

**Fine mess:** Bills wide receiver **Steve Johnson** was fined \$10,000 for his end-zone celebration against the Jets. Johnson apologized to wide receiver **Plaxico Burress** of the Jets for his antics, which included mimicking shooting himself in the thigh.

**Injury news:** The Eagles have ruled out quarterback **Michael Vick** (ribs) and wide receiver **Jeremy Maclin** (shoulder, hamstring) for Thursday's game against the Seahawks. Running back **LeSean McCoy** is questionable with a toe injury. ... The Seahawks placed wide receiver **Sidney Rice** on injured reserve after he suffered repeated concussions. ... The Chargers placed offensive tackle **Marcus McNeill** on injured reserve with a neck injury. ... Cardinals quarterback **Kevin Kolb** went through a full workout Wednesday and could return from a foot injury Sunday. ... Broncos rookie linebacker **Von Miller** had surgery on his left thumb to repair ligament damage but is expected to be cleared to play Sunday.

## Sam Farmer's NFL pick

**Eagles (4-7) at Seahawks (4-7)**

7:20 p.m. Thursday, NFL Network.

Line: Eagles by 3. Over/under: 43.

If Eagles can take crowd out of game early, their ability to control clock with run will be difference. Seahawks QB **Tarvaris Jackson** (injured pectoral muscle) has no zip on his passes.



brought in to platoon in right, though the Cubs probably will add a right-handed-hitting outfielder who can play the corners.

DeJesus hit only .174 against left-handers in 2011, with a .227 on-base percentage and a .231 slugging percentage, playing primarily in right.

"We don't see him as a platoon player," Hoyer said. "Does that mean he won't get days off against tough lefties? I'm sure we'll try to provide that support and flexibility for (manager Dale Sveum)."

As recently as 2009, De-

against them is 2011. ... right fielders last year finished with a combined .392 slugging percentage — second worst among National League teams — with Kosuke Fukudome, Tyler Colvin, Reed Johnson and Bryan LaHair getting most of the starts.

That doesn't figure to improve with DeJesus, who spent much of his time with the Royals leading off. But he could replace Starlin Castro at the top of the order.

"He makes contact and gets on base," Hoyer said. "He doesn't have a lot of

lineup."

Early last summer, former general manager Jim Hendry envisioned a future outfield consisting of Colvin, Brett Jackson and Matt Szczur. Alfonso Soriano has three years remaining on his deal and will be difficult to trade. Jackson should be vying for a spot this spring while Szczur was added to the 40-man roster and could be ready by September.

Colvin, who was heralded as part of the next generation in last winter's marketing campaign, faces

Quade benched Hoyer said it was say the Cubs consist Hair primarily a firm man.

The Cubs offered tion to first baseman Pena but expect him a multiyear offer else. They also are se third baseman to Aramis Ramirez.

Hoyer said the C tinue to look at pitching, saying it's thing we're focused

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## BOYS BASKETBALL

# He's good in any language

Colleges line up for De La Salle junior

BY MIKE HELFGOT  
Special to the Tribune

He lived in three different countries and became fluent in three languages before his 16th birthday.

Gavin Schilling would have quite a head start on life even if he weren't a foot taller than most kids his age.

The 6-foot-8½, 230-pound junior's return to Chicago after a year in Germany has given De La Salle's basketball team a huge boost after the graduation of two Division I players and the transfer of another.

"You're going to see him and say, 'Oh my god,'" De La Salle coach Tom White said. "And then you talk to him and he's 16. He's a really good kid.

"He and (6-8 junior) Alex Foster work each other like crazy in practice. They are a lot alike. They visited Notre Dame together and are already great friends.

"We have kids who want to be here, and I think our team chemistry is the best

we've ever had."

Schilling was born in Germany and spent the first eight years of his life in France before moving with his mother, Lisa Hall-Schilling, a Thornwood graduate, to the North Side.

Assimilation took some time.

The language was different, the shape of a football cracked him up and he didn't understand why his babysitter told him nobody wears White Sox shirts in their neighborhood.

Attending the French International School in Chicago for grammar school eased the transition. From there, he went to Loyola as a freshman and might still be there if he hadn't run into a friend of his father's while visiting Germany the following summer.

"The next thing you know, he's in a college boarding school for basketball," Hall-Schilling said. "He did very well in school considering he was a little rusty with his German. It was a great experience and he was totally reborn as a basketball player."

Schilling returned to Chicago during the summer. It

## Gavin Schilling file

**School:** De La Salle.

**Class:** Junior.

**Height, weight:** 6-8½, 230 pounds.

**Position:** F/C.

**Stats:** 11.5 points, 7.5 rebounds, 2.5 blocks through four games.

didn't take him long to make a name for himself even though he did not play on the AAU circuit.

He played with De La Salle at DePaul's high school team camp, where the disappointment of a broken wrist was eased by a long line of college coaches clamoring for his services.

DePaul, Illinois, Oregon State and USC have offered scholarships, Schilling said.

"I had a fun experience playing in Germany," Schilling said. "Getting to know the European style of play taught me to shoot better, and I got bigger physically and mentally. My understanding of the game grew. ...

"It was hard to leave but I really missed them (family). I am very lucky to have that experience."

**"I had a fun experience playing in Germany"**

— De La Salle junior Gavin Schilling

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