

SPORTS

Friday, February 24, 2023

RUNNING THE TABLE

Carom Room owner David Coles Jr. wins pair of state titles

JIM FRANZ | Sports Editor

BELOIT — David Coles Jr. grew up with a pool cue in his hands and can tell stories for hours about some of the greats and near greats in Beloit billiards history.

“I realized the stories I was telling about myself were getting older and older,” Coles, 46, said with a chuckle. “I thought, man, I don’t do anything anymore.”

Coles took care of that a few weekends ago when he traveled to Appleton and came back with a pair of first-place plaques from the state tournament. He became the first Masters division pool player to ever win both the Wisconsin State Pool Players Association 10-ball and 8-ball state tournaments in the same year.

“I sure didn’t expect to do that well because I didn’t do anything to prepare,” he said. “But I ended up winning them both somehow.”

Coles hadn’t competed at state since 2017, but he had some pretty good excuses. He’s had a few health concerns, including temporary blindness in his left eye in 2019, and a fall off a ladder in 2001 that nearly killed him.

Mainly, though, the business just became all-consuming. His father passed two years ago, leaving him the sole proprietor of Coles’ Carom Room, the oldest operating pool hall in the state.

More COLES | A20



JIM FRANZ/BELOIT DAILY NEWS
David Coles Jr. operates the oldest billiard business in Wisconsin.

Turner soph Terrell wins state debut

DAILY NEWS STAFF

MADISON, Wis. — D Terrell’s first experience in the WIAA state wrestling tournament was terrific on Thursday while her Beloit Turner teammates both dropped their opening matches.



Terrell

After holding the girls tournament at a different venue a year ago, this season both the boys and girls events are being held at the Kohl Center.

Terrell (29-8) won by a 9-0 major decision over Isabel Jues of Beaver Dam/Wayland Academy in her first match at 138 pounds.

She had a rougher time of it in her second match, losing by pin to sophomore Madalyn Sokolski of Bonduel in 39 seconds on Thursday night.

Friday at approximately 10 a.m., Terrell will wrestle Shannon Burlum of Cadott, who also was pinned by Sokolski on Thursday, in 19 seconds.

Turner teammate Sydney Andrews (24-6), a two-time state qualifier, lost a tough match to Claire Spilde of Stoughton decided by tiebreaker, 5-3.

Competing in the Boys Division 2 tournament at 132 pounds, Turner’s Zack Ries (35-13) lost by pin to River Valley’s Noah Radtke (38-7) in 1 minute and 30 seconds.

More WRESTLING | A27

SoBos roar past Somonauk into regional title game

JIMMY OSWALD
Staff Writer

SOUTH BELOIT—Most teams don’t have the luxury of being able to empty its bench in the third quarter of a play-off game.

But the South Beloit boys basketball team isn’t like most other squads.

The SoBos have a dynamic offense that can score buckets from the perimeter and inside coupled with a stout defense that can throw a mixed bag of steals and blocked shots at you.

South Beloit showcased all

of those traits in a 74-27 win over Somonauk (10-21) in an IHSA Class 1A regional semifinal on Thursday night.

“We shot the ball really well, which helped a lot,” head coach Matt Stucky said. “We came out firing early. We’re a team with a lot of seniors, guys on their last run. The focus and energy is there.”

After winning the opening tip-off, the SoBos immediately got the ball into senior Blake Ayotte’s hands. He sank a three-pointer, and South Beloit was off and running.

“We just shot the ball super

well to start,” Stucky said. “And we got enough stops to build up a lead. From there, our defense takes over. We were really good on both ends of the court tonight.”

A wide magnitude of SoBos scored in the opening frame as they built up a 27-9 advantage over the Bobcats after the first quarter.

With a comfortable lead, the South Beloit defense started to really find its groove. Stolen passes and blocked shots were aplenty in the second quarter.



JIMMY OSWALD/BELOIT DAILY NEWS

Sophomore Ross Robertson works around two Somonauk defenders in an IHSA Class 1A regional semifinal in South Beloit on Thursday

More SOBOS | A24

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	43	17	.717	—
Philadelphia	39	19	.672	3
Brooklyn	34	24	.586	8
New York	33	27	.550	10
Toronto	29	31	.483	14

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	32	27	.542	—
Atlanta	29	30	.492	3
Washington	28	30	.483	3½
Orlando	25	35	.417	7½
Charlotte	17	43	.283	15½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	41	17	.707	—
Cleveland	38	24	.613	5
Chicago	26	33	.441	15½
Indiana	26	35	.426	16½
Detroit	15	45	.250	27

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	35	23	.603	—
Dallas	31	29	.517	5
New Orleans	30	30	.500	6
San Antonio	14	45	.237	21½
Houston	13	45	.224	22

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	42	18	.700	—
Minnesota	31	30	.508	11½
Oklahoma City	28	29	.491	12½
Portland	28	30	.483	13
Utah	29	31	.483	13

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	32	25	.561	—
L.A. Clippers	33	28	.541	1
Phoenix	32	28	.533	1½
Golden State	29	29	.500	3½
L.A. Lakers	27	32	.458	6

Thursday's Games

Denver 115, Cleveland 109
 Boston 142, Indiana 138, OT
 Orlando 108, Detroit 106
 Toronto 115, New Orleans 110
 Philadelphia 110, Memphis 105
 San Antonio at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
 Oklahoma City at Utah, 9 p.m.
 Golden State at L.A. Lakers, 10 p.m.
 Portland at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

Friday's Games

New York at Washington, 7 p.m.
 Cleveland at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
 Miami at Milwaukee, 7:30 p.m.
 Brooklyn at Chicago, 8 p.m.
 Charlotte at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
 Houston at Golden State, 10 p.m.
 Oklahoma City at Phoenix, 10 p.m.
 Sacramento at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Saturday's Games

Toronto at Detroit, 12 p.m.
 Indiana at Orlando, 7 p.m.
 Miami at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
 New Orleans at New York, 7:30 p.m.
 Denver at Memphis, 8 p.m.
 Boston at Philadelphia, 8:30 p.m.
 San Antonio at Utah, 9 p.m.

FOOTBALL

XFL

North Division

	W	L	Pct	PF	PA
St. Louis	1	0	1.000	18	15
DC	1	0	1.000	22	18
Seattle	0	1	.000	18	22
Vegas	0	1	.000	20	22

South Division

	W	L	Pct	PF	PA
Arlington	1	0	1.000	22	20
Houston	1	0	1.000	33	12
Orlando	0	1	.000	12	33
San Antonio	0	1	.000	15	18

Thursday's Game

St. Louis at Seattle, 9 p.m.

Saturday's Game

DC at Vegas, 7 p.m.

Sunday's Games

San Antonio at Orlando, 4 p.m.
 Arlington at Houston, 7 p.m.

