

## AAU track meet on Saturday

The Missouri Valley Association and Kansas Area Amateur Athletic Union Track and Field Championships will be held Saturday, at Dennen Field in Colby.

Boys and girls 14 and under are eligible to participate at the meet. Registration will start at 7:30 a.m. with the first running events starting at 9 a.m. All the field events will start at 10 a.m.

For more information, contact Jeff Becker at 462-0036 or Emily Orth at 462-7191.

# Devils within one win of another Stanley Cup

By IRA PODELL

AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — The New Jersey Devils didn't even need to score the first goal to move within one win of their third Stanley Cup in nine years.

Brian Gionta had a goal and two assists, and Jamie Langenbrunner scored twice in the third period as the Devils rallied for a 6-3 victory over Anaheim on Thursday night.

The Mighty Ducks will have to improve to 3-0 in the series at home Saturday night to force a deciding Game 7 in New Jersey. That would pose a pleasant problem for Anaheim, which hasn't beaten the Devils on the road since 1996.

"We knew we had to win. We had to go out there and do it," New Jersey coach Pat Burns said.

Anaheim scored first, and until now that meant victory. The Ducks, like the Devils, were 10-0 in this postseason when scoring first. Petr Sykora took care of that when he beat New Jersey's Martin Brodeur off a faceoff 42 seconds in.

In the first four games of the series there were no goals in the first period. That changed dramatically in this one, with each team scoring twice in the opening 20 minutes.

Where one goal in overtime won Game 4 for the Ducks, one goal on this night merely gave Anaheim the lead for 2:53.

That's when Pascal Rheaume tied it by deflecting in a pass in front of Turner Stevenson. Patrik Elias needed only 3:10 more to put the Devils up 2-1 with a power-play goal. He took a perfect pass from

Brian Rafalski and steered it past suddenly ordinary goalie Jean-Sebastien Giguere.

Steve Rucchin got Anaheim even again at 12:50 of the first as Anaheim's top forwards finally connected. The goal was set up by Sykora and Paul Kariya, who didn't have a point in the first four games. Sykora was the Ducks' top goal scorer in the regular season while Kariya led in points.

"Our first two lines haven't been playing well all series," Kariya said. "We need a lot more from us to win."

Gionta made it 3-2 at 3:12 of the second after being set up by Jay Pandolfo. But the Ducks made their last stand just over three minutes later when Samuel Pahlsson tied it again.

It all fell apart after that for the Ducks, who couldn't muster a win in New Jersey despite a three-goal outburst. They didn't score any in a pair of 3-0 road losses to open the series.

"We're disappointed with the way we played," Kariya said. "Six goals in a playoff game is embarrassing. It's not our style of game, and we're not going to have any success like that."

Pandolfo scored his fifth goal of the playoffs 9:02 into the second. Langenbrunner added two goals, one on a setup by Gionta, in the third period to seal the victory.

"There were a few bounces that didn't go our way in Anaheim, but we didn't let that bother us," Langenbrunner said. "We didn't let that get us down. Tonight, we got a

few fortunate bounces." One was when the puck went in off Pandolfo's skate instead of his stick. Another came as Mike Leclerc tried to make a defensive play in front of Giguere. Instead he knocked the puck in his own net, giving a goal to Gionta.

"That's an honest mistake. Mike's a hard worker. It's just unfortunate that it went into our net," said Giguere, who hadn't allowed more than three goals in any postseason game this year.

The Devils have outscored the Ducks 12-3 while winning all three games at Continental Airlines Arena, and they're 11-1 at home in the playoffs. That matches Edmonton's 1988 record for home wins.

This is the first finals since 1978 in which the home team has won the first five games. Anaheim will try to use that as a confidence boost going into Game 6 at the Pond.

"We're not frustrated at all," forward Steve Thomas said. "We're down 3-2 and we're going home where we've been real good. We're a pretty comfortable bunch of guys."

Brodeur made 20 saves for the Devils.

"They feel pretty good about playing in their building, and they feel they could push that to Game 7," he said. "We'll try to do everything in our power not to do that."



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# San Antonio Spurs knock down Nets 101-89 in game 1

By GREG BEACHAM

AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Check out Tim Duncan's phenomenal stat line from Game 1 of the NBA Finals: at least three celebratory muscle flexes, one screaming argument, countless words of encouragement — and the starring role in one big win for his San Antonio Spurs.

Wanted the taciturn two-time MVP to be a louder leader in this postseason, and the tone of his play was easy to hear Wednesday night. Duncan was vocal and enthusiastic, slapping high-fives and yelling as the Spurs easily beat the New Jersey Nets 101-89.

Duncan also had 32 points, 20 rebounds, seven blocked shots, six assists and three steals. He scored

24 points on 8-of-10 shooting in the second half as the Spurs took another big lead — and then held it with minimal drama, avoiding another of the come-from-ahead losses that have plagued the Spurs this spring.

