

# Purdue seniors go out in style

The Associated Press

## WEST LAFAYETTE

Katie Gearlds scored 28 points, and Erin Lawless added 18 to help No. 15 Purdue beat Iowa 76-52 Thursday night.

The two seniors closed their home careers in style.

Gearlds made 11 of 20 shots from the field in her first game since scoring a school-record 41 points at Wisconsin. Lawless had career highs of 13 rebounds and five steals and notched her second double-double of the season.

Both received standing ovations when they left the game with just under three minutes remaining.

Kristi Smith led Iowa with 11 points but was held scoreless in the second half.

Purdue (24-5 overall, 13-2 in the Big Ten) lost two of its previous three home games, including a 54-52 loss to Michigan State. The Boiler-makers prevented another loss by shooting 48 percent from the field.

Iowa (13-15, 5-10) committed 27 turnovers. The Hawkeyes were guaranteed a losing regular season and fell to 0-6 against ranked teams.

Purdue led 43-36 early in the second half before three consecutive baskets by Gearlds bumped the lead to 49-36. Purdue later went on an 8-0 run to take a 57-38 lead and led by as many as 25 points in the second half.

## In other NCAA action

### WOMEN

#### No. 2 Tennessee 75 Arkansas 68, OT

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Candace Parker scored 29 points, and No. 2 Tennessee dodged a huge upset bid with an overtime win at Arkansas.

Tennessee led 62-59 with less than 15 seconds left in regulation when Arkansas was forced to foul Shannon Bobbitt. She missed the front end of a one-and-one, and Arkansas rebounded. Dominique Washington's 3-pointer missed, but the ball was knocked back to Washington, who made an open 3-pointer to tie it at 62. Parker's long shot at the end of regulation rimmed out.

#### No. 4 North Carolina 96 Wake Forest 47

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Camille Little scored 19 points, and Ivory Latta had 14 to help No. 4 North Carolina cruise past Wake Forest.

Latta was just 4 for 14 from the floor and spent the final minutes of the first half in the trainer's room after taking an elbow to the eye but returned to start the second half. The two seniors exited to a standing ovation and a chant of "Thank you, seniors" at the 4:37 mark.

The Tar Heels (27-2, 11-2 in the ACC) took an early 18-3 lead, then took it to 29-5 thanks largely to their relentless pressure defense. UNC had 13 steals in the first half, led by Latta's four and Little's three.

#### No. 5 Ohio State 78 Penn State 61

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Jessica Davenport scored 26 points, and Ashlee Trebilcock had 17 to help No. 5 Ohio State beat Penn State to clinch at least a share of its third Big Ten title in a row.

The Buckeyes (25-2, 14-1) lead Purdue by a game with only their regular-season finale at Michigan on Sunday. Star Allen added 22 points for the Buckeyes, who captured a piece of their 10th Big Ten title.

### MEN

#### No. 7 Memphis 99 Rice 63

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Willie Kemp scored 20 points to help No. 7 Memphis beat Rice and clinch its second straight Conference USA title.

The victory extended Memphis' winning streak to 16 straight, longest in the nation. Memphis also has won 28 straight at home.

Memphis, which started the game 0 for 7 from 3-point range, ended up shooting 47 percent from outside the arc. Kemp hit four of his six 3-pointers.

Jeremy Hunt finished with 16 points for Memphis, while Antonio Anderson and Chris Douglas-Roberts added 14 each. Robert Dozier scored 10 points.

#### Utah Valley State 72 IPFW 63

FORT WAYNE — Ryan Toolson scored 16 points off the bench to lead Utah Valley State past IPFW.

David Heck and Richard Troyer added 14 points each for the Wolverines (20-7).

DeWitt Scott and Demetrius Johnson led the Mastodons (10-16) with 14 points each.

#### Oral Roberts 83 IUPUI 73

INDIANAPOLIS — Caleb Green scored 25 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to lead Oral Roberts past host IUPUI.

Green hit 13 of 17 free throws as the Golden Eagles (20-9, 12-1 Mid-Continent Conference) outscored the Jaguars from the free-throw line 17-8.

Gary Patterson shot 9 of 12 from 3-point range and finished with 27 points to lead IUPUI (13-14, 6-7).



Purdue's FahKara Malone, right, drives to the basket against Iowa's Kristi Smith during the first half of Thursday's Big Ten game in West Lafayette. AP PHOTO

## GOLF

MARANA, Ariz.

