



SPORTS B1

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The Associated Press

Michael Phelps of the United States is on his way to winning the gold medal in the 200-meter individual medley at the National Aquatics Center at the Beijing 2008 Olympics today.

Two Packer job openings, four candidates

Guard position unsettled

By CHRIS JENKINS
AP sports writer

GREEN BAY — Stop us if you've heard this one before: The Green Bay Packers are deep into training camp and don't yet know who their starting guards will be for the season opener.

Green Bay's guard situation hasn't truly been settled since Marco Rivera and Mike Wahle left town after the 2004 season. And while the Packers might have been wise from a financial perspective not to keep them, the team hasn't yet been able to find consistent replacements.

Packers coach Mike McCarthy said he doesn't have a specific timeline to name this year's starters, making the team's three remaining preseason games critical.

"Ideally, you'd like to have it yesterday, but that's not the case," McCarthy said. "So I think those questions will be answered based on how they play."

The problem isn't new, but some of the potential solutions are.

Third-year player Jason Spitz is likely to start — it's just not clear where. But Daryn Colledge, a draft classmate of Spitz's who also has been a starter in each of his first two seasons, is on less secure footing as a pair of even younger players are giving the Packers a moment of pause: Second-year player Allen Barbre and rookie Josh Sitton.

"We're going to try to figure out who our best five are," quarterback Aaron Rodgers said. "I think we've for sure got three of them figured out, and we're going to try to get the last two spots, we've got four or five guys working for it. It's going to be good. Competition is a good thing for our offense."

Starting tackles Chad Clifton and Mark Tauscher are cornerstones of the franchise. Center Scott Wells also appears to be

entrenched, assuming his back injury doesn't flare up again.

And while a cohesive starting five on the offensive line is considered critical to success in the NFL, there could be an upside to competition: If a starter is injured during the season, the rest of the line will have already played alongside his replacement.

"That's the way it's kind of played out the last three years," Wells said. "Each year they've had a competition and the best guards are emerging and that's who they put out on the field. In the long run, when somebody gets hurt, you've got guys who are ready to play."

Spitz, a third-round pick out of Louisville in 2006, has started 25 games over the past two regular seasons. He was expected to start at right guard coming into camp, but spent time at center while Wells was injured and has been working at left guard in practice this week.

Colledge started 15 games as a rookie and the first 12 games at left guard last season, but was sent to the bench late in the year as coaches began tinkering with the line. He had his job back in time for the playoffs, but nothing is assured this year.

"I'm sure they'd love to have five guys that step up and are going to be the five dudes," Colledge said. "And I'd love to be one of those dudes. For some reason right now, I'm not being that guy. I have to figure out what that reason is and what it takes to be the starting left guard here, and I'm going to bust my (rear end) here until I figure that out."

He's being pushed hard by Barbre and Sitton.

Barbre, a fourth-round pick out of Missouri Southern State last season, needed a year to make the jump from Division II college football to the NFL.

A six-pack of gold

Phelps just one win away from Spitz's mark

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP National Writer

BEIJING — Michael Phelps made it 6-for-6 at the Beijing Olympics, closing in on Mark Spitz with another world-record swim Friday morning.

Phelps dominated right from the start of the 200-meter individual medley and powered away to win in 1 minute, 54.23 seconds. He knocked off his own mark of 1:54.80 set at last month's U.S. trials, his sixth world record of the games.

Ryan Lochte tried to pull off a daunting double, going against Phelps just 29 minutes after swimming the final of the 200 backstroke. He couldn't keep up, though he did hold on for bronze. Laszlo Cseh of Hungary picked up his third silver of the games — all of them trailing Phelps.

Phelps hung on the lane rope in a familiar pose, admiring his time while his rivals gasped for breath. He extended his right hand to Lochte in

the next lane, and the two friends shook hands and patted each other on the head.

Lochte got quite a consolation prize: a world record and the first individual gold medal of his career in the backstroke. The laid-back Floridian edged teammate Aaron Peirsol in 1:53.94 to break the mark he shared with Peirsol.

Lochte was known as "Mr. Runner-up" for his frequent second-place finishes to Phelps and Peirsol. Then, he stunned Peirsol at last year's world championships in 1:54.32 and Peirsol matched the time in beating Lochte at the U.S. Olympic trials last month.

Peirsol won the 100 back in Beijing, but failed to match his backstroke double from Athens four years ago. He earned the silver in 1:54.33, while Russia's Arkady Vyatchanin claimed the bronze.

Phelps is just one gold away from tying Spitz's record of seven gold medals at the 1972 Munich Olympics. The 23-year-old from Baltimore was scheduled to return for the semifinals of the 100 butterfly about a half-hour after his win in the 200 IM; assuming

he advances, he will try to equal the grandest of Olympic standards on Saturday morning.

If all goes according to plan, the record-breaker would come on Sunday's final day of swimming in the 400 medley relay. The Americans will be heavily favored for gold in that one.

Minutes after winning his sixth gold medal of the Beijing Olympics, Phelps qualified second-fastest for the 100-meter butterfly semifinals. The American won his preliminary heat this morning in 50.97 seconds, putting him on track to tie Mark Spitz's record of seven golds in a single games. His time was second overall heading into Saturday morning's final.

Milorad Cavic of Serbia was quickest in 50.92. Phelps' teammate and rival Ian Crocker tied for third overall with Andrew Lauterstein of Australia in 51.27. Crocker is the world record-holder.

