

Sweet sweet victory

Kerr-Vance girls soccer wins first state championship since 1993

BY LOGAN ULRICH
SPORTS EDITOR

To his credit, Razvan Tegean never stops coaching. Not even in the waning seconds of a 1-0 win in the state championship game.

As the seconds ticked away and Kerr-Vance girls' soccer seemed assured of victory against Halifax Academy, Tegean paced along the sideline screaming instructions and encouragement to his midfield. And after the buzzer rang and the Spartans won their first state title since 1993, Tegean was right in the middle of his players shouting with the loudest of them.

The game meant a little bit more to him. Not only was it his first state championship as a coach — in only his second year at Kerr-Vance — his father, a former professional player in Romania, was in the stands fresh off a plane from home.

"He's been there for me ever since I can remember," Tegean said.



LOGAN ULRICH/DISPATCH STAFF

Members of the Kerr-Vance girls' soccer team celebrate after winning the state championship game 1-0 against Halifax Academy. It's the school's first state title since 1993.

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KVA captures baseball crown

BY LOGAN ULRICH
SPORTS EDITOR

After winning Game 1 of the NCISAA 1A baseball championship series, Kerr-Vance needed only one win on Saturday against Lawrence Academy to lock up a state championship. After a 2-1 setback in Game 2, the Spartans stormed back in the finale to take it 5-1 and win the title.

Without the pitching services of senior Jabe Montgomery, who threw a perfect game and a one-hitter to help the Spartans reach the title game before maxing out his pitch count, the bullpen for Kerr-Vance (19-4, 7-0) came through in a big way over the weekend.

"I thought we were in good shape," head coach Todd Wilkerson said. "I thought that our pitching would hold up and we just had to compete. The players we have on our team love to compete."

Junior Wil Short and freshman Colby Wilkerson tag-teamed the first game on Friday — a 5-3 win — with Short throwing



SPECIAL TO THE DISPATCH

Members of the Kerr-Vance baseball team pose for a portrait Saturday after winning the NCISAA 1A state baseball championship series. The Spartans defeated Lawrence Academy 2-1, winning Game 1, 5-3, and Game 3, 5-1.

SEE CROWN/PAGE B3

Hahn's 64 gives him Nelson lead on a day of birdie streaks

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVING, Texas — James Hahn knows how close he came to making a couple of more putts down the stretch in the third round of the AT&T Byron Nelson. He still did enough to take the lead.

Even with his eagle chance at the 16th and birdie putt at 17 both stopping just inches short, Hahn shot a bogey-free 6-under 64 on Saturday to finish

ahead of several players who had birdie streaks.

"That's golf," Hahn said.

As for replaying those so-close putts in his mind, or thinking about having the 54-hole lead, the two-time PGA Tour winner had other plans after finishing his round.

"Tell me what my tee time and I'll just show up. You know, prepping for

SEE NELSON/PAGE B2

Cloud Computing wins Preakness Stakes

BY BETH HARRIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BALTIMORE — Sometimes it pays to have a fresh horse.

Cloud Computing skipped the Kentucky Derby, while eventual winner Always Dreaming and Classic Empire mixed it up in the mud at Churchill Downs.

Two weeks later, Cloud Computing pounced on those two horses in the Preakness, pull-

ing off an upset victory at 13-1 odds Saturday. He became the first horse to skip the Derby and win the second leg of the Triple Crown since filly Rachel Alexandra in 2009.

"Some of the reason that we won today was because we were patient and didn't throw an inexperienced horse against a

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Cavs back home after demolishing Celtics

Boston star Thomas to miss rest of playoff with hip injury

BY TOM WITHERS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND — LeBron James wrapped up his postgame news conference, popped a toothpick in his mouth and pushed back from the podium as if he had just completed a satisfying meal.

He and the Cavaliers feasted on the Celtics.

Breaking records and Boston hearts, the defending NBA champions continued an unblemished romp through these playoffs — and on course to clash again with Golden State in the Finals — on Friday night with a 130-86 win that was so thoroughly dominating that James sat out the final quarter.

