Taurasi retires after historic basketball career

PHOENIX (AP) — Diana Taurasi is retiring after 20 seasons, ending one of the greatest careers in women's basketball history.

The WNBA's career scoring leader and a three-time league champion, Taurasi announced her retirement on Tuesday in an interview with Time magazine. The Phoenix Mercury the only WNBA team she played for - also confirmed her decision.

"Mentally and physically, I'm just full," Taurasi told Time. "That's probably the best way I can describe it. I'm full and I'm happy."

With her taut hair bun and supreme confidence, Taurasi inspired a generation of players while racking up records and championships.

Taurasi led UConn to three straight national titles from 2001-04 and kept on winning after the Mercury selected her with the No. 1 overall pick of the 2004 WNBA draft.

"It's hard to put into words, it really is, what this means. When someone's defined the game, when someone's had such an impact on so many people and so many places. You can't define it with a quote," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "It's a life that is a novel, it's a movie, it's a miniseries, it's a saga. It's the life of an extraordinary person who, I think, had as much to do with changing women's basketball as anyone who's ever played the game."

The 42-year-old won her sixth Olympic gold medal at the Paris Games and finishes her WNBA career with 10,646 points, nearly 3,000



Diana Taurasi looks to pass the ball while playing for the Phoenix Mercury of the WNBA in 2024.

more than second-place Tina Charles. "I thank Diana for everything that she has brought to the WNBA — her passion, her charisma and, most of all, her relentless dedication to the game," WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert said in a statement. "She leaves a lasting legacy and the future of the WNBA is in a great position because of her impact, that

will be felt for generations to come." In addition to her three WNBA championships with the Mercury, Taurasi won six Euroleague championships while playing year-round most of her career. She was the 2009 WNBA MVP and is one of four players to earn WNBA Finals MVP honors more than once (2009, 2014).

"Diana is the greatest to have ever

played the game. I've been a fan of her my entire life, she is the ultimate leader and teammate," Mercury owner Mat Ishbia said in a statement. "She's had an incredible impact on our franchise, our community and the game of basketball. Her name is synonymous with the Phoenix Mercury and she will forever be part of our family.'

Taurasi made the all-WNBA first team 10 times and was on the first or second team a record 14 times. She's also an 11-time WNBA All-Star, four-time USA Basketball female athlete of the year and was the 2004 WNBA rookie of the year.

"In my opinion, what the greats have in common is, they transcend the sport and become synonymous with the sport," Auriemma said. "For as long as people talk about college basketball, WNBA basketball, Olympic basketball, Diana is the greatest winner in the history of basketball, period. I've had the pleasure of being around her for a lot of those moments, and she's the greatest teammate I've ever coached."

The Glendale, California, native holds numerous WNBA records, including playoff scoring, field goals, 3-pointers and 30-point games. She also holds 16 Mercury records.

Now that she's retired, Taurasi will be able to spend more time with her wife, Penny Taylor — a former Mercury teammate — and their two children.

For her career, Taurasi averaged 18.8 points, 4.2 assists and 3.9 rebounds. She averaged 14.9 points, 3.8 rebounds and 3.4 assists while leading the Mercury to the playoffs during her 20th season.

"I mean, she just scored at all three levels," Las Vegas Aces coach Becky Hammon said. "Just nasty out there. Just had that nasty, which I love. Like, you love that as a competitor. So our league is going to miss her.'

Gators rally past Panthers; Bulldogs cruise past Wolves

BROCKWAY — Peyton Gordon tallied six of her 10 points in against Kane on Friday with the site the fourth quarter as No. 3 seed Port Allegany rallied for a 46-44 victory over No. 2 seed Keystone in the semifinals of the District 9 Class 2A girls basketball playoffs held at Brockway High School.

Coach Andy Traister's Panthers still remain alive, though, as they

will compete in the third-place game and time to be determined.

The Panthers led for the majority of the contest as they sported leads of 17-8 after one frame, 24-16 at halftime and 35-29 after three periods, however, the Gators took over down the stretch with a 17-9 surge. Gordon buried a pair of buckets and two free throws to lead the late charge while Ella Moses netted five of her 11 points in the fourth while Maddy Errick had four of her five points and Brynn Evens added two of her 14 points in the pivotal stanza.

