

SCOREBOARD

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NBA

Table with Eastern Conference Atlantic Division, Southeast Division, Central Division, Western Conference Southwest Division, Northwest Division, and Pacific Division. Columns include Team, W, L, Pct, GB.

Table with Tuesday's games, Wednesday's summary, and Friday's games. Lists game results and scores.

Table with Men's college basketball, Midwest, and NHL. Lists game results and scores.

Table with Women's college basketball, Midwest, and NHL. Lists game results and scores.

MAIN EVENTS

TV TODAY

NBA Dallas Mavericks at Houston Rockets, 8 p.m., TNT Cleveland Cavaliers at Los Angeles Lakers, 10:30 p.m., Fox Sports

Men's college basketball Providence at Notre Dame, 7 p.m., ESPN Massachusetts at Fordham, 9 p.m., ESPN2 UCLA at Arizona State, 8:30 p.m., Fox Sports Oregon State at Stanford, 10:30 p.m., Fox Sports

Women's college basketball Maryland at Florida State, 7 p.m., ESPN

SPECTATOR SPORTS

Boys swimming and diving Indian Creek Sectional preliminaries: Center Grove, Franklin, Greenwood, Indian Creek and Whiteland, 5:30 p.m.

Boys basketball Lighthouse Christian at Greenwood Christian Academy, 7 p.m.

Franklin College Men's basketball: Defiance at Franklin, 7:30 p.m. Women's basketball: Franklin at Defiance, 7:30 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.

Table with columns for Team, W, L, OT, Pts, GF, GA. Lists game results for various teams.

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League for RHP Hunter Davis. Can-Am League GRAYS—Traded C-INP Mike Torres to North Shore for OF Shaun Lehmann, LHP Craig Snipp and future considerations.

NEW JERSEY JACKALS—Agreed to terms with INF Marcos Jose Moreno and RHP Ben Thurmond. Traded RHP Joe Oroski to Atlantic City for cash and a player to be named.

CHILLICOTHE PAINTS—Agreed to terms with INF Travis Garcia, RHP Perry Cunningham, RHP Justin Drabek and RHP Eric Teague.

GATEWAY GRIZZLIES—Agreed to terms with RHP Steve Dunham and RHP Todd Boessen. Announced the retirement of RHP Rob Blumberg.

KALAMAZOO KINGS—Agreed to terms with INF Kyle Kmieciak, RHP Jeff Long and RHP Dan Caldwell.

WASHINGTON WILD THINGS—Agreed to terms with LHP Jason Duncan.

WINDY CITY THUNDERBOLTS—Traded LHP Andrew Coffey to San Angelo of the United League for a player to be named.

ALEXANDRIA ACES—Agreed to terms with RHP Kevin Cassidy and P Luis Galarraga.

EDINBURG COYOTES—Agreed to terms with RHP Rosalio Rosales and OF Donnie Poles.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY WHITEWINGS—Agreed to terms with OF Julian Williams and RHP Brad Kirsch.

ANAHEIM ARSENAL—Signed F Jamaal Williams. Announced F Corsey Edwards has left the team.

COLORADO 14ERS—Signed C Manual Narvaez. Waived G Eric Omsundson.

FORT WORTH FLYERS—Signed G Antoine Jordan.

IDAHO STAMPEDE—Announced F Jeff Graves has left the team.

NFL—Named Ray Anderson executive vice president of football operations.

ARIZONA CARDINALS—Named Ron Aiken defensive line coach.

BUFFALO BILLS—Released WR Troy Bergeron.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS—Signed WR Devin Aromahodu, C Albert Blimber, QB Josh Betts, DB Tanard Davis, FB Luke Lawton and OT Michael Touzeu from the practice squad.

MIAMI DOLPHINS—Signed TE Aaron Halterman. Waived WR Chris Davis, S Jack Hunt and S Norman LeJeune.

NEW YORK RANGERS—Recalled D Mark Fraser from Lowell of the AHL.

STEPHEN VALQUETTE FROM HARTFORD OF THE AHL. PLACED G KEVIN WEEKES ON INJURED RESERVE.