With Cleveland leading by 38 in the third quarter, Cavs forward J.R. Smith mocked some Boston fans by pretending to sweep a broom across their famous parquet floor.

A mop would have been more appropriate for this carnage.

“It’s hard,” Celtics forward Al Horford said. “It’s hard to take.”

It’s probably going to happen again. With Celtics star point guard Isaiah Thomas out with the remainder of the playoffs with a hip injury, Boston’s season might be down to its final two games. Game 3 is set for Sunday.

Locked and loaded from the start, the Cavaliers were precise on both ends in the Game 2 bludgeoning. With ease and relentlessness, James and his teammates imposed their will on the top-seeded and overmatched Celtics, who just days earlier had been filled with optimism after beating Washington in seven games and then winning the NBA draft lottery.

Boston basketball boss Danny Ainge might want to offer that No. 1 pick to Cleveland for James. Because until further notice or he moves, the Eastern Conference is the

domain of this king.

Shortly before Friday’s tip-off, the NBA announced that Russell Westbrook, James Harden and Kawhi Leonard are finalists for league MVP, leaving James out of the Top 3 in voting for the regular season award for the first time since 2008.

Boston basketball boss Danny Ainge might want to offer that No. 1 pick to Cleveland for LeBron James. Because until further notice or he moves, the Eastern Conference is the domain of this king.

And while the youthful 32-year-old said he was unaware of the shocking omission when he took the court, he proceeded to score 30 points with four 3-pointers, seven assists, four rebounds, four steals and three blocks, including another one of those chase-downs that have become his calling card.

Vicious. Victorious.

There may be much more of that ahead in Games 3 and 4 as the Cavs will look to push aside the Celtics quickly and get as many as eight days off before the Finals start on June 1.

That’s a bit presumptuous, of course, but there are no signs Boston can contain the indomitable James, who in his 14th season may be

playing better than at any time in his life.

He’s scored at least 30 points in eight consecutive playoff games, this first to do that since Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in 1970 and the three-time champ seems as driven as ever, pushing himself and the Cavs to greater heights as they seek another title. Cleveland has won 10 straight in these playoffs and a record-tying 13 in a row dating to Game 5 of last year’s Finals.

Only the 1998-99 Los Angeles Lakers have won as many straight in the post-season as the Cavs, who can take sole possession of the mark on Sunday.

During his postgame media session, James insisted the MVP snub didn’t bother him. His teammates were plenty irritated.

“Just another chip on his shoulder, which helps us,” Smith said. “He got a vote for second team?”

“Somebody’s trippin’,” forward Tristan Thompson offered from an adjacent locker.

“Yeah, somebody’s trippin’,” Smith continued. “Everybody’s entitled to their own opinion. But I don’t see how you could not put him in at least the top three. If he’s not going to

win it and you don’t even put him in the top three? It’s crazy, but it’s all good. I like it like that. He’s driven by a completely different monster. He’s not playing for Russ or James.

“He’s chasing a ghost. Right now, that’s the only thing to compare to him.”

The ghost is Michael Jordan, and pursuing his legacy is something James has used as motivation since he was a hoops prodigy on the courts in Akron.

Nearing a seventh straight trip to the Finals — a feat last accomplished by those Bill Russell-led Celtics teams in the 60s — James needs 73 points to surpass Jordan as the top scorer in playoff history. He has already gone past Jordan on many other lists, and another championship would bring him within two of Jordan’s six.

But James’ only focus now is the present, Game 3, a chance to make more history and even send a message to the Warriors.

“I’m a guy who lives in the moment,” James said. “Our team is in a great groove, and I’m happy to be a part of that groove. At the end of the day, we want to try to put ourselves in position to win every game. That’s the goal.”

NELSON

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tomorrow I feel like is so hard. Sleeping on the lead, you can overthink it,” he said. “I just like to go home with my wife, our 2-year-old daughter, watch some cartoons. Just kind of keep everything low key, casual.”

With his 12-under 198 total Hahn was a stroke ahead of Billy Horschel, who birdied his last three holes for a 66 to take second place alone.

