

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

The Associated Press

MEN

No. 1 Duke 84 Bucknell 50

DURHAM, N.C. — Sheldon Williams had 23 points and 11 rebounds, his fourth straight double-double, and J.J. Redick added 22 as No. 1 Duke beat Bucknell.

Freshman Josh McRoberts had 14 points and 10 rebounds for the Blue Devils (13-0), one of eight undefeated teams in the country.

The Bison (9-3) failed to pull another upset in their first meeting ever against a No. 1 team. In the past calendar year, they have victories at Pittsburgh and Syracuse, along with one in the NCAA Tournament against Kansas.

Duke opened the game with a 17-2 run and was up 42-19 at halftime. Bucknell opened the second half with a 9-0 run, but the Blue Devils then scored 13 straight points.

Butler 75 Illinois-Chicago 56

INDIANAPOLIS — Brandon Polk scored 21 points to lead four Bulldogs in double figures as Butler beat Illinois-Chicago in a Horizon League game.

A.J. Graves had 17 for Butler (8-5, 1-0 Horizon League), including 3 of 4 3-point shooting and 2 of 2 from the free-throw line. Brandon Crone scored 13, and Bruce Horan 12.

The Flames (8-6, 1-1) led early at 4-2, but Horan drained a 3-pointer and Crone followed with a fast-break layup that ignited an unanswered 16-point run as Butler took control of the game.

Butler shot 54.2 percent (13 of 24) from the field in the first half to take a 36-27 lead at the break. The Bulldogs then went on a 20-9 run during the first eight minutes of the second half.

IPFW 54 Indiana State 46

TERRE HAUTE — DeWitt Scott scored 17 points to lead Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne past Indiana State as the Sycamores shot just 32 percent for the game.

The loss was the third straight for Indiana State after it opened the season with eight straight victories.

The Mastodons (3-11) opened up a 13-point second-half lead as they used a ball-control offense that saw Scott shoot 5 of 6 on 3-pointers.

Quintin Carouthers added 11 points for IPFW.

WOMEN

No. 1 Tennessee 83 Old Dominion 67

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Shanna Zolman scored 23 points and Nicky Anosike added 17 to lead top-ranked Tennessee past Old Dominion.

The Vols (13-0) led nearly the entire game, but Old Dominion made them work for their 10th straight victory in the series.

The Monarchs (2-7), coming off an 88-80 overtime loss to fifth-ranked North Carolina last week, were scrappy and aggressive but couldn't do enough defensively despite shooting 46 percent (28 of 61).

Tennessee shot 52 percent (26 of 50) from the floor and went 24 of 28 from the foul line. Old Dominion had only seven chances at the line and made six.

Clarett turns himself in on robbery charges

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio

Former Ohio State running back Maurice Clarett turned himself in Monday night on charges of robbing two people at gunpoint in an alley behind a bar.

Clarett turned himself in after 9 p.m. at the county jail, Columbus (Ohio) Detective Art Hughes said.

The 22-year-old former player, who helped the Buckeyes win the national championship in 2002, was wanted on two counts of aggravated robbery. He is accused of flashing a gun and demanding property from a man and a woman behind the Opium Lounge in downtown Columbus shortly before 2 a.m. Sunday.

Police said he fled with two men in a sport utility vehicle after he was identified by the bar owner, who happened to come out into the alley.

After helping Ohio State win the title, Clarett was suspended the next season after he was charged with filing a false police report.



Former NASCAR driver Geoff Bodine slides through a curve at the Verizon Sports Complex bobsled track in Lake Placid, N.Y., on Nov. 8.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL: BOWL GAMES



Auburn quarterback Brandon Cox, bottom, is sacked by Wisconsin's Nick Hayden during the first half of the Capital One Bowl in Orlando, Fla., on Monday.

Badgers win for coach

Wisconsin sends off Alvarez by beating Auburn

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla.

