DAILY JOURNAL
SCOREBOARD
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NBA

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Toronto	17	20	.459	—
New Jersey	16	19	.457	—
New York	16	22	.421	1½
Boston	12	23	.343	4
Philadelphia	10	26	.278	6½
Southeast Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**
Orlando	22	14	.611	—
Washington	20	14	.588	1
Miami	15	19	.441	6
Atlanta	11	23	.324	10
Charlotte	11	23	.324	10
Central Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**
Cleveland	22	13	.629	—
Detroit	20	14	.588	1½
Chicago	20	17	.541	3
Indiana	**20**	**17**	**.541**	**3**
Milwaukee	16	20	.444	6½

Western Conference

Southwest Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Dallas	30	8	.789	—
San Antonio	26	11	.703	3½
Houston	23	13	.639	6
New Orleans	13	22	.371	15½
Memphis	9	27	.250	20
Northwest Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**
Utah	24	11	.686	—
Denver	17	16	.515	6
Minnesota	17	16	.515	6
Portland	14	23	.378	11
Seattle	13	25	.342	12½
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**Pct.**	**GB**
Phoenix	27	8	.771	—
L.A. Lakers	23	13	.639	4½
Golden State	18	19	.486	10
L.A. Clippers	17	19	.472	10½
Sacramento	14	18	.438	11½

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Thursday's games
New Jersey 86, Chicago 83
Phoenix 109, Cleveland 90

Friday's games
Dallas 115, Indiana 113, OT
Philadelphia 110, Milwaukee 97
Atlanta 99, Detroit 93
Toronto 95, Boston 86
Charlotte 126, New York 110
Minnesota at Memphis, (n)
Washington vs. New Orleans at Oklahoma City, (n)
Sacramento at Portland, (n)
Utah at Seattle, (n)
Houston at Denver, (n)
Miami at Golden State, (n)
Orlando at L.A. Lakers, (n)

Today's games
Philadelphia at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Boston at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at San Antonio, 8 p.m.
New Jersey at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Memphis at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Milwaukee, 8:30 p.m.
Miami at Utah, 9 p.m.
Orlando at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Houston at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Cleveland at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's games
Dallas at Toronto, 1 p.m.
Denver at Portland, 9 p.m.

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Friday's summary

DALLAS (115)
Howard 7-19 0-0 15, Nowitzki 13-24 15-18 43, Dampier 4-6 5-6 13, Terry 10-18 7-9 30, Dev.Harris 1-4 3-4 5, Stackhouse 0-8 4-6 4, An.Johnson 0-1 1-2 1, George 0-2 0-0 0, Diop 1-2 0-0 2, Buckner 1-4 0-0 2, Mbenga 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 37-88 35-45 115.

INDIANA (113)
Harrington 1-5 2-2 4, O'Neal 10-22 6-6 26, Foster 1-3 2-4 4, Jackson 8-14 4-4 22, Tinsley 5-13 7-12 17, Granger 5-11 10-11 22, Daniels 3-10 2-4 8, Jasikevicius 3-4 1-1 8, Baston 0-0 2-2 2, Greene 0-0 0-0 0, Armstrong 0-0 0-0 0, Williams 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-82 36-46 113.

Dallas	**17**	**27**	**30**	**29**	**12—115**
Indiana	**26**	**25**	**22**	**30**	**10—113**

3-Point Goals—Dallas 6-20 (Terry 3-5, Nowitzki 2-4, Howard 1-4, An.Johnson 0-1, Stackhouse 0-2, Buckner 0-2, George 0-2), Indiana 5-11 (Granger 2-3, Jackson 2-4, Jasikevicius 1-2, Tinsley 0-1, Harrington 0-1). Fouled Out—Dampier, George, O'Neal. Rebounds—Dallas 59 (Nowitzki 12), Indiana 58 (Foster, O'Neal 9). Assists—Dallas 16 (Terry 7), Indiana 20 (Tinsley 11). Total Fouls—Dallas 32, Indiana 35. Technicals—Dallas Defensive Three Second, Indiana Defensive Three Second. A—15,934. (18,345).

