

U.S. men bring back the gold

■ Basketball team earns its redemption

BELJING (AP) — Order is restored in international basketball. The United States is back on top, but not by that much anymore.

Culminating a three-year mission to end years of embarrassment, the U.S. Olympic team survived a huge challenge from Spain, winning 118-107 Sunday in the gold-medal game.

After overwhelming everyone for seven games, the Americans led by only four points with under 2 1/2 minutes to play. Then the U.S. proved it could handle a close game that seemed would never come in Beijing.

Their prize: the first U.S. gold medal since the 2000 Olympics.

"Much respect to Spain, but the U.S. is back on top again," LeBron James said.

Argentina won the bronze with an 87-75 victory against Lithuania.

Dwyane Wade scored 27 points for the Americans, who found a much gamier Spanish team than the one

it humiliated by 37 points earlier in the tournament. Kobe Bryant added 20 points.

In a game so devoid of defense that it felt more like an NBA All-Star game than one with a title at stake, the Americans had too much offense down the stretch. Bryant converted a clutch four-point play with 3:10 remaining, holding his finger to his lips to quiet the rowdy Spanish crowd behind the basket.

Wade added another 3-pointer that made it 111-104 with just over 2 minutes left, and only then could the Americans relax a little.

They began to celebrate during a break after some technical fouls on Spain with 26 seconds left, then partied at midcourt when it was over with "Born in the USA" blaring over the arena's speakers.

"We played with great character in one of the great games in international basketball history, I think," U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said.

Nobody else had been close to the Americans in Beijing. This team's only



The Associated Press
The United States' Kobe Bryant (10) leaps on top of teammates as they celebrate after beating Spain 118-107 in the gold-medal game at the Beijing 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Sunday.

Olympic competition had been history, in a Dream matchup with guys named Jordan, Magic, Bird and the rest of the U.S. team that dominated the Barcelona Games in 1992.

Forget comparisons to those guys. The Americans were lucky to be better than Spain on Sunday.

Rudy Fernandez scored 22 points and Pau Gasol had 21 for the Spanish, the

reigning world champions who were hoping to win their first Olympic gold.

U.S. players appreciated the game Spain gave them. After the contest they hugged the Spanish players. Bryant had an especially long embrace for Gasol, patting his Los Angeles Lakers teammate on the back.

"They did what they were supposed to do," Gasol said. "We fought hard all the

way."

Women's Basketball

Lisa Leslie and the U.S. women prove too good again for Australia, winning the Olympic gold medal with a 92-65 victory. Leslie and former teammate Teresa Edwards are the only basketball players to win four gold medals. The Aussies have lost to the U.S. in the title game of the past three Olympics.

Wolves reach meet finals in first VB outing

MUNISING, Mich. — Carney-Nadeau started its volleyball season with promise Saturday, advancing to the title match at the Munising Invitational.

The Wolves ended up finishing second out of nine teams, stumbling to the host Mustangs 21-12, 21-14. Carney-Nadeau advanced to the finals with a 16-21, 21-11, 15-

11 triumph over Ishpeming in the semifinals, following a 6-2 showing in pool play.

"Basically they played really well as a team," coach Steve Kedsch stated. "They hustled and played for every point."

The Wolves topped Negaunee (21-11, 21-17) and Ishpeming (23-21, 21-12) in the pool road, around

splits against Gwinn (10-21, 21-16) and Munising (21-10, 16-21).

Cassandra Shepherd earned a selection to the all-tournament team, slamming 22 kills to go with 19 service aces and 37 digs. Ashleigh Dauphinaus added 53 assists, 22 digs, 12 aces and 10 kills, while Kelli Arnold had 18 digs, 10 kills and seven aces. Jessica Chaney

added 27 digs and 17 kills as Tessa Danni collected 25 kills, 17 digs, six aces and four blocks.

Carney-Nadeau will be on the home court Thursday, hosting Menominee with an approximately 7:30 p.m. start.

Lions cruise to win over Browns

DETROIT (AP) — Brady Quinn had some legitimate excuses to explain away his lackluster debut as an NFL starter.

He didn't want any of them.

Quinn barely broke the century mark in yards passing and failed to make a big play, helping the Detroit Lions beat the Cleveland Browns 26-6 in an exhibition Saturday.

The former Notre Dame star, taken 22nd overall last year, had just a few days to get prepared after Derek Anderson was knocked out of Monday night's game and playmakers Braylon Edwards and Jamal Lewis were missing from the Browns' lineup.

Quinn, though, said criticism is merited after he was 14-of-24 for 106 yards without a score, turnover or a pass longer than 16 yards.

Detroit's Jon Kitna threw for 98 yards on his two drives to set up field goals. Rookie Kevin Smith overcame a sluggish start with a 35-yard touchdown. Dave Rayner improved his chances of finding a job by making four field goals in Jason Hanson's place.

Smith was held to 10 yards on his first nine carries. On his next one, the third-round pick took a handoff to the right, cut back and used his speed to get to the sideline, where he got a block from Dan Orlovsky to finish off a long run for a 13-0 lead early in the second quarter.

T-JACKS:

The Timberjacks buried the penalty in the Spies Field dust on the next play as Hoheneder made a lace-popping cutback to his left en route to a 44-yard touchdown run. Shutte's PAT hiked the margin to 34-0 with 3:24 left in the half.

Plautz was impressed by the intensity his team showed against an inferior opponent.

"They're a new team. It wasn't the same atmosphere as Fox Valley, but we played hard," said Plautz.

The halftime break didn't provide much relief for the Titans as Hoheneder stiff-armed a Titan defender and sprinted 34 yards for a touchdown on the first play of the third period.

