

Wade's Worlds: Super sub for USA basketball

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sub role as the games grew tougher.

The Americans were in serious trouble only once during pool play, when they trailed Italy by 12 points early in the second half. When the U.S. took the floor for the third quarter down 45-36, Wade was out there with the starters instead of sitting with the reserves.

Wade finished with 26 points on 10-of-13 shooting, and his penetration helped free Anthony, who scored an American-record 35 as the U.S. rallied for a 94-85 victory.

"We were down at halftime, we said, 'Look D-Wade, get back out there,'" Anthony said. "And we came back out there and we turned it around."

Krzyszewski said after practice Saturday that Wade would play "significant minutes," and his two-team rotation wouldn't be used for the elimination rounds.

But Wade, a bag of ice on his right wrist after a hard fall against Italy, wouldn't say when he would make his first appearance on the court.

"I don't know if I'm going to start or come off the bench,

but that'll be a decision that me and Coach will make," Wade said. "Right now we've been making the right decisions with me coming off. If that continues, I'm fine with it. If not, I'm fine with getting in the starting lineup. So we'll see."

Wade sat out the final game of group play, an easy victory over Senegal, and played only 21 minutes a game in his four

appearances. He surely welcomed the extra rest after he spent the spring leading the Miami Heat to the NBA championship.

But the Americans need him now - however they decide to use him.

The U.S. got off to slow starts during almost every game in the first round, but was able to overcome them because of an abundance of

talent and depth.

They may not have that luxury as the field continues to shrink, so Krzyszewski will have to decide on Wade as a starter or reserve.

"I think he was being a good team guy and saying, 'Look, you don't have to start me, I'll come off the bench,'" Krzyszewski said. "He'll do whatever you want him to do. He's a champion."

Cubs manager feels he's 'sometimes' wanted in Chicago

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job, who's this and that, and that leads to 'sometimes'."

The Cubs have been hurt by injuries to frontline pitchers Kerry Wood and Mark Prior, along with Derrek Lee, last year's NL batting champion. Lee could return soon after missing most of the year with a broken wrist,

although Wood and Prior will both finish the season on the disabled list.

Wood was placed on the 60-day DL on Sunday to make room on the 40-man roster for 29-year-old rookie left-hander Les Warrond.

Whatever happens, Baker said, he's ready for it. "I'm not even going to

address that issue anymore because we've got five weeks of baseball left and I plan on doing my job and enjoying my job," Baker said. "I love my job and I love baseball and I love what I'm doing. It's been my life for so long."

Baker said he's received hate mail throughout his playing and managing

career regarding race, including this season.

"This is something that's been there on and off for 20 years, longer than that probably," Baker said. "It's not the majority of the time, it's sometimes."

"Everything I've said (about it) has been the truth and I've left out quite a bit."

Baker criticized sports talk radio hosts in Chicago who suggested he fabricated some letters this season. He said he's shown some of the mail to the radio hosts.

"You don't fabricate stuff like that," Baker said. "Some of the people love me and some of the people don't. We've all got it."

He reasoned the negative element will always be there.

"Some things change," Baker said. "I think most things change, and some things remain the same. I have no animosity in my heart about it. It's life."

Indians protect prize rookie

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CLEVELAND - Rookie Jeremy Sowers understands why the Cleveland Indians are protecting him, and he's OK with it.

"I'd like to pitch, but I do what I'm told," he said Sunday after finding out that the team intends to curtail his workload over the final month of the season.

"Why take a little risk on an injury when we can take no risk?" general manager Mark Shapiro said.

Sowers is 6-3 with a 3.44 ERA in 11 starts and 70

innings after making his major league debut June 25. Before that, he was 9-1 with a 1.39 ERA at Triple-A Buffalo.

"In this day and age, teams are protective of pitchers and I can understand that," said Sowers, who has already pitched 168 innings overall - nine more than he did all of last season in the minors "if we were trying to get to the playoffs over the next 30 games, it would be different. You want to kind of build up to it, not jump up to 210 innings all of a sudden."

The 6-foot-1, 180-pound Sowers is to start Wednesday night against Toronto, but may be skipped over in the rotation a couple of times in September.

"I could let my ego get in the way and be upset, but I trust their decision," said the 23-year-old, who went 23-5 over two years in the minors after being Cleveland's No. 1 draft pick in 2004.

"The people in this organization have been making decisions longer than I've been pitching."

Warren lifts Eagles' chances

The first words N.C. Central football coach Rod Broadway said to me as he walked into the Chicken Hut restaurant for his weekly press luncheon was "Your prediction is three weeks ahead of schedule."

