Daily opinions from the P&D Sports Staff on local and national high school, college and professional sports.



BY JAMES D. CIMBUREK james.cimburek@yankton.net

This is the sixth year that we at the Press & Dakotan have chosen a male and female prep athlete of the year. And, as it was each of the past five years, we had one that was easier than the other The one that was the "easier" one this year was the male athlete of the year.

8 7 0 .533 333 395 7 8 0 .467 368 351

6 9 0 .400 205 335

W L T Pct PF PA 8 7 0 533 363 386

8 7 0 .533 355 316 7 8 0 .467 362 318 5 10 0 .333 278 333

South
W L T Pct PF PA
11 3 0 .786 457 306
9 5 0 .643 341 281
6 9 0 .400 389 384

4 11 0 .267 263 449

7 7 0 .500 315 293 3 12 0 .200 327 432

West
W L T Pct PF PA
12 3 0 .800 346 202
7 8 0 .467 301 292
7 8 0 .467 289 328

2 13 0 .133 166 373

x-clinched playoff spot; y-clinched divi

Thursday, Dec. 22 Indianapolis 19, Houston 16

Saturday, Dec. 24
Oakland 16, Kansas City 13, OT

Pittsburgh 27, St. Louis 0

Tennessee 23, Jacksonville 17

Carolina 48, Tampa Bay 16 Minnesota 33, Washington 26 Baltimore 20, Cleveland 14 New England 27, Miami 24

N.Y. Giants 29, N.Y. Jets 14

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

N.Y. Giants

Washington

Tampa Bay

Chicago

Seattle

When you have a local athlete win two national titles and represent the United States in an international event, that decision typically isn't that hard. (For reference sake, that was Beresford thrower Kyle McKelvey, who is now representing the University of South Dakota.)

We had three others on our list, all of which would have been good selections in other years. It is just tough

P&D Athletes Of The Year — Did We Get It Right?

to compete with national championships and international competitions.

The female athlete of the year involved a lot more debate on the part of my staff and I We had five names on our "short" list, each of which was more than deserving of recognition. The four seniors on the list have all signed NCAA Division II letters in various sports. The junior is getting several looks at the NCAA Division I and II levels.

We ended up deciding on Wagner's Devon Brecke based on a high level of individual and team success in multiple sports. She is a multi-time all-state selection in both volleyball and basketball, and has done a lot of work between and during seasons to put and keep herself at a high level. She has also been part of a lot of team success — four state tournaments in volleyball, another and a lot of victories in basketball

Agree? Disagree? Feel free to debate.

South Dakota's Compton Named FCS All-American

CLEVELAND, Ohio — South Dakota football standout Tom Compton has been named to the Phil Steele 2011 FCS Postseason All-America team, it has been announced. The award is the latest in the string of postseason accolades for the Coyote offensive lineman.

Compton (Rosemount, Minn.) earned first-team honors from Phil Steele - the only Great West Conference player to do so – after another outstanding season as the Coyotes' starting left tackle. He anchored an offensive line that helped lead the Coyotes to 6-5 record in 2011, including a thrilling 30-17 win over then-No. 1 and defending national champion Eastern Washington in the DakotaDome Sept. 10. The offensive line paved the way for the Great West's second-ranked rushing offense (158.2) and the league's third passing offense (177.6).

Compton was a three-time All-Great West Conference selection, including earning first-team honors in 2010 and 2011. He was named to the Associated Press All-America first team earlier in December and was also named the Great West Offensive Lineman of the Year in a voting by the league's media.

Compton has completed his eligibility at South Dakota and now has turned his attention to preparing for April's

Fox Run Golf Course Open Today

Due to the mild weather conditions, Fox Run Golf Course is open for play.

Tee times begin at 10 a.m. today. Call Fox Run at 668-

5205 to secure a tee time.

Mount Marty Baseball Camps Coming Up In January

The Mount Marty College baseball team will be hosting several baseball camps and still have rooms for participants to join. The Lancers will host one day camps for hit-

ting and pitching in January.

The Middle School Hitting Camp will be on Saturday, Jan. 21 from 11 a.m.-2:45 p.m. The High School Hitting Camp will also be on Jan. 21 from 3-5:45 p.m. The Middle School Pitching Camp will also be on Sunday, Jan. 22 from 1-4:30 p.m. The High School Pitching Camp will be on Sunday, Jan. 29 from 1-4:30 p.m.

