

Sox to face changes after ouster

BY RICK GANO
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — Just getting to the playoffs was a chore for the Chicago White Sox.

They had to win their last regular-season game, the makeup of a rainout and a tiebreaker to win the AL Central.

And by the time they finally wrapped up the division title and had to play the young and talented Tampa Bay Rays, the veteran White Sox were a bit spent.

"It's just tough to keep that level of play against a good team like that," first baseman Paul Konerko said.

"We just out of gas."

But there were no excuses after making it to the postseason for the first time since winning the 2005 World Series. The White Sox had some key injuries, as all teams have, but their season ended because the Rays deserved to win.

"We got beat by a better team," ace Mark Buehrle said.

Now there are numerous personnel decisions to sort out.

"We have a lot of free agents in here and a lot of guys that have some decisions to make. The front office has some decisions to make," right fielder Jer-

maine Dye said. "We'll see what happens."

Shortstop Orlando Cabrera, center fielder Ken Griffey Jr., a trade deadline acquisition, and third baseman Joe Crede may not return. Juan Uribe, who filled in when Crede was bothered by back problems for the second straight

season, can become a free agent. Crede had a strong first half with 16 homers but played in only 11 games after the All-Star break. "We'll come back and we'll put together a club that's going to give you another run for your

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Chicago still aims for Olympics bid

Economic crisis should not affect city's plan for 2016

BY RICARDO ZUNIGA
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY — Chicago organizers are confident the global economic crisis will have no negative effect on the city's bid to host the 2016 Olympics.

Members of the Chicago organizing committee will make their first formal presentation to IOC members on Saturday during the Pan American Sports Organization meeting in the Mexican resort town of Acapulco.

"We don't feel that we'll have constraints by the federal government saying 'We can't put any more money into this because of the financial crisis,'" Patrick Sandusky, Chicago's bid spokesman, told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"It's not something we think would impact Chicago individually," he added. "It's more of a global phenomenon."

Sandusky said the Chicago bid will not have the problems London faces in getting financing for the construction projects for

the 2012 Summer Games.

London Olympic organizers said they intend to "bear down" on costs in the wake of the global financial crisis and do everything possible to avoid overruns on the \$17 billion budget for the 2012 Olympics.

The financial turmoil is complicating London's ability to secure private funding for key construction projects. Organizers may be forced to use reserves from the government's contingency fund of \$1.9 billion to help pay for the athletes' village and a new broadcast and press center.

"We feel very confident that when we're in the situation that London is, which is four years from now, that we would have a very solid plan that would be entirely privately financed," Sandusky said.

He stressed that London is planning a "much bigger scale project" than Chicago.

"In terms of what we need to provide for the athletes, and what we need to host the games, and what we need to make it right for our city and our neighborhood, we feel confident that in the coming years we'll be able to do that, and certainly can show the IOC that we have the

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Olympic-sized speech



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President Bush delivers remarks to members of the 2008 United States Summer Olympic and Paralympic teams during a ceremony Tuesday.

Illini of the Week Jordan Pringle

Five goals and three assists in pair of Illini weekend wins



CHECK plus

Engineer leads UI's top-ranked hockey team

BY TONY DONISCH
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Jordan Pringle has two objectives.

On the one hand, the senior mechanical engineering major wants to maintain high grades and work at a patent law firm after graduation.

On the other hand, the captain forward wants to lead Illinois' reigning National Champion

More inside: Juice reflects on his big day at the Big House. For more on the Illini of the Week runner-up, turn to **Page 2B**.

hockey team to a repeat.

Sometimes these two pursuits collide.

Nine hours after scoring a goal and assisting another in a test against No. 11-ranked Oakland University, he needed to go pass a different kind of test.

"It's kind of funny, we had our game Friday night, and I actually drove to Decatur after our game," Pringle said. "I stayed in a hotel, and then took the LSAT on Sat-

Honorable Mention

Juice Williams - Football

The junior quarterback led the Illini to a 45-20 victory at Michigan Stadium on Saturday. Williams threw for 310 yards and two touchdowns and ran for 121 yards and two more scores. He earned Big Ten Offensive Player of the Week on Monday.

Hillary Haen - Volleyball

The sophomore setter played in the front row in both of the team's matches last weekend. In the Illini's victory against Iowa on Saturday, Haen hit .400 and had a team-leading 28 assists. On Friday, Haen had a kill and a block assist in the team's loss to Minnesota.

urday morning at 8 a.m. Then I drove back here and played the game Saturday night. It was an interesting weekend."

