

■ National Basketball Association

Rondo returns, leads Celtics past Hawks

BOSTON (AP) — Rajon Rondo had a triple-double with 17 points, 14 rebounds and 12 assists to lead the Celtics to a 90-84 overtime victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Friday night and give Boston a 2-1 lead in the first-round playoff series.

It was the seventh career playoff triple-double for Rondo, who missed Game 2 because he was suspended for bumping a referee in the closing minutes of the series opener.

Game 4 is Sunday night.

Ray Allen returned for Boston after missing almost a month and scored 13 points in 38 minutes. Kevin Garnett had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and Paul Pierce had 21 points one game after having 36 points and 14 rebounds to help the Celtics swipe home-court advantage with a Game 2 victory in Atlanta.

Joe Johnson scored 29 points and Jeff Teague had 23 for the Hawks. Tracy McGrady had 12 points his highest total since he had

40 for Houston in 2008 but 10 were in the first half, before he landed awkwardly on his right ankle and went to the locker room. He did not have a field goal in the second half.

Rondo scored Boston's first two baskets of the overtime the second by posting up Teague and knocking down a baby hook over him.

Boston never trailed from there.

The Celtics went on an 11-1 run to open a double-digit lead with 7 minutes to

play in regulation, but Atlanta rallied and tied it 80-80 on Johnson's 3-point shot with 1:23 left. Both teams failed to score on its next two possessions, leaving the Celtics with the ball out of bounds with 3.9 seconds left.

Rondo inbounded to Pierce, who was defended by Johnson and had to take a long, fallaway jumper that bounced off the rim at the buzzer.

The Celtics got Rondo back from his one-game sus-

pension and Allen back on the court for the first time since April 10. He played just five games over the final month of the regular season because of bone spurs in his right ankle and missed the first two games of the playoffs as well.

The Hawks kept losing players. With top centers Al Horford and Zaza Pachulia already out, forward Josh Smith was scratched with a sprained tendon in his left knee.

76ers 79, Bulls 74

PHILADELPHIA — Spencer Hawes scored 21 points, grabbed nine rebounds and hit the go-ahead jumper late in the fourth quarter to help the Philadelphia 76ers rally to beat the Chicago Bulls 79-74 on Friday night and take a 2-1 lead in their Eastern Conference playoff series.

Hawes scored 10 clutch points in the fourth to give the eighth-seeded Sixers the surprising series lead.

Game 4 is Sunday in Philadelphia.

■ Track and Field

Firebird

■ CONTINUED FROM 15 reason why we won the meet."

The 4x100 team of Catelyn Schmiedebusch, Gracie Huffman, Todda Norris and Rector won (1:44.33), as did the 4x100 team of Sharice Hibbler, Huffman, Shanelle Byrd and Norris (49.81 seconds). The 4x800 relay team of Katie-Grace Sawka, Courtney Mazzulla, McKenna Poling and Leah Soutar was sixth (10:38.24).

Schmiedebusch was second in the 300 hurdles (46.74 seconds) and third in the 100 hurdles (15.72 seconds).

"Catelyn is really stepping up in the hurdles," Snyder said. "She PR'd in the 300 by almost two seconds."

Hailey Pierce was third (8:33.45) and Cristina Dennison was fourth (8:44.57) in the 2,000 steeplechase. In the 100, Byrd was fourth (13.05 seconds) and Hibbler was seventh (13.45 seconds). Rector was third in the 800 (2:21.28).

"We had Ashley (Rector) in the 800," Snyder said. "When she learns she needs to go out a little harder, that will become one of her better events."

Troy Schultz won the 1,600 (4:32.21) and Miles Hibbler won the long jump (21-5) to give the Trojan boys their best finishes. Alex Dalton (138-0) and Seth Overla (130-4) went two-three in the discus. Nick James was second in the 100 (11.3 seconds). In the 400, Austin Deaton was fourth (52.45 seconds) and Austin Kyzer was sixth (53.72 seconds). Alex Dalton was sixth in the shot put (43-1), while Overla was eighth (42-2). Jared Besecker was eighth in the 2,000 steeplechase (7:48.59). Josh Enke was eighth in the 800 (2:04.59).

