

H. SWINT FRIDAY: Healthier choices could fund care. **7C**

AUTOS: Local Toyota dealer stays open later. **7C**

CENTRAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

IceRays rally to rout Gorillas

ICERAYS TODAY

Opponent: Texas Brahmas
When: 7:05 p.m.
Where: American Bank Center
Radio: KSIX-AM 1230
Tickets: Start at \$7
Info: 814-7825 or goicerays.com

■ Team tied for final CHL playoff spot

GREG RAJAN

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One of the reasons the IceRays pursued Chad Wool-

ICERAYS	GORILLAS
6	2
CHL	

lard last off-season was his game-breaking ability.

In a pivotal game on Thursday night, Woollard showed exactly why he was such a coveted recruit.

Woollard notched a hat trick and added an assist as Corpus Christi scored the game's final six goals for a 6-2 victory over the Amarillo Gorillas at the American Bank Center.

The IceRays (19-19-6, 44 points) remain tied with Rio Grande Valley for the fifth and final playoff spot in the Central Hockey

League's Southern Conference. Corpus Christi also moved within two points of No. 4 seed Laredo and three away from third seed Texas, which visits tonight.

The game's end result hardly seemed likely after the first period, when the IceRays were, to put it charitably, sluggish, and trailed 2-0. Coach Brent Hughes said he

"tore a strip off the hockey club as a whole" during the intermission and his players were just as upset.

"I'd say frustration was an understatement," said Woollard, who leads the CHL with 27 goals. "We were absolutely dead flat - we hadn't played like that

Please see ICERAYS, 5C

SOUTH TEXAS WINTER BASEBALL BANQUET



Mike Adams (from left), a San Diego Padres relief pitcher and Sinton graduate, Sinton baseball coach Gene Kasprzyk and Mike Coffin, a media relations specialist with the Hooks, talk during the South Texas Winter Baseball Banquet on Thursday night at the Omni Bayfront Hotel. Kasprzyk, who has coached at Sinton for 23 years, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at Thursday night's South Texas Winter Baseball Banquet, an annual event honoring the sport's top local professional, college and high school athletes.



Manning often bluffs at the line of scrimmage with a variety of gestures.

Manning remains man in motion

■ Colts QB masters art of reading signals

BEN WALKER
Associated Press

MIAMI — Peyton Manning barks out the name of the play: "TRIPS RIGHT 255 X BLOCK SLANT H DISCO ALERT 12 TRAP."

The Colts pivot into position. He starts to call signals for the hike. No, wait!

The NFL's best quarterback spots something he doesn't like. Maybe a linebacker set to blitz from the blind side. Or a cornerback sneaking up.

"Blue 15! Blue 15!" he hollers.



Now begins the Peyton Shuffle. Shouting. Stomping. Waving his arms like a marionette gone mad. Choreographed chaos, really. Manning in motion.

Every defense is a matrix, and no one in football solves them like this year's Most Valuable Player.

"He sees those things so well that I can't even explain it," Indianapolis right tackle Ryan Diem says. "It's not to say he has a sixth sense or anything, but..."

He does this time. Manning takes six fast steps toward the line of scrimmage. His helmet swivels as he scans the whole field.

Darren Sharper might take a look behind him — if he dares.

"I don't know if you want to read Peyton's eyes too much. He kind of has those cat eyes that'll trick you if you watch them too much," the safety says.

Here's what the Saints need to answer Sunday in the Super Bowl against the Colts: Is Manning really changing the play, or just bluffing?

Manning sure looks like he's calling an audible.

Please see MANNING, 2C

Playbook

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GETTING HIS DUE

■ Sinton's Kasprzyk gets Achievement Award for work

JAVIER BECERRA
Special to the Caller-Times

Gene Kasprzyk isn't one to seek out recognition, but probably is due his fair share considering all Sinton has accomplished during his 23 years as head baseball coach.

The Corpus Christi Hooks decided it finally was time Kasprzyk got the credit he deserves.

Kasprzyk was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at Thursday night's South Texas Winter Baseball Banquet, an annual event honoring the sport's top local professional, college and high school athletes. For someone accustomed to being out of the spotlight, Kasprzyk admits he was caught off-guard by his selection.



Reid Ryan, CEO of the Ryan Sanders Baseball group, talks Thursday night at the South Texas Winter Baseball Banquet.

"I was a little awestruck at first. I don't think anyone goes into any endeavor ever looking for awards," he said. "I never expected anything like this. I'm really honored that they're

doing it. I was at a loss for words when they called."

That the Hooks did is not surprise.

A native of Falls City, Kasprzyk arrived at Sinton as an assistant coach in 1986.

He took over the baseball program the following season and immediately turned the Pirates into one of the best Class 3A teams in the state.

Sinton won back-to-back

state championships in 1988 and 1989 and captured the title again in 2002. The Pirates have had plenty of other opportunities to bag more loot.

With Kasprzyk at the helm, Sinton has reached the playoffs 21 times and claimed a total of 18 district championships. The Pirates have been to the state tournament six times, most recently in 2007.

Kasprzyk said a lot of the success is a result of continuity, as well as a wealth of support the community.

"One of my goals was to find a place where we could develop a program and really try to sustain it," he said. "There are a lot of nomadic coaches out there that jump from place to place. It's one thing to win, but can you win consistently. We're just fortunate to be in this situation. More of it has to do with Sinton and the folks here than me or the coaching staff."

Please see KASPRZYK, 3C

NASCAR ready to fix issues this season

■ Changes to rules hoped to please fans

JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Ask anyone in NASCAR about the many, many industry ailments and the answer is that everything will be just

fine.

They better be right. NASCAR opened Daytona International Speedway on Thursday for the first practice session of what's expected to be one of the most critical seasons in sport history. Faced with slumping attendance and television ratings, and economic woes that have handcuffed teams and manufacturers, NASCAR has planned a series of ad-

justments designed to re-energize the industry.

There's no doubt that it's a clear reaction to growing fan unrest.

"I think the fans want to see results," veteran driver Jeff Burton said. "The fans have been speaking for the last several years saying we want to see different stuff. I think if we give it to them, and it's different, and the racing doesn't improve from it, then yeah, this is a

critical year.

"When you make changes, because you are making it better, then it better be better."

The first test was expected to be Saturday night in the exhibition Budweiser Shootout, when 24 drivers will run the first race under NASCAR's new "Boys, have at it" policy that greenlit aggressive driving.

But the drivers didn't even make it through Thurs-

day's first practice session without incident. Contact between Denny Hamlin and Mark Martin triggered a multicar accident that destroyed several cars.

It was a preview of what fans can expect during the lead-in to the Feb. 14 season-opening Daytona 500.

"Trust me, we're not finished," warned Greg Biffle. "It's going to be awesome."

Please see NASCAR, 6C