

SPORTSNEWS

RUNNING  
Coolsaet turns in fast run in meet in California

PALO ALTO, CALIF. Reid Coolsaet of Guelph's Speed River Track and Field Club ran the fourth-fastest 10,000 metres time ever by a Canadian with a clocking of 27:56.92 at the Payton Jordan Invitational in Palo Alto, Calif.

Coolsaet's time qualifies him for this year's world championships in Osaka, Japan, and provisionally qualifies him for next year's Olympic Games in Beijing.

Also at the meet, Speed River teammate Eric Gillis recorded a personal best time of 28:42.23 in the same event. This time ranks Gillis third in Canada and qualifies him for the this year's World University Games.

HORSE RACING  
Final two Sundays of meet at Woodbine cancelled

TORONTO The Ontario Racing Commission has approved Woodbine Entertainment Group's request to cancel standardbred racing tomorrow and next Sunday due to the shortage of standardbred horses racing at Woodbine.

The dates are the final two Sunday cards of Woodbine's current standardbred meet.

The second leg and the final of the Princess Pacing Series for three-year-old fillies will now be held on May 7 and 14, the 14th being the final date of the Woodbine meet.

WEG shifts its standardbred racing to Mohawk Racetrack in Campbellville on May 17.

•Mercury staff

SPORTSTIME

SATURDAY

**Baseball:** Intercounty League, Guelph Royals vs. Kitchener, Hastings Stadium, 2 p.m.

**Field Lacrosse:** Ontario Minor Field Lacrosse League tournament, Margaret Greene Park, 8 a.m.; Guelph Lake Sports Fields, 8 a.m.

SUNDAY

**Baseball:** Intercounty League, Guelph Royals at Kitchener, 2 p.m.

**Lacrosse:** Ontario Junior B, Elora Mohawks vs. St. Catharines, Elora and District Community Centre, 7 p.m.

**Lacrosse:** Ontario Senior B, Wellington Aces at Brooklin, 4 p.m.

**Field Lacrosse:** Ontario Minor Field Lacrosse League tournament, Margaret Greene Park, 8 a.m.; Guelph Lake Sports Fields, 8 a.m.