The Lancers will also be hosting a Preseason Hitting League. This is one comprehensive camp with six overall dates. Dates are Jan. 31, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28 and March 6. The Upper Elementary League will hit from 7-8 p.m.

Middle School will hit from 8-9 p.m. and High School will For more information, contact head coach Andy Bernatow at abernatow@mtmc.edu or 605-660-3589.

University Of South Dakota Soccer Winter Clinic Dates Set

VERMILLION — The South Dakota women's soccer program has set the dates for its Indoor Winter Skills Clinics. All sessions, which are open to boys and girls ages three through 12, will be held at the DakotaDome West

The clinic will be held on Tuesday nights from 6 p.m. to

To register, contact South Dakota soccer coach Mandy Green at mandy.green@usd.edu. Walk-ups will still be

VERMILLION — The South Dakota softball program has announced its dates for its 2012 winter clinics. Each clinic will be held at the DakotaDome will include educational hands-on instruction from South Dakota coaches

Pitching clinics are set for Jan. 8 and 22 at the DakotaDome. A pitching clinic for beginners and intermediate levels will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. on those dates. That clinic will cover the fundamentals of pitching a pitchers who compete at the travel ball level will be held on Jan. 8 and 22 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. The clinic will cover the fundamentals of throwing moving pitchers. Those attending both clinics must bring their own catcher

Hitting clinics are set for Jan. 8 and 22 as well. A hitting clinic for beginners and intermediate levels will be held from 10:15-11:45 a.m. on those dates. That clinic will focus on the fundamentals of hitting. A hitting clinic for advanced hitters competing at the travel ball level will be held from 2:45 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. on Jan 8 and 22. That clinic will cover the fundamentals of hitting while also providing video hitting analysis on rightviewpro.

There will be also two clinics on Jan. 15 — a catching clinic from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and an infield or outfield clinic from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. The catching clinic is open to catchers of all levels and will cover fundamentals of catch-

A skills clinic is set for Jan. 29 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The clinic will combine all skills of softball — baserunning, hitting, fielding, throwing and the mental aspect.

men's and women's winter tennis leagues. The leagues are open to adults and high school varsity tennis players. Play will run Sunday afternoons beginning Jan. 8.

Yankton Public Library and the Summit Activities Center, or by con-

Tiger Baseball Skills Camps Set

MITCHELL — The Dakota Wesleyan University baseball team will host three different skills clinics in 2012. Head coach Steve Gust, along with his assistant coaches and players, will host a hitting and defense camp, a pitching camp and an elementary camp early in the new year.

mentals of a compact swing, the essentials of bunting, the two-strike approach, the mechanics of throwing (by position), outfield and infield

The camp, which is open to athletes in grades seven through 12, will focus on throwing progression, dry drills, upper and lower body mechanics, conditioning, the mental aspect, flat grounds and bullpens. The elementary camp is open to baseball players in first through sixth grades. It runs from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4, and will

All three camps will be at the Christen Family Recreation/Wellness

mation. All campers receive a T-shirt and should bring tennis shoes, baseball pants, a cap, glove and other personal equipment. Registration forms are available on the DWU athletics website at www.dwuathletics.com/tiger-information/athletic-camps/.

SCOREBOARD

YANKTON BOWL

SPARETIMEHIGH TEAM GAME: Huether's Seam-

3-10; Mary Johnson 5-8-10; Joan Tammer

CROFTON

HIGH TEAM SERIES: Wiebelhaus Rec 2523 HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Galen

Wiebelhaus 640, Todd Moody 633, Galen

A STANDINGS: Wiebelhaus Rec 104-56, Dean's Cab 85-75, Coors Light 77.5-82.5, Goeden Steele 76.5-83.5 B STANDINGS: Crofton Elevator 93-67, Leader Angus 78.5-81.5, Don's Auto 66.5-93.5, DSM Apts. 59-101 HIGHLIGHTS: Galen Zimmerman - 54

NOTES: Wiebelhaus Rec, Crofton El-

NCAA FCS PLAYOFFS

FBS BOWL GLANCE

Saturday, Dec. 17 NEW MEXICO: Temple 37, Wyoming FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO: Ohio 24, NEW ORLEANS: Louisiana-Lafayette

32, San Diego State 30 Tuesday, Dec. 20 BEEF 'O'BRADY'S: Marshall 20, Florida International 10 Wednesday, Dec. 21
POINSETTIA: TCU 31, Louisiana

Thursday, Dec. 22 MAACO: Boise State 56, Arizona

Saturday, Dec. 24 HAWAII: Southern Mississippi 24, Nevada 17 Monday, Dec. 26 INDEPENDENCE: North Carolina (7-

5) vs. Missouri (7-5), 3 p.m. (ESPN) Tuesday, Dec. 27 LITTLE CAESARS PIZZA: Western Michigan (7-5) vs. Purdue (6-6), 3:30 p.m.

