

SPORTS

ALL-AREA BOYS BASKETBALL

Player of the Year

ZACH THOMAS

OAKDALE Senior Forward

■ Thomas capped arguably the most decorated career in Frederick County history by becoming what is believed to be the third player in Maryland public school history to surpass 2,000 career points, finishing with 2,281. Equally adept at scoring in the paint or on the perimeter, Thomas led Frederick County in scoring for the fourth straight season, averaging 24.9 points and 9.5 rebounds per game — both career highs. Scored 40 points in game twice during the regular season.

■ Thomas also stood out defensively, developing into a feared shot blocker and guiding Oakdale to its second straight Class 2A state tournament appearance. The Bears became the first county team to reach a state final since Thomas Johnson in 2002.



FIRST TEAM

CLAY CONNER SENIOR GUARD OAKDALE

■ One of the area's best finishers at the rim, played his best basketball in the playoffs, averaging 19.2 points and 4.6 assists over five games. For the season, Conner averaged 13.9 points and 5.1 assists per game.

OSHEA GAIREY JUNIOR GUARD ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC PREP

■ Relying on speed and quickness, Gairey attacked the basket relentlessly while also helping spread the wealth offensively on a balanced St. John's team. He averaged 15.8 points and 4.5 assists per game.

ZACH HOSSLER SENIOR GUARD BRUNSWICK

■ A two-time all-area first-team pick, Hossler remained one of the county's best shooters. He averaged 16.9 points and 3.4 assists per game, drilling 54 3-pointers and shooting 79 percent from the free-throw line.

CHRISTIAN JAMES SENIOR FORWARD FREDERICK

■ A force on the interior who could also shoot from the outside and create havoc defensively, James led the Cadets in scoring (14.7 ppg), rebounding (7.4 rpg) and steals (1.7 spg).

THOMAS LANG SOPHOMORE GUARD LINGANORE

■ Showed the ability to take over games in the fourth quarter. Versatile guard ranked high on the county's scoring (18.9 ppg), rebounding (6.7 rpg) and assists (4.5) leaders lists.



KYLE SINGER SENIOR GUARD URBANA

■ Created matchup problems at guard for opposing coaches because of his 6-4 frame. A region tourney standout, Singer averaged 13.3 points, 3 assists and 4.0 rebounds per game.

DEVIN TIFFANY SENIOR FORWARD URBANA

■ Using an array of low post moves, provided the Hawks a consistent offensive threat in the paint. Tiffany averaged 12 points and 7 rebounds per game, helping Urbana reach its second straight state tourney.



SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name	School	Grade
G	MJ AMBERS	SJCP	JUNIOR
G	ELIJAH BOYD	SJCP	SOPHOMORE
F	BRYAN INGRAM	TUSCARORA	SENIOR
F	JONATHAN KING	FREDERICK	SENIOR
G	ANTHONY NAYLOR	TUSCARORA	SENIOR
G	BRAD RINEHART	MIDDLETOWN	SENIOR
G	JACK STAUB	LINGANORE	SOPHOMORE
F	CONNOR WRIGHTSON	URBANA	SENIOR

HONORABLE MENTION

Brunswick—Brandon Axline, Sean Christie
Catoctin—Jarrett Shoemaker, Colby Smith, Jacob Tokar
Frederick—Terrell McCaa
Frederick Christian Academy—John Koffman
Frederick Force—Chris Leao, Nathan Wright
Frederick Warriors—Daniel Passarelli, Joel Kehr
Linganore— Kyle Nicolet
MSD—Yave Sanchez, Noah Valencia, Jake Bonheyo
Middletown—Ben Panther, Tim Schumacher
New Life—Jeremiah Chambers
Oakdale—Julius Simpson, Austin Gouldin, Jonathan Hoyle, Jared Ruiz
St. John's-Catholic Prep—Trevor Lecuona
Thomas Johnson—D'Vaughan Cosley, Temoi Roper, KJ Daniels, Jacobby Lott
Tuscarora—Mykel Barber, Brison Hopper
Urbana—Ian Eversull, Skyler Umphryes
Walkersville—Chase Martin, Travis Rhodes, Zach Hommey, Jake Polce

Fitzgerald urges 'no' vote on union

EVANSTON, Ill. (AP) — Northwestern football coach Pat Fitzgerald sided with his university against the formation of a players union in his first public comments Saturday, repeating what he already told his team: "I believe it's in their best interests to vote no."

