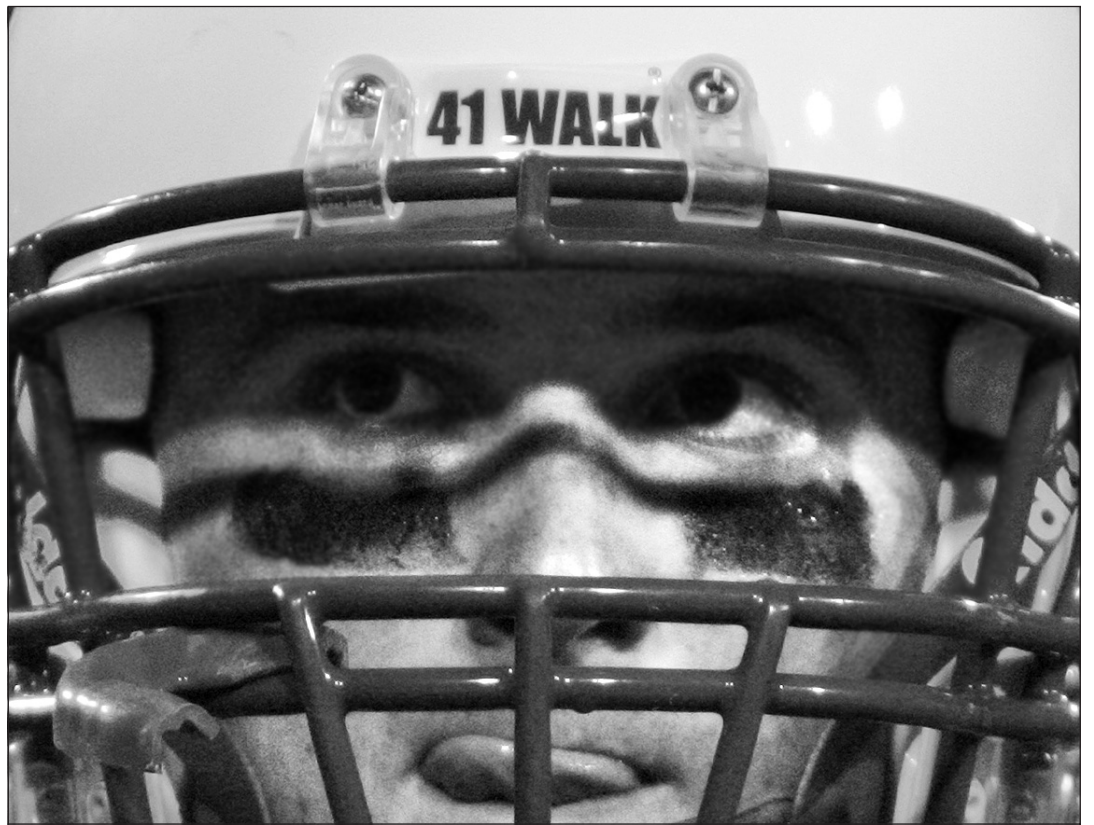


SPORTS INSIDER

Compiled from staff and news services



AL BEHRMAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Miami of Ohio quarterback Mike Kokal listens during a timeout during Thursday night's football game against Northwestern at Oxford, Ohio. Miami players are wearing "41 WALK" on their helmets in honor of Northwestern coach Randy Walker, a former Miami coach who died two months ago. Walker wore 41 when he played football at Miami.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Wildcats win for Walker

With his number on their helmets and his nickname over their hearts, **Randy Walker's** players gave him a two-part tribute.

Northwestern got the win. Walker's widow got the game ball.

Erryn Cobb blocked a punt and returned it for a touchdown Thursday night, helping Northwestern finally get beyond two months of mourning with a 21-3 victory over Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

The entire night was a tribute to Walker, the 52-year-old Miami graduate and Northwestern coach who died two months ago of an apparent heart attack. Afterward, players gathered around his wife, Tammy, while coach **Pat Fitzgerald** handed her the game ball.

"It was the best feeling ever," tailback **Tyrell Sutton** said.

Walker was remembered during a pregame tribute behind one of the end zones, where a plaque with his likeness was unveiled. There was a moment of silence before the kickoff, and **Tammy Walker** went on the field for the coin toss. Players from both teams wore a decal with Walker's uniform number and nickname just above their facemasks.

