

SUNDAY'S

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

The Associated Press

WOMEN

Florida 95

No. 5 Tennessee 93, OT

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — No. 5 Tennessee lost at home to an unranked team for the second time in school history and first time in 22 years, falling to Florida in overtime.

Unranked Kentucky beat Tennessee earlier this season, making this the only season since the women's rankings started in 1976 that the Vols have lost to more than one unranked team. Tennessee lost 66-63 at Kentucky on Jan. 26.

The Vols (25-4, 11-3 Southeastern Conference) had never lost to an unranked team in Thompson-Boling Arena, which opened in 1987. Unranked Cincinnati beat then-No. 12 Tennessee 72-69 on Nov. 26, 1984, in the university's old arena.

It was only the 16th loss for Tennessee in Thompson-Boling Arena. Florida won for the first time in Knoxville, becoming the second SEC team to win for the first time here. LSU did it in February.

Brittany Davis scored a career-high 29 points and Sha Brooks added 25 for the Gators (20-7, 8-6), who improved to 2-34 all-time against Tennessee. Sarah Lowe added 15 points, seven rebounds and six assists while Danielle Santos and Dalila Eshe each scored 13 points for Florida.

The Gators reached 20 wins for the first time under coach Carolyn Peck, a former Tennessee assistant.

Florida used a full-court press that forced most of Tennessee's season-high 28 turnovers. The Gators grabbed the lead early in the second half and didn't trail again until overtime. But that only lasted 15 seconds.

Candace Parker converted a three-point play to put Tennessee ahead 87-84 with 3 minutes left in the extra period.

Davis hit her only 3 of the game and then made the second of two free throws on the ensuing possession to give the lead back to Florida, and the Gators held on to win. After the buzzer, Peck and her players huddled at mid-court to celebrate.

No. 6 Ohio State 61

Penn State 59

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — Marscilla Packer scored on a fadeaway jumper with 2 seconds left as No. 6 Ohio State rallied from 17 points back to defeat Penn State.

With the score tied at 59, Jessica Davenport took an inbound pass and wheeled in the lane toward the basket, but her shot bounced off the rim.

Packer grabbed the rebound and scored her game-winning basket, raising her arms in the air as she raced back on defense. It was the Buckeyes' only lead of the game.

Penn State's Brianne O'Rourke missed a desperation 3-pointer, and the Buckeyes celebrated.



Florida players cheer after a free throw sealed their 95-93 overtime win Sunday at Tennessee.

The comeback win sealed an already remarkable regular season for Ohio State (25-2, 15-1 Big Ten), which will be the top seed in the conference tournament starting later this week.

Penn State (12-15, 6-10) could have clinched the seventh seed had it held on for the win.

Illinois 67
Michigan 57

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Lori Bjork scored 21 points to lead Illinois to a win against Michigan in the regular season finale for both teams.

The Illini (14-13, 6-10 Big Ten) jumped out to 33-26 halftime lead, and hung on for the win. Janelle Hughes added 12 points for Illinois, while Audrey Tabon contributed 10 points and a team-leading eight rebounds.

Janelle Cooper scored 24 points for the Wolverines (6-22, 0-16). She was the only Michigan player in double digits.

Both teams next play at the Big Ten Tournament, which starts Thursday.

MEN

Toledo 81
Ball State 54

TOLEDO, Ohio — Justin Ingram scored 18 points, and Tyrone Kent added 16 as Toledo defeated Ball State.

Jerrah Young and Kashif Payne each scored 11 points for the Rockets, who

lost the teams' meeting last month in Muncie.

The Rockets (15-10, 8-8 Mid-American Conference) shot 49 percent from the field while holding the Cardinals to 35 percent.

D'Andre Peyton led the Cardinals (9-16, 5-11) with 11 points and was the only Ball State player to score in the double digits.

The Cardinals made the game's opening points on a 3-pointer from Jalon Perryman, but Toledo quickly pulled ahead and built a 14-point lead midway through the half.

Toledo scored 22 points off Ball State's 22 turnovers, compared to the Cardinals' 8 points off the Rockets' 15 turnovers.

IPFW 72
N. Dakota St. 64

FORT WAYNE — Quinton Carouthers and DeWitt Scott each scored 23 points to lead IPFW against North Dakota State.

Carouthers also grabbed 10 rebounds for the Mastodons (9-18). He and Scott were the only players in double figures for IPFW, who went 12 for 12 at the free-throw line, all in the second half.

Ben Woodside scored a game-high 24 points, including 8 of 10 from the line, to lead North Dakota State (16-22).

Mike Nelson scored 16 for the Bison.

● Hoosiers

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

really, really excited. I've grown so much in the last six years," he said.

The Spartans, led by Maurice Ager's 30 points, rallied from 16 points down early in the second half and took their first lead on a 3-pointer by Ager with seven minutes to go. There were three ties after that before a basket and free throw by Marshall Strickland put Indiana ahead for good.

Vaden hit his fifth 3-pointer with under two minutes to go before a pair of free throws by Shannon Brown pulled Michigan State within 75-71. The Spartans had a chance to score again, but Errek Suhr stole the ball, missed a layup, got his own rebound and was fouled.

He hit both free throws, then Strickland made one of two foul shots to finish the scoring.

Indiana hit seven of its first eight shots and took an eight-point lead within the first four minutes.

The Spartans, on the way to their fourth loss in the past five games, pulled within 21-20 in the next seven minutes, but a rebound basket and two straight 3-pointers by Strickland started a 10-0 Indiana run.

