Attention coaches:
We have a new number for you to call when reporting a box score. Our clerk can be reached at 440-954-7259. Please call after 6:30 p.m. Scores can still be emailed to Sports@MorningJournal.com. Deadline is 10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 10:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday.

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The Morning Journal
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Browns

Gordon suspended for year

Jeff Schudel
JSchudel@MorningJournal.com
@JSBrownsInsider

Gordon

Josh Gordon was suspended for at least all of 2015 by the NFL on Feb. 3, and this time the Browns made no promises of standing by their troubled receiver until he can play again.

Gordon, suspended for the first 10 games of 2014 for testing positive for marijuana, got the boot this time for testing positive for alcohol.

"Josh Gordon of the Cleveland Browns has been suspended without pay for at least one year for violating the NFL Policy and Program for Substances of Abuse," the league said in a statement. "Gordon's suspension begins immediately."

> "As we have conveyed, we are disappointed to once again be at this point with Josh."
> **Browns General Manager Ray Farmer**

Gordon originally was suspended for all of 2014, but the NFL revised its substance abuse policy in September. Gordon's suspension was reduced, but to be reinstated after 10 games he had to agree to abstain from alcohol for the rest of the season.

According to his version of the story, Gordon and some unidentified teammates flew on a private plane to Las Vegas five days after the season ended.

Gordon claimed in an open letter he had two beers and two mixed drinks on the flight and wrote when he landed he received a message to report to a testing location within four hours.

The test revealed the alcohol consumption, so once again the Browns will be without the star receiver who in 2013 led the NFL with 1,646 receiving yards.

"As we have conveyed, we are disappointed to once again be at this point with Josh," Browns general manager Ray Farmer said in a statement.

See Gordon, Page C3

VERMILION 39, ROCKY RIVER 36

Nader's charity tosses seal win

Stephanie Metzger
SMetzger@MorningJournal.com
@SMetzgerMJ

Boys basketball

It doesn't get much closer than that.

Vermilion and Rocky River entered the contest on Feb. 3 knotted for fifth place in the West Shore Conference, both 2-7 in league play. The last time they met, it was Vermilion freshman Joby Pfeil's buzzer-beater that gave the Sailors the edge.

This time, it came down to the final seven seconds as Vermilion emerged the victor, 39-36.

Senior Kyle Nader's two free throws sealed the win for Sailors after Rocky River junior Jack Corrigan had cut Vermilion's lead to one with a putback with 35 seconds left.

Nader led Vermilion with 20 points.

It was a clash of the defenses that kept the game close, highlighted by Vermilion's impenetrable defense in the third quarter.

The Pirates led through most of the first half, carrying a 12-9 lead into the second quarter after senior Nate Seffernick added two after a Sailors' turnover.

Vermilion tied it at 15 early in the second quarter as senior Ryan Barnes hit a 3 on a feed from Nader.

But six straight points from junior Eric Jones boosted Rocky River to a 21-15 lead with four minutes remaining in the half. The Sailors battled back to cut the lead to one.

See Nader, Page C5

Tony Dejak/Associated Press

The Cavaliers' Tristan Thompson drives past the Kings' Nik Stauskas on Jan. 30 at Quicken Loans Arena. Thompson has been a solid performer for the Cavaliers coming off the bench.

Cavaliers

Thompson a pillar for Cavs

■ Ironman supplies boost of energy when he enters the game

Bob Finnan
RFinnan@MorningJournal.com
@BobCavsInsider

Tristan Thompson operates under the radar.

The Cavaliers forward/center doesn't get much fanfare. Rarely is he ever in the headlines.

Yet he's one of the team's unsung heroes.

He's the Cavaliers' first big off the bench. Thompson is the backup center/power forward behind starters Timofey Mozgov and Kevin Love, respectively.

"I'm bringing the energy," Thompson said. "That's my role on this team. That leads to getting extra possessions on the court. Defensively, just taking on the challenge of guarding the other team's best big and giving Timo and Kevin a breather."

