

SPORTS

Submit Sports story ideas, team photos, scores and tips for all ages to sports@austindailyherald.com and 507-434-2234

Sports schedule

Wednesday
No events scheduled
Thursday
No events scheduled
Friday
NAHL hockey: Aberdeen at Austin Bruins, 7:05 p.m.
College basketball: Riverland at Hibbing, women at 5:30 p.m., men at 7:30 p.m.
Girls hockey: Rochester John Marshal at Austin, noon
NAHL hockey: Aberdeen at Austin Bruins, 7:05 p.m.
College basketball: Riverland at Fort du Lac Tribal College, women at 1 p.m., men at 3 p.m.
Minnesota Class A State Football semifinals: Blooming Prairie vs. Ada-Borup at US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, 11:30 a.m.

Scoreboard

National Basketball Association

Tuesday's Games
Cleveland at Philadelphia, (L)
Oklahoma City at Indiana, (L)
Detroit at Miami, (L)
New York at Chicago, (L)
Atlanta at Denver, (L)
Brooklyn at Utah, (L)
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix, (L)
Portland at Sacramento, (L)

Wednesday's Games
Memphis at Charlotte, 6 p.m.
Philadelphia at Orlando, 6 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Houston, 6:30 p.m.
Washington at Boston, 6:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
Golden State at L.A. Lakers, 9 p.m.
Toronto at Portland, 9 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Miami at Cleveland, 5 p.m.
Chicago at Milwaukee, 7 p.m.
Dallas at New York, 7 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at New Orleans, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
Brooklyn at Denver, 9:30 p.m.

National Hockey League

Tuesday's Games
Florida at Boston, 6 p.m.
Columbus at Montreal, 6 p.m.
Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers, 6:30 p.m.
Colorado at Winnipeg, 7 p.m.
Arizona at St. Louis, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Anaheim, 9 p.m.
Nashville at Vancouver, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Los Angeles, 9:30 p.m.
Edmonton at San Jose, 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Ottawa at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Toronto vs. N.Y. Islanders at Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum, 7 p.m.
Washington at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m.
Dallas at Calgary, 9:30 p.m.
Chicago at Vegas, 10 p.m.

Thursday's Games
Winnipeg at Florida, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Arizona at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Colorado at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
San Jose at Anaheim, 10 p.m.
Dallas at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Detroit at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Briefs

Area players to compete in all-star game

A pair of area football players will play in the Minnesota Football Showcase, which will be played at U.S. Bank Stadium at 1:05 p.m. on Dec. 7.

Southland linebacker Carter Schmitz and Blooming Prairie tight end Gabe Hagen have both been selected to the South Team.

The teams will practice Dec. 4-6 at Concordia University-St. Paul (North team) and Augsburg.

Alabama 5th in CFP committee rankings after loss to LSU

Alabama is fifth in the latest College Football Playoff rankings, behind LSU, Ohio State, Clemson and Georgia, which took over the fourth spot in the selection committee's second top 25.

LSU replaced Ohio State as No. 1 on Tuesday night after the Tigers won at Alabama on Saturday. The Buckeyes were bumped to No. 2. Clemson moved up two spots to No. 3 after two teams ahead of the Tigers lost for the first time last week, including Alabama.

The Crimson Tide fell to 46-41 to LSU and dropped two spots. Penn State, which had been No. 4, lost 31-26 at Minnesota and fell to ninth. The unbeaten Gophers climbed nine spots to eighth, the largest one-week jump in the six-year history of the College Football Playoff.

Georgia moved up two spots to give the Southeastern Conference two of the top four for the second straight week.

Selection committee chairman Rob Mullens, the Oregon athletic director, said Georgia's loss to South Carolina (4-6) was noted by the committee, but the Bulldogs' victories against No. 11 Florida and No. 16 Notre Dame pushed them past Alabama.

Oregon was sixth and fellow Pac-12 team Utah was seventh.

Oklahoma, the highest-ranked Big 12 team at No. 10, dropped a spot after a one-point victory against Iowa State.



