



PROMOTED

Diebler named permanent head coach for OSU hoops team



FORECAST

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CALENDAR

Midwest Regional ESC conducts IDEA fund hearing

The Midwest Regional Educational Service Center receives federal Special Education IDEA Part B funds for the Shelby County local school districts to assist with the education of handicapped children ages 3 through 21.

Community members who would like to have input into the planning of the use of the federal IDEA funds are welcome to provide comment during a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, March 21, at 1973 W. State Route 47, Bellefontaine.



Nominations sought for 2024 Outstanding Senior Citizen

Area residents are invited to show their appreciation to an adult age 60 or older who goes above and beyond in the county by nominating them for a 2024 Outstanding Senior Citizen Award.

The Area Agency on Aging, PSA 2, is accepting nominations for Outstanding Senior Citizen for each of the nine counties in the region, which includes Logan County. The deadline for all nominations is March 22.

Service in any field of endeavor should be considered. Please check nomination guidelines on the form for eligibility requirements. Previous award recipients cannot be considered.

Older Americans Month is celebrated every May and this year's theme is "Powered by Connection."

Each county's Council on Aging will select its Outstanding Senior Citizen, who will be recognized in the local media and the Area Agency on Aging's website and newsletter.

The nomination form is found on the Agency website at: info4seniors.org.

DD AWARENESS MONTH SPOTLIGHT

Early Intervention Services

FROM THE LOGAN COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Early Intervention is a service offered by Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities, providing support to families with children under the age of 3 who have a qualifying developmental delay or a qualifying medical diagnosis.

Services are provided in the family's home since children under the age of 3 learn best in their natural environment with their primary caregiver.

The EI team collaborates with the family on what their strengths and needs are. This helps develop outcomes important to the family, which will assist with the child's developmental progress.

The team provides coaching to the family, so they know how to work on development in every setting such as mealtime, riding

in the car, bath time and play time.

Among the EI team members are a service coordinator, developmental specialist, occupational therapist, speech therapist, physical therapist, nurse, dietitian, hearing and vision specialists, and an early childhood mental health consultant.

The team collaborates with the family to ensure all the necessary support is available. The EI team not only looks to enhance the skills of the child, but also works to ensure the entire



Delanie, left, being held by her mother Linda, receives early intervention services through the Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

family has the needed support.

EI Director Liz Rose and Developmental Specialist Kellie Lemly, recently met with Linda, mother of Dela-

The complete story about early intervention services will appear in Tuesdays print edition of the Bellefontaine Examiner

SPRINGING INTO TRACTOR WEATHER

Benjamin Logan High School's FFA members, pictured from the left, Micah Ackley, Keaton Snipes, Justin Elliott, Kaylyn Elliott, Maddy Hamm, Addison Huffman, Emily Godwin, Kaelin Gibson and Abby Shafer celebrated a beautiful day Wednesday, March 13, by driving their tractors to school, honoring the area's agricultural roots. Under sunny skies, the students' tractor parade showcased their dedication to farming and community. Lora James, agricultural education instructor and FFA adviser, praised their enthusiasm, highlighting the strong bond between the school and the agricultural community. The event not only entertained but also emphasized the FFA's values of leadership and teamwork. Benjamin Logan High School remains committed to nurturing its agricultural heritage, ensuring future generations stay connected to tradition. (BENJAMIN LOGAN PHOTO)



Diebler named permanent head coach for Buckeyes

COLUMBUS (AP) — Ohio State removed the interim tag from men's basketball coach Jake Diebler's title on Sunday and announced he will receive a five-year contract.

Diebler, 37, was in his third year as associate head coach when he took over the team following Chris Holtmann's firing on Feb. 14.

"Jake Diebler possesses all of the characteristics we were seeking as we conducted a very comprehensive and thorough search for a new head coach," athletic director Ross Bjork said. "Those include coaching ability, passion, energy, program knowledge, character, integrity and ties to Ohio. As an Ohio native, the son of a longtime Ohio high school coach and with deep connections to Ohio State, Jake knows what it takes to lead this program on a championship course."

The Buckeyes (21-13) went 6-2 under Diebler, including a win over No. 2 Purdue in his first game as interim coach. They won five straight before losing to Illinois on Friday in the quarterfinals of the Big Ten Tournament.

"Throughout the search, every time we analyzed what was best for the pro-



Ohio State interim head coach Jake Diebler celebrates play during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game against Iowa on Thursday in Minneapolis. (AP PHOTO/ABBIE PARR)

gram, our decision kept leading right back to Jake," Bjork said. "The way he has led the program since Feb. 14 has been exemplary and is only the beginning of what lies ahead for Buckeye basketball. The future is exciting, and I cannot wait to watch him lead this program."

Diebler, the first Ohio native in 35 years to be named men's basketball head coach, is in his eighth season with the Buckeyes. He first worked with Ohio State basketball in 2014, spending three seasons as a video coordinator on Thad Matta's staff. After three seasons as an assistant at

Vanderbilt, he returned to Ohio State as an assistant coach under Holtmann before the 2019-20 season. He was promoted to associate head coach before the 2021-22 season.