OMAHA KNIGHTS—Recalled C Chris Neiszer from Las Vegas of the ECHL.

FINED THE LONG BEACH ICE DOGS ORGANIZATION AN UNDISCLOSED AMOUNT FOR PLAYING AN ILLEGAL PLAYER IN ITS 4-2 LOSS AT UTAH ON FEB. 7.

TULSA OILERS—Waived RW Marlon Joseph.

MUSKIEGON FURY—Signed D Brett Angel.

FURMAN—Named Tom Evangelista cornerbacks coach and special teams coordinator.

KANSAS STATE—Announced the resignation of Wesley McGriff, defensive backs coach, to take an assistant coaching position at Miami.

LOUISIANA-MONROE—Agreed to terms with Orlando Early, men's basketball coach, on a three-year contract extension.

OREGON—Named Pat Kilkenny athletic director.

SOUTH CAROLINA—Named Shane Beamer outside linebackers coach and special teams co-coordinator.

UAB—Named Brian Mackin athletic director.

UCLA—Named Bob Connelly offensive line coach.

Franklin grad earns conference honor

By WALT VANDERBUSH DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

University of Dayton baseball player, redshirt sophomore Jeff Mercer, who did not play last year to be with his ill brother, was named Atlantic 10 Baseball Player of the Week as a result of his performance in the Flyers' opening three-game series against Wofford.



MERCER

Franklin

Western Kentucky freshman Bart Carter was the winning pitcher in his first collegiate game, pitching 2 1/2 innings in relief in the Hilltoppers' season opening 4-2 win against UNC-Wilmington.

He allowed three hits and one earned run while striking out one batter and walking none. In an 11-5 win against Oklahoma, Carter was brought in with two runners on base and no outs and retired the next three batters, one on strikes, without allowing a run.

Central Michigan senior distance runner Jeff Powers set a meet record in winning the 5,000-meter run in 14:13.25 at the Horace Ashenfelter III Indoor Track and Field Meet in a 21-runner field at Penn State.

The defending Mid-American Conference Indoor 5,000- and 10,000-meter champion won by more than 14 seconds over the second-place finisher from Ohio State and will defend his MAC titles in two weeks.

Jeff's performance was just awesome and very impressive," CMU head coach Jim Knapp said. "He just missed the national qualifying time and absolutely ran away from the field in the race. I was very proud of his effort tonight."

This was Powers' first race of the season. Ohio State's Jessie Stringer, competing in the Horace Ashenfelter III Indoor Track and Field Meet at Penn State, was third of 30 competitors in the women's high jump with a leap of 5-foot-10, which is the NCAA provisional qualifying height.

Marian College runner Jessica VanVleet was 13th of 22 runners in the 5,000 meters (20:22.90) and 27th of 34 in the 3,000 meters (11:47.99) at the DePauw Invitational Indoor Track and Field Meet.

Competing in the North Coast Athletic Conference Championships, Wooster's Kyle Oaks was 20th out of 58 swimmers in the 50-yard freestyle preliminaries (22.27) and third in the "C" Final (22.18). His finals time was better than five swimmers in the "B" final. He was 20th of 46 in the 100 freestyle preliminary (49.03) and was 21st in the finals (49.22).

The Purdue wrestlers lost 29-7 to Illinois. Sean Schmalz was defeated 8-0 at 133 pounds.

St. Ambrose volleyball player Mike Chipman is second on his team with 1.94 digs per game in 16 games. St. Ambrose is 7-4.

Center Grove

The Ball State men's tennis team defeated Valparaiso and University of Indianapolis by 7-0 scores. Joe Epkewy won 6-7, 6-1, 6-2 at No. 1 singles and 8-7 at No. 1 doubles against the Crusaders and 6-1, 6-1 in singles and 8-3 in doubles against the Greyhounds.

Butler's Evan West won 6-3, 6-4 at No. 4 singles and lost 8-4 at No. 3 doubles in the Bulldogs' 4-3 men's tennis loss to Illinois State.