Ashlee Albright topped the Panthers with a game-high 18 points, Bella Brandon followed with 10 and Jill Winters added six.

Redbank Valley 65, Kane 33

BROCKWAY — Mylee Harmon and Addy Bond teamed up to net 49 points as Redbank Valley made short work of Kane, 65-33, in the District 9 Class 2A semifinals.

The Bulldogs led 19-13 after one quarter of play before Harmon erupted for 15 points in a 26-7 second stanza that gave RV a 45-20 halftime advantage and allowed them to cruise after the break.

Harmon would finish with a game-high 29 points while Bond followed with 20. Kira Bonanno added eight points.

Redbank will now square off against Port Allegany in the finals on Saturday at PennWest Clarion.

Orioles

Continued from Page B1

"We knew we were going to take punches. I didn't know it'd be right off the bat like that. It was a battle."

Eisenhower tallied the first two buckets of the third quarter before halftime adjustments kicked in for Rocky Grove. The Orioles embarked on a 9-0 run and finished the frame with a 19-5 march to post a 39-35 advantage at the horn.

"I think we just came out a little sluggish. It was a long bus ride and we were sitting around, not totally focused. Our warmups were sloppy and we got a little chewed out a halftime, which woke us up a little bit and we came back and came out faster in the second half," Schiffer Anderson said. "We definitely picked it up on the defensive end. We got some steals and deflections. We didn't turn the ball over and

some momentum. That was big."

Anderson led the way in the third as he scored nine of his 15 points in the pivotal frame. Noah Baughman added seven of his team-high 16 points and Connor Ritchey had five points in the spree.

The Orioles saw their lead grow as high as nine points, 44-35, in the fourth when Landen Carter, who finished with 12 points, drained a trey and Baughman added another hoop.

However, Ike made a fierce final started hitting some threes and got run. The Knights came within 49-48

with 1:48 to play. Anderson came through with a hoop, but Jaydon Chase's triple tied the game at 51-all with 39.5 seconds to go.

Once again, Anderson drove to the hoop and scored to put Rocky Grove up, 53-51, with 27.3 seconds to go. Eisenhower maintained possession and ran its final play off an inbounds pass with 4.1 seconds to go. Hanson produced seemingly his only miss of the evening to preserve the win.

"I knew it was going to be a war

and (the Knights) weren't ever going to give up," Coach Anderson said.

Rocky Grove meets Lakeview (19-5), a 68-65 winner over Mercyhurst Prep, for the D-10 title on Friday. The Orioles edged the Sailors, 59-56, on Dec. 10.

"We saw Lakeview earlier this year, so we know what we have to focus on and we have to take care of business when we get there," Schiffer Anderson said. "The job's not finished. We have to lock in

Oilers

Continued from Page B1

Anderson Franco answered with

the frame, Stinson buried a runner and a free throw before Chase Melat at the buzzer to set the final score. finished off the run with an old-fashioned three-point play to put the score at 44-31.

Book ended the run with a jumper, but the Rockets were too far behind to catch up as Fink connected again before Melat buried his second three-pointer of the contest for a 16-point lead at 49-33. After a free throw from Max Kovacik, Stinson hit a free throw and a layup before Doug Senge buried a jumper for SR

Fink provided a big spark for the Oilers in that pivotal fourth quarter with eight points off the bench.

"He's been like an energy guy for us all year," Chapin said of Fink. "He comes in, makes plays, gets rebounds and takes over the game."

The game was close through the first three quarters as Book kept the Rockets in the contest with 15 points during that span. He had nine in the first quarter as

SR held a 12-10 edge. He added four more in the second as the Rockets went into the break with a 19-18 lead.

But, Book netted only four points in the final quarter and six total in the second half as the Oilers won the third period, 10-7, and the fourth, 24-10.

"We challenged the guys at halftime and said, 'We did a good job of flying around, but he still got some easy looks. If we take out those easy looks and just make it a little harder, then we can really slow them down,"

Chapin said of stopping Book.

Stinson led the Oilers with 13 points, McMahon finished with 12 points and Melat 11 points, but the Oilers left some points on the board by making only 9-of-16 free throws.

