

SCOREBOARD

www.thejournalnet.com

Boys basketball

AP state polls
The final Associated Press top 10 Indiana high school boys basketball teams for 2006-07...

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Team, W-L, Pts. Pvs.
1. Muncie Central (12) 18-2 294 1

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Team, W-L, Pts. Pvs.
1. Edgewood (13) 20-0 288 1

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Team, W-L, Pts. Pvs.
1. Forest Park (15) 19-1 300 1

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Team, W-L, Pts. Pvs.
1. Oregon-Davis (9) 20-1 284 1

Girls basketball

IHSAA state finals
At Conesco Fieldhouse, Indianapolis
Oregon-Davis (24-3) vs. Wood Memorial (19-8), 10:30 a.m.

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Team, W-L, Pts. Pvs.
1. Oregon-Davis (9) 20-1 284 1

NBA

Table with 4 columns: Team, W, L, Pct., GB
Toronto 31 25 .554 —

MAIN

EVENTS

TV TODAY

- NBA
Phoenix Suns at Indiana Pacers, 7 p.m., Fox Sports
Men's college basketball
Michigan State at Michigan, 7 p.m., ESPN

SPECTATOR SPORTS

TODAY

- Boys basketball
Class 4A sectional at Franklin: Franklin vs. Decatur Central, 7 p.m.
Class A sectional at Edinburg: Edinburg vs. Morton Memorial, 7 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.

Table with 4 columns: Team, Record, Pts. Pvs.
24. N.C. State 21-8 183 —

Monday scores
EAST
Connecticut 70, Rutgers 44

Monday scores
SOUTH
Alabama St. 55, Texas Southern 38

Monday scores
MIDWEST
Cincinnati 59, Syracuse 54

NHL

Sunday's games
New Jersey 3, Washington 2

Monday's games
EAST
Montreal 5, Toronto 4

Monday's games
SOUTH
Atlanta 3, Boston 2

Transactions

BASEBALL
KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Agreed to terms on one-year contracts with LHP Jorge De La Rosa and RHP Carlos Rosa.

Women's National Basketball Association
CONNECTICUT SUN — Signed G Jamie Carey to a training-camp contract.

National Football League
BUFFALO BILLS—Signed DE Chris Kelsay.

Los Angeles Avengers
WR-LB Antoine Burns, WR-LB Ataveus Cash, WR-LB Chris Cole, OL Paul Kaiser, OL Matt Magruder, DB Todd Minter, DL Marcus Parker, DB Kevin Stanley and OL Albert Stinson.

Edmonton Eskimos
Acquired OL Jonathan Langdon from Toronto for future considerations. Released RB Troy Davis, LB Quincy Stewart and DB Kelly Wilshire.

National Hockey League
MONTREAL CANADIENS—Placed RW Aaron Downey on waivers.

Ottawa Senators
Acquired D Lawrence Sehlotar from Washington in exchange for D Andy Hedlund and a sixth-round pick in the 2007 draft.

Southern California
Named John Morton wide receivers coach and passing game coordinator.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

TOURNAMENT WINNERS

The Franklin Junior Grizzly Cubs third-grade boys basketball team recently won the 2006 Holiday Hoopla and 2007 Super Bowl championships at the Indy Southside Sports Academy.

Trojans gearing up for first step toward finals

This week is one that we have been looking forward to all year: sectional week.

We have a considerably long break between our final regular-season meet, which was Feb. 20, and the sectional, which is Saturday.

We have won the sectional for the past four years, usually by a pretty big margin. But this year the teams competing have gotten much better.

Columbus North will be our biggest competition. It is hard to say who the favorite is. In our only meet against Columbus North this season, we tied.

The sectional not only offers greater team competition but also outstanding individual competition. Many of the gymnasts in our sectional are among the top gymnasts in the entire state.

So what can we do to guarantee a top-notch performance Saturday? There definitely are no guarantees in gymnastics, and there's only one way to do our best. We will be practicing our routines tirelessly this entire week.

Converting all of our routines to muscle memory is crucial. When we get up and compete, we want to make sure that every



Megan Roller

WINTER SPORTS DIARY

Motion had been practiced so many times that we can do it without thinking. Thinking too hard about your routines is a recipe for disaster in the sport.

Grace and poise will be needed to win our sectional, and that is just what we will be practicing for.

Every tenth of a point will count, but we are ready. Now is the time of the season where it all comes together and we are really put to the test.

On Saturday we will begin our path to the state meet and toward our team motto of FATE (First At The End).

Megan Roller is a senior on the Center Grove High School gymnastics team. Her Winter Sports Diary entries appear each week in the Daily Journal.

Wrestler has close call but survives again

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY

Scrambling out of a downed, waterlogged airplane, swimming to shore through an icy cold lake, spending the night exposed in the freezing, desert chill, then walking away with little more than bumps and bruises and the urgent need of a nice, warm bed.

Harrowing close calls are becoming a habit for Rulon Gardner, Olympic wrestling champion-turned-escape artist.

There was the time he lost a toe to frostbite after being stranded in the wilderness. He also was involved in a serious motorcycle accident, and in the third grade, he impaled himself with an arrow.

Now this. Gardner's weekend brush with death was the third since he captured the gold at the Sydney Olympics in 2000. It happened when a small airplane he was riding in crashed into Good Hope Bay near the Arizona-Utah border.

"I should be dead," Gardner said. "I shouldn't be on the earth today."

Gardner and the two other men in the plane, brothers Randy and Leslie Brooks, swam to shore through the 44-degree water and spent Saturday night on the banks without shelter.

