

THE LINEUP

QUICK HITS (AP)

NBA Morrow heading to Nets after trade

The New Jersey Nets have acquired guard Anthony Morrow in a sign and trade deal with the Golden State Warriors.

The deal was completed on Tuesday, just a day after the Nets handed Morrow an offer sheet on a three-year, \$12 million contract.

The Warriors, who were not expected to match the offer, will get the Nets' second-round draft pick in 2011. The pick is protected if it falls between 31 to 55.

GOLF Woods to change putters for Open

After 12 years using the same putter, Tiger Woods finally is switching to the swoosh.

Woods said Tuesday he will use a Nike Method putter at the British Open when he tries to become the first player to win the claret jug three times at St. Andrews.

Woods has not changed the most important club in the bag since the 1999 Byron Nelson Classic. Over the next 12 years, he won 72 times around the world, including 13 majors.

NFL Chargers Jackson suspended

The San Diego Chargers say Pro Bowl wide receiver Vincent Jackson has been suspended by the NFL for the first three games of the 2010 season for violating the league's substance abuse policy.

Jackson pleaded guilty in February to his second DUI since 2006.

The suspension could be moot. Jackson has refused to sign his tender as a restricted free agent and could sit out the first 10 games of the season.

OUR THOUGHTS

PREMIER LEAGUE Real Madrid wrong about Gerrard

Jose Mourinho is one of Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard's biggest fans.

In 2005 Mourinho pulled out all the stops to try and get Gerrard to leave Anfield for Chelsea but it wasn't meant to be.

Since taking over at La Liga giant Real Madrid on May 28, Mourinho has had eyes on Gerrard until Tuesday afternoon.

Apparently Gerrard, all of 30 years old, is too old for Real Madrid to go after.

Granted, Liverpool did stick a £58 million price on their captain, but the fact that Madrid thinks he is too old is absurd.

While Gerrard didn't have a year up to his standards, he's still a top-flight talent.

2010-11 will be a defining season for the Reds and their far-too-old-for-Spain captain.

With Javier Mascherano likely gone, and Yossi Benayoun leaving for Stamford Bridge, Liverpool should still return a solid core under new manager Roy Hodgson. Given a healthy nucleus and barring any dramatic changes for the worse (Fernando Torres leaving comes to mind) the Reds should challenge for a Champions League spot if nothing else.

With the old man leading the way expect to hear the familiar "GERRARD!" call echoing from the Kop end down to Anfield Road.

TRIVIA

Q: What year did Steven Gerrard first debut for Liverpool?

Tuesday's answer: The American League won the first All-Star game 4-2 in 1933.

Spikes drop series finale

By Jake Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Taking an aggressive approach at the plate paid off Monday night when the State College Spikes scored a season-high 13 runs on a franchise-record tying 20 hits.

The Spikes may have been a little too aggressive from the batter's box Tuesday, however, as they lost to the Vermont Lake Monsters 3-1 at Medlar Field at Lubrano Park.

"We swung at a lot of first pitches that weren't our pitch," first baseman Matt Curry said. "On first pitches you've got to be looking for one pitch and if you get it than you hit it. We put ourselves in a lot of holes. We weren't able to get up in the count too much and they threw strikes. You've got to give them credit."

The Spikes struggled to string

hits together, tallying more than one base knock in an inning just twice. A State College (13-12) base runner reached third base just three times. Kelson Brown was stranded on third with one out in the fourth inning and Kyle Saukko was stranded with two outs in the fifth before Gift Ngoepe got the Spikes' lone hit with runners in scoring position, an RBI single in the seventh.

"The coaches always preach you want to be aggressive, but you want to also be under control," said Brown, who went 1-for-3, giving him eight hits in the series. "I thought we came out swinging today, and just didn't quite get the pitches we needed to hit today."

In all, the Spikes batted just 1-for-9 with runners in scoring position. Two double play groundouts and a questionable ninth-inning pickoff of Brown didn't help the Spikes cause, either.

"We hit the ball pretty hard, just at guys," said catcher Matt Skirving, who went 2-for-3 and scored the lone run. "Didn't get the See SPIKES, Page 8."



Gift Ngoepe tries to catch a pitch Monday night. The Spikes lost the final game of their three game series with Vermont by a 3-1 score Tuesday.

Pitching continues to improve

By Bill Landis
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A quick glance over the State College Spikes team pitching statistics doesn't reveal any jaw-dropping numbers.

The team's ERA is 4.42, placing it in 11th place in the 14-team New York-Penn League. But over the last three games against the Vermont Lake Monsters, the performance of the Spikes pitching staff has been anything but subpar.

Over the three game series at Medlar Field at Lubrano Park, the Spikes hurlers allowed just five

earned runs in 27 innings of work. Included in the three-game series was the team's first shutout of the season on Sunday.

The Spikes' worst pitching performance of the series, however, came Tuesday when State College gave up three runs en route to a 3-1 loss.

But despite the loss, the team is confident in its starters after three strong outings. "That's going to put you in a position to win a lot of ballgames,"

catcher Matt Skirving. "It just happened that we gave up three in one game and couldn't score more than that."

The starter for Tuesday's game was right-hander Tyler Waldron. The 6-foot-2 Oregon State product allowed one run over five innings, striking out three and walking just one hitter.

The Spikes struggles at the plate caused Waldron (0-2) to come away with the loss despite just giving up the one run.

Waldron is still looking for his first win in a Spikes uniform, but Tuesday's performance could put him on the right track. In his last

start before Tuesday against the Brooklyn Cyclones, Waldron went five innings, but wasn't nearly as sharp.

