&CC suffers first loss

The Shore & Country swimming and diving team suffered its first loss of the season Tuesday when it fell to undefeated Lake Club by a score of 310-202.

S&CC is 4-1 on the season. S&CC swimmers also completed in the Brian J. Rehnberg Nickname Relay meet Tuesday evening.

Lake Club won the diving, 31-22. Winning S&CC divers were Charlie Clark in the boys 10 & under 1-meter diving with a score of 92.6, Brooke Gordon in the girls 10 & under

YOUTH SWIMMING
meter diving (89.3), Julia DiMarco in the girls 10 & under 1-meter diving (126.10) and Andy Rumore in boys 17 & under 1-meter diving (187.15).

In the swimming events against Lake Club, Chris Wilson (boys 12 & under) was a triple winner. He prevailed in the 50 butterfly (39.89), 50 breaststroke (44.58) and 100 IM (1:28.18).

Double winners were Jillian Carter (girls 14 & under) in the 50 butterfly (31.25) and 50 freestyle (29.93) and Marisa Shields (girls 17 & under) in the 50 butterfly (33.78) and 50 backstroke (36.43).

Also: Edward Stolarski (boys 10 & under) in the 50 freestyle (34.07) and he swam up to win the 12 & under 50 backstroke (41.41) and Kyle Ward (boys 10 & under) in the 25 butterfly (18.18) and 100 IM (1:27.13).

Other winners were Justin Quinn (boys 8 & under) in the 25 freestyle (22.79), Lizzy Colwell (girls 8 & under) in the 25 breaststroke (27.28), Marissa Favano (girls 10 & under) in the 25 breaststroke (22.50), Stephen Holmquist (boys 12 & under) in the 50 freestyle (34.22), Trevor Lally (boys 17 & under) in the 50 breaststroke (35.61) and Kristine O'Brien (girls 17 & under) in the 100 IM (1:19.26).

The boys' 200-yard medley relay of Kyle Ward, Chris Wilson, Trevor Lally, and Jake Dunsmore won in a time of 2:26.58.

The following divers/swimmers sacrificed for the team in the meet including Edward Stolarski (boys 10 & under), who swam up an age group to place second in the boys 12 & under 50 butterfly (41.31) and swam up in the 12 & under to win the 50 backstroke (41.41), Stephen Holmquist (boys 12 & under), who swam up to place second in the boys 14 & under 50 butterfly (35.84) and swam up to place second in the 100 IM (1:20.17), Casey Pearsall (girls 14 & under), who swam up to place third in the 14 & under 50 freestyle (36.34).

S&CC has its next meet at home Tuesday against New Canaan Field Club. Diving is scheduled to commence at 3 p.m. and swimming at 5 p.m.

The team also will compete in Wednesday's Norwalk Relays with Roton Point and Shorehaven.

Norwalk LL squads play in Friendship tourney

Teams from the Norwalk Little League participated in a Friendship Tournament recently and several of the teams fared particularly well.

In the 12 year-old division, Nick Lampman pitched and hit Norwalk Spinola to a 9-3 win over Weston.

Lampman's third inning grand slam put Spinola ahead 5-3 and the team never looked back. Alex Valenzano added two hits and two runs scored and Zach LaRusso had two hits and an RBI.

Norwalk trailed 3-1 after two innings but scored eight unanswered runs off hard-throwing right-hander Chris Collins. Johana Knight had a hit and two runs scored for the winners.

Other Spinola standouts were Matt Savona, who doubled, Trevor Remy, who had a run-scoring single, and Conor Mulford, who singled and scored. Sean Butler closed out the game with one-plus inning of scoreless relief.

Spinola evened it's record for the SALL tourney at 1-1, suffering a tough 8-7 loss in seven innings to Darien in its first game.

11-year-old

Ridgefield 12

Norwalk 11

Trailing 6-3, Ridgefield scored eight runs in the top of the fifth inning to make it 11-6. Norwalk rallied with five runs in the top of the sixth only to have Ridgefield push across a run in the bot-

tom of the sixth for the win.

The big blows for Norwalk came from Edward Petrillo, who had a two-run double and David Langrin, who tied the game in the top of the sixth with a single to center field.

Sam Starkman had a single, double and an RBI; Billy Passero singled twice and drove in two runs; Michael Stein singled and scored three runs, and Brendan Hanzlik singled home a run and scored another.

Pitcher Brendan Mills held Ridgefield to three runs in the first four innings before tiring. Drew Pace and Bobby Butler played outstanding defensive games in center field and shortstop, respectively.

Ridgefield 13, Norwalk 9
Norwalk scored seven runs in the bottom of the fifth inning but it wasn't enough as it lost in a game that was called after five innings because of impending darkness.

Offensively, the big blow was a grand slam by Brendan Hanzlik. Sam Starkman had a single, double, RBI and a run scored. Billy Passero and Justin Hufnagel both singled, scored and drove in a run. Bobby Butler and Michael Stein both singled and scored a run and Drew Pace and David Langrin both had RBI singles.

10-year-old

Babe Spinola 12

Wilton Red 5

Spinola was led at the plate by Mike Boguski, who

finished with seven RBIs. He hit two three-run homers and singled in another run.

Other contributors were Brent Bestercy, who singled and doubled, BJ Buckle and Matt Crowley, who both singled twice, Harrison Hefferan and Guillermo Rosales, who each doubled, and Chris Winthrop, who singled and scored three runs.

Mike Boguski pitched well and started the game off by throwing two no-hit innings. He was followed by Kyle Pisacrita and Chris Winthrop, who came on to close out the game.