NFL

Playoffs
Wild-card games
Jan. 6
Indianapolis 23, Kansas City 8
Seattle 21, Dallas 20

Jan. 7
New England 37, New York Jets 16
Philadelphia 23, New York Giants 20

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Divisional playoffs
Today
Indianapolis at Baltimore, 4:30 p.m. (WISH-Channel 8)
Philadelphia at New Orleans, 8 p.m. (WXIN-Channel 59)

Sunday
Seattle at Chicago, 1 p.m. (WXIN-Channel 59)
New England at San Diego, 4:30 p.m. (WISH-Channel 8)

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Conference championships
Jan. 21
AFC game, TBA (WISH-Channel 8)
NFC game, TBA (WXIN-Channel 59)

***

Super Bowl
Feb. 4
Miami
AFC Champion vs. NFC Champion, 6 p.m. (WISH-Channel 8)

***

Pro Bowl
Feb. 10
At Honolulu
AFC vs. NFC, 6 p.m. (WISH-Channel 8)

College football

Tuesday, Dec. 19
Poinsettia Bowl
At San Diego
Payout: $750,000
TCU 37, Northern Illinois 7

***

Thursday, Dec. 21
Las Vegas Bowl
Payout: $1 million
BYU 38, Oregon 8

***

Friday, Dec. 22
New Orleans Bowl
Payout: $325,000
Troy 41, Rice 17

***

Saturday, Dec. 23
PapaJohns.com Bowl
At Birmingham, Ala.
Payout: $300,000
South Florida 24, East Carolina 7
New Mexico Bowl
At Albuquerque
Payout: $750,000
San Jose State 20, New Mexico 12
Armed Forces Bowl
At Fort Worth, Texas
Payout: $750,000
Utah 25, Tulsa 13

***

Sunday, Dec. 24
Hawaii Bowl
At Honolulu
Payout: $750,000
Hawaii 41, Arizona State 24

***

Tuesday, Dec. 26
Motor City Bowl
At Detroit
Payout: $750,000
Central Michigan 31, Middle Tennessee 14

***

Wednesday, Dec. 27
Emerald Bowl
At San Francisco
Payout: $750,000
Florida State 44, UCLA 27

Thursday, Dec. 28
Independence Bowl
At Shreveport, La.
Payout: $1.1 million
Oklahoma State 34, Alabama 31
Holiday Bowl
At San Diego
Payout: $2.2 million
California 45, Texas A&M 10
Texas Bowl
At Houston
Payout: $750,000
Rutgers 37, Kansas State 10

***

Friday, Dec. 29
Music City Bowl
At Nashville, Tenn.
Payout: $1.6 million
Kentucky 28, Clemson 20
Sun Bowl
At El Paso, Texas
Payout: $1.9 million
Oregon State 39, Missouri 38
Liberty Bowl
At Memphis, Tenn.
Payout: $1.7 million
South Carolina 44, Houston 36
Insight Bowl
At Tempe, Ariz.
Payout: $1.2 million
Texas Tech 44, Minnesota 41, OT
Champs Sports Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payout: $2.25 million
Maryland 24, Purdue 7

Saturday, Dec. 30
Meineke Bowl
At Charlotte, N.C.
Payout: $750,000
Boston College 25, Navy 24
Alamo Bowl
At San Antonio
Payout: $2.225 million
Texas 26, Iowa 24
Chick-fil-A Bowl
At Atlanta
Payout: $2.825 million
Georgia 31, Virginia Tech 24

***

Sunday, Dec. 31
MPC Computers Bowl
At Boise, Idaho
Payout: $750,000
Miami 21, Nevada 20

***

Monday, Jan. 1
Outback Bowl
At Tampa, Fla.
Payout: $3 million
Penn State 20, Tennessee 10
Cotton Bowl
At Dallas
Payout: $3 million
Auburn 17, Nebraska 14
Capital One Bowl
At Orlando, Fla.
Payout: $4.25 million
Wisconsin 17, Arkansas 14

