

SCOREBOARD

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Men's college basketball

TOURNAMENTS
Atlantic Coast Conference
First round
Miami 66, Clemson 63
Wake Forest 78, Florida State 66
Virginia 60, Virginia Tech 56
Atlantic 10 Conference
Quarterfinals
Temple 68, George Washington 53
Saint Joseph's 56, Saint Louis 37
Xavier 59, Charlotte 55
La Salle vs. Fordham, 9 p.m.
Big East Conference
Quarterfinals
Syracuse 86, Connecticut 84, OT
Georgetown 62, Marquette 59
Villanova 87, Rutgers 55
Big Ten Conference
First round
Penn State 60, Northwestern 42
Minnesota 59, Michigan 55
Michigan State 70, vs. Purdue 58
Big 12 Conference
First round
Texas Tech 73, Kansas State 65
Colorado 65, Baylor 61
Oklahoma State 79, Iowa State 70
Mid-American Conference
Quarterfinals
Toledo 78, Northern Illinois 77
Akron 72, Western Michigan 57
Kent State 76, Buffalo 67
Pac-10 Conference
Quarterfinals
Arizona 73, Stanford 68
UCLA 79, Oregon State 47

Women's college basketball

TOURNAMENTS
America East Conference
First round
Thursday, March 9
Maine 73, Albany 56
Atlantic Sun Conference
First round
Belmont 63, Stetson 49
Florida Atlantic 74, Jacksonville 61
Mercer 59, East Tennessee State 56
Big 12 Conference
Semifinals
Oklahoma 75, Missouri 54
Colonial Athletic Association
Quarterfinals
James Madison 53, Drexel 51, OT
Delaware 55, Northeastern 45
Hofstra 86, Georgia State 77
Old Dominion 66, George Mason 50

Preseason baseball

Thursday's games
Houston 3, N.Y. Mets 2
L.A. Dodgers 6, Boston 4
Tampa Bay 6, Atlanta 3
Detroit (ss) 3, Toronto 2
Minnesota 4, Baltimore 2
Cincinnati 4, Pittsburgh 1
Florida (ss) 3, St. Louis 0
Florida (ss) 5, Washington (ss) 4
Cleveland 10, Washington (ss) 5
New York Yankees (ss) 8, Philadelphia 3
Detroit (ss) 6, New York Yankees (ss) 1
Oakland 7, Milwaukee 3
Colorado 6, Chicago Cubs 2
Arizona 9, San Diego 8
Chicago White Sox 10, Seattle 3
L.A. Angels 6, San Francisco 5
Kansas City 12, Texas (ss) 4
Japan vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz., 9:05 p.m.
Today's games
Philadelphia vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Atlanta vs. Cleveland at Winter Haven, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Toronto vs. Tampa Bay at St. Petersburg, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees vs. Cincinnati at Sarasota, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Baltimore vs. Florida at Jupiter, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Washington vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla., 1:05 p.m.
Detroit vs. L.A. Dodgers at Vero Beach, Fla., 1:10 p.m.
St. Louis vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla., 1:10 p.m.
Oakland (ss) vs. L.A. Angels (ss) at Tempe, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
San Francisco vs. Chicago White Sox at Tucson, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Oakland (ss) vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels (ss) vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Seattle vs. Colorado at Tucson, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
Arizona vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, 3:05 p.m.
Texas vs. San Diego (ss) at Peoria, Ariz., 3:05 p.m.
South Korea vs. San Diego (ss) at Peoria, Ariz., 9:05 p.m.
Japan vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, 9:05 p.m.
World Baseball Classic
Today
At Scottsdale, Ariz.
South Africa at United States, 3 p.m.
At San Juan, Puerto Rico
Panama vs. Netherlands, 1 p.m.
Cuba at Puerto Rico, 7:30 p.m.
At Kissimmee, Fla.
Dominican Republic vs. Australia, 7 p.m.
Sunday, March 12
At Anaheim, Calif.
Japan vs. Group B second place, 4 p.m.
South Korea vs. Group B winner, 11 p.m.
Monday, March 13
At Anaheim, Calif.
South Korea vs. Group B second place, 10 p.m.
At San Juan, Puerto Rico
Group C winner vs. Group D second place, 1 p.m.
Group D winner vs. Group C second place, 8 p.m.

