

sports



The Associated Press

Vick starts life after jail

NORFOLK, Va. — Michael Vick met with probation officials Friday for the second time in the two days he’s been home from prison, and prepared to begin a US\$10-an-hour construction job after the holiday weekend.

Wearing jeans, a light blue shirt and navy blue blazer, the former Atlanta Falcons star quarterback looked straight ahead as he entered the U.S. federal courthouse, escorted by his fiancée and a member of his security team. He was joined inside by his lawyer, Lawrence Woodward.

Vick made no statements to reporters and didn’t acknowledge a few onlookers who shouted encouragement. “Keep your head up, Mike,” one yelled.

The meeting lasted nearly an hour. He later met with lawyers in Surry County, where the dogfighting operation was discovered, before returning to his home in Hampton.

Vick arrived home Thursday after a 1,900-kilometre car trip from Leavenworth, Kan., and within hours had his first meeting with probation officials, who fitted him with an electronic monitor. Vick must wear the device during his two-month home confinement, which will complete his 23-month sentence for operating a dogfighting ring.

Wang moved up

NEW YORK — Chien-Ming Wang has been activated by the New York Yankees to help a short-handed bullpen.

The move was made before Friday’s series opener against Philadelphia, a day after Joba Chamberlain left a start against Baltimore because of a bruised right knee after being struck by Adam Jones’ liner in the first inning.

Wang missed the final 3 1/2 months of last season with a foot injury, then went 0-3 with a 34.50 ERA in three starts this season before going on the DL in late April with hip weakness.

Manager Joe Girardi said he anticipated Chamberlain would be able to take his next turn next week and that Wang will be in the bullpen for now.

Tennis dad in trouble

BELGRADE, Serbia — Tennis player Jelena Dokic’s father was charged with threatening the Australian ambassador in Belgrade. Police found rifles and hand grenades during the search of his house.

Damir Dokic could face up to eight years in prison for “endangering security” of the ambassador and unlawful possession of weapons, his lawyer, Bosiljka Djukic, told The Associated Press on Friday.

Dokic lives in northern Serbia and was arrested after he reportedly said he would blow up Ambassador Clair Birgin’s car if she did not stop negative articles about him from being published in Australia.

Jelena Dokic had given interviews to Australian media, saying her father had beaten her.

Dokic has told Serbian media he would fire a rocket launcher at Birgin’s car but later said such statements were made in anger. He also has admitted having beaten his daughter.

Dog hurts player’s son

PITTSBURGH — A pit bull owned by Pittsburgh Steelers line-backer James Harrison bit his two-year-old son in the thigh, but the boy is expected to recover though he remained hospitalized Friday, the player’s agent said.

Harrison’s agent, William Parise, told The Associated Press that James III was bitten after his mother let the dog out of its pen Thursday afternoon.

Parise wouldn’t identify the woman, but said she and Harrison’s massage therapist also were hurt trying to help his son.

The massage therapist needed three stitches, Parise said.

Parise said Harrison was not home at the time, but was nearby and alerted after the dog attacked.

Parise has not spoken to the boy’s doctors, but Harrison told the agent his son likely will be hospitalized another day or two.

Carolina hoping for more magic

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Playoff comebacks have been commonplace for Carolina, and for the Hurricanes to make the Eastern Conference final a series again, they’ll need their biggest one yet.

Stuck in a two-game hole for the first time this postseason, the Hurricanes are well aware that if they can’t get anything going on home ice - starting tonight with Game 3 - they’ll have no chance of sending their best-of-seven series with the Penguins back to Pittsburgh.

“You can’t get too much further back” against the wall, captain Rod Brind’Amour quipped Friday. “We’re getting pretty close here, so we’re going to have to fight back. We’re going to have to put up our best effort and leave it out there. It’s definitely not a feeling of, ‘We’re out of it,’ or anything like that. We fought back all year. Whenever we’ve had to come up with a big game, we have. Obviously, this is that time again.”

Indeed, they’ve grown used to desperate hockey during the past few weeks on Tobacco Road. Carolina needed two goals in the final 80 seconds of its first-round series to rally past New Jersey, then frittered away a 3-1 series lead in Round 2 against Boston before Scott Walker’s overtime goal in Game 7 took care of the Bruins and cemented their “Cardiac Canes” nickname.

But they’ve also yet to face a situation quite like this: Down two games to the East’s defending champion, with two of the world’s best players dictating a rapid-fire pace that Carolina



The Carolina Hurricanes bench hopes to be more jubilant during tonight's game at home against the Pittsburgh Penguins. AP photo

is having trouble matching while threatening to completely take over the series.

Stars Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin have combined for nine points through two games. Malkin’s four-point performance in Game 2 was his first career playoff hat trick, including a spectacular no-look backhand for a goal that Crosby said was “a tough one to top.”

