



TODAY
NCAA Football
(1) Florida at (4) LSU
6 p.m. CBS



TODAY
NLDS
Phila. at Colorado
8 p.m. TBS



MWC

Continued from A3

"I've always believed that if you work hard and you're tired enough, you don't have time to think about it," Patterson said. "So, we're just going to keep working hard."

Patterson has ways of getting his players to focus.

Namely, by pulling out video of last year's game at Utah. The Frogs (4-0, 0-0) dominated the Utes everywhere but the scoreboard, losing 13-10. There went any hope of a BCS berth, which went to the Utes as they capped off an undefeated season with a win over Alabama in the Sugar Bowl.

"The Utah game from last year has had a lot of carry-over for us of understanding how fine that line can be," Patterson said. "To outgain somebody (416 yards to 275) like we did and still lose, there's no answer to it. ... It doesn't matter how well you play, you've got to be able to finish."

If Patterson wants even more motivation, all he has to do is mention how the Frogs stumbled at Air Force in 2007. The Falcons overcame a 14-point fourth-quarter deficit to win in overtime.

Not only that, but Air Force's triple option has always been tricky. The Falcons (3-2, 2-0) have the second-ranked rushing attack in the country, averaging nearly 292 yards a game.

"They can also line up in a 100,000 different formations," Patterson said. "They run a lot of plays very well, including reverses and any kind of option pass or drop-back pass you can name. ... You've got to tackle well, play leverage well and keep your eyes in the right place."

That's something TCU's defense has been priding itself on all season. The Frogs boast one of the top run defenses in the nation, allowing very little on the ground.

The Falcons are coming off a bitter overtime loss at Navy, giving the Midshipmen a leg up on winning another Commander-In-Chief's Trophy.

They're also struggling to find the end zone. Air Force hasn't scored an offensive touchdown in the last nine quarters, a trend that's becoming a concern for coach Troy Calhoun.

"We have to make sure we stick ... to our ground work of what we're trying to instill in guys," Calhoun said. "A lot of times what you do is you build layers to get to a point where you're more productive."

Air Force's defense has been picking up the scoring slack, tallying five touchdowns this season. Defensive back Anthony Wright has two interception returns for scores in as many games.

However, the Falcons were recently dealt a blow when they lost starting inside linebacker Ken Lamendola to a season-ending knee injury.

Today's MWC schedule

New Mexico at Wyoming, Noon (The Mtn.)
Utah at Colorado State, 4 p.m. (The Mtn.)
TCU at Air Force, 5:30 p.m. (CBS-C)
BYU at UNLV, 8 p.m. (The Mtn.)

WNBA FINALS

Pondexter, Taurasi lead Mercury to WNBA title

PHOENIX — The Phoenix Mercury are WNBA champions for the second time in three seasons, leaning on their 'big three' to pull out a 94-86 victory over the tenacious Indiana Fever in the deciding Game 5 Friday night.

League and finals MVP **Diana Taurasi** scored 26 points, **Cappie Pondexter** had 24, and **Penny Taylor** sank two crucial free throws with 37.7 seconds left as the Mercury held off a late rally to win the intense series 3-2.

Tammy Sutton-Brown scored 22 points, and **Jessica Davenport** had a career-high 18 for Indiana in its first finals appearance. **Tamika Catchings** added 16 points and nine rebounds for the Fever.

Indiana rallied from 10 down in the second half to tie it at 80 on Sutton-Brown's layup with 4:29 to play, then Tangela Smith made two 3-pointers, her only field goals of the night, to put the Mercury ahead for good.

Her second, after **Jessica Davenport** scored for Indiana, put Phoenix ahead 86-82 with 3:34 to go.

Pondexter's 9-footer made it 88-82 with 2:22 left, but the Fever — who had led the series 2-1 — weren't finished. Davenport's inside basket cut it to 88-84, then Catchings' rebound basket made it 88-86 with 2:07 to play.

On the Mercury's next possession, Taylor drove to the basket and was fouled by Davenport. Her two free throws made it 90-86. Two free throws apiece **DeWanna Bonner** and Taurasi provided the final margin.

Taylor added 14 points and Bonner 13 for Phoenix. **Katie Douglas** had her second straight rough shooting night. The Indiana star was 4 of 14 for 13 points after going 2 of 14 in Game 4. The Mercury made 10 of 17 3s.