Golf

PGA HONDA CLASSIC
Thursday's top ten
At The Country Club at Mirasol
Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.
Par: 72
Yardage: 7,384
First round
Note: Play suspended due to darkness with three golfers not finishing.
1. Mathias Gronberg 32-35-67
2. David Toms 31-36-67
3. Ryuji Imada 34-33-67
4. Geoff Ogilvy 32-35-67
5. Brian Gay 35-33-68
6. Billy Mayfair 33-35-68
7. Jeff Gove 34-34-68

MAIN EVENTS

TV TODAY

Men's college basketball
Big Ten Tournament: Penn State vs. Ohio State, noon, ESPN
ACC Tournament: Miami vs. Duke, noon, ESPN2
Big Ten Tournament: Indiana vs. Wisconsin, 2 p.m., ESPN
ACC Tournament: Wake Forest vs. North Carolina State, 2 p.m., ESPN2
Patriot League Tournament: Holy Cross at Bucknell, 4:30 p.m., ESPN2
Big East Tournament: Syracuse vs. Georgetown, 7 p.m., ESPN
ACC Tournament: North Carolina vs. Virginia 7 p.m., ESPN2
Big East Tournament: Rutgers vs. Pittsburgh or West Virginia, 9 p.m., ESPN
ACC Tournament: Boston College vs. Georgia Tech or Maryland, 9 p.m., ESPN2

NBA

Indiana Pacers vs. New Orleans Hornets at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m., Fox Sports Midwest

Golf

PGA Honda Classic, second round, 4 p.m., USA

SPECTATOR SPORTS

TODAY

Gymnastics

Center Grove at Columbus East Regional, 7 p.m.

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.

NBA table with columns for Eastern Conference Atlantic Division, Southeast Division, and Western Conference Southwest Division.

NBA table with columns for Eastern Conference Southeast Division, Northwest Division, and Pacific Division.

NBA table with columns for Western Conference Northwest Division and Pacific Division.

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Detroit 7, Los Angeles 3
Colorado at Chicago, (n)
Dallas at Calgary, (n)
Nashville at Vancouver, (n)
Edmonton at San Jose, (n)
Today's games
Ottawa at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Washington, 7 p.m.
Toronto at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Minnesota at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Saturday's games
Buffalo at Philadelphia, 2 p.m.
Nashville at San Jose, 4 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Edmonton at Columbus, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Boston, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
Carolina at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Los Angeles at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Anaheim at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Dallas at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Transactions

