

Top synchronized swimmers at Stanford

FROM DAILY NEWS DISPATCHES

The U.S. Synchronized Swimming National Championships made a splash at Stanford's Avery Aquatic Center with competition in the preliminary free events.

Natalia Tarasova of Canisius College led the way in the solo event with a score of 93.000. Ohio State's Barb Nesbitt and Santa Clara's Layla Smith both posted a 92.667 to finish the day in a second-place tie.

LOCAL BRIEFS

In duet action, Santa Clara's Mary Killman and Layla Smith occupied the top position with a 94.500. U.S. Olympic Team members Meghan Kinney and Becky Kim of Ohio State finished the day in the second spot with a 93.667, while Stanford's Maria Koroleva and Olivia Morgan grabbed third place by recording a 93.167.

The team preliminary competition resulted in a tie between the Ohio State University and the Santa Clara Aquamaids (95.000). Stanford University followed with a mark of 93.667.

The meet continues today with swimmers qualifying for Saturday's finals.

CSM's Peterson all-state

College of San Mateo infielder Ashley Peterson was named to the all-state community college softball team after leading the Coast Conference North with a .500 batting average.

Peterson had 68 hits in 136 at-bats with 4 home runs and 38 RBIs. She walked 14 times and stole 6 bases. Her eight triples were three more than anyone else in the league.



Contributed photo

The Paye's Performance 14 Black team: (front row) assistant coach Marietta Flynn, Hannah Hsieh, Danielle Dacanay, Emma Uhrich, Arielle Fernandez, Helen Gannon, Ali Spindt and assistant coach Sarah Bagaman; (back row) head coach Robin John Rosales, Cassie Wes, Mele Moimoi, Emma Thygesen, Katelyn Doherty and Lucy Tashman. Not pictured: Valerie Chiang.

Three teammates joined Peterson on the all-conference first team: infielder Meggan Craviotto, outfielder Jackie Ferrari and pitcher Lauren Cole.

CSM had four players on the all-conference second team as well: outfielders Gina Bologna and Ashley Zmerzlikar, infielder Nicole Cardoza and catcher Tatiana Grelli.

The Bulldogs (25-19, the confer-

ence's No. 2 team) will enter the Nor-Cal playoffs on Saturday at Cosumnes River College in Sacramento with a 2 p.m. start against Cosumnes River (38-9), the state's eighth-ranked team.

Brooke bikes to win again

Brooke Brooke produced another strong finishing burst to win the Downtown Walterboro (S.C.) Criterium on Wednesday, her second win

of "Crits Week." She triumphed in Athens, Ga., on Saturday.

Joanne Kiesanowski, a teammate of Miller on Los Altos-based Team TIBCO, finished third in Walterboro. TIBCO's Lauren Tamayo placed sixth.

Team TIBCO had Thursday off before starting the first of three consecutive days of racing beginning in Spartanburg, S.C., on Friday, followed by

the NRC Sonny King Classic in Anniston, Ala., on Saturday before finishing back in Georgia at the Sandy Springs Criterium on Sunday.

Team headed to nationals

Paye's Performance 14 Black, a girls volleyball team, is headed to Miami, Fla., for the national Junior Olympics tournament in July.

The team representing Paye's Performance Volleyball Club in San Carlos earned the national tournament bid by finishing second against teams from around the country at the Far Westerns qualifier in Reno, Nev., the weekend of April 18-19.

The 14 Black squad competes in the 14s Open Division, the highest of three levels.

Soccer club goes for crown

The Juventus Destiny U17 girls soccer team, representing the Juventus club in Redwood City, will play last year's state champion, DeAnza Force Blue, for the CYSA (North) State Cup championship on Sunday.

The Destiny includes 10 players from local high schools: Massiel Castillanos (Woodside Priory-Portola Valley), Sara Mack (Notre Dame-Belmont), Megan McKee (Woodside), Alyssa Rush (Crystal Springs Uplands-Hillsborough), Kim Gorrell (Notre Dame-Belmont), Kelly Jenks (Palo Alto), Yvette Flores (Sequoia-Redwood City), Tera Pischerchio (Notre Dame-Belmont), Emily Boudreau (Notre Dame-Belmont) and Christine Moon (St. Francis-Mountain View). The team is coached by Woodside's Jose Navarrete.

Book: A-Rod tipped pitches, used steroids in high school

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — A new, unflattering biography of Alex Rodriguez reportedly says he may have used steroids as early as high school and even after he joined the New York Yankees.

BRIEFS

Rodriguez admitted in February to using steroids while with the Texas Rangers from 2001-03, but insisted he stopped before he was traded to the Yankees in February 2004. He brushed off a question Thursday about details from Sports Illustrated writer Selena Roberts' upcoming book "A-Rod" that cast doubt on his earlier statements.

The Daily News reported that Roberts' book portrays the three-time AL MVP as a needy personality who wanted his ego stroked constantly and a player who tipped opponents to pitches in blowout games, hoping the favor would get returned someday.

The paper didn't say how it obtained a copy of the Harper Collins book, scheduled for release Monday.

