

SOCCER

LONDON

Soccer star Beckham coming to MLS's Galaxy

David Beckham, the former England soccer captain known as much for his style as his play, has agreed to leave Real Madrid and join the Los Angeles Galaxy.



BECKHAM

Major League Soccer hopes his arrival will boost the sport in the United States in a manner similar to Pele's arrival with the Cosmos in 1975.

Beckham will leave Madrid at the end of the season. The move was announced Thursday following talks on extending the 31-year-old English midfielder's contract with the Spanish club.

An entertainment personality who draws paparazzi like a movie star, Beckham and his wife, Victoria, the former Posh Spice of the Spice Girls, regularly find their way onto tabloid and magazine covers.

With snazzy clothes and rotating hair styles and colors, he is the epitome of the modern mix of celebrity and athlete. He's even had a movie named after him: "Bend it like Beckham."

HORSES

KENNETT SQUARE, Pa.

Barbaro doing better

Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro is spending time in a protective sling, needed to deter sudden movement and make the colt comfortable as he fights back from his latest setback from laminitis.

X-rays on the 4-year-old bay colt showed no additional complications in either hind leg, and surgeon Dean Richardson said Barbaro was comfortable in his recovery from having damaged tissue removed from his left hind hoof.

Barbaro has been rehabilitating since shattering three bones in his right hind leg just a few strides into the Preakness on May 20.

LACROSSE

DURHAM, N.C.

Accuser's story changes

The accuser in the Duke lacrosse sexual assault case told prosecutors in December that one of the three players charged did not commit any sex act on her during the alleged attack, according to papers filed Thursday by the defense.

The attacker identified as Reade Seligmann was repeatedly urged to take part in the alleged attack, she told an investigator, but he said he could not because he was getting married, the papers said.

Seligmann and former teammates Dave Evans and Collin Finnerty face sexual offense and kidnapping charges in a case stemming from a team party in March. Rape charges were dropped last month.

FOOTBALL

SOUTH BEND

ND's Walker chooses NFL

Notre Dame tailback Darius Walker, on pace to become Notre Dame's career rushing leader, will enter the NFL draft and skip his senior season.

Walker, who has run for 3,249 yards in three seasons, was on pace to break the school record of 4,318 career rushing yards set by Atry Denson from 1995-98. He finishes fourth on Notre Dame's career list.

He also had 816 receiving yards and a school record 109 career catches by a back.

Also Thursday, Ohio State wide receiver Anthony Gonzalez announced he would skip his senior season. He had 51 receptions for 734 yards this season.

GOLF

HONOLULU

Wie on pace to miss cut

Playing in the PGA Sony Open for the fourth straight year, Michelle Wie hit into the water twice, the bunker twice, clipped two palm trees and didn't hit a fairway until the 15th hole.

Headed for her worst score ever, the 17-year-old kept battling and played the back nine in even par for a 78. That's one stroke better than her opening round a year ago at Waialae.

Wie is 1 for 12 making the cut against the men, the exception coming in the spring at the SK Telecom Open in South Korea on the Asian Tour.

Talent secondary for small-college recruits

By MATTHEW GLENESK

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Katie Douglas remembers Mike Jewett's persistence.

The former Franklin College women's basketball coach was relentless in his attempts to lure the Shelbyville High School player to join the Grizzlies.

"Jewett would heckle me and probably call me a couple of times a week," she said. "I was so against Franklin because I only lived a half-hour away, and then I finally said I'd come to campus if he'd stop calling.

"I finally came to campus, and I fell in love with it. And I think that's a big thing, getting people here. Once they come here, they see what it's like and what it's all about."

Persuading players to continue their basketball careers at the Division III level isn't an easy sell sometimes.

Unlike in Division I and

"Maybe they're not always the most talented, but if they give me everything they have, I'd rather have that than maybe the most talented kids."

Kim Eiler

Franklin College women's basketball coach
on recruiting players for a Division III program

Division II, players don't receive athletic scholarships.

During her senior year of high school, Douglas considered whether she wanted to keep playing.

"You're not getting any money, so you have to want to play," she said. "I think I made the right decision. I can't imagine not playing basketball."

For third-year coach Kim Eiler, that's the type of athlete she searches for on the recruiting trail.

"I look for players with work ethic and the character they'll bring," she said. "Maybe they're not always the most talented, but

if they give me everything they have, I'd rather have that than maybe the most talented kids."

Eiler said she believes Division III gives athletes the best balance of academics and athletics available on the collegiate level.

Players are encouraged to pursue internships and teaching opportunities on top of their practice schedule. Concessions can be made at the Division III level.

On Tuesday, Kelly Snider and Jennifer Redicker missed practice because they were involved in internships.

