

SPORTS

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SPORTS
IN BRIEFMount St. Mary's
tops New Orleans
to open First Four

By JOE KAY
Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — Diminutive point guard Junior Robinson fearlessly dribbled into the heart of New Orleans' defense, pulled up and hit yet another of his oh-so-soft jumpers. This one decided a frenetic opening game for the NCAA Tournament.

The smallest player in Division I scored 23 points Tuesday night, including that go-ahead jumper with 1:27 to play, and Mount St. Mary's held on for a 67-66 victory over New Orleans in the First Four.

Robinson carried the Mountaineers (20-15) to only their second NCAA Tournament win, making jumpers with so much arc they appeared to tease the ceiling.

"The way he plays out there — his speed, his athleticism — it's just so special," coach Jamion Christian said. "When you're a smaller guy, you're naturally going to have a chip on your shoulder and you want to go out there and show the world the things you can do."



AP Photo/Diana Haecker

Iditarod champion Mitch Seavey of Sterling, Alaska, poses with his lead dogs Pilot, left, and Crisp under the Burled Arch after winning the 1,000-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, in Nome, Alaska, Tuesday. Seavey won his third Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, becoming the fastest and oldest champion at age 57 and helping cement his family's position as mushing royalty.

Seavey is oldest, fastest
musher to win Iditarod

By MARK THIESSEN
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Mitch Seavey became the oldest and fastest musher to win the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, in year marred by an abnormally high number of dog deaths.

After bringing in his dog team off the Bering Sea ice and under the famed burled arch on Front Street in Nome Tuesday, the 57-year-old winner greeted each of his dogs and thanked them with a frozen snack. He later posed with his two lead dogs, Pilot and Crisp.

"They get frustrated when they go too slow, so I just let them roll, which was scary because I've never gone that fast, that far ever, but that's what they wanted to do," he said.

Seavey set a time record of eight days, 3 hours, 40 minutes and 13 seconds, the Iditarod said. That shaved several hours off the record his son set last year: eight

days, 11 hours, 20 minutes and 16 seconds.

Seavey, who broke his own record for being the oldest musher set four years ago, said the dogs know only one thing — 9½ to 10 mph.

"They hit their peak, they hit their speed, and that's what they do," Seavey said at the finish line. "They trusted me to stop them when they needed to stop and feed them, and I did that, and they gave me all they could."

Seavey's push for Nome was tempered Tuesday with news of the fourth death of a dog associated with the Iditarod among the 2,000 or so that started the race March 6 in Fairbanks. While not all deaths were on the trail, the death total does match the entire number of dog deaths for the years 2012-2016 and prompted a call from an animal rights group to permanently end the Iditarod.

"They deserve far better than a lifetime of isolation, cruelty, suffering, and death training for and

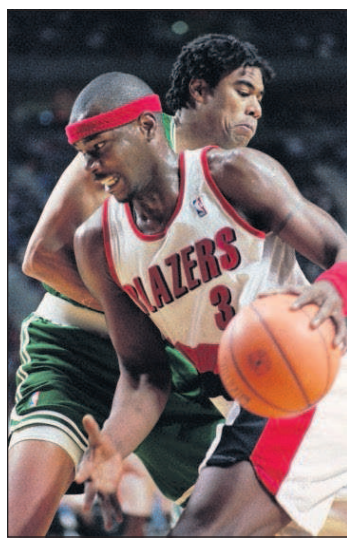
running in the Iditarod. PETA is calling for a permanent end to this dangerous race," said People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals Vice President Colleen O'Brien in a statement.

A spokesman for the Iditarod Trail Committee said more than 40 veterinarians volunteer during the race and dogs are evaluated at each checkpoint.

"Any musher found guilty of inhumane treatment would be disqualified and banned from competition in future Iditarods," according to an Iditarod Trail Committee statement emailed to The Associated Press late Tuesday.

Two dogs died on the trail. Another was hit by a car in Anchorage, and one dropped dog likely died of hyperthermia while being flown back to Anchorage.

The latter prompted race officials to change policies how dogs are transported, including not wearing coats in transport planes and making sure there is proper ventilation.



AP Photo/Don Ryan

Portland Trail Blazers forward Cliff Robinson, front, drives on Boston Celtics' Pervis Ellison in Portland in 1995.

Former Blazer
Robinson
discloses brain
hemorrhage

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Former Trail Blazer Cliff Robinson says he is recovering from a "minor brain hemorrhage."

Last week, Robinson's family disclosed that the 50-year-old former forward was being treated at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center.

Robinson issued a statement on Tuesday saying he's in the "process of getting better."

"My family and I appreciate the prayers and well-wishes for my recovery," he said. "I had an unfortunate incident with a minor brain hemorrhage which means I'll be in rehabilitation for a while. But I'm excited about trying to get past this speed bump. I'm improving every day."

Robinson was the 36th overall pick in 1989 by the Blazers and he spent eight years with the team. He also played for the Phoenix Suns, Detroit Pistons, Golden State Warriors and New Jersey Nets during his 18-year NBA career.

SCOREBOARD

PREP SCHEDULE

TODAY

Baseball — North Marion at Astoria (at CMH Field), 5 p.m.; Nestucca at Warrenton, 4 p.m.

Softball — Nestucca at Warrenton, 4 p.m.

THURSDAY

Baseball — Gladstone at Astoria (at CMH Field), 5:15 p.m.; Knappa at Kennedy, 4:30 p.m.

