



BELLEVILLE NEWS-DEMOCRAT

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ARCH MADNESS: THE FINAL FOUR IN ST. LOUIS

FIGHTING ILLINI: A GAME SHORT

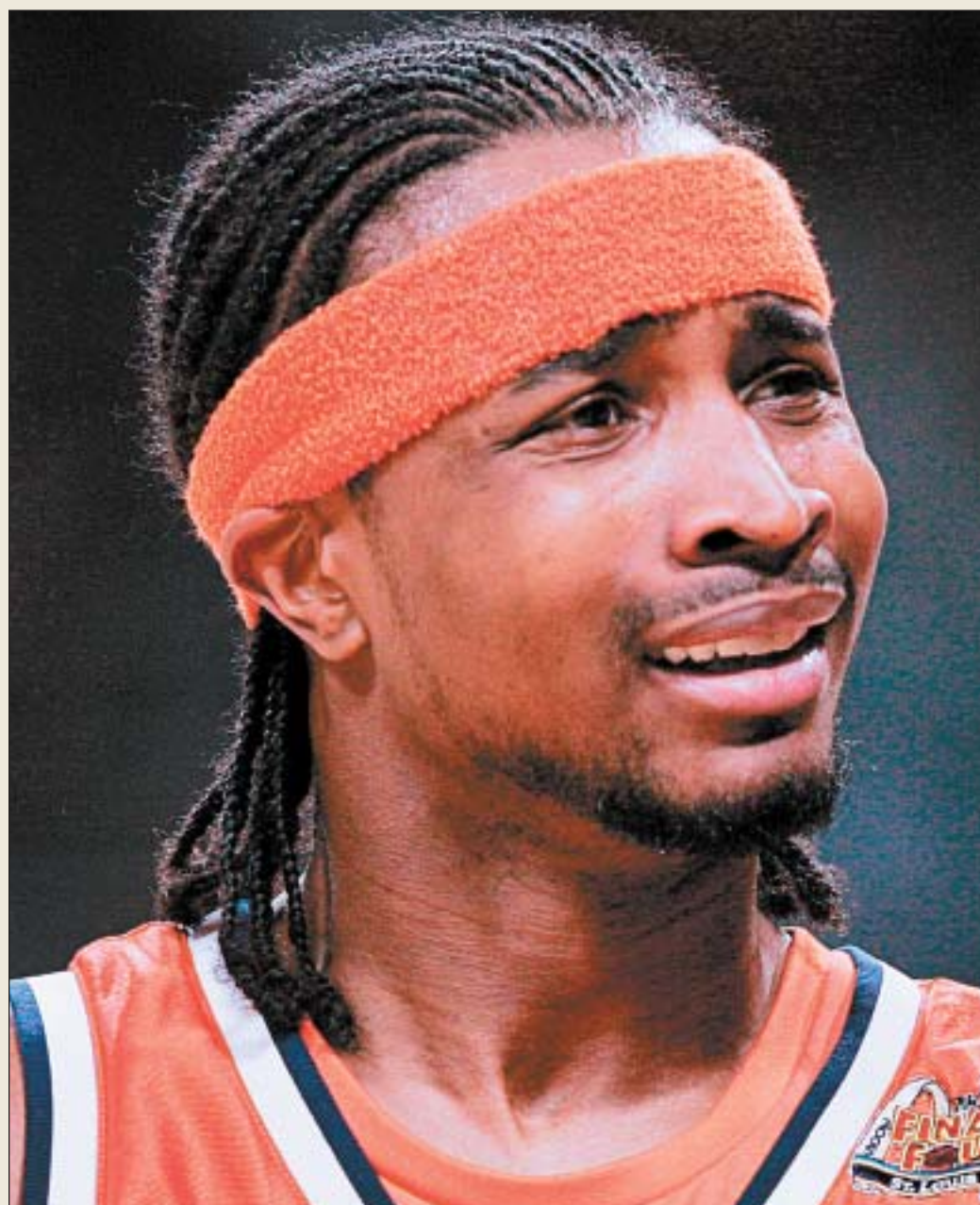
Illinois staged another dramatic rally Monday, but this time, it couldn't finish the deal.

The Illini erased a 15-point deficit in the second half of the national championship game against North Carolina. The Tar Heels, however, recovered to win 75-70 before a raucous crowd of 47,262 at the Edward Jones Dome in St. Louis.

"I'll remember the year, the journey," said Illinois coach Bruce Weber, whose team finished 37-2. "It's been unbelievable. I told the kids that. They shouldn't hang their heads. They've been such a special group, so focused. It's just been a blast."

