

Thursday, November 12, 2009

Sportsline

Basketball/NBA ■ 3, 9C

Toronto 99, Chicago 89	Indiana 108, Golden State 94
Boston 105, Utah 86	Atlanta 114, New York 101
Detroit 98, Charlotte 75	Philadelphia 92, New Jersey 79
Milwaukee 108, Denver 102	Cleveland 102, Orlando 93
Portland 107, Minnesota 84	Houston 104, Memphis 79
San Antonio 92, Dallas 83	Phoenix 124, New Orleans 104
Oklahoma City 83, L.A. Clippers 79	

Men's top 25 ■ 4C

4-N. Carolina 89, N.C. Central 42	12-California 95, Detroit 61
25-Syracuse 100, Robert Morris 60	

Football/Football Bowl Subdivision ■ 5C

Central Michigan 56, Toledo 28

Hockey/NHL ■ 10C

Detroit 9, Columbus 1	Washington 5, N.Y. Islanders 4 (SO)
Buffalo 3, Edmonton 1	New Jersey 3, Anaheim 1
Los Angeles 5, Carolina 2	Chicago 3, Colorado 2 (SO)



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North Carolina, Syracuse roll to wins

Marcus Ginyard matched his career high with 17 points to help No. 4 North Carolina beat visiting North Carolina Central 89-42 on Wednesday in the 2K Sports Classic basketball tournament. The Tar Heels (2-0) broke it open by scoring 21 consecutive points in the first half. C.J. Wilkerson led the Eagles (0-1) with 16 points. The Tar Heels will play Ohio State next Wednesday at New York's Madison Square Garden in the semifinals of the tournament that benefits Coaches vs. Cancer. The other semifinal will match No. 25 Syracuse, a 100-60 winner against Robert Morris (0-1) on Wednesday, against California. Andy Rautins made seven three-pointers and scored 22 points for the Orange (2-0).



By Gerry Broome, AP

Mine: UNC's Deon Thompson gets the ball.

CHICAGO — Ken Griffey Jr. agreed to a one-year contract Wednesday with the Seattle Mariners to play in his 22nd and, perhaps, final season. General manager Jack Zduriencik said the signing would not keep the team from acquiring another designated hitter, the position Griffey played in 91 games in 2009. "He's open to anything," Zduriencik said. "He has such a love for the Mariners and the city of Seattle." Griffey, who turns 40 on Nov. 21, will receive a slight raise over his \$2 million base salary of this year, according to agent Brian Goldberg. Griffey is fifth on the career home run list with 630 and batted .214 with 19 homers and 57 RBI last season. "We're tickled pink that he has decided to come back," Zduriencik said. — Bob Nightengale

Griffey Jr. agrees to return to Mariners

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Woods opens with 66 in Australia

Tiger Woods opened the Australian Masters golf tournament in Melbourne with a 6-under-par 66 today (Wednesday night ET), putting him atop the leaderboard in his first appearance Down Under in 11 years. Woods had a birdie putt on every hole until hitting into the bushes on his final hole and making his lone bogey. Among early starters, Woods was tied with James Nitties of Australia and Branden Grace of South Africa.

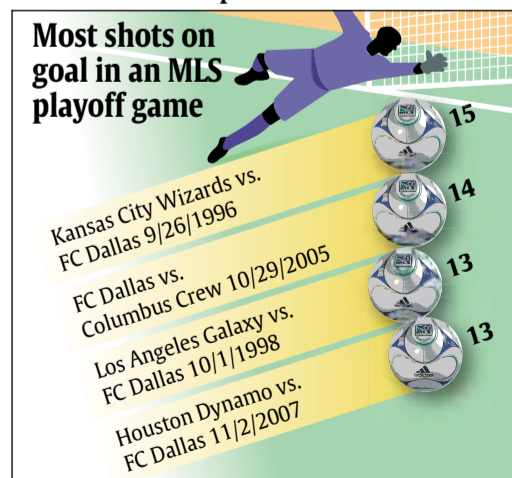
Compiled from staff and wire reports

Our view

► **Keeping Score:** A women's soccer player's dirty tactics go viral, Christine Brennan writes, 3C

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USA TODAY Snapshots®



Source: MLS

By Kevin Greer and Julie Snider, USA TODAY



Cram sessions

Olympic hopeful Rachael Flatt, 17, fills her day with four figure skating practices and four AP classes, 5C

By Robert Hanashiro, USA TODAY

COLLEGE FOOTBALL LIVES HERE

TONIGHT
#24 SOUTH FLORIDA
#5 RUTGERS
7:30PM/ET ESPN ESPN2 HD
Presented by Applebees

TOMORROW
#25 WEST VIRGINIA
#5 CINCINNATI
8PM/ET ESPN2 ESPN2 HD

George Selvie

NFL midseason report

Hallowed records halfway to falling

Manning has Marino's 5,084 passing yards squarely in sights

By Skip Wood
USA TODAY

Halfway through the season, a little extrapolation makes for a lot of intriguing possibilities regarding the NFL record book.

