

SPORTS

ALL-AREA GIRLS BASKETBALL

Player of the Year

SHANIA JOHNSON

TUSCARORA Junior Guard

■ Using speed on fast breaks or moves to slip by defenders, Johnson was Frederick County's top scoring threat all season. She led all county scorers, averaging 20.9 points a game, and she was the target of every defense the Titans faced. Her play helped Tuscarora go 13-9 after winning just three games the previous season.

■ Johnson's been a force since her freshman year, earning first-team All-Area honors last year. She became the first Tuscarora basketball player — girl or boy — to score her 1,000th career point, accomplishing that feat early in her junior season.

■ Johnson ranked among the county's assist leaders with 3.9 a game.



FIRST TEAM

TRONQUA BLACK

JUNIOR FORWARD
THOMAS JOHNSON

■ Multifaceted talent who can grab rebounds, block shots, handle the ball, shoot and play defense. Averaged 16.4 points, 12 rebounds, 5 blocks, 3 assists and 3 steals a game.



ERICA BULS

SENIOR FORWARD
OAKDALE

■ Her inside presence on both ends of the floor was huge for the Bears, and she was often double-teamed. Averaged 13.5 points, 10 rebounds and 3 blocks a game.



COURTNEY DAVIS

SENIOR GUARD
FREDERICK

■ Top player for the Cadets who ranked among county leaders in scoring and rebounding. Her production helped Frederick stay strong despite losing their top two players from 2011-12.



BRITTNEY GEORGE

SENIOR FORWARD
MIDDLETOWN

■ Sturdy athlete who played tough in the paint for the state finalist. Averaged 11.5 points and 7.5 rebounds. Also starred for the Knights' state-champion soccer team.



TYRA HUGHES

JUNIOR GUARD
WALKERSVILLE

■ Took over point guard duties when Dani Medovich got hurt and remained a major threat, averaging 15.7 points by scoring on jumpers or hard drives to the hoop. Also averaged 4.1 assists and 4.1 steals.



CLAUDIA LOHR

SENIOR GUARD
URBANA

■ Led the Hawks in scoring (12.7 points a game) and assists (2.8), ranking among Frederick County leaders in both categories.



CAITLIN McLISTER

SENIOR GUARD
MIDDLETOWN

■ Go-to player for state finalist Knights. With an ability to drive hard to the hoop, she averaged a team-best 13.9 points. Also a tough defender who had 2.4 steals a game and could deflect shots.



SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name	School	Grade
F	SAMIE ABERNETHY	URBANA	SENIOR
F	JESSICA BURKE	LINGANORE	SENIOR
G	KRISTY ERFURDT	CATOCTIN	JUNIOR
G	BAILEY GRIFFIN	TJ	SENIOR
G	KELLI GRIFFITH	LINGANORE	JUNIOR
F	LANA LONG	WALKERSVILLE	JUNIOR
G	TAYLOR MCGAUGHEY	OAKDALE	SENIOR
G	DANI MEDOVICH	WALKERSVILLE	SENIOR
G	JESS RACZ	MIDDLETOWN	JUNIOR
G	JAE'SHON SWANN	TJ	SENIOR

HONORABLE MENTION

Brunswick—Melanie Yeomans, Alyssa Smith-Henry, Peyton Allison.
Catoctin—Mackenzie Smith, Amanda Hackney, Stephanie Andrew.
Frederick—Jennifer Nguyen, Kiyana Chaney, Andrea Mwando, Tina Negoescu.
Frederick Force—Kathryn Romanchuk.
Frederick Warriors—Gabrielle Freese.
Linganore—Alexandra Bullard, Gabrielle Anwar.
MSD—Tessa Lewis, Mia Goldberg, Rebecca Washington, Emily DeSimone.
Middletown—Tisa Mullins, Connor Kelley, Carly Tolino.
New Life—Liz Catoe, Tirza Vick.
Oakdale—Olivia Spahr, Elizabeth Moorman.
St. John's-Catholic Prep—Beth Ann Pierce, Shannon Greene.
Thomas Johnson—Moesha Moton.
Tuscarora—Taylor Johnson, Katherine Moore.
Urbana—Bailey Bresee, Madeline Cederdahl.
Walkersville—Bri Nolen, Haley Bauer.

