

TV LISTINGS

Thursday, June 25

GOLF

6:30 a.m. — European PGA Tour, BMW International Open, first round, at Munich, Germany (TGC)

Noon — PGA Tour, Travelers Championship, first round, at Cromwell, Conn. (TGC)

3:30 p.m. — Nationwide Tour, Players Cup, first round, at Bridgeport, W.Va. (TGC)

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

10 a.m. — Chicago Cubs at Detroit (WGN)

MAJOR LEAGUE LACROSSE

4 p.m. — Toronto at Boston (ESPN2)

6:30 p.m. — Texas at Arizona (FSN)

NBA BASKETBALL

4:30 p.m. — Draft, at New York (ESPN)

SOCCER

11:25 a.m. — FIFA, Confederations Cup, semifinal, teams TBA, at Johannesburg, South Africa (ESPN)

TENNIS

4 a.m. — Wimbledon Championships, early round, at London (ESPN2)

Schedule subject to change and/or blackout.

INSIDE TODAY



SOCCER

U.S. upsets Spain to reach finals

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MLB

Interleague play continues

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QUICK READ

Havasu Half is eco-friendly

The Havasu Half Marathon has gone green.

In an email to runners and media, marathon officials said Active.com has certified the run as a Green Event.

"To be a green event, we needed to adhere to several guidelines, one of which is online registration only to save paper waste," wrote race director Karen Opperud. "There will be a shoe drive on site at the race venue to turn in your old, worn running shoes to be recycled. And by using cyclist(s) as our race course monitors instead of cars, we're already ahead of the game by minimizing our carbon footprint on the planet."

To stay green, Opperud said there would be no mail-in registrations for the April 10, 2010 Havasu Half Marathon.

Online registration is at <http://www.havasuhalf.com>.

Report: Suns trade Shaq to Cavaliers

PHOENIX (AP) — The Phoenix Suns have traded Shaquille O'Neal to the Cleveland Cavaliers for Ben Wallace, Sasha Pavlovic, a second-round draft pick and cash, according to a Yahoo! Sports report.

The deal, one day before the NBA draft, had been rumored for months.

The 37-year-old O'Neal had one year left on his contract with the Suns.

The Suns acquired O'Neal from Miami in February 2008. He averaged 17.8 points and 8.4 rebounds per game last season and appeared in his 15th All-Star game.

The Suns failed to make the playoffs this year, even with a 46-36 record.

PREP FOOTBALL

Numbers up at off-season workouts

By DAVID BELL
TODAY'S NEWS-HERALD

Fighting Knights head football coach Karl Thompson is happy with the commitment his players are showing this off-season.

Between 95 and 115 players are showing up to take part in the voluntary 7-on-7 touch football scrimmages at Lee Barnes Stadium each Wednesday and that same number is making it into the weight room three times each week.

"I'm really pleased," Thompson said Wednesday. "They're all learning the system and we're making the mental mistakes now instead of during the season. If we can start the season knowing the system and in shape, we'll be ahead."

In addition to the new 7-on-7 program, the coaching staff has designated a 2009 Havasu Football Leadership Committee; 13 seniors and juniors whose jobs it is to run drills, get players in the right places, provide mentoring for younger players learning the system and maintain discipline on and off the field.

"We've got a lot of hard working kids out here that want to learn," said senior running back Blake Garcia. "I tell the young guys if they do the work, if they hit the weight room, if they come out to all the 7-on-7 games, they will play. The coaches want to see the effort and the mental toughness. It's all about what we do on the field and how hard we work."

Every bit of work the players put in now will pay off in short order. School starts Aug. 3 and the



Max Delia, with the ball, uses a Brandon O'Tool block on Mitch Wagner to get some extra yardage during 7-on-7 touch football scrimmage at Lee Barnes Stadium Wednesday. The Lake Havasu High School Fighting Knights are using the off-season voluntary program to help players understand the system and get in shape for the 2009 season.

Knights have scheduled a scrimmage with River Valley Aug. 21 and the season opener at home game against Yuma Aug. 28.

Although Yuma is in Havasu's new region — the 5A-II Gila Valley Region with Yuma Cibola, Yuma Gila Ridge, Yuma Kofa and San Luis — the game will not count in the region standings. The region contest will be held in Yuma Oct. 2. The Knight will be at Kofa Oct. 16 and play host to San Luis Oct. 9, Cibola Oct. 23 (homecoming) and Gila Ridge Oct. 30.

"We faced some of the Yuma teams at a 7-on-7 tourney at NAU last weekend. I think we stack up

pretty well against them," Garcia said.