Phelps had just finished the medals ceremony for the 200 individual medley, which he won in world-record time, when he immediately returned to the deck for his fly semifinal.

A Saturday showdown at Spies

MENOMINEE — The M&M Timberjacks chopped down one Wisconsin State Football League power in their season opener with their 15-14 road win over the Oostburg Rebels.

The Timberjacks are sharpening their blades for a showdown with the defending WSFL champion Fox Valley Force.

The Force has yet to be score on in league play.



Former Stephenson running back Brad Ruleau is a starter for the Force.

Game: M&M Timberjacks (2-0) vs. Fox Valley Force (2-0)

Site: Spies Field

When: Saturday, 7 p.m.

History: The Force defeated the Timberjacks 26-7 in Appleton and 19-12 at Spies Field last year. The Timberjacks have outscored their first two WSFL

opponents by a 54-21 margin. The Force have walloped their first two opponents 85-0.

Timberjacks Rushing Leaders: Dan Ries 31-144, 4.6 avg. (No. 2 in league); Randy Hoheneder 31-138, 4.5 avg. (No. 3 in league); Zak Shutte 9-102, 11.3 avg.

Force Leading Rushers: Tyler Mickelson 23-122, 5.3 avg.; Gary Griffin 12-64, 5.3 avg.; Brad Ruleau 7-62, 8.9 avg.

Passing: Timberjacks: Hoheneder 11-19-287 yards (58 percent), 4TD, 2 INT. Force: Griffin 16-31-230 (52 percent), 6TD, 0 INT.

Receiving: Timberjacks: Shutte 6-211, 35.3 avg. (No. 1 in league), 4TD.

Force: Jeremy Castleberg 5-96, 19.2 avg.

Defense: Timberjacks: James Ahndt 9.5 tackles; Eric Krautkramer 8 tackles, 1 INT; Aric Chaltry 6.5 tackles. Force: Derick Bielmeier 7.5 tackles; Nate Ryf 7 tackles, 2 INT.

Wisconsin State Football League

M&M Timberjacks	2	0
Fox Valley Force	2	0
River City Rattlers	2	0
Bay Area Vipers	1	0
West Bend Junkyard Dogs	1	1
Oostburg Rebels	1	1
Summit Stampede	0	2
Saukville Demons	0	2
Kettle Moraine Titans	0	2

Marines hope to pick up where they left off

MARINETTE — Marinette girls' tennis coach Brandon Pannier plans to build off last year's success, not rebuild.

With just three of 10 varsity regulars back from a year ago, experience is limited. Pannier is realistic, but likes what he sees from the Marines, who will open their season at Saturday's Kewaunee Quadrangular.

"We have our work cut out with so many new players," he said. "A lot of our girls have improved their consistency. We have some pretty strong all-around players."

Last year's Marines had a breakthrough year and exceeded expectations with seven dual-meet wins, but the season ended quietly with no sectional qualifiers from the St. Mary Central Subsectional.

"My main goal as coach is to have a winning season and have at least one or two players or doubles teams move on in the postseason," Pannier said.

Seniors Blake Yenor, Cecillie Wojciehowski and Abby Olson were varsity doubles players in 2007. Yenor teamed with Madison Dausey on last year's highly successful No. 1 doubles team. Wojciehowski and Olson were last year's No. 3 doubles teammates.

Senior Melissa Arnold and juniors Brittany Menor, Zoe Katzbeck and Katie Swenson got a taste of varsity competition last year. Senior Kayla Mansur has junior varsity singles experience. Sophomores Lisa Harris and Becky Wagner were jayvee doubles players in 2007.

Pannier plans to utilize the first three matches to try different lineups.

"It's going to be interesting this year because I have a lot of girls all at about the same level," Pannier said.

The other seniors are Leah LaMalfa and Brittany Welch and the other junior is Sam Norell-Williams. The other sophomore is Paige Sommers.

Freshmen include Stina Rhude, Rachel Winters, Rylee Jacobs, Kira Stepniak, Michelle Helms, Caitlin O'Brien and Hannah Pecard.

Besides emphasizing rules, Pannier has been working on a team weakness — serving. "For me, No. 1 on the priority list is getting the varsity up to speed serving," he said.

Brewers, Sheets lose pitching duel

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Jake Peavy wants to be clear — he's not ducking anyone.

Peavy outpitched Ben Sheets with seven strong innings Thursday and the San Diego Padres snapped the Milwaukee Brewers' eight-game winning streak with a 3-2 victory.

Peavy (9-8) allowed one run and four hits in a matchup of the past two starters for the NL in the All-Star game. Peavy, the reigning Cy Young Award winner, struck out eight and lowered his ERA to 2.61 to take over the NL lead from San Francisco's

Tim Lincecum (2.67).

Two of Peavy's last three starts have been moved back a day, with the right-hander missing matchups with San Francisco's Tim Lincecum, Johan Santana of the New York Mets, and Milwaukee's CC Sabathia on Wednesday night.

Peavy said he accidentally tuned into a local radio show after Wednesday's game and heard talk he was avoiding tough pitching matchups. "The people were saying 'Why didn't he pitch against



The Associated Press

Milwaukee Brewers' Bill Hall reaches for home plate as San Diego Padres catcher Luke Carlin reaches to make a tag during the seventh inning Thursday in San Diego. Hall scored to break a scoreless tie.

See BREWERS, B3



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