BASEBALL
American League
CLEVELAND INDIANS—Reassigned OF Trevor Crowe and OF Ben Francisco to their minor league camp.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Assigned RHP David Percy and C Erik Kratz to their minor league camp.
National League
CINCINNATI REDS—Released RHP Bubba Nelson and RHP Luke Hudson. Assigned INF Aaron Herr, INF Anderson Machado, INF Derek Wathan and RHP Josh Hall to their minor league camp.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Extended the contract of Jim Bowden, vice president and general manager, and Tony Siegle, assistant general manager, through the completion of the 2006 season. Optioned 1B Larry Broadway to New Orleans of the PCL and LHP Michael Hinkley to Potomac of the Carolina League. Assigned RHP Andrew Good, RHP Francis Beltran, LHP Mike Bacsik, LHP Micah Bowie, LHP Jim Crowell, C Erick San Pedro, INF Josh Labandiera, INF Kory Casto, OF Frank Diaz, OF Ruben Mateo and OF Cristian Guerrero to their minor league camp.
BASKETBALL
Continental Basketball Association
GARY STEELHEADS—Announced the league office has approved the contractual buyout of G Jimmie Hunter.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Released DL Willie McGinest. Signed DB Artrell Hawkins.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ANAHEIM MIGHTY DUCKS—Traded D Sandis Ozolins to New York Rangers for 2006 third-round draft pick. Traded a 2006 second-round draft pick to the Washington Capitals for LW Jeff Arien. Traded D Keith Carney and D Juha Aaltonen to the Vancouver Canucks for D Brett Skinner and a 2006 second-round draft pick.
CALGARY FLAMES—Traded a 2006 fourth-round draft pick to the Phoenix Coyotes for F Jamie Lundmark. Traded C Jason Weimer to New Jersey for a 2006 fourth-round draft pick.
CAROLINA HURRICANES—Acquired F Mark Recchi from Pittsburgh for F Niklas Nordgren, F Krystofer Kolman and a 2007 second-round draft pick.
CHICAGO BLACK HAWKS—Traded D Todd Simpson to the Montreal Canadiens for a 2006 sixth-round draft pick. Recalled F Milan Bartovic from Norfolk of the AHL.
COLORADO AVALANCHE—Acquired F Jim Dowd from Chicago for a 2006 fourth-round draft pick.
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS—Recalled F Mark Hartigan from Syracuse of the AHL. Assigned F Cam Severson to Syracuse.
DALLAS STARS—Acquired D Willie Mitchell and 2007 second-round draft pick from Minnesota for D Martin Skoula and D Shawn Belle.
EDMONTON OILERS—Acquired F Sergei Samsonov from Boston for F Marty Reasoner, F Yan Stastny and a 2006 second-round draft pick.
FLORIDA PANTHERS—Agreed to terms with C Chris Gratton on a two-year contract extension. Re-signed F Olli Jokinen to a four-year contract.
LOS ANGELES KINGS—Traded C Yanick Lehoucq to the Phoenix Coyotes for RW Tim Jackman.
NASHVILLE PREDATORS—Recalled D Kevin Klein from Milwaukee of the AHL. Traded F Kris Beech and a 2006 first-round draft pick to the Washington Capitals for D Brent Witt.
NEW JERSEY DEVILS—Traded a 2006 third-round draft pick to the New York Islanders for D Brad Lukowich. Traded D Sean Brown to the Vancouver Canucks for a 2006 fourth-round draft pick.
NEW YORK RANGERS—Assigned D Thomas Pook to Hartford of the AHL.
PHILADELPHIA FLYERS—Traded LW Josh Gratton and two 2006 second-round draft picks to the Phoenix Coyotes for D Denis Gauthier.
PHOENIX COYOTES—Traded D Sean O'Donnell to the Anaheim Mighty Ducks for C Joel Perrault. Traded a 2006 seventh-round draft pick to the Detroit Red Wings for D Jamie Rivers. Traded a 2006 third-round draft pick to the New York Islanders for C-LW Oleg Kvashin and conditional draft pick. Assigned C Yanick Lehoucq to San Antonio of the AHL.
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS—Traded D Cory Cross to Detroit for a 2007 fourth-round draft pick and D Rick Jackman to Florida for C Petr Tatlacik. Claimed C Andy Hilbert off waivers from injured reserve. Assigned C Shane Endicott to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton of the AHL.
SAN JOSE SHARKS—Traded RW Niko Dimitrakos to the Philadelphia Flyers for a 2006 third-round draft pick. Activated RW Scott Parker from injured reserve. Recalled G Nolan Schafer from Cleveland of the AHL.
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Assigned LW Norm Milley to Springfield of the AHL.
COLLEGE
DAVIDSON—Announced the resignation of Tim Kelly, men's and women's swimming and diving coach.
MARYWOOD—Announced that men's and women's lacrosse will be varsity sports starting with the 2007-08 school year.
THE CITADEL—Named Bob Feig as assistant head football coach. Isaac Collins defensive coordinator, Dave Cecchini offensive coordinator, Eric Westerfield and Chris Partridge defensive line coaches, Ryan Hearn tight ends coach, Kevin Olecki and James Holcombe offensive line coaches and Ashton Larkins cornerbacks coach.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

PERFECT SEASON

The Center Grove Xtreme fourth-grade girls basketball team recently won the Hoosier Girls Basketball League championship game against Hamilton Heights. The Xtreme finished the season with an 11-0 record. Members of the team are, front row from left, Bobbie Clayton, Jamie Geitner, Molly Shaner and Colleen Gudeman; and back row from left, Sam Bolen, Brea Martlage, Cassie Hendrickson, Erica McGraw and Madi Kolthoff. Not pictured are coach Gary Hendrickson and assistant coaches Jim McGraw and Rob Clayton.

Boilers

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

seed and the defending tournament champion. Illinois has reached the final game the past three years, winning in 2003 and 2005 and finishing second in 2004.

"We found a way to win, but we've got to get a lot better in the next 25 hours or so," Izzo said.

Purdue (9-19), which has never won the conference tournament and was seeded 11th, was eliminated in its first tourney game for the fifth straight year and finished 0-14 away from home this season despite 20 points by Gary Ware.

"We had a great effort," Purdue coach Matt Painter said. "We've struggled shooting the basketball the past four or five games. It's too bad, because these guys have worked hard to get better."

