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Duke freshman Jabari Parker drives to the net past Pitt's Michael Young and James Robinson in the first half Monday at Petersen Events Center. Duke won, 80-65.

BLUE DEVILS RIP PANTHERS

Storied ACC program runs away with victory before record crowd

By Paul Zelen
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
The foundation of Pitt's program is and has been great defense and the ability to rebound.
Then No. 17 Duke arrived Monday and blew up that foundation, so much so that Panthers coach Mike Krzyzewski spent most of his postgame news conference instructing every question back to pretty much the same answer.
"Obviously, on the defensive end we simply didn't get it done," Krzyzewski said after the Panthers got pounded by the Blue Devils, 80-65, in an ACC basketball game at Petersen Events Center.



Pitt, Patterson still have some work to do
I have been pushing Pitt to the point to be in the Atlantic Coast Conference. I also have been pushing Pitt's LaVar Patterson as the leading candidate for the league's player of the year award.
What did I really learn? — the great coach LaVar Patterson on "Saturday Night Live" — always say when she misheard?
Never mind.
I'm holding it all back. At least until I see how Pitt responds to a stinging loss Monday night to Duke. Talk about a disappointing performance in front

ACC standings

Team	Conf. record
Syracuse	6-0
Virginia	6-1
Pitt	6-2
Duke	6-2
Vanderbilt	4-3
Florida State	4-3
Clemson	4-3
North Carolina	3-4
Maryland	3-4
North Carolina	2-4
Georgia Tech	2-5
Wake Forest	2-4
Miami	2-5
Boston College	1-5
Virginia Tech	1-6

PENGUINS 3 SABRES 0
Fleury blanks Buffalo in win

Lowly opponent helps to deliver 'gritty' victory

By Dave Mohn
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
It's no accident that the Penguins are 14 games and 41 points ahead of Buffalo in the Eastern Conference standings.
It's also no surprise. Of everything.
Sure, the Penguins' 3-0 victory against the Sabres Monday night at Consol Energy Center was completely logical — even predictable — but that doesn't mean they had the luxury of assuming that earning a couple of points was nothing more than a 40-minute formality.
For while the Penguins (37-14-2) have only been beaten 16 times in their first 53 games, they've been limited by the bottom-feeding Sabres (17-30-15) and Edmonton.
That means a team like the Sabres, who have six-time Calder trophies in Ryan Miller and a new-found willingness to compete since Paul Bibeault took over as coach, was a viable threat if the Penguins allowed their focus to stray.
Which is exactly what it took to the Panthers and the Dallas Stars in the past week.
"Everyone talked about them being the last-place team in the conference coming into tonight, but that doesn't really matter," Penguins coach Brian Bibeault said. "There really aren't any easy games."
"We expected them to play hard and likely they've been playing pretty well. They work hard. They might not have the best luck this year, but they're a hardworking team."
And so it was Monday, when the Sabres problems seemed from a lack of production.
Specifically, they were unable to get any of their 24 shots past goalie Marc-Andre Fleury.
SEE PENGUINS, PAGE D-2



Fox's football education started early under Noll

By Ed Bouchette
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
NEW YORK — Denver Broncos coach John Fox had a baptism by fire when he made his debut as an NFL assistant with the Steelers.
He left as Pitt's defensive coach under Chuck Noll in 1989.
Seven years later, at Bruce Clevland's Broncos, Fox was 6.



SEATTLE SEAHAWKS
DENVER BRONCOS v. SEATTLE SEAHAWKS
6:30 p.m. Feb. 2
Meadowlands, N.J.
TV: WFLX

Hype could affect Super task

JERSEY CITY, N.J.
Landing on a boat in the Hudson River, asking for a year's worth of media collabery that had been based via police escort through the Holland Tunnel, the head coach of the Denver Broncos crossed the need for striking to the routine this week.
Noll is much for that. Several of John Fox's AFC champions, in fact, would soon express their regret that being on the water at all, even if



More Sports Inside: Duquesne, Super Bowl, High schools, MORE AT POST-GAZETTE.COM

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Feb 28 2014 11:32:18:910PM Post-Gazette
Sports
THE GAMES, THE PLAYERS, THE NUMBERS AND MORE • Pittsburgh Post-Gazette • SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2014
Warriors corral Colts in 2 OTs

