

SPORTS

Oregon's Own Smith Reaches Contract Agreement

By JOE KAY
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CINCINNATI (AP) - Akili Smith agreed to a seven-year contract with the Cincinnati Bengals on Monday, ending an impasse that caused him to miss most of training camp and two exhibition games. The seven-year deal includes a \$10.8 million signing bonus and will pay Smith as much as \$56 million if he reaches various performance goals along the way. The deal contains one voidable year, meaning it will automatically shorten to six years if he's in for 35 percent of the plays in his first year or 45 percent any following year. "Contracts are so statistical, es-

pecially for quarterbacks, and have a level of complexity that it simply takes time to work through," Steinberg said.

The Bengals weren't counting upon Smith to play much this season - he's been slotted as Jeff Blake's backup. But by missing most of training camp, he has missed important development time for a quarterback.

"Who knows how fast he can pick it up?" Coslet said. "He's pretty bright. He's a couple of years older than a normal rookie, so he's pretty mature. And I think he probably has been working with the stuff we sent him, but that's not the same as being on the field time after time after time."

Jones Wins 200 Heat

By STEPHEN WILSON
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SEVILLE, Spain (AP) - A day after losing her bid for a record four gold medals, world 100-meter champion Marion Jones won her opening heat in the 200 meters today.

Jones, who settled for bronze in the long jump Monday night, eased up over the final 20 meters and crossed the line in 22.69 seconds, the fourth-best time of the seven heats.

Jones hasn't lost in the 200 since 1995 and has won 21 consecutive finals in the event. She said she was tired today after getting only five hours of sleep.

"When I was standing behind

the blocks, I should have been visualizing the race," Jones said. "Instead, I was visualizing going back to my hotel and going back to bed."

Fellow American Inger Miller, who took the silver behind Jones in the 100 and figures to be her main challenger in the 200, comfortably won her heat in 22.92.

The fastest time in the women's 200 heats was run by Jamaica's Beverly McDonald, who ran 22.52. Defending 200 champion Zhanna Pintusevich of Ukraine finished only fifth in her heat at 23.19 but still qualified for the next round.

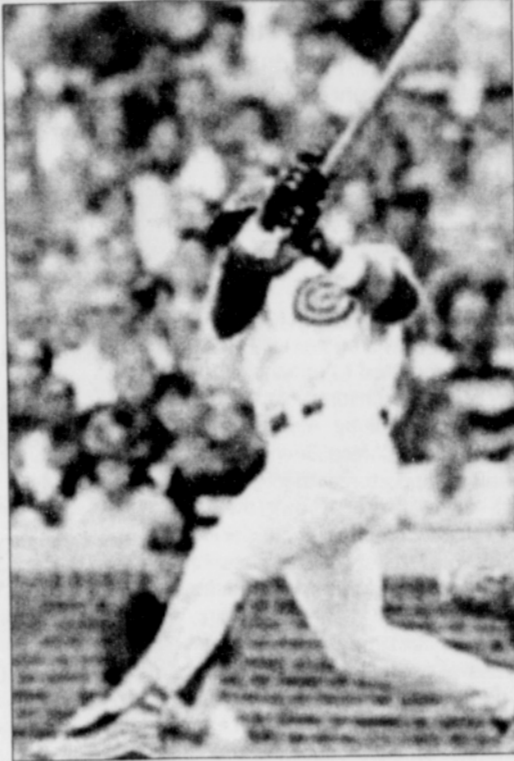
Maurice Greene, the men's 100 champion, finished only third in his opening 200-meter race.

Playing For the Team

CHICAGO (Aug. 23) - Sammy Sosa is on pace to hit 68 home runs this season, but he's not enjoying it as much. The Chicago Cubs' plummet to last place has spoiled the fun.

"I'm not an individual player," Sosa said Monday before the Chicago Cubs' game against the San Francisco Giants was postponed by rain. "I play for the team. I care about winning. The situation we're in is not a good situation."

Rain delayed Sosa's home-run pursuit Monday night. The game between the Chicago Cubs and San



San Francisco Giants was postponed and will be made up as a doubleheader Wednesday at 12:05 p.m. CT.

McGwire Hits Home Runs #49 & 50

Mark McGwire sets another major-league record Sunday

By JOSH DUBOW
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NEW YORK (Aug. 22) - After nearly six hours of baseball, one dramatic comeback by the New York Mets and nearly another, all anyone could talk about was Mark McGwire's monstrous 502-foot blast in the first inning of the first game.

"That was pretty cool. Nothing he does surprises me anymore."

McGwire hit two home runs in the opener to become the first player to reach 50 homers in four consecutive seasons before the Mets came from five runs down to win on Edgardo Alfonzo's RBI single in the ninth inning.

"I've always thought 50 was the

plateau," McGwire said. "That's not too shabby of a year. Not too many people have done it."