Tippecanoe's girls were seventh with 32.5 points. Ashley Badertscher was third in the 100 (12.89 seconds). Allison Rawlins was fifth in the 300 hurdles (49.45 seconds). Tia Miller was fifth in the discus (91-9). Erica Comer was sixth in the 400 (1:02.48). Lacey Loges was sixth in the shot put (28-7.5). Sydney Flora was tied for seventh in the pole vault (8-6).

Tippecanoe boys were 16th with eight points. Sam Wharton was fourth in the 800 (2:00.21). Rick Andrews was sixth in the 1,600 (4:39.95).

■ Baseball



A group of Troy baseball players hauls the tarp out onto the field in the top of the sixth inning after a strong rain suddenly struck during Friday's regular season finale against Xenia.

STAFF PHOTOS/ANTHONY WEBER

Trojans

■ CONTINUED FROM 15 him on a platter. When you pitch the ball up and in, that usually doesn't bode well for the pitcher."

Troy, however, shouldn't have even been in that predicament to begin with in the fourth. Devon Alexander exited the game with a 5-2 lead after three innings of work on the hill. Cody Fuller came on in relief in the fourth and had control issues, loading the bases before a sacrifice fly knocked in a run to make it 5-3.

Mitchell Larson walked to load the bases once again, then Troy's Zach Kendall took the mound with the unfortunate task of facing Newssock — who had already hit a solo home run in the third. Newssock wasted no time, clearing the bases with a homer in nearly the exact spot as his first to give Xenia its first lead of the game.

The Buccaneers took full advantage of three walks and a hit batter, scoring five runs in the fourth on one hit. Newssock added another solo shot in the sixth just before the rain came and shut the game down.

"Our goal going in was to pitch by community," Welker said. "We wanted to get Alexander a few innings and Fuller in for a little. We went with Cody, and he just couldn't locate it. If you don't throw strikes, that's going to hurt you. We brought in



Troy's Thomas Harvey runs to first base during a game against Xenia Friday.

Kendell, and he couldn't locate the pitch where he needed to — and he (Newssock) hit it out."

Dylan Cascaden went deep in the top of the first to give Troy a 1-0 lead. That was followed by Xenia center fielder Mitchell Larson making a great catch at the wall, robbing Nick Antonides and the Trojans of potential back-to-back home runs to start the game. But Nathan Helke slammed a shot over the right-center field fence on the next at-bat to put the Trojans up 2-0 out of the gate.

Helke's homer was his fifth on the season, which ties him for the Greater Western Ohio Conference lead with West Carrollton's Nick Shultz. The Troy senior ended the game 2 for 3.

With one out in the top of the second, Xenia had three consecutive hits to load the bases. Alexander attempted to pick off the runner on first, then the toss back to him by Helke got by him, leading to the first Xenia run of the day.

In the bottom of the second, Thomas Harvey singled with one out, then

Devin Blakely singled two batters later. Cascaden walked, then Antonides delivered a two-run single to put Troy up 4-1. With two outs in the third, Jordan Price reached first on a walk, then Harvey hit a liner to right, which dropped and got past the Xenia right fielder, allowing Price to score from first. That was the last run the Trojans would get.

Troy left Antonides and Helke stranded on first and third in the bottom of the fourth, then Xenia pitcher Connor Graham — who went the distance to get the win — struck out two out of three batters in a one-two-three bottom of the fifth. The Trojan offense never saw the field again.

Troy — which captured its first GWOC North title since 1991 with a 7-3 win over Piqua on Wednesday — ends the regular season with a record of 17-9, winning its last six out of eight games. The Trojans open tournament play on Thursday, awaiting the winner of the Northmont-Belmont game. If Northmont wins, the game will be played in Clayton, but if Belmont wins, the game will take place in Troy at 5 p.m.

Xenia011 511 — 8 9 2
Troy221 00 — 5 7 1
Graham and Walton.
Alexander, Fuller (4), Kendall (4) and Nadolny. WP — Graham. LP — Fuller. 2B — Reed (X). HR — Newssock 3 (X), Helke (T), Cascaden (T). **Records:** Xenia 13-11, Troy 17-9.

■ National Hockey League

Coyotes take 3-1 series lead

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Shane Doan scored in the first period, Mike Smith made 25 saves and the Phoenix Coyotes beat the Nashville Predators 1-0 on Friday night to grab a 3-1 lead in the Western Conference semifinal series.

By winning their first game in the month of May, the Coyotes can advance to the conference finals with a win in Game 5 on Monday night in Arizona.

