

## [ On the Cover ]



JESSICA RINALDI / REUTERS

**TOGETHERNESS:** Henrik Zetterburg, right, celebrates his goal with Detroit teammate Mikael Samuelsson last night in Game 4 of the Western Conference final.

## [ Short Stops ]

## Celts silence LeBron in second half to win 96-89

[ BOSTON ] Someone is going to have to win in Beantown to keep the Celtics from winning their 17th National Basketball Association title.

Cleveland hopes for one more chance. Kevin Garnett had 26 points and 16 rebounds, Rajon Rondo added 20 points and 13 assists, and the Celtics beat the Cavaliers 96-89 last night to move within a win of the Eastern Conference final.

Paul Pierce scored 29 and helped shut down LeBron James for much of the second half to give Boston a 3-2 lead in the best-of-seven conference semi-final. James scored 23 of his 35 points in the first half and was mostly quiet in the second before scoring six in the final 3:26 after Boston was well in the lead.

Game 6 is back in Cleveland tomorrow evening.

## Celebrating achievements of local athletes

Local Heroes is a new weekly feature that will highlight the achievements and successes of local amateur athletes, young, old and in between.

We're counting on you to tell us about them.

Get a hole in one? Post your fastest time ever in a swim meet? Sink 10 foul shots in a row in your basketball game? Tell us about your big moment, or the big moment of your son, daughter, friend or teammate.

Local Heroes runs Saturdays. Please submit a short description of the achievement along with a jpeg photograph. The higher the resolution of the photograph the better. Include name, age, sport and the date and location of whatever achievement is being noted.

Send submissions via e-mail to: LocalHeroes@thespec.com.

# Ochoa to follow Annika, in time

By Tom CANAVAN

[ CLIFTON, N.J. ] Annika Sorenstam's decision to leave the LPGA Tour left Lorena Ochoa with mixed emotions and her own exit strategy still in place.

"My plans are the same ... I want to win tournaments, I want to break records this year," said Ochoa yesterday, a day after Sorenstam announced this would be her last season. "I know the competition is going to be very tough. But like she does, I want to finish No. 1, not only in the world ranking, but on the money list."

Heading into this week's Sybase Classic at the Upper Montclair Country Club, Ochoa and Soren-

stam are one-two, respectively, in the world rankings and leading earners on Tour this year.

Ochoa, 26, has won five times and earned \$1,538,616 US. Sorenstam ran away with her third title last weekend — against a field that included Ochoa — and pushed her earnings to \$1,244,281 US.

The 37-year-old Swede, who is still at the top of her game, announced Tuesday that she was leaving the game at the end of the year to get on with her life.

"She's at a different stage in her life and she wants to have kids and have the clinic and she has other things to do," Ochoa said. "I think to find the love of doing something

different outside the golf course is something that I admire, so congratulations to her."

The Mexican star has similar ideas. Two years ago, she said she only planned to play six to 12 years. This is her sixth full season on the Tour, and her path remains intact.

"I don't have a strict number which date I will finish, but I do want to go back home and just raise a family and have kids. Those are the plans," said the two-time defending champion of the Sybase Classic. "You never know what is going to happen, but I would love to just finish here and be happy with my career and then just go back to Mexico and do things that I love to

do, that I miss. Life is too short to not do them, and I like to be home."

Ochoa credits Sorenstam for being her motivation, and somewhat of a role model on and off the course. The bottom line always has been to dominate the game the way Sorenstam has over a 15-year career that saw her win 72 times, including 10 majors.

"I'm going to miss her," Ochoa said. "I do have mixed feelings. It's sad. I think the LPGA is losing a big name."

Ochoa and others, however, are quick to note that the game always seems to find new stars.

The Associated Press

## Ex-CFLer loses in appeal court

[ REGINA ] An appeal court has upheld the conviction of a former CFL Saskatchewan Roughrider for knowingly exposing two women to HIV in a decision that could likely mean game over for the football player's battle with the courts.

The three justices of the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal ruled yesterday that provincial court Judge Kenn Bellerose convicted Trevis Smith based on all the evidence at his trial last year and made no mistake when he opted to believe the testimony of the two women over Smith.

"He simply did not believe the appellant and was not left with a reasonable doubt by the appellant's evidence," Justice Gary Lane wrote in the unanimous decision.

"He did believe the complainants, and, on the whole of the evidence, he was not left with a reasonable doubt."

The ruling means Smith will not be granted the new trial he was seeking. He is currently serving a six-year sentence for aggravated sexual assault. With the decision being unanimous, it will be tough to get the Supreme Court to hear the case, Smith's lawyer Clemente Monterosso said in a telephone interview from Montreal.

The Canadian Press

# McCoys boss has high hopes for 'super league'

By Scott RADLEY

Watching the level of play in the recent Allan Cup, Dundas Real McCoys president Don Robertson looked at his team, the eventual champion Brantford Blast and the Whitby Dunlops and realized the new league he was quietly putting together behind the scenes could be pretty darn impressive.

Starting next season, those three teams along with the Norwood

(Peterborough) Vipers and Orillia/Coldwater Tundras — a quintet with a huge collection of hardware from recent seasons — will make up the new Major Hockey League. Or the super league of senior hockey, as he calls it.

"It should be a good league," Robertson says. "There's all kinds of evidence to support this could be the best senior league in Canada."

The process to construct this

new loop started almost 18 months ago when Robertson caught wind of some problems brewing in his own league.

Those issues came to fruition in recent days when the Windsor Saints — which was made up of St. Clair College students and was funded by the school as their varsity team — folded. Then the Tillsonburg Vipers announced they're moving to a different league.

The Petrolia Squires may return, but they remain in limbo with some sort of decision coming by June 1.

The new league's schedule is expected to be released in July.

There is talk there could be interest in icing a team from some other towns, but Robertson says he's not holding his breath.

sradley@thespec.com  
905-526-2440