

SPORTS



HE'S LURKING AGAIN

Tiger Woods shoots 65, his best score this year, to share first-round lead at Barclays. C6

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Trojans lose one of their 2004 national titles

USC FOOTBALL: Team is stripped of writers' award, Grantland Rice Trophy.

By **Scott Wolf** Staff Writer

USC was stripped of the 2004 national championship awarded by the Football Writers Association of America on Thursday and asked to

return the Grantland Rice Trophy, which symbolized the title.

The FWAA said the title would be vacated, which means no other team will claim the championship. FWAA president Tim Griffin sent USC a letter that explained the organization's position, which was determined by a vote of its resolutions committee.

"Had these facts been known, USC would not have been selected for the

award ... in light of standards applicable to FWAA poll participants, award candidates and award recipients," Griffin wrote. "All finalists for FWAA team and individual awards, including the Grantland Rice Award and Trophy, reasonably are presumed to have been in material compliance with certain qualifying standards at the time of award issuance."

USC acted swiftly and removed the

Rice Trophy from the lobby of Heritage Hall. It was replaced by the 1995 Cotton Bowl Trophy.

"Due to the NCAA penalties, we understand the actions taken by the Football Writers Association of America, and we will abide by that ruling," USC athletic director Pat Haden said in a statement. "While we know that some fans and former student-athletes may be disappointed, our central

priority at this time is our overall commitment to compliance and this action is in line with the standards we have set for our entire athletic program."

USC coach Lane Kiffin offered little comment on the subject.

"I don't really have a reaction," he said.

This is the first time the Rice Trophy, awarded since 1954, was vacated.



John Brenkus, on the Burbank set of his Emmy Award-winning ESPN show "Sport Science," has authored a book called "The Perfection Point."

Andy Holzman Staff Photographer

DODGERS 7, MILWAUKEE 1

Dodgers sweep, have wild thoughts

MLB: L.A. puts itself back into postseason chase after winning three in Milwaukee.

By **The Associated Press**

MILWAUKEE — With three straight wins in Milwaukee, the Dodgers pulled themselves back into the National League wild-card race.

Casey Blake hit a two-run homer and six L.A. pitchers combined on a two-hitter as the Dodgers beat the Brewers 7-1 Thursday for a three-game sweep.

"We've been saying all along, first let's try to put something together and then we'll see where we are," Dodgers manager Joe Torre said. "Coming into this series, especially against a ballclub that can hit the way these guys can, to play as well as we have — if this doesn't give us confidence, I don't know what the heck is going to do it."

The Dodgers came into Milwaukee with a 3-14 mark on the road in the second half but took a big step with their first three-game sweep at Miller Park since May 23-25, 2003. The Dodgers are five games behind the San Francisco Giants, who lead the wild-card standings.

"We haven't done this in a while," Torre said. "We certainly need more than this, but you can't go win five in a row unless you win three in a row. I thought we played these three games very well."

Leading 4-1, the Dodgers broke the game open in the seventh with three runs off starter Yovani Gallardo (11-6) and reliever Todd Coffey.

Gallardo walked reliever Kenley Jensen with one out and Scott Podsednik singled

DODGERS C5

Up next

at Colorado, 6 p.m. today, Coors Field. **TV:** Prime.

Inside

Top prospect Mark Trumbo will be one of the key call-ups for the Angels next week. **A5**

ATHLETES IN ACTION

Sports and science collide in the Burbank lab of John Brenkus, who displays his results on his ESPN show and in his new book



TOM HOFFARTH MEDIA

It's John Brenkus' ultimate magical man cave, a 26,000-square-foot industrial-warehouse-turned-laboratory right next to the major runway at Bob Hope Airport in Burbank.

Except that as tricked out as it is, it's not about creating the next great illusion. Strictly fact-finding. And about as much fun as one can legally have, especially if you know how far to push the laws of physics.

With his fully hot-wired "Sport Science" franchise, the 39-year-old Brenkus has become more than just a robust Bill Nye knockoff — he's overseen more than 200 experiments for the BASE Productions company he co-founded 18 years ago with his brother-in-law. They can get as bizarre

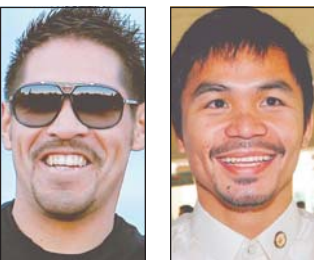
MEDIA C3



Charles Baus ESPN

Brenkus goes airborne after taking a hit from defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, the Detroit Lions' 6-foot-4, 307-pound first-round pick, during a recent test for one of his episodes.