“All (Malkin) needs is a little space, and he puts it in the net,” said Carolina’s top defence-man, Tim Gleason. “He’s a heck of a hockey player, but at the same time, we can control him. He’s not God, I guess you could say. We just have to do a better job of shutting him down and taking his time and space away.”

Indy pole-sitter knows how hard it is to win

Mike Harris The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Helio Castroneves understands better than most how hard it is to win the Indianapolis 500.

The charismatic Brazilian won here as a rookie in 2001 and then backed it up with a victory the next year, becoming only the fifth driver in the history of Indianapolis Motor Speedway to win two in a row.

Since then, six years have passed with no fence-climbing celebrations at Indy for “Spiderman.”

“The first year was pretty tough,” Castroneves said. “The second year was even tougher. The third year, I had like a bullet.

“This car was incredible, super-sonic. I finished second. So, I learned that you can’t let opportunities go by. You’ve got to go for it. That’s what we’re going to do this Sunday.”

A win this year would be particularly significant for Castroneves.

On Friday, federal prosecutors dropped the remaining tax evasion conspiracy charge against him and his sister, clearing Castroneves of all the charges that once threatened to derail his career.

In just his third race since returning to the series, Castroneves will start from the pole on Sunday, with Penske Racing teammate Ryan Briscoe next to him in the middle of the front row.

That 1-2 punch gives team owner Roger Penske a good shot at his 15th Indy win.

“Obviously, we’ve got a good chance this year with two cars on

the front row,” said Penske, who last visited Victory Lane with Sam Hornish Jr. in 2006. “But, to win here, everything has to work perfectly, everything.”

Penske had a 1-2 finish in 2003, with Gil de Ferran outduelling Castroneves. This time, Castroneves would love to give the team another sweep - only with himself out front.

Rising star Briscoe could make that difficult.

Although Castroneves is the oddsmakers’ favourite, Briscoe is the one who could give Penske a new face on the Borg Warner Trophy.

“Winning this race comes from the preparations and the leadup to it, what you’ve done in the three weeks here,” the Australian driver said. “I honestly feel as though we couldn’t have done a better job this month.

“We’ve really got a good feeling with the car setup and what we need to do going into the race.”

Good enough to go 1-2-3?

Penske has a third entry for the first time since 1994, when Al Unser Jr. gave him a win.

Will Power, hired to fill in for Castroneves until his legal problems were resolved, was rewarded with a drive at Indy after Castroneves returned to the cockpit.

The Aussie, starting from the outside of the third row, might be the most motivated of the Penske drivers as the team has not guaranteed him any more races.

“I know I have a great car and a great team,” Power said. “I’m going to do the best job I can and we’ll see what happens. I don’t believe this will be my last race for Penske.”

Newcastle facing relegation

The Associated Press

Newcastle manager Alan Shearer is confident that his struggling side can avoid relegation from the Premier League this weekend when the Magpies take on fifth-place Aston Villa.

Shearer, who took over last month, needs his team to at least avoid defeat on Sunday (Setanta Sports Canada, 7:45 a.m. PT) and for the results of fellow strugglers Hull and Sunderland to go his way if Newcastle is to stay in the top-flight.

SPORTS programs on TV tonight 5/23/09								
	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
TSN	NBA Basketball: Western Conf. Final	Sports-Centre (L)	NASCAR Racing Nationwide Series - Carquest Auto Parts 300 From Lowe's Motor Speedway in Concord, N.C. (Same-day Tape)					
TSN2	NASCAR Racing	Boxing: Joel Julio vs. James Kirkland (Taped)	NBA Basketball: Western Conference Final Game 3 - Teams TBA (Same-day Tape)					
Sportsnet	Sportsnet Connected (L)	Poker After Dark	The Ultimate Fighter	Sportsnet Connected (L)				
The Score	The FSN Final Score	The FSN Final Score	The FSN Final Score	The FSN Final Score	The FSN Final Score	The FSN Final Score	The FSN Final Score	The FSN Final Score
SPEED	AMA Pro PrimeTime American Superbike, Daytona Sportbike and Supersport from Infineon Raceway in Sonoma, Calif. (H)	Inside Grand Prix	Formula 1 Debrief	Formula One Racing				
OUTDOOR	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Departures: Scott and Justin try to stay in contact with home.	Mandracker Rob and Michelle work well together.	Dog the Bounty Hunter	Dog the Bounty Hunter		
NHL	Frozen in Time	Classic Series	Pioneers Featuring Al Arbour	Top 10	NHL on the Fly (L)			
GOLF	PGA Tour Golf: HP Byron Nelson Championship - Third Round From Irving, Texas	Golf Central (L)	European PGA Tour Golf: BMW PGA Championship - Third Round From Surrey, England					

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