



**Words of wisdom?**  
 "I think (Jahlil) Okafor is going to be a good center in this league. I just think D'Angelo has a chance to be a superstar."  
 — Lakers coach Byron Scott, on No. 2 draft pick D'Angelo Russell

## TALKING POINTS



### Germany gets PK win over France

Cella Sasic tied the score in the 84th minute, Nadine Angerer stopped Claire Lavogez in the final attempt of a shootout and Germany beat France 5-4 on penalty kicks after a 1-1 tie Friday to reach the Women's World Cup semifinals. The 2003 and '07 World Cup champions will play Tuesday against the United States. **Page C3**



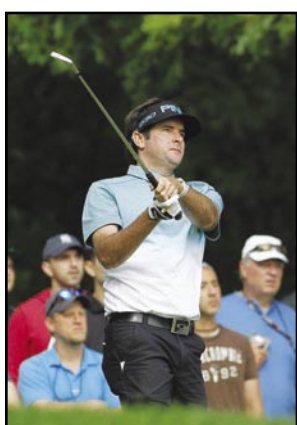
### Anderson is solid as Dodgers win

Brett Anderson kept the ball down, as usual. And sometimes he didn't let the Miami Marlins hit it at all. Anderson pitched seven innings, allowed only one fly ball and tied a career high with 10 strikeouts Friday night to help the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 7-1 victory over the Miami Marlins, who lost their fifth consecutive game. **Page C4**



### Djoker gets to avoid Federer in draw

Defending champion Novak Djokovic avoided his three biggest traditional rivals in the Wimbledon draw on Friday as the other members of tennis' "Big Four" were all placed on the opposite side. Serena Williams had no such luck in the women's draw, where she may have to get past a trio of former No. 1s just to get to the final. **Page C4**



### Watson maintains Travelers lead

Bubba Watson was forced to think a bit more Friday at the Travelers Championship, where the wind was a little stronger, the greens a bit firmer and the pin placements more challenging. The long-hitting lefty shot a 3-under 67 to maintain the two-stroke lead he took with an opening 62. Watson is trying to win wire-to-wire. **Page C5**

## 2014-15 VALLEY PRESS FOOTBALL PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

# A versatile threat



### TWO-WAY STAR

Despite missing two games during the 2014 season, Palmdale senior Dameon Baber finished the year with 992 rushing yards on 137 carries and scored 15 touchdowns, to go along with a pair of interceptions and two punt returns for touchdowns. Baber was named the Golden League Most Valuable Player and selected to the All-CIF Northern Division Offensive Team.

**CHRISTINA RAMOS**  
Valley Press

## Falcons' Baber excelled on both sides of the ball

By **ALAN HENDRY**  
Valley Press Staff Writer

PALMDALE — Dameon Baber played a variety of positions in his three years on the Palmdale High varsity football team. Baber finished his career at Palmdale splitting time at running back and strong safety this past season and he was named the Golden League MVP and selected to the

All-CIF Northern Division Offensive Team. Baber is also the Valley Press Large School Football Player of the Year.

Baber hoped to play both ways at the next level, but he's pleased to play his preferred position — safety — at the University of Nevada.

Baber is already taking two summer classes and participating in the summer football program at the Division I program

in Reno.

"I'm excited," Baber said of the start of school. "I'm glad to be here."

It was an uncertain journey that took Baber to Nevada.

Baber had originally committed to Oregon State, but was faced with doubt when head coach Mike Riley left the program in Corvallis to take the head coaching position

See **BABER** on C2

# Coming out party for Stovall

## Paraclete standout put up big numbers on the football field

By **MERISA JENSEN**  
Valley Press Associate Sports Editor

This past season was a bit of a breakout one for Paraclete football player Melquise Stovall.

Colleges knew his name before his junior year and, after watching him play this season, the offers started rolling in.

Stovall rushed for 1,603 yards on 198 carries to average 8.1 yards a carry and 114.5 yards a game. He also scored 20 touchdowns, with his longest being 86 yards.

But Stovall wasn't just a running threat as he also led the Spirits with 415 yards receiving on 21 receptions with two touchdowns.

"I felt like I did pretty good last year," Stovall said. "I sold myself more as an athlete more than anything, instead of just running back, letting every college know that I'm very versatile, not just one position."

For his efforts, the incoming senior was named the Valley Press Small School Football Player of the Year.

He recorded 2,455 all-purpose yards with 24 touchdowns.

"I felt a lot more comfortable," Stovall said. "Teams couldn't really pin me in one position. So, I felt like coach did a pretty good job of letting me get on the field and do what I do."

Stovall is fun to watch on the field, too, often evading several tackles during a big run.

He said there are several factors to his improvement over the past few seasons.

See **STOVALL** on C2



### BREAKOUT STAR

Paraclete junior Melquise Stovall rushed for an eye-popping 1,603 yards on just 198 carries, scored 20 touchdowns on the ground, and hauled in 21 catches for 415 yards and another two scores. The USC commit's big numbers caught the eye of a number of high-profile college teams.

