

Southside students become Big Ten champs

By WALT VANDERBUSH
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Franklin Community High School graduate **Jessie Stringer**, a

junior high jumper at Ohio State, and Center Grove graduate **Kevin Swander**, a senior swimmer at Indiana University, each won Big Ten championships last week.

Competing in the Big Ten Indoor Track and Field Championships at Madison, Wis., Stringer, the defending Big Ten outdoor champion, jumped 5 feet, 1 1/2 inches, 1 1/2 inches better than the second-place finisher. The Buckeyes finished sixth.

Swander led Indiana to its first Big Ten championship in 21 years with a record-breaking performance that earned him "Swimmer of the Championships" honors for the second time. His winning time of 52.64 in the 100-yard breaststroke set both meet and pool records. He was third of 35 in the 200 breaststroke (1:55.24), fourth of 52 in the 200 IM (46.68) and a member of the winning 200 medley relay team.

Franklin

• **Jeff Powers**, a senior at Central Michigan, won both the 3,000-meter (8:17.32) and the 5,000-meter (14:30.87) events at the Mid-American Conference Indoor Championships. The Chippewas finished third of six teams.

• **Ryan Warrenburg**, who set an Arizona State record for the indoor 5,000-meter race at 14:02.34 two weeks ago, broke the record again with a fourth-place finish in 13:58.54 at the Husky Indoor Invitational in Seattle. Seven other Pac-10 teams and Long Beach State also competed.

• Competing in 5,000-meter run at the Fred Wilt Invitational Indoor Track and Field meet at

COLLEGE UPDATE

Anderson, Franklin College runners **Andy Snyder** (16:49.93) and **Adam Schwartz** (17:18.12) finished 20th and 24th, respectively, in a 35-runner field.

• The University of Indianapolis baseball team opened its season with a three-game sweep of Hillsdale College. Second baseman **Tom Bingham** had five hits — including a double, two RBIs and five runs scored — in eight at-bats for the Greyhounds.

• Hanover's baseball team swept Catholic University 8-0 and 10-9 and lost 6-3 to Augustana. **Todd Miller** had two hits, including a triple, in 10 at-bats. He also scored two runs and drove in one.

• Butler swimmer **Elizabeth Shafer**, competing in the Horizon League championships, was 27th of 35 in the 100-yard freestyle (56.98) and 24th of 29 in the 200 freestyle (2:03.77).

Whiteland

• Evansville senior **Alicia Laraway** was named Missouri Valley Conference Softball Player of the Week after hitting .412 with three home runs, eight runs scored and seven RBIs in six games. One of her home runs and a single came against former high school teammate **Nicki Hellems** in the Aces' 6-2 win against Ball State. The Aces split two games with both Ball State and Ole Miss in the Aces' Spring Invitational and swept Tennessee-Martin.

Laraway is hitting .424 for the season (14 for 33) with five home runs and 12 RBIs and has a .970 slugging percentage.

Ball State was 2-2 in the Aces' Invitational. Hellems was the winning pitcher against Ole Miss (5-3), yielding four hits and one earned run while striking out seven and walking three in seven innings. She gave up eight hits and five earned runs in the loss to Evansville.

• The IUPUI softball team defeated Western Illinois (3-0) and lost to Purdue (8-3), Bradley (4-1) and Northern Illinois (5-0). Center fielder **Sarah Needy** was 2 for 15 in the four games and had a double, an RBI and a run scored.

• Competing in the NCAA Division II Wrestling Regionals, University of Indianapolis 157-pounder **Mike Horton** lost 11-6 to the No. 3 seed from Ashland and 11-2 to the No. 2 seed from Central Oklahoma.

• The Franklin College baseball team won its first four games of the season, defeating Rose-Hulman (11-6), St. Johns (Minn.) (8-4, 4-1) and Concordia (Minn.) (7-6). **Lance LaBonte** had three hits to lead the Grizzlies in the Rose-Hulman win and was 1 for 11 in the other three games.