Gator Bowl
At Jacksonville, Fla.
Payout: $2.5 million
West Virginia 38, Georgia Tech 35
Rose Bowl
At Pasadena, Calif.
Payout: $17 million
Southern Cal 32, Michigan 18
Fiesta Bowl
At Glendale, Ariz.
Payout: $17 million
Boise State 43, Oklahoma 42, OT

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Tuesday, Jan. 2
Orange Bowl
At Miami
Payout: $17 million
Louisville 24, Wake Forest 13

***

Wednesday, Jan. 3
Sugar Bowl
At New Orleans
Payout: $17 million
LSU 41, Notre Dame 14

***

Saturday, Jan. 6
International Bowl
At Toronto
Payout: $750,000
Cincinnati 27, Western Michigan 24

***

Sunday, Jan. 7
GMAC Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Payout: $750,000
Southern Miss. 28, Ohio 7

***

Monday, Jan. 8
BCS National Championship
At Glendale, Ariz.
Payout: $17 million
Florida 41, Ohio State 14

***

Sunday, Jan. 14
Hula Bowl
At Honolulu
East vs. West, 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)

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Monday, Jan. 15
Las Vegas All-American Classic
East vs. West, ccd.

***

Saturday, Jan. 20
East-West Shrine Classic
At Houston
East vs. West, 7 p.m. (ESPN2)

Saturday, Jan. 27
Senior Bowl
At Mobile, Ala.
North vs. South, 4 p.m. (NFL)

NHL

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	W	L	OT	Pts.	GF	GA
New Jersey	26	14	4	56	117	104
N.Y. Rangers	22	19	4	48	136	142
N.Y. Islanders	21	19	3	45	127	123
Pittsburgh	18	17	7	43	129	136
Philadelphia	11	29	4	26	106	169
Northeast Division	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**Pts.**	**GF**	**GA**
Buffalo	31	10	3	65	168	127
Montreal	25	14	5	55	135	122
Ottawa	25	19	2	52	154	131
Toronto	20	19	6	46	149	150
Boston	20	17	4	44	124	152
Southeast Division	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**Pts.**	**GF**	**GA**
Atlanta	24	14	8	56	140	140
Carolina	24	18	4	52	140	138
Tampa Bay	22	21	2	46	143	142
Washington	19	18	7	45	138	150
Florida	16	21	9	41	128	151

Western Conference

Central Division	W	L	OT	Pts.	GF	GA
Nashville	30	11	3	63	151	113
Detroit	27	12	5	59	134	106
Chicago	17	21	5	39	106	126
Columbus	16	23	5	37	111	136
St. Louis	15	21	7	37	103	134
Northwest Division	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**Pts.**	**GF**	**GA**
Calgary	23	15	4	50	132	109
Vancouver	24	19	1	49	109	116
Minnesota	22	19	3	47	123	119
Edmonton	21	18	4	46	122	125
Colorado	21	19	3	45	137	127
Pacific Division	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**Pts.**	**GF**	**GA**
Anaheim	30	9	7	67	160	114
San Jose	29	15	0	58	137	105
Dallas	26	18	1	53	120	112
Phoenix	20	21	2	42	119	145
Los Angeles	16	23	6	38	127	161

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss or shootout loss.

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Thursday's games
Toronto 4, Buffalo 2
Carolina 6, Florida 4
Ottawa 6, N.Y. Rangers 4
Montreal 4, Philadelphia 2
N.Y. Islanders 5, Boston 4, SO
Tampa Bay 5, Washington 4
Anaheim 5, Dallas 1
Detroit 5, Phoenix 1
Calgary 7, Colorado 3
Minnesota 5, Vancouver 2
San Jose 5, Los Angeles 2

Friday's games
New Jersey 2, Atlanta 1
Nashville 2, Columbus 0
Minnesota at Edmonton, (n)

Today's games
Montreal at Ottawa, 2 p.m.
Los Angeles at St. Louis, 2 p.m.
Boston at N.Y. Rangers, 2 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 2 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Columbus, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Washington at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
San Jose at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Colorado at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
Edmonton at Calgary, 10 p.m.

