



### MAKING COLLEGE PLANS

Center Grove High School senior Holly Reed, left, listens to senior Ian McGarvey talk about his college plans during a ceremony at the school Wednesday. McGarvey will play football for Ball State. Reed will continue her swimming career at IUPUI. Wednesday was national signing day for high school athletes.

STAFF PHOTO BY MATTHEW GLENESK/mglesk@thejournalnet.com



### READY TO CONTINUE CAREERS

Five Whiteland Community High School seniors announced their college plans in a ceremony at the school Wednesday. Continuing their sports careers in college are, from left, Brandon Kingsbury, baseball at Kankakee (Ill.) Community College; Reid Meador, football at Hillsdale (Mich.) College; Adam Money, football at Yale University; Brittney Wilson, basketball at Franklin College; and Amy Orender, softball at Wabash Valley (Ill.) College.

STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com

# Football programs bolstered by recruits

## IU, Purdue coaches focus on gains, not critics, losses

By MICHAEL MAROT  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### BLOOMINGTON

Terry Hoepfner and Joe Tiller don't care about getting high marks for their recruiting. They'd rather take overachievers who win games.

On Wednesday, the first day high school players could sign a national letter-of-intent and the first day coaches could comment on their signees, the coaches at rival schools, Indiana and Purdue, found one point of unification: They expect these recruits to outperform the so-called experts' expectations.

"If you showed me this list on Dec. 1, I'd have said I'd take them," Hoepfner said. "I said we needed more versatility, and I think we got that. We wanted more offensive linemen, and we got that. I think we did a good job filling our needs."

The biggest story in Bloomington, however, wasn't who the Hoosiers got; it was who they lost. Warren Central safety Jeremy Finch, who committed to Indiana last month, decided at the last minute to sign with national champion Florida.

It was a big loss for the Hoosiers, who considered Finch their top in-state recruit.

But Hoepfner still got 19

signees, including three of Finch's high school teammates, and decided to focus on those coming to Indiana rather than who wasn't.

What Hoepfner likes most about his signees at IU is their versatility.

"You analyze what you could have done differently or what you could have done better, but I don't know that I'd change anything we did over the last month or six weeks," he said. "What I'm going to do is not worry about the ones who got away, what I want to talk about is the ones we got."

At Purdue, Tiller resorted to an old tactic with his class: debunking the critics.

Like in 1997, when Purdue's group of signees included Drew Brees but was generally regarded as one of the league's worst recruiting classes, Tiller brought in another talented quarterback.

The Boilermakers got Justin Siller, a 6-foot-4, 200-pound quarterback from Detroit who Tiller believes is improving his arm strength and accuracy to go with his already strong mentality. Tiller said those traits will help him excel in the Big Ten.

"He's as smart as any we've had in a while, or smarter than a few we've recruited lately," Tiller said.

## Notre Dame loses players but still has group in top 10

By TOM COYNE  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### SOUTH BEND

Notre Dame signed the top-rated quarterback and added highly rated recruits at tailback, tight end, wide receiver and elsewhere.

The news Wednesday, though, was a little problem — or Little's problem — coach Charlie Weiss ran into.

Two players who previously verbally committed to the Irish, wide receiver Greg Little of North Carolina and offensive lineman Chris Little of Georgia, signed Wednesday at their home-state schools.

Bobby Burton, editor at Rivals.com, dropped Notre Dame's class to eighth in the nation, down from sixth, after the Littles, who are not related, signed at North Carolina and Georgia.

Burton said the good news for the Irish, though, was they lost players at positions where they already are deep.

"I don't think you ever want to get bad news on signing day. But at the same time, it's part of what makes signing day so interesting," he said.

The good news for Notre Dame was the Irish have signed back-to-back top-10 recruiting

classes for the first time since 1998 and 1999.

"It's a very solid class. It complements last year's class very well," said Tom Lemming, a recruiting analyst with College Sports Television. Lemming had the Irish ranked at No. 7; Burton had them No. 8; Max Emfinger had them No. 9; and Allen Wallace No. 10.

Notre Dame's top recruit enrolled at school last month. Quarterback Jimmy Clausen is the most heralded player to arrive on campus since Ron Powlus in 1993.

Now Powlus is the new quarterbacks coach and will be teaching Clausen.

Weis said what impressed him most was that Clausen threw 49 TD passes last year and just six interceptions while completing 69 percent of his passes.

Clausen raised some eyebrows when he called a news conference at the College Football Hall of Fame in April to announce his college choice and arrived late in a limousine.

Weis said the "dog-and-pony show" gave people the wrong impression of his new quarterback. He said Clausen is quiet and hard working.

"He's a fierce competitor that wants to come in and compete for playing time," he said.

## Rich get richer as Florida lands wealth of new talent

By JOSH DUBOW  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### NEW YORK

Florida won the recruiting crown in nearly as dominating fashion as the national title.

The Gators capitalized on last month's national title win against Ohio State and down years from Sunshine State rivals Florida State and Miami to bring in the top recruiting class in the country Wednesday.