DUQUESNE
Goal now for Dukes is to build off upset
By Stephen J. Nesbitt
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Duke's rally from back-to-back heart-breaking losses against St. Bonaventure and Dayton to win No. 10 Saint Louis, 74-64, Thursday at Chatham Arena. The defeat was the Bulldogs' first of the Atlantic 10 Conference season and snapped their 10-game winning streak.
It was the Dukes' first road win against a top-10 team since 1982.
When coach Jim Ferry heard that son Friday, he laughed and responded, "Ferry scores years ago, I wasn't even born!"
You, I can have quite some time since the Dukes (12-15, 4-6) made a splash like this in college basketball.
The tip alone of that his very own is that it's a surprise that the Bulldogs had finished off the Bulldogs (12-15, 4-6) in January at PulteCenter, where it held a one-point lead in the final minute. Saint Louis never would have been a top-10 team.
Still, senior forward Ovis Soko said it was "better to lose than to have a perfect game."
When I got back to our hotel room," Soko said, "I told [headman forward] L.G. (Gill), 'if we had to choose one time, I'm happy we got there when they were No. 10 instead of 11.'
SEE DUKES, PAGE D-2

PITT BASKETBALL
Irish can put 'burn' to work
By Paul Zeise
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Pitt is in the first year as a member of the ACC, so much of this season has been about making new acquaintances, learning about new foes and building new routines.
But the Panthers won't need much of an introduction to their new ACC opponents, and they certainly will not need help getting motivated because it is a team they have faced plenty of times over the years and, recently, a team they have had a hard time beating.
Pitt (21-7, 9-6) will play at Notre Dame (15-14, 6-9) today in a matchup of two old Big East Conference rivals that made the jump this year to the ACC.
And while the Fighting Irish are wrapping right
SEE PITT, PAGE D-2

Today
Game 10 (12-7, 9-6) ACC vs. Notre Dame (15-14, 6-9), 7 p.m., PulteCenter, at Joyce Center, Notre Dame, Ind.
SEE PITT, PAGE D-2

MORE SPORTS INSIDE
West Virginia
Five questions facing the Mountaineers as spring practice begins. Page D-3
NFL
Dariusz Skarbalius turns him and it to pull, pulled into allegations. Page D-5
WPIAL swimming
North Allegheny sweeps Class AAA boys and girls championships. Page D-7
MORE AT POST-GAZETTE.COM
HIGH SCHOOLS: Mike White writes on the Verity Blog.
PIRATES: For spring training updates, check out the PGC Blog.

PENGUINS AT BLACKHAWKS
8 P.M. TODAY • TV: WFLX
BRRRR!!!
Simon Despres practices Friday for his team's outdoor game tonight against the Blackhawks at Soldier Field in Chicago.
Matt Freed/Pitt-Gazette photo

Penguins make third appearance in an outdoor game, and it will be cold, windy and perhaps snowy as befits an early March night in Chicago.
By Dave Molinari
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
CHICAGO — It will, by all accounts, be a bit chilly tonight.
Night never a bit too.
And there could be a little snow falling occasionally from nearby Lake Michigan.
You know, the kind that slices through concrete like sheets of glass blades and a camera.
All of which is to say, it will be a fairly standard issue with winter in this city.
Nonetheless, the two conditions that most trouble the Penguins when playing outdoors — rain and bright sunshine — won't be factors when they face the Chicago Blackhawks tonight at Soldier Field.
Baseball is a good issue for
Which particularly pleases the Penguins, who were part of the only rain-delayed outdoor game in NHL history.
The players who were involved in that St. Louis Blues victory on Jan. 2 at Heinz Field — a game postponed back from overtime to night because of rain-soaked ice — were happy to see the facility of trying to play hockey in conditions more suited to a winter.
"It wasn't bad, but then there started to be more rain in the third period, so it was a little harder to see," goalie Marc-Andre Fleury said. "The ice was slippery, wet."
Asked his more vivid memory of the 2011 Winter Classic, right winger Craig Adams said: "I remember coming in the form of raindrops."
SEE PENGUINS, PAGE D-4

Alvarez goal: Improve overall game
By Bill Brink
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
DENVER, Fla. — The label continues to chase the Pedro Alvarez as the top prospect, promising sophomore, home-run candidate breakout candidate. Whatever you choose to call this
version of Alvarez — All-Star, slagger, cleanup hitter — he is seeking upgrades.
"Everything you can think of, I try to improve and I try to better myself so I can help this team out best I can," Alvarez said, this time out best I can.
The 24-year-old Alvarez hit in 2013
SEE PIRATES, PAGE D-3

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Feb 22 2014 11:01:51:252PM Post-Gazette D-1

CLASSIFIEDS INSIDE Sports

THE GAMES, THE PLAYERS, THE NUMBERS AND MORE • Pittsburgh Post-Gazette • MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2014

FLORIDA STATE 71, PITT 66 Panthers' free fall continues at home

By Paul Zeise Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

It was the third consecutive loss for Pitt (0-7, 0-0 ACC) and fifth in seven games. It also was the Panthers' second home loss to an unranked opponent in six games.