Phoenix won it with the super-speed style that then-coach **Paul Westhead** used in 2007 and Corey Gaines adopted when he took over.

After a cold-shooting first quarter, the Mercury turned it on with one of their best 10 minutes of the season, shooting a finals record 76.5 percent (13 of 17) — and they even missed their last two shots — in a second-quarter blitz.

Phoenix also set a finals second-quarter record for points, outscoring Indiana 35-19 to take a 51-42 lead at the break.

Taurasi, after struggling with her shot against Catchings' defense in the first four games, was 5 for 5 in a 13-point second quarter, three of them 3-pointers. Her NBA-length 3 from the top of the key with 6:19 left in the half gave her 10 points already in the quarter and put Phoenix up 33-31.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Southern Miss walk-on punter critically wounded

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — **Peter Wilkes**, a walk-on

punter at Southern Miss, is in critical condition at a Memphis, Tenn., hospital after being shot at his home in Union City, Tenn.

Regional Medical Center officials said Friday that Wilkes was being treated in a critical care unit.

Union City Assistant Police Chief **Perry Barfield** said the case is under investigation as an accident or self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Southern Miss officials retracted an initial news release that said Wilkes was shot Thursday night in an accident and had died Friday morning. Southern Miss spokesman **Jack Duggan** said in a statement Friday afternoon that Wilkes suffered an "irrecoverable injury" Thursday night.

Wilkes was not a member of the Golden Eagles' travel party to Louisville for Saturday's game and was at home during the school's fall break. He made an early push to win the job at punter during pre-season practice, but has not played this season.

Coach **Larry Fedora** said coaches and players are "shocked and devastated."

AUTO RACING

A 3-man battle for IRL title drawing to a close

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — **Scott Dixon** has this unshakable feeling, that the three remaining contenders for the IndyCar championship will enter the final turn of the season having decided nothing.

An epic, three-car, fight-to-the-finish for the IRL title and a \$1 million bonus?

Don't be surprised to see that happen at Homestead-Miami Speedway on Saturday, Dixon says. "With no doubt, I think it's going to be exciting," he said.

They're three different guys with three different stories, and when the checkered flag falls on the Indy 300, only one of them will collect what he came to Homestead to get. Upstart **Ryan Briscoe**, 2007 IRL king **Dario Franchitti**, and defending champion Dixon are separated by only eight points heading into the finale, one of the closest races in IndyCar history.

Dixon enters as the leader, four points ahead of teammate Franchitti — who gained a point by winning the pole in Friday qualifying — and eight ahead of Briscoe. It's the 32nd straight top-10 start for Dixon, matching the IRL record.

NHL

Carolina defeats Panthers

RALEIGH, N.C. — **Tom Kostopoulos** and **Jussi Jokinen** scored first-period goals off turnovers in Florida's end, and **Cam Ward** made 25 saves to help the Carolina Hurricanes beat the Panthers 7-2 on Friday night.

Tuomo Ruutu also scored in the opening period for the Hurricanes, who dominated early and then cruised to a second straight victory against a Southeast Division rival. Carolina beat Tampa Bay in a shootout for its first win Tuesday night.

Ray Whitney, **Matt Cullen**, **Rod Brind'Amour** and **Jay Harrison** also scored for Carolina. **Shawn Matthias** and **Michael Frolik** scored for Florida.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

OU's Bradford to start today

Jeff Latzke

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OKLAHOMA CITY — Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford will return from a sprained right shoulder and start for No. 19 Oklahoma today against Baylor.

Bradford missed the Sooners' last three games after spraining the AC joint in his throwing shoulder in a loss to BYU. Coach Bob Stoops said Friday that the quarterback has recovered enough to play in the team's Big 12 opener.

"Sam has had a great week of practice and is ready to play," Stoops said in a statement. "We're obviously excited

to have him back."

Bradford said earlier in the week that he hoped to play against the Bears (3-1) so he could get a game under his belt before next week's rivalry game against No. 2 Texas in Dallas. But he also said there was a chance he could still need surgery on his shoulder in the offseason, creating doubt over how his recovery was going.