BELK: North Carolina State (7-5) vs. Louisville (7-5), 7 p.m. (ESPN) Wednesday, Dec. 28
MILITARY: Air Force (7-5) vs. Toledo

), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN) HOLIDAY: Texas (7-5) vs. California Thursday, Dec. 29 CHAMPS SPORTS: Florida State (8-4) vs. Notre Dame (8-4), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN) **ALAMO:** Baylor (9-3) vs. Washington (7-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Dec. 30 ARMED FORCES: Tulsa (8-4) BYU (9-3), 11 a.m. (ESPN)
PINSTRIPE: Rutgers (8-4) vs. lov
State (6-6), 2:30 p.m. (ESPN)
MUSIC CITY: Mississippi State (6-

vs. Wake Forest (6-6), 5:40 p.m. (ESP) INSIGHT: Oklahoma (9-3) vs. lowa Saturday, Dec. 31 MEINEKE CAR CARE: Texas A8

(6-6) vs. Northwestern (6-6), 11 a SÚN: Georgia Tech (8-4) vs. Utah 1 p.m. (CBS) LIBERTY: Vanderbilt (6-6) vs. Cinci

CHICK-FIL-A: Virginia (8-4) vs. Auburn (7-5), 6:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 2 TICKETCITY: Penn State (9-3) vs. Houston (12-1), 11 a.m. (ESPNU) CAPITAL ONE: Nebraska (9-3) vs. South Carolina (10-2), noon (ESPN) OUTBACK: Georgia (10-3) vs. Michin State (10-3), noon (ABC)
GATOR: Florida (6-6) vs. Ohio State

(6-6), noon (ESPN2)
ROSE: Oregon (11-2) vs. Wisconsin
(11-2), 4 p.m. (ESPN)
FIESTA: Stanford (11-1) vs. Oklahoma State (11-1), 7:30 p.m. (ESPN)

Tuesday, Jan. 3 SUGAR: Michigan (10-2) vs. Virginia Tech (11-2), 7 p.m. (ESPN) Wednesday, Jan. 4 ORANGE: West Virginia (9-3) vs. Clemson (10-3), 7 p.m. (ESPN)

Friday, Jan. 6 COTTON: Kansas State (10-2) vs. Arkansas (10-2), 7 p.m. (FOX) Saturday, Jan. 7 BBVA COMPASS: Pittsburgh (6-6) vs. SMU (7-5), 11 a.m. (ESPN)

Sunday, Jan. 8 GODADDY.COM: Arkansas State (10-2) vs. Northern Illinois (10-3), 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 9 BCS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: LSU (13-0) vs. Alabama (11-1), 7:30 p.m.

VS.	N.Y. Jets	8	7	0	.533	360	344
	Buffalo	6	9	0	.400	351	385
wa	Miami	5	10	0	.333	310	296
	South						
-6)		W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
۱) ٔ	y-Houston	10	5	0	.667	359	255
(7-	Tennessee	8	7	0	.533	302	295
,	Jacksonville	4	11	0	.267	224	316
	Indianapolis	2	13	0	.133	230	411
M	North						
m.		W	L	Т	Pct	PF	P/
	x-Baltimore	11	4	0	.733	354	250
(7-	x-Pittsburgh	11	4	0	.733	312	218
,	Cincinnati	9	6	0	.600	328	299
in-	Cleveland	4	11	0	.267	209	294

W L T Pct PF PA

Vikings' Peterson Has Torn ACL On the play after Peterson was hurt, Minnesota's Christian Ponder suffered a head injury when sacked by Adam Carriker and London Fletcher. Ponder re-

> der had "concussion-like symptoms." The coach said he's uncertain whether the quarterback will play in next week's season finale against the Chicago

Bears "We'll have to weigh it when we get back," Frazier said, "and I'll follow the doctor's lead."

