



U men's basketball: Badgers' Davison perseveres C4

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SPORTS

NBA ALL-STAR GAME TEAM LEBRON 144, TEAM STEPHEN 145

Towns shows he belongs

The Wolves center sparked Team Stephen off bench while Jimmy Butler decided to sit this one out.

By JERRY ZIGON
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LOS ANGELES — When pressed to pick, Timberwolves veteran star Jimmy Butler predicted young teammate Karl-Anthony Towns would

win NBA All-Star Game MVP Sunday night in Los Angeles. Of course, the great LeBron James did, but if Towns had played more, Butler wouldn't have been all that far off in his prediction about Team Stephen's suspended 144-145 loss to Team LeBron at Staples Center. Butler responded to a questioner Saturday by playing the role he often does, contrarian.

But in a game reformatting this year, James and Stephen Curry captured fans' hearts as surprise selected from the league's biggest stars. Towns played like he belonged among all of them during his first time as an All-Star.

The league leader in double-doubles this season, Towns delivered another one, All-Star style, with Sunday night's 17 points, 10 rebound performance in just 18 minutes.

See ALL-STAR GAME on C5



Team Stephen's Karl-Anthony Towns and Team LeBron's Paul George chatted during a stop in play Sunday night. Towns had 17 points and 10 rebounds.

NORTH SCORE
Analytics and the stories they tell

Extra man really is an advantage

NHL power plays are converting nearly 20 percent of the time.

By CHRIS HENS
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After praying to produce the question, Wild winger Zach Parise was dumbfounded, as was coach Bruce Boudreau.

"I can't tell you why," Parise said, "from these numbers," Boudreau said.

The pair were stumped when asked why they thought teams in the NHL this season were converting power plays at their highest rate since 1989-90.

"Probably would've thought the opposite with all the shot blocking that goes on and video (game planning) and stuff," Parise said.

One reason for the league's overall increase in scoring this season has been the proficiency of power plays. Entering Sunday, teams were converting at a 19.9 percent rate, which is up from 11.1 a season ago and represents a 2 percent jump from the 2015-16 season.

The league is flirting with the 20 percent mark for the first time since 1989-90 (20.3). That was the last of 23 consecutive seasons in which the success rate was above 20 percent. Then it gradually began to slip, with the rate coming at 13.1 percent in 1972-76, the lowest power-play percentage ever, according to Hockey Reference, which tracks power-play percentage as far back as 1963. The Wild is ninth this season in power-play percentage (21.4 percent) and 16th in kill percentage (18.6).

See NHL on C9

GOPHERS 93, NO. 10 MARYLAND 74 Tuesday, 7 p.m. vs. Indiana (no TV)

U trips top-10 Terps

Gophers' 58 percent three-point shooting paves way in upset of Maryland



The Gophers' Kenisha Bell got inside and scored over Maryland's Chamaine Lewis for two of her 21 points.

By HEATHER BUE
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Destiny Pitts remembers saying in pre-season interviews that the Gophers women's basketball team was going to be one to watch out for this season. She figured people just laughed it off.

"She's just a freshman. She probably doesn't know what she's talking about," Pitts said.

"But it's kind of showing now."

The latest piece of evidence was a dominant 59-24 upset victory over No. 10 Maryland on Sunday in front of an announced 4,025 fans at Williams Arena. It was Minnesota's second victory over a ranked opponent in five days and moved the Gophers into a third-place tie in the Big Ten, just one game out of first.

The Gophers (21-6, 10-4) are 4-0 against ranked teams this season. They are also 15-1 at home and have won seven of eight overall. Sunday, they shot 52.5 percent from the field, compared to 44.1 percent for Maryland, and made 14 of 24 three-pointers.

Coach Marlene Stollings said she was impressed by her team's maturity and that the Gophers won the defensive rebound battle 28-24.

"We're really on a high right now," Stollings said. "We've

See GOPHERS on C4

TWINS SPRING TRAINING First full-team workout today

Healthy and happy but heavy, Sano reports to Twins camp

By NHL MILLER
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FORT MYERS, Fla. — Miguel Sano reported to spring training Sunday, the three issues that complicate his 2018 season — health, weight and an

assault investigation — seemingly reduced to zero.

Sano has been given medical clearance to engage in all baseball workouts with his teammates, his surgically reinforced left shin now completely healed, though the Twins

intend to lighten his schedule to prevent any new injuries.

"They'd like to lighten something else, too," Sano's carriage, an General Manager Thad Levine delicately put it last week. Sano's conditioning underwent a jump after a

winter largely spent incapacitated by the surgery.

And further clouding the third baseman's status is an investigation by the commissioner's office into allegations made in December of an assault on a Twin Cities photogra-

pher 29 months ago, an incident Sano has denied. MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred has the power to impose penalties — fines, suspensions or sensitivity training, among other options — if he finds that evidence

See TWINS on C10

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