Right after the test, he came back to Champaign to help his

team keep its 41-game winning streak and undefeated season intact.

Less than eight hours after sit-

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Khabibulin expected to start regular season with Chicago

Blackhawks' coach wants 'luxury' of 2 top goalies on team

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BENSENVILLE, Ill. — Goal-tender Nikolai Khabibulin is expected to start the regular season with the Chicago Blackhawks.

The 35-year-old Khabibulin had seemed destined to be sent to the minors, traded or opt to play in his native Russia by the time the Blackhawks open their regular season Friday night in New York against the Rangers.

But on Tuesday, Khabibulin was on Blackhawks general manager Dale Tallon's final roster heading into the regular season.

NHL teams must submit ros-

ters to the league by 3 p.m. EDT Wednesday.

The goalie, who did not appear in any of Chicago's eight pre-season games, is entering the final year of a four-year contract that is set to pay him \$6.75 million this season.

Khabibulin practiced with the Blackhawks at the team's suburban Chicago facility on Tuesday after not being on the ice for a session on Saturday. The Black-

hawks played their final exhibition game on Sunday and didn't practice on Monday.

Chicago signed free-agent goalie Cristobal Huet to a four-year, \$22.45 million deal on July 1. Tallon and Blackhawks coach Denis Savard maintained they planned to start the season with the "luxury" of two No. 1 goalies.

"The best goaltender is going to play," Tallon said. "Nick knows

that and I know that."

"Nick is with us," Savard said. "It's going to be day-by-day for both goaltenders. Haby and Dale had a great talk and we're happy to have him."

Last week, Khabibulin cleared waivers, giving the Blackhawks the option of sending him to Rockford of the American Hockey League. Tallon confirmed that he talked to other teams about trading Khabibulin, but

none of the discussions became serious.

Another option was for Khabibulin to play in Russia. If Khabibulin is traded or heads overseas, his \$6.75 million salary no longer would count toward Chicago's salary cap.

Trading Khabibulin remains a possibility.

"As we move on, we have a lot

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Women's golf flashes signs of greatness at Windy City invite

Illini finish 9th, break 300-strokes

BY RICH MAYOR
STAFF WRITER

The Illinois women's golf team has battled consistency issues all season, and this week was no different.

The Illini finished ninth out of 13 teams in the Windy City Collegiate Classic, but flashed signs of future greatness at Evanston Golf Club in Evanston, Ill. The squad finished 56-over par, only three strokes behind sixth-place Texas and East Carolina. Big Ten rival Purdue won the tournament with a 27-over score of 891.

The team fizzled in their first round on Monday morning, firing a 314. But the squad regrouped and sparked a flame of brilliance in the afternoon, shaving 15 shots off their score and

breaking the 300-stroke barrier for the first time in competition this season with a 299.

"It was one of the lower scores of the afternoon, only two other teams beat us in the field," head coach Renee Slone said. "They've proven to themselves that they can play with these teams and beat a number of quality teams and ranked teams, so that will certainly give them confidence moving forward. But for a young team, consistency is something that will take some time to acquire. Now that we've broken 300 in tournament play, the first time is always the most difficult, so next time it should be easier and occur more frequently."

Freshman Hailey Koschmann anchored the team once again, finishing at a team-best tie for 18th, despite a first-round 82. Koschmann regrouped and spearheaded the second round surge with an even-par 72, and followed that up with a one-over

73 on Tuesday. Freshman Samantha Sloan came next, tying for 28th with a 15-over 231.

Freshman Nora Lucas was disqualified in Monday's second round for neglecting to sign her score card, but still managed to register a 77 in the final round. "We stayed positive," Lucas said. "The conditions got a little tougher in the afternoon, but we were resilient and played with focus."

Yet Monday's second round truly showed what this team is capable of achieving.

"Just looking at them from my point of view, they carried themselves a bit differently in the afternoon than they did in the morning," Slone said. "They seemed to express a more positive attitude, a little higher sense of confidence. In the morning, you couldn't tell by looking at them how they were playing — it

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WESLEY FANE THE DAILY ILLINI

Hailey Koschmann pitches the ball during practice at the Champaign Country Club on Sept. 18. Koschmann tied for 18th at the Windy City Collegiate Classic.