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Varughese family's suspicions confirmed

TYLER DIXON
Daily Egyptian

A second autopsy on the body of SIU student Pravin Varughese has found the cause of death to be blunt-force trauma to the head.

The April 23 independent autopsy, results of which were released Friday, was performed by Dr. Ben Margolis, a forensic pathologist with the Autopsy Center of Chicago. The autopsy contradicts the one conducted by the Jackson County Coroner's Office, which found no evidence of foul play and said instead that Varughese died from hypothermia.

The Carbondale Police Department previously said they did not suspect foul play in Varughese's death.

The body of Varughese, 19, of Morton Grove, was found Feb. 18 in Carbondale. He was a sophomore at SIU.

Lovely Varughese, Pravin's mother, and Charles Stegmeyer, an attorney for the family, said the Carbondale Police Department has not contacted them since the release of the second autopsy.

Stegmeyer said the next step is to send the autopsy to the state's attorney and attorney general's office after they receive the first autopsy report.

"Whatever he thinks is best is going to happen," Varughese said.

Varughese said Stegmeyer would handle everything from now on.

An April 2 toxicology report came back negative for controlled substances, and found trace amounts of alcohol attributed to post-mortem inspection.

The Varughese family had a second autopsy that revealed bruising on Pravin's head, hands and torso.

Varughese said the latest autopsy is very upsetting and the family knew something had happened to Pravin.

"According to [Carbondale police], there is no injury and the cause of death is hypothermia," she said. "We knew he had injuries. I have seen them."

Neither Stegmeyer nor the Varughese family have seen the first autopsy report.

Varughese went missing Feb. 12 after attending a party in the 600 block of West College Street. Varughese left the party around midnight with Gaege Bethune of Harrisburg.

He was reported missing the next day. His body was found six days later in a wooded area east of the 1400 block of East Main Street near Buffalo Wild Wings.

Rachel Elbe, a junior from Bradley studying art and a friend of Pravin's, said she and a few close friends went to Pravin's funeral and noticed bruising on his face even under the make-up.

"We knew right away obviously something else had happened," she said. "It didn't even look like the same person."

Elbe said officers called it a drug case the night of the party because there were drugs present at the party. Elbe said she hopes with people outside of Carbondale hearing the story that the truth will finally come out.

Varughese said her son is gone and nobody can bring him back, but there is something she hopes this will accomplish.

"I just hope this case would shed some kind of light into the system in Carbondale so this does not happen to another family," she said.

Carbondale Sgt. Corey Kemp said the department would not comment on the case because it is an ongoing investigation.

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PRAVIN VARUGHESE

February 12

Pravin leaves party around midnight with Gaege Bethune, goes missing

February 14 - 16

Family and friends come to aid in search. Search dogs are sent out to try and locate body.

February 18

Body found after tip to police. Chief Jody O'Guinn said the death looked accidental and there were no signs of trauma. Original cause of death is listed as hypothermia.

February 26

Remembrance ceremony held for Varughese

April 14

Justice for Pravin, which calls for a special investigation, reaches 18,000 signatures to take to the state legislature and Gov. Pat Quinn. Eventually reaches the 20,000 mark.

Timeline of Events

February 13

Reported Missing

February 17

Friends and family hold vigil

February 24

Video of State Police trooper pulling over and conversing with Bethune. Bethune tells story, says he doesn't want to press charges. Trooper doesn't report missing person.

April 2

Toxicology report comes back negative for controlled substances and only minor amounts of alcohol attributed to post-mortem inspection.

April 23

Second autopsy commissioned by the family shows bruising on Varughese's head, hands and torso.

Carbondale votes to lift Halloween ban

MARISSA NOVEL
Daily Egyptian

Because of the successful 2013 trial run, three bars on the Strip will be open again on Halloween.

The Carbondale City Council voted to lift the restrictions on Hangar 9, Stix and Sidetracks at the May 20 meeting.

City Manager Kevin Baity said the expected crowds were less than usual the past year due to bad weather. Reports from the police and fire departments from the area included minimal infractions, Baity said.

The bars have been closed for Halloween since 1994. The ban was

lifted in 2000, but was reinstated after a destructive riot led police to use tear gas on the masses.

Councilwoman Jane Adams said she is in favor of getting rid of the ban entirely. She said the shift in student-residential options has impacted the businesses of the Strip.