Sunday's game
Minnesota at Chicago, 7 p.m.

Transactions

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Traded RHP Rodrigo Lopez to Colorado for RHP Jim Miller and RHP Jason Burch. Agreed to terms with RHP Todd Williams on a one-year contract.
BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with RHP Kyle Snyder on a one-year contract.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Agreed to terms with INF Alex S. Gonzalez on a minor league contract.
NEW YORK YANKEES—Agreed to terms with RHP Jeff Nelson on a minor league contract and announced his retirement.
TEXAS RANGERS—Acquired C Chris Stewart from the Chicago White Sox for RHP Johnny Lujan. Designated INF Drew Meyer for assignment.
National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Agreed to terms with RHP Juan Cruz and RHP Jorge Julio on one-year contracts.
CHICAGO CUBS—Agreed to terms with INF Tomas Perez on a minor league contract.
HOUSTON ASTROS—Agreed to terms with OF Richard Hidalgo on a minor league contract.
NEW YORK METS—Agreed to terms with LHP Oliver Perez on a one-year contract.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Agreed to terms with LHP Randy Flores on a two-year contract.
SAN DIEGO PADRES—Agreed to terms with SS Khalil Greene on a one-year contract.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS—Agreed to terms with RHP Jerome Williams on a one-year contract and LHP Brandon Claussen on a minor league contract. Named Lee Kuntz athletic trainer.
American Association
FORT WORTH CATS—Agreed to terms with RHP Juan A. Figueroa.
LINCOLN SALTDOGS—Traded INF Ryan Priddy and RHP Jerrod Fuell to Winnipeg of the Northern League for C Aaron Mendoza. Released LHP Chris Russ, RHP Yoankis Turino and INF Luis Lopez.
ST. JOE BLACKSNAKES—Released RHP Shingo Mitsomori.
SIOUX FALLS CANARIES—Traded C David Hoffman to Schaumburg of the Northern League for RHP Larry Robles.
Carolina League
POTOMAC NATIONALS—Named Randy Tomlin pitching coach.
Can-Am League
BROCKTON ROX—Traded C-INF Mike Torres to the Grays for future considerations.
NEW JERSEY JACKALS—Agreed to terms with OF Jason Tuttle. Sold the contract of INF John Lindsey to the Los Angeles Dodgers.
Frontier League
RIVER CITY RASCALS—Traded LHP Brian Johnson to Laredo of United League for INF-OF Brad Hough.
SLIPPERY ROCK SLIDERS—Agreed to terms with RHP Greg Lasinski and OF Colby Rickabaugh.
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS MINERS—Agreed to terms with 1B Casey Smith and INF Matt Guiliano
TRAVERSE CITY BEACH BUMS—Agreed to terms with RHP Steve Shippey and LHP Jason Furrow. Announced the retirement of 3B Nick Batkoski. Released RHP Paul Mezzetta
WINDY CITY THUNDERBOLTS—Agreed to terms with 1B Phillip Hawke, INF-OF Josh Horn, RHP Jeff Mault and RHP Billy Phillips. Traded C Jason Mann to San Angelo of the United League for a player to be named.
Northern League
WINNIPEG GOLDEYES—Agreed to terms with LHP Matt Foster and LHP Raleigh Evans.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
