

In the news

Serena, Djokovic No. 1s for U.S. Open

Serena Williams is the No. 1-seeded woman for the U.S. Open after barely holding on to the top spot in the rankings, and **Novak Djokovic** is No. 1 among the men. Neither Williams nor Djokovic has played since early exits at the Rio Olympics. Williams later said she was dealing with a right shoulder problem; Djokovic said his left wrist was sore.

Williams could have been overtaken atop the WTA rankings by No. 2 **Angelique Kerber** but stayed at No. 1 this week. The U.S. Tennis Association adhered to the men's and women's rankings in announcing the seedings Tuesday.

This is the fifth time Williams is the top seed at Flushing Meadows; she has won the tournament six times. Last year, she was upset in the semifinals by **Roberta Vinci**, stopping Williams' bid for a calendar-year Grand Slam.

Garbine Muguruza is seeded No. 3, and **Agnieszka Radwanska** is No. 4.

Djokovic, the defending champion, is followed by No. 2 **Andy Murray**, No. 3 **Stan Wawrinka** and No. 4 **Rafael Nadal**.

The draw for the year's last major tennis tournament is Friday. Play begins Monday.

Notre Dame football player charged

A Notre Dame cornerback taken into custody after allegedly punching a police officer and slamming the officer to the ground has been formally charged with felony counts of resisting law enforcement and battery against a public safety official.

The St. Joseph County (Indiana) prosecutor's office on Tuesday charged cornerback **Devin Butler**. Coach **Brian Kelly** announced Sunday that Butler had been suspended indefinitely from the team. He remains enrolled at the university.

Butler couldn't be reached for comment.

Police said in an earlier probable-cause affidavit that officers used a stun gun early Saturday to subdue Butler in an altercation outside a bar near campus.

Hamilton on unconditional release waivers

The Texas Rangers placed **Josh Hamilton** on unconditional release waivers Tuesday, though they hope his surgically rebuilt left knee is healthy enough to allow him to try for a spot with the team next season.

Texas activated Hamilton off the 60-day disabled list and put him on waivers, a move that was expected. The 35-year-old outfielder had surgery June 8 to reconstruct his ACL and repair cartilage damage. He's hoping to be ready for spring training.

It was Hamilton's third operation on the knee since September.

"We plan to monitor Josh's progress as he continues his rehab process and is medically cleared this winter," General Manager **Jon Daniels** said. "Given the (contract) rules in place, releasing him before the end of this month allows us to keep the door open to extending the relationship in the future."

Hamilton opened this season on the DL recovering from knee surgery. During his first game of a rehab assignment, he felt discomfort in the knee and underwent surgery in June to rebuild the knee.

MLB announces postseason schedule

Major League Baseball on Tuesday announced its postseason schedule, with the World Series beginning Oct. 25 at the American League ballpark.

National League home dates for the World Series, Games 3, 4 and 5 (if necessary), are scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 28, 29 and 30.

If the Series continues, Games 6 and 7 will be played Nov. 1 and 2 at the AL park.

The playoffs begin Oct. 4 with the AL wild-card game, followed by the NL game a day later. The two AL Division Series begin Oct. 6, followed by the NL Division Series on Oct. 7. The ALCS starts Oct. 14, the NLCS on Oct. 15.

COLLEGES

■ South Carolina's athletic department on Tuesday reported 23 violations of NCAA or SEC rules in the past year, nine involving the football team. All but one of the infractions were classified as Level III and outlined by the NCAA as violations isolated or limited in nature; that provide no more than a minimal recruiting, competitive or other advantage; and do not include more than a minimal impermissible benefit. South Carolina released its infractions report after an open records request by The Associated Press. The time period is from August 2015 through July.

■ **Shawn Forrest** has been hired as an assistant basketball coach at SMU, Mustangs coach **Tim Jankovich** announced.

