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Timberjacks stomp the Stampede

M&M team scorches Summit with big-play passing attack

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MENOMINEE — Who knew the Waterfront Festival would include Saturday's high-flying circus act?

Presenting the M&M Timberjacks, the greatest show on grass. Starring Zak Shutte and Randy Hoheneder on the high wire.

The duo connected on touchdown passes of 71, 40 and 14 yards to lead the Timberjacks to a 39-7 win over the Summit Stampede at Spies Field.

The game gives the Wisconsin State Football League competition something to think about. The ground-oriented single wing T'Jacks proved they could torch cheating defenses designed to stop the run.

"We're still going to live on the ground, but we're going to take our shots this year," Timberjacks coach Joe Plautz said. "We're just going to be judicious about it."

With eight players in the box and man-to-man press coverage, the Stampede's

pass defense was just too inviting to pass up. On the fourth play of the game, Shutte got wide-open on a short flag route and outran the defense for a 71-yard catch.

"That first one, no one came with me, and Randy made a good read," Shutte said.

The third time the T'Jacks had the ball, they moved the ball 43 yards on five running plays to set up Shutte's electrifying 40-yard TD run.

Shutte had seven touches for 223 yards and four touchdowns. He became the first 100-yard receiver in the team's two-year history, and was awarded the game ball.

Eric Krautkramer's interception snuffed the next Stampede's drive, but the Timberjacks fumbled the ball away at the Summit 7-yard line.

Jeff Polansky's desperation shuttle pass from his own end zone avoided a safety, but a shanked 6-yard punt set up the T'Jacks at the 12-yard line.

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Zak Shutte of the M&M Timberjacks pulls down a touchdown pass during Saturday's 39-7 win over the Summit Stampede at Spies Field. (Color reprints: www.ehextra.com)

Redbirds protect share of league title

MARINETTE — Felch and McAllister had a chance to play spoiler to Marinette's title hopes, but the Redbirds are still standing atop the Wishigan League standings.

Marinette edged Felch 5-4 Friday night and sealed a tie with Escanaba for the league title with a 7-0 win over McAllister Saturday at Pedersen Ball Park.

The Redbirds and Polecats both have 8-2 records in the Wishigan league and the two teams split during the regular season.

Marinette scored three runs in the fourth inning Friday to take a 5-1 lead over Felch, then staved off ninth-inning threat to pull out the win.

Steve Campbell and Todd Olsen slapped singles in the three-run fourth for the Redbirds, and Tyler Otis served up four walks.

Denny Holsworth drilled a triple in the fifth inning to cut the margin to 5-2 and Wade Holsworth and Dave Anderson ripped doubles during a two-run uprising in the seventh.

Matt LaLonde reached on an error and advanced to third with no outs in the ninth, but Nick Brukart, who came on in relief of Ryan Johnson in the fifth, stranded the tying run. Brukart didn't allow a hit in five stellar innings of relief.

"Both days Nick Brukart pitched brilliantly in relief," coach John LaCourt said. "We were fortunate to beat Felch. Our pitching and defense were able to get us out of the inning for the win."

Marinette jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first on singles by Adam Francour and

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Garceau launches double to Miller Park wall

Marinette player reaches base twice in all-star game

MILWAUKEE — Stepping into the batters' box at Miller Park, Taylor Garceau made a big-league impression in his first at-bat for the North All-Stars Sunday.

The Marinette High School and Marinette Legion standout smashed a long drive to the warning track in center field. The ball hopped over the wall and into the ivy for a ground-rule double.

"He must have hit it about 390 (feet)," said his Legion coach Brian Lesandrini. "He did a nice job of representing Marinette. He had a couple of chances (hitting) and he

made the most of it."

Garceau drew a walk in his second and final time at the plate.

Garceau, who started in left field and batted third in the North lineup, also showed off his speed and defensive skills in the home of the Milwaukee Brewers as he raced down a hard-hit fly ball.

