

SCOREBOARD

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Texans might trade No. 1 pick

By CLIFF BRUNT THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush might not land with the Houston Texans after all.

Texans general manager Charley Casserly said Sunday that the Texans have been talking to teams about possibly trading the first pick in the 2006 draft.

It has been widely speculated that the Heisman Trophy winning running back out of Southern California would end up with the Texans because they recently gave quarterback David Carr a three-year contract extension.

The Texans, who finished 2-14 last season, have multiple needs that might be filled with one major move.

"There's clearly players at the top of this draft that are marquee players," Casserly said. "Players that are going to go to the Pro Bowl, players that are going to sell tickets. We're going to get offers for this pick. We've already had discussions with teams. I think there's value in our pick."

"Whether it's Reggie Bush, Vince Young or Matt Leinart, those three players are going to produce trade offers. We are definitely going to have some choices when it comes to draft day."

NFL

Seattle Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren has told the competition committee that he intends to step down from the committee.

Holmgren's move

Two prominent committee members, Atlanta Falcons general manager Rich McKay and Indianapolis Colts president Bill Polian, said Holmgren's decision had nothing to do with his criticism of the officiating this year.

Holmgren said he erred in November when he released information from an NFL memo that officials made two incorrect calls in the Seahawks' game against the New York Giants. After the Super Bowl, Holmgren again questioned several calls in the 21-10 loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"I think Mike works hard and has a lot of responsibilities," McKay said. "They went to the Super Bowl this year,"

and I think he needs a little time off. I didn't think it was driven by the calls on Super Bowl Sunday, I really didn't."

Polian agreed and said he hoped Holmgren would change his mind before the committee meets again March 9 in Naples, Fla.

Tied up

Defensive lineman Mike Kudla came into the combine hoping to break the weight lifting record set by Isaac Sopoaga of Hawaii in 2004. Kudla settled for a tie.

At the combine, players are tested by the number bench press repetitions they do at 225 pounds. Kudla did 45, initially thinking he broke Olshansky's record by two.

"I thought I had it, but right after the guy from Denver said you tied it," Kudla said. "I had 46 right there, but I couldn't quite get that last inch up."

Linebacker A.J. Hawk, a teammate of Kudla's at Ohio State, said he was surprised Kudla didn't do more. Kudla's personal best came last summer when he lifted the 225-pound bar 52 times.

"I'm glad he tied it, but 45 is a bad day for Kudla," Hawk said.

Boys swimming and diving

Saturday's results IHSA state finals At IU Natatorium at IUPUI Team scores: North Central 295, Homestead 209, Chesterton 182, Hamilton Southeastern 174, Munster 157, South Bend Riley 136, Yorktown 10, Terre Haute North Vigo 80, Northridge 72, Crown Point 70, 11, Center Grove 57, tie-35, Franklin 13. 200 medley: 1:32.95 North Central (Michael Christy, Riley Boulden, Peter Jameson, Sean White), 14. Center Grove (Pete Hewitt, Paul Beauchamp, Paul Brogan, Chris Oleksiak), 200 freestyle: 1:37.11 Jameson NC, 8. Oleksiak CG, 200 IM: 1:49.13 Christy NC, 12. Brogan CG, 50 freestyle: 20.81 Bryan Chovanec Munster. Diving: 5:51.20 David Pletro Homestead, 6. Josh Blackwell F, 10. Nick Swift CG, 100 butterfly: 50.47 Chris Morin Crown Point, 100 freestyle: 44.93 Jameson NC, 500 freestyle: 4:30.47 Drew Sease NC, 3. Oleksiak CG, 200 freestyle relay: 1:25.24 Homestead (Adam Lill, Kyle Frebel, Christopher Jones, Andrew Hoffman), 100 backstroke: 49.86 Christy NC, 100 breaststroke: 56.09 Aaron Koger Richmond, 8. Brogan CG, 400 freestyle relay: 3:04.24 North Central (Sease, Ken Mintum, Christy, Jameson), 16. Center Grove (Cody Adkins, Hewitt, Brogan, Oleksiak).

