

Mitchell wins 100 meters, takes home Goodwill gold

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Dennis Mitchell has been one of those forgotten sprinters, an afterthought behind Carl Lewis, Leroy Burrell and Linford Christie.

Not any longer.

Mitchell should finally get the recognition he craves after beating Burrell, Lewis and a star-studded field to win the 100 meters on Monday at the Goodwill Games.

Mitchell led from start to finish, to win in 10.07 seconds and capture his first gold medal in a major international championship.

Is he now the world's best sprinter?

"I want to live up to the tradition of a cocky sprinter and say, 'I am,'" Mitchell said.

While track and field grabbed the spotlight on the third day of the 16-day event, the U.S. men's basketball team rebounded from its loss to the Russians to reach the medal round with a 99-80 victory over China. And in beach volleyball, U.S. teams advanced to Wednesday's finals in both the men's and women's events.

But it was on the track at Petrovsky Stadium where the day's biggest drama unfolded. Four of the six fastest sprinters in history — Mitchell, Lewis, Burrell and Andre Cason — went head-to-head in the most anticipated race of the year.

Mitchell wasn't even invited to the Goodwill Games in the first place, overlooked in favor of the bigger names.

But when Christie, Britain's world and Olympic champion, withdrew last week with a hamstring injury, organizers needed a replacement and turned to Mitchell.

"The Green Machine has arrived," he declared before the race. "He's going to attack all comers. It's going to be a perfect show."

Mitchell — clad in a fluorescent green running outfit and green shoes — was true to his word.

After two false starts — one by Burrell and one by Russia's Vitali Savin — he shot out of the blocks first and pulled out to a substantial lead along with Jon Drummond after 50 meters.

Burrell made a powerful charge over the final 40 meters to finish second in 10.11. Drummond was third in 10.12, with Lewis fourth in 10.23 and Cason sixth in 10.33.

"My start was a millisecond slower than I wanted," Mitchell said. "I picked it up after five meters, and then I wanted to accelerate because I knew Leroy and Carl would be coming at me at 60 meters. I felt in very good control at 90 meters and I took it on in."

Mitchell threw up his right arm after crossing the finish line and shouted, "That's what I'm talking about!" He hugged Drummond, his training partner, but never looked back at Burrell or Lewis.

Mitchell set off on a victory lap, stopping now and then to bow to the crowd. After the medal ceremony, he tossed

several pair of his green shoes into the stands.

Mitchell has received plenty of bronze medals — at the 1992 Olympics and the 1991 and 1993 World Championships — so this gold was particularly sweet.

"I feel like a million dollars," he said. "I wish I had a million dollars."

Mitchell will now be able to name his price for appearing at lucrative Grand Prix meets in Europe this summer.

"There's a lot of money walking around in the 100 meters this year," he said, "and I want a big piece of it."

Lewis, meanwhile, said he was pulling out of Tuesday's long jump against world record-holder Mike Powell.

"The main reason is, going back to back at this stage of the season would be a very difficult double," he said. "I have the (400-meter) relay Friday. I think we will run very well."

In a major surprise, world record-holder Sergei Bubka of Ukraine finished only third in the pole vault behind two Russians. Igor Trandenkov won at 19-4½, followed by 1992 Olympic champion Maxim Tarasov at 19-0½ and Bubka at 18-8½.

In other track and field events, Gwen Torrence completed a sprint double by winning the women's 200 meters in 22.09, beating her Russian rival Irina Privalova for the second straight day. Torrence won the 100 on Sunday.

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Players association may set strike date

NEW YORK (AP) — The executive board of the Major League Baseball Players Association will meet by telephone on Thursday and is expected to set a strike date.

Union head Donald Fehr said Monday that it was still "possible to likely" that a strike date would be set during the conference call. The union is considering various strike dates from mid-August through late September. In the last week, several players have said Aug. 19 is a possible date to focus on.

Bargaining is scheduled to resume Tuesday when discussion groups will meet. A full negotiating session is scheduled for Wednesday, but nothing significant is expected to occur then.

"We're going to brief the players on Thursday regardless," Fehr said.

Asked what he thought would happen during the conference call, Fehr said, "It depends on what happens Wednesday."