Margarito gets Texas license, November fight with Pacquiao



Photos by Getty Images

The proposed Nov. 13 fight between Antonio Margarito, left, and Manny Pacquiao could be announced today.

By **Robert Morales** Staff Writer

Boxer Antonio Margarito on Thursday was granted a license to fight in the state of Texas, clearing the way for his junior middleweight title fight against Manny Pacquiao on Nov. 13 at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington.

Margarito had his license revoked by the California State Athletic Commission in February 2009 after he was caught with plaster inserts in his hand wraps prior to his Jan. 24, 2009 knockout loss to "Sugar" Shane Mosley at Staples Center.

Margarito has fought just once since

then — in May in Mexico. He went in front of the California commission Aug. 18, but was denied a license. Had he received one, his fight with Pacquiao could have landed in Las Vegas.

But Margarito's promoter, Bob Arum, said Texas was much more likely to grant Margarito a license than Nevada if California turned him down; at the urging of the Association of Boxing Commissions, Texas and Nevada wanted Margarito to first re-apply in California. When California denied Margarito, Arum said he was not even going to try Nevada.

"I want to thank the state of Texas for granting me a boxing license, which

enables me to continue my passion for the sport of boxing in the United States," Margarito said. "I have dedicated my life to giving the fans of the sport entertainment and excitement"

Lee Samuels, spokesman for Arum's Top Rank Inc., said Margarito-Pacquiao could be formally announced today.

"It was an extraordinary relief," said Top Rank president Todd duBoef, adding, "now that Texas has licensed him, our intentions are to go forward in Dallas. Our intentions are to put an end to what was a process and now to put on a great event for Manny and Antonio."

robert.morales@presstelegram.com



Jeffrey Phelps The Associated Press

Andre Ethier grimaces after fouling a pitch off his leg in the first inning Thursday. He was later ejected for arguing with the home-plate umpire.

ON THEIR HEELS

North Carolina expands inquiry into its football program amid possible academic misconduct. **C3**

LITTLE LEAGUE DRAMA

Hawaii beats Georgia, setting up a must-win rematch today for the right to play Texas in the United States final. **C5**



ALREADY AT A LOSS

Taft football team finds out running back/defensive back Shelton plans to transfer. **C9**

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CRUNCH TIME



Jeffrey Phelps The Associated Press
Indianapolis' Pierre Garcon, center, feels the pain after Green Bay's Morgan Burnett, left, and Brandon Underwood break up a pass during an NFL preseason game Thursday.

FIVE-DAY PLANNER

27 TODAY	28 SATURDAY	29 SUNDAY	30 MONDAY	31 TUESDAY
DODGERS 790 AM, 930 AM, dodgers.com				
Colorado 6 p.m. Prime	Colorado 5 p.m. Ch. 9	Colorado noon Ch. 9	Philadelphia 7 p.m. Prime	Philadelphia 7 p.m. Ch. 9
ANGELS 830 AM, 710 AM, 1330 AM, angelsbaseball.com				
Baltimore 7 p.m. FSN	Baltimore 6 p.m. FSN	Baltimore 12:30 p.m. Ch. 13	Seattle 7 p.m. FSN	Seattle 7 p.m. FSN
GALAXY 570 or 1150 AM, 1330 AM, lagalaxy.com				
	Kansas City 7:30 p.m. Prime			
CHIVAS USA 690 AM, cdchivasusa.com				
		D.C. United 7 p.m. ESPN2		
SPARKS lasparks.com				
	Game 2: Seattle noon, ESPN2			x-Game 3: Seattle 7 p.m., NBA TV
HORSE RACING dmtc.com				
Del Mar 3:30 p.m.	Del Mar 1 p.m.	Del Mar 2 p.m.		

Home game Away game

TODAY'S OTHER EVENTS

Women's volleyball: USC vs. Loyola Marymount, 7 p.m., Galen Center.
Men's soccer: CSUN vs. San Diego St., 7 p.m., Matador Field.

BEST BET

BASEBALL
Dodgers at Colorado
6 p.m., Coors Field, Prime, 790-, 930-AM
Just when we thought the Dodgers' postseason aspiration were out, they pull themselves back in the race. Nothing like a three-game series in Milwaukee to cure what ails the Dodgers; now, a sweep in Colorado will make things real interesting in the National League wild-card standings. The Dodgers trail the Rockies by 1½ games for third in the NL West.