The 6-foot-10, 238-pound Thompson found himself guarding Timberwolves behemoth Nikola Pekovic in the Jan. 31 game in Minnesota.

"Going against a guy like Pekovic, you have to almost be a pest, use my quickness to get him out of his comfort zone," Thompson said. "When he does get the ball, he likes to go over his left shoulder for a right-handed hook."

See Thompson, Page C4

Clippers at Cavaliers

- **When:** 8, Feb. 5
- **Where:** Quicken Loans Arena
- **Records:** Clippers 33-16; Cavaliers 30-20
- **TV:** TNT; **Radio:** WTAM-AM 1100, WMMS-FM 100.7, WLFM-FM 87.7, WEOL-AM 930

High school girls basketball

Raiders' Schafer achieves dream

■ Columbia junior passes 1,000 points

Sam Ameen
SAmeen@MorningJournal.com
@SamAmeen

It wasn't difficult for Columbia's Alison Schafer to forget. People were pestering her, reiterating the statements. Then, on Jan. 31 in a home game against Lake Ridge, she could feel a weight lifted off her shoulders.

Schafer

The junior point guard eclipsed the 1,000-career point mark in a 43-37 overtime win. She needed five points to reach 1,000. Schafer scored 23. She also had nine rebounds, four assists and four steals.

Inside
- Girls basketball notes
- Girls hoops Top of Crop

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"The whole game, you're thinking about it and it kind of just sticks in your head, and, of course, people are just like 'Five more points until you hit 1,000' and I was like, 'I know, trust me. I hear it all the time,'" Schafer said.

Schafer added that scoring her 1,000th point before an essential Patriot Athletic Conference game against Fairview Park on Feb. 4 is a relief.

Columbia has had a stellar season, compiling a 13-5 record and an 11-2 record in the PAC.

See Schafer, Page C5

What if Browns, Belichick had stayed?

Well isn't this special?

Bill Belichick wins another Super Bowl.

Here's looking at you, Cleveland!

Just when you think it can't get any worse for Browns fans, it gets worse. Belichick has become to Cleveland what Newman was to Seinfeld.

Seinfeld: Helloooo ... Newman!

Cleveland: Helloooo ... Belichick!

That's right, Mr. Excitement is back, waving another Lombardi Trophy in all of our faces. The Patriots were presented the Lombardi Trophy by Seattle coach Pete "Worst Call in the History of Sports" Carroll.

The Seahawks snatched defeat from the jaws of victory, and Belichick had no choice. He had to accept the trophy. On the first day of February MMXV, the Patriots were gifted a XXVIII to XXIV victory in Super Bowl XLIX.

Jim Ingraham

Ironically, XLIX is Belichick's hoodie size.

Go figure.

Let's get the niceties out of the way right up front. Belichick is a great coach. Maybe the greatest ever. Has anyone consistently done more with less?

Aside from Tom Brady, Belichick keeps winning Super Bowls with a bunch of busboys. In many ways, this Super Bowl was a triumph of Least Mode over Beast Mode.

Seriously. Danny Amendola? Julian Edelman? Malcolm Butler?

I'm pretty sure one of them handed me my Big Mac and fries the last time I drove through McDonald's.

Doesn't matter. Coach Monotone keeps showing up for the big game with his Sesame Street All-Stars, goes all-Elmo over the opposition and takes home another Super Bowl trophy.

But enough about him.

What about us?

The wretched refuse of his coaching career. He didn't leave Cleveland by choice, of course. He was fired by the owner, after the owner moved the whole operation from Cleveland to Baltimore, and the NFL just stood back and let it all be.

Since then, it has been one kick in the gut after another for Dawg Pound Nation.

Consider the following:

See Ingraham, Page C3

Patrick Semansky/Associated Press

Patriots coach Bill Belichick hoists his fourth Lombardi Trophy in Glendale, Ariz., on Feb. 1. How many would the hoodie have won if he and the original Browns had stayed in Cleveland.