NBA—Suspended Minnesota F-C Eddie Griffin for five games, without pay, for violating the terms of the NBA/NBPA anti-drug program, and Rodney Mott, NBA official, three games, without pay, for making an obscene gesture toward a fan and also using inappropriate language.
Women's National Basketball Association
MINNESOTA LYNX—Announced the retirement of G Tynesha Lewis.
American Basketball Association
ABA—Granted an expansion team to Long Beach, Calif. to begin play in the 2007-08 season.
LONG BEACH—Announced the team name will be the Storm.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
CLEVELAND BROWNS—Signed OL Kelly Butler to a two-year contract extension.
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS—Agreed to terms with TE Tony Gonzalez on a five-year contract extension.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS—Signed WR Rasheed Marshall, DB Grant Mason and DB Harrison Smith to reserve/future contracts.
WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Signed OL Kili Lefotu, WR Steven Harris, WR Ryan Hoag, LB Anthony Trucks, DT Lorenzo Alexander, DT Vaka Manapuna, OL Calvin Armstrong, DE Jamaal Green, QB Casey Bramlet, WR Cedric Bonner, DT Jared Clauss, DB Jerrell Pippens, DB Chip Cox, TE Eric Edwards, OL William Whitticker and DE Chris Wilson.
Canadian Football League
EDMONTON ESKIMOS—Released DL Steve Charbonneau.
Arena Football League
COLUMBUS DESTROYERS—Signed FB Chris Floyd.
GRAND RAPIDS RAMPAGE—Released WR-DB Dameon Porter.
KANSAS CITY BRIGADE—Signed OL-DL Ed Taamu.
LOS ANGELES AVENGERS—Signed DL Marcus Parker.
NASHVILLE KATS—Signed DL Demoine Adams and WR Kenny Higgins.
NEW ORLEANS VOODOO—Signed DL Melvin Williams.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ANAHEIM DUCKS—Recalled LW Curtis Glencross from Portland of the AHL.
ATLANTA THRASHERS—Activated F Scott Mellanby from injured reserve.
DALLAS STARS—Assigned RW Chris Conner to Iowa of the AHL.
DETROIT RED WINGS—Assigned G Joey MacDonald to Grand Rapids of the AHL.
MINNESOTA WILD—Recalled D Shawn Belle from Houston of the AHL.
NEW YORK RANGERS—Claimed C Jason Krog off waivers from Atlanta.
OTTAWA SENATORS—Assigned C Josh Hennessy to Binghamton of the AHL.
PHOENIX COYOTES—Assigned C Joel Perrault to San Antonio of the AHL.
ST. LOUIS BLUES—Assigned D Matt Walker to Peoria of the AHL.
SAN JOSE SHARKS—Recalled D Matt Carle from Worcester of the AHL.
WASHINGTON CAPITALS—Re-signed G Brent Johnson to a two-year contract extension.
American Hockey League
SPRINGFIELD FALCONS—Released F Zdenek Blatny.
WORCESTER SHARKS—Recalled RW Janathan Tremblay from Fresno of the ECHL.
ECHL
ECHL—Fined Phoenix D Dave Pszenyczny an undisclosed amount for his actions a Jan. 10 game against Idaho.
CHARLOTTE CHECKERS—Announced Hartford of the AHL has assigned C Bruce Graham to the team.
CHICAGO WOLVES—Assigned D Tim Wedderburn to Rockford of the UHL.
Central Hockey League
LUBBOCK COTTON KINGS—Signed LW-D Paul D'Agostino and D Nick Cammarata.
RIO GRANDE VALLEY KILLER BEES—Signed LW David Masse and D Matt Medley.