But this loss the Panthers were considered a solid NCAA tournament team, though they played a relatively weak non-conference schedule and had only one win against a team in the top 100 of 12,000.

If then Perry and the Panthers decided to do a repeat at Petersen Events Center the first match basketball team has a great suggestion for a song to open the show.

Free fall: That about describes what the Panthers are officially doing after they lost Sunday to Florida State, 71-66, before a disappointing home crowd of 12,000.

It was the third consecutive loss for Pitt (0-7, 0-0 ACC) and fifth in seven games. It also was the Panthers' second home loss to an unranked opponent in six games.

But this loss the Panthers were considered a solid NCAA tournament team, though they played a relatively weak non-conference schedule and had only one win against a team in the top 100 of 12,000.

Pitt's Derrick Randall falls over Florida State's Boris Bogdanowsky Sunday at Petersen Events Center.

Pitt's woes magnified at home

Remember when opposing teams came into Petersen Events Center and were intimidated?

Remember when every game in the beautiful building was a guaranteed win for Pitt?

I can't believe it's probably good that staling out Pitt is limited on the road to games at Boone College Wednesday night and Saturday at Notre Dame. It no longer calls over opponents at home, the latest proof a bad season is at least Sunday night in Florida State. It was Pitt's fourth loss in its past five home games with the only win coming against Virginia Tech — the ACC's worst team — in double overtime. Pitt was 10-0 at Petersen Events Center before the home slide.

COOK

SEE COOK, PAGE D-4



Canada forward Sidney Crosby (87) scores a goal on Sweden goaltender Henrik Lundqvist in the second period of the gold-medal hockey game Sunday in Sochi, Russia.

CANADA'S GOLDEN BOY

Crosby finally breaks through with goal in finale

By J. Brady McCollough Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

SOCHI, Russia — Standing at the end of the line of Canadian players, he waited his turn, but like he had all year, he didn't. And when No. 87 was the only guy left to receive his gold medal, it was clear from the look on his face that the decision to put the players in numerical order had saved the best for last.

His thousands of teammates and women in the Bishbey Ice Dome didn't waste for anybody else, but Sidney Crosby was their captain, once a 16-year-old kid who carried the

SEE CANADA, PAGE D-2

SOCHI AT A GLANCE Complete medal standings, Page D-2

FINAL MEDAL LEADERS

Rank	Team	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Russia	13	11	9	33
2	USA	9	7	12	28
3	Norway	8	5	10	26
4	Canada	10	5	10	25

NFL SCOUTING COMBINE Teams might jump on QBs early

Lack of 'wow' status won't deter selections

By Gerry Dulac Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

INDIANAPOLIS — Unlike last year, when they wanted to find a young backup for Ben Roethlisberger, the Steelers do not have any plans to draft a quarterback in May.

And while the fourth-round selection of Landry Jones might have been a surprise to some, it was not considered a reach among the crop of quarterbacks available in the 2013 draft.

Not to this year.

Even though there are no sure-fire, can't-miss prospects among the class of 2014, there are 14 of the better quarterbacks who could be among the top 10 picks in the NFL draft — with an outside chance of a fourth even jumping into the group.

And while it remains unclear in which order Johnny Manziel, Teddy Bridgewater and Blake Bortles will be taken early in the first round, do not confuse this crop with the class of 2013 that featured Eli Manning, Philip Rivers and Roethlisberger.

SEE COMBINE, PAGE D-8

DAYTONA 500 Race gets reputation of delays

Red flag comes out for nearly 6 1/2 hours

By Dan Gelliston Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Daytona could see a storm of rain, potholes, soup and fire, the Daytona 500 has had all sorts of delays in the past five years.

The latest one came Sunday, with rain starting about the second quarter of Daytona International Speedway for a fourth straight time.

The race resumed under the

On the Web ■ This race ended too late for this edition. For results, log on to post-gazette.com.

Fights with 162 legs left in the 200-lap race. It seemed to hit 100 laps (halfway) to become official.

The second Monday race in three years remained in play.

The "Great American Race" has become more known for its laps than legs or headlights.

Matt Kenseth won a rain-soaked race.

SEE DAYTONA, PAGE D-3

MORE SPORTS INSIDE

Spring training Home plate collision rules could come to batter within two days. Page D-5

Penguins The Olympic break gives players time to recover from injuries. Page D-6

Duquesne Close losses, like Saturday to Dayton, continue to haunt the Duques. Page D-4

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- CHAT: Discuss Pitt basketball with Paul Zeise at noon.
- BLOG: Keep up with the Pirates in Bradenton on the PBC blog.

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