HOCKEY

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	LOT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	56	43	8	91	210	118
Toronto	58	35	15	8	78	200
Tampa Bay	57	36	17	4	76	206
Detroit	57	28	21	8	64	179
Florida	60	29	25	6	64	209
Buffalo	56	29	23	4	62	210
Ottawa	56	27	25	4	58	172
Montreal	57	24	29	4	52	156

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	LOT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	56	38	10	8	84	192
New Jersey	58	38	15	5	81	201
N.Y. Rangers	58	33	16	9	75	193
N.Y. Islanders	61	30	24	7	67	177
Pittsburgh	57	27	21	9	63	182
Washington	60	28	26	6	62	178
Philadelphia	59	23	26	10	56	159
Columbus	58	18	35	5	41	146

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	GP	W	LOT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	58	30	16	12	72	188
Winnipeg	58	35	22	1	71	182
Minnesota	58	32	21	5	69	171
Colorado	55	31	19	5	67	173
Nashville	55	27	22	6	60	157
St. Louis	57	26	28	3	55	176
Arizona	58	20	29	9	49	158
Chicago	57	20	32	5	45	143

Pacific Division

	GP	W	LOT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	57	34	18	5	73	186
Edmonton	59	32	19	8	72	225
Los Angeles	59	32	19	8	72	200
Seattle	57	32	19	6	70	197
Calgary	58	27	20	11	65	189
Vancouver	57	22	30	5	49	196
San Jose	58	18	29	11	47	174
Anaheim	59	18	34	7	43	149

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Wednesday's Games

N.Y. Islanders 2, Winnipeg 1
 Calgary 6, Arizona 3
 Chicago 4, Dallas 3

Thursday's Games

Minnesota 2, Columbus 0
 New Jersey 4, Los Angeles 3, OT
 Edmonton 7, Pittsburgh 2
 Buffalo 6, Tampa Bay 5, OT
 Anaheim 4, Washington 2
 Detroit 4, N.Y. Rangers 1
 Vancouver at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
 Calgary at Vegas, 9 p.m.
 Boston at Seattle, 10 p.m.
 Nashville at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Friday's Games

Buffalo at Florida, 7 p.m.
 Minnesota at Toronto, 7 p.m.
 Montreal at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
 Ottawa at Carolina, 7 p.m.
 Los Angeles at N.Y. Islanders, 7:30 p.m.
 Colorado at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michigan guard Kobe Bufkin (2) defends against Rutgers guard Cam Spencer (10) during the second half Thursday in Piscataway, N.J.

Michigan rolls to 58-45 victory over Rutgers

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — Dug McDaniel scored 16 points and had five steals as Michigan rallied from an early 10-point deficit to earn a 58-45 win over Rutgers on Thursday night.

The win lifts the Wolverines into a three-way tie with Maryland and No. 17 Indiana for third place in the Big Ten Conference with three games left in the regular season. The top four finishers earn a bye into the conference quarter-finals.

Michigan was without Jett Howard, who averages just under 15 points per game, and the Wolverines managed just a McDaniel 3-pointer over the first six minutes while the Scarlet Knights opened a 13-3 lead. Hunter Dickinson hit a jumper and dunked, and Kobe Bufkin knocked down a 3 and scored at the basket to get Michigan

within one, 13-12 with 9:13 left. Dickinson hit a jumper to put the Wolverines in front, and Joey Baker hit a 3 with 2:12 left for a 25-21 lead and they held a 26-23 advantage at intermission.

Rutgers got within a possession several times in the second half, but Michigan closed the game on a 10-3 run.

Bufkin finished with 14 points with three steals and three assists for Michigan (16-12, 10-7). Dickinson posted a double-double with 13 points and 11 rebounds.

Cam Spencer paced Rutgers (17-11, 9-8) with 11 points and seven rebounds. Clifford Omoruyi had 10 points and 10 boards.

Michigan plays host to Wisconsin on Sunday. Rutgers plays at Penn State Sunday.

FASTBREAK: Wagner will leave Rams after just one season

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Linebacker Bobby Wagner is parting ways with the Los Angeles Rams after just one season, a person familiar with the decision said Thursday.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because Wagner's release won't be official until after the start of the new league year next month.

The 32-year-old Wagner was outstanding in his only season with his hometown Rams, who signed him as a free agent last March following a decade with the Seattle Seahawks.

Wagner started all 17 games at middle linebacker and made 140 tackles with a career-high six sacks and even two interceptions for the Rams, who went 5-12 in the worst season by a defending Super Bowl champion in NFL history. Los Angeles' defense soundly

outperformed its offense throughout the season.

Wagner signed a five-year deal with \$20 million guaranteed when he joined Los Angeles, but his release before June 1 will create \$5 million in salary cap savings for the Rams, who are currently about \$14 million over the cap. His release also results in \$7.5 million in dead money.

PRO BASEBALL

• FORT MYERS, Fla. — Infielder Donovan Solano finalized a \$2 million, one-year contract on Thursday with the Minnesota Twins, who added another productive and versatile player to an already deep bench.

The deal was agreed to on Tuesday and completed after Solano took a physical on Thursday. He can earn an additional \$250,000 in performance bonuses for plate appearances: \$25,000 each for 325 and 375, \$50,000 for 425 and \$75,000 apiece for 475 and 502.

Solano hit .284 with 16 doubles and four home runs last season in 80 games for Cincinnati, playing

mostly first base.

PRO TENNIS

• NEW YORK — John McEnroe and Bjorn Borg will return as Laver Cup captains this year, when the team event moves to Canada for the first time.

McEnroe will lead Team World against Borg's Team Europe at Rogers Arena in Vancouver from Sept. 22-24.

The only player named to either six-man roster so far is Felix Auger-Aliassime, a 22-year-old from Montreal who is currently No. 9 in the ATP rankings. His best Grand Slam result was reaching the semifinals at the 2021 U.S. Open.

• LOS ANGELES — Serena Williams will be honored for her tennis achievements, business success and efforts to uplift the community at the NAACP Image Awards this weekend.

The NAACP announced Thursday that Williams will receive the Jackie Robinson Sports award during the ceremony, which will air live Saturday on BET.



Wagner

Wrestling/ from A28

Other area wrestlers in the D-2 brackets also had difficulties advancing.

Brodhead/Juda's Joe Lohmar (39-10) lost a 7-1 decision to Chase Kostka of Regis/Altoona (49-6) in his opening match at 138. Teammate Marcus McIntyre (41-5) lost a tough 9-7 decision to Landon Radtke of River Valley (45-9).

Big Foot/Williams Bay's Chase Rodriguez (31-5) also fell in

his opening match to Dylan Weigel of Belmont/Platteville (49-7) in a 19-8 major decision.

Parkview/Albany's Wyatt Egan (40-8) lost by 15-5 major decision to Dylan Soyk of Kewaskum (44-7) at 195, but teammate Sam Schwengels (47-5) did pull out an 8-7 decision over Brayden Albee of Regis/Altoona at 182 pounds.

The Vikings' Wesley Egan at 220 received a first-round bye and will wrestles Friday morning.

MLB hopes bigger bases mean more steals, fewer injuries

PEORIA, Ariz. — Like a violin virtuoso using a new music stand, San Diego Padres third baseman Manny Machado noticed a difference right away.

Not only are the bases bigger, but they feel different, too.

“It’s definitely different, for sure,” said Machado, a two-time Gold Glove winner. “They look better. I just got to kind of keep playing with it and stepping on it and kind of like getting the feel for it. But it’s definitely different for sure.”

The bigger bases — going from 15- to 18-inch squares — are part of a flurry of changes by Major League Baseball designed to put more action and athleticism back in the game and make it more appealing to a younger generation of potential fans.

When the new rules were adopted by baseball’s 11-person competition committee in September, the four players on the panel supported the bigger bases and voted against the use of a pitch clock and limits on defensive shifts.

The new bases — “They look like a pizza box,” Red Sox manager Alex Cora cracked — cut down the distance between the bases by 4 1/2 inches. The distance between third and home and home and first was trimmed by 3 inches.

