

Sideline

SPORTS



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MAKING NEWS



CREAMER, INKSTER GIVE AMERICANS SOLHEIM CUP LEAD

Paula Creamer, above, made a 25-footer at No. 18 to give her and Jeff Leiker a victory and the United States a 4½-3½ lead after Friday's first day of the Solheim Cup. The women's version of the Ryder Cup continues today. The Americans need 14 points to retain the cup, the Europeans 14½ to win it. 7C

Back and forth ... back and forth



Julien Berrinetau, left, believed his serve against Andy Murray at the Cincinnati Masters would win him the point. Little did he know. Murray's return began a 53-shot rally that ended when Berrinetau's overhead hit the net tape and landed wide. Murray went on to take the game and 11 of the first 13 games to win 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 and reach today's semi against Roger Federer. "That's probably the longest point I've had since I've been on the tour," said Murray, who turned pro in 2006. "Four legs start burning. I wasn't even thinking. I think he was very tired after that rally, and I managed to stay strong." Said Berrinetau: "I thought (the serve) was a sure winner. I served wide and strong, and he put the ball very high in the sky."

OUT OF BOUNDS

Ham Fighters hit by swine flu

The Nippon Ham Fighters, a Japanese baseball team, will test its players and coaches after two players, former major league outfielder Terumasa Hasegawa and pitcher Naoki Miyayoshi, and coach Junichi Fukuda contracted swine flu. Six other players who exhibited symptoms have been separated from the others. The team plans to play its scheduled games while providing fans with disinfectant at the gate. (Nippon Ham is the company that owns the team; fans call it the Fighters.)

NUMBER OF THE DAY

564 Home runs for the White Sox's Jim Thome, including one Friday against the Orioles that broke a tie for 12th all time with Reggie Jackson. Thome, who turns 39 on Thursday, is five behind Rafael Palmeiro for fifth.

QUOTABLE

"Cuban women should be showing off their beautiful faces, not getting punched in the face."

Pedro Roque, Cuban boxing coach, on why his nation won't field a women's team when the sport debuts at the 2012 Olympics

TONIGHT

vs. Rangers, 7:08, Tropicana Field, St. Petersburg
TV/radio: FSX, 970-AM, 680-AM (Spanish)

Tommy Bahay 2c.com

Secondary woes

The Bucs' secondary has problems, and not just on the field, the St. Petersburg Times' Cory Shelton says. Check out the video at sports.tampabay.com.

Mogul takes peek at Lightning

Anthony Sansone Jr., the principal owner of a major real estate company, looks into joining Len Barrie.

BY DAMIAN CRISTOFERO

Times Staff Writer

Anthony Sansone Jr. would not say when he will decide whether to try to join Len Barrie as an owner of the Lightning.

He also declined to identify the "very substantial" financial investment he would bring with him.

But the St. Louis real estate mogul offered this Friday:

"We're certainly in the advance stages of due diligence. There's a lot that has to be done and a lot that has to be handicapped."

The process can't move fast enough for Barrie, in the midst of a league-mandated 60-day window to buy out co-owner Owen Koules, with whom he has been squabbling.

If Barrie fails by what is thought to be a mid-September deadline, Koules

will get a chance to buy out Barrie. If Koules fails, the team could be put up for sale or returned to former owner Palace Sports & Entertainment, which financed much of OK Hockey's \$200 million purchase.

In other words, things are on a fast track, and Sansone, who spent at least a day this week in Tampa doing due diligence and touring the St. Pete Times Forum, may provide Barrie's

best and last chance to get it done.

Even so, Sansone said, "Business first, sports fan later. I have no problem watching sports on television or playing them. I don't need to be an owner to identify with that. If this doesn't make sound financial sense, not a chance."

Sansone, 51, would seem to know business.

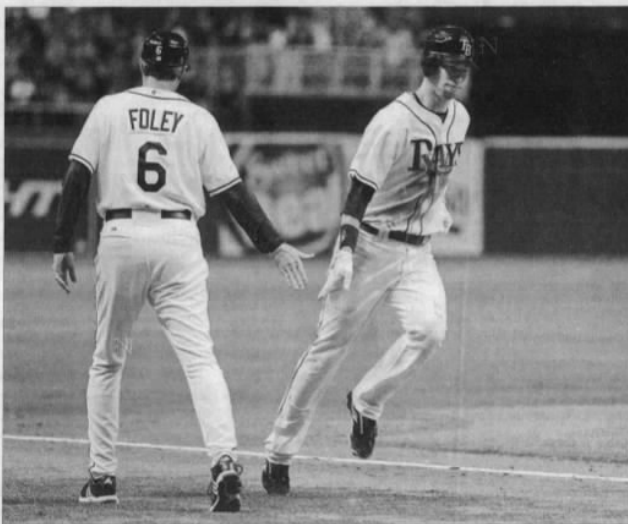
See LIGHTNING, 3C



Anthony Sansone Jr. likes sports but says he's business first.

