

College Basketball



Ohio State forward Jared Sullinger (0) reacts in front of Syracuse forward Rakeem Christmas, left, during the first half of the NCAA tournament East Regional final Saturday in Boston.

Buckeyes

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 The loss ended a tumultuous season for Syracuse that began with accusations by two former ball boys that they were sexually abused in the 1980s by Bernie Fine, a longtime Syracuse assistant coach. Boheim vigorously defended him, but later walked back his support in the face of new information. Fine, who was fired Nov. 27, has not been charged and has denied any wrongdoing.

The school also revealed this month that it had self-reported possible violations of its internal drug policy by members of previous teams; the NCAA is investigating.
 But the biggest hit might have been the loss of Melo, Syracuse's leading rebounder who also averaged 5.8 points per game. Even without him, the Orange beat North Carolina-Asheville and Kansas State to earn a trip to Boston, then survived a pair of potential game-winners to beat Wisconsin 64-63 on Thursday and advance to the regional final.

Ohio State reached the round of eight by beating Loyola of Maryland and then Gonzaga before winning a Battle of the Buckeye State against Cincinnati in Boston on Thursday night.

Syracuse was already without 7-footer Fab Melo, who missed the tournament with academic issues, and replacement Rakeem Christmas picked up two quick fouls early in the second half to leave him with four.
 Ohio State opened a 46-36 lead with under 14 minutes to play. Syracuse scored eight of the next nine points to make it a one-point game, but the Orange could never get back in the lead.

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Women's College Basketball

Lady Vols defeat Jayhawks, 84-73

Advance to regional final

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—Tennessee was down 14 points against 11th-seeded Kansas, an unheralded bunch that few thought could test the mighty Lady Vols.

Feisty sophomore Meighan Simmons gave Tennessee the boost it needed to survive and advance to yet another regional final.

Simmons scored 16 of her 22 points off the bench in the second half and Tennessee rallied past the Jayhawks 84-73 Saturday and advanced to its second straight regional final and

25th in 31 years.

Glory Johnson added 18 points for the second-seeded Lady Vols (27-8), who'll meet undefeated and top-seeded Baylor on Monday night for a spot in the Final Four.

It was the 1,098th win for Tennessee coach Pat Summitt, who announced in August she'd been diagnosed with early onset dementia, Alzheimer's type, and has yet to commit to coaching next season.

The Lady Vols trailed 26-12 in the first half, but cut the deficit to 35-30 by halftime. They took the lead for good with a 19-9 run to open the second half.

Angel Goodrich had a

game-high 23 points and Aishah Sutherland had 19 for Kansas (21-13), which fell to 0-3 in regional semifinals.

Baylor 83, G. Tech 68

DES MOINES, Iowa — Baylor was cruising, the Lady Bears' reserves were waiting to check in and there seemed to be little excitement.

Then Brittney Griner got behind the Georgia Tech defense and everyone in the arena knew what could be coming.

Baylor's 6-foot-8 All-American didn't disappoint.

Griner threw down a two-handed dunk to cap a

sensational performance and the Lady Bears stormed into the NCAA regional finals for the third straight year with an 83-68 victory over Georgia Tech on Saturday.

Griner, who finished with 35 points, 10 rebounds and six blocks, took a pass from Brooklyn Pope and soared in for her dunk with 6:29 left in yet another rout for the Lady Bears swinging briefly on the rim for good measure.

"I wanted to get one in this game," said Griner, who was almost nonchalant about her crowd-pleasing play. "Brooklyn got me the ball and I just went up and slammed it."

College Basketball

Cardinals stun Gators

PHOENIX (AP)—Hated to do that to ya, kid.

Rick Pitino nearly came unhinged and his point guard watched the end of the game from the bench. When it was over, though, it was Pitino and Louisville making plans for the Final Four and his protege, Billy Donovan, and the Florida Gators wondering what the heck happened.

Freshman forward Chane Behanan made the go-ahead basket with 1:06 left Saturday and the fourth-seeded Cardinals finished the game on a 23-8 run for a 72-68 victory over Donovan's stunned Florida team in the West Regional final.

Russ Smith, who finished with 19 points, followed Behanan's bucket with a pair of free throws and then Florida freshman Bradley Beal and teammate Kenny Boynton each missed chances to tie. Louisville made one more free throw to seal the game and reach its ninth Final Four, the second under Pitino, despite playing the final 3:58 without point guard Peyton Siva, who fouled out.

Seventh-seeded Florida (26-11) went out in the regional final for the second straight year, with Donovan falling to 0-7 lifetime against the man who coached him at Providence, hired him as an assistant at Kentucky and felt as proud as a papa when he watched Donovan win his two national titles in 2006 and 2007.



Louisville's Kyle Kuric (14) celebrates his team's 72-68 win over Florida in an NCAA tournament West Regional final on Saturday in Phoenix.

This one, however, was no heartwarmer.

Donovan got under Pitino's skin early in the second half during a timeout when he worked over the officials, who promptly called a foul against the Cardinals (30-9) when play resumed.

