

SCOREBOARD

South Texas Report

Hooks open season at home April 9

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Corpus Christi Hooks open their fifth season of play Thursday, April 9, when the Tulsa Drillers visit Whataburger Field to begin a three-game series. The series against Tulsa is part of a six-game home stand which also features the Northwest Arkansas Naturals.

The Houston Astros, Corpus Christi's parent club, make their first visit to Whataburger Field at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 2, to battle the Hooks in an exhibition game.

"We've been fortunate since our inception to have some big names and big events at our park, but having the Astros play here is something that's unique and really special," Hooks president Ken Schrom said. "This is a highly anticipated event that baseball fans throughout South Texas deserve."

Season tickets are on sale at the Whataburger Field Box Office and may also be purchased by calling 561-4665. Season tickets, reserved seats and general admission tickets are unchanged for 2009. Individual game tickets go on sale March 7 in the Whataburger Field Box Office.

The 2009 schedule is identical to last year's through the first 16 games. Slight differences exist for the remainder of the 140-game calendar, which runs through Monday, September 7. The April 9 contest against Tulsa marks the third time in five years the Hooks have opened the season at Whataburger Field.

HOCKEY

Krischuk leaves IceRays for Sweden

Defenseman Jason Krischuk has left the IceRays to play in Sweden. Krischuk, who had four three assists in four games with Corpus Christi, will be placed on the team's suspended list, meaning he will be ineligible to return for at least 30 days.

In June, Krischuk signed to play for Asplöven HC, which is based in the north-eastern Swedish city of Hasparanda. He is not slated to join the team until after Christmas and chose to join the IceRays in the interim. IceRays coach Sylvain Cloutier did not rule out Krischuk returning to Corpus Christi in the spring.

CROSS COUNTRY

Ronoh to compete at national meet

Texas A&M-Corpus Christi's Anne Ronoh qualified for the NCAA national meet Nov. 24 in Terre Haute, Ind.

Ronoh qualified as the second-best individual finisher at the region meet when she placed 11th as four teams were chosen from the South Central region. Ronoh stopped the clock in 21 minutes, 5 seconds to post the highest-finish by an Islanders runner. She is the first female to qualify for the meet and just the second Islander ever joining Shadrack Songok.

"Anne qualifying is a step forward for the women's and we are hoping to build on it in the future," said Islander coach Shawn Flanagan. "We had a solid showing as a team at the regional and I think it looks good to be able to build on what we accomplished as a team and on Annie's performance."

NHL GLANCE

| EASTERN CONFERENCE | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|--------|----|----|----|--------------------|----|--------|----|----|----|
| ATLANTIC DIVISION | | | | | | NORTHEAST DIVISION | | | | | |
| W | L | OT/PTS | GF | GA | | W | L | OT/PTS | GF | GA | |
| N.Y. Rangers | 14 | 5 | 2 | 30 | 57 | Boston | 11 | 3 | 4 | 26 | 55 |
| Pittsburgh | 11 | 4 | 3 | 25 | 59 | Montreal | 10 | 5 | 2 | 22 | 53 |
| New Jersey | 8 | 7 | 2 | 18 | 46 | Buffalo | 9 | 5 | 3 | 21 | 50 |
| Philadelphia | 7 | 6 | 4 | 18 | 58 | Toronto | 7 | 8 | 4 | 18 | 59 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 7 | 9 | 2 | 16 | 46 | Ottawa | 6 | 9 | 3 | 15 | 42 |

| WESTERN CONFERENCE | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----|--------|----|----|----|------------------|----|--------|----|----|----|
| CENTRAL DIVISION | | | | | | PACIFIC DIVISION | | | | | |
| W | L | OT/PTS | GF | GA | | W | L | OT/PTS | GF | GA | |
| Detroit | 12 | 2 | 3 | 27 | 64 | San Jose | 16 | 3 | 1 | 33 | 73 |
| Chicago | 8 | 4 | 5 | 21 | 60 | Anaheim | 10 | 7 | 2 | 22 | 57 |
| Nashville | 9 | 8 | 1 | 19 | 56 | Phoenix | 8 | 8 | 1 | 17 | 42 |
| Columbus | 8 | 8 | 3 | 19 | 58 | Los Angeles | 7 | 8 | 2 | 16 | 42 |
| St. Louis | 6 | 8 | 2 | 14 | 50 | Dallas | 6 | 8 | 3 | 15 | 48 |

HURRICANES 2, CANADIENS 1

| | | | |
|----------|---|---|-----|
| Montreal | 0 | 1 | 0-1 |
| Carolina | 0 | 0 | 2-2 |

SECOND PERIOD—1, Montreal, Lang 6 (Kovaliev, Koivu), 1:07 (pp); **THIRD PERIOD**—2, Carolina, Samsonov 1 (Eaves, Gleason), 3:06. 3, Carolina, Whitney 5 (Walker, Seidenberg), 6:33 (pp). **Shots on Goal**—Montreal 8-12-9-29. Carolina 18-10-20-48.

