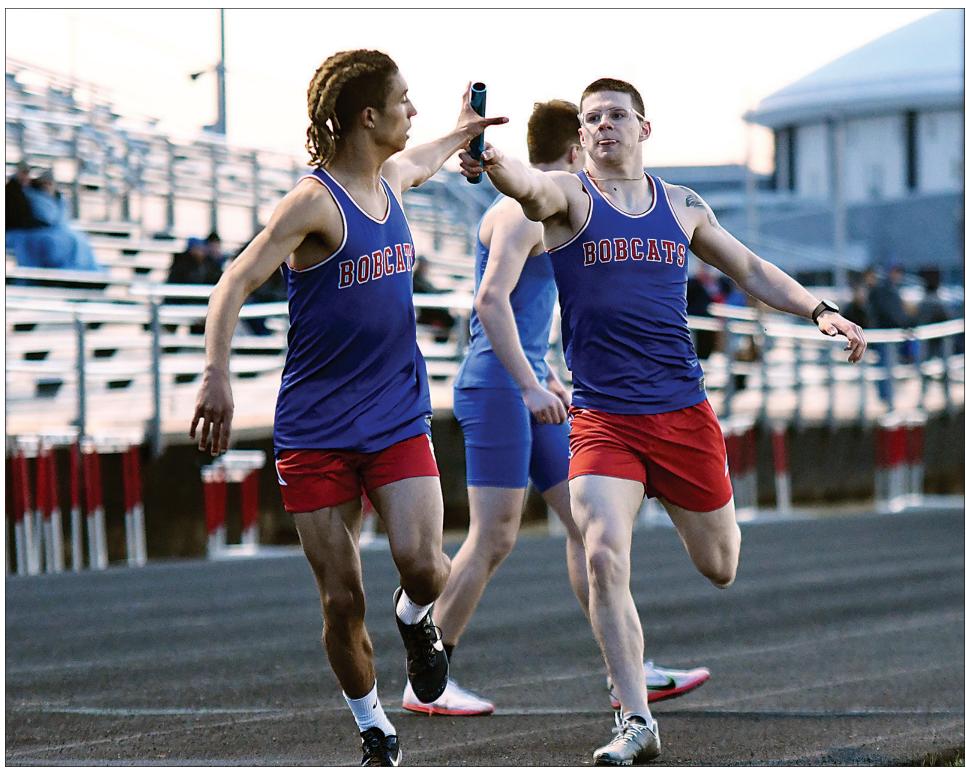
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Friday, April 7, 2023 | A10



T-R PHOTO BY ROSS THEDE

Marshalltown High School seniors Carter Hunt, right, and Anthoneih Kopsa complete the final handoff for Bobcat track and field during the 4x400-meter relay on Thursday night at Leonard Cole Field. With construction of a new athletic complex set to commence next week, the Bobcats won the final race on the outgoing venue.

Bobcats bid fond farewell to track



T-R PHOTO BY ROSS THEDE

Marshalltown senior Jayzek Lee, center, maneuvers around the turn during the opening paces of the 200-meter dash at Thursday's Kenny Dean Invite at Leonard Cole Field. Lee finished third in the event in 24.30 seconds.

By ROSS THEDE TIMES-REPUBLICAN

The weight of his emotional burden finally caught up with Marshalltown High School senior Anthoneih Kopsa as he carried the baton around the track encircling Leonard Cole Field one last time.

Once he crossed the finish line, Kopsa was finally free to let it all out. So he did, and it knocked him off

Kopsa dropped to his knees before letting out the cries and tears that he lugged around the track in the final event of Thursday's Kenny Dean Invite. Anchoring the 4x400-meter relay, Kopsa carried the baton as the Bobcats claimed victory less than a week before construction begins on a new \$8 million athletic complex.

The Bobcat foursome of Gatleel Joar, Cory Smith,

Carter Hunt and Kopsa combined on a winning time of 3 minutes, 41.68 seconds, but there was more to that final quarter mile for Kopsa than just nostalgia.

