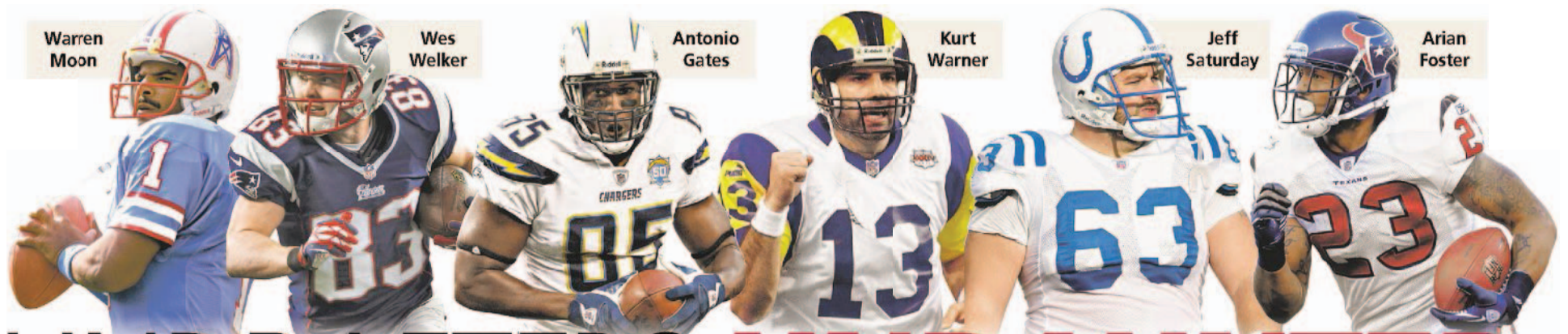


# Sports



**Yankees end Rays' win streak**  
**» PAGE 4C**

SECTION C | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2013 | FLORIDA TODAY | FLORIDATODAY.COM » SPORTS EDITOR | Mike Parsons mparsons@floridatoday.com



## UNDRAFTED? UNDAUNTED.

Sometimes it's best to go unselected in the NFL. Just ask these guys.

**By Arnie Stapleton**  
 Associated Press

For NFL prospects on the bubble, it's often better not to get picked at all than to be selected in the final rounds.

Once the Indianapolis Colts pick "Mr. Irrelevant," a title bestowed upon the last player chosen in the seven-round draft, teams will make a mad dash Saturday afternoon to sign college free agents who were on their draft boards but didn't get picked for one reason or another.

Those with multiple suitors get to salve their bruised egos by scouring rosters and picking

a team that gives them the best chance to make the roster.

Every year, some of these players prove that for all its money and manpower, the draft is an inexact science.

"There's pros and cons to each of them," Colorado safety Ray Polk said. "If you get drafted, you get to say you got drafted. And I'm sure there's a little bit more money. But you go free agent, you get to choose a different fit or different scenarios that you can put yourself into."

Polk is trying to both avoid and follow in the footsteps of his father, Raymond Polk, a cornerback from Oklahoma

State who was drafted in the 12th round by the Raiders in 1985 only to tear a hamstring in the preseason after getting traded to Tampa Bay, ending his NFL career before it began.

"It would be great to be able to pick my situation," Polk said, "but I just want a shot."

The undrafted players have more to prove than the high draft picks who get to don a spiffy new cap and shake the commissioner's hand while posing with a jersey at Radio City Music Hall.

But for all the first-round busts like Ryan Leaf, Tony Mandarich or JaMarcus Russell, there's the bronze busts in

Canton, Ohio, of men such as Dick "Night Train" Lane, John Randle and Warren Moon, three of the 14 Hall of Famers who were bypassed in the draft.

Willie Wood was another.

