Golf

US beats Europe to capture Solheim Cup in decisive fashion

By LUKE MEREDITH
Associated Press

WEST DES MOINES, Iowa — Four years ago, Team Europe celebrated the most decisive win in Solheim Cup history — on American soil, no less.

Captain Annika Sorenstam and her team will likely spend their trip back across the Atlantic wondering when they'll be ready to compete with the U.S. again.

Lexi Thompson, 22, and her resurgent U.S. teammates finished off their most-decisive Solheim Cup victory in more than 20 years, beating Europe 16 1/2-11 1/2 on Sunday at Des Moines Golf and Country Club.

Though Europe played the U.S. even on Sunday, the Americans dominated foursome and four-ball play to put the Europeans in a major hole.

The Americans are now 10-5 in the biennial tournament after their biggest win since a 17-11 triumph in 1996 in Wales. They rallied to win in Germany in 2015 and have taken five of the last seven matches — the exception being that 18-10 blowout that Europe handed the U.S. in Colorado in 2013.

AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall

United States' Cristie Kerr celebrates after her singles match against victory in the Solheim Cup, Sunday in West Des Moines, Iowa.

"We just got outplayed, no doubt about it," Sorenstam said. "I'm just so proud of how hard they fought. What can I say? Just congratulate the USA because they played some awesome golf."

Cristie Kerr and Paula Creamer won key matches, and Gerina Piller sealed it with a birdie putt that put her 3 up over Florentyna Parker with three to play in a 4-and-2 victory.

"They just bonded. They believed in each other. They played for the person behind them and in front of them. And they played some amazing golf," said Juli Inkster, who joined Judy Rankin as the only U.S. captains to win the Solheim Cup twice.

Kerr beat Mel Reid 2 and 1 for her record-extending 21st point in the competition, and Creamer edged Georgia Hall 1 up to raise her total to 19 1/2 — second on the U.S. career list.

Thompson ended up halving with Anna Nordqvist, and Angel Yin halved with Karine Icher as the teams split the 12 singles matches. Lizette Salas and Danielle Kang also won for the U.S. Salas edged Jodi Ewart Shadoff 1 up, and Kang beat Emily Pedersen 3 and 1.

For Europe, Catriona Matthew beat Stacy Lewis 1 up, Caroline Masson topped Michelle Wie 4 and 2, Charley Hull edged Brittany Lang 1 up, Carlota Ciganda beat Brittany Lincicome 4 and 3, and Madelene Sagstrom defeated Austin Ernst 3 and 2.

Her team five points down entering the day, Sorenstam tried to keep the mood light by dressing up in a blue and yellow Viking hat and wig and dancing for the cameras before play began.

Nordqvist did her best to set the tone for the Europeans in the opening match, winning the first four holes.

But after a birdie on No. 10, Thompson holed out from 112 yards for eagle on the 11th hole — a shot so impressive that even Nordqvist was compelled to high-five her.

Thompson followed with an eagle putt on the 15th hole, and a birdie on 16 put her ahead for the first time. Though Nordqvist rallied, earning the half-point by sticking her 154-yard approach on No. 18 within a foot, an American win was inevitable after Thompson's run.

Europe also knows that they'll likely have to deal with Thompson — the highest-rated player in the event — for a long time.

"To me, that was like six points," Inkster said. "It's probably fitting they both got half a point. Both played amazingly. It just shows the heart of her and her determination. You think she's out of it and then the switch goes off."

Europe knew it would be a big underdog heading into the tournament, especially after star Suzann Pettersen threw out her back and withdrew. But the 47-year-old Matthew was 3-1 after replacing the injured Suzann Pettersen.

Nordqvist went 3-0-1 during the week to lead the Europeans.

SCOREBOARD

Local slate

VOLLEYBALL

Thursday
Condon/Wheeler at Echo, 10 a.m.
Heppner vs. Condon/Wheeler (at Echo), 11:30 a.m.
Heppner at Echo, 2 p.m.
Umatilla at Helix, 2:30 p.m.
Ione at Helix, 4 p.m.
Ione vs. Umatilla (at Ione), 5:30 p.m.
Waitsburg (WA) at Riverside, 6 p.m.
Imbler at Weston-McEwen, 6 p.m.
Dufur at Weston-McEwen, 7 p.m.
Friday
Ione at Country Christ. (1A Preview), 8 a.m.
Ione vs. Trinity Luth. (1A Preview), 11 a.m.
Umatilla at Irrigon, 1 p.m.
Ione vs. N. Douglas (1A Preview), 2 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler vs. Umatilla (at Irrigon), 2:30 p.m.
Condon/Wheeler at Irrigon, 4 p.m.
Saturday
Hermiston at La Grande, 8 a.m.
Pendleton at Lewiston (ID) Tourney, 8 a.m.
Weston-McEwen at Grant Union Tournament, 8 a.m.
Irrigon at Stanfield, 10 a.m.
Echo vs. Enterprise (at Stanfield), 10 a.m.
Ione vs. Hosanna Christian (1A Preview), 10 a.m.
Ione vs. Willamette Valley Christian (1A Preview), 5 p.m.