We had a loss in our family really recently," he said. "She was a really big fan of how far I got in track so there was a mix of that and the track being gone and all that history, this being my last home meet and all the history I've had through my four years. I've had my spikes signed by a lot of (teammates), so along with that it was just a really overwhelming moment I

"Before the race I was pretty much only thinking about those things and I knew I had to just lock in one last time and go at it. That was the best I could give, and then just to see as I'm running it play out how

FAREWELL | A11

Bobcat boys netters turn back Little Cyclones, 9-2

TIMES-REPUBLICAN

AMES — The potential for an upset bid was erased by a pair of third-set supertiebreakers as the Class 2A No. 6 Marshalltown boys' tennis team turned back host Ames, 9-2, on Thursday night.

The Bobcats (3-1, 1-0) won the top three singles matches in straight sets, but Ames threatened to make a split out of the evening's opening proceedings. Each of the last three singles matches went to a deciding third set, where Marshalltown thwarted the Little Cyclones' opportunity for an upset.

Jacob Thiessen at No. 4 singles and Isaac Benscoter at No. 5 turned away their Ames counterparts to help

M V K

Marshalltown capture a 5-1 singles lead that helped the visitors take momentum into doubles play. MHS won four of the five doubles bouts as well to pull away to a lopsided win.

Marshalltown's Jason Strand scored a 6-1, 6-1 sweep at No. 1 singles over Tharun Raju, while Gavin Jablonski won a 6-1, 6-3 match at No. 2 over Anson Bernard. Nile Christensen made it 3-0 Bobcats with a 6-1, 6-0 triumph over Hayden Sinclair at No. 3.

Thiessen topped Akshay Sarda, 7-5, 5-7, (10-8), while Benscoter scored a 6-2, 4-6, (10-7) victory over Tim Hanulik. Drew Loney was edged out in three sets,

NETTERS | A11

Ames girls tennis withstands Marshalltown's rallies

TIMES-REPUBLICAN

Ames made good on two of the three matches to reach a deciding thirdset super-tiebreaker to beat back the Marshalltown girls' tennis team, 9-2, in Thursday's Iowa Alliance Conference dual meet at the Mar-

shalltown Court Complex. The Little Cyclones (1-0, 1-0) won all six singles bouts to secure the team victory, though it took a marathon triumph at No. 2 to lock it down. Marshalltown's Rebekah Downs came up on the short end of a three-set thriller, 6-4, 3-6, (12-10), as meet for Ames.

of Ellie Hughes and Rachel Berg, while Chesni Uhde Jones got the Bobcats' first and Grace Bethel were win of the evening with a bounced at No. 4 doubles 6-3, 6-0 win over Naomi by Amaya Dassanayoke and Pena and Yerin Lee, and the Adeline Oetker, 6-3, 6-3.

No. 3 doubles team of Claire Bohan and Ava Lucas added Marshalltown's only other triumph with a 7-6 (7-1), 1-6, (11-9).

The No. 1 doubles tandem of Kennedy Feldman and Downs fought to the end with a 6-7 (5-7), 7-6 (7-4), (10-8) loss to Angelina Chen and Gu, but the Little Cyclones had long since locked up the dual.

Marshalltown's singles losses went to Feldman at No. 1, Emily Diggins at No. 3, Brianna Hargrave at No. 4, Lucas at No. 5 and Bohan at No. 6. Diggins and Katie Gu's victory sealed the Hargrave were defeated 7-6 (7-4), 6-3 at No. 2 doubles The No. 5 doubles team by Jiwen Li and Samantha



Marshalltown's Ellie Hughes, right, makes a forehand return at the net while her No. 5 doubles partner Rachel Jones watches from the baseline during Thursday's dual against Ames. Hughes and Jones won their match, 6-3, 6-0, over Naomi Pena and Yerin Lee of Ames.

Stat**Book**

Times-Republican ON TAP

Friday, April 7
Boys Tennis
Cedar Rapids Jefferson at Marshallt
9 a.m.

College Baseball NIACC at MCC, 1 p.m. (2) **Girls Tennis** Marshalltown at Cedar Rapids Jefferson, Girls Soccer

Fort Dodge at Marshalltown, 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 8

Marshalltown at Valley Invite, 11 a.m. College Baseball NIACC at MCC, Noon

NASCAR CUP

Food City Dirt Race (All times Eastern)

Site: Bristol, Tennessee. Schedule: Friday, practice, 6:35 p.m. and 8:32 p.m.; Saturday, qualifying, 6 p.m.-

Track: Bristol Motor Speedway Race distance: 250 laps, 125.5 miles. Last year: Kyle Busch won after starting

7 p.m. in four heats; Sunday, race, 7 p.m.

