



JOSH BROWN

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## TODAY'S TIPS

• **COACHING SEARCH:** Newton High School is looking for a head varsity volleyball coach for the 2012 season. Anyone interested should contact Bob Huelsman, Athletic Director, Newton High School at (937) 676-5132.

• **TENNIS:** The Troy Tennis Association is now accepting registrations for spring and summer leagues. Contact Max Brown at (937) 689-1938 or go to [troytennis.net](http://troytennis.net).

• **SOCCER:** Registrations are now being accepted for the Youth Indoor Soccer League held at Hobart Arena. The program is for ages 4-8, begins in early April and runs through mid-May. Register online at [www.hobartarena.com](http://www.hobartarena.com) on the "Registrations" page. For more information, call the Recreation Department at (937) 339-5145.

• **SOFTBALL:** The deadline to register for the Troy Recreation Department Adult Softball Leagues played at Duke Park is today. Registration is online at <http://activenet19.active.com/troyrecdept/>. For more information, contact the Troy Recreation Department at 339-5145.

• **SOFTBALL:** Registrations are now being taken for the Troy Recreation Department Girls Youth Softball program. This program is for girls currently in grades first through eighth. You may register online at: <http://troyohio.gov/rec/ProgramRegForm.html>. Contact the recreation department at (937) 339-5145 for more information.

• **SUBMIT-A-TIP:** To submit an item to the Troy Daily News sports section, please contact Josh Brown at [jbrown@tdnpublishing.com](mailto:jbrown@tdnpublishing.com).

## SPORTS CALENDAR

### TODAY

**Baseball**  
 Houston at Miami East (5 p.m.)  
 Cedarville at Bethel (5 p.m.)  
 Graham at Covington (5 p.m.)  
 Piqua at Versailles (5 p.m.)  
**Softball**  
 Franklin Monroe at Troy (5 p.m.)  
 Bethel at Anna (5 p.m.)  
 Graham at Covington (5 p.m.)  
 Botkins at Bradford (5 p.m.)  
**Tennis**  
 Stebbins at Troy (4:30 p.m.)  
 Xenia Christian at Tippecanoe (4:30 p.m.)  
 Greenville at Lehman (4:30 p.m.)

### SATURDAY

**Baseball**  
 Troy at Fairmont (DH) (11 a.m.)  
 Milton-Union at Kenton Ridge (DH) (noon)  
 Northridge at Bethel (DH) (noon)  
 Mississinawa Valley at Troy Christian (DH) (11 a.m.)  
 Lehman at Covington (DH) (11 a.m.)  
 Piqua at Tecumseh (DH) (noon)  
 Bradford at Marion Local (5 p.m.)  
**Softball**  
 Milton-Union/Triad at Troy (11 a.m.)  
 Miami East at Lakota West (noon)  
 Greenon at Bethel (5 p.m.)  
 Versailles at Newton (5 p.m.)  
 Covington at Centerville/Fairborn (noon)  
 Spr. Shawnee/St. Ursula at Piqua (10 a.m.)  
**Track and Field**  
 Troy, Milton-Union, Miami East, Lehman at Tippecanoe Invite (10 a.m.)  
 Bradford at Versailles Invite (9 a.m.)

### SUNDAY

No events scheduled

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## Yang, Wright battle for lead

An opening-round 67 at the Kraft Nabisco Championship is just a bonus to Lindsey Wright. After fighting her way back from depression and anxiety to rejoin the LPGA Tour, she's grateful for every good day on the links and every peaceful night away from golf.

Wright began the first major of the year one stroke behind leader Amy Yang, who shot a 6-under 66 on Thursday. Wright even outplayed top-ranked Yani Tseng, whose 68 ended her streak of eight consecutive rounds with a lead. **See Page 18.**

## Baseball

# Helke's slam helps Troy stay unbeaten

Staff Reports

NEW CARLISLE — Devon Alexander showed that his opening day performance was no fluke.

Nathan Helke showed why he's dangerous. And the Troy Trojans are still undefeated.

Alexander pitched his second complete game of the season, shutting down a quality Tecumseh lineup, and Helke hit his first two home runs of the season — one of them a grand

## MIAMI COUNTY

slam that put an exclamation point on Troy's 8-2 victory Thursday, the Arrows' first loss of the season.

Alexander struck out six, walked one and gave up eight hits in the win.

"He threw six pitches and faced four batters in the first inning, and they kept swinging at the first pitch in the second. After that, he took control," Troy coach Ty Welker said of Alexander. "He pitched his game,

mixed pitches up well and controlled the strike zone. When you've got a guy pitching like that, it makes your offense more relaxed."