The Predators played with forwards Alexander Radulov and Andrei Kostitsyn scratched for a second straight game, this time the decision by coach Barry Trotz to stick with the lineup that won 2-0 on Wednesday night.

They sorely missed their offense, though Nashville thought it tied it with 7:12 remaining. But officials waved off the power-play

goal because a whistle blew before the puck crossed the line.

The Predators wound up outshooting Phoenix 25-24, but they had chances with the net open they simply missed with Radulov and Kostitsyn on the sideline. Radulov leads Nashville with a team-high six points in the postseason, and Kostitsyn is tied for the team lead with three goals. Fans cheered the announcement that the two were scratched after they were suspended for Game 3 for an apparent curfew violation last weekend in Arizona.

Nashville had plenty of chances, outshooting Phoenix 10-5 in the third. The Predators even got a power play at 11:34 when Coyotes defenseman Derek Morris cleared the puck over the glass and went to the box.

■ Baseball/Softball

Roundup

■ CONTINUED FROM 15 hits in the Vikings' 13-hit parade.

It's the second consecutive share of the CCC crown for the Vikings.

"A lot of these guys are back off of that team, too. That's a good accomplishment for them, to win at least a share of it two times in a row," Coomes said.

Miami East now turns its attention to the sectional tournament. After a first-round bye, the Vikings host either Northeastern or Twin Valley South on Wednesday.

ME.....165 00 — 12 13 0
MV.....000 00 — 0 2 2

Mitchell and Fellers. Stump and Rust. WP — Mitchell. LP — Stump. 2B — Coomes (M). **Records:** Miami East 16-3, 10-1.

• **Softball**
Troy 11, Xenia 1 (5)
TROY — Troy capped off a successful week by pounding out 11 hits in an 11-1 five inning victory over Xenia on Friday — reaching the 10-win plateau in its regular season finale.

"We won three out of four this week," Troy coach Scott Herman said. "The girls have been through a lot of adversity this year. So for us to get 10 wins is nice to see."

Rachel Good went 2 for 2 with a walk, three stolen

bases, an RBI and two runs scored in the win.

Amber Smith pitched five innings of four-hit softball to get the win on the mound. Smith also went 1 for 2.

"Rachel has worked extra on slapping and bunting," Herman said. "Her pitch selection has been excellent. We have two more years with her, so we're expecting big things."

"Amber has been spot on. She has been hitting her spots. We've been working closely together, and she's really starting to come on."

Brooke Evans was 1 for 2 with a stolen base — and that performance could

earn her the hitting title in the Greater Western Ohio Conference. Playing in their final game at Market Street Diamond, seniors Shelby Schultz went 1 for 3 with a run scored and RBI, Mackenzie Dankworth went 2 for 3 with a run and two RBIs and Jen Lehmann went 1 for 1. Allison Pierce went 1 for 2 with three RBIs and Victoria Adams added a double.

The Trojans (10-15) play the Lakota East-Piqua winner on Wednesday. They would host the Indians should they pull off an upset at the third-seeded Thunderhawks.

Xenia100 00 — 1 6 0
Troy433 1x — 11 11 1
Smith and Emerick.
Thornhill, Marshall, H. Shaw. WP — Smith. LP — Thornhill. 2B — Adams (T). **Records:** Troy 10-15.

ME 11, MV 1 (6)
UNION CITY —Kristy Brown had a double and a triple, Madison Linn went 3 for 4 with a double and two RBIs, Paige Kiesewetter and Sam Denlinger combined to pitch another gem as the Miami East Vikings bounced back from a tough loss on Thursday with a 11-1 dismantling of Mississinawa Valley on Friday.

Paige Mullen had a double and two RBIs and Jeni

Accurso added a double for the Vikings, which improve to 17-6 overall, and finish the season at 10-2 in Cross County Conference play.

"The girls came out and did what they had to do after a tough loss (on Thursday)," Miami East coach Brian Kadal said. "They hit the ball well and fielded well. Now it's all about getting ready for tournament."

The Vikings play Dixie at home on Monday.

ME.....503 012 — 11 15 4
MV.....000 100 — 1 2 3
Kiesewetter, Denlinger (5) and Accurso. Welch and Scholl. WP — Kiesewetter. LP — Welch. 2B — Brown (ME), Linn (ME), Accurso (ME), Aullen (ME). 3B — Brown (ME).