



## To Report Scores:

- Call Sports Editor John F. Russell at 871-4209 during the day.
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## Reed lashes Eaton tennis opponent

Mike Lawrence  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

### STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

Steamboat Springs High School girls tennis, say hello to Shelby Reed.

Despite an injured left ankle and an opponent who is several years older, the freshman won the first tennis match of her varsity career in straight sets, defeating Eaton High School senior Whitney Cunningham with scores of 6-0, 6-3. Reed's match was the only victory in a Sailors home loss Friday to Eaton, a team made mostly of seniors and juniors that remains undefeated on the young season at 4-0.

Steamboat falls to 0-1 after losing its first match.

Coach John Aragon praised the effort of the entire team, which was without top singles players Breanne Murray and Lisa Floyd because of a two-match disciplinary suspension. Kristin Toy also did not play Friday because of CHSAA regulations involving her move from California, Aragon said.

Missing three of his top players meant Aragon had to shuffle his lineup, making Reed's win — and the Sailor's effort — more impressive, he said.

"That was a big win for Shelby — she stayed very focused and determined from the start of the match," Aragon said. "She made (Cunningham) hit a lot of balls. She broke her down. Hopefully some of these other young kids will see that if you put a lot of balls on the court, you can break down a good player."

Cunningham may have felt as if she was hitting against a wall Friday, as Reed returned shot after shot with a steady style that caused Cunningham to make numerous errors. Coach Don Toy said Reed "tweaked" her ankle with an awkward step early in the second set. After Aragon wrapped tape around Reed's ankle and applied ice, she continued on to the victory.

Steamboat junior Molly Weiss also turned in a strong performance, taking Eaton junior Grace Kerns to a second-set tiebreaker and battling hard throughout her match at No. 3 singles.

Steamboat seniors Cori Evans and Rebecca Timmerman took their Eaton opponents to three sets at No. 2 doubles.

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JOHN F. RUSSELL/STAFF

**Skier Andrea Hrynychuk**, 43, of Barrington, New Hampshire races down the NASTAR slalom course on See Ya Friday afternoon. Hrynychuk was one of nearly 1,400 skiers that are in town for the NASTAR National Championships. The event will continue today and Sunday.

## NASTAR racers arrive

### Event helps couple maintain dedication to skiing

John F. Russell  
PILOT & TODAY STAFF

### STEAMBOAT SPRINGS

The first day of the NASTAR National Championships in Steamboat Springs was a tough one for 73-year-old Blyde Patty, but after two disappointing runs it didn't take him long to find the silver lining.

"Tomorrow, there is always tomorrow. That is, as long as I wake up in the morning," he said with a slight smile on his face.

Blyde Patty and his wife, Margaret, are among more than 1,300 ski racers on the slopes of the Steamboat Ski Area this weekend who are competing for national titles in the Nature Valley 2006 NASTAR National Championships.

Blyde Patty is competing in the 75-79 category of the Platinum division, and his wife will be racing in the 70-74 category of the women's gold division.

Skiing has been a part of the couple's lives for as long as they can remember. Blyde

Patty said he used to ride the train from Golden to Union Station in Denver and then on to Winter Park every weekend to ski. He met his wife while he was working as a lift operator at the resort.

"I was lift operator, and her brother was a lift operator," Blyde Patty said. "One afternoon he told me he was going to a dance and asked me if I wanted to come along. His sister joined us ... I didn't need to look any further. We've been married 55 years, and have not missed one year of skiing in that time."

The pair attended their first NASTAR National Championships in 1985. That year, the event was held in Sun Valley, Idaho, and drew 109 racers to compete for national titles. The past two years, the Pattys have qualified for the national event, and Margaret Patty won a title in her division last year.

But she is quick to point out that her husband is the speed demon in the family.

"He is a much faster skier," Margaret Patty said. "He is

like a rock coming down the course, and I'm like a cotton ball."

The Pattys said they like coming to the national finals because they enjoy the competition and camaraderie that come along with a NASTAR event. They qualified to come to the nationals by racing in Winter Park. Despite living in Grand Junction, they made it to the resort 14 times to race this winter, and both were near the top of their age divisions.

Blyde Patty said the conditions for Friday morning's race were tough. The course is a little steeper than he is used to, and the icy conditions made it difficult to finish the race.

"I wiped out on my first run, but I was able to get back up and finish the race," Blyde Patty said.

His second run was a little better, but it wasn't exactly what he wanted, either. He said he was hoping for softer conditions today and better results on the course. But he said any-

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## Careless UConn pulls out victory

Joseph White  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### WASHINGTON

Connecticut was as-careless as a top seed can be — and got away with it.

Despite a season-high 26 turnovers and 10-point second-half deficit, Connecticut rallied to force overtime on Rashad Anderson's 3-pointer with 1.8 seconds left in regulation.

Then the Huskies of the Big East held off the foul-depleted Huskies of the Pac-10 in the extra period for a 98-92 victory Friday night and a place in the NCAA's round of eight.

Marcus Williams, who got an earful from coach Jim Calhoun during a careless stretch in the first half, recovered to score a career-high 26 points as Connecticut advanced to regional finals for the sixth time in 12 years. UConn (30-3) will play for a spot in the Final Four on Sunday against 11th-seeded George Mason.

Connecticut did its best to give the game away, even after it appeared the game was sewn up in overtime. Rudy Gay, taking the ball out of bounds with UConn leading by two with 16 seconds remaining, committed the 26th turnover when his inbound was intercepted by Ryan Appleby.

But Appleby passed to Joel Smith, who threw the ball right back to UConn. Williams picked off the pass, was fouled, and then made both free throws with 11.3 seconds to play.

Senior Jamaal Williams came off the bench to score a career-high 27 points, including the first 3-pointer of his college career, to lead fifth-seeded Washington (26-7). The Huskies from the Pac-10 failed to hold a 10-point lead with 15 minutes to play and began to run out of players down the stretch: Two fouled out in regulation, and two more in overtime.

Connecticut has yet to hit

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