Converted linebacker **Alex Daniels** rushed for 155 yards and three touchdowns to lead Minnesota over Kent State 44-0 Thursday night in **Glen Mason's** return to the school where he got his head coaching start.

Daniels, a highly touted linebacker who hadn't played on offense since high school, opened the third quarter by carrying all seven times on a 56-yard touchdown drive.

Quintin Demps' interception midway through the fourth quarter helped douse a wild San Diego State rally and Texas-El Paso won 34-27 Thursday night to spoil **Chuck Long's** coaching debut with the Aztecs.

Rudy Carpenter threw for 261 yards and two touchdowns, and 24th-ranked Arizona rallied past Division I-AA Northern Arizona 35-14 on Thursday night in the season opener for both teams.

COLLEGE

Illiniwek's dance done?

Former University of Illinois students who portrayed Chief Illiniwek are concerned about a new report of the tradition's imminent demise and may pull out of discussions about the Chief's future if it already is a "foregone conclusion," a former Chief said Thursday.

Steve Raquel, one of 27 members of the Council of Chiefs, said it's still premature to talk about the fate of the 80-year-old tradition of a student dressed as an American Indian chief performing a halftime dance at athletic contests. The council has been involved in discussions with the university's board of trustees about the Chief's future and was dismayed that the Chicago Sun-Times reported Thursday, citing unidentified university sources, that Illiniwek would no longer dance after the upcoming basketball season, he said.

A university spokesman said Thursday that while some change in Illiniwek's status can be expected, the Chief's fate has not been decided and the board is committed to its process for reaching what it has called a "consensus conclusion" to a debate that has divided the flagship Urbana-Champaign campus for years.

Football and other sporting events from dozens of colleges and universities will be available live over the Internet through a service launching today.

Notre Dame games will be free, while Navy, Stanford and other schools will charge \$4.95 to \$9.95 a month each for an "All-Access" broadband channel that includes live audio and video feeds of some games, news conferences, highlights, play-by-play animation and other features.

CBS Corp.'s CSTV Networks Inc., which is running the service, will also sell access to CSTV XXL, the entire package of more than 100 schools for \$14.95 a month or \$99.95 a year.

CSTV will have channels for all schools in the Mountain West and Conference USA. It will also have separate conference channels for those two, along with Big East, Big West,

QUOTE, UNQUOTE

"It would seem that (Rafael) Nadal will be the (Andre) Agassi of the next generation, except there are times when you want to tell him where to shove that annoying fist pump. Besides, do you really trust a man who wears Capri pants?"

— Newsday columnist Shaun Powell

Pacific 10, Southland and West Coast.

BASEBALL

A blessed ejection

Jim Leyland put his argument with umpires on pause of a moment of patriotism.

The Detroit Tigers manager was ejected in the seventh inning of Thursday's 6-4 loss to New York, and came on the field to argue with plate umpire **James Hoye**.

Leyland got to the plate and started jawing with Hoye when Yankee Stadium public address announcer **Bob Sheppard** called for a moment of silence followed by the playing of **Kate Smith's** rendition of "God Bless America." Leyland backed off, stood at attention and respected the moment before resuming the argument.

"That was a little embarrassing," Leyland said. "I certainly in no way, shape or form would I ever be disrespectful. But you don't tell the umpires, 'Hey, I've got to listen to Kate.'"

GOLF

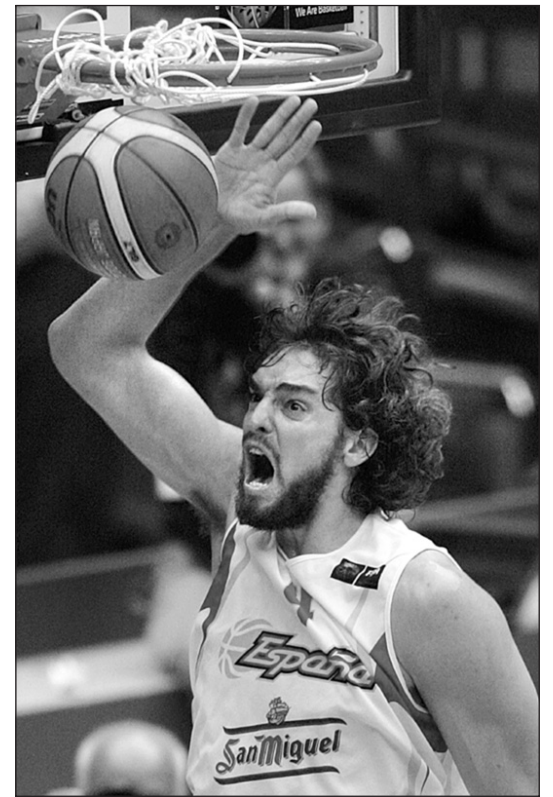
Hjorth leads State Farm

A player from Sweden leading an LPGA tournament? That's not unusual. This is, though.

