

NHL commissioner constantly briefed

Gambling ring investigation continues; Gretzky heads to Italy

By ANGELA DELLI SANTI
AND GEOFF MULVHILL
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRENTON, N.J.
Janet Jones will accompany husband Wayne Gretzky to Italy for the Winter Olympics, a few days after she was implicated in an alleged gambling ring involving NHL players.

Gretzky, the executive director of Canada's Olympic hockey team, previously said he was going to Turin this weekend. His wife was going, too, her publicist Elliot Mintz confirmed Friday.

Jones allegedly placed bets with a gambling operation that authorities said was financed by Rick Tocchet, Gretzky's assistant coach with the Phoenix Coyotes. She bet at least \$100,000 on football, according to the investigation with a person with knowledge of the investigation who has spoken to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.



JONES

Up to a dozen NHL players

have been implicated, say authorities, but none has been identified or charged. There was no indication that any wagers were made on hockey games and no evidence Gretzky placed any bets, investigators said.

At a brief news conference following the Coyotes' 5-1 loss to Dallas on Thursday, Gretzky said, "I've felt like the last three days I've defended myself over something that absolutely, unequivocally, I was not involved with."

Meanwhile, an investigator revealed just how closely NHL commissioner Gary Bettman is

monitoring the situation.

"He's plugged into what we're doing on a daily, even hourly basis," said Robert Cleary, the former Unabomber prosecutor hired by the NHL.

A second New Jersey state trooper was suspended in connection with the ring, and the state trooper charged this week with helping run the operation is now looking for a job, his lawyer said.

Authorities in New Jersey say Tocchet financed and helped run the ring, which took in a total of \$1.7 million in wagers in the five weeks leading to the Super Bowl.



Phoenix Coyotes coach Wayne Gretzky looks up at the scoreboard during a game against the Dallas Stars on Thursday in Glendale, Ariz.

RACING

INDIANAPOLIS 'Grey's Anatomy' star co-owner of IRL team

Patrick Dempsey, one of the stars of ABC's "Grey's Anatomy," has become a co-owner of IndyCar's Vision Racing, the team said Friday.

Dempsey, who drives professionally, attended the 2004 Indianapolis 500 as a celebrity guest and met Vision Racing owners Tony and Laura George. They decided to become partners after the 2005 season.

"I am thrilled to be a part of the Vision team, and I feel like a kid in a candy store," Dempsey said. "I also cannot think of anyone other than Tony and Laura George that I would want to partner with in IndyCar Racing. All my experiences at Indy have been magical."

Dempsey is driving professionally in "Grand American Cup" class sports-car racing with Hypersport. He also attended the Skip Barber and Panoz Racing Schools and began racing in the Panoz GT Series in 2004.

The veteran actor plays Dr. Derek Shepherd on the medical drama "Grey's Anatomy."

Sportsmen's extravaganza coming to Indy

It could be that there will be snow on the roof of Pepsi Coliseum and several other buildings at the Indiana State Fairgrounds when the curtain rises for the 52nd annual Indianapolis Boat, Sport & Travel Show on Friday, but for 10 days it will be spring, summer and fall rolled into one.

Staged by Renfro Productions, this sportsman's extravaganza launched by the late Harry Renfro more than half a century ago offers something for anyone who steps outdoors with recreation in mind.

When one tries to enumerate the great features of the show that often is called "best of the Midwest" by both exhibitors and patrons, one had better be without mittens and socks. It is that good and that big.

For those who recreate with fishing gear, guns and other gear, there is a wealth of information and entertainment in Exposition Hall and Champions Pavilion.

But boat and recreational vehicle folks will be just as happy in West and South pavilions, and Pepsi Coliseum will be the apple of eyes that see a vacation as the solution to their wanderlust.



'Bayou' Bill Scifres

OUTDOORS

Put it all together, and you have an unsurpassed superfecta of outdoorsing.

