

# PATRIOT PRESS

Vol. 1, Issue 2

Operation Enduring Freedom  
Camp Patriot, Kuwait

February 15, 2003

## Inspectors Report to Divide Council

### Saddam issues decree banning weapons of mass destruction

*CNN - United Nations*

The leaders of the U.N. weapons inspection effort in Iraq are presenting a key progress report to the Security Council, which is sharply divided over the best course to take to get Iraq to conform with international demands to disarm.

Hans Blix, executive chairman of the U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, told the council that inspectors have found no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, but would not rule out the possibility they may exist.

He said that Iraq should either present any weapons of mass

destruction to inspectors for destruction or show evidence that they have been destroyed.

Blix said that the chief problem for U.N. weapons inspectors lies in locating such chemical weapons as the deadly VX nerve agent Iraq was known to have in 1998 but are not on the Iraqi declaration.

Blix said he had seen no evidence that Iraq had advance

knowledge of the inspectors' plans.



He also said that screening on chemical and biological samples taken from suspected sights has been consistent with Iraq's declaration.

Mohamed ElBaradei, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, will also address the Security Council.

In a sign of the high stakes involved, U.S. Secretary of State

Colin Powell and foreign ministers from Russia, China, France, Germany and Britain are traveling to New York to present their countries' views rather than leaving the task to their U.N. ambassadors.

As representatives to the Security Council gathered, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov gave the inspectors copies of a letter said to rebut many of the points Powell made last week in his presentation to the council.

Blix, whose teams look for evidence of chemical or biological weapons, and ElBaradei,

*See Saddam, page 4*

## NATO Cancels Meeting On Iraq Standoff

*Associated Press - BRUSSELS, Belgium*

NATO canceled an emergency meeting to discuss its bitter standoff split over Iraq Thursday after Germany insisted any breakthrough would have to wait until a key United Nations meeting later in the week.

German Defense Minister Peter Struck had earlier suggested his country would be prepared on Saturday to drop its opposition for NATO to start planning to help

defend Turkey in case of war with Iraq. It was unclear whether the two other holdouts - France and Belgium - would go along with the U.S.-backed defense plans.

A fourth-straight day of crisis talks by the policy setting North Atlantic Council was first postponed, then called off late in the day. There was no decision on whether the ambassadors would reconvene again

the weapons inspectors' report.

Germany, France and Belgium have held out for four weeks against the U.S.-backed request to draft plans to send Turkey AWACS surveillance planes, Patriot missiles and biochemical units to protect against any Iraqi counterstrike.

They maintain that starting military

*See NATO, page 5*

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*and more....*

# Camp Patriot receives Tarawa Amphibious Ready Group

## *Associated Press*

About 2,000 Marines came ashore in Kuwait on Wednesday, the latest arrivals in a massive American military buildup ahead of a possible strike on Iraq.

The Marines brought sophisticated weapons and aircraft, including jets that take off and land vertically and helicopters that can lift armored vehicles weighing 14 tons.

Also arriving was a 100-member elite Marine unit called the Maritime Special Purpose Force, trained in demolitions, sniper fire and in breaching the cabins of enemy ships.

The Marines are members of the San Diego-based 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit and will join thousands already on the ground in this oil-rich emirate. About half of the estimated 113,000 U.S. troops dispatched to the Gulf ahead of a possible Iraq war are in Kuwait, with tens of thousands more expected. The Bush administration says it will lead a coalition to attack Iraq unless Saddam Hussein rids his country of weapons of mass destruction. Iraq denies it has the banned weapons.

Marine officials did not reveal the exact location of Wednesday's landing, instead showing footage of the arrival at a news conference in Kuwait City. Three huge ships anchored off the coast, and amphibious vehicles plunged into the sea, rolling ashore with hundreds of men.

Also Wednesday, U.S. commanders in Kuwait completed an exercise to test communications systems in the event of war and the ability to simultaneously direct separate weapons systems.

Marine spokesman Capt. David Romley called the four-day exercise "very successful."