Austin's Colie Justice with the bounce pass in the first half against Robbinsdale Cooper during the quarterfinals of the Minnesota Class AAA Girls State Basketball Tournament last season. Justice has committed to play basketball at University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Herald file photo

In dad's footsteps

Colie Justice heading to University of Wisconsin-River Falls where her father Steve Justice played

By Rocky Hulne
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It's been more than 30 years since Austin grad Steve Justice was dishing out assists for the University of Wisconsin-River Falls men's basketball team and now his daughter, Austin senior Colie, is going to take her game to her father's alma mater.

Colie recently made her verbal commitment to play basketball at UWRF, although her decision is based much more on the school's revamped athletic facilities and first-year head coach Blake DuDonis than Steve's accomplishments.

"Ironically, it didn't have anything to do with my dad. Maybe, deep down, he wanted me to go there but he didn't push me to go there. It was actually my idea," Colie said. "I wanted to visit their because they have a new athletic facility and a new coach. You can tell (DuDonis) wants to know you more as a person and he wants to be there for you off the court. I really like it there."

Steve Justice, who played on the 1981 and 1982 Austin teams that went to state, played for the Falcons from 1983-87 and ranks 18th in school history with 176 career assists.

Colie also has a chance to play in two state tournaments as she was on the Packer team that advanced to state last winter. She plays point guard just like Steve and she averaged 11.9 points, 2.3 assists, 2.6 rebounds and 1.6 steals per game.

While she was hampered by a knee injury that caused her to miss her sophomore season, Colie



"It's a big commitment, but I knew for sure that I wanted to keep going after high school."

Colie Justice

has always had her heart set on playing college basketball.

"It's a big commitment, but I knew for sure that I wanted to keep going after high school," Colie said. "It's nice knowing that after being a Packer, I'll be a Falcon. I don't want it to

be done too soon here, but it's nice to know I'll have (UWRF) after this."

Austin head coach Eric Zoske said that Colie has put in all of the offseason work to put her in position to play at the next level.

"She leads in the offseason. She does a great job of coming to the open gyms and the weight room sessions," Zoske said. "She's shown the girls around her the dedication it takes to be a good basketball player and now she's getting the rewards of going on to be a college basketball player."

Colie is already preparing herself to compete at the next level. Instead of competing in a fall sport, she focused on crossfit training and she has noticed the impact of those workouts.

"I can already tell that I've gotten a lot stronger, just running up the floor and getting boards," Colie said. "Physicality can always improve and I also need to work on a tighter handle (on the basketball). I can always improve with my left hand as well."

Austin will open its season at Rochester Century at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 21. Austin's home opener will be against Albert Lea at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 3.

The UWRF women's basketball team is off to a 1-1 overall start to its season.

Ajuda Nywesh hits overseas courts

By Rocky Hulne
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Basketball has taken Austin grad Ajuda Nywesh to North Dakota, Tennessee and back to Minnesota. Now it's taken him across the Atlantic Ocean for a 5,246 mile trek to Skopje in North Macedonia.

Nywesh has been playing for Vardar Skopje in a professional league and he's off to a hot start as he is averaging 17.8 points, 5.3 rebounds and 2 assists per game, while shooting 56.8 percent from the field. Nywesh hasn't played in an organized basketball game since 2017 when he was with the University of Minnesota-Crookston, but he was able to land on Vardar's roster when he traveled with his cousin for a pre-practice tryout.

Nywesh has rekindled his love for basketball overseas and he's learning a whole lot about Northern Macedonia, which borders Greece, Bulgaria, Kosovo and Albania.

"Playing overseas is

"Playing overseas is inspiring and the brand of basketball is beautiful."

Ajuda Nywesh

inspiring and the brand of basketball is beautiful. It's more team oriented less one-on-one and the fans are a little bit more on the edge," Nywesh said. "Living overseas is fun because I'm adjusting to a whole different culture. I miss my family but the sacrifice I'm making will one day give them the opportunity to be here with me and enjoy the hard work that's been put in since I started playing serious basketball in ninth grade."

Darko Radulovic, head coach of Vardar, said the team plays in the highest league in Macedonia and its goal is to promote young players. Last year the league began adding foreign players to increase the quality of play.

