

Former Greenwood resident Ed Coyle, who now lives in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, owns and manages Rally Raid Mexico Team Yamaha, a two-motorcycle team entered in the Dakar Rally. The rally is a trek of nearly 6,000 miles from Lisbon, Portugal, to Dakar, Senegal, on the west coast of Africa. It began Jan. 6 and concluded Sunday. This was Coyle's first attempt at fielding a team in the annual event.

Daily Journal assistant sports editor and motorsports columnist Jeff Decker is following the progress of Rally Raid Mexico Team Yamaha. The following are excerpts from the team's Web site, www.rallyraidmex.com, written by Juan Diaz Rivera, Coyle's stepson.

One of the team's two riders, Sunny Irvine, completed the race. He went into the final weekend 60th overall and 25th in his class.

#### Posted Sunday

"Today is the crowning loop of thousands of kilometers of racing. It's a short 93 kilometers, of which 16 is the actual last special stage around the Rose Lake (it's a rose tint because of the algae that grows on the salt-rich water).  
"We wake up at 6 a.m., dress, pack



and head to the cab stand. We can't find any cab drivers because its morning prayer, and they are all facing Mecca in the middle of prayer. Being a totally ignorant tourist, I ask a nearby non-Muslim (my assessment since he's not praying) how long this will take. We're worried we will miss the stage. Probably not very sensitive, but such is life. ...

"We arrive at the lake to find that we are an hour early. Nearby we find campground that has a nice palapa restaurant. We sit down to have some coffee and begin to realize what we've done. The realization of what we've done is something that I think will slowly sink in over the next few months and years. ...

"The podium is set up at the end of a stretch of sand with a barrier on both sides of sponsors banners and such. The riders had a shotgun start, 20 bikes every 10 minutes in reverse order to their arrival the previous day. Bikes first, then cars, then trucks. Every bike is allowed to go on the podium, but I don't think all cars were put up there. ...

"Sunny is close to the end of this procession, as he has managed to finish an astounding 58th overall, 14th in his class of first-timers and 22nd in the class of 450cc motorcycles. With a broken foot. ...  
"We find out that we can get on the

## RALLY CAP

stage with him and make the arrangements to do so, and when it's his turn to ride through the arch, we join him at the podium. Over a year's worth of work for my dad, months of preparation for Sunny and tens of thousands of our dollars have led to this moment. Sunny rode nearly 7,916km, of which more than 4,300 were race specials. We drove over 8,000 km to support him. Of 245 motorcycles, only 138 finished. ...

"In a blur, Sunny is interviewed, we all hug, we raise the flag, we give thumbs up, pictures are snapped, and we're off the podium. That quick, but the memories are not over, and the good times will continue. ...

"We come off the podium. Sunny is interviewed and asked all sorts of questions like, 'Why did you do this?' 'What was the most difficult part?' and 'Did you have any promises or goals?' ... We take pictures and retreat to the Bivi. We eat, toast with champagne, pour it all over Mom and Dad. We are all a little drunk with disbelief of being here. What an amazing experience to share this with Sunny, with my parents.

"Although this day had much more going on before we were able to sleep, let's just leave it here for now, as that is sort of where our minds stayed."



A group including former Greenwood resident Ed Coyle, fourth from right, and rider Sunny Irvine, right, celebrate at the conclusion of the Dakar Rally in Dakar, Senegal, on Sunday. Irvine completed nearly 6,000 miles in the event.

## • Sampson

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

The Illini answered with a 10-0 spurt to put the game away.

The game was Indiana coach Kelvin Sampson's first trip to Champaign since a fall recruiting controversy over Indianapolis high schooler Eric Gordon. Gordon orally committed to Illinois in late 2005, then reconsidered and eventually committed to Indiana.

The Big Ten has said Sampson broke no rules by recruiting a player who had already orally committed to another school. But Illini fans showered Sampson with boos as he entered and exited the court.

### In other news

SOUTH BEND

#### Notre Dame suspends McAlarney after arrest

Notre Dame point guard Kyle McAlarney was suspended from school for this semester for his arrest last month on a marijuana possession charge, his mother said Tuesday.

Janice McAlarney said from her home in Staten Island, N.Y., that her son was told Monday that he could not continue to attend classes this semester. She said she's not sure what the suspension means for his future.

"All I know is my son was suspended yesterday from school and he's headed home," she said. "I don't know anything



University of Illinois freshman Stephen Winterroth boos during the introduction of Indiana coach Kelvin Sampson before Tuesday's Big Ten game in Champaign, Ill.

else beyond that. All I know is I'm ashamed of how they did this. ... I'm ashamed of the university. My son is a great kid. He did not deserve this. The punishment did not fit the crime."

A message seeking comment was left for Kyle McAlarney on his cell phone.

Bernie Cafarelli, sports information director, said neither she nor coach Mike Brey could comment because of privacy laws. The team was in New York for a game Tuesday night against St. John's.

McAlarney, a sophomore, started the first 12 games this season for the 22nd-ranked Irish (16-3) and averaged 10.3 points. The Irish have gone 5-2 since McAlarney was suspended from playing.

Two weeks ago McAlarney, 19, entered into a pretrial diversion program that would allow him to have the charge against him dismissed in a year, if he passes random drug tests and stays out of trouble.

