



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.

• **SOCCER:** The North West Alliance Soccer Club will be hosting the Fazoli's Festival of Soccer, a three-game round-robin tournament for u8-u12 boys and girls players, at Athletes in Action Field in Xenia. Schedules and registration information can be found at www.nwcalliance.org.

• **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:** 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/ProgramRegForms.html>. Contact the recreation department at (937) 339-5145 for more information.

• **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.

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

SPORTS CALENDAR

TODAY
 No events scheduled

SATURDAY
Baseball
 Troy at Spr. Shawnee (noon)
 Milton-Union at Urbana (DH) (10 a.m.)
 Franklin Monroe at Bethel (DH) (noon)
 Temple Christian at Troy Christian (DH) (11 a.m.)
 Covington at St. Henry (noon)
 Piqua at Indian Lake (noon)
Softball
 Troy at Ansonia (1 p.m.)
 Milton-Union/Wayne at Greenville (noon)
 Oakwood at Bethel (noon)
 Lehman at Sidney (DH) (11 a.m.)
Track and Field
 Troy at Northmont Invite (10 a.m.)
 Bethel at Tippecanoe Relays (10 a.m.)
 Newton, Covington, Bradford at Versailles Invite (girls only) (9 a.m.)

SUNDAY
 No events scheduled

UPCOMING

Sport	Start Date
Baseball	Saturday
Softball	Saturday
Track and Field	Saturday
Tennis	Monday

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Badgers miss shot at Orange

C.J. Fair broke out of a scoring slump with 15 points and top-seeded Syracuse held on — thanks to a pair of Badger misses late — for a 64-63 victory over fourth-seeded Wisconsin on Thursday night in the East Regional semifinals.

See Page 18.



STAFF FILE PHOTO/ANTHONY WEBER
Nathan Helke, the Troy Trojans' leading hitter last season, will be back this year to anchor the team's lineup.

Baseball

Leading by example

Veteran Trojans ready for season

BY JOSH BROWN
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Troy won't lack leadership this season — even after losing a large group of seniors.

It'll just take a different form. "Last year's seniors were great. They were tremendous leaders, vocal leaders. They'll be hard to replace — and we haven't tried to," Troy coach Ty Welker said. "These seniors are different this year. They lead quietly, lead by doing."

MIAMI COUNTY

And among Troy's nine returners from last year is plenty of run-scoring potential.

"All of our big bats are back. We return a lot of offense this year," Welker said.

Key among those bats is senior Nathan Helke, who led the team with 34 RBI, hit a number of game-tying or game-winning home runs and hit .543.

"That's legit," Welker said of

■ See **BASEBALL** on 18

Buckeyes, Bearcats battle to stay alive



AP PHOTO
Cincinnati guard Jaquon Parker tries to drive between Ohio State guard Aaron Craft (4) and forward Deshaun Thomas, right, in the first half of an NCAA tournament East Regional semifinal game Thursday in Boston. Ohio State built a big lead at the half, but the Bearcats fought back early in the second and led 52-51 with 10:56 remaining in the game at time of press. To find out who won the game, go to www.troydailynews.com and look in the "top sports" section on the home page.

Women's BBall

Ashland playing for title

M-U graduate Finfrock reaches D-II title game

Staff Reports

SAN ANTONIO — Milton-Union graduate Kaci Finfrock is getting a taste of a national title game.

Finfrock — who graduated from Milton-Union High School in 2009 — and the Ashland Eagles will take on Shaw in the NCAA Division II women's national championship game at 7 p.m. tonight in San Antonio after sweeping their way through the Elite Eight and Final Four earlier this week.

WEST MILTON

No. 2 Ashland — now 33-1 on the season — knocked off Alaska Anchorage 71-51 Tuesday night, then turned around and shut down Bentley 77-62 the very next night. The Eagles had Thursday off before tonight's title game matchup.

Against Alaska Anchorage, Finfrock was 2 for 4 from 3-point range for six points and added a rebound and two assists in nine minutes.

Against Bentley, she played six minutes as the Eagles only used two players and 16 minutes worth of substitutes. Leading scorer Kari Daugherty — a University of Dayton transfer — scored 31 points, matching her career high, and was one rebound

■ See **FINFROCK** on 18



FINFROCK

College Basketball

Spartans fall flat

First No. 1 ousted from tourney

PHOENIX (AP) — Gorgui Dieng swatted away the West Region's top seed to send Rick Pitino into another regional final.

Chane Behanan scored 15 points and Dieng anchored Louisville's stifling defense with seven blocked shots, helping the Cardinals knock off top-seeded Michigan State 57-44 Thursday night in the West Regional semifinals.

Louisville (29-9) smothered the NCAA tournament's best-shooting team with its matchup zone, getting good pressure from its guards up top and some big swats by Dieng, one of the nation's top shot-blockers.

The Cardinals relied on 3-point shooting in the first half and went inside the second to befuddle the Spartans, earning a trip to the West final against Marquette or Florida on

Saturday. Michigan State (29-8) started slow and never got going against Louisville's amoebic defense, shooting 28 percent while being outscored 20-14 inside by the leaner Cardinals.

Dieng finished with five points, nine rebounds and had three steals. Peyton Siva overcame a rough shooting night four points on 2-of-9 shooting with nine assists.

Draymond Green had 13 points and 16 rebounds in his final game for Michigan State and Brandon Wood added 14 points.

This sweet matchup of top programs featured two of college basketball's best short-preparation coaches.

Pitino has used his speed-the-opponent-up system to reach the

■ See **SPARTANS** on 18



AP PHOTO
Michigan State's Brandon Wood (30) fouls Louisville's Gorgui Dieng during an NCAA tournament game Thursday in Phoenix.