TENNIS

■ Top-seeded **Agnieszka Radwanska** breezed past 19-year-old **Jelena Ostapenko** 7-5, 6-1 Tuesday night in the second round of the Connecticut Open at New Haven. The fourth-ranked player in the world trailed 4-5 and faced a set point before taking control. Olympic doubles champions **Ekaterina Makarova** and **Elena Vesnina** of Russia became the first players to advance to the third round of the singles competition, and Belgian **Kirsten Flipkens** beat **Belinda Bencic** of Switzerland 6-1, 4-6, 7-5.

YOUTH BASEBALL

■ **Zach McWilliams** allowed four hits and one earned run over 4½ innings, **Tyler Jones** hit a go-ahead home run in the seventh inning and Goodlettsville, Tennessee, beat Chula Vista, California, 4-2 on Tuesday night in an elimination game of the Little League World Series at South Williamsport, Pennsylvania. On the second pitch of the seventh, Jones hit a solo homer over the left-center wall to put Tennessee ahead 3-2. **Brock Duffer** had a one-out, bases-loaded single to score McWilliams, but **Ethan Jackson** was thrown out at the plate to retire the side.

■ In other elimination games: **Kaiden Dinh** hit a walk-off single and Johnston, Iowa, rallied past Warwick, Rhode Island, 3-2; Victor Juarez and three relievers combined to allow one hit and no earned runs and Mexico beat Canada 7-1; and **Clayton Campbell** pitched a complete game and struck out 14 to help Australia beat Curacao 2-1.

From Our Press Services

On the air

TELEVISION

Baseball: Cleveland at Oakland, MLB Network, 2:30 p.m.
Baseball: N.Y. Mets at St. Louis, FSTN, 7 p.m.
Baseball: Atlanta at Arizona, FSSE, 8:30 p.m.
Baseball: San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers, ESPN, 9 p.m.
Soccer: UEFA Champions League, Red Bull Salzburg vs. Dinamo Zagreb, FSTN, 1:30 p.m.
Soccer: UEFA Champions League, Manchester City vs. Steaua Bucuresti, FS1, 1:30 p.m.
Soccer: UEFA Champions League, FC Rostov vs. Ajax, FS2, 1:30 p.m.

RADIO

Baseball: PCL, Nashville at Redbirds, WHBQ-AM 560, 6:10 p.m.
Baseball: N.Y. Mets at St. Louis, WMC-AM 790, 6:20 p.m.

This listing is compiled using information supplied by stations and networks, and is subject to late changes without notice.

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NIKKI BOERTMAN/THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL FILES

Goalkeeper Kaylee Hammer will anchor the back line for Houston High, the top-ranked team in The CA's girls Elite Eight.

Preps: Elite Eight girls soccer

1. HOUSTON

Last year: 22-0 (won AAA state championship)
The scoop: David Wolff's Mustangs are the team to beat again, despite losing some very good players. Houston is 65-1-3 over the last three years and — not coincidentally — they've had Paola Ellis (24 goals, 12 assists) for that stretch. Twins Jaden and Jillian Hildreth are back for their senior seasons along with USA Today preseason All-America Katrina Ostrom and goalkeeper Kaylee Hammer, who will anchor the back line. Look for Callie Strini and Adryan Darnell to shine in bigger roles.

2. COLLIERVILLE

Last year: 15-5-1 (lost in AAA semifinals)
The scoop: A very good team that lost twice to Houston last season. Junior Kami McGee is one of the area's best attacking options and classmate Kate Johnson has played very well early in the season. Elizabeth Chesek brings plenty of experience, as does Lauren Lannon in defense. Well-coached by

Brittany Streger, the Dragons would be title favorites in a lot of states.

3. ECS

Last year: 18-3 (won Division 2-A state championship)
The scoop: Molly Martin will contend for player of the year honors after scoring 25 goals and assisting on 20 from her attacking midfield spot. Forward Maddi Stolnicki also scored 25 times in 2015 and is a returning all-metro performer along with midfielder Jordan Ricketts and center backs Graham Sippel and Catelyn Somogyi.