The Marines arrived in three amphibious assault ships – the USS Tarawa, the USS Duluth and the USS Rushmore. It will take two or three days to unload the equipment, which includes light armored vehicles, amphibious assault vehicles, M1A1 tanks and 29 aircraft, including the vertical takeoff Harrier Jump jets and CH-53 Super Stallion helicopters, which can lift large cargoes. They also brought weapons systems including Javelin missiles – the Marines' newest anti-tank missiles. Marines can fire them from inside buildings "without having to

worry about back blast area," the wide zone behind the traditional weapons that must be kept clear, Romley said.

"That becomes very important in an urban environment," Romley said. Some military analysts have speculated Saddam would try to take the war to Iraqi cities if the U.S. attacked.

The arriving Marines left California on Jan. 6. Romley said they have a wide range of capabilities from humanitarian aid to "major theater war." Some of the Marines came ashore aboard amphibious vessels that can climb 6-foot walls and carry 70 tons of equipment.

Sgt. Ryan Thompson, 22, of Anchorage, Alaska, who appeared in the video footage, said the Marines have "pretty much everything you need to do any kind of mission you like."



*Sailors from Beach Master Unit One guide equipment and personnel off the first LCU to arrive at 'Silver Strand' from the Tarawa Amphibious Ready Group this past week. During the off-load, a constant flow of LCUs and LCACs along with spotted AAVs intertwined themselves with the residents of Camp Patriot. (Photo by JO1 Joseph Krypel)*

## **PATRIOT PRESS**

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# Reserve Seabees Keep Going, And Going, And Going . . .



Equipment Operator 1st Class Roderick Penn, 41, maneuvers his Caterpillar D7 bulldozer on the newly built "Tijauna Beach" road. Penn and 22 other Navy Reservists that are Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303 (CBMU 303) are now in their second year of mobilization in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (Photo by JO1 Joseph Krypel)

By JO1 Joseph Krypel

**T**wenty-three reservists that make up Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 303 (CBMU 303) continue "the watch" as they start their second year of deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"We build, we fight, and we stay as long as we're needed," said Equipment Operator 1st Class Roderick Penn, a 41-year-old San Diego, Calif. resident. "We've been on watch since October of 2001, and we have plenty more work to do!"

Since the mobilization of 303, job opportunities have been abundant. Jobs ranging from Homeland Security taskings in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, to constructing the command and control headquarters for the United States Central Command in Qatar have kept these

reservists on the move.

"We continue to complete our projects efficiently and before expected," exclaimed Penn. "There isn't a single job out there we can't do, and we do it as a team – that's the most important thing to us."

Construction Mechanic 3rd Class Zacarias Biagtan, 31, described the overall job of his team. "We go where we're needed, and we are tasked with backfilling or augmenting the mobile guys when they're deployed to other locations."

Biagtan, a Stockton, Calif. native, says that while his first reserve mobilization is a tough one, it is made bearable by the shipmates that accompany him. "Its horrible being away from home, my wife, my children – but the guys I'm with all pull together in every sense. We work together, we live together, and we have truly become an extended family to one another. It's what keeps us going."

Over the past 16 months, the Seabees of CBMU 303 have had little time for visits back home. According to Penn, sailors have had an average of no more than a week to visit home since their activation.

"We all miss our families, and we all know we have a job to do," said Penn. "We are Seabees – it's just who we are!"

The 303 team has recently arrived in Kuwait, where beach road preparation, elevated causeway support and bunker shelters are crucial to the operations of their new home, Camp Patriot. With approximately three-acres of work site, and over 3000 yards of ground to move, Penn and his shipmates press on to benefit all that may come

through.

The immediate benefactors of CBMU 303 at Camp Patriot consist of the over 1500 joint-service uniformed men and women that carry out amphibious downloads of weapons systems, transportation needs and personnel that continue to arrive in Southwest Asia.

These extraordinary reservists have no clear vision of the future and their return home, but all have a vision that is impenetrable – the vision of continuing on as Sailors have done for centuries.

CBMU 303 is headquartered in San Diego, Calif., and is made up of three separate detachments from the Pacific Coast area.