"There are a lot more students looking at these better-quality apartments that are not that close to the Strip and I think that's a real factor," she said.

Adams said in the 1980s and 1990s, more students lived in houses on the west side of the city and now more students are seeking housing in apartment complexes on the east and south sides.

Adams said she has seen a change in her own residential area, near South Poplar Street. She said that during Unofficial Halloween, the streets were full of vehicles and people were overflowing into the streets.

"I looked around on Halloween weekend and there were no cars parked next to houses; lights were out. It was a quieter weekend than normal," she said.

Many students take advantage of the Amtrak during Halloween weekend to visit friends in other areas, a fact that Adams said she believes also impacts the bar scene.

"My presumption was that they partied on the weekend before

Halloween and all their friends came from out of town and went elsewhere for Halloween evening," she said.

Adams said she has seen a difference in student recreation in the past few years. She said she thinks students are more studious, healthier and would rather opt for outdoor recreation instead of house parties or bar life.

"I think the notion of what fun is may have changed," Adams said.

Acting Mayor Don Monty said he is not quick to permanently lift the ban.

"What I would like to do is try this a year at a time until we get a real clear picture as to whether

or not there has been a permanent change in behavior," he said.

Monty said if this year goes as smoothly, then the ban could be permanently lifted.

Sally Carter, owner of Hangar 9, said she expects things to go well.

"We do certain things to ensure the safety of our patrons and employees every day," she said. "Halloween will be no different."

In the case of an emergency, the city has an intervention plan prepared with the police, fire and street-maintenance departments.

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While civil war continues Syrians vote for president

**DIAA HADID
ALBERT AJI**
Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Against a backdrop of civil war, tens of thousands of Syrians voted in government-controlled cities and towns Tuesday to give President Bashar Assad a new seven-year mandate, with some even marking the ballots with their own blood.

The carefully choreographed election was ignored and even mocked in opposition-held areas of Syria where fighting persisted, with some rebels derisively dropping their shoes in a phony ballot box in a show of disgust. Western leaders also called it a sham.

A victory for Assad is likely to bolster his base of support at home and provide further evidence that he has no intention of relinquishing power, making a protracted conflict the likely outcome in fighting that has already lasted three years.

Fears that the rebels would rain down mortar shells on government-controlled territory did not materialize, but fighting persisted.

State-run media reported that voting closed on midnight Tuesday, and election officials began the process of checking the number of votes against lists of registered voters to ensure numbers matched. In one central Damascus voting booth, 2,196 people cast their ballots — all but two were for Assad, counted an AP reporter who watched representatives of each presidential candidate tally votes.

The announcement was accompanied by wild beeping and

cheering on central Damascus by Assad supporters. It was not immediately clear when election results would be announced.

Earlier in Damascus, the dull sounds of explosions reverberated in the distance as government forces and rebels battled in nearby rural towns and plumes of gray smoke marked the skyline. Several mortar rounds reportedly hit in the capital, including one that fell near the Opera House on a major plaza.

At least three fighter jets roared low over the city, which residents said was unusual. Government warplanes and helicopters pounded the rebellious Damascus suburb of Daraya, the southern city of Daraa and the nearby town of Nawa, as well as opposition-held districts of the divided northern city of Aleppo.

Voting took place only in government-controlled areas, excluding much of northern and eastern Syria. Tens of thousands of Syrians abroad voted last week, although many of the more than 2.7 million Syrian refugees across the region either abstained or were excluded by law.

There were ostentatious shows of support for the 48-year-old Assad, who has ruled Syria since 2000, when he took over after the death of his father, Hafez. There was a carnival-like atmosphere, with voters singing, banging drums and dancing with Syrian flags. Chants of "God, Syria and Bashar!" were heard.

At a polling station in the upscale Dama Rose hotel in central Damascus, a blue cup filled with pins was set out for those who wanted to

vote in blood. Some pricked their fingers repeatedly to draw enough blood to mark the circle under Assad's name on the ballot — an act of allegiance and patriotism that has been used in previous elections under both Assads.

Most voted in ink, though, and some made their choice for Assad in full sight of other voters and TV cameras instead of using a curtained booth for privacy.

