GOPHERS HOCKEY NOTES
'U' skaters are No. 1 in two national polls

Rachel Blount, Staff Writer

Good thing the Gophers have been skating so hard in their captain’s practices. Monday, they accepted a rather heavy mantle of expectation as they were picked first in two national preseason hockey polls and the WCHA's annual survey of league coaches.

The U.S. College Hockey Online and USA Today/American Hockey Magazine polls named the Gophers the nation's preseason No. 1 for the second consecutive year. Nine of the WCHA's 10 coaches _ the Gophers' Don Lucia couldn't vote for his own team _ picked them to win the league title.

The WCHA poll, administered by the Grand Forks Herald, also named Gophers forward Thomas Vanek the league's preseason player of the year.

The Gophers return all but three key members of last season's team, which won the school's second consecutive NCAA hockey title. They received 25 of 34 first-place votes in the USA Today poll and 25 of 30 in the USCHO tally. Both polls, which are selected by panels of coaches and media members, chose Michigan No. 2, Boston College No. 3, New Hampshire No. 4 and North Dakota No. 5.

Other WCHA teams in the national polls are Colorado College (No. 11 USCHO/10 USA Today), Denver (13/12) and Minnesota Duluth (15/15).

The Gophers compiled 81 points in the WCHA poll. Lucia picked the Sioux to win the title, and they stand second with 73 points. Last year's regular-season champion Colorado College tied Minnesota Duluth for third place (58 points), followed by Denver (48), Minnesota State, Mankato (46), Wisconsin (31), St. Cloud State (28), Michigan Tech (17) and Alaska-Anchorage (10).

Vanek, who last spring was voted the league's top freshman and the most valuable player of the NCAA Frozen Four, received six votes for preseason player of the year. North Dakota's Zach Parise finished second with three votes, and Gophers defenseman Keith Ballard got one.

Wisconsin freshman defenseman Ryan Suter was picked as the WCHA’s preseason rookie of the year in fractured voting. Suter earned five votes, followed by Sioux forward Brady Murray (three). Gophers forward Ryan Potulny and MSU, Mankato forward David Backes of Blaine each received one vote.

Most games on TV

Fox Sports Net will televise 32 of the Gophers' 39 regular-season games, beginning with the Oct. 10 season opener against No. 13 Maine.

The cable sports network is the Gophers' only television outlet this season. It will broadcast all games except those on Oct. 25 (Minnesota Duluth), Nov. 22 (Michigan Tech), Dec. 5-6 (Alaska-Anchorage), the Latvian national team (Dec. 11), Princeton (Dec. 20) and Denver (Feb. 27).

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No longer led by Sejna, CC reloads with youth

Mike Chambers
Denver Post Sports Writer

In discussing the prospects of Colorado College making a third consecutive appearance in the NCAA hockey playoffs, coach Scott Owens hardly exudes confidence. But he’s not complaining.

With a school-record nine NHL draft picks on his team, Owens expects to have a pretty good team come tournament time.

Until then, Owens could spend much of his time grinding his teeth. He has 17 underclassmen, including eight freshmen, and just four seniors who played regularly on CC's 2002-03 squad that won the Western Collegiate Hockey Association regular-season championship and finished 30-7-5.

'Who's going to be our go-to guys, and if they’re sophomores, are they old enough to be able to get it done?' said Owens, who is missing four of last season's top five point producers. 'I think we have a nice team, but I just don't know how far you can go with that young of a club.'

To rival last season's squad - which would mean CC would play at its World Arena-hosted regional - Owens realizes he must find a way to replace three All-Americans, including Hobey Baker Award winner Peter Sejna. Last season's NCAA scoring champion, who was brilliant in registering 36 goals and 82 points, left school a year early to sign with the St. Louis Blues. Fellow All-Americans Noah Clarke and Tom Preissing graduated, along with Joe Cullen, the 2003 WCHA co-defensive player of the year.

The Tigers, who came within a victory of the Frozen Four, represented half of the first-team JOFA West All-America squad. But while those three players have moved on, Owens has a guy to build upon in junior goalie Curtis McElhinney, a second-team All-American.

McElhinney, last season's WCHA goaltending champion, will be pushed by freshman Matt Zaba, who was a middle-round draft pick of the Los Angeles Kings in June.

'We've got a nice D-corps, a nice blend,' Owens said. 'We've got seasoned veterans in Mark Stuart, Petiot and Canzanello. And Weston Tardy played 19 games (as a freshman) and (sophomore transfer) Brady Greco played at (Michigan) Tech his freshman year.'

Sophomore Jesse Stokke and freshmen Lee Sweatt and Brian Salcido will vie for the sixth spot.

Up front, sophomore Brett Sterling is the Tigers' biggest threat, and a feared player throughout the country. The diminutive 165-pounder scored 27 goals en route to being named a unanimous all-WCHA rookie performer last season.

'I think we should be good,' Sterling said. 'We have a lot of talent. If everything comes together like it should, we'll have a great team. We're going to surprise some people.'

Besides Sterling, CC doesn't have another player who has scored more than 13 goals in a season.

'Our question is going to be scoring-wise offensively, who's going to generate and consistently put the numbers up,' Owens said.
The Tigers will often look for Sterling and Stuart, team-mates on the 2001-02 U.S. under-18 team. They played at a similar level last season as when Sejna and Preissing were freshmen.

‘They’re very good players, but are they mature enough and old enough to be go-to guys?’ Owens said of his sophomore stars. They were good support guys and very solid contributors as freshmen. But when you’ve got Sejna, Preissing and Clarke, it’s a lot easier.’

If any newcomer catches on quickly, Owens said it’s likely to be Braydon Cox, who last season registered 82 points in 63 games for Sherwood Park of the Alberta Junior Hockey League.

But Sterling said plenty of other newcomers could have the same impact.

“They’ve all got skill and talent,” he said. “They just need time to get used to the speed.”

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: Associated Press/Dawn Villella Minnesota’s Grant Potulny slips the puck past CC goalie Curtis McElhinney in the WCHA Final Five championship game last season. Mike Chambers COLORADO COLLEGE
By Kevin Fee, Herald Staff Writer

Back-to-back national titles. The preseason most valuable player.

Is there any question which team is the favorite is in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association this season?

Nope.

The University of Minnesota, which lost only three players off last year's NCAA Division I championship team, is as unanimous a pick as one can be in the preseason poll.

The Gophers received nine of 10 first-place votes in the 33rd annual Grand Forks Herald WCHA Coaches' Poll. Coaches can't vote for their own teams, so the Gophers received every first-place vote possible.

Minnesota received 81 votes.

