

BRIEFLY

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Hollman sets A-Sun homer mark

Paul Hollman hit his 59th career home run to set an Atlantic Sun Conference record in East Tennessee State's 12-9 victory at Furman on Wednesday night.

Bo Ressler went 4-for-4 with four RBIs, a double and triple. Freshman Logan Rice went 2 1/3 innings for the victory for the Buccaneers (22-9).

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Burns, Buffs win two at Bryan

Milligan College won a pair of Appalachian Athletic Conference games on Wednesday at Bryan College in Chattanooga. Milligan won the opener 7-1 and blanked Bryan 4-0 victory in the nightcap.

Sidney Burns got the victory in the opener, allowed one hit while striking out six. Chancie Combsner picked up the save.

Emily Biggs was 3-for-4 and Abbey Hughes was 2-for-2. Brittany DiRobbio and Jessica Fix each had two hits.

Burns also got the victory while striking out eight in the nightcap. Combsner recorded the save.

Milligan (5-4, 22-16) hosts Virginia Intermont Friday at 3 p.m.

NBA

LeBron passes Kobe for top jersey

If LeBron James' move to Miami made him a villain to some, fans like dressing as a bad guy.

James had the top-selling jersey in the NBA this season, moving past Kobe Bryant to claim the No. 1 spot for the first time since his rookie season in Cleveland in 2004.

Bryant dropped to No. 2 on the list announced Wednesday, while Rajon Rondo moved up to third, one of five Boston Celtics among the top 15.

The list is based on sales on NBAStore.com since the start of the 2010-11 season.

James' popularity was expected to suffer after his much-criticized departure from the Cavaliers last summer. His switch of teams and numbers, from No. 23 to 6, ended the reign of Bryant, who had been No. 1 since the start of the 2008-09 season.

■ A valet at a Miami Beach hotel has filed a lawsuit against the mother of Miami Heat basketball star LeBron James, seeking financial damages less than a week after claiming she verbally abused and assaulted him.

The lawsuit, filed Tuesday, alleges that valet Rock Feller Sorel suffered, among other things, "emotional distress, humiliation, mental anguish (and) loss of capacity for enjoyment of life" after allegedly being struck by Gloria James in the early morning hours of April 7 at the Fountainbleau hotel.

Sorel is seeking more than \$15,000 in damages in the civil suit, which was filed five days after the incident.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Big 12, Fox Sports announce deal

The Big 12 Conference and Fox Sports announced a 13-year cable TV deal Wednesday that officials say will ensure the long-term stability of the league.

Financial terms were not disclosed. Sports Business Journal reported that the contract, which starts with the 2012 football season, will pay the conference \$90 million a year.

The Big 12 also has a deal with ABC-ESPN running through 2015-16 that would raise the conference's total TV rights revenue to a reported \$130 million annually.

Commissioner Dan Beebe said the Fox contract positions the 10-team league favorably with other major conferences.

The 12-team SEC generated \$205 million from TV rights last year and the 12-team Big Ten \$220 million. The Pac-10, which becomes the Pac-12 this year, made only \$60 million on TV rights but is working on a new television package that would include its own network.

TENNIS

Nadal advances in Monte Carlo

Rafael Nadal began his bid for a seventh straight Monte Carlo Masters title with a comfortable 6-2, 6-2 win over Jarkko Nieminen on Wednesday.

The top-ranked Spaniard, who next will play Richard Gasquet, did not face a single break point against the Finn and extended his winning record at the clay-court tournament to 33 matches.

Nadal is 7-0 against Gasquet and beat him in the 2005 semifinals on the way to his first Monte Carlo title.

Third-seeded Andy Murray defeated Radek Stepnsek 6-1, 6-4, winning his first match since the semifinals of the Australian Open.

Nadal remains the big favorite to clinch his 4th career title, even though he says he needs a bit more time to get his feeling back on clay. He's coming off recent hard-court losses to Novak Djokovic in the finals in Indian Wells and Miami.

HORSE RACING

Dutrow banned from Kentucky

Trainer Rick Dutrow Jr. may be running out of places to race.

The Kentucky Horse Racing Commission's License Review Committee denied the Kentucky Derby winning trainer a license to race in the state in 2011 on Wednesday.

KHRC executive director Lisa Underwood said the unanimous denial was based on Dutrow's "consistent disregard for the rules of racing."

Dutrow, who met with officials for an hour before the decision was rendered, can appeal.

PEERS

Ex-TSSAA head to become AD

Former Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association executive director Ronnie Carter will become athletics director at Davidson Academy in Nashville.

Carter spent 23 years heading the association before retiring in 2009. Altogether he spent 31 years with the high school sports governing board.

According to The Tennessean newspaper, the 65-year-old Carter will replace Kevin LaGate on a part-time basis.

From staff & AP reports