It doesn’t sound like much,



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The new, larger base sits next to the older, smaller base at TD Ballpark Wednesday in Dunedin, Fla.

but the impact could be considerable.

Instead of waiting around for a three-run homer, big league teams could try a more aggressive approach on the basepaths. Coupled with new limits on what MLB calls disengagements — pickoff attempts or steps off the rubber — it’s more important than ever that pitchers are quick to the plate and strong-armed catchers stay alert with runners on.

“The run game, preventing the run game, is something that we’ve talked about, we’re

going to continue to talk about, because ... the stolen-base attempt should increase a good bit, I think,” Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said.

Major league teams finished with 2,486 steals in 3,297 attempts last year, up from 2,214 steals and 2,926 attempts in 2021, according to Sportradar, but much lower than 3,229 steals and 4,365 attempts a decade ago in 2012.

In testing in the minors, two Triple-A leagues used the bigger bases for half of the 2021 season. One experienced a 2.2%

increase in successful steals, and the other posted 0.7% increase.

The 2012 season — when Mike Trout led the majors with 49 stolen bases — was the last time the big leagues surpassed 3,000 steals and 4,000 attempts.

“I’ve definitely been thrown out by less than (4 1/2) inches ... so maybe that starts factoring into results,” said Chicago Cubs second baseman Nico Hoerner, who swiped a career-best 20 bases in 22 attempts last year.

Of course, it also gives the majors’ top defensive first

basemen an even better chance of keeping runners off base altogether.

“I think it could help. It’ll give me another inch or so of reach on a throw that wants to pull me off the base,” said Arizona Diamondbacks first baseman Christian Walker, who won his first Gold Glove last year.

Besides the activity on the basepaths, Major League Baseball is hoping the change will help reduce injuries. While testing the bigger bases in the minors, there was a 13% decline in what the league calls “injury events near the bases” from 2021 to 2022.

There’s more room for first basemen to avoid getting stepped on, or to pull their arm away in time to avoid a batter hustling up the line. It also should help avoid collisions all over the diamond.

“When you walk on the field, you don’t really notice it, and getting closer to the bag, you definitely do notice it,” said Cubs first baseman Eric Hosmer, a four-time Gold Glove winner. “It seems like a little flatter, too, as well. Not only bigger and longer, but definitely a little flatter.

“But yeah, I think it’s going to prevent some injuries, so I think anytime you can even knock that number down one or two guys, that’s well worth it.”

First and Foremost, For Our Students

The School District of Beloit has served students and families for years. Our district has been the educational home to generations of residents. We take pride in knowing that our community is filled with Purple Knights, carrying on our legacy.

Learn more about the April 4, 2023 Facilities and Operational Referendums at any of our upcoming Community Informational Sessions.

Thursday, March 2, 4:30 p.m.	Todd Elementary - Gym
Monday, March 6, 1:00 p.m.	Grinnell Senior Center
Tuesday, March 7, 5:30 p.m.	Aldrich Intermediate - Library
Wednesday, March 15, 6:00 p.m.	Cunningham Intermediate - Library
Friday, March 17, 4:30 p.m.	McNeel Intermediate - Library
Friday, March 17, 5:30 p.m.	Kolak Education Center - Boardroom Spanish/English
Monday, March 20, 4:30 p.m.	Robinson Elementary - Library
Tuesday, March 21, 5:00 p.m.	Converse Elementary - Library
Tuesday, March 21, 5:30 p.m.	Beloit Learning Academy - Gym
Wednesday, March 22, 5:00 p.m.	Gaston Elementary - Library
Wednesday, March 22, 5:00 p.m.	Fruzen Intermediate - Librart
Thursday, March 23, 4:30 p.m.	Hackett Elementary - Library

Virtual meetings are also available. Access our website for meeting dates, times, and links: sdb.k12.wi.us/referendum

The School District of Beloit Board will have two referendum questions on the April 4th ballot.

The questions as they will appear on the ballot:

Question 1: Facilities Referendum

Shall the School District of Beloit, Rock County, Wisconsin be authorized to issue pursuant to Chapter 67 of the Wisconsin Statutes, general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$19,500,000 for the public purpose of paying the cost of a school facility improvement project consisting of: building infrastructure improvements, including HVAC updates, school safety upgrades, roofing and athletic facility improvements at Beloit Memorial High School; district-wide capital maintenance improvements, including roof repairs; and acquisition of furnishings, fixtures and equipment?

Question 2: Operational Referendum

Shall the School District of Beloit, Rock County, Wisconsin be authorized to exceed the revenue limit specified in Section 121.91, Wisconsin Statutes, by \$14,000,000 for the 2023-2024 school year and by \$9,000,000 for the 2024-2025 school year, for non-recurring purposes consisting of operational and maintenance expenses, including for technology, curriculum and instructional materials, and social and emotional behavioral programs?



thinking beyond now
School District of Beloit

Rangers new ace deGrom throws first bullpen session

SURPRISE, Ariz. — Jacob deGrom came out of his first bullpen session of spring training for the Texas Rangers on Thursday feeling good after not throwing off a mound the first eight days of camp with his new team.

“It was a small step, but a step in the right direction,” deGrom said.

The two-time National League Cy Young Award winner was held out of the Rangers’ first official workout Feb. 15 because of tightness in his left side. He threw off flat ground four days after that, and had thrown about six bullpen sessions before getting to Arizona.

The right-hander threw 22 pitches, all of them easy fastballs, during Thursday’s session. About half the pitches were from a half-height

mound, and he then finished on a regulation mound.

“They said just nice and easy,” deGrom said of what coaches told him to do. “The goal of today was to just go through my delivery, stay nice and smooth. ... Not trying to do too much, let everything get in line, and let my delivery be nice and clean.”

DeGrom said the plan moving forward was to keep progressing, build up his pitch count and get in some games. His first bullpen session came a day before the Rangers’ scheduled Cactus League spring opener, and exactly five weeks before the regular season opens at home March 30 against NL champion Philadelphia.

“Felt really good,” he said. “The past few days have felt



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rangers pitcher Jacob deGrom has been off to a slow start in spring training.

really good, felt back to normal.”

Texas signed deGrom to a \$185 million, five-year contract in December. The 34-year-old

deGrom spent the first nine years of his big league career with the Mets, but injuries limited him to 156 1/3 innings in 26 starts over the past two

seasons.

After missing the final three months of the 2021 season with right forearm tightness and a sprained elbow, deGrom was shut down late in spring training last year because of a stress reaction in his right scapula. He didn’t pitch in the big leagues last season until August, then became a free agent for the first time.

He felt what he called minor tightness in his left side after getting to Arizona, and told team officials about it. His right arm has felt good throughout.

“The last thing you want to do is come in and say, ‘left side’s a little sore.’ But, you know, we were cautious with it,” deGrom said. “Looking at it now, I think that was the right step. You’ve still got time to build up and get ready.”

Larson
HOME SERVICES

GUTTERS • ROOFING • INSULATION

FREE
ESTIMATE ON GUTTERS

GutterShutter

FREE
ROOFING ESTIMATES

THE Larson ROOFING
EXPERIENCE

FREE
HOME ENERGY ANALYSIS

Dr. ENERGY saver
HOME SERVICES
Live Comfortably & Efficiently

GUTTERS - ROOFING - INSULATION | Larson Home Services

If you’re in need of help with your gutters or roofing, you’ve come to the right place. Larson Home Services has been in business since 2001, and over the years we have perfected the art of installing GutterShutter seamless gutters, GAF roofing, and much more.