On Sunday morning, the three men spotted a fisherman, chased him down and got a ride back to safety.

None of the men were left with major injuries. The 35-year-old Gardner said his hip hurt, and he believed he might have sustained a concussion when the plane hit the water. But he never lost consciousness. If he had, he might have drowned.

"I don't know where to put it," he said when asked to compare this to his other narrow escapes. "It was pretty intense."

BASEBALL

FORT MYERS, Fla.

Ramirez arrives for workouts

Manny Ramirez got lost on his way to calisthenics.

The unpredictable slugger reported to Boston Red Sox camp Monday either late or early, depending on who's timing him. And he walked into a crowd of fans after taking a wrong turn as he headed off for stretching.

No problem for the happy-go-lucky hitter. He laughed and simply turned around, headed to the path he should have taken and joined his teammates on one of the practice fields.

"I don't know what to expect from Manny," third baseman Mike Lowell said. "I just know that he's getting ready, and whichever way it is, that's fine with me."

Ramirez drove up in a large, gray sedan with tinted windows four days after the team staged its first full-squad workout but three days before the date the Red Sox gave him permission to arrive because his mother had a health problem.

"Manny reported early because he was ready to go. He's excited to be here in spring training," said his agent, Greg Genske.

CYCLING

HAMBURG, Germany

Former Tour champ retires

Former Tour De France champion Jan Ullrich ended his cycling career Monday, still defending himself against lingering doping suspicions.

The 33-year-old German, who won the Tour in 1997 and was runner-up five times, announced his retirement eight months after being implicated in a Spanish doping scandal.

"It's not easy, but you have to listen to the voice inside you that the time is right," he said. "It was a good time, and I would do it the same way again, even the bad times."

He said he will stay in the sport as a consultant.

Ullrich criticized the way he had been treated by cycling officials in Germany and Switzerland and by the media.

TENNIS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates

Federer breaks Connors' mark

Roger Federer struggled to a first-round victory at the Dubai Open on Monday, the day he broke Jimmy Connors' streak of consecutive weeks at No. 1.

Federer, who broke Connors' 30-year-old mark with his 161st week at the top of the ATP rankings, defeated Kristian Pless 7-6 (2), 3-6, 6-3 in his first match since taking a month off after winning the Australian Open.

Federer's reign began more than three years ago, when he took over No. 1 on Feb. 2, 2004, after winning his second career Grand Slam title at the Australian Open. Connors set his record from July 1974 to August 1977. Connors won eight Grand Slam titles in his 20-year career.

BASKETBALL

INDIANAPOLIS

Butler coach earns honor

Butler men's basketball coach Todd Lickliter was named Horizon League coach of the year Monday for the second straight year.

Wright State guard DaShaun Wood, the league scoring champion, was named conference player of the year.

Butler and Wright State tied for the conference championship with 13-3 records. Butler is 26-5 overall.

Butler guard Mike Green was named the league's top newcomer in the voting by coaches, sports information directors and media throughout the conference.

FOOTBALL

GREEN BAY, Wis.

Favre has ankle surgery

Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre had minor ankle surgery Monday and is expected to recover in time for offseason workouts.

Favre, who plans to return for his 17th NFL season, has been bothered for several years by a buildup of bone spurs in his left ankle.

He kept putting off the procedure and skipped out on a previously scheduled surgery Jan. 1.

NFL

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

child services and suddenly, Willis and his siblings needed to find a new family, one that would give them the love and respect they deserved.

When Chris and Julie Finley took in Willis, becoming his legal guardians, things changed. Eventually, Willis earned a scholarship to Mississippi and began emerging as one of the Rebels' top players.

As a junior, he led the nation with 90 solo tackles despite playing with a broken finger, a sprained knee, a sprained foot and a separated right shoulder, pains that paled in comparison to his life off the field.

But just when it seemed everything was finally going right, Willis was struck by another tragic chapter. In the summer, his 17-year-old brother, Detris, a two-way starter on his high school football team in Bruceton, Tenn., drowned while swimming with friends. Willis delivered the eulogy.

He played his senior season like he a man on a mission. Willis finished with 137 tackles (11½ for losses) and three sacks. He was an All-American, the SEC's defensive player of the year and the Butkus Award winner as the nation's top linebacker. He also earned the coveted Chucky Mullins Courage Award, named for the former Mississippi player who was paralyzed during a game in 1989. Mullins died in 1991.

Last month, he added the Senior Bowl's defensive MVP award to his list of honors.

Yet even now, the wounds still cut deeply. Asked to explain what happened to his parents, the soft-spoken, polite linebacker simply said: "There were complications with my dad, and my mother was never really around."

In 22 years, he's overcome more obstacles, challenges and disappointments than most people experience in a lifetime, and Willis said believes the tribulations have helped him grow as a player, too.

"My real-life experience taught me how to compete through adversity," he said. "No matter what happens, if someone knocks you down, you have to find a way to get up and

Rhodes

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

because there's more detail and that obviously hurts their case," Wyser said.

Penalties for Rhodes could range from no jail time to a year behind bars, according to prosecutors. A conviction on a first-time offense typically results in probation, a fine and treatment.

His contract with the Colts expires this week.

A game-high 113 yards rushing in the Colts' Super Bowl victory against Chicago had given him a chance for a contract windfall when the NFL's free-agent signing period begins Friday.

Rhodes started all 16 regular-season games in 2006, rushing for 641 yards and five touchdowns while sharing running back duties with rookie Joseph Addai. The six-year veteran has rushed for 2,274 yards in his career.