UND, which received the other first-place vote, is a solid second choice (73 points).

"Based on two national championships and only losing (Travis) Weber, (Matt) DeMarchi and Paul Martin, they're in pretty good shape, along with some pretty good recruits," UND coach Dean Blais said of the Gophers.

"They have a lot of people back from a team that showed a lot of character in winning a national title last year."

Gopher coach Don Lucia, who has the league's preseason player of the year in forward Thomas Vanek, says his team has holes. Goaltending is one area of concern. Weber, a junior, decided not to return because of personal reasons. That means junior Justin Johnson and a freshman Kellen Briggs will battle for the top spot.

Lucia said the Gophers were just hoping for home ice in the first round of the WCHA playoffs last February. "We got hot at the end of the year," he said.

One of the players who got hot was Vanek, who finished with 31 goals and 31 assists for 62 points in 45 games. Another was former Grand Forks Red River player Grant Potulny, who returned from an early-season injury to help lead the Gophers' postseason run.

Vanek was Minnesota's top player in the NCAA tournament.

"He's got that offensive skill level," Lucia said. "I think are going to be some great players in our league again."

UND has a few, especially at forward. Brandon Bochenski is coming off a 62-point season and Zach Parise finished his rookie season with 61 points. The New Jersey Devils selected Parise in the first round of the 2003 NHL draft.

Parise finished second to Vanek in the preseason MVP race.

"It's a dogfight every year," Lucia said. "I always say it's a blink of an eye between third and seventh in our league."

After UND, Colorado College and Minnesota-Duluth tied for third with 58 points in the preseason poll. Denver University is fifth with 48 points. The second five is headed by Minnesota State-Mankato (46). Wisconsin is seventh, followed by St. Cloud State, Michigan Tech and Anchorage.

Duluth, coached by former UND assistant Scott Sandelin, made a big push at the end of last season.

"If there is a potential darkhorse, it could be Duluth," Blais said.

Wisconsin's Ryan Suter is the preseason rookie of the year.

Suter will be the fourth member of that family (all defensemen) to play for the Badgers. The 6-foot-1, 183-pound defenseman spent the last two seasons with the USA Hockey National Team Development Program in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Suter's father, Bob, was a four-year letterwinner at Wisconsin and was a member of the 1980 U.S. Olympic Team that won a gold medal in Lake Placid.

"Ryan has a great on-ice presence," Wisconsin coach Mike Eaves said. "He is a very mature player with good skating and passing skills. He creates scoring opportunities and because he is such a smart player who knows what the situation is on the ice and does the right thing. Ryan has a competitive edge and has proven his leadership abilities."

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Ferris State pounces on Wayne State mistakes

Scott Harrison

DETROIT -- Wayne State's final drive perfectly summed up its 29-16 loss to Ferris State on Saturday: an interception in the end zone.

Mistakes marked the Warriors' third straight Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference defeat. They are 1-3 overall. Ferris State is 2-2 and 1-2.

Wayne State senior running back Craig Duppong was productive in the first half, gaining 80 yards and averaging 5 yards a carry. He gave Wayne State a 7-0 lead with a 5-yard run in the first quarter. The 14-play, 82-yard drive ate up 7:29.

"We could have had the game under control early, but then we had the turnovers," Coach Steve Kazor said.

Each team had trouble holding the ball in the first half. Ferris State recovered two of its three fumbles and Wayne State lost two of four.

With just over a second left before halftime, Ferris State was attempting a 42-yard field-goal when Wayne State's Mohammad Bazzi broke through the line and made a block with his left forearm. Junior Earl Carruthers scooped up the ball and raced into the end zone to give the Warriors a 13-6 lead.

But Wayne State's mistakes continued in the second half. Junior quarterback Randy Hutchison, who was 19-of-32 for 215 yards, was intercepted by linebacker Kevin Myers and sacked four times.

Ferris State got 13 points in the third quarter and seven in the fourth. All Wayne State could muster in the second half was a 30-yard field goal by junior Greg Gundersen.

More GLIAC

(At) Saginaw Valley 38, Ashland 0: Mark Radlinski completed 18 of 30 passes for 199 yards and four touchdowns for Saginaw Valley (4-0, 3-0), which recorded its first shutout since 1998. Ashland is 1-4 and 1-3.

(At) Northwood 30, Mercyhurst 3: Pernell Jackson had nine carries for 104 yards and a touchdown and Bryant Lawrence added touchdown runs of 1 and 3 yards for Northwood (2-2, 2-1). Mercyhurst is 2-2 and 1-2.

Findlay 31, (at) Michigan Tech 28: Jeff Pax hit a field goal as time expired for Findlay (3-1, 2-1), which rallied from a 21-point deficit in the third quarter. Dan Mettlach threw for one touchdown and ran for two more for Michigan Tech (1-3, 1-3).

MIAA

Olivet 56, Manchester 0: Olivet rushed for six touchdowns and 369 total yards, including a 61-yard scamper by Kemp Luchie in the first quarter. Josh Ewing caught two touchdown passes for Olivet (3-0). Manchester is 1-3.

Albion 10, (at) Ohio Wesleyan 3: Steve Wasil threw a 24-yard touchdown pass to Adam Schantz for Albion (1-2), which held Ohio Wesleyan (0-3) to 198 yards in total offense.

Kalamazoo 21, Mount St. Joseph 7: Bryan Gnyp threw two touchdown passes, including a 39-yarder to Jeff Green in the fourth quarter, for Kalamazoo (3-0). Gnyp finished 22-of-27 for 211 yards. Mount St. Joseph was held to minus-1 yard rushing on 27 carries.

Alma 16, (at) Defiance 2: Justin McHugh returned a punt 80 yards for a touchdown for Alma (2-1), which held Defiance to 136 total yards.

(At) Wheaton 43, Hope 26: Brad Musso had seven receptions for 137 yards and two touchdowns for Wheaton (3-0). Dan Bloemers had a 5-yard touchdown run for Hope (1-2).
Findlay 31, Michigan Tech 28

HOUGHTON, Mich.

Jeff Pax kicked a 26-yard field goal as time expired to give Findlay a 31-28 win over Michigan Tech on Saturday.

The Oilers (3-1, 2-1 Great Lakes Intercollegiate) rallied from a 21-point deficit to tie the score 28-all on a 7-yard run by Robert Campbell with 12:44 remaining.

Dan Mettlach threw for one touchdown and ran for two more for the Huskies (1-3, 1-3).

Austin Beach had two 1-yard TD runs and Kevin Crooks threw a 27-yard TD pass to Andy Witker for Findlay.
Today's games

Indianapolis at N. Michigan

Site: Superior Dome, Marquette, Mich.

