

## Kenton Ridge downs UHS

By ELLEN SIPP  
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD – Urbana struggled offensively and recorded its third straight loss Monday night at Kenton Ridge, 67-36, in CBC boys basketball.

The Hillclimbers fell to 9-6 overall and 7-5 in the Mad River Division.

The Cougars, tops in the Kenton Trail Division, improved to 13-3, 10-3.

Urbana's offensive woes started out early, as the visitors knocked down just three points in the opening quarter.

Michael Cox hit a jumper and Ryan Miller tossed in a foul shot for Urbana's only points.

Kenton Ridge generated an early 8-2 lead off two Kyle Morris three-pointers and scored the last three baskets of the quarter to lead, 14-3.

Urbana didn't fare much better in the second stanza.

Zach Stillings started the Hillclimbers off with a layup but Urbana fell silent for nearly six minutes while the home team rattled off 10 straight points.

Marino and Cox each scored at the tail end of the quarter and the Cougars led, 29-9, at the break.

Urbana came to life and tripled its first-half score in the third period.

Nate Moss got the Hillclimbers rolling with a layup and on the next possession, nabbed a steal that led to the first of back-to-back treys from Cox.

Kenton Ridge maintained a double-digit lead throughout the quarter despite the Hillclimbers' sudden outburst.

A buzzer-beating three-pointer by Shane Ober pulled Urbana to within 19 points, 46-27, at the end of three quarters.

Urbana slowed again in the final frame and scored nine points, including five by Wes Judy, in the first three minutes of the quarter.

Kenton Ridge ended the contest on a 13-0 run.

Cox led the Hillclimbers with 10



Citizen photo by Alex Howell

Urbana's Michael Cox shoots the ball past Kenton Ridge's Luke Mamer on Monday at KR.

points and Judy tossed in eight.

Michael Bennett paced the Cougars with a game-high 14 points.

The jayvee Cougars won, 36-30.

Urbana plays at Greenon on Wednesday.

## Falcons earn top seed

The 2009 boys sectional basketball pairings were released on Sunday.

In the Div. II Dayton 1 bracket at Troy High School, top-seeded Graham will play No. 11 Ben Logan on Feb. 27 at 7:45 p.m.

Also in the Div. II, Dayton 3 region at Troy, No. 5 Urbana will face fourth-seeded Tipp on Feb. 28 at 7:45 p.m.

In the Div. III Dayton 2 bracket, No. 22 WL-S

received a first-round bye and will play the winner of No. 23 National Trail and top-seeded Anna at the University of Dayton Arena on Feb. 27 at 6:30 p.m.

Seventh-seeded Mechanicsburg will face No. 5 Houston on Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. in the Div. IV Dayton bracket at Piqua High School.

Also at Piqua, No. 13 Triad will play top-seeded Lehman Catholic on Feb. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

## M'burg boys fall

MECHANICSBURG – Xenia Christian beat Mechanicsburg, 60-57, Monday night in non-league boys basketball.

The Indians led, 19-9, at the end of the first quarter and 28-26 at the intermission.

Mechanicsburg owned a 43-39 lead heading into the final period.

"We shot the ball, but it's important that you make them," said M'burg Coach

Paul Hershberger. "It's the makes that count."

For the Indians (8-8), Kyle Bossetti had 16 points, Joe Webb had 13, Andy Huffman had 13 and Aaron Brown added 11.

Mechanicsburg won the jayvee game, 73-40.

Sammy Brown led the Indians' reserves with 23 points.

Mechanicsburg hosts Yellow Springs tonight.

## Pitt tops WVU

PITTSBURGH (AP) – Both of No. 4 Pittsburgh's losses came after physical center DeJuan Blair got into foul trouble.

When Blair was pulled with less than five minutes gone after drawing two fouls against West Virginia, the Mountaineers were more than encouraged. Sorry, false alarm. Even with Blair sitting out for all but 16 minutes, the Panthers seized the lead with a late first-half run Monday night and went on to beat the

Mountaineers 70-59 behind Sam Young's 20 points and an overwhelming advantage in rebounding.

Young followed up a 22-point game in Pitt's 79-67 win at West Virginia two weeks ago, making seven of 12 shots and adding seven rebounds. Levance Fields had 13 points and seven assists to help the Panthers (22-2, 9-2 in Big East) win their fourth in a row and sixth in seven games.

## A-Rod admits to using steroids

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) – Alex Rodriguez admitted Monday to using banned drugs, the biggest name yet to acknowledge he couldn't resist the temptation to juice up during baseball's Steroids Era.

The All-Star third baseman said in an interview with ESPN that he used steroids with the Texas Rangers for three years, from 2001-03, in an attempt to justify his status as the game's highest-paid player after signing a 10-year, \$252 million contract. "Back then it was a different culture," Rodriguez said. "It was very loose. I was young. I was stupid. I was naive, and I wanted to prove to everyone that, you know, I was worth, you know – and being one of the greatest players of all time."

He said he quit after 2003, his first of three AL MVP seasons, because "I've proved to myself and to everyone that I don't need any of that." He was traded to the New York Yankees before the 2004 season. The admission came two days after Sports Illustrated reported on its Web site that Rodriguez was among 104 names on a list of players who tested positive for steroids in 2003, when testing was intended to determine the extent of steroid use in baseball. The results weren't subject to discipline and were supposed to remain anonymous.

Rodriguez said he alone was to blame but then accused one of the Sports Illustrated reporters who broke the story of collecting "nonsense."

