

BASKETBALL

INDIANAPOLIS Robertson trophy to be displayed at Conseco

Oscar Robertson first hit the national stage as a do-everything guard for the University of Cincinnati, but before that, he was filling gyms as a high school player in Indianapolis.



ROBERTSON

Robertson led Crispus Attucks High to state titles in 1955 and 1956, making it the first all-black school to win a championship.

Because his first steps toward stardom were taken in Indiana, the United States Basketball Writers Association announced Tuesday that the Oscar Robertson Trophy for the college player of the year will be permanently displayed at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

Robertson won the first two awards from the basketball writers group in 1959 and 1960, and it was named for him in 1998. He will present the award to this season's winner during a breakfast on March 31 at Conseco before the Final Four.

Robertson played in 12 NBA All-Star games and led the Milwaukee Bucks to a championship in 1971. He is the only player in NBA history to average a triple-double for a season.

EVANSVILLE Evansville AD decides not to go to California

Bill McGillis, the athletic director at the University of Evansville the past four years, has turned down a similar job offer at Long Beach State.

McGillis said the Big West Conference school offered him the job of athletic director last week and he gave them his decision Tuesday.

"I mulled it over for a couple of days," McGillis said. "But I don't have a desire to leave."

McGillis, 43, was general manager of an American Basketball League franchise in Long Beach in 1997-98. He came to Evansville after four years as the senior associate athletic director at New Mexico.

FOOTBALL

BLOOMINGTON Hoosiers release 2006 football schedule

For just the fourth time in the 46-year history of Memorial Stadium, Indiana will have seven football games at home next fall.

Three of the Hoosiers' first four games will be at home, coach Terry Hooppner said in announcing the 2006 schedule Wednesday.

Last year, the Hoosiers had six home games during Hooppner's first season as coach.

This year, after opening Sept. 2 against Western Michigan, Indiana will play the following week at Ball State, the first games in new three-year deals with the two Mid-American Conference schools. The Hoosiers then return home for consecutive games against Southern Illinois, Connecticut and, in their Big Ten opener, Wisconsin.

The rest of the schedule includes home games against Iowa, Michigan State and Michigan, and road games at Illinois, Ohio State, Minnesota and Purdue in the Nov. 18 season-ending game for the Old Oaken Bucket.

All game times and television schedules will be announced later.

TENNIS

PATTAYA, Thailand Israel's Peer advances to Pattaya quarterfinals

Fourth-seeded Shahar Peer of Israel used a strong baseline game to defeat Maria Sanchez Lorenzo of Spain 7-6 (4), 6-3 Wednesday and reach the quarterfinals of the Pattaya Women's Open.

The 18-year-old Peer is ranked No. 45 and is the No. 2 female player in her country behind Anna Smashnova.

The only seeded player to fall was seventh-seeded Aiko Nakamura of Japan, who lost to Lourdes Dominguez Lino of Spain 6-2, 6-0.

PARIS Pierce, Dementieva, Safina make final eight

Former champion Mary Pierce beat Anabel Medina Garrigues of Spain 6-2, 6-4 in the second round of the Gaz de France tournament Wednesday.

Emilie Loit of France and defending champ Dinara Safina also won second-round matches.

In the final first-round matches, fifth-seeded Elena Dementieva and Nathalie Dechy of France were winners and will play each other for a place in the quarters.



Rick Tocchet, 41, is associate coach of the Phoenix Coyotes. He faces charges of promoting gambling, money laundering and conspiracy.

James Harney, 40, is an eight-year veteran of the New Jersey State Police. He is being charged with official misconduct, promoting gambling, money laundering and conspiracy.



THE RING

Authorities: Hockey star in gambling scandal met accomplice in bar

By GEOFF MULVIHILL
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In the early 1990s, New Jersey officials say a bartender at a Holiday Inn in Philadelphia struck up a friendship with one of his big-name clients, Flyers star forward Rick Tocchet.

The friendship lasted as Tocchet played with five other NHL teams, retired and became an assistant coach. Meanwhile, the bartender, James Harney, joined the New Jersey State Police.

In October, Harney's employer became interested in the friendship after a tipster told state police that he was involved in a gambling ring, according to authorities.

This week, after an investigation that authorities dubbed "Operation Slapshot," the two men, along with another New Jersey man, were accused of running a nationwide sports betting operation during the past five years.

Police said that Harney, 40, and James Ulmer, 40, took wagers and cuts of the bets. And Tocchet, now a top assistant coach of the Phoenix Coyotes, was the money man, overseeing the operation, collecting the ring's winnings and covering its losses.

Tocchet was granted an indefinite leave of absence Wednesday by NHL commissioner Gary Bettman.

Law enforcement officials say they're still connecting the dots in a complicated case that involved professional hockey players, the wife of hockey great Wayne Gretzky and perhaps some Philadelphia-area mob figures. Only Tocchet, Harney and Ulmer have been charged.

All face charges of promoting gambling, money laundering and conspiracy.

New Jersey state police Lt. Gerald Lewis said between six and 12 hockey players were believed to have placed bets. Law enforcement officials speaking on condition of anonymity said Janet Jones, the wife of Gretzky, also was a better.

Authorities say investigators were monitoring the ring by late December, watching closely as \$1.7 million changed hands in thousands of wagers in 40 days. Court documents show that the monitoring lasted from Dec. 29 through Feb. 5, the day of the Super Bowl.

Tocchet acknowledged on Tuesday that the state trooper arrested in connection with the gambling ring case is his friend. He said he would cooperate with the investigation.