If that's the case, Helke was as calm as could be.

Helke hit a solo homer in the first inning, then had an RBI single in the top of the third. After the Arrows tied the game at 2-2 in the bottom of the third, the Trojans put it away.

Troy manufactured a pair of runs to start the top of the fourth — including a suicide squeeze —

and then loaded the bases for Helke. Helke — a 30-plus-RBI guy for Troy last year who was 3 for 4 on the day — then cashed in all four runs at once, and Alexander and the errorless Troy defense did the rest.

"He hit the first one off of a curveball while he was behind in the count," Welker said of Helke. "The second he hit off a fastball. He hit to all fields today and is starting to come alive. As a whole, we swung the bats a lot

■ See **BASEBALL** on 18

## College Basketball



Ohio State guard William Buford (44) tries to grab a rebound between Syracuse forward C.J. Fair (5) and Syracuse forward James Southerland (43) during the second half of the East Regional final Saturday, March 24, in Boston.

AP PHOTO

# Breaking point

Buckeyes turned corner after hitting rock bottom

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The season was spiraling away, the players didn't seem to care and Thad Matta had had enough.

So, as he watched his team stumble lackadaisically through practice on the eve of a big game, the Ohio State coach snapped. Stop, day's over, head home, he told them.

Not so fast, coach. Led by William Buford, the team's lone senior, the Buckeyes pushed back, decided to finish

practice on their own.

"I didn't let us leave," Buford said Thursday. "I told them we need to stay here and keep practicing, that's all there was to do. There was no sense in going home. We needed to stay together and show coach that we really wanted to be here."

They sure did.

Sparked by that we'll-show-coach moment of solidarity and buoyed by a refresher-course team meeting, the Buckeyes

have made an unexpected run into the Final Four.

Following a loss to Wisconsin the day after Matta's outburst, Ohio State (31-7) has won eight of nine games and is playing its best basketball at just the right time.

The young Buckeyes face Kansas in Saturday's Final Four in the Big Easy and have found the confidence that was missing

■ See **BUCKEYES** on 20

## Softball

# Errors in 7th doom Trojans in 3-2 loss

Staff Reports

NEW CARLISLE — Better days are ahead for the young Troy Trojans.

First, though, the team has to learn how to deal with tough situations and close out games.

Leading 2-0 in the final inning, Troy committed two errors in the bottom of the seventh, allowing Tecumseh to steal a 3-2 victory Thursday afternoon.

Amber Smith gave up only five hits but was stuck with the loss.

## MIAMI COUNTY

"It's a shame that she pitched as well as she did and comes away with the loss," Troy coach Scott Herman said. "She pitched a great ballgame. But we had two fielding errors and one mental error in the seventh, and that was the difference."

Herman knows that instead of dwelling, though, the only thing to do is move forward.

"A young team is going to make those mistakes. Now it's about how

we handle ourselves as a team and a community through this adversity," he said. "Until we come together as a team and a community, we won't have a winning program here. It's a process, and that support has got to be there."

Smith also had an RBI for the Trojans, and Troy's other run scored on an error forced by a Brittany Sowers shot. Troy managed only four hits in the game.

"Our big thing right now is hitting," Herman said. "We're going to go back to the basics on every-

thing. We have to."

Troy hosts Franklin Monroe today.

Troy .....000 200 0 — 2 4 2  
 Tec .....000 000 3 — 3 5 2

Smith and Lehmann. Simms and Collins. WP — Simms. LP — Smith.

Records: Troy 2-3, Tecumseh 2-1.

**Milton-Union 10,**

**Oakwood 0 (5)**

**WEST MILTON** — It took Milton-Union some time to get going on Wednesday.

The Bulldogs had no such

■ See **SOFTBALL** on 18

## College Basketball

# Groce leaves OU for Illinois

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. (AP) — John Groce took the Ohio Bobcats farther in the NCAA tournament than they had been in nearly 50 years.

He will get a chance to bring that level of success back to a Big Ten team.

Illinois introduced Groce as its new head coach Thursday, bringing him in to replace the fired Bruce Weber.

"Obviously our family is excited to be a part once in a lifetime opportunity," Groce said.

The 40-year-old Groce has been at Ohio, a Mid-American Conference school, since 2008. He led the Bobcats to the NCAA tournament twice, including a run to the Sweet 16 this year that ended with an overtime loss to North Carolina. The Bobcats hadn't been that far in the tourney since 1964.

Groce was an assistant with Thad Matta at Butler, Xavier and Ohio State before taking over at



GROCE

■ See **GROCE** on 20