

Ready, aim, oops! — Misfire costs shooter a medal

BEIJING (AP) — Michael Phelps got what he came for, capping the greatest Olympics for an individual athlete by winning his eighth gold medal in Beijing and 14th of his career.

Matt Emmons? Well, he probably prefers we talk more about Phelps.

The swimmer from Baltimore and the shooter who went to college in Alaska demonstrated Sunday how the Olympic experience can bring out the best and worst in people.

Phelps was the joyous part, of course, a big reason the U.S. team closed out a meet full of world records with yet another in the Olympic 400-meter relay. The victory also pushed him past Mark Spitz's record of seven golds, a record that's stood since 1972 and gave headline writers everywhere fodder for lines like "Great eight!" "Eighth wonder!" and "Eight is enough!"

"I guess it's a lucky number for me now, too," Phelps said. "Seeing eight in '08, and opening ceremonies starting at 8:08, I guess it was maybe meant to be."

Emmons thought he was headed for a meant-to-be moment, too.

After blowing gold by shooting at the wrong target four years ago, he was back in the lead on the last

shot of the same event. He was determined not to make the same mistake again. He didn't — he made a different one.

Emmons' gun fired before he was ready. Instead of the measly 6.7 he needed, he got an atrocious 4.4, dropping him to the cruelest spot of all, fourth. At least last time he got silver.

"I didn't feel my trigger shaking, but I guess it was," Emmons said. "It just hit the trigger, the gun went off and I was like, 'Uh, that's not going to be good.'"

Emmons is going home with three medals anyway: A silver from another event, plus a gold and a silver won by his wife, Katerina Emmons of the Czech Republic. They hooked up after she consoled him following the flub in Athens.

Swimming

Dara Torres came oh-so-close to capturing a gold medal in the 50-meter freestyle, finishing second by 0.01 seconds. Still, silver was terrific for the 41-year-old mom who thought she'd retired a few years ago, only to dive back in and become America's first five-time swimming Olympian.

Then Torres was part of the 400 medley relay squad that finished behind Australia. That silver topped her total to three medals

here and 12 for her career.

"I go home extremely thrilled," Torres said.

Natalie Coughlin also was on that relay. She got her sixth medal of these games and 11th of her career — not that anyone has noticed much because of Phelps.

"He deserves every ounce of respect and admiration and attention that he gets because what he's doing is incredibly phenomenal," she said of Phelps. "I am not jealous one bit."

Tennis

Rafael Nadal becomes No. 1 in the world on Monday. He'll also wake up an Olympic champion.

Nadal overcame two set points in the second set and held every service game to beat Chile's Fernando Gonzalez 6-3, 7-6 (2), 6-3.

The Williams sisters won the women's doubles title by romping past a Spain's Anabel Medina Garrigues and Virginia Ruano Pascual 6-2, 6-0. They also won in Sydney.

"I'm so excited, I can't even speak," said Venus, who has already won seven doubles Grand Slams and a gold medal in Sydney alongside her sister. But, winning as a family never grows old. "To share this kind of moment with your sister," she said, gives her "chill bumps."

Gymnastics

Shawn Johnson keeps making memories in Beijing. Bad ones, even if she doesn't act like it.

Two days after losing the all-around to teammate Nastia Liukin, Romania's Sandra Izbasa — the very last competitor — grabbed the floor exercise gold that was almost in the American's hands. Liukin got bronze in the event. Johnson barely flinched when Izbasa's mark came up, and the 16-year-old American also had a hug for the winner.

Women's basketball

Tina Thompson scored 10 points during a 21-0 run, sending the U.S. women past New Zealand 96-60. The Americans went 5-0 in pool play, winning by an average of 43 points.

Reigning WNBA MVP Lauren Jackson scored 16 points, helping Australia rally past Russia 75-55 to clinch the top seed in its pool and avoid playing the U.S. until the championship game.

Becky Hammon, an American turned naturalized Russian, led her team with 20 points. Russia dropped to 4-1.

Softball

The U.S. women won their 20th straight Olympic game with as little drama as they usually

provide. Monica Abbott pitched five perfect innings and Crystal Bustos, Jessica Mendoza and Tairia Flowers homered in an 8-0 victory over the Netherlands.

The Americans have outscored opponents 44-1, posted five shutouts and hit 12 homers. The latter stat breaking one of the few Olympic records they didn't set in Greece.

Boxing

The Americans won't be going home empty-handed, thanks to heavyweight Deontay Wilder getting to the semifinals, assuring him of at least bronze.

"I don't want the world to remember Team USA as being failures," Wilder said.

The only other U.S. boxer left, Demetrius Andrade, was ousted by South Korea's Kim Jung-joo, a bronze medalist in Athens.

Beach volleyball

There won't be an all-American women's finals.