LACROSSE
National Lacrosse League
COLORADO MAMMOTH—Signed T Scott Davidson to a one-year contract. Released F Gary Bining.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer
COLORADO RAPIDS—Acquired D Greg Vanney and a 2008 third-round draft pick from FC Dallas for 2007 and a 2008 second-round draft picks.
COLUMBUS CREW—Acquired F Andy Herron from Chicago for F Ryan Coiner and a 2007 first-round draft pick.
NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION—Acquired a 2007 first-round draft pick and a conditional 2008 second-round draft pick from Los Angeles for a portion of a replacement allocation.

COLLEGE
FELICIAN—Named Brian Langan baseball pitching coach.
PHILADELPHIA—Named Kerry Cahill assistant baseball coach and Steve Larson pitching coach.

MAIN
EVENTS

TV TODAY

Men's college basketball
Indiana at Penn State, noon, WTTV-Channel 4
West Virginia at Marquette, noon, ESPN
Tennessee at Ohio State, 1 p.m., WISH-Channel 8
Kansas at Iowa State, 2 p.m., ESPN
UCLA at Southern California, 2:30 p.m., Fox Sports
Wisconsin at Northwestern, 2:30 p.m., WTTV-Channel 4
Minnesota at Iowa, 4:30 p.m., WTTV-Channel 4
Michigan at Purdue, 7 p.m., WHMB-Channel 40
Georgetown at Pittsburgh, 9 p.m., ESPN

Women's college basketball
Maryland at Duke, 12:30 p.m., Fox Sports
Baylor at Texas A&M, 4:30 p.m., Fox Sports
Southern Illinois at Northern Iowa, 8:30 p.m., Fox Sports

NHL
Pittsburgh Penguins at Philadelphia Flyers, 2 p.m., WTHR-Channel 13

NFL playoffs
Indianapolis Colts at Baltimore Ravens, 4:30 p.m., WISH-Channel 8
Philadelphia Eagles at New Orleans Saints, 8 p.m., WXIN-Channel 59

NBA
Memphis Grizzlies at Chicago Bulls, 8:30 p.m., WGN

TV SUNDAY

NFL playoffs
Seattle Seahawks at Chicago Bears, 1 p.m., WXIN-Channel 59
New England Patriots at San Diego Chargers, 4:30 p.m., WISH-Channel 8

Women's college basketball
Tennessee at Georgia, 1 p.m., Fox Sports
Texas Tech at Oklahoma, 3 p.m., Fox Sports
Tulane at SMU, 5 p.m., ESPN2

Men's college basketball
Illinois at Michigan State, 1:30 p.m., WISH-Channel 8
Duke at Miami, 5:30 p.m., Fox Sports
Oregon at Arizona, 8 p.m., Fox Sports

Tennis
Australian Open, early rounds, 7 p.m., ESPN2

SPECTATOR SPORTS

TODAY

Boys basketball
County tournament at Edinburgh
Fifth place game: Edinburgh vs. Greenwood, 4:30 p.m.
Third place game: Whiteland vs. Indian Creek, 6 p.m.
Championship game: Center Grove vs. Franklin, 7:30 p.m.

Girls basketball
Edinburgh at Morristown, 12:30 p.m.
Waldron at Indian Creek, 12:30 p.m.

Wrestling
Center Grove at triple dual at North Central, 9 a.m.
Mid-State Tournament at Franklin, 9 a.m.
Tri Super Invitational at Indian Creek, 9 a.m.

Boys and girls swimming
Whiteland at Indian Creek Relays, 9:30 a.m.

Franklin College
Men's basketball at Anderson, 3 p.m., WFCI-89.5 FM
Women's basketball: Anderson at Franklin, 3 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.

District attorney seeks special prosecutor in lacrosse case

By Aaron Beard
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP PHOTO
Embattled Durham County (N.C.) District Attorney Mike Nifong has asked the state attorney general's office to appoint a special prosecutor to take over the Duke lacrosse sexual assault case.

RALEIGH, N.C.

Facing ethics charges that could lead to his disbarment, the embattled district attorney in the Duke lacrosse sexual assault case asked the state attorney general Friday to appoint a special prosecutor to take over the case.

Noelle Talley, a spokeswoman for the attorney general, said District Attorney Mike Nifong made the request in a letter.

Nifong's attorney insisted the veteran prosecutor was not running from a weak case and said Nifong was disappointed he would not be able to take the matter to trial.

"He feels, as a result of the accusations against him, that he would be a distraction, and he wants to make sure the accuser receives a fair trial," attorney David Freedman said. "He still believes in the case. He just believes his continued presence would hurt her."

Nifong met with the accuser this week to tell her of his decision, Freedman said.

Attorney General Roy Cooper's office declined to comment on whether it would take the case. Officials planned to speak with reporters today.

Last month, the North Carolina State Bar charged Nifong with violating four rules of professional conduct for making misleading and inflammatory comments about the athletes under suspicion. The ethics charges carry penalties ranging from admonishment to removal from the bar.

It was not immediately clear what impact Nifong's decision would have on the troubled prosecution of Reade Seligmann, Collin Finnerty and David Evans.