Last race: Kyle Larson pulled away from Hendrick Motorsports teammate Josh Berry on a restart with 14 laps to go and won at

Richmond for his first victory of the season. Fast facts: Larson's victory was the 20th of his career, half of them coming in his 2021 championship season. It was also the fifth for Chevrolet in seven races and the third for Hendrick drivers. ... Berry's finish was his career best. He is filling in for injured driver Chase Elliott. ... Denny Hamlin overcame an early pit road penalty to get back into contention, but a second one took him out of the mix at his home track. .. Hendrick driver Alex Bowman has six top-10 finishes and leads Ross Chastain by four points in the standings. ... Christopher Bell is 34 points behind, and the top Toyota.

MLB STANDINGS

Kevin Harvick is sixth and the top Ford.

(All times Eastern)
AMERICAN LEAGUE
East Division

AMERICAN LEAGOL								
East Division								
	W	L	Pct	GB				
Tampa Bay	6	0	1.000	_				
New York	4	2	.667	2				
Toronto	4	3	.571	2 1/2				
Baltimore	3	3	.500	´3				
Boston	3	4	.429	3 1/2				
	Central Di	visio	on	, -				
	W	1	Pct	GB				
Cleveland	•••	2	.714					
		_		1 /2				
Minnesota		2		1/2				
Chicago	3	4	.429	2				
Detroit	2	5	.286	3				
Kansas City	1	6	.143	4				
West Division								
	W	L	Pct	GB				
Los Angeles	4	2	.667	_				
Texas		2	.667					
Houston	3	4	.429	1 1/2				
Oakland	2	4	.333	2				
Seattle	2	5	.286	2 1/2				
Thursday's Games								

Boston 6. Detroit 3 Toronto 6, Kansas City 3 San Francisco 16, Chicago White Sox 6 N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore, ppd. Houston at Minnesota, ppd.

Friday's Games Texas (Eovaldi 1-0) at Chicago Cubs (Stroman 1-0), 2:20 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees (Schmidt 0-0) at Baltimore (Kremer 0-0), 3:05 p.m.

Houston (Urquidy 0-0) at Minnesota (Gray 1-0), 4:10 p.m.

Seattle (Gilbert 0-1) at Cleveland (Civale

1-0), 4:10 p.m. Chicago White Sox (Giolito 0-0) at Pittsburgh (Hill 0-1), 4:12 p.m.

Kansas City (Keller 0-1) at San Francisco (Cobb 0-0), 4:35 p.m.

Oakland (Waldichuk 0-1) at Tampa Bay (Eflin 1-0), 6:40 p.m.

Toronto (Bassitt 0-1) at L.A. Angels (Sandoval 1-0), 9:38 p.m.

Saturday's Games Houston at Minnesota, 2:10 p.m. Kansas City at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m. Texas at Chicago Cubs, 4:05 p.m. Boston at Detroit, 4:10 p.m. Oakland at Tampa Bay, 4:10 p.m. Seattle at Cleveland, 6:10 p.m. Chicago White Sox at Pittsburgh, 6:35 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE **East Division** W

L Pct

N.Y. Yankees at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.

Toronto at L.A. Angels, 9:07 p.m.

	Atlanta	6	1	.857			
	Miami	3	4	.429	3		
	New York	3	4	.429	3		
	Philadelphia	1	5	.167	4 1/2		
	Washington		6	.143	5		
Central Division							
			-	Pct	GD		
	Milwaukee	5	1	.833	_		
	Pittsburgh	4	2	.667	1		
	Cincinnati	3	2	.600	1 1/2		
	Chicago	2	3	.400	2 1/2		
	St. Louis	2	4	.333	3		
West Division							
		W	L	Pct	GB		
	Los Angeles	4	2	.667	_		
	Arizona		3	.500	1		
	San Francisco	3	3	.500	1		
	Colorado	3	4	.429	1 1/2		

Thursday's Games San Francisco 16, Chicago White Sox 6 Colorado 1, Washington 0 Atlanta 7. San Diego 6 L.A. Dodgers at Arizona, (late) Miami at N.Y. Mets, ppd.