• **Adam Widener**, running for Huntington College in the 12-team Fred Wilt Indoor Invitational Track and Field Meet, was seventh of 17 in the 1,000-meter race (2:40.00) and a member of the second-place 1,600 relay team.

• **Megan Liffick** had 16 points (7 for 18, 1 for 7, and 1 for 2), three rebounds and one steal in 33 minutes in Evansville's 66-63 overtime win against Southern Illinois. The Aces are 15-10, 11-5.

• The Columbia College men's basketball team (23-7, 9-3) defeated Illinois-Springfield (88-68) and Hannibal LaGrange (66-61). **David Inabnit** played 48 minutes in the two games, scoring 19 points on 7-for-14 shooting from the field, 2 for 7 from 3-point range and 3 for 4 from the foul line. He had five rebounds, three assists, four steals and one blocked shot.

Greenwood

• Junior middle infielder **Michelle Hammons** started all four games for the 2-2 St. Joseph's College softball team and fielded 15 chances without an error. She was 2 for 11 at the plate with one stolen base and one run scored.

• Huntington College's **Molly Andrews** finished sixth of 19 runners in the 5,000-meter event at the 12-team Fred Wilt Indoor Invitational Track and Field Meet at Anderson. Her time was 19:39.54.

Indian Creek

• The Penn State women's basketball team defeated Northwestern 72-64 and lost 61-59 to Ohio State. **Adrienne Squire** scored 12 points in 61 minutes in the two games, shooting 3 for 18

from the field, 2 for 9 from 3-point range and 4 for 4 from the foul line. She had four rebounds, two assists and one blocked shot. The Nittany Lions (12-15, 6-10) are seeded eighth in this week's Big Ten Tournament in Indianapolis.

• **Kris Coner** grabbed seven rebounds, blocked one shot and had one steal in 14 minutes in Miami's 63-48 women's basketball loss to Kent State and had six rebounds and one point in 12 minutes in a 71-59 loss to Bowling Green. The Red Hawks finished the regular season with an 8-19 overall record and were 3-13 in the conference.

• The University of Indianapolis' **Max Woodbury** was eighth of 12 in the 55-meter hurdles (8.28) and 11th of 12 in the high jump (6 feet) in the Great Lakes Valley Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Center Grove

• **Evan West** won 6-0, 6-2 at No. 5 singles in Butler's 6-1 tennis win against Indiana State.

• The Ball State tennis team (11-3) defeated Anderson and Eastern Kentucky by 7-0 scores. **Joe Epkey** won 6-0, 6-0 at No. 1 singles against the Aces and 6-4, 6-1 at No. 2 against Eastern Kentucky. **Jarrod Epkey** won 6-0, 6-3 at No. 3 against Evansville and 6-1, 6-1 at No. 5 against the Colonels. **Tony Epkey** won 6-4, 6-0 at No. 3 against Eastern Kentucky.

• The Evansville women's tennis team defeated Morehead and Eastern Kentucky by 5-2 scores. **Stephanie Millis** (5-1 for the season) won 6-1, 6-4 at No. 5 singles against Morehead and 6-4, 6-0 against Evansville. She won 8-5 at No. 2 doubles against the Aces and lost 8-6 against the Eagles.

• Indiana University junior **Tyler Skelton** finished 10th in the long jump at the Big Ten Indoor Track and Field Championships with a leap of 23 feet, 1/2 inch.

• The University of Indianapolis' **Michael Baker** was 15th of 20 competitors in the long jump at the GLVC Indoor Champ-

ionships with jump of 17-6 3/4. **Melinda Robinson** was ninth of 14 in the 400 meters in 1:04.78.

• Franklin College freshman **Lauren Patterson** finished fourth of seven runners in the 1,000-meter race (3:23.91) at the Fred Wilt Indoor Track and Field Meet in Anderson. Grizzlies junior **Nate Starling** was 25th of 32 in the shot put (36-7).