"If we continue to play defense like how we played tonight — that was our best defensive outing of the season by far — and we improve on our free throws, then I think we can win a few games in the state playoffs and make some noise," Chapin said.

Toronto

Florida

Detroit

Ottawa

Montreal

Metropolitan

Washington

Buffalo

Carolina

Columbus

N.Y. Rangers Philadelphia

N.Y. Islanders

Pittsburgh

Central

Winnipeg Dallas

Minnesota

Colorado

St. Louis

Nashville

Los Angeles

Anaheim

Seattle

Pacific

Utah

Tampa Bay

a basket for the Rockets, but the Oilers began to pull away as they went on a 10-1 run to open up a 13-point advantage. Will McMahon got it started with a jumper, and after a free throw from SR's Doug Popovec, Fink added his third bucket of

NHL STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

185 165

171 181

160 163 172 161 190 196

187

62 177 180 59 174 196 57 156 171 55 171 220

GF

208 194 169

163

147 152 **GF**

190 189 161 169 141

161

164 146 191

165

201 GA

168 171 175

62 62 59

53

84 70 70 212 149

64

68 60

47 41

74 72 69

64 63

57 54 146

OT Pts

11

OT Pts

36

30

27

W

38

28

29

25

23 28

WESTERN CONFERENCE

24 26 24

30 33

17

21 20 25

31 36

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.

Monday's Games

Tuesday's Games

Wednesday's Games

Thursday's Games

L OT Pts 14 3 85

58

58 59 57

GP W 41 37 34

58

GP

55

Winnipeg 2, San Jose 1, OT

Los Angeles 5, Vegas 2

Montreal 4, Carolina 0 Philadelphia 6, Pittsburgh 1 Columbus 6, Dallas 4 Calgary 3, Washington 1

Buffalo 3. Anaheim 2

St. Louis 7, Seattle 2

Chicago at Utah, late

Winnipeg at Ottawa, 7 p.m.

Buffalo at Carolina, 7 p.m.

Calgary at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.

Columbus at Detroit, 7 p.m.

Edmonton at Florida, 7 p.m.

N.Y. Islanders at Boston, 7 p.m San Jose at Montreal, 7 p.m. St. Louis at Washington, 7 p.m.

Winnipeg at Nashville, 8 p.m.

Minnesota at Utah, 9 n m.

Chicago at Vegas, 10 p.n Vancouver at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.

New Jersey at Colorado, 9:30 p.m.

Vancouver at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.

Toronto 5, Boston 4, OT

N.Y. Rangers 5, N.Y. Islanders 1 Tampa Bay 4, Edmonton 1 Detroit 3, Minnesota 2

60 25 59 15

PENGUINS SUMMARY Philadelphia 6, Pittsburgh 1 Pittsburgh Philadelphia First Period—1, Philadelphia, Ristolainen 4 (Zamula, Michkov), 3:56. 2, Philadelphia, Cates 11 (Brink, Pelletier), 12:19. Penalties—Beauvillier, PIT (High

Sticking), 6:48. Second Period—3, Pittsburgh, Tomasino 8 (Letang, Bunting), 6:09. 4, Philadelphia, Foerster 16 (Drysdale, Brink), 11:55. 5, Philadelphia, Cates 12 (Foerster, Brink), 18:55. 6, Philadelphia, Brink 8 (Foerster, Cates), 19:05. Penalties—Letang, PIT (Cross Checking), 0:37; Hathaway, PHI (Interference), 8:05.

Third Period—7, Philadelphia, Tippett 17 (Michkov, Couturier), 6:06. Penalties—Rust, PIT (Holding), 0:16; Seeler, PHI (Hooking), 3:47.

Shots on Goal—Pittsburgh 6-10-7—23. Philadelphia 15-14-9—38. Power-play opportunities—Pittsburgh 0 of 2; Phila-

delphia 0 of 3. Goalies—Pittsburgh, Nedeljkovic 12-11-5 (38 shots-32 saves). Philadelphia, Ersson 18-10-3 (23-22). A—19,089 (19,543). T—2:24. Referees—Mitch Dunning, Gord Dwyer. Lines-

men—Shandor Alphonso, Tyson Baker.

