

Former Cubs runner leaves foes behind

By WALT VANDERBUSH

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Franklin Community High School graduate **Jeff Powers** won the 5,000-meter race by more than four seconds in 14:17.76 in a field of 23 runners at The Sykes-Sabock Challenge Cup Indoor Track and Field Meet at Penn State University. The Central Michigan University senior was a key member of Franklin's 2001 state championship cross country team. The Chippewas finished fifth of 13 teams.



POWERS

Franklin

- Arizona State's **Ryan Warrenburg** finished 15th of 52 competitors in the 5,000-meter race at the Albuquerque Invitational Indoor Track and Field Meet. His time was 14:02.34.
- Ohio State's **Jessie Stringer**, the Big Ten outdoor champion, was fourth of 58 high jumpers at the Iowa State Indoor Track and Field Classic. Her jump of 5 feet, 10 1/4 inches equaled the height of Peaches Roach, the 2005 Big Ten Indoor champion. But the Iowa standout placed third due to having fewer misses.
- Marian College's **Jessica VanVleet** finished ninth of 11 runners in the 5,000-meter race at the Illinois College Blue Classic indoor track and field meet in 21:49.10. Her best time in the indoor season is 21:16.
- Denison College freshman swimmer **Dylan Wilson** finished 16th of 60 swimmers in the 50-yard freestyle (22.76) at the North Coast Athletic Conference Champ-

COLLEGE UPDATE

ionships. Denison finished second. The College of Wooster's **Kyle Oaks** was 10th in the same event in 22.10. Oaks was 12th of 35 in the 100 backstroke (56.44) and 12th of 53 in the 100 freestyle (48.28) for the fourth-place Fighting Scots. Perennial champion Kenyon won the meet.

- Freshman volleyball player **Mike Chipman** had two kills and one dig in one game for St. Ambrose in a 3-0 win against Moody Baptist.
- The Bloomsburg wrestlers lost 30-9 to Edinboro and 18-17 to Slippery Rock. 197-pounder **Jesse Hasseman**, 13-11 this season, lost both matches by fall.

Whiteland

- The Evansville softball team opened its season with four wins in five games. The Aces finished second in the Auburn Tiger Invitational Softball Tournament with wins against Minnesota (8-1), North Carolina State (1-0) and Miami (Ohio) (3-2) and a loss to Auburn (12-7). In their first home game, they defeated Middle Tennessee State 9-1. Senior leftfielder **Alicia Laraway** is batting .438 (7 for 16) with two home runs, a triple and five RBIs. She has hit safely in each game.
- **Megan Liffick** became the 15th Evansville women's basketball player to score 1,000 career points when she scored 19 (6 for 16 from the field, 1 for 3 from 3-point range, 6 for 8 from the free-throw line) in 32 minutes to lead the Aces (13-9, 9-4) to an 84-55 win against Wichita.

The senior, who is the sixth-leading scorer in the Missouri Valley Conference with a 16 points-per-game average, had 14 points

(6 for 13, 2 for 6, 0 for 0) in 30 minutes in a 71-53 victory against Missouri State. She totaled six rebounds, five steals and two assists in the wins and is fourth in the MVC in steals with 39.

- **Jennifer Patrick** had four points (1 for 5, 2 for 2), six rebounds, two steals, one blocked shot and one steal in 25 minutes in Brescia College's 87-67 loss to Park University. Brescia is 1-26.
- The Columbia College men's basketball team (20-7, 6-3) split overtime contests, defeating Missouri Baptist 82-76 and losing 81-77 to McKendree. **David Inabnit** scored 10 points (5 for 5) and grabbed two rebounds in 13 minutes in the win and had two points (1 for 6), five rebounds and two assists in 18 minutes in the loss.
- **Josh Martin** had two rebounds in Goshen College's 49-47 basketball loss to Taylor. The Leafs are 13-15, 5-10.