"No one is even that close to them," recruiting analyst Tom Lemming of CSTV said. "They got help everywhere. In the past 10 years, this has to rank right at the top in recruiting classes. Every position is absolutely loaded."

The Gators also were picked as the top class by SuperPrep, Rivals.com and National Blue Chips, beating out Southern California, SEC rivals Tennessee and LSU, and Texas.

The Trojans closed strong, adding top running backs Joe McKnight from Louisiana and Broderick Green from Arkansas on Wednesday to a class that already included another top back in Marc Tyler; defensive end Everson Griffen, SuperPrep's No. 1 overall player; the nation's No. 1 receiver, Ronald Johnson from Michigan; and blue chip line-

backer Chris Galippo from Anaheim, Calif.

"USC continues to be the place that a lot of skill-position players look to first," said analyst Bobby Burton of Rivals.com. "That doesn't mean the guys they get on defense aren't special. It just means they have the pick of the litter when it comes to offensive skill players."

But the Gators' class was best of all, signing nine of the top 16 players in talent-rich Florida and the No. 1 players from South Carolina, Indiana, Maryland and New England, according to Rivals.com.

"They play an exciting brand of ball on offense and defense and a lot of kids want to be in that situation," said Allen Wallace, the national recruiting editor for Scout.com.

Florida's class includes Rivals' third-best pro-style quarterback in John Brantley, the nation's top guard in James Wilson, top weakside defensive end in Carlos Dunlap, second-best defensive tackle in Torrey Davis, and top two safeties, Jeremy Finch and Major Wright.

Florida's haul was part of a banner recruiting year for the SEC, where Tennessee, LSU, South Carolina, Auburn, Georgia and Alabama all received at least one top-10 ranking.

## FOOTBALL

DECATUR, Ill.

### Bears fan loses bet, to become Peyton Manning

How do you spell Scott Wiese? In a few weeks, that'd be P-e-y-t-o-n M-a-n-n-i-n-g.

Wiese, a die-hard fan of the Chicago Bears, signed a pledge in front of a crowd at a Decatur, Ill., bar Friday night that if the Bears lost Sunday's Super Bowl, he'd change his name to that of the man who led the Indianapolis Colts to victory.

Final score: Colts 29, Bears 17. So Tuesday, Wiese went to the Macon County (Ill.) Courts Facility and started the process of changing his name.

"I made the bet, and now I've got to keep it," said the 26-year-old, who lives in Forsyth, just north of Decatur.

Wiese will now have to advertise his intention in the local newspaper, the Herald & Review, for several weeks and then have a judge give him the OK to become, legally anyway, Peyton Manning.

## RACING

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

### DEI signs Earnhardt, but not most famous one

As Dale Earnhardt Jr. continued contract extension negotiations with DEI, the company came to terms with another driver named Earnhardt.

Jeffrey Earnhardt, the 17-year-old grandson of the late Dale Earnhardt, has signed a long-term driving services contract with Dale Earnhardt Inc. The signing came as Earnhardt Jr. prepared to meet with team officials to discuss his future with his father's company.

Earnhardt Jr.'s contract with DEI is up at the end of the season, and negotiations have been tense since stepmother Teresa Earnhardt seemingly questioned his commitment in a December.

## GOLF

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif.

### Lack of sponsors results in end of International

The International, known for its unique scoring system on a Castle Pines golf course in the mile-high air outside Denver, will no longer be on the PGA Tour schedule effective immediately, a tour official said Wednesday.

The loss of the 21-year-old tournament was due primarily to lack of a corporate sponsor, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because it has not formally been announced.

PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem and tournament founder Jack Vickers are expected to make it official today.

That leaves a hole in the PGA Tour schedule on July 5 to 8, but tour officials have been working on a contingency plan during the past month and are expected to announce a replacement by April.

The leading candidate is Washington, the largest U.S. market without a PGA Tour event. The nation's capital had a tour event since 1968, but that presumably ended when title sponsor Booz Allen bailed out last year.

## BOXING

PHOENIX

### Tyson checks himself into drug-rehab facility

Mike Tyson has checked himself into an inpatient treatment program for various addictions while awaiting trial on drug charges, his lawyer said Wednesday.

"He needed to get involved in something that would help him with his addiction," attorney David Chesnoff said. Chesnoff wouldn't describe Tyson's addictions, but police said the former heavyweight champ told officers that he used cocaine frequently.

Chesnoff said Tyson checked himself into an undisclosed facility shortly after appearing in a Phoenix courtroom.

# Colts assistant interviews for Cowboys job

By STEPHEN HAWKINS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### IRVING, Texas

Forget Disneyland.

Since the Colts won the Super

Bowl, assistant head coach Jim Caldwell has gone from rainy Miami to frigid Indianapolis for a victory celebration and now to sunny Dallas to interview for the

Cowboys' head coaching vacancy. Caldwell on Wednesday became the 10th and likely final candidate to interview with Dallas owner



CALDWELL

and general manager Jerry Jones in the search to replace Bill Parcells, who retired Jan. 22.