ShortTakes

from wire reports

Chargers release tackle Gaither

SAN DIEGO — The San Diego Chargers have released tackle Jared Gaither, who will go down as one of the biggest busts in former general manager A.J. Smith's tenure.

Gaither's release Wednesday after just one season of a four-year, \$24.5 million contract will cost the Chargers a \$6 million hit against the salary cap this year.

Gaither was claimed off waivers from division rival Kansas City late in the 2011 season and played well in the final five games. Eligible for free agency, he re-signed with the Chargers, who said there wasn't a better alternative on the market. Gaither developed a mysterious back injury early in training camp last summer and was slow to return, raising questions about his work ethic. Nicknamed "The Big Lazy" earlier in his career, he played in only four of the first 10 games before injuring his groin and going on injured reserve.

Signing Gaither in essence hurt the Chargers for two seasons.

World Peace out

MINNEAPOLIS — The Los Angeles Lakers' push for the playoffs just got a whole lot tougher.

Lakers forward Metta World Peace, the team's best perimeter defender, is scheduled to have surgery on Thursday to repair a torn meniscus in his left knee. He'll miss a minimum of six weeks, the team announced Wednesday.

That means that even if the Lakers get into the playoffs — they're in eighth place in the West, just a game ahead of Utah and Dallas for the final spot — he'd be sidelined for at least the first round and probably more.

Losing World Peace, who had been their most durable player, was the latest in a long line of injuries for a team that started the season with championship aspirations but just hasn't been able to sustain any stretch of health or success. Dwight Howard

(back and shoulder), Pau Gasol (foot), Kobe Bryant (ankle, wrist), Steve Nash (knee) and Jordan Hill (hip) have all missed significant time or had to play through injuries this season.

Forbes values Yankees at \$2.3 billion

NEW YORK — Forbes estimated the New York Yankees have the highest value in Major League Baseball for the 16th straight year at \$2.3 billion, and the average for an MLB team increased by 23 percent in the last year to \$744 million.

The magazine said Wednesday the Yankees' value increased from \$1.85 billion last year.

The Los Angeles Dodgers are second in MLB at \$1.62 billion — nearly \$400 million below the price paid for the team last May when a group headed by Mark Walter, Stan Kasten and Magic Johnson bought the franchise from Frank McCourt.

Forbes valued Boston third at \$1.3 billion.

Ga. Southern, Appalachian St. move up to Sun Belt

Two of the most dominant programs in the Football Championship Subdivision are moving up to Football Bowl Subdivision.

Georgia Southern and Appalachian State announced in separate press conferences on their campuses Wednesday their athletic programs are leaving the Southern Conference to join the Sun Belt Conference in 2014.

Idaho and New Mexico State also announced Wednesday they have accepted an invitation to join the Sun Belt next year in football only.

Georgia Southern's football team has won 10 Southern Conference titles and six national championships since 1985. Appalachian State has won 10 conference titles and three national championships.

Both schools are slated to begin playing Sun Belt games and will be revenue sharing members of the conference in 2014 and eligible for the Sun Belt conference title, but will not be eligible to play in a bowl game until 2015.

Umenyiora to join Falcons

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Falcons have found a replacement for John Abraham by reaching an agreement with free-agent defensive end Osi Umenyiora on a two-year contract.

The Falcons released the 34-year-old Abraham, who led the team with 10 sacks in 2012, on March 1.

With the 31-year-old Umenyiora, the Falcons have a slightly younger replacement at defensive end. Umenyiora had only six sacks for the Giants in 2012. He had a career-high 14½ sacks in 2005, but has reached double figures in only one of the last four years — 11½ in 2010.

Umenyiora, a two-time Pro Bowl selection, was a second-round pick by New York in 2003.

Cowboys sign two defenders

IRVING, Texas — The Dallas Cowboys signed safety Will Allen and linebacker Justin Durant to free-agent contracts.

Dallas was able to sign the two defensive players Wednesday after restructuring the contract of backup quarterback Kyle Orton and releasing receiver Anthony Armstrong to clear enough salary-cap space. Allen and Durant could be potential starters in the Cowboys' new 4-3 scheme with new defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin.

Auriemma signs new contract

STORRS, Conn. — Connecticut women's basketball coach Geno Auriemma has signed a new \$10.86 million contract, a deal designed to keep him at the school through the 2017-18 season, UConn announced Wednesday.