When: 6 p.m.

Radio: WICR-88.7 FM

Notes: NCAA Division I total yardage leader Matt Kohn leads the Greyhounds (3-0, 2-0 Great Lakes Intercollegiate) into their first conference road game of the season. The junior QB, coming off an NCAA Division II-record 645 passing yards in last week’s 59-52 victory against Michigan Tech, is averaging 507 yards of total offense. . . . U of I senior WR Cesare Manning of Bishop Chatard leads the nation in receptions (11.0) and receiving yards (187.0) per game. . . . Senior Travis Zike of Martinsville is averaging 114.7 receiving yards per game. . . . The Greyhounds are 0-6 all time against Northern Michigan (1-2, 1-1) in the dome.

Butler at UW-Stevens Point

Site: Goerke Field, Stevens Point, Wis.

When: 1 p.m.

Radio: WKLU-101.9 FM

Notes: The Bulldogs (0-3) will be led by junior quarterback Adam Webb, who will get his first collegiate start against Division III UW-Stevens Point (2-0). Webb threw for 107 yards and a touchdown in last week’s 45-27 loss to Davidson. He replaced Ian Nelson, who suffered a knee injury. The injury is expected to keep Nelson out the rest of the season. . . . Butler jumped to a 27-9 lead against Davidson before allowing 36 points in the final 30 minutes. . . . This is the third of four road games in the first five weeks of the season for Butler.

Eastern Illinois at Indiana State

Site: Memorial Stadium, Terre Haute

When: 1:05 p.m.

Notes: The Sycamores (2-2) play their final nonconference game before beginning a stretch of Gateway Football Conference play that includes four nationally ranked Division I-AA foes. . . . ISU is 2-0 against fellow I-AA teams, including last week’s 17-10 win at Murray State. Jake Shields’ 196 yards rushing led the way. The junior from Plainfield leads the GFC in rushing (148.5 yards per game). . . . Eastern Illinois (1-2) is a two-time defending Ohio Valley Conference champion.

Big Ten

Indiana at Michigan, 11:10 a.m.

Iowa at Michigan State, 11:10 a.m.
Offensive scheme change suits QB Kohn

BY GEORGE SIPPLE, FREE PRESS SPORTS WRITER

Matt Kohn is showing what a little freedom -- and three fifth-year receivers -- can bring out in an offense.

Kohn, a former Free Press Dream Team quarterback from Adrian, broke two NCAA Division II records last Saturday in Indianapolis’ 59-52 overtime victory over Michigan Tech. Kohn, a junior, passed for a single-game record of 645 yards and accounted for 652 yards in total offense.

His 1,383 passing yards in three games this season are more than every other Great Lakes Conference team has in total offense. Kohn has thrown 12 touchdown passes and no interceptions.

The Greyhounds have been run-oriented in the past, but coach Joe Polizzi wanted to give his experienced players more opportunities this year.

"We're attacking a little bit more, with the three fifth-year guys and Matt," Polizzi said. "We have to take advantage of our advantages."

And Kohn said the players are having more fun.

"It's a lot more in the players' hands than it has been in the past," Kohn said. "Every player has extreme confidence in what we can do offensively."

Cesare Manning is the leading receiver with 33 catches for 561 yards and six TDs. Travis Zike has 18 catches for 282 yards and two TDs, Rob Mager 15 catches for 344 yards and three TDs.

Last year, Kohn passed for 2,255 yards and 17 touchdowns, but threw 18 interceptions.

This season, "he's just seeing things so well," Polizzi said. "He's so mature and such a good competitor, on top of his athletic ability. We knew he was going to be awfully good, but he's really exploded and come into his own."

Kohn's 645 passing yards were the fourth-highest in NCAA history, regardless of division. The all-division record is 731 yards by Zamir Amin of Division III Menlo College (Calif.) in 2000.

Kohn also set a Great Lakes Conference record for single-game completions (39) and school records for touchdown passes (six) and attempts (61).

Thirty-one Division II, conference and school records were broken in the game.

"The main record is our team going undefeated," Kohn said of Indianapolis (3-0). "This school has never won a conference title. We're in the toughest conference in the nation. For us to win a conference championship would be a great accomplishment. One loss, and you're out of it."

Next up is Northern Michigan at 7 p.m. Saturday in Marquette. Northern won last year, 24-10.

"We want some revenge," Kohn said. "That's the only thing in our minds right now."

Contact GEORGE SIPPLE at 313-223-4796 or sipple@freepress.com
U of I, Kohn rewrite record books

Jeff Rabjohns

The offensive barrage from quarterback Matt Kohn and the University of Indianapolis last Saturday may have set a record for setting records.

In passing for 645 yards in a 59-52 overtime victory against Michigan Tech, Kohn set the NCAA Division II record for passing yards in a game.

Officials later determined that was one of 28 NCAA, Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference or school records broken in the game.

Kohn, who was 39-for-61 with six touchdowns, broke nine individual passing records. His 652 yards are the second-most individual total offense in any NCAA football game, regardless of division, behind the 732 Houston's David Klingler compiled in a 1990 game against Arizona State.

In three games, Kohn is 82-for-125 passing for 1,383 yards with 12 touchdowns and no interceptions.

Greyhounds senior Cesare Manning, of Bishop Chatard High School, leads NCAA Division II in receptions per game (11) and receiving yards per game (187) after setting school records with 14 catches for 246 yards in the game. Senior Rob Mager of Seymour (131) and Travis Zike of Martinsville (111) also had 100-yard receiving games while Sam Penrod came close (98).

The 3-0 Greyhounds lead the Division II in total offense (608 ypg) and passing offense (470.3 ypg).

Elsewhere in football

* DePauw wide receiver Jamaarcus Shephard had a big hand in the Tigers' 39-20 upset of No. 15 Hanover.

The junior opened the game with an 88-yard kickoff return, leading to DePauw's first score, and later threw a 75-yard touchdown pass. He also had three catches for 52 yards and was named the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference Offensive Player of the Week.

* Hanover senior quarterback Brett Dietz leads Division III in total offense, averaging 391.7 yards per game. Anderson quarterback Joel Steele (Granger) is eighth with a 335.5 average. Steele was named the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference Offensive Player of the Week for throwing for 409 yards on 29-for-49 passing in a 55-6 victory over Concordia (Mich.).

Sophomore Tyran Thompson (Scecina) rushed for a career-high 205 yards and two touchdowns as Thomas More beat Greenville 38-14. Sophomore cornerback Chris Willis (Broad Ripple) added two interceptions, returning one for a touchdown.

