

LOCAL

NORTHFIELD, Minn.

FC senior finishes 14th in track championships

Franklin College senior athlete Robyn Burns finished 14th in the women's 5,000-meter run in the 2006 NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships on Saturday at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn.

The Roncalli graduate, who qualified for the nationals with a season-best time of 17:16.66 on Feb. 25, placed 14th among 15 entrants with a time of 18:30.30.

Caroline Cretti, a senior from Williams College, won the event handily with a Division III season-best and Tostrud Center record time of 16:44.57.

In her freshman year, Burns finished placed in the 1,500 in both the NCAA Division III indoor and outdoor nationals, earning All-America honors each time.

GOLF

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.

Donald keeps his cool, wins Honda Classic

Luke Donald was the last player on the driving range Sunday afternoon, grinning after a series of perfect shots.

He flashed a bigger smile walking up the 18th fairway five hours later, knowing he was about to win the Honda Classic.

Donald used back-to-back birdies midway through his back nine to take the outright lead at 11 under, made a great scrambling par on the difficult 16th to preserve the margin and held off Geoff Ogilvy by two shots for his second career PGA Tour victory.

A 3-under final round of 69 was good enough for the Englishman, who hadn't won on tour since the 2002 Southern Farm Bureau Classic and pocketed a winner's check of \$990,000. He made a 10-foot birdie putt at the 13th and a 25-footer on the 14th for the lead.

HUIXQUILUCAN, Mexico

Sorenstam wins MasterCard Classic

Annika Sorenstam opened her LPGA Tour season with a successful title defense in the MasterCard Classic, closing with a 2-under 70 for a one-stroke victory over Helen Alfredsson and Seon Hwa Lee.

Sorenstam, even par and tied for the lead after nine holes, reeled off three birdies in four holes to take the tournament with an 8-under 208 total.

On the 18th hole, the Swede three-putted from 40 feet away, winning with a tap-in bogey. It was the 21st time she has successfully defended a title.

"You come here with high expectations to defend a title, it's always tough, but I thought I played really well this week," she said. "This is a great event to start off the season. I got off to a great start."

SUNDAY'S

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

The Associated Press

MEN

No. 20 Iowa 67
No. 7 Ohio State 60

INDIANAPOLIS — Jeff Horner scored 14 of his 16 points in the second half and added 10 assists as No. 20 Iowa beat No. 7 Ohio State in the Big Ten tournament championship game.

Adam Haluska added 15 points and eight rebounds for the Hawkeyes (25-8), who won their first conference tournament since 2001.

Jamar Butler had 19 points, and J.J. Sullinger added 15 for the top-seeded Buckeyes (25-5), who fell short in their quest to win both the regular season and tournament titles.

Iowa extended its winning streak to five games and ended Ohio State's winning streak at seven.

Ohio State's Terence Dials, the conference player of the year, had 10 points and nine rebounds despite playing only 22 minutes because of foul trouble.

No. 3 Duke 78
No. 11 Boston College 76

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Duke found the perfect remedy for that two-game losing streak at the end of the regular season, a short trip to the Greensboro Coliseum for the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament, an almost unbeatable combination.

Three hard-fought victories later, the third-ranked Blue Devils added another championship and wrapped up a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament, the playoff that matters the most.

J.J. Redick had consecutive 3-pointers down the stretch to give Duke the lead for good, Sheldon Williams and Greg Paulus added clutch free throws in the final seconds and the Blue Devils held off No. 11 Boston College in the championship game.

Louis Hinnant's heave from about 50 feet right before the buzzer bounced off the backboard, denying the Eagles the title in their inaugural ACC tournament.

This is familiar territory for the Blue Devils (30-3), who won the tournament for a record 16th time.

Twins, fans honor Puckett's life

By Dave Campbell
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS

The Minnesota Twins, their fans and the baseball community gathered Sunday night to celebrate Kirby Puckett one final time, gathering at the Metrodome for a moving ceremony marked by just as many cheers as tears.

"Make sure you smile and laugh tonight because that's what Kirby would want, and that's why we loved him," said Twins radio announcer John Gordon, the emcee, in his introductory remarks.

Manager Ron Gardenhire left Minnesota's spring training site in Fort Myers, Fla., for a day to attend the ceremony along with Torii Hunter, Brad Radke, Shannon Stewart, Rondell White and Joe Mauer. Scores of former Twins, some who played with Puckett and some who never got the chance, were there, too.



Fans begin to gather at the Minneapolis Metrodome on Sunday for a tribute to Kirby Puckett, former Minnesota Twins player and Hall of Famer.