Jason Day had his own string of birdies, five in a row midway through his round and then a 60-footer at the 17th, during a 63 that was the best of the day and got him

to 10 under. The fourth-ranked player in the world was tied for third with Kokrak, who shot a 72 after setting a Nelson 36-hole record with a five-stroke lead.

“I’m definitely not out of this golf tournament,” Kokrak said. “I’d rather be stalking people than any other way.”

Cameron Tringale and Sergio Garcia also finished with birdies on Nos. 16-18. Tringale was fifth at 9 under after a 67, with defending Nelson champion and Masters winner Garcia tied for sixth at 8 under after a 64 that also included three straight birdies at Nos. 11-13.

“I wasn’t that far off on the front,” Garcia said. “Then finally on the back nine ... started rolling

some putts in, and it all comes down to that. Get a little momentum and confidence.”

Top-ranked Dustin Johnson shot a 71 with five bogeys and four birdies and was seven strokes off the lead, tied for 19th.

Hahn shared the first-round lead after an opening 64, but slipped back with a 70 on Friday before another impressive round for him at TPC Four Seasons that included a 65-foot chip-in birdie at the par-4 No. 3 hole. This is Hahn’s fourth Nelson, and he has shot 64 or 65 in half of his 14 rounds there.

After missing four consecutive cuts for the first time since his rookie year in 2011, Horschel is

in the final group at the Nelson. The last of his three PGA Tour wins was in 2014.

“The last four, six weeks hasn’t been ideal for me,” he said. “I’ve been working hard and keep believing.”

The last birdie for Day in his long streak came after driving the green at the 311-yard par-4 11th and two-putting from 37 feet.

“Seemed like it was on auto pilot today, which was nice for a change,” Day said. “It always helps when things are clicking that way.”

Garcia beat Brook Koepka in a playoff last year to become the first two-time Nelson winner since Irving became the tournament’s home in 1983.

VICTORY

FROM PAGE B1

With Tegean’s father looking on, Kerr-Vance’s (18-3, 7-1) took on conference foe Halifax (15-6, 7-3) for the third time this season. The Spartans had split the series with the Vikings after being on each side of a 3-2 score, but Saturday’s game was much less high-octane, as the Vikings turtled up on their side of the field in an effort to clamp down on Kerr-Vance’s offense.

Sophomore forward Emma Hogge threw a wrench in those plans, however, with her speed. She consistently broke down the Vikings’ defense in the first half, including in the 23rd minute when she took a pass from sophomore midfielder Ashley Dickerson and outran her defender down the right flank. She turned into the box and fired a cross to a wide open and waiting Nicole Dunkley.

“She made it easy for me,” Dunkley said. The junior striker’s goal was her 26th of the season according to Tegean, good for almost half of the team’s total. Ten minutes later, Hogge and Dunkley almost teamed up for a carbon copy of that goal, but this time the Vikings’ keeper put herself in better position.

That became the story of the rest of the game. Kerr-Vance kept Halifax Academy bottled up on its own side of the field for the vast majority of the first half. Any potential counterattack with the Vikings’ lethal forwards was snuffed out by Kerr-Vance’s backline.

Meanwhile, the Spartans piled up the shots. With two minutes remaining in the first half, it took a herculean effort by a Viking defender to clear a shot off the goal line kept the score 1-0. Kerr-Vance piled up a 22-2 advantage in shots, including four by Dunkley in a seven-minute stretch near the end of the game.

“She has a great vision of the game, her skills are great,” Tegean said. “She can settle that ball down, she can take some touches, she can cross it. She creates some good opportunities for herself and her teammates.”

Dunkley also played a critical role in settling down her teammates to start the second half. She’s the only player on the team to play club soccer outside of the season, and Tegean relies on her experience to help manage a young team.

According to Tegean, that’s been his biggest challenge this season, keeping his players focused amidst success and unified on the field in the face of adversity. It’s only fitting, then, that his father be on hand to see how the lessons he taught his son paid off.