IUPUI's men's tennis team fell 6-1 to Cleveland State. Blake Powers lost 6-0, 7-5 at No. 6 singles.

The Vincennes men's tennis team defeated IU-Southeast 6-2 in its season opener. Freshman Binky Nikou won 6-3, 7-5 at No. 1 singles and 8-2 at No. 1 doubles.

The University of Indianapolis women's tennis team lost 9-0 to California of Pennsylvania and 5-4 to Slippery Rock. Freshman Melanie Sullivan lost 6-1, 6-2 at No. 4 singles and 8-2 at No. 3 doubles against California and 6-2, 6-2 in singles and 8-3 at No. 2 doubles with partner Megan Farley against Slippery Rock.

The Evansville women's tennis team (5-0) defeated Wright State (6-2) and Eastern Kentucky (5-2). Stephanie Mills won 6-0, 6-1 at No. 6 singles and 8-4 at No. 3 doubles against the Colonels and lost 7-6, 6-4 in singles while winning 8-4 in doubles against the Raiders.

J.B. Paxson made his debut with the Western Kentucky baseball team in wins against UNC-Wilmington (4-2) and Oklahoma (11-5) and a loss to South Carolina (12-0). The Hilltopper catcher was 3 for 11 at the plate in the three games and scored one run.

Indiana long jumper Tyler Skelton finished ninth of 37 competitors with a jump of 23 feet, 1/2-inch at the Tyson Invitational Indoor Track and Field Meet at the University of Arkansas.

The Marian men's track and field team competed in the 23-team DePauw Indoor Track and Field Invitational and finished in 12th place. Ty Jessup was 11th of 42 competitors in the shot put (44 feet, 2 inches) and 25th of 29 in the weight throw (33 feet, 8 inches). Josh Graham was 25th of 32 in the long jump (18 feet, 6 1/2 inches), 35th of 44 in the 400-meter dash (56.20) and 15th in the triple jump (37 feet, 4 inches).

DePauw's Amanda Meyer was 18th of 32 in the mile run (5:40.10) at the DePauw

COLLEGE UPDATE

Indoor Track and Field Invitational. Angela Blankenship had a career best score of 9.20 on the balance beam and a third place finish in Wisconsin-Stout's 182-150 to 175-875 loss to Wisconsin-La Crosse. The freshman was seventh on the floor (8.85) and uneven bars (8.40), 12th on the vault (7.25) and fifth all-around (33.70).

The Wabash swimmers finished third of nine teams in the North Coast Athletic Conference Championships. Pete Hewitt was 16th of 29 in the 200-yard backstroke preliminaries (2:05.46) and last in the "B" final (2:10.08). He was 28th of 38 in the 200-yard IM preliminaries (2:05.54).

The University of Indianapolis women's basketball team (13-8) lost to Kentucky Wesleyan (68-63) and defeated Central State, Ohio (61-49). Deanna Thomson had four points (3 for 15, 0 for 4, 0 for 0), 11 rebounds, four assists, one blocked shot and one steal in 48 minutes in the two games.

The St. Joseph's women's basketball team (4-18, 1-13) lost to Kentucky Wesleyan (76-60) and Missouri-St. Louis (74-59). Molly Lauck led the Pumas with eight rebounds in 16 minutes in the KWU loss and had two points (0 for 1, 0 for 0, 2 for 4), two assists and one steal. She had five points (2 for 3, 0 for 0, 1 for 1), four rebounds and one assist in 18 minutes against Missouri-St. Louis.

Ohio Wesleyan's Stacy Aaron was three for three from 3-point range in the Bishops' (13-10, 8-6) women's basketball losses to Kenyon (56-49) and Wittenberg (70-54). The 5-foot, 5-inch sophomore had nine points (3 for 3, 3 for 3, 0 for 0) and two rebounds in 14 minutes in the two games.