Indian Creek

- **Adrienne Squire** scored a team-high 28 points (9 for 11, 7 for 9, 3 for 3) and grabbed a team-high six rebounds in 33 minutes in Penn State's 78-52 women's basketball victory against Illinois. The Nittany Lions (11-13, 5-8) lost 58-43 to Indiana; and the sophomore had nine points (3 for 11, 1 for 5, 2 for 2), six rebounds and two steals in 33 minutes.
- The Miami (Ohio) women's basketball team (7-16, 2-10) lost to Western Michigan (70-60), Eastern Michigan (78-55) and Buffalo (62-61). **Kris Coner** had eight points (2 for 2, 4 for 6), seven rebounds, two blocked shots and a steal in 27 minutes in the three losses.
- **Max Woodbury**, representing the University of Indianapolis, finished 15th of 33 in the 55-meter hurdles (8.25) and 13th of 26 in the

high jump (5-10) at the DePauw Open Indoor Track and Field meet.

Center Grove

- The Walters State baseball team (9-0) earned three wins against South Georgia and two wins against Roane State. Freshman catcher **J.B. Paxson** had six hits in 12 at-bats, including four RBIs and his second home run, in three of the wins and is hitting .421 (8 for 19) for the Senators.



PAXSON

- The Ball State men's tennis team defeated Michigan State (4-3), Indiana State (5-2) and Valparaiso (7-0). **Joe Epkey** won 6-4, 6-4 at No. 2 singles against the Spartans and 6-2, 6-2 at No. 1 against the Crusaders, while losing 7-5, 6-1 at No. 1 against the Sycamores. He and his partner won at No. 1 doubles in each match.
- **Tony Epkey** won at No. 3 singles against the Spartans (6-3, 6-0) and at No. 2 against Valparaiso (6-0, 6-1) but fell at No. 2 against ISU (7-6, 6-4). He won at No. 2 doubles against Valparaiso, and he and **Jarrod Epkey** won at No. 2 doubles against the Sycamores and lost against MSU.
- **Jarrod** won at No. 4 singles against Indiana State (6-2, 6-4) and lost at No. 5 to MSU (6-2, 6-2).
- The Butler tennis team defeated Xavier 6-1 and lost 6-1 to Clemson. **Evan West** lost at No. 5 singles in both matches and at No. 3 doubles against Xavier.
- The Ball State gymnastics team (1-6) defeated Bowling Green for its first win of the year and lost to Michigan State. **Natalie Hesler** was 12th of 18 on the balance beam, fourth for the Cardi-

nals, in the three-way meet, with a score of 9.125.

- The Wabash swimming team finished third at the North Coast Athletic Conference Championships, won by Kenyon. **Michael Hewitt** was seventh of 34 in the 200-yard individual medley (1:57.46), ninth of 29 in the 100 butterfly (52.64) and a member of the third place 200 medley relay team.
- Carthage College won the six-team College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin swimming championship. **Erik Catellier** was sixth of 16 in the 1,650 freestyle (17:22.05), 10th of 16 in the 500 freestyle (5:01.32) and 12th of 16 in the 200 butterfly (2:12.40).
- Wheaton College's **Brandon Lewis** finished second of 24 runners (4:29.26) in the 1,600-meter race at the Lewis University Indoor Invitational Track and Field meet.
- Taylor University's **Rebecca Clouse** won the 1,000-meter run against an Anderson competitor in 3:17.65 at the Anderson University Invitational Indoor Track and Field Meet.
- Indiana sophomore **Tyler Skelton** long jumped 23-1 1/4 to finish 16th of 35 at the Tyson Invitational Indoor Track and Field Meet at Fayetteville, Ark.
- **Melinda Robinson** of the University of Indianapolis finished 14th of 27 in the 400-meter race (1:04.04) at the DePauw Open Indoor Track and Field Meet.
- **Joel Hobson** led the Indiana Wesleyan men's basketball team (15-13, 9-6) in scoring with 10 points in a 56-45 win against Marian.
- The Bethel College men's basketball team (10-19, 1-13) lost to St. Francis (99-92) and Huntington (86-70). **Chad Maddox** played 35 minutes in the two games and had 10 points (5 for 11), seven assists, four rebounds and four steals.
- **Leslie Smith** led Manhattan

Christian College's women's basketball team (21-6, 9-0) with 16 points in an 86-29 win against Barclay College.