The Boiler-makers had four projected starters who were out with injuries or suspended most of the season, although they got one of them back with a surprise appearance by 270-pound freshman Nate Minnoy.

"I was going to try to play him a little bit to see how he looked out there," Painter said. "It's just hard in transition for him. ... He gave a great effort. He missed some shots but he was aggressive."

Matt Kiefer, who added 16 points for Purdue, hit two free throws for the Boiler-makers' final lead at 20-19, but a dunk by Paul Davis put the Spartans on top for good with less than 6 minutes left before halftime.

"We were careless with the ball. That led them to getting out on the break," Kiefer said. Purdue managed only two more baskets in the next 5 minutes, both by Ware, and Michigan State opened a 31-24 lead before Bryant Dillon scored on a rebound tip in the closing seconds of the period.

Minnoy, who had averaged 11 points a game before he tore a ligament in his knee in January, missed all four of his shots in 6 minutes in the first half and all five of his attempts in 7 minutes in the second period.

A basket and free throw by Brown and then a 3-pointer by Brown gave Michigan State its biggest lead at 49-34 before Kiefer and Ware led Purdue's brief comeback. Purdue, which lost 15 of its final 18 games this season, also got 13 points from Dillon.

In other NCAA action

MINN

Minnesota 59

Michigan 55

INDIANAPOLIS—Maurice Hargrow scored 15 points, and Zach Puchtel added a career-high 15 rebounds as Minnesota defeated Michigan in the first round of the Big Ten Tournament.

The Golden Gophers snapped a three-game losing streak and dealt a severe blow to Michigan's NCAA Tournament hopes.

The Wolverines (18-10) entered the game ranked 37th in the Ratings Percentage Index, making them a possible at-large team. Michigan has lost seven of its past nine games, a problem since the tournament selection committee traditionally weighs recent history heavily.

Dion Harris led Michigan with 16 points, and Daniel Horton had 14. The Golden Gophers advance to play Iowa in today's quarterfinal.

Syracuse 86

No. 1 Connecticut 84, OT

NEW YORK—Gerry McNamara hit a 3-pointer with 5.5 seconds left in regulation to tie the game,



AP PHOTO

Syracuse's Gerry McNamara, right, goes to the basket against Connecticut's Rudy Gay during a Big East Tournament quarterfinal game on Thursday at Madison Square Garden in New York.

and the ninth-seeded Orange went on to beat No. 1 Connecticut.

The win should help the Orange (21-11) end any talk about whether they deserve an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament.

McNamara scored 17 points and handed out 13 assists, one short of the tournament record.

The loss shouldn't affect the No. 1 seed expected to go to Connecticut (27-3), but it ended a 10-game winning streak in the Big East quarterfinals for the Huskies, the regular-season co-champions with Villanova.

Syracuse, the defending champions in the tournament, will play No. 23 Georgetown in tonight's semifinals. Demetris Nichols also had 17 points for Syracuse, which had five starters in double figures. Denham Brown had 20 points for the Huskies, while Marcus Williams had 17 points and 11 assists.

Penn State 60

Northwestern 42

INDIANAPOLIS—Geary Claxton had 17 points and 10 rebounds, and Penn State's zone defense stymied cold-shooting Northwestern in the first round of the Big Ten Tournament.

Northwestern (14-15), which lost to Penn State in both regular-season meetings this year, was the Big Ten's lowest scoring and worst 3-point shooting team, yet six of the Wildcats' first eight shots were from long range.

Northwestern tied a tournament record with 31 3-point attempts for the game but missed 12 straight during one stretch of the second half, when Penn State built a 26-point lead.

Mohamed Hachad led Northwestern with 16 points. Travis Parker and Mike Walker added 10 points each for Penn State. Vederan Vukusic, the Big Ten's scoring leader at 19.4 points a game, had 10 points for Northwestern but played much of the second half in foul trouble.

Temple 68

No. 6 George Washington 53

CINCINNATI—Temple's famously stingy defense got back to what it does best, breaking down opponents and creating havoc in tournament brackets.

The Owls' inscrutable zone left George Washington's high-powered offense in a shambles as they set up a victory against over the sixth-ranked Colonials in the Atlantic 10 Tournament quarterfinals.

