

WOMEN'S PGA CHAMPIONSHIP**Nelly Korda ties record, takes lead**

JOHNS CREEK, Ga. — Nelly Korda realized there were low scores available Friday at Atlanta Athletic Club. For the longest time, she couldn't find them in the Women's PGA Championship.

And then the birdies came in bushels, one after another, six straight to close her second round that put her in the record book with a 9-under 63 and gave her a one-shot lead over Lizette Salas going into the weekend.

"Golf is easy when you have days like this," Korda said. "But it's not always like this."

Over her final six holes on the front nine, Korda made birdie on both par 3s guarded in front by water. She had eagle putts on consecutive holes — one of them on the par-4 sixth, with the tee moved up to make it play 229 yards — and narrowly missed them both.

On the hardest hole on the course, she had to deal with a tree root in front of her ball to get to the green and then made a 45-foot birdie putt. Korda closed out her round with a pitching wedge into 8 feet.

She was at 11-under 133, one shot ahead of Salas, who hit all 18 greens in regulation, shot another 67 and has yet to make a bogey through 36 holes.

Korda tied the championship record, last set a year ago when Sei Young Kim closed with a 63 to win at Aronimink. She had the third round of 63 at Atlanta Athletic Club in a major, joining Steve Stricker in 2011 and Mark O'Meara in 2001 at the PGA Championship.

Celine Boutier drove the sixth green to 8 feet for an eagle on her way to a 64 that left her four shots back at 7-under 137 with Cydney Clanton (67) and Alena Sharp (68).

— Associated Press

NBA**Mavericks hire Kidd as coach**

DALLAS — Jason Kidd is coming back to Dallas again, this time to replace the coach he won a championship with as the point guard of the Mavericks 10 years ago.

Kidd and the Mavericks agreed on a contract Friday, eight days after Rick Carlisle resigned abruptly in the wake of general manager Donnie Nelson's departure, a person with direct knowledge of the agreement said.

Dallas also found Nelson's replacement in Nike executive Nico Harrison, who will carry the titles of GM and president of basketball operations, the person told AP.

It is the third head coaching stop for the 48-year-old Kidd, who took Brooklyn to the second round of the playoffs in his debut in 2013-14 before bolting for Milwaukee.

Kidd's success in Dallas will depend how he develops Luka Doncic, a two-time All-Star whose playmaking skills had Carlisle calling him one of the five best players in the world before the coach's unexpected departure.

Harrison has been in Nike's basketball division for nearly 20 years, rising through the ranks through relationships with stars such as the late Kobe Bryant.

— Associated Press

U.S. OLYMPIC TRACK & FIELD TRIALS**Bend's Rebecca Mehra does not advance to the 800-meter final****BULLETIN STAFF REPORT**

EUGENE — Bend's Rebecca Mehra finished fifth in her heat in the women's 800-meter semifinals Friday at the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials at Hayward Field and failed to advance to Sunday's final.

Mehra finished in a season-best time of 2 minutes, 1.33 seconds. The top three

runners in each of two heats and the next two fastest on time qualified for Sunday's final.

Athing Mu posted the fastest time on Friday, finishing in 1:59.31. She was followed by Kate Grace in 1:59.43 and Ajeé Wilson in 1:59.49.

It was the fifth race in eight days for Mehra, who finished

11th in the women's 1,500-meter final on Monday.

Mehra, 26, runs for the Oiselle-sponsored Littlewing Athletics team in Bend. She beat out two of her Bend teammates — Sadi Henderson and Angel Piccirillo — in the first round of the 800 on Thursday night to advance to Friday's semifinals.



Chris Pietsch/The Register-Guard

Bend's Rebecca Mehra, right, races in the 800-meter preliminaries at the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials at Hayward Field on Thursday night.

U.S. OLYMPIC TRACK & FIELD TRIALS**A satisfying performance**

Bend's Mel Lawrence competes in the women's steeplechase final at the U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials in Eugene on Thursday night.

Chris Pietsch/The Register-Guard

Bend's Mel Lawrence reflects on Olympic trials experience and ponders her future in running**BY MARK MORICAL**

The Bulletin

Mel Lawrence is happy and satisfied,

and she wants those who pay attention to her sport only once every four years to know that.

No, the runner from Bend did not qualify for the Tokyo Games, but she has come away content with her seventh-place finish in the women's steeplechase final at the U.S. Olympic Track & Field Trials on Thursday night at Eugene's Hayward Field.

"I think track and field doesn't get looked at a lot, which is fine," Lawrence said. "But because of that, when an Olympic trials happen, in any sport, I think a lot of people look at every single athlete who

doesn't get top three and they feel bad for them."

Lawrence does not want anybody to feel bad for her, as she set a personal best time and made every effort to stay with the leaders.

"It wasn't my A-plus goal, but I am very happy with how I executed race strategy, and I told myself I'd be happy with certain things, and I did those certain things," Lawrence said.

Lawrence, 31, finished the 3,000-meter steeplechase in 9 minutes, 26.15 seconds.

The top three finishers qualified for Tokyo. Emma Coburn, the 2016 Olympic bronze medalist, won the race in a trials-record time of 9:09.41, followed by Courtney Frerichs (9:11.79) and Val Constien (9:18.34).

Lawrence stayed in the middle of the pack for the first half of the race but started to lose pace with the leaders when Coburn and Frerichs began to pull away from the 14-runner field.

See **Lawrence** / B2



Matt Slocum/AP file

Denny Hamlin celebrates after winning the NASCAR Cup Series race at Pocono Raceway, in Long Pond, Pennsylvania, in 2020. Hamlin and Kevin Harvick flipped their 1-2 finish in Pocono's doubleheader weekend last year but they each come back for this weekend's races winless.

MOTOR SPORTS | NASCAR CUP SERIES**Denny Hamlin, Kevin Harvick will try at Pocono to end long losing streaks****BY DAN GELSTON**

Associated Press

LONG POND, Pa. — Denny Hamlin swept Pocono as a rookie in 2006 and won again last season, his track record-tying sixth victory. Kevin Harvick joined Hamlin in the win column on the same weekend at Pocono in 2020, his first victory at the tri-oval track, and

they both left the June twinbill weekend seemingly positioned as the drivers to beat in the championship race.

Chase Elliott spoiled their chances when he won the 2020 title.

This season, NASCAR wonders, can anyone catch Kyle Larson, who goes to Pocono Raceway for a weekend double-

header on a four-race winning streak that includes the non-points \$1 million All-Star Race?

Hamlin and Harvick suddenly have a more pressing question to answer than whether they can win the championship.

Can either star driver win a race?

See **Motor sports** / B2