

Arizona Daily Star
SPORTS

TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 2012 • SECTION B

Editor: Shannon Conner / 520-573-4145 / sportsed@azstarnet.com

COLLEGE WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP: ARIZONA 4, SOUTH CAROLINA 1

Cats jumping for joy



TED KIRK / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Johnny Field shows an NBA-worthy vertical leap as he heads to the top of a pile of celebrating Wildcats in the middle of the Omaha, Neb., field.

Three-run ninth caps perfect run to first CWS title since 1986

By Ryan Finley
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

OMAHA, Neb. — Their so-called defensive substitution delivered the biggest hit of his life. Their No. 9 hitter battled like a

IF YOU GO

- **What:** Championship celebration
- **Where:** McKale Center
- **When:** Today at noon, team will arrive at 1 p.m.
- **Admission:** Free

cleanup guy. The College World Series' hottest team found life when

things seemed to be falling apart, and because of it, the Arizona Wildcats are national champions. Brandon Dixon ripped a one-out RBI double to left field in the ninth inning and Trent Gilbert followed with a two-run single, giving the UA a 4-1 College World Series Finals win over South Carolina in front of 23,872 at TD Ameritrade Park. The UA's fourth baseball title, and first since 1986, included two unlikely heroes. But Arizona's formula for success Monday remained the same as it was in its first four victories in Omaha: Pitch, play good defense and force the opponent to make a mistake. When South Carolina flinched, **See BASEBALL, B4** Seen and heard in Omaha / B4 Pick up Sunday's UA baseball special section



Greg Hansen

UA's Lopez makes all right calls

OMAHA, Neb.

In the years to come, as Arizona's 10-0 run through the 2012 postseason becomes bigger than life, stories passed from generation to generation will make the Wildcats 10-0 streak seem like 100-0. Arizona won 'em all, a post-season march through Omaha that matched the school's matchless national championships of 1976, 1980 and 1986 and, depending on who's telling the story, maybe it surpassed 'em all. The Wildcats outscored their opposition 88-28 in a perfect postseason, including 27-8 at the College World Series. It had almost no numerical resemblance to those national titles won by Jerry Kindall's teams because, if you recall, those champions of yesteryear were endearingly known as the "Cardiac Cats." Yet if you followed Arizona's four-game sweep at Ameritrade Park, either watching on ESPN or sitting through the humidity in downtown Omaha, you'll remember the tension as much as the celebratory fireworks and right-fielder Robert Refsnyder cradling **See HANSEN, B4** **SN** On StarNet: See more photos from the Wildcats' championship game at azstarnet.com/gallery

ROAD TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP

NCAA Regionals, Game 1	NCAA Regionals, Game 2	NCAA Regionals, Game 3	NCAA Super Regionals, Game 1	NCAA Super Regionals, Game 2	CWS bracket play, Game 1	CWS bracket play, Game 2	CWS bracket play, Game 3	CWS finals, Game 1	CWS finals, Game 2
Arizona 15, Missouri 3 The Wildcats score seven runs in the fourth inning	Arizona 16, Louisville 4 Brandon Dixon homers in a seven-run seventh inning	Arizona 16, Louisville 3 Johnny Field blasts a third-inning grand slam	Ariz. 7, St. John's 6 (10 inn.) Trent Gilbert rips a game-winning RBI single to right field	Arizona 7, St. John's 4 Konner Wade throws a six-hit complete game	Arizona 4, Fla. St. 3 (12 inn.) Joey Rickard and Field hit back-to-back doubles in the 12th	Arizona 4, UCLA 0 Wade throws a complete game, five-hit shutout	Arizona 10, Fla. State 3 Cats take 6-0 lead after first inning and add four in fourth	Arizona 5, South Carolina 1 Robert Refsnyder rips a two-run, opposite-field homer in the first	Arizona 4, South Carolina 1 Dixon doubles in the go-ahead run in a three-run ninth

US OLYMPIC SWIMMING TRIALS

Leverenz earns berth in London

By Greg Hansen
ARIZONA DAILY STAR

OMAHA, Neb. — As a 17-year-old Sahuaro High School senior-to-be, Caitlin Leverenz came so close to making the U.S. Olympic swimming team that it was agonizing. She was third in the 200 breast stroke and fourth in both the 200 individual medley and the 400 IM. She left CenturyLink Center in Omaha that week determined and somewhat upbeat, insisting that she would return in four years and make things right. And on Monday night she did. The NCAA female Swimmer of the Year, a senior at Cal, finished second in the 400 IM Monday night, securing a berth on Team USA at the London Olympics. Leverenz swam the 400 IM in 4 minutes 34.38 seconds, trailing only Elizabeth Beisel. It was four

See SWIMMING, B3

Lochte tops Phelps in men's 400 IM / B3



MARK J. TERRILL / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tucsonan Caitlin Leverenz, right, celebrates with Elizabeth Beisel after they earned Olympic berths in the women's 400 individual medley Monday in Omaha, Neb.

US OLYMPIC TRACK AND FIELD TRIALS

London eludes Wildcat despite leap of his life

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

EUGENE, Ore. — Arizona high jumper Nick Ross finished third at the rainy U.S. Olympic track and field trials Monday night with the best leap of his career. Normally, that would have earned Ross a ticket to the London Games — the top three qualify — but the junior's effort of 7 feet 5¾ inches failed to meet the Olympic "A" standard of 7-7, so world champ Jesse Williams will go instead despite finishing fourth. Winner Jamie Nieto, runner-up Erik Kynard and Williams all cleared the "A" standard this year. Ross failed three times at 7-7 Monday, but his 7-5¾ was the second-best mark in UA history. Tucsonan Bernard Lagat and former UA runner Robert

UP NEXT

- **What:** U.S. Olympic track and field trials
- **Where:** Eugene, Ore.
- **When:** Thursday-Sunday

Cheseret both qualified for the 5,000-meter final Thursday. Lagat finished second in his heat at 13 minutes 42.83 seconds; Cheseret was fifth in his heat at 13:49.42. In the women's 5,000, Flowing Wells High grad Tara Erdmann qualified for Thursday's final with the 10th-best time of 15:49.98. UA sophomore Baillie Gibson, took 12th in the final of the women's discus with a toss of 148 **See TRACK, B3**



COMING SUNDAY

UA BASEBALL: Remember the 2012 season with our special section.

MORE INSIDE

Venus loses in first round at Wimbledon
Williams has her earliest exit at the event in 15 years, falling 6-1, 6-3. **Page B5**

Cardinals rally past stumbling Marlins
Down 6-1 after seven, visiting St. Louis turns it on late and wins 8-7 in 10 innings. **Page B2**