Softball — Gladstone at Astoria (at CMH Field), 3 p.m.

FRIDAY

Baseball — Sandy at Astoria, 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Baseball — Blanchet Catholic at Warrenton, 3 p.m.

Pick a winner? Las Vegas casinos
can't agree on NCAA favorite

By REGINA
GARCIA CANO
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Can't decide the winner in your March Madness bracket? Don't feel bad. Las Vegas casinos can't agree on an NCAA Tournament favorite, either.

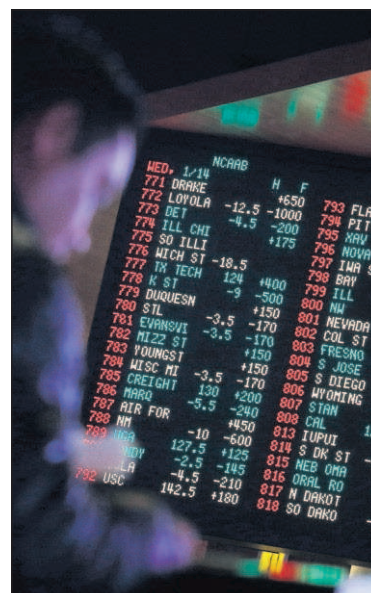
The Wynn Las Vegas and Westgate SuperBook originally listed Duke as the odds-on pick to win college basketball's national championship on Sunday. But both books switched to North Carolina as the favorite on Tuesday, less than 48 hours after the brackets for the tournament were revealed.

Meanwhile, MGM Resorts International had Kansas as a 5-1 favorite, while William Hill opened with North Carolina and tightened its odds after early wagers.

"This year, a lot of people believe there are eight to 12 teams that can take home the title," said Jay Kornegay, Westgate's sports book director. "The odds are so close in the top contending teams that any time you have an influx of money, that can change the odds and make that team the favorite at that time."

At Westgate, North Carolina was followed by Kansas at 6-1 — which leapfrogged original favorite Duke. The Blue Devils were at 7-1 and top overall seed Villanova at 8-1.

"It's uncommon; it's a wide-open year," said Nick Bogdanovich, head oddsmaker for William Hill, which runs more than 100 sports books in Nevada. "Usually, there are seven or eight teams that you can narrow it down to. But this year, I think there are more teams that can win it than ever before."



AP Photo/John Locher

Odds are displayed on a screen at a sports book owned and operated by CG Technology in Las Vegas in 2015. Las Vegas casinos can't agree on an NCAA tournament favorite, with favorites changing within hours.

Cousins,
Davis lead
Pelicans
past Blazers

By LES EAST
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — DeMarcus Cousins scored 22 points, Anthony Davis had 15 points and 15 rebounds and the New Orleans Pelicans beat the Portland Trail Blazers 100-77 on Tuesday night.

Cousins had nine rebounds and three assists. He made 9 of 17 2-point shots but missed all five of his 3-point attempts.

Jordan Crawford had 13 points and scored in double figures for the fourth time in four games since being signed to a 10-day contract March 5. Solomon Hill scored 12 points, E'Twaun Moore had 11 and Jrue Holiday 10.

The Pelicans took the lead for good in the first quarter and won their second straight.

Damian Lillard scored 29 points to lead Portland, which lost for the second time in its last seven games. Shabazz Napier came off the bench to score 10 points.

New Orleans set season lows in points allowed, field-goal percentage allowed (30.3) and turnovers committed (five). Portland had its fewest points this season.

The Pelicans' lead grew to 50-36 at halftime and 77-54 after three quarters as Portland failed to score more than 20 points in any of the first three quarters. New Orleans led by as many as 26 points in the fourth quarter.

UP NEXT: TRAIL BLAZERS

Portland Trail Blazers (29-37)
at San Antonio Spurs (52-14)
Today, 5 p.m. TV: CW35, ESPN, KGW

Seahawks reach
agreement with
RB Eddie Lacy

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — The Seattle Seahawks are hoping Eddie Lacy can be motivated by a one-year contract to rediscover the form that made him the 2013 Offensive Rookie of the Year.

The Seahawks and Lacy agreed to terms on a one-year deal Tuesday, providing Seattle a big body for a run game that was once the best in football but lagged last season following the retirement of Marshawn Lynch.

"I like that we're bringing in a big, tough guy that's going to send a message the way he plays the game," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said in an interview with KIRO-AM, the Seahawks flagship station, on Tuesday.

Lacy was the top offensive rookie four years ago when he rushed for 1,178 yards and 11 touchdowns. He also ran for more than 1,100 yards in 2014, but has since been slowed by injuries and lost favor with Packers coach Mike McCarthy at times.

Last season, Lacy played in only five games, sidelined by ankle problems, and finished with only 360 yards rushing and no touchdowns. Weight has also been an issue for Lacy, but Carroll said he would expect the running back to play in the range of 240-250 pounds.

"He's a big guy. There is nothing wrong with that," Carroll said. "There will be a real concerted effort to make sure he's at his very best. This is a hard time for him because he's working some rehab right now, but he is well aware of our expectations and the standards that we are setting."



AP Photo/Mike Roemer

Green Bay Packers running back Eddie Lacy (27) rushes against the Oakland Raiders during the first half of an NFL preseason football game in Green Bay, Wis., in August.