

- BUSINESS, B5
- CLASSIFIEDS, B8-11
- FACES & PLACES, B12

SPORTS

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SECTION B

Knaus to miss opener

Johnson's crew chief suspended for '500'

By JENNA FRYER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.

Chad Knaus will probably watch the Daytona 500 on television at home. If Tony Stewart really wants to take a stand, he'd join him.

The season is barely a day old, and NASCAR already has two major issues to work through.

The sanctioning body acted quickly on the first one, suspending Knaus on Monday from the biggest race of the year because the crew chief made an illegal alteration to Jimmie Johnson's car before his qualifying attempt.

Now NASCAR must turn its attention to Stewart's warning that current racing conditions could lead to a death in the season-opening event.

The defending Nextel Cup champion was upset about the dangerous practice of bump-drafting after his third-place run in Sunday's exhibition race. Bump-drafting is an aggressive rear-ending maneuver that calls for one driver to slam into the back bumper of the car in front of him to maintain momentum.

The practice is common at Daytona and Talladega, the only two NASCAR tracks that require restrictor-plates to choke the horsepower and keep speeds down. Although it's been going on for years, Stewart thinks it's out of control.

"We're going to kill somebody," Stewart said. "Somebody else is going to die at Daytona or Talladega with what we're doing right here. I hope I'm not around when it happens."

Stewart spent more than 20 minutes arguing the dangers in a closed-door session with NASCAR officials, and they said they heard

A LOOK AHEAD

This week's NASCAR races at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.



Daytona 500
1:30 p.m. Sunday
WTHR-Channel 13



Hershey's Kissables 300
1 p.m. Saturday
TNT



GM Flex Fuel 250
8 p.m. Friday
Speed Channel

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

"They want to go; they want to play so bad, but it doesn't make sense to anybody, and I've been coaching this way for six years."

— Mike Davis, Indiana University men's basketball coach, on pressure from fans and media

Davis: Critics ruining season



Indiana University men's basketball coach Mike Davis, right, congratulates Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun after the visiting Huskies defeated the Hoosiers 88-80 at Assembly Hall in Bloomington on Feb. 4.

Hoosiers struggle to play under pressure

By MICHAEL MAROT
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

Forget about job security. Embattled Indiana coach Mike Davis would simply like to see the fans support his players.

Davis, who missed Saturday's game with flulike symptoms, felt well enough Monday to criticize fans and the media for creating the negative environment he believes has sent the Hoosiers' basketball team into its latest tailspin.

"Every team we've played on the road, like Michigan State, they were desperate, and not once did I feel their fans weren't supporting their players," Davis said during Monday's Big Ten conference call. "Even Minnesota was 0-6, and there was not one possession where I didn't feel their fans were not into that game or pulling for their team."

"I think when you're one game out of first and ranked in the country, it doesn't add up to me."

While the numbers Davis cited have changed since the Hoosiers' 70-67 loss

to Iowa on Saturday dropped the team to 13-8 overall and 5-5 in the Big Ten, the catcalls have not.

Pressure on Davis has heated up again as fans routinely call into radio shows, write letters to newspapers and post Internet messages seeking his ouster as coach.

Athletic director Rick Greenspan was attending meetings in Florida and unavailable for comment Monday, IU spokesman Pete Rhoda said. But Greenspan acknowledged last spring that this would be Davis' season of reckoning.

This season, however, hasn't gone well.

Forward D.J. White, last year's Big Ten freshman of the year, broke his left foot twice, has played only five games and might miss the rest of the season. Sophomore guard A.J. Ratliff, another projected starter, missed the first three games with a broken right thumb and has struggled since.

Yet the Hoosiers still managed to start 10-2, beat rival Kentucky for the first time in Davis' tenure and

(SEE DAVIS, PAGE B2)

CONFERENCE CHASE

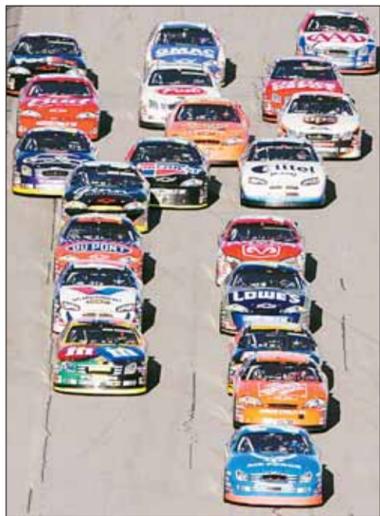
The Big Ten men's basketball standings:

Team	Conf. W-L	All W-L
Iowa	8-3	19-6
Ohio State	7-3	18-3
Wisconsin	7-4	17-7
Illinois	6-4	20-4
Michigan State	6-4	18-6
Michigan	6-5	16-6
Indiana	5-5	13-8
Northwestern	4-6	12-10
Minnesota	3-7	12-9
Penn State	3-8	11-11
Purdue	3-9	9-14

THE ROAD AHEAD

Indiana's remaining regular-season games.

