

NCAA

Minnesota AD resigns after colleagues say he groped them

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — The University of Minnesota released redacted transcripts of the sexual harassment complaints that led to the resignation of the school's athletic director in which two female co-workers accuse him of groping and making inappropriate advances at them.

One of the women, whose names are blacked out in the reports, told school administrators that at a recent event, what started out as her texting with Norwood Teague about setting him up with one of her friends devolved into him repeatedly pinching her butt and asking to perform oral sex on her.

The other women said Teague seemed intent on being next to her at the event and that she felt cornered by him at times. She said he kept asking when she was going to marry her boyfriend, and that he made unwelcome physical advances such as rubbing her back and poking her side.

Both women said they left the event with others because

they felt that Teague might otherwise try to follow them.

Teague resigned Friday, effective immediately, and apologized for having sent "inappropriate texts" in a statement issued through television station KARE 11. He said he drank too much that night and that he will be seeking help for an alcohol problem.

"I behaved badly towards nice people and sent truly inappropriate texts," Teague said. "I'm embarrassed and I apologize to everyone involved. This neither reflects my true character or the true character of this great, great university."

The school's president, Eric Kaler, announced Teague's resignation in an email to staff, pointing out that the women who accused Teague of harassing them are not student-workers.

"To be clear, sexual harassment will not be tolerated at the University of Minnesota and I sincerely regret that our employees experienced this behavior. The University has an explicit policy and a strong code of conduct that articulates our standards,"



Carlos Gonzalez/Star Tribune via AP File

In this 2013 file photo, Minnesota athletic director Norwood Teague speaks at a news conference in Minneapolis. The University of Minnesota announced Friday that Teague submitted his resignation after three years on the job.

Kaler wrote.

Beth Goetz, deputy athletic director and senior woman administrator, has been named interim athletic director. Teague brought Goetz with him when he left Virginia Commonwealth University for Minnesota in

2012.

Teague was hired to replace Joel Maturi and was charged with reshaping a Golden Gophers athletic department that had fallen far behind the rest of the Big Ten in terms of facilities. Unlike Maturi, who tried to build a department

that put resources into both the cash-generating sports like football and men's basketball and the lower profile sports including track and wrestling, Teague came in with a clear plan to emphasize the most popular sports in the hopes of generating more revenue that

could trickle down to the rest of the department.

He set about to raise nearly \$200 million to bring new practice facilities for football and men's basketball — a gargantuan task for a school that hasn't had the type of sporting success that gets big donors to open their wallets. But Teague helped raise about \$70 million in the first year of the plan, and the school had hoped to start breaking ground on new projects this fall.

Teague carved out a reputation as a basketball administrator in his previous six years as athletic director at VCU, where he teamed with coach Shaka Smart to bring the little-known program to national prominence. While at Minnesota, he fired Tubby Smith and hired Richard Pitino, the son of coaching legend Rick Pitino, to lead the men's program. He also replaced Pam Borton with Marlene Stollings on the women's side.

Teague said he planned to "reassess my career and life options. While I'm proud of my career accomplishments, I want to stop and take a look at my life and alcohol issues."

NHL

Blackhawks' Kane under police investigation

By JOHN WAWROW AND
JONAH BRONSTEIN
The Associated Press

HAMBURG, N.Y. — Chicago Blackhawks star Patrick Kane is under police investigation over something that may have happened at his home last weekend.

Hamburg Police Chief Gregory Wickett on Friday did not elaborate on the investigation, alluding to an "incident that allegedly occurred" at the player's offseason home in suburban Buffalo. Police are still gathering information and awaiting forensic tests, he said.

Wickett made a brief statement outside police headquarters but would not say if police have spoken with Kane or if the player is cooperating. He responded to one question, saying he did not know if Kane would appear at headquarters Friday. Wickett added there will be no further comment.

Word of the investigation surfaced Thursday, prompting responses from the NHL, Blackhawks and Kane's agent, Pat Brisson. The investigation began Sunday night, when several plainclothes officers searched the

grounds and interior of the home overlooking Lake Erie. The 26-year-old Kane is from Buffalo and his family still lives in town.

Buffalo lawyer Paul Cambria, who has represented Kane in the past, declined comment in a text to The Associated Press on Friday.

The investigation comes after Chicago won its third Stanley Cup in six seasons. Kane was scheduled to enjoy his time with the Cup, and tour it around Buffalo on Saturday. Kane's whereabouts are unknown, and it's unclear if he will still host the Cup.

The front gates of Kane's home were closed Friday morning.

The Blackhawks said in a statement Thursday it was "aware of the matter" and gathering information. The club said it would be "inappropriate" to comment further. The NHL added that it, too, was "aware of a police investigation" and "following developments."

AP freelance photographer Gary Wiepert contributed to this report.



Kane

NFL

Tablets to be used on sideline in NFL preseason

By BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK — Coaches, players and game officials will be allowed to examine video on the sideline during preseason games. There's strong thought they will be able to do so in the regular season by 2016.

NFL teams began using Microsoft Surface tablets last year to examine photos of plays, and the feedback was so positive that Seahawks star quarterback Russell Wilson said, "It's a difference maker for me." In several preseason games this summer, reviewing video of plays will be tested on new Surface Pro 3 devices.

