

SPORTS ON TV

**Today**  
**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**  
 7 p.m.  
 CSN — Florida Marlins at Philadelphia Phillies  
 8 p.m.  
 FSN — Pittsburgh Pirates at Houston Astros  
**WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
**WNBA**  
 ESPN — Phoenix Mercury at Detroit Shock

MLB STANDINGS

American League				
As of Yesterday				
All Times EDT				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Tampa Bay	85	56	.603	—
Boston	84	58	.592	1.5
Toronto	76	66	.535	9.5
New York	76	67	.531	10
Baltimore	63	78	.447	22
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Chicago	80	62	.563	—
Minnesota	78	65	.545	2.5
Cleveland	69	72	.489	10.5
Detroit	69	74	.483	11.5
Kansas City	61	81	.430	19
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	86	56	.606	—
Texas	70	74	.486	17
Oakland	65	77	.458	21
Seattle	56	86	.394	30
National League				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	80	63	.559	—
Philadelphia	78	65	.545	2
Florida	72	71	.503	8
Atlanta	62	82	.431	18.5
Washington	56	88	.389	24.5
Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Chicago	86	57	.601	—
Milwaukee	82	61	.573	4
St. Louis	77	66	.538	9
Houston	76	67	.531	10
Cincinnati	64	79	.448	22
Pittsburgh	60	82	.423	25.5
West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	73	70	.510	—
Arizona	71	71	.500	1.5
Colorado	67	77	.465	6.5
San Francisco	62	80	.437	10.5

San Diego 55 88 .385 18

**Today's Games**  
**American League**  
 Tampa Bay (Kazmir 11-6) at Boston (Matsuzaka 16-2), 7:05 p.m.  
 Oakland (Eveland 8-8) at Detroit (Robertson 7-10), 7:05 p.m.  
 Cleveland (Sowers 2-8) at Baltimore (Guthrie 10-11), 7:05 p.m.  
 Kansas City (Bannister 7-14) at Minnesota (Blackburn 9-8), 8:10 p.m.  
 Toronto (Litsch 10-8) at Chicago White Sox (Richard 2-3), 8:11 p.m.  
 N.Y. Yankees (Aceves 0-0) at L.A. Angels (Jer.Weaver 10-10), 10:05 p.m.  
 Texas (Padilla 12-7) at Seattle (F.Hernandez 9-9), 10:10 p.m.

**National League**  
 Florida (Volstad 4-3) at Philadelphia (Kendrick 11-8), 7:05 p.m.  
 Colorado (Cook 16-9) at Atlanta (Campillo 7-7), 7:10 p.m.  
 Washington (Lannan 8-13) at N.Y. Mets (Ol.Perez 10-7), 7:10 p.m.  
 Cincinnati (Ramirez 0-0) at Milwaukee (Suppan 10-8), 8:05 p.m.  
 Pittsburgh (Ohlendorf 0-0) at Houston (Wolf 9-11), 8:05 p.m.  
 Chicago Cubs (Dempster 15-6) at St. Louis (Lohse 13-6), 8:15 p.m.  
 L.A. Dodgers (Kuroda 8-10) at San Diego (LeBlanc 0-1), 10:05 p.m.  
 Arizona (Davis 6-8) at San Francisco (Zito 9-16), 10:15 p.m.

Rank	Team	Record	Pts
1.	USC	(1-0)	1577

**Others Receiving Votes:**  
 UCLA 150, Clemson 73, Florida State 50, Boise State 22, Tennessee 15, Georgia Tech 14, Oklahoma State 11, Vanderbilt 7, Kentucky 6, TCU 6, Virginia Tech 4, Tulsa 3, South Carolina 2, Arizona 2, Rice 1, Connecticut 1, North Carolina 1

NASCAR

**Sprint Cup Standings**

Driver	Points
1 Kyle Busch	5,080
2 Carl Edwards	5,050
3 Jimmie Johnson	5,040
4 Dale Earnhardt Jr.	5,010
5 Clint Bowyer	5,010
6 Denny Hamlin	5,010
7 Jeff Burton	5,010
8 Tony Stewart	5,000
9 Greg Biffle	5,000
10 Jeff Gordon	5,000
11 Kevin Harvick	5,000
12 Matt Kenseth	5,000

NCAA FOOTBALL

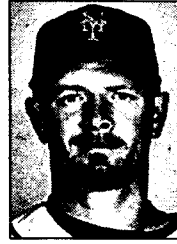
**ASSOCIATED PRESS TOP-25 POLL**

Rank	Team	Record	Pts
1.	USC	(1-0)	1577

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Mets' closer Wagner likely to be out in '09

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Mets closer Billy Wagner needs elbow surgery that likely will sideline him through the 2009 season. The five-time All-Star has been out since Aug. 3 and the Mets said Monday that he has a torn medial collateral ligament in his left elbow and a torn flexor pronator, which is a muscle in the forearm. The 37-year-old left-hander will have surgery later this week.



