

Numbers Game

This Day In Sports

1980 — The Los Angeles Lakers beat the Philadelphia 76ers 123-107 to win the NBA title in six games. Rookie guard Magic Johnson fills in at center for the injured Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

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Morning rush

Valley Press news services

Baffert-trained improbable 5-2 Preakness favorite

BALTIMORE — Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert will seek his record-setting eighth Preakness victory Saturday with 5-2 morning line favorite Improbable, who will start from the No. 4 post in a field of 13 horses.

For the first time since 1951, the Preakness will not include the four horses that crossed the finish line first in the Kentucky Derby. Improbable finished fifth and was moved up to fourth following the disqualification of Maximum Security for interference.

It was the only time in six career races that Improbable failed to finish first or second.

War of Will, the second choice at 4-1, received the No. 1 post in Wednesday's draw. It's the same post position he had in the Kentucky Derby, when he finished eighth and was moved up to seventh.

Baffert and R.W. Walden, who saddled seven winners in the late 1800s, are currently tied atop the Preakness leaderboard.

WNBA hires Deloitte CEO Engelbert as commissioner

NEW YORK — The WNBA has a new leader with a new title.

The league hired Cathy Engelbert as commissioner on Wednesday. The previous four leaders of the WNBA had been known as president.

Since 2015, Engelbert has been CEO of Deloitte US, an accounting organization that works with Fortune 500 companies. She was the first woman to hold that job.

She replaces Lisa Borders, who stepped down in October. NBA Deputy Commissioner Mark Tatum has been the interim president since Borders left.

Magic Johnson, Larry Bird to get Lifetime Achievement Award

NEW YORK — Magic Johnson and Larry Bird, whose coast-to-coast rivalry in the 1980s propelled the NBA to a new level of popularity, will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award.

The Hall of Famers and 1992 U.S. Olympic teammates will receive the award on June 24 at the NBA Awards, the league and Turner Sports announced Wednesday.

The honor comes on the 40th anniversary of their meeting in the 1979 NCAA championship game, when Johnson's Michigan State team beat Bird's Indiana State squad. That is still the highest-rated game on television in college basketball history.

Jets fire GM Mike Maccagnan; coach Adam Gase acting GM

NEW YORK — Mike Maccagnan helped lead the Jets' coaching search this offseason, spent big money in free agency and oversaw the team's draft.

Now, stunningly, he's out as New York's general manager.

Team chairman and CEO Christopher Johnson announced the decision to fire Maccagnan in a statement posted Wednesday on the team's Twitter account. Coach Adam Gase will serve as the acting general manager in Maccagnan's place while the Jets search for a replacement.

The timing is particularly strange because Maccagnan ran the Jets' draft less than three weeks ago, including taking defensive tackle Quinnen Williams with the No. 3 overall pick. There were some rumors, however, that there was tension between Maccagnan and Gase — which both denied.

Sparks re-sign Riquna Williams, who faces assault charges

NEW YORK — The Los Angeles Sparks re-signed free agent Riquna Williams, who was arrested last month after fight with her ex-girlfriend at a Florida home.

Spieth trying to buck the odds at PGA

By DOUG FERGUSON
Associated Press

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. — Jordan Spieth needs to win the PGA Championship for the career Grand Slam. Masters champion Tiger Woods needs to win the next three majors to capture an unprecedented calendar Grand Slam.

Based on how their seasons have gone, the question now is who has the better chance.

Spieth smiled at the supposition, and then tried to play along. He first considered how physics major Bryson DeChambeau would approach it and figured that winning one major would be easier than winning three. And then he considered the Wisconsin man who placed a \$100,000 wager on 100-1 odds of Woods winning all four majors this year, a bet that would return \$10 million.

"I would have better odds than that, right?" Spieth said.

For someone mired in a slump — a word Spieth himself said Wednesday on the eve of the PGA Championship — the 25-year-old Texan didn't appear overly concerned about the opportunity in front of him at Bethpage Black.

Only five other players have won the career Grand Slam. No



one has completed it at the PGA Championship.