**RUBY ALVARADO**  
Valley Press

## NBA DRAFT

# Big nights for the biggest markets

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — From coast to coast, the NBA draft was a big night for the biggest markets.

The Los Angeles Lakers tabbed their next potential superstar in D'Angelo Russell. The New York Knicks landed a pair of players in the first round, selecting Kristaps Porzingis and later acquiring the rights to Notre Dame guard Jerian Grant.

Both teams are coming off their worst seasons in their histories and hoping the turnarounds started Thursday.

Russell is ready to do his part.

"I'm here, and I'm ready to make an impact right away," the Ohio State point guard said.

A little surprised to go second after Duke

## "I KIND OF SMILED AND LAUGHED AND SHOOK MY HEAD, NOT REALIZING THAT I'D BE HIS TEAMMATE A FEW HOURS LATER."

— Notre Dame guard and Knicks draftee Jerian Grant, on the Barclays Center crowd booing the selection of Kristaps Porzingis by New York

center Jahlil Okafor had long been considered the player at that spot, Russell received big cheers when Commissioner Adam Silver called his name.

The boos were loud and long two picks later when the Knicks took the 19-year-old Latvian forward. But the announcement of the Grant trade had New York fans who packed Brooklyn's Barclays Center roaring in approval of Phil

Jackson's moves.

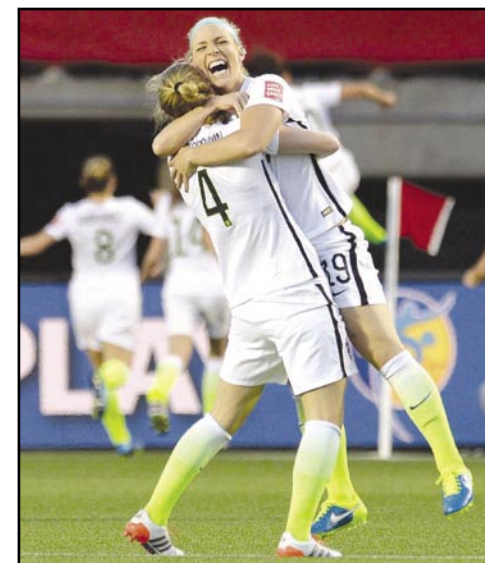
Porzingis had said repeatedly he hoped to be picked by the Knicks — including to Grant.

"I kind of smiled and laughed and shook my head, not realizing that I'd be his teammate a few hours later," Grant said.

Some highlights, and lowlights, from Thursday night's NBA draft:

See **NBA DRAFT** on C3

## WOMEN'S WORLD CUP



Associated Press

**MOVING ON** — The United States' Julie Johnston (19) and Becky Sauerbrunn (4) celebrate a goal against China by Carli Lloyd during the second half on Friday in Ottawa.

# USA beats China, into semifinals

By **ANNE M. PETERSON**  
Associated Press

OTTAWA — Carli Lloyd finally was able to express her creativity on field.

Aided by tweaks in the lineup, the 32-year-old midfielder was able to roam more Friday night, scoring for the United States in a 1-0 victory over China that sent the Americans to the semifinals of the Women's World Cup against Germany.

"These are the moments I live for," she said of her goal on a 51st-minute header. "Having the freedom to attack and do what I do best enabled me to create some chances. Just overall so happy we got the win — and on to the semifinal."

Hope Solo had her fourth straight shut-out for the second-ranked United States, which has reached the final four of all seven Women's World Cups but has not won since beating China on penalty kicks for the 1999 title at the Rose Bowl.

Seeking their third world championship, the Americans have not allowed a goal in 423 minutes since this year's tournament opener against Australia. Solo set a record for a U.S. goalkeeper with her 134th win, passing Briana Scurry.

See **USA** on C3

## NHL DRAFT

# McDavid is top selection in NHL Draft

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Connor McDavid's favorite hockey player is Sidney Crosby. His favorite non-skating athlete is LeBron James.

He's now in their club, forever to be known as a No. 1 pick.

McDavid's journey toward widely expected NHL superstardom officially began Friday night when the Edmonton Oilers grabbed him with the top overall selection in the draft. No player has entered the league with such hype since Crosby a decade ago, and McDavid's level of celebrity within the game already may rival what James was dealing with when he joined the NBA in 2003.

"It was even better than I expected," McDavid said. "It's so exciting to hear your name called. It was unbelievable."

Crosby and James proved the buzz surrounding them was worthwhile, and now McDavid now gets his turn. The Oilers haven't reached the playoffs since 2006, a far cry from when Wayne Gretzky dominated the NHL and Edmonton won five titles in a seven-year span from 1984 through 1990.

No pressure, Connor.

See **NHL DRAFT** on C3



KRISTAPS PORZINGIS