## CBR Training Note

The CFLCC area of operations, which includes Camp Patriot, has set Mission Oriented Protective Posture Zero (MOPP 0). All residents are to install a canister to their gas masks and carry masks at all times. **DO NOT** break your chemical suits out of the packages. All medicinals will be issued no later than February 15th.

*Here is a MOPP breakdown to remember:*

### MOPP 0

*Carry masks and have gear within 10 minute reach.*

### MOPP 1

*Wear chemical suit*

### MOPP 2

*Wear chemical suit and boots*

### MOPP 3

*Wear chemical suit, boots and mask*

### MOPP 4

*Wear chemical suit boots, mask and gloves*

# Chaplains' Corner . . .

**H**ello, my name is Terry Pletkovich, one of several Chaplains here at Camp Patriot. Along with our Religious Program Specialists, we are here to serve and assist you in any way we can with your spiritual and emotional needs. We are honored to be with you.

One of the feelings that many of us struggle with here is fear. Fear for our safety may be one of our foremost concerns. Every time we go through a CBR drill we are reminded of what could happen to us. When we hear news of a further march to war, our worries tend to rise. Please know that our fear is a normal reaction to the circumstances we find ourselves in. It's normal, but we don't want to find ourselves enslaved by our fear. We have to learn to find ways of dealing with it. Here are some ways to help keep fear in perspective.

First, its good for us to acknowledge our

fear if we have it. There is no shame in that. Admit it to yourself, share it with a trusted friend, and perhaps most importantly bring your fears to the Lord. The Lord cares very deeply about our feelings, and is there for us 24/7.

Secondly, pray for the strength, courage, and peace that can come from God. God promises to provide for all of our needs and God will bring these gifts to you.

Third, wait patiently on the Lord. Day by day, our Lord will work in our lives in a powerful way, strengthening our spirits and giving us peace.

Trust in these blessings that come from God. Finally, take time to be with others, to laugh with friends, and share good words with each other. These activities will bring many blessings to our days.

God bless you all!

**Cmdr. Terry Pletkovich**

## Saddam . . .

*Cont'd from page 1*

whose inspectors are charged with finding any Iraqi nuclear capability, will give their assessments of the progress of the weapons inspections.

Blix will take questions after his presentation, and some are expected to address Iraq's al-Samoud 2 missile, which a report said "went beyond" the 93 miles (150 kilometers) allowed by U.N. resolutions. Iraqi officials said the missile did not yet have a guidance system, which would reduce its range.

At issue is whether the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is in "material breach" of Security Council Resolution 1441, passed unanimously in November. The resolution demanded that Iraq disclose its capabilities to make chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, cooperate with U.N. inspectors and give up weapons prohibited by agreements signed at the end of the Persian Gulf War.

The resolution called for "serious consequences" if Iraq violated those requirements. The United States and Britain are expected to argue Friday that Iraq is indeed in "material breach" of the resolution and that the consequences - namely military action - should follow.

But France, Russia, China and Germany - opposed to using military force - have joined forces to propose a plan to increase the number of in-spectors and give them more time to hunt for weapons.

*Iraqi presidential decree*

Iraq's National Assembly also held what it called

an "extraordinary session" ahead of the report, Iraqi officials said.

Before that meeting, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Friday issued a decree banning weapons of mass destruction.

*U.S., Britain work on new resolution*

The United States and Britain are preparing a new Security Council resolution that, in the words of one U.S. official involved in the discussions, makes it clear that "the time has come to enforce [Resolution] 1441." The exact language is being hammered out between Washington and London.

However, getting another resolution through the Security Council may be difficult. France, China and Russia are permanent council members with veto power, and Germany currently chairs the council.

U.S. and British officials maintain that while they would welcome another resolution, 1441 gives them the authority to proceed with military action against Iraq.

"It is our decision as to whether or not we move a second resolution," British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said.

Aziz assured the pope about Iraq's intention to cooperate with the international community, but John Paul II told him simple cooperation was likely not enough.

The pope urged Iraq "to respect faithfully and with concrete steps the resolutions of the U.N. Security Council, which guarantees internationally legality," the Holy See said.

Aziz arrived Thursday in Rome, Italy, saying he was bringing with him a message from Saddam about the "war of aggressions" facing Iraq.