Spieth wouldn't appear to be a candidate at the moment. He is winless since getting the third leg of the slam in the 2017 British Open at Royal Birkdale. And while he had chances on the back nine of two majors last year, he hasn't come close to winning since then.

In the eight stroke-play events this year when he played the weekend, Spieth on average has finished 14.5 strokes behind the winner. He has yet to finish in the top 20, with his best result a tie for 21st at the Masters.

He talks mostly about progress and consistency, both defined more by what he feels

IN THE HUNT

Jordan Spieth follows through on an approach shot on the fourth fairway during a practice round for the PGA Championship golf tournament on Tuesday in Farmingdale, N.Y.

Associated Press

than what anyone else sees.

"I've shot some low rounds, but piecing together four has been difficult this season so far," Spieth said. "I think it's gotten more progressively consistent throughout the year, and out here you're going to need that kind of consistency. You need your bad rounds to be held at about par to win this tournament, and you need your good rounds to go deep enough. If I can continue to make the amount of birdies I've been making and then just limit the mistakes a little bit, then I should be right in it."

Woods, who won the second leg of the calendar slam at Bethpage Black in 2002 when it host-

ed the U.S. Open, is the betting favorite at 8-1. He is followed by Dustin Johnson and defending champion Brooks Koepka, two of golf's most powerful players.

Spieth is listed at 50-1 on a big golf course that might feel even bigger considering the 2 inches of rain since Sunday that has left it long and soft.

"This is a completely different animal out here, Bethpage Black, and it'll wear you out," Xander Schauffele said.

Justin Rose says while 156 players are in the field, he felt there were only 30 or 40 who could win because of how long the Black course plays. He includes Woods in that group, mainly from what he saw on the 17th hole at Augusta National, where Woods had a two-shot lead and piped one down the middle.

"That was the most telling shot that I saw him play at Augusta this year, and because of that, I think it gives him an opportunity this week with his driver," Rose said.

Koepka also believes the field — with 99 of the top 100 in the world — is shorter than it seems. He used his own brand of math to eliminate most of the field from taking home the Wanamaker Trophy.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

NCAA Division I Softball Regionals Glance

(Double elimination; x-if necessary)

Stillwater (Okla.) Regional
Thursday, May 16

Game 1 — Arkansas (38-18) vs. Tulsa (35-18), 3 p.m.

Game 2 — BYU (29-24) at Oklahoma State (39-14), 5:30 p.m.

Tallahassee (Fla.) Regional
Friday, May 17

Game 1 — South Carolina (36-17) vs. South Florida (40-17), 9 a.m.

Game 2 — Bethune-Cookman (26-29) at Florida State (51-8), 11:30 a.m.

Gainesville (Fla.) Regional
Friday, May 17

Game 1 — Stanford (32-18) vs. Boise State (34-14), 9 a.m.

Game 2 — Boston University (37-18) at Florida (44-15), 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 18

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 11 a.m.

Lexington (Ky.) Regional
Friday, May 17

Game 1 — Virginia Tech (45-9) vs. Illinois (32-23), 9 a.m.

Game 2 — Toledo (29-26) at Kentucky (33-22), 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 18

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 9 a.m.

Knoxville (Tenn.) Regional
Friday, May 17

Game 1 — North Carolina (35-18) vs. Ohio State (34-16), 8 a.m.

Game 2 — Longwood (37-20) at Tennessee (39-14), 10:30 a.m.

Saturday, May 18

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 9 a.m.

Ann Arbor (Mich.) Regional
Friday, May 17

Game 1 — James Madison (47-7) vs. DePaul (34-14), 11 a.m.

Game 2 — St. Francis (Pa.) (29-29) at Michigan (43-11), 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 18

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 9 a.m.

Minneapolis Regional
Friday, May 17

Game 1 — Georgia (40-17) vs. Drake (42-14), 4 p.m.

Game 2 — North Dakota State (42-14) at Minnesota (41-12), 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 18

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, TBA

Evansville (Ill.) Regional
Friday, May 17

Game 1 — Southern Illinois (33-13) vs. Louisville (33-21), 10 a.m.