The USC quarterback was sidestepped in the 1960 draft because he was undersized at 160 pounds and was coming off a collar bone injury that had bothered him for two years. He embarked on a letter-writing campaign begging teams for a chance. Only the Packers responded, and he repaid them by helping Green Bay win five NFL championships and the

See **UNDRAFTED**, Page 6C



**WHEN**  
 First round is 8 p.m. Thursday

**WHERE**  
 Radio City Music Hall, New York City

**UP NEXT**  
 Second and third rounds are Friday beginning at 6:30 p.m. and rounds 4-7 are Saturday beginning at noon.

### LOCAL COLLEGES

## BCC seeks home field advantage

College upgrading athletics program

**By Eric Garwood**  
 FLORIDA TODAY

Brevard Community College is constructing a soccer field on its Melbourne campus while at the same time building its athletics program to a level not normally seen at a two-year school.

Then again, BCC won't be a two-year school, strictly speaking, very much longer.

The soccer field project, underway since late 2012 on the northeastern corner of campus, is expected to be ready for the women's team opener in August and the debut of its new men's team shortly thereafter.

When the Titans kick off their 2013 season, the school will be nearly two months into its new persona: Eastern Florida State College, offering some four-year degrees along with its more traditional programs.

Coming home to an on-campus field is something athletics director and women's soccer coach Jeff Carr has been waiting for since he arrived three years ago.

"We've always been bouncing around looking for places to play or practice,"

See **BCC**, Page 5C



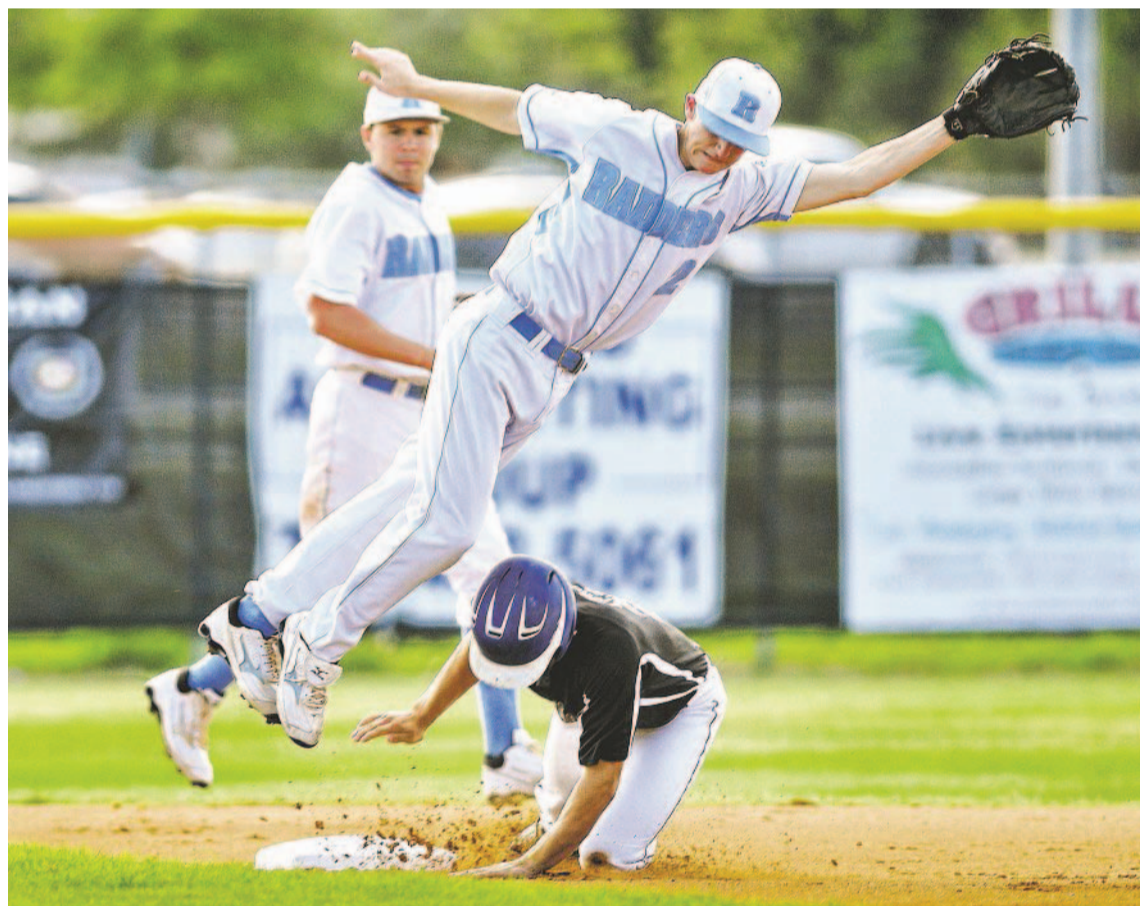
BCC's soccer field is expected to be ready for the women's team opener in August. ERIC GARWOOD/FLORIDA TODAY

