

BOLT ACCUSES RIVAL GATLIN OF 'DISRESPECT'

LONDON: Usain Bolt has reignited his rivalry with fellow sprinter Justin Gatlin, accusing the American of "disrespect," just two weeks before the Rio Olympics. Brushing aside any concerns about the hamstring injury which forced him to withdraw from his country's Olympic trials earlier this month, the Jamaican sprint king ran a solid time of 19.89sec in his first competitive 200m of this season in London on Friday. The 29-year-old Bolt, a six-time Olympic champion, had received a medical exemption to miss the Jamaican trials-sparking claims from Gatlin and a number of United States sprinters who said he had preferential treatment that he would not receive were he American. Bolt laughed off the criticism led by Gatlin, who has served two bans for doping. "For me I felt it was a joke, I felt it was a disrespect they think I'd back out of a trials," he said. "I've proven myself year on year that I'm the greatest. I laughed when I heard it, I was disappointed, especially in Justin Gatlin." Gatlin, 34, who took silver behind Bolt at last year's world championships in the 100m and 200m, has been one of Bolt's most consistent rivals in recent years. —AFP

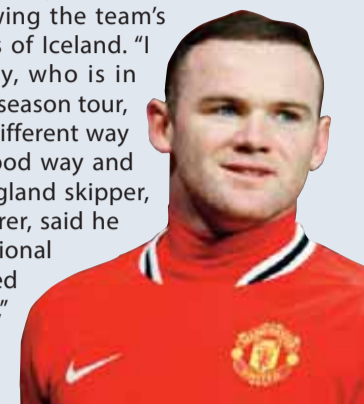


BASKETBALL PLAYER TYREK DIES AFTER TEAM WORKOUT

STILLWATER: Junior college transfer Tyrek Coger died Thursday after collapsing following an Oklahoma State basketball team workout, the university announced. The school said the 21-year-old forward, who had just arrived at Oklahoma State earlier this month, was pronounced dead at Stillwater Medical Center on Thursday night. "Tyrek was excited to be at Oklahoma State and had such passion for the game and was looking forward to being an OSU Cowboy," coach Brad Underwood said. "Losing a member of the team is like losing a member of the family. But we know our loss pales in comparison to the pain his family is going through," Oklahoma State planned to release more details Friday about the death. The Stillwater NewsPress reported (<http://bit.ly/29R36QY>) that emergency crews responded to a heat exhaustion call at Boone Pickens Stadium on Thursday, but it wasn't immediately known whether that case involved Coger. In an interview with the Stillwater paper published earlier this month, Coger spoke of frequent headaches that plagued him during his high school days—AP

ROONEY WELCOMES ALLARDYCE APPOINTMENT AS MANAGER

LONDON: England captain Wayne Rooney has welcomed the appointment of Sam Allardyce as national team manager and confirmed he is not planning on retiring from international football after the country's disappointing showing at the European Championship. Allardyce was appointed England manager on Friday on a two-year contract, replacing Roy Hodgson, who quit following the team's last-16 exit from Euro 2016 at the hands of Iceland. "I think it's a good appointment," Rooney, who is in China as part of Manchester United's pre-season tour, told reporters. "He will probably bring a different way of playing to England. Hopefully it's a good way and we can be successful under him." The England skipper, who is also his country's highest goalscorer, said he had no intention of retiring from international duty. "Am I going to carry on? It was asked of me after the Euros, but yes, I'll be there," the 30-year-old added. —Reuters



FORMER NFL COACH DENNIS GREEN DEAD

MINNEAPOLIS: Dennis Green, the trailblazing coach who led a Minnesota Vikings renaissance in the 1990s before a less successful run with the Arizona Cardinals, has died. He was 67.

Green's family posted a message Friday on the Cardinals website announcing the death. "His family was by his side and he fought hard," the statement said. It did not disclose other details, though the Cardinals said Green had died of a heart attack.