### Tiger wins easily, and his road gets easier

Tiger Woods had an easy time advancing Thursday in the Accenture Match Play Championship.

And with Jim Furyk, Phil Mickelson and the other top seeds no longer around, his road to an eighth straight PGA Tour victory started looking easier, too.

Woods was 5-up through six holes and never serious challenged by Tim Clark, the South African recovering from a neck injury and playing his first tournament of the year. The result was a 5-and-4 victory, the shortest match of the second round.

Mickelson's up-and-down West Coast Swing came to an end with a 3-and-1 loss to Justin Rose.

Chad Campbell pulled off a valiant rally against Furyk, making an 18-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to go overtime, then two-putting from 50 feet for birdie to win in 19 holes.

That left Woods, the No. 1 seed, as the only player among the top eight still around.

PLAYA DEL CARMEN, Mexico

### Funk's decision to play in Mexico paying off

Earlier this week, Fred Funk was entered in both the Champions Tour event in Florida and the Mayakoba Golf Classic.

He ended up coming south of the border and sure is glad he did.

Funk birdied five of the first seven holes and finished with an 8-under 62, giving him the lead after Thursday's first round of the first PGA Tour event in Mexico.

"I wasn't sure where I really wanted to go," Funk said. "I could go to the Champions Tour and have a guaranteed three rounds and work on my game. And I had already committed to this a long time ago, even before the season started. I think."

"It turned out to be a really good decision, based on the first round."

Cameron Beckman had the day's best stretch, six birdies in seven holes, but couldn't manage any others and was two shots back at 64 along with George McNeill, John Merrick and Boo Weekley.

FORT MYERS, Fla.

### Ramirez won't attend auction during absence

Manny Ramirez changed plans and will not attend a car auction in New Jersey on Saturday while his Boston Red Sox teammates work out at spring training, the team said Thursday.

The Red Sox gave Ramirez permission to report late to camp March 1, the day after their first exhibition game, for family reasons. The left fielder's mother recently had surgery.

Boston general manager Theo Epstein said that after learning about Ramirez's scheduled appearance at the auction, he spoke Wednesday night with Greg Genske, the slugger's agent.

"He said (Ramirez) is not going to be there, so it's fine," Epstein said Thursday. "He's dealing with a family issue. We're not going to document his exact whereabouts on an hour-to-hour basis."

G. Potter King, the Berlin, N.J., car dealer promoting the auction, said Wednesday night did not return calls seeking comment.

WASHINGTON

### FCC investigating deal between MLB, DirecTV

The government is investigating a proposed deal between Major League Baseball and DirecTV Inc.

MLB reportedly seeks to strike an exclusive deal with the satellite television provider to offer its "Extra Innings" baseball package. Disclosure of the Federal Communications Commission's investigation of any such deal came in a letter from FCC chairman Kevin Martin that Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., released Thursday.

The programming option allows baseball fans who live outside the markets of their favorite teams to watch them play for an extra fee. It is currently available to a number of cable and satellite television providers.

Kerry had asked Martin to investigate the "proposed \$700 million television deal that could deny many consumers the ability to watch their favorite teams."

Martin, in reply, wrote Kerry: "I share your concerns regarding this proposed deal."

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates

### Henin, Mauresmo reach Dubai semis; Hingis falls

Defending champion Justine Henin led the top three seeds into the semifinals of the Dubai Open on Thursday.

Henin routed Eleni Daniilidou 6-0, 6-2 and will meet third-seeded Svetlana Kuznetsova, who defeated Patty Schnyder 6-3, 6-4.

Second-seed Amelie Mauresmo topped Daniela Hantuchova 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, and Marina Hingis, the 2001 champion, lost 7-6 (3), 6-2 to Jelena Jankovic.

Henin is 12-1 against Kuznetsova, with wins in the 2004 Dubai final and 2006 semifinal. Mauresmo leads Jankovic 4-1 overall, but the Serb won their previous outing last month in Sydney.

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

### Almagro, Chela advance in Buenos Aires tourney

Juan Carlos Ferrero defeated Lukas Dlouhy 6-3, 6-3 Thursday but missed the quarterfinals of the Copa Telmex.

Ferrero finished second in his round-robin group to Nicolas Devilder, who beat the Spaniard on Wednesday and will advance to his first ATP quarterfinals.

Devilder had lost to Nicolas Lapentti, who abruptly withdrew because of an unspecified injury. He was replaced by Dlouhy. Gaston Gaudio, who won the event in 2005, also withdrew citing muscle fatigue.