### SEE IT ONLINE

Construction on the BCC soccer field moves along. See a video at [floridatoday.com](http://floridatoday.com)



### HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL PLAYOFFS



Rockledge's Austin Dennis goes up after a wild throw as a Titusville baserunner steals second during Tuesday night's District baseball tournament at Merritt Island High. CRAIG RUBADOUX/FLORIDA TODAY

## Top seeds roll in semifinals

Bulldogs clash with Bears for district title; Raiders, Mustangs advance to championship

**By Brian McCallum**  
 FLORIDA TODAY

MELBOURNE — The host Melbourne Bulldogs remained unbeaten Tuesday and earned a spot in the Class 6A regionals with an 11-3 win over Eau Gallie in a District 7 semifinal.

Bayside overcame a Palm Bay comeback in the first game of the day, 6-5, with help from a sacrifice fly by Tommy Hognacki in the bottom of the seventh. The two will play for the district title Thursday at 7.

Jake Walsh struck out 11 Commodores while walking only two. He is 8-0 on the season, and the Bulldogs are 24-0. Despite the eight-run win, Melbourne went into the sixth with a 5-3 lead. The game had been tied at 3 going to the fifth. "I have so much respect for (Eau

Gallie coach) Bobby Collins, and (Commodores pitcher Corey Fischer) has pitched two great ball games against us," Melbourne coach Pete Donovan said. "I told the kids that if anybody didn't come to the game, they'll think Melbourne blew out Eau Gallie, and that isn't the case."

In the first game, Bayside lost a 4-2 lead in the sixth when a Bears error and a two-run homer by Victor Fontanez changed the momentum for a time.

Spencer Phillips, the winning pitcher for the Bears, hit a pitch over the left field fence in the third for the game's other homer. That gave the No. 2 Bayside team its two-run lead after three innings. It was Phillips' sixth home run of the season.

See **SEEDS**, Page 5C

### NBA PLAYOFFS HEAT 98, BUCKS 86

## Miami pulls away in fourth

Defending champs go up 2-0 in series

**By Tim Reynolds**  
 Associated Press

MIAMI — All the Miami Heat really needed was two brilliant minutes to take a two-game lead over the Milwaukee Bucks.

Dwyane Wade scored 21 points, LeBron James finished with 19 and the Miami Heat took off in the fourth quarter to pull away and beat the Milwaukee Bucks 98-86 in Game 2 of the teams' Eastern Conference first-round series on Tuesday night.

Chris Bosh, Shane Battier and Chris Andersen all scored 10 points for the Heat, who now lead the best-of-seven 2-0. Game 3 is Thursday in Milwaukee.

The Heat scored the first 12 points of the fourth quarter, needing just over 2 minutes to blow open what had been a three-point game.

Ersan Ilyasova scored 21

See **MIAMI**, Page 3C

### NBA PLAYOFFS

## MIAMI HEAT VS. MILWAUKEE BUCKS

**SERIES**  
 Heat lead 2-0

**NEXT GAME**  
 Thursday, 7 p.m., TNT



Miami's LeBron James drives to the rim during Game 2 against Milwaukee. GETTY IMAGES

### TODAY'S POSTSEASON EVENTS

#### TRACK AND FIELD

**Class 3A, Region 4**  
 Track and field at Archbishop McCarthy, 1 p.m.

#### SOFTBALL REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS

**Class 7A**  
 Viera ta Lake Howell, 7

**Class 5A**  
 Titusville at Auburndale, 7

**Class 3A**  
 Holy Trinity at Montverde, 7

**Class 2A**  
 Merritt Island Christian at All Saints Academy, 7