

BASKETBALL

PHILADELPHIA

They could've played all night, and nearly did

Somewhere in the second overtime, Drexel coach Denise Dillon was running out of water, and Northeastern's Daynia La-Force Mann was running out of movies to quote.

It was the game that wouldn't end. The teams went at it for five overtimes Thursday night, exhaustion and injuries taking a toll.

Drexel finally prevailed, winning 98-90 in the longest game in NCAA Division I women's basketball history. Two Division II games have gone to five overtimes.

"As the game went on, we just tried to find humor in it," Dillon said. "It was almost like a boxing match."

Northeastern's Shaleyse Smallwood finished with 37 points despite the flu.

Drexel's Delise Johnson was cut on the head diving for a loose ball in the third overtime.

"I was thinking, five overtimes, are you kidding me?" Smallwood said. "Are we going to play all night?"

Smallwood nearly did; she played 63 of the game's 65 minutes.

"I didn't have class (Friday), thank God," Smallwood said after she grabbed a few hours sleep following the Huskies' 5 a.m. arrival in Boston. "Some of my teammates did; I don't know how they did it."

URBANA, Ill.

Illini player pleads not guilty to felony charges

University of Illinois basketball player Jamar Smith pleaded not guilty Friday to felony charges of drunken driving and leaving the scene of an accident that left a teammate injured.

Smith faces a maximum of 12 years in prison and a \$25,000 fine if convicted. He entered the plea in Champaign County (Ill.) Court.

Smith, a 19-year-old sophomore guard from Peoria, was driving a Lexus in snowy conditions on Feb. 12 when the car struck a tree. Authorities insist Smith and his passenger, teammate Brian Carlwell, had been drinking tequila and beer before the crash.

Smith, who is too young to drink legally, had a blood-alcohol level of .176 after the crash, more than twice the legal limit of .08, prosecutors say.

Authorities say Smith, who thought Carlwell was dead, left the accident scene and drove the damaged car back to his apartment, a mile away in the small town of Savoy, Ill.

The accident left Carlwell, 19, hospitalized for several days with a severe concussion.

GOLF

NAPLES, Fla.

Wadkins shoots 8-under, leads Champions event

Bobby Wadkins shot an 8-under 64 on Friday to take a one-stroke lead over Champions Tour newcomer Mark O'Meara, Allen Doyle and Gil Morgan after the first round of The ACE Group Classic.

Wadkins, who won the The Boeing Championship and Ford Senior Players last year, had two eagles, five birdies and one bogey on the Quail West Golf and Country Club course.

"I kept the ball where I was putting uphill most of the day, so that made things pretty simple," Wadkins said.

Wadkins eagled the par-5 first and 13th holes, then closed with four straight birdie, closing putts of 20, 12, 6 and 15 feet.

"I kind of just kept myself relaxed and played good today," he said. "I started making some birdies, and with an eagle and then a par and then a four-birdie finish tells me that I did a good job of staying out of my way. I think that's from last year's performance, that you kind of learn how to play a little bit better."

TENNIS

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates

Henin one match away from fourth Dubai crown

Top-seeded Justine Henin beat Svetlana Kuznetsova 1-6, 6-4, 6-0 on Friday, setting up a Dubai Open final against Amelie Mauresmo.

Mauresmo, seeded second, won her semifinal when fifth-seeded Jelena Jankovic of Serbia retired with an ankle injury after losing the first set 6-2. The match was briefly interrupted when a cat got onto the court and Jankovic stopped playing.

"Strange match, really," Mauresmo said. "Though I didn't see the cat."

Henin is bidding for her fourth Dubai title, having won in 2003, 2004 and 2006.

Dungy disappointed with Rhodes

The Associated Press

Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy was disappointed.

Team

president Bill Polian

expressed dismay.