SPORTSTV

SATURDAY

**Hockey:** NHL Playoffs, San Jose at Detroit (TSN; NBC), 2 p.m.

**Golf:** PGA, Wachovia Championship (Global; CBS), 3 p.m.

**Baseball:** Major Leagues, Seattle at N.Y. Yankees (Fox), 3:30 p.m.

**Horse Racing:** Kentucky Derby (NBC), 4:30 p.m.

**Auto Racing:** NASCAR Nextel Cup, The Jim Stewart 400 (TSN; Fox), 7 p.m.

**Baseball:** Major Leagues, L.A. Dodgers at Atlanta (WTBS), 7 p.m.

**Hockey:** NHL Playoffs, Ottawa at New Jersey (CBC), 8 p.m.

**Baseball:** Major Leagues, Toronto at Texas (Sportsnet Ontario, East, West, Pacific), 8 p.m.

**Motorcycle Racing:** AMA Supercross, Las Vegas (Speed), 10 p.m.

SUNDAY

**Soccer:** Italy, Lazio vs. Livorno (Fox Sports World Canada), 9 a.m.

**Soccer:** Italy, AC Milan vs. Fiorentina (Go!TV; TLN), 9 a.m.

**Soccer:** England, Arsenal vs. Chelsea (Fox Sports World Canada), 11 a.m.

**Soccer:** Germany, Hertha Berlin vs. Werder Bremen (Go!TV), 11 a.m.

**Hockey:** World men's championship, qualification round, Canada vs. Czech Republic (TSN), 12 p.m.

**Horse Racing:** Woodbine (Score), 12 p.m.

**Baseball:** Major Leagues, L.A. Dodgers at Atlanta (WTBS), 1 p.m.

**Soccer:** Spain, Espanyol vs. Atletico de Madrid (Go!TV), 1 p.m.

**Hockey:** NHL Playoffs, Buffalo at N.Y. Rangers (NBC), 2 p.m.

**Baseball:** Major Leagues, Washington at Chicago Cubs (WGN), 2 p.m.

**Hockey:** NHL Playoffs, Buffalo at N.Y. Rangers (TSN), 2:30 p.m.

**Golf:** PGA, Wachovia Championship (Global; CBS), 3 p.m.

**Hockey:** OHL Playoffs, Sudbury at Plymouth (Sportsnet Ontario, East, West, Pacific), 3 p.m.

**Soccer:** Spain, Real Madrid vs. Sevilla (Go!TV), 3 p.m.

**Soccer:** MLS, Chicago at New England (WSBK), 5 p.m.

**Baseball:** Major Leagues, Philadelphia at San Francisco (Sportsnet Ontario, East, West, Pacific), 8 p.m.

*Note: Live events only, broadcasts subject to change.*

SPORTS

Raptors knocked out

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.

Richard Jefferson saved the Nets from another trip to Toronto — and sent them instead to the second round.

Jefferson made the go-ahead basket with 8.3 seconds left, stole a pass on the next possession, and New Jersey beat the Raptors 98-97 last night to win the first-round series 4-2.

After underachieving for most of the season, the Nets put it together down the stretch and now head to Cleveland for Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals tomorrow.

Jason Kidd finished with 18 points, 15 assists and eight rebounds for the Nets, averaging a triple-double for the series. Jefferson scored 24 points and Vince Carter added 21 despite shooting 6-of-19 from the field.

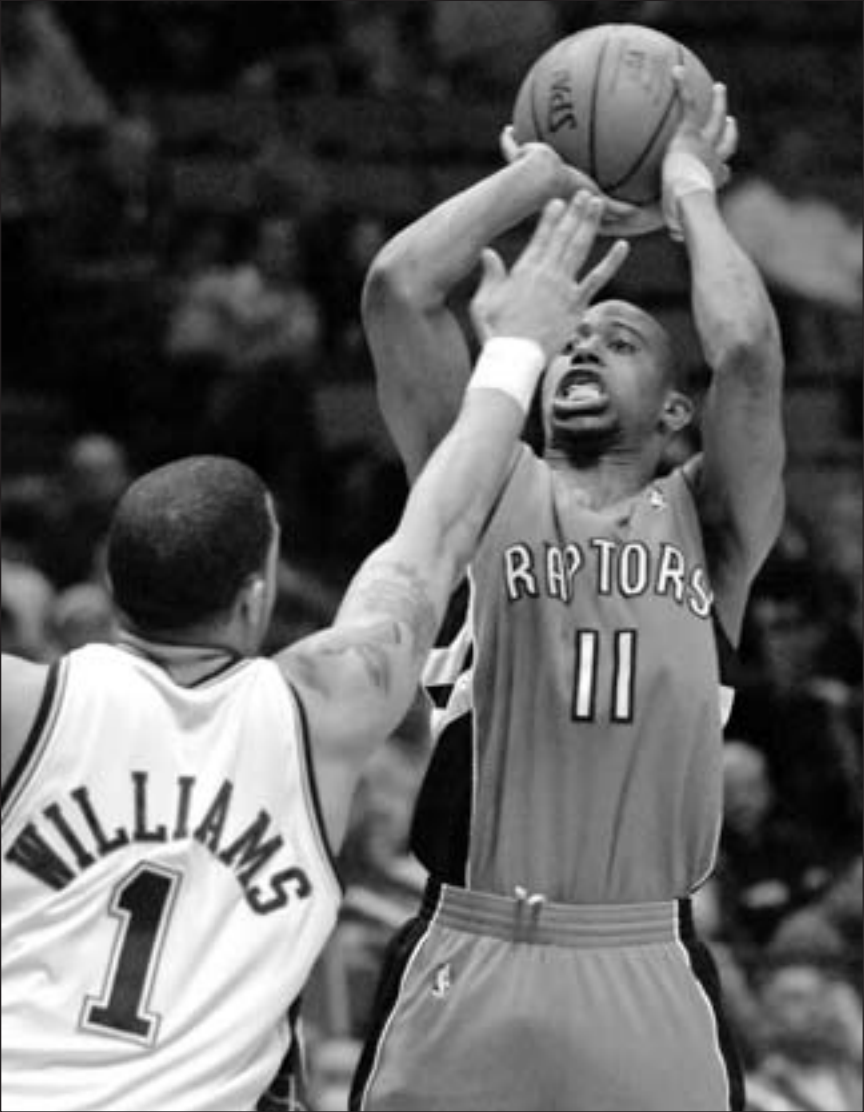
Chris Bosh had 23 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for the Atlantic Division champion Raptors. But Jose Calderon's pass to him was intercepted by Jefferson, sending the Raptors to their ninth straight road post-season loss.