Date	Opponent	Time
Wednesday	at Penn State	8 p.m.
Sunday	at Illinois	3:30 p.m.
Feb. 22	Penn State	7 p.m.
Feb. 26	Michigan State	Noon
March 1	at Purdue	8 p.m.
March 4	at Michigan	TBA



The car of Ken Schrader, lower right, leads a tightly bunched field at the start of the Budweiser Shootout in Daytona Beach, Fla., on Sunday.

Positive Swing: Golf beyond country clubs

By JOHN GROTH
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER
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Whether they're amputees, elderly people or underprivileged inner-city youth, John Stack wants to give people of all ages the chance to play golf.

So, Stack, the president and founder of Positive Swing Inc. and the Golf Dome in Indianapolis, is putting a golf club into their hands and introducing them to a sport they might not otherwise play.

"These are the types of people that need the companionship and fellowship of golf," Stack said. "It's positive reinforcement."

"Rather than sitting at home and being discouraged and bitter about their circumstances, they can come here."

"It gets them out of the house, away from the fridge, TV and computer. It's a healthy environment."

Positive Swing is a nonprofit organization that provides free and discounted programs for underprivileged youth and developmentally disabled and physically challenged peo-

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

What: Positive Swing Inc.

What it is: A nonprofit program that serves underprivileged youth, the developmentally disabled and physically handicapped by providing special assistance and equipment they need to play golf. The program also promotes integrity, good sportsmanship and self-discipline.

Where: The Golf Dome, 2106 E. National Avenue, Indianapolis

Information: John Stack, founder and president, 786-2663

ple. Recently, the program received a \$22,500 matching grant from the United States Golf Association to help with funding.

Now, besides offering golf lessons and exposing people to the game, Stack and his staff also can teach people life skills at the Golf Dome, an indoor golf facility located at 2106 E. National Ave. in Indianapolis.

(SEE POSITIVE, PAGE B3)

Practicing at indoor facility helps golfers improve skills, enjoy game

By JOHN GROTH
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James Fisher didn't even know the Golf Dome existed until three months ago.

Now that he does, the Morgantown resident can't stop coming back. And neither can his children, 10-year-old Sydnee and 7-year-old Alex.

Fisher, 36, found out about the Golf Dome, at 2106 E. National Ave. in Indianapolis, in November after visiting it with his brothers-in-law, Ed Harvey and Brian Young. All three live on the same road in Morgantown and are golf fanatics.

"We came by and hit some balls. I really like it because you can hit balls indoors when the weather is really bad," said Fisher, who made his 12th visit of the year Saturday. "I come once or twice a week. Sometimes I put a couple of clubs in my trunk and stop by after work to practice."

Since Fisher started playing at the Golf Dome, his daughter, Sydnee, has shown an interest in the sport.

Sydnee, a fifth-grader at Indian Creek Intermediate School, had never played golf before. But after seeing her father

(SEE INDOOR, PAGE B3)



Joey Cheek of the United States holds an American flag as he makes a victory lap after the Winter Olympics men's 500 meter speedskating sprint race in Turin, Italy, on Monday.

Day of mixed results

American Cheek earns skating gold

By PAUL NEWBERRY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TURIN, Italy

Joey Cheek has never done things by the book.

In sixth grade, he insisted on reading the Wall Street Journal on the way to school. At 14, he watched Johann Olav Koss win three speedskating gold medals at the Lillehammer Olympics and decided that's what he wanted to do.

"There's only one problem," Cheek's mother told him at the time. "We live in North Carolina." Details, details.

Cheek overcame that little obstacle on the way to a dominating victory Monday in the Olympic 500 meters.

Then, in keeping with his unique approach to life, he said he would donate his \$25,000 U.S. Olympic Committee bonus to an organization run by Koss, with hopes of helping war-torn Africa.

(SEE SKATING, PAGE B4)

Sluggish start has U.S. officials, NBC executives worried

By TIM DAHLBERG
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TURIN, Italy

The Curl Girls were supposed to really rock.

They had the catchy nickname, their own Web site and smiles as white as a Minnesota winter. They were poised to be stars, or as close to it as anyone can be with a broom in their hand.

And, as Tiger Woods would say, they were really rolling the rock beautifully.

At least they were until Monday, when the U.S. women's curling team was blown out in their opening match to underdog Norway. Proving, of course, that even frenetic sweeping can be affected by a case of Olympic nerves.

Call it an early scare for the

(SEE START, PAGE B4)



LISA COFFEY PHOTO COURTESY THE GOLF DOME
Dave Steinsen of Jireh Sports in Indianapolis helps a girl with her swing recently as part of the Positive Swing program at the Golf Dome in Indianapolis.