

Sports

Politics in Italy worries investors 7C

Stewart label fuels Macy's, J.C. Penney fight 7C



MICHAEL ZAMORA/CALLER-TIMES

Dale Perryman (left) and his Miller teammates are seeking to avenge two losses against Laredo Nixon earlier this season.

Carroll, Miller take on familiar foes

■ District battles take center stage in quarterfinals

By Stuart Duncan
Special to the Caller-Times

Class 4A Miller and 5A Carroll know their next playoff opponents all too well.

Meanwhile, 3A West Oso is one regional quarterfinal victory away from a possible showdown with one of the top four teams in the state in the next round of the boys basketball playoffs.

The Bucs, Tigers and Bears will all look to advance to their

respective Region IV tournaments Tuesday, as will several other Coastal Bend area teams, with eight of them in action Tuesday night.

It's been so far, so good for Miller, which reached the 3A final last year before moving back up to 4A this season.

Bucs senior guard Dale Perryman has overcome a sore knee to lead the Bucs in scoring in their first two playoff wins. Perryman's game-high 16 points helped Miller beat bi-district opponent Mission Veterans Memorial, 67-42, before Perryman and senior guard Billy Guzman combined for 42 points in the Bucs' 72-55 area round victory

over San Antonio Harlandale on Friday.

"A lot of teams seldom play this deep in the playoffs, but the past three years, we've been in this situation, and we're used to playing in these big games," Miller coach Maurice Bastian said. "We have some unfinished business (in the next round). We want to move on to regional play."

The Bucs (27-9) will now look to avenge two earlier season losses to District 31-4A rival Laredo Nixon (32-5) when the teams play in the Region IV-4A quarterfinals at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Weslaco.

The 31-4A champion Mustangs, ranked 19th in the state,

swept the 31-4A third place finisher Bucs during district play this season by scores of 57-52 and 60-59 in overtime.

"It drives us more," said Bastian of the previous losses to Nixon. "It's hard to beat a team three times in a season. They have good players, but there's no way our guys want to lose three times to one team."

CARROLL FACING FAMILIAR STEELE

Carroll will look to beat 28-5A rival Cibolo Steele for the third straight time this season, as the Tigers (30-4) play the Knights

See REGION IV, 5C



PHOTOS BY GEORGE TULEY/SPECIAL TO THE CALLER-TIMES

King's Troy Garza (right) slides into third through a cloud of dust as he and Ray third baseman Jonathan Martinez look for the ball that got past Maritnez at Cabaniss Field on Monday during King's 7-0 victory.

WINDSWEPT SHUTOUT

■ King handles Ray on day with gusts at 60 mph

By Javier Becerra
Special to the Caller-Times

KING	RAY
7	0
HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL	
NON-DISTRICT	

The blustery conditions that wreaked havoc across South Texas certainly made Monday night's nondistrict matchup between Ray and King more interesting. Despite 40-mph winds blowing straight in from left field, the Mustangs managed to have a decent night at the plate.

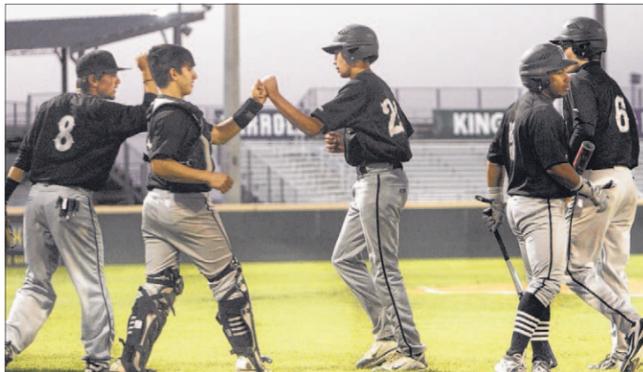
King senior right-hander Benny Zamudio made sure the Texans didn't have as much success.

The Mustangs took advantage of gusts that topped out at 60 mph in a 7-0 victory at Cabaniss Field. Zamudio allowed just one hit and struck out 10 in six innings, while Eric Perez

highlighted the offense with a double and a triple to the opposite field.

"There were some pretty nasty conditions tonight. The wind was everywhere. If you hit the ball in the air, it was going somewhere," said Perez, who drove in a run and scored another. "I knew I couldn't pull the ball. I just thought about sitting back more and going the other way."