After four dismal games in New Jersey this season, Bosh was terrific this time, scoring 13 points in the fourth quarter. He banked in a jumper with 47 seconds left, giving the Raptors a 97-96 lead.

But after a timeout, Jefferson drove into the lane and rose over Bosh for his layup. The Raptors then tried to find Bosh cutting to the basket, but Jefferson came away with Calderon's pass and put the Nets back into the conference semifinals. They lost to Miami in that round last year.

Toronto got inspired efforts from banged-up point guards T.J. Ford and Calderon, who combined for 33 points. But the best point guard on the floor, as usual, was Kidd, who averaged 14 points, 13.2 assists and 10 rebounds to become the first player to average a triple-double for a series since he did it against Boston in the 2002 Eastern Conference final.

Ford and Calderon both were forced to leave Game 5 with injuries. Calderon, usually the backup, started because Ford hadn't practised since sustaining neck, shoulder and arm injuries in a collision with Carter early in Tuesday's game.



T.J. Ford (11) of the Toronto Raptors shoots over Marcus Williams of the New Jersey Nets during last night's NBA playoff game in East Rutherford, N.J.

Calderon sprained his ankle in the final seconds of that one, but told coach Sam Mitchell he could play after taking part in the morning shootaround.

Mitchell said before the game that the start was important after the Nets dominated the first quarters in Games 3 and 4, which were never close. This time, Toronto shot 50 per cent and limited New Jersey to 37.5 per cent in the first 12 minutes, which ended in a 21-21 tie.

Ford entered late in the first quarter and was 6-of-7 for 13 points in the second,

helping the Raptors take a 46-43 in-to-halftime.

The Nets trailed 65-64 with under three minutes left in the third quarter before Kidd found Jefferson with an alley-oop pass on the break, made a pair of free throws, and set up Jason Collins for a layup and a five-point lead with 1:51 remaining. He assisted on Bostjan Nachbar's three-pointer with 21 seconds to go in the period as New Jersey brought a 75-68 lead to the fourth.

•Associated Press

Sabres slip by Rangers in OT

BUFFALO

The Buffalo Sabres are one win away from reaching the NHL's Eastern Conference final for the second year in a row.

It sure didn't look that way through 59 minutes last night. Maxim Afinogenov, a healthy scratch in Game 4, scored 4:39 into overtime as the Sabres beat the New York Rangers 2-1 in Game 5 of their Eastern Conference semifinal series to lead the best-of-seven showdown three games to two.

The goal came with Buffalo on the power play, the Sabres connecting for the first time on six chances on the night and only their fourth power-play goal in 31 chances for the series.

The Sabres avoided what looked like sure defeat until captain clutch Chris Drury tied it with eight seconds left in the third period, setting up Afinogenov's overtime heroics, the Russian winger powering a blast from the point that beat Henrik Lundqvist through the five-hole.

Afinogenov dove to centre ice in celebration, mobbed by his teammates, a sellout crowd of 18,690 at HSBC Arena going berserk.

Game 6 goes tomorrow afternoon at Madison Square Garden in New York (TSN, 2 p.m. ET) and no doubt Lundqvist and Buffalo's Ryan Miller will once again treat fans to a netminder's duel.

Lundqvist was superb in defeat, stopping 39 of 41 shots. Miller stopped 21 of 22 shots.

Martin Straka had given the Rangers a 1-0 lead with 3:17 to go in the third period when his wrist shot from the left faceoff circle eluded Miller and beat him stick side just under the crossbar. The puck came out so fast a video review was needed to verify the goal, but Straka already knew it, celebrating with his Rangers teammates.