Here and there

* Sophomore Kareem Lee (Warren Central) has powered the 5-2 Rose-Hulman soccer team into the Division III regional rankings for the first time in school history. Lee scored three goals in eight minutes as the Engineers beat Anderson 4-1 and had the game-winner in a 2-1 victory over Manchester. Lee was the Southern Collegiate Player of the Week.

* Other Athletes of the Week in the Heartland were Anderson's Jason Parks in cross country and Dustan Christian for football special teams.

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The News-Press

September 26, 2003 Friday  Fort Myers, FL: SPORTS; Pg. 2C

MAC teams are shocking  
League squads pull off upsets of Top-25 clubs

Craig Handel  
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College football

The Mid-American Conference always has been easy to root for. These are usually small-town kids going to small-city schools and playing before 25,000 in football or 5,000 in basketball. They're more blue-collar than blue-chippers at the conference's 14 small universities, which are located mainly in the Midwest.

Occasionally, an overlooked or meandering star winds up at a MAC school, excels and goes to the pros, but they're basically late-bloomers who are well-schooled on fundamentals. MAC teams are regular spoilers in the NCAA Basketball Tournament. Watching a Ball State, Miami of Ohio or Kent State reach the Sweet 16 adds excitement to the event, even if it fouls up your pool.

And now MAC schools are pulling shockers in football, too. In what was the conference's greatest weekend - any conference would love these results - Marshall went into Manhattan, Kan., and upset No. 6 Kansas State 27-20; No. 9 Pittsburgh couldn't hold off No. 10 Toledo, losing 35-31; and Northern Illinois claimed its second Top-25 victory this season when it topped No. 21 Alabama 19-16 in Tuscaloosa. In addition, Miami (Ohio) whipped Mountain West favorite Colorado State 41-21 in Fort Collins, Colo.; and No. 5 Ohio State barely escaped Bowling Green 24-17.

MAC commissioner Rick Chryst said he should just retire now after last weekend's results. Actually, his work is just beginning. He needs to build off last weekend and work bowl officials on getting bids that won't be filled by some conferences. He also needs to help generate fervor among non-BCS schools.

"It's frustrating that Conference USA has five bowl tie-ups and we're 8-0 going in with Conference USA," said Northern Illinois coach Joe Novak. "Sometimes we're not perceived as (being as) good of a football conference as we really play. We have at least three, four, five bowl teams, I think."

If Northern Illinois beats Iowa State at home this weekend, the Huskies will have beaten three BCS schools. If they win all their MAC games, the league title game and go 13-0, the feeling is they should be playing in either the Rose, Fiesta, Orange or - dare we say - even Sugar bowl.

But even coaches in their own conference think it's unlikely Northern Illinois will get a spot. "They'd get over the embarrassment with all the money that's involved," he said. "And we're only 3-0. There's a lot of football to play."

Novak said the MAC challenges will continue, and actually may become harder with the recent success. Schools will purge them of top assistants and double their salaries. Getting BCS schools to agree to 2-for-1 deals (playing two games at the BCS school, one at the MAC school), or even 3-to-1, may be less and less.

"We in the league have to hold tough," Marshall coach Bob Pruett said. "TV is really helping us. ESPN is taking a lot of games on. We get on TV a bunch. We just can't keep selling the farm. We have to at least go for 2-for-1s."

In the latest saga of "Raid Your Conference," Atlantic Coast Conference officials continue to go after the Big East, while Conference USA is being picked at as well.

According to reports, ACC people are talking to Notre Dame. A number of scenarios are being discussed, including full membership in all sports but football and a limited football schedule against ACC schools.

The timing may be good in talking to the Irish. The optimism of coach Tyrone Willingham's first season has been replaced by reality this year. With road trips to Purdue, Pittsburgh and Boston College, and home games with
USC and Florida State, the Irish could start 1-7. Meanwhile, the school's TV contract with NBC - valued at $8.5 million per year - will expire after the 2005 season.

If talks with Notre Dame fail, the feeling is the ACC will turn to Boston College.

The conference needs a 12th school because the NCAA has denied the ACC a conference-championship game next season.

It is appearing as though Big East commissioner Mike Tranghese's comments earlier this summer may be correct - that the ACC's goals not only seem to be getting to 12 teams but crippling the Big East in the process.

As for reports that the Big East is going after Cincinnati, DePaul, Louisville and Marquette, the Big East is holding to its traditions - a conference more known for its basketball while keeping football to eight teams.

That's a mistake. Football is where the money and power is at now; and to not include South Florida and Central Florida is an error that will come back to haunt the Big East, much like when it turned down Penn State.

The ceiling for Cincinnati and Louisville football is limited. It's unknown what USF and UCF could do with the resources of playing in a power conference, which means regular TV dates, as well as their access to the nation's best high school talent. The fact that many Big East football coaches saw those schools as a threat should tell you something.

By the time this is all done, Conference USA may have to apply for Division I-AA status. Western Athletic Conference officials also are poking around.

C-USA commissioner Britton Banowsky said there are continuencies. What? Merge with the Sun Belt? Turn the MAC into a 22-school conference?

How appealing are those?

** * * *

What's up, South Florida? We haven't heard from you in awhile.

When the Bulls travel to Army this weekend, it'll be their first game since Sept. 6. They can thank Eastern Michigan and Baylor, who opted out of contracts.

"I think our players have handled the last few weeks well," USF coach Jim Leavitt said. "We have had some real good practices. We have been able to get our coaches out on the road recruiting, do some evaluations, and I think that has been beneficial."

ESPN's "College GameDay" will originate from West Point, N.Y., this weekend. There will be a patriotic theme presented.

"We are excited about the opportunity to go up to a historic college football stadium and play," Leavitt said. "There, obviously, is a lot of tradition and history there."

** * * *

In an item that just thrills Michigan, Minnesota has moved its football game against the Wolverines to Friday, Oct. 11 because of scheduling conflicts with the Minnesota Twins over the use of the Metrodome. The Big Ten Administrators Council also conditionally approved re-scheduling the Saturday, Oct. 18 Michigan State game to Friday, Oct. 17. That game will be moved only if the Twins advance to the American League Championship Series. ...

Explain this one: Oregon held Michigan to minus-3 yards, scored two special-teams touchdowns and dominated the game; yet when the rankings come out, the Wolverines not only are higher, but in the coaches' poll, they're five spots higher. Now we can see why the West Coasters feel there's a bias against them.

By the numbers

38,016 Seating capacity for Marshall football games, the second highest in the Mid-American Conference. Central Florida (70,138) is the highest.

22,500 Seating capacity for Ball State football games, the lowest in the MAC.

