



AP PHOTO

Roger Federer hits a backhand shot during his Australian Open semifinal victory against Andy Roddick in Melbourne, Australia, on Thursday.

## TENNIS

MELBOURNE, Australia

### Federer routs Roddick; Williams, Sharapova win

Even top-ranked Roger Federer was stunned by his domination of Andy Roddick.

After looking vulnerable in some of his earlier matches, Federer was virtually untouchable as he beat sixth-seeded Roddick 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 Thursday at the Australian Open to reach his seventh consecutive Grand Slam final, tying a record set by Jack Crawford in 1934.

Serena Williams, unseeded after an injury-plagued 2006 that limited her to four tournaments, reached her first Grand Slam final in two years by beating Nicole Pietrangeli 7-6 (5), 6-4.

Standing in the way of an eighth Grand Slam title is top-seeded Maria Sharapova. She turned her semifinal against No. 4 Kim Clijsters into an Australian farewell match for the 23-year-old Belgian, who is retiring at the end of the year, with a 6-4, 6-2 victory.

Federer will play the winner of today's semifinal between 10th-seeded Fernando Gonzalez and No. 12 Tommy Haas.

## GOLF

SAN DIEGO

### Young golfer fires 61 in Buick Invitational

Brandt Snedeker had trouble remembering a round he will never forget.

Snedeker, a 26-year-old rookie on the PGA Tour, flirted with golf's magic number, 59, Thursday in the Buick Invitational until the birdies dried up on the North Course at Torrey Pines, then settled for a 61 to tie the course record and take a two-shot lead.

"The whole front nine was a blur," he said. Charlie Wi was at 9-under 63, one shot ahead of John Senden.

Tiger Woods eagled the par-5 ninth and 18th holes on the North Course for a 66.



SNEDEKER

## BASKETBALL

NEW YORK

### Arenas rallies to claim All-Star starting spot

Washington Wizards star Gilbert Arenas surged past Vince Carter in the final days of All-Star voting to claim the second Eastern Conference guard spot by 3,010 votes Thursday, the fourth-closest margin for a starting spot.

LeBron James, the MVP last year, led all players with more than 2.5 million votes for the Feb. 18 game in Las Vegas.

Other East starters are Miami Heat center Shaquille O'Neal, Heat guard Dwyane Wade and Toronto forward Chris Bosh.

Injured Houston center Yao Ming led all West players with more than 2.4 million votes. Kevin Garnett and Tim Duncan were voted in at forward, while Kobe Bryant and Tracy McGrady won the guard spots.

## BASEBALL

BOSTON

### Drew, Red Sox finally agree to \$70 million deal

The Boston Red Sox and J.D. Drew finally resolved their wrangling over the outfielder's five-year, \$70 million contract, more than seven weeks after agreeing to everything except what to do about his surgically repaired right shoulder.

An official involved in the negotiations said Thursday that the language had been agreed to.

Drew's agent, Scott Boras, did not immediately return a telephone message, and Red Sox spokesman John Blake said the team had no comment.

# Freeney wants cheaters out of football

BY MICHAEL MAROT  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## INDIANAPOLIS

Put Dwight Freeney in the Jason Taylor camp when it comes to banned substances.

The Indianapolis defensive end endorsed the NFL's tougher steroids policy Thursday, called for Olympic-style testing and said players who test positive should be ineligible for any postseason awards, including the Pro Bowl.

"It's a shame guys get rewarded for that, and Shawne (Merriman) is a prime example," Freeney said. "I got to know him at the Pro Bowl, and I know he's a good guy. But what kind of message is that if you get away with cheating and you still reap the benefits?"

Taylor, a defensive end for Miami, won the NFL's defensive player of the year award after making similar comments last month on a conference call with Indianapolis reporters. Taylor edged Denver cornerback Champ Bailey and Merriman, the San Diego linebacker who was suspended for four games because of a failed steroids test.

"If you get caught cheating, you have to wonder how many plays did you make because of that? You don't really know," Freeney said. "If it makes you faster and stronger, that's what the game is about. It has to do with a lot of other things. If you're faster and stronger than the next guy and you run him over, that has a lot to do with it."

The NFL and players association announced an agreement Wednesday on a stronger policy to winnow out violators. Under the policy, more players will face random drugs tests, and they will be tested for more substances, too.