Peterson had 12 carries for 38 yards when he left. He also had a 1-vard touchdown run in the second quarter.

Ponder completed 8 of 13 passes for 68 yards. He was replaced by Joe Webb, who scored on a 9-yard run on the next series to give the Vikings the lead.

FIGHT HUNGER: UCLA (6-7) vs. IIIi-

play — a third-down incomplete pass — before heading to the Coach Leslie Frazier said Pon-

mained in the game for one more

Gym in Vermillion.

7 p.m. on Jan. 10, 17, 24 and 31. The sessions will include age appropriate training for field players and goalkeepers and will help boys and girls prepare for the spring season.

welcome if room is still available.

USD Softball Sets Clinic Dates

fast ball and a change-up. A pitching clinic for advanced

San Francisco 19, Seattle 17

Sunday, Dec. 25 Chicago at Green Bay, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 26 Atlanta at New Orleans, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 1 Chicago at Minnesota, noon Carolina at New Orleans, noon Detroit at Green Bay, noon

San Francisco at St. Louis, noon

Tennessee at Houston, noon

Buffalo at New England, noon Tampa Bay at Atlanta, noon N.Y. Jets at Miami, noon

Baltimore at Cincinnati, noon Pittsburgh at Cleveland, noon Dallas at N.Y. Giants, noon Washington at Philadelphia, noon

Indianapolis at Jacksonville, noon

San Diego at Oakland, 3:15 p.m. Kansas City at Denver, 3:15 p.m.

HOCKEY

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA

N.Y. Rangers 33 21 8 4 46 99 72

Philadelphia 34 21 9 4 46 118 99

Pittsburgh 35 20 11 4 44 114 91

New Jersey 34 19 14 1 39 95 99

N.Y. Islanders 33 11 16 6 28 77 108

Northeast Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA

Southeast Division

GP W L OT Pts GF GA

33 23 9 1 47 119 63 35 18 13 4 40 110 113

36 17 14 5 39 111 122 34 16 15 3 35 92 101 36 13 16 7 33 88 101

GP W L OT Pts GF GA

Seattle at Arizona, 3:15 p.m.

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

Philadelphia 20, Dallas 7

Florida

Detroit

Nashville

Edmonton

36 18 11 7 43 94 98 35 16 14 5 37 96 104

33 17 14 2 36 98 101 34 14 17 3 31 90 116 36 11 19 6 28 91 121

Central Division
GP W L OT Pts GF GA
35 22 9 4 48 118 102
34 20 10 4 44 87 74
34 21 12 1 43 111 78
35 18 13 4 40 95 99

34 9 21 4 22 85 117

36 20 11 5 45 86 82 35 21 12 2 44 115 85

36 17 15 4 38 90 98 36 18 17 1 37 96 105 34 15 16 3 33 93 91

GP W L OT Pts GF GA34 20 13 1 41 92 96
32 19 10 3 41 95 77
35 18 14 3 39 92 92

Pacific Division

Los Angeles 35 16 14 5 37 76 85 Anaheim 34 9 19 6 24 80 113

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

N.Y. Rangers 4, N.Y. Islanders 2 Ottawa 4, Florida 3, OT Nashville 6, Columbus 5

Thursday's Games Los Angeles 3, Anaheim 2, SO Toronto 3, Buffalo 2

Winnipeg 4, Montreal 0

Edmonton 4, Minnesota 1

Friday's Games New Jersey 4, Washington 3, SO

San Jose 2, Los Angeles 1, SO Boston 8, Florida 0

Toronto 5, N.Y. Islanders 3

Northwest Division
GP W L OT Pts GF GA

MESTERN CONFERENCE

For more information, contact Coach Amy Klyse at (605) 677-6587 or at amy.klyse@usd.edu.

YTA Winter Tennis League Forming The Yankton Tennis Association is now taking registrations for its

Entry deadline is Dec. 31. Registration forms are available at the

The hitting and defense camp is open to students in seventh through 12th grades. The camp runs three Sundays: Jan. 15, Jan. 22 and Jan. 29, from 3 to 5 p.m. each day. Coaches will cover the funda-

The pitching camp runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 5.

focus on the basic fundamentals of baseball for young athletes. The deadline to apply for each camp is the day it starts, and registration is one hour before the start of the first session of each camp.