The South team won the game 6-4. The North had the bases loaded with one out in the top of the ninth, but was unable to score.

The two teams had to wait for their chance to play in the major league park because the Brewers went 13 innings before beating the Washington Nationals 5-4.

"The kids were all excited to step onto the field," said Lesandrini.

Off to a flying start

BEIJING (AP) — Michael Phelps left Ryan Lochte in his wake.

Bring on the French!

With no room for error in his quest to break Mark Spitz's record of seven gold medals, Phelps and three American teammates headed into perhaps the toughest obstacle of all this morning: a showdown in the 400-meter freestyle relay against France, a team led by world record holder Alain Bernard.

"That's going to be a fun one," Phelps said.

The French believe they can ruin Phelps' hopes of going eight-for-eight in a country where eight is considered a lucky number. They've certainly got reason to be confident, putting up the best time of the year until a backup American squad broke the world record in the preliminaries on Sunday night.

The French also went under the old mark — just 13-hundredths off the U.S. time of 3:12.23 — and that was with Bernard and their other top 100 man, Fabien Gilot, resting up in preparation to join Amaury Leveaux and Frederick Bousquet in the final.

"We want to be the best," Bernard said. "It will be one of the toughest races for Michael to win. The world record will be in danger."

Then again, Lochte was supposed to make a run for the gold in Sunday's 400 individual medley. But, with President Bush cheering him on, Phelps dominated his first event of the Beijing Olympics with a jaw-dropping time of 4 minutes, 3.84 seconds — crushing his own world record and any hope of his challengers.

"We just don't know how good that is," said Eddie Reese, head coach of the U.S. men's team. "If somebody 10 or 15 years ago would have said the 400 IM will be won in 2008 in 4:03.8, I'd have bet everything I had or would ever get that it wouldn't happen."

BASKETBALL: In one heartpounding minute in the first half, LeBron James dunked off a nifty underhanded feed from

Dwyane Wade. Then Kobe Bryant flew in and jammed. Then it was Chris Bosh's turn to rattle the rim.

As the backboard swayed, some might have recalled the fabled Dream Team. The final score — U.S. 101, China 70 — might also draw comparisons.

Who's worried about the 7-for-29 shooting from beyond the arc? Just toss it up and throw it down.

This was the biggest basketball game in China's history and perhaps the most-watched basketball game ever — and the U.S. wanted to turn in a performance to match the moment as it took its first step toward Olympic hoops redemption.

"I've never felt an environment quite like this," said Bryant, a veteran of five NBA Finals. "I've played in many big games, but the energy tonight was different."

"I think they knew that history was being made tonight," Bryant said. "Obviously, it was a proud moment for their country as it is for ours. You could feel the electricity."

But it didn't feel like much of a home-court for the Chinese. Team USA took the floor to a roar that was every bit as loud as the cheer when China came out of the dressing room. Bryant got as much applause as Chinese icon Yao Ming during pregame introductions.

"The excitement of it, the anxiousness of it, the anticipation was just crazy," said Dwyane Wade, who led the U.S. with 19 points off the bench. "I'm kind of glad it's out of the way now. This game was just over the top."

SOCCER: TIANJIN, China — The United States was within seconds of a major win and a quarterfinal berth in men's Olympic soccer. Now it's a tie away.

The Americans allowed a goal on a free kick by Gerald Sibon in the third minute of injury time, forcing them to settle for a 2-2

See **OLYMPICS**, B3



The Associated Press

(Top) U.S. gymnast Bridget Sloan performs on the balance beam during the women's qualification rounds at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Sunday. Above left, China's Guo Jingjing and Wu Minxia win the gold medal in the women's synchronized final. Above right, U.S.A. swimmers, Ben Wildman-Tobriner, Nathan Adrian and Cullen Jones, from left, celebrate with teammate Matt Grevers, bottom, after breaking a world record as they won a men's 4x100-meter freestyle relay heat.

the brothers three

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