San Diego 3 4 .429 11/2

Cincinnati at Philadelphia, ppd. Friday's Games

Miami (Cabrera 0-0) at N.Y. Mets (Megill 1-0), 1:10 p.m.

Texas (Eovaldi 1-0) at Chicago Cubs (Stroman 1-0), 2:20 p.m. Cincinnati (Greene 0-0) at Philadelphia

(Wheeler 0-1), 3:05 p.m. Chicago White Sox (Giolito 0-0) at Pittsburgh (Hill 0-1), 4:12 p.m.

Kansas City (Keller 0-1) at San Francisco (Cobb 0-0), 4:35 p.m. San Diego (Martinez 0-1) at Atlanta (Shuster 0-1), 7:20 p.m.

St. Louis (Flaherty 1-0) at Milwaukee (Woodruff 0-0), 8:10 p.m. Washington (Gore 1-0) at Colorado (Ure-

L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 1-0) at Arizona

(Bumgarner 0-1), 9:40 p.m. Saturday's Games

Cincinnati at Philadelphia, 4:05 p.m. Kansas City at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m. Texas at Chicago Cubs, 4:05 p.m. Miami at N.Y. Mets, 4:10 p.m. Chicago White Sox at Pittsburgh, 6:35 p.m. St. Louis at Milwaukee, 7:10 p.m. San Diego at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m. L.A. Dodgers at Arizona, 8:10 p.m. Washington at Colorado, 8:10 p.m.

PGA TOUR

Masters Tournament At Augusta, Ga.

Augusta National, par	72
First Round Viktor Hovland, Norway	31-34—65
Brooks Koepka, U.S	32-33—65
Jon Rahm, Spain	33-32-65
Jason Day, Australia	3/1-3367
Cameron Young, U.S	34-33-67
Sam Bennett, U.S	32-36—68
Sam Burns, U.S	31-37—68
Shane Lowry, Ireland	33-35—68
Xander Schauffele, U.S	34-34—68
Scottie Scheffler, U.S	33-35—68 34-34—68
Adam Scott, Australia	34-34—68 35-33—68
Gary Woodland, U.S	35-33—68
Collin Morikawa, U.S	34-35—69
Justin Rose, England	36-33-69
Jordan Spieth, U.S.	32-37—69
Keegan Bradley, U.S	35-35—70
Matt Fitzpatrick, England	37-33-70
Ryan Fox, New Zealand	36-34—70
Tom Kim, South Korea	34-36-70
Chris Kirk, U.S	38-32—70
Cameron Smith, Australia	34-36—70
Scott Stallings, U.S	35-35—70
Sepp Straka, Austria	39-31—70
Justin Thomas, U.S	35-35—70 35-36—71
Patrick Cantlay, U.S	
Fred Couples, U.S	38-33—71
Harris English, U.S	37-34—71
Tyrrell Hatton, England	35-36—71
Max Homa, U.S	38-33—71 35-36—71
Sungjae Im, South Korea	35-36—71 36-35—71
Dustin Johnson, U.S	
Hideki Matsuyama, Japan	34-37—71 34-37—71
Phil Mickelson, U.S Joaquin Niemann, Chile	32-39—71
Patrick Reed, U.S	35-36—71
Abraham Ancer, Mexico	39-33—72
Tommy Fleetwood, England	35-33—72
Talor Gooch, U.S	36-36—72
Kevin Kisner, U.S	36-36-72
Rory McIlroy, N. Ireland	37-35—72
Francesco Molinari, Italy	38-34—72
Harold Varner III, U.S	34-38-72
Mike Weir, Canada	35-37—72
Corey Conners, Canada	36-37—73
Russell Henley, U.S	36-37—73
Billy Horschel, U.S	36-37—73
Si Woo Kim, South Korea	37-36—73
Jason Kokrak, U.S	38-35—73
Adrian Meronk, Poland	35-38—73 37-36—73
Taylor Moore, U.S	37-36—73 35-38—73
Seamus Power, Ireland	
Sahith Theegala, U.S	37-36—73 38-36—74
Bryson DeChambeau, U.S	34-40—74
Sergio Garcia, Spain Tom Hoge, U.S	37-37—74
Kyoung-Hoon Lee, South Korea	39-35—74
Mito Pereira, Chile	39-35-74
Thomas Pieters, Belgium	37-37—74
J.T. Poston, U.S	37-37-74
Charl Schwartzel, South Africa.	38-36—74
Tiger Woods, U.S	38-36—74
Ben Carr, U.S	38-37—75
Harrison Crowe, Australia	36-39—75
Zach Johnson, U.S	36-39—75
Kurt Kitayama, U.S	38-37—75
Bernhard Langer, Germany	38-37—75
Min Woo Lee, Australia	36-39—75
Keith Mitchell, U.S	37-38—75
Vijay Singh, Fiji	38-37—75
Adam Svensson, Canada	41-34—75
Danny Willett, England	38-37—75
Cameron Champ, U.S	41-35—76 39-37—76
M. F. de Oliveira, Argentina	
Kazuki Higa, Japan	36-40—76 39-37—76
Mackenzie Hughes, Canada	39-37—76 37-39—76
Louis Oosthuizen, South Africa	
Brian Harman, U.S Matthew McClean, N. Ireland .	39-38—77 37-40—77
lose Maria Olazabal, Spain	40-37-77
Aldrich Potgieter, South Africa.	40-37—77
Gordon Sargent, U.S	39-38—77
Bubba Watson, U.S	40-37—77
	44 27 70