Radulovic compared the level of play to that of

the Bosnian, Montenegro and Croatian leagues and he said Nywesh has found his stride early.

"He's been improving all the time, and I'm sure will improve even more," Radulovic said. "His shooting capabilities are great, also he is great in running the transition and stealing balls. We are working on some defensive matters now, so I hope in short time he will be very good in that segments as well."

After playing in three state tournaments with the Packers, Nywesh finished with 1,000 career points in two years at Lake Region College and he spent a brief time with Division I Tennessee Martin University before transferring out. He's hoping some current Packers, including his younger

brother Agwa, can make their own run into the college ranks.

"The kids that are using basketball as a vehicle to get out of Austin is what drives me," Nywesh said. "I feel it's my responsibility to pioneer the path so all they have to do is follow the path and eventually break free to create their own path."

Nywesh said he's hoping to eventually find a way to help out in Africa as his team is looking to get involved in that continent as well.

"I know kids need opportunity to pioneer out there (in Africa) and using education and sports as a vehicle will not only help them, it will also help the up-and-coming generations after them," Nywesh said. "I feel like my calling is helping in places with limited resources. Getting up in the morning is way easier when all I have to do is walk in arenas and hit game winners for kids that need opportunity."

Shildt, Baldelli are Managers of the Year

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mike Shildt began his life in baseball at his mom's side, tagging along for her shifts at a Double-A ballpark and picking up odd jobs around the clubhouse.

When Shildt was recognized Tuesday night for the career that has followed, the late Lib Shildt was the first thing on his mind.

Less than a week after his mother's passing, Shildt was honored for piloting the St. Louis Cardinals back into the playoffs, narrowly beating Craig Counsell of the Milwaukee Brewers to win NL Manager of the Year.

Shildt earned the award in his first full season on the job, even though Counsell received more first-place votes in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Minnesota Twins manager Rocco Baldelli won the AL prize in a tight ballot over Aaron Boone of the New York Yankees. Both received 13 first-place votes, but Baldelli got more second-place nods. The 38-year-old is the youngest to win the award.

Shildt teared up upon learning he'd been chosen. The 51-year-old is the first manager of the year who never played pro ball at any level. Of course, he's been around the pro game since he was a child, when his mom took him to her job with the Charlotte O's in the Baltimore Orioles' system.

"Appreciative of the time and love she and my dad invested in me," Shildt said.

Shildt replaced Mike Matheny as Cardinals manager during the 2018 season, and under his steady guidance, St. Louis has been among baseball's best teams since. The club won 91 games and the NL Central crown this year, ending the franchise's three-year postseason drought. The Cardinals gave Shildt a contract extension through the 2022 season.

"I set my sights on being the best coach I could be just like being the best player I could be, and the journey has led me here," Shildt said.

Atlanta's Brian Snitker was third after winning the award last year. The Dodgers' Dave Roberts finished fourth, and Nationals manager Dave Martinez was fifth. Washington turned a 19-31 start into a World Series championship, but voting for the award concluded before the postseason began. The Nationals entered the playoffs as a wild card, not far off from preseason expectations.

Baldelli and Shildt are the eighth and ninth managers to win this award in their first full seasons on the job.

Baldelli took over a team that won 78 games in 2018 and pushed them to 101 victories and an AL Central title. He worked tightly with Minnesota's analytics-focused front office — a shift from predecessor Paul Molitor, who won this award in 2017 — and oversaw a turnaround propelled by the team's major league record 307 home runs.

The self-dubbed Bomb Squad thrived under Baldelli, whose big league playing career was spoiled by a rare disorder that led to frequent fatigue and soft tissue injuries.

One of Baldelli's priorities was keeping players rested, a strategy that worked especially well with his catchers. Nobody started more than 73 games behind the plate for Minnesota, yet the trio of Mitch Garver, Jason Castro and Williams Astudillo combined for 48 home runs, most in the majors by any team's catchers.

Jorge Polanco emerged as a star at shortstop, Miguel Sano and Byron Buxton began to meet the expectations that followed exceptional minor league careers, Nelson Cruz kept putting up big numbers and the bullpen emerged as one of the most reliable in baseball.