

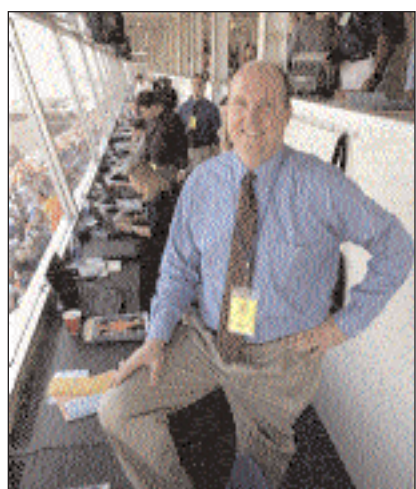


Prep tennis

■ Champaign Central's Natalie Tabb won the sectional tennis crown at Blair Park in Urbana. — D-3

SPORTS

Sunday, October 20, 2002



News-Gazette photo by Robert K. O'Daniell
Kent Brown, who starred at Atwood-Hammond, remains involved with athletics at the University of Illinois.

For the record ...

Perhaps you live in Douglas County and needed a lawyer. Your choice might have been Mike Carroll.

Maybe you were going through a difficult pregnancy while in Chicago. You might have been seen by Dr. Monique Brown.

Could be you were addicted to the soap opera "All My Children" and loved — or loathed — the character Sean Cudahy, as portrayed by Alan Dysert.

Carroll, Brown and Dysert are known now for what they're accomplishing with their lives, and yet they are among a large group of former area athletes who are

immortalized in their hometowns because they still possess school records from their prep athletic careers.

The News-Gazette's Fred Kroner has selected 10 who fit the profile and represent a range from six to 38 years in which they were active in high school sports.

Six of the 10 people profiled on page D-11 are track and field record-holders, which reflects not our preference for that sport, but the trend that area schools have more complete marks in track and field than any other activity.

Of the feats chronicled, the oldest belongs to the 55-year-old Carroll.

"I'm as proud now as I look back and see it has held for 38 years," Carroll said. "That verifies it was a pretty good accomplishment."

Whether the records will be broken this year or stand for years, these 10 share one common trait: With athletes getting bigger, stronger and faster, they are surprised their records have not been broken.

"I knew it was a good throw for that time, but not one that was unsurpassable," said Paul James, who set Mahomet-Seymour's discus throw in 1978. "To still have it stand 20 years later is pretty amazing." Amen.



News-Gazette photo by Rick Danzi
Dave Chandler, a record-setting guard at Chrisman, still is involved in basketball as a coach at Armstrong-Potomac.

Weak Big Ten gives Illinois fighting chance

Five football games to go. Let's give pessimism a day off.

Sure, the Illini have played poorly, but this is the Big Ten, you know. It's ranked as the No. 6 conference in the nation according to midterm grades handed out by Scripps Howard's John Lindsay and agreed to by many.

Lindsay even puts the Big East and ACC ahead. What's to be afraid of?

Consider: Illini homecoming foe Indiana (3-4) barely got past William & Mary 25-17 earlier this season. And there's no reason to fear a Northwestern team that permitted 100 points in its first two games, ranks last in the nation in run defense and was pulverized 49-0 by Penn State on Saturday.

If you count Indiana and Northwestern as wins, a bowl bid — who says you can't dream? — would require an unlikely 2-for-3 finish against Penn State, Wisconsin and Ohio State. You say it's impossible? Well, the Badgers have lost three in a row. And Penn State and Ohio State will knock themselves silly next weekend in Columbus. Remember, Illinois beat all three of those teams last year and has whipped Ohio State 10 times in the last 19 meetings.

Perception meets reality

So, really, is the league as weak as the experts indicate?

Perhaps. The Big Ten is not overrun with quality quarterbacks, particularly at the helm of perennial powers Michigan and Ohio State. And thinking abounds that the league lacks speed on defense.

The current conference leader, Iowa, is just now rising from the ashes left by Hayden Fry and looks back on another in-state embarrassment at the hands of Iowa State.

Therein lies the problem. League leaders haven't done enough outside the conference to change impressions. Ohio State had to eke out a 23-19 win against Cincinnati and needed red-zone heroics to bypass Northwestern 27-16. Michigan got a reprieve in its 31-29 defeat of Washington and nearly fumbled away a 10-7 win against Utah. Wisconsin barely edged Fresno State 23-21 and Northern Illinois 24-21. Penn State's 40-7 conquest of Nebraska was a shocker, but this isn't the same old Nebraska (the Cornhuskers lost to Oklahoma State on Saturday).

So, even though Ohio State is undefeated, the league hasn't done enough to erase consecutive 2-4 bowl records and unimpressive nonconference audits of 25-17 in 2000 and 24-16 in 2001.

Spitals set trend

It all begins with Michigan State. Some crystal-ballers projected that, with Jeff Smoker a highly regarded passer, the



News-Gazette photo by John Dixon
Expect to see Illinois freshmen Deron Williams (front) and Dee Brown sharing the court a lot this season. Though both were point guards in high school, they'll shed the label this season and share the role of bringing the ball upcourt and setting up the offense for Bill Self's new-look Illini.