CALL NOW TO GET A FREE ESTIMATE!

608-596-6002

“The team from Larson Home Services just completed our insulation project. Brandon, Connor and Andy completed the work in a high quality, professional, timely and responsive fashion. I would definitely recommend Larson Home Services to complete a home improvement project. The current insulation project and the new roof and gutters that Larson installed last summer have both exceeded our expectations.”

- Richard B



WI. LIC. DC-1109004

Stress-free financing available for homeowners throughout Wisconsin



YOUR TRUSTED LOCAL HOME SERVICE COMPANY - BACKED BY SOLID WARRANTY COVERAGE!

Pickett's big 2nd half lifts Lions past OSU

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Jalen Pickett scored 21 of his 23 points in the second half, Seth Lundy added 19 points and Penn State beat Ohio State 75-71 on Thursday night.

Pickett scored Penn State's final 14 points, including a three-point play with 59.1 seconds left for a four-point lead.

Ohio State forward Justice Sueing scored inside to get within two points, but Pickett made it a two-possession lead again after two more free throws at 28.5. The Buckeyes had five 3-point attempts on their final possession but couldn't get one to drop.

Camren Wynter made four 3-pointers and scored 18 for Penn State (17-11, 8-9 Big

Ten). The Nittany Lions made two 3-pointers early in the first half to set a new single-season record with 295 makes. Penn State finished 10 of 19 from distance, with four makes from Lundy.

Each team had two double-digit scorers in a 37-all first half. Ohio State shot 52% from the field with Brice Sensabaugh scoring 14 and Bruce Thornton adding 10. Lundy had 14 points for Penn State and Wynter made three 3-pointers and added 11 points.

Sensabaugh finished with 20 points for Ohio State (11-17, 3-14). Thornton added 19 points and Sueing had nine points, 10 rebounds and four assists.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Penn State guard Evan Mahaffey, left, shoots in front of Ohio State forward Justice Sueing during the first half Thursday night in Columbus, Ohio.

BRIEFS

Our Saviors Vikings collect 40th victory

BELOIT — The Our Saviors Vikings rolled up their 40th win of the season and maintained a 7.5-game lead in the Beloit Church Dartball League standings.

Our Saviors Vikings (40-8) has an .833 winning percentage.

The battle is for second place. The St. John Jets (32-15) hold a one-game lead over both the R.O.L. Lightning and Trinity Eagles, both 31-16.

• FULL STANDINGS: Our Saviors Vikings (40-8), St. John Jets (32-15), R.O.L. Lightning (31-16), Trinity Eagles (31-16), Good Shepherd Chiefs (31-17), Our Saviors Trolls (22-26), Faith Flyers (15-32), Sun Valley Heat (14-33), Christ Lutheran Pelicans (12-36), Messiah Thunder (9-38).

• RESULTS: St. John Jets 0-3-8 at Faith Flyers 1-4-0; Trinity Eagles 1-5-1 at Messiah Thunder 2-0-0; Good Shepherd Chiefs 3-5-5 at Sun Valley Heat 0-0-1; R.O.L. Lightning 5-2-9 at Our Saviors Vikings 2-5-7; Our Saviors Trolls 6-7-3 at Christ Lutheran Pelicans 7-6-1.

• HOME RUNS: C. Pingel (Good Shepherd Chiefs), D. Rounds (Sun Valley Heat), M. Andrews 2 (Our Saviors Trolls).

Turner moves boys hoops to Friday PM

BELOIT — Beloit Turner moved its Rock Valley Conference boys basketball game against Whitewater originally scheduled for Thursday to Friday night.

The varsity game will tip off at 5:30 p.m.

Foresters 1st in MWC softball poll

GRINNELL, Iowa — Lake Forest has been selected as the preseason favorite to win the 2023 Midwest Conference softball championship in a vote of the league's nine head coaches.

The defending champion Foresters collected five first-place votes and 60 points to edge out Illinois College by one point (3 first-place votes and 59 points) in the poll.

Last season, Lake Forest went 15-1 in league play to win its 11th program regular season title.

IC finished second in the regular season standings at 12-3-1 before winning three straight games in the MWC Tournament to capture its second straight tournament title.

Grinnell (51) was third in the poll, followed by Monmouth (42), Cornell (38), Beloit (28), Ripon (23), Lawrence (12) and Knox (1).

The 2023 season begins this weekend with Lake Forest and IC in non-conference action. League play begins April 1.

The MWC Tournament is scheduled for May 12-13 and will feature the top four teams. The winner receives the league's automatic qualifier to the NCAA D-III Tournament.

Beloit was 12-23 overall last season and 7-9 in the MWC.

SoBos/ from A28

"We put a lot of pressure on the big scorers," Ayotte said. "We crash the boards pretty well. We got a big man (Ross Robertson), so (that helps)."

The SoBos only allowed two points on one field goal in the second quarter.

"Our defense was really active," Stucky said. "Sometimes that hurts us a little bit. We weren't being aggressive with our feet, we were aggressive with our hands. Now, we get beat and then we're out of position."

"We did a good job after that second quarter being in our right spots and being active, using our length against them."

Robertson went off for 10 more points, including an impressive play where he clanged a short three-pointer off the rim, grabbed the rebound and laid down a booming dunk.

"Ross is one of my favorite guys I've ever played with," Ayotte said about the 6-foot-8 sophomore. "He is amazing at everything he does at basketball, on and off the court."

South Beloit held a 48-11 lead by halftime, and widened the margin to 63-20 late into the third quarter before Stucky made the decision to pull his starters. Robertson led the



JIMMY OSWALD/BELOIT DAILY NEWS

South Beloit senior Leorence Kostka moves the ball up the court while being trailed by two Somonauk defenders on Thursday night.

team with 21 points while Ayotte had 15 points on five treys.

"Blake's shooting is just phenomenal," Stucky said. "He steps into the gym and he is in range. But he is also our best passer. And defensively, he's got good length at the top of our zone. He gets a lot of deflections."

The SoBos (26-5) will face the winner of Durand-Christian Life in

the regional championship Friday at 7 p.m.

Stucky said that while South Beloit has faced both squads this season and is familiar with them, the mentality stays the same.

"We've just got to do our job," he said. "We've done a nice job this year understanding what our role is and being patient with what the game brings us."

SOUTH BELOIT 74, SOMONAUK 27

Somonauk.....9 2 11 5—27

South Beloit.....27 21 20 6—74
SOMONAUK (fg ft-fta pts)—
Bahrey 1 0-0 3, Haag 1 0-0 3,
Wilkinson 2 1-1 5, Hannibal 2 0-1 4,
Johnson 5 1-2 12. Totals: 11 2-6 27.

SOUTH BELOIT (fg ft-fta pts)—
Robertson 9 3-4 21, Cook 1 0-0 2,
Schober 2 0-0 6, Kostka 2 3-6 8,
Payton-Ruff 3 1-2 10, Peterson 2 0-2 6,
Jackson 3 0-0 6, Ayotte 5 0-0 15. Totals: 27 7-14 74.

3-pointers: Somo 3 (Bahrey, Haag, Johnson), SB 13 (Ayotte 5, Payton-Ruff 3, Peterson 2, Schober 2, Kostka). Fouled out: None. Total fouls: Somo 9, SB 9.

Purdue's Edey builds strong case to be player of the year

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Brian Nash vividly remembers the first impression Zach Edey made at IMG Academy.