Rays 5, Rangers 3

Kazmir leads Rays to 'huge' victory



Tom Foley congratulates Ben Zobrist for his two-run homer in the fifth. Carlos Peña homered on the next pitch to make it 5-0.

The left-hander pitches one of his best games of the season.

BY JOE SMITH

Times Staff Writer

ST. PETERSBURG — Though the season has yet to flip its calendar to September, left-hander Scott Kazmir labeled this weekend's three-game set with the Rangers a "huge series."

The Rays are chasing both Texas and the Red Sox in the wild-card race, and this provided a rare chance to make up ground in head-to-head matchups.

And it was Kazmir who set the tone in Friday night's 5-3 win in front of 20,639 at Tropicana Field, helping the Rays move to within

Yanks outslug Red Sox

Hideki Matsui hits two three-run homers and drives in seven as New York beats Boston 20-11. 9C

three games of Boston. Kazmir, who has handled Texas well throughout his career, came up with one of his best outings of the season, giving up three runs over 7½ innings for his fourth win in his past five starts. When Kazmir was pulled with two on and one out in the eighth, he tipped his cap to the crowd after

See RAYS, 4C



Jason Bartlett successfully executes a squeeze to score Gabe Gross and put the Rays up 2-0 in the second.

Tryouts for QB ready to close

With the starter expected to be picked next week, Leftwich and McCown set their agendas for tonight.

BY STEPHEN F. HOLDER

Times Staff Writer

By the time tonight's preseason game against the Jaguars is over, the Bucs should be well on their way to deciding the winner of a quarterback derby that has been ongoing since the spring.

Either newcomer Byron Leftwich, tonight's starter at Jacksonville, or Luke McCown, a long-time Bucs backup, is expected to be named the starter next week.

The extended competition has given new coach Raheem Morris plenty of time for evaluation. "I've been around them that much more," Morris said, "so you get that much more comfortable from day to day watching them go through the process of growing, whether it's ups, downs, highs (or) lows."

How does each quarterback assess his development? And what does he think he must do tonight to earn the starting job?

Leftwich, 29, the apparent leader, came to Tampa Bay as a free agent in the offseason with the reputation as more of a journeyman than the 2003 first-round draft pick he was. But he believes he has found at least a temporary home. If Leftwich plays mostly mistake-free

See BUCS, 6C

Tonight

at Jaguars: 7:30, Jacksonville Municipal Stadium
TV/radio: Ch. 8, 103.5-FM, 620-AM

On the Web

Bucs' beat writer Stephen F. Holder blogs live from tonight's game at blogs.tampabay.com/bucs.

Don't touch that dial

Bucs to watch tonight vs. Jacksonville after the starters leave. 6C

FSU tackle ahead of condition

Moses McCray is playing despite a slight thickening of his heart wall.

BY BRIAN LANDMAN

Times Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE — Florida State defensive tackle Moses McCray isn't one to worry about what he can't change.

Not even when it's a heart condition — a slight thickening of the heart wall — that could have ended his promising career before it began or, potentially and more ominously, threaten his life.

"I just put it all in God's hands," he said.

McCray, 19, a sophomore from Hillsborough High, did more



McCray has returned to the Cleveland Clinic for further tests after his condition was discovered.

than pray, though he admits he did plenty of that and still does. He also had an array of exams last summer at the renowned Cleveland Clinic.

That led to a diagnosis of a generally benign syndrome called athlete's heart, the thicken-

ing attributed to significant exercise. He was medically cleared to play, started the first two games of the season, played in six others and would have had a larger role were it not for an ankle injury and a torn hip flexor. He has returned to Cleveland two other times, most recently this month, for more testing. None of the results provided a reason for his doctor to change his initial recommendation.

"Everything has been rock stable in the three sets of tests," said Dr. Milind Desai, a cardiologist. See MCCRAY, 3C



Moses McCray, who played at Hillsborough High, was physically limited last season, but not by his condition — athlete's heart.

Special to the Times