## Quick Reference Phone Numbers

### Watch Officer

618-6700

### Medical Clinic

617-7280



## Camp Patriot Chapel Services

### Chaplains:

- Cmdr. Jeffrey H. Seiler, CHC*
- Lt. Cmdr. Francis Foley, CHC*
- Lt. Cmdr. Gregory Todd, CHC*
- Lt. Hussain M. Shaikh, CHC*
- Cmdr. Terry Pletkovich, CHC*

### Catholic Mass

- M - F.....1130
- Saturday.....1700
- Sunday.....0830
- Tues.....Rosary/Confessions.....1930

### Pentecostal Worship

- Thursday.....1800

### Muslim Salah Al-Jumua

- Friday.....1230

### Jewish Shabat

- Friday.....1800

### Buddhist Prayer

- Saturday.....1200

### Protestant Worship

- Sunday.....1000

### Episcopal / Lutheran Communion

- Sunday.....1100

### Prayer and Praise

- Sunday.....2030

### Choir Practice

- Tuesday.....2030

# NATO . . .

## Cont'd from page 1

planning now is premature and could undercut U.N. efforts to resolve the Iraq crisis peacefully.

NATO officials reacted with caution to Struck's comments.

They said no meeting had yet been scheduled and repeated the view of the United States and 15 other allies that planning to help Turkey should start as soon as possible.

In Berlin, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder told the same parliament debate that "occasional differences of opinion" did not endanger the alliance.

"For us, solidarity with Turkey, and our solidarity within the alliance, is beyond question," he said. But, he said, "together with our French and Belgian friends, we consider it inappropriate to have a formal NATO decision on the start of planning for a war before the discussions of the Security Council."

Turkey is the only NATO nation bordering Iraq and is likely to become the base for U.S. troops opening up a northern front in any war.

Crisis talks began Monday at NATO headquarters after Turkey invoked the alliance's core mutual defense treaty, but the trio refused to budge despite charges from the United States and the 15 other allies that continued division weakens NATO solidarity and sends a dangerous message of disunity to Saddam Hussein. The continued rebuffs brought an irate response from the United States. "It would be much better if NATO would act as an alliance ... and not allow itself to be tied up in knots by three of the 19 nations," Secretary of State Colin Powell said in Washington Wednesday.

The continued standoff at NATO headquarters has cast doubt on U.S. chances of gaining support from the world body for war against Iraq for Baghdad's alleged failure to disarm.

In Washington, Powell told Congress that he would press the French and German foreign ministers to say how much more time they would give the inspectors or whether they were only trying to get Iraq "off the hook."

A decision by the Security Council to block military action could produce a major break between Washington and most of the world's other big powers.

France, Germany and Russia say they see no reason for launching an attack on Iraq, insisting that weapons inspectors be given more time, manpower and equipment to peacefully disarm Iraq of weapons of mass destruction.

The dispute is damaging NATO unity at an already difficult time for an alliance born in the Cold War that is trying to reinvent itself as force to tackle fighting terrorism and rogue states.

The resistance of France, Germany and Belgium continued despite the scaling down of the proposals originally put forward by the United States to focus

planning solely on Turkey, dropping plans for the alliance to fill in for troops sent to the Gulf from peacekeeping duty in the Balkans or to guard U.S. bases in Europe.

Those issues were already being tackled bilaterally, notably by Germany which has deployed 999 soldiers to protect 18 U.S. facilities around the country.

*Welcome to another edition of the Patriot Press!*

*As we continue living and working together in this unique joint-service environment, it is important to remember that you, the men and women of the worlds finest military, have stories to tell and information to get out. This is the place to do it.*

*Your input and submissions are greatly appreciated and always welcome.*

*-- the Editor*

## Family Reunion

Lance Cpl. Alejandro Silva, 20, and his sister Ensign Marlene Silva, 25, of Tampa, Fl. recently had the chance to visit one another here in Kuwait.

"I knew she would come, she's my sister," explained Alejandro. "I just wonder what took her so long!"