The school's coaches were fascinated with the basketball newcomer's size, his potential. They liked his hands, the footwork he developed playing other sports. They thought he could be college basketball's next big thing.

Five years later, the transformation seems almost complete — to the surprise of Nash, IMG's director of basketball operations. Edey, the 7-foot-4, 305-pound Canadian, is compiling numbers that show America's biggest player might also be its best player.

"He's the most dominant player in the country and I would have never thought that would happen this quickly," said Nash, who spent more than 20 seasons coaching at the college level after playing at Kansas State. "We looked at him as a piece of clay."

This more polished version of Edey creates the same wonder among fans he did with in Bradenton, Florida. He towers over almost anyone, his elbows reaching most players' necks thanks to a standing reach of 9 feet, 9 inches.

No. 5 Purdue eagerly exploits its advantage in the post when teams dare to single-cover Edey, and Edey gladly passes the ball when

extra defenders converge. At times, the Boilermakers seem content taking shots and letting Edey score on putbacks.

"It's amazing to see," said David Jenkins Jr., Purdue's sixth-year guard. "He's kind of a one of a kind. I've never played with someone like him, probably never will again."

It hasn't always been this way for the Toronto native, who started his athletic career playing hockey and later added baseball. By 14, he'd given up both sports.

His desire to earn a college scholarship to help his mother, Julia, eventually led him to his most natural sport and eventually to AAU basketball and IMG. (His mother is a former basketball player.)

It didn't take coaches long to find a fit for Edey. They put the 16-year-old on a second-tier team for one year, primarily so he could refine his skills and learn to cope with the frustration of smaller players pestering him.

The next season, Edey joined the school's elite national team, where he fought for minutes with three McDonald's All-Americans, an experience that helped shape Edey's selfless philosophy.

"I don't really care about how many points I get," he said recently. "I'm going to focus on rebounding, playing defense, blocking shots. I'll



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Purdue center Zach Edey (15) dunks against Penn State in West Lafayette, Ind., on Feb. 1.

score the ball when I have to, when I'm one-on-one but I'm not going to force one up."

Still, Edey stood out and emerged as an intriguing prospect. Santa Clara chased him early, and Edey initially appeared bound for Baylor. But the IMG coaches advised Edey to consider schools that had demonstrated they could develop big men.

Gonzaga and Purdue emerged as finalists and that's when Purdue coach

Matt Painter entered the fray.

When Edey initially arrived at West Lafayette, he seemed more project than prospect; logging 14.6 minutes, scoring 8.7 points and grabbing 4.4 rebounds as a freshman in the 2020-21 season.

But Painter knew there was more to the guy known to his mom as "Big Maple." At IMG, Edey had worked with 7-foot-1 former NBA center and Puerto Rican Olympian Daniel Santiago to develop

his post skills and passion for the sport.

By his sophomore season, the workaholic emerged as a solid option alongside first team all-Big Ten forward Trevion Williams and future NBA lottery pick Jaden Ivey. Edey wound up nearly doubling his freshman stats, providing glimpses of his forthcoming breakout season.

Edey opened this week leading the Big Ten in scoring (22.1 points) and rebounding (12.7) — ranked fifth and second nationally, respectively. He's 10th nationally in blocks (2.4) and has become a terrific interior passer.

Edey also is a matchup nightmare for opponents. Penn State coach Micah Shrewsberry called him the best player on the best team in the country. And after Edey shredded Michigan State for 68 points and 30 rebounds in two games this season, coach Tom Izzo just shook his head.

"He's bigger than any player I've ever coached against," Izzo said. "When at the end of the day you can stop anywhere this side of the equator and throw the ball in the air and this monster is going to go get it, it makes it a little easier (for Purdue's offense)."

For Purdue, this week's focus is Saturday's rematch between Edey and Trayce Jackson-Davis and No. 14 Indiana.

Alabama's Miller stars amid probe of role in shooting

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Alabama standout freshman Brandon Miller was in the starting lineup and had a career-high scoring game in a win over South Carolina on Wednesday night — one day after police said he delivered a gun ahead of a fatal shooting that took place near campus in mid-January, and hours after the university said he'd remain an "active member" of the No. 2-ranked Crimson Tide and is not considered a suspect.

Alabama's support for Miller, one of college basketball's top players, made little difference to Gamecock fans at Colonial Life Arena, who focused on the 6-foot-9 forward even before the Southeastern Conference game started. The crowd booed each time Miller touched the ball.

Miller, who finished

with 41 points, scored the decisive basket with 0.9 seconds left in OT as SEC-leading Alabama beat South Carolina 78-76.

Authorities say Miller is allegedly connected to the shooting death of 23-year-old Jamea Jonea Harris last month. Tuscaloosa Police investigator Brandon Culpepper testified this week that Miller brought a gun to now-former teammate Darius Miles on the night of the shooting after Miles texted him and asked him to do so.

Earlier Wednesday, an attorney for Miller said his client never handled the gun officials say was involved.

"Based on all the information that we have received, Brandon Miller is not considered a suspect in this case, only a cooperative witness," the university said in



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police say Alabama's Brandon Miller brought a teammate the gun that was used in a fatal shooting near campus.

a statement released Wednesday.

Miller's attorney, Jim Standridge, said his client never handled the gun owned by Miles, who prosecutors say is accused of providing his gun to Michael Davis,

who fired it and killed Harris.

"Brandon never touched the gun, was not involved in its exchange to Mr. Davis in any way, and never knew that illegal activity involving the gun would occur,"

Standridge said.

Miller's alleged involvement in the death of Harris was detailed Tuesday at a preliminary hearing for Miles and Davis, who both face capital murder charges in Harris' death.


Culpepper testified that Miles texted Miller to bring him his handgun.

Standridge said in the statement that Miles asked Miller for a ride to a club. Standridge said Miles brought his "legal handgun and left it in the backseat of Brandon's vehicle. Brandon never saw the handgun nor handled it."

Miles later texted Miller to bring him the gun. Miller never got out of his vehicle, was not part of the exchange with Davis and did not interact with anyone in Harris' party, according to Standridge.

Miller quickly drove off when gunfire took place, Standridge said. When Miller was told someone was hurt and police wanted to speak to him, "he has fully cooperated with law enforcement's investigation," Standridge said.

I have purchased all of my vehicles through Tom Peck. They are always courteous and happy to help. They are straightforward and don't pressure you into buying something you don't want. I tell all my friends to go to Tom Peck. I don't need to tell my family because we all go there.
-Sara P.



**CLINTON, WISCONSIN
 LOCATED HWY. 140 AT I-43
 (608) 676-2273
 1 (800) 895 3270
 WWW.TOMPECK-FORD.COM**



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh gestures during the first half of the Fiesta Bowl against TCU on Dec. 31, 2022, in Glendale, Arizona.

Harbaugh content with Michigan job despite challenges

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Jim Harbaugh has had an eventful offseason, from interviewing with the Denver Broncos to talking with the NCAA about possible violations in Michigan's football program and firing an assistant coach under investigation by police.

"Compare us to perfect, and we're going to come up short in the major areas," Harbaugh said Thursday in his first remarks to reporters since the season ended. "Compare us to any other program, I think you're going to see that it doesn't get any better."

A year after saying the door was closed on a return to the NFL, the former San Francisco 49ers coach talked with the Broncos about their vacant coaching job that was later filled by Sean Payton.

Harbaugh said multiple coaches on his staff had conversations with NFL teams and chose to stay at the school.