Fitzgerald addressed the issue for the first time with his squad Wednesday, a week after Peter Ohr, regional director for the National Labor Relations Board, ruled that Northwestern's scholarship football players were "employees." That decision entitled players to conduct a secret-ballot vote on forming a union to pursue collective bargaining with the school, a move that could significantly alter the structure of college sports — especially big revenue-producers like football and basketball.

Fitzgerald spoke at the end of a spring practice session at the school's lakefront facility, alongside a plot of land being developed for a \$225 million athletic center. He also said that while he's constrained in what he can

discuss regarding a union, he sent players and their parents a letter stating his position before addressing the team in person.

"All this can be handled with communication. It's about trust," Fitzgerald said about issues — including improved medical care, practice schedules and others — raised by the College Athletes Players Association, the group seeking to unionize players.

So far, CAPA has not addressed paying players on scholarship.

"I just do not believe we need a third party between our players and our coaches, staff and administrators. ... Whatever they need, we will get them," Fitzgerald said.

The NLRB set April 25 for the players vote. Only players currently on scholarship and participating in football activities will cast ballots, totaling around 70 current members of the squad.

The university has until Wednesday to ask the full, five-member NLRB in Washington to review Ohr's decision. If the full board upholds Ohr's ruling, North-

western could also challenge that ruling in federal appeals court.

Fitzgerald cited his own experience at Northwestern, covering 18 years, to make his case. He played linebacker at the school, then served as an assistant coach and took over the program in July 2006, after the sudden death of his mentor, Randy Walker. Fitzgerald said the school had always been receptive to players' needs, including his own, and that there was already a structure in place to pursue many of the issues CAPA raised.

"I've always been an advocate of change for student-athletes," Fitzgerald said, "if it has positive impact."

A handful of players who lingered after practice said they were inclined to vote "no," though senior center Brandon Vitabile added, "We're all smart guys. We're open to hearing things and discussing things." Like Fitzgerald, he was reluctant to characterize the team's deliberations so far.

But quarterback Trevor

Siemian said flatly, "I don't support it."

The fifth-year senior is the front-runner to replace graduating quarterback Kain Colter, who took a lead role in seeking to organize players at the school. CAPA, which is headed by former UCLA linebacker Ramogi Huma, has provided support for similar efforts in recent years.

"I don't think a union is the answer for my team or my university," Siemian said.

Fitzgerald was asked whether recruiting wouldn't be easier at Northwestern if a union were organized and able to secure additional benefits for players.

"I'm not allowed to speculate," he replied tersely.

Tim Waters, the political director for the United Steelworkers Union, which has provided support to efforts to unionize players, told The New York Times he was "disappointed after coach Fitzgerald's initial reaction of supporting these guys" and predicted players would vote to support the union.

Stewart and McGraw are AP Player, Coach of Year

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Breanna Stewart picked up right where she left off as a freshman. Connecticut's versatile star has had a stellar sophomore year.

The 6-foot-4 guard/forward earned The Associated Press Player of the Year award Saturday, becoming just the third sophomore to achieve the honor. Notre Dame's Muffet McGraw was selected coach of the year for the second straight season.

The pair accepted their awards in front of a standing room only crowd that included the entire UConn and Notre Dame teams as well as Stewart's family.

"It's obviously a huge deal, and I think the fact that being able to be named player of the year is awesome, and I think it just shows how hard I've worked this season and the off-season," Stewart said. "But it doesn't compare to what could happen this weekend. I think this is nice, but it's a team game, and we want to win a national championship."

Stewart, a unanimous All-American, got 20 votes from the 36-member national media

panel that selects the weekly Top 25. Stanford's Chiney Ogumike received eight votes while Baylor's Odyssey Sims had six. Kayla McBride of Notre Dame received the other two votes.