Franklin College

Saturday's results Men's basketball At Lexington, Ky. HCAC Tournament Championship Transylvania 63, Franklin 48. FRANKLIN — Jon Neill 1-9 0-0 2, Josh Finke 0-3 0-0, Nick Kane 9-13 1-4 19, Dustin Marshall 2-8 0-0 4, Jace Redman 1-7 2-2 4, Matt Glover 0-1 0-0, Luke Tudor 0-1 0-0 0, Paul Galbraith 0-1 0-0, Bryant Scales 0-0 0-0 0, Brandon Ray 7-10 3-5 17, John Yochum 1-1 0-0 2, Marty Young 0-0 0-0, Jared Caron 0-0 0-0 0, Totals: 21-54 6-11 48. TRANSYLVANIA — Bryan Howard 5-9 1-4 11, Joey Searle 4-4 0-0, Matt Finke 13-13 0-0 14, Marc Bain 3-12 3-4 10, Robert Pendleton 2-0 1-6, Tyler Smithart 0-0 0-0, Cody Swords 0-0 0-0, Nick Music 0-0 0-0, Adam Cole 0-0 0-0, Ryan Atwell 0-1 0-0, Andre Tunstall 0-0 0-0 0, Garry Moxner 0-0 0-0 0, Stephen Gabbard 2-4 0-0 6, Jay Hillander 0-0 0-0 0, Joey Verax 1-4 0-0 2, Brock Jones 0-0 0-0 0, Ryan Meyer 0-0 0-0 0, Totals: 24-54 8-13 63. Halftime score: Transylvania 29, Franklin 25. Three-point shooting: Franklin 0-12 (Neill 0-2, Marshall 0-3, Redman 0-4, Glover 0-1, Tudor 0-1, Galbraith 0-1), Transylvania 7-21 (Howard 0-2, Searle 2-4, Bain 1-6, Pendleton 2-5, Gabbard 2-4), (Kane 11), Transylvania 37 (M. Finke 8). Assists: Franklin 7 (Marshall 3), Transylvania 17 (Bain 5). Fouls: Franklin 16 Transylvania 10. Records: Franklin 20-8, Transylvania 24-4 All-tournament team: Franklin — Kane, Marshall.

Saturday's results Women's basketball

HCAC Tournament Championship Manchester 67, Franklin 65. MANCHESTER — Jessica Hinn 3-7 0-0 6, Kelley Meiklejohn 3-11 4-6 10, Sarah Bose 6-11 2-5, Heather Terlinger 2-9 0-1 9, Stephanie Wendel 8-13 3-4 21, Sarah Conwell 1-5 0-0 3, Erica Hedges 0-0 0-0, Mandy Freed 0-0 0-0, Rachel Varnes 0-3 2-2 2. Totals: 25-59 11-16 67. FRANKLIN — Jennifer Redicker 1-4 0-1 2, Kelly Snider 2-6 1-2 7, Ballard 6-9 3-3 15, Lindsey Robertson 3-15 4-5 10, Brittany Beehler 1-1 0-0 2, Rachelle Durchoz 0-0 0-0 0, Courtney Swan 5-5 0-1 15, Allison Lewis 1-5 0-0 3, Jennifer Walters 0-3 0-0 0, Leslie Mehrlich 4-8 3-6 11, Totals: 23-56 11-17 65. Halftime scores: Manchester 35, Franklin 27. Three-point shooting: Manchester 6-17 (Meiklejohn 0-2, Bose 2-4, Terlinger 1-2, Wendel 2-5, Conwell 1-4), Franklin 8-23 (Snider 2-4, Robertson 0-8, Swan 5-5, Lewis 1-4, Walters 0-2). Rebounds: Manchester 34 (Terlinger 8, Varnes 7), Franklin 38 (Robertson 9, Redicker 6). Assists: Manchester 13 (Bose 4), Franklin 19 (Beehler 5). Fouls: Manchester 15, Franklin 14. Records: Franklin 24-4, Manchester 21-7 All-tournament team: Franklin — Ballard, Robertson.

Baseball

Sunday's results At Port Charlotte, Fla. Game 1 Franklin 122 001 3-8 9 0 St. John's 040 000 0-4 6 2 Franklin — Dan Shearin, Brandon McWhorter (6) and Ben Werner. St. John's — Chelley and Haguen. WP: Shearin (1-0). LP: McWhorter. Game 2 St. John's 100 000 0-1 4 1 Franklin 100 003 4-8 8 1 St. John's — Hollenhorst and Haguen. Franklin — Dustin Eck, Tony Flack and Werner. WP: Eck (1-0). LP: Hollenhorst.