That wouldn't be possible at a Division I school because of the

time commitment high-profile athletics brings, Eiler said.

The coach also said that some time-consuming majors are difficult for athletes to pursue at Division I schools.

Eiler and assistant coach Emily Samuelson split recruiting duties. They make weekly trips to high school gymnasiums to seek out talent. The radius of their search is about a three-hour drive.

"If you go beyond that, you're probably getting too far for players to go away from home," Eiler said. "We pretty much focus on Indiana."

Of the 20 players on the Grizzlies' roster, only one hails from outside Indiana. Freshman guard Aley Inman came to Franklin College from Vero Beach, Fla.

A bonus for Indiana players who remain in the state is that they are still eligible for state financial aid, Eiler said.

Part of the battle is getting kids to visit the campus. Eiler said Franklin College sells itself.

Senior Brittany Beehler, who visited Franklin in part because of Jewett's continual pleas, fell in love with the school after setting foot on campus.

Beehler graduated from Penn High School in Mishawaka. Penn has an enrollment of 3,331 students, the fifth-highest enrollment in the state. She was looking for a school smaller than Penn, and Franklin, with its enrollment of approximately 1,000 students, proved to be the perfect place.

Beehler also was looking for an opportunity to continue her playing career. At a Division III school, she knew she was playing for the passion of the game, not a scholarship.

"The key is getting girls here that actually want to be here every single day," Beehler said. "If you don't have that drive, I don't see how you can come out here every single day to practice and want to be here and be happy with yourself."

"You have to love the game."

Grizzlies

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

"It was a little sad for the returning players because it was different having a new person out front talking to us," she said.

"But it went very well. Obviously, she got her point across, and we were able to succeed from there."

In her first two seasons, Eiler guided the Grizzlies to back-to-back Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference regular-season titles and earned trips to the Division III tournament.

After two seasons, Eiler's record at Franklin was 47-11 (.810 winning percentage).

Eiler isn't convinced she is the reason for the Grizzlies' continued success. She directs all credit to the players.

"Fortunately they were willing to adjust to a new coach on the fly," she said. "So you look back at that first year. It was really a testament to the players that they were willing to say, 'All right, we're going to move on. Yeah, coach left, but we have a new coach, and we're going to just be as successful no matter who is coaching us.'"

Jewett's departure came as a surprise to some of his players.

Beehler, who chose Franklin because of her relationship with Jewett, took the news hard.

STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON
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Franklin College women's basketball coach Kim Eiler watches her team practice Tuesday.

"I knew there was a chance that he could leave, but I just never imagined that he would. But it was a really big change because our assistants were all gone. The style was the same, but the offense and defensive concepts were kind of different."

Senior Katie Douglas said the transition wasn't easy for team. She had played for Jewett for only a season but liked the coach and was upset when he left.

"Anticipating the new coach, you never know what she's going to be like or how her style of coaching is," she said. "The whole team had an adjustment to make when she came in."

When Eiler came to Franklin prior to the 2004-05 season, she walked into a different situation than she faced at her first head coaching job at Goshen College.

Eiler took over a Goshen program with a losing tradition, illustrated by the school's 5-23 record

the year prior to her arrival. In Eiler's final four seasons with the Maple Leafs, the team averaged 17 wins a season, its most successful stretch in school history.

Eiler coached at Goshen for six seasons before taking a two-year break from coaching to pursue her doctoral degree in health and human performance from Auburn University.

For Eiler, the pressure to win at Franklin was the same as at Goshen.

"When I inherited a losing program, it was a lot of pressure to win," she said. "To me, it's still the same thing if you inherit a winning program. There's still a lot of pressure to win."

Players say the coaching styles are similar, and expectations are the same. But the messenger is different.

Eiler said she was buoyed by the type of players Jewett had left on the roster.

"Those are the same type of players I would have recruited, and I think that's what made the transition so easy," she said. "Those are the kids I would've wanted."

This season, Franklin won its first six games but is now 9-5. For Eiler, losing is unsettling.

"Obviously we don't handle losing well. Losing four games is about what we lose for a year, so that's a little uncomfortable for us," Eiler said. "The other programs have stepped it up, so we have to, too."

Clark

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

Colts quarterback Peyton Manning acknowledges that Clark makes his job easier.

"It's great to have Dallas back," Manning said. "You like to have some of your best players out there."

"It's a real credit to Dallas and his work ethic about wanting to be back here for his teammates. Certainly all of his teammates, and especially me, have appreciated him coming back."

The tight end is giving Ravens coach Brian Billick a lot to consider because Clark has, at times, filled Brandon Stokley's slot receiver position. Stokley was put on injured reserve after hurting his right Achilles' tendon Dec. 10 at Jacksonville.