Kent Hrbek, Harmon Killebrew, Tony Oliva and Dan Gladden were among the former Twins who took seats around the infield as a local gospel choir began the program by signing the old hymn "I'll Fly Away" and thousands of fans, many toting

Homer Hankies and Puckett memorabilia, clapped rhythmically from the seats.

A recording of late public address announcer Bob Casey's famous introduction — "the center fielder, Kir-beeee Puck-ett!" — followed before a video of

Puckett's career highlights began playing on the video screen above left field.

Cal Ripken and Dave Winfield led the list of Puckett's contemporaries who showed up for the emotional event for the Hall of Famer, who died Monday following a stroke in his Arizona home.

"It will never be about closure. It will always be about remembering Puck," said Gardenhire, who coached third base for Minnesota during the second half of Puckett's career.

A private memorial service was conducted in the Minneapolis suburb of Wayzata earlier in the afternoon for Puckett's family and friends before the gates opened at the Metrodome — the place where Puckett roamed center field on two World Series winners, in 1987 and 1991.

Fans were lining up outside the stadium several hours before the public service began.

With Ripken, Winfield, Killebrew, Hrbek, former teammate Al Newman and former manager Tom Kelly among the expected speakers — plus musical tributes and video of Puckett's life and career planned — the Twins were anticipating a two-hour program with the potential to run longer.

There was no charge for attendance, water or soda. Several ramps and lots around the stadium provided free parking. The team was prepared to host a capacity crowd, though only about 15,000 were there for the locally televised event on an evening with snow in the forecast.

Kevin Grubb, of Blaine, brought his 7-year-old daughter, Paige, who of course never saw Puckett play.

"I wanted her to see what it was like," Grubb said. "See the people and the fans, just to let her know how important he was to the community."

James

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

The four-time Pro Bowl player and two-time NFL rushing leader started 95 regular-season games over the past seven seasons with the Indianapolis Colts, gaining 9,226 yards and scoring 56 touchdowns, both franchise records.

Last season, in 15 starts, he rushed for 1,506 yards, averaging 4.2 yards per carry, and 13 touchdowns, second behind Kansas City's Larry Johnson in the AFC. He led the league in first downs with 115, 94 rushing and 24 receiving.

James has been one of the most productive running backs in the NFL after the Colts took him with the fourth overall pick in 1999. He has rushed for more than 1,000 yards in six of his eight NFL seasons, and ran for more than 1,500 yards in each of the last two.

The 28-year-old James joins an

Arizona team that went 5-11 last season, leading the league in passing but finishing dead last in rushing with 1,138 yards, averaging 3.2 yards per carry.

"It's a nice situation. All they really need was a back," James said. "They've got an MVP quarterback (Kurt Warner), they've got two Pro Bowl receivers (Anquan Boldin and Larry Fitzgerald)."

James also cited the weather and the new stadium — with retractable roof and natural grass — that the Cardinals will move into this fall. The money must have made the difference, though. Arizona had plenty under the newly adjusted salary cap.

James is guaranteed \$14.75 million in his first year, including \$11.5 million in bonuses. The remaining \$15.25 million is divided over the final three years of the deal.

James had other tentative visits planned, Rosenhaus said.

"But this was the first stop and the last stop because it was the best stop."

The Cardinals haven't had a 100-yard rusher since Emmitt Smith gained 106 against Seattle on Oct. 26, 2004. They only topped 100 yards rushing as a team once last season.

James gained at least 100 in 49 of his 95 games with Indianapolis. In those games, the Colts were 43-6.

"I told coach I hoped this wasn't going to mess up my 100-yard games," James said. "I am used to getting 100 yards a lot, and I like to make plays, and I like moving the ball on offense. They said that we were going to do that there."

James knew there was little chance he would return to Indianapolis when the season ended in a loss to Pittsburgh in the AFC divisional round.

Colts president Bill Polian decided against keeping James by using the franchise tag on him for the second straight year. Such a move would have increased the player's salary to more than \$10 million next season.

That made James one of the

most attractive players available when free agency opened Saturday.

"I'm happy for him," Colts coach Tony Dungy said. "He was fantastic for us the time we were here, we wish we could have kept him, but you can't keep everyone."

It was clear James wanted a fresh start. He was looking for a long-term deal, something the Colts weren't willing to give him. After Indianapolis placed the franchise tag on him last year, Polian gave James' agent permission to look for a trade but there were no takers, even when Polian said the asking price was less than a first-round pick.

But Dungy credited James with playing through his disappointment and turning in a Pro Bowl season.

James said he was lobbied by Cardinals' players, especially Boldin, who first approached him at a charity basketball game.

"He said he was tired of having everybody covering him," James said. "He said if we could just get a back, the team wants to win."