The league also adopted a new punishment, including automatic forfeiture of a prorated portion of signing bonuses for suspended players.

Freeney did draw a distinction between using supplements, that might contain hidden substances such as ephedrine, which is banned by the NFL, and more obvious performance-enhancing drugs like steroids.

Still, he acknowledged players must be held accountable for whatever they put in their bodies.



AP PHOTO

Colts defensive end Dwight Freeney waits to appear on Fox Sports "Best Damn Sports Show" from his home in Carmel on Thursday.

# Colts reiterate that Manning's thumb isn't an issue

The Associated Press

## INDIANAPOLIS

Reggie Wayne doesn't see any problem with Peyton Manning's bruised right thumb.

Wayne, a Pro Bowl receiver, said Thursday that he noticed nothing wrong with Manning's throws in practice aside from a few errant passes that are typical.

"He threw the ball fine," Wayne said. "He threw a couple of wobblers, but that's normal. He looked OK to me. I'm sure if he

had to cut the thumb off to play, he'd do it."

Manning was injured late in Sunday's AFC Championship Game against New England, which included Manning's 80-yard game-winning drive to beat New England 38-34, after he hit the thumb on the helmet of left tackle Tarik Glenn.

Team doctors checked it out on the sideline, and on Monday, coach Tony Dungy said the thumb was discolored and sore.

X-rays were negative, team

owner Jim Irsay said Monday.

Manning still is expected to make his first Super Bowl start Feb. 4 against Chicago.

On Wednesday, in Manning's first comments since the game, he wouldn't discuss the severity of the injury and was cautious to keep his right hand shielded from view.

Dungy said Manning took every snap in practice Wednesday and was expected to Thursday. The Colts have only kept the stretching portion of practice open to

reporters throughout the playoffs, which Manning was part of.

"He did fine; he didn't have any problems, and he threw the ball well," Dungy said of Wednesday's practice.

But the best evaluations may come from the receivers who must catch Manning's passes, and in Wayne's opinion, there was no difference between the pre-injury and post-injury Manning.

Manning has not missed a start in his nine-year career, a span of 156 games including playoffs.

## Writers complaining

Pro Football Writers Association president Dave Elfin filed a complaint with the NFL on Thursday regarding the Colts' arrival time for the Super Bowl.

The team's plane is not expected to land in South Florida until 7:30 p.m. Monday. Players and Dungy are expected to be available an hour later.

The Chicago Bears are following the general trend of arriving Sunday evening.

## • Roots

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

Even the Bears quarterback has gotten caught in the middle.

"The only thing that stands out is my grandfather played full-back for the Baltimore Colts," Grossman said. "The Colts were my team growing up."

The elder Rex Grossman was drafted by the Colts on the 29th round in 1948.

For the younger Rex Grossman's parents, it's been an interesting time. They bristled at the criticism their son took during the second half of the season and celebrated when he got the Bears into their first Super Bowl since the 1985 season.

This week, they've fielded dozens of phone calls, nearly as many ticket requests and have



AP PHOTO

Bears quarterback Rex Grossman was a fan of the Colts while growing up in the Indiana. The Bears face the Colts in Super Bowl XLI in Miami.

spent time scrambling to make travel plans to Miami.

In between, they're chatting with friends who are trying to pick sides.

"We have a lot of friends who are Colts fans, who have been saying since the start of the season how much fun it would be if the Colts and Bears were in the Super Bowl," Maureen Grossman said.

Moriarity made it onto the Grossmans' VIP list and has two

tickets to the game. But, like so many others in southern Indiana, he hasn't decided which colors to wear to the game Feb. 4.

"I'm like everybody else in the city: I'm a Colts fan," Moriarity said.

It's also not the first time the Grossmans have had a relative playing in the Super Bowl. Rex's uncle, the late Terry Cole, was a backup running back for the 1968 Colts and the 1971 Miami Dolphins. Cole, too, played at Indiana.

But those who know Grossman best are hoping the 25-year-old has a better experience. Cole's teams lost each time.

"You couldn't ask for a better situation than having the Colts and Bears in the Super Bowl," Moriarity said. "I'd say you have a ton of Colts fans in Bloomington, and you have a lot of Rex Grossman fans there, too. I don't know that there's so many Bears fans there."

## • Chance

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

the primary reason behind the improvement.