ON THE AIR

Today's events	TV	Radio
Baseball		
4 p.m. Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati		WGN
4:30 p.m. Florida at Atlanta		MLB
6 p.m. Dodgers at Colorado	Prime	790, 930
7 p.m. Baltimore at Angels	FSN	830, 1330
Little League World Series Baseball		
11 a.m. Pool A final: Hawaii vs. Georgia		ESPN
Boxing		
10:30 p.m. Ronny Rios vs. Leivi Brea (taped)		FSN
11:30 p.m. Lucas Matthysse vs. R. Castaneda (delayed)		KFTR
Pro Football		
5 p.m. Preseason: San Diego at New Orleans	Ch. 2	570, 1220
Prep Football		
4 p.m. Florida: Plant at Manatee		ESPN
7 p.m. California: Grant at Folsom		ESPN2
Golf		
7:30 a.m. PGA European Johnnie Walker Championship		Golf
10 a.m. U.S. Amateur, quarterfinals		Golf
Noon PGA The Barclays		Golf
3:30 p.m. Champions Boeing Classic		Golf
9 p.m. LPGA Canadian Women's Open (delayed)		Golf
Motorsports		
1:30 p.m. Trucks EnjoyIllinois.com 225 qualifying		Speed
2 p.m. IRL qualifying, in Joliet, Ill. (delayed)		Versus
4 p.m. ARCA Ansell Protective Gloves 150		Speed
6 p.m. Trucks EnjoyIllinois.com 225		Speed
Soccer		
11:30 a.m. Super Cup: Atletico Madrid vs. Inter Milan	FSC, FSE	Gala
6 p.m. Mexico: Monarcas at Estudiantes		
Tennis		
9 a.m. WTA Pilot Pen, semifinal		ESPN2
4 p.m. WTA Pilot Pen, semifinal		ESPN2
Horse Racing		
3:30 p.m. Tracks Live: Del Mar		Prime

Times may be different for satellite TV viewers; consult your guide.

TODAY'S QUOTE

"This is who we are. Some people are going to like us and some people are not. At the end of the day, we want to paint an accurate picture of who we are."

— REX RYAN, New York Jets coach, on how his team is portrayed — four-letter words and all — in HBO's series "Hard Knocks."



L.A. CONFIDENTIAL

U.S. marathon record-holder Deena Kastor is pregnant with her first child and will miss this fall's New York City Marathon. Her management company and New York Road Runners said Thursday the baby is due in March. The five-borough race is Nov. 7. The 37-year-old Kastor, an Agoura High graduate, says she'll take part in



events during the week of the marathon.
Kastor made her NYC Marathon debut in 2001. She had been entered for the first time since 2006, when she finished sixth. Kastor won the marathon bronze medal at the 2004 Olympics. She set the American record with her time of 2:19:36 in winning the 2006 London Marathon.

— The Associated Press

[For more, check out the sports blogs at dailynews.com]

SOUNDING OFF

Contact media columnist Tom Hoffarth at thomas.hoffarth@dailynews.com

MEDIA

FROM PAGE C1

as incorporating a jet engine to an African elephant to measure up against someone like Ndamukong Suh.

This year, the episodes have become a fascinating element of ESPN's programming after a two-year run as an Emmy Award-winning series on Fox Sports Net.

Brenkus' quick tour through the lab reveals a self-contained two-story facility — a 24/7 fiber-optic work station of research, editing bays generating all kinds of multimedia, with a central server that can store 2,000 hours of high-def material. It's as close to a perpetual-motion machine as a modern-day Dr. Ned Brainard could cook up in the pursuit of Flubber.

With the launch of a new book next week that attempts to further explore the ultimate boundaries of some of sports' most heralded achievements, Brenkus, a University of Virginia grad who lives in Calabasas, theorized more on how the bar has been raised not just in sports but in what viewers at home have come to expect from the merger of athletics and practical, empirical data.

Question: What kind of athletic background do you have that allows you take this kind of self-abuse in so many of your experiments? Why do it?

Answer: I've been a decent athlete, not elite, but I played all the sports in high school — football, baseball, track. I wasn't good enough to climb the ranks and play college, but I was always fascinated by the guys who could do it. So that always made me wonder what separates good from great. My college major was called rhetoric and communications studies — the theory of the argument. So what I enjoyed doing was creating compelling arguments as to why something is the way it is. Sports science is a reflection of how I like to be the guy in the bar that doesn't say, "I think that guy's good." I want to say, "He's good because ..."