MAIN EVENTS

TV TODAY

Men's college basketball Pittsburgh at West Virginia, 7 p.m., ESPN Oklahoma State at Oklahoma, 9 p.m., ESPN2

Women's college basketball Connecticut at Rutgers, 7:30 p.m., ESPN2

SPECTATOR SPORTS

TODAY

No events scheduled.

Call us with results

Results can be called in to the Daily Journal sports department from 6 to 10 weeknights and Sunday evenings at 736-2715.

Results also can be faxed to 736-2766.

Saturday's results

At Port Charlotte, Fla. Franklin 000 101 144 11 14 3 Rose-Hulman 010 101 003 6 6 1 LP: Malsui. Rose-Hulman — Andy Clark, Brian Rejer (8) and Ben Werner. Rose-Hulman — Malsui, Lash (6) and Hochstetler. WP: Clark (1-0). LP: Malsui. 2B — Jim Swienconek FC, Lance LaBonte FC. HR — Swienconek FC FC record: 3-0

Tuesday's games

Minnesota at Chicago, 8:30 p.m. New Orleans at Seattle, 10 p.m. Orlando at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m. ... SUNDAY'S SUMMARY Stojakovic 7-15 4-4 22, Foster 1-4 4-6 6, Polard 0-1 0-0 0, S.Jackson 3-11 6-6 12, An.Johnson 6-9 1-2 13, Harrison 5-9 2-7 12, Granger 4-6 5-5 13, Jones 9-16 2-2 22, Jaskiewicz 0-2 1-1 1, Gill 0-0 0-0, Totals 35-73 25-33 101. NEW JERSEY (91) Jefferson 7-19 9-11 23, Collins 2-3 2-2 6, Krstic 1-6 2-2 4, Carter 2-5 0-0 4, Kidd 8-18 0-0 19, Robinson 5-10 1-1 11, Wright 0-1 0-0 0, Vaughn 6-11 0-0 12, Padgett 2-3 1-2 6, Murray 2-4 2-2 6, Planinic 0-1 0-0, Nachbar 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 35-81 17-20 91. Indiana 21 36 18 26-101 3-Point Goals—Indiana 6-17 (Stojakovic 4-5, Jones 2-4, An.Johnson 0-2, Jaskiewicz 0-2, S.Jackson 0-4), New Jersey 4-14 (Kidd 3-5, Padgett 1-1, Carter 0-1, Vaughn 0-1, Jefferson 0-2, Robinson 0-2, Murray 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Indiana 56 (Foster 16), New Jersey 39 (Kidd 8). Assists—Indiana 21 (An.Johnson 10), New Jersey 29 (Kidd 12). Technicals—New Jersey Defensive Three 2. A—17, 185, (20,098).

NBA

Table with columns for Eastern Conference Atlantic Division, Southeast Division, Western Conference Southwest Division, and Pacific Division. Rows list teams like New Jersey, Philadelphia, Boston, Toronto, New York, Miami, Washington, Orlando, Atlanta, Charlotte, Detroit, Cleveland, Indiana, Chicago, Dallas, San Antonio, New Orleans, Memphis, Houston, Denver, Utah, Minnesota, Seattle, Portland, Phoenix, L.A. Clippers, L.A. Lakers, Sacramento, Golden State, Dallas, Toronto, Milwaukee, Washington, Philadelphia, Miami, San Antonio, New Orleans, Phoenix, Detroit, Houston, New Orleans, Milwaukee, New York, Washington, Phoenix, New York, Philadelphia, Milwaukee, Utah, Portland, and Charlotte.

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Men's college basketball

Sunday's scores EAST Hartford 71 Rutgers 62, South Florida 44. MIDWEST IPFW 72, N. Dakota St. 64 Indiana 78, Michigan St. 71 Toledo 81, Ball St. 54 Wisconsin 80, Minnesota 74. SUNDAY'S SUMMARY INDIANA 78, No. 18 MICHIGAN ST. 71 Gray 0-0 1-2 1, Davis 7-13 0-0 14, Brown 5-13 7-7 18, Neitzel 2-7 0-0 5, Agee 12-18 2-3 30, Ibook 0-0 0-0 0, Walton 1-3 1-1 3, Sutton 0-1 0-0 0, Rowley 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 27-55 11-13 71. Killingsworth 6-12 6-6 18, Vaden 8-13 0-0 21, Ratliff 1-3 0-0 2, Strickland 5-11 4-5 16, Calloway 2-3 1-2 5, Wilmont 2-6 0-0 4, Suh 1-4 6-8 3, Allen 1-5 0-2 3, Kline 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 26-57 17-21 78. Halftime—Indiana 43-31, 3-Point Goals—Michigan St. 6-13 (Ager 4-6, Neitzel 1-3, Brown 1-4), Indiana 9-23 (Vaden 5-8, Strickland 2-4, Suh 1-3, Allen 1-3, Killingsworth 0-1, Ratliff 0-1, Wilmont 0-3). Fouled Out—Davis, Rebounds—Michigan St. 31 (Ager, Brown, Davis 6), Indiana 29 (Vaden 10), Assists—Michigan St. 7 (Neitzel, Walton 3), Indiana 13 (Vaden 5), Total Fouls—Michigan St. 18, Indiana 12. A—17, 276.

