

Thursday's results

MLB

Blue Jays.....	7
Brewers	8
Pirates	8
White Sox.....	13
Cubs.....	3
Rays	8
Royals	4
Cardinals.....	1
Dodgers.....	7
Reds	4

Touchdown for the Big Ten

Comcast, Big Ten Network end stalemate with cable deal

BY MEGHAN MONTEMURRO
ASSISTANT ASSIGNMENT EDITOR

Big Ten sports fans throughout the Midwest can breathe a collective sigh of relief.

Comcast Corporation and the Big Ten Network announced Thursday that a long-term agreement has been reached for Comcast to carry the Big Ten Network on television, broadband and video on demand. The announcement comes in time for the 2008 football season, and the state of Illinois will see coverage for the Big Ten Network increase its reach to 87 percent of

households.

"We are pleased that Comcast is now on board," said Illinois Director of Athletics Ron Guenther in the press release. "The Big Ten Network had a terrific first year. With the added distribution, Illinois fans in the state will now have additional opportunities to see the type of quality athletics we have in the Big Ten Conference."

Comcast will launch the network initially on its expanded basic level of service for promotional purposes to a majority of customers with Big Ten universities in their residing

state under the terms of the agreement. This includes the majority of customers in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. The Philadelphia region will be distributed on a digital level of service. Iowa does not have Comcast and will still be without the network on cable carriers. Service begins August 15.

"When introduced last year, the Big Ten Network offered the academic communities of the conference schools an unprecedented opportunity to publicize their educational accomplishments," Chancellor Richard Herman said. "As an academic leader, I am thrilled by the additional exposure of, not only our athletic teams, but our great faculty and students as well."

Comcast will have the opportu-

nity to move the Big Ten Network's service to a broadly distributed level in spring 2009. Digital customers will have access to live Big Ten games and events in high definition as well as content on Comcast.net and Comcast's video on demand Big Ten programming.

Big Ten Commissioner James Delany said he was pleased with the agreement.

"On behalf of Big Ten presidents, faculty, administrators, players, coaches, alumni and fans, we congratulate Comcast and the Big Ten Network on reaching an agreement to bring Big Ten programming to millions of fans in the eight Big Ten states and millions more alumni and fans nationwide," Delany said. "We are very pleased with this partnership."

Rose hopes for spot on hometown team, Bulls mull over options before draft date

BY ANDREW SELIGMAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DEERFIELD, Ill. — Derrick Rose's response was as direct as one of his passes.

The best player in the draft? He reiterated it's Michael Beasley.

"Hands down he is," Rose said after working out with the Chicago Bulls on Thursday.

The No. 1 pick? It could be Rose.

While he was quick to praise Beasley again, just as he did at the NBA's pre-draft camp, Rose also made it clear he would love to play for his hometown team.

The Chicago Bulls have the top pick in the draft next week and an important decision to make. Do they go with Beasley, the forward from Kansas State who would give them a scoring presence? Or Rose, the point guard from Chicago who led Memphis to the NCAA championship game?

If the Bulls are it, that would be just fine with Derrick Rose, who grew up on the city's South Side and played at Simeon High School before leading Memphis to the NCAA final in his lone season with the Tigers. Rose averaged 14.9 points and 4.7 assists while leading Memphis to an NCAA Division I record 38 victories and was particularly good during the NCAA tournament. He averaged 20.8 points and dominated Kansas in the championship game until the final seconds of regulation.

Now, he could be the man who helps the Bulls rebound from their most disappointing season in years. Expected to contend in the Eastern Conference after three straight playoff appearances, Chicago lost 49 games as players bickered with each other and their coaches.



Prospective NBA draftee Derrick Rose, of Chicago, talks with the media after a closed baseball workout with the Chicago Bulls in Deerfield, Ill. on Thursday.

Rose said he never owned a Michael Jordan jersey growing up. He paid closer attention to LeBron James and the two could have something in common in the near future: No. 1 picks who got drafted by the local team.

"I would love to play here," Rose said. "It's a dream come true. You get to bring the Bulls back to where they're supposed to be, hopefully, take it step by step and make progress."

But if Beasley's the best player,

why should the Bulls take Rose?

"I think I can control the team a little bit more," Rose said. "I think I'm a leader. And I think I'll push the players and everyone else to have

that attitude."

If Chicago doesn't pick him? "I'll be hurt a little bit, but my goal is to be playing in the NBA," Rose said.

Chicago's choice: Rose or Beasley?

2007-2008 stats	Height	PPG	APG	RPG	3PT%	FT%
Derrick Rose (PG)	6'3"	14.9	4.7	4.5	.337	.712
Michael Beasley (PF)	6'8"	26.2	1.2	12.4	.379	.773

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