A one-one count

Illini point guards Brown, Williams realize there's room for both

By **BRETT DAWSON**
News-Gazette Staff Writer

CHAMPAIGN — Neither Dee Brown nor Deron Williams has vivid memories of the call.

They can't recall the date, or even what time of year it was, exactly.

I More on Illinois basketball:
■ Men's, women's practice reports, D-5.

What they know for sure is Brown did the dialing. And the Illinois freshman guards can remember the topic of their first phone conversation last year.

"He had already committed (to Illinois), and he called just to kind of talk about the situation," Williams said. "The whole point guard situation."

Things could have soured right there.

Brown, after all, was a consensus top 20 player in the high school Class of 2002, a 6-foot guard from Maywood who'd been covered by the better part of the Big Ten, including Michigan State.

Get the point?

Think Dee Brown and Deron Williams can't share time on the court? Try telling that to the past six NCAA champions, all of whom started a pair of guards who could play both backcourt spots:

Year	Champion	Guard duo
2002	Maryland	Steve Blake/Juan Dixon
2001	Duke	Chris Duhon/Jay Williams
2000	Michigan St.	Charlie Bell/Mateen Cleaves
1999	Connecticut	Khalid El-Amin/Ricky Moore
1998	Kentucky	Jeff Sheppard/Wayne Turner
1997	Arizona	Mike Bibby/Miles Simon

He was an in-state recruiting coup for Bill Self, a player about to begin what would be a McDonald's All-America season as a senior at Proviso East High School.

And the guy dubbed "The One-Man Fast Break" just happened to play the same position as Williams, widely regarded as a top 10 point guard in their class.

Second guessing

Williams had heard Brown was Illinois-bound. And though Self and assistant Billy Gillispie told Williams throughout the recruiting process that they envisioned he and Brown in a backcourt together, there was some hesitation at first.

"I admit, at first I was a little iffy," said Williams, a 6-3 slasher from The Colony, Texas.

And understandably so.

The rest of the schools on Williams' list were telling him he was their No. 1 priority at point guard. Suddenly, his No. 1 school had another freshman poised to play that spot.

"He knew from the jump that we wanted him and we wanted Dee," Self said. "Still, I remember that when he first got the news, he was a little taken aback."

Self compared the situation to a high school kid courting a prom date. It doesn't matter that

Please see ILLINI, D-5

World Series

GAME 1 RESULT

San Francisco	4
Anaheim	3

Giants lead series 1-0

GAME 1 STAR

J.T. Snow

San Francisco's Barry Bonds (right) was the story with his first World Series home run, but Snow was the star with a highlight-reel catch in the fifth inning and a two-run homer in the sixth inning.

TODAY'S GAME

■ San Francisco (Ru. Ortiz 14-10) at Anaheim (Appler 14-12), 7:04 p.m.

TUESDAY'S GAME

■ Anaheim (Ra.Ortiz 15-9) at San Francisco (Hernandez 12-16), 7:27 p.m.



Associated Press

Bonds hot to trot in opener

San Francisco star leads Giants with blast in first Series at-bat

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Barry Bonds started his first World Series with a trot instead of a walk, and the San Francisco Giants played home run derby the rest of the way.

Grabbing the most from the moment he's always waited for, Bonds homered in his first at-bat on baseball's biggest stage, sending the Giants past the Anaheim Angels 4-3 Saturday night in Game 1.

"I could imagine it in my dreams, but I never thought I'd do it until now," Bonds said. "It helped take the tension down a little bit for us, but games aren't won in the first or second inning. They're won in the

ninth inning."

Almost every question leading up to this all wild-card matchup centered on one theme: Would the Angels dare pitch to the most monstrous hitter in the majors?

Anaheim hotshot Jarrod Washburn decided to challenge him and paid the price.

Bonds flipped his bat after launching a no-doubt drive leading off the second inning, and Reggie Sanders and J.T. Snow later homered to account for the Giants' runs.

"For Barry to start a Series like that, it's a very good sign," Giants manager Dusty Baker said. "He was very focused tonight, very silent."

Troy Glaus homered twice for the Angels, connecting in the sixth right after the Rally Monkey first appeared on the scoreboard. But with the 44,603 fans jumping around more than the little primate,

Anaheim could not quite catch up in its first Series appearance.

"They keep the pressure on you," Snow said. "Every time we scored, they came back. It's going to be an exciting game."

Jason Schmidt got the victory, bolstered by 3½ innings of hitless relief from Felix Rodriguez, Tim Worrell and Robb Nen, who pitched the ninth for a save. Snow also contributed a slip-sliding catch earlier that kept the Giants ahead.

"You've got to do whatever you can to get a win," Snow said. "You have to do something every night. Tonight it was my turn. Tomorrow it'll be somebody else."

The Giants hosted their first Series win since 1962, having been swept by Oakland in the earthquake-interrupted matchup in 1989.

Please see SERIES, D-12

More on the World Series, D-12.