

Monday's results

MLB

Mariners.....	3
Blue Jays.....	2
Royals.....	3
Yankees.....	2
Giants.....	3
Nationals.....	2
Pirates.....	5
Diamondbacks.....	3

Young Illini ready for NCAAAs

Winckler leads women in his last visit to Nationals

BY DANIEL JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

In 1986, first-year Illinois coach Gary Winckler headed to Nationals with the University after coming from Florida State.

Winckler produced a 4x400 All-American relay team of mostly underclassmen in his first year.

In 2008, Winckler will head to Nationals with another young team in his final year as a head coach.

"We're a fairly young group going in there, other than (seniors) Briana (Cunningham) and LaNeisha (Waller)," Winckler said. "We don't have the same expectations that we had last year going to Nationals, but we're still going to be optimistic about our girls' chances."

Cunningham and sophomore Aja Evans were at-large selections announced by the NCAA on June 3 and will compete in the 400-meter dash and the shot put, respectively.

Joining them will be Angela Bizzari, a sophomore, in the 5,000-meter run. Waller will compete in the her second championship in as many years in the 100-meter dash, the same event that she partic-

ipated in last year. Freshmen Danelle Woods and Chantelle Groenewoud will each compete in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. All four earned automatic berths to Nationals after finishing in the top five of their respective events at Regionals.

"We don't really have too many people ranked too high going into this," Winckler said. "I think that there are several of them in the top eight, though. LaNeisha and Aja are up there, Angela certainly has that kind of ability, but the goal right now, for everyone, is to get to the final day."

Regardless of rank, age or any other factor, Winckler is still treating his final run at Nationals like any other.

"It's just another national meet, you want to compete hard and to make the best of your ability," he said. "In most cases, you really can't look ahead too much to these, it's more about where the athletes are at when we get there."

When asked if he thought he could reproduce some of the magic from his first Nationals run with a team similar to the '86 team, Winckler laughed.

"We'll see," he said.



TOM ROOT THE DAILY ILLINI

From left to right, freshmen Kate Tysse, Carolyn Tysse and sophomore Ashley Thompson run at the Illinois Twilight meet on April 29. The Illini women's track team will compete at Nationals this week.

Bears cut Benson after two arrests in a month

Angelo: Benson shows "a pattern of behavior we will not tolerate"

BY ANDREW SELIGMAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAKE FOREST, Ill. — The Chicago Bears waived running back Cedric Benson following his second alcohol-related arrest in a month, the team said Monday.

"Cedric displayed a pattern of behavior we will not tolerate," General Manager Jerry Angelo said in a statement. "As I said this past weekend, you have to protect your job. Everyone in this organization is held accountable for their actions."

The troubled running back did not participate in organized team activities on Monday after telling the Chicago Tribune he would, and whether he showed up at Halas Hall was not clear.

Benson's agent Eugene Parker

and attorney Sam Bassett did not return messages seeking comment before the announcement that he'd been waived.

The Bears had already made it clear they were losing patience with Benson when they drafted Tulane's Matt Forte in the second round in April. Three ineffective, injury-plagued years in which he at times annoyed teammates with blunt comments left management looking for another running back — and that was before the recent brushes with the law.

Benson's rocky relationship with the Bears took another turn for the worse when he was arrested on a drunken driving charge in Austin, Texas, early Saturday after failing a field sobriety test. The former first-round draft pick was released on bond.

The latest incident came on the heels of a May 5 arrest in which Benson was charged with boating while intoxicated and resisting arrest on a lake near Austin. Ben-

son has said neither charge is true, and those cases are pending. He has also said police used excessive force against him, and several witnesses have backed him up in interviews with print and TV outlets.

"When individual priorities overshadow team goals, we suffer the consequences as a team," Angelo said. "Those who fail to understand the importance of 'team' will not play for the Chicago Bears."

Bassett said Saturday that the former Texas star had a few drinks with dinner but didn't think he was intoxicated, although he acknowledged his client would "probably be in trouble with his team."

Benson was pulled over for running a red light and he refused to take a breath test or provide blood samples Saturday, said Austin police spokeswoman Veneza Aguinaga.

Bassett said Benson thought

the light was yellow when he went through around 2 a.m. but stopped immediately when police appeared, and he added that Benson told him he wasn't speeding or driving recklessly.

The last thing he needed was more trouble.

A few promising glimpses aside, Benson has not lived up to the hype that accompanied him to the NFL when the Bears took him with the fourth pick in 2005. He has 1,593 yards and 10 touchdowns while averaging 3.8 yards a car-

ry for the Bears after running for more than 5,500 yards and 64 touchdowns at Texas.

Benson also has a June 30 court date for the May arrest while operating a 30-foot boat on Lake Travis — an incident in which authorities used pepper spray to subdue him. No court date had been set for the latest incident as of Monday afternoon.



BENSON