They said re-electing Assad would give him more legitimacy to find a solution to the devastating conflict that opposition activists say has killed more than 160,000 of their countrymen, about a third of them civilians.

Most Syrians said they believed some sort of reconciliation had to take place alongside the military crackdown, which they saw as inevitable.

"Dialogue can't be a solution when somebody is waving a gun in your face," Zeina Habal said after she voted in Damascus. "You speak to the people who have wisdom to understand, and you defend yourself at the same time."

The government has portrayed the election as the solution to the conflict, but there is no indication it will halt the violence or mend a bitterly divided nation.

"Assad's victory will not legitimize the regime, but will cement its resilience," Ayham Kamel, an analyst with the Eurasia group in London said. He said the election will also reinforce the military's recent gains and further undermine the ability of radical or moderate rebels to replace the government.

Obama's emissions plan could boost climate talks

**JUERGEN BAETZ
JOE MCDONALD**
Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — President Barack Obama's move to limit U.S. carbon emissions may prompt an important shift by China in its climate policies, where officials are increasingly worried about the costs of pollution anyway, according to a Chinese expert and activists closely following the international negotiations.

The initiative may be a crucial move in pressuring Beijing to accept binding goals to cut greenhouse gases, while also allowing the U.S. to start catching up with the European Union in the fight against climate change.

"This is the kind of leadership that's highly needed," Martin Kaiser, head of international climate politics at Greenpeace said. The proposal should have been twice as ambitious, he added, but "it demonstrates that the Obama administration wants to seriously tackle climate change."

The plan, unveiled Monday, would reduce carbon dioxide emissions from U.S. power plants, many of which are coal-fired, by 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030.

Governments want an agreement by late next year in Paris to curb emissions of greenhouse gasses blamed for global warming. Unlike the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which exempted developing nations from emissions

limits, this deal is supposed to cover every country.

The U.S. never ratified the Kyoto protocol, handing China and others an easy excuse to dodge tougher action as well.

"The new initiative is a first firm commitment that puts the U.S. in a serious negotiating position for the upcoming climate talks in Paris," Georg Zachmann, an expert with the Brussels-based think tank Bruegel said.

"It gives hope that further steps in that direction will be forthcoming," he said.

The U.S. announcement came just ahead of international climate talks starting Wednesday in Bonn, Germany, where governments will discuss how ambitious to be in tackling global warming over the coming decades. Climate change is also on the agenda at a meeting of the G-7 leaders in Brussels Thursday, bringing together Obama and his counterparts from the other leading Western economies.

China, the world's biggest polluter ahead of the U.S., has promised to curb its output but has so far resisted binding limits. The U.S. move will give incentive to the Chinese to do more, many experts believe.

"Obama's plan to cut greenhouse gas may have some impact on China's decision-making," Wang Ke, a professor at the School of Environment and Natural Resources at People's University in Beijing said. "But China's goal will be based on its domestic needs in the transformation of its economy and handling smog."

SIU aviation team soaring to new heights

STOREY MAYER
Daily Egyptian

After winning the national championship in 2011, the Flying Salukis kept expectations high when they won the 2014 National Intercollegiate Flying Association Championship in May.

The championship was held from May 12-17 at the Ohio State University Airport in Columbus, Ohio.

The Flying Salukis have won nine championships in its history, and finished in third place in 2012 and 2013.

Jacob Schwarz, a junior studying aviation management from St. Charles, Mo., said a Flying Saluki embodies the traits of motivation, perseverance and total dedication.

The team is evaluated during tryouts by the head and assistant coaches. The team members quickly dive into training and preparation for the regional challenge, which takes place within five to six weeks of making the team.

Dave NewMyer, chairperson of SIU's Department of Aviation Management and Flight, said the

practices are intense.

He said Flying Saluki teammates spend countless hours in the classroom and the cockpit preparing for events and often stay until late in the night perfecting their craft.

James Libuszowski, assistant instructor of aviation management and flight, is one of the assistant coaches, as well as a former Flying Saluki team member. He said the practice strategies are kept tight-lipped, a technique that he said keeps the team's tactics unknown from other competitors.

The competitions are divided into ground and flight categories. These two are then broken down to 11 subcategories.

Future pilots focus on events that will allow them to use their aviation skills in the air.