"We felt like we were back as a team like we were at the beginning of the year," Vaden said. "We made the extra pass, we got a lot more physical, we played team defense, got some great stops, made some big shots."

The Hoosiers continued pulling

HE SAID IT

Hoosiers coach Mike Davis announced last week that he will resign at the end of the season. Sunday's win against Michigan State was his final game at Assembly Hall. Here's a look at what Davis had to say after the game:

Bittersweet: "You're sad because as a competitor you'd like to go to the national championship game every year. I'm happy because six years from when coach (Bob) Knight was let go this is still a program. I'm very disappointed and sad I didn't get it done the way I would have liked."

No distractions: "I've been able to coach without any other thoughts in my mind. It's kind of like both a happy and sad situation. I'm happy because of the direction of the program; I'm excited to have the opportunity to just finish the season out as a coach."

Better late than never? "We played the way we played early in the season. Our attitude is getting back to where we need to be. It's so important we play our style of basketball. I've definitely been a better basketball coach over the last couple of games."

away, and a 3-pointer by Vaden and a dunk by Marco Killingsworth off a rifle pass from Strickland gave Indiana its biggest lead of the half at 41-26.

Michigan State came within 10 points with a minute to go, but a rebound basket by Roderick Wilmont pushed the lead to 43-31 at the break.

Two 3-pointers by Vaden gave Indiana its biggest lead of the game at 49-33 two minutes into the second half before Michigan State slowly worked its way back.

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FRANKLIN COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Late FC run falls short

Grizzlies women hoping for at-large tournament bid

By RUSS HUGHES

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

The Franklin College women's basketball team hoped to hoist the Tiffany Trophy, which is presented each year to the winner of the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference tournament.

More important than hardware, the Grizzlies wanted to secure an automatic bid to the NCAA Division III Tournament with a conference championship-game victory.

But after a slow start, a comeback and a missed last-second shot, the Grizzlies saw both hopes dashed in a 67-65 loss to Manchester.

After a season that produced a 24-4 record and a 19-game home winning streak, Franklin's post-season fate is in the hands of the NCAA Selection Committee. The tournament field will be announced today.

The Spartans continually beat the Grizzlies down the floor for a number of easy first-half baskets. Despite some hot shooting by Courtney Swain late in the first



BALLARD



ROBERSON

half, the Grizzlies were down 35-27 at halftime.

Senior Becky Ballard was disappointed by Franklin's first-half performance.

"We talked (at halftime) about how we needed to play better defense," said Ballard. "We also talked about taking our time on offense. We were just playing one-on-one ball out there. We weren't playing as a team, and it showed."

Franklin trailed for most of the second half before charging to a 62-58 lead with 4:19 left in the game.

Senior Leslie Mehrlich contributed six points during the comeback, while Ballard scored six of her 15 second-half points during the run.

The Grizzlies held the Spartans

to nine points in the remaining minutes but were able to manufacture only three points themselves during the same period.

"Every time we got over the hump, we seemed to dig ourselves another hole," Ballard said. "We didn't play our game, and they played all out the whole time."

Manchester coach Josh Dzurick expected the Grizzlies to come back one more time, and he tried to prepare his team for another Franklin run.

"Our key was just having enough gas in the tank," Dzurick said. "We knew that they would come flying back at us. We just wanted to try to hold on."

With just a few seconds to go, Franklin had one final chance to win the game: Senior sharpshooter Lindsey Roberson got off a contested shot from behind the 3-point arc, but it bounced off the rim as the buzzer sounded.

Both Ballard (15 points, 5 rebounds) and Roberson (10 points, 9 rebounds) were named to the all-tournament team. Manchester's Stacey Wendel was named the tournament MVP.

Pioneers cool off Grizzlies' shooters

Special to the Daily Journal

LEXINGTON, Ky.

Franklin College's men's basketball team came into Transylvania University's Beck Center on Saturday night with a ton of confidence it could capture its fourth Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference men's basketball tournament championship.

But the top-seeded host Pioneers kept No. 2 seed Franklin College in check and captured a 63-48 victory in the title game of the annual tourney.

The decision gave Transylvania (24-4) the HCAC's automatic bid to next week's NCAA Division III playoffs. The Grizzlies (20-8) hope to land an at-large bid.

Fresh off its dominant semifinal triumph against Bluffton University

on Friday, Franklin hoped to accomplish what it did in the league tourney last year: Knock off Transylvania even though the Grizzlies fell to the Pioneers in both regular season meetings.

The top-seeded hosts, who have six seniors among the top seven players in their rotation, didn't allow the loss to happen as they kept Franklin's shooters at bay the whole way.

After the Grizzlies closed to within six points on two occasions with the help of sophomore sub Brandon Ray, the Pioneers took control with a 14-4 run that put the hosts up by 16 with 7:46 remaining.

Transylvania eventually bumped its lead to 19 points with 4:41 left. The Grizzlies got no closer than 12 points the rest of the way.

The Pioneers were led by Joey Searle and Matt Finke, who tal-

lied 14 points apiece. Bryan Howard and Marc Bain added 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Bain, who was instrumental in the Pioneers' semifinal victory against College of Mount St. Joseph on Friday night, was voted the HCAC Tournament MVP.

Howard also was included on the all-tournament team along with Franklin senior center Nick Kane and sophomore guard Dustin Marshall.

Kane hit nine of 13 shots and had game-best totals in both points, 19, and rebounds, 11.

Ray had 17 points, and Marshall, who knocked down six of seven 3-pointers in the semifinals round, had four points and three assists.

The Grizzlies struggled from the perimeter, hitting none of their 3-point shot attempts.

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