Alejandro is a reservist mobilized with 6th Motor Transport Battalion, H & S Company, 2nd Maintenance Platoon. Prior to his deployment, he was a second year student at the University of South Florida as part of the Marines Delayed Entry commissioning program. Marlene is TAD from Commander Amphibious Squadron 3 in San Diego where she serves as assistant Intelligence officer. (Photo by JO1 Joseph Krypel)



# Arafat Agrees to Appoint Prime Minister

Associated Press - RAMALLAH, West Bank

**Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Friday said he would appoint a prime minister, a key reform that the United States and the European Union have demanded.**

However, he did not say who the prime minister would be, when the appointment would take place or how much power he would share with the prime minister.

Arafat made the announcement in a news conference following a meeting with European Union, United Nations and Russian diplomats in talks held at his battered headquarters in Ramallah.

"I have decided to appoint a prime minister," Arafat told reporters. "I will call for an immediate meeting of the Palestinian Legislative Council ... to discuss this decision and to take the needed measures."

European and American officials have been demanding a series of reforms by Arafat and his Palestinian Authority. One of the most important has been naming a prime minister that would share control of day-to-day affairs.

Arafat has also come under pressure from his own people to reform his inefficient and corruption-ridden government. Israel and the United States refuse to deal with Arafat directly, charging that he encourages attacks against Israel, and have pressed for his replacement or sidelining.

Arafat had hinted in recent months he would appoint a prime minister but did not make any public announcement until Friday.

Palestinians have rejected the attempts to neutralize Arafat, noting that he was elected president of the Palestinian Authority in 1996. Arafat has been the main leader of the Palestinian political movement for more than three decades.

The envoys told Arafat they wanted him to announce his agreement to the new posts by Feb. 18, when officials of the so-called Quartet — the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia — will meet to discuss the reforms. The Quartet is working on a rough peace plan.

The EU and U.N. officials also asked Arafat to appoint a new team for negotiations with Israel, to name a national security adviser and give the Palestinian Legislative Council more authority, the officials said.

Israeli media have reported that the Americans are pressing for the appointment of Finance Minister Salam Fayad as prime minister.

SKY CONDITION WEATHER	 MSTLY SNY 	 PTLY CLDY 	 PTLY CLDY	 MSTLY CLDY PM SHWRS	 MSTLY CLDY SCAT SHWRS
TEMP (F)	48/69	48/71	47/72	50/72	52/69

## What you had to say about . . .

Each week, the residents of Camp Patriot will have the opportunity to voice their opinion on a particular topic. This week, we wanted to get your feelings about being away from home. The question was:

**What do you miss most about home, and why?**

(photos by SN Lina Sandoval)



**Pfc. Nikitra Thompson**  
567th CTC, 24th Bn.

"I miss my mom - I miss the fact that I can't talk to her when I need her to tell me to keep on and to stay motivated."



**EN3 Sebastian Romero**  
ACU-1

"Not having so many rules, going out with the fellas, calling my family and taking as long a shower as I want to."



**Lt. j.g. Tom Price**  
ACB-1

"My son. He is starting to walk and saying his first words. I also miss spending time with my wife and daughter."



**HM2 Ray Houck**  
NAVCHAP

"I really miss my bike. Nothing beats relieving stress then a relaxing ride on the Virginia Colonial Parkway."

# New Reality Show Soon: 'Who Wants to Marry My Mom'

*Associated Press LOS ANGELES*

Another reality show aimed at milking romance for ratings asks the question, "Who Wants to Marry My Mom?" Five episodes of the NBC series, which the network said was inspired by an upcoming "Meet My Folks" special, will air in late spring. No specific air date was announced.

"The idea of kids choosing which mate is best for their single mom just seemed like a fun, natural extension of 'Meet My Folks,'" NBC executive Jeff Gaspin said Thursday.

"Meet My Folks" lets parents judge suitable dates for their children. A March 10 edition, "Meet My Kids," turns the tables by giving three adult sons the chance to pick their mom's companion for a Hawaiian vacation.

In "Who Wants to Marry My Mom?" the adult offspring of a single mother will decide which of several suitors will win the chance to vacation with their parent.