Q: It must drive you nuts to hear a TV analyst try to explain what just happened on the field, when the fact is he's really just guessing.

A: A lot of commentators have to fill air with such generalities, so they get caught using superlatives like, "He's the fastest, he's the best." I always learned: Don't use words like "best" unless something really is the best. I want to know not just who is the best, but why. Someone like (Arizona Cardinals receiver) Larry Fitzgerald is a perfect example. (In an episode during last Monday's ESPN Arizona-Tennessee exhibition game), we tested his reaction time off the line. He's the best. I know for a fact — .16 seconds, twice as fast as the average time for this that we've ever tested. So on a fly pattern, that equates to a full yard of separation. Maybe he's not the fastest receiver, but he's the quickest, and with incredible hand-eye coordination. Compare that to Jerry Rice, who we had in here three years ago. He said he knew he wasn't the biggest or fastest, but he would have to work the hardest on his precision: I know where I'm



Andy Holzman Staff Photographer

John Brenkus' Emmy Award-winning 'Sport Science' is now on ESPN after a two-year run on Fox Sports Net.

going and you don't. That really is what separates good from great.

Q: One of the points you make in the book — when finding the perfect athletic achievement, the mind can overcome what science says is an absolute physical restriction. Is the mental aspect something you can measure in your lab?

A: That thing we call "intangibles," it's a barrier that exists in an athlete's mind, something that we have as a species where, if there's a coconut hanging from a tree that we want to get, and it's just out of our reach, we'll figure out a way to get it. If it's way out there, then we won't even bother. It's all of the markers in sports that are just within our grasp that allows us to climb this ladder of human achievement.

But the thing I want to point out: There is an ultimate point where you can't go farther, because you're human. People like to throw out crazy numbers — certainly someone will run an eight-second 100-meter dash. Well, here, I can prove to you it's not possible. It just simply isn't. We didn't just go online and find things, we pulled together a ton of research and studies and really looked at every aspect that factors into these things.

Q: Does this seem to be the right time and space for sports and science to get together as a teaching tool, as something to put sports into context with all the technology we have to use?

A: A lot of people want to say that science can answer all the questions. Science can ask all the questions, but we can get temporary answers that may evolve. The bumblebee is a great example. Its construction by our laws of aerodynamics and physics says it cannot fly. Its weight-to-wing ratio is too much. But somehow it does. And we don't know exactly how. So it's the exception. It's like

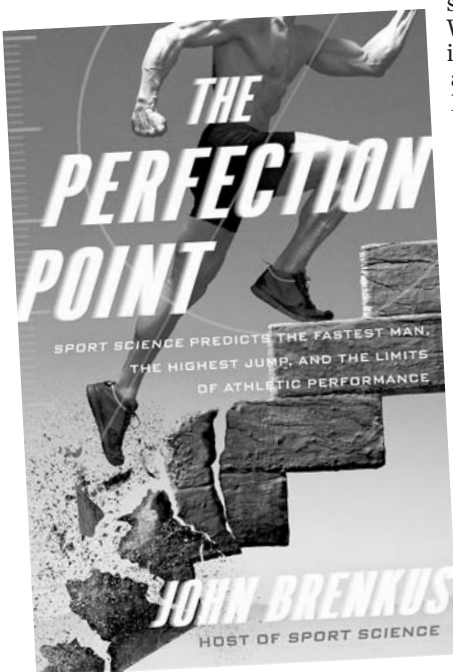
DN ONLINE: Read more Q-and-A with John Brenkus at Tom Hoffarth's blog: www.insidesocal.com/tomhoffarth

Newtonian physics versus quantum physics. Yeah, one works in one world, and one works in another, but probably neither is right. There's some crossover. I'm giving the answers in this book of what I know today. Maybe something comes along no one knew about and changes it altogether.

Q: Who, to you, is the perfect athlete? Would you love to have Usain Bolt come in one day just to hook him up, dissect him, test everything out?

A: Athletes are so

sport-specific. What's interesting about Bolt is I don't think anyone thinks he's juiced up. He is just a physical freak. He doesn't make any sense. He is the bumblebee. That said, I don't know if he would translate to any other sport. I guarantee he wouldn't work as a



football player. His cutting ability is not very good. He runs so fast in a straight line and he's so tall — someone like Maurice Jones-Drew, at 5-foot-7, may not be as fast as Bolt, but he can cut faster than Bolt. It's an equation that's very specific.

Q: How far can you raise the bar with a show like this? Will there always be questions that need to be answered?

