

Pro Football Hall of Fame preview

Inductee profiles, schedules and map.

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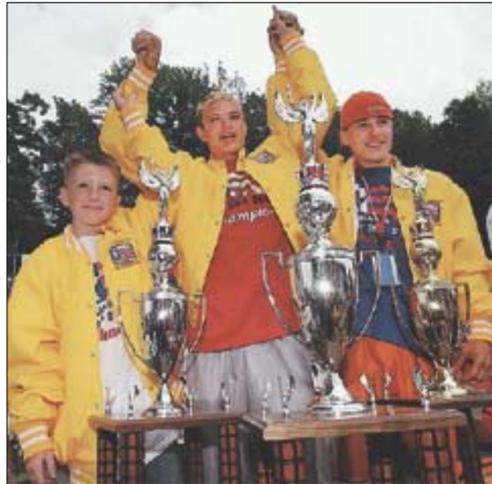
All-American day at Derby Downs

Proud winners conquer the hill



ROBIN TINAY SALLIE/Akron Beacon Journal

Super stock racer Jose Melendez, 13, of Cleveland sits in the rain atop the hill at the 65th All-American Soap Box Derby on Saturday at Derby Downs. A downpour delayed the race for about 40 minutes.



KAREN SCHIELY/Akron Beacon Journal

Derby champions (from left) Cameron Vannatta, 12, stock division, Roger Youmans Jr., 13, super stock, and Evan Griffin, 15, masters, celebrate victory Saturday.

Indiana boy is 100th champion. Florida, New York youths also win titles

By Paula Schleis and Candice Cunningham
Beacon Journal staff writers

Cameron Vannatta has only raced three times in his life, and already, he can brag he's the best in the world.

Wearing a blush that blended his freckles together, the Anderson, Ind., youth held up his trophy as the crowd at Derby Downs cheered for the 100th All-American Soap Box Derby champion.

Moments after Cameron's car crossed the finish line, the 12-year-old's grandmother found herself almost speechless. "Totally awesome. Unbelievable," Rita Kinney said as she shook her head.

Cameron shared the spotlight Saturday with Roger Youmans Jr. of Rochester, N.Y., who became the 101st champion by winning the super stock division; and Evan Griffin of Winter Park, Fla., who took the masters title and the 102nd position on the all-time list.

The 65th All-American had it all - proud and loud families, nervous and excited competitors, a hovering Goodyear blimp, a parade that featured New York City firefighters and a trophy ceremony with flown-in NASCAR drivers.

It even saw its first raindrops in seven years, a brief but fierce downpour that sent the crowd scurrying under bleachers and delayed the race for about 40 minutes.

But the one thing it didn't

Please see **Derby, A15**



See results, by division, of each heat in the soap box derby.

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NASCAR drivers get their chance to experience the thrill of the hill Saturday at Akron's Derby Downs.

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Read tales from the track, following up on families featured in derby coverage from the past week.

PAGE A15

9 miners trapped for days still alive

Drilling reaches men 240 feet underground; phone contact is made

By Judy Lin
Associated Press

SOMERSET, PA. Rescue workers made contact Saturday with the nine miners who have been trapped underground for three days via a telephone dropped through a pipe, according to rescue officials.

The Sipesville Fire Hall, where the families had been gathering, erupted in celebration. Families cried and hugged and many were in the street with hands in the air.

"Wow. Wow. Wow. It's just unbelievable," said mine worker Lou Lepley, who has been staffing the mine entrance for three days. "I have no words."

Rescuers were seen hugging and giving the thumbs-up sign soon after dropping the telephone into the shaft 240 feet below.

"They're all down there. They're waiting to come up. There's nine of them. We talked to them on the telephone," a mud-caked rescue worker shouted up from the pit near where they dropped the communication device.

After three days of desperate drilling, a giant auger broke through at about 10:16 p.m. to the dark and cramped chamber where the miners had been trapped since 9 p.m. Wednesday.

Workers quickly set about removing the drill and preparing the shaft for a rescue capsule.

Gov. Mark Schweiker ap-

Please see **Miners, A5**

Redford gets Hillerman film on PBS

'Skinwalkers' features Native American credits

There's an old TV show where a very rich man points out that he's wearing a blue suit with brown shoes. "You know why?" he says. "Because I can."

On Friday, in Pasadena, Robert Redford sat before the press in a blue suit and brown shoes.

The Oscar-winning director, producer and actor can defy fashion rules and do much more.

After more than 40 years in show business, over 30 of those as a star, he can get things done in Hollywood, though perhaps not as many things as he would like.

From certain angles, it is possible to forget that Redford will be 65 in August. The reddish-brown hair can still appear blond in the right light; the odd color it takes in recent TV ap-

Please see **Hillerman, A11**



Heldenfels in California

Youths share rite of passage

Walk lets Stark pilgrims celebrate their spirituality with peers around world

By Colette M. Jenkins
Beacon Journal staff writer

TORONTO: Five miles. Four-and-a-half hours. And about a dozen stops after Victoria Cerezuela started her pilgrimage to see Pope John Paul II, she was feeling it both spiritually and physically.

"I'm in pain," said Victoria as she massaged a right knee she injured four years ago playing soccer. "But I can deal with the pain because I think it's incredible that this many people have the dedication to walk this far to see someone who is so holy."

Victoria and 10 other World Youth Day pilgrims from Stark County began their walk Saturday at a subway stop in Toronto. They then had to hike nearly five miles more to Downsview Lands, a former military airport, where more than 250,000 other young people camped out overnight awaiting today's Mass with the pope.

Officials estimate that up to a million people will attend the public Mass, which marks the close of the international youth rally that attracted participants from more than 150 countries. The event is meant to be a spir-

itual journey that allows participants to learn about their faith and celebrate it with peers from the global church.

Saturday's walk was an opportunity for celebration, as pilgrims from various countries exchanged greetings and tokens to remind one another who they met along the journey. They took photographs together. They sang together. And they perspired together in the hot, humid weather.

"This is definitely not an air-conditioned walk," said Aaron

Please see **Youths, A9**



BOB DeMAY/Akron Beacon Journal

Katharine Piccari, 17, of Our Lady of Peace parish in Canton talks with Mario Sebok of Brazil during Saturday's pilgrimage in Toronto.

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Quarter horse's tail snipped off at Summit County Fairgrounds

Someone snipped the tail off a 13-year-old boy's chestnut quarter horse at the Summit County Fair on Friday night - shaking up the small community of 4-H kids who also show animals at the fair. It will take three years for "Zipper" to grow a new one. No other horses were harmed and authorities believe the act may have been targeted, resulting from hard feelings among the fair's horse competitors.

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Jet crashes at air show, at least 78 dead

A fighter jet clipped the ground and sheared through a crowd of spectators Saturday at an air show in western Ukraine before exploding in a ball of fire, killing at least 78 people and injuring 138 in one of the world's deadliest air show accidents.

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Today's weather

Partly cloudy

91° High 71° Low
NewsChannel 5 forecast, Page B8



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