



Manny's money
Ramirez, Dodgers agree to two-year, \$45M deal **4C**

SPORTS



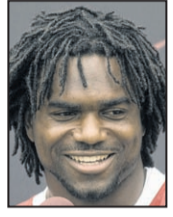
For expanded coverage, video, photos and audio, visit www.naplesnews.com

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Thursday, March 5, 2009

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Reports: Edge asks Cardinals for release



James' future with Arizona still unclear

Daily News staff

ESPN.com and NFL.com reported that Arizona Cardinals running back Edgerly James, an Immokalee High School graduate, once again requested his release.

A source told ESPN that James contacted Cardinals general manager Rod Graves on Tuesday and pleaded with him to be released.

James is scheduled to make \$5 million for the 2009 season. He did not return with the Cardinals after they lost in the Super Bowl to the Pittsburgh Steelers last month in Tampa.

Tim Hightower replaced James as Arizona's starting running back in the middle of the season, but James returned to play well in the last game of the regular season and

in the playoffs.

Yahoo! Sports reported in mid-February that the Cardinals may not release James until they felt they had a viable replacement. Graves said at the NFL Scouting Combine that no decision had been made regarding whether the team was going to release James.

The source told ESPN.com that James was concerned he would enter the free agent market too late.

Tampa Bay signed former Giants running back Derrick Ward on Tuesday, Cedric Benson re-signed with Cincinnati, and former Jaguars running back Fred Taylor signed with New England.

James, 30, has rushed for 12,121 yards during his NFL career, including 1,159 and 1,222 yards, respectively, during his first two seasons

with the Cardinals.

Last year, he had only 514 yards on 133 carries.

He was a Parade All-American at Immokalee, then starred for the University of Miami.

The Indianapolis Colts picked him in the first round of the NFL Draft, and James signed as a free agent with Arizona three seasons ago.

Eagles look to achieve milestone

Dave Deiros' FGCU softball team will have stiff competition as it tries to win the 300th game in its history at Hawaii's Malihini Tournament

By **DANA CALDWELL**
dcaldwell@naplesnews.com

What a trip. Speaking through the 4 a.m. darkness of his shades-drawn Honolulu hotel room, just around the corner from Waikiki Beach, David Deiros said he never saw this wave coming.

Not even close. The Florida Gulf Coast University softball coach, who began building the program eight years ago after former athletics director Carl McAloose hired him from Gulf Coast High, goes for his 300th win at noon Hawaii time (5 p.m. ET) today against Oregon State (11-10 and No. 32 in the ESPN.com/USA Collegiate Top 25 poll) in the prestigious Malihini Tournament.



Deiros, FGCU's only softball coach, says his red-hot team will learn a lot from its trip to Honolulu

The Eagles play Mississippi State (11-3, No. 26) immediately afterward and Hawaii (6-11) at midnight ET Friday. All three of those teams played in last year's NCAA Tournament.

"When I took the job we were practicing on a grass soccer field and playing our games at Gulf Coast High School, so did I ever imagine that we'd be sitting a block away from Waikiki Beach

getting ready to play Mississippi State, Oregon State and the University of Hawaii?" said Deiros, who has a 299-84-2 record and a tri-Atlantic Sun Conference regular season championship after last season's first Division I run. "If I would've told you that, then I would've been channeling Nostradamus.

"There is no way that was even a thought in my mind. We were just happy to be playing ball."

The winner of 11 straight, FGCU (19-4) fundraised and traveled 13 hours on Monday to get to Honolulu, the birthplace of President Barack Obama. The Eagles also opened eyes to snag the invite. They could really shake things up with a win today and/or strong tourney showing.

Aloha, Softball World? "It's a great measuring stick for us," Deiros said. "It's an honor that we have an opportunity to play (teams like Oregon State, Mississippi State and Hawaii). If you want to go ahead and be recognized by the rest of the country, you've got to play the big six conferences.

"You've got to play teams that go to the playoffs every year. You've got to play teams from the Pac-10. You've got to play teams from the SEC. You've got to play teams from the Big 12. Those are the three conferences that are really leaders in the softball world right now. I think it's going to be a great chance for us to see what we've got."