Juan Ignacio Chela outlasted Igor Andreev 3-6, 7-5, 6-3 to make the final eight.

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands

### Davydenko, Youzhny advance at ABN Amro

Nikolay Davydenko overcame an ankle injury to advance to the quarterfinals of the ABN Amro, beating Marc Gicquel 6-3, 6-3 Thursday.

The top-seeded Russian had his right ankle taped while leading 2-1 in the first set, then broke the Frenchman in the next game.

Davydenko's next opponent will be Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber.

## • Trophy

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

Beginning today at 11 a.m. at the Meijer on Southport Road, Colts officials will take it on a "World Championship Trophy Tour" for about a month around 50 locations in Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky.

Stops later on the tour in March adjacent to Johnson County include Shelbyville, Columbus and Martinsville.

Fans can have photographs taken with the trophy and even reach inside a clear plastic case that is open at the top to touch it.

Tom Zupancic, the Colts' vice president of sales and marketing, said Irsay hopes that the top of the trophy becomes dull from all the contact from fans' hands.

Dungy said Irsay first spoke to him about the idea last week, and within that short time, the Colts' sales and marketing staff selected 50 locations for the tour that would make getting an up-close view of the Lombardi Trophy a convenience, no matter how close or far fans live from Indianapolis.

Dungy said he can't recall hearing about a similar tour for the trophy when previous franchises have won Super Bowls.

"We want to be able to share the excitement with the fans, and we couldn't think of a better way to do it," Dungy said. "Jim felt it was important to let people who had been so supportive all year feel a part of it, and he didn't want them to have to come all the way to Indianapolis."

"He wanted to do something to make it easy."

Dungy said Irsay has been proactive and consistent about connecting the victory celebration with the fans. He said Irsay was adamant about having a parade in Indianapolis the day after the Super Bowl despite freezing temperatures and travel delays.

"He said we've got to make this work because he wanted everybody to feel a part of this championship," Dungy said.

Colts officials recommend that fans arrive early at the tour stops. Dungy predicts the team may have to extend the hours based on his personal experience with the attraction fans feel to the victory.

"I'll be anxious to see how many people take advantage of it and want to be a part of it," he said. "I bet it will be more than anybody thinks."

## • Tackle

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

and started for a long time."

Perhaps Thomas should re-check his history.

Since 2002, there have been nearly as many busts as hits among offensive linemen picked in the top 10. Arizona's Leonard Davis, in 2001, and Oakland's Robert Gallery, in 2004, were both chosen No. 2 overall but have not yet met expectations. Mike Williams, chosen fourth overall in 2002 by Buffalo, was eventually cut by the Bills before signing with Jacksonville last year.

D'Brickshaw Ferguson of the New York Jets had a solid rookie year and appears to have a promising future, but Thomas hopes to become an immediate star.

Thomas' tools are unique. At 6-foot-6, 311 pounds, he offers prototypical size, is strong enough to have reached a preliminary round of the Olympic Trials in shot put as a sophomore and is still agile enough to high jump 6-feet.

He demonstrated enough versatility at Wisconsin to fill in at defensive end while establishing himself as a dominant tackle and proved gritty enough to return from a torn anterior cruciate ligament in January 2006 and earn All-American honors last season.

Scouts are enamored with the rare combination, although some will undoubtedly ask how he's different from Gallery, Williams and Davis. Thomas already has an answer.

"I'm a different player than Robert Gallery. I really respect his



AP PHOTO

Wisconsin offensive tackle Joe Thomas is expected to be an early pick in the NFL draft in April.

game, but I'm a different player," he said. "I think I'm very technically sound, I have a great work ethic, I study hard, and I'm a pretty athletic offensive lineman."

Another factor in Thomas' favor is the legacy Wisconsin linemen have had in the NFL.

From Hall-of-Famer Mike Webster to workhorses such as Paul Gruber, Casey Rabach and Mark Tauscher, the Badgers have had a relatively good history of linemen in the league.

Now the polite Thomas intends to add to that reputation doing it his own way.

Thomas, who grew up a Green Bay Packers fan in his native Wisconsin, skipped the usual precombine workouts in warm weather to start preparing for next season, wherever he might play.

Thomas is projected to go in the top five picks, possibly as high as No. 2 to Detroit. After using three first-round picks on receivers in the past four years, the Lions may look elsewhere for help.

**Whiteland Girls Softball**

## SIGN-UPS

**Thursday, Feb. 22nd, 6 - 8 p.m.**  
**Saturday, Feb. 24th, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

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