

SPORTS

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A9

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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.

• **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 on the "Registrations" page. For more information, call the Recreation Department at 339-5145.

• **SOFTBALL:** The deadline to register for the Troy Recreation Department Adult Softball Leagues played at Duke Park is March 30. Registration is online at <http://activenet19.active.com/troyrecdept/>. For more information, contact the Troy Recreation Department at 339-5145.

SPORTS CALENDAR

TODAY
No events scheduled

MONDAY
Baseball
Wayne at Troy (5 p.m.)
Tippecanoe at Fort Walton Beach, FL (6 p.m.)
Lehman at Newton (5 p.m.)
Covington at New Knoxville (5 p.m.)
Butler at Piqua (5 p.m.)
New Bremen at Bradford (5 p.m.)
Softball
Fairborn at Troy (5 p.m.)
Miami East at Tecumseh (5 p.m.)
Bethel at Cedarville (5 p.m.)
Lehman at Newton (5 p.m.)
Piqua at Fairmont (5 p.m.)
Tennis
Stebbins at Tippecanoe (4:30 p.m.)
Milton-Union at Centerville (4:30 p.m.)
Lehman at St. Marys Memorial (4:30 p.m.)

TUESDAY
Baseball
Carroll at Troy (5 p.m.)
Tippecanoe at Muscle Shoals, AL (at FL) (3 p.m.)
Milton-Union at Tri-County North (5 p.m.)
Houston at Bethel (5 p.m.)
Covington at Anna (5 p.m.)
Piqua at Butler (5 p.m.)
Botkins at Lehman (5 p.m.)
Softball
Troy at Bradford (5 p.m.)
Milton-Union at Piqua (5 p.m.)
Newton at New Bremen (5 p.m.)
Covington at Anna (5 p.m.)
Botkins at Lehman (5 p.m.)
Tennis
Piqua at Lehman (4:30 p.m.)
Track and Field
Troy, Piqua, Bradford, Lehman at Sidney Invite (4:30 p.m.)
Bethel at Milton-Union quad (4:30 p.m.)
Miami East, Newton at Arcanum quad (4:30 p.m.)

UPCOMING

Sport **Start Date**
Tennis Monday

WHAT'S INSIDE

Major League Baseball A10
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Closer-less Reds ready for season

Fred manager Dusty Baker sat back in his chair at the start of spring training in Arizona and considered that it's his final season under contract.

Worried? No. How a manager does usually comes down to the depth of talent on his roster. And Baker likes what he has to work with this time around.

See Page A10.

College Basketball

Happy to be wrong

OSU Final Four-bound, wins 77-70

BOSTON (AP) — Ohio State coach Thad Matta sized up his team in the middle of the season and had it figured for a first-weekend loss when the NCAA tournament came around.

He's never been so happy to be wrong.

Jared Sullinger recovered from first-half foul trouble to score 19 points and grab seven rebounds, helping Ohio State beat top-seeded Syracuse 77-70 on Saturday to advance to the Final Four. The second-seeded Buckeyes will play the winner of Sunday's Midwest Regional final between North Carolina and Kansas.

Deshaun Thomas scored 14 with nine rebounds for Ohio State (31-7), which led by eight

points with 59 seconds to play and held on after the Orange cut it to three. The Buckeyes made 13 of 14 free throws in the final 68 seconds and 31 of 42 from the line in all.

The Buckeyes are making their first trip to the Final Four since 2007, when they lost in the national championship game to Florida.

Brandon Triche scored 15 points and Baye Keita had 10 rebounds for Syracuse (34-3). The Orange were hoping for a return trip to New Orleans, where they won their only national championship in 2003.

In a tightly officiated game that left Sullinger on the bench in foul trouble for most of the

■ See BUCKEYES on A12



AP PHOTO
Syracuse forward Kris Joseph, left, and center Baye Keita (12) can't stop Ohio State center Amir Williams (23) as he dunks during the first half of the NCAA tournament East Regional final game Saturday in Boston.

Track and Field



STAFF PHOTOS/MARK DOWD
Tippecanoe's Corey Baldsare and Troy Christian's Matthew Coots run side-by-side during a race at the season-opening Tippecanoe Relays Saturday at Tippecanoe Middle School.

A quality start

Area teams kick off season at Tipp Relays

BY COLIN FOSTER
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With partly-cloudy skies and 60-degree weather, track season got underway for area teams on Saturday at the Tippecanoe Relays.

The start of this track season, however, felt much more like spring than the 30-degree freeze fest in Tipp City that launched the beginning of 2011 season.

And out of all area teams, it was the Covington boys that finished the highest in seventh with 36 points. Host Tippecanoe came in 13th (18 points), Bethel was 15th (15) and Troy Christian 16th (nine) at a meet that mixed Greater Western Ohio Conference teams such as Butler and Wayne — which won the meet with 117 points — against the likes of Central Buckeye Conference and Cross County Conference schools in a variety of relay events.

"It's nice coming to a relay meet like this to start the season," Covington coach Kyle Moore said. "At a meet like this, everybody is working

■ See TIPP RELAYS on A11

Baseball/Softball

Troy tops Shawnee

Trojan softball sweeps Ansonia

Staff Reports

TROY — It wasn't exactly the way it was planned.

But sometimes surprises are nice.

Devon Alexander, a closer last season, pitched a complete game four-hit shutout Saturday as the Troy Trojans held an impromptu home opener against Springfield Shawnee after an overnight rain rendered the Braves' home field — where the game was originally scheduled to take place — unplayable.

MIAMI COUNTY

"Devon was the man. He was fun to watch today," Troy coach Ty Welker said. "He threw strikes, he got ahead of batters, he induced a lot of ground balls and we played solid defense behind him.

"I said earlier this week that starting pitching would be our question mark — and Devon stepped up in our first game."

Alexander also played a big role in pushing runs across as Troy's bats were held in check for the most part. He led of the game with a strikeout but reached on a wild pitch, stole second and eventually scored the game's first run on a walk. Alexander also added an RBI sac fly in the second inning that made it 2-0 at the time.

And in the third, the Trojans got their only two hits of the

■ See ROUNDUP on A12

Track and Field

Trojans 2nd at Northmont

Staff Reports

The Troy Trojans showed they'll be a force to be reckoned with this season Saturday at the Northmont Relays, sweeping second place at the meet.

The Troy boys scored 117.5 points and the girls piled up 104, with only Centerville doing better, winning both the boys (171) and girls (147) meets.

MIAMI COUNTY

For the Trojan boys, the team of Devante Bush, Nick James, Nick Zimmer and Miles Hibbler won the 4x200 (1:33.31) and the 4x100 (44.1 seconds). Troy Schultz won the 1,600 (4:31.95), and Brandon Nosker was third (4:48.09).

James won the 100 (11 seconds) and the 200 (22.42 seconds), while Blake Williams was third in the 100 (11.43 seconds) and tied for third in the 200 (23.5

■ See TRACK on A11



Tippecanoe's Sarah Janosik (front) prepares to take a handoff from Anna Barhorst Saturday.