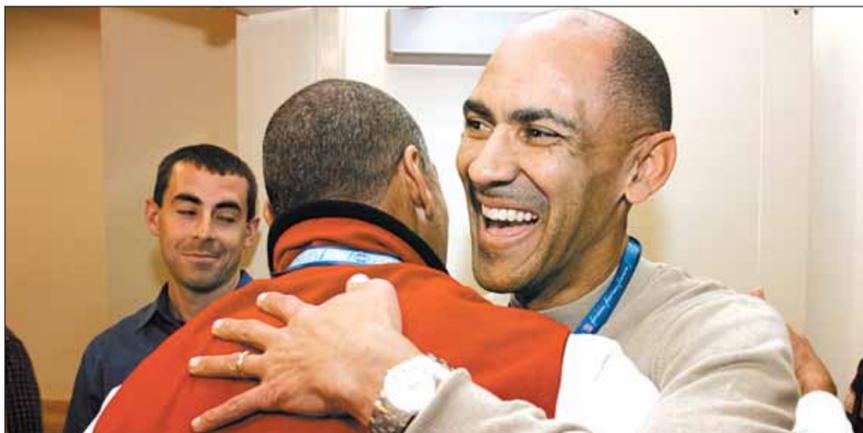
Now Dungy wants to hear running back Dominic Rhodes' explanation for what happened early Tuesday when he was arrested on a charge of drunken driving.

"We'll sit down with Dom and talk through it. It's very, very disappointing," Dungy said Friday at the NFL Scouting Combine. "We talk about it all the time as a team, the decision making."

Rhodes was charged with a misdemeanor after police say a state trooper pulled his GMC truck over for going 81 mph in a 55-mph zone in Indianapolis. Penalties range from no jail time to a year behind bars, and there is no possibility of a diversion program. A conviction on a first-time offense typically results in probation, a fine and treatment.

Rhodes also could face sanctions from the league office for violating the league's substance-abuse policy.

And the arrest could hurt Rhodes' wallet. He becomes a free agent Friday, and his MVP-like performance in the Colts' 29-17 Super Bowl victory against Chicago had given him a chance



Colts coach Tony Dungy greets Chiefs coach Herm Edwards at the NFL Scouting Combine on Friday in Indianapolis.

for a contract windfall.

Now suitors may try to get Rhodes at a discount price, and there's no certainty he will return to the Colts, either.

"I'm saddened and troubled by it," Polian said. "It's not something we want in our program. By the same token, I don't have all the facts. In fact, I have very few of the facts. We'll have to see what the facts are."

In the Colts' first public comments since issuing a written statement Tuesday, Dungy said he had not yet spoken personally with Rhodes but that other team officials had.

Workout changes

Dungy is making changes to help the team have a chance at repeating as Super Bowl champions. He said Friday that the Colts' offseason workout schedule would be reduced from 16 weeks to 14.

The change, he said, was intended to give players more time to recover from a grueling 20-game schedule that ended with the Super Bowl win against the Bears three weeks ago.

The Colts also announced Friday that four players, defensive end Jonathan Welsh, defensive back Dexter Reid, tight end

Jerome Collins and linebacker Johnathan Goodard, had been released. The team signed free-agent punter Reggie Hodges, a former Ball State player.

Tomlinson's father killed

The father of NFL MVP LaDainian Tomlinson was killed Friday when the pickup truck in which he was riding blew a tire and flipped on a highway near Waco, Texas.

Oliver Tomlinson was killed at about 1:30 p.m. in the one-vehicle rollover, said Charlie Morgan, a Texas Department of Public

Walsh

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

court and basically how you conduct yourself in the community.

That's not to say that the players that were in those incidents don't fit or that there's something wrong with their character. In many cases, they're just young players that are on a stage they don't quite understand and commit mistakes but don't seem to get it.

Saying that, I am not throwing Marquis or Jamaal under the bus because basically they said they didn't do this, and I think we don't know what happened that night here in the franchise.

So we have to wait for the evidence to come in. We're going to support them until the evidence proves that they didn't tell us the truth.

Q: You have taken some criticism for taking that stance, for standing behind the players. Do you think that is fair criticism?

A: Let's put it this way: We are standing behind the players because I think that's what should be done in this situation.

