

**IN BRIEF**

**Kraayeveld nominated for Senior CLASS Award**

Oregon forward Cathrine Kraayeveld is one of 30 female senior college basketball players nominated for the Bayer Advantage Senior CLASS Award. The award, in its fourth year, is given to the nation's best men's and women's senior player in NCAA Division I basketball. The Senior CLASS — an acronym for Celebrating Loyalty and

Achievement for Staying in School — started during the 2001-02 college basketball season with Sue Bird of Connecticut and Juan Dixon of Maryland winning the award. The athletes will be narrowed down to 10 in February. In March, during the NCAA tournament, fans all over the country will vote, combining their choice with the votes of coaches and the media to determine the winner. Sportscaster Dick Enberg, who had the idea for the award and serves as the Honorary Chairman, will announce the winner during a CBS telecast of the

NCAA men's Final Four. Only two other Pacific-10 Conference players are represented: Kelley Suminski of Stanford and Dee-Dee Wheeler of Arizona. The award will be given at the fourth annual Tribute Gala on Apr. 30 in Kansas City, Kan. — Clayton Jones

**Martinez continues to ponder baseball future**

NEW YORK — With an offer in hand from the New York Mets, Pedro Martinez will wait to see what the

New York Yankees do before deciding where he'll play next year. The free-agent ace isn't close to making a decision on where to sign, a person close to Martinez said Tuesday on condition of anonymity. Martinez is likely to wait until the Yankees determine their level of interest, which could hinge on whether they acquire Randy Johnson from Arizona in a trade that could send Javier Vazquez to the Diamondbacks. The Mets, trying to make a splash in the free-agent market, offered a \$37.5 million, three-year contract last weekend, an agent with knowledge of the proposal said, also on condition of anonymity. The offer contains an option for a fourth season that could make the deal worth \$50 million over four years, the agent said. Boston has offered a two-year deal to retain Martinez and must decide by Dec. 7 whether to offer

salary arbitration, which would extend the window for the World Series champion Red Sox to re-sign him until Jan. 8. Martinez's agent, Fernando Cuza, would not comment on the Mets' proposal, which was first reported Tuesday in several New York and Boston newspapers. Yankees owner George Steinbrenner met with Martinez in Tampa, Fla., on Nov. 18, and Martinez also met in Florida with New York third baseman Alex Rodriguez. But the Yankees' primary interest in recent days appears to be Johnson, the 41-year-old left-hander who would prefer to leave the rebuilding Diamondbacks and play for a contender. The Yankees and Diamondbacks have been discussing a trade involving the five-time Cy Young Award winner for several weeks. — The Associated Press

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**Roetman: Willingham better off coaching somewhere else**

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 any other school.

With those in charge wanting any reason to get rid of Willingham, the savvy head coach worked his magic during his first season and led the 2002 Irish to a 10-3 record, including a trip to the Gator Bowl. His next two seasons weren't as successful, however, as the Irish went 5-7 and 6-5 respectively. Despite featuring a record similar to Davie's (21-16) after three seasons, Willingham wasn't allowed to prove himself during the final two years of his contract. If that doesn't sound like a blatant attempt to dismiss a coach during a time of convenience,

I don't know what does. Willingham's firing leaves UCLA's Karl Dorrell and Mississippi State's Sylvester Croom as the only two black head coaches in Division I-A football. There is something seriously wrong with that. While part of me feels bad for Willingham and the way he got hosed, the rest of me rejoices as he is now able to take a job where he is wanted and more likely to succeed. Notre Dame lost a great head coach Tuesday. Fortunately, that means Willingham will end up in a better place. jonroetman@dailymerald.com

**Classifieds**

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