Game 2 — Detroit (31-26) at Northwestern (43-10), 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 18

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, noon

Tuscaloosa (Ala.) Regional
Friday, May 17

Game 1 — Arizona State (33-18) vs. Lipscomb (41-13-1), 1 p.m.

Game 2 — Alabama State (24-23) vs. Alabama (52-7), 3:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 18

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, TBA

Oxford (Miss.) Regional
Friday, May 17

Game 1 — Louisiana-Lafayette (50-4) vs. Southeast Missouri State (45-16), 1:30 p.m.

Game 2 — Chattanooga (37-15) at Mississippi (37-17), 4 p.m.

Saturday, May 18

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 10 a.m.

Baton Rouge (La.) Regional
Friday, May 17

Game 1 — Texas Tech (39-14) vs. Louisiana Tech (44-14), noon

Game 2 — Monmouth (36-16) at LSU (40-16), 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 18

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 11 a.m.

Norman (Okla.) Regional
Friday, May 17

Game 1 — Notre Dame (36-16) vs. Wisconsin (40-12), 4 p.m.

Game 2 — UMBC (30-22) at Oklahoma (49-2), 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 18

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 1 p.m.

Austin (Texas) Regional
Friday, May 17

Game 1 — Texas A&M (28-25) vs. Houston (37-17), 11 a.m.

Game 2 — Sam Houston State (34-21) at Texas (41-14), 2 p.m.

Saturday, May 18

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 11 a.m.

Seattle Regional
Friday, May 17

Game 1 — Mississippi State (33-21) vs. Seattle (39-15), 4:30 p.m.

Game 2 — Fordham (29-24) at Washington (45-7), 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 18

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 3 p.m.

Los Angeles Regional
Friday, May 17

Game 1 — Missouri (32-23) vs. Cal State Fullerton (38-16), 5:30 p.m.

Game 2 — Weber State (26-19) at UCLA (46-5), 8 p.m.

Saturday, May 18

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 3 p.m.

Tucson (Ariz.) Regional
Friday, May 17

Game 1 — Auburn (37-19) vs. Colorado State (38-10), 6 p.m.

Game 2 — Harvard (25-17) at Arizona (42-12), 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 18

Game 3 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner, 3 p.m.

MLB

American League Glance

West Division

Houston 29 15 .659 —

Seattle 22 23 .489 7½

Angels 20 23 .465 8½

Texas 18 22 .450 9

Oakland 19 25 .432 10

East Division

Tampa Bay 26 15 .634 —

New York 26 16 .619 ½

Boston 23 20 .535 4

Toronto 17 25 .405 9½

Baltimore 14 28 .333 12½

Central Division

Minnesota 27 15 .643 —

Cleveland 22 19 .537 4½

Chicago 19 22 .463 7½

Detroit 18 23 .439 8½

Kansas City 15 28 .349 12½

Tuesday's Games

Baltimore at N.Y. Yankees, ppd.

Cleveland 9, Chicago White Sox 0

Colorado 5, Boston 4, 11 innings

Houston 11, Detroit 4

Tampa Bay 4, Miami 0

Minnesota 4, L.A. Angels 3

Kansas City 11, Texas 5

Toronto 7, San Francisco 3

Seattle 4, Oakland 3

Wednesday's Games

N.Y. Yankees 5, Baltimore 3, 1st game

San Francisco 4, Toronto 3

N.Y. Yankees 3, Baltimore 1, 2nd game

Boston 6, Colorado 5, 10 innings

Houston 5, Detroit 1

Tampa Bay 1, Miami 0

Texas 6, Kansas City 1

Tuesday's Games

Oakland (Bassitt 1-1) at Detroit (Turnbull 2-2), 10:10 a.m.

Texas (Lynn 4-3) at Kansas City (Bailey 4-3), 10:15 a.m.

Baltimore (Straily 1-3) at Cleveland (Bauer 4-2), 3:10 p.m.

Toronto (Stroman 1-6) at Chicago White Sox (Covey 0-2), 5:10 p.m.