McAlarney was arrested after marijuana was discovered in his car Dec. 29 during a routine traffic stop a few blocks from campus. The arrest came hours after he scored a career-high 21 points against Rider.

## TUESDAY'S NCAA ROUNDUP

The Associated Press

### MEN

#### St. John's 71 No. 22 Notre Dame 68

NEW YORK — Larry Wright hit a 3-pointer with 9.9 seconds to play to give St. John's a victory against No. 22 Notre Dame, the Red Storm's second straight last-minute win at Madison Square Garden.

Lamont Hamilton scored all of his 23 points in the first half for St. John's (12-8, 3-4 Big East), which beat Syracuse 64-60 on Sunday on two late 3-pointers by Avery Patterson.

Notre Dame (16-4, 4-3) tied the game at 68-all with 40 seconds to go on the second of two free throws by Colin Falls. The Red Storm called a timeout with 36 seconds left, and they ran the shot clock down just under 10 seconds before passing the ball to Wright in the right corner. The 6-foot-2 freshman reserve buried his third 3 of the game in four attempts.

Notre Dame rushed the ball down court, and Russell Carter's 3-point attempt from about 28 feet bounced off the rim, and the Fighting Irish dropped to 0-3 on the road in the conference.

Carter finished with a career-high 32 points for Notre Dame. He scored all the points in the Irish's 11-0 run to open the second half that got them a 52-49 lead.

#### Villanova 82 Providence 73

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Mike Nardi had a game-high 19 points, and Scottie



Notre Dame's Luke Harangody, left, tries to drive the baseline against Aaron Spears of St. John's during the first half of their game Tuesday at Madison Square Garden in New York.

Reynolds added 18 to lead Villanova past Providence.

It was the third straight victory for the visiting Wildcats (14-5, 3-3).

Sharaud Curry and Dwain Williams had 18 each for the Friars (13-6, 3-3), who had their 12-game home winning streak snapped.

Reynolds put Villanova ahead 55-42 on a 3-pointer five minutes into the second half. Curry, who scored 11 of his points after intermission, fueled a late Friar comeback. Geoff McDermott stole the ball and dunked it with 1:28 left to bring Providence within four at 76-72.

## Gamecocks continue to add to roster

The Associated Press

### COLUMBIA, S.C.

With his Syracuse release in hand, Mike Jones called South Carolina's Dave Odom, asking, "I want to come home."

"Come here," Odom told him.

And so last year's "Mr. Basketball" for the Palmetto State became the latest highly regarded player from the state to start his career elsewhere and then return home.

The 6-foot-8 Jones attended classes Tuesday, officially joining former Cincinnati standout Devan Downey from Chester High and ex-Georgia Tech guard Zam "Buck" Fredrick of Calhoun County (S.C.) High on the Gamecocks' talented waiting list.

Both Downey and Fredrick were also honored with "Mr. Basketball" during their prep careers.

Downey and Fredrick are eligible next season, while Jones, who spent last semester with the Orangemen, must wait until after the fall semester ends to suit up.

That's fine with Jones, who wants to get his academics in order this spring and summer. He'll work out and attend some practices, Odom said.

### TUESDAY'S

## NBA ROUNDUP

The Associated Press

#### Suns 127 Wizards 105

WASHINGTON — Steve Nash and the Phoenix Suns made Gilbert Arenas and the Washington Wizards look more like pretenders than contenders, putting the so-called "Phoenix Suns of the East" in their place with a 22-point thumping.

Nash scored 27 points on 11-for-13 shooting and added 14 assists in the Suns' 14th straight win. Phoenix led by 21 after the first quarter and won for the 30th time in 32 games in a matchup between the NBA's two highest scoring teams.

Arenas, who has compared his team's offense to the Suns', scored 31 points, but he started 1 for 6, and the game was essentially over before he got going.

#### 76ers 102 Hornets 96

PHILADELPHIA — Kyle Korver scored 25 points, Andre Iguodala added 20, and the Philadelphia 76ers held on for a win against the New Orleans Hornets.

The Sixers got double-figure scoring from five players and opened their second half with a victory after going 11-30 in the first 41 games of the season.

Andre Miller had 17 points and 11 assists for Philadelphia.

#### Mavericks 111 Magic 95

ORLANDO, Fla. — Dirk Nowitzki had 33 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists, and Josh Howard added 25 points to help the Dallas Mavericks beat the Orlando Magic for their eighth straight victory.

For the second consecutive night, the Mavericks led from beginning to end. They pushed the margin to 25 points in the second quarter with a 15-5 run capped by Nowitzki's three-point play and kept it around 20 most of the second and third periods.

The Magic pulled closer in the third with a 13-4 run, but it happened with Nowitzki on the bench.

### In other NBA news

MINNEAPOLIS

#### Timberwolves fire coach

The Minnesota Timberwolves fired coach Dwane Casey on Tuesday, one day after Minnesota lost its fourth straight game and only 1½ seasons since he took over.

Casey, in his first head coaching job, was unable to solve the Timberwolves' inconsistencies and push them back into the thick of the competitive Western Conference, prompting vice president of basketball operations Kevin McHale to make the move.

Assistant coach Randy Wittman will take over as interim coach.

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