4. BRIARCREST

Last year: 18-2-1 (won Division 2-AA state championship)
The scoop: You could easily flip-flop the Saints with ECS even though two-time Pepsi BOP player of the year Alyssa Neuberger and her 101 career goals are gone, along with BOP finalist Brittany Hatmaker. Alexis Heinz's team isn't going anywhere; Kaitlin Echols, Ashton Pugh, Sarina Diebenow, Peyton Moore and goalkeeper Marianne Agee form a very good defense and midfielders Julia Perrusquia

and Taegan Allen will likely increase their scoring. The return of Kylee Bright from injury is a huge plus.

5. ARLINGTON

Last year: 14-5 (lost in AAA sectional)
The scoop: Look for the Tigers to come back strong after a heartbreaking late loss to Collierville in sectional play. Ashton Shields could well be the state's best 'keeper and all-metro choice Erin Yonak and Erin Young are talented defenders. Hope Haynes been in good scoring form in 2016.

6. ST. AGNES

Last year: 6-7-2 (lost in D2-AA quarterfinals)
The scoop: Look for Bobby Ireland's Stars to bounce back after a rare losing season. Veterans Alexis Seward and Rachel Siano form an excellent midfield combo while fellow seniors Hannah Scruggs and Ellie Nobert will also be starting for the third season in defense. Lauren Capocaccia is also an excellent defender and there are high hopes for freshmen Molly Uebelacker, Michelle Forsdick and Rachel Calderoni.

7. ST. GEORGE'S

Last year: 9-8-4 (lost in D2-AA semifinals)
The scoop: Tony Whicker always does a fine job with his girls and St. George's will be right in the mix once again, despite graduating some impact players. Forwards Isabel Correia and Sydney Brown will score plenty; classmate Avery Whitehead anchors the defense.

8. BARTLETT

Last year: 10-11-2 (lost to Houston in AAA sectional)
The scoop: Another team that will be in the hunt despite some significant personnel losses. Sydney Black, Carly Brown, Carly Fallin, Jade Hills and Katie Pennington are solid veterans.

OTHERS TO WATCH

FACS (a program on the rise led by all-metro returnees Abby Blackford and Emmy Coleman); **Harding** (Patrick Kabono's Lions are off to a fine start behind Sarah Luttrell, Molly Warren and Caitlin Crouse); **White Station** (all-metro twins Grace and Caroline Duncan power the Spartans).

NFL

Brady's 'silly accident' results in cut thumb, but QB ready to play

From Our Press Services

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Tom Brady is ready to play after cutting his right thumb with scissors in a "silly accident" before the Patriots' preseason game against the Bears last week.

Brady said Tuesday he missed the first two practices this week for personal reasons, but that he's available and ready to play when New England visits Carolina on Friday.

The 39-year-old quarterback has yet to appear in a game this pre-season. He has two more exhibition games before the start of an NFL-issued four-game regular-season suspension for his role in "Deflategate."

He hasn't missed a regular-season start since 2008, when he tore the ACL in his left knee during the season opener.

Brady said the accident with the scissors occurred when he was trying to get something out of his cleats. The scissors slipped and cut his thumb, causing him to "let out probably a pretty loud word I wouldn't repeat in front of my kids."

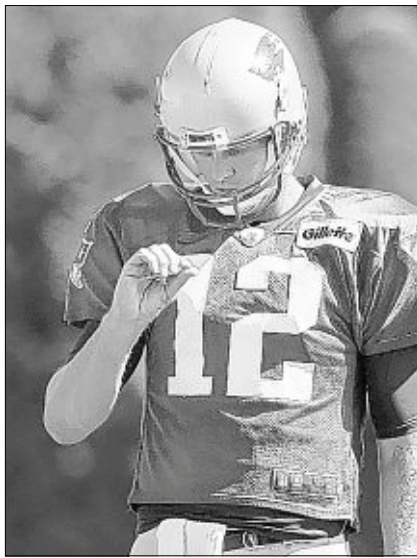
"I'm glad it wasn't the regular season and I learned from it, so hopefully won't be operating any more scissors for a while," Brady said.

Brady said he wanted to play against Chicago, but coach Bill Belichick made the decision he'd sit out. It was a decision the former MVP agreed with.