Although the sports show runs for 10 days (through Feb. 26), the three-day Indiana Deer and Turkey Exposition runs concurrently through the first weekend, and the three-day Indiana Motorcycle Exposition runs through the final weekend. Both will be in Exposition Hall.

Exhibitors of Expo Hall will offer a wealth of lore on hunting deer and wild turkey. But a huge feature revolves around the Indiana Deer Hunters Association's antler scoring program in the first weekend.

The deer hunters association brings in official scorers to measure racks that have potential for the Indiana Record Buck Program. There is a \$10 fee for

measuring a deer rack, but if it is large enough for inclusion in the official record book (140 for typical, 160 for non-typical) there is no further charge.

This feature also offers an awesome "Legends Of Indiana" display, some of the largest racks ever taken in Indiana.

Expo Hall's schedule of hunting seminars offers such big names as C.J. Winand and Roger Raglin on deer, and Preston Crabtree on wild turkey.

Hours are:
• 3 to 9:30 p.m. Friday and Feb. 24

• 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Feb. 18 and 25

• 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 19 and 26

• Noon to 9 p.m. Feb. 20

• 3 to 9 p.m. Feb. 21 through 23
Admission is \$9 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens, and \$6 for children ages 6 to 12 years old. Children 5 and younger will be admitted free.

Advance tickets at Marsh grocery stores will save some money. A two-day pass is \$15.

Conservation Day

Sen. Robert Meeks, R-LaGrange, will be honored as Conservationist

of the Year when the Indiana Conservation Alliance conducts its second annual Conservation Day at the Statehouse on Feb. 20.

Meeks, long a strong supporter of good conservation practices, will be honored for his work in the Indiana General Assembly.

A total of 25 of the state's leading organizations on conservation of natural resources are members of the conservation alliance. Each is expected to have a desk on the second floor of the Statehouse for activities that will start at 11:15 a.m. when John Tomke, former national president of Ducks Unlimited, will speak. A reception for legislators is scheduled for 11:30 a.m.

The alliance will stage an organizational meeting at 9 a.m. that day in Conference Room C of the Indiana Government Center South. Individuals and representatives of member organizations will register for the event at that meeting.

The purpose of the Conservation Day program is to help legislators learn more about legislative issues involving wildlife and natural resources.

Hair today

True to the February form chart on squirrels, we are getting some questions about squirrels wearing dark splotches of skin where their hair should be. The most asked question: What happened?

We asked Dr. Harmon P. Weeks, Purdue University wildlife professor, about this time last year when it seemed logical that this would occur in adult squirrels that might be preparing a cozy place for young to survive the dying blasts of winter. It is that time, you know.

Not so, said Weeks, my candidate for most knowledgeable wildlifer of the state, maybe the universe.

It is caused by a high level of giberelic acid, he continued, noting that this comes from eating fermented corn.

Note: Dealing in fermented corn "still" is frowned upon by the revenuers, but I am not certain this would apply to squirrels.

"Bayou" Bill Scifres' outdoors column appears Saturdays in the Daily Journal. Comments can be sent to P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131.

FOOTBALL

COLUMBUS, Ohio Former Ohio State star Clarett indicted

Former Ohio State star tailback Maurice Clarett was indicted Friday on robbery charges alleging he flashed a gun at two people behind a bar early on New Year's Day and took a cell phone.



CLARETT

Clarett denied the charges in a statement issued by his lawyer.

"Mr. Clarett intends to fight this indictment with the same vigor and resolve he displayed in taking OSU to a national championship," his lawyer, William Settina, said in the statement.

Police said Clarett, 22, got into a sport utility vehicle with two men after he was identified by the bar owner, who happened to come out into the alley. No one was injured.

BASKETBALL

COLUMBIA, Mo. Missouri coach Snyder resigns during season

Missouri basketball coach Quin Snyder resigned Friday, one day after saying he planned to finish what had become a disappointing season.

Associate head coach Melvin Watkins will guide the team the rest of the season.