One example is the message drop, an event that NewMyer said is a civilian version of a bomb drop. The contender, known as a drop master, has to release a 5-pound sack of flour from nearly 500 feet in the air while traveling around 70-90 mph and land the sack as close to the target as possible.

“We were pretty surprised. We felt we did well, but it is always an unreal feeling to be announced as national champions.”

— James Libuszowski
assistant instructor

Other aviation-related majors, such as aviation mechanics, excel at the ground events.

More inexperienced students often begin in the ground events until they gain more experience in the cockpit. In one event, a plane is “bugged,” or purposely made to have defects. The competitor is given 15 minutes to perform the inspection and detect all the anomalies. Whoever completes the inspection the most efficiently and quickly wins.

The Flying Salukis are a smaller team with only 14 members, compared to the second-place finisher, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University – Prescott, a team that competes with 20-30 members. Because of its limited numbers, the Flying Salukis dedicate most of their time and practice to a specific event.

Rather than let the high expectations intimidate them, the team said they use it as a personal challenge and goal setter. Each year the team members emphasize their coined phrase, “This is OUR year,” to encourage each other to excel.

After the weeklong national competition, the awards ceremony was held following the last day of the competition. At the ceremony, all of the individual winners were announced as well as overall team winners.

Despite the team having confidence, they were still shocked by the results.

“We were pretty surprised,” Libuszowski said. “We felt we did well, but it is always an unreal feeling to be announced as national champions.”

The Flying Salukis knew they had

a chance at 1st-place overall because of their first-place win in the flight categories. But with 4th-place in ground events, they were not sure if they could pull it off.

The team was supported by a group of parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters and coaches, who traveled all the way to Ohio to see the team perform.

NewMyer said the success was not only beneficial and exciting for the team, but for the university as a whole.

“It shows that we (SIU) are winners,” NewMyer said. “We are able to brag on a number of fronts and it adds to the legend of the university.”

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‘Edge of Tomorrow’ welcome case of science-fiction with a twist

CARY DARLING
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Who could have guessed that the first real blockbuster surprise of the summer would come in the guise of a Tom Cruise film?

Especially one with a rather bland title — “Edge of Tomorrow” (they might as well have just called it “Generic Summer Action Movie”) — that seems to go where every sci-fi movie has gone before. It’s all here: time travel, unreasonable aliens, the fate of a fearful world resting uneasily on the shoulders of one American man. And all in 3-D, of course.

Yet director Doug Liman (“The Bourne Identity,” “Mr. and Mrs. Smith”) manages to combine a sense of humor and an expert eye for action into a clever twist on old formulas. In a world of predictably lead-footed, empty-headed spectacle, “Edge of Tomorrow” is surprisingly agile and quick-witted.

Cruise is Cage, a ranking Army officer whose specialty is public relations and advertising. His job is to sell the war, not fight in it. He can’t even stand the sight of blood.

So when Gen. Brigham (Brendan

Gleeson) orders him to embed with a unit in France that’s part of an all-out assault on the aliens who are called Mimics, Cage refuses and threatens to use his PR skills against Brigham in the equally important media war of public opinion.

As payback, Cage is arrested, busted down to private, identified as a deserter and thrown in with a squad that will be on the leading edge of the invasion. How’s that for a delicious slice of revenge pizza topped with a serving of don’t-mess-with-me?

In an astonishing sequence, Cage is dropped into France amid total chaos and catastrophe. Panicked and afraid, he’s useless as a soldier and is killed by an especially cantankerous, multitentacled Mimic.

But then he wakes up — back in time — just after his arrest, with the invasion still a day away. What fresh hell is this? Is he doomed to repeat these same awful moments for eternity? And who is this mysterious super soldier, Rita (Emily Blunt), and her scientist sidekick (Noah Taylor), who seem to be clued in to what’s going on?

Based on the novel “All You Need Is Kill” by Hiroshi Sakurazaka, “Edge of

Tomorrow” is “Groundhog Day” with weaponry. But it’s effective as Liman (working from a script by Christopher McQuarrie, Jez Butterworth and John-Henry Butterworth) keeps things moving fast enough that there’s no time to nitpick the implausibilities — like forcing a totally untrained soldier into battle where his mistakes could get everyone killed except the enemy.

