

BRIEFLY

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Vols blanked by Ole Miss

Tennessee lost 8-0 decision to Mississippi at Lindsey Nelson Stadium on Sunday. The Volunteers (18-6, 2-4 SEC) managed just five hits as Austin Wright pitcher eight scoreless innings to lead the Rebels (18-7, 3-3) to their sixth shutout in the last 11 games.

The Vols managed just five hits, all singles, as they were held without an extra-base hit for the second straight day and just third time all season. The shutout is the first since UT was blanked at Auburn on May 15, 2010. Tennessee hosts UNC Asheville Wednesday at 7 p.m.

COLLEGE TENNIS

Lady Buffs win at Wesleyan

The Milligan College women took an important step in their quest for the Appalachian Athletic Conference title with a 5-4 victory at Tennessee Wesleyan on Sunday afternoon in Athens, in a match that was postponed Saturday due to weather.

Tennessee Wesleyan led 2-1 after doubles. JoLynne Heidt and Jessie Rose Remegl recorded the lone doubles victory for Milligan. In singles, Milligan's Albany Kelly defeated Megan Whaley 7-5, 7-6 (11-9). Caitlin Conley defeated Zola Euhkbat 6-1, 6-0. Hallie Winfrey beat Allie Smith by the same score and Heidt won 6-0, 6-0 over Spencer Creekmore.

"I am proud of how we fought back after a slow start to take the victory," Milligan coach Ryan Reynolds said. "Tennessee Wesleyan is a really strong program, and this is a huge win for us."

The Milligan men fell 9-0 in their matchup with the Bulldogs.

"This was the best NAIA team that our guys will see all year," Reynolds said. "They are so overwhelming from top to bottom."

The Lady Buffs improved to 7-3 overall and 1-0 in the AAC. The men are 3-6, 0-1.

Milligan visits Bluefield College Thursday at 3 p.m.

PROFESSIONAL TENNIS

Fish advances in Sony Ericsson

Mardy Fish might leave Key Biscayne as the top-ranked American in men's tennis, a prospect that leaves him unconvinced.

"I wouldn't be the No. 1 American really," said Fish, who beat No. 17 seed Richard Gasquet 6-4, 6-3 in the third round of the Sony Ericsson Open on Sunday.

Fish is ranked a career-best 15th, and if he wins two more rounds he'll overtake long-time friend Andy Roddick in the next rankings. Roddick lost his opening match Saturday and is expected to drop from eighth to about 15th, the lowest he has been ranked since 2002.

Roddick is a five-time Grand Slam finalist who won the 2003 U.S. Open and finished that year ranked No. 1. Fish's record in major events is barely above .500, and he has made the top 20 in the year-end rankings only twice.

But at 29, Fish is in the best condition of his career. That showed against Gasquet in the midday sun on an 87-degree afternoon.

Also advancing was No. 30-seeded John Isner, who won an all-American matchup against qualifier Alex Bogomolov Jr., 6-2, 7-6 (4). Bogomolov upset Roddick in the second round, giving Isner a less daunting path to the quarterfinals.

Clijsters records 500th win

Kim Clijsters earned her 500th career victory by beating Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3 in the Sony Ericsson Open on Sunday in Key Biscayne, Fla.

The second-seeded Clijsters, who won the tournament in 2005 and 2010, advanced to the fourth round despite 10 double-faults and 39 unforced errors. She next plays No. 19 Ana Ivanovic, who won when Virginia Razzano retired trailing 2-6, 6-2, 3-0.

Reigning French Open champion Francesca Schiavone, seeded fifth, edged Lourdes Dominguez Lino 6-4, 7-6 (2). No. 9 Agnieszka Radwanska beat No. 24 Maria Kirilenko 7-6 (2), 6-3.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Silva released by Cubs

Carlos Silva has been released by the Chicago Cubs, one day after they told the veteran pitcher he would not make the opening-day roster.

The move Sunday leaves the Cubs on the hook for Silva's \$11.5 million salary this season. The 31-year-old right-hander made it clear Saturday he would not accept a minor league assignment.

The Cubs informed Silva on Saturday that he would not break camp with the club. They said they would try to trade him but if they couldn't, they hoped he would go to the minor leagues.

Silva, however, said "no chance" to a Triple-A assignment and then criticized first-year pitching coach Mark Riggins for not "being straight" with him about the team's plans.

AUTO RACING

Franchitti wins Indy opener

Two-time defending series champion Dario Franchitti has won IndyCar's season opener in St. Petersburg, Fla., showing he's once again the one to beat in open-wheel racing.

Franchitti took the lead early on Sunday and was hardly challenged in the Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg. The Scottish driver was nearly perfect for 100 laps on the scenic, 1.8-mile street course, beating pole-sitter Will Power to the finish line by more than seven seconds.

Tony Kanaan, the 2004 series champion who joined his new team Monday, held off Simona de Silvestro over the final few laps for third. De Silvestro enjoyed her best finish in 18 career starts.

Danica Patrick was 11th, a disappointing start to her seventh IndyCar season.

From staff and AP reports