"It took a few days (to heal)," Brady said. "I wanted to go, and coach said it's probably best if you — for what I was going to go out and do — just take it easy. So that's what I ended up doing. I wish I could have played. I've been missing playing. I want to get out there with my teammates."

Belichick has said previously that Jimmy Garoppolo will start while Brady's out, with Brady returning to the starting role once his suspension ends before New England's game at Cleveland on Oct. 9.

Asked if he expected to play Brady this week after being out the first two



STEVEN SENNE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Patriots quarterback Tom Brady checks his hand during practice Tuesday in Foxborough, Mass. Brady says he's ready to play after he cut his right thumb with a pair of scissors in a "silly accident."

preseason games, Belichick said the priority remains getting Garoppolo ready.

"All three quarterbacks are extremely important. Jimmy's preparation for the Arizona opener is the most important," Belichick said. "Nothing's changed, and nothing's gonna change. That's the way it's gonna be."

Brady is eligible to participate in all preseason games and practices, but can't have contact with the team during his suspension.

DEVELOPMENTS

Broncos QB sore: Denver quarterback Trevor Siemian didn't throw at practice Tuesday because of a sore right shoulder.

Denver coach Gary Kubiak said Siemian is day to day but is still expected to start Saturday's preseason game against the Los Angeles Rams.

Siemian hurt his shoulder trying to tackle San Francisco's Ed Reid on an interception in Saturday's 31-24

preseason loss to the 49ers.

"I expect him to be there but it's going to be a day-to-day process," said Kubiak, who classified Siemian's injury as a bruise. "He's not used to tackling."

Siemian took part in some drills early and handed the ball off in a scrimmage, but he stood by while Mark Sanchez and former University of Memphis star Paxton Lynch ran passing plays.

Lynch, the 26th overall draft pick, got a bulk of the reps, working with the first team and also running the scout team. He was intercepted by cornerback Chris Harris Jr. and safety Darian Stewart on passes to the flat.

"The kid's out here running the Rams' offense, the Broncos' offense. It's very, very difficult," Kubiak said. "That's what gives you a chance to get better. You've got to wear a lot of hats being a young player on a team. You've got to come here on a given day and do a lot of things."

Cowboys' Bryant out after concussion: Dallas Cowboys receiver Dez Bryant will miss the next preseason game after suffering a concussion in practice.

Coach Jason Garrett said Tuesday that Bryant was hurt a day earlier when the receiver's head hit the shoulder pads of safety Barry Church. Garrett said Bryant was held out of the rest of that practice and will not play Thursday night at Seattle.

On his Twitter account Tuesday, the 27-year-old Bryant promised Cowboys fans that he is OK.

Garrett said Bryant seemed "much better" Tuesday, and the coach doesn't think there is a long-term concern.

The injury means Bryant is probably finished for the preseason because most if not all the starters will sit out the finale at home against Houston on Sept. 1. The season opener is Sept. 11 at home against the New York Giants.

REDBIRDS from IC

that most of those guys have spent time in the big leagues makes that worth even more. I try to play the game hard. ... I've also tried to focus this year on hitting with runners in scoring position ... to capitalize when I work to a good count."

Sherriff, a 26-year-old

former 22nd-round pick out of West Los Angeles Community College, was working out back home at the center run by famed coach Tom House when friend Joe Haumacher suggested he throw sidearm.

"I needed something new, and when Joe suggested that, it felt good and I kept rolling with it," said Sherriff, 6-1 with two saves and a .92 ERA. "Everything moved a lot more

and my velocity went up."

Shildt said, "This is a guy with a heavy sinker and a change-up and slider that can get lefties and righties out. He can give you a tough inning or two every time out. A real stabilizer with all the churn we've had in our bullpen, and a joy to have around."

CUBS 3, REDBIRDS 2

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Iowa Cubs scored the win-

ning run on a throwing error in the eighth by Redbirds pitcher Corey Littrell to win the final game of the four-game series. The Redbirds have lost six of their last eight games.

Memphis' Breyvic Valera went 2 for 2, reached base four times and scored a run. Efen Navarro singled to right field to score Matt Williams and Valera to give Memphis a 2-1 lead in the top of the fifth.