"It's a blessing and a privilege to serve this program and I'm excited for this opportunity," Diebler

said. "I'd like to thank Ross Bjork and President (Ted) Carter for believing in me and the vision that I have moving forward. Ohio State basketball is special and means so much to me and my family. I look forward to serving the entire Ohio State basketball family as best as I possibly can."

Illinois tops Wisconsin to win Big 10 tournament

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Terrence Shannon Jr. scored 34 points on 15-for-17 shooting from the free-throw line, helping 13th-ranked Illinois outlast Wisconsin 93-87 in Big Ten tournament championship game on Sunday.

Marcus Domask added 26 points, eight assists and

seven rebounds and Dain Dainja had nine points and seven rebounds for the Illini (26-8), who won their fourth conference title — and second in four years — after shooting 16 of 26 from the floor in the second half.

A.J. Storr had 24 points and Chucky Hepburn

added 20 points for the Badgers (22-13), who went 7 for 20 from 3-point range after going 33 for 79 over their first three games.

Shannon finished with 102 points in three games this weekend, one short of the Big Ten Tournament scoring record, and was

voted the Most Outstanding Player. Keegan Murray had 103 points for Iowa in 2022, but the Hawkeyes played four games that year on the way to the title.

After celebrating in a shower of orange-and-blue confetti and cutting down the nets at Target Center, the Illini hustled to a side

room for the NCAA Tournament selection show to learn they're the No. 3 seed in the East Region, with a first-round game on Friday against Morehead State.

Wisconsin got the No. 5 seed in the South Region and a first-round matchup against James Madison.

March Madness is here: UConn, Purdue, Houston and North Carolina get top seeding in NCAA Tournament

BY EDDIE PELLIS
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Defending champion Connecticut, along with Houston, Purdue and North Carolina, are the top seeds in a March Madness bracket that started going haywire even before the pairings came out Sunday.

Of the four top seeds, only UConn heads into the tournament coming off a win. That played into the Huskies receiving the No. 1 overall seed. The other three top seeds lost in their conference tournaments.

Those were hardly the only surprises over the final weekend of hoops before the sport's main event hits center stage.

Unexpected titles placed teams like Oregon, North Carolina State and even Duquense, none of whom were projected to make the field, into the field of 68 via the automatic bid that goes to conference champions. The teams they beat gobbled up a handful of the 34 at-large bids, thus shrinking the number of spots available to teams on the so-called bubble.

The last teams in included Colorado, Virginia and, surprisingly, Boise State, which wasn't widely considered a bubble team. Those missing out included Oklahoma, St. John's and



UConn center Donovan Clingan reacts after dunking during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game in the championship against Marquette of the Big East Conference tournament Saturday in New York. UConn won 73-57. (AP PHOTO/MARY ALTAFFER)

Pittsburgh, all of whom were projected by many to make it as recently as Friday.

The tournament starts Tuesday with two First Four games, including a matchup between Virginia and a Colorado State team that few thought was on the bubble. The 32 first-round games take place Thursday and Friday. The Final Four is set for April 6-8 in Glendale,

Arizona.

UConn, which opens Friday against Stetson, is the favorite according to FanDuel Sportsbook and is trying to become the first repeat champion since Florida in 2006-07. The Huskies (31-3) are on a seven-game win streak and are tied with James Madison for most wins in the nation.

"We've been the best

team in college basketball," coach Dan Hurley said. "Obviously, March Madness next week, who knows what goes on there, but we've clearly been the best program in the country this year."

The best conference? The SEC and Big 12 placed eight teams each in the bracket, followed by the Big Ten and Mountain West with six apiece.

The shrinking bubble took its toll on the selection committee.

"This year is harder than all my previous years combined. Just gut wrenching knowing some very good teams will unfortunately not be dancing," Jamie Pollard, the athletic director at Iowa State in his fifth year on the committee, said Saturday night on social media.

Scheffler stays hot, wins Players Championship

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Already the best in the world, Scottie Scheffler added another layer to his legend Sunday. He became the first player to win back-to-back in 50 years of The Players Cham-

pionship by matching the biggest comeback and the lowest closing round by a winner.

Scheffler holed out for eagle from the fourth fairway and had four birdies in a five-hole stretch around

the turn, sending him to an 8-under 64 and a one-shot victory that wasn't decided until the final putt.

Xander Schauffele, Brian Harman and Wyndham Clark all had a chance to force a playoff with a birdie

on the daunting 18th hole at the TPC Sawgrass.

Clark had the last shot, a putt just inside 18 feet that dipped into the cup on the left side and came out on the right side, leaving him stunned as he

placed his hand over his mouth.

"I don't know how that putt doesn't go in," Clark said. "Even when it kind of lipped, I thought it would lip in. I'm pretty gutted it didn't go in."