Saturday's scores

EAST Duke 74, Temple 66 George Washington 78, Fordham 67 Georgetown 68, Syracuse 53 Massachusetts 66, Dayton 47 Penn St. 68, Northwestern 55 Pittsburgh 81, Providence 68 Princeton 75, Harvard 48 West Virginia 68, Louisville 64

SOUTH

Georgia Tech 76, Wake Forest 61 LSU 71, Kentucky 67 Memphis 78, Tulsa 67 Mississippi St. 83, Georgia 68 Saint Louis 77, Charlotte 74 Vanderbilt 57, South Carolina 56 Virginia Tech 72, Florida St. 61. MIDWEST Bradley 86, Drake 66 Detroit 73, Butler 71 Evansville 77, Indiana St. 75 Huntington 88, St. Francis 75 Marquette 80, Notre Dame 72 Missouri St. 60, Creighton 54 Ohio St. 64, Michigan 54. OLIVET Nazarene 84, Purdue-Calumet 57 S. Indiana 80, Missouri-St. Louis 52 St. Xavier 81, Ind.-South Bend 52 Transylvania 63, Franklin 48

Sunday's scores

Massachusetts 62, La Salle 55 Ohio St. 61, Penn St. 59. SOUTH Florida St. 71, Boston College 60 Georgia 74, Auburn 61 Houston 74, UAB 71 Kentucky 80, Alabama 60 LSU 62, Mississippi St. 48 Maryland 89, N. Colorado 53 Miami 90, Georgia Tech 85, ZOT Rice 72, Memphis 56 Virginia 83, Clemson 64 Virginia Tech 76, Wake Forest 42. MIDWEST Drake 70, Indiana St. 65 Evansville 66, S. Illinois 63, OT IPFW 77, N. Dakota St. 64 Illinois 67, Michigan 57 Iowa 78, Indiana 70 Minnesota 71, Northwestern 33

Saturday's scores

MIDWEST Davenport 78, Indiana Tech 69 E. Michigan 69, Ball St. 58 Ind.-South Bend 74, St. Xavier 68 Manchester 67, Franklin 65 Missouri-St. Louis 61, S. Indiana 56 Notre Dame 75, Cincinnati 66, OT Olivet Nazarene 91, Purdue-Calumet 70 Wis.-Green Bay 79, Butler 67

NASCAR

NASCAR Nextel Cup Auto Club 500 Sunday At California Speedway Fontana, Calif. Lap length: 2.14 miles. Start position in parentheses 1. (31) M. Kenseth, Ford, 251, \$324,991. 2. (3) J. Johnson, Chevrolet, 251, \$235,936.

Table with columns for Race statistics, Margin of Victory, Winner's Average Speed, Caution Flags, Lead Changes, Lap Leaders, and Point Standings. Includes names like Kurt Busch, Jeff Gordon, and Tony Stewart.

Wolves leading 64-61 with 7:47 left in the quarter.

Before leaving the arena, Garnett said he didn't intend to throw the ball into the stands, but rather was trying to get a delay-of-game call. Referee Bob Delaney assessed Garnett a technical foul for tossing the ball, and he was automatically ejected because it hit the fan. Afterward, Garnett walked over to the fan, who did not appear to be injured, to apologize before leaving the court.

Pistons 90 Cavaliers 78

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Chauncey Billups scored 21 points, and Ben Wallace added 11 points and 19 rebounds to lead the Detroit Pistons past the Cleveland Cavaliers. Detroit (46-9) never trailed and led by at least 10 points for most of the second half. The teams play again tonight in Cleveland. The Pistons have won five straight overall

Golf

Match Play Championship Sunday At La Costa Resort and Spa Carlsbad, Calif. Purse: \$7.5 million. Yardage: 7,277 Par: 72. Final Championship Geoff Ogilvy def. Davis Love III, 3 and 2. Third place Zach Johnson def. Tom Lehman, 1 up.