- **Deanna Thomson** had 12 points (5 for 7, 2 for 0) and a team-high seven rebounds in 32 minutes in the University of Indianapolis' women's basketball (10-13, 5-10) loss to Northern Kentucky. The sophomore had 13 points (6 for 9, 0 for 1, 1 for 1), seven rebounds, three assists and three steals in 30 minutes in an 80-72 loss to Bellarmine.
- Evansville's women's tennis team lost to Wright State (5-2) and Dayton (4-3). No. 5 singles player, freshman **Stephanie Millis**, won 7-6, 6-4 against WSU and 7-6, 7-5 against the Flyers. She and her partner lost in doubles in both matches.



MILLIS

- **Maria Eichhold** led Mount St. Joseph's women's basketball team (8-15, 5-7) in scoring with 12 points (3 for 6, 6 for 7) and rebounds with seven in the Lions' 79-36 loss to Franklin College. Mount St. Joseph dealt the Grizzlies their only HCAC loss earlier in the season. The sophomore had 10 points (4 for 7, 2 for 3), four rebounds, two assists, one blocked shot and one steal in a 67-65 loss to Bluffton.
- The Wabash men's basketball team (14-9, 8-6) defeated Earlham 72-66 and lost 95-71 to Wooster. **Kyle Coffey** played 26 minutes in the two games and had 13 points (3 for 6, 7 for 10), eight rebounds, one assist and one steal.

Walt Vanderbush is a former principal at Franklin Community High School. Ideas for the weekly College Update should be sent to sports editor Rick Morwick at rmorwick@thejournalnet.com.

• Crowds

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"It's very disappointing to walk in and it's half empty," American speedskater Jennifer Rodriguez said earlier this week. "I can't believe this is the Olympics. It almost felt like a World Cup meet. The Olympics should be sold out."

The excitement picked up Thursday when Italy won a surprise gold medal in the men's team pursuit. There's nothing like success by home athletes to give the games a boost of energy.

Turin organizers had sold 815,000 tickets by Thursday, closing in on their goal of 830,000. They've already surpassed their ticketing revenue target of 64 million euros (\$74 million).

But sales don't always translate into full arenas or a festive atmosphere at the Olympics.

"It depends on the events," TOROC spokesman Giuseppe Gattino said. "It's true at some events there has not been much public. We are aware of it, but we're not particularly worried."

Gattino said empty seats at some venues are due to no-shows, often corporate sponsors and Olympic officials who hold tickets but don't turn up.

The International Olympic Committee has expressed only praise for the games so far.

"The opening ceremony set the tone, and now there's a comfort factor," IOC spokeswoman Giselle Davies said Thursday. "We can say we are seeing the Olympic Games getting into their stride."

Senior Canadian IOC member Dick Pound said the games have proved the doomsayers wrong.

"A few weeks ago, you'd have thought you were coming to a wasteland," he said. "I'm very impressed. All the crowds I've seen are very enthusiastic. It's not the first time every seat hasn't been sold at the Winter Olympics."

At the Alpine venues, stands were slow to fill on some days, packed from the start on others, quick to empty on others.

Fans didn't arrive for Sunday's men's downhill until about 20 minutes into the racing, and the crowd was relatively tame. When a recorded voice exhorted, "Make some noise!" the response sounded like polite applause from a dozen people.

The stands for Wednesday's women's downhill in San Scairo were little more than half full, while the crowd was large and rowdy much of the men's combined event Tuesday.

But even then, the seats were half-empty by the time Ted Ligety won gold for the United States, as many left when it was clear Italian favorite Giorgio Rocca would not win a medal.

The crowds for women's ice hockey have been half-full or better. Nearly 9,000 attended the Italy-Canada men's game Wednesday, but there were empty seats at the Czech Republic vs. Germany.

Crowds have been excellent at ski jumping and cross country.

THURSDAY'S ROUNDUP



AP PHOTO

Gold medalist Seth Wescott of the United States, left, and silver medalist Radoslav Zidek of Slovakia speed down hill in the snowboard-cross final at the Winter Olympics in Bardonecchia, Italy, on Thursday.

Wescott brings home gold

Suspended in midair, Seth Wescott's biggest worry was making sure he didn't land on top of his opponent and crush him. Not exactly a typical Olympic moment.

Then again, snowboardcross isn't a typical Olympic sport.

The American racer missed Slovakia's Radoslav Zidek on that tight landing, then passed him for the win in the Olympic debut of the wild sport of snowboardcross.

For that, Wescott earned a gold medal. Everyone else got warm compresses and aspirin.

