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BRIEFLY

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Bufs fall in AAC opener

In a matchup of the two of the league's top pitchers, Union College's Paton Catalano prevailed against Milligan College's Sidney Burns.

Catalano outdueled Burns to give the sixth-seeded Lady Bulldogs a 1-0 win in Monday's opening round of the Appalachian Athletic Conference tournament at Donlar Park in Kingsport.

Catalano, who also was named the AAC player of the year on Monday, limited third-seeded Milligan to two hits and struck out six batters over seven innings. Union scored its run after Whitney Cochran reached on an error and crossed the plate on a single by Abby Sears.

Burns, along with Emily Biggs and Krista Lambdin, made the All-AAC first team. Burns also struck out six in the complete-game effort. Alicia Eagle and Biggs had Milligan's only hits.

The Bufs will play No. 7 Bryan College in an elimination game today at 1 p.m. The Bulldogs face No. 2 Montreat at 5 p.m.

In other games Monday in the AAC tournament, Tennessee Wesleyan defeated Virginia Intermont 3-1, Reinhardt beat Bluefield 8-0 and Montreat defeated Bryan 3-0.

Reinhardt, the league's regular-season champs, had five players named to the All-AAC team, led by pitcher of the year Maddie Monroe. Reinhardt's Glen Crawford was the coach of the year.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

ETSU pounds ECU, 18-7

Six starters had three hits apiece and Matthew Scruggs was a triple short of the cycle as East Tennessee State's baseball team cruised to an 18-7 victory against Eastern Kentucky on Tuesday at Turkey Hughes Field in Richmond, Ky.

Scruggs went 3-for-3 at the plate, driving in four runs and scoring three himself. ETSU, which had a season-high 23 hits in the game, scored six runs on nine hits in the first inning. Paul Hollman and Dylan Pratt each had a two-run homer in the inning.

The Bucs tacked on five more in the second with a two-run single by Kerry Doane and a three-run homer by Scruggs.

ETSU freshman Clinton Freeman came on in relief in the fourth and held the Colonels scoreless the rest of the way. Freeman picked up his second win of the year in his longest outing so far, striking out four and scattering five hits of 5½ innings. The Colonels scored five runs in the third and two in the fourth.

The Bucs added five more runs in the eighth on a sacrifice fly by Scruggs, and hits by Derek Niesman, Bo Reeder and Hollman. Doane and Hollman each had three RBIs, while Derek Trent and Pratt each scored three runs.

ETSU (24-15, 12-10 Atlantic Sun) closes out the mid-week series with the Colonels today at 2 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE GOLF

ETSU's Muehl earns at-large bid

East Tennessee State senior golf Nina Muehl received an at-large bid to compete in the NCAA Central Regional.

Last season Muehl finished fourth in the East Regional and advanced to the NCAA National Championship. She posted the lowest single-round score in the nation, carding an 8-under 64 to set a school record.

"I'm so excited to get another chance to represent ETSU at regional," Muehl said. "We were really close again this year to winning conference and making it as a team, which would have been a great way to finish my college career. However, I'm looking forward to playing because I really want to have a strong finish and represent the Bucs well."

Muehl has a team-best stroke average of 74.7 and three top-five finishes this season. The NCAA Central Regional will be played May 5-7 at Notre Dame's Warren Golf Course.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Former Topper Anderson honored

Former Science Hill baseball player Lucas Anderson, now a junior pitcher at Austin Peay, was named the school's scholar-athlete of the year during the school's annual athletics banquet on Monday night.

Anderson, who was also named the baseball team's scholar-athlete, made 10 relief appearances this season for the Governors and holds a 7.88 ERA. The political science major also holds a 3.712 GPA.

GOLF

Jones makes hole-in-one

David Jones scored his first career hole-in-one on Tuesday at Tri-Cities Golf Club. Jones used a sand wedge to ace the 135-yard No. 2. Brent Tester, Justin Pasquale and Elijah Bethany witnessed the shot.

— from staff & AP reports