And to see an entirely different culture, although the weather is quite comparable to Southwest Florida. Tuesday, the Eagles took in Diamond

See **MILESTONE**, Page **6C**



WELCOME (BACK) TO MIAMI

Phoenix Suns center Shaquille O'Neal, left, and Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade talk before the start of Wednesday night's game in Miami. Wade and the Heat, as well as their fans, welcomed O'Neal back to the city he helped bring an NBA title to in 2006. The Heat won 135-129. A report was not available at press time. AP

Shaq, Van Gundy in flop flap

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
Associated Press

MIAMI — Shaquille O'Neal flopped against Orlando center Dwight Howard. Now he's standing up to Magic coach Stan Van Gundy.

Responding to Van Gundy's reaction about O'Neal's tactics against Howard on Tuesday night, the Phoenix center lashed out at his former coach with the Miami Heat, calling him "a master of panic," a

"nobody" and "a frontrunner."

"One thing I really despise is a frontrunner," O'Neal said before the Suns played the Heat, Shaq's first time back in Miami since last season's trade. "I know for a fact he's a master of panic and when it gets time for his team to go into the postseason and do certain things, he will let them down because of his panic. I've been there before. I've played for him."

O'Neal was guarding Howard with about 4 minutes left in the

third quarter Tuesday night. Howard made a spin move, O'Neal fell to the court in an effort to get an offensive foul called, and the Magic center easily dunked with two hands.

Afterward, Van Gundy said he was "shocked, seriously. I was shocked and very disappointed because he knows what it's like. You know, let's stand up and play like men, and I think our guy did that."

See **FLOP**, Page **2C**

PREPZONE
SEASON PREVIEW

Titans remain on track

By **ADAM FISHER**
afisher@naplesnews.com

Two days shy of the season-opening meet, Linda Hamernik still isn't sure how her Golden Gate girls track team will line up Saturday at the Eagle Invitational.

It's not because the Titans don't have enough talent to fill out the heat sheets. Hamernik, in fact, might have the opposite problem.

In its core group of seniors, the Titans might have the most versatile athletes they've had since the school opened five years ago. The multifaceted quartet of Naomi Andre, Erv Bazile, Marjorie Eldira and Melissa Romelus could compete in all 11 events if it weren't for an FHSAA rule limiting athletes to four events a meet.

"We had such an awesome year last year and we still have an awesome team," Hamernik said. "Our four seniors are really working to get an individual state championship this year."

Golden Gate finished second at the Class 2A state finals last year but graduated Kassandra Jean-Louis and Daily News Girls Track Athlete of the Year Asha Tavernier. The duo qualified for

See **TRACK**, Page **3C**



Asha Tavernier has graduated, but the Golden Gate track and field team believes it still has the makings of a championship season. Daily News File

There's no bailout area for golf courses in this troubled economy

Tary Kettle is founder and president of MasterLink Club Services, Inc., a club and lifestyle management, staffing and consulting firm. The 20-year-old firm, with offices in Naples and Orlando, also provides litigation support services, offering expert witness in court in club-related issues, and consulting on acquisition and divestiture of clubs.



By **TARY KETTLE**
Special to the Daily News

The term "credit crunch" or "economy meltdown" has quickly become a redundant phrase worldwide, and crunch time is having a profound effect in engulfing the golf industry.

This lifestyle or club industry is being forced to consolidate, reassess and reinvent in order to ride out this rocky period. It is not likely to be at the top of the list for a government bailout.

Recently, Collier County receiving a spectacular shot of national exposure when The Golf Channel aired the

ACE Group Classic for three days a few weeks ago. The telecast, through the pictures and the on-air comments, reinforced the market as a major golf destination.

Twice a year, professional golf highlights our golf lifestyle — the other event is Greg Norman's Merrill Lynch Shootout from Tiburón Golf Club on NBC in December — and that statement is powerful to potential real estate buyers. That impact may have been lessened this year, but the visuals can carry over until the golf market starts to rebound.

