

SECTION B

Mets keep World Series hopes alive, beat Cards to tie NL series 3-3

# THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

CINCINNATI.COM

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FN 50 CENTS

## Up Front

Must reads inside today's Enquirer



### Cincinnati needs its weekly dose of 'Grey's Anatomy'

Believable characters and complicated relationships have students, medical professionals and countless other Cincinnatians addicted to ABC's popular hospital drama.

LIFE D1

### Kenyon Martin returns home

The former Bearcat visited the city of his alma mater as the Denver Nuggets met the Indiana Pacers in an NBA preseason game.

SPORTS B7

### Cool Jeff Burton gets it done

NASCAR's Ice Man made some mistakes Saturday, but - as usual - kept his cool. More racing news in Start Your Engines.

SPORTS B4

### Comair, mechanics reach a deal

With hopes of lowering operating costs, the Delta subsidiary agreed on pay and benefits cuts with its mechanics union.

BUSINESS A10

### Light Up returns to the Square

Construction on Fountain Square sent this annual tradition to Sawyer Point last year, but on Nov. 24, P&G's Light Up the Square will be back.

LOCAL C2

## WEATHER



High 62°  
Low 41°  
Rain;  
cooler

COMPLETE FORECAST: C8



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'No, I am not gay, although it is none of their business in the first place'

# Blackwell desperate, angry Strickland says



The Enquirer/Cara Owsley

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Ted Strickland talks with news reporters Wednesday, responding to charges by opponent Ken Blackwell's campaign about a former Strickland staffer's sex-offense conviction 12 years ago.

By Howard Wilkinson  
Enquirer staff writer

The crumpled piece of note paper Ted Strickland carried in his jacket pocket Wednesday is all the explanation he needed for why Republican opponent Ken Blackwell is going after him for having a convicted sex offender on his staff years ago.

"This is why it is happening," Strickland said Wednesday, waving the handwritten sheet full of Ohio poll numbers showing him far ahead of Blackwell. "It is sheer desperation on Ken Blackwell's part. He sees it all slipping away."

An angry and emotional Strickland, at The Enquirer on Wednesday for an editorial board meeting, insisted he in no way covered up a 12-year-old public indecency charge of a former aide, as suggested during Monday's televised live debate by Blackwell.

"I swear to God I had absolutely nothing to do with that," said Strickland, after a meeting with the Enquirer editorial board. "I didn't even know the records had been expunged until (Democratic primary opponent) Bryan Flannery brought it up this spring."

Speaking with an Enquirer reporter after the editorial board meeting, Strickland lashed out at John McClelland, the Ohio Republican Party's communications director,

who on Tuesday said voters should be able to look at sensitive questions raised by Blackwell and make their own decision about Strickland's sexual preference.

"No, I am not gay, although it is none of their business in the first place," Strickland said. "I am married to Frances, a very wonderful woman, and have been for 18 years."

In the editorial board meeting, Strickland said he first learned of his aide's conviction toward the end of a "a very intense re-election campaign" in 1998, when an anonymous letter came to his office saying the aide had been convicted of exposing himself to children while a student at Ohio University in Athens four years before.

See CAMPAIGN, Page A6

INSIDE: GOP candidates react. A6

## What you're saying

Readers commenting on the message board at Cincinnati.com were near-universal in their condemnation of Republican charges against Democratic governor candidate Ted Strickland. You can go to Cincinnati.com to see more - and add your own comments.

Here is a sampling of comments posted Wednesday:

How desperate is the GOP? Desperate enough to risk their long-term credibility to lie, cheat and steal their way to victory by "scaring" the voting public. ... Why would it be such a bad thing if Mr. Strickland was gay? The GOP thinks that should be a campaign issue? No wonder they're in trouble.

- Pat Grote, Harrison

Desperation in politics is a stinky cologne, and regardless of party affiliation, we all get a little whiff. Ken Blackwell is looking and scratching for anything.

- Mike Stokes, Colerain Township

The defamation-of-character tactic used by Blackwell is completely outrageous. I find it even more embarrassing for the sake of Blackwell's campaign camp solely for the reason that they scrounged up some erroneous information that has proven to be a) irrelevant, b) false, and c) hurtful to their candidate and several communities.