Green was the first black head coach in Big Ten history when he took over at Northwestern in 1981 and was just the third black head coach in the NFL when the Vikings hired him in 1992. Through it all, Green worked hard to provide opportunities for minorities on his coaching staffs and was beloved by his players for the loyalty he showed them. "He was one of the forerunners, standard bearers from an African-American standpoint," Vikings COO Kevin Warren said. "He was there early and won a lot of football games. He not only got in that position as a head coach, he then hired people and gave them opportunities."

Green spent 10 seasons in Minnesota, leading the Vikings to eight playoff appearances and two NFC championship games. He had only one losing season and compiled an overall record of 97-62, a mark second only to Bud Grant in franchise history. That included a 15-1 regular season in 1998 spearheaded by a record-setting offense.

"They were pretty good when he was here," current Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said. "I'm just trying to get close to him."

Green went out on a limb in the draft before that season, taking Randy Moss at No. 21 after the super-talented receiver fell due to character concerns. Moss was a sensation from the start, teaming with Cris Carter, Jake Reed, Randall Cunningham and Robert Smith to give the Vikings the most dynamic and explosive offense the league had ever seen. The Vikings scored a record 556 points that season, a mark that stood until New England broke it in 2007.

FIRED

But the Vikings were upset at home by the Atlanta Falcons that season and also were embarrassed by the New York Giants 41-0 in their other trip to the NFC title game after the 2000 season.

Green went 4-8 in the postseason, one of the reasons he was fired by Minnesota late in the 2001 season. "Denny made his mark in ways far beyond being an outstanding football coach," the Vikings said. "He mentored countless players and served as a father figure for the men he coached. Denny founded the Vikings Community Tuesday Program, a critical initiative that is now implemented across the entire NFL. He took great pride in helping assistant coaches advance their careers. His tenure as one of the first African American head coaches in both college and the NFL was also transformative. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Green family."

Smith tweeted: "Rest in peace Denny. I lost my mother in April, I feel like I just lost

father." Green's leadership was never needed more than during training camp in 2001 when offensive tackle Corey Stringer collapsed and died from heat illness, but his tenure in Minnesota also was marked by controversy.

He penned a book in 1997 entitled "No Room for Crybabies" in which he threatened to sue the ownership group if he didn't obtain an ownership stake. And at the end of the 2001 season, he was ousted with one game left in the season after losing a power struggle with owner Red McCombs.

Green finished his three years in Arizona with a 16-32 record. Perhaps his biggest accomplishment with the Cardinals was overseeing the drafting of Larry Fitzgerald as the No. 3 overall pick in 2004. Fitzgerald was a ball boy for Green's Vikings.

UNIQUE PHRASES

Of course, many remember Green's final season in Arizona in 2006 for a Monday night loss to Chicago, when the Bears returned two late fumbles and a punt for touchdowns to rally from a 20-point deficit. Afterward, in one of the more memorable postgame rants by an NFL coach, Green pounded the podium and yelled, "The Bears are who we thought they were!" afterward, a line that would be replayed endlessly over the years.

Green was well known for his "Dennyisms," unique phrases like "Plan your work and work your plan," which he would often say during practice. "I still use that 'Dennyism' today," Raiders coach Jack Del Rio said. "Coach Green is going to be missed dearly by everyone that was lucky enough to know him."

Green was also an avid drummer, and Moss said on ESPN's "NFL Live" that "we had a team and one thing he taught us was to play to one beat. His legacy will live on."

Born Feb. 17, 1949, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Green once said he was struck by watching early Big Ten football games and seeing both Minnesota and Iowa putting together successful seasons behind black quarterbacks. Green enrolled at Iowa, too, and played running back for the Hawkeyes from 1968-70. He played for the BC Lions in Canada in 1971 before returning to coach in college, beginning at Dayton in 1973 and gradually climbing to bigger programs. Green was also a head coach at Stanford and served as an assistant to Bill Walsh on the dominant 49ers teams of the 1980s.