After a 10-5 start that culminated with an overtime win against rival Kansas, the Tigers lost six straight. They've fallen to 3-7 in the Big 12.

Snyder spoke to his team before practice Friday and said he was leaving.

"What he told us is, it's an opportunity to get back to playing basketball. All the speculation was a heavy burden," sports information director Dave Reiter said.

Snyder left after a seven-year stint, compiling a 126-91 record. After playing at Duke and working as an assistant to coach Mike Krzyzewski, Snyder was hired to replace the retiring Norm Stewart and take Missouri to national prominence.

By WALT VANDERBUSH
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Center Grove High School graduate J.B. Paxson, the Daily Journal Outstanding Johnson County Male Athlete in 2005, hit a two-run home run in his second game for the Walters State Community College (Tenn.) baseball team in a win against Florence Darlington Tech 12-8.

The Senators opened their season with four victories, three against Florence Darlington and an 11-1 win against Carson-Newman. Paxson, a catcher, was 2 for 7 in three games, with two RBIs.

Center Grove

• The Akron swimming team lost 195-101 to Toledo. Zips junior Rachel Ripley was second of seven in the 200-yard individual medley in 2:15.13, sixth of 11 in the 100 freestyle (56.49) and third of six in the 100 backstroke (59.99).

• The Indiana University swimmers defeated Purdue 134-108. Kevin Swander swam on the winning 400-yard medley relay team and was third of eight in the 50 freestyle (21.40) and the 200 breaststroke (2:01.83).

• Greg Jarvis finished fifth of six in the 100-yard butterfly (56.06) in the University of Indianapolis' 108-63 win against Findlay.

• The Evansville women's tennis team opened its spring season with a 6-1 win against IPFW. Stephanie Millis won 6-2, 3-6, 10-5 (tiebreaker) at No. 5 singles and 8-6 at No. 2 doubles.

• The Ball State men's tennis team defeated Dayton 7-0 and the University of Indianapolis 6-1. Joe Epkey won 6-2, 6-1 at No. 2 singles against the Flyers and 6-3, 6-3 at No. 1 singles against the Greyhounds. Tony Epkey won 6-4, 6-0 at No. 3 singles against Dayton. Joe won 8-0 and 8-5 at No. 1 doubles in the two matches, and Tony won 8-2 and 8-3 at No. 2 doubles.

• The Butler tennis team defeated DePaul (6-1) and lost to

COLLEGE UPDATE

Kentucky (6-1) and Purdue (5-2). Evan West was the Bulldogs' only singles winner against the Boilermakers, winning 7-6, 4-6, 6-3 at No. 5 singles. He lost in tiebreakers at No. 6 singles against Kentucky and at No. 5 singles against DePaul.

• Indiana University sophomore Tyler Skelton long-jumped 21 feet, 10 1/4 inches to finish eighth of 10 in the Hoosier Indoor Track and Field Relays.

• Competing in the Tiger Invitational Track and Field Meet at DePauw, University of Indianapolis' Michael Baker was 17th of 32 in the long jump (19-7); and the Greyhounds' Nate Starling was 24th of 30 in the shot put (34-1/4).

• Leslie Smith had 20 points, six rebounds and six steals to lead the Manhattan Christian College women's basketball team (17-6) to a 59-55 win against NJCAA (junior college) Division II Hesston College. She is 10th in steals (3.3 per game) among National Christian College Division II players and 22nd in field-goal percentage (44.4 percent).

• The Mount St. Joseph women's basketball team (7-13, 4-5) lost 59-55 to Transylvania and defeated Defiance 61-53. Maria Eichhold led the Lions in the loss with 15 points (4 for 11, 7 for 11) and had seven rebounds, one assist and one blocked shot in 33 minutes. In the win against Defiance, she scored 13 points (6 for 14, 1 for 1) and had six rebounds, three assists and one blocked shot in 37 minutes.

• Stacy Aaron has played in 15 games for the 12-9 Ohio Wesleyan women's basketball team. She has nine rebounds, six points, four assists and one steal in 48 minutes.