"I'm one of them," he said. "People do what they think is best for them professionally and personally."

There was, though, one coaching change. Co-offensive coordinator Matt Weiss was fired in January after he failed to attend a meeting to discuss whether he had gained access to computer accounts belonging to other people, according to documents released by the school.

"I don't really know anything and if I did, I don't think I could comment on it," Harbaugh said.

Shortly after the Wolverines lost 51-45 to

TCU in the College Football Playoff semifinals, Michigan announced it received notice that the NCAA is looking into potential rules infractions in the football program.

The investigation involves impermissible texts and calls — including some by Harbaugh — to high school prospects during part of a pandemic-related dead period for contact with potential recruits. The NCAA also is looking at whether a member of Michigan's off-field football staff violated rules by doing on-the-field coaching during practice.

Harbaugh told NCAA investigators in multiple meetings last month that he will not agree to an unethical conduct charge, according to a person familiar with the situation. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because details of the investigation have not been shared publicly.

Harbaugh told reporters he was unable to comment on the NCAA matter.

A few hours Harbaugh's news conference to preview spring practice, the Ann Arbor police posted a video on Twitter that showed the coach helping an officer move a fallen tree out of a street during an ice storm the previous night.

"You're a good man," officer Howard Cooper said to Harbaugh.

"Feel free to spread the word on that," Harbaugh said. "Don't feel like you have to keep that to yourself."

Saturdays • November-April

WINTER CRAFTER — AND — FARMERS' MARKET

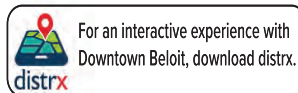
9 am-12 pm • Indoors

Downtown Beloit Association
 557 E. Grand Ave.

Produce • eggs • cheese • honey • baked goods
 seafood • meat & poultry • & more!

Visit the Downtown Beloit Association website for a full list of vendors and how you can support them.

downtownbeloit.com/us



Follow us: facebook.com/DowntownBeloit



Blackhawk Community Credit Union | International Flavors & Fragrance

Downtown Beloit Association | 608.365.0150 | www.downtownbeloit.com

Horschel, Bramlett tied for lead in Honda Classic



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Billy Horschel tees off on the fourth hole in the first round of the Honda Classic Thursday in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

PALMBEACH GARDENS, Fla. — Billy Horschel has never won a PGA Tour event in his home state of Florida. His quest to change that is off to a fine start.

Horschel shot a 5-under 65 on Thursday, tying him with Joseph Bramlett for the first-round lead in the Honda Classic at PGA National. Bramlett had a bogey-free round; Horschel had six birdies and one bogey.

“Just played really solid,” Horschel said. “Didn’t do anything special. Hit some quality iron shots here and there. I wouldn’t say everything was sort of automatic and it was easy. I had to just sort of work my way into making some good swings here and there. But overall, it was a really solid day of golf.”

Horschel’s pre-Honda preparations included a trip to the doctor, finally giving in and getting a prescription after trying to fight off a sinus infection for a few days. He might have felt tired, but it didn’t show.

The 65 was his best score in 33 rounds as a pro at PGA National. He’d shot 66 on two previous occasions.

“Listen, there’s no secret,” said Horschel, who played his college golf at Florida. “It’s not a secret. I grind. I work hard. It’s no secret out here that I work really, really hard out here. But this week with just the way I’m feeling and everything, energy’s still not completely 100 percent every day.”

Bramlett scrambled nicely when he had to. He missed six of 14 fairways and hit 13 of 18 greens.

“I definitely like when the conditions are difficult and guys have to really earn it,” said Bramlett, who has never won on the PGA Tour. “I think that’s historically always been in my favor.”

Pierceson Coody — a sponsor exemption playing his first PGA Tour event as a professional — finished the first round at 4 under, alongside Justin Suh. Coody has two wins in 15 starts on the Korn Ferry Tour since turning pro in June.

“It really just feels like another professional event,” the grandson of 1971 Masters champion Charles Coody said. “I’ve only played (15) professional events. But other

than the big grandstands it’s not that different. You’re just playing golf, you’re trying to put a good score together. No real nerves out there. Just happy to play well.”

Suh missed a 10-foot birdie putt on his last hole — No. 9 — that would have tied him for the lead.

• **DIVOTS:** Play was suspended for darkness just past 6 p.m., and four groups were unable to finish. Carson Young was at 4 under with three holes left to play. ... Past Honda champion Sungjae Im, the top-ranked player in the field at No. 18, birdied the last and shot 3-under 67. ... Past Ryder Cup captain Padraig Harrington played with the 2023 Ryder Cup captains, Luke Donald of Europe and Zach Johnson of the U.S. There was a bit of Cup talk during the round. “He’s a nice resource. He loves the Cup and represented it well,” Johnson said of Harrington. Johnson shot 68, Donald 71 and Harrington 72. ... Defending champion Sepp Straka opened with a 1-under 69. ... Monday qualifier Parker Coody, Pierceson’s twin brother, shot 74.

NORTH AMERICA'S

#1 Selling Walk-In Tub

Featuring our *Free Shower Package*

SPECIAL OFFER



Now you can finally have all of the soothing benefits of a relaxing warm bath, or enjoy a convenient refreshing shower while seated or standing with Safe Step Walk-In Tub's **FREE Shower Package!**

- ✓ First walk-in tub available with a customizable shower
- ✓ Fixed rainfall shower head is adjustable for your height and pivots to offer a seated shower option
- ✓ High-quality tub complete with a comprehensive lifetime warranty on the entire tub
- ✓ Top-of-the-line installation and service, all included at one low, affordable price

Now you can have the best of both worlds—there isn't a better, more affordable walk-in tub!

15% OFF

with No Payments for 18 Months!
plus a Free Shower Package



www.YourSafeStep.com

920-409-4720

FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT









*Subject to credit approval, with the purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-In Tub or Shower. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub or shower purchase. Interest is billed during the promotional period but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. There is no minimum monthly payment required during the promotional period. Safe Step Walk-In Tub is neither a broker nor a lender. Financing is provided through third-party lenders unaffiliated with Safe Step Walk-In Tub, LLC under terms and conditions arranged directly between the customer and such lender. All subject to credit requirements and satisfactory completion of finance documents. Any finance terms advertised are estimates only. Offer available in select markets, not available in Canada. Participating dealers only. Other restrictions may apply.

Experience the K&H Difference



WINDOWS - SIDING - ROOFING



A TRUSTED NAME SINCE 1961.

CALL 815-637-6946

www.khexteriors.com

- Award Winning Company
- Energy Star Awarded Products
- Highly Qualified Professional Installation
- Locally owned since 1961
- Fully Licensed & Insured









Soccer hotbed St. Louis finally lands an MLS team

ST. LOUIS — When season tickets sales began for Major League Soccer's newest team, St. Louis City SC leaders figured they'd be a hot ticket in a city with a deep love for the sport.

Even they were caught off guard by the response: More than 60,000 deposits for the 19,000 available season passes.

"St. Louisans are so proud of their city and so supportive of anything like this," team President and CEO Carolyn Kindle said. "I had no idea how crazy that support was going to go."

Seven years ago, the NFL's Rams departed for Los Angeles after making the case that St. Louis wasn't big enough and lacked the corporate support for three pro sports franchises. Soccer fans beg to differ.

The privately built,

22,500-seat, \$458 million CityPark Stadium is spurring new development in the western area of downtown. Team merchandise sales ranked in the top five in MLS in 2022 — before the team played a game.