• University of Hawaii freshman **Jaime Sohn**, competing in the three-team Conference USA Swimming and Diving Championships, was fifth of 14 in the 500-yard freestyle (4:38.77), sixth of seven in the 200 backstroke (1:59.83) and a member of the second-place 200 medley relay team. The Rainbows finished third.

• Akron junior **Rachel Ripley** placed 14th of 27 in the 200-yard backstroke (2:09.05), 11th of 29 in the 100 backstroke and 22nd of 32 in the 400 IM at the Mid-American Conference Swimming and Diving Championships. The Zips were seventh of eight teams.

• The Walters State baseball team improved its record to 15-1 with a three-game sweep of Motlow State. **J.B. Paxson** was 1 for 7 at the plate in two games with one RBI.

• Hanover freshman pitcher **Mikel Hoffman** pitched 1-2/3 innings of relief in the Panthers' 10-9 and 8-0 baseball wins against Catholic University. He gave up two hits and no runs and was the winning pitcher in the 10-9 victory. Hanover is 2-1.

• The University of Indianapolis baseball team opened its season with a three-game sweep of Hillsdale. Daren Johnson was 5 for 14 (.357) in the three wins, with a double, five runs scored and one RBI.

• The Franklin College baseball team won the first four games on its Florida trip. **Dan Shearin** was the winning pitcher in an 8-4 win against St. John's (Minn.), giving up six hits and no earned runs in five innings. **Ben Werner** was 1 for 3 with two RBIs and one run scored in support of his batterymate.

• Mount St. Joseph College sophomore basketball player **Maria Eichold** was seventh in the Heartland Conference in scoring (11.9), 10th in rebounding (5.4), third in blocked shots (1.62), 11th

in field-goal percentage (.467) and 15th in free throw percentage (.642).

• **Leslie Smith's** Manhattan Christian College women's basketball team (25-6) won its conference and regional titles and is headed for the NCAA national championships in Lakeland, Fla., with a 12-game winning streak.

• Toccoa Falls senior basketball player **Kelly James** was named first-team All-NCAA South Regional. She led her team (16-12) with 20 points in a season-ending 66-59 loss to Southeastern University in the regional semifinals.

• The University of Indianapolis women's basketball team (11-16, 6-13) lost to St. Joseph's (83-75 in OT) and Kentucky Wesleyan (59-57). **Deanna Thomsson** played 76 minutes in the two losses and had 15 points (5 for 15, 5 for 6), seven rebounds, one steal and one blocked shot.

• The University of Indianapolis softball team was blanked twice by Butler, 3-0 and 1-0. **Megan Hall** was 1 for 5 at the plate in the two games. The Greyhounds managed just five hits in the two losses.

• The University of Southern Indiana softball team lost its first five games by a combined score of 43-6. Catcher **Angie Davis** had two hits in 11 at-bats, including a home run in the opening 9-2 loss to West Georgia. First baseman **Jennifer Mullikin** was 1 for 11, her lone hit being a home run in a 9-3 loss to Delta State.

• The Indiana State softball team lost four of five games on a California trip. Sycamores ace **Darcy Wood** was the losing pitcher in a 7-2 defeat against Loyola-Marymount and an 11-3 loss to Kentucky, giving up 27 hits and 14 earned runs in 12 innings. She struck out 11.

• The Evansville men's golf team opened its season by with an 11th-place finish in the 12-team Samford Intercollegiate Golf Tournament. **Alex Kopko** was fifth for the Aces and tied for 69th overall with scores of 77-87-83-247.

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.

Martinez won't play for Dominican Republic

The Associated Press

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla.

Pedro Martinez confirmed Thursday he will not pitch in the World Baseball Classic because of his sore toe, leaving the Dominican Republic without three of its biggest stars.

All-Star sluggers Manny Ramirez and Vladimir Guerrero also recently withdrew from the Dominican team, expected to be one of the strongest at the inaugural, 16-nation tournament.