Redskins sign Randle El

The Washington Redskins snagged their second receiver in two days of free agency Sunday, signing former Indiana University quarterback Antwan Randle El to a seven-year contract that could be worth up to \$31 million.

The Redskins also signed tight end Christian Fauria, giving coach Joe Gibbs three new weapons for an offense that struggled in the playoffs.

The signings came one day after the Redskins sent a third-round pick in this year's draft and a fourth-round selection in 2007 to San Francisco for receiver Brandon Lloyd.

As promised, Gibbs and owner Dan Snyder were once again extremely aggressive as soon the free agent market opened Saturday morning. Randle El was one of the top available players and was expected to be courted by several teams, but the Redskins' offer of \$11.5 million in guaranteed money had him signed before the weekend was done.

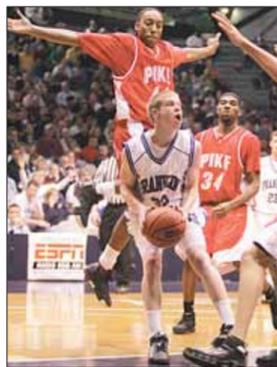
Season

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

"They come at you in waves," Cubs coach Dave Clark said. "That third-quarter wave broke our back. The game was closer than the score indicated. Everyone said this game was going to be ugly. But I didn't think this was an ugly game at all."

Moss, who scored 15 of the Cubs' first 25 points, seemed energized by the charged-up atmosphere at Hinkle Fieldhouse.

"Anytime you're playing at Hinkle (Fieldhouse), it's fun," Moss said. "You're playing in one of the best basketball facilities in the state and playing the No. 2 team in the state. All the press gets me pumped up."



Franklin's Eric Lazzell, center, prepares to shoot the ball as Pike's Jeff Teague, left, comes in for the block.

Cubs senior Ben Gordon was the only other Franklin player in double-figures. He had 13 points.

Four of Pike's five starters scored in double-figures: Senior Reece Cheatham had 20, junior Jeff Teague had 18, senior Curtis White added 17, and senior Tony James had 11 points. The Red Devils also benefited from hot outside shooting. Pike made 10 of 14 (71.4 percent) 3-point attempts, including six in the first quarter.

Franklin (14-11) had played its best basketball of the season during the past month.

The Cubs won nine of their final 13 games and had won seven straight before Saturday's loss.

They earned their first sectional championship since 1999, defeating county-rival Center Grove after losing to the Trojans in the Johnson County Tournament final.

"If we had put forth the effort we had in the last couple weeks, our season could be a whole lot

different," Clark said. "I think this season was a great season. It shows the character of our staff and kids. (And) our toughness."

All that success comes after a rough start to the season, when the Cubs lost six of their first nine games. Those six losses were by a total of 19 points, including a triple-overtime loss at Decatur Central and an overtime loss at Columbus East. In fact, six of the Cubs' 11 losses were by five points or less.

They also experienced chemistry problems during that time. But a players-only team meeting midway through the season cleared that up.

"We told everybody to drop that," Gordon said. "We lost a lot of 1- and 2-point games. We finally said we're not going to lose anymore close games."

"We played our best basketball

at the end of the season. We got ourselves a sectional championship. Pike's a good team. But we should've competed a little more."

Moss is Franklin's lone returning starter next season. But the point guard already is thinking about how he and the team are going to prepare.

"We have to get guys playing all summer so we can go farther than we did this year," Moss said. "We can go all the way. I know we can do it."

No. 1 Lawrence North defeated Pike 63-57 in Saturday's regional championship game and will meet Bloomington South (21-5) in the March 18 semistate at Southport.

The Wildcats (27-0) advanced to the finals after defeating Carmel 47-22 in the second regional semifinal.

HUGE

FACTORY AUTHORIZED

SALE!!!

2006 FORD TAURUS

FORD'S LOSS IS YOUR GAIN

FROM ONLY

\$13,995

MATLOCK MERCURY

U.S. 31 Franklin, IN • 736-5185

DIXIE CHOPPER

The World's Fastest Lawn Mower

Indiana Top Gun Dealer
Factory Outlet
All mowers in stock

Provides Ground Speeds Up to 15mph
14 Gallon Fuel Capacity
Up to 9.1 acres of mowing per hour
Beverage cooler
60" & 72" Decks available
LIFETIME WARRANTY on frame, front
caster bearings & front forks

PRICE'S
Dixie Chopper
1090 Yandes St.
Franklin, IN 46131
317-738-0618
or 736-6091

0 Payments, 0 interest
for 6 months (W.A.C.)
Certain credit restrictions apply

WWW.DIXIECHOPPER.COM