Center on the DWU campus. Preregistration is not required, but is encouraged by camp staff. Contact Gust at 605-995-2853 or stgust@dwu.edu for more infor-

Wednesday, December 28
BASKETBALL, MEN'S Southern Utah at USD (7 p.m.

BASKETBALL, BOYS' Great Northeast Nebraska

Shootout at Wayne (Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Con-cord-Coleridge); Shootout on the Elkhorn at Wisner (Ponca) BASKETBALL, BOYS: Great Northeast Nebraska Shootout at Wayne (Hartington Cedar Catholic, Laurel-Con-

cord-Coleridge); Shootout on the Elkhorn at Wisner (Ponca)

National Basketball Association MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES—Traded G Greivis Vasquez to New Orleans for G-F

Quincy Pondexter, Signed F Dante Cun-

HOCKEY

Mike Hoffman to Binghamton (AHL).

MIAMI HEAT—Waived G Eddie

National Hockey League OTTAWA SENATORS—Reassigned F

ECHLALASKA ACES—Released G Jared

Secondo.
TOLEDO WALLEYE—Released G

Christian Davis.
UTAH GRIZZLIES—Released G

Central Hockey League RIO GRANDE VALLEY KILLER

BEES—Announced F David Marshall was recalled by San Antonio (AHL). Placed F Mark Magnowski and F Robert Short on

COLLEGE VIRGINIA—Announced redshirt fresh-

man basketball F James Johnson will

BOWLING

less Gutters 916 HIGH TEAM SERIES: Truck Trailer HIGH INDIVIDUAL GAME: Hilliary

Barta 255, Judy Barta 247, Stacy Barta 244 HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Hiliary Barta 672, Judy Barta 643, Stacy Barta 638, Eddie Turner 534
STANDINGS: Huether's Seamless Gutters 4-0, First DAktoa 4-0, Trucker Trailer 4-0, EASW 3-1, Glass Cutters 2-2,

Vogt Cleaners 2-2, Jansen's Upholstery 1-3, Sealand Marine 0-4, First National SC 0-4, Marshmellows 0-4 HIGHLIGHTS: Barb Olson - errorless

186; Sue Freng 3-10; Edwena Turner 3-10, 5-10; Susan Murphy 3-10; Sue Bitsos 3-5-7; Missy Nelson 5-6; Sarah Blackwell 3-10; Becca Miller 4-5-7, 6-7-10

MEN'S COMMERCIAL HIGH TEAM GAME: Wiebelhaus Rec

Zimmerman 244, Todd Moody 236, Tom Wiebelhaus 225 HIGH INDIVIDUAL SERIES: Tom

over game avg.; Mark Mackeprang - 76

FOOTBALL

Friday, Jan. 7
At Pizza Hut Park, Frisco, Texas
Sam Houston State (14-0) vs. North
Dakota State (13-1), noon

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — Min-

nesota Vikings running back

the Washington Redskins.

Adrian Peterson tore a ligament

in his left knee Saturday after tak-

ing a direct hit in a 33-26 win over

An MRI showed the anterior

Peterson said he knew "it was

cruciate ligament tear after the

something bad" the moment he

vere pain" on he lay on the field.

Redskins safety DeJon Gomes at

first offensive play of the second

"Anytime you take a blow to

the knee like that, you're con-

terson said as he stood on

cerned about the ACL, MCL," Pe-

crutches in the locker room. "I'm

trying to stay as positive as I can."

The torn ACL would likely

sideline Peterson for some nine

months and make it difficult for

him to return for the start of next

the end of a 3-yard gain on the

was hit and that he was in "se-

He was hurt when tackled by

team returned to Minnesota.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE AMERICAN CONFERENCE East W L T Pct PF PA y-N. England 12 3 0 .800 464 321

2012 and reducing scholarships for a series of misdeeds that had already cost former coach Jim Tressel his job and forced some players to sit out games this sea-And Tressel may as well carry a "Damaged Goods" sign after the

NCAA hit him with a "show cause"

penalty, making it almost impossible for another school to hire him. Miami is sitting out the bowl season in hopes of sparing itself similar pain from the NCAA, which is investigating allegations a booster gave cash, cars, yacht rides, access to strip clubs, even prostitutes, to 72 athletes over a nine-year span. Twelve Hurricanes have already been punished by the NCAA, with penalties ranging from making restitution to lengthy sus-

Southern California was stripped of its 2004 BCS title in June for the shenanigans involving Reggie Bush, and defending champion Auburn and runner-up Oregon had to spend some quality time with NCAA investigators after questions about players' eligibility. And don't forget Tennessee, Boise State, Connecticut, West Virginia, Michigan, LSU and North Carolina, all of whom wound up on the NCAA's naughty list this year.