But Liman has fun with the time-shifting premise and makes an impressive use of 3-D technology. Meanwhile, Cruise — in the beginning at least, when he’s not in implacable “Mission: Impossible” mode — shows off some welcome vulnerability, and Bill Paxton seems to relish his role as Cage’s unforgiving commanding officer.

“Edge of Tomorrow” isn’t as thought-provoking as the similarly plotted Source Code, Duncan Jones’ 2011 film about a man forced to repeat a calamitous event until he gets the right outcome. Not only that, but “Edge” doesn’t end as well as it begins. And, to a paraphrase an old dictum: Directors who don’t learn from history — like their hapless heroes in sci-fi movies — are doomed to repeat it.

But, in Liman’s case, that has turned out to be not such a bad thing.





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Online pirates thrive on legitimate ad dollars

RYAN NAKASHIMA
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Movie and music piracy thrives online in part because crafty website operators receive advertising dollars from major companies like Comcast, Ford and McDonald's.

That's the conclusion of several recent reports that shed light on Internet piracy's funding sources.

Content thieves attract visitors with the promise of free downloads and streams of the latest hit movies, TV shows and songs. Then they profit by pulling in advertising from around the Internet, often concealing their illicit activities so advertising brands remain unaware.

Pirate websites run ads that are sometimes covered up by other graphics. They automatically launch legitimate-looking websites as pop-up windows that advertisers don't realize are associated with piracy. At the end of the day, the pirate website operators still receive a check for serving up a number of views and clicks.

The illicit activity is estimated to generate millions of dollars annually. That's only a small portion of the roughly \$40 billion of online-ad spending every year. Yet it is helping to feed the creation of millions of copyright-infringing websites that provide stolen content to a growing global audience.

"(Companies) placed their ads on the assumption that they were

going to be on high-quality sites and they're not," said Mark Berns, vice president of MediaLink LLC, a consulting firm that produced a study looking into the practice called "Good Money Gone Bad."

The study, commissioned by the Digital Citizens Alliance, a Washington-based group that advocates for a safer Internet, sampled 596 of the worst-offending websites. Researchers discovered that the infringing websites were displaying ads from 89 premium brands like Walmart, McDonald's, Google, Microsoft and Ford.

"It's certainly fair to say that millions of dollars in revenue from premium brand ads are supporting content-theft sites," Berns said.

That's similar to an estimate from DoubleVerify, an online fraud protection company. According to a DoubleVerify report released last May, rogue website operators cheat mainstream advertisers out of \$6.8 million each month, mainly by "laundering" ad traffic in ways that are hard to detect.

"There's growing awareness of the unscrupulous tactics that sites will go to to collect their dollars," said DoubleVerify chief operating officer Matt McLaughlin.

Several advertisers and top technology firms that operate ad networks — like Google and Microsoft — say the fraud is difficult to stop. Ads for Google's Chromecast streaming device and Microsoft's Bing search engine

were among those that appeared on pirate websites.

Microsoft said in a statement that while it monitors where its ads end up, it sometimes relies on others bringing infractions to its attention "to take actions on non-compliant sites."

Google said it invests significant resources to keep its and its partners' ads from appearing on pirate sites and requires users of its AdSense service to agree to its anti-piracy policies. "When we find violators of these policies, we'll take the appropriate actions — including blacklisting URLs and, in some cases, ending our relationships with publishers — as quickly as possible," a spokesman said in a statement.

Singer Chris Brown released from jail

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Singer Chris Brown was released early Monday from a Los Angeles County jail, authorities said.

Los Angeles Sheriff's deputy Tony Moore told The Associated Press that Brown was released at 12:01 a.m. Monday, but he didn't have any more details.

Brown had been in custody since mid-March, when he was arrested after being expelled from a court-ordered rehab sentence for violating its rules.

And a judge last month ordered the R&B singer to remain in jail after he admitted he violated his probation by getting into an altercation outside a hotel in Washington, D.C., in 2013.

In his May 9 decision, Superior Court Judge James R. Brandlin sentenced the singer to serve an additional 131 days in jail, but he had been expected to get out much sooner.

Brandlin had sentenced Brown to serve a year in county jail but gave him credit for nearly eight months. The credits include time that the singer

has spent in rehab and jail, as well as credits for good behavior while behind bars.