Maria Hjorth — not **Annika Sorenstam** — is in first place after the opening round of the State Farm Classic.

Hjorth shot a 7-under 65 on Thursday for a one-stroke lead over **Dina Ammaccapane**, **Nina Reis** and **Brittany Lang**.

Sorenstam, meanwhile, was five strokes off the lead and a bit frustrated. She got off to a good start, sinking an eagle early on, but bogeyed the 16th and 18th holes.



ITSUO INOUE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spain's Pau Gasol (4) dunks the ball during his country's 75-74 win today over Argentina in a semifinal game at the World Basketball Championships in Saitama, Japan.

Former tennis great Steffi Graf has been getting a lot of TV face time during U.S. Open matches played by her husband, Andre Agassi. In what year did she retire?

PREPS ON DECK

FOOTBALL

Who: Madison La Follette (1-0 overall, 0-0 Big Eight) at Madison West (0-1, 0-1).

When, where: Tonight, 7:30, at Mansfield Stadium.

Need to know: The Lancers got off to a good start behind RB Caleb Kreuger, who rushed for 203 yards and three touchdowns, including the game-winning score with 51 seconds to play in a 28-21 non-conference victory over Oregon. The defending conference champion Regents, though, mustered just 84 yards of total offense in getting blanked 21-0 by cross-town rival East.

FOOTBALL

Who: Sun Prairie (0-1, 0-1) at Madison East (1-0, 1-0).

When, where: Tonight, 7:30, at Lussier Stadium.

Need to know: The Cardinals got a 54-yard TD strike from QB Lee Brekke to WR Jake Jokisch but struggled on special teams, allowing a kickoff return for a TD and two other long returns to set up scores in a 17-7 loss at Middleton. The Purgolders matched their win total of a year ago in their opener behind QB Tom Stahl, who passed for a TD and ran for another, and RB Coddye Ring-Noonan, who rushed for 155 yards on 40 carries.

Who: DeForest (1-0) at Monroe (0-1).

When, where: Tonight, 7, at Monroe High High School.

Need to know: The Badger North Norskies, which got 235 yards and four TDs from HB Matt Johnson in a 41-0 rout of Stoughton last week, look to go 2-0 against the Badger South. The Cheesemakers mustered just 96 yards of total offense but got a pair of big plays in Brock Bidlingmaier's 70-yard punt return for a TD and Andrew Berger's 55-yard interception return for another score in a 27-13 nonconference loss at Lake Villa (Ill.) Lakes.

Who: Elkhorn (1-0) at Monona Grove (1-0).

When, where: Tonight, 7, at John Klement Stadium, Monona.

Need to know: Quinne Walker rushed for 142 yards and three TDs and the Silver Eagles' defense forced five turnovers to cruise past Portage 24-0 last week. MG, ranked fourth in the first Associated Press Division 4 poll of the season, will get a tougher test in the Elks, who received votes in the Division 3 poll and will contend for the Southern Lakes title this season. Monona Grove won a close game at Elkhorn 20-14 a year ago.

Who: Baraboo (1-0) at River Valley (1-0).

When, where: Tonight, 7, at Spring Green.

Need to know: The Thunderbirds, who tied for 10th in the AP Division 2 poll, rushed for 275 yards and five TDs, including 151 yards and three scores from RB Aaron Leonhardt, in a 39-0 non-conference pounding of Wisconsin Dells last week. QB Luke Baryenbruch passed for 110 yards and ran for a score for the Blackhawks, who jumped out to a 28-0 lead and held off Nekoosa 28-14 in a non-conference game.

CROSS COUNTRY

What: 30th annual Verona Invitational boys and girls meet.

When, where: Saturday, 9 a.m., at Verona High School.