"I'm just a piece of the puzzle," said McFarland, Tampa Bay's first-round pick in 1999. "I'm not the whole puzzle."

"I'm just a piece, and when we get all of our pieces fit together, I like our chances."

Modesty aside, McFarland has been a critical piece, especially against the run.

In 11 regular-season games, he tallied 45 tackles, including 40 solos, and 2½ sacks. In three playoff games, he has 10 tackles, including seven solos and one sack.

His presence, coupled with the return of run-checking safety Bob Sanders, has shored up a defense that ranked last in the NFL

against the rush during the regular season.

"Guys are making plays; that's the bottom line," McFarland said. "When you get in a situation where it's do-or-die, sometimes guys don't ... respond or do our best until we get backed into a corner."

"Fortunately for us, that's what the playoffs mean. You play well, you move on. You lose, you go home."

For the second time, McFarland's going to the Super Bowl. This time, he gets to play.

"It just shows you how good God has been in my life and how blessed we are," he said. "If you keep persevering and you keep on fighting, all the things that you want in due time will come."

"I wanted to play the last time but didn't get an opportunity to and didn't know if I would ever get one again. Through hard work and through struggles, here we are again."

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## • Fletcher

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

quickly and left Alexander in his wake, and Manning threw one of his prettiest passes of the game to Fletcher near the left sideline.

"It was perfect; it came right down on top of me," Fletcher said. "And you expect Peyton to make plays like that. He came through again."

The play went for 32 yards to the New England 37-yard line. Four plays later, Joseph Addai scored the go-ahead and game-winning touchdown to send the Colts to their first Indy-era Super Bowl appearance next week against Chicago in Miami.

Colts coach Tony Dungy said he gives all of his offensive players the freedom to improvise plays and suggest alterations to Manning as the game dictates.

Dungy said the advantage of the Colts' no-huddle scheme is that Manning is constantly mov-

ing and shuffling players in the backfield, so he gets a chance to hear their suggestions.

"Then it's up to Peyton to incorporate all that into the play call," Dungy said. "He always says that Bryan has a lot of suggestions, that he's got a lot of plays, but most of them don't work."

"But on that one, (Fletcher) was right on."

Fletcher reiterated that Manning will listen to his teammates' suggestions.

Yet the prospect of a league MVP taking tips in the final two minutes of such an important game from a backup who just coughed up a completion might seem slim.

"He was seeing the same thing I saw, so it wasn't a tough sell at all," Fletcher said. "It's a situation where how heavily the defender was playing me prevented me from catching the first pass, and we both felt we could take advantage of him another way."

"Peyton just said, 'Yes, go ahead, let's do that,'" Fletcher added, "and it worked out."

## • Gym

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

champions and the 1998 state finalist. In 1987, the girls team set a national free-throw record, connecting on 26 of 26 free throws in one game.

"When you're in that gym, you can feel all the history that goes along with it," Raines said. "You look along the walls with pictures of the 'Wonder Five.' It just has a lot of memories. It has a very positive history not only for the high school but the city of Franklin, too."

Wonder Five is the nickname given to the Franklin boys teams that won three straight state championships.

Jenny (Cramer) Pieper played on the 1998 state finalist team. She said playing on that squad is one of her fondest memories during her playing career.

Now in her third year as an assistant for Raines, Pieper remembers the fan support the team received during her playing days.

Melissa (Cruiser) Cochrane played for Raines in the late 1980s. The fans stick out in her mind as well.

During her playing days, a

group of students known as the "Bleacher Bums" attended every home game and even traveled for a few road games.

Cochrane, who is in her first season back as an assistant coach after taking time off to spend with her children, said that, from a coach's standpoint, she's excited about moving into the new gym.

"The playing part of me is sad since that's where I played; but with my kids coming through the school system, it'll be fun and exciting to see the new gym," she said. "It'll be fun to get into something new and have a new atmosphere for the girls."

Saturday night is not only the final girls home game at Vandivier Gym, it's also the final home game for the team's seniors.

Kristin Chaney has been playing basketball in the gym since elementary school. Her mother, Sue, played at Franklin in the early 1980s. Her sister, Ashley, who graduated in 2003, played for the Cubs as well.

"I grew up in that gym," Chaney said. "I'm kind of glad my last year coincides with the last year of our gym."

"I'm sure the new high school is going to be great, but I want to finish in the gym I grew up in, the one my mom and sister played in."

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