1981 The last time Missouri started 5-0. The Tigers will play at Kansas on Saturday.

1960 The last time Texas Christian won on the road against a Pac-10 team (7-6 against USC). TCU will travel to winless Arizona, which has been outscored 166-30 this season.

1916 The last year Carolina won at Tennessee. The Gamecocks are 0-11 since then.

645 Yards passing last week for Indianapolis quarterback Matt Kohn, who set a Division II record. His team beat Michigan Tech 59-52 in overtime.

46 Games Minnesota-Morris had lost until beating Principia (Ill.) 61-28, the Cougars' first win since Nov. 14, 1998.

21 The number of Big Ten openers Michigan has won in a row. It should reach 22 with this season's opener against Indiana.

11-0 Casey Clausen's road record as Tennessee quarterback.

7 Touchdown catches Oklahoma State's Rashaun Woods caught against SMU, a Division I record.

4 Times in a row that Michigan State has won at Notre Dame.

3 Punt returns for TDs by Oklahoma's Antonio Perkins, an NCAA Division I-A record.

2 Touchdowns FSU has allowed this season.

-3 Yards rushing Michigan had in its loss to Oregon.
SCSU TV picture comes into focus
SCSU will appear on Charter, Fox Sports, new Victory Sports One this season

Kevin Allenspach, Staff
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Doug Johnson, publisher of Let's Play Hockey, once again will call the color commentary this season for St. Cloud State men's hockey telecasts on Charter Communications Channel 65. The play-by-play job should be filled imminently.

Dan Terhaar, play-by-play announcer last season, will team with former Minnesota Gophers and NHL defenseman Reed Larson to call college hockey on Victory Sports One. The new network will carry 13 Huskies games. Five of those will be home games, with Charter providing coverage of the remaining 13 home games and the Oct. 11 exhibition against St. Clair College. The Victory schedule includes: Nov. 7-8 at Minnesota-Duluth; Nov. 14-15 at North Dakota; Dec. 5-6 at Colorado College; Jan. 2-3 vs. North Dakota; Jan. 23 vs. Minnesota State-Mankato; Feb. 20-21 at Wisconsin; and Feb. 27-28 vs. Colorado College.

The variety of TV coverage means six regular-season games will not be televised. Those include the Nov. 21-22 series at RPI, the Jan. 16-17 series at Alaska Anchorage, and the Feb. 6-7 series at Michigan Tech. The March 5-6 series at Minnesota will be televised on Fox Sports North.

Huskies notebook

St. Cloud State officials are working with a potential donor to provide video boards in the middle of the scoreboards at each end of the National Hockey Center. If the project goes forward, they could be installed sometime during the coming season.

If you want to see the Huskies play the Gophers this season, you'll have to do so at Mariucci Arena in Minneapolis. A limited number of single-game tickets go on sale through the University of Minnesota athletic department at 9 a.m. Saturday. Orders will be taken by phone only (800-UGOPHER) and will be limited to four tickets per household. Only reserved standing room and scattered single seats remain available.

The Center Ice Club has made its first contribution of the season with a check for $13,000 to the St. Cloud State hockey programs. The funds were raised primarily as a result of the recent club golf tournaments. In the past two years, the CIC has donated almost $60,000 to Huskies hockey, and more than $160,000 since the club was organized.
UVM MEN'S HOCKEY 2003-04

Staff

Ice time

For the first time since the fall of 1984 and only the third time since 1965, the University of Vermont hockey team gathered for its season-opening practice under a new head coach Wednesday at Gutterson Fieldhouse.

Kevin Sneddon officially assumed command of the Catamounts on the ice with a tryout session, followed by UVM's first workout Wednesday.

Sneddon is Vermont's fourth head coach, following the two-year reign of Bill Ruffer (1963-65) and the 19-year tenures of Jim Cross (1965-84) and Mike Gilligan (1984-2003).

"My big thing is to focus one day at a time; focus on the process and get better every day," Sneddon said in advance of his on-ice debut. "We have to focus on that from the time we start right through the end of the season.

"If we do that, we'll be a pretty good hockey club," said Sneddon, who has only 10 days to prepare for UVM's season's-opener against Boston College at The Gut on Oct. 4.

Sneddon said he must avoid the temptation to cram too much into getting the team ready for the Eagles.

"You can get caught up in trying to be so prepared for Boston College it becomes coaching analysis by paralysis," said Sneddon, who left Union to succeed the retired Gilligan.

Sneddon said he believes UVM's series of non-league games against BC, New Hampshire, Boston University and Michigan Tech should prepare the Catamounts for league competition.

In separate polls, the ECAC Division I coaches and the media relegated Vermont to ninth in the 12-team league.

Free Press
U-M gets permission to start practice early

Jim Spadafore

Most college basketball teams must wait until the NCAA starting date of Oct. 18 to begin practice, but Michigan starts Sunday.

U-M has special NCAA permission to start earlier because it is playing three exhibition games in Canada from Oct. 11-13. Two games are against the GT Express, a Canadian All-Star team, and the other against the University of Guelph.

The Wolverines are allowed 10 full practices before the exhibition games in Canada. They also have two exhibition games at Crisler Arena, Nov. 8 against Michigan Tech and Nov. 14 against a National Basketball Development League team. This gives Coach Tommy Amaker extra time before the regular-season opener Nov. 21 against Oakland University at Crisler Arena.

Michigan is coming off a 17-13 season and a third-place finish in the Big Ten (10-6). Five of the top six players return, but the Wolverines must replace LaVell Blanchard, who led them in scoring and rebounding the last four years.

The top players are guard Daniel Horton, the Big Ten Freshman of the Year in 2002-03; sophomore guard Lester Abram; sophomore centers Graham Brown and Chris Hunter; and senior wing Bernard Robinson Jr. Michigan also will count on freshmen Dion Harris, Michigan's Mr. Basketball; 6-foot-10 Courtney Sims and 6-9 Brent Petway; and 6-8 junior J.C. Mathis, a transfer from Virginia.

Oh, Canada

Michigan plays three exhibition games in Canada to start the season:

- Oct. 11: GT Express at the University of Toronto, 7 p.m.
- Oct. 12: University of Guelph, 3 p.m.
- Oct. 13: GT Express at Humber College in Toronto, 2 p.m.
REGIONAL SCENE

HOCKEY

WCHA champion Tigers have some holes on offense

Colorado College, the defending Western Collegiate Hockey Association champions, begin practice Monday with a lot of offense to replace.

The Tigers lost four of their top five scorers from last season and those four - Peter Sejna, Noah Clarke, Tom Preissing and Joe Cullen - accounted for 100 of the Tigers' 190 goals.