He allowed two hits and five runs to the Cyclones in those five innings, but he wasn't the only State College pitcher to struggle in Brooklyn.

For the series Spikes pitchers allowed 27 earned runs in 27 innings. Zach Dodson, Ryan Beckman and Brooks Ponders allowed the bulk of the runs in a 9-7 loss in the series finale.

The Spikes offense wasn't much to write home about in the three games. See PITCHING, Page 9.



Waldron

Yankees owner Steinbrenner dies

By Ronald Blum
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK -- George Steinbrenner, whose big wallet and win-at-all-cost attitude whipped the New York Yankees into a billion-dollar sports empire, died Tuesday. He had just celebrated his 80th birthday July 4.

Steinbrenner had a heart attack, was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital in Tampa, Fla., and died at about 6:30 a.m., a person close to the owner told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team had not disclosed those details.

"George was 'The Boss,' make no mistake," Hall of Famer Yogi Berra said. "He built the Yankees into champions, and that's something nobody can ever deny. He was a very generous, caring, passionate man. George and I had our differences, but who didn't? We became great friends over the last decade and I will miss him very much."

In 37-plus seasons as owner, Steinbrenner led the Yankees to seven World Series championships, 11 American League pennants and 16 AL East titles.

"He was and always will be as much of a New York Yankee as Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Yogi Berra, Whitey Ford and all of the

other Yankee legends," baseball commissioner Bud Selig said.

"Although we would have disagreements over the years, they never interfered with our friendship and commitment to each other. Our friendship was built on loyalty and trust and it never wavered."

Steinbrenner's death on the day of the All-Star game was the second in three days to rock the Yankees. Bob Sheppard, the team's revered public address announcer from 1951-07, died Sunday at 99.

New York was 11 years removed from its last championship when Steinbrenner headed a group that bought the team from CBS Inc. on Jan. 3, 1973, for about \$10 million.

He revolutionized the franchise — and sports — by starting his own television network and ballpark food company.

Forbes now values the Yankees at \$1.6 billion, trailing only Manchester United (\$1.8 billion) and the Dallas Cowboys (\$1.65 billion).

"He was an incredible and charitable man," his family said in a statement.

"He was a visionary and a giant in the world of sports. He took a great but struggling franchise and turned it into a champion again."

He ruled with obsessive dedication to detail, overseeing everything from trades to the airblowers that kept his ballparks spotless.

Divisive "Boss" deserves respect

By Andrew J. Cassavell

LOVE him — many did.
Hate him — probably even more did. Respect him — if you don't, shame on you.

George Steinbrenner, owner of the New York Yankees from 1973 until Tuesday, when he died of a heart attack at the age

of 80, was one of the most influential figures in the history of baseball.

He was also one of the most interesting people in the history of sports, heck, maybe even the world.

This is a man brilliant enough to buy a franchise for \$8.8 million and turn it into a billion-dollar entity by the middle of the 2000s.

A man crazy enough to fire and re-hire manager Billy Martin five times.

A man legendary enough, he became an iconic figure on

Steinfeld, even though he was only ever portrayed by the back of an actor's head.

A man who wanted to win titles so badly, he is single-handedly responsible for the birth of high-priced free agency. That's right, thank Steinbrenner, who once said, "Winning is the most important thing in my life, after breathing," for the \$25 million contract Cliff Lee will sign this offseason.

He wanted to win so badly, he publicly apologized for his team's performance after it dropped the 1981 World Series in six games. So badly, he fired the manager who resurrected the Yankees to their first playoff appearance after a 14-year drought, during the ensuing offseason.

The man he hired to replace Buck Showalter: Joe Torre. Yup, that turned out all right.

If you think Cleveland Cavaliers owner Dan Gilbert was angry when he wrote his letter to Cavs fans after LeBron James' departure, Steinbrenner would have made Gilbert look tame.

After all, it was Steinbrenner who



MY OPINION

Royster eyes future

By Audrey Snyder
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

When Evan Royster stood on the sidelines with a white towel draped over his head during the Blue-White game it was a different look for everyone.

Throughout the entire spring, the centerpiece of Penn State's offense was nothing more than a teaching tool for his teammates. But Royster's days of standing around are well behind him.

Though the senior is in the midst of his offseason preparations, he fully expects his well-rested body to be ready to take on an increased load when the season starts. Royster wants more carries and be split out of the backfield, in part to answer any questions pro scouts may have on his durability.

"Speaking to some people they want to see me get 20-to-25 carries a game, to carry a team like you've

seen a lot of big time running backs do," a beefed up Royster said at Friday's Lift for Life, where he weighed in at 225 pounds. "Hopefully I'll get a chance to do that this year."

To prepare for more touches, Royster added 12 pounds in hopes the extra weight will help absorb some of the blows — though he wants to play between 218 and 220. The focus of his offseason, he said, has been to condition himself to allow for at least five more carries per game.

"I felt good [last year]," Royster said of his previous playing weight. "But at the same time there have been times in games where I've felt like with a little bit more weight I could break that tackle or deliver a little bit more of a blow and get a couple more yards."

However, the mentality of being the main component of the offense — a role not seen since high school when he carried the ball between



Evan Royster pushes a weight sled at Lift for Life. A redshirt senior, Royster is preparing for the upcoming season and beyond this summer.

25 and 35 times a game — is something he needed time to take in.

Rather than staying and training in State College, Royster spent six weeks at home in Fairfax, Va. after graduation. While it altered his training schedule, he said it didn't force him to lose any strength.

"It's something I wanted to do just to give myself a little bit of a different feel, a break," Royster said. "It's just something I kind of needed to do for myself and for my family too."

The mental break he received

See ROYSTER, Page 8.