The troubled economy and the

resulting problems have become too understated as they relate to golf and recreational clubs. The economic hardships, with clubs facing financial meltdowns, are forcing the industry to reassess membership fees or annual dues to attract or keep members.

While clubs take stock on what amenities are vital, while showing certain financial restraint, the members who, in most cases, have invested heavily in this lifestyle wait and see how the global financial crisis will ripple down and affect them — and how their chosen club is reacting.

In Southwest Florida, that is no

small matter with a lifestyle recreation industry — including over 160 clubs, of which 70 percent are private — that collects an estimated one-half billion dollars annually from members in dues, fees, charges and assessments.

The club industry is the gorilla in the room for the Southwest Florida economy and, by estimates, may exceed government and education spending.

One of the many dilemmas facing both members and owners in today's turbulent and changing times is what

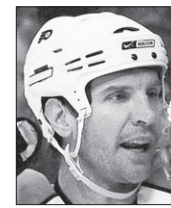
See **GOLF**, Page **2C**

LEADING OFF

naplesnews.com for latest sports scores, news

THEY SAID IT

"I'm sure tomorrow will be a little bit of a tense day for some of us. This team has a chance to do something." — **Flyers forward Mike Knuble**, looking toward the NHL's trade deadline after a 4-2 win over the Bruins on Tuesday



ON THIS DATE

1973 — New York Yankees pitchers Fritz Peterson and Mike Kekich announce that they've swapped wives and children.

TODAY'S TV LISTINGS

BASEBALL
4 p.m. WGN Preseason, Chicago Cubs vs. Chicago White Sox
4:30 a.m. ESPN2 World Baseball Classic, round 1, Taiwan vs. Korea

GOLF
3 p.m. TGC PGA Tour, The Honda Classic, first round

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
7 p.m. ESPN Tennessee at South Carolina
7 p.m. ESPN2 Providence at Villanova
9 p.m. ESPN Illinois at Penn State
9 p.m. ESPN2 Dayton at Xavier
9:30 p.m. CSS Atlantic Sun quarterfinals, Lipscomb vs. Campbell
10:30 p.m. FSN California at Arizona

PRO BASKETBALL
8:15 p.m. TNT Dallas Mavericks at New Orleans Hornets
10:30 p.m. TNT Portland Trail Blazers at Denver Nuggets

PRO HOCKEY
7:30 p.m. FSN Pittsburgh Penguins at Florida Panthers

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
11 a.m. FSN ACC Tournament, first round, Georgia Tech vs. Clemson
1 p.m. SUN SEC Tournament, first round, Arkansas vs. Mississippi
3 p.m. FSN ACC Tournament, first round, N.C. State vs. Wake Forest
3:30 p.m. SUN SEC Tournament, first round, Georgia vs. Kentucky
7 p.m. CSS Atlantic Sun quarterfinals, Belmont vs. Campbell
7:30 p.m. SUN SEC Tournament, first round, Tennessee vs. Alabama
8 p.m. FSN Oklahoma State at Texas A&M
10 p.m. SUN SEC Tournament, first round, Mississippi State vs. South Carolina

TODAY'S RADIO LISTINGS

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
8:15 p.m. WWCN/AM 770 Stanford at Arizona State

REMOTELY INTERESTING

Daily News sports addict **Ron Hartman** helps you navigate the TV waters.



Defending champion **Japan** plays host to **China** today in the opening game of the **World Baseball Classic** at 2 p.m. (tape delay) on **ESPN2**. China has no major-leaguers on its roster, but Japan will be trotting out the likes of Daisuke Matsuzaka, Ichiro Suzuki and Akinori Iwamura. The Dominican Republic and the United States are considered to be the teams to beat.

COMING UP

Florida Everblades



FridayMississippi 7:30 p.m.
Saturday.....Mississippi 7:30 p.m.
March 13at Mississippi 8:05 p.m.
March 14at Mississippi 8:05 p.m.
March 15at Gwinnett 7:05 p.m.