"He caught that ball flush," manager Tony La Russa said. "He does so many amazing things that you can't be surprised anymore. You try not to take him for granted. You're always impressed because what he does is so hard to do."

McGwire's 50th homer looked routine compared to his first-inning blast. He led off the seventh with a fly ball that just cleared former teammate Shawn Dunston's glove and the 396-foot sign in left-center.

Dunston retrieved the ball, but gave it to a fan, not realizing it was McGwire's 50th.

Agassi Jumps to No. 2 Peaking for U.S. Open

© THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (Aug. 23) - A few years after being written off by the rest of the tennis world, Andre Agassi is once again one of the sport's elite players.

The win was Agassi's record fifth Legg Mason title, accompanying others in 1990, 1991, 1995 and 1998. The tournament's No. 2 seed earned \$99,000, while Kafelnikov, the top seed, received \$52,000.

"I knew after the French Open

that going into the hard court season that, if I'm playing my best tennis, it's going to happen on the hard courts," Agassi said. "This is perfect, it's perfect going into the U.S. Open."

Agassi also picked up 250 ATP Tour points to move from No. 3 to No. 2 in the rankings ahead of Kafelnikov and just behind Pete Sampras. It also means he will be seeded No. 2 at the U.S. Open later this month and cannot play Sampras before the title match.

Since the start of the French Open in May, which he won, Agassi has won 28 of 32 matches. Three losses were to Sampras, and one to Kafelnikov.

Agassi's win over Kafelnikov guaranteed he will play in the bracket opposite Sampras at the U.S. Open. The earliest they will play is in the championship.

"I'm looking forward to the week off because I feel that everything's right where it should be, and I'll go in nice and ready," Agassi said.

Ryder Cup Teams Set

By ROY KAMMERER
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MUNICH, Germany (AP) - The colors for the U.S. team at next month's Ryder Cup will be red, white and blue.

Their counterparts from Europe will be basic green, as in inexperienced.

Mark James rounded out the European team Sunday with captain's picks of Jesper Parnevik and Andrew Coltart. With the selection of Coltart, there will be seven members of the 12-man team who have never played in a Ryder Cup.

The rest of the team - determined by standings based on earnings on the PGA

European Tour - includes Jose Maria Olazabal, Colin Montgomerie, Lee Westwood, Darren Clarke and Ryder Cup rookies Padraig Harrington, Sergio Garcia, Paul Lawrie, Jean Van de Velde, Miguel Angel Jimenez and Jarmo Sandelin.

Garcia, at 19, will be the youngest player in Ryder Cup history.

Coltart has only one career victory.

The U.S. team, which was announced last week, will consist of Tiger Woods, David Duval, Mark O'Meara, Phil Mickelson, Payne Stewart, Davis Love III, Hal Sutton,

Justin Leonard, Jim Furyk, Jeff Maggert, Tom Lehman and Steve Pate, the last two Ben Crenshaw's captain's picks. Duval will be the only Ryder Cup rookie on the U.S. team.

Europe has won or retained the Ryder Cup five times in the past seven matches, although the Americans have been heavily favored each time.

Europe's 12 players are all expected to be at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio, this week for the \$5 million NEC Invitational, a World Golf Championship event for players on the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup teams.

Gossett Defeats Kim in U.S. Amateur

By ROB GLOSTER
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PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) - David Gossett had just wrapped up the U.S. Amateur Championship, matching the biggest margin of victory in the event in a half-century. Then he began wrapping up a memento from his win.

Gossett, a sophomore at Texas, carefully rolled up the yellow flag from the pin at the 10th hole where he completed his 9 and 8 win over Korean high school junior Sung Yoon Kim on Sunday and stuck it in his back pocket.

"It's pretty awesome. It was a long week here at Pebble Beach," said Gossett, who received a good luck fax from Texas alum Tom Kite before the

final and a congratulatory call from another Longhorn, Ben Crenshaw, after the victory. "I was focused each day. It's been a lot of hard work and it's paid off."

Gossett, who played nearly flawless golf on the fog-shrouded Pebble Beach course, finally made a mistake after completing his victory. As he hoisted the championship trophy, the top fell off and dropped to the 10th green.

"I don't know if David Gossett always plays the way he did today. If he plays that way, his best will be better than my best," Kim said through an translator. "David Gossett's best day is better than my best day."

Then he hugged his dad and finally showed some emotion, sticking his tongue

out and smiling while lifting the trophy. He had just made a "Hook 'em Horns" signal with his hand - not unexpected for a Texas Longhorn - when the top of the trophy fell.

The victory earned Gossett exemptions into next year's U.S. Open and British Open. Both finalists get an invitation to play in next year's Masters, as long as they remain amateurs.

Kim, 17, came within a victory of becoming the youngest champion in Amateur history and the first non-North American to win the title since Harold Hilton of England in 1911.

The youngest player to win the U.S. Amateur was Tiger Woods, who captured the first of his three consecutive titles in 1994 at 18.

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