Actress Janet Jones, 45, is the wife of hockey great Wayne Gretzky. She has been identified by law enforcement officials as one of the bettertors.

James Ulmer, 40, is accused of funneling wagers to Tocchet. He faces charges of promoting gambling, money laundering and conspiracy.



AP PHOTO

Reds owner Bob Castellini, left, hands an autographed baseball to Wayne Krivsky at the close of a news conference Wednesday in Cincinnati. Krivsky was hired as the team's general manager.

Reds pick Minnesota's Krivsky for team's GM

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI

Minnesota's Wayne Krivsky was hired Wednesday as the Cincinnati Reds' next general manager, ending a two-week search that involved eight candidates.

Krivsky was a leading candidate for the job two years ago, but former owner Carl Lindner chose Dan O'Brien, who had worked for the Houston Astros and Texas Rangers. O'Brien was fired last month by new owner Bob Castellini, who wanted to bring in his own executive to run the baseball operation.

Castellini chose someone who knows small-market success.

The 51-year-old Krivsky worked for the Rangers before the Twins hired him in 1994 as a special assistant. He has spent the past eight years as assistant general manager, involved in all aspects of running the AL Central team.

Krivsky got a two-year contract from the Reds that includes mutual options for two additional years.

The Reds are coming off their fifth straight losing season, their longest such streak in 50 years.

Krivsky's biggest challenge will be to upgrade the Reds' pitching staff, which had the NL's worst ERA last season and has been among the league's worst overall for several years.

Cincinnati had the NL's top offense last year but couldn't overcome the lack of a dependable rotation and bullpen. The Reds let starter Ramon Ortiz leave after the season and got left-handed starter Dave Williams from Pittsburgh in a trade for Sean Casey.

The Reds failed to develop pitching under general manager Jim Bowden, who was fired in 2003, midway through the first season at Great American Ball Park. During Bowden's tenure, several pitching prospects hurt their arms in the minors.

O'Brien instituted a pitch limit in the minors to try to cut down on the injuries. He also gave left-hander Eric Milton a \$25.5 million, three-year deal to upgrade the rotation, a move that immediately backfired. Milton went 8-15 and gave up 40 homers last season, the most in the majors.

O'Brien had a year left on his contract when he was fired on Jan. 23.

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

parochial school offered lacrosse as a club sport.

At that point, with his parents' blessing, he decided to attend Brebeuf.

"There was an athletic card with different sports on it," Garry said. "I saw lacrosse on there and checked the box. I knew I wanted to play it once I saw it. It's a combination of all the sports I already knew."

"I liked the speed and athleticism it took to play it."

And he's excelled at it. In his first season as a varsity starter last year, Garry was named honorable mention all-state. He stopped 168 of 299 shots (.562 percent) and was ranked eighth in the state in saves.

Ironically, he started out as an offensive player.

As a freshman, Garry was an offensive attackman. His primary job was to score goals. That changed after a hitting drill during practice.

Brebeuf coach Paul Borchelt was watching Garry and noticed how much he enjoyed hitting people. He liked Garry's aggressiveness and athleticism so much that he asked him to change positions at the end of the year.

"At Brebeuf, the coaches' theory is to put the best athlete in goal," Borchelt said. "So I asked him to switch positions. I think he agreed somewhat reluctantly and was nervous at first about changing."

But it didn't take long for Garry to make an impact. He moved up to varsity his sophomore year and earned time as backup goalie. He became the starter this season.

Even though it's much different than offense, he's gotten used to stopping the ball with his stick and body instead of shooting it.

Garry said, "You've got to stay focused on the ball and stay confident and don't back down. It's a very physical sport."

"It's not like in hockey where the goalie is stationary in the goal. You come out to chase balls. Normally when the goalie comes out, it's usually like when a quarterback scrambles. There's usually a target on you."

Brebeuf has a history of developing strong lacrosse teams and players. Since joining the Indiana High School Lacrosse Association nine

"I knew I wanted to play it once I saw it."

D.J. Garry on deciding to play lacrosse at Brebeuf after seeing the sport offered by the school

years ago, the Braves have never been ranked lower than sixth of 23 teams that play the club sport.

In 2003, Brebeuf was ranked No. 1 at one point during the season and made the final four. Borchelt won coach of the year.

Although the Braves have fallen off the past two years, ranking sixth last year and fifth in 2004, they hope to bounce back to championship form this year.

And with players like the 18-year-old Garry, Borchelt thinks they can.

"I think this is the best team we've had in nine years, partly because of people like D.J., who are devoted to the team," said Borchelt, whose Braves finished 11-9-1 and lost to Carmel in the IHSLA quarterfinals last season.

"We had all the pieces last year, but they were all juniors," Borchelt said. "They were young and didn't know what it took. Now the juniors have become seniors and are hungry for it."

Borchelt compares Garry to Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning. He admires his vocalness during practice and games, which is something the Braves didn't have in years past.

"(Garry) is vocal ... calling calls, making corrections on defense. He's the one that does that," Borchelt said. "If you have a goalie who can make one or two saves, it throws momentum in your favor, and you can make mistakes. It gives you a free pass to make mistakes because you know he always will come up with one or two amazing saves."

"(For) coaches, it's a big bonus to have that in there. You can try a couple of special things on defense and know D.J. is in there to back you up."

Garry has fared exceedingly well at the new position. But he still hasn't accomplished his goals of winning a state title and becoming an all-state player.

He expects both goals to be accomplished this season.

"(Winning state) is definitely the team's goal this year," Garry said. "It will take a lot of hard work and a lot of determination for both myself and the team. (But) I think I can do it, and I think we can do it."

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