The Mount St. Joseph women's basketball team (6-17, 1-14) lost to Rose-Hulman (62-43) and Franklin (66-52). Maria Eichold led the Lions in scoring with 13 points (5 for 13, 0 for 0, 3 for 6) and rebounds (7) against the Grizzlies in 35 minutes. She had 12 points (5 for 11, 0 for 0, 2 for 2), four rebounds and one steal in 32 minutes against Rose-Hulman.

Andrew Menner was a member of the University of Southern Indiana medley relay team which ran an NCAA Division II qualifying time at the Iowa State Indoor Track and Field Classic. The relay was 15th of 24 teams, many of which were Division I. The freshman was 66th of 71 in the mile with a time of 4:33.10.

Jennifer Patrick had team highs of 15 points (5 for 7, 1 for 2, 4 for 5) and eight rebounds, along with one blocked shot and one steal, in Brescia's women's basketball win against Oakland City (53-44). In a 66-59 loss to Columbia, she had 18 points (6 for 11, 3 for 6, 3 for 4), a team-high 13 rebounds and one steal in 33 minutes.

The Eastern Illinois women's basketball team (9-16, 6-10) defeated Austin Peay (79-61) and Tennessee-Martin (52-44). Jessica Huffman led the Panthers in scoring against UT-Martin with 22 points (6 for 15, 3 for 4, 7 for 9) and had seven rebounds, five assists, two steals and one assist in 37 minutes. She had 14 points (5 for 10, 0 for 0, 4 for 4), five rebounds, a team-high five assists, one steal and one blocked shot in 32 minutes against the Governors.

University of Indianapolis wrestler Mike Horton won the 157-pound championship at the 10-team Ed South Invitational Tournament at Carson Newman in Tennessee. The Greyhounds finished fifth.

The Huntington men's tennis team lost 6-3 to Alma. Daron Short lost 6-2, 4-6 (10-8) at No. 3 singles and 8-5 at No. 2 doubles.

Huntington's Adam Widener was fourth of seven in the 500-meter run (1:12.61) in the seven-team Ohio Northern Indoor Track and Field Invitational. The Foresters were fourth. In the Taylor University Invitational, the sophomore was 10th of 11 in the 600 meters (1:31.98).

Anderson University football player Jake Scott has transferred to Marian College, which will field its first football team next season.

J.R. Angle made his only shot, a 3-pointer, and had one rebound and one assist in Iowa's 91-78 men's basketball win against Minnesota.

Marian runner Kyle Murray finished second of 33 competitors (4:24.86) in the mile run at The DePauw Indoor Track and Field Invitational and 17th of 28 in the 800 meters (2:06.54). Shawn Murray was 34th of 45 in the 3,000 meters (9:57.27) and 30th of 33 in the 5,000 meters (17:23.60).

The Asbury men's basketball team (19-7, 5-1) won against IU-Southeast (100-82) and Boyce (77-40). Matt Pittman had six points (2 for 6, 0 for 1, 2 for 2), 12 assists, four rebounds, and six steals in 36 minutes in the two wins. Jon Ensign had five points (2 for 3, 0 for 0, 1 for 2), four rebounds, three steals and two assists in 23 minutes.

The Marian men's basketball team (8-15, 3-12) won 68-65 in overtime against Grace and lost 71-56 to St. Francis. Freshman Matt Allee had 16 points (6 for 19, 0 for 3, 4 for 4), eight rebounds, seven assists, two steals and one blocked shot in 72 minutes in the two games.

Walt Vanderbush is a former principal at Franklin Community High School. Ideas for the weekly College Update should be sent to sports editor Rick Morwick at rmorwick@thejournalnet.com.

WEDNESDAY'S NCAA BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

The Associated Press

MEN

Illinois State 68 Indiana State 53

TERRE HAUTE — Levi Dyer scored 18 points to lead Illinois State to a victory against Indiana State.

Dyer scored 11 of his points in the second half as the Redbirds (13-14, 5-11 Missouri Valley Conference) shot 15-of-24 (63 percent) from the floor in the second period.

Greg Dillgard and Anthony Slack each added 12 points for Illinois State.