After the defense stopped the Titans on a fourth-and-12 at the 48, a 24-yard burst by Shutte set the stage for his 15-yard touchdown blast up the middle. Hoheneder's kick boosted the lead to 47-0.

With the mercy-rule clocking ticking away, the defense got in on the scoring fun.

Weddel, slipping off the defensive line and into the

Jayvee doubles team sweeps matches

MENOMINEE — The Menominee junior varsity doubles team of Sydnie Spearman and Emily Lescelius swept all three of their matches during a four-team meet Friday.

Spearman and Lescelius won their first match 6-3, 6-3; downed Marinette 6-3, 6-1 and swept Munising 6-4, 6-1.

"Emily and Sydnie did a

FROM B1

middle linebacker slot, snared a Ben Boettcher pass and rumbled 23 yards into the end zone.

"I'm happy for Neal. That was a great play," Plautz said.

On the next Titans' possession, Aaron Hodgins put a body slam on Boettcher as he dropped his arm back and forced the ball to squirt out. The ball wobbled into the end zone after a mad chase by Titans and Timberjacks and Emmes pounced on it for his first touchdown since youth football.

"That was pretty much a present," Emmes said with a grin.

Kettle Morraine did manage to get some decent yardage with plays up the middle, something that concerned the M&M coaching staff.

Hoheneder rushed for a season-high 167 yards on 11 carries and scored three TDs as the Timberjacks piled up 403 yards on the ground on just 31 carries. Shutte burned the Titans for 159 yards and three TDs on just seven carries.

Eric Krautkramer led the defense with 11 tackles.

IN BRIEF

great job of staying focused all day," coach Nate Djupstrom said. "They never seemed to be in trouble. They have practiced hard and were ready for the tasks at hand."

Stephenson spikers off to strong start

■ Knock off eventual champs twice to go 9-5

IRON RIVER, Mich. — A solid sweep of eventual champion Ironwood put Stephenson in contention for the West Iron County Invitational title Saturday.

Tight losses cost the Eagles the championship, but they finished with a strong 9-5 record.

After defeating Ironwood 21-10, 21-18, Stephenson swept L'Anse 21-14, 21-10. Entering their match against Baraga, the Eagles had a 9-3 record, but the Vikings edged Stephenson 22-20 and 21-19. Ironwood finished with an 11-3 record to win the title.

Stephenson also swept Bessemer 21-13, 21-14, split with Watersmeet 21-9, 15-21, West Iron County 18-21, 21-16, and Lake Linden 23-21 and 21-17.

"If we win a couple of those close games we end up being the champions," coach Craig Hartges said. "It was a good tournament. I saw a lot good things from our newcomers. I know now that we can count on them."

Rachael Eckert had 10 aces, 36 kills, 22 digs and five blocks and put in 84 percent of her serves to lead Stephenson.

Violet Newlin had seven aces, 16 kills and 16 digs, and she converted 95 percent of her serves.

Kortney Schmidt was good on 94 percent of her serves, while collecting 18 aces, 13 kills, 12 digs and four blocks. Elisabeth Hartges had 37 assists and 20 digs.

Ariele Starzynski contributed four kills and eight digs and was good on 82 percent of her serves, while libero Kayla Berger had 17 digs in addition to a stellar defensive tournament.

Alex Palewicz added 12 assists and four aces.

MEMORY LANE

By Jon Wangerin of The EagleHerald

1991

■ A couple of weeks ago I printed up the records at Walton Blesch Field up to 1952.

I would like to thank Bill Gregory of Menominee for bringing me the Walton Blesch Field final records.

TRACK & FIELD RECORDS AT WALTON BLESCH

Two Mile, **Kurt Malmgren**, Marquette, 1977.
100-Yard-Dash, **Vic Fochesato**, Hermansville, 1950.
220-Yard-Dash, **Jim Dufresne**, Escanaba, 1977.
440-Yard-Dash, **Tim Dahlstrand**, Rhinelander, 1967.
880-Yard-Run, **Ken Callow**, Menominee, 1974.
1 Mile Run, **Rick Lund**, Marinette Catholic Central, 1970.
120-Yard High Hurdles, **Jack Plautz**, Marinette, 1949.
180-Yard-Low Hurdles, **Roger Molander**, Marinette 1959.
1 Mile Relay: **Craig Swanson, Phil Conroy, John Jauquet and Doug Schupp**, Iron Mountain, 1970.
880-Yard-Relay, Iron Mountain, 1930.
Shot Put, **Ray Jorgenson**, Peshtigo, 1972.
Pole Vault, **Jeff Thompson** and **Wade Hodge**, Menominee vaulted 13' on the same day in 1991.
High Jump - **Brent Nerat**, Menominee, 1990.
Long Jump - **Donn Theuerkauf**, Menominee, 1978.
440-Yard-Relay, **Rick Callies, Sean Cumbie, Mike Boettcher and Mike Honeychurch**, Menominee, 1977.
Discus, **Eric Sunila**, Menominee, 1991.
330-Yard Low Hurdles, **Bryan Viau**, Escanaba, 1977.
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■ General Manager Tom Braatz of the Green Bay Packers flip flopped picks with Philadelphia in the first round in the 1991 draft to get Philadelphia's Number One pick in the 1992 draft.

In 1992, new General Manager Ron Wolf, had the Packers fifth pick in the draft and the Eagles 17th pick in the first round, which he used to trade to Atlanta for Brett Favre.

Without that trade, I doubt if Wolf ever would have traded for Favre. Wolf wouldn't have felt confident enough to trade the 5th pick in the draft for what looked like at that time a poor prospect in Favre.
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■ Marinette took second in the state track meet. Jenni and Janet Westphal ran 1 and 2 in the 880-yard-run.
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■ Rich Demeuse pitched a two-hit, 10 inning 2-0 shutout for the Marinette Marines.
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