Still, CC returns key players in defenseman Mark Stuart, a first-round NHL draft pick in June, junior goalie Curtis McElhinney and sophomore forward Brett Sterling, who scored 27 goals as a freshman.

Stuart, a 212-pounder, was drafted by Boston. McElhinney has been drafted by Calgary and Sterling was selected by Atlanta in the June draft.

Other top returnees are defenseman Andrew Canzanello as well as forwards Marty Sertich and Tyler Liebel.

Top recruits for coach Scott Owens' Tigers are freshman goalie Matt Zaba and defenseman Brady Greco, a transfer from Michigan Tech.

Forward Toby Petersen, a former Colorado College athlete, was assigned to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton of the American Hockey League by the Pittsburgh Penguins of the NHL.

The 24-year-old Petersen is in his fourth pro season. He spent last season with Wilkes Barre/Scranton, where he registered 31 goals and 35 assists in 80 games.

Petersen registered eight goals and 10 assists in 79 games with Pittsburgh in 2001-02.

PRO SOCCER

Rapids to play match against Guatemala team

The Colorado Rapids announced that an international friendly match against the Guatemalan national team is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Oct. 15 at Invesco Field at Mile High.

The Rapids, currently in second place in Major League Soccer's Western Conference with 38 points, are heading directly to the 2003 MLS playoffs.

The Guatemalan national team, coached by former Mexican national team goalkeeper Victor Manuel Aguado, has posted a 2-3-2 record against sides such as Chile, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia.

Tickets for the game are on sale by calling Ticketmaster at 303-830-TIXS or at the Rapids Web site - www.coloradorapids.com.

VOLLEYBALL

Texas A&M women defeat Colorado

The University of Colorado women lost a five-set match to No. 25 Texas A&M University 24-30, 30-28, 30-28, 26-30, 15-13 in Big 12 Conference action Wednesday.

The loss drops the Buffaloes to 9-4 overall and 1-2 in the Big 12, while the Aggies improved to 9-3 overall and 1-1 in league play.

MEN’S SOCCER

Greco’s goals propel Metro State to victory

Alex Greco scored goals 2 minutes apart in the first half to help Metro State beat Colorado Christian 3-2 in a Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference men’s soccer match at Lakewood.

Antonio Porras of Metro State scored the first goal in the eighth minute, and Greco added his two in the 11th and 13th minutes.
Brad Palik and Chris Palik scored for Colorado Christian.

The RMAC men's players of the week were Ryan Parsons of Fort Lewis on offense and goalkeeper Eric Butler of Metro State on defense.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

West Texas A&M beats Fort Lewis with surge

West Texas A&M spotted Fort Lewis an early goal by Jamie Aweida, then dominated in a 4-1 women's soccer win at Durango.

Sarit Shenar scored twice and Whitney Cates and Dania Lopez once apiece for West Texas A&M.

The RMAC women's players of the week were Emilee Venter of Mesa State on offense and goalkeeper Nadia Fercha of Colorado State-Pueblo on defense.

RUNNING

CU coach Wetmore on national team staff

University of Colorado cross country and track and field coach Mark Wetmore has been added to the coaching staff for the USA National Team that will participate in the 2004 World Cross Country Championships at Brussels, Belgium, on March 20-21.
National beat

BIG MAC

The Mid-American Conference won in nearly every way possible on Saturday.

Marshall beat No. 6 Kansas State. Toledo stunned No. 9 Pittsburgh. Northern Illinois pulled its second shocker of the season, beating No. 21 Alabama. And Bowling Green only lost by seven at No. 4 Ohio State.

And later that night, Ericka Dunlap of Orlando won the Miss America crown. Dunlap is a student at Central Florida, a MAC school.

Northern Illinois, which had already beaten Maryland, rocketed to No. 20 in the AP poll. The Huskies play Iowa State next week, and may move up further if they win. But after that, the Huskies play only conference games against non-BCS schools, limiting how far they can advance in the rankings.

If nothing else, the Huskies will get plenty of opportunities to topple some kingpins again in future years. NIU will face Maryland again next season; LSU in 2006; Iowa in 2007; Alabama in 2008 and Tennessee in 2010.

The MAC this year has defeated teams from five of the six BCS conferences – ACC, Big Ten, Big East, Southeastern and Big 12. No MAC and Pac-10 teams have played each other.

DEATH VALLEY DENIAL

Georgia coach Mark Richt denied a quote attributed to him on ESPN's GameDay show by analyst Lee Corso, in which the Georgia coach supposedly said the real Death Valley is in Clemson, not LSU.

'I never said that,' Richt said. 'I saw it when it happened, and when [Corso] said it, I thought he just made it up, but I don't know where it came from. I know a lot of times things get put on the Internet that will do things to rile people up, but I never did that.'

OKLAHOMA MORE THAN OK

Two players from one state had career games on Saturday.

Oklahoma State's Rashaun Woods set a Division I-A record by catching seven TD passes in a 52-6 win against Southern Methodist. He made 13 catches for 232 yards, and he caught two of his TD passes despite interference by CB Jonas Rutledge. Woods' seven TDs came in the first three quarters.

'I got into a personal battle and didn't play the right coverages sometimes,' said Rutledge, who apologized to his teammates afterward. 'I tried to jam him at the line of scrimmage, and it kind of backfired on me.'

To put seven TD grabs in perspective, consider that if it was Woods' season total, it would be tied for fifth-best in school history.

Not far away, Antonio Perkins returned three punts for TDs of 74, 84 and 65 yards and amassed 277 yards on seven punt returns in Oklahoma's victory over UCLA. Perkins broke the single-game record of 219 yards on punt returns set by former Dallas Cowboy Golden Richards at Brigham Young in 1971.

'I told my blockers, 'I feel good about today. I'm going to take one to the house,' ' Perkins said. 'I never thought I'd get three of them.'

WILDCAT WOES


Those are the scores of Arizona's losses the last three weeks to LSU, Oregon and Purdue. After Saturday's loss, Arizona coach John Mackovic, who has been under fire since a player's revolt last November, refused to shake hands with Purdue coach Joe Tiller.

Mackovic may have been upset that the Boilermakers scored three touchdowns in the fourth quarter -- after Tiller pulled his starters. But all
three were on the ground, and Purdue kept finding holes.

Tiller tried to apologize.

'I tried to encourage John, but he's a wiser coach than I,' Tiller said. 'So I shouldn't be saying anything.'

SMALL STUFF

Minnesota-Morris snapped its 46-game losing streak -- an NCAA Division II record -- with a 61-28 win against Principia. The Cougars' last victory was over Mayville State in 1998.