"When I arrived in Texas in 2001, I felt an enormous amount of pressure. I felt like I had all the weight of the world on top of me and I needed to perform, and perform at a high level every day," Rodriguez said.

"And I did take a banned substance and, you know, for that I'm very sorry and deeply regretful.

And although it was the culture back then and Major League Baseball overall was very – I just feel that – You know, I'm just sorry. I'm sorry for that time. I'm sorry to fans. I'm sorry for my fans in Texas. It wasn't until then that I ever thought about substance of any kind."

Rangers owner Tom Hicks said the admission caught him by surprise.

"I feel personally betrayed. I feel deceived by Alex," Hicks said in a conference call. "He assured me that he had far too much respect for his own body to ever do that to himself. ... I certainly don't believe that if he's now admitting that he started using when he came to the Texas Rangers, why should I believe that it didn't start before he came to the Texas Rangers?"

During those three seasons, Rodriguez averaged 161.7 games, 52 homers, 131.7 RBIs and a .615 slugging percentage. In the other 10 full seasons of his career, he averaged 149.2 games, 39.2 homers, 119 RBIs, and a .574 slugging percentage, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

"This is three years I'm not proud of," Rodriguez said.

The 33-year-old Rodriguez ranks 12th on the career list with 553 homers, including 52, 57 and 47 in his three seasons with the Rangers. He is 209 behind Barry Bonds' record 762.

Now, though, he's on top of another – the highest-profile player to confess to doping. Yankee teammates Jason Giambi and Andy Pettitte and former MVPs Ken Caminiti and Jose Canseco admitted it earlier. Rep. Elijah Cummings, a Maryland Democrat who sits on the House committee that brought Roger Clemens, Mark McGwire and other baseball players to Capitol Hill in recent years, favored a congressional hearing with Rodriguez.

## Engle shines in racing

By ELLEN SIPP  
Staff Writer

Jacob Engle has already spent countless hours of his life on the race track zooming past countless numbers of opponents.

Pretty good for a 16-year-old boy with Champaign County roots who still has yet to obtain his driver's license.

"Ever since I was little I've wanted to become a race car driver," Jacob said. "And I'm working on getting my license."

The San Diego resident began his fast-paced career racing karts after taking his first driving class at seven years old.

Even then he was fast.

In his first two years of karting, Jacob won 12 of 15 races and had titles at the 2002 San Diego HPV 1 Championship and '03 California All Junior State Championship.

By his 12th birthday, Jacob's dominance in the sport earned him top slots at the coveted World Karting Association West National Championship and Grand National Junior Championship. A year later, he won his inaugural U.S. Karting Championship race as the youngest member of the class.

Jacob moved on to racing legend cars and earned a tryout with McCray Motorsports in '08. In his first experience behind a full-sized car, Jacob certainly left a good impression on his future team.

"He had never been in a full-size car before, so they took him out on the track in a BMW and taught him how to shift," his father, Dan recalled. "In the first 15 laps, Jacob raced within a half second of the track record. They made some adjustments, and in 27 straight laps, he was within two-tenths of the track record. Rick McCray, who used to be a NASCAR driver, had goosebumps. He said 'Welcome to the team.' It was the most amazing thing ever."

For his son, it was the beginning of an exciting new life.

"I didn't think my tryout was true until I got out there and tested. It was just a part of the dream and one more step of my dream coming true," Jacob said.

At his debut behind the wheel at the Orange Speedway in August, Jacob started in 22nd and finished in eighth. Once again, spectators and competitors alike were impressed with his natural talent.

"The winner of the race even came over to congratulate him. After the race, Mr. McCray said he was the most talented young racer he has ever seen at any level of racing," Dan said.

Jacob had a chance to impress a national stage on Jan. 24 when, as one of the youngest drivers, he competed in the NASCAR Toyota All-Star Showdown in Irwindale, Calif.

The race was originally slated for 150 laps but shortened to 15 due to rain delays and time restric-



Submitted photo

Sixteen-year-old Jacob Engle (above) has set lofty goals in auto racing.

tions.

In only his second time in the super late model car and first time on the track, Jacob started in 40th and passed 24 cars in five green-flag laps en route to a 28th-place finish.

"He had not been in the car from August to January, and he still did great," his father said. "It was pretty amazing, he was rolling. He told his spotter over the radio, 'I'm going to the front!'"

Jacob was simply pleased he had met all of his goals.

"I wanted to finish near the top 30, not wreck and have fun. It was a great experience and gave me a lot of great exposure with NASCAR and the press," he said. "But I have to look at it as just another race under my belt."

It may seem that racing is in Jacob's blood, and it is. His grandfather, Dick, was involved in karting for nearly 20 years. Dan, an Urbana native and a 1975 graduate of Triad, has also been around racing for years.

"I've been around racing my whole life and never seen anyone do what Jacob can do," Dan said. "My part in all of his career, as his dad, was to guide him and fund him and just support him."

Jacob's early success and exposure has granted him his own media consultant, one shared by the likes of Peyton and Eli Manning and Shaquille O'Neal.

More importantly, it has led to a meeting in Daytona with a NASCAR Sprint Cup team owner in the next few days.

"It's great to set out and do something and accomplish it," Jacob said.

But Jacob's life is not all about racing, yet. He attends a boarding school in Beverly, Mass. and is on the soccer, basketball and lacrosse teams.

"It's a little difficult trying to manage my schedule, but the other sports keep me in shape and I enjoy doing everything I can do," he said.