"All of us at the Cardinals are incredibly saddened by the news of Dennis Green's passing," Cardinals President Michael Bidwell said. "Coach Green will rightly be remembered as a true innovator, leader and pioneer among football coaches. We express our deepest sympathy to his family and his many friends."

The family asked that in lieu of flowers, contributions be made to the Boys and Girls Club of San Diego. "He did so much for me," tweeted former coach Tony Dungy, who was a defensive coordinator under Green with the Vikings. "Was looking forward to saying thanks at HOF. Tomorrow not promised." —AP



Lexi Thompson chips the ball up to the 10th green during the first round of the US Women's Open golf tournament. — AP

US, AUSTRALIA REBOUND IN UL INTERNATIONAL CROWN

GURNEE: After a rough first day of the UL International Crown, the United States never considered new pairings. Cristie Kerr and company knew it would work itself out.

Kerr and Lexi Thompson helped the US to three out of four points against Thailand on Friday, and Melissa Reid drew praise for a gutsy effort for England after her partner was sidelined by illness. Kerr and Thompson routed Thailand's Ariya Jutanugarn and Porani Chutichai 4 and 3 for the Americans' first two points after they were shut out in the first session of the LPGA Tour event. The US almost got a sweep, but Gerina Pillier and Stacy Lewis each missed a birdie putt on 18 and had to settle for a single point against Moriya Jutanugarn and Pornanong Phatlum. Each of the four players were on the United States' winning team in the 2015 Solheim Cup, and the victory in Germany helped convince them to stay with the same lineup after the opening session at Merit Club about 40 miles northwest of Chicago.

"I mean, we had so much success at Solheim Cup, and I just think we played so much together that why switch it up? It was never discussed," Lewis said. Lewis' putt on 18 skirted the edge of the cup. "I think if it was just a touch slower, 6 inches slower, it probably goes in," she said. "But I thought it was perfect."

With Charley Hull sidelined by a fever and complications from asthma, Reid was all alone for her four-ball match against Japan's Haru Nomura and Mika Miyazato. Reid took it all the way to 18, where Nomura made a matching birdie to close out a 1-up win.

"For me, it's a huge positive," Reid said. "To get anywhere near the 18th was going to be a huge achievement, and I am just really, really pleased I gave the team a huge chance of even a point."

Holly Clyburn and Jodi Ewart Shadoff halved their match against Ai Suzuki and Ayaka Watanabe, helping seventh-seeded England to the Pool B lead. Thailand and Japan were one back with four points apiece, and the US was last after it finished sixth in the inaugural event in 2014. Taiwan topped Pool A with six points after it split its two matches with top-seeded South Korea. Candie Kung and Ssu-Chia Cheng beat Amy Yang and In Gee Chun 2 and 1, but Yani Tseng and Teresa Lu trailed all day long in a 4-and-2 loss to Sei Young Kim and So Yeon Ryu.

PAIRINGS

South Korea was second with four points, and Australia and China were tied for third with three apiece. Australia also was shut out in the first session, but Karrie Webb and Rebecca Artis teamed for a 2-and-1 win over China's Jing Yan and Simin Feng, and Minjee Lee and Su Oh halved their match with Xi Yu Lin and Shanshan Feng. Lin's birdie on 14 gave China a 2-up lead, but Lee birdied 18 to secure the point for Australia. Lee played with Artis on Thursday, and Webb was with Oh. "I think if a few things had gone our way yesterday, we could have gotten points on the board, but it just turned out that these two pairings worked," Webb said.

There are eight more four-ball matches to play. The top two teams in each pool and the winner of wild-card playoff between the third-place teams advance to Sunday's singles matches, with each player from the winning country taking home \$100,000 apiece.