THIS DATE IN SPORTS Feb. 26

1935 — Babe Ruth is released by the New York Yankees and signed by the Boston Braves.

1938 — Glenn Cunningham sets a world indoor re-

York's Madison Square Garden. Cunningham finishes 1947 — Brothers Doug and Max Bentley lead the Chicago Blackhawks to a 9-7 win over the New York Rangers at Madison Square Garden. Doug Bentley scores four goals and sets up two more goals. Max Bentley scores three goals and assists on another goal.

1960 — Dave Jenkins of the United States wins the

cords in 1500-meter race at the AAU nationals at New

figure skating gold medal at the Winter Olympics in Squaw Valley, Calif. 1967 — Mario Andretti, better known for his accomplishments in open-wheel and USAC competition, wins the Daytona 500 pulling away from 1965 champion Fred Lorenzen in the closing laps. It's Andretti's his first and only NASCAR Grand National event. He is the only person born outside the United States to win

1968 — Thirty-two African nations agree to boycott the Olympics because of the presence of South Africa. 1981 — The Boston Bruins beat the Minnesota North Stars 5-1 in a game marred by fights. The teams set an NHL record with 84 penalties worth 392 minutes, and 12 players are ejected.

1987 — Michael Jordan scores 58 points, the most by a Chicago player in a regular-season game, to lead the Bulls over the New Jersey Nets 128-113. Jordan scores almost half his points from the free throw line, — NFL Dallas Cowboys fire coach Tom Landry

after a 29-year career.
1989 — Pittsburgh's Mario Lemieux becomes the third NHL player to have 100 assists in a season, joining Bobby Orr and Wayne Gretzky. Lemieux gets three assists and a goal in the Penguins' 8-6 loss to the Hart-

1994 — In Lillehammer, Norway, Vreni Schneider of Switzerland wins the slalom for the fifth medal of her career, the most of any woman in Alpine Olympic history. 2006 — Sweden beats Finland 3-2 to win the Olympic men's hockey gold. Germany leaves Turin with the most overall medals with 29, 11 of them gold, while the Americans win 25 medals overall, including nine gold.

Pro Golf Glance

THE DAILY SCOREBOARD

PGA Tour COGNIZANT CLASSIC Site: Palm Beach Gardens, Florida,

Course: PGA National (Champions). Yardage: 7,167. Par: 71. money: \$9.2 million. Winner's share: Prize

\$1,656,000. Television: Thursday-Friday, 2-6 p.m. (Golf Channel); Saturday-Sunday, 1-3 p.m. (Golf Channel), 3-6 p.m. (NBC).

Defending champion: Austin Eckroat.

FedEx Cup leader: Ludvig Aberg. Last week: Brian Campbell won the Mexico Open. Notes: Jordan Spieth was a late entry into the Cognizant Classic, a tournament he will be playing for the first time. ... Daniel Berger, who grew up in south Florida and considers this his home event, is just outside the top 50 as he tries to earn a return to the Masters. ... Will Chandler was a Monday qualifier for the Phoenix Open and finished in the top 10, getting him into the Mexico Open. He received a sponsor exemption this week at PGA National. ... This is the first of four straight weeks in Florida. ... Florida State junior Luke Clanton is playing on an exemption. He will earn enough points for a PGA Tour card in June if he makes the cut. ... European Ryder Cup captain Luke Donald is in the field as a sponsor exemption. ... The field features 16 of the top 50 players in the world. ... Austin Eckroat won the first of his two PGA Tour titles last year at the Cognizant Classic.

Next week: Arnold Palmer Invitational.
Online: https://www.pgatour.com/
LPGA Tour

HSBC WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP Site: Singapore. Course: Sentosa GC (Tanjong). Yardage: 6,779. Par: 72.

Prize money: \$2.4 million. Winner's share: \$360,000. Television: Wednesday-Saturday, 9:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. (Golf Channel).

Defending champion: Hannah Green.
Race to CME Globe leader: Angel Yin.
Last week: Angel Yin won the Honda LPGA Thailand.