"He called that," Pitino shouted. "Why don't you just give him a whistle?"

Pitino couldn't get a break for a while after that and when Siva picked up his fourth foul, the coach stomped onto the court and got hit with a technical. Erving Walker made four straight free throws and the Gators led by 11, setting the stage for what could've been

Donovan's fourth trip to the Final Four.

But the team that went 8 for 11 from 3-point range in the first half went cold really cold not hitting any of nine attempts from beyond the arc in the second.

The Gators missed seven shots and committed one turnover over the last 2:30. They didn't score after Boynton's layup gave them a 68-66 lead with 2:39 left.

The game's best freshman? That was Behanan, who was far less heralded than Beal coming out of high school, but outplayed him down the stretch when the trip to New Orleans was on the line.

The freshman from

Cincinnati scored 13 of his 17 points in the second half, including nine over the last 8:02 and Louisville's last two field goals both after Siva had fouled out with nine points and eight assists.

Beal, meanwhile, finished with 14 points and controlled this game for the first 37 minutes. But over the last 3, he tried twice to take the ball to the hoop, only to get denied by 6-foot-10 center Gorgui Dieng. Beal missed a desperation 3 in the waning seconds and also got called for traveling after stealing a pass from Smith while Louisville was nursing a one-point lead with 18 seconds left.

Baseball/Softball

Roundup

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 game. Ian Nadolny doubled, and Dylan Cascaden — who also drew the run-scoring walk in the first inning — doubled him in.

"We manufactured runs today," Welker said. "We had three walks in the first inning and really worked the count. Our top four guys didn't have a hit in the game, but we still win. We'll take that every time."

"It was just a really well-played game on both sides. They're a solid team, and this was a good baseball game. And we were able to get it in because of the shape our field is kept in."

Troy hosts Wayne Monday in its originally-scheduled home opener and continues the homestand Tuesday against Carroll.

SS.....000 000 0 — 0 4 1
 Troy.....111 000 x — 3 2 1
 Zinkon, Wilson (6) and Chetmaw. Alexander and Nadolny. WP — Nadolny. LP — Zinkon. 2B — Nadolny (T), Cascaden (T). Records: Springfield Shawnee 0-1, Troy 1-0.

TC 8, LTC 0;
 TC 4, LTC 3
 TROY — Even with all of the experience on Troy Christian's roster, Saturday was a big day to be an Eagle freshman.

Garret Hancock was big at the plate in both games of a doubleheader against Lima Temple Christian, and Elijah Simms got his first varsity win in his first start in a 4-3 victory in the late game. Meanwhile, staff senior ace Michael Seagraves pitched a one-hit shutout to start the day in an 8-0 victory.

"We've got a great group of freshmen this year," Troy

Christian coach Bill Campbell said. "Elijah, we were really excited for him, getting his first win. And Garret hit the ball well in both games."

Hancock was 3 for 3 with a triple and 2 RBI in the opener, Ben Morrow and Dustin Poteet were both 2 for 3 and Seagraves was 2 for 2. And in the late game, Hancock was 1 for 1 with a double as the Eagles capitalized on four Lima Temple Christian errors.

"Being 2-0 is a good way to start the season — particularly since we didn't think we were going to play," Campbell said, referring to the Friday rain that washed out most of Saturday's action. "This is our school's mission week, so five of our players left today — two of them starters. So we're off until next Saturday, a doubleheader against Mississinawa Valley."

LTC.....000 00 — 0 1 1
 TC.....042 2x — 8 13 2
 Sutton and Mitchell. Seagraves and Kolker. WP — Seagraves. LP — Sutton. 3B — Hancock (TC).
 LTC.....200 01 — 3 3 4
 TC.....012 1x — 4 4 2
 Bolan and Mitchell. Simms and Kolker. WP — Simms. LP — Bolan. 2B — Hancock (TC). Records: Lima Temple Christian 0-2, Troy Christian 2-0.

M-U 3, Urbana 1;
 M-U 2, Urbana 1
 URBANA — The Milton Union Bulldogs opened the season at Urbana High School on Saturday, sweeping a doubleheader from the Hillclimbers 3-1 and 2-1.

Wesley Biser pitched a complete game five-hitter with 10 strikeouts in the opener. Corey Young and Phil Campbell had multi-hit games for the Bulldogs, while

Connor Jones and Biser collected RBIs.

In Game 2, Tyler Maiden threw a complete game four-hitter with nine strikeouts. Adam Gunston went 2 for 3 while Josh Simpson and Trey Overla added RBIs, with Overlas single knocking in Caleb Barnes with the eventual winning run.

The Bulldogs (2-0) continue their road trip at Tri-County North on Tuesday.

• Softball
 Troy 2, Ansonia 1;
 Troy 3, Ansonia 1
 ANSONIA — Mackenzie Dankworth got the game-winning hit in the first game — with a single in the sixth inning that drove in two runs — and senior Shelby Schultz delivered the winning hit in the second game as the Troy Trojans got off to an undefeated start with a 2-1 win in the opener and a 3-1 victory in the second against Ansonia on Saturday.