Need to know: Watertown's Andrew Perkins is the defending boys individual champion ... Lakeside Lutheran won both the boys and girls Division 3 races at the meet a year ago ... Middleton senior Leah Coyle is one of the favorites for the girls' individual title. She placed fourth at last year's Division 1 state meet to lead the Cardinals to a runner-up team finish.

— Dennis Semrau

PREP GIRLS SWIMMING AND DIVING: 2006 PREVIEW



MIKE DEVRIES/THE CAPITAL TIMES

Middleton's Courtney Veerman, shown here competing in the butterfly during a meet against Madison Memorial last season, has won back-to-back WIAA Division 1 500-yard freestyle titles.

2005 IN REVIEW

Conference champions — Madison Memorial (Big Eight), DeForest (Badger North), Verona (Badger South)

State results — The Big Eight had four teams in the top seven at the WIAA Division 1 state meet: Middleton (2nd place), Madison Memorial (4th), Madison East (5th), and Madison West (7th). Verona was 10th. In the Division 2 meet, DeForest was 2nd, Baraboo 3rd, and Sauk Prairie 10th.

Defending state champs — Arrowhead won its fourth straight title in Division 1 and Grafton won its second straight in Division 2. Individually, Middleton's Courtney Veerman defended her Division 1 500-yard freestyle title, becoming the only swimmer not from Arrowhead to win an event at the Natatorium. DeForest's Kelly Winckler was a four-time champion at the Division 2 competition, winning the 500 freestyle and the 200 freestyle, and helping the Norskies to gold in the 200 medley relay and 400 freestyle relay. Baraboo claimed victory in the 200 freestyle relay.

2006 OUTLOOK

Big Eight — Memorial wrested back the conference crown from Middleton last year after the Cardinals ended the Spartans' six-year reign atop the Big Eight. Middleton may have enough to prevent Memorial from starting another streak, however. The Cardinals lost only one individual qualifier off their state runner-up team and return three state medalists, including Veerman. Former West assistant coach Scott Schweickhardt takes over for Nate Pofahl at Middleton. Memorial is not conceding anything, however, as coach Jason Verhelst notes that a "talented group of young swimmers are poised to put Memorial into the top two at state" for the first time since the Spartans won it all in 2001. All of East's state-qualifying individuals return, along with 75 percent of the Purgolders' state relay teams, and East has a pair of defending

conference champs in Abby Soderholm and Ruby Martin. The Regents must replace nearly half of their scoring punch from the state meet, but coach Jacob Johnson says that West "can be contenders." The Regents are reviving their diving program, just in time to welcome nationally-ranked freshman Kylie Rosenstock.

Badger North — DeForest is the clear-cut favorite to win its third straight Badger North title, as the Norskies only lost one senior (Mary Stravinski) that contributed significantly to their runner-up showing at the state meet. DeForest just may have enough to upend two-time defending state champion Grafton come November. Baraboo has some state experience returning, but must replace double medalist Lisa Clemens. Waunakee returns all of its state individual qualifiers, and hopes to have more success with its relays; the Warriors' only four-some to reach state last year was disqualified. Sauk Prairie has a new coach in Lauren Johnson.

Badger South — Verona's stranglehold over the Badger South isn't likely to end anytime soon. The only Division 1 program in the conference, Verona is a virtual lock to claim its sixth consecutive title in the Badger South, to go along with the seven straight crowns the Wildcats won from the time they joined the old Badger Conference in 1994 until the league split in two in 2001. McFarland, Monroe, Madison Edgewood and Monona Grove all finished in the top 20 at state in 2005.

DIVISION 1 SWIMMERS TO WATCH
z-Defending state champion, y-Returning state medalist, x-Returning state qualifier