Video was available on the tablets on an experimental basis for last January's Pro Bowl, and Saints quarterback Drew Brees credited being able to review it as leading to a touchdown pass.

Officiating crews will use the Surface Pro 3 to conduct video reviews rather than going "under the hood" during the preseason.

"We will use the tablets in 10 games through the first three weeks of the preseason," said Dean Blandino, the NFL's vice



(AP Photo/Elise Amendola, File)

In this Aug. 15, 2014, file photo, New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick studies a tablet device on the sideline in the first half of an NFL preseason football game against the Philadelphia Eagles in Foxborough, Mass. Coaches, players and game officials will be allowed to examine video on the sideline during 2015 preseason games. And there's a chance they will be able to do so in the regular season by 2016.

president of officiating. "The goal is to be more efficient in administering replay reviews. Rather than going under the hood, the referee will have the tablet brought to him so he can review the play, similar to what was done at the Pro Bowl.

"Having New York involved in the replay

review process for the first time last season was a very positive factor in streamlining the process, and we would like to determine if using the tablets could streamline it even further."

If all goes well, Microsoft, in the midst of a five-year, \$400 million deal with the league, will make presentations to the NFL's

competition committee and then to the owners after the season.

"The NFL has a process in implementing new technology and paradigms to the game," said Jeff Tran, Microsoft's director of sports marketing and alliances. "Part of that process is the preseason test to ensure everything works without a hitch."

PGA

Furyk builds big lead at Firestone

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

AKRON, Ohio — Jim Furyk is two rounds away from erasing a couple of bad memories at Firestone.

Even with a bogey on his last hole for the second straight day, Furyk did plenty right Friday in the Bridgestone Invitational for another 4-under 66 that gave him a four-shot going into the weekend of this World Golf Championship.

Furyk ran off three birdies in a four-hole stretch late in his round to reach 8-under 132.

It's a familiar position for Furyk at Firestone, where he has done everything right except leave with the trophy. During a seven-hole playoff against Tiger Woods in 2001, Furyk missed three birdie putts inside 12 feet for the win, and Woods finally closed him out on the 79th hole of the tournament.

More painful was three years ago, when Furyk led wire-to-wire and was in the 18th fairway on Sunday when one bad swing led to a double bogey and he lost by one.

Furyk doesn't see this as a shot at redemption.

"I would say that I'm disappointed I've never won here," he said. "It's one of my favorite courses we play. But to have like



AP Photo/Tony Dejak

Jim Furyk tees off on the 12th hole during the second round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament at Firestone Country Club, Friday in Akron, Ohio.

a chip on my shoulder? No. It's another year and opportunity, and we're only halfway. I'm going to try to do the same things this weekend and not really look at the leaderboard that much and go try to shoot under par."

It might take every bit of that considering the cast behind him.

Bubba Watson (66) and Dustin Johnson (67), whose power is suited for this monster of a course, joined Shane Lowry of Ireland (66) at 4-under 136. Henrik Stenson (69) and Graeme

McDowell (71) were among those another shot behind.

Masters and U.S. Open champion Jordan Spieth got within two shots of the lead when he chipped in for birdie on the third hole (his 12th of the round). He followed with back-to-back bogeys to drop back about the time Furyk was starting to pull away.

The wind was swirling, and Spieth says he didn't miss a shot during a four-hole stretch when he made two bogeys. The good news? In his sixth round at Firestone, Spieth finally broke par

with a 68 that left him six shots behind.

"It goes with the bigger goal of trying to give myself a chance to win this championship," Spieth said. "It wasn't going to happen shooting even."

Spieth would have to win this week to replace Rory McIlroy at No. 1 in the world.

Only 19 players from the 77-man field remained under par.

when he goes to the Hall of Fame exhibition against the Vikings. But there's still plenty of work to do.

NCAA

South Carolina seeks NCAA events with ban over

By BRUCE SMITH
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — South Carolina is back in the game to host predetermined NCAA championships now that the Confederate flag has been lowered from the Statehouse grounds.

A group of top tourism leaders visited Indianapolis this week to let the association know that the state is ready and willing to bid on and host such events following the NCAA ban that had been in effect almost 15 years.

Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Director Duane Parrish visited NCAA headquarters on Wednesday with members of the South Carolina Sports Alliance, a group working to promote sports tourism.

Parrish said they discussed the state's athletic facilities and bidding for future events with 30 NCAA officials who handle championships.

He told The Associated Press on Friday the state might have a step up on hosting events such as basketball tournament games because it's been so long since South Carolina has done so.

"If everything else is equal

in terms of the bid package because we are new and people haven't been here in a long time I think that gives us an edge," he said. "It may not be on paper but I think that gives us a psychological edge."

Lawmakers voted to remove the Confederate flag from the Statehouse grounds after the shooting deaths of nine black parishioners at a Charleston church in June. The white gunman charged with numerous counts including murder and hate crimes had posed with Confederate flags.

The flag was removed July 10 and, the same day, the NCAA dropped its ban that went into effect in 2001. Mark Emmer, the president of the NCAA said lowering the flag "sends an important message of respect for and dignity of every person."

The AP left messages with the NCAA inquiring about the meeting with the tourism representatives.

Attracting NCAA men's basketball regionals is highly competitive and the events can mean millions of dollars for host communities. There are arenas in Columbia, Greenville and Charleston large enough to host NCAA tournament games.