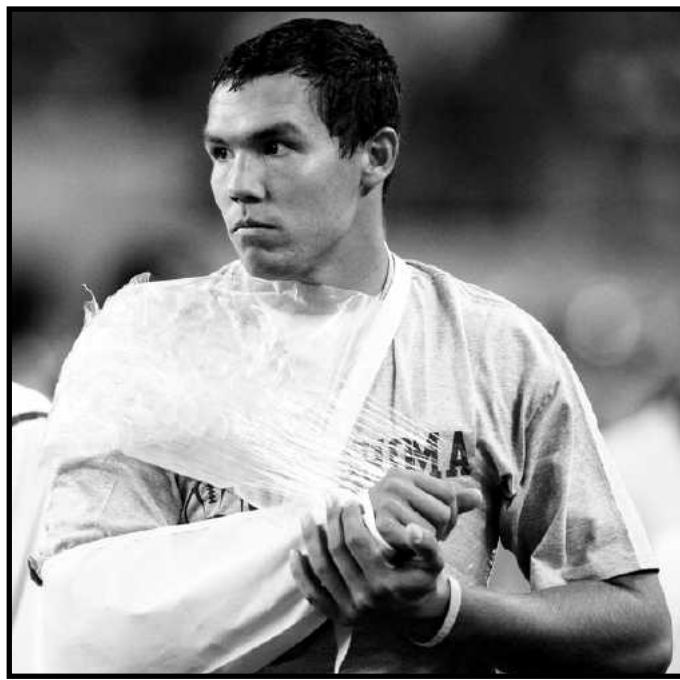
The Sooners have all but fallen out of the national championship race since Bradford's injury, suffering their second loss of the season last Saturday night at Miami.

Bradford said he still hadn't given up hope that Oklahoma could win the national title, the

goal he set after deciding to skip the NFL draft and return to the Sooners after their run to the BCS championship game last season.

He said it would be selfish for him to sit out the rest of the season just because his team's national title hopes were slim and he could protect his shoulder.

"That's big for a guy like Sam to make the sacrifice that he made with the opportunity that he had in front of him to come back and work with us the next year," safety Sam Proctor said this week. "He's a very low-key guy, down-to-earth guy and that just says a lot about his character."



FILE/AP

Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford stands by the team bench with a shoulder wrap after leaving the game against BYU on Sept. 5. Bradford will return in the Sooners' game against Baylor.

UVU WOMEN'S SOCCER

UVU soccer opens GWC play with win

DAILY HERALD

GRAND FORKS, N.D. — Four different players scored goals as Utah Valley snapped a five-game losing streak and began Great West Conference play with a 4-1 win at North Dakota on a cold Friday afternoon.

The Wolverines (2-9-0, 1-0-0) broke through with just over a minute left in the first half when Jaime Lyons scored on an assist from Whitney Fuller to put UVU up 1-0 at the break. "We actually started off pretty well but they (North Dakota)

made a couple of key saves early," said UVU head coach Brent Anderson. "That late goal really gave us something positive to go into the half with and we got right back to work in the second half. The girls were fired up and had a lot of good energy today."

The four goals are far and away a season high for the Wolverines, who hadn't scored more than a single goal in any game so far this season. It also nearly doubled the season goal total, which was five entering Friday's contest.

Camille Broderick had a big day with a goal and an assist. Her goal in the 55th minute on an assist from Kelsey Kimball put UVU up 2-0 and ended up as the game-winner.

The Fighting Sioux (1-9-1, 0-2-0) kept things interesting though with a goal in the 69th minute by Rachael Loomis on an Alex Zarling assist but Utah Valley answered with two goals in a span of two minutes and 10 seconds to secure the win.

Athena Maher scored on a Taryn Smith assist in the 77th minute and Nicole Archibald came right back in the 79th minute to make it 4-1 on Broderick assist. The goals for Maher and Archibald are the second of the year for each player.

The Wolverines out-shot UND 23-12 and 10-5 on goal. Tasha Bell had four saves in goal for UVU.

Conference play continues on Sunday at noon MT at South Dakota, who also enters the game with a 1-0 record in Great West action.

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BYU SPORTS
TODAY
FOOTBALL
at UNLV, 8 p.m.
TV: The Mtn. Radio: 1160 AM 102.7 FM

WOMEN'S SOCCER
at UNLV, 2 p.m.
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
vs. TCU, 6 p.m.
TV: BYU-TV

MEN'S TENNIS
at Balloon Fest Classic
Albuquerque, N.M.

UVU SPORTS
TODAY
M-W CROSS COUNTRY
at Color Country Invitational
Cedar City
W VOLLEYBALL
at NJIT, 3 p.m.
SUNDAY
WOMEN'S SOCCER
at South Dakota, Noon