Billick said it's unusual for a 6-foot-3, 252-pounder to be versatile enough to fill in for the quick Stokley.

"To have a Dallas Clark come in and fill that void was huge for them," Billick said. "And it's very impressive what he's able to do both in the slot position and then in the tight end position, too."

Indianapolis coach Tony Dungy said Clark's importance goes beyond catches.

"He can be an inline blocker, point of attack, he can flank out

and be an outside receiver," Dungy said. "They have to be aware of the different things he can do."

Baltimore won't be intimidated by Clark or the Colts' top-ranked offense. The Ravens had the league's top-ranked defense in the regular season, largely because of its versatility, in particular outside linebacker Adalius Thomas.

"It's been well-documented that Adalius has played every position defensively that we have," Billick said. "We'll leave Adalius in in three-wides. So our personnel gives us some flexibility as well."

If Clark draws too much attention, the Colts have an array of offensive weapons to hurt the Ravens. Running back Joseph Addai proved a capable receiver with seven catches against Kansas City.

Then, of course, there are Pro Bowl wideouts Marvin Harrison and Reggie Wayne. The duo combined for 181 catches, 2,676 yards and 21 touchdowns in the regular season.

Clark doesn't worry about how often he catches the ball. He had 30 receptions for 367 yards and four touchdowns during the regular season. He's ready when the ball comes his way.

"You know Marvin, you know Reggie, they're going to get those catches," he said. "When it comes to the backs and the tight ends, you never know if this is going to be our day."

"In this position, you just learn to play your game."

Peyton

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

inarguably the Colts' most indispensable player, Manning is, in almost every way, the franchise.

With him, Indianapolis is an elite team, a center of national media attention and a Super Bowl contender in any given year.

Without him, the Colts are an anonymous small-market commodity that misses the playoffs most seasons.

Manning doesn't necessarily see it that way, which is a major reason why he is popular with teammates. But with the possible exception of San Diego's LaDainian Tomlinson, no player in the NFL means more to his team than Manning.

That's why the focus, good or bad, fair or unfair, is constantly on Manning. He's not comfortable with it, but he's learned to live with it.

His hope is that when the spotlight shines this postseason, it will illuminate him and the Colts in a positive glow. That hasn't been the case after the past two playoff failures, most notably last year's AFC divisional loss against the visiting Pittsburgh Steelers.

Indianapolis was the No. 1 seed, had home-field advantage and had the best record in the NFL but was stunned in the RCA Dome by the eventual Super Bowl champion Steelers.

As has been the case throughout his otherwise Hall of Fame career, Manning, 31, wasn't at his best in a critical playoff game. But teammates insist the playoff disappointment, and those that preceded it, were the result of a collective poor performance.

"I can pretty much sum it up. We played bad," said Pro Bowl center Jeff Saturday, adding that he didn't take offense last season when some of Manning's post-game remarks were interpreted as blaming the offensive line.

Manning, who was 22 of 38 for 290 yards and a touchdown, was sacked five times and was pressured throughout during a 21-18 defeat.

In the aftermath, Manning said, "I'm trying to be a good teammate here. ... Let's just say we had some problems with protection."

Saturday acknowledged some of the Colts' linemen were initially miffed by the insinuation that

THE MANNING FILE

Name: Peyton Manning
Team: Indianapolis Colts
Position: Quarterback
Number: 18
Born: March 24, 1976
Height: 6-foot-5
Weight: 230 pounds
College: Tennessee
NFL experience: Nine seasons, all with the Colts
Career statistics: Has completed 3,131 passes in 4,890 attempts for 37,586 with 275 touchdowns and 139 interceptions. Manning's career passing rating is 94.4.
Family: Wife, Ashley



blockers were to blame. But he added that he wasn't one of them, and he understands what compelled Manning to utter those words.

"He was obviously frustrated the way we played," Saturday said. "We played a bad football game. We expected to go very, very deep in the playoffs, and we definitely didn't have our best performance."

"So you can take it how it is. There were 11 guys out there on offense, and none of us played our best performance. That was really the way I took it; and talking to him, he agreed."

"The way he said it, people interpreted it in different ways. People got bent out of shape. The reality is, watch the game tape. We didn't do our job as an offense, not just as an offensive line."

Manning not only agrees, he wishes the onus was always on the team and not on him.

But that likely will never be the case, so long as he remains the greatest quarterback in NFL history to never reach the Super Bowl, a dubious distinction he's desperate to shed.

He's confident he can do it this year but acknowledges the window of opportunity could close at any time in an era of fluid free agency and a nonstop coaching carousel.

"I've always played for the moment," Manning said. "It's been well-documented how you should try to take advantage of the opportunity you have now and certainly play every year with a tremendous sense of urgency."

"That's how I've always done it, and certainly this year is very much the same."

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