

SCOREBOARD

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NBA				
Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
New Jersey	13	18	.419	—
Toronto	13	18	.419	—
New York	13	20	.394	1
Boston	10	19	.345	2
Philadelphia	8	22	.267	4½

MAIN EVENTS

TV TODAY

Men's college basketball
Wichita State at Southern Illinois, 1 p.m., Fox Sports
Temple at Duke, 7 p.m., ESPN2
Indiana at Ohio State, 8 p.m., ESPN

College football
Orange Bowl: Wake Forest vs. Louisville, 8:15 p.m., WXIN-Channel 59

Boys basketball
Franklin Central at Lawrence North, (tape delay) 11 p.m., WHMB-Channel 40

SPECTATOR SPORTS

Girls basketball
Lutheran at Greenwood, 7:30 p.m.

Gymnastics
Columbus East at Center Grove, 6:30 p.m.

Swimming and diving
Bloomington North at Center Grove, 6 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.

NFL			
AFC East			
W	L	T	Pct.
y-New England	10	6	.625
z-N.Y. Jets	10	6	.625
Buffalo	7	9	.438
Miami	6	10	.375

NHL				
Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
W	L	OT	Pts.	
New Jersey	22	13	3	47
N.Y. Rangers	17	4	42	119
N.Y. Islanders	19	16	3	41
Pittsburgh	16	15	6	38
Philadelphia	10	24	4	24

NFL			
AFC South			
W	L	T	Pct.
y-Indianapolis	12	4	.750
Tennessee	8	8	.500
Jacksonville	8	8	.500
Houston	6	10	.375

NFL			
AFC West			
W	L	T	Pct.
x-San Diego	14	2	.875
z-Kansas City	9	7	.563
Denver	9	7	.563
Oakland	7	9	.438



AP PHOTO

Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn, center, and running back Darius Walker talk with Karlton Allen 16, of Baton Rouge, La., while visiting patients at West Jefferson Medical Center in Marrero, La., on Monday. Notre Dame faces LSU in the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans on Wednesday.

Quinn: NFL not yet on his mind

By PAUL NEWBERRY
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NOTRE DAME
 Brady Quinn has one more college game to impress the NFL scouts, one more chance to show he's worthy of being the top pick in the draft.

"I just want to play a good game for my team. I'm not worried about putting up numbers and silly little things like that."

Brady Quinn
 Notre Dame quarterback on his expectations for Wednesday's Sugar Bowl

He's not thinking like that. Notre Dame's star quarterback merely wants a win in Wednesday night's Sugar Bowl, not another batch of eye-catching stats. If he throws three interceptions and the Fighting Irish still come out on top, that's fine with him.

The draft? That's for another day. The head-to-head matchup with LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell? Let the media have fun with that one.

Besides, Quinn already has put up enough numbers to show the NFL what he's capable of doing in a pro-style offense. During the past two seasons, he's thrown for nearly 7,200 yards, with an astonishing touchdown-to-interception ratio (67 TDs, only 12 picks).

More important to Quinn, he's been a part of helping Notre Dame reclaim its status as a college football powerhouse. While the No. 11 Fighting Irish (10-2) fell a bit short of expectations this season, they still earned a spot in the Sugar Bowl against No. 4 LSU (10-2).

When he signed with Notre Dame in 2003, the Irish were coming off a 10-win season in Tyrone Willingham's coaching debut. The program seemed back on track after the mediocrity of the Bob Davie era. Quinn had every reason to expect more of the same.

"I came in here with high hopes," he said. "I mean, they were 10-3 the year before. I'm thinking, 'Hey, we'll be winning a national

championship in the next year or so."
 Of course, it didn't work out that way. With Quinn starting nine games as a freshman, Notre Dame slumped to 5-7. The Irish were humiliated at Michigan 38-0. They were blown out at home by Southern Cal (45-14) and Florida State (37-0).

Quinn improved as a sophomore, but the Fighting Irish finished 6-6, and Willingham was fired.

Enter Charlie Weis, who groomed Tom Brady into a Super Bowl-winning quarterback at New England.

"When the coach is fired and you have to go through that change, you have to wonder, 'How good are we going to be the next two years? What is going to be my fate?'" Quinn recalled. "But if you looked down deep inside, you knew this was a good team. We just needed someone to bring it out. Coach Weis has done that."

He sure did it with Quinn, who thrived in Weis' offensive system. The quarterback finished fourth in the Heisman Trophy balloting as a junior, throwing for a school-record 3,919 yards with 32 touchdowns.

This season, he finished third in the Heisman race behind Ohio State quarterback Troy Smith and Arkansas running back Darren McFadden. The 6-foot-4, 227-pound Quinn passed for 3,278 yards with 35 touchdowns and just five interceptions.

"He's a very intelligent quarterback. He makes good decisions," LSU defensive coordinator Bo Pelini said. "His arm is strong enough to make all the throws, and he's got the size that NFL teams are looking for in a quarterback."

Players happy old basketball is back

By MIKE CRANSTON
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHARLOTTE, N.C.
 Before every NBA game, the officials meet with a player from each team. One of the things they do is pick the game ball.

"This is what everybody wanted," Timberwolves guard Mike James said. "People felt more comfortable with the leather ball."
 The Bobcats won the opening tip, and rookie Adam Morrison hit the first shot of the game, a runner in the lane that officially ended an embarrassing period for the league.
 But it was Timberwolves star Kevin Garnett, one of the loudest critics of the ball, who had the biggest night. Garnett was 12 of 18 from the field, scored 32 points and had 14 rebounds in Minnesota's 102-96 victory.
 "Hallelujah for the new ball," Garnett said.
 The NBA decided to abandon the ball it used for the past 35 years in favor of a microfiber composite ball at the start of the season.

