

FOOTBALL

WEST LAFAYETTE

Purdue names Legg offensive coordinator

Purdue promoted offensive line coach Bill Legg to coordinator, coach Joe Tiller announced Wednesday.

Legg replaces Jim Chaney, who left this week to become the St. Louis Rams' offensive line coach.

"I am excited about this opportunity and appreciative of the confidence that coach Tiller is showing me by giving me the opportunity," Legg said in a written statement.

Legg has been at Purdue for three seasons and will continue to work with the offensive line. Last season, the Boilermakers allowed nine sacks, the lowest in Tiller's nine seasons at Purdue.

COLLEGES

COLUMBUS, Ohio

Judge rules for former OSU basketball coach

Former Ohio State basketball coach Jim O'Brien won his lawsuit Wednesday against the university, which he said improperly fired him for giving a loan to a recruit.

Ohio Court of Claims Judge Joseph T. Clark ruled that O'Brien broke his contract by giving the \$6,000 loan, but the error was not serious enough to warrant firing.

The university violated the contract by firing him without compensation, Clark's ruling said. Possible NCAA sanctions and damage to Ohio State's reputation from the loan would have been relatively minor, while O'Brien's loss of salary and benefits was substantial, he wrote.

O'Brien, 55, sued for \$3.5 million in lost wages and benefits from his firing in June 2004.

With interest and other damages, he could receive nearly \$9.5 million. The final total will be determined at a later hearing.

INDIANAPOLIS

NCAA aims to punish 'diploma-mill' schools

The NCAA wants to punish non-traditional secondary schools that fail to meet academic standards and said athletes attending those schools could pay a penalty by losing their freshman eligibility.

A committee, impaneled by NCAA president Myles Brand in December, made draft recommendations Wednesday calling for additional scrutiny of high schools and prep schools that are not accredited or regulated by state agencies.

Kevin Lennon, the NCAA vice president for membership services, said he hoped to have the proposals completed by June.

TENNIS

ANTWERP, Belgium

Clijsters has tough time advancing past teenager

Top-ranked Kim Clijsters scraped past French teenager Tatiana Golovin 4-6, 7-6 (4), 7-5 in her comeback match at the Diamond Games on Wednesday.

It was Clijsters' first tournament since she had to leave with an ankle injury during an Australian Open semifinal match against eventual champion Amelie Mauresmo.

Afterward, she treated the 11,000 fans at the Sport Palace to a bottle of champagne each to celebrate her first match in her Belgian homeland as the world's No. 1-ranked player.

Grizzlies winners on Senior Night

By STEVE McCLURE

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

With the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference regular-season title sewn up for the third consecutive year, the Franklin College women's basketball team shows no signs of letting up.

Winners of seven straight and 12 of their past 13 games, the Grizzlies mowed down one more HCAC opponent Wednesday at Franklin's Spurlock Center, beating Transylvania 77-63.

The Grizzlies (21-3, 12-1) are 11-0 overall at home this season, including seven conference victories on their home court.

Wednesday was Franklin's Senior Night. Becky Ballard, Lindsey Roberson and Leslie Mehrlich were honored in a pregame ceremony. The seniors are all four-year players who have been a major force in Franklin's recent success.

In what turned out to be an old-fashioned shootout in the first half, both teams traded 3-pointers as if they were layups. The Grizzlies, who fell behind 11-0 in the opening

minutes, rallied and went on a 13-2 run to tie the game.

With 5:12 left in the half, freshman guard Natalie Tubbs hit a 3-pointer, and the Grizzlies had their first lead at 26-24.

Not to be outdone with their long-range shooting, Roberson drilled three shots from outside the arc in the first half.

By halftime, Transylvania had six 3-pointers, and Franklin had four.

In the first 20 minutes, the game was tied four times, and the lead changed hands nine times as the two teams went to intermission with the Grizzlies holding a 39-38 edge.

"Transy played an incredible first half," Grizzlies coach Kim Eiler said. "We played absolutely no defense. Granted, they were on fire, and we let it happen."

Franklin found its rhythm in the first two minutes of the second half as Ballard scored the Grizzlies' first nine points and the Grizzlies retook the lead 47-43.

However, Transylvania kept shooting from outside and went back up on top 52-47 with 15 minutes remaining.

That's when Franklin clamped down on defense and went on a 19-2 run as the Grizzlies would go cold during the next nine minutes without a basket.

"We finally put some pressure on their shooters," Eiler said. "These are all huge games because we've got to make a statement before tournament play begins."

As the lead climbed to 72-60, Franklin was able to put away the upset-minded Grizzlies by going to the free-throw line as Roberson and sophomore guard Courtney Swain secured the win.

Each team had eight 3-pointers, both on 8 of 21 from the floor. And each had 40 rebounds.

For Franklin, Ballard had a game-high 25 points, most of them coming off passes from junior guard Brittany Beehler.

"Getting the ball from Brittany is the greatest thing ever," Ballard said. "She always sees me and always has great passes."

Beehler, the Grizzlies' junior point guard, is the all-time leader in assists at Franklin and now has 426 career assists. She was credited with eight Wednesday.

FC men fall at Transylvania; conference title out of reach

Special to the Daily Journal

LEXINGTON, Ky.