With a masterful offensive performance and a surprisingly stingy defense, the Wisconsin Badgers gave coach Barry Alvarez a proper send-off.

Brian Calhoun rushed for 213 yards, John Stocco passed for 301, and Brandon Williams had 173 yards receiving, lifting the No. 21 Badgers to a 24-10 victory against No. 7 Auburn in the Capital One Bowl on Monday.

It was the perfect tribute to a coach who restored pride to a down-and-out program.

"We wanted to be on," said Stocco, who threw two touchdown passes. "We just wanted to thank him for everything he's done, not just this year but since he's been here.

"This is coach's day. It just feels great to send him out of here like this."

The 10½-point underdog Badgers (10-3) were in control throughout against the Tigers (9-3), who flopped after ending the regular season with wins against Georgia and Alabama.

Alvarez never let his coaching finale be about himself, but the Badgers' near-flawless performance offered a fine opportunity for a little reflection.

"The main thing I'm most proud of is that we brought pride back to our fans for our football program," Alvarez said.

It was a fitting farewell for Alvarez, who led Wisconsin to eight bowl wins in 16 seasons and now will focus on his duties as athletic director. The Badgers were 1-5 all-time in the postseason before his arrival and sent him off with his fourth 10-win season.

Wisconsin amassed 311 yards and a 17-0 lead in the first half, leaving little doubt that Alvarez



Louisville's Breno Giacomini, center, is tackled by the Virginia Tech defense during the first quarter of the Gator Bowl in Jacksonville, Fla., on Monday.

would get to celebrate another big win.

The architect of numerous firsts for Wisconsin, Alvarez became the first Badgers coach to win his finale since Milt Bruhn in 1966. Defensive coordinator Bret Bielema takes over as coach.

Alvarez declined to rate the victory.

"I hate to rank wins because I love them all," he said. "Nobody enjoys winning more than me."

In other bowl games

GATOR BOWL

No. 12 Virginia Tech 35 No. 15 Louisville 24

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Virginia Tech players danced around the field, pausing for hugs, posing for photographs and praising their come-from-behind victory.

The Hokies had a much better experience in the River City this time around.

Marcus Vick threw two touchdown passes, Cedric Humes ran for 113 yards and a score, and No. 12 Virginia Tech rallied to beat 15th-ranked Louisville.

The Hokies overcame numerous penalties, the absence of a key offensive

lineman and the ejection of a defensive leader to rebound from a surprising loss to Florida State on the same field in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game a month ago.

"This is a much better feeling than when we were here last time," tight end Jeff Kind said. "We wanted to get out on a better note than what we showed when we played Florida State. We had a lot of guys come in and step up. That's what good teams will do to get back on the winning track."

Tech (11-2) scored on three consecutive possessions in the second half, turning a 17-10 deficit into a 28-24 lead. James Anderson sealed the victory when he intercepted Hunter Cantwell's pass and returned it 39 yards for a touchdown with 5:04 to play.

OUTBACK BOWL

No. 16 Florida 31 No. 25 Iowa 24

TAMPA, Fla. — When Urban Meyer talks about Florida football, he singles out Vernell Brown.

"If there's a poster or something out there that says 'Florida Gators,' I want his mug right there," Meyer said after Brown, who broke his leg two months ago, came back Monday and scored on

an interception to help Florida beat No. 25 Iowa.

"I want people to see Vernell Brown," the coach said of his cornerback. "He's what we stand for."

Chris Leak threw for 277 yards, while Dallas Baker scored on passes of 24 and 38 yards and finished with 10 catches for 147 yards for the 16th-ranked Gators (9-3). With the victory, Meyer matched Ray Graves (1960) and Steve Spurrier (1990) for most victories for a coach in his first season at Florida.

Brown, who broke his left leg against Vanderbilt on Nov. 5 and missed the final two games of the season, picked off an overthrown pass and returned it 60 yards. Tremaine McCollum ran 6 yards with a blocked punt for another TD to help the Gators build a 24-7 halftime lead.