## Here's what the cast of 'Friends' is up to this week . .

*Entertainment Weekly*

**M**INNIE, ME Matthew Perry is shifting from 'Friends' sexual diversity in New York to 'Sexual Perversity in Chicago.' Actually, he's heading to London where, *Variety* reports, he'll costar with Minnie Driver in a revival of the 1974 David Mamet play that was the source of the 1986 film 'About Last Night.' Perry and Driver will take the roles played onscreen by Rob Lowe and Demi Moore; 'Simpsons' voice actor Hank Azaria will take the Jim Belushi role, with the remaining female role yet to be cast. The battle-of-the-sexes drama, which is scheduled for a 13-week run beginning May 3, is not only Perry's first performance on the West End, it's his first professional stage performance anywhere.

## Movie Schedule

### Sunday

Major Pain  
Cruel Intentions

### Monday

Rat Race  
Wild Things

### Tuesday

Patch Adams  
Ice Age

### Wednesday

All the Right Moves  
John Q

### Thursday

Wedding Planner  
Good Fellas

### Friday

Back to Future  
Bedazzled

### Saturday

Broken Arrow  
Liar, Liar

Movies begin each evening at 1800 in the movie tent.

## Things to Remember!

### Sick Call Hours

0800 - 1100

1300 - 1400

1900 - 2000

\*Emergencies 24 hours a day\*

### Barber Shop Hours

Appts.....0800 - 1100

.....1300 - 1600

Walk-ins....1800 - 2000



### AAFES Hours

Daily.....0900 - 1800

CLOSED Wednesdays

### Internet Cafe

Open 24 Hours!

### Galley Hours

Breakfast.....0530 - 0830

Dinner.....1730 - 2030

# Sports Shorts



## NBA OVERALL STANDINGS

## NHL OVERALL STANDINGS

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic	GP	W	L	T	OTL	PTS
New Jersey	56	35	14	3	4	77
Philadelphia	57	30	16	9	2	71
NY Islanders	56	26	23	5	2	59
NY Rangers	59	22	28	7	2	53
Pittsburgh	56	22	25	4	5	53
Northeast	GP	W	L	T	OTL	PTS
Ottawa	58	36	14	7	1	80
Toronto	57	31	21	4	1	67
Boston	55	27	21	5	2	61
Montreal	59	23	23	7	6	59
Buffalo	55	15	29	7	4	41
Southeast	GP	W	L	T	OTL	PTS
Washington	58	27	21	7	3	64
Tampa Bay	56	22	21	8	5	57
Florida	56	16	21	11	8	51
Carolina	57	17	28	6	6	46
Atlanta	55	19	29	3	4	45

### Western Conference

Central	GP	W	L	T	OTL	PTS
St. Louis	58	30	15	8	5	73
Detroit	57	29	17	9	2	69
Chicago	57	23	21	10	3	59
Columbus	56	22	26	6	2	52
Nashville	56	19	24	9	4	51
Northwest	GP	W	L	T	OTL	PTS
Vancouver	57	33	16	8	0	74
Minnesota	57	29	19	8	1	67
Colorado	56	25	14	11	6	67
Edmonton	57	26	19	6	6	64
Calgary	58	18	28	8	4	48
Pacific	GP	W	L	T	OTL	PTS
Dallas	57	33	11	12	1	79
Anaheim	56	26	19	7	4	63
Los Angeles	57	24	25	4	4	56
San Jose	56	20	25	6	5	51
Phoenix	55	19	25	7	4	49

### Thursday Scores

Ottawa 2 - Edmonton 0, Columbus 2 - Montreal 1, Detroit 4 - Buffalo 2, Philadelphia 4 - St. Louis 3, Nashville 2 - NY Islanders 0, Los Angeles 4 - Calgary 2, Vancouver 2 - Colorado 1

