

Heading home

Richardson, Moeaki
playing back in their home state
of Illinois this Saturday, 3C

SPORTS

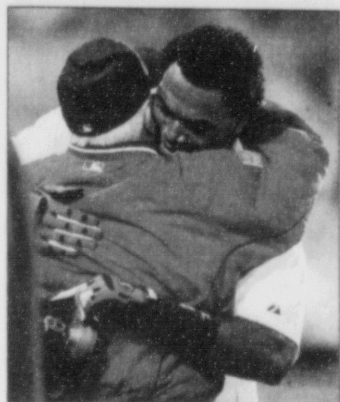
P R E P S ■ C O L L E G E S ■ P R O S

C

The Gazette
Friday
September 22, 2006

www.gazetteonline.com

Red Sox record



AP

Boston Red Sox slugger David Ortiz gets a hug from former Red Sox player Johnny Pesky after Ortiz hit his 51st home run of the season last night against the Minnesota Twins at Fenway Park in Boston. Ortiz added his 52nd later as he set a Red Sox record for most home runs in a season.

SIDELINE

TELEVISION

ESPN's "GameDay" looking toward Iowa City

ESPN's popular "College GameDay" show could be coming to Iowa City.

In a column posted on ESPN.com Thursday, "GameDay" host Chris Fowler might have let the cat out of the bag on the possibility of "GameDay" making a stop in Iowa City for the Ohio State-Iowa game next weekend.

On the subject of best student crowds at a game visited by "GameDay," Fowler wrote, "My sight unseen nominee might be the group dressed in Black and Gold next week, if the Buckeyes arrive at Iowa ranked No. 1. That'd be a fun night in ole Iowa City."

An ESPN official told The Gazette on Thursday a decision will be made Sunday night or Monday morning and that "Ohio State at Iowa is on a short list of games we are looking at."

"GameDay" hasn't produced a show from Iowa City since 1996 when Iowa hosted Ohio State.

— Marc Morehouse

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

U.S. women lose at World Championships

SAO PAULO, Brazil — Russia beat the two-time defending champion United States, 75-68, last night in the semifinals of the women's world championships, snapping the Americans' 26-game winning streak in this event.

Russia took advantage of poor shooting and sloppy ball-handling by the U.S. to take a 58-38 lead after three quarters.

Russia (5-3) advanced to Saturday's gold medal game against Australia (8-0), which beat Brazil, 88-76.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Knight weighs in on OU's controversial call

OKLAHOMA CITY — Texas Tech basketball coach Bob Knight said Oklahoma fans now know how he felt after his team lost a game at OU three years ago when a late-starting clock gave the Sooners extra time to score a game-tying basket.

Knight called for Oklahoma to forfeit its basketball game with Texas Tech on Jan. 20, 2003, when the Sooners won 69-64 in overtime after two clock controversies in the final seconds of regulation.

"Maybe now those people at Oklahoma understand what I was talking about," Knight told The Oklahoman. "Now I guess the 'duck' is swimming in the other pond."

Gazette staff and wire reports

Dazzling show kicks off Cup

C.R.'s Johnson
not scheduled to play
in opening session

By Bob Denney

News correspondent

STRAFFAN, Ireland — Golf officially crossed into the realm of the Cirque du Soleil Thursday at The K Club.

The 36th Ryder Cup opening ceremonies, a three-act tribute to "the gods of golf," set the stage for one of the most anticipated weekends in sports to hit this country.

An audience of 45,000 were dazzled by the performance of the 360-member Spanish troupe, El Comediantes, featuring acrobats, balloons in the shape of planets, and a retractable top half of a golf ball at center stage that exposed a massive orchestra and choir.

Performers in medieval cos-

tumes were perched on 15-foot high stanchions positioned on the four corners of the practice range.

started.

ZACH AT THE RYDER CUP



AP

tal director David Watt, was the culmination of two years of preparation.

El Comediantes has had plenty of practice, having served as the main act for the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona, Spain. This humid, overcast day, they were joined by an Irish dance troupe, Cos Coe.