The crowd was stunned, the home team having dominated on the shot clock and in scoring chances, but not on the scoresheet.

But they were on their feet with eight seconds left with Drury tying it when he slipped in a rebound from the side of the net and Miller on the bench for a sixth attacker, setting up overtime in the pivotal game of the series.

•Canadian Press

Kentucky Derby bucking traditions

LOUISVILLE, KY.

It's anybody's Kentucky Derby, where there's no super horse, and superstar trainers Bob Baffert, D. Wayne Lukas and Nick Zito are all absent for the first time since 1980.

The sad saga of last year's winner, Barbaro, looms large over the field of 20 three-year-olds, many of whom are defying tradition by running off long layoffs or after training on artificial surfaces.

Curlin, sired by Canadian-bred Smart Strike, is the 7-2 morning-line favourite for the US\$2 million race, having won all three career starts by a combined 28 1/2 lengths.

"There are expectations, but it comes from you," said Steve Asmussen, who also trains long-shot Zanjero. "Pressure, I would think, is running one who isn't fast enough."

Street Sense, the 4-1 second choice, faces a double jinx at his hometown track. No Breeders' Cup Juvenile winner has returned to Churchill Downs in the spring to wear the blanket of roses in 23 tries; and no two-year-old champion has won since Spectacular Bid did 28 years ago.

And trainer Todd Pletcher is counting on one of his five horses to improve his 0-for-14 Derby record.

Threatened thunderstorms could turn the dirt racing strip into a quagmire. Higs of around 26 C are forecast, along with a 60 per cent chance of rain, possibly as much as a quarter of an inch. At least the race's royal guest will feel at home.

Queen Elizabeth II, who owns racehorses, will stop off to watch her first Derby after a trip to Jamestown, Va., to celebrate the 400th anniversary of America's first permanent English set-



Exercise rider Mark Cutler rides Kentucky Derby hopeful Street Sense during a workout yesterday at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Ky. The 133rd Kentucky Derby will be held today.

tlement and just before a visit to the White House.

The last wet Derby was 2004, when Smarty Jones won. Only seven of the 20 colts here have raced in sloppy conditions — with Hard Spun, Scat Daddy and Teuflesberg notching wins. Storm in May finished second, Street Sense third, Dominican fourth and Imawildandcrazyguy fifth on muddy tracks.

Baffert, Lukas and Zito have won a combined nine Derbys, but none of

their current crop of three-year-olds proved good enough to run 1 1/4 miles on the first Saturday in May.

So they're yielding the spotlight to rising stars Pletcher, Asmussen and Doug O'Neill, along with five first-time Derby trainers and previous winners Carl Nafzger, John Shirreffs and Barclay Tagg. Rookie trainers have won the past four:

•Associated Press

MEETRESULTS  
WEEKLY REPORT

Visitors rule laser regatta

SAILING

GUELPH COMMUNITY BOATING CLUB  
Flat Water Freeze-Out Laser Regatta

Brad Biskaborn of the Fanshawe Yacht Club of London won the regatta with seven points. Sailing is scored on a low point system: one point for first, two for second, etc. The regatta had six races and each competitors threw out their worst finish. Rob Koci of the St. Jamestown Sailing Club of Toronto was second at 11 points and was followed by Harri Palm of the host Guelph Community Boating Club with 16. Austin Milne of the Guelph club had 17 while clubmate Colin May had 23. Jens Biskaborn of the Fanshawe club had 25 while Fanshawe's Kevin Biskaborn had 29. Larry Huibers of St. Catharines had 31 and was followed by Keith Atkinson of Kendal at 43 and five members of the host club — Adrian Dangerfield at 48, Stefan Kremer at 47, Mark Parkinson at 61, Molly Kurvink at 67 and David Morrison at 72.

ADULTLEAGUES

Country Club crowns champs

CURLING

GUELPH COUNTRY CLUB  
The Guelph Country Club held championship games for its various leagues.