## Men's NCAA Division 1 Rankings Week 14 (Feb. 10 - 16)

Rank	Team	Record
1.	Arizona	18 - 2
2.	Louisville	18 - 1
3.	Kentucky	18 - 3
4.	Oklahoma	16 - 3
5.	Florida	19 - 3
6.	Texas	15 - 4
7.	Pittsburgh	16 - 3
8.	Duke	16 - 3
9.	Notre Dame	19 - 4
10.	Kansas	17 - 5
11.	Marquette	17 - 3
12.	Creighton	21 - 2
13.	Illinois	16 - 4
14.	Oklahoma St.	18 - 3
15.	Maryland	14 - 6
16.	Xavier	17 - 4
17.	Wake Forest	16 - 3
18.	Syracuse	16 - 3
19.	Connecticut	14 - 5
20.	Mississippi	15 - 5
21.	Missouri	14 - 5
22.	Georgia	13 - 6
23.	California	16 - 4
24.	Stanford	17 - 6
25.	Purdue	15 - 5

### Thursday Scores

(1) Arizona 106 - UCLA 70, (17) Wake Forest 94 - (8) Duke 80, (23) California 63 - Washington State 53, (24) Stanford 78 - Washington 69

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic	W	L	PCT	GB
New Jersey	34	17	.667	---
Boston	29	22	.569	5
Philadelphia	26	24	.520	7.5
Washington	25	26	.490	9
Orlando	25	27	.481	9.5
New York	21	28	.429	12
Miami	17	33	.340	16.5
Central	W	L	PCT	GB
Indiana	36	15	.706	---
Detroit	34	15	.694	1
Milwaukee	26	23	.531	9
New Orleans	27	25	.519	9.5
Atlanta	19	32	.373	17
Chicago	17	34	.333	19
Toronto	15	34	.306	20
Cleveland	10	42	.192	26.5

### Western Conference

Midwest	W	L	PCT	GB
Dallas	38	12	.760	---
San Antonio	34	16	.680	4
Minnesota	31	20	.608	7.5
Utah	30	21	.588	8.5
Houston	27	23	.540	11
Memphis	14	35	.286	23.5
Denver	12	39	.235	26.5
Pacific	W	L	PCT	GB
Sacramento	35	17	.673	---
Portland	32	18	.640	2
Phoenix	29	22	.569	5.5
LA Lakers	26	23	.531	7.5
Golden State	23	27	.460	11
Seattle	21	28	.429	12.5
LA Clippers	18	33	.353	16.5

### Thursday Scores

Detroit 98 - Orlando 88, Boston 100 - Portland 92

# Twin Wins: Junior, R. Gordon take 125s

**D**ale Earnhardt Inc. and Richard Childress Racing - two of the strongest restrictor-plate teams in NASCAR - will start from the first four spots Sunday in the Daytona 500.

It's a natural rivalry - after all, the late Dale Earnhardt won six of his seven championships driving for Childress and founded his own team.

"It's really hard to decide, if you were going to lose, who would you pick to lose," Earnhardt Jr. said Thursday. "That's one of the toughest deals because you have guys that are sentimental favorites, even for me."

Two years ago, his father was killed on the final lap. RCR has been slow to pick up the pieces, but has shown signs this week of snapping its slump.

Gordon and Green finished one-two in the first of Thursday's twin 125-mile qualifying races. In the second race, the DEI tandem of Earnhardt and Waltrip crossed the finish line in first and second.

Earnhardt, the favorite Sunday, thinks he and Waltrip will have the advantage if the two teams have to gang up on each other.

"Michael and I would definitely whoop them in a tag team drafting

match," he said.

DEI cars have won six of the past eight Winston Cup plate races, and Earnhardt won the Budweiser Shootout last Saturday. He has his sights set on Saturday's Busch series race and a victory on Sunday in the biggest event of the year.

But the RCR gang might be ready to spoil the party. "I heard Junior say that he hopes he can sweep this deal," Gordon said. "My goal is that he doesn't sweep the deal."

"He and Michael have been real strong in restrictor-plate races. RCR has a great history at restrictor plate races, as well, and I'm going to do everything I can to give Richard his second Daytona 500 victory."

RCR and DEI have long worked together, especially on their restrictor-plate programs. They formed an alliance with car owner Andy Petree - creating "RAD" four years ago.

The program soared in 2001, when RAD cars won the four races at Daytona and Talladega, the two longest and fastest ovals in NASCAR. Changes were made to it last year, but the DEI cars continued to thrive.