ON TELEVISION

Alex Noren, Sweden 41-37—78

Sandy Lyle, Scotland 40-41—81

Kevin Na, U.S. WD

Will Zalatoris, U.S. WD

(All times Eastern) **AUTO RACING**

5:30 p.m. - FS1: NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: Practice, Bristol Motor Speedway Dirt, Bristol, Tenn.

6:30 p.m. — FS1: NASCAR Cup Series:

Practice, Bristol Motor Speedway Dirt, Bristol, Tenn. 8 p.m. — FS1: NASCAR Craftsman Truck

Series: Final Practice, Bristol Motor Speedway Dirt. Bristol. Tenn.

8:30 p.m. — FS1: NASCAR Cup Series: Final Practice, Bristol Motor Speedway Dirt,

Bristol, Tenn. **BOXING**

10 p.m. — SHO: ShoBox: The New Generation, Brooks, Calif.

COLLEGE BASEBALL 4 p.m. — BTN: Nebraska at Michigan 7 p.m. — SECN: Florida at Tennessee 8 p.m. — ACCN: Virginia Tech at Duke 9 p.m. — ESPNU: Oklahoma St. at TCII 10 p.m. - PAC-12N: Stanford at Cali-

COLLEGE LACROSSE (MEN'S)

6 p.m. — ACCN: Virginia at North Carolina; ESPNU: Michigan at Rutgers 7 p.m. — CBSSN: Naw at Loyola (Md.) 8 p.m. — BTN: Maryland at Ohio St.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL ESPN2: Florida St. at Clemson GOLF

3 p.m. - ESPN: PGA Tour: The Masters, Second Round, Augusta National Golf Course, Augusta, Ga. 8 p.m. - ESPN: PGA Tour: The Mas-

ters, Second Round, Augusta National Golf Course, Augusta, Ga. (Taped) HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL (BOYS) 4 p.m. — ESPNU: State Champions Invitational: TBD vs. Sidwell Friends (D.C.),

Semifinal, Washington HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL (GIRLS) 2 p.m. — ESPNU: State Champions Invitational: TBD vs. Sidwell Friends (D.C.),

Semifinal, Washington HORSE RACING

- FS2: NYRA: America's Day at the Races

IIHF HOCKEY (WOMEN'S)

11 a.m. — NHLN: World Championship Group Stage: Switzerland vs. U.S., Group A, Brampton, Ontario

7 p.m. — NHLN: World Championship Group Stage: Czechia vs. Canada, Group A, Brampton, Ontario

MLB BASEBALL 2:20 p.m. - AppleTV+: Texas at Chi-

cago Cubs 4 p.m. — MLBN: Regional Coverage: Seattle at Cleveland OR Chicago White Sox

at Pittsburgh

2:20 p.m. - AppleTV+: San Diego at Atlanta 9:30 p.m. — MLBN: Regional Coverage:

Toronto at LA Angels OR Washington at Colorado (8:30 p.m.) MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

10 p.m. — ESPN2: PFL 2 Main Card: Heavyweights & Women's Featherweights,

NBA BASKETBALL 8 p.m. — NBATV: Memphis at Milwaukee 10:30 p.m. — NBATV: Phoenix at LA

SOCCER (MEN'S) 7:45 p.m. — FS2: CONMEBOL U-17 Championship Group Stage: Uruguay vs. Brazil, Group A, Guayaquil, Ecuador

NBA STANDINGS

(All times Eastern) EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division GB W L . 55 25 .688 y-Boston x-Philadelphia....52 28 x-New York. 47 33 588 Brooklyn 44 36 11 Toronto 40 40 .500 15 **Southeast Division** . 43 37 Atlanta41 39 Orlando 34 46 Washington 34 46 26 54 **Central Division** W L GB z-Milwaukee 58 22 .725 x-Cleveland51 30 .630 Chicago.......38 42 Indiana 34 46 24 Detroit........16 64 .200 WESTERN CONFERENCE **Southwest Division** y-Memphis 50 30 New Orleans 41 39 Dallas 38 42 12 San Antonio.....21 59 Houston 20 60 Northwest Division W L

GB z-Denver 52 27 .658 Minnesota 40 40 Oklahoma City . . . 39 42 Utah 36 44 .450 16 1/2 Portland. 33 47 .413 19 1/2 **Pacific Division** y-Sacramento....48 32 x-Phoenix 44 35 3 1/2 L.A. Clippers 42 38 Golden State 42 38 L.A. Lakers 41 39 x-clinched playoff spot

z-clinched conference Thursday's Games Cleveland 118, Orlando 94 Miami 129, Philadelphia 101 San Antonio 129, Portland 127 Oklahoma City 114, Utah 98

Denver at Phoenix, (late)

y-clinched division

Friday's Games Detroit at Indiana, 7 p.m. Houston at Charlotte, 7 p.m. Miami at Washington, 7 p.m. Orlando at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m. Toronto at Boston, 7:30 p.m. Memphis at Milwaukee, 8 p.m. New York at New Orleans, 8 p.m Chicago at Dallas, 8:30 p.m. Golden State at Sacramento, 10 p.m. Phoenix at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday's Game Denver at Utah, 3:30 p.m.

Minnesota at San Antonio, 4 p.m. Portland at L.A. Clippers, 4 p.m.

NHL STANDINGS

(All times Fastern) EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division GP W L OT Pts GF GA z-Boston 78 61 12 5 127 288167 x-Toronto 78 46 21 11 103 263215 x-Tampa Bay . 79 45 28 6 96 271243 Florida..... 79 41 31 7 Buffalo 77 38 32 7 83 278284 Ottawa 79 37 35 7 81 248261 Detroit..... 78 35 33 10 80 237259 Montreal 79 31 42 6 68 225291

Metropolitan Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA x-Carolina . . . 78 50 19 9 109 251201 x-New Jersey . 79 50 21 8 108 279218 x-N.Y. Rangers 79 46 21 12 104 269213 N.Y. Islanders 79 40 30 9 89 233215 Pittsburgh . . . 79 39 30 10 88 253255 Washington . . 78 34 35 $\,$ 9 $\,$ 77 242249 Philadelphia. . 78 29 36 13 71 210261 Columbus . . . 78 24 46 8 56 206315

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
x-Dallas	78	43	21	14	100	2712	214	
x-Colorado	76	46	24	6	98	2562	210	
x-Minnesota	78	44	24	10	98	2332	213	
Winnipeg	78	43	32	3	89	2352	218	
Nashville	78	40	30	8	88	2192	227	
St. Louis	79	37	35	7	81	2582	290	
Arizona	78	27	38	13	67	2162	282	
Chicago	77	25	46	6	56	1902	280	
Pacific Division								