'We have had a heck of a year of scandals and disruptions, NCAA president Mark Emmert said earlier this month. "To have really good success on the one hand and all these grenades blowing up has been frustrating."
So, too, the latest BCS mess.

The BCS may as well stand for Bowl Controversy Series for all the grumbling and mumbling it manages to produce on a yearly basis, and this year has only furthered the argument for some sort of a

playoff in college football. Despite already losing to LSU once, Alabama will play the top-ranked Tigers in a Jan. 9 title game. Never mind that Oklahoma State had three wins against teams in the just one for Alabama. Or that the Cowboys' only loss came in double overtime at Iowa State, one day after Oklahoma State women's basketball coach Kurt Budke and an

the Outback Bowl while Michigan is headed to the Sugar Bowl despite the Spartans' superior ranking and the fact they beat the Wolverines. Boise State was banished to the MAACO Bowl because of a 1-point loss to TCU.

said. "It's not fair. Life isn't fair, but that's how it is. Tell that to NFL and NBA fans,

who spent months watching play-

ers and owners bicker as they

teams in each market. Or not talking. Early negotiations were downright ugly, with Tom Brady and Drew Brees leading a lawsuit against the NFL and the players trying to do an end run of the lockout by decertifying their union. Even a federal mediator couldn't get the sides to budge

are sorry for the frustration we put them through over the last six months," NFL Commissioner Roger

make sure (fans) understand we

AREA CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 27

BASKETBALL, BOYS' Lance Buseman Classic at Cen-

terville (Avon, Beresford, Centerville, Parker, Viborg-Hurley); Snowball Classic at Winner (Bon Homme, Platte-Geddes); Chamberlain at Scotland; Marion at Alcester-Hudson; Menno vs. Irene-Wakonda at Wakonda

BASKETBALL, GIRLS' Chamberlain at Scotland; Marion at Alcester-Hudson: Menno vs. Irene-Wakonda at Wakonda

Chicago 88, L.A. Lakers 87

Monday's Games Toronto at Cleveland, 6 p.m.

Detroit at Indiana, 6 p.m.

Houston at Orlando, 6 p.m.

Milwaukee at Charlotte, 6 p.m.

New Jersey at Washington, 6 p.m. Oklahoma City at Minnesota, 7 p.m. Denver at Dallas, 7:30 p.m. Memphis at San Antonio, 7:30 p.m.

New Orleans at Phoenix, 8 p.m.

L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 9 p.m.

Philadelphia at Portland, 9 p.m. Chicago at Golden State, 9:30 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

Lowe director of communications.

SATURDAY'S TRANSACTIONS

 $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{COLLEGE} \\ \textbf{LIBERTY LEAGUE} \ -- \ \textbf{Named Bob} \end{array}$

Tuesday's Games Atlanta at New Jersey, 6:30 p.m.

Boston at Miami, 7 p.m. Minnesota at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m. Sacramento at Portland, 9 p.m. Utah at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

Orlando at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m. L.A. Clippers at Golden State, 10:30

Carolina 2, Ottawa 1, OT Pittsburgh 4, Winnipeg 1 Dallas 6, Nashville 3 Colorado 2, Tampa Bay 1, OT St. Louis 3, Phoenix 2 Calgary 3, Vancouver 1 Monday's Games Colorado at Minnesota, 5 p.m.

Washington at Buffalo, 6 p.m. N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers, 6 p.m. New Jersey at Carolina, 6 p.m. Dallas at St. Louis, 6:30 p.m. Detroit at Nashville, 7 p.m. Columbus at Chicago, 7:30 p.m Edmonton at Vancouver, 9 p.m Phoenix at Los Angeles, 9 p.m. Anaheim at San Jose, 9:30 p.m

Tuesday's Games Carolina at Pittsburgh, 6 p.m. Calgary at Columbus, 6 p.m. Montreal at Ottawa, 6:30 p.m. Philadelphia at Tampa Bay, 6:30 p.m. Toronto at Florida, 6:30 p.m. St. Louis at Detroit, 6:30 p.m Winnipeg at Colorado, 8 p.m

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOC. Sunday's Games New York 106, Boston 104

good sense to settle its labor war

Christmas Day after reaching agreement on a 10-year deal that, so far, seems only to have produced more gripes.