Printed and distributed by PressReader

Nader

From Page C1

Then junior Evan Nugent's layup gave the Pirates the 23-21 lead heading into the half.

"It's two really good defensive teams," Vermilion coach Kurt Habermehl said. "I thought both teams dug in tonight and did a great job playing defense."

Vermilion's defense dominated the third quarter, limiting the Pirates' shooting to 1-of-6 for three points from the field.

Meanwhile, the Sailors took the lead on another 3 from Barnes with 4:20 left in the quarter. Senior Jimmy Kinsley took a feed from Corrigan and found an open lane to tie the score again at 26.

"Defense hasn't been our problem the last four or five games," Habermehl noted. "We've had a hard time putting the ball in the hoop. We've been outstanding defensively for the last four games. We've done a great job of cutting off all the lanes and I thought tonight was no exception."

The Sailors took a 29-26 lead into the fourth quarter and their defense remained sound. Rocky River remained close as Corrigan's 3 set the score at 33-31 with 3:50 to play.

Cue Nader, whose six fourth quarter points and 4-of-7 performance from the charity stripe kept the Sailors ahead. Nader ended the evening with a game-high 20 points.

"Kyle went through a couple rough games and he's really done a great job of getting back in track. … He took better shots tonight and scored 20 points and that's the kind of kid we need now because we are struggling a little bit offensively. Until we turn it around, he's going to have to carry the load a little bit."

It was the third conference win for the Sailors who moved into sole possession of fourth place in the SWC as their win lifts them to 7-9 overall. With North Ridgeville and Lakewood knotted for third place, Habermehl noted the competitive balance of the SWC in its final year.

"You look at Rocky River, they are 2-8 in the league right now, but they just beat a good Lakewood team last week, so it's basically whoever has a great night and any team can beat whoever in this league," Habermehl said.

HIGH SCHOOL SCOREBOARD

BOYS BASKETBALL

Clearview 83, Fairview 56

Fairview	9	11	13	23	— 56
Clearview	24	17	23	19	— 83

Clearview — Deuce Martin 17, Antonio Bennett 12, Jason Young 10, Lance Billings 9, Juan Torres 8, Jacob Kozich 7, Maliek Ivey 6, Ray Contreras 6, Jailen Castro 4, Antonio Alvarado 2, DeAri Todd 2.

Fairview — Kevin Kerchenski 15, Jared Butler 14, Ryan Williams 7, Mohammed Elder 6, John McQuate 4, Paul Hoftyzer 4, Derek Schwarber 3, Paul Miles 3.

Rebounds — Clearview 32 (Bennett, Young 6), Fairview 15 (Kerchenski, Hoftyzer 3); **Turnovers** — Clearview 9, Fairview 15; **Team records** — Clearview 5-12 (5-7 PAC), Fairview 3-14 (2-9 PAC).

JV — Clearview 50, Fairview 49

Vermilion 39, Rocky River 36

Vermilion	9	11	9	9	— 39
Rocky River	12	11	3	10	— 36

Vermilion — Kyle Nader 20, Ryan Barnes 9, Caleb Waller 3, Jordan Murray 3, Joby Pfeil 3.

Rocky River — Sutton Klodnick 2, Eric Jones 7, Jack Corrigan 14, Evan Nugent 2, Jimmy Kinsley 9, Nate Seffernick 2.

Rebounds — Vermilion 19, Rocky River 27; **Team records** — Vermilion 7-9, Rocky River 7-10.