Stewart joined former UConn star Maya Moore and Oklahoma's Courtney Paris as the only sophomores to win the award. Stewart helped the Huskies win the national championship as a freshman and has been a major reason why the Huskies are undefeated this season.

"I just think she grew up," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said of his young star. "She's a year older — it's not easy to be that good when you're that young and haven't played a lot of college basketball. She has a year's more experience as to what it takes to go through a college basketball season and knowing her, I think she is going to get better and better each day each week and each month. I'm really happy for her."

Like UConn, McGraw's Irish squad hasn't lost either, winning their first 36 games this season.

SPORTS

ALL-AREA GIRLS BASKETBALL

Player of the Year

TYRA HUGHES

WALKERSVILLE Senior Guard

■ The top player for a Walkersville team that reached the state semifinals. She score on hard drives through the lane, long jumpers and fast breaks set up by her steals. She had a knack for unleashing momentum-changing scoring spurts. One of them came in the Class 2A West Region championship, when she scored 17 of her game-high 23 points in the fourth quarter to help the Lions beat Century, 63-55.

■ After earning first-team honors as a sophomore and junior, she capped a stellar career by breaking team career records for scoring and steals. Averaged 17.1 points and 5.3 steals — which were both team highs — as well as 3.9 assists.

■ Will continue her career at the Naval Academy.



FIRST TEAM

TRONIKA BLACK

SENIOR FORWARD
THOMAS JOHNSON

■ Returning All-Area first-teamer who used her versatility to power the Patriots. Averaged 14.5 points, 12.4 rebounds, 3.3 assists, 3 steals and 4 blocks.

KIYANA CHANEY

SENIOR GUARD
FREDERICK

■ All-around player who averaged 10.7 points as well as team-highs of 4.7 steals and 3.6 assists for the MVAL Piedmont champion Cadets.

CIERRA HENSLEY

SENIOR FORWARD
FREDERICK

■ Another standout for the MVAL champ Cadets. Played much bigger than her 5-foot-8 frame, averaging a team-high 7.9 rebounds. Also averaged 8.8 points and 2.2 steals.

SHANIA JOHNSON

SENIOR GUARD
TUSCARORA

■ Before suffering a knee injury, she paced the Titans with sharp passes, crossover dribbles and game-changing scoring bursts. Averaged 20.1 points a game.

LANA LONG

SENIOR FORWARD
WALKERSVILLE

■ Dominant force in the paint for a Lions team that reached the state tournament. Averaged 14.5 points and 8.5 rebounds a game.



TINA NEGOESCU

SENIOR FORWARD
FREDERICK

■ Leading scorer for the MVAL Piedmont champ Cadets, averaging 13.4 points and 5.7 rebounds a game. Will continue her career at the University of Indianapolis.



SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name	School	Grade
F	KENDALL BRESEE	URBANA	SOPHOMORE
G	KRISTY ERFURDT	CATOCTIN	SENIOR
G	KELLI GRIFFITH	LINGANORE	SENIOR
G	CHASLYN DEREKSON	WALKERSVILLE	SENIOR
G	REGAN LOHR	URBANA	SOPHOMORE
F	MAKENNA MCSWEENEY	TJ	FRESHMAN
C	KATHERINE MOORE	TUSCARORA	SENIOR
F	ELIZABETH MOORMANN	OAKDALE	JUNIOR
G-F	CAMERON PITTS	OAKDALE	SOPHOMORE
C	JESSICA RACZ	MIDDLETOWN	SENIOR
C	CARLY TOLINO	MIDDLETOWN	JUNIOR

HONORABLE MENTION

Brunswick—Erin Fisher, Peyton Allison, Alexis Baker.
Catoctin—Amanda Hackney, Courtney Clemons, Kylie Raubaugh.
Frederick—Jasmine Whims, Andrea Mwando, Dajah Gee, Meghan Weeks.
Frederick Force—Joanna Hughes, McKenzie Quick.
Linganore—Alex Bullard, Danielle Ferris, Megan Kelly, Madison Ambush.
MSD—Tessa Lewis, Emily DeSimone.
Middletown—Rilee Bradshaw, Paige Bussard, Megan Harne.
New Life—Tirza Vick, Liz Catoe, Kelsi Stopyra.
Oakdale—Christi LaBella, Emma Bowman.
SJCP—Beth Ann Pierce, Mariama Keita, Paige Holston, Alexis Ogren.
TJ—Carissa Shepko, Tanaisia Jow, Katie Wareham, Katie Broadhurst.
Tuscarora—Taylor Johnson, Lyric Forney.
Urbana—Bailey Bresee, Madeline Cederdahl.
Walkersville—Maia Harper, McKenzie Mathis.