OILERS 7, BLUE JACKETS 2

| | | | |
|----------|---|---|-----|
| Edmonton | 2 | 1 | 4-7 |
| Columbus | 0 | 1 | 1-2 |

FIRST PERIOD—1, Edmonton, Souray 6 (Hemsky, Visnovsky), 5:38 (pp). 2, Edmonton, Cogliano 4 (Souray, Cole), 13:14; **SECOND PERIOD**—3, Edmonton, Pouliot 1 (Cogliano, Horcoff), 12:49. 4, Columbus, Husejnovic 7 (Nash, Brassard), 18:03; **THIRD PERIOD**—5, Edmonton, Gilbert 2 (Horcoff, Hemsky), 7:44 (pp). 6, Columbus, Nash 9 (Modin, Brassard), 9:59 (pp). 7, Edmonton, Penner 4 (Gagner, Strudwick), 12:06. 8, Edmonton, Horcoff 5 (Hemsky, Gilbert), 14:38. 9, Edmonton, Visnovsky 3 (Gagner), 15:09. **Shots on Goal**—Edmonton 4-4-11-19. Columbus 15-14-10-39.

FLAMES 4, AVALANCHE 1

| | | | |
|----------|---|---|-----|
| Colorado | 1 | 0 | 0-1 |
| Calgary | 0 | 1 | 3-4 |

FIRST PERIOD—1, Colorado, Svatos 3 (Hensick, Wolski), 6:48. **SECOND PERIOD**—2, Calgary, Bourque 4 (Cammalleri, Boyd), 6:53. **THIRD PERIOD**—3, Calgary, Aucoin 3, 12:28. 4, Calgary, Iginla 11 (Langkow, Aucoin), 19:32 (en). 5, Calgary, Moss 3 (Langkow, Glencross), 19:50 (pp). **Shots on Goal**—Colorado 8-7-8-23. Calgary 13-19-19-51.

PANTHERS 4, LIGHTNING 3 (SO)

| | | | | |
|-----------|---|---|---|-----|
| Florida | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0-4 |
| Tampa Bay | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0-3 |

Florida won shootout 1-0
FIRST PERIOD—1, Florida, McCabe 2 (Campbell, Dvorak), 7:50. 2, Florida, Booth 8 (Zednik, Weis), 19:43 (pp); **SECOND PERIOD**—3, Florida, McCabe 3 (Horton, Bouwmeester), 7:48 (pp). 4, Tampa Bay, Vrbata 1 (Eminger, Stamkos), 14:42; **THIRD PERIOD**—5, Tampa Bay, Artyukhin 1 (Lecavallier, Eminger), 3:44. 6, Tampa Bay, Eminger 1 (Artyukhin, Jokinen), 17:09; **SHOOTOUT**—Florida 1 (Weiss NG, Horton G), Tampa Bay 0 (Lecavallier NG, Jokinen NG, St. Louis NG). **SO**—Florida 11-10-12-3-36. T.B. 16-21-13-2-52.

WILD 2, PENGUINS 1 (SO)

| | | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|-----|
| Minnesota | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0-2 |
| Pittsburgh | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0-1 |

Minnesota won shootout 1-0
FIRST PERIOD—1, Minnesota, Koivu 3, 7:57. 2, Pittsburgh, Cooke 2 (Staal, Scuderi), 8:07. **SHOOTOUT**—Minnesota 1 (Zidlicky G, Miettinen NG), Pittsburgh 0 (Sykora NG, Goligoski NG, Crosby NG). **Shots on Goal**—Minnesota 9-8-6-2-25. Pittsburgh 9-9-6-1-25.