The fact that they've been charged with something hasn't proven anything, and I live in America. The last time I looked, that's the way we do it here.

People will look back and say, "Well you traded (Jackson)." Well, I traded Jack not just because of the incident but because of the whole series of events where I thought it was better for him to be somewhere else and better for us to have someone else.

Q: Jermaine O'Neal is having arguably his best season as a professional. Has he stepped up as the leader you envisioned him to be?

A: He's the same kind of leader that Reggie Miller was. It's not being vocal, it's not going around saying what you're going to do and all that.

Jermaine is just going out every night and playing at a very high level, and what happens is the players on the team understand if we're going to play with this guy, we're going to have to play hard every night because he's playing hard every night.

He's out to win the games. And that's where Reggie affected our team on how he prepared himself, on how he went out every night and did everything he could to win the game.

I think Jermaine is doing that this year.

Q: How much do you think this roster misses a Reggie Miller, a player who sets an example?

A: You can't manufacture leadership. It isn't like you can just go out and say, "Well there's a guy that's a leader, let's go bring him in," because you have to have 11 guys who will follow him.

Leadership is earned. Reggie, of course, had that. That's not easy to replace.

We've brought in Darrell

Armstrong, who has leadership qualities, and he's proven it here. Jermaine has been helpful. I think the fact that Jamaal Tinsley has dedicated himself to playing every game and prepared his body, that all adds into it, and then these new players will have their effect as we go on.

Q: How long do you envision staying in your current position?

A: It was slated to end at the end of this year, which I was set to do. I have spoken to the owner, and there's a possibility I would go on beyond this year.

I think when we get to the end of the season we'll all sit down and talk. And if it's good that I stay here for the franchise, then I will consider staying here. If it isn't, then I'm not going to leave here to go anywhere else. I'll just retire and be very happy that I did this for 21 years and be very happy that we had the success that we did.

But I'll always feel bad about the way this has gone the last two or three years, I'd say.

Q: Is the plan still for Larry Bird to take over then?

A: Yeah, that's for sure.

Q: With that said, has he been making the majority of the basketball decisions?

A: He did up until (Ron) Artest said he wanted to be traded, then I got involved, and then, in these incidents, I've been involved.

Q: How concerned are you about the team's public image with the recent headlines?

A: I abhor our public image. That's why we spent the last year trying to do something about it.

I've been here 23 years. These two incidents and the Detroit incident are the only ones we've really ever had, and to have this all (happen) within one year, obviously it isn't good for us. And that's why we're making the changes that we made.

Over the summer, we brought in 12 new players, and then basically this is the biggest trade in the NBA this year, so I think that rather than talking about what your rule for a player is, to come home at night, I think what we want are players that are going to come in with a higher standard of character, understanding what it takes to be a professional athlete. And that's far more than just play and then do whatever you want.

It's understanding that role, that on the court you not only have to play well and win the majority of the time, but you also have to understand that in the community you're in, that what you do matters.

It matters to your franchise, it matters to your city, and it matters to the people that look up to you.

Q: Is there anything the team does to help players when they come in here, like teaching them how to act properly as a professional athlete?

A: We have a lot of mentors around us, guys like Darnell Hillman and Mel Daniels, guys

who have been here a long time, so they have input.

We also have the best team development department in the NBA; it's been voted that.

Because we're getting so many young players, their job is to do exactly that. To be with the players almost as much as the coaches are and to advise them on any subject that they are concerned about — how to come in here, write checks, all the way to how you dress, how you conduct yourself, how you meet the press, everything.

And obviously in that is how you conduct yourself and the places you should go. The problem is they're young men, 25 to 35 years old. They don't always listen to you, and when they don't, you have incidents like this.

Q: With the Detroit brawl two years ago, Ron Artest's trade last year and now the off-the-court troubles this year, has there been a struggle to return to normalcy?

A: Oh yeah. I got into this because I love basketball. And for the last three years the basketball hasn't been secondary, but it's obvious that it's been co-equal with all these issues we've had.

That's not what I got into this for: I could've become a lawyer and been involved with this on a day-to-day basis, but I didn't.