When quarterback Adrian Warren shocked Eagle Nation and announced that he was leaving the team, I asked coach what would happen if, say, four games into the season, the Eagles were 2-2 and Warren wanted to return.

"I don't think that's going to happen," he replied. "He's made his decision, and we're just going to have to live with it."

That was the shortest lifespan in Eagle history.

Warren is back and the mood by the Eagles' coaching staff has risen 10 notches.

Oh, coach said all the right words: "Our backfield and offensive line will provide the offense we need." "We don't need our QB to be a superstar," blah, blah, blah.

But after a scrimmage without him, Broadway & Co. knew they were in trouble.

Talk all you want, but the QB position is the most important job on a football team, I don't care how many horses you have in the backfield. Why? Because at some point in time, you're going to run into a stable with bigger and faster horses than yours, so you'd better have a Plan B.

I'm sure Warren has talked to his teammates and told them how sorry he was, but that's not

enough. If this were the NFL, I'd say buy them all Rolaxes. He owes them dinner and the free use of his car for one night - full tank included.

For weeks, players had to endure endless questions about his departure, the self-doubt, and whining from fans and alumni. The latter alone is worth two dinners.

What made Warren really come back? Is it as simple as "I made a mistake," or did some plan he had go awry? Aren't you the least bit curious? From the responses I've read, apparently not. Some said Warren should be "punished" by not starting this weekend against Albany State. No worry there since he's too rusty to suit up at all. Others wanted him to start and let the chips fall where they may.

One very naive student said soon-to-be backup QBs' Stafford Brown and Chris Webb should welcome the extra time to learn the offense without being in the spotlight. Son, you obviously never played sports. No player, from the water boy on up, would rather sit on the bench than start.

Call me cynical, but I find it hysterical that these same "fans" who wanted their Warren back so badly, are some of the ones booing him in the championship and playoff games last year. It's a wonder he wanted to come back.

But since he is, it puts a whole new spin on the season. I had picked Fayetteville State to win the West, but now, I'll have to rethink that one. Won't matter though, Bowie State is going to win it all.

BONNITA BEST is sports editor at the Triangle Tribune.



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Warren is back and the mood by the Eagles' coaching staff has risen 10 notches. Oh, coach said all the right words: "Our backfield and offensive line will provide the offense we need." "We don't need our QB to be a superstar," blah, blah, blah. But after a scrimmage without him, Broadway & Co. knew they were in trouble. Talk all you want, but the QB position is the most important job on a football team, I don't care how many horses you have in the backfield. Why? Because at some point in time, you're going to run into a stable with bigger and faster horses than yours, so you'd better have a Plan B. I'm sure Warren has talked to his teammates and told them how sorry he was, but that's not

BMW keeps on truckin' with small, smooth-handling X3

WINFRED B. CROSS

Test Drive



BMW's X3 is a small and expensive truck, but boy, it's a BMW.

That's a great thing, at least the part about being a BMW. That means this SUV is blessed with precise handling, impeccable steering and superb braking. It's also handsome.

But is that enough to justify more than \$40,000 for such a small truck? I'd say so. The X3 can seat five (four would be the most comfortable), has decent power and drives like, well, a BMW. The interior looks very much like a 3-series sedan, except there's a bit more plastic. The gauges are large and easy to read. The climate and stereo controls are slightly confusing, but both

work flawlessly.

Small as it is, the X3 has 31 cubic feet of storage. With the back seat completely folded (it's a 60/40 split bench) you get 71 cubic feet.

The X3 has a variety of air bags, traction control, antilock brakes, auto head lights, heated mirrors and power everything.

So much for details. How does the thing drive? Like a BMW. Handling, braking and steering are on par with a 3-series. That means you can toss the thing around curves and run down straight-aways with aplomb. The 245-horsepower 3.0-liter engine is peppy, but the 214-pounds-feet of torque could be stronger. The five-speed automatic is excellent, never hunting for the correct gear.

You may get jiggled around a bit. The suspension is rock hard, but still not unbearable.

The car's actually built on the last generation's chassis. The driver's view is better

than it's sibling because of the vehicles ride height.

The X3 can also go where most 3-series can't. The all-wheel-drive system automatically senses if a wheel is losing traction and takes care of the problem. It's good for wet weather which occurs far more often than snow and ice.

The X3 has two big flaws - its size and cost, both of which can be overlooked. The price looks so high because you can get much bigger SUVs for less money. The size is relevant. I know people with behemoth vehicles which still can't hold all their stuff and the neighborhood soccer team.

The X3's flaws are not enough to keep buyers from enjoying such a sporty piece. You can move up to the bigger X5 if you need more room and have more money, but the compact X3 should satisfy you if your load is light.

The Charlotte Post

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