COTTON BOWL

No. 13 Alabama 13 No. 18 Texas Tech 10

DALLAS — As soon as the ball left Jamie Christensen's foot, the only way to describe his 45-yard field goal attempt was "ugly."

It was low, it was wobbly and it had a sideways spin that seemed certain to make the ball hook left even if it had enough oomph to reach the crossbar.

Then it twirled through the bottom left corner of the goalpost, giving the No. 13 Crimson Tide a win against No. 18 Texas Tech, ending a two-game losing streak and rewarding a senior class that's been through a lot with a finish they'll never forget.

Just that quickly, it became one of the most beautiful kicks in Alabama history. "I hit the ground," Christensen said. "I'm glad it just had the distance and I got it there."

Christensen, a sophomore who'd won consecutive games in October in the closing seconds, joined Joe Montana as heroes of the most dramatic finishes in the 70-year history of the Cotton Bowl.

While Montana overcame illness and bitter weather to lead Notre Dame past Houston 35-34 in 1979, Christensen battled back from missing a 39-yarder and having a 38-yard attempt blocked.

The game-winner was the longest field goal of Christensen's career.

Orange Bowl coaches keep downplaying rare matchup

By NANCY ARMOUR
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI

Bobby Bowden and Joe Paterno have tried for weeks to turn the attention away from themselves.

The Orange Bowl is about the kids, they insist, one traditional powerhouse trying to put an exclamation point on its comeback and another trying to dig its way out of malaise. No one cares about a couple of 70-year-olds, even if they are the winningest coaches in major college history.

Uh-huh. No matter how hard Bowden and Paterno try to spin it, tonight's meeting between No. 3 Penn State (10-1) and No. 22 Florida State (8-4) is all about those old guys on the sidelines.

"For somebody to say it's not a big deal, I think they'd be lying," Florida State running back Lorenzo Booker said. "This is like a once-in-a-lifetime deal, and it's not going to happen for another century. We won't be alive, because you have to coach a long time to do what these guys have done."

Bowden and Paterno are models of both longevity and success in a profession that thrives on turmoil.

Bowden holds the major college record with 359 wins, and Paterno is right behind him at 353. Both are in their 70s: Paterno celebrated his 79th birthday two weeks ago, and Bowden turned 76 in November.

And both have been head coaches for 40 years. Paterno has spent his entire career at Penn State, while Bowden is in his 30th year at Florida State.

To appreciate just how rare that kind of stability is, consider that the other Division I-A schools have made 773 coaching changes in the time Paterno has been at Penn State.

"Both teams realize that we are led by great coaches, coaches that will be remembered forever," Penn State linebacker Paul Poslusny said. "It's an honor to be a part of this game."

Hearing that kind of talk makes Paterno and Bowden cringe.

The good friends know their rare matchup is of some interest — this will be only their eighth meeting, and first since 1990 — but they don't want it to be the entire story.

"I don't look at it as something personal," Paterno said Monday. "All I wanted to do was make sure everyone knew that we have a good football team."



Florida State coach Bobby Bowden, top, and Penn State coach Joe Paterno will lead their teams into the Orange Bowl tonight in Miami.

• Woes

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

free on a 60-yard touchdown run to seal the victory with 1:46 to play.

"First of all, I want to let you know that sitting out of last year's bowl, I didn't think about that as much as you probably think I did," Smith said. "To me, this year's seniors, this group of guys on the field, that's what it was

about. I don't like taking a lot of credit for what goes on on the field because it takes 11 guys."

Forget the stereotype of plodding but powerful Ohio State; the Buckeyes won with sheer speed.

Ginn caught eight passes for 167 yards. He zigzagged into the end zone on his long run to help the Buckeyes take a 21-7 halftime lead en route to their third Fiesta Bowl victory in four years. Holmes caught five passes for 124 yards.