Trojan ace Amber Smith got both wins on the hill, combining to throw only 150 pitches in the two games, while Maggie McClurg had her back on defense, recording double-digit putouts in both games to help the Trojans pull out the wins.

"Maggie did a phenomenal job today," Troy coach Scott Herman said. "If we don't have her, we might not win."

Dankworth led the Trojans at the plate, going 4 for 7 on the day.

"When the lights go down, she's a player," Herman said. "She did it all last year, and she did it all again (on Saturday)."

Freshman leadoff hitter Alex Wilt went 2 for 4 in the

opener and Schultz led Troy in Game 2, going 2 for 3 with two RBIs. Ashley Vanchure had two hits on the day. Catcher Jen Lehmann impressed her coach, calling the entire second game behind the plate.

"We're very happy to come out with two wins," Herman said. "The kids held their poise. They had a rally going in the second game, but Maggie (McClurg) bobbled the ball, then booted the ball to first for the out. Shelby Schultz threw the ball behind the runner to second for the double play. That kind of killed their rally."

Troy has its home opener on Monday, taking on Fairborn at 5 p.m.

M-U 5, Wayne 1;
 Greenville 5, M-U 2
 GREENVILLE — One clutch defensive play by Milton-Union's Claire Feters was enough to help Andrea Feters shut down Wayne in a 5-1 victory, but one bad hop turned into a big inning for Greenville in a 5-2 loss as the Bulldogs split an opening-day tri-match.

Andrea Feters was the pitcher of record in both games. Against Wayne, she struck out nine and walked three, giving up five hits — and the Bulldog defense backed her up, particularly while she held a 2-1 lead in the fifth inning.

"They (Wayne) had the bases loaded with one out, and they hit a line drive to the hole at short," Milton-Union coach Curt Schaefer said. "Claire caught it on the line and tagged the runner out between second and third to get us out of the inning. If that

ball gets through, the bases empty. That was the big play in the game for us."

"They had a couple of innings where they got some runners on, but our defense made some stands,"

Christine Heisey, Chloe Smith and Haley Martens each had an RBI in the game as the Bulldogs put up three in the top of the seventh to ice it.

Against Greenville, Milton-Union again held a 2-1 lead going into the bottom of the fifth — but this time, perennial power Green Wave got the play it needed to kick-start a decisive four-run inning with a leadoff inside-the-park home run. A routine line-drive base hit to right took a bad hop over the fielder's head and went clear to the wall, and Greenville pounced.

"It was like a domino effect. We couldn't stop anything, and they got five hits in a row," Schaefer said. "I don't know if it hit a gopher hole or what out there, but it took a bad hop and turned into a home run — and it really charged them up."

Andrea Feters struck out five and walked one in the game, giving up six hits. Chloe Smith was 2 for 3 with a double and an RBI and Monica Burke had a double and an RBI.

Milton-Union travels to Piqua Tuesday.

M-U.....101 000 3 — 5 5 1
 Wayne.....010 000 0 — 1 5 5
 A. Feters and Boher. Pinch and Boyer. WP — A. Feters. LP — Milton-Union 1-0.
 M-U.....000 200 0 — 2 6 1
 Gville.....100 040 x — 5 4 2
 A. Feters, Smith (5), A. Feters (6) and Boher. Lennen and

Walters. WP — Lennen. LP — A. Feters. 2B — Smith (M), Burke (M), Walters (G). HR — Martins (G). Records: Milton-Union 1-1.

Oakwood 6, Bethel 4;
 Bethel 10, Oakwood 2

BRANDT — Bethel was one play shy of a doubleheader sweep of Oakwood Saturday, giving up a four-run sixth inning and then another two runs in the eighth to fall 6-4 in the opener but winning the second game 10-2.

"In the first game, I was pleased with the pitching of Brianna Anthony, a freshman. We just had a mental lapse in the sixth that a young team will make," Bethel coach Dennis Lawson said. "We are a young team that should improve all year."

After giving up two more runs to begin the second game, Cheyanna Turner hit a bases-clearing three-run double to give the Bees (1-1) the lead, and Bethel never looked back.

Kendal Keough was 2 for 4 with a double and three RBI in the opener, while Mikayla Welch and Macy Reitz were both 2 for 4.

In addition to Keough's big hit in the second game, Mandy Shoopman was 2 for 3 with a triple, Alisha Campbell was 2 for 3 with a double and Lindsey Nesbitt was 2 for 3 — and got the win on the mound.

Bethel travels to Cedarville Monday.

O.....000 004 02 — 6 8 2
 B.....001 010 20 — 4 8 3
 WP — Kern. LP — Anthony. 2B — Neff (O), Keough (B).
 O 200 00 — 2 1 3
 B.....000.....044 2x — 10 9 1
 WP — Nesbitt. LP — Kern. 2B — Campbell (B), Turner (B). 3B — Shoopman (B). Records: Oakwood 1-1, Bethel 1-1.