



TOURNAMENT CHAMPS

The Center Grove Middle School seventh-grade girls basketball team recently won the CMS Girls Basketball Tournament in Connersville by defeating the host Spartans 43-38 in the final. Members and coaches of the team are, front row from left, Elise Middleton, Dreyra Vidito, Devon Coffee, Kelcey Daugherty, Emma Ross, Haley Mathis, Jordan Jones, Baleigh Buchanan, Stephanie Coryell and coach Crystal Sewel; and back row from left, Katie Lucaites, coach Gina Smith, Anna Stark, Tricia Barton, Alli Johnson and manager Danielle Burris.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS



PRESEASON WINNERS

The Our Lady of the Greenwood fifth- and sixth-grade volleyball teams took first and second place in an 18-team "B" Division preseason CYO tournament host by St. Roch Parish. Members and coaches of the team are, front row from left, Abby Fischer, Sydney Wells, Alex Dull, Erin Leppert, Abbie Huber, Libby Rogers, Kathryn Habecker, Hannah Ryker and Amy Smith; and back row from left, coach John Smith, Abbey Skrzypczak, coach Brenda Fischer, Lauren Cunningham, Rachel Wolf, Elizabeth Pride, Allison Harmon, Kristen Torrance, Katie Sandler and coach Becky Wolf.

LOCAL

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL

Franklin wants to fill gym for alumni-night game

Franklin Community High School invites the public to celebrate the final varsity boys basketball game in Vandivier Gymnasium with discounted prices.

Cost of admission to the Feb. 23 game against Jennings County will be \$2 for "Pack the House Night."

The varsity game will start at 7:30 p.m. The evening also will feature alumni night.

With the opening of a new school, Franklin's basketball teams will move into a new gymnasium next season.

FOOTBALL

PITTSBURGH

Former Steelers coach joins CBS as analyst

Former Pittsburgh Steelers coach Bill Cowher is returning to the NFL as an analyst on CBS' Sunday "The NFL Today" studio show.

Cowher resigned as the Steelers' coach last month following 15 seasons and less than a year after winning the Super Bowl.

He plans to spend more time with his family at their new home in Raleigh, N.C., but said working on the CBS show allows him to keep his ties to the league.

"I can still be part of it but not have it consume your life," Cowher said Thursday.

He sent mixed signals as to how long he plans to stay away from coaching. Initially, he said, "It's an opportunity to stay busy on Sundays, and it may go beyond this year." Later in a conference call he said, "I'm planning on doing this for a couple of years."

But he would not officially commit to appearing beyond one season, saying, "It's an opportunity to remain a part of the NFL, and it may go a lot longer than that."



COWHER

BASKETBALL

LUBBOCK, Texas

Knight reprimanded for being critical of officials

Texas Tech men's basketball coach Bob Knight was reprimanded Thursday by the Big 12 Conference for comments about officiating in a double-overtime loss at Oklahoma State.

After Saturday's 93-91 defeat, the former Indiana Hoosiers coach said a call on a charge was "horrendous" and "maybe as bad a call as I've ever seen."

Knight's statement violated the Big 12's principle and standards of sportsmanship, which prohibit coaches from commenting critically in public about officials, the conference said.

Knight had no comment on the reprimand.

CHAMPAIGN, Ill.

Player injured in crash expected to recover

A University of Illinois basketball player injured in a traffic accident earlier this week is expected to make a full recovery, coach Bruce Weber said.

Freshman center Brian Carlwell, 19, suffered a severe concussion Monday night when a 1996 Lexus driven by teammate Jamar Smith struck a tree in heavy snow. Carlwell, who is from Maywood, Ill., remained at an Urbana, Ill., hospital Thursday in fair condition, according to university officials.

COLLEGES

CHAMPAIGN, Ill.

Students who play chief sue NCAA, Illinois

Two students who portray University of Illinois' Chief Illiniwek sued the NCAA and the school's board of trustees Thursday, seeking to preserve the 81-year-old American Indian mascot.

Dan Maloney of Galesburg, Ill., and Logan Ponce of St. Charles, Ill., sought an immediate restraining order to prevent the university from capitulating to the NCAA, according to a news release from Maloney, Ponce and Mattoon attorney Brent D. Holmes.

The NCAA in 2005 deemed Illiniwek, portrayed by buckskin-clad students who dance at home football and basketball games and other athletic events, an offensive use of American Indian imagery and barred the university from hosting postseason events.

Maloney and Ponce said they believe the university's board of trustees plans to eliminate Illiniwek, which they claim would infringe on their right to free speech. The board has said it expects to decide the fate of the chief this year.

WRESTLING

AURORA, Ill.

Father tosses son's opponent out of ring

A father bounded into a youth wrestling match, picked up his son's winning opponent and launched him off the mat, an episode caught on home video.

After tossing the 11-year-old boy into the air Sunday, the angry father headed toward the cameraman, the father of the airborne boy.

"I was just wrestling, then the guy throws me," the boy, Nick Nasenbeny of suburban Aurora, Ill., said. It was not known if the boy was injured.

Ray Hoffman, the father in the video and a part-time wrestling coach, told the television station he regrets his behavior and feels embarrassed. He said his son's shoulder was injured. Hoffman also said he will no longer be allowed to coach.

He should be released by the weekend, Weber said in a statement Wednesday.