Elaine Youngs and Nicole Branagh were ousted with a loss to a Chinese team. Earlier Sunday, Americans Kerri Walsh and Misty May-Treanor advanced to the final four with a straight-sets victory over Brazilians Ana Paula and Larissa.

IN BRIEF

Season tickets on sale Tuesday

MENOMINEE — Season tickets for Menominee home football games will go on sale Tuesday at 7 a.m. in the high school athletic office.

Reserve seats are \$25, with a limit of four tickets.

Family passes are \$140, couples \$50, and students and senior citizens \$30.

Checks should be made out to Menominee Area Public Schools.

The Booster Club store will be open Tuesday.



EagleHerald/Jody Korch

Getting dirty

Marinette Redbirds' Adam Francour dives safely back to first base as Felch first baseman Matt LaLonde makes the tag during Saturday's Wisigan League semifinal at Pedersen Ball Park. (Color reprints: www.ehextra.com)

Edwards gains some ground on Busch

BROOKLYN, Mich. (AP) — Carl Edwards sent a not-so-subtle message to Kyle Busch Sunday at Michigan International Speedway.

"We're winning races," Edwards said after pulling away from runner-up Busch for his fifth NASCAR Sprint Cup victory of the season. "We're gearing up for the Chase. I'm feeling stronger than ever. We're here to win championships. That's what we're shooting for."

With just three races remaining until the start of the 10-race Chase for the Championship, Edwards closed the gap on series leader Busch with his second victory in the last three races. Edwards also completed a rare weekend sweep on the 2-mile Michigan oval, adding the win in the 3M Performance 400 to a victory Saturday in the Nationwide Series event.

While the 23-year-old Busch has had a great season, winning eight times and building a big lead in the regular-season points, Edwards, who turned 29 on Friday, has kept the youngster in sight.

When the 12-man Chase begins next month at New Hampshire, all of the eligible drivers will be seeded, with 10 bonus points added to

their base total of 5,000 for each victory. Edwards lost one 10-point bonus because of a penalty early in the season, but would still be just 40 points behind Busch if the Chase began next week.

"The greatest part is we didn't give up more bonus points to Kyle," Edwards said. "He's just so strong. Every time I win and he finishes second that's really a 20-point spread for us. That's what we have to keep doing, is to try and win the next three events and go into this Chase on even ground."

Busch knows he has a battle on his hands.

"Carl's right there," the youngster said. "He has been all year. Yeah, it's a 20-point swing. We've got to live with it. Hopefully, we can make it up someplace else."

Busch was just ahead of Edwards when they pitted under caution on lap 180 of the 200-lap event, but Edwards won the race out of the pits.

David Ragan and June Michigan winner Dale Earnhardt Jr. had stayed on track and were running 1-2, but Edwards easily passed them on the restart on lap 183 to retake the lead, then held off Busch on two more restarts, including the final one with two laps to go.

Orioles ride long ball past Tigers

DETROIT (AP) — Melvin Mora had two chances to hit the triple he needed for the cycle. He was fine with the double and home run he hit instead.

Mora went 5-for-6 with two homers, two doubles and a career-high six RBIs in Baltimore's 16-8 rout of the Detroit Tigers on Sunday.

"I just feel real confident when I get to the plate right now," said Mora, who is hitting .500 in his last 15 games. "To be able to go out there and crush the ball against a team like Detroit was really something."

The Orioles and Tigers combined for 24 runs on 37 hits, including 15 for extra bases, and added 13 walks for good measure. The ten pitchers needed 390 pitches. All 19 starters had at least one hit.

Baltimore, which also got two homers from Luke Scott, set season highs for runs, hits (22) and extra-base hits (12). It was the most hits in a game for Baltimore since

they had 22 on July 22, 2006, at Tampa Bay.

"That was an unbelievable game," said Baltimore manager Dave Trembley. "I'm going to get a tape of this one and run it over and over during the winter."

The Orioles, winners of four of their last five games, have scored in double digits in three of their last four games. The Tigers fell to 5-11 in August.

"Our entire pitching staff had a bad day, and when that happens, you are going to get embarrassed," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. "Our offense came ready to win this game, but when you give up four runs in three of the first five innings, it takes all the wind out of your sails."

Fernando Cabrera (2-1) got the win with three shutout innings of relief, while Casey Fossum (2-1) got the loss, allowing four runs in his two innings of work.

Wells qualifies for USGA Mid Am

HOMWOOD, Ill. — A long drive to Illinois and booming drives and a crisp short game have earned Menominee's Syd Wells a berth in the USGA Women's Mid Amateur tournament.

The Riverside Country Club golfer finished second at the qualifying tournament Thursday held at the Ravisloe Country Club in Homewood, Ill.

Wells shot a 78 on the par 71, 6,127-yard Donald

Ross designed course to finish second to Pam Harnack of Winnetka, Ill., who shot a 76.