Matt Kuchar takes four-shot lead at Houston Open

HUMBLE, Texas (AP) — Matt Kuchar didn't have the result he had hoped for while playing in the final pairing at last week's Texas Open.

The six-time PGA Tour winner, who closed with a final-round 75 on his way to a fourth-place finish last week, will have the opportunity to show what he learned from that disappointing finish at this week's Houston Open.

Playing in the final pairing, Kuchar vaulted past a struggling Sergio Garcia with a 4-under-par 68 on Saturday — overcoming windy conditions at the Golf Club of Houston to match the low round of the day and take a four-shot lead after three rounds.

Kuchar stands at 15 under overall heading into Sunday's final round, four shots ahead of second-round leader Garcia and Cameron Tringale. The three will be paired together on Sunday.

"It's a nice position to have played well last week, to have been in the last group with a chance to win and again to come back this week, completely different course, and have another shot to win," Kuchar

said. Kuchar's last win came at the Memorial last year, and he has eight top 10 finishes this season in 10 events.

He'll have the opportunity to add to that resume on Sunday, weather permitting, as well as fuel his surging confidence leading into next week's Masters, where he finished in a tie for eighth last year.

The prospect of a winner's share of nearly \$1.2 million, however, has Kuchar locked in on this weekend first — even with the prospect of competing for his first major championship looming next week.

"I've been playing some steady golf for a couple of years now and feel like my chances of playing well tomorrow are pretty good," Kuchar said. "Having a four-shot lead is a great position to be in."

The golfers went off both tees in threesomes early Saturday morning in anticipation of severe weather in the evening, a format they'll use again Sunday with hopes of avoiding a Monday finish leading into next week's visit to Augusta National.

Garcia, who surged ahead

with a 7-under 65 on Friday, began the day with a one-shot lead over Kuchar. That disappeared quickly after the Spaniard bogeyed the first to fall back to 11 under and into a tie with his playing partner, Kuchar.

That was just the beginning of the struggles for Garcia, who later put his tee shot into the water on No. 10. He finished with a 1-over 73 after matching the course's low mark of 12 under after two rounds.

"Obviously, I didn't play as well as yesterday with the difficulty," Garcia said. "... It wasn't that easy."

Kuchar, meanwhile, birdied the first to move into the lead — a spot he didn't relinquish. He added back-to-back birdies on No. 4 and 5 to move to 14 under, and he added three birdies in a row on the back nine.

He reached 16 under with a birdie on the par-3 14th before three-putting the 18th and settling for 15 under.

"It's unbelievable," said Ben Curtis, who is tied for fifth at 8 under with Rickie Fowler. "(Kuchar's) on a great roll the last few years. Obviously, he's playing very confidently, and

that makes a huge difference." Kuchar missed his first four cuts at the Houston Open, but the American finished tied for eighth in 2010 and 2011 before not playing in the tournament the last two years.

His three rounds in the 60s this week have only been matched by Tringale, who shot a 3-under 69 on Saturday while playing in the next-to-last pairing.

Phil Mickelson, after withdrawing from last week's Texas Open with a muscle pull in his right side, was inconsistent from the opening hole Saturday.

The five-time major winner left his opening two approach shots short of the green, the second of which found the bunker and caused him to slump over in the fairway. That led to the first of back-to-back bogeys, though he did recover with three straight birdies on the back nine before settling for an even-par 72 — leaving him in a tie for eighth at 6 under.

"I don't know if I'll have a good round tomorrow or not," Mickelson said. "But it's close, a lot closer than it's been."



Associated Press

Matt Kuchar hits off the tee on the 10th hole during the third round of the Houston Open on Saturday.