Duke's Cooper Flagg (2) shoots as Houston's Joseph Tugler (11) defends during the second half in the national semifinals at the Final Four of the NCAA college basketball tournament on Saturday, April 5 in San Antonio.

Flagg leaves Duke, eyes No. 1 NBA pick

BY AARON BEARD AP BASKETBALL WRITER

pick.

The program announced Flagg's move in a social media post Monday following a lone college season that saw the 18-year-old become named as The Associated Press national player of the year while leading the Blue Devils to the Final Four.

fied to get to Duke a impacted the game on year early, and his decision was expected all really in every category, year, even as he generally declined to spell out good of a freshman seaplans about his professional future as the season pushed into March or mentioned how much fun he had playing in col-

"I mean, it's been an incredible year with a Duke star Cooper really great group of peo-Flagg is headed to the ple," Flagg told the AP NBA as the favorite to in March after winning be the No. 1 overall draft national player of the

The 6-foot-9, 205-pound forward from Newport, Maine, averaged 19.2 points, 7.5 rebounds, 4.2 assists, 1.4 blocks and 1.4 steals to lead the Blue only the fourth freshman Devils in each category. He's a versatile threat who showed the ability to thrive as a scorer, playmaker and defender.

"His highlights, his Flagg had reclassi- statistics, the ways he both ends of the floor, was off the charts — as son that a guy has had here," Duke coach Jon Scheyer said in a social media video from the pro-

tor and the joy of coaching Cooper is the person he was every day, the teammate that he was never about statistics or anything other than creating an environment and helping his team to win."

The statistical highlight came when Flagg scored 42 points to set an Atlantic Coast Conference freshman record against Notre Dame in January, along with having 30 points, six rebounds and seven assists to help Duke hold off Arizona in the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16. There were plenty of impressive single plays, too, that demanded highlight-reel placement like his transition dunk through a defender against Pittsburgh in January.

Flagg closed with gram about Flagg's NBA 27 points and seven

"But to me the separa- Houston in the national semifinals. The Blue Devils had led by 14 with about 8 1/2 minutes left but faltered late, with Houston scoring the game's last nine points in the final 33 seconds and Flagg missing a late shot for the lead.

Still, he was an elite and hypercompetitive force for one of college basketball's top teams all season with a game far more advanced than his age, capable of making an impact from baseline to baseline and sideline to sideline. He won't turn 19 until December, which would be roughly two months into his rookie season.

Flagg is the third Duke player to announce an early exit for the NBA in the past week, joining freshman wing Kon Knueppel and junior rebounds in a loss to guard Tyrese Proctor.



Richard Sellers/AP photo

Wrexham co-owner Rob McElhenney in the away stand before the League One soccer match between Blackpool and Wrexham at Bloomfield Road, Blackpool, England on Monday.

Wrexham wins, reclaims promotion spot

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BLACKPOOL, England — Wrexham was back in the driver's seat for promotion from English third-tier soccer after a crunch 2-1 win over Blackpool on Monday.

The road win lifted Wrexham back into League One's top two spots for automatic promotion.

After a loss by Wycombe Wanderers, Wrexham was two points above third-placed Wycombe with two rounds to go. Birmingham City has already clinched the league title.

Celebrity co-owner Rob McElhenney was among the 2,000 Wrexham supporters in the away end to see their side break the deadlock on the hour mark.

James McClean's opening score through a crowded box was doubled three minutes later by Ollie Rathbone. Blackpool scored in stoppage time but Wrexham held on.

Wrexham's unbeaten run was extended to eight games as it seeks a third straight promotion.

Two years ago, the Welsh club was in the fifth-tier National League but has surged through England's soccer pyramid thanks to the injection of cash from McElhenney and Ryan Reynolds.

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All parties seeking to submit a bid at the sale must deliver a deposit at least two (2) business day. prior to the sale by delivering to First American Title Insurance Company ("Escrow Agent") a wire, bank certified check, or money order (no endorsed checks or endorsed money orders will be accepted) in an amount equal to at least ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bidder's irrevocable bid. No cash wil be accepted. All funds must be exhibited to the Escrow Agent prior to the commencement of bidding. Unless proper funds have been verified, you will not be permitted to bid. The balance of the successful bid is payable at closing, which shall be held no later than 5:00 PM (CT) of the day of the auction date. time being of the essence. For wire instructions, you must contact the individual identified below.