Smith, a sophomore guard, suffered a less severe concussion. He drove from the accident in Champaign to the apartment complex where he lives, about a mile away, before authorities were called, university officials have said.

NEW YORK

NBA distances itself from anti-gay Hardaway

The NBA banished Tim Hardaway from All-Star weekend in Las Vegas because of his anti-gay remarks.

Hardaway, who played in five All-Star games during the 1990s, was already in Las Vegas and scheduled to make a series of public appearances this week on behalf of the league. But after saying, "I hate gay people" during a radio interview, commissioner David Stern stepped in.

Hardaway apologized for his comments, which came a week after John Amaechi became the first former NBA player to say he was gay.

"As an African-American, I know all too well the negative thoughts and feelings hatred and bigotry cause," Hardaway said Thursday in a statement issued by his agent. "I regret and apologize for the statements that I made that have certainly caused the same kinds of feelings and reactions."

Gordon wins, car fails inspection

By MIKE HARRIS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.

Just when it looked like racing would snatch the spotlight from the cheaters at Daytona, Jeff Gordon's car failed inspection.

Gordon, who won the second of Thursday's two 150-mile qualifying races, now will start the Daytona 500 in 42nd place.

NASCAR inspectors said his Chevrolet was almost an inch too low but blamed it on a part failure, not cheating. He was not stripped of the victory.

"We feel it was unintentional, and actually fairly unsafe," said NASCAR competition director Robin Pemberton. "We feel that it was a part failure, and we feel that it was unintentional. I think it would be marginal at best if there was any advantage."

"I am 100 percent sure this is unintentional."

NASCAR said it believed a mechanic made a mistake when the shocks were installed before the race.

Gordon's was the sixth team in three days to be caught with technical violations. The earlier



AP PHOTO

The car of Dale Earnhardt Jr., left, spins out in front of the cars of Michael Waltrip and Tony Stewart, right, during the first of two Daytona Duels qualifying races at Daytona (Fla.) International Speedway on Thursday.

problems led to expulsions, suspensions, fines and loss of championship points, and the season hasn't even begun.

The most serious of the violations was committed by the new team of Michael Waltrip, whose Toyota failed inspection after an illegal substance was found in the gas line. His crew chief and team director were suspended indefinitely and kicked out of Daytona (Fla.) International Speedway. Waltrip was docked 100 driver and car owner points.

That was on the heels of lesser violations by the teams of Matt Kenseth, Kasey Kahne, Elliott Sadler and Scott Riggs, whose

crew chiefs all were fined and suspended. All drivers also lost points.

"You couldn't stage this stuff, even if you wanted to," Pemberton said.

Roush Fenway Racing president Geoff Smith said the team is going to file an appeal for the penalty assessed to Kenseth earlier in the week, on the basis that NASCAR's system of assessing penalties is inconsistent.

"I'm sitting here, and Michael Waltrip gets two thirds the penalty of the last fuel additive alteration situation, and (Kenseth) got an unprecedented, never-seen-before penalty," Smith said.

Bonds signs, should report to camp Monday

The Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.

Barry Bonds finally signed his \$15.8 million, one-year deal Thursday, ending more than two months of wrangling between the slugger and the San Francisco Giants over contract language.

With both sides satisfied, Bonds is scheduled to report Monday to spring training. He is likely to participate in the Giants' first full-squad workout Tuesday.

"I expect he will be ready to go," general manager Brian Sabean said.

The 42-year-old Bonds is 22 homers shy of breaking Hank Aaron's career record of 755.

Bonds' deal was approved by

BASEBALL

the commissioner's office. His agent, Jeff Borris, and the Giants reached a preliminary agreement Dec. 7.

The team announced the deal Jan. 29, and Bonds did an interview via conference call. But he never signed the contract, and problems developed.

At issue were specifics about what would happen if Bonds were to be indicted or face further legal trouble, along with details about a personal-appearance provision that was rejected by the commissioner's office.

The Giants sent revised documents to Borris, which Bonds

signed Thursday. Only the personal-appearance provision was deleted from the deal, two baseball officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

In other news

MESA, Ariz.

Wood falls from hot tub

Off-injured Kerry Wood is out again, this time because of a flub in a hot tub.

The Chicago Cubs pitcher is not expected to throw off the mound for a few days after he slipped this week getting out of a hot tub at home. Wood landed on his stomach and chest.

"It was just a little spill," Wood said Thursday. "I didn't think anything of it. Nothing's wrong. It's just going to be a

few extra days. My arm feels great. My body feels good."

Wood said he probably would not have thrown off the mound until today had he not gotten hurt. He participated in most drills Thursday when pitchers and catchers worked out for the first time.

LARGO, Fla.

Yankees official arrested

George Steinbrenner's son-in-law and designated successor to run the New York Yankees was arrested early Thursday for suspicion of driving under the influence.

Yankees general partner Steve Swindal was arrested by the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Police at 4:26 a.m., according to a copy of the charge report posted on the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office's Web site. He was booked for a misdemeanor and released at 9:53 a.m. on \$250 bond.



AUTHORIZED TAURUS SALE

2007 Models

5 Star Safety Rating & Great Fuel Economy



35 In Stock

Many colors & equipment

From \$12,025

Matlock Ford

2140 N Morton St • Franklin, Indiana

736-5185