The Texans (2-4) didn't have as much luck against Zamudio, who retired the game's first two batters on called third strikes. Rudy Trevino collected Ray's only hit and turned out to be one of only three base runners against King (4-2).
Jonathon Contreras relieved



King's Matt Morin (center) is congratulated by teammates after his ground ball double play pushed home the game's first run in the second inning of the Mustangs' 7-0 win. Greeting Morin were Justin Sanchez (8) and catcher Marcus Zamudio with Dominique Lane.

Zamudio to start the seventh and struck out the side to end the game. Zamudio got things started, however.

"Benny did a good job for us," King coach Gabriel Perez said.

"He's a senior and has been here three years. He's getting better every year and is getting more consistent at throwing strikes."

See KING, 5C

IWA girls one win from state tourney

■ Angels have won 11 straight

By Stuart Duncan
Special to the Caller-Times

Three years ago, IWA's girls basketball team didn't win a single district game. Now the state-ranked Angels are just one TAPPS Class 4A playoff victory away from winning the regional title.

IWA guard Madison Longwell sure is glad she stayed around long enough to see this day come, too.

"I actually almost quit after my freshman year (after the Angels went 0-8 in district), but I'm glad that I stuck with it," said Longwell, the only senior on this year's team. "It has been an amazing experience."

A win over TAPPS 3-4A rival Austin St. Dominic Savio (22-11) in Tuesday's 6:30 p.m. regional championship game in Floresville would enable the Angels (28-10), ranked 23rd in the state among TAPPS 4A and 5A teams by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches, to clinch a TAPPS 4A state tournament berth.

"They got that taste in their mouth and they want to go further," IWA coach Malcolm Smith said of his players continuing their postseason success.

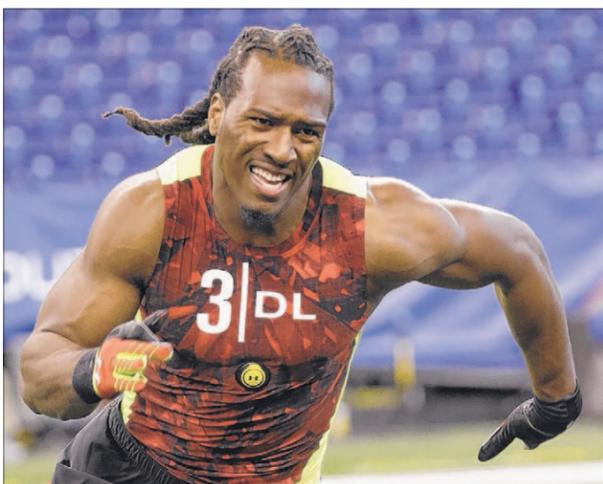
TAPPS 3A-4A champion IWA is finding it harder it focus on its one-game-at-a-time approach in the playoffs being this close to qualifying for the state tournament.

"We try not to look forward to (state) too much, but we all know it's coming and that drives us more," Angels junior guard Maggie Pesek said.

IWA plans to use its defense to try to extend its current 11-game winning streak.

The Angels held state-ranked Houston Lutheran North to seven points in the fourth quarter during their 73-58 area-round

See IWA, 5C



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Missouri Western State defensive lineman David Bass runs a drill during the NFL scouting combine in Indianapolis on Monday. This year's combine has 29 players from the non-Football Bowl Subdivision schools.

NFL COMBINE

Small-school guys get their shot

By Michael Marot
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS—Armonty Bryant gets those awkward looks every time he tells someone he attends college at ECU.

Naturally, the first inclination is to ask about East Carolina. When he explains the school name is actually East Central, the next question, naturally, is East Central what?

No, Bryant is not the most prominent

defensive lineman at this year's annual NFL scouting combine and he doesn't come from a school most football fans have even heard of. Yet he impressed enough of the right people to earn one of 333 invites to the NFL's annual scouting combine so he can compete against all those big-name guys he's been watching on television the last few years.

"I hear it all the time. They think it's supposed to be East Central Mich-

igan or something," he said. "East Central is in Ada, Okla. I like to say it's in the middle of nowhere."

Here, all 29 players form the non-Football Bowl Subdivision schools have a story.

Some, such as Tennessee Tech receiver Da'Rick Rogers, are actually FBS transplants. Rogers landed with Tech, Jim Youngblood's alma mater, last August after getting boot-ed off Tennessee's team for failing a drug test.

Others, such as Bryant and Azusa Pacific offensive lineman Luke Marquardt, outgrew their small-school monikers long ago but never got a chance to face the bigger-name players until now. Bryant was listed at 6-foot-4 and 250 pounds last season. Scouts believe he can play either defensive end or outside linebacker.

Marquardt came to Indianapolis at 6-8½ and

See NFL, 6C