“He pushed me a lot through soccer,” Tegean said, his voice cracking under the weight of the emotion it held. “He was behind me, but in a way that was to push me and make me better. The love for the game definitely comes from him.”

So he rants and raves along the sideline, coaching his players as hard as he loves them — just like his father did for him.

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PREAKNESS

FROM PAGE B1

20-horse field in the Derby on a very difficult track,” winning co-owner Seth Klarman said. “We made a great call.”

Always Dreaming and Classic Empire duelled for most of the race before Classic Empire stuck his nose in front midway on the far turn. It looked as if Classic Empire would go on to win, but Cloud Computing ran him down on the outside.

Always Dreaming faded to eighth in the 10-horse field on a cool and cloudy day at Pimlico. The crowd of 140,327 and wagering total of \$94,127,434 were records, bettering the marks set last year.

Ridden by Javier Castellano, Cloud Computing ran 1³/₁₆ miles in 1:55.98 and paid \$28.80, \$8.60 and \$6. It was just the dark brown colt’s fourth career start, the fewest of any horse in the race, and only his second win. He didn’t run as a 2-year-old because of injury.

Classic Empire returned \$4.40 and \$4, and 31-1 shot Senior Investment was another 4³/₄ lengths back in third and paid \$10.20.

New York-based trainer Chad Brown earned his first victory in a Triple Crown race. Castellano won for the second time. He rode Bernardini to victory in the 2006 Preakness.

Castellano comes from a racing family, with a father, uncle and brother who have been jockeys.

“We’ve been working for a long time for this moment,” he said.

“It’s great for the family.”

The 142nd Preakness had been billed as a match race between Always Dreaming and Classic Empire, and it was from the start.

They broke out of the starting gate next to each other and the fight was on. Always Dreaming took a slight lead with Classic Empire on his flank.

Meanwhile, Cloud Computing was back in third as Castellano watched the duel unfold in front of him.

Always Dreaming was the first to throw in the towel, surrendering the lead to Classic Empire midway around the final turn.

“We didn’t have an excuse,” said Todd Pletcher, who trains Always Dreaming. “We were in a position we expected to be, and I think the turnaround was a little too quick. He ran so hard in the Derby and today just wasn’t his day.”

Always Dreaming lost for the first time in five races this year. He’d won his first four by a combined 23¹/₄ lengths.

Classic Empire and Julien Leproux went into the stretch with three-length lead, seemingly on his way to the winner’s circle.

At that point, trainer Mark Casse thought he was headed there, too.

“Of course,” he said. “But I thought I was going to win a lot of times before, so it doesn’t shock me.”

But Classic Empire also paid a price for putting away Always Dreaming. Classic Empire fought on to the finish line, but couldn’t hold off a fresh horse in Cloud Computing.

“Certainly I’m not going to dis-

pute the fact that I brought in a fresh horse as part of our strategy,” Brown said. “Our horse is very talented, too. Classic Empire and Always Dreaming are two outstanding horses, and our strategy was, if we are ever going to beat them let’s take them on two weeks’ rest when we have six (weeks), and it worked.”

After Cloud Computing ran third in the Wood Memorial, Brown and the owners decided the colt would benefit from skipping the Derby. He came into the Preakness after a six-week break.

“It just didn’t work out in the Wood. We just ran out of time,” Brown said. “We just really zeroed in on this race, and thankfully it worked out.”

The victory was especially sweet for Klarman, who grew up a few blocks from Pimlico. He turns 60 on Sunday. He and William Lawrence have been buying and racing horses together since 2006.

“This is the culmination of 25 years of hard work and learning and trying to figure this game out,” said Klarman, president of the Baupost Group, a hedge fund valued at \$31 billion.

“In my regular life, I’m a long-term value investor. This is gambling. It’s really been a thrill and this is the highlight of our career so far as thoroughbred owners.”

Klarman, who races as Klaravich Stables, is a minority owner of the Boston Red Sox.

Lookin At Lee, the Derby runner-up, was fourth. Gunnevera was fifth, followed by Multiplier and Conquest Mo Money. Hence was ninth and Term of Art last.