BOYS SOCCER

Thursday
Umatilla at Hermiston, 6 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER

Thursday
Umatilla at Hermiston, 4 p.m.

Baseball

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	71	53	.573	—
New York	66	57	.537	4½
Baltimore	61	64	.488	10½
Tampa Bay	61	65	.484	11
Toronto	59	65	.476	12

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	69	54	.561	—
Minnesota	64	60	.516	5½
Kansas City	62	61	.504	7
Detroit	54	69	.439	15
Chicago	48	75	.390	21

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	76	48	.613	—
Los Angeles	64	61	.512	12½
Seattle	64	62	.508	13
Texas	62	62	.500	14
Oakland	54	71	.432	22½

Monday's Games
White Sox 7, Minnesota 6, 1st game
Baltimore 7, Oakland 3
Cleveland 5, Boston 4
Seattle 6, Atlanta 5
Minnesota 10, White Sox 1, 2nd game
Texas 5, L.A. Angels 3
Tuesday's Games
Oakland (Blackburn 3-1) at Baltimore (Jimenez 5-8), 4:05 p.m.
Boston (Fister 2-6) at Cleveland (Carrasco 12-5), 4:10 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Tanaka 8-10) at Detroit (Boyd 5-6), 4:10 p.m.
Toronto (Rowley 1-0) at Tampa Bay (Archer 8-7), 4:10 p.m.
Seattle (Gonzales 0-0) at Atlanta (Sims 1-3), 4:35 p.m.
Minnesota (Gibson 6-10) at Chicago White Sox (Giolito 0-0), 5:10 p.m.
Washington (Roark 9-8) at Houston (Morton 10-5), 5:10 p.m.
Colorado (Gray 5-2) at Kansas City (Duffy 7-8), 5:15 p.m.
Texas (Ross 3-2) at L.A. Angels (Nolasco 6-12), 7:07 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	74	48	.607	—
Miami	60	62	.492	14
Atlanta	55	68	.447	19½
New York	54	69	.439	20½
Philadelphia	45	77	.369	29

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	66	57	.537	—
Milwaukee	65	61	.516	2½
St. Louis	63	61	.508	3½
Pittsburgh	60	65	.480	7
Cincinnati	53	72	.424	14

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	88	35	.715	—
Colorado	68	56	.548	20½
Arizona	68	57	.544	21
San Diego	55	69	.444	33½
San Francisco	51	76	.401	39

Monday's Games
Seattle 6, Atlanta 5
L.A. Dodgers 6, Pittsburgh 5, 12 innings
Arizona 3, N.Y. Mets 2, 10 innings
San Francisco 2, Milwaukee 0
Tuesday's Games
Miami (Straily 7-8) at Philadelphia (Nola 9-8), 1:05 p.m., 1st game
L.A. Dodgers (Stewart 0-0) at Pittsburgh (Taillon 7-5), 4:05 p.m.
Arizona (Corbin 10-11) at N.Y. Mets (Milone 1-2), 4:10 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Lackey 10-9) at Cincinnati (Bailey 4-6), 4:10 p.m.
Miami (Urena 11-5) at Philadelphia (Pivetta 4-8), 4:35 p.m., 2nd game
Seattle (Gonzales 0-0) at Atlanta (Sims 1-3), 4:35 p.m.
Washington (Roark 9-8) at Houston (Morton 10-5), 5:10 p.m.
Colorado (Gray 5-2) at Kansas City (Duffy 7-8), 5:15 p.m.
San Diego (Richard 6-12) at St. Louis (Lynn 10-6), 5:15 p.m.
Milwaukee (Nelson 9-6) at San Francisco (Samardzija 8-12), 7:15 p.m.