"It was a great show and

36th Ryder Cup

■ Site: Straffan, Ireland

■ Schedule: Today-Sunday. Today and Saturday, four morning best-ball matches and four afternoon alternate-shot matches; Sunday, 12 singles matches.

■ Course: The K Club, Palmer Course (7,335 yards, par 72)

■ Television: USA (Today, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.) and NBC (Saturday, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 6 a.m.-11:30 a.m.)

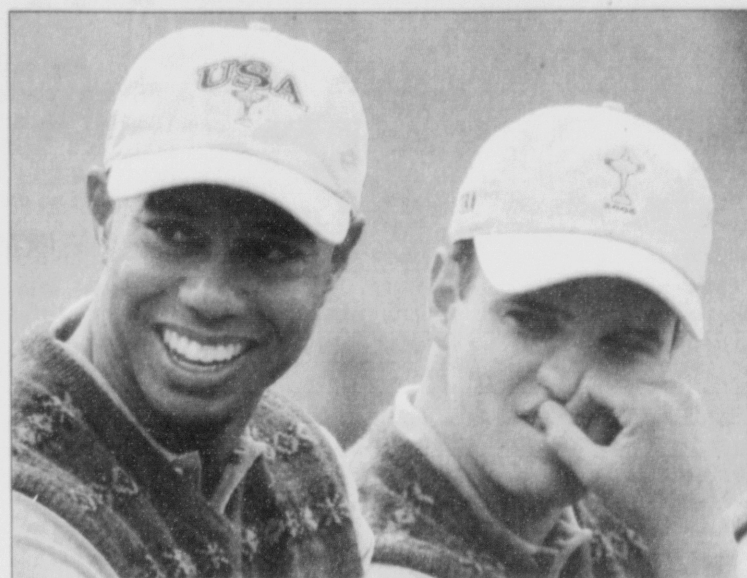
■ On the Net: www.rydercup.com

Inside

■ A look at the course and lineups, 6C

we were very pleased," Watt said. "Things went well."

There was a touch of Irish magic, too, with intermittent sunshine to open the program



AP

United States Ryder Cup team players Tiger Woods (left) and Zach Johnson smile in a team group photo session Thursday at The K Club golf course in Straffan, Ireland. The 36th Ryder Cup is scheduled to begin today.

on a day that originally had received a gloomy forecast. It all evolved into a special afternoon as spectators cheered the arrival of the United

States and European Ryder Cup teams.

The ceremonies received

► RYDER CUP, PAGE 6C

IOWA BASKETBALL

Alford gets extension through 2011 season

By Jim Ecker

The Gazette

IOWA CITY — Steve Alford has made a good impression on his boss.

Gary Barta, the athletics director at the University of Iowa, announced Thursday he's given Alford a one-year extension on his contract, pushing Alford's pact as the Iowa men's basketball coach through June 30, 2011.

The decision was made even though Barta, hired this summer from the University of Wyoming, hasn't had a chance to see Alford coach a game since they began working together.

"Clearly Steve is a good coach and a good person," Barta said. "We've spent a lot of time together. I felt confident that this was the right thing to do."

Steve Alford
Iowa coach

This is Alford's second one-year extension in three months. He received a one-year extension June 20 from Bob Bowlsby before Bowlsby left to become the AD at Stanford.

Barta said he wanted Alford to have five years on his contract, both as a vote of confidence and for recruiting.

"I appreciate the support and confidence Gary and the UI administration have shown our program," Alford said in a press release. "We look forward to building on our past success and we're excited about the future."

"This solidifies Gary's trust in the overall state of the program and the direction we are heading in all areas."

Alford, 42, has a 135-92 record in seven years at Iowa, including a 52-60 mark in Big Ten games and a 1-3 record in three NCAA tournaments.