HAWKS 3, COYOTES 2 (SO)

| | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|-----|
| Chicago | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0-3 |
| Phoenix | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0-2 |

Chicago won shootout 2-0
FIRST PERIOD—1, Chicago, Versteeg 6 (Kane, Toews), 18:02. 2, Chicago, Sharp 10, 19:10; **SECOND PERIOD**—3, Phoenix, Michalek 1 (Yandle, Boedker), 6:08 (pp); **THIRD PERIOD**—4, Phoenix, Doan 10 (Mueller, Jokinen), 5:57 (pp); **SHOOTOUT**—Chicago 2 (Toews G, Sharp G), Phoenix 0 (Turriss NG, Mueller NG). **Shots on Goal**—Chicago 14-13-9-4-40. Phoenix 7-15-13-3-38.

SCORES/SCHEDULE

| TUESDAY'S GAMES | | THURSDAY'S GAMES | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Carolina 2 | Montreal 1 | Pittsburgh at Atlanta | 6 p.m. |
| Edmonton 7 | Columbus 2 | Florida at New Jersey | 6 p.m. |
| Minnesota 2 | Pittsburgh 1 (SO) | Montreal at Ottawa | 6:30 p.m. |
| Florida 4 | Tampa Bay 3 (SO) | Vancouver at Minnesota | 7 p.m. |
| Chicago 3 | Phoenix 2 (SO) | Chicago at Dallas | 7:30 p.m. |
| Calgary 4 | Colorado 1 | Detroit at Edmonton | 8 p.m. |
| TODAY'S GAMES | | Calgary at Colorado | 8 p.m. |
| Buffalo at Boston | 6 p.m. | Washington at Los Angeles | 9:30 p.m. |
| Vancouver at N.Y. Rangers | 6:30 p.m. | | |
| Washington at Anaheim | 9 p.m. | | |

Totally Wire

BCS, ESPN reach deal to air games from 2011-14

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Bowl Championship Series games will move to ESPN starting in January 2011.

The network and the BCS announced a new four-year contract Tuesday. ESPN outbid Fox, which is paying \$80 million annually to broadcast the games from 2007-10.

ESPN's offer was for \$125 million a year, according to a person with knowledge of the negotiations.

Fox would not offer much more than \$100 million annually, the person said.

The deal is the latest in a migration of high-profile sporting events from over-the-air television to cable. But this marks the first time the decisive game in the major U.S. pro sports leagues or NCAA college football or men's basketball will be broadcast on cable.

CYCLING

Armstrong fears for his safety

LONDON — Lance Armstrong fears he could be attacked by spectators if he returns to the Tour de France next year.

The seven-time Tour champion, who is making a comeback after three years in retirement, said in an interview in *The Guardian* that he is concerned about his safety.

"I don't want to enter an unsafe situation but you see this stuff coming out of France," said the American rider, who has many critics in France. "There're some aggressive, angry emotions. If you believe what you read, my personal safety could be in jeopardy."

"Cycling is a sport of the open road and spectators are lining the road. I try to believe that people, even if they don't like me, will let the race unfold."

GOLF

Ballesteros out of intensive care

MADRID, Spain — Seve Ballesteros has been released from intensive care following brain surgery on a malignant tumor.

Madrid's La Paz hospital said Tuesday the 51-year-old golf great would remain in the hospital for rehab. Ballesteros had three operations in 18 days. There was no timetable for his release.

Ballesteros was admitted to the hospital Oct. 6 after fainting at Madrid's international airport. He underwent a 6½-hour operation Oct. 24 to remove the tumor and reduce swelling around the brain.

AUTO RACING

Hall of Fame Racing planning staff cuts

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Hall of Fame Racing, the NASCAR team owned by Arizona Diamondbacks executives, will cut its staff even if it secures sponsorship to run a full 2009 season.

HoF general manager Tyler Epp said Tuesday employees were told no one will be laid off before the end of November, as team officials search for more funding. But with 44 employees for a single car operation, Epp said the team is overstaffed.

TENNIS

Federer beats Blake in exhibition match

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Roger Federer overcame an ailing backer to beat James Blake in a one-set exhibition.

Federer rallied from 3-1 down to win 7-6, taking the tiebreaker 10-7.

LONGHORNS from 1C

"I don't want someone to think this is the twilight for me," Brown said. "It's not."

Texas won at least 10 games the last eight seasons. The Longhorns were ranked No. 1 for most of the month of October and still have a shot at playing for their second national championship since 2005. The Longhorns (10-1) host rival Texas A&M on Thanksgiving night.