MiLB

NORTHWEST LEAGUE

North Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Tri-City	15	11	.577	—
x-Vancouver	15	11	.577	—
Spokane	14	12	.538	1
Everett	13	13	.500	2

South Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Hillsboro	13	13	.500	—
Boise	12	14	.462	1
Salem-Keizer	11	15	.423	2
Eugene	11	15	.423	2

x-first-half champions

Monday's Games
Hillsboro 9, Salem-Keizer 5
Eugene 6, Boise 0
Everett 4, Vancouver 2
Spokane 1, Tri-City 0
Tuesday's Games
Hillsboro at Salem-Keizer, 6:35 p.m.
Boise at Eugene, 7:05 p.m.
Everett at Vancouver, 7:05 p.m.
Spokane at Tri-City, 7:15 p.m.

LITTLE LEAGUE

World Series
At South Williamsport, Pa.
All Games Broadcast on ESPN
Saturday's games
Tamaulipas (Mexico) 13, Emilia (Italy) 0, 4 innings, Emilia eliminated
Jackson (N.J.) 15, Grosse Pointe (Mich.) 5, 4 innings, Grosse Pointe eliminated
Pontezuela (Dominican Republic) 8, Sydney 7, Sydney eliminated
Walla Walla (Wash.) 4, Sioux Falls (S.D.) 3, Sioux Falls eliminated
Sunday's Games
White Rock (British Columbia) 7, Maracaibo (Venezuela) 3
Lufkin (Texas) 6, Fairfield (Conn.) 3
Tokyo 4, Seoul 1
Greenville (N.C.) 16, Rancho Santa Margarita (Calif.) 0, 5 innings
Monday's Games
Grosse Pointe (Mich.) 11, Emilia (Italy) 7
Tamaulipas (Mexico) 1, Seoul 0, Seoul eliminated
Jackson (N.J.) 12, Rancho Santa Margarita (Calif.) 9, Rancho Santa Margarita eliminated
Maracaibo (Venezuela) 3, Pontezuela (Dominican Republic) 2, Pontezuela eliminated
Fairfield (Conn.) 14, Walla Walla (Wash.) 6
Tuesday's Games
Game B: Sydney vs. Sioux Falls (S.D.), 8 a.m.
Game 21: Tamaulipas (Mexico) vs. Maracaibo (Venezuela), Noon
Game 22: Jackson (N.J.) vs. Game 20 winner, 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday's Games
Game 23: White Rock (British Columbia) vs. Tokyo, Noon
Game 24: Lufkin (Texas) vs. Greenville (N.C.), 4:30 p.m.

Soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto FC	14	3	8	50	49	25
New York City FC	14	7	4	46	47	34
Chicago	12	8	5	41	46	34
New York	12	10	2	38	37	32
Columbus	11	12	3	36	38	41
Montreal	10	8	6	36	41	38
Atlanta United FC	10	7	5	35	42	29
Orlando City	8	10	7	31	26	37
Philadelphia	8	11	6	30	34	33
New England	8	11	5	29	39	40
D.C. United	6	15	4	22	20	44

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Sporting K.C.	10	5	10	40	31	19
Seattle	11	7	7	40	39	32
Portland	10	9	7	37	45	43
Houston	10	8	7	37	43	34
FC Dallas	9	6	8	35	33	28
Vancouver	10	9	4	34	34	33
San Jose	9	10	6	33	28	40
Real Salt Lake	8	13	5	29	32	47
Los Angeles	6	12	5	23	32	42
Colorado	6	13	4	22	22	32
Minnesota United	6	14	4	22	30	51

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday's Games
Atlanta United FC at D.C. United, 4:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at Columbus, 4:30 p.m.
Houston at FC Dallas, 5 p.m.
Philadelphia at Toronto FC, 5 p.m.
San Jose at Real Salt Lake, 7 p.m.
Seattle at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
Colorado at Portland, 7:30 p.m.

Football

NFL Preseason

Monday's Games
Cleveland 10, N.Y. Giants 6
Thursday's Games
Miami at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Carolina at Jacksonville, 4:30 p.m.
Friday's Games
New England at Detroit, 4 p.m.
Kansas City at Seattle, 5 p.m.

Basketball

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Connecticut	19	10	.655	—
x-New York	17	12	.586	2
x-Washington	17	12	.586	2
Chicago	11	18	.379	8
Atlanta	10	20	.333	9½
Indiana	9	21	.300	10½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Minnesota	22	6	.786	—
x-Los Angeles	21	8	.724	1½
Phoenix	15	14	.517	7½
Dallas	14	16	.467	9
Seattle	14	16	.467	9
San Antonio	7	23	.233	16

x-clinched playoff spot

Sunday's Games
Connecticut 94, Phoenix 66
New York 70, Minnesota 61
Washington 87, Indiana 82
Seattle 103, Chicago 66
Monday's Games
No games scheduled
Tuesday's Games
Phoenix at Minnesota, 5 p.m.
San Antonio at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.

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