

FRANKLIN COLLEGE BASKETBALL

FC women end three-game skid

By STEVE McCLURE

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

The Franklin College women's basketball team halted a three-game skid Saturday with a 66-52 win against visiting conference foe Mount St. Joseph.

Franklin built a 21-6 lead early and led by nine at the half, 29-20.

The Grizzlies held the Lions to five first-half field goals on 5-of-24 shooting.

Mount St. Joseph got within four points at 43-39 with 9:21 remaining before junior guard Courtney Swain's outside shooting helped Franklin get back to a 50-40 advantage.

Brittany Beehler, the 5-foot-3 senior point guard, sealed the victory in the final minutes going 6 for 6 from the free-throw line. She also dished out nine assists.

Swain led all scorers with 18 points, including three 3-pointers. Junior forward Jennifer Redicker added 10 points and six rebounds for the Grizzlies.

Center Grove graduate Maria Eichhold led the Lions with 13 points.

With only four teams competing

this year in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference postseason tournament, fifth-place Franklin will be on the sidelines.

"I think from top to bottom, our conference has been really solid," coach Kim Eiler said. "There's a lot of parity. So, it's really unfortunate."

The Grizzlies (14-9, 9-5) will finish their season with games at Defiance on Wednesday and Anderson on Saturday.

Seniors honored

Senior night honors highlighted the careers of Beehler, Katie Douglas, Rachelle Durcholz and Kallie Kovert.

Beehler holds school records for single-season assists (184) and career assists (563).

"Being here has definitely helped get through four years of college," Beehler said. "I've had so many great teammates and good friends."

Douglas has been a rebounding force and scored a career-high 22 points earlier this season.

"I'm so glad I came to school here," Douglas said. "I couldn't imagine my life without this. These girls have meant the world to me."

TENNIS

OSTRAVA, Czech Republic

U.S., Roddick bounce Czechs from Davis Cup

Andy Roddick kicked the red powder off his shoes one final time Sunday,

happy to be done with clay and ready to return to the hardcourts back home for the Davis Cup quarterfinals.

Roddick beat Tomas Berdych 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 7-6 (4) Sunday to lead the United States to a 4-1 victory over the Czech Republic in the first round of the World Group.

"As far as the weight of the situation goes," Roddick said, "It definitely could be one of my best matches on clay."

The victory gave the Americans an insurmountable lead in the best-of-five format, and Roddick ran his record to 8-0 in Davis Cup matches with victory on the line. In the final match, which had no bearing on the outcome, Bob Bryan beat Lukas Dlouhy 7-6 (5), 6-4.

The United States will next play Spain in Winston-Salem, N.C., in April. It will be a rematch of the 2004 final in Seville, when the Spanish hosts beat the Americans on clay spread so thick it took any sting out of the U.S. game.



RODDICK

Mickelson picks up 30th career victory

By DOUG FERGUSON

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif.

Anyone worried that Phil Mickelson was emotionally scarred by that U.S. Open collapse can relax.

Mickelson finally got his season on track Sunday by closing with a 6-under 66 under surprising sunshine to tie the tournament record at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am and win by five shots for the 30th victory of his career.

Mickelson overcame a double bogey with a lost ball early in the round with three birdies in a four-hole stretch along the ocean, turning a tight race into another runaway. He matched the largest margin of victory at this tournament, winning by five shots against Kevin Sutherland.

It was the 11th time in 15 seasons that Mickelson won on the West Coast Swing, and the timing couldn't have been better. He had started his season slowly, allowing the conversation to linger on his gaffe last summer at Winged Foot, when he chopped his way to a double bogey on the final hole to lose the U.S. Open.

Now, he looks as if he's about to hit his stride.



AP PHOTO

Phil Mickelson chips to the third hole during the final round of the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament Sunday in Pebble Beach, Calif.

Mickelson finished at 20-under 268, tying the tournament record at Pebble Beach set in 1997 by Mark O'Meara. He earned \$990,000, making him the third person in tour history to surpass \$40 million in career earnings.

Sutherland, in the final group for the second time in three weeks, hit over the ninth green and took double bogey to fall out of contention. He also missed a half-dozen putts inside 8 feet, but his birdie on the 18th for a 71 gave him second place and kept

Mickelson from the largest margin of victory since Bing Crosby created this tournament in 1937.

John Mallinger, a 27-year-old rookie, closed with a 71 and finished third. He had the lead for about 15 minutes after making birdie on the par-5 sixth, while Mickelson in the group behind him lost his tee shot and took double bogey on No. 5.

No one could keep up with Mickelson, however.

He dropped only one shot the rest of the round and easily won Pebble Beach for the third time in his career. O'Meara with five titles at Pebble is the only player with more.

"This is exciting," Mickelson said. "I've gotten off to a good start. It gives me momentum, and I can't wait for next week and the upcoming majors. I'm really excited about the year."

When asked about his U.S. Open collapse during the trophy presentation, Mickelson referred to it as the "Winged Foot thing," and how it taught him that he needed to improve his driving. That was what he did best this week, hitting it every shape and trajectory he wanted, usually in the short grass.

FC men win to secure first-place tie in HCAC

Special to the Daily Journal

CINCINNATI

The Franklin College men's basketball team scored a key road win Saturday against Mount St. Joseph and moved into a three-way tie for first place in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference.

Franklin trailed briefly at the start, led by as many as seven points in the first half and held a two-point edge at the intermission even though the host Lions shot 67 percent from the field in the opening period.

The Grizzlies never relinquished their advantage in the second half.

Though Franklin was out-shot in terms of percentage, the Grizzlies had eight more field-goal attempts, hit eight 3-point baskets to the Lions' three and grabbed 15 offensive rebounds to Mount St. Joseph's seven.

"(The Lions) shot it well, but offensively we made up enough of a difference in those three areas to get a cushion," said Franklin coach Kerry Prather, whose team improved to 14-9 overall.

The Grizzlies exhibited their

usual balanced scoring attack with junior forward Marty Young leading the way with 20 points and a game-best 11 rebounds (out of Franklin's total of 27), including eight offensive boards.

Sophomore guard Dustin Marshall had 15 points and sophomore guard Jace Redman scored 13.

Mount St. Joseph (8-6 HCAC, 11-11 overall) was paced by Michael Romes with a game-high 23 points and Tony Blomer with 19.

Prather couldn't be much happier with his team's six league road wins, especially in a conference in which three teams are tied for first place and three others are deadlocked for fourth.

"That's incredible in a league that's this tough and this close," he said.

Only the top four regular-season finishers will play in the HCAC Tournament on Feb. 23-24.

BASEBALL

MINNEAPOLIS

Mauer, Twins agree to \$33 million contract

AL batting champion Joe Mauer and the Twins agreed Sunday to a \$33 million, four-year contract, avoiding salary arbitration and giving one of the team's young stars the security of a long-term deal.

The 23-year-old catcher hit .347 with 84 RBIs last year to help the Twins rally from a 12½-game deficit to win the AL Central on the final day of the regular season. He played in his first All-Star game during the summer.

Selected with the first pick in the 2001 amateur draft out of Cretin-Derham Hall High School in St. Paul, Minn., Mauer was eligible for arbitration this winter for the first time. He became the first catcher to lead the majors in batting average and the first AL catcher to win the batting title.

"We're extremely happy, because there is not a player who belongs with the Twins more than Joe Mauer," his agent Ron Shapiro said Sunday.

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