"To have a great race like that in the finals, I think it just makes the sport look good," Wescott said.

There was bumping, thrashing, wipeouts and worse during the 90-minute of NASCAR on ice, a series of four-man races down the mountain with everyone vying for space on the tight, high-banked, 1,000-yard course.

Plushenko golden; Weir not

Almost all figure skater Evgeni Plushenko had to do was stay on his feet. That's more than his rivals could manage.

The three-time world champion took few chances yet still earned another personal best to grab the fifth straight Olympic title for a Russian/Soviet man.

American Johnny Weir plunged from second after the short program to fifth overall.

World champion Stephane Lambiel of Switzerland won silver, and Jeff Buttle of Canada got bronze, although both struggled.

Weir, who skated a cautious program filled with errors, stormed out of the rink when his mediocre marks were shown.

U.S. hockey team rebounds

The U.S. hockey team found just what it needed to get going in the Olympics: a good night's rest and a game against Kazakhstan (0-2).

Rick DiPietro, in his debut, stopped 11 shots as the Americans won 4-1.

The United States (1-0-1) used three first-period goals to move into second place in Group B with three points, behind Slovakia, the Americans' next opponent and the only 2-0 team in the six-squad bunch.

Canada (2-0) roughed up Germany (0-2) in a 5-1 victory. Wade Redden, Joe Sakic and Simon Gagne gave the defending gold medalists a 3-0 lead halfway through the first period.

Russian biathlete loses medal

Biathlete Olga Pyleva of Russia was thrown out of the Olympics and

stripped of her silver medal for failing a drug test, the first athlete caught for doping at the Turin Games.

Pyleva, who won silver at the 15km event Monday, was scratched just before the start of Thursday's 7.5km sprint, in which she was considered a leading medal contender. She also won gold and bronze medals at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games.

A hastily convened, three-member IOC panel found Pyleva guilty of a doping violation. She had tested positive for the banned stimulant carphedon in a urine test following Monday's race.

Italy wins speedskating gold

Italy sent the home crowd into a frenzy at the speedskating oval by winning the first gold medal in men's team pursuit, defeating Canada in the final after upsetting the United States and the Netherlands.

The Dutch came back to claim a bronze with a win against Norway in the third-place race.

The Italians caught a break against the favored Dutch when 5,000-meter silver medalist Sven Kramer crashed on a turn and took out Carl Verheijen with three of the eight laps remaining in the semifinal race.

Pedersen triumphs in skeleton

Switzerland's Maya Pedersen, who parked her sled to become a mother two years ago, is now an Olympic champion after winning her country's first gold medal of the Turin Games in women's skeleton.

Showing zero fear in a headfirst, freezing freefall down one of the world's fastest sliding tracks, Pedersen completed her two runs in 1 minute, 59.83 seconds, an astonishing 1.23 seconds ahead of Shelley Rudman of Britain, the first medal of these games for the Brits.

Big win for U.S. curlers

The United States rallied to beat first-place Sweden 10-6 in men's curling.

The Americans (3-2) and Sweden (3-2) traded two-pointers for four ends, then held serve with one point the next four times. With Sweden holding the big last-rock advantage called the hammer, the Americans stole two points in the ninth end when skip Pete Fenson converted a double-takeout on his second throw.

Because it didn't score, Sweden retained the hammer for the 10th and final end, but Fenson dropped another double-takeout on them with his last rock, and Sweden conceded.

Gordon sets pace in Daytona twins; Sadler also wins

By JENNA FRYER

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.

Jeff Gordon thinks it's far too early to label him the Daytona 500 favorite.

But based on his early Speedweeks showings and an outstanding string of success in the Great American Race, he's the only one who doesn't think he's once again the driver to beat.

Gordon staked his claim Thursday by winning one of the twin qualifying races at Daytona International Speedway that is used to set the field for Sunday's season opener.

Elliott Sadler won the first race, which also had strong runs from Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jimmie Johnson and Tony Stewart.

"I don't know how you can just pick one guy. There's strong cars out here," Gordon said. "I felt like (Sadler) was really strong in that first race. I know that Tony and Junior and Jimmie and those guys who weren't in our race are going to be strong."