The intricate, efficient offense that Weis brought with him from

the New England Patriots sputtered early before the Irish mounted a comeback that cut the lead to seven in the fourth quarter.

A.J. Hawk, Ohio State's Lombardi Award-winning linebacker and the game's defensive MVP, sacked his girlfriend's brother, Brady Quinn, twice. He also ran down Quinn to stop a third-down play early in the fourth quarter.

Quinn, a third-team all-American behind Matt Leinart and Vince Young of Texas, completed 29 of 45 for 286 yards but no touchdowns. Walker gained 90 yards in

16 attempts.

The teams met for only the fifth time in their storied histories and for the first time in a bowl game.

The Irish gave up a season-high 617 yards, 275 on the ground.

A crucial play came when a video replay nullified what would have been an Ohio State turnover in the third quarter.

With Notre Dame trailing 21-13 and the Buckeyes driving, Smith threw over the middle to Anthony Gonzalez, who dropped the ball at the Irish 12. Tom Zbikowski picked it up for Notre Dame and

ran 88 yards to the end zone.

An illegal block would have brought it back to the Buckeyes' 21, but a video review of the play showed Gonzalez juggled the ball, and it was ruled an incomplete.

"That was the play," Weis said. "What I said to the official on the field is, 'I hope your guy upstairs was right, because that changed the whole complexion of the game.'"

Josh Huston kicked a 40-yard field goal, and Ohio State led 24-13 late in the third quarter and maintained the momentum.

• Ride

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

"I'm just not sure what I was thinking when I accepted," Schrader said with his customary smile. "Looks a little bit dangerous to me. We're not going to start up at the top. That's good. And I think the brake pedal works."

Schrader is one of at least 10 current or former NASCAR drivers who have agreed to take part in the Geoff Bodine Bobsled Challenge, an effort to raise funds to keep the U.S. men's and women's bobsled teams at the forefront of international racing.

The list includes Boris Said, Kenny Wallace, Dick Trickle, Steve

Park, Randy LaJoie, Kevin LePage, Joel Kauffman, Stanton Barrett and Bodine's brother, Todd Bodine.

Current Nextel Cup champion Tony Stewart also could be in the mix if he's able to find an opening in his hectic schedule.

"I'm hoping I can because I'd really love to," Stewart said. "It sounds like a real blast, and I'm really interested in the sport and the people involved in it. It's a really tough sport."

Geoff Bodine knows that firsthand. After watching the 1992 Winter Olympics on television and noticing the U.S. teams competed with European-made sleds, he created the Bo-Dyn Bobsled Project Inc. to help make nice U.S. sleds would be made in America.

Bodine's efforts have since

helped provide the U.S. Bobsled and Skeleton Federation with sleds designed involving NASCAR technology. The so-called Bo-Dyn sleds finally broke through at the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City when the U.S. team ended its 46-year Olympic drought with three medals: a gold, a silver and a bronze.

With NASCAR's popularity soaring and the Winter Olympics coming up next month, Bodine figured the time was right for the event, which runs through Saturday.

"I need to take the project to the next level," said Bodine, voted in 1998 as one of NASCAR's top 50 career drivers.

Some drivers will be in familiar territory. In 1997, LaJoie rode in a bobsled with five-time Olympian Brian Shimer, who

won the four-man bronze at Salt Lake City.

"I wanted to get out halfway down," LaJoie said. "It was a different speed than I had ever experienced."

Said, whose father drove for the U.S. bobsled team in the 1968 and 1972 Winter Games, can relate to that. He took a few rides down the old track in Lake Placid in 1980, and the experience left a lasting impression.

"It still, to this day, is one of the fastest, most exciting things I've done, especially without a motor," recalled Said, one of NASCAR's top road racers. "I can remember it like it was yesterday. You can't believe how fast you accelerate."

"Hopefully, we can get some rides from the top. That's what these guys need."