GP W L OT Pts GF GA x-Vegas 78 48 22 8 104 259223 x-Edmonton . . 79 47 23 9 103 312257 x-Los Angeles. 78 45 23 10 100 267245 Seattle 77 43 26 8 94 272243 Calgary 79 37 27 15 89 256246 Vancouver . . . 77 34 36 7 75 263290 San Jose 77 22 39 16 60 226295 Anaheim 78 23 45 10 56 196320 x-clinched playoff spot y-clinched division

z-clinched conference Thursday's Games New Jersey 8, Columbus 1 Pittsburgh 4. Minnesota 1 Boston 2, Toronto 1, OT Montreal 6. Washington 2 Buffalo 7. Detroit 6. SO Florida 7, Ottawa 2 N.Y. Islanders 6, Tampa Bay 1 St. Louis 3, N.Y. Rangers 2, OT Nashville 3, Carolina 0 Dallas 4, Philadelphia 1 Chicago at Vancouver, (late) Los Angeles at Vegas, (late) Arizona at Seattle, (late) Colorado at San Jose, (late)

Friday's Games No games scheduled

Saturday's Games

Carolina at Buffalo, 12:30 p.m. Pittsburgh at Detroit, 1 p.m. Vegas at Dallas, 3:30 p.m. Edmonton at San Jose, 4 p.m. Anaheim at Arizona, 5:30 p.m. Florida at Washington, 7 p.m. Montreal at Toronto, 7 p.m. N.Y. Rangers at Columbus, 7 p.m Nashville at Winnipeg, 7 p.m. Tampa Bay at Ottawa, 7 p.m. Philadelphia at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m. New Jersey at Boston, 8 p.m. St. Louis at Minnesota, 8 p.m. Calgary at Vancouver, 10 p.m. Chicago at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Colorado at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m. **Sunday's Games** Boston at Philadelphia, 6 p.m. Colorado at Anaheim, 8:30 p.m.

Iowa**Lottery**

Pick 3 5-6-2 Pick 4 0-4-9-3 **Lucky For Life** 3-10-17-33-36--6

Times-Republican

Koepka living large at Masters, leads with Rahm and Hovland

By DOUG FERGUSON

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUGUSTA, Ga. Brooks Koepka carved out a new identity that sure looked familiar Thursday in the Masters.

This wasn't about his surprising defection last year to LIV Golf, or even his victory four days ago that made him the Saudifunded circuit's first multiple winner. He just looked like "Big Game Brooks," the player who built a reputation for playing his best in the majors.

Koepka was in full flight in the opening round at Augusta National, and he had company. He birdied his last two holes for a 7-under 65, giving him a share of the lead with Jon Rahm and Viktor Hovland.

Koepka couldn't stoop to read putts two years ago at the Masters when he tried to return from knee surgery in three weeks. He felt so hobbled last year he had reason to believe his run in the majors — four wins over three years was about to be a memory.

He is getting his swagger back.

"Once you feel good, everything changes," Koepka

went away. Never mind up," Rahm said. that he dropped from a with a sublime display of double bogey. shotmaking.

that figure to play a big role this week.

talked about almost as much as how 18 players Golf would perform amid bothered. the high-stakes pressure of a cut.

thrilled with healthy legs.

40 feet, and on his way to the second tee thought of the famous quote from his Spanish idol, Seve Ballesteros, who once four-putted at Augusta and said, "I miss, I miss, I miss, I make."

might as well be the first ing progress."

As for Rahm, he never hole -71 holes to make it

That he did. The Spansure-fire No. 1 in the world iard followed with seven to No. 3 in the span of a birdies and an eagle, and month. The Spaniard over- his 65 was the lowest score came a four-putt double in Masters history by anybogey on the opening hole one who started with a

Koepka won the 2019 Hovland played bogey- PGA Championship free to join them atop a his fourth major in a span leaderboard filled with red of three years — that gave numbers and the ominous him a five-year exemption "weather warning" signs to the Masters. That runs out next year, and with LIV not getting any world rank-A bad forecast has been ing points, his path to Augusta is limited.