Franklin College's prospects of pulling even with Transylvania University for the top spot in the Heartland Conference men's basketball standings looked promising when the Grizzlies led by nine points in the second half of their showdown Wednesday night.

But the Grizzlies roared back with a 14-4 run to take the lead and then pulled away to a 10-point edge on two occasions the rest of the way to emerge a 74-70 winner.

The verdict gave 23rd-ranked Transylvania the HCAC regular-season championship outright at

11-2 and improved the hosts to 20-4 overall.

Franklin, which had its five-game winning streak snapped, dropped to 9-4 in the league and is in a second-place tie with Hanover College. The Grizzlies are 17-7 overall.

Transylvania was led by center Matt Finke with 17 points. Forward Bryan Howard, whose basket with 8:01 remaining put the Grizzlies ahead to stay, was right behind with 16 points.

The Grizzlies were powered by sophomore Brandon Ray, who hit 10 of 14 shots, tallied a game-high 25 points and grabbed a game-best 12 rebounds in 31 minutes.

Roberson, meanwhile, had 18 of her 22 points in the first half.

Also in double figures was Swain who added 12 points including three 3-pointers.

The Grizzlies were led by two players with 15 points each, Jessica Hanson and Jackie Distler.

Franklin will visit Hanover on Saturday.

Balanced scoring helps Notre Dame win



AP PHOTO

South Florida's Solomon Jone, left, grabs a rebound away from Notre Dame's Torin Francis during Wednesday's Big East game in South Bend.

The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND

Russell Carter scored 13 points, Chris Quinn added 12, and Rob Kurz had 10 points and 11 rebounds as Notre Dame opened a 14-point lead and held on to beat South Florida 62-55 on Wednesday, handing the Bulls their school-record 13th straight loss.

The Irish (12-10, 3-8 Big East) won for the second time after losing five straight. The Bulls (6-18, 0-11) are still looking for their first conference victory.

Both the Irish and the Bulls have been hard-luck teams this year, repeatedly losing close games.

The game Wednesday night, though, wasn't as close as the final score indicated. The Irish led by 14 several times, the final time 50-36 with 8 minutes left when Rick Cornett scored inside.

The Bulls used a 6-0 run to cut the lead to 50-42 on a slam dunk by James Holmes on an inbound pass. South Florida closed to 61-55 with 13 seconds left but couldn't get any closer.

Holmes led South Florida with 18 points, Solomon Jones had 13 points and 12 rebounds and McHugh Mattis had 12 points and 11 rebounds. Notre Dame's bench outscored South Florida's 16-5.

The Irish started the game cold, missing their first 11 shots, while the Bulls shot 5 of 8 to open a quick 11-6 lead.

But after missing their first seven 3-pointers, the Irish started hitting from outside. Kurz and Carter hit back-to-back 3-pointers to ignite a 19-2 run.

The Irish forced six turnovers by the Bulls during the run, repeatedly leading to easy baskets. For the half, the Irish had 18 points off 11 turnovers by the Bulls.

In other action

MEN

No. 8 Tennessee 105 Auburn 89

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Chris Lofton scored 25 points, and JaJuan Smith added a career-high 19 to lead No. 8 Tennessee to a win against Auburn that included a school-record 16 3-pointers.

C.J. Watson added 18 points, Patterson had 15, Major Wingate scored 12 and Stanley Asumnu added 10 for the Volunteers (19-3, 10-1), who won their eighth straight Southeastern Conference game.

The Tigers (10-12, 2-9) have not won on the road this season.

No. 9 Pittsburgh 85 Providence 77

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Aaron Gray had 22 points and nine rebounds to lead No. 9 Pittsburgh to its third straight victory.

The Panthers (20-3, 9-3 Big East) reached the 20-win mark for a school-record fifth consecutive season and extended their winning streak against the Friars to five games.

Senior guard Donnie McGrath matched his career high with 28 points for Providence (11-11, 4-7).

No. 21 N.C. State 86 Florida State 64

RALEIGH, N.C. — Engin Atsur had five of North Carolina State's 13 3-pointers and scored 19 points to help the 21st-ranked Wolfpack avoid their first losing streak of the season.

It was the third straight game with at least 12 3s for N.C. State (20-5, 9-3), which solidified its hold on second place in the Atlantic Coast Conference behind Duke (12-0).

No. 23 North Carolina 82 Georgia Tech 75

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Freshman Tyler Hansbrough set the Smith Center scoring record with 40 points to help No. 23 North Carolina rally from a 20-point deficit and beat Georgia Tech.

• Road

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

reporters to explain why Indiana fans have been reluctant to fully embrace him, the coach suggested it was because he wasn't a graduate of the school.

Davis then tried to quiet speculation on Tuesday by saying he

had no plans to quit this season. He also said that his job status had become too big a distraction as the Hoosiers prepare for the final weeks of the regular season.

Davis, in his sixth season since replacing Bob Knight, coached Indiana to the NCAA title game in 2002.

Robert Vaden led Indiana with 17 points. Travis Parker had 21 for Penn State.

The Nittany Lions erased an

early eight-point deficit and took a 26-20 lead on a free throw by Claxton.

But the Lions went cold from the field, and the Hoosiers started hitting from outside. Sophomore reserve A.J. Ratliff made two 3s in the waning minutes of the first half before Strickland dunked just before halftime to give Indiana a 35-31 lead.

But Penn State prevailed after a close second half.

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