Wells and Harnack posted the only sub-80 rounds on the tough course.

"I wore out my utility club on most par 4's. A very well-watered course aided by a 30-minute thunderstorm delay midway through qualifying. They had some pins tucked in some nasty spots, but my

putting and short game held its own. I also drove the ball fairly well."

The Mid Amateur includes only golfers who are 25 years or older. The national tournament will be held Sept. 6-11 at Barton Hills Country Club in Ann Arbor, Mich. The field will be cut to the low 64 scores after two rounds of qualifying, and continue with match play.

FROM B1

the two-point try.

Head coach Jim Sampson told his Fox Valley team, "We WILL get on the bus with a win," as the Force took the field for the second half.

Fox Valley took the mandate to heart as Mickelson tore through the middle for a big gain and a late-hit flag on the Timberjacks gave the Force a first down at the 14. Castleberg made a nifty sliding catch of a Griffin fastball for an 11-yard TD with 10:19 left in the third period. Butler leaped up and protected the ball for the reception on the conversion to give Fox Valley a 14-7 lead.

Fox Valley (3-0) took control at the line to ram the ball to the 15 during a 12-play drive. But the Timber-

jacks dug in and forced an errant field goal try by Griffin.

The Timberjacks' defense struck gold early in the fourth quarter when Jim Ahnrdt barreled through a block and smeared Griffin as his arm went back to pass and jolted the ball loose. Joel Wortner picked up the loose ball in mid stride and galloped 60 yards to paydirt.

"I still say that we have the best defense in the league," said Plautz. "We made key stops. Kick coverage is something we have to work on."

Hoheneder got the corner on the two-point play, but Dan Van Den Wyngaard and Eric Fischer yanked him down two yards short of the goal line.

TJACKS:

Hohender's field goal try sailed to the right.

Travis Fischer burned the Timberjacks for a 72-yard touchdown sprint, but Fischer's big run came back on another clipping penalty.

Hoheneder rubbed salt in the wounds of the Force when he picked off a deep pass to the Timberjacks' 30.

Fox Valley stuffed the T-Jacks on their next series and a 20-yard pass from Gary Griffin to Charles Barker re-ignited the Force's fire. Griffin dropped back on the next play and hit a wide open Jeremy Castleberg for a 45-yard lightning bolt to cut the lead to 7-6 with 13 seconds left. Neal Weddel sacked the runner after a bad snap on

TIMBERJACKS STATS

RUSHING
R. Hoheneder 20 att 91 yds
D. Ries 15 att 44 yds
PASSING
A. Chaltry 1/1 48 yds 1 TD
R. Hoheneder 2/10 47 yds
RECEIVING
Z. Shutte 2 Rec 53 yds 1 TD (48)

J. Wortner 1 Rec 42 yds
DEFENSE
D. Wortner 6 tackles (1 solo), 1 FR for a TD
Alfonso Smith 7 tackles (4 solo), 1 pass defended
Jim Ahnrdt 5 tackles (2 solo), 1 forced fumble
Neal Weddel 7 tackles (1 solo)
R. Hoheneder 6 tackles (2 solo), 2 INTs

MEMORY LANE

By Joe Wengers of The EagleHerald

1947

■ Stephenson defeated Lourdes of Marinette 33-37 in basketball Jim Kuber had 12 points and John Doyle scored 10 points for Lourdes
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■ As I do this column on August 11th, I remember that the Green Bay Packers were founded on this day in 1919. What would we do without the Packers?
-#-

■ The Stephenson Strollers defeated the Menominee Indians. Leadoff man, Richard "Red" Laocousine had three hits for Menominee. His double play partner, Harold "Hal" Johnson had two hits. Charles "Red" Athocousine had three hits for Stephenson.
-#-

1924

■ Stephenson defeated Menominee 12-9. This was the first game that the Maroons lost at home to a U.P. team since 1909. Stephenson went back to punt behind 9-6. Bob Tetso, the Stephenson punter, was flushed out of the pocket by the Maroons. Tetso then took off running and broke free for a 90-yard touchdown. Tetso would lose his life in World War II. Stephenson recognizes the 37-yard touchdown runs by Ken Hoyer, Jay DeMille and Brent Parrett as school records. But the Tetso run was the longest in history.
-#-

■ President Warren Harding passed away. Harding was involved in the Teapot Dome scandal. Harding's friends took advantage of Harding and his presidency by pumping him for inside information in the government dealings.
Harding was known to say that it wasn't his enemies that gave him trouble, it was his friends, his no-good friends who had him walking the floors at night
-#-

■ Coach Tom Johnson's Marinette Marinette football team defeated Shawano 32-6 in the first football game ever played at Laueran Field in Marinette.
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■ **COMMENT:** Brett Favre's country charm is winning over the New York media and fans. Things will work out well for him there. I look for Favre and Aaron Rodgers to both have good seasons.

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