Babe Spinola 17

Wilton 4

Spinola's offense was led by Brendan Brown (2-for-2 with an RBI), Matt Crowley, James Campbell and Jesse Rodriguez, who each doubled and had two RBIs; Mike Boguski, who also was 2-for-2 with two RBIs, and Chris Winthrop, Brent Bestercy and RJ Kenez, who all singled and drove in two runs.

Pitching duties were shared by James Campbell, Harrison Hefferan, Jesse Rodriguez, RJ Kenez and Guillermo Rosales.

Ben Whone 10

Westport 9

Norwalk took a 10-6 lead going into the last of the sixth and held off a Westport comeback with strong defense.

Pitching duties for Whone were shared by Parris Fortt, Matt Diurno and Sean Geerckin.

Hits were delivered by Angel Nieves (three singles,

a double and an RBI), Connor Halloran (a triple, a double and a steal of home in the fourth inning to take the lead), Parris Fortt (a triple and a single), and Coorey Hayes (a single and an inside-the-park home run with two RBIs in the fifth).

Evan Cybart, Matt Diurno and Sean Geerckin all singled for Whone.

9-year-old

Norwalk Blue 17

Stamford 15

A five-run fifth inning pushed Norwalk Blue over the top.

Mickey Mannella, Shawn Hanzlik, Alex Escalante and Jake Somma pitched well for Norwalk. Matt Arduino, Somma, Trey Canevari, John Swick, Joe Laracca and Jack Coulter each had singles and RBIs, and John Skroly scored twice.

Catcher Joe Laracca made a nice play on a foul pop.

Norwalk Red 10, Darien 4

Norwalk used a well-balanced attack in the win. Connor Madden and Mike Pascarelli had three hits and a couple of RBI apiece. Nicholas Howard and Mike Powers each had two hits. Mo Ortiz, Connor Madden and Mike Powers each pitched well and Kevin Pisacrita made two outstanding defensive plays in the sixth to seal the win.

8-year-old

Fairfield Red 11

Norwalk 8

Six Norwalk errors resulted in eight unearned

Regina Tamburro added doubles.

Against Bethel, Sam Bardos allowed only three hits and the Riptide bats came alive.

Bardos also led the offense with three hits on the day.

Lauren Hurd, Morgan Delbene, Brittany Lowden (triple), Rebecca Pisano (double) and Regina

Tamburro also had multiple hits.

The Norwalk Riptide finishes out the regular season with games at 6 p.m. Friday against the Ridgefield Tigers and at 5:30 p.m. Saturday against Westport. Both games will be played at Norwalk HS. They will then play in the year end tourney the following weekend in either Darien or Bethel.

U10 Zoomers earn berth in regional tournament

The Norwalk Zoomers U-10 Girls Softball team qualified for the Babe Ruth Regional Tournament over the weekend in Stamford with a third place finish.

They will now compete in the Regional tournament to be held in Stamford the weekend of July 25-27.

After losing the first game to Newtown 11-4, the Zoomers fought back to win three straight games in the losers bracket on Saturday, besting Hebron, 4-0, New Canaan, 15-3, and Cheshire, 8-6. They came back Sunday in the losers bracket final but showed the wear from the Saturday tripleheader and bowed to Stamford, 11-5.

On the weekend Amy Hurd and Erin Frederick shared the 30 innings of pitching between them. Amy Hurd led the offense with seven hits on the weekend, while Becky Stefanatos, Erin Frederick, and Ryan Lajoie contributed five hits apiece.

Nicole Chandler, Nicole Bonanni, Mallory Rocherford and Kyle Courtney also had multiple hits.

The Zoomers are back in action in the FCFSL with two away games this week and return to Norwalk on Saturday, July 19th with at

GIRLS SOFTBALL

doubleheader against New Fairfield starting at 10 a.m. at the BMHS field.

Blaze undefeated

The U-16 Norwalk Blaze softball team remained undefeated in FCFSL with a mercy rule 12-2 victory over Trumbull. Sam Saccamano went 2-for-3 with two doubles. Amanda Millilo went 2-for-4, Niki Talericio went 2-for-3 with three runs scored. Megan Billmeyer hit a three-run home run. Kristy Mastropietro added a double. Billmeyer (five strikeouts, seven walks) and Talericio (five strikeouts) combined on a no-hitter.

Riptide recovers

The Norwalk Riptide hit a couple of bumps in the road before getting back to their winning ways this season. They now stand at 9-2.

The Riptide lost 7-0 to the Lady Redbirds of Greenwich, whom they had previously beaten. The Riptide could only muster three hits, a double by Brittany Lowden and singles by Sam Bardos and Lauren Hurd.

Their lack of offense and

six errors in two innings contributed to the loss.

The next day they faced the league leading Darien Tidal Wave and the outcome was no better. The game was close for the first three innings which saw the Riptide down 4-3 but the floodgates opened and Darien went on to a 14-3 victory.

For the Riptide, Christina Chironna, Jessica Whitman and Sam Bardos all had hits and Rebecca Pisano laced a bases-clearing double to account for the three runs.

On Sunday, the Riptide rebounded with a 10-8 victory over the CT Rebels of Ridgefield.

Rebecca Pisano, Morgan Delbene and Sam Bardos led the charge with two hits apiece and Brittany Lowden, Laura Vallejo, Jessica Whitman and Lauren Hurd also contributed hits.

The Riptide then went on to defeat Westport, 7-6, and Bethel, 14-2.

In the Westport game, Jessica Stamatis pitched four strong innings and Lauren Hurd came on in relief.

Morgan Delbene led the offense with two hits while Christina Chironna and

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