The 20-year-old Hull, who helped England to a sweep of the United States on Thursday, sought medical attention when she arrived at the course. She is hoping to play today. "I really wanted to join my partner Mel at some point during the match, but at the advice of the medical team, the best thing to do was to rest and get healthy for my team for tomorrow," she said

in a statement released by the LPGA Tour.

Reid holed out with a wedge from 70 yards on the par-4 13th, squaring the match. But Nomura birdied the final three holes to help Japan to the win. "They finished birdie-birdie-birdie. I finished birdie-par-birdie," Reid said. "There's nothing you can really do. If you lose to a birdie, it's fine." —AP

KEN GRIFFEY JR, MIKE PIAZZA SET TO ENTER HALL OF FAME

COOPERSTOWN: When they were drafted nearly three decades ago, one was on everybody's baseball radar, the other a blip at best, picked almost as an afterthought in the final round thanks to a recommendation by an important family friend. The Seattle Mariners made Ken Griffey Jr. the first pick of the 1987 amateur draft and a year later the Los Angeles Dodgers selected Mike Piazza on the 62nd round with the 1,390th pick, ahead of only five other players.

Despite the divergent levels of expectation, both left indelible imprints on the game and will be rewarded today with induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame. "It's incredibly powerful," said Piazza, by far the lowest draft pick in history elected to the Hall.

"This whole year for me has been so euphoric. It's such an honor." Dubbed "The Natural" for his effortless excellence at the plate and in center field, Griffey becomes the first No. 1 pick to be selected for enshrinement. When he visited Cooperstown in late May for an orientation, Griffey chose not to take the customary introductory tour of the Hall, saying he wanted his first walk through the front doors of the stately building on Main Street to be with his kids.

"I wanted to share the moment with them," Griffey said. "It was important for me to be able to do it with them and not just by myself. I just felt that I wanted to be a member of the Hall of Fame to walk in there."

Induction day promises to be emotional for Griffey because his mother Birdie, and father, former Cincinnati Reds star Ken Sr., both cancer survivors and integral to his rise to stardom, also

will be part of the celebration.

Griffey played 22 big-league seasons with the Mariners, Reds and Chicago White Sox and was named on a record 99.32 percent of ballots cast, an affirmation of sorts for his squeaky-clean performance during baseball's Steroids Era. A 13-time All-Star and 10-time Gold Glove Award winner, Griffey hit 630 home runs, sixth all-time, and drove in 1,836 runs. Griffey also was named American League MVP in 1997, drove in at least 100 runs in eight seasons, and won seven Silver Slugger Awards. In the 1995 ALDS, he became just the second player in major league history to hit five home runs in a single postseason series (Reggie Jackson of the Yankees in the 1977 World Series is the other).

From 2001-04 he averaged fewer than 80 games per year while suffering through hamstring tears, knee problems, a dislocated shoulder, and ankle tendon ruptures.

Healthy again in 2005, Junior slugged 35 home runs and captured the NL Comeback Player of the Year Award. Two years later, he had his last standout season - 144 games, 30 homers, 93 RBIs - and earned his final All-Star Game selection.

For Piazza, selection to the Hall is validation of an awful lot of hard work. Taken in the draft after Hall of Fame manager Tommy Lasorda, a close friend of Piazza's father, put in a good word, Piazza struggled. He briefly quit the game while in the minor leagues, returned and persevered despite a heavy workload as he switched from first base to catcher and teammates criticized his erratic play.—AP



MINNEAPOLIS: Minnesota Vikings coach reacts after being doused after a 27-7 win over the Green Bay Packers at the Metrodome in Minneapolis. Green, a trailblazing coach who led a Vikings renaissance in the 1990s and also coached the Arizona Cardinals, has died. He was 67. Green's family posted a message on the Cardinals website on Friday, announcing the death. — AP



NEW YORK: In this Jan. 7, 2016, file photo, Ken Griffey Jr., left, poses for a photograph with Mike Piazza at a press conference announcing they are both elected into the 2016 National Baseball Hall of Fame, in New York. — AP