- Patti Ross, Evendale

# Gatorade injury has everyone baffled

By Janice Morse  
Enquirer staff writer

Football player Braden McMonigle has been "sledgehammered" before - but never quite like this.

Normally, Monroe High School teammates award a ceremonial sledgehammer to honor whoever takes the "biggest hit of the week" from an opposing player. But this time, McMonigle got the hammer for being knocked out by a plastic sports-drink bottle.

In an accident that his mom says defies reason - and medical explanation - a nearly empty Gatorade bottle struck Braden, 16, and knocked him unconscious Monday. Braden required an emergency helicopter flight and other procedures, including clearing his lungs of stomach contents that he had aspirated when he passed out.

His mom, Tammy, says she is mystified - and so are doctors.

"They look at this and go, 'What?' It's basically a first for all of them," she said in a telephone interview from Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, where her son is recovering.

She can joke about it now. But at first, the situation was grave.

Around 3:15 p.m. Monday, McMonigle was at home cooking when her cell phone rang.

It was Jason Krause, the team's coach.

"He said, 'Tammy, get to the school, Braden's unconscious, and paramedics have been called,'" she recalls. "I thought, 'What?' I thought he must have been hurt on the field. ... We both hung up, and I just got in the car and ran."

When she arrived at the school, she was puzzled.

See MYSTERY, Page A8

# Web threat to NFL stadiums 'questionable'

By Lara Jakes Jordan  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - An Internet message claiming that seven NFL stadiums will be hit with "dirty bombs" this weekend was met with "strong skepticism" Wednesday by government security officials.

With nothing to indicate an imminent attack, local authorities and stadium owners were alerted "out of an abundance of caution." Dated Oct. 12, the posting was part of an ongoing conversation titled "New Attack on America Be Afraid." It appeared on a Web site called "The Friend Society."

The message said trucks would deliver radiological bombs to stadiums in New York, Miami, Atlanta, Seattle, Houston, Oakland and Cleveland.

It said the attacks were timed to be carried out on the final day in Mecca of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month.

FBI spokesman Richard Kolko said the threat was "questionable." NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said stadiums around the country "are very well protected."

The Bengals had no comment.

# All the 'Stars' stay on

No one's booted off show, not even Jerry Springer

By John Kiesewetter  
Enquirer staff writer

Singer Sara Evans' unexpected withdrawal from "Dancing with the Stars" yielded another surprise Wednesday: another week on the hit TV show for Jerry Springer.

Despite being a distant last in judges' scores Tuesday, Springer was spared when producers gave everyone a free pass after losing Evans from the contest.

The talk host and former

## Nanny speaks

Nanny denies affair with Sara Evans' husband. A2

Cincinnati mayor was mouthing "bye" to viewers minutes before he learned he wasn't eliminated.

"If I make it to next week," he joked during Wednesday's show, "I'll demand a recount."

Springer has been in the bottom two on judges' scores for five weeks. He and part-

ner Kym Johnson earned only 18 of 30 points Tuesday.

Springer said again Tuesday that he was no match for the younger celebrities. "They're all such better dancers. Honestly, that (score) is fair," he said.

Viewers' votes and judges' scores from this week and next will be combined to determine who will be dismissed next Tuesday (8 p.m., Channels 9, 22).

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Photo provided

Jerry Springer does his best John Travolta imitation on "Dancing With the Stars." The former Cincinnati mayor will be back to dance another week.

## AK Steel

# Workers say no to deal again

For the second time in less than a month, and by a more resounding margin Wednesday, 1,800 locked-out workers at AK Steel's Middletown Works rejected what the company called its final contract offer.

International Association of Machinists members voted 1,050 to 489 to reject the five-year proposal. Almost identical language was rejected 998-768 on Sept. 25.

The lockout is now 8 months old.

BUSINESS A10

SUN & SKI SPORTS Annual Pre-Season SKI SALE  
7565 Kenwood Rd., 513-745-0099 • New 07 Gear & Apparel here with Storewide Savings • SAVE 50% OFF Clearance Gear