"The purpose of setting a strike date is not to go on strike," Fehr said in an interview shown Monday night on ABC's *Nightline*.

"The object is to create a focal point so that hopefully the negotiations will conclude before you have to get there."

Each side refuses to consider the other's position, leaving baseball headed toward its eighth work stoppage in 22 years. Owners, claiming they foresee competitive difficulty for small-market clubs, are demanding that players agree to a salary cap in exchange for a 50-50 split of revenue.

Players, claiming the industry is booming, see no need for a cap and want the current agreement

largely unchanged. Their major demands are increasing the minimum salary from \$109,000 to \$175,000-\$200,000 and restoring the threshold for salary arbitration to two years of major league service, its level from 1974-86.

Management negotiator Richard Ravitch said Monday he believes the union will set a strike date Thursday. Ravitch says that owners need to know what their labor costs will be and says the union is ignoring management's needs.

Fehr says a cap would destroy free agency and an owners' proposal for a seven-year agreement would cost players at least \$1.5 billion.

"Baseball faces a lot of difficulties. We are trying to solve them," Ravitch told *Nightline*.

"We are not trying to hurt the players," he said.

Faulk signs with Colts for \$17.2 million

(AP) — Marshall Faulk vaulted to the top of the NFL's rookie salary list Monday, agreeing to a contract that could be worth \$17.2 million over seven years.

"I am a different type of back than they are used to seeing," Faulk said. "I have enough speed to break a long one. I can catch the ball and run inside or outside with it. I think I can do just about anything that is asked of me."

He joins a team that averaged a league-low 294.1 yards on offense last season. The Colts (4-12) also had the league's least productive rushing game (80.5 yards) for the third consecutive year.

"We had to be aggressive to get this done and we had to be creative to comply with the rookie pool (\$3.99 million) limit and not create a problem of staying within the hard cap (\$34.6 million) this year," general manager Jim Irsay said.

He will receive a \$5.1 million signing bonus and his total package eclipses the \$14.4 million top pick Dan Wilkinson of the Cincinnati Bengals could receive over six years. Almost all NFL contracts are not guaranteed for more than one season at a time.

At Hempstead, N.Y., linebacker Marvin Jones looked like he has bounced back from the fractured left hip socket that ended his season last November.

"I was on crutches for two months," Jones said. "It was pure hell. I've worked so hard to get back to where I was and become better. I plan to be here from the start this season. If I do everything I should do, I have a great chance to start."

Jones is expected to open the season at middle linebacker Sept. 4 against Buffalo. The former Butkus Award winner from Florida State was considered the best linebacker to come out in the draft since Lawrence Taylor.

"We want to see what he can do and what kind of impact he can have from the start," coach Pete

Carroll said. "It was really good to see Marvin back in uniform. We're on our way with him."

At Green Bay, Wis., the Packers said tight end Mark Chmura will miss at least four weeks with a hamstring injury.

Green Bay's roster includes only three tight ends: Ed West, a 32-year-old in his 11th season, and two rookies, Charlie Dean and Jeff Wilner. Tight end Jackie Harris, an outstanding deep threat, departed for Tampa Bay as a free agent.

At Platteville, Wis., tackle Troy Auzenne returned to practice Monday following arthroscopic knee surgery last month.

"Nobody likes practice but I want to get back in there and get going," he said.

The 6-foot-7, 310-pounder said he would need about three weeks to get ready for the season opener against Tampa Bay.

"We're trying to ease him back into it but he jumped right in, took snaps and did every drill," coach Dave Wannstedt said. "That's encouraging. I think he's as anxious and hungry to get back to work as we want him to get back."

At Carlisle, Pa., rookie fullback Brian Satterfield quit the Washington Redskins.

"He said he didn't want to play anymore. He didn't have his heart in it and felt he was wasting our time and his time, too," running back coach Bobby Jackson said.

Satterfield, a free agent from North Alabama, played briefly but well in Saturday's 21-14 scrimmage victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers, catching three passes for 26 yards and rushing for a two-yard touchdown.

At Fredonia, N.Y., the Buffalo Bills signed free agent safety Mike Dumas, a player they considered drafting in 1991 before picking Henry Jones.

Coach Marv Levy called Dumas, who was with Houston for the previous three seasons, one of the top 10 special teams players in the country.

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