Olympic ticket sale in Beijing starts stampede

BEIJING (AP) — Thousands of night," she said. eager fans who had waited for up to two days swarmed sales wintickets to next month's Olympic Games, knocking people to the ground and bending metal barricades in the chaotic crush.

out at one ticket site as officials opened additional sales windows at the last minute, causing some fans to stampede ahead of others in a bid to buy some of the 250,000 tickets that went on sale in different parts of the host city.

"It was so unfair," said Ji Liqiang, who waited for 28 hours with Wang Zhenqiang, a fellow businessman from eastern Shandong province, for a chance to buy tickets to the diving competition.

"Those who came late but were able to push forward got the tickets," he said.

The two lost their place in line in the scramble and ended up with tickets to the synchronized swimming instead of diving — where China is a gold-medal favorite.

"It was very dangerous. I was jured their knees and elbows. A barricade was bent out of shape by the crowd."

Zhang Xiaojing, 17, who came from Hebei province with her cousin and three friends, said the line was fairly orderly when she arrived Thursday afternoon. But during Friday's rush, only three of her friends were able to elbow their way close enough to be in a position to buy tickets.

"If I'm going to be disappointed, I'm going to be disappointed. But I'm so tired. I didn't sleep last

The official Xinhua News Agency said 30,000 people lined dows Friday for the final batch of up for tickets, but muggy weather with temperatures above 93 degrees Fahrenheit coupled with the long wait made people impatient. Police immediately took actions to Witnesses said scuffles broke maintain order, including limiting access to some areas, it said.

Some journalists were escorted away after going into the off-limit areas, Xinhua said. Hong Kong television showed several journalists pushing back and forth with

Footage from Hong Kong Cable TV showed a policeman putting his arm around the neck of a Hong Kong Cable TV reporter and pulling him to the ground. The reporter said he was assaulted after his crew refused to leave a media zone, Cable TV reported. They were seen surrounded by dozens

A spokeswoman for Hong Kong Cable TV said it was "unacceptable" for Chinese authorities to treat the media that way.

"We hope the authorities will afraid," Wang said. "People got live up to their earlier promise to hurt around me. They fell and in- allow full freedom of the press during the Olympic Games," said Shum Siu-wah.

Despite the problems, an Olympic official said the start of the sale

'There were so many people who wanted tickets so we decided to open more ticket windows. ... In general, so far the ticket sale has gone smoothly," said Sun Weide, spokesman for Beijing's Olympic organizing committee.

part of Beijing, tens of thousands of people were lined up to buy tickets for the popular basketball competition. About 20,000 basketball tickets were expected to go on sale.

In addition to the tickets for Olympic events in Beijing, another 570,000 tickets are on sale for soccer matches in co-host cities: Tianjin, Shanghai, Shenyang and Qinhuangdao.

All told, 6.8 million Olympic tickets have been available for domestic and foreign sales. The Olympics start Aug. 8.

Though previous Olympic Games have had problems filling seats for less popular events, venues in Beijing are expected to be filled with enthusiastic fans. Some tickets were given away to school groups and government work units in an effort to present packed stadiums to television viewers around the world.

In November, organizers were embarrassed when the computer system crashed, forcing organizers to sack the Olympic ticketing chief and revert to a lottery system to sell tickets.

Organizers have said they are taking precautions against fake tickets and black market scalping, both of which are common in China. Buyers on Friday were limited to two tickets per person to discourage scalpers.

Xinhua said Thursday that Beijing police have detained 60 suspects for scalping Olympic tickets in the past two months, citing a police spokesman. Those found selling tickets on the black market At Wukesong in the western can face 10 to 15 days in deten-

come Celebrate our

tion, Xinhua said.

Still, Olympic tickets can easily be found online, though few sellers openly advertise the resale price. In sports that are unpopular in China, like baseball, 50 yuan (\$7.30) tickets were offered at 1000 yuan (\$150). Other tickets were being resold for 100 times the face value, Xinhua said.

10 and younger Sweet Thunder team plays

The Colby Sweet THunder 10 three losses.

The first game was Friday night against the Augusta Orioles. The final score was 5-6 after five innings. Kylee Martin the team's hits were off the bats pitched. Darby Sager went 2-3 of Martin (1-2 with 3 RBIs), with two singles and one RBI, Desi Schippers (1-2 with two Courtney Reilley went 1-3 with RBIs), Reilley (1-2 with one a triple and a RBI, and Martin RBI), and Elissa Zerr (1-1). also went 1-3.

On Saturday, after a five hour and under team went to Wichita rain delay, Colby Sweet Thun-July 11-12 to participate in the der played the Clay Center 9B's Class "C" Silver State Tourna- and lost 1-3. Martin pitched and ment. The girls finished with the hits came from Martin, Reilley and Sager.

Later on Saturday, they played Garden City Razzles and lost 6-11. Martin again pitched and

Royals oust Tampa Bay Rays

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) completely off from spending so much time trying to dry off.

It took three innings, but Meche finally overcame the sweating and started pitching.

Meche threw seven scoreless innings after a sweaty, shaky start and John Buck drove in two runs, helping the Kansas City Royals hold off Tampa Bay 4-2 on Thursday night to extend the AL Eastleading Rays' road losing streak to seven games.

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Gil Meche's arms and hands were the mound to see if I could do it," arm stayed dry and I picked up coated with sweat, his rhythm Meche said of drying off. "I kind my tempo, which is kind of what of got into a rhythm in the middle helped me."

"I just kept going to the back of of the game; I quit sweating, my



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QB tells network he'll go to camp GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) _ Brett

Favre has told the Green Bay Packers he plans to report to training camp this weekend, according to an NFL Network report Friday a move perhaps designed to force the team to quickly work out a trade for the three-time MVP.

According to the report, Favre told Packers general manager Ted Thompson on Thursday that he plans to report to camp and will formally petition NFL commissioner Roger Goodell to be reinstated as early as Friday.

Favre's presence in camp could cause a major distraction for the Packers, providing the team additional motivation to work out a

The team committed to moving on with Aaron Rodgers after Favre retired in early March, led them to believe he was coming back in late March, then decided to stay retired - until he apparently changed his mind once again in recent weeks.

Packers players are scheduled to move into their dorm rooms on Saturday, and their first team meeting is scheduled for Sunday morning. Their first practice is Monday morning.

Team officials did not immediately return telephone calls from The Associated Press.

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