The franchise-opener is Saturday in Austin, Texas. The first home game is March 4 against Charlotte.

"It's a big thing for the city, not just for soccer," said Dave Lange, a St. Louis soccer historian. "There's a lot of pent-up enthusiasm."

MLS Commissioner Don Garber said he believed the loss of the Rams "helped energize the community to get behind a sport they love."

"In order to be successful in sports you need to have a devoted, committed owner,

you need to have a great facility and you need to have a market that really loves and understands the game," Garber said. "We have all three of those in place now."

Lange, author of "Soccer Made in St. Louis: A History of the Game in America's First Soccer Capital," said the first record of soccer play in St. Louis was in 1872. European immigrants brought the love of the game with them, and passed it down.

Soccer became the sport of choice in the region's Catholic schools and it flourished. Five St. Louis residents started for the 1950 World Cup team that pulled off what is still recognized as one of the sport's greatest upsets, a 1-0 defeat of England. St. Louis University

became a soccer powerhouse, winning 10 national championships.

Even indoor soccer was popular. The St. Louis Steamers arrived in 1979 and played to sellout crowds. Lange recalled how he could feel the old Arena shaking during many games. "The noise and passion levels were incredible," he said.

Amid that backdrop, it was perhaps surprising it took so long for St. Louis to land in the MLS. In fact, a 2017 effort to get a team failed when voters turned down a ballot measure to help fund a new stadium.

A year later, Kindle recalled how her uncle, Andy Taylor, called a family meeting to discuss soccer. Taylor is executive chairman of Enterprise Holdings, the nation's largest car

rental company. He is the son of founder Jack Taylor. Kindle is Jack Taylor's granddaughter.

Kindle said her previous connection with soccer ended when she played on her eighth-grade "C" team. But she and the rest of her family recognized the potential that MLS could bring to St. Louis and sought a meeting with Garber.

The league wanted proof of corporate support so the Taylors reached out to 25 of the region's largest companies.

"That's when we had that lunch in March of 2019 so that Commissioner Garber could actually sit down and talk to heads of corporations in the region and hear from them how much they wanted, and would support, a soccer team," Kindle said.

Happy PRESIDENTS' DAY

TUNDRALAND.com

FREE INSTALL BATH & SHOWER*

\$00 INTEREST \$00 PAYMENTS UNTIL 2024**

7 AM TODAY

YOUR NEW SHOWER

BATH & SHOWER SALE OFFER EXPIRES FEBRUARY 28TH

AS SOON AS 4PM TONIGHT

DON'T WAIT! 608-621-3620 VISIT TUNDRALAND.COM

STEP UP YOUR BACKYARD TODAY!

50% OFF DECK INSTALL*

\$00 INTEREST \$00 PAYMENTS UNTIL 2024**

Tundraland Home Improvements.
*Subject to credit approval. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, equal opportunity lender banks. Cannot combine with other offers. Ask for details. NMLS #1416362

Coles/from A28

His love for the game was passed down from David Sr., who bought the old Carom Room on Pleasant Street in Beloit in 1973. The previous owners, Laverne and Ann Hendee, had operated the business starting in 1963.

A 1967 article in the Daily News described the Hendee's establishment as "clean and modern with a carpeted floor, not a room filled with smoke and four-letter words uttered by characters out of a Damon Runyon story. It's nice enough to bring your mother to visit."

David Coles Sr. is even mentioned in the article. Then a 19-year-old and "one of the area's best shots" with a cue stick worth \$90 and three more that he'd broken over a two-year span.

No wonder David's dad began building his own cues. His son still owns the lathes to make cues and do repairs in the basement of the current Carom Room.

The original business was just a 10-table pool room in the 1960s with a 10-seat lunch counter with a small grill, a soup maker, a malted milk maker and a rotisserie hot dog machine.

The elder Coles operated the business for 22 years,

until 1995, when his son became a partner.

They had totally remodeled the original facility, but it became obvious more space was needed to fully accomplish their "dream."

In 1999, they took the financial plunge and built the current Coles' Carom Room where Salamone's grocery store once stood. Much larger, it houses 23 tables upstairs, including the original 5-foot by 10-foot Gold Crown snooker table.

"Our Spring and Fall Classic tournaments, along with numerous weekend open tournaments, have attracted many of the best players on the planet to our pool room," Coles said. "We live-stream those tournaments so anyone can watch. We are continuously making improvements here, and strive to be one of the elite pool rooms in the United States."

Coles' Carom Room has been home for many top local players. Beloit's Jeff Carter was fourth in the world in his prime. John "Rebel" Brannon was a frequent state champion and the late great Larry "The Truth" Nevel was also one of the best in the world. Female champions Donya Bundy and Debby Martin also racked them up there.

David Jr., has plenty of



JIM FRANZ/BELOIT DAILY NEWS

Beloiter David Coles won both the Masters Division 8-ball and 10-ball Wisconsin state tournaments — the first player to accomplish the feat.

achievements, too. When he was 14 years old, he won the Wisconsin men's Class B title on a big table and when he was 15 he won the Wisconsin men's Class A title on a big table. In the 2000s he won the Masters straight pool tournament twice. He has won three 8-ball, one 9-ball and one 10-ball state title on bar-size tables. In all he has nine state singles titles as well as several team state titles.

The business, however, has monopolized his time. COVID-19 caused the Carom Room to shut down for 90 days, but when it was able to reopen before some establishments in Illinois, it was slammed with pool players itching to get out and play.

In December, 2021, there was a tragic fatal fire in the basement of the building. The basement needed to be gutted and the upper level thoroughly cleaned after

smoke damage.

Coles was determined to come back better than ever and the basement reflects that. He has totally remodeled it, adding nine more tables as well as a bar. He is still waiting for a few tables and some other accessories, but it is nearly completed.

"On our league and tournament nights all the 7-foot tables are taken up," Coles said. "When the general public comes in I don't have any tables to rent them. On Thursday and Friday, I will run a lot of tournament play downstairs so when the general public comes in I will have tables upstairs to rent."

Last October, he gave an acceptance speech for his late father, the U.S. Open Bar Table Team Championship winner in 1981, was inducted into the Wisconsin Billiards Hall of Fame at La Casa Grande restaurant in Beloit. The Carom Room hosted three tournaments that weekend.

Finally, Coles suddenly got the itch to compete again. Competing in the Masters division in Appleton, he beat out 44 other competitors in the 10-ball event and 57 in 8-ball. In addition to two impressive plaques, he pocketed \$4,800 in prize money.

Plus he has some new stories to tell.

A1 GARAGE DOOR SERVICE
A1 FROM DAY 1

\$200 OFF ANY NEW GARAGE DOOR*

So pleased with my service from A1 Garage Doors!! My technician, Maurice was very knowledgeable and answered all my questions as he installed a brand new opener for me. He had all the parts readily available on his truck. He told me what to look for & what may need replacing in the future after my final inspection. I would HIGHLY recommend them if you are in need of any garage door service!!!

-Carol, Sun Prairie WI

FINANCING AVAILABLE * Subject to credit approval, restrictions apply call for details.