Gordon, coming off a disappointing season in which he missed the Chase for the championship, needs to start 2006 out on a high note to show his team he has rebounded. Daytona is the perfect place for him to do it: He's the defending race winner and a three-time 500 champion.

So when considering his entire body of work, Gordon finally acknowledged that he's got a good chance Sunday.

"I think with our track record here at Daytona, with the performance that we've got going for us already this week, I'd like to think that we're one of the favorites," he said. "But whether we're the guy to beat or not, we'll find out in the closing laps of the 500."

Gordon will face a stiff challenge in the main event from Sadler, who is having a stout week for his Robert Yates Racing team.

What in the world is going on? Find out in the Daily Journal.

Call 317.698.6428 after 5pm or 317.258-1250 for more info

• See

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replaced) and any one of a whole slew of coaches who followed a coaching legend whose name becomes synonymous with the program, Mike Davis was not going to make it ... not at IU anyway.

When Bob Knight was forced out as IU coach, it didn't matter who replaced him. Whomever the Hoosiers chose as the next coach wasn't going to win three NCAA titles, win 800-plus games and cultivate the rabid loyalty among fans that Knight did.

Those most loyal to Knight were the ones most hurt by his firing. They would never accept anyone else as coach of the Hoosiers. Oh, they may have tolerated the right guy, eventually, but Davis wasn't going to be that guy.

He was always going to be compared to Knight. And no matter what aspect of the job was being discussed at the local coffee shop, Davis was going to come out a loser to his predecessor.

Finishing runner-up in the 2002 NCAA Tournament bought Davis some time. Folks gave him a chance, for a while. After all, he did win NCAA Tournament games, which is something Knight's final few teams couldn't do. And maybe this was a sign of things to come.

That run turned out to be the exception rather than the norm.

The expectations had to weigh on him for years. I give him credit for getting it out as long as he did.

John Groth
Staff writer

Mike Davis stayed to keep the Indiana University basketball team together.

Now, he's leaving the Hoosiers as they're falling apart. Ironic, isn't it?

Or is it as he's falling apart?

During the past few weeks, we've watched Davis break down physically, mentally and emotionally.

Like Davis, the Hoosiers look like they're in shambles. They've gotten beat on the road by the likes of Big Ten cellar dwellers Minnesota and Penn State.

Their dominating star, Marco Killingsworth, is nowhere to be found except sitting on the bench in foul trouble.

They have developed the persona of their coach. They're both missing passion. And the way the Hoosiers are playing, they could miss the NCAA Tournament for third straight year.

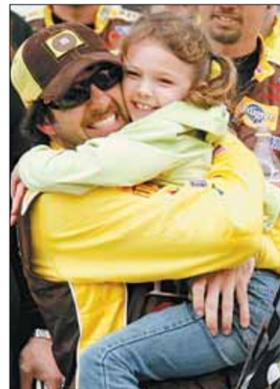
Now, there will be no more rumors, no more speculation, no more firemike davis.com.

He's talked about leaving for weeks. In that time, IU has turned from an NCAA Tournament contender to a team playing without a purpose.

He stayed to keep the team together. He's leaving after making IU basketball fall apart. Go figure.



HOFFMAN



AP PHOTO

NASCAR driver Elliott Sadler hugs his niece, Cora Sadler, 9, in Victory Lane after winning the first Gatorade Duel race at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., on Thursday.

Sadler was fourth in time trials and was dominating in his victory.

"It feels pretty good," he said. "We beat them all pretty handily."

Sadler will lean on past lessons learned to transfer the momentum from this win into Sunday's event. He won a qualifying race in 2004, only to fade to a seventh-place finish in the 500.

And teammate Dale Jarrett was in the same spot last season after winning a qualifier, and he wound up a disappointing 15th.

But Sadler believes his team is more prepared at the start of the season than ever before.

"From a mental standpoint, not from a nut-and-bolts thing with the racecar but from a mental standpoint, I think this team is more focused and more ready to go," Sadler said. "I feel like I'm the quarterback of this race team. It's time for me to act like it."

The qualifying races are used to set the field for the Daytona 500, and 23 drivers went into Thursday vying for the four open spots on the starting grid.

Kevin LePage and Bill Elliott each raced their way in during the first event, then Mike Wallace and Kirk Shelmerdine grabbed the other two spots.

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