The upset opened the way for the Atlantic 10 to get a second team in the NCAA tournament, soaking up one of the 34 at-large bids for the 65-team field. George Washington was the only A10 team to make it last season, and was expected to go it alone again.

Antywane Robinson led Temple with 19 points, and Marshall and Mark Tyndale added 15 apiece. Carl Elliott led the Colonials with 18 points.

Colts

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

Manning and Marvin Harrison agreed to as the new labor agreement was being negotiated are now void. Those changes would have saved about \$12.5 million on this year's cap, an Indianapolis newspaper reported this week.

"We have room for some contingencies, but when you count all the (projected) expenditures we don't have a lot of room," said Polian.

Other prospective free agents include

kicker Jose Cortez, defensive tackle Larry Tripplett, linebackers Rob Morris and Rocky Calmus, wide receiver Troy Walters, running back James Mungro, defensive back Joseph Jefferson and offensive lineman Kurt Vollers.

Linebacker June Cato and defensive end Robert Mathis can also test the market, although the Colts reportedly have tendered them offers which would give Indianapolis the right to match any contract they are offered by another team. If the Colts don't match the offer, they would receive draft picks from the teams signing either player.

Polian said NFL clubs are operating without having all the details of the

agreement reached on Wednesday between the league and the players labor union.

NFL teams must be at or below the \$102 million salary cap for 2006 on Saturday and the Colts have already taken a major hit on it by re-signing wide receiver Reggie Wayne, defensive end Raheem Brock and linebacker Gary Brackett to contracts since last season.

"We have to take a close look between now and 4 p.m. (today) what our best strategy is toward managing the cap," Polian said Thursday. "I'm not ready to say anyone won't be back. There's a lot of uncertainty. I think we're going to sit and see what the market does."

Cubs

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

overlooked. They actually prefer it. "Maybe we're a little bit under the radar right now," Clark said. "That's probably OK. That's probably a good position to be in."

Senior center Ben Gordon agrees. "I love that," he said. "Definitely as a team, going into play a big team like Pike, we don't have much pressure on us. They have all the pressure on them because they're playing some team from down south called Franklin or something like that."

Winners of seven straight, the Cubs would love nothing more than to make a statewide name for themselves by emerg-



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON@robersononthejournalnet.com

Franklin boys basketball coach Dave Clark goes over a play with his team during a timeout in the Cubs' sectional final victory Saturday against Center Grove.

ing from a Final Four-like regional field.

But by anyone's definition, the task is daunting, to say the least.

Lawrence North (25-0) and Pike (20-3)

are not only two of the state's best teams, they're two of the best in the nation.

Powered by the No. 1 high school player in the nation, 7-foot-1 senior Greg Oden, the Wildcats are rated No. 1 in the country by a number of media outlets.

Bidding to become only the third team in IHSA history to win three straight state championships, Lawrence North is ranked No. 1 in the USA Today Super 25 national poll.

Pike is also on the national radar. Winners of three state championships since 1998, the Red Devils are No. 24 in the HoopsUSA rankings and have received notice in other national polls, as well.

In light of rankings, records and reputations, Lawrence North and Pike are regarded as the top regional contenders. But whoever advances, be it the Wildcats, Red

Devils, Greyhounds or Grizzly Cubs, the winner is an instant front-runner for the state championship.

"Whoever comes out of this regional has an excellent chance at the semi-state, as well as the state finals," said Pike coach Larry Bullington, whose team has lost twice to Lawrence North. "It's a very competitive field."

"Whoever comes out of it is going to have a great chance at it."

Clark sees no reason why it can't be the Cubs. History, after all, might be on their side.

In 1997, they were unranked and all but ignored heading into the semistate, which happened to be at Hinkle Fieldhouse. New Castle and Cathedral were the favorites. Clark knows because talk centered around those ranked teams at the pre-tournament coaches gathering.

"Going up to that meeting, I can remember everybody talking about Cathedral and New Castle and what a matchup that's going to be in the championship game, and neither team got there," Clark said. "It was us and Delta."

"We weren't ranked that particular time, either."

So here the Cubs are again, unranked and almost certainly overlooked in a vaulted postseason field at Hinkle Fieldhouse.

There's no place else they'd rather be. "That's why you play the game," Clark said. "It's obviously a great field of teams. We're just proud of being part of that field, and what a great opportunity for our kids to go up there and play in that kind of atmosphere."

"We're looking forward to it. We'll get ready for Pike and see what happens."