The NBA locked the players out for 161 days, insisting a new deal was necessary because owners were losing buckets of money -\$300 million last season alone and hundreds of millions more in the vears before that — and small-market teams could no longer compete

with free-spending franchises like

the Miami Heat and Los Angeles

before any of the season was lost.

The NBA will finally tip off on

Lakers. The new deal cut player salaries by 12 percent and includes a significant increase in revenue sharing. But players refused to budge on a hard salary cap, meaning there is still little to stop teams from throwing money at big-name players so long as they're willing to

pay the luxury tax. Which explains why, with the ink barely dry on the new agreement, the league-owned New Orleans Hornets shipped All-Star Chris Paul to Los Angeles and Dwight Howard was asking for a ticket out of Orlando.

"Just like the regular fan out there, just like you guys, you do wonder why stuff happened. You look at it and say, 'Why did the lockout happen?"' Miami guard

Dwyane Wade said. "I don't see it helping right now. Maybe in a few years we'll all look back and see why this lockout happened. But right now it's not showing its face at all."

Hockey, meanwhile, is struggling to balance its fast, physical play with growing evidence that hard hits can cause long-lasting damage. NHL poster boy Sidney Crosby has played only eight games since January because of the lingering impact of hard shots, while points leader Claude Giroux is out indefinitely with a concussion. The Flyers shut captain Chris Pronger down just two months into the season because of severe post-concussion syndrome.

Equally sobering were the deaths this year of enforcers Derek Boogaard, Wade Belak and Rick Rypien.

Auto racing mourned the death of two-time Indianapolis 500 winner Dan Wheldon, who was killed Oct. 16 in a fiery, 15-car wreck in the opening laps of the IndyCar Series season finale at Las Vegas. It was IndyCar's first fatality in five

Troubling events in a year seemed filled with little else.

"In our society we create these myths around athletes and athletics," said Sport in Society's Chin. "But they're myths, and that's the

Carrier)

20.1 points, 4.9 rebounds and 3.2 assists. Last season she averaged 21.6 points and 4.3 assists. This season, her numbers are

even better, at 23 points and 4.8

assists a game. Through the first five games of her senior year, she has posted 1,457 career points, as well as 345 rebounds, 285 assists and 199 steals. The work that Brecke has

done in both basketball and vol-

leyball has been focused on the

"little things. "I really focus on the fundamentals," she said. "Knowing in every situation what I am supposed to do, and working on

shooting a lot." Brecke also did the work to become a full-rotation player on the Wagner volleyball team, meaning the 5-11 outside hitter doesn't leave the floor when she rotates to the back row.

"She put a lot of effort into playing all the way around," Tyler noted. "There comes a time when you can't take a player like Devon off the floor.

That work has resulted in giving Wagner strong leadership on "She is like having a coach on

knows where everybody needs to

Brecke, though, isn't a vocal

the floor," Koupal said. "She

be, and she wants the best for

them."

"She puts everything on the line ever day in practice," Tyler said. "Even at the end of this year, she put everything she had into everything she did. That's the best leadership you can have.'

Earlier this year, Brecke signed a national letter of intent to attend Northern State University and play basketball. She was happy to have the next step in her career lined up. "The pressure is completely

off now," she said. "I don't have

to worry about a bunch of differ-

ence schools. I can focus on bas-Whether it is basketball or volleyball, Brecke's graduation in May will leave a hole for the Red

Raiders to fill. "She's been up on varsity for us so long," Tyler noted. "She had four years to do it. Not many have that opportunity."

final BCS top 15, compared with slapping the Buckeyes with that dreaded "failure to monitor" tag, banning them from a bowl game in assistant coach were killed in a plane crash. Michigan State was relegated to

> That's the system," Michigan State receiver B.J. Cunningham

tried to divvy up their billion-dollar industries. 'd like on behalf of both sides to apologize to the fans," New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft said when the NFL and its players reached a new contract July 25 after a 4 1/2-month lockout, the league's first work stoppage since 1987. "For the last five, six months we've been talking about the business of football and not what goes on on the field and building the

over the first few months. 'We have some work to do to

Goodell said. Hey, at least the NFL had the

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