A high school teammate of A-Rod's told Roberts that the future No. 1 draft pick was on steroids as a prep player and his coach knew it — an allegation the coach, Rich Hofman, denied.

49ers ink deal with LB Harris

The San Francisco 49ers have signed linebacker Marques Harris to a one-year contract. Harris spent his first four seasons with San Diego before signing with

San Francisco on Thursday. He played in 56 games for the Chargers, getting eight sacks, four fumble recoveries and forcing three fumbles.

The Niners also signed 12 undrafted rookie free agents before the start of minicamp Friday.

The team signed Ohio State offensive lineman Alex Boone, Bowling Green linebacker Diyral Biggs, Gardner-Webb receiver Dobson Collins, Stanford defensive lineman Pannel Egbob, Baylor quarterback Kirby Freeman, Wyoming guard Kyle Howard, South Florida offensive lineman Matthew Huners, Notre Dame cornerback Terrail Lambert, East Carolina defensive end Khalif Mitchell, Purdue running back Kory Sheets, South Carolina cornerback Carlos Thomas, and Georgia Tech cornerback Jahi Word-Daniels.

Bulls, Celtics in triple-OT thriller

CHICAGO — Another overtime thriller has the Chicago Bulls and Boston Celtics heading for a Game 7.

Derrick Rose scored 28 points and blocked Rajon Rondo's potential game-winner, and John Salmons scored 35, as the Bulls beat the defending champions 128-127 in triple overtime to tie the first-round series at three games apiece.

Ray Allen scored a career playoff-high 51 points for the Celtics, but the series — which has had a record four games go a total of seven overtimes — will go back to Boston for Game

7 on Saturday.

Rondo penetrated and pulled up on the left block with 8 seconds left and turned, only to be rejected by Rose. The rookie of the year then missed two free throws with 3.2 seconds remaining, before Rondo launched a harmless heave from beyond midcourt.

Allen finished three points shy of John Havlicek's club playoff record and tied the NBA playoff mark with nine 3-pointers.

Magic triumphs without Howard

PHILADELPHIA — Playing without suspended star Dwight Howard and injured guard Courtney Lee, the Orlando Magic beat the Philadelphia 76ers 114-89 in Game 6 to advance to the second round of the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Howard, who was suspended one game by the NBA for his elbow on Sixers center Samuel Dalembert in Game 5, will return when the Magic play the winner of the Boston-Chicago series.

Rashard Lewis scored 29 points and Rafer Alston had 21 to help the Magic win on the road for the second time this series. The Magic's decisive run came early when they made 12 of their first 19 shots.

Alston hit two 3-pointers during the Magic's fast start that put them up 15 and quickly negated the home crowd. J.J. Redick made all three 3-point attempts in the first half and ably filled in for Lee, who had surgery on

his fractured sinus Thursday and could possibly be out two more weeks.

Rockets beat Blazers, advance

HOUSTON — Ron Artest scored 27 points, Yao Ming had 17 points and 10 rebounds and the Houston Rockets reached the second round for the first time since 1997 with a 92-76 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers in Game 6 of their first-round series.

Aaron Brooks scored 13 points and Shane Batter tied a career playoff-high with nine rebounds as the Rockets won for the first time in their last seven first-round series. They lost Game 6s the last two seasons, both to Utah.

Houston moves on to play the top-seeded Los Angeles Lakers on Monday night. The Lakers won all four meetings in the regular season.

LaMarcus Aldridge scored 26 points and Brandon Roy had 22 for the Blazers, who were making their first playoff appearance since 2003. Portland improved 13 games from last season and reached its highest win total since 1999-00.

Canucks up 1-0 on Chicago

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Sami Salo scored on a 3-on-1 rush with 1:13 left, and the Vancouver Canucks beat the Chicago Blackhawks 5-3 on Thursday night in the series opener after blowing a three-goal lead in the third period.

After Nikolai Khabibulin made a

sliding save on Steve Bernier's one-timer, the trailing Salo was all alone to tap in the rebound.

Rays pitcher nearly perfect

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Tampa Bay's Matt Garza took a perfect game into the seventh inning and Evan Longoria homered and drove four runs to help the AL Championship Series MVP shut down the Boston Red Sox 13-0 on Thursday night.

Jacoby Ellsbury fouled off an 0-2 pitch and took two balls before hitting a squibber past Garza leading off the seventh. The crowd of 20,341 gave the pitcher a standing ovation, and the right-hander got back on track by getting Dustin Pedroia to ground into a double play.

NBA's all-rookie team

NEW YORK — Rookie of the Year Derrick Rose of the Chicago Bulls and Memphis guard O.J. Mayo are unanimous selections to the All-Rookie team.

Rounding out the first team announced Thursday were Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook, New Jersey center Brook Lopez and Miami forward Michael Beasley.

The second team was headed by Los Angeles Clippers guard Eric Gordon, who was joined by Minnesota's Kevin Love, Miami's Mario Chalmers, Marc Gasol of the Grizzlies, Portland's Rudy Fernandez and Charlotte point guard D.J. Augustin.

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