Tickets: Call 948-PUCK or visit germainarena.com | Home games at Germain Arena

FGCU sports



BASEBALL
FridayCampbell 6 p.m.
Saturday.....Campbell (DH) 1 p.m.
SOFTBALL
TodayOregon State Noon
TodayMississippi State 2 p.m.

Tickets: Call 590-7145 or visit fgcuathletics.com | Home games at Alico Arena

Boston Red Sox spring training



TodayPuerto Rico 12:05 p.m.
FridayFlorida 1:05 p.m.
Saturday.....at Tampa Bay 1:05 p.m.
SundayTampa Bay 1:05 p.m.
Mondayat Pittsburgh 1:05 p.m.

Tickets: Call 1-877-REDSOX-9 or visit redsox.com | Home games at City of Palms Park

DIRECTIONS TO CITY OF PALMS PARK

2201 Edison Avenue, Ft. Myers, Florida 33901
■ Take I-75 North to Exit 138 (SR 82, MLK Jr. Boulevard)
■ Make a left (west) off the exit onto MLK Jr. Boulevard, follow approximately four miles to Fowler Street
■ Turn left onto Fowler and follow 1/2 mile to Edison Avenue
■ Turn right onto Edison and follow 200 yards to City of Palms Park

Minnesota Twins spring training



TodayNetherlands 2:05 p.m.
FridayCincinnati 1:05 p.m.
Saturday.....Pittsburgh 1:05 p.m.
Sundayat Baltimore 1:05 p.m.
Mondayat Tampa Bay 1:05 p.m.

Tickets: Call 1-800-333-TWINS or visit twinsbaseball.com | Home games at Hammond Stadium

DIRECTIONS TO HAMMOND STADIUM

14100 Six Mile Cypress Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33912
■ I-75 to Exit 131 (Daniels Road)
■ West two miles to Six Mile Cypress Parkway
■ Travel south for 1/2 mile; complex is on the right

MAKE IT BRIEF

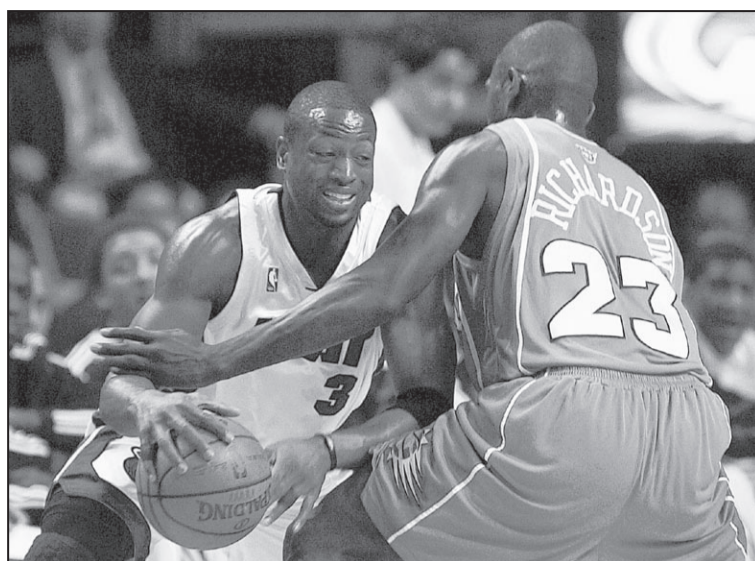
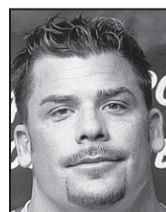
Ex-Firecat Gorrie voted af2's top fullback ever

Former Florida Firecats standout Steve Gorrie has been named arenafootball2's top fullback of all time. The league, entering its 10th season, is going position-by-position and naming top players, with voting by a group of former and current af2 head coaches, members of the media and fans throughout the country.

Gorrie played for Florida in 2004 and 2005. He led the af2 in rushing each year and had a single-season league-record 500 rushing yards in 2004 when Florida won the ArenaCup. He had 345 in 2005 before suffering a career-ending neck injury. He ranks sixth in af2 history with 845 yards.

Gorrie earned the league's Ironman of the Week award twice in 2004, and was first-team American Conference in 2004 and 2005.