"If you win, you're fine," from Saudi-backed LIV he said, bluntly and un-

Hovland was among the a major over 72 holes with early starters. The highlight was a 25-foot eagle Koepka carried the putt on the second hole flag, though he was more and being 7 under through having 13 holes until he cooled at the end. The Norwegian Rahm had a cool head. star also stood out for oth-He took four putts from er reasons. The azaleas are starting to lose their color from an early bloom. Hovland made up for it with his

"It's definitely a little bit out there," Hovland said. "But I think I'd rather take "If you're going to make these than the pink pants I a double or four-putt, it had last year. So we're mak-



Marshalltown's LaMar Johnson, far left, hands the baton to Tate Riang for the third leg of the 4x100meter relay on Thursday during the Kenny Dean Invite at Leonard Cole Field. The Bobcat quartet of Javzek Lee, Johnson, Riang and Brylan Bethke took third place in a time of 45.

Farewell

CONTINUED | FROM A10

I was envisioning it, it was a lot."

The relay triumph was one of three wins for Kopsa, who claimed the 800 as well with a strong finishing kick over the final 90 meters. Kopsa overtook Mason City's Brandt Haakensted down the frontstretch to prevail in 2:08.33.

The Bobcats' 4x800 relay team of James Johnson, Carson Wright, Kopsa and John Moellers made its way to the front of the pack as well in a combined time of 8:59.40.

But for Kopsa, his last home meet was all about the 4x400.

"I started my track career freshman year always anchoring the 4x4, I've been in every 4x4 we've ran for all four of my years, so that's been a really special race for me and I guess moreso this one since this is the last one on this track," he said. "This will be my last time running on this track so I really wanted to make sure I went out and performed."

Marshalltown formed well for just its second outdoor meet of the spring, finishing second The Wolverines scored 191 points to the Bobcats' 128, while Mason City (97) and the field.

The 800, 4x800 and high hurdles (17.02). 4x400 represented three of 3,200, winning in 11:39.29.

about it he last few nights at practice about how this was going to be the last time on this track, especially the seniors," said MHS head coach Bob Gilbertson. "They've been out her for four years practicing on it. We've only had a couple meets here for them — we missed a couple for the weather — so it tice." was fun for them to get out and in front of their family and parents."

The Bobcats had a boatload of runner-up perforof 1:45.22. Joar, Ruiz, Tate Riang and Dalen Huston the moments.'

to Dike-New Hartford in scored silver in the shutthe four-team invitational. tle hurdle relay (1:12.96), while Jayzek Lee took second in the 100 in 11.80. Wright was the runner-up Fort Dodge (91) closed out in the 400 (58.83), while Joar was second in the 110

Marshalltown's spring Marshalltown's four event season kicks into high victories in its only home gear next week with three meet of the year. Freshman meets scheduled. The Caleb Rasmussen beat ju- Bobcat varsity goes to nior teammate Ian Meyer Fort Dodge on Monday, to the finish line in the Knoxville next Thursday and the Jim Duncan Invi-'We talked a little bit tational at Drake Stadium

in Des Moines on April 15. 'We've been training pretty hard so we're just starting to get into the big-time meet season," Gilbertson said. "The next three-to-four weeks are going to be pretty hot and heavy. Next week is a full week of just figuring out where we're going to prac-

Demolition of the curand compete against some rent athletic complex will pretty good competition begin on Wednesday, so the Bobcats will be essentially homeless for the rest

of the season. "We practice (Friday) mances as well, includ- morning and Tuesday ing the quartet of Hunt, night and that's it," Gil-Smith, LaMar Johnson bertson said. "We won't and Salvador Ruiz in the be on (this track) ever sprint medley with a time again and they know that. They're trying to take in all

Netters

CONTINUED | FROM A10 6-4, 6-7, (10-8), by Anirvdh Manimaran at No. 6

singles. But by that time, Marshalltown had the match well in hand. Christensen and Jablonski banked a

6-1, 6-2 win over Raju and Sandvick teamed up at No. Bernard at No. 1 doubles, while Strand and Thiessen secured a 6-0, 6-1 sweep of Sinclair and Sarda at No. 2.

Loney and Benscoter helped the Bobcats pull away with a 6-1, 6-4 win at No. 3 doubles over Anthony Colburn and Manimaran. Dale Greene and Cael

4 doubles for a 7-5, 6-0 triumph over Nathan Lee and Hanulik.

The Little Cyclones' lone doubles win came at No. 5 as Jakob Collins and Jonas Bernard defeated Carson Snyder and Jaxson Eisenbarth, 6-3, 6-4.