So must the Nets deal with a less kind, less gentle Duncan as he pursues his second championship ring? He isn't telling.

"I don't think I played any different," Duncan said. "If it was, it's because of the crowd and the situation. What's not to be excited about?"

Game 2 is Friday night.

The Nets hadn't lost since April 26, but their 10-game winning streak was snapped decisively in their worst loss of the postseason. San Antonio largely stopped New

Jersey's fast break, and the Spurs' zone defense forced the Nets into many outside shots they couldn't make.

The Spurs' frontcourt dominated undersized New Jersey, with soon-to-be-retired center David Robinson getting 14 points, six rebounds and four blocks. Tony Parker even outplayed Jason Kidd, getting 16 points and five assists while Kidd went 4-for-17 from the field.

"When they came up in the third quarter, they picked it up a level," New Jersey coach Byron Scott said. "We never matched that level. We never got up until the fourth quarter and we were 15, 16 (points) down."

Late in the third quarter, Duncan tossed a picture-perfect lob pass

behind three Nets to Stephen Jackson, who slammed it home as Duncan hopped in the air, screamed and flexed his arms. The basket capped a 15-2 run that gave San Antonio a 16-point lead — its largest of the night.

Duncan even berated referees Joe Crawford and Dick Bavetta after a no-call in the third quarter — another uncharacteristic moment for one of the NBA's most collected stars.

"I don't care about my image," Duncan said. "Whatever you (media) think. Write something good."

A year after they were swept by the Lakers, the Nets felt fortunate they weren't facing Shaquille O'Neal in the finals this season. But the Spurs already knocked out the Lakers this season — and in the finals opener, Duncan had a game that would make Shaq envious.

"I played him as tough as possible," said Kenyon Martin, who fouled out with 21 points. "I was riding him, tailing him. He just made tough shots. We executed our game plan when we had to. He just made tough shots, man."

New Jersey scored seven points on the first break in the first quarter, but just 10 the rest of the night. Since the Nets couldn't get their usual complement of easy baskets,

# Griese and Dolphins still in negotiations

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) — Quarterback Brian Griese and the Miami Dolphins remained at an impasse in contract negotiations Thursday, as the team's three-day quarterback school ended without an appearance from the free agent cut this week by Denver.

Dolphins coach Dave Wannstedt said Thursday there was nothing new to report on the negotiations.

"I'm optimistic," Wannstedt said. "We've just got to work through a couple of these issues and I believe we will."

Griese, a Miami native whose father, Hall of Fame quarterback Bob Griese, won two Super Bowls with the Dolphins in the 1970s, has been in contract talks with the team since being released Monday by the Broncos. Miami is seeking a backup to starter Jay Fiedler; the Dolphins released last year's backup, Ray Lucas, in April.

Miami hoped to strike a deal with Griese before the end of this week's quarterback school. No other formal on-field workouts are scheduled until June 16, when the team

holds another three-day quarterback school. Training camp doesn't start until July.

"People forget that we don't have to sign right away," Griese's agent, Ralph Cindrich, said. "There's nothing that says we have to sign now. We can wait until training camp if we want. Brian wants to play ... but he knows the business side."

The Dolphins currently have four quarterbacks on the roster: Fiedler, Sage Rosenfels, and rookies Josh Blankenship and Lon Sheriff, all of whom took part in this week's drills.

## Sports Briefs

CHICAGO (AP) — Sammy Sosa is expected to be suspended for using a corked bat, with a decision coming as early as today.

Bob Watson, baseball's vice president in charge of discipline, met with Chicago Cubs manager Dusty Baker and general manager Jim Hendry at Wrigley Field, then returned to New York.

Other players who have used corked bats have been suspended for up to 10 games, and that precedent is expected to play a part in Watson's decision. But the Cubs are hoping that Sosa's cooperation, as well as the fact that no cork was

found in any of his 81 bats that were checked, will work in his favor.

The Hall of Fame said X-rays or CT scans of its five Sosa bats showed no cork. Baseball officials didn't find anything in 76 bats confiscated from Sosa, either.

Sosa doesn't deny the corked bat was his, but said it was a batting practice bat he accidentally grabbed in the first inning of the Cubs' victory over Tampa Bay on Tuesday night.

PARIS (AP) — Serena Williams fell short in her bid for a fifth consecutive major title, losing to Justine Henin-Hardenne 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 in a riveting French Open semi-

final before a hostile crowd.

Williams had won 33 matches in a row in Grand Slam events, a streak that began last year at Roland Garros and was the sixth longest in the Open era.

Henin-Hardenne advanced to the first all-Belgian Grand Slam final. On Saturday, she'll play Kim Clijsters, a 7-6, 6-1 winner over Nadia Petrova.

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