NHL

Table with columns for Eastern Conference Atlantic Division, Northeast Division, Southeast Division, and Western Conference Central Division. Rows list teams like N.Y. Rangers, Philadelphia, New York Islanders, Pittsburgh, Ottawa, Buffalo, Montreal, Toronto, Boston, Carolina, Tampa Bay, Florida, Washington, Detroit, Nashville, Columbus, Chicago, St. Louis, Calgary, Vancouver, Colorado, Edmonton, Minnesota, Dallas, Los Angeles, San Jose, Phoenix, Montreal, Florida, Washington, Minnesota, Vancouver, and Detroit.

Transactions

BASEBALL American League BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Agreed to terms with OF Richard Hidalgo on a minor league contract. SEATTLE MARINERS—Agreed to terms with LHP Travis Blackley, LHP Luis Gonzalez, LHP Jake Woods, RHP Jesse Foppert, OF T.J. Bohm, OF Mike Morse and OF Chris Snelling on one-year contracts. National League CINCINNATI REDS—Agreed to terms with LHP Brandon Claussen, RHP Justin Germano, 1B Joey Votto and RHP Jason Stangor on one-year contracts. FLORIDA MARLINS—Agreed to terms with C Tom Wilson on a minor league contract. MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Agreed to terms with Ned Yost, manager, on a contract extension through 2008. BASKETBALL Philadelphia 33 16 9 75 195 186 New York 30 22 6 66 170 166 N.Y. Islanders 25 27 4 54 165 200 Pittsburgh 14 31 9 39 165 235. DENVER NUGGETS—Assigned G Julius Hodge to Austin of the NBA Development League. FOOTBALL DALLAS MAVERICKS—Recalled G Rawle Marshall from Fort Worth of the NBA Development League. NEW YORK GIANTS—Released LB Barrett Green and OL Jason Whittle. Announced the retirement of S Brent Alexander. HOCKEY ANAHEIM MIGHTY DUCKS—Recalled RW Dustin Penner from Portland of the AHL. CALGARY FLAMES—Recalled D Mark Giordano from Omaha of the AHL. NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Announced the retirement of F Kevin Colley. SAN JOSE SHARKS—Recalled RW Steve Bernier from Cleveland of the AHL. AMERICAN HOCKEY LEAGUE CLEVELAND BARONS—Recalled F Darryl Lloyd from Youngstown of the CHL. ECHL CHARLOTTE CHECKERS—Waived G Chris Holt was announced that G Chris Holt was assigned from the New York Rangers. COLUMBIA INFERNOS—Acquired D Jason Reimers in a trade from San Diego in exchange for Chris Cava. DAYTON BOMBERS—Announced that F Jeff Szewcz was recalled by Syracuse of the AHL. FLORIDA EVERBLADES—Acquired F Nick Harloff in a trade from South Carolina for F Anders Strom. IDAHO STEELHEADS—Released D Chris Claffey. LONG BEACH ICE DOGS—Announced that F Lucas Lawson was assigned from Hamilton of the AHL. READING ROYALS—Announced that G Cody Rudkowski was assigned from Bridgeport of the AHL. Loaned D Jeff Steffe to Hershey of the AHL. SAN DIEGO GULLS—Released F Chad Wagner and D Taj Melson. Acquired F Dennis Shiryayev in a trade from Bakersfield. Announced that G Tyler Weiman was assigned from Lowell of the AHL.

Pacers

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

hamstring injury late in the first quarter and did not return.

"Obviously we caught a break when he went out because they're not the same team without Vince Carter," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "Our bench was huge. This was one of those nights when we needed everybody to play well, and they did." Six Pacers scored in double figures, including Jones and fellow subs David Harrison (12 points) and Danny Granger (13 points). Jeff Foster grabbed 16 rebounds for Indiana, two off his season high. Jones scored seven of the

Pacers' nine points in a span of 2:30 in the fourth quarter after the Nets had whittled a 15-point third-quarter deficit down to five after Jason Kidd's 3-point and driving scoop shot.

With Indiana clinging to an 85-80 lead, Jones buried a 3-pointer, Anthony Johnson sank a jumper and Jones scored on consecutive driving layups to make it 92-80. The Nets never got closer than seven points after that.