JV — Vermilion 45, Rocky River 39

North Ridgeville 58, Avon 49

AVON — Michael Smigel 1-0-3, Zack Torbert 2-0-4, Nick Toth, D'amonte Thornton 1-4-6, Will Ybarra 1-0-2-23, DelShawn Orr 5-1-13

NORTH RIDGEVILLE — Jordan Montgomery 1-4-6, Demario McCall 4-0-8, Isa Abdul-Alim 5-1-14, Greg Draft 9-1-19, Tyler Arnold 5-1-11

Avon	11	19	7	12	— 49
North Ridgeville	20	16	9	13	— 58

Three-point goals: Avon: (Orr 2, Ybarra, Smigel), North Ridgeville: (Abuld-alim 3, Arnold). **Field goals:** Avon 19-57 (33 percent), North Ridgeville 24-50 (48 percent). **Free throws:** Avon 7-11 (64 percent), North Ridgeville 6-14 (43 percent). **Rebounds:** Avon 42, North Ridgeville 25. **Turnovers:** Avon 24, North Ridgeville 1a. **Total fouls:** Avon 14, North Ridgeville 8.

JV: Avon 70, North Ridgeville 48

Westlake 47, Avon Lake 41

Westlake	14	6	11	16	— 47
Avon Lake	10	5	11	15	— 41

Westlake — Andris Balodis 23, Cameron Brown 11, Scott Leonard 6, Mark Schuler 4, Noah Meek 3

Avon Lake — A.J. Outcalt 10, James O'Connor 9, Luke Harris 9, David Marsh 6, Matt Molina 4, Logan Good 2, Quinn Cantleberry 1

Rebounds — Westlake 27(Brown 8), Avon Lake 23(Marsh 6); **Turnovers** — Westlake 10, Avon Lake 11; **Team records** — Westlake 5-8, Avon Lake 3-14

JV — Westlake 45, Avon Lake 39

Bay Village 85, Lakewood 67

Bay Village	18	21	26	20	— 85
Lakewood	19	9	21	20	— 67

Bay Village — Brandon Morriss 20, Rex Sunahara 19, Danny Heideloff 11, John Koz 8, Alec White 7, Jack Kyle 7, Jonathon Brajdic 6, Jack Jelen 3, Cole Gergye 2, Kyle Thompson 2.

Lakewood — Porter 12, Taylor 10, Leisinger 10, Gerhardt 9, McDonald 8, Sala 8, Witri 6, Malone 2, Rollins.

Rebounds — Bay Village 27 (Sunahara 8), Lakewood 22 (Sala 6); **Turnovers** — Bay Village 11, Lakewood 16; **Team records** — Bay Village 11-5.

AREA SCHEDULE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Feb. 4

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lorain at Warrensville Heights, 7:30
Wellington at Black River, 7:30
Buckeye at Firelands, 7:30
Clearview at Lutheran West, 7:30
Oberlin at Brooklyn, 7:30
Bay at Avon, 7:30
Vermilion at Midview, 7:30
Rocky River at North Ridgeville, 7:30
Lakewood at Elyria Catholic, 7:30
Westlake at Avon Lake, 7:30
Brunswick at Olmsted Falls, 7:30
North Olmsted at Brecksville, 7:15

HOCKEY

Parma at Elyria Catholic, 7

SWIMMING

Perkins at Oak Harbor, 5

Feb. 5

BOYS BASKETBALL

Fuchs Mizrachi at Lake Ridge, 7

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Open Door at Mentor Christian, 6
New London at Huron, 7:30

WRESTLING

Clearview, Avon at Amherst, 6

HOCKEY

CVCA at Midview, 7:30

Feb. 6

BOYS BASKETBALL

Maple Heights at Lorain, 7:30
Elyria at Valley Forge, 7:30
Brookside at Black River, 7:30
Firelands at Keystone, 7:30
Wellington at Buckeye, 7:30
Clearview at Brooklyn, 7:30
Columbia at Oberlin, 7:30
Edison at Clyde, 7:30
Perkins at Margaretta, 7:30
Elyria Catholic at Avon, 7:30
Bay at Vermilion, 7:30
Rocky River at Midview, 7:30
Monroeville at St. Paul, 6
Mapleton at Western Reserve, 6
Willard at Sandusky, 7:30
Avon Lake at Amherst, 7:30
Brecksville at Olmsted Falls, 7:30
Berea-Midpark at Westlake, 7:15
Lake Center at Open Door, 7:30
Huron at Port Clinton, 7:30
Lakewood at North Ridgeville, 7:30
South Central at New London, 7:30