Wagner

When the Mets first put Wagner on the disabled list on Aug. 5, they announced his injury as a strained left forearm. Minaya said Monday that an MRI that day revealed the tear but that Wagner and the team thought there was a chance he could pitch through it.

Wagner is owed \$10.5 million next year, the final guaranteed season in \$43 million, four-year contract with the Mets, and the team holds an \$8 million option for 2010 with a \$1 million buyout. Minaya thought there was a chance Wagner could return next September.

New York began Monday with a two-game lead over Philadelphia in the NL East. The Mets are 22-11 in Wagner's absence.

likely miss the remainder of the season because of a hairline fracture in his right index finger.

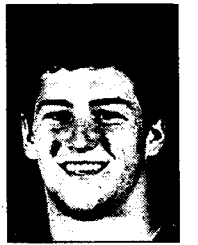
The Pirates on Monday said Wilson will not be placed on the disabled and they hope he could be available late in the season as a pinch-hitter or pinch-runner.

Wilson, who missed the last six games, injured the finger Aug. 31 while fielding a ball against Milwaukee. It was believed to be just a bruise then.

Wilson was batting .274 with a home run and 22 RBIs in 299 at-bats this season. He missed about two months with a strained left calf.

Michigan to start QB Threet vs. Notre Dame

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Michigan coach Rich Rodriguez plans to start quarterback Steven Threet against Notre Dame and expects Nick Sheridan to play.



Threet

Rodriguez said Monday the rotation would be similar to what it was in the win over Miami of Ohio, when Threet began the game and shared snaps with Sheridan, who was the No. 1 QB in the season-opening loss to Utah.

Sheridan, a former walk-on, has completed 15 of 24 passes for 138 yards with a touchdown and an interception.

Threet, a Georgia Tech transfer, has connected on just 14 of 32 attempts for 132 yards and a score. He also has a rushing TD.

The Wolverines (1-1) have scored a Big Ten-low 39 points.

Fractured finger puts Wilson out of lineup

HOUSTON (AP) — Pittsburgh Pirates shortstop Jack Wilson will

Brady's injury could put Steelers at top of AFC

By Alan Robinson  
 ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PITTSBURGH — The five-time Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh Steelers must wonder if they would own a few more Lombardi Trophies if it weren't for the New England Patriots.

The Patriots won three NFL championships in a four-season span during the 2001-04 seasons, twice beating the Steelers in AFC championship games in Pittsburgh. They also beat the Steelers during the 2002, 2005 and

2007 seasons — they've won six of their last seven against Pittsburgh — and those defeats adversely affected the Steelers' playoff positioning each time.

Now, the Steelers are wondering if Tom Brady's season-ending knee injury has dramatically shifted the balance of power in the AFC, which the Patriots have dominated most of this decade.

The Patriots don't look nearly as imposing with Matt Cassel at quarterback rather than Brady, and the Steelers might be one of the AFC teams

that benefits most from his absence.

Though no season goes as scripted or predicted, and January looks very distant in early September, the Steelers (1-0) appear to be in a much better position to go deep into the playoffs now that the Patriots don't have the NFL's reigning MVP.

In only one day, Brady's injury and the Indianapolis Colts' season-opening 29-13 loss at home to the Chicago Bears may have reshaped perceptions regarding the AFC's hierarchy. The Steelers displayed no worrisome weaknesses and had no injuries dur-

ing a 38-17 win over Houston on Sunday that may be an early sign they have the talent to make another Super Bowl push.

"I'm not thinking about the Patriots," linebacker James Harrison said Monday, a day after he had three sacks in Pittsburgh's sixth consecutive season-opening win. "I'm getting ready for the Browns (on Sunday night). Ask me about the Patriots when we play them."


A challenging schedule includes the Browns twice, New England, Indianapolis, Dallas, Philadelphia, Jack-

sonville, the reigning Super Bowl champion New York Giants and San Diego might be the biggest roadblock to the Steelers.

No matter, quarterback Ben Roethlisberger is convinced his team is deep enough to push for another championship, regardless of the competition.

Roethlisberger was near-perfect in the opener, going 13-of-14 for 137 yards despite needing to throw only occasionally.

"The Super Bowl, that's all we're going for," Roethlisberger said.



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