"I'm having more fun than I've ever had," Brown said. "I'd sure like to win another win before I get out of the way."

Brown has several assistant coaches who have been with team for several years and have decades of coaching experience. He said the staff supported Muschamp being designated as the head coach of the future, even though he was Texas' fifth defensive coordinator in six years and had little time to establish roots in the Texas soil.

Naming a successor coach has become a hot trend in college football. Florida State has already named offensive coordinator Jimbo Fisher to be Bobby Bowden's replacement. Kentucky assistant Joker Phillips will eventually take over for Rich Brooks and Purdue assistant Danny Hope will replace the retiring Joe Tiller next season.

Brown said the Texas deal with Muschamp only works because Muschamp is willing to be patient. He also sees in Muschamp a young version of himself.

"He's passionate, he works really hard, he wants to do what's right, he's tough enough to make hard decisions," Brown said. "We've got time. We will watch him through the years. If he wanted to do it today, we wouldn't have done it because I'm not ready to quit."

Muschamp said he wants to continue to learn how to be a head coach — not just game planning, but the entire package of being the public face of a program as big as Texas and the politician a major college

coach sometimes has to be.

Brown said he initiated the idea of Muschamp being signed to a long-term deal and designated as his successor, and sought approval from school president William Powers Jr., Dodds and the university regents. All approved, Dodds said.

Muschamp said he immediately accepted the offer.

"There was no thought process. I don't think coach Brown got it out of his mouth before I said yes," Muschamp said.

He insisted his role will not expand beyond defensive coordinator until the day comes that he takes over. He will get a raise, more than doubling his salary from \$425,000 to \$900,000 in January. He has a verbal agreement for a five-year deal once he becomes head coach.

Dodds said Texas made the move not only to keep Muschamp, but to avoid a potentially disruptive coaching search that can impact recruiting and divide fan loyalties.

"The program is in great shape. It's a family," Dodds said. "(Muschamp) is a quality guy and a quality coach. We want to keep him. The last few years I've watched coaches hire from the outside and there's a bunch of trauma ... there are all kinds of problems with lawsuits, buyouts, and it's not a pretty picture."

"Why go through the trauma of bringing an outsider in?" Dodds said. "We've decided to build our future from the inside."

Brown was an outsider when Texas hired him away from North Carolina in 1997. Brown was the third head coach at Texas in a decade and the Longhorns got a perfect fit with the folksy Brown, who rekindled the passion at an underachieving program. His 113 wins at Texas rank second to Darrell Royal and the Longhorns have been ranked in *The Associated Press* Top 25 for 137 consecutive weeks, tops in the nation.

LOCAL RESULTS

BOWLING

at Saratoga Lanes
Men's High Game: 1, Billy Edgar 300/801; 2, Mark Sanders 298; 3, Sonny Smart 279; 4, David Elliott 279/748.
Men's High Series: 1, Jimmy Dyer 799; 2, Army Flores 727; 3, Joshua Munoz 712.

Women's High Game: 1, Kathy Bourland 247; 2, Cory Garza 242/712; 3, Debbie Bartz 238; 4, Vivian Villanueva 238; 5, Debra Kureska 227/622.
Women's High Series: 1, Shana Ray 624; 2, Bea Martinez 611.

Seniors Only

Men's High Game: 1, Mike McGerry 256/719; 2, John Werner 253/664; 3, Paul Coleman 240; 4, Rusty Coleman 238; 5, Ron Fletcher 236.
Men's High Series: 1, Joe Lightfoot 645; 2, Allen Middleton 625; 3, Carlos Villarreal 614.

Women's High Game: 1, Bonnie Cloud 193; 2, Margaret Welch 190/481; 3, Barbara Pinault 190; 4, Bea Goday 187/489; 5, Frances Bond 183/483.
Women's High Series: 1, Helen Dyer 487; 2, Donna Reyckert 472.

GOLF

LADIES PLAY DAY at Gabe Lozano

Format: Turkey Shoot
First Flight: Low Gross: 1, Billie Graham 86; **Low Net:** 1, Barbara Weiser 74; 2, Dorie Kymala 76.
Second Flight: Low Gross: 1, Juanita Blevins 93; **Low Net:** 1, Sylvia Gulley 65; 2, Marilyn Schlack 67.
Third Flight: Low Gross: 1, Beverly Brakefield 105; **Low Net:** 1, Bonnie Soliz 71; 2, Marge Hueber 72.
Low Putts: Schlack 28; **Chip in:** Marion Simon, Rena Otten, Sylvia Gulley, Sally Pritt.