The grumbling started immediately. Players said it had too much grip when dry and then would get too slippery when it got soaked in sweat. Others complained of getting cuts on their fingertips. Coaches said the ball would die around the rim, and others complained that the ball didn't always bounce true.
 "There are a lot of balls that don't come up," Bobcats coach Bernie Bickerstaff said. "When you are just dribbling along, sometimes the ball doesn't come up."
 The players union went as far as to file an unfair labor practice charge against the league, prompting commissioner David Stern to decide to switch back to the old ball for games starting on Jan. 1.
 "I like it a lot better. I think it sits on the rim a lot better," Morrison said.

The meeting probably never got more attention than it did Monday night before Minnesota faced Charlotte, marking the return of the leather ball, an unprecedented mid-season equipment change to appease players and coaches.
 The ball chosen? A newer-looking ball, more colorful than some of the more worn balls used in pregame warmups.
 And with that the microfiber era, the NBA's version of New Coke, ended.

and showed just how good the 6-foot-5 pass-catcher can be.
 For icing, Jarrett outjumped a pair of Michigan defenders for a 29-yard gain midway through the fourth quarter. A few plays later, Booty threw his fourth touchdown pass, this one to senior Steve Smith, who finished with seven catches for 108 yards.
 On the losing end were Chad Henne, Mike Hart and the rest of the Wolverines (11-2).
 They came in wondering if maybe they hadn't gotten a raw deal by being left out of the national title game after a back-and-forth 42-39 loss to Ohio State in the wake of Bo Schembechler's death in November.
 But these Wolverines didn't look as good as the ones who lost that game. "I'm as disappointed as you can be,"

Michigan coach Lloyd Carr said.
 Henne didn't get the Wolverines past the USC 20 until they had fallen behind 19-3. When Michigan finally did reach the end zone to cut its deficit to 19-11, the Trojans came right back with the drive capped by Jarrett's long touchdown.
 Carr's team lost its fourth straight bowl game and ended the season on a two-game losing streak for the third consecutive year.
 USC took control early in the third quarter when, after three straight handoffs to Hart, the Wolverines tried a screen pass that Henne threw into a crowd, only to see it land in the hands of Jackson for an interception.
 That started a string of nine straight passes by Booty that led to the game's first touchdown.

MONDAY'S BOWL GAME ROUNDUP

OUTBACK BOWL
Penn State 20 No. 17 Tennessee 10
 TAMPA, Fla. — Joe Paterno was a no-show on the sideline. That hardly kept Penn State from shining in the Outback Bowl.
 With the longtime coach watching from the press box while recovering from a broken leg, Tony Hunt ran for 158 yards, and Tony Davis returned a fumble 88 yards for a touchdown, leading the Nittany Lions past No. 17 Tennessee.
 Anthony Morelli threw a 2-yard TD pass to Andrew Quarless, and Kevin Kelly kicked two field goals for Penn State, helping Paterno, the all-time leader in bowl wins, get his 22nd postseason victory.
 Penn State (9-4) forced three turnovers in holding Tennessee (9-4) to a season-low point total, and the Nittany Lions improved to 16-6 in New Year's Day bowls under their 80-year-old coach.
 Paterno broke his shinbone and tore two ligaments in his left knee in a sideline collision during a loss at Wisconsin on Nov. 4.
 He watched Penn State's next game from home, the first he'd missed since 1977, and returned to Beaver Stadium to watch the regular-season finale against Michigan State from the press box.

CAPITAL ONE BOWL
No. 6 Wisconsin 17 No. 12 Arkansas 14
 ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — John Stocco threw two first-half touchdown passes, and Wisconsin held on through a tense second half to beat Arkansas.
 The Badgers (12-1) led 17-7 at halftime, but most of the second half was played in Wisconsin territory. Felix Jones brought the Razorbacks within three points with a 12-yard scoring run in the fourth quarter, but Arkansas (10-4) could not overcome an undisciplined, mistake-filled performance.
 Wisconsin won 12 games in a season for the first

COTTON BOWL
No. 10 Auburn 17 No. 22 Nebraska 14
 DALLAS (AP) — Carl Stewart scored the only two times he touched the ball, John Vaughn kicked a 42-yard field goal, and Auburn's defense held on.
 Nebraska (9-5) opened with a dominating drive but couldn't do much else right in its first January game in five years. The Cornhuskers' bid for 10 wins ended when Zac Taylor threw an incomplete on fourth-and-11 from the Auburn 30 with 2:03 left.
 Vaughn's field goal midway through the third quarter accounted for the only points scored after halftime.
 Auburn (11-2) became the fourth straight Southeastern Conference school to win the Cotton Bowl. The Tigers were the only team this season to beat two teams in the Bowl Championship Series.

GATOR BOWL
No. 13 West Virginia 38 Georgia Tech 35
 JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Quarterback Patrick White led West Virginia back from an 18-point deficit in the second half for a victory against Georgia Tech.
 Tailback Steve Slaton, the country's third-leading rusher at 144 yards a game, played only the first half for the Mountaineers (11-2) and wasn't a factor. Slaton's status was uncertain before kickoff with a badly bruised left thigh, and the sophomore managed just 11 yards on three carries.
 White was 9 of 15 for 131 yards and two touchdowns and rushed 22 times for 145 yards and a touchdown.