"It started when we gave up 36 points in the second quarter," said Kidd, who narrowly missed his 72nd career triple-double with 19 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds. "We were playing uphill from that point. We got it down to five, and I thought I had a good look on a 3 that went in-and-out, and they came down and hit a 3

and the rest was academic."

Richard Jefferson led the Nets (31-24) with 23 points, but New Jersey looked lost at times in the first half without Carter. New Jersey had lost just once in its past 15 home games and had won six of its last seven overall.

Now, the Nets have to hope Carter's injury is not serious. It was described by the team as a sore hamstring that will be evaluated today. New Jersey plays at Atlanta tonight then travels to Minnesota for a game Wednesday.

The Pacers are no strangers to injury woes and have been playing without Austin Croshere, Jamaal Tinsley and Jermaine O'Neal for most of the last month. That plus the spillover from the loss to lowly Atlanta made Sunday's win sweet for Carlisle.

"This was really big because of the way the Atlanta game got away from us," he said. "This was a great response to a disappointing loss. You have to give the guys credit for being resilient."

In other action

Timberwolves 105 Grizzlies 99

MINNEAPOLIS — Ricky Davis scored a season-high 35 points to help the Minnesota Timberwolves overcome the ejection of Kevin Garnett and defeat the Memphis Grizzlies.

Garnett was tossed in the third quarter for flipping the ball into the stands and accidentally hitting a fan. The nine-time All-Star and former league MVP was reacting in frustration after being called for and offensive foul with the

giving Ford its first Cup victory with the new Fusion model.

Three-time California winner Jeff Gordon changed only two tires and beat both Kenseth and Biffle out of the pits on the final stop by the leaders. Kenseth passed Gordon for the lead on the restart on Lap 219, as another caution flew for the spinning car of Stanton Barrett, and Biffle grabbed second place on the next restart and began to chase down his Roush Racing

teammate before his engine let go. Stewart, who wound up 43rd, right behind Biffle, shrugged off his disappointment.

"It was a good day but a bad day," he said. "We overcame some things and I think we're going to have a good car all year. It was really a pretty impressive effort, but I don't think we had anything for Biffle there."

Biffle thought about trying to finish the race, but had to head

and 12 in a row at the Palace, while Cleveland lost its third in a row to fall 14½ games behind Detroit in the Central Division.

Richard Hamilton added 18 points for the Pistons, while Rasheed Wallace had 15.

Rockets 89 Magic 84

ORLANDO, Fla. — Yao Ming had 29 points and 11 rebounds, and Tracy McGrady added 19 points, nine boards and five assists to help the Houston Rockets beat the Orlando Magic.

It was McGrady's second regular season game in Orlando after the Magic traded him a year and a half ago, and the superstar was booed each time he touched the ball.

He started well, scoring 14 points in the first half, but began missing shots and playing time in the second half after picking up his fourth foul. McGrady got his fifth foul with 8:05 left in the fourth quarter but didn't foul in

Kenseth

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

from a lap down and challenge Biffle late in the race on California's 2-mile oval. But Stewart, who had been running at the finish in 30 consecutive races, saw his race come to an end in a puff of smoke. That appeared to hand an easy

victory to Biffle. But it wasn't to be.

Last year's Cup runner-up, first and second in the two California races last year and the Busch Series winner Saturday, led 168 of the first 218 laps and built margins up to 13 seconds before he lost a cylinder in his engine on Lap 225.

Once Biffle was gone from his rearview mirror, Kenseth easily held off Daytona 500 winner Jimmie Johnson in a two-lap overtime shootout after the final

of seven caution flags came out for a smoking car with only four laps remaining in regulation.

The race restarted on Lap 250. Johnson tried to pass Kenseth on the outside in the first turn, but the leader held him off and pulled away, winning by 0.338 seconds, about five car-lengths. Kenseth picked up the 11th victory of his career, but only his second in the past 72 races. He led 40 laps, including the final 33,

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Biffle thought about trying to finish the race, but had to head

for the garage after a slow restart on Lap 229.

"The 20 (Stewart) and I were pretty quick, but I think I got my car better," Biffle said. "He was good in the middle part of the race but I got my car really good here at the end."

"It's frustrating. It kind of drains you, but I've got to be optimistic about our season. We might have been better than the 17 (Kenseth), but now we'll never know."

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