Minnesota (Pineda 2-3) at Seattle (Swanson 1-4), 7:10 p.m.

AL Leaders

BATTING — Reddick, Houston, .333; Polanco, Minnesota, .331; Brantley, Houston, .329; Andrus, Texas, .325; Devers, Boston, .323; LeMahieu, New York, .322; Dozier, Kansas City, .321; Martinez, Boston, .321; Anderson, Chicago, .320; Springer, Houston, .320.

RUNS — Springer, Houston, 39; Betts, Boston, 35; Haniger, Seattle, 35; Merrifield, Kansas City, 33; Bogaerts, Boston, 30; Devers, Boston, 29; Encarnacion, Seattle, 29; Moncada, Chicago, 29; Garcia, Chicago, 28; Trout, Los Angeles, 28.

RBI — Springer, Houston, 40; Santana, Seattle, 37; Abreu, Chicago, 36; Bregman, Houston, 34; Mondesi, Kansas City, 34; Rosario, Minnesota, 34; A Gordon, Kansas City, 33; Voit, New York, 32; Brantley, Houston, 31; 2 tied at 30.

National League Glance

West Division

Dodgers 29 16 .644 —

Arizona 24 20 .545 4½

San Diego 22 21 .512 6

Colorado 20 22 .476 7½

San Francisco 18 24 .429 9½

East Division

Philadelphia 24 18 .571 —

Atlanta 22 21 .512 2½

New York 20 21 .488 3½

Washington 17 25 .405 9

Miami 10 31 .244 13½

Central Division

Chicago 25 15 .625 —

Milwaukee 26 19 .578 1½

St. Louis 23 20 .535 3½

Pittsburgh 21 19 .525 4

Cincinnati 19 24 .442 7½

Wednesday's Games

Arizona 11, Pittsburgh 1

San Francisco 4, Toronto 3

Cincinnati 6, Chicago Cubs 5, 10 innings

Milwaukee 5, Philadelphia 2

Washington 5, N.Y. Mets 1

Boston 6, Colorado 5, 10 innings

Tampa Bay 1, Miami 0

Atlanta 4, St. Louis 0

L.A. Dodgers 2, San Diego 0

Tuesday's Games

Milwaukee (Davies 4-0) at Philadelphia (Efin 5-3), 10:05 a.m.

N.Y. Mets (Wheeler 3-2) at Washington (Sanchez 0-6), 10:05 a.m.

Chicago Cubs (Quintana 4-2) at Cincinnati (Castillo 4-1), 3:40 p.m.

St. Louis (Wainwright 3-3) at Atlanta (Teheran 2-4), 4:20 p.m.

Milwaukee (Williams 2-1) at San Diego (Lauer 2-4), 7:10 p.m.

Friday's Games

Chicago Cubs at Washington, 4:05 p.m.

Colorado at Philadelphia, 4:05 p.m.

L.A. Dodgers at Cincinnati, 4:10 p.m.

N.Y. Mets at Miami, 4:20 p.m.

Milwaukee at Atlanta, 4:20 p.m.

St. Louis at Texas, 5:05 p.m.

San Francisco at Arizona, 6:40 p.m.

Pittsburgh at San Diego, 7:10 p.m.

NL Leaders

BATTING — Bellinger, Los Angeles, .409; McNeil, New York, .352; Cabrera, Pittsburgh, .339; Bell, Pittsburgh, .333; Martinez, St. Louis, .333; Yelich, Milwaukee, .333; Baez, Chicago, .322; DeJong, St. Louis, .319; Peralta, Arizona, .318; Arenado, Colorado, .314.

RBI — Bellinger, Los Angeles, 41; Bell, Pittsburgh, 39; Yelich, Milwaukee, 38; Ozuna, St. Louis, 37; Arenado, Colorado, 35; Hoskins, Philadelphia, 35; Alonso, New York, 32; Kipnis, Arizona, 30; Molina, St. Louis, 30; 3 tied at 29.

RUNS — Bellinger, Los Angeles, 38; DeJong, St. Louis, 36; Story, Colorado, 36.

SPORTS