HOLE IN ONE at Gabe Lozano GC

Who: Sylvia Gulley; **Hole:** No.4; **Distance:** 138 yds; **Club:** Driver; **Witness:** Betty Kemp, Rena Otten.

HIGH SCHOOLS

VOLLEYBALL

STATE TOURNAMENT at San Marcos Class 5A Friday

■ Amarillo (46-3) vs. Clear Creek (41-4), 5 p.m.
■ Lake Highlands (45-4) vs. Austin Westlake (39-7), 7 p.m.
■ Finals: 5 p.m. Saturday
Class 4A Thursday
■ Hereford (43-3) vs. Magnolia (32-13), 5 p.m.
■ Highland Park (38-8) vs. Lake Travis (37-9), 7 p.m.
■ Finals: 3 p.m. Saturday
Class 3A Friday
■ Lucas Lovejoy (38-5) vs. Caldwell (29-14), 1 p.m.
■ Bellville (37-7) vs. Brownwood (32-9), 3 p.m.
■ Finals: 1 p.m. Saturday
Class 2A Thursday
■ Centerville (45-1) vs. Wallis Brazos (33-10), 1 p.m.
■ Pottsboro (36-5) vs. Bushland (30-13), 3 p.m.
■ Finals: 11 a.m. Saturday
Class A Friday
■ Albany (42-0) vs. Iola (38-3), 9 a.m.
■ Windthorst (39-3) vs. Shiner (31-6), 11 a.m.
■ Finals: 9 a.m. Saturday

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S

Tuesday's College Basketball EAST

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Boston U. 71 | Bucknell 68 (OT) |
| Buffalo 69 | Canisius 64 |
| Drexel 66 | Penn 64 |
| Fairfield 70 | Sacred Heart 54 |
| Florida St. 65 | La Salle 61 |
| Lafayette 80 | Stony Brook 71 |
| Navy 75 | St. Francis, NY 63 |
| Providence 100 | Dartmouth 82 |
| Robert Morris 86 | Delaware 75 |
| Syracuse 76 | Richmond 71 |
| Vermont 89 | Yale 58 |

SOUTH

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| E. Kentucky 69 | Winston-Salem 44 |
| Elon 83 | S. Virginia 55 |
| Jacksonville St. 69 | West Alabama 48 |
| Kennesaw St. 70 | Clark Atlanta 60 |
| Lamar 78 | Louisiana-Lafayette 68 |
| Longwood 85 | Gardner-Webb 84 |
| LA Tech 80 | Grambling St. 74 (OT) |
| Maryland 73 | Youngstown St. 49 |
| Mississippi 89 | South Alabama 71 |
| Radford 86 | Bridgewater, Va. 46 |
| S. Carolina St. 98 | Allen 68 |
| Savannah St. 66 | Coastal Carolina 65 |
| Southern Miss. 74 | Alabama St. 61 |
| Tennessee 91 | Tenn.-Martin 64 |
| VMI 118 | Maryland Bible College 72 |
| W. Kentucky 62 | Campbellsville 48 |

WEST

| | | |
|------------------|-----|--------------|
| at Toledo | 3 | Miami (Ohio) |
| at Bowling Green | 3.5 | Buffalo |
| Fresno St. | 2.5 | San Jose St. |

Saturday

| | | |
|--------------------|------|----------------|
| at Temple | 10.5 | E. Michigan |
| at Rutgers | 17.5 | Army |
| Illinois | 2.5 | N.western |
| at Cincinnati | 5 | Pittsburgh |
| at Wake Forest | 2 | Boston College |
| at Purdue | 12.5 | Indiana |
| at Ohio St. | 20.5 | Michigan |
| at Virginia Tech | 17 | Duke |
| at Maryland | 1 | Florida St. |
| at North Carolina | 11 | N.C. State |
| at Kansas St. | 10 | Iowa St. |
| at Vanderbilt | 3 | Tennessee |
| at Mississippi St. | Pk | Arkansas |
| Akron | 2.5 | at Ohio |
| Colorado St. | 2.5 | at Wyoming |
| at Rice | 9 | Marshall |
| at Notre Dame | 19.5 | Syracuse |
| Washington | 7.5 | at Wash. St. |