**Monday Social**  
The Monday Champions were the rink of Roger McHugh, Tammy Sagan, Marie Harper and Dorothy Schilling.

**Wednesday Competitive**  
Wednesday Evening is the club's most competitive evening with teams being promoted and demoted several times during the season leading to its three-week playoffs.

The A side final was between the Mike Dorey and Barry Marko teams. The final game ended with Dorey as champion. Other members of the rink were vice Brian Henderson, second Adam Yates and lead Ralph Snow.

The B side winners were the Dave Kennedy team with skip Kennedy, vice Dale Houghton, second Bruce Davey and lead Robert Jefferson.

**Thursday Competitive/Social**  
The Thursday league sponsored by Smith Valeriotte LLD featured a well-fought three-week playoff. The Roy McMillan team defeated the Lloyd Kruschenske team in the A side final the Joe Kuzel team defeated the Mark Rodenburg team in the B side final. Other members of McMillan's rink were vice Vera McMillan, second George Cuthbert, lead Wendy Cuthbert and spare Todd Rowell.

REPTEAMS  
WEEKLY REPORT

Tourney silver for Erik's Gators

GATORS SOFTBALL

**MIDGET**  
The Guelph Erik's Cabinets Gators got off to a solid start by winning the silver medal in the annual Pickering Early Bird Tournament. The locals ran off five straight victories before falling 2-1 to Whitby in the final.

The Gators started with a 3-1 victory over Mississauga North. Nicole Hayes pitched the final three innings in support of starter Erika Paulsen to pick up the win. Hayes allowed three hits and fanned five while Paulsen allowed one walk in her stint, striking out seven. Offensively, the Gators scored in the fourth when Julianne Proniuk singled in Haylea Leaman and in the fifth when Theresa Lavery walked and would later score on a Rebecca Stanley fielder's choice. The insurance run in the sixth came on a Steph Foreman double, a Jamieson Merkey sacrifice and a Leaman single to left.

Next up the locals built up an early lead and held off a Halton Hills comeback to win 8-4. Hayes, in relief of Stanley, got another win as she struck out 11 over five innings of work. At the plate, Guelph scored four in the second with key blows being a two-run triple by Stanley and a two-run single by Merkey. Vicky Rumpf singled to lead off and Hayes reached on a bunt. Sara O'Malley singled in one counter while Laura Skiperis hit a sacrifice fly for another. Then, with two out, Emilie Priamo singled to centre for two more runs.

The Gators then jumped all over host Pickering with an eight-run first as they coasted to a 9-2 win. Paulsen got the complete-game win with 12 strikeouts. She allowed five hits. Skiperis drove in Jen Ambroise with the first run while two more runs scored on a Proniuk single. After Lavery drove home Stanley, Merkey hit a three-run double to make it a 7-0 lead. Priamo lined a single for the last run of the first. Proniuk's sacrifice fly in the third plated Stanley with the final run.

In its final round-robin game, Guelph downed Oakville 8-2. Lavery had a double and a triple and drove in two runs while O'Malley had a pair of doubles and scored twice. Ambroise and Skiperis each had a pair of hits. Hayes got the victory with four solid innings in her start. She had five strikeouts. In the semifinals, the Gators surprised Chinguacousy, the defending provincial champs, 4-1 with an impressive performance at the plate and on the mound. O'Malley drilled a long triple to centre to set the tone and Stanley followed with a triple of her own one out later to get Guelph on the board. Skiperis lined a two-out single to centre to make it 2-0. In the third, Leaman singled, was sacrificed to second by Paulsen and scored on another O'Malley hit. In the fourth, Proniuk's long triple to left centre scored Skiperis. Paulsen was untouchable on the mound taking a no-hitter into the seventh before a slicing liner to right just escaped Leaman's reach. Paulsen fanned 10 batters. In the final, the Gators could only manage a single run in the fourth when Ambroise raced home on a Stanley double to left centre. Hayes took her only loss of the tournament, going the first four innings with four strikeouts before Paulsen completed the game by pitching two clean innings. She had three strikeouts. The Gators are to begin Grand Valley league play in Brantford this weekend with a pair of games today and two more tomorrow as they are to face four different opponents.