— Daily News staff



Miami's Dwyane Wade, left, attempts to drive past Phoenix's Jason Richardson during the first quarter Wednesday night in Miami. AP

Shaq: Heat spoil return

Continued from 1C

Flash hugging. By the end, things seemed downright testy.

O'Neal fouled Wade with 1:21 left, then stood over him Muhammad Ali-style until Udonis Haslem nudged him O'Neal out of the way to help up Miami's best player. Wade made both free throws for a 127-119 lead, and cries of "M-V-P" drowned out a profane anti-Shaq chant from some in the crowd.

And on the next Miami possession, it was over for The Big Fella. Wade drove on him again to draw Shaq's sixth foul, and all O'Neal could do was meander slowly to the bench.

Until last week, only one Heat player had ever managed 30 points and 15 assists in a game. Wade has now done it twice in his last five outings, and seemed to play with a purpose in this one.

O'Neal was traded in February 2008, when the Heat were on their way to being the worst team in the NBA. Publicly, there never was much of a squabble. But Wade seemed to infer this game would have additional meaning.

"My grandma always said, you forgive, but you don't forget," Wade said beforehand. "I live by those words. I forgive a lot of guys. I'm that kind of person. But I don't forget what he said, either."

It was O'Neal's first time in Miami as an opponent since Feb. 10, 2004. O'Neal was introduced last of the Suns, giving him the opportunity to receive an ovation. Most fans obliged, with the overwhelming majority cheering, although there were a few scattered whistles.

"Everything is done out of respect, whether it's a cheer or a boo," O'Neal said before the game.

O'Neal then went to midcourt

to shake hands with Heat owner Micky Arison and his family, then over to the Miami bench for embraces with Heat coach Erik Spoelstra, assistant coach Bob McAdoo and others. Finally, he and Wade shared a hug just before tip-off.

Their next contact was about six minutes later, when O'Neal stuck out a leg, tripped up Wade and drew his second foul.

That was the only way to stop Wade early. The NBA's leading scorer was simply dominant in the first quarter, going 8-for-10 from the floor and finishing with 19 points and three assists, staking Miami to a 40-29 lead.

Phoenix shot a ridiculous 10-for-11 in the opening 10 minutes of the second quarter — yet never held the lead, trailing 67-61 at halftime.

Shaq, Van Gundy embroiled in flop flop

Shaquille O'Neal flopped against Orlando center Dwight Howard. Now he's standing up to Magic coach Stan Van Gundy.

Responding to Van Gundy's reaction about O'Neal's tactics against Howard in a 111-99 win Tuesday night, the Phoenix center lashed out at his former coach with the Miami Heat, calling him "a master of panic," a "nobody" and "a frontrunner."

"One thing I really despise is a frontrunner," O'Neal said before the Suns played the Heat, Shaq's first time back in Miami since last season's trade. "I know for a fact he's a master of panic and when it gets time for his team to go into the postseason and do certain things, he will let them down because of his panic. I've been there before. I've played for him."

RECREATION

Two Special Olympics friends taking a shot at Beach Bum 5K

By **BARBARA BOXLEITNER**
Daily News Correspondent

Some special friends will be taking part in the upcoming Beach Bum 5K. Dawn Coe and Matt Berman, adults who regularly compete in the Collier County Special Olympics, will be running in the fifth annual event March 21.

Charlie Monahan, a member of the Gulf Coast Runners, is sponsoring one adult, and GCR is sponsoring the other, said M.J. Weibling, school coordinator for the Collier County Special Olympics.

Weibling says Monahan, who will run with Coe and Berman, is a Special Olympics volunteer. "He thought it would be great for them (Special Olympics and Gulf Coast Runners) to get together," she says. "This is the first event where it's a real running event (for the Special Olympics athletes)."

Race organizer LeRoy Huenefeld says proceeds from the run go to a fund for scholarships for people in need. The cost is \$18 in advance for GCR members and \$20 for nonmembers and on race day.