Among those whose marks are on pace to fall are Dan Marino, Dick "Night Train" Lane and Kellen Winslow.

One of the most hallowed records being threatened is the single-season mark for passing yards, Marino's 5,084 for the Miami Dolphins in 1984. Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning has thrown for 2,545 and is on pace for 5,090.

New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick takes his 6-2 team to Indianapolis to meet Manning and the unbeaten Colts on Sunday night.

"Leads the league in passing, leads the league in third-down conversions, (and) they are 8-0," Belichick said Wednesday. "I think that's really the biggest statement. It's production, and he does a great job."

Among other records in sight:

► Lane's 14 interceptions, achieved in 1952 with the Los Angeles Rams during a 12-game season.



By Bill Haber, AP

Plethora of picks: Saints safety Darren Sharper is on pace for 14 interceptions.

► **NFL midseason award winners, 6C**

Veteran Darren Sharper of the New Orleans Saints and rookie Jarius Byrd of the Buffalo Bills have seven picks apiece.

► Winslow's single-season mark of 1,290 receiving yards by a tight end in 1980 for the San Diego Chargers. Dallas Clark of the Colts is on pace for 1,406. Clark (60 catches) also could break Tony Gonzalez's record (102) for receptions by a tight end in a season.

► Team-wise, the Patriots-Colts matchup has record-chasing ramifications. The record for regular-season wins in a decade belongs to the San Francisco 49ers, who had 113 in the 1990s. In this decade, Indianapolis has 109 to New England's 108.

Special report Coaches' salaries



At collegefootball.usatoday.com

- A searchable database of assistant and head coach salaries that can be sorted by name, school or conference
- Watch video of a day in the life of assistant Mike Rutenberg, who commonly works long hours for little pay

Football assistant paying his dues

N.M. State coach tied for nation's lowest paid

By A.J. Perez
USA TODAY

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — Clean-cut and well-organized, New Mexico State assistant football coach Mike Rutenberg has earned the nickname "Stockbroker."

In many ways, it fits. Rutenberg is a Cornell University graduate,

like his parents. His workdays start early and end late. His desk is lined with Post-it Notes, many tracking numbers and trends.

Rutenberg's paycheck from the Aggies,



By H. Darr Betser, USA TODAY

Passion: New Mexico State defensive backs coach Mike Rutenberg, 28, makes \$30,000 a year. "This is all I wanted to do," Rutenberg says.

► **Big Ten, SEC media deals push other leagues, 2C**

however, is where the similarities end. He makes \$30,000 a year, a salary equal to Louisiana-Monroe wide receivers coach Marty Humphrey's as the lowest among about 900 assistants in the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision, according to USA TODAY research.

"Yeah, I have college friends on Wall Street," Rutenberg says, "but my whole life, this is all I wanted to do. All I did was football growing up. I worked hard academically, but I used to draw up plays in my notebooks. I drew up plays, even in class. I wanted

Please see COVER STORY next page ►

Ohio State gets big hoops haul

By Jim Halley
USA TODAY

Ohio State men's basketball coach Thad Matta is repeating a successful formula.

Instead of worrying about whether recruits will mesh, he signed players who already have.

On the first day of the early signing period Wednesday, the Buckeyes landed the top class, according to ESPN.com and Scout.com. Ohio State signed six players.

Four of them, Jared Sullinger, J.D. Weatherspoon, Aaron Craft and Jordan Sibert, were on an AAU team, All-Ohio Red, that was 201-9 the last three summers. Sullinger, a 6-8 forward, and Weatherspoon, a 6-5 forward, also played for Northland (Columbus) High, last season's Ohio champion.

"(They) bring a culture of winning to our program," Matta said.

In 2006, Ohio State signed Greg Oden, Mike Conley Jr. and Daquan Cook, all of whom won several national AAU titles on the Spiece Indy Heat. The next season, those players were the nucleus of a Buckeyes team that lost to Florida in the NCAA title game.

The consensus top 2010 recruit, 6-7 guard Harrison Barnes of Ames, Iowa, is expected to announce his choice Friday. Other recruiting winners included Illinois, Memphis and Syracuse.



By Neal Lauron, Columbus Dispatch

Recruit: Jared Sullinger heads Ohio State's class.

► **Memphis rebuilding, 4C**

At preps.usatoday.com

► Online chat, 2 p.m. ET, with USA TODAY's Jim

Halley and Prepstars.com's Rob Harrington

► Updates on where the top 150 recruits landed

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