

IN BRIEF

Bonds is a popular name in NL record books

NEW YORK — Barry Bonds won his record seventh NL MVP award in a walk.

Capping a season filled with suspicion and success, the San Francisco Giants left fielder became the MVP of a major North American professional league. The 40-year-old received 24 of 32 first-place votes and 407 points Monday in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America to earn the award for the fourth straight season.

"I don't know if one is better than the other. I think they're all overwhelming," Bonds said. "You almost get lost for words, the kind of things that are being accomplished in my career."

Asked how he could keep his concentration amid the controversy, Bonds said, "I kind of just walk through it."

Bonds is the only baseball player with more than three MVP awards, and the only one to win more than two in a row. Willie Stargell was previously the oldest baseball MVP, sharing the 1979 NL award at 39 1/2 with Keith Hernandez. Charlie Conerly of the 1958 New York Giants (38) was the oldest NFL MVP, while the oldest NBA and NHL MVPs were both 35: Karl Malone of the 1998-99 Utah Jazz and Herb Gardiner of the 1926-27

Montreal Canadiens.

Among the four major sports, Bonds is second in MVPs to the NHL's Wayne Gretzky, who won nine.

Bonds' season was unparalleled statistically. He hit .362 to win his second NL batting title in three seasons and shattered the major league record with a .609 on-base percentage, topping the previous mark of .582 he set two years ago.

He walked 232 times, 34 more than the previous record he set in 2002 and more than 100 better than anyone else in baseball this season. His 120 intentional walks obliterated the old mark of 68, also set by Bonds in 2002.

Bonds hit 45 homers in 373 at-bats, while Beltre hit a major league-leading 48 in 598 at-bats and Pujols had 46 in 592.

"I never think that I'd have a chance to win any awards being walked. I don't think that's even possible, to try to keep up with these great talented athletes when your chances are minuscule compared to their chances," Bonds said.

Only 52 home runs behind Hank Aaron's career mark, Bonds said he intends to play two more seasons and is motivated by his quest to win a World Series title for the first time.

This year Bonds became only the third player to hit 700 career homers, and with 703 trails only Aaron (755) and Babe Ruth (714).

He matched Aaron's NL record of eight 40-homer seasons, trailing only Ruth's major league mark of 11, and became the first player in major

league history with 13 consecutive 30-homer seasons.

OSU football player arrested for assault

CORVALLIS — An Oregon State football player charged with assault was suspended by coach Mike Riley on Monday for violating team policy, as were three of his teammates.

Joseph Rudolph, 19, a freshman from Sacramento, Calif., was arrested Friday after a confrontation with an Oregon National Guard soldier at the Headline Café in Corvallis.

Teammates Anthony Wheat-Brown, Whitfield Usher and Ryan Rainwater were at the restaurant, but have not been arrested, police said. The university said all four are suspended indefinitely.

The alleged incident happened as Staff Sgt. Gabriel Sapp was dancing with his wife. The couple was allegedly approached by a group of black men, identified as Oregon State football players.

The men began making comments to Sapp's wife, who is also black, about her relationship with her husband, who is white, Corvallis police said.

Witnesses said Rudolph then punched Sapp in the face, knocking him to the ground. Sapp, who was celebrating his last night of leave, is back in Iraq.

Rudolph faces assault, harassment and disorderly conduct charges.

— The Associated Press

Hockey: Oregon captures win, tie against Cougars

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"Matt (Nuernberg) has been playing excellent all year," Keeland said.

Oregon took an early lead in the first game on goals by senior forward Ryan Jones and freshman forward Cal Brackin. The Cougars responded with a late goal to make the game 2-1 Ducks going into the first intermission.

College of the Canyons then took advantage of the Ducks' lethargic play, scoring two goals in the second period.

"We came out a little flat," Nuernberg said.

Assistant captain Ted Martin saved the Ducks from a potentially embarrassing loss with a game-tying goal 12 seconds before the end of the third period. The Ducks and Cougars both went scoreless in the five-minute overtime.

"Those were the best five minutes of the game for us," Keeland said.

College of the Canyons outshot the Ducks 44-41 in the series opener, with Nuernberg blocking 41.

The weekend earned the No. 10 Ducks three points in the American Collegiate Hockey Association standings and upped their record to 8-0-2.

Oregon resumes Pac-8 play this weekend with a crucial matchup against No. 11 UCLA. The Bruins are tied with the Ducks for second place behind Cal in the Pac-8.

"This weekend is huge for placement rankings," said Keeland. "If we win, we're actually a decent team."

A win would put the Ducks alone in second place with less than half the season left to play.

"First place is (still) up for grabs," Nuernberg said, expecting his team to pick up the level of play for the battle against the Bruins Nov. 19 and 20.

Wrestling: Webster, Barker and Bracamonte win classes

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tournament, Kearney was more than content.

"We had a lot better performance today," Kearney said. "We showed improvement from top to bottom. Overall, we have some things to work on, but I am very pleased with the effort."

The Cowboy Open was an open formatted tournament and featured 17 schools from the Midwest and Pacific coast, including host Wyoming, Air Force, Adams State, Chadron State, Colorado School of Mines, Northern Colorado, Northwest

Wyoming, Fort Hays State, Utah Valley State, Montana State-Northern, Boise State, Western State, Nebraska-Kearney, Western Wyoming Community College, Colby Community College, Dickinson State, Corritos Community College and Oregon. A total of 406 wrestlers competed, the biggest turnout in the history of the Cowboy Open.

The Ducks continue their season with the Best of the West tournament at Medford on Nov. 20. They wrap up November with a duel against UC Davis.

Smith: Shirt saga ends calmly, warrior walks away unscathed

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mob people makes me think of cattle.)

I missed the hundreds of students with anxious looks on their faces and considering hara-kiri because they swore the Pit Crew staff was avoiding them and would run out of shirts before they got one.

And now, I miss missing it. It was a test of endurance, an experience that any Oregon sports fan should go through. Instead, I walked in, past the pizza boxes and coffee cups, the discarded newspapers and empty stadium chairs and destroyed the experience.

And as much as I feel sorry and

weird about waltzing in, I really don't, because now I have the ticket to one of the best seats in college sports.

And with the team that Oregon will put on the floor, I feel like I have pulled off a coup or some April Fool's joke.

But somehow, I don't feel quite right.

I should have to endure more for a shirt.

So now I know what I will do.

Next year, I'll get there three days early and hang out Trey Arrow style.

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by Adrian Raeside