A: People say that ultimately we'll run out of questions. Dude, trust me, it's an endless sea of questions and every door you open leads to more doors. We have another 200 experiments ready to try.

The reason why we get the best of the best is because you don't become the best unless you're naturally curious about these questions. We're asking them to provide answers, and they want to know the answers too. We don't even have to pay them. And then they stay longer than they intended. And they always have a great time.

BY THE NUMBERS

In his new book, "The Perfection Point: Sport Science Predicts the Fastest Man, The Highest Jump and the Limits of Athletic Performance" (Harper, \$26.99, 242 pages), John Brenkus' number-crunching research has determined a mark he believes is "the highest point possible that will never be breached but to which we will come tantalizingly close. ..." While unattainable, it's also what he calls: "The point in which absolute perfection is reached ... and no further improvement is possible." Such as:

8.99

The ultimate 100-meter time, in seconds. Actually, Brenkus' data says that the perfect run would be 9.01, but that's too close to 9.00, a round number that would actually spur an athlete to somehow break that unthinkable barrier. The record: 9.58 by Usain Bolt in August 2009.

29.4

The top speed, in miles per hour, that a human could reach. That would come about 55 meters into the perfect 100 meters. "Unless the species itself changes, it's the fastest a human will ever run," writes Brenkus.

1:57:58

The perfect marathon, in hours, minutes and seconds. The record is 2:03:59 by Ethiopia's Haile Gebrselassie.

3:18:87

The perfect mile run, in minutes and seconds. Hicham El Guerrouj of Morocco holds the record of 3:43.13 in 1999.

18.15

How fast, in seconds, a 200-pound athlete in perfect conditions could swim the 50-meter freestyle. The record is 20.91 seconds by Brazil's Cesar Cielo in December 2009.

917

In pounds, the heaviest a human could bench press. That is about the rated cargo-carry capability of a Ford F-150 half-ton pickup. The record, without the aid of a "lift shirt," is 715 pounds by Scott Mendelson in 2005, which is 2.28 times his body weight of 314 pounds.

14-5

The highest that a basketball rim could be, in feet and inches, and still be dunked on — the spot where the shot clock currently sits atop the backboard on a regulation 10-foot rim. This assumes that over time, the ultimate basketball player becomes someone 7-foot-2 with a 51-inch vertical leap. For comparison, former NBA player Ralph Sampson, at 7-foot-4, had a 36-inch vertical leap, considered well beyond what someone his size should have had.

BRIEFLY

UNC probing possible academic violations involving football players, tutor

By The Associated Press

The investigation of North Carolina's football program has expanded into possible academic misconduct involving players and a woman who also has worked as a tutor for coach Butch Davis' son, school officials said Thursday night.

Athletic director Dick Baddour declined to identify the players or say how many may be involved, and he refused to specify what the possible viola-

tions may have been, saying only that they involved "a student tutor and student-athletes on the football team."

"We are looking into improprieties that existed outside the classroom," Baddour said. "That's about as close to that as I can get."

The announcement came nine days before the No. 18 Tar Heels' opener against No. 21 LSU in Atlanta, and roughly two months after the NCAA began an investigation into

whether two key players — defensive tackle Marvin Austin and receiver Greg Little — received improper benefits from agents. Defensive line coach John Blake's longtime friendship with California-based agent Gary Wichard also has drawn the NCAA's interest.

HOCKEY: A top official of the National Hockey League Players' Association denied reports that Donald Fehr, the former leader of baseball's play-

ers' union, accepted an offer to take the top job at the NHLPA. Mike Ouellet, the union's chief of business affairs, said no appointment has been ratified by the executive committee.

The office has been vacant since Paul Kelly was fired last August.

The Pittsburgh Penguins said they will not re-sign veteran forward Bill Guerin.

BASKETBALL: Former Cleveland Cavaliers general manager Danny Ferry was named

vice president of basketball operations for the San Antonio Spurs. Ferry won a championship as a player in 2003 before retiring and becoming director of basketball operations with the Spurs.

Oklahoma City center Nenad Krstic was suspended for Serbia's next three games for throwing a chair during last week's brawl with Greece.

Philadelphia forward Andres Nocioni won't play for Argentina at the world champi-

onships because of a left ankle injury.

Police are investigating an alleged altercation between Denver Nuggets guard J.R. Smith and another person at the team's practice facility. Denver police spokesman Sonny Jackson said officers went to the facility Aug. 13 after a report of an altercation involving Smith and another player in a pickup game. The other player, whose name wasn't available, isn't in the NBA.