WRESTLING

NOC Championships at Garfield Heights, 5
Elyria Catholic, Normandy at Maple Heights, 6

HOCKEY

Avon at Western Reserve Academy, 5:50
Westlake vs. North Olmsted at Quicken Loans Arena, 4:30

Feb. 7

BOYS BASKETBALL

Black River at New London, 7:30
St. Paul at Edison, 7:30
Perkins at Perrysburg, 7:30
Avon at North Olmsted, 7:30
St. Paul at Edison, 6
Lake Ridge at St. Martin de Porres, 6:30
Avon Lake at Lakewood, 7:30
Western Reserve at Norwalk, 7:30
Huron at St. Mary, 7:30

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lorain at Euclid, 7:30
Elyria at Strongsville, 2:30
Black River at Keystone, 7:30
Brookside at Buckeye, 7:30
Wellington at Firelands, 7:30
Clearview at Columbia, 2:30
Oberlin at Fairview, 2:30
Edison at Clyde, 2:30
Oak Harbor at Perkins, 2:30
St. Paul at Crestview, 1
Avon at North Olmsted, 6
Bay at Normandy, 2:30
Gilmour at Rocky River, 2:30
Western Reserve at Plymouth, 1
Avon Lake at Amherst, 2:30
Brecksville at Olmsted Falls, 2:30
Berea-Midpark at Westlake, 2:30
Norwalk at Bellevue, 2:30
Huron at Port Clinton, 2:30
Monroeville at New London, 2:30

WRESTLING

Amherst at Lorain, 6
NOC Championships at Garfield Heights, 11 a.m.
PAC Championships at Buckeye, 10 a.m.
FC Conference at St. Paul, 10 a.m.
Perkins, Huron at Oak Harbor, 10 a.m.

HOCKEY

North Olmsted at Avon, 5:30
Brecksville at Rocky River, 4:15

Feb. 8

HOCKEY

Parma at Bay, 5:30
Benedictine at Midview, 3:30
Rocky River at Solon, 5
Lakewood at Avon Lake, 6
North Olmsted at Olmsted Falls, 4:15
Hudson at Westlake, 5:30

Feb. 9

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Elyria at North Ridgeville, 7:30
New London at Firelands, 7:30
Amherst at Clearview, 7:30
Akron SVSM at Elyria Catholic, 7:30
Willard at Sandusky, 7:30
North Olmsted at Valley Forge, 7:15

Feb. 10

BOYS BASKETBALL

Lorain at Cleveland Heights, 7:30
North Olmsted at Elyria, 7:30
Wellington at Black River, 7:30
Buckeye at Firelands, 7:30
Clearview at Lutheran West, 7:30
Oberlin at Brooklyn, 7:30
Avon at Rocky River, 7:30
Midview at Bay, 7:30
Vermilion at Lakewood, 7:30
Brookside at Keystone, 7:30
Christian Community at Lake Ridge, 6
North Ridgeville at Elyria Catholic, 7:30

National Signing

Big-nai remain

Ralph D. Rus
Associated Pres

Spend a few hours on nati watching teenagers pick ha school gymnasiums and yc hard to believe that the vast football prospects have long choice of colleges.

Those who do hold out tei attention — especially when the best players in country.

This year, several five-st set to announce where th school on signing day. A loc expected to produce the n excitement on Wednesday. football teams re-stock the fresh talent.

• Byron Cowart, LB, 6-foo Armwood (Florida) High Sc player on the board accordin and ESPN, he seemed dest until the Gators fired coach When Muschamp landed the dinator job at Auburn, Co attention to the Tigers. Cowa up the practices for the Unc America

• Martez Ivey, OT, 6-5½, 2 pka (Fla.) High School. Anotl ing between Auburn and Fl was considering Auburn ev champ made the move. An a rounded lineman, Ivey has rc