Officials said at the time that Brown's time in jail could be cut down even more drastically once sheriff's officials start tallying his sentence and determine whether he's eligible for early release.

The Grammy-winning singer was on probation after he attacked pop singer Rihanna, his then-girlfriend, hours before the 2009 Grammy Awards. In October, while on probation, Brown was accused of attacking a man outside a hotel in the nation's capital in October. He was charged with misdemeanor assault.

During his May 9 court appearance, Brown admitted he committed a crime in that case and waived his rights to an evidentiary hearing in which prosecutors would have to prove that Brown violated his probation.

Brandlin had said Brown will have to complete the remainder of his 1,000 hours of community labor once he is released from jail. As of early February, Brown had 800 hours of community labor remaining.

Jack White composes note of reconciliation

MIKAEL WOOD
Los Angeles Times

Rolling Stone might be worrying right about now.

For the last few months, the popular music magazine has served as the mouthpiece of choice for Jack White and the Black Keys, who've been embroiled in a rock 'n' roll feud of sorts that started after White accused the Keys, in a series of leaked emails, of boosting his garage-rock style.

Both acts have commented on the matter in interviews with Rolling Stone. Perhaps most explosive, if any of this can be considered explosive, White described the Keys' music as a "watered-down version of the original" in the magazine's May 21 cover story.

"There are kids at school who dress like everybody else, because they don't know what to do, and there are musicians like that too," White told writer Jonah Weiner. "I'll hear TV commercials where the music's ripping off sounds of mine, to the point I think it's me. Half the time, it's the Black Keys."

Now, though, White has taken to his own website to address the feud — and perhaps bring it to an end — in a statement posted Saturday.

Titled "An Apology and Explanation From Jack White," the note begins with White saying that he's making a statement only in the hope that he might avoid being "hounded by nonsense" as he promotes his upcoming record.

Then he insists that he was "in a way forced into talking about very private opinions of mine that are very much in the realm of 'behind the curtain' show business conversations."

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Baseball's new-age epidemic: Tommy John surgery

DERRICK GOOLD
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

CINCINNATI — The St. Louis Cardinals' four starting pitchers without the tell-tale scar of membership on their pitching elbow sat recently on their side of the Busch Stadium clubhouse discussing with a reporter something they hope they never have.

That was when Joe Kelly pierced the conversation with one word.

Tommy John surgery, he said, is inevitable.

"Everyone is going to get it one day," Kelly explained, leaning back in his chair as Shelby Miller, Michael Wacha, and Lance Lynn looked at him. "In the end, Tommy John is like death. It's going to get you."

Once a novel and miracle surgery that saved a few careers, the ligament replacement procedure that baseball knows as Tommy John surgery has become a ubiquitous presence in the game, as familiar as it was once revolutionary, just like the designated hitter or sabermetrics.

The parade of pitchers going for the operation already this season has become so long that baseball writers have used words such as "epidemic" to describe it, free of hyperbole. Hardball Times tabulated more than 30 pitchers who have had the surgery in the past nine months, and at least seven of them are having it for a second time.

The ligament replacement surgery and its 12-month recovery period



Major League Baseball at a glance



| East Division | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Toronto | 34 | 24 | .586 | — |
| New York | 29 | 27 | .518 | 4 |
| Baltimore | 28 | 27 | .509 | 4½ |
| Boston | 27 | 30 | .474 | 6½ |
| Tampa Bay | 23 | 35 | .397 | 11 |

| Central Division | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Detroit | 31 | 22 | .585 | — |
| Chicago | 29 | 30 | .492 | 5 |
| Cleveland | 28 | 30 | .483 | 5½ |
| Kansas City | 27 | 30 | .474 | 6 |
| Minnesota | 26 | 29 | .473 | 6 |

| West Division | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|-----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Oakland | 35 | 22 | .614 | — |
| Los Angeles | 30 | 26 | .536 | 4½ |
| Seattle | 29 | 28 | .509 | 6 |
| Texas | 29 | 28 | .509 | 6 |
| Houston | 24 | 34 | .414 | 11½ |

| East Division | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Atlanta | 31 | 25 | .554 | — |
| Miami | 29 | 28 | .509 | 2½ |
| New York | 28 | 29 | .491 | 3½ |
| Washington | 27 | 28 | .491 | 3½ |
| Philadelphia | 24 | 31 | .436 | 6½ |