Madison East — x-Abby Soderholm, sr.; y-Kirsten Lickel, jr.; y-Ruby Martin, so.; Becca Soderholm, fr. **Madison La Follette** — y-Rachel Becker, so. (diving). **Madison Memorial** — x-Danielle Ellington, jr.; x-Katelyn Hartung, sr.; x-Kayla Smith, so.; x-Mackenzie King, so.; x-Margaret Debrauske, jr.; x-Nicole Drives, sr.; Jackie Powell, fr.; Alissa Endres, fr.; Andrea Strub, sr. **Madison West** — x-Abby Mundt, so.; x-Bronwyn Knaebe, jr.; x-Jessie Vaughan, jr.; x-Krista Drager, sr.; x-Madeline Anderson, sr.; x-Whitney Walden, sr.; Heidi Thole, so.; Alison Geier, so.; Maddy O'Keefe, so.; Kirkley Doyle, so.; Carleigh Olson, fr.; Jordyn Reich, fr.; Kylie Rosenstock, fr. (diving). **Middleton** — y-Anastasia Lopuknin, sr.; x-Ashley Ryan, so.; z-Courtney Veerman, sr.; y-Danielle Beckwith, jr.; x-Kirsten Rhude, jr.; x-Andrea Woodside, sr. (diving); x-Kelly Bruce, jr. (diving); x-Kelsey George, sr. (diving); Talia Horner, fr.; Holly Ryan, fr. **Sun Prairie** — x-Lauren Heilman, so.; April Greene, sr.; Brienne Walters, sr.; Hannah Bucholz, jr. **Verona** — x-Alison Grinde, sr.; y-Amie Osten, jr.; x-Cassie Ritt, jr.; x-Elisabeth Misener, sr.; x-Marina Shturmakov, sr.; Carolanne Trilling, sr.; Kristina Bennwitz, sr.

DIVISION 2 SWIMMERS TO WATCH

Baraboo — x-Ciare Pillsbury, jr.; x-Emma Raymond, jr.; x-Shannon Keeling, so. **DeForest** — x-Jennifer Karpinsky, jr.; z-Kelly Winckler, jr.; y-Lauren Caruso, jr.; Haley Oosterhof, jr.; Katrina Denoyer, jr. **Madison Edgewood** — y-Beth Schramka, so.; y-Morgan Hearn, jr. (diving). **McFarland** — x-April Kamnetz, jr.; x-Emily Bowen, sr. **Monona Grove** — x-Hayley Martin, so.; y-Katie Barta, jr.; Amy Anderson, sr.; Greta Kucher, sr.; Tess Olson, jr. **Monroe** — y-Alanna Bader, sr. **Oregon** — information not provided. **Portage** — information not provided. **River Valley** — information not provided. **Sauk Prairie** — x-Abby Diehl, so.; Sara Steinle, jr.; Holly Kirk, jr.; Stephanie Alt, jr.; Megan Price, jr. **Stoughton** — Sheri Wurtzler, sr.; Mikaela Thrumann, sr.; Ashley Schleppebach, so.; Morgan Miller, so.; Erin Wurtzler, sr. **Waunakee** — y-Amy Burback, jr.; x-Heidi Richardson, jr.; Megan Finley, sr.

PREP FOOTBALL

Another shutout for Edgewood

Madison Edgewood scored on its first possession and recovered two fumbles deep in its own territory Thursday afternoon en route to its second straight shutout, 13-0 over Watertown Luther Prep in a non-conference prep football game at the Bishop O'Connor Center.

The Crusaders (2-0), who defeated Sauk Prairie 35-0 last week, marched 55 yards in six plays on their opening drive, capped by senior Mike En-

mouh's 3-yard TD run. After Luther Prep (0-2) lost a fumble at the Edgewood goal line on its first drive of the second half — junior defensive end Casey Balczewski recovered it in the end zone — the Crusaders controlled the ball the entire third quarter. Senior Jake Kolb's 11-yard touchdown pass to senior Alex Minnaert ended the drive early in the fourth.

The Phoenix earlier fumbled inside the Edgewood 5-yard

line, which was recovered by sophomore defensive tackle Ian Watkins.

Watertown Luther Prep..... 0 0 0 0-0
Madison Edgewood..... 7 0 0 6-13
Madison Edgewood — Enemuoh 3 run (Minnaert kick)

Madison Edgewood — Minnaert 11 pass from Kolb (kick blocked)

TEAM STATISTICS

First downs — WLP 9, ME 15. Rushing (Att.-Yds.) — WLP 22-35, ME 54-238. Passing yards — WLP 110, ME 62. Passes (Comp.-Att.-Int.) — WLP 7-16-1, ME 4-7-0. Fumbles-lost — WLP 2-2, ME 2-1. Penalties-yards — WLP 3-20, ME 5-40.

INDIVIDUAL LEADERS

Rushing: WLP — Heilsch 6-50; ME — Enemuoh 20-121. Passing: WLP — Schroeder 7-16-1, 110; ME — Kolb 4-7-0, 62. Receiving: WLP — Patterson 3-44; ME — Meloy 1-43.

TODAY'S TRIVIA

Answer in Scorecard, D7