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For further information you may contact Nathan Grzegorek, Polsinelli PC, 150 N. Riverside Plaza Suite 3000, Chicago, IL 60606; Tel.: (312) 819-1900; Fax: (312) 277-7820; ngrzegorek@polsinelli.com SCHEDULE 1 PLEDGED COLLATERAL

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Sigel, top U.S. amateur golfer, dies at 81

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERWYN, Pa. — Jay Sigel, who was widely viewed as America's best amateur since Bobby Jones, has died of pancreatic cancer, the U.S. Golf Association said Sunday.

The USGA said Sigel died Saturday at age 81. Along with his two U.S. Amateur titles and three U.S. Mid-Amateur victories, Sigel played in nine Walker Cup matches, twice as a playing captain.

Sigel was low amateur in the Masters three times, and once each at the U.S. Open and British Open during his sterling career.

His intention was to turn pro when he starred at Wake Forest on an Arnold Palmer scholarship. But his left hand went through a pane window on a swinging door that required 70 stitches. Sigel decided to remain amateur and started a business.

"I always thought to win the U.S. Amateur



Al Goldis/AP photo

Jay Sigel watches his tee shot on the 12th hole during the second round of the Senior PGA Farmers Charity Classic on May 25, 2002, in Ada, Mich.

son," Sigel once said. "The hand injury was the best thing to happen to me."

U.S. Amateur in 1982, successful insurance and the following year became the first player

things happen for a rea- and the U.S. Mid-Amateur — for players at Tour Champions when least 25 years old — in he turned 50 and won the same season. He also captured some of legacy was amateur He won his first the nation's most prestigious titles, such as the Sunnehanna Amateur, the Northeast Amateur and the Porter Cup.

Sigel joined the PGA eight times, though his

He was on eight winning Walker Cup teams, and played as the captain in 1983 and 1985.

The Hawks beat Casey County and Taylor County to win the Section 4 Tournament to advance. Rowan County entered

ago for many players has the week 14-2 and was riding a 13-game win streak. The Vikings were batting .342 as a team when the week began with senior Diamond Wills leading the way with a .554 batting average with 32 stolen bases in 33 attempts.

Junior Lauryn Eastham leads the team with 36 The Hawks now get a runs batted in and tops Rowan County in doubles (10) and homeruns (3).

In the circle, junior Kassi Perkins had all 14 in Owensboro when wins with a 1.60 earned LaRue County opens run average with 96 with Rowan County in strikeouts in 96 innings

Last season, the Hawks lost to eventual tournament champion Harrison County, 6-0, and Union County, 12-6, in the 2A.

"We were struggling going into the 2A state tournament last season, absolutely on our heels and was just playing poorly," Cundiff said. "Drawing Harrison County was the ticket for a short weekend. They were playing great, and ended up being the 2024 2A state champs.

"We all learned from field are Harrison Counthe trip, the team came away from Owensboro knowing we had to work harder and be more focused and I knew our coaching staff had to challenge them more and

added. "They are playing very well, doing the little things well that take care of the big things.'

LaRue County and Rowan County play at 3:45 p.m. CDT at Jack C. Fisher Park in Owens-

Cundiff said the team is looking for another opportunity to prove itself.

"What a great opportunity going back for a second time," he said. "They are ready.

Other schools in the ty, Johnson Central, Nelson County, Paducah Tilghman, Rockcastle County and Warren East.

Jeff D'Alessio can be reached at jdalessio@ have them prepared," he thenewsenterprise.com.

Owensboro. SOFTBALL

FROM PAGE B1

opportunities a season become a factor this season with added experience for several of them. "Last season is behind

us, injuries, fatigue jumped up and bit us at the worst time but at the same time forced many to step up," he said. "That's showing up this season."

chance Friday for a better showing in the double-elimination Class 2A state championships the eight-team field in pitched.