The Hawkeyes won 25 games last season, the second-best total in school history. They won the Big Ten tournament, finished second in the Big Ten standings and were ranked in the Top 25 most of the year before being upset by Northwestern State in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

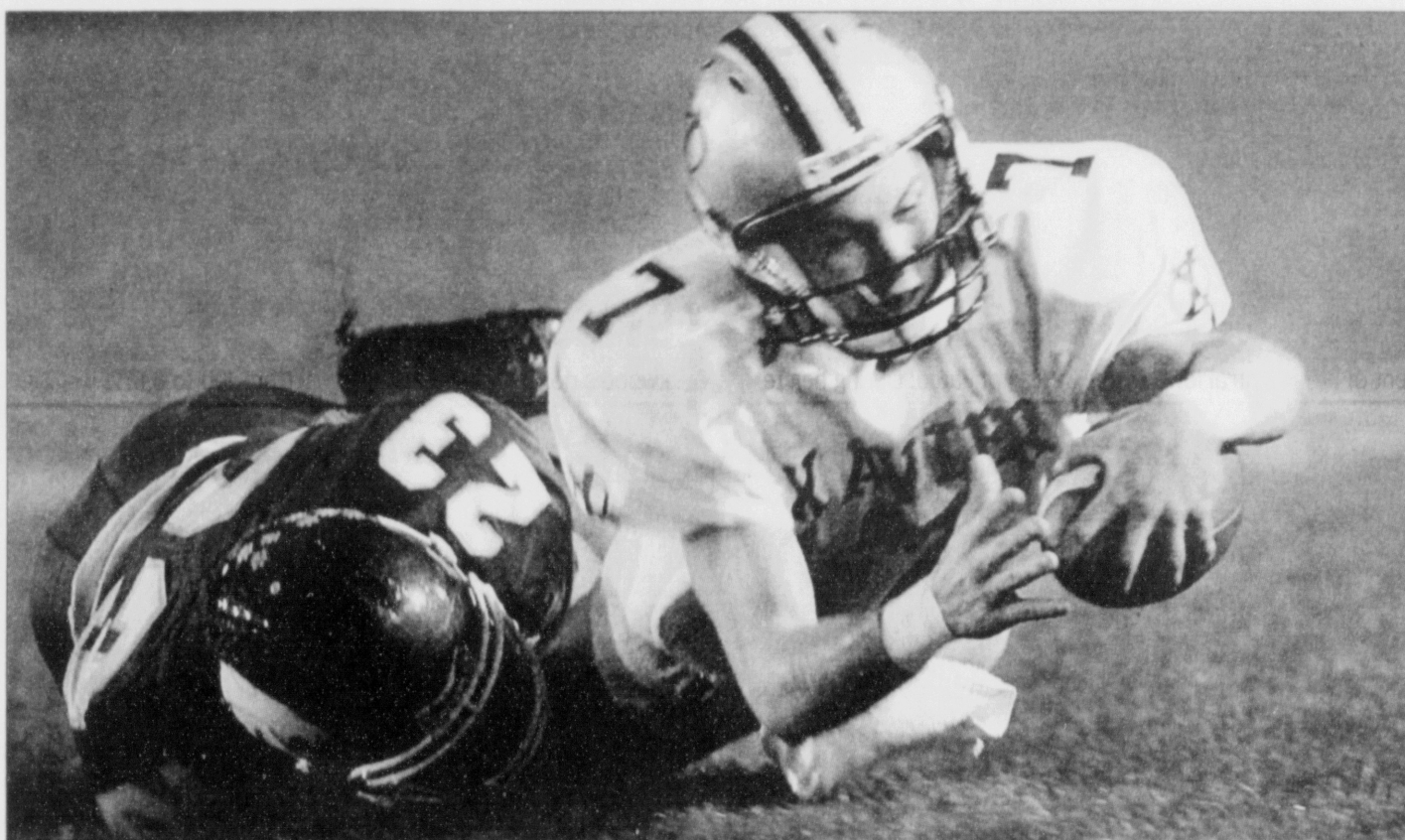
Alford made a raise from \$828,000 to \$925,000 when his contract was extended in June. His salary remains at \$925,000 under terms of the extension announced Thursday.