Matt Kohn passed for 645 yards, breaking the NCAA Division II single game record, as Indianapolis beat Michigan Tech 59-52 in overtime. Kohn was 39 for 61 with six touchdowns and no interceptions.

. . . Harvard's Ryan Fitzpatrick passed for 359 yards and rushed for 112 in a 43-23 victory over Colgate.

GRAPHIC: Photo: XLM101
OKLAHOMA ST SMU
46322O Associated Press
Oklahoma State's Rashaun Woods set a Division I-A record by catching seven TD passes in a 52-6 win over Southern Methodist.
Huskies land another recruit
Junior defenseman Brocklehurst opts for St. Cloud State

Kevin Allenspach, Staff
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Aaron Brocklehurst isn't sure just when he's coming to St. Cloud State, but he knows that's where he'll wind up eventually. And the Huskies' blue line is right where he wants to be.

Brocklehurst, a 5-foot-11, 193-pound defenseman from Nanaimo, British Columbia, recently committed to St. Cloud State for either next season or 2005-06, depending on the Huskies' depth on defense.

"If they have some guys turn pro and they need me, I'll be there," said Brocklehurst, who plays for the Alberni Valley Bulldogs in the BCHL. "If the coaches think it will be best for me to wait another year, I'll do that. Either way, I know I picked the right school. They were the first ones to show a lot of interest in me and, as a player, that's what you want - to be with a team that really wants you."

Brocklehurst leads his team in scoring with five points in four games. Last season he had 23 points in 59 games, and totaled 78 penalty minutes. He also had three goals in six playoff games.

He joins defenseman Chris Anderson and forwards Nate Dey, Sean Garrity and Matt Hartman among incoming recruits. Josh Singer, a transfer from Michigan Tech, also could play on defense next year. The Huskies have two seniors, Ryan LaMere and Colin Peters, meaning it could take someone to leave early for Brocklehurst to arrive next season.

Whenever he comes to St. Cloud, he'll see familiar faces.

"I know a bunch of the guys, and that made it that much easier for me to make a decision," said Brocklehurst, who was recruited by a variety of schools - including Minnesota State-Mankato. "Brock (Hooton) is from my hometown, and I know (Brian) McCormack and (Jason) Montgomery. Brock and I worked out together a lot this summer and he told me about the atmosphere there, the fans and the way the school comes out for the hockey games. That means a lot.

"And with the way they've been moving guys on to the NHL in the last few years, it was a no-brainer."

Huskies notebook

Hartman is on the cover of the Sept. 26 issue of USA Junior Hockey Magazine. He returns for one more USHL season this year with Sioux City.

Former Huskies defenseman Jeff Finger is in town this week, working out at the National Hockey Center, before he travels to Hershey, Pa., on Sunday. He likely will play for the Colorado Avalanche's AHL affiliate there this season.

Former Huskies equipment manager Chris Garner has taken a job as assistant equipment manager with the Houston Aeros, the Minnesota Wild's AHL affiliate.
In brief

Target shooting

Ashwaubenon man wins national title

PLYMOUTH, Mich. -- Greg Sauve of Ashwaubenon prevailed in a sudden-death shootoff to win the U.S. Field Target National Championship on Sunday.

Despite gusty winds during the shootoff, Sauve hit the 1/2-inch opening on the fourth target from 50 yards away to defeat Eric Moe of Michigan, who missed on his fourth shot. Both men hit targets of 3/8-inch at 25 yards and 1/2-inch at 35 and 45 yards.

The competition included 90 field target shooters from the United States and Canada. Sauve hit 55 of 60 shots in each of the first two days of competition. He qualified for the national meet by winning last month's Badgerland Regional in Bristol.

Sauve, 54, is band director at Ashwaubenon High School and director of the Green Bay City Band.

College soccer

UWGB's Zimmerman earns Horizon honor

Gwen Zimmerman, a University of Wisconsin-Green Bay forward, has been named Horizon League women's soccer player of the week.

Zimmerman, a freshman from Neenah, scored two goals and had two assists in two games last week. She had a goal and two assists in the Phoenix's 4-2 victory over Loyola on Friday. She also had UWGB's only goal in a 2-1 loss to Marquette a week ago.

College basketball

Knights' Hannula will play in Sweden

Kari Hannula, a two-time all-Midwest Conference forward at St. Norbert College, has signed a one-year contract to play professional basketball with Malbas Basket, a team in Sweden's top division.

The 6-foot-5, 225-pounder from Hortonville played two years for the Green Knights after transferring from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. He averaged 16.4 points and 7.1 rebounds per game at St. Norbert. He also averaged 40.5 percent on 3-point shots and 82.5 percent on free throws.

Malbas Basket is based in Malmo, Sweden, and plays in the Basketligan division.

College football

Ex-Preble receiver sets record at Tech

HOUGHTON, Mich. -- Michigan Tech receiver Brian Janeshek, a sophomore from Green Bay Preble, set a school record with 247 receiving yards on nine catches in the Huskies' 59-52 overtime loss to Indianapolis on Saturday.

Tech kicker Grant Botz, a sophomore from Green Bay Southwest, made all seven of his extra-point tries against Indianapolis and hit a 32-yard field goal with no time remaining to send the game to overtime.

Indianapolis' Matt Kohn set an NCAA Division II single-game record by passing for 645 yards.

He was 39-for-61 with six touchdown passes -- including the 25-yard game-winner to Rob Mager -- and no interceptions to break the old mark of 642 yards set by Glenville State's Wilkie Perez in 1997.

* Tech's defense is led by former Southwest linebacker Bryan Klett, a redshirt freshman who has 23 tackles and two sacks, and former Bay Port defensive lineman Joe Bassindale, a junior who has 10 tackles and two sacks.

-- Staff reports
SPORTS DIGEST

BOXING
Byrd wins unanimous decision

UNCASVILLE, Conn. - Chris Byrd won an unanimous decision over Fres Oquendo to retain his IBF heavyweight title Saturday night. Byrd [37-2] controlled the pace, leading Oquendo across the ring, but Oquendo's counterpunches dominated the middle rounds and appeared to take Byrd off his game plan.

"I give Fres a lot of credit," Byrd said. "He never really hurt me, but there were a couple of times where I reminded myself that I had to hold my hands up high."

Oquendo [24-2] was stunned by the decision, as was the crowd at Mohegan Sun casino.

"The judges once again shafted another great fighter," Oquendo said.