Martinez is behind schedule at spring training because of an injury to his right big toe that has hampered him since last season. The New York Mets ace threw from the top of a mound Thursday for only the second time this spring.

"They're better off finding someone who can help them rather than taking me, out of shape, risking my career," Martinez said. "It would be totally unfair to the Dominican. I haven't even thrown a breaking ball yet."

Martinez and Dominican Republic manager Manny Acta had hoped the right-hander would be able to join the Dominican team sometime after the first round of the WBC.

But the three-time Cy Young Award winner decided against it,



AP PHOTO

New York Mets pitcher Pedro Martinez works from the mound during spring training Thursday in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

saying he did not want to waste a spot on the 30-man roster.

"I actually reported early to try to do something," Martinez said. "That was my main goal, to play for the Dominican. They know I would like to be there, but I cannot do it."

The Dominican Republic plays its first game March 7 against Venezuela in Kissimmee.

"I know he would have loved to play and a lot of people would have loved to have seen him play," Mets general manager Omar Minaya said. "But if you're not physically ready, you're not, and these things happen."

Clemens getting ready by pitching to minor-leaguers

The Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla.

Roger Clemens was back on the mound at Houston Astros camp Thursday, striking out four of the 10 minor-leaguers he faced and catching a hard line drive.

With Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan watching, Clemens threw 38 pitches, 24 for strikes, in his second live tuneup for the World Baseball Classic. The Rocket was set to leave later Thursday to join the U.S. team in Scottsdale, Ariz.



CLEMENS

"The ball was coming out of my hand nice," Clemens said. "It's going to make my mind a little more at ease getting ready to head out on this trip."

Clemens, a free agent, got special permission from the Astros and Major League Baseball to work with the minor-leaguers in Kissimmee.

The NL champions did not offer him salary arbitration, and Clemens cannot re-sign with his hometown team until May 1. Boston, the New York Yankees and Texas have shown interest in signing him before that.

After four days in Florida, Clemens is no closer to committing to a 23rd major-league season. He said his performance in the WBC will not influence his choice.

• Classic

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

The tournament starts with Group A, which runs from today to Sunday at the Tokyo Dome. Other players report to their national teams today, and the three other groups start play Tuesday after several exhibition games.

Group B, based in Phoenix and Scottsdale, Ariz., includes the United States, Canada, Mexico and South Africa. Group C is in San Juan and has Puerto Rico, Cuba, Panama and the Netherlands. Group D games are at Kissimmee, Fla., and involve the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, Australia and Italy.

After each team plays three games, the top two teams in each group advance to second-round groups in Anaheim, Calif., and San Juan. The semifinals on March 18 and the final on March 20 are in San Diego.

Some players have backed out. Mets closer Billy Wagner and Cleveland pitcher C.C. Sabathia dropped off the U.S. team Wednesday and were replaced by Washington right-hander Gary Majewski and Yankees left-hander Al Leiter.

Boston's Manny Ramirez, who just got to spring training Wednesday, quit the Dominican team as did Angels star Vladimir Guerrero, who cited the death of his three cousins last weekend in a car accident.

"If a player is on the fence, whether he's going to make a team or not, I would prefer he stays," said Los Angeles Dodgers manager Grady Little, who is losing outfielder Jose Cruz Jr. to the Puerto Rican team.

"It's different if you're Derek Jeter or someone of that caliber."

Yankees center fielder Johnny Damon, a member of the U.S. team, predicted play would be close to postseason intensity.

"The last thing we want to do is embarrass our country," he said. Ortiz, citing the pitch limits that will be used, predicts a lower level of play.

"I see it like pretty much spring training games," he said. "I don't think any one of the players is ready to play a full game yet, so it's going to be interesting."

Paul Archey, senior vice president of Major League Baseball International, projects the tournament will sell at least 800,000 tickets and said only standing room remains for the semifinals and final.

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