Alford also is due to receive longevity bonuses of

► ALFORD, PAGE 3C

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Saint shutout



Leila Navidi photos/The Gazette

Zach Schulte (right) of Cedar Rapids Xavier gets tackled by Jordan Grimm of Cedar Rapids Kennedy during a showdown of unbeaten teams last night at Kingston Stadium in Cedar Rapids. Xavier won it, 17-0.

No. 5 Xavier off to best start since '03

By Jeff Dahn

The Gazette

CEDAR RAPIDS — To the opportunistic go the spoils, and the Cedar Rapids Xavier Saints are nothing if not opportunistic. Oh, OK. They're pretty darn talented, too.

Class 4A fifth-ranked Xavier easily won the field position battle last night and used a couple of short fields to score two second-half touchdowns, and handed No. 9 Cedar Rapids Kennedy its first loss of the season, 17-0, at wet and windy Kingston Stadium.

The defensive slugfest wasn't totally unexpected, and the Saints proved to be just a smidgen better as they improved to 4-0, their best start since the 2003 Saints won their first five games.

"What we talked about at halftime was hopefully taking advantage of any opportunities we get," Xavier Coach Duane Schulte said. "Against

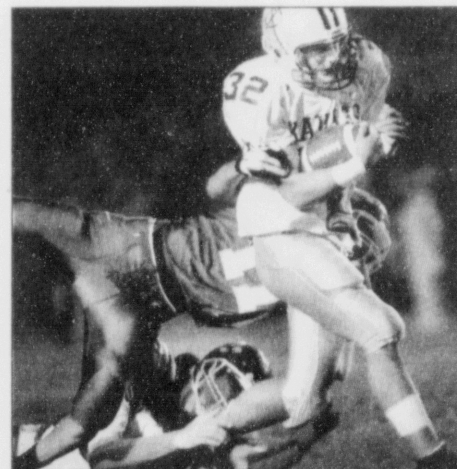
Kennedy, they're such a good team we had to rely on that if it presented itself."

Holding onto a precarious 3-0 lead early in the third period, Xavier senior defensive back David Drahozal came up with the play that turned the game in the Saints' favor.

Kennedy (3-1) had started a possession on the Xavier 27 after Will Mario recovered a Xavier fumble, moved forward to the 18, then backward to the 35 on a blocking in the back penalty.

Facing a first-and-28, Kennedy quarterback Guy Martino let go a pass just as his intended receiver slipped and fell on the wet turf. Drahozal was in the right place at the right time.

He raced in the interception and raced 50 yards down the right sideline to the Kennedy 30, and five plays later Will Martin scored on a 1-yard run off right tackle to make it 10-0



Xavier's Domingo Vega (right) runs with the ball with Kennedy's Greg Easley (top) and Ben Mere (bottom) along for the ride last night in Cedar Rapids.

Saints with 2:58 left in the third quarter.

► SAINTS, PAGE 7C

Little Hawks squash West with fourth-quarter explosion

By John Riehl

The Gazette

IOWA CITY — Travis Gobush took the handoff, executed a spin move about 5 yards down field and printed untouched into the end zone.

In case you missed that 40-yard touchdown run, he had a carbon-copy performance on his next carry in the fourth quarter. The on-

ly difference was it was 6 yards longer.

The Iowa City High senior tailback produced his own highlight video during a six-minute stretch in the final quarter, scoring three touchdowns to lead the Little Hawks to a 28-10 victory over Iowa City West in the Battle for the Boot last night at Trojan Field.

You never would have

guessed Gobush missed the last two games with an injured knee.

"You get in a game like this and you have to keep going," Gobush said. "You do it for yourself, you do it for Iowa City. Out here, you represent everybody. If you fall, everybody falls."

Gobush rushed for a game-high 133 yards on 10 carries, doing most of his

damage in the final quarter after a two-carry, 1-yard performance in the first half.

A dynamic combination of speed, agility and power, Gobush stole the momentum from West after the Trojans took a 10-7 lead with 1:06 left in the third quarter on a 47-yard punt return touchdown by

► BOOT, PAGE 7C