Cole Holmstrom and Adam Arnold both scored 11 points to lead the Sycamores (12-14, 5-11) in their 10th loss of the past 11 games.

Indiana State led 8-3 on Trent Wurtz's layup with 16:31 left in the first half, but the Redbirds took the lead for good when Osiris Eldridge hit a jumper with 12:18 remaining in the half.

No. 3 Wisconsin 75 Minnesota 62

MINNEAPOLIS — Alando Tucker helped third-ranked Wisconsin overcome a flat first half, scoring 29 points to lead the Badgers in a victory.

Kammron Taylor added 12 points and Michael Flowers had 11 points for the Badgers (25-2, 11-1), who maintained their tie with Ohio State for first place in the Big Ten.

Lawrence McKenzie, who didn't start for the second straight game, led the Gophers with 21 points.

Spencer Tollackson added 13 points and Dan Coleman chipped in 12 points for Minnesota (9-17, 3-9), which must host the second-ranked Buckeyes on Sunday and play at third-place Indiana next week. The Gophers have lost 11 of their past 12 games against Wisconsin.

Minnesota, as stingy on defense as it has been all season, just didn't have the depth, size or strength to keep up. The Badgers drew 23 fouls and went 21 for 31 from the free-throw line, against only 18 attempts for the Gophers. They made 14.

Minnesota's timely long-range shooting made this a competitive game for about 35 minutes. Coleman's 3-pointer near the 5-minute mark cut the lead to 57-53, but the Gophers couldn't come closer.

Season

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

plus for NASCAR as the United States continues its transition into a branch of Mexico.

Whether these changes work could determine NASCAR's fate. If they don't, it will be interesting to see what else NASCAR officials have up their sleeves.

Full-Force hype

Speaking of hype machines, the one for National Hot Rod Association Funny Car rookie Ashley Force seems to be in full gear.

Force made her Funny Car debut in this past weekend's season opener in Pomona, Calif. She lost in the first round to brother-in-law Robert Hight when her Mustang lost traction.

The NHRA has been desperately searching for its version of Danica Patrick ever since Patrick became a sensation by almost winning in the Indy Racing League.

Previous attempts haven't produced results: Top Fuel driver Melanie

Troxel, who faded quickly after a fast start last season; inexperienced Top Fuel driver Hillary Will; ineffective Pro Stock driver Erica Enders; and Pro Stock Motorcycle driver Angelle Sampey, who frequently wins but has an abrasive personality.

But Force seems to have a potential as a driver; she's attractive and personable; she has the wealth of her father, Funny Car champion John Force, behind her; and she is part of a reality TV show, albeit an awful one.

One sign that Force is becoming the Danica of drag racing: The Associated Press, which rarely sends drag-racing stories to all of its member media outlets, covered Force's debut and little else at the NHRA Winternationals.

Their story from Sunday's finals focused almost entirely on Force's first-round loss and threw in at the end — as if to say, "Who cares?" — a paragraph on the men who won in the three professional categories.

Pit stops

Brian Tyler, driving the Team Six-R entry co-owned by Bill Ertel of Franklin, finished eighth in the United States Auto Club Silver Crown Series

season-opener at Manzanita Speedway in Phoenix on Saturday.

Team Six-R teammate Mike Murgioito finished 14th in the feature race after having flipped his car in his heat race. Dave Darland, driving the Foxco entry co-owned by Mike Jarvis of Franklin, finished 15th. The next race in the series is March 22 and 23 at Miami-Homestead (Fla.) Speedway.

Officials of Twin Cities Raceway Park in Vernon recently announced that the track will kick off the 2007 season with a swap meet and car show March 17.

The swap meet will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with the car show from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is free. Participants in the swap meet must pay a \$20 fee. The track's season-opener is slated for April 7.

Paragon Speedway officials also recently announced that the track will host a swap meet and practice starting at 3 p.m. April 15.

The track's season opener is scheduled for April 21.

Assistant sports editor Jeff Decker covers motorsports for the Daily Journal. He can be reached by phone at 736-2734 or by e-mail at jdecker@thejournalnet.com.