Notes: The field features nine of the top 10 in the women's world ranking — and 13 of the top 15 players — minus only top-ranked Nelly Korda and Rose Zhang, who is at Stanford working on her degree. ...
Jin Young Ko will try to become the first three-time
winner of the HSBC Women's World Championship. Inbee Park also has two titles in Singapore. ... The tournament bills itself as "Asia's major," and it has a roll call of champions to back that up. Twelve of the 14 winners since it began in 2008 are major champions. That includes the inaugural winner, Lorena Ochoa. She won by 11 shots at 268, both tournament records. ... Akie Iwai, who shot 61 in the final round and was runner-up to Angel Yin in Thailand, is not in the field... This is the second of three tournaments as part of the first Asia swing on the LPGA schedule. ... All three LPGA winners this year — A Lim Kim, Yealimi Noh and Yin — are part of the 66-player field. Next week: Blue Bay LPGA.
Online: https://www.lpga.com/

European Tour and Sunshine Tour INVESTEC SOUTH AFRICAN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP Site: Durban, South Africa. Course: Durban CC. Yardage: 6,691. Par: 72

Prize money: \$1.5 million. Winner's share: \$250,000. Television: Thursday-Friday, 6-11 a.m. (Golf Channel); Saturday, 5:30-10 a.m. (Golf Channel); Sunday, 4:30-9:30 a.m. (Golf Channel).

Defending champion: Dean Burmester. Race to Dubai leader: Tyrrell Hatton. Last week: Jacques Kruyswijk won the Magical Ken-

BASKETBALL BOXSCORES

BOYS DISTRICT 9 CLASS 3A CHAMPIONSHIP

CRANBERRY (53)
Marchinke 2 5-8 10, Findlay 8 4-4 21, Morrow 2 0-0 5, Baker 3 0-0 6, Blauser 1 5-8 7, Zerbe 2 0-0 4, Sanchez 0 0-0 0. Totals: 18 14-20 53

BROOKVILLE (46)
Malkins 2 0-0 4, Miller 0 0-0 0, Haines 8 3-6 19, Burton 2 0-0 6, Jo. Semeyn 1 0-0 2, Taylor 2 0-0 4, J. Lucas 4 0-0 9, W. Lucas 1 0-0 2, Marrara 0 0-0 0, Ja. Semeyn 0 0-0 0. Totals: 20 3-6 46.

Score by Quarters 6 11 15 21 — 9 10 10 17 — 3-point goals — Cranberry (Marchinke, Findlay, Morrow), Brookville (Burton 2, J. Lucas).

DISTRICT 10 CLASS 4A CONSOLATION

Old CITY (52)
Melat 4 1-1 11, Heise 2 2-2 6, Stinson 5 3-8 13, Singleton 1 0-0 2, McMahon 4 3-4 12, Jones 0 0-0 0, Fink 4 0-1 8, Dasher 0 0-0 0. Totals: 20 9-16 52.
SLIPPERY ROCK (36)

Book 8 2-2 19, Kovacik 1 2-4 5, Popovec 0 1-2 1, King 0 0-0 0, Franco 1 5-7 7, Darr 1 0-0 2, Campagna 0 0-0 0, Zorn 0 0-0 0, Grossman 0 0-0 0, Caldwell 0 0-0 0, Allen 0 0-0 0, Harry 0 0-0 0, Senge 1 0-0 2. Totals

12 10-15 36. Score by Quarters 10 0 10 24 — 12 7 7 10 — Slippery Rock

3-point goals — Oil City (Melat 2, McMahon), Slip-pery Rock (Book, Kovacik).

DISTRICT 10 CLASS 2A BOYS SEMIFINAL EISENHOWER (51)

Chase 3 0-0 8, Seymour 3 0-0 6, Hanson 9 6-6 25, Guiher 0 0-0 0, Lindemuth 4 1-1 9, Mandeville 1 0-0 3 Totals: 20 7-7 51.