I want to be involved in the game of basketball. And so it's been very, very uncomfortable for me.

Q: Home attendance has been dipping recently. What will it take to win fans back?

A: Two things: Obviously winning always does, but I think in addition to that, and I think this team can do this, they have to be a team that the fans like cheering for.

And since we've made this trade, for the people coming to the games, I think they like this team. They come up and tell me they do. They like the players on the team.

We'll have to figure out what this team needs in order to become a championship team as we go. But one thing I see is they are unselfish, they play hard, and they conduct themselves on the court the right way. I see a bunch of guys committed to winning.

Q: The Eastern Conference seems wide open. Do you think you have a team that can contend?

A: I think we have to get better to contend. We certainly have enough talent to be in the hunt, but we're going to have to win on the road in order to do that, and I think that means we're going to have to be very good defensively.

And so far, because we've brought in a lot of new players, I don't know that we're solid defensively. That has to improve in order for us to contend in the East.

Q: If this is your final year, what do you think your legacy will be?

A: I did the best I could. I'll let the rest of you guys figure that out.

Aussie ends Tiger's winning streak at 7

By DOUG FERGUSON

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARANA, Ariz.

Tiger Woods' winning streak is over no matter what tour he is playing.



WOODS

In a shocking end to a PGA Tour streak that began in July, Woods failed to notice a ball mark in the line of his 4-foot birdie putt that would have won his third-round match against Nick O'Hern. He missed the putt, then lost in 20 holes when the Australian saved par with a 12-foot putt Friday at the Accenture Match Play Championship.

That finished off Woods and the second-longest streak in tour history.

"I was so enthralled with the line, I didn't see the ball mark," he said. "I knew if I hit it left-center, the match would be over. It's my fault for not paying attention to detail."

It is rare that Woods makes such a gaffe and misses such a short putt with so much riding on the outcome. One hole earlier, he hit a sand wedge to 5 feet and made the birdie putt to extend the match, completing a rally in which he was four holes behind

Safety spokesman. He was 71.

The driver, Ronald C. McClain was rushed by ambulance to Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center, where he later died, Morgan said. The 48-year-old McClain was believed to be a relative of Tomlinson's, Morgan said.

Witnesses reported that a tire on the 1969 Chevrolet truck blew, causing the truck to swerve out of control and flip over near an intersection east of Waco near Asa.

LaDainian Tomlinson starred at Waco's University High School before going on to TCU and the San Diego Chargers.

Dillion wants released

Corey Dillon, who is 14th on the NFL's career rushing list, likely will play for a team other than New England next season.

Dillon's agent, Steve Feldman, said Friday that his client will ask the Patriots for his release and that the team is likely to grant it by March 2, the start of free agency. Dillon, 32, told The Boston Globe that he would probably retire, but Feldman said that is unlikely.

Browns pick third

Cleveland won a coin flip with Tampa Bay on Friday at the NFL Combine in Indianapolis and will pick third overall in April's draft. The Buccaneers will select fourth. Both teams were 4-12 this past season.

after seven holes, and still trailed by three with eight holes left.

O'Hern became the first player to beat Woods twice in professional match play. The short, straight-hitting lefty also beat Woods in the second round at La Costa two years ago.

Byron Nelson's record of 11 straight tour victories in 1945 again looks as untouchable as ever. Woods had won seven in a row, although the purity of the streak was in question because he had failed to win four times during that streak while competing on other tours. And he will have to start over next month in the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill.

O'Hern advanced to play Henrik Stenson, who defeated Aaron Baddeley, 4 and 3, in the shortest match of the third round. Stenson (No. 9) is the top seed still alive in this fickle tournament.

The lone American remaining is Chad Campbell, who advanced to the quarterfinals for the second straight year after beating David Tom. He will play Stephen Ames, a 3-and-1 winner over Stewart Cink.

Winning other matches were Paul Casey, who beat Shaun Micheel, defending champion Geoff Ogilvy, Justin Rose and Trevor Immelman never trailed in a close match against Ian Poulter.

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