| Central Division | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| Milwaukee | 35 | 23 | .603 | — |
| St. Louis | 30 | 28 | .517 | 5 |
| Pittsburgh | 27 | 30 | .474 | 7½ |
| Cincinnati | 26 | 29 | .473 | 7½ |
| Chicago | 20 | 34 | .370 | 13 |

| West Division | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|-----|
| | W | L | Pct | GB |
| San Francisco | 37 | 20 | .649 | — |
| Los Angeles | 31 | 28 | .525 | 7 |
| Colorado | 28 | 28 | .500 | 8½ |
| San Diego | 26 | 32 | .448 | 11½ |
| Arizona | 23 | 36 | .390 | 15 |

SOURCE: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

have robbed the game of two of its brightest young pitchers, the Mets' Matt Harvey and just this month the Marlins' Jose Fernandez. Harvey started last year's All-Star Game and Fernandez won the National League's rookie of the year award. In between those honors, the Cardinals' Wacha, every bit as decorated as the other two

young lions, won the National League Championship Series MVP award. Only he remains on the mound.

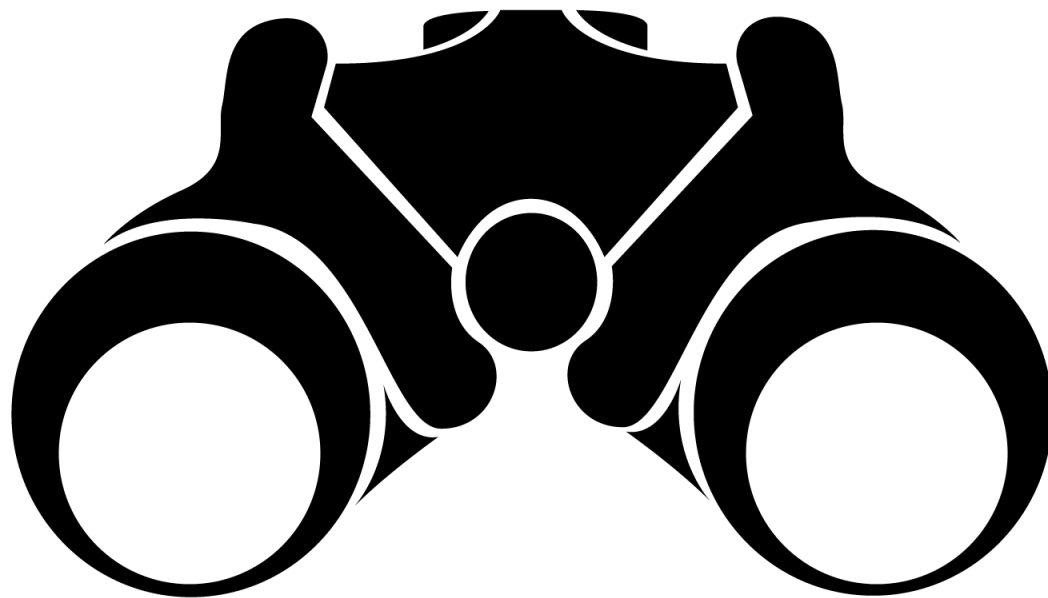
The Cardinals built the 2013 run for the National League pennant around young pitchers, and the organization has positioned itself as one of the industry leaders in developing and deploying young pitchers, from Wacha to Miller,

Trevor Rosenthal to Carlos Martinez, and prospects Marco Gonzales and Alex Reyes on their way.

Young pitchers are their future, and not Wacha or Miller, Martinez or Reyes has had Tommy John surgery.

Inevitable is unpalatable. "It is something that the industry cannot ignore," Cardinals general

manager John Mozeliak said. "Putting resources to find ways to prevent it should be an all-hands-on-deck strategy. ... I think the last thing an organization wants to do is be in a position where they're not trying to protect the pitcher, but I don't know if we truly understand how to protect the pitcher."



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WE KNOW SIU



Salukis prepare for nationals



JENNIFER GONZALEZ • DAILY EGYPTIAN

Freshman Kyle Landon clears 2.16m during the Missouri Valley Conference Outdoor Championships May 17 at Lew Hartzog Track and Field Complex in Carbondale. Landon is one of five Salukis to qualify for the NCAA Outdoor Championships held June 11-14 in Eugene, Ore.