The run begins and ends at Lowermill Park. People can register at active.com or through the Gulf Coast Runners at gcrunner.org. For info, call Huenefeld at 239-331-6750.

The Hope, Love and Faith 5K run for multiple sclerosis is Saturday from 7:30-10:30 a.m. at the Naples Philharmonic Center for the Arts. For info, go to gcrunner.org.

The Dr. Piper Center for Social Services is having the second annual Legacy Run/Walk on Saturday in Fort Myers. The race across the Caloosahatchee River on the old Edison Bridge starts at 8 a.m. at the Dr. Piper Center on Evans Avenue. For info, call 239-332-5346, or visit the Web site.

The 8 Weeks to a Faster 5K clinic begins Wednesday. The clinic will take your fastest mile and provide you with an eight-week program designed to make you faster. The cost is \$80. In

addition, the Beginning Triathlon Clinic starts March 30. The seminar is for athletes who want to assume the challenge of a triathlon and can exercise 30 minutes without stopping. Cost is \$45. Call Erica Szilagyi-Norgart, Naples Teen Triathletes organizer, at 404-5023, or e-mail napleserica@yahoo.com.

The fifth annual Marco Island Kingfish Tournament will be March 13-14 at Cedar Bay Yacht Club. The event is the first of three events in the SKA's Division II. The other events are in Naples and Fort Myers. The Marco Island event is open to the general fishing community. First prize is \$10,000.

For marina info, call Scott at 239-394-9333. For tournament info, call Robert at 904-819-0360. For other info, visit fishska.com.

The Sanibel Captiva Optimist Club will hold its annual Wave of Hope Beach Walk on March 21 at Bowman's Beach on Sanibel Island. The 2K to 10K charity walk benefits children with cancer. Pre-registration is \$25, day-of registration is \$30 and children under 10 are free. Visit www.sancapoptimist.org, or call Amy Wainwright at 239-579-0095.

The first Fishin' in Paradise Saltwater Classic will be March 27-28 in Naples. The tournament will feature offshore and inshore divisions and award more than \$45,000 in cash and prizes. Visit naplesparadiseclassic.com, or call tournament director Jim Scharfschwerdt at 904-669-8353.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission has revamped its Web site: www.MyFWC.com. The new home page menu features 14 topic-based sections, compared with 24 before. Sub-menus can be accessed through the main menu. Other pages now have links to related pages, and all pages have a left-hand menu to improve navigation.

Send your submissions for the recreation column to sports@naplesnews.com.

Golf: Industry not immune to nation's economic woes

Continued from 1C

I call "triple witching." You're forced to watch the economy, a new political agenda implemented with concentrated influence and the environment of extreme challenge on time and money.

What happens in the next 12 to 24 months is the big question, with no certain answers other than volatility and uncertainty. How this uncertainty will affect style of operations of the clubs, members, potential new members, resigning members, owners, banks, acquisition groups and the communities the clubs serve as the main social and recreational hub remains to be seen.

In many respects, the members and recreational consumers are key to the uncertainty. They're asking themselves if they should spend a lot of hard-earned dollars on joining or remaining at a club, or switching their recreation to public and resort facilities. Lower recreational activity is becoming more prevalent. A golfer may play twice a week instead of three times, reducing use by 33 percent.

A public facility is the route for the golfer who does not play very often, casting aside a membership that never gets used. There is no right or wrong answer; it just depends on what you are looking for — less expense or a lifestyle with a social atmosphere.

Today in Southwest Florida, high five- and six-figure sums to join a club — once thrown about like confetti or whatever notion took the fancy (not to mention annual dues) — are on hold. Now it appears to be time to take stock, to show restraint, as players watch the effects of the financial crisis.

The expense of operating a country club — or even a public/resort course for that matter — will remain challenging. Securing new members is a difficult task in this market, already saturated with too many golf holes or club/recreational options.

Numbers are down in this market in the past 12 months, probably about 25 percent. By their very nature, the country club and lifestyle club market is exposed to and affected to a greater or lesser extent by what happens in the global marketplace. But they all have one thing in common: the need to generate green fee

revenues or ensure membership retention.