AUTO RACING
Bazemore earns top spot in Funny Car

MILLINGTON, Tenn. - Whit Bazemore earned the 23rd No. 1 qualifying position of his career in Funny Car on Saturday at the O'Reilly NHRA Mid-South Nationals at Memphis Motorsports Park. Bazemore edged rival John Force for the top spot, driving his Dodge Stratus to a leading run of 4.826 seconds at 316.67 mph and claiming his second No. 1 of the season, while Force was second in a Ford Mustang with an identical 4.826 at 313.37. David Baca, Jeg Coughlin and Angelle Savoie also will lead their respective categories into today's eliminations at the $1.6 million race.

SERIES LEADER CASTRONEVES WINS IRL POLE: Indy Racing League points leader Helio Castroneves keeps reminding himself to stay focused on his own game plan at California Speedway.

"I just tell myself to run my race, not worry about anybody else," Castroneves said Saturday after winning the pole for the Toyota Indy 400.

TENNIS
Bryan twins take Davis Cup lead

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia - Twins Mike and Bob Bryan made their Davis Cup debut Saturday, winning a doubles match against Slovakia that left the United States one victory from capturing its playoff. They defeated Karol Beck and Dominik Hrbaty 6-1, 6-4, 7-6 [5] on clay to give the Americans a 2-1 lead in the best-of-five series.

Auburn picks up singles, doubles win: The Auburn men's tennis team got another strong performance from their number one doubles team of Gabor Zoltan Pelva and Andy Colombo, and two other Tigers picked up singles wins as day two of the Auburn Invitational wrapped up Saturday at the Luther Young Tennis Complex. In doubles, Zoltan Pelva and Colombo defeated Hannu Piironen and Patrizio Maucchi of Tulane. In singles play, Gabor Zoltan Pelva beat Tulane's Andre Maier and Nick Lane defeated Ruben Zrihen of UAB.

Alabama impressive at Miami Invitational: The University of Alabama continued its second day of play at the University of Miami Fall Invitational, turning in impressive singles performances against Miami. Senior Chris Gostek and freshmen Joseph Jung and Mike Green all had wins in singles play.

Lady Blazers rebound on second day: The UAB women had an impressive afternoon, going 7-3 as a team, in the second round of the Ole Miss Fall Tennis Classic. Nadia Dellarciprete advanced to the blue draw consolation final, while Annamieke Elsholz and Julia van Samson will face each other in the white draw consolation final.

TRACK & FIELD
U.S.'s Gaitlin wins Moscow Challenge

MOSCOW - Justin Gatlin of the United States earned $500,000 by winning the 100 meters at the Moscow Challenge on Saturday, celebrating one of his sport's richest prizes as he crossed the line ahead of Britain's Dwain Chambers. World record holder Tim Montgomery was third and world champion Kim Collins finished sixth. Gatlin won in 10.05 seconds. Chryste Gaines dominated the women's 100, easily beating Christine Arron of France and world champion Kelli White. Gaines finished in 10.98 seconds and won $75,000.

Hoover native earns academic honor: Rebecca Powell Singleton, Furman University junior and varsity distance runner, has been named to the Southern Conference Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll.

Alabama wins Crimson Classic: Alabama's men doubled up in the
Sophomore Ty Stanfield led Alabama by winning the individual race with a time of 25 minutes, 07.36 seconds over the 8-kilometer course. Samford was fourth while BSC finished seventh.

Alabama women finish third at Crimson Classic: Alabama's freshman class paced the Tide to a third-place finish at the 2003 Crimson Classic Invitational. Bolstered by two top-10 individual finishes, the Crimson Tide scored 97 points to post its second top-5 finish in as many outings. Tennessee won the women's race with 37 points. UAB and Samford finished fourth and fifth, respectively. BSC finished ninth.

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

UA sweeps UAB 3-0 for trophy

The University of Alabama volleyball team made sure the championship trophy was staying in Tuscaloosa, posting a 3-0 sweep of UAB Saturday in the finale of the Crimson Tide Invitational. Jennifer Bibber recorded 19 kills to lead the Tide [5-6]. Martina Shields tallied 12 kills and nine digs for UAB [5-9]. Also, Jacksonville State won its first come-from-behind match of the season, defeating Georgia Southern, 3-2.

Auburn improves to 8-3: The Auburn volleyball team improved its record to 8-3 with a 3-0 win over Lipscomb [2-11] in the Auburn Challenge. Ashlee Johns led the Tigers with 15 kills.

Montevallo wins GSC match: Alice Persinova and Gabi Raposo posted double-doubles to lead the University of Montevallo to a 3-0 win over Lincoln Memorial University in a Gulf South Conference match. Persinova had 14 kills, 11 digs and four service aces, while Raposo added 11 kills.

Panthers down USA, Wofford in BSC Challenge: Birmingham-Southern defeated South Alabama, 3-2, and Wofford, 3-0, in the final day of the BSC Volleyball Challenge in Bill Battle Coliseum to move to 6-5 on the season. Cassie Reed, Danielle Graff, and Sarah Martin were named to the all-tournament team.

UWA sweeps West Georgia, 3-0: West Alabama hit .225 while limiting West Georgia to a .088 hitting percentage as the Tigers claimed their first GSC win under coach Karisa Wesley. Senior Jennifer Thomas paved the way, slamming 12 kills.

UAH puts five on Lambuth: The Lady Charger soccer squad took to the road on Saturday afternoon, downing Lambuth University 5-2 in Jackson, Tenn., The game featured three penalty-kick goals and a pair of free-kick goals.

From staff and wire reports
Around the nation

Stars

* Antonio Perkins, Oklahoma, brings back three punts for touchdowns and finishes with 277 yards on seven returns to break two NCAA records as the Sooners beat UCLA 59-24.


* Drew Dunning, Washington State, kicks a school-record five field goals (37, 36, 23, 21 and 49 yards) in 23-13 win over New Mexico.

* Chris Rix, Florida State, goes 30 for 39, with 394 yards and two touchdowns as the Seminoles beat Colorado 47-7.

* Walter Reyes, Syracuse, runs for 241 yards and four touchdowns in 38-14 win over Central Florida.

Irish Eyes

* With a 22-16 victory, Michigan State has won four straight at Notre Dame for the first time in the 67-game series. The Spartans have won six of their last seven games overall against the Irish.

Strong in defeat

* B.J. Symons throws for a school-record 586 yards in Texas Tech's 49-21 loss to North Carolina State. ... Wyoming's Casey Bramlet throws for 379 yards and two touchdowns in a 35-29 loss to Air Force.

Finally

* Minnesota-Morris snaps its 46-game losing streak -- an NCAA Division II record -- with a 61-28 win over Principia. The Cougars' last win was in 1998.