MARCUS GRUWELL
Daily Egyptian

As the hot summer begins, five SIU track members are still practicing for the national championship in Eugene, Ore., and hope to bring home the gold.

Throwers Josh Freeman, Curtis Wideman, Ashley Gaston and Alexis Scott, along with jumper Kyle Landon, will all be wearing maroon and white for the Dawgs and will compete June 11-14.

"I'm prepared for it; it's something I wanted to accomplish last year," Gaston said

Throwers coach John Smith said he thinks his team is ready for the challenge.

"Nothing has changed in our practices for nationals, just plan on doing the same thing," Smith said.

Landon is a southern Illinois native from Chester, where he was the 2013 Gatorade Illinois Boys Track and Field Athlete of the Year. He was nationally ranked number two in the indoor high jump and number three in the outdoor high jump his senior year.

"I'll pretty much be practicing the same way I have been," Landon said.

Head coach Connie Price-Smith said she thinks the team will do well.

"They've worked really hard to get where they want and I'm sure they will go out and compete well," Smith said.

Gaston, whose personal record is 16.22 meters, says the training will mostly be the same for nationals.

"I just will have to focus on little details except for my spin but other than that everything will be the same, just cleaning up some stuff before nationals," Gaston said.

She will be throwing shot put and said her biggest motivation is her

sister, Aurieyal Gaston, who was an NCAA Championship runner.

"She always told me I could make it in the nationals, just like she did," Gaston said.

Freeman was the Missouri Valley Conference outdoor shot put champion his freshman year and has won eight shot put titles since his first season.

"It's exciting, I think, all the work that we've done to this point and this season, so I'm pretty ready to go out there and compete as well as I can," Freeman said.

Smith said Freeman was the best sophomore in the country.

Freeman has also has set records for SIU, such as the indoor shot put record of 19.43 meters. His record now stands at 19.86 meters for outdoor shot put.

Smith believes that next year's group of throwers could possibly be the best group he will have.

Freeman said the experience and talent that will be on the 2014 team will help make them the best group he's ever been with.

"Over the season, a lot of our throws have developed a lot, so I think with all the talent coming back hopefully we'll have an even better season next year," Freeman said.

Top priority for Blackhawks: Lock in Toews, Kane

ANDREW SELIGMAN
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane want to stay in Chicago, and the Blackhawks think the high-scoring forwards are a central part of their promising future.

Get ready for a pair of big contract extensions this summer.

With the Blackhawks still coming to grips with their dramatic loss in the Western Conference finals, general manager Stan Bowman said Tuesday that megadeals for Toews and Kane are his biggest priority this offseason.

"There's no doubt that's what we're gonna do," Bowman said. "We've made it clear. We've never wavered from that. There's no doubting the importance of those two players."

The Blackhawks selected Toews with the No. 3 pick in the 2006 draft, and grabbed Kane with the No. 1 overall selection the following year. They combined to lead Chicago out of a dark period to Stanley Cup titles in 2010 and 2013.

Toews and Kane each have one more year left on their contracts, and Bowman can officially start negotiating with two of the NHL's biggest stars on July 1.

"I know we both love it here in Chicago and we love playing here and having a chance to win every year," said Kane, who won the Conn Smythe Trophy last year as playoff MVP.

Toews expressed a similar sentiment.

"Who could ever think of a better situation to be in?" the captain said. "I think back to the day I was drafted, I had absolutely no idea that all this would be in store for me in my short career so far. I've been so fortunate

to be a part an unbelievable group of guys, the majority of our team that has been together since I've been here. And just to see the growth of this franchise in the city of Chicago and the amazing fans we have here, there's no doubt in my mind that there's no better way to have it."

The Blackhawks had a chance for a second straight NHL title before they lost 5-4 to the Los Angeles Kings in overtime in Game 7 on Sunday night. Alec Martinez got the winning goal when his shot deflected off Chicago defenseman Nick Leddy and fluttered over goalie Corey Crawford.

If Chicago is able to retain Toews and Kane, it looks as if it could contend for the Stanley Cup for years to come. It is in a much better spot than it was following the 2010 title run, when the Blackhawks kept their core intact but parted with much of their supporting cast because of salary cap concerns.