This market, like other areas in Florida and Arizona, is dependent on a strong winter season. I fly my own plane to service clubs around Florida, and let me assure you, the parking lots indicate open spots to park.

What is the true value of a golf membership versus the price? The dynamics for the stakeholders are changing in the current marketplace. The cache that created the value in country club real estate has been lowered, and it must be managed and maintained, or the stakeholders will ultimately suffer even more.

Many factors contribute or take away from the true value of a club and the membership. Although pricing may be set arbitrarily, it will ultimately adjust to value. That is certainly an ongoing process now in Southwest Florida and even throughout the country.

While appearing extensively via our litigation support services division in numerous court cases throughout the country as an expert witness in valuation of a club or membership, a handful of key points are vital.

■ The quality and location are important, along with the exclusivity and uniqueness of the club, in particular its membership rights and privileges. On a daily basis, but especially during a downturn in business, you must be continually improving and investing in people. The businesses that will survive are the ones with the best service product, and a quality facility.

■ Refundability and transferability of membership is important. That issue is evident with several established clubs and developers in this market.

■ Mandatory versus voluntary financial obligations are also key determining factors. The financial condition of the club and the potential for future growth will also alleviate future concerns.

The economic uncertainty will rumble for some time in the golf industry, but, in a bizarre way, this is good for the consumer and, in turn, the operators. The clubs will become more in tune with their consumers, continue to reinvent and improve, be efficient and effective. The clubs will be forced to give the consumer elevated value for their recreational dollar.

And we all know the consumer votes with his spending.

FISHING

Cold front spoils snook-lovers party

By **JOHN PREEG**
Daily News Correspondent

Snook-aholics who suffered through the winter while anxiously waiting for their March 1 snook fix were disappointed Sunday when a late-season front roared through and spoiled their open season celebration.

The wind blew 30 knots, the water temperature dropped from 70 degrees to the lower 60s, and the snook shut their mouths and snuggled up wherever snook snuggle when they are chilly. This weekend, the temperature is predicted to climb into the mid-80s, and the snook will begin to dance.

The pompano are biting in the Naples Bay area, and there are trout south of Everglades City. Last week, tarpon were spotted a few miles offshore, and although this week's cooler temps will push these fish farther out, they'll soon return.

■ **NAPLES:** Capt. Pat Gould reported the fishing was up and down even before the weekend blow. It seemed the morning typically offered a traditional winter pattern of pompano and sheepshead, and then, as the water warmed up, there was good snook action in the afternoon. This week, Gould said it will probably be a winter pattern all day.

■ **MARCO ISLAND/TEEN THOUSANDS:** Capt. Stacy Mullendore was the only one of the captains whom I talked with who fished Tuesday — his report explained why. Mullendore said it was cold all day with a strong 20-knot northwest

wind. Conditions were so bad that Mullendore sought shelter in some of the back bays that were bordered with houses and seawalls.

■ **EVERGLADES CITY:** The fishing was excellent Saturday right before the front, according to Capt. Shane Miller. The fish could feel the front coming, and they were gluttons, eating as much as they could before conditions worsened. Miller used live bait and caught 41 snook up to 38 inches. Two of the fish were in the slot. He also boated three redfish in the slot, and several trout over 20 inches. On Saturday, the water temperature was 71 degrees, but Miller expects it to drop to near 60 this week before warming up again early next week.

■ **WIGGINS PASS/NORTH NAPLES:** Capt. Tony Fontana fished the north Naples area both nearshore and inshore this past week. Nearshore, he caught sheepshead, snapper and a few legal gag grouper that were released because of the closed season. In the backwaters, his catch consisted of trout, ladyfish, and pompano up to 19 inches. Fontana said there have also been schools of jacks up to 12 pounds in all areas.

■ **FRESHWATER:** It's been a poor week, according to Jess Edwards of the Golden Gate Tackle Box. But there will be a full moon Tuesday that will push the last of the breeding bass onto the beds, and this, combined with considerably warmer water, should start the bass bite.

E-mail John Preeg at cap-tjohnpreeg@aol.com.