ROCKY GROVE (53) Focht 1 0-0 3, Carter 3 3-4 12, Ritchey 3 0-0 7, Baughman 6 2-2 16, Anderson 6 2-2 15, Hughes 0 0-0 0. To-

tals:19 7-8 53. Score By Quarters 14 8 13 9 9 21 Rocky Grove 14 3-point goals: Eisenhower (Chase 2, Hanson, Mandeville), Rocky Grove (Carter 3, Baughman 2, Ritchey,

Anderson, Focht). GIRLS DISTRICT 9 CLASS 2A SEMIFINALS

KEYSTONE (44)
Say 1 1-2 3, Albright 7 1-3 18, Brandon 3 3-8 10, Patrick 1 0-0 2, Winters 2 2-6 6, Bell 0 0-2 0, McElravy 2 1-2 5, McGiffin 0 0-0 0, Henry 0 0-0 0. Totals: 16 PORT ALLEGANY (46)

Renner 1 2-2 4, Moses 5 1-4 11, Errick 2 1-2 5, Gordon 2 6-8 10, Sauers 0 0-2 0, Evens 3 7-8 14. Totals: 14 17-26 46. Score by Quarters

17 7 11 9 —
8 8 13 17 — Port Allegany

3-point goals — Keystone (Albright 3, Brandon), PA (Evens). SPORTS SCENE

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 26 GIRLS BASKETBALL District 10 Class 4A Semifinals Franklin vs. Fairview at Meadville H.S. (7:30 p.m.) BOYS BASKETBALL District 9 Class 2A Semifinals at PennWest Clarion

LOCAL POOL LEAGUE

Oil City Club Pool League Week 8 (Feb. 23) Results — VFW A def. Elks B 9-3, VFW B def. Elks A 9-3, Eagles B def. Pulaski A 10-2,

Pulaski B def. Eagles A 7-5 Standings — Eagles B 7-1, VFW B 7-1, Pulaski B 6-2, VFW A 5-3, Eagles A 3-5, Pulaski B 3-5, Elks A 1-7, Elks B 0-8 Four Wins — Ricky Kimes, Dave isenberg, Moe Wile, Dick Lowry

Wile, Dick Lowry
Two Singles Wins — Eric Culver, Rose Van wormer,
Troy Cichra, Ed James, Dave Fleeger
Doubles Sweep — Eagles B, VFW B
Eight on the Break — Cody Culver

SPORTS ON TV Wednesday, Feb. 26 COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S) 6:30 p.m.

BTN — Michigan St. at Maryland FS1 — Georgetown at UConn 7 p.m. ACCN — Notre Dame at Clemson CBSSN — Dayton at Rhode Island ESPN2 — Mississippi at Auburn

ESPNU — NC State at Syracuse
PEACOCK — St. Bonaventure at Saint Joseph's
SECN — Vanderbilt at Texas A&M 8:30 p.m. BTN — Penn St. at Indiana

FS1 — Villanova at Seton Hall 9 p.m.
ACCN — Boston College at Stanford CBSSN — St. John's at Butler ESPN2 — Texas at Arkansas ESPNU — Virginia at Wake Forest PEACOCK — DePaul at Creighton

SECN — Kentucky at Oklahoma 10:30 p.m. BTN — Ohio St. at Southern Cal FS1 — Utah St. at Boise St.

CBSSN — San Francisco at Oregon St. ESPNU - SMU at California COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)

8 p.m.
PEACOCK — UCLA at Wisconsin
GOLF

9:30 p.m.

GOLF — LPGA Tour: The HSBC Women's World Championship, First Round, Sentosa Golf Club — Tanjong Course, Singapore MLB BASEBALL

1 p.m.
MLBN — Spring Training: Philadelphia vs. Toronto, 3 p.m. MLBN — Spring Training: L.A. Dodgers vs. Mil-

waukee (ss), Phoenix

NBA BASKETBALL 7:10 p.m. ESPN — Philadelphia at New York 9:35 p.m. ESPN — San Antonio at Houston NHL HOCKEY

10 p.m.
TNT — Vancouver at Los Angeles TRUTV — Vancouver at Los Angeles SOCCER (MEN'S)

12:50 p.m. FS2 — The French Cup: USL Dunkerque at Stade 3 p.m.
FS2 — The French Cup: Paris Saint-Germain at Stade

Clarion vs. Keystone (6:30 p.m.) Clarion-Limestone vs. Redbank Valley (8 p.m.)