The Knights will also play Kingman twice this year — away Sept. 4 and at home for the regular season finale Nov. 6 — as well as in Bullhead City Mohave for the Golden Shovel Sept. 25. The other non-region game is at Avondale La Joya Sept. 11.

"We say that character counts and that's what these kids are showing us here," Thompson said.

Online at <http://www.havasufootball.com>.

You may contact the reporter at dbell@havasunews.com.



Blake Garcia, left, celebrates a touchdown with a teammate Wednesday.

MLB



Rick Scuteri/AP Photo

Texas Rangers Ian Kinsler, right, steals second base in front of Arizona Diamondbacks shortstop Stephen Drew in the second inning Wednesday in Phoenix. Texas won 2-1.

Padilla tough to beat

By ANDREW BAGNATO
AP SPORTS WRITER

PHOENIX — Vicente Padilla pitched seven sharp innings, Taylor Teagarden and David Murphy drove in a run each and the Texas Rangers defeated the Arizona Diamondbacks 2-1 on Wednesday night to snap a five-game losing streak.

The Rangers entered tied for first in the AL West with the Los Angeles Angels, and were in danger of dropping out of first place for the first time since May 5.

Padilla (6-3) allowed one run and six hits, walked two and struck out three. Padilla, who broke in with Arizona in 1999, has won five of his last six decisions.

Chris Wilson pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his seventh save in eight chances.

Arizona's Dan Haren (6-5) allowed two runs in seven innings but lost for the first time since May 12, a span of seven starts. He entered with a league-leading 2.23 ERA, and was riding a personal three-game win streak.

Haren had a 116-pitch outing, retiring the last 11 batters he faced. Haren gave up four hits, walked one and struck out eight.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

5-run 6th inning propels LSU to national title



Ted Kirk/AP Photo

LSU's Jared Mitchell watches his three-run home run against Texas in the first inning of the deciding game of the NCAA College World Series baseball finals, in Omaha, Neb., Wednesday. At left is Texas catcher Cameron Rupp. LSU won 11-4.

By ERIC OLSON
AP SPORTS WRITER

OMAHA, Neb. — LSU, which two years ago wasn't good enough to qualify for its conference tournament, is the best team in college baseball again.

The Tigers won their sixth national title Wednesday night, breaking open Game 3 of the College World Series finals with a five-run sixth inning that carried them to an 11-4 victory over Texas.

Jared Mitchell hit a three-run homer in the first inning as LSU (56-17) built a 4-0 lead. Texas (50-16-1) pulled even, but Mikie Mahtook's tie-breaking double ignited the Tigers' big sixth against the mistake-prone Longhorns.

"It's everybody pulling together, a sense of urgency we had, and we began to play our best ball at the end of the year," said Mitchell,

voted the CWS Most Outstanding Player.

Mitchell added to the title he earned as a wide receiver on the 2007 LSU team that won the BCS championship. Earlier this month, he was drafted by the Chicago White Sox in the first round.

It was the first national title for coach Paul Mainieri, who played his freshman year at LSU in 1976 and returned to the school after coaching stops at St. Thomas (Fla.), Air Force and Notre Dame.

"I've had wonderful kids everywhere I've been," Mainieri said. "They're all feeling a part of this. I'm so happy for these kids. They've done everything I've asked."

"They played great. They played great defense. Our pitching has been solid all year. When we got to the end of the season everyone was determined they would get it done."

TENNIS

Sharapova upset at Wimbledon

By STEVEN WINE
AP SPORTS WRITER

WIMBLEDON, England — In the final game, a desperate Maria Sharapova lunged to hit one shot left-handed, and twice challenged calls but lost. Then she lost the match as well.

Sharapova won seven consecutive games during one stretch but let a late lead slip away Wednesday and was beaten by Gisela Dulko, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4 in the second round at Wimbledon.

In a wild, 14-point final game, Sharapova saved four match points. But on the fifth she pushed an easy forehand long, and she was out of the tournament after two rounds for the second year in a row.

The 2004 champion was playing in her fourth event since rejoining the tour last month following shoulder surgery in October. She's ranked 60th but was seeded 24th because of past success at the All England Club.

"This is not an overnight process," Sharapova said. "It's going to take time, as much time as I need on the court, to get everything together. ... Just being here is a wonderful accomplishment."

Sharapova played on sun-splashed Centre Court with the new roof again open — although it was closed slightly for the second day in a row to provide shade for the Royal Box.

Roger Federer and Serena Williams advanced with little trouble.



Owen Humphreys/AP Photo

Russia's Maria Sharapova returns to Argentina's Gisela Dulko during their women's singles, second round match on the Centre Court at Wimbledon, Wednesday. Dulko won 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.