The game

Sean May marks his 21st birthday by blowing out the candles on the Illini's national title hopes. **Page D1**



Illinois guard Dee Brown grimaces during the Illini's loss in the title game Monday, AP

Illinois

After getting his team to the title game, coach Bruce Weber likely will get his contract extended. **Page D1**

North Carolina

Point guard Raymond Felton is the guy who keeps the high-scoring Tar Heels going. **Page D3**

Norm Sanders

Roy Williams has his first national title, but Illinois didn't make easy for the Heels. **Page D1**

Woman relates terror at hands of ESL rapist

Angry police have not caught attacker

By CAROLYN P. SMITH
News-Democrat

EAST ST. LOUIS — She had nothing to steal, so the man police believe is the East St. Louis serial rapist said he might as well kill the woman.

He threatened to kill her at least five times, but she may have saved her life by begging the man not to leave her child motherless. Between threats the man talked like an old friend, raped her and told her she was one of the lucky ones because she was still alive.

"I wouldn't want another female to have to live with the sick feeling of being violated," she said. "I am telling my story in hopes that it will make more females be aware of their surroundings. No woman should

go to a car alone. If you're out at night, be with several other people and not by yourself."

And she is telling her story because she's angry that police have not captured the rapist.

"I want them to do whatever they need to do to capture this man. He needs to be off the streets. I think if it happened anywhere else but East St. Louis, they would have caught him by now."

Police believe the man may be responsible for at least six rapes dating back to August, but are awaiting evidence from the crime lab to make that determination. They believe there may be more victims who did not report attacks. They are offering a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the rapist's conviction.

To protect the woman's

Please see **RAPIST, A2**

Belleville City Council OKs sewer line deal

Vote brings end to spat with Shiloh

By SCOTT WUERZ
News-Democrat

BELLEVILLE — After a decade of dispute, the City Council on Monday made good on a promise that could pave the way for a new Lowe's and Wal-Mart Supercenter.

The City Council unanimously passed an agreement to build a sewer line to the Shiloh-Belleville border by the end of 2006.

"Time heals a lot of things," Belleville Mayor Mark Eckert said. "It was time to get this done."

According to current aldermen, former Mayor Roger Cook promised to build the sewer line in 1995 in exchange for Shiloh de-annexing some land needed by the city for the

construction of the east Belleville branch of the YMCA of Southwest Illinois.

The deeply divided City Council refused to follow through on the agreement.

"I was on the council at that time, and there were a lot of bad feelings about that deal," Ward 3 Alderman Ed Hock Jr. said Monday. "A lot of us felt like the mayor had given everything away and got nothing in return."

In addition to Belleville's cost of building the sewer line, the original deal froze the city's ability to annex ground between the two communities.

Eckert said the new deal prohibits Belleville from annexing on the north side of Illinois 161, but does not limit the city on the south side.

Belleville will pay about

Please see **COUNCIL, A2**

LOCAL CATHOLICS MOURN POPE AT MEMORIAL MASS

Residents recall times they saw pontiff

By JENNIFER A. BOWEN
News-Democrat

An overwhelming feeling of peace and awe is how people describe the experience of seeing Pope John Paul II.

When Liz Ballard of Belleville heard of the pope's death on Saturday, she felt sadness for his loss and remembered seeing the pope in person in 1999 when he visited St. Louis.

On Monday, Ballard attended a memorial Mass for Pope John Paul II at St. Peter Cathedral in Belleville. Catholics filled the pews to hear Monsignor James Margason eulogize the pope and pray for his soul.

"When I was there, there was such a feeling of peace," Ballard said of seeing the pope. "He was certainly a people's pope. He was such a universal pope and meant something to a lot of peo-

MORE ON THE POPE: Crowds gather to pay respects to Pope John Paul II. **PAGE A5**

ple. People around the world respected him so much and he will be missed, but he was at peace. I mean, look where he is going now."

Phyllis Lang of Belleville saw the pope during a visit to Vatican City and during his visit to St. Louis in 1999 and described

Please see **POPE, A2**



TIM VIZER/News-Democrat

Monsignor James Margason gives a homily about Pope John Paul II on Monday during a special noon Mass at St. Peter Cathedral.



Coming Wednesday

We want our cake and we want to eat it, too. Translation: We want a rich, satisfying dessert — minus a ton of calories. In the past, efforts to replace substitute artificial sweeteners for sugar in baked goods haven't been successful, but new products are changing that. In Lifestyle.

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