"It's been a whirlwind. The last 72 hours have been interesting, obviously culminating with a great win and then all the travel in between," Caldwell said after spending about six hours at Valley Ranch. "But it's certainly been well worth it."

While Jones hasn't said when he will name a new coach, Caldwell said he expected the decision to come soon.

The search appeared to be winding down last week until Jones, after formally interviewing eight candidates, said he would wait until after the Super Bowl. Then he added two more in

the mix to be the Cowboys' seventh coach, the sixth since Jones bought the team in 1989.

San Francisco assistant coach Norv Turner, a two-time head coach and the Cowboys' offensive coordinator for two Super Bowl titles in the 1990s, is still viewed by many as the favorite for the job.

Jones also interviewed defensive coordinators Wade Phillips of San Diego and Gary Gibbs of New Orleans, and Hall of Fame linebacker Mike Singletary, a 49ers assistant.

Jason Garrett was hired for an unspecified role on the staff, likely as offensive coordinator, but is still considered a candidate for the top job. Three of Parcells' assistants also talked to Jones.

Caldwell was the second Super Bowl assistant coach interviewed. His visit came a day after Chicago Bears defensive coordinator Ron Rivera talked to Jones and other officials for about six hours.

The 52-year-old Caldwell has been quarterbacks coach at Indianapolis for five years, working directly with Peyton Manning.

"It's tough for me to take credit for something that's God-given, particularly with Peyton," Caldwell said. "He's a very talented guy, and certainly he has a great sort of a foundation from his dad playing the game, and he's a studious individual."

"I can say this: We certainly were good for one another, but he did most of the legwork."

## • Hawaii

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

home in Indianapolis on Monday, Manning joined receivers Marvin Harrison and Reggie Wayne and offensive linemen Tarik Glenn and Jeff Saturday for a lengthy chartered flight to Hawaii on Tuesday, courtesy of the Colts owners.

They found something to make the 4,340 miles fly, however: They watched the tape of Indianapolis' 29-17 win against Chicago for the first time.

"Not much sleep; I wouldn't say I'm very well-rested, but it's the kind that you like," Manning

said. "Being able to fly out here (Tuesday) on Air Irsay, as I call it, with my teammates, and then to watch the Super Bowl on the plane, that's hard to beat."

Manning was 25 of 38 for 247 yards and a touchdown in that rain-soaked win against the Bears. He's starting for the AFC again after winning the MVP award in Hawaii two years ago but doesn't plan to take this Pro Bowl quite as seriously.

"There won't be a lot of motivation going on out there," Manning said. "This will be a cruise-control kind of week."

But don't let his fellow Pro Bowlers find out. Minnesota lineman Steve Hutchinson also got in a playful shot at his longtime

friend when they hung out in a restaurant downstairs at the players' resort on Oahu's west shore Monday night.

"He just looks at me and says, 'You've changed,'" Manning said. "Seriously, there's nothing more you could say to me to make me madder. I hadn't brought (the Super Bowl) up one time. People are bringing it up to me, and I'm giving them my Elvis Presley: 'Thank you very much, thank you very much.'"

"My whole goal is to prove to him how I'm very much the same guy. That's who I am."

Manning also relishes the chance to play for New England coach Bill Belichick, who got this assignment after the Patriots' wrenching loss to Indianapolis in the AFC Championship Game. Belichick left a congratulatory voicemail message for Manning on Friday, and he joked around with the quarterback before Wednesday's practice.

And Manning's teammates are looking forward to relaxing. Saturday, his longtime center, spent just enough time at home to wash his clothes Monday night. After throwing them back into the same suitcase he took to Miami, Saturday was off for the islands to play for Belichick.

"Bill even said that, as much as he hated to say it, congratulations," Saturday said. "I'm still so excited about it. I don't know if that means it hasn't sunk in yet."

Urgent news for Women who took

# PAXIL

Women taking Paxil® (Paroxetine) during pregnancy have an increased risk of giving birth to a child with heart defects. If you or a loved one took Paxil® during pregnancy and gave birth to a child with a heart defect, please call us now toll free at 1-800-THE-EAGLE for a free consultation. We practice law only in Arizona, but associate with lawyers throughout the U.S.

Offices in Phoenix & Tucson

**GOLDBERG & OSBORNE**  
1-800-THE-EAGLE  
(1-800-843-3245)  
www.1800theeagle.com

Open 7 days a week

**HALLMARK HOMES, INC.**

"On Your Lot" Affordable Custom Homes

Your Plan or Ours!  
We are Indiana's #1 "On Your Lot" Affordable Custom Home Builder Since 1992!

Visit us at [HallmarkHomes.com](http://HallmarkHomes.com)

Call 800-644-6566 for your Free Plan Book

Anderson Model 433 E. 53rd Street  
Kokomo Model 2616 Albright Road  
Lafayette Model 3621 Nikole Drive  
Lebanon Model 126 Birchwood Dr.