BEST SERVICE ★ BEST PARTS ★ BEST WARRANTY

Same Day Service • Evenings & Weekends – No Extra Charge
Emergency Services Available • Military, AAA, Senior, AARP Discounts
Residential • Doing Business Since 1998 • Family Owned & Operated
Lifetime Warranty - Call for Details



- 5 REASONS TO REPLACE:**
1. Energy efficient doors save you \$\$\$
 2. Tighter door security keeps you safe
 3. Weather & critter protection
 4. Upgraded curb appeal
 5. Increase home value

GARAGE DOOR SERVICE SPECIALS

<p>TUNE UP SPECIAL</p> <p>\$59⁹⁹</p>	<p>\$200 OFF ANY NEW GARAGE DOOR</p>	<p>\$100 OFF REPLACE AN EXISTING OPENER</p>	<p>\$75 OFF SPRING REPLACEMENT</p>
<p>A1 GARAGE DOOR SERVICE With this coupon. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Expires 2/28/23.</p>			



PHOTO PROVIDED

Turner's state-bound cheerleaders include, bottom (L-R): Abigail Tahtinen, Satine Thomas, Brijit Mosher, Bethini Mosher. Top (L-R): Emily Nichols, Layla Potter, Isabella Lockwood, Makena Whitt, Emma Staack.

Turner's cheerleaders heading to state competition

JIMMY OSWALD
Staff Writer

BELOIT—Two minutes and 30 seconds. That's the short amount of time that the Beloit Turner cheerleading team has to go all out, pushing their bodies to the extreme to pull off their routine, showing off dances and stunts to impress the judges at competitions. And the Trojans have found a way to execute these performances quite well as a fourth-place finish at the WACPC preliminary round hosted by Oregon High School helped propel them to the WACPC Cheer State Championships at Oshkosh Arena on Saturday. "This is the smallest team I've coached as far as competition teams go," head coach Kayla McLain said. "But there is truly a benefit to that. The girls have been together since they made the team back in May, and they have more of a family bond." Turner competes with eight girls in the non-tumble small division. Teams with 12 or less girls compete in the smaller division and can choose to include tumble passes in their routine, such as back handsprings. If they do not, they are placed in the non-tumble divisions. "We do have some girls with experience tumbling," McLain said. "But we don't have full-team tumbling. We're working towards that, but we just aren't

there yet." The success of the Trojans is more impressive when you factor in the fact that the squad only has one senior and one junior, the other six are freshman and sophomores. "It has really benefited us," McLain said. "We're going to miss our senior tremendously, but I also feel that placing this high shows that we have a strong base for the program. It's really going to help us in the future." Cheerleading is not a sanctioned sport in Wisconsin, so the Trojans compete through the Wisconsin Association of Cheer/Pom Coaches (WACPC), which is endorsed by the WIAA. There are two sections to prep cheerleading: sideline and competition. Cheerleaders performing chants and routines on the sidelines of football and basketball games are participating in sideline cheer. Competition is where you compete at meets and are scored by a panel of judges based on the execution and difficulty of the stunts, the choreography, dances, cheers and jumps. A team has two minutes and 30 seconds to do their routine, which they only get one try at. With so many individual moving parts on the floor, it can be a difficult process to put together during game time. "What I put in their routines are things that they can hit on

their own," McLain said. "It's when you put it all together (that it gets difficult). With this group's bond, they can really talk each other up and really focus on saying, 'Hey, we've got this like this.'" Besides the intense bond they share, McLain credits the team's fitness with making them a strong unit. "I have girls that are in toning and conditioning," she said. "I've got girls that are multi-sport athletes. They are strong, and they have great body awareness. And they work hard." Heading into Oregon, the girls were right to be a little nervous. They had suffered from a few drops and senior Emily Nichols woke up with an illness. "They were nervous just going through warmups," McLain said. "Our stunts weren't hitting super well. But they just laid it all out there and killed their routine. They did what they needed to do." This is the first time the Trojans have reached the state finals under McLain, who has been a coach with the program since 2017. "I'm confident that they will do well," McLain said. "We get judging feedback on certain areas of our routine that need work. This week, it was mostly cleaning our routine but also putting in harder stunts and doing that safely."

Bieniemy leaves Chiefs for OC post with Commanders

ASHBURN, Va. — Eric Bieniemy knew he was almost certainly leaving the Kansas City Chiefs before they won a second Super Bowl in four years.

After interviewing 16 times for 15 different NFL head coaching jobs in past years, he also knew this time he probably was not getting another look to run a team. So, the longtime successful Chiefs offensive coordinator kept an eye out for his next challenge.

That turned out to be joining the Washington Commanders as offensive coordinator and assistant head coach, a gig under Ron Rivera that should give Bieniemy the chance to show what he can do out of the shadow of Andy Reid and two-time MVP Patrick Mahomes.

Bieniemy is ready — "fired up," as he said multiple times at his introductory news conference Thursday — to make Washington's offense his own, call plays and shut out all the noise about why he isn't an NFL coach in his own right.

"Being a head coach right now, it hasn't happened," Bieniemy said. "It's not anything that's going to impact me moving forward because the only thing I need to be concerned with is what's important today. Today I got to be the best person that I can be. I got to be the best coach that I can be."

Bieniemy, who turns 54 during training camp in August, became the best candidate out of more than a half-dozen interviews after Rivera went through the first week of interviews wanting to find someone quickly and started watching the playoffs instead. He saw what the Chiefs could do on offense and envisioned some of those characteristics with the Commanders, who relied on a stout defense to get to 8-8-1 last season.

"We've got our guy," Rivera said proudly in introducing Bieniemy. "We really, truly feel we found the right guy. We found the guy that we believe can step up and be the guy that we're looking for."

Rivera also found a coach he was fortunate to scoop up as an assistant after Bieniemy was previously interviewed to coach the Atlanta Falcons, Arizona Cardinals, Carolina Panthers, Cincinnati Bengals, Denver Broncos, Detroit Lions, Houston Texans,

Indianapolis Colts, Jacksonville Jaguars, Los Angeles Chargers, Miami Dolphins, New Orleans Saints, New York Giants, Philadelphia Eagles — and the New York Jets twice.



Bieniemy

As has been well publicized, Bieniemy did not get any of those jobs. But Rivera sees a little of his path in his new play-caller after being a lineback-

er-turned defensive coordinator under a defensive coach, who had to go work for someone on the other side of the ball to get a head job.

"I interviewed eight, nine times before I got my opportunity. And I know it's the same thing for him: Eventually he's going to get that opportunity," Rivera said, also citing Sean McDermott's path from a coordinator under Reid to coach of the Buffalo Bills.

"Maybe this'll be a good thing for Eric, which I'm hoping. We're going to live in the now, and that's about winning football games."

Bieniemy, who was running the Chiefs offense during their run of five consecutive AFC championship game appearances with three trips to the Super Bowl, said he was only worried about two letters of the alphabet: "a W or an L."

There have been far more losses than wins for Washington over the past couple of decades compared to Kansas City, and yet he was still ready to leave in what could be the middle of a modern day dynasty.

"One thing in this profession you learn is comfort is the enemy of progress," Bieniemy said. "I don't like being comfortable, so I'm about accepting challenges and moving forward. This presents a challenge to me."

Bieniemy inherits an offense that ranked 20th in the league last season and a second-year quarterback in Sam Howell, who has one game of pro experience and trails Mahomes by 228 NFL touchdown passes.

"I'm just super excited to have (Bieniemy) here," said Howell, the 2022 fifth-round pick out of North Carolina who goes into offseason workouts as the starter. "Obviously he came from an organization with Patrick Mahomes, so they had a lot of success together. Hopefully we can kind of bring some of that over here."