• The Toccoa Falls women's basketball team won 66-32 against Piedmont Baptist and lost to Judson (Ala.) 68-56 and Huntingdon (Ala.) 75-64. Kelly

James scored 10, 10 and 12 points in the three games.

• The University of Indianapolis women's basketball team (10-11, 5-8) lost 70-68 to Missouri-Rolla and 69-61 to Missouri-St. Louis. Deanna Thomson scored four points (2 for 6) and had nine rebounds, four assists and three steals in 49 minutes in the two losses.

• The Indiana Wesleyan men's basketball team (14-11, 8-5) defeated Goshen 75-66 and Taylor 75-73. Joel Hobson was 3 of 3 from the field and 5 for 6 from the foul line for 11 points in the two games. He had five rebounds, two assists and one steal.

• Chad Maddox had one rebound and four assists in 14 minutes in Bethel's 85-83 basketball win against Goshen and three points (1 for 3, 1 for 3, 0 for 0), six assists, one rebound and one steal in 22 minutes in a 81-77 win against Spring Arbor. The Pilots are 10-17, 1-12.

• Kyle Coffey scored two points on 1-for-4 shooting and grabbed three rebounds in eight minutes in Wabash's 71-68 basketball loss to Ohio Wesleyan. The Little Giants are 13-8, 7-5.

Whiteland

• University of Indianapolis wrestlers Mike Horton and Chad Woods competed in the 30-team Wheaton Invitational.

Horton received a first-round bye, defeated a Lakeland wrestler 18-6 in the second round, won 3-2 in the quarterfinals against Ohio Northern and lost 9-4 in the semifinals to Heidelberg. He lost his first wrestleback 2-1 to Mount St. Joseph before winning 13-4 against Augustana to capture fifth place at 157 pounds.

Woods, wrestling at 149, lost 15-10 to Rose-Hulman, won by forfeit in his first wrestleback against McMurray and then lost 3-1 to Wabash.

• The Evansville women's basketball team (11-9, 7-4) defeated Bradley 51-49 and lost 53-47 to

Northern Iowa. Megan Liffick led the Aces in the win with 13 points (5 for 15, 3 for 3) and had six rebounds, one assist and one steal in 33 minutes. For the first time this season, the senior was held to single figures in the loss to Northern Iowa. She had seven points (1 for 13, 1 for 5, 4 for 6), three rebounds, one steal and one blocked shot in 33 minutes.

• The Columbia College men's basketball team (19-6, 5-2) defeated Hannibal-LaGrange 60-45 and Harris-Stowe State 94-46. David Inabnit played 16 minutes against Harris-Stowe and scored 13 points on perfect shooting (5 for 5, 2 for 2, 1 for 1). He had eight rebounds, three assists and two steals. In eight minutes against Hannibal-LaGrange, he scored two points (1 for 2) and had one steal.

• Josh Martin had one rebound in two minutes in Goshen's 85-83 men's basketball loss to Bethel. The Leafs are 13-14, 5-9.

• Huntington College's Adam Widener finished fifth of 11 runners in the 1,000-meter run at the Taylor Indoor Invitational Track and Field Meet. His time was 2:41.13.

• University of Indianapolis swimmer Aaron Neeman finished third of five in the 100-yard freestyle (50.05) in the Greyhounds' 109-63 win against Findlay.

• Lauren Heyde swam on the winning 200-yard freestyle relay team in IUPUI's 147-86 loss to Ball State. She was fifth of six in the 200 freestyle (2:04.57) and sixth in the 100 freestyle (1:00.62).

Franklin

• Ohio State's Jessie Stringer finished third of 42 in the high jump at the New Balance Indoor Track and Field Invitational contested in the Armory Track and Field Center in New York City with a jump of 1.78 meters (5 feet, 10 inches).

• Franklin College runners Adam Schwartz (9:50.69) and Andy Snyder (9:53.76) finished 17th and 18th in a field of 27 in

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