If the attorney general accepts the case, "then they would transfer the files over, and they would probably have a lot of interviews to do," said Peg Dorer, director of the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys. "It would probably stop things for a while, I imagine."

Under North Carolina law, only a district attorney can formally request a special prosecutor. The request can be made when there are potential conflicts of interest, when a case is particularly complex or when there are other unusual circumstances.

Once the ethics charges were filed, Nifong had a conflict of interest with respect to the case, said Ron Sullivan, a criminal law professor at Yale University. "It's probably safe to say that Nifong felt that he couldn't be completely objective."

Legal experts and observers have railed against Nifong in recent weeks, calling his case pitfully weak and casting doubt on his chance of winning. Even longtime colleagues have questioned his judgment and integrity.

"I think we're all delighted that we're going to have objective and competent prosecutors reviewing this case," said James P. Cooney III, an attorney for Seligmann. "We look forward to cooperating with those prosecutors fully and completely in bringing this prosecution to an end."

Wade Smith, an attorney for Finnerty, also was pleased and pledged to meet with any new prosecutors. "We will assist them in every way we can," he said.

From the case's earliest days, Nifong has led the investigation into allegations that a 28-year-old student at North Carolina Central University was gang-raped and beaten at a March 13 party thrown by Duke's highly ranked lacrosse team. The accuser had been hired as a stripper for the party.

• Pacers

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

quarter, too many second-chance baskets by Dallas and a disappointing outing by Al Harrington all contributed to the loss, which snapped the Pacers' season-high winning streak at three games.

Starters Jermaine O'Neal, Stephen Jackson, Jamaal Tinsley and backup Danny Granger played with rare energy and focus most of the way. But Harrington, who played a game-high 46 minutes, contributed precious little offensively.

Harrington was 1 of 5 from the field for four points. He was scoreless until early in the fourth quarter. His final points were two free throws with three seconds to play.

Nowitzki sealed the win with a free throw with two seconds left. Jeff Foster's ensuing inbounds pass was intercepted beyond midcourt by Dallas' Anthony Johnson.

"It's really disappointing to come out on the short end because we played hard," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "In the final analysis, we made too many mistakes."

The biggest were on the defensive boards. The Pacers (20-17) surrendered 16 offensive rebounds, which produced 17 second-chance points for Dallas (30-8).

"It's a shame, because we worked hard to get stops," Carlisle said. "When you play a good team like that, you've got to pay attention to the details, or they're going to find a way to beat you."

Dallas, which has the league's best record, has won three straight and 16 of its past 17. The Pacers had won five of seven before Friday's loss.

O'Neal had 26 points, nine rebounds, five assists and three blocked shots before fouling out in overtime. Jackson and Granger each had 22 points, and Tinsley had 17 and a game-high 11 assists.

Indiana's next game is Monday afternoon at New Jersey. The Pacers then travel to Miami on Thursday before returning home Jan. 20 against the New York Knicks.

SCHOOL NOMINATED SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD
EDINBURGH
Courtney Dragoo
Justin McGeorge

Appointments scheduled within 24-48 hours.
CENTER FOR ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY AND SPORTS MEDICINE

Greg T. Hardin, MD — Knee & Shoulder Surgery, Sports Medicine
Douglas A. Flory, MD — Foot & Ankle Surgery, Sports Medicine
James M. Kerpsack, MD — Pediatric Orthopedics, Total Joint Replacement & Scoliosis.
Scott P. Olvey, MD — Hand, Wrist & Elbow Surgery, Total Shoulder Replacement
James K. Cole, MD — Minimally Invasive Neck & Back Surgery
Timothy J. Williams, MD — Total Joint Replacements
David A. Levin, MD — Minimally Invasive Neck & Back Surgery
John N. Lomas, MD — Back & Neck Pain, NCS & EMG's
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St. Francis South Campus
8141 S. Emerson Ave., Ste. A
Indianapolis, IN 46237
(317)888-1051 or 1-877-468-5337

Greenwood Corners
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Indianapolis, IN 46227
(Beside Krispy Kreme)

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