

UConn Makin' Like *The Yankees*

Women knock off Purdue to land another Final Four berth

By MIKE DIMAURO
Day Assistant Sports Editor

Dayton, Ohio — It has been the responsibility of the UConn women to be a basketball

Grinch in recent years, resisting underdogs and upsets, two captivating NCAA Tournament themes.

And the Huskies did it again Tuesday night, riding Diana Taurasi's majesty all the way to their fourth straight Final Four.

Taurasi scored 21 points in UConn's 73-64 win over plucky Purdue, sending the Huskies to Atlanta in pursuit of their third national championship in four years. UConn will play West Regional champion Texas in

the national semifinals Sunday night at the Georgia Dome. Duke and Tennessee, both of which lost to UConn during the regular season, play in the other semifinal.

"I can understand the rationale of people wanting someone else to win," UConn coach Geno Auremma said. "People get sick of the Yankees winning. They're already sick of the Lakers. Some people want Tiger Woods to lose. But me, I like guys who win all the

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UConn's Diana Taurasi displays the net to her teammates following the Huskies' 73-64 victory Tuesday over Purdue, which propelled them into the Final Four.

SEAN D. ELLIOT
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AMERICA AT WAR

U.S. Attacks Republican Guard

'THIS IS THE BIG BATTLE' FOR BAGHDAD, MILITARY SAYS

By PATRICK E. TYLER
New York Times News Service



TYLER HICKS/The New York Times

A huge plume of smoke billows from an area in central Baghdad after a bomb dropped by coalition aircraft exploded Tuesday. A number of huge explosions rattled central Baghdad Wednesday and columns of smoke were seen rising from the southern end of the Old Palace grounds in the capital.

Kuwait City — U.S. forces launched a frontal assault on a Republican Guard division Tuesday night at Karbala on the Euphrates River approach to Baghdad, in what military officials said was the beginning of a crucial campaign to push through the outer defenses of the Iraqi capital, 50 miles to the north.

At the same time, a force of several thousand U.S. Marines positioned south of Baghdad veered east and pushed toward the Tigris River after reports that a Republican Guard division was massing southeast of the capital, officials said.

As the Marine force peeled away from a broad western front facing Karbala, the Army's 101st Airborne Division was said to have rushed forward to join the tanks and mechanized armor of the 3rd Infantry Division that was attacking the Republican Guard's Medina Division.

"This is the big battle," a senior U.S. military officer told reporters at Central Command headquarters in Qatar, where Gen. Tommy R. Franks, the overall commander in the Middle East, was monitoring the initial stages of the fighting.

Earlier in the day, Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, indicated that a major campaign

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POW missing for days is rescued from hospital

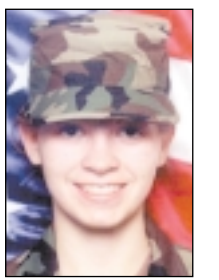
By JOHN M. BRODER
New York Times News Service

Doha, Qatar — U.S. Special Operations forces on Wednesday rescued Pfc. Jessica Lynch of the Army from Nasiriya, Iraq, where she had been held captive since March 23.

Lynch, 19, of Palestine, W.Va., was found in the Saddam Hospital in Nasiriya, which was also being used as an Iraqi military facility, a Central Command official said. She was one of 15 members of the 507th Ordnance Maintenance Co., which was attacked by Iraqi forces after taking a wrong turn off a highway in southern-central Iraq as U.S. troops advanced toward Nasiriya on the first Sunday of the Iraqi war.

"Coalition forces have conducted a successful rescue mission of a U.S. Army prisoner of war held captive in Iraq," Brig. Gen. Vince Brooks, Central

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U.S. Army Pfc. Jessica Lynch

Women Wear The Pants In Sub Tender's Deck Division

DISPATCHES AT SEA

EDITOR'S NOTE: Day reporter Robert A. Hamilton and photographer Tim Cook are aboard the USS Emory S. Land as part of their coverage of the war.

By ROBERT A. HAMILTON
Day Staff Writer

Aboard the USS Emory S. Land — Working on the deck division of a submarine tender is tough and dangerous work, from sanding and painting the hull to hauling lines for docking submarines.

But Deck Division Leading Chief Petty Officer Dale Burnham and Lt. Jim Getman don't get many football player-sized seamen to toil at the tasks.

Elizabeth Leavitt, a 20-year-old from Tampa, used to work the jewelry counter at a Target store and as a waitress at Florida restaurants until last year.

"I wanted to travel, to serve my country and do some-

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The deck crew of the USS Emory S. Land reload supplies during night operations in the eastern Mediterranean Sea on Monday.

TIM COOK/The Day



DANA JENSEN/The Day

A model of the Mashantucket's proposed 1.8-mile elevated bypass on Route 2 in front of Foxwoods.

Foxwoods expansion includes Route 2 bypass

Tribe's plan features garage, 825 new slots

By KAREN FLORIN
Day Staff Writer

Mashantucket — The Mashantucket Pequot unveiled a \$100 million, fast-track expansion project for Foxwoods Resort Casino Tuesday along with a conceptual plan to build an elevated bypass on Route 2 for non-casino traffic.

The so-called Rainmaker Expansion, slated to open in summer 2004, includes 120,000 square feet of shopping, dining and gaming space built out from the existing Rainmaker Casino, which was Foxwoods' original gaming area. The tribe also will build a seven-story, 2,100-space parking garage just east of the expansion, on what is now a paved outdoor parking lot.

"We wanted to do something that would enhance the resort and go online quickly," said Tribal Chairman Michael J. Thomas.

The addition of 20,000 square feet of gaming space will hold 825 new slot machines and a non-smoking bingo hall with 200 seats and 140 dual-use bingo/slot machines. The tribe is negotiating with a major brand-name restaurant to occupy 7,500 square feet of food and beverage space, Thomas said, and the 6,000 square feet of new retail space will house a mix that rounds out the casino's existing stores.

The Mashantuckets also hope to build a 1.8-mile elevated bypass on

Route 2 in front of Foxwoods to alleviate traffic and emissions from idling cars. Thomas said members are debating whether to build a two- or four-lane bypass and have yet to grant final approval. They also would need state approval, since the new roadway would be a state highway.

Accessible via ramps called flyovers, the stoplight-free bypass would stretch from a Foxwoods parking lot on Route 2, known as Lot 10, past the

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INSIDE TODAY

NEWS

Alarm over SARS

An airliner from Asia is halted on the tarmac amid worries about a mysterious illness. A2



Lottery tickets scratched
Changes in state lottery policy lead one store owner to dump ticket sales. C1

WEATHER

A gray day

Today, mostly cloudy, chance of afternoon showers. High temperature 47. D6

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