

NFL S8

Thousands pay final respects to Taylor



SPORTS

INSIDE THIS SECTION

NBA S2
College Football S3
Scoreboard S5
Weather S8

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THE TRIBUNE S

ERIC GILMORE

ON COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Don't look for logic in BCS

If you're a Missouri Tigers football fan, it's a good bet you're as baffled as you are angry. Just over a week ago, Missouri vaulted to the top of the Bowl Championship Series heap after an impressive victory over then No. 2 Kansas.

The 11-2 Tigers fell to No. 6 in the standings Sunday, their penalty for a not-so-impressive loss Saturday to Oklahoma in the Big 12 title game.

Missouri lost its shot at the BCS championship game. But at No. 6, it still looked like a good bet to play in one of the four other mega-million-dollar BCS bowl games.

Then the BCS bowl bids came out. No. 8 Kansas landed a spot in the Orange Bowl against Virginia Tech. Missouri, which was ranked two spots higher than Kansas and had defeated the 11-1 Jayhawks, was left out of the BCS bowl mix. Missouri settled for the Cotton Bowl.

Don't look for logic here. This is what you get when you cross the utterly flawed BCS, which arrived with an antiquated bowl system that was spawned when most people still believed the world was flat — or at least when football players wore leather helmets.

If Tigers fans are looking for someone to blame, then blame it on Orange Bowl committee members wearing those hideous orange blazers.

They're the ones who chose Kansas over Missouri. That's the

Please see BCS, S4

ULTRA-RUNNING



PHOTO BY FACCHINO PHOTOGRAPHY

San Luis Obispo resident Thomas Reiss is shown running the 50-mile Tahoe Rim Trail Race in July when he ran the second-fastest time in the race's history. Reiss is set to lead Germany in the IAU 50-mile World Trail Challenge in Texas on Saturday.

SLO resident Thomas Reiss gets his first chance to race for the German ultra-running national team this weekend

By ERICK SMITH
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Thomas Reiss was looking to qualify for the German national ultra-running team, but instead, they came to him.

Until this winter, his only chance at making the team was to qualify for the lone ultra-running world championship event — a 100K road race — and he failed to do that earlier this year. It seemed he would

have to wait another year for his chance to compete internationally.

That all changed in early October. Reiss' strong showing at the Tahoe Rim Trail 50-mile in July is giving him a chance to be apart of the inaugural IAU 50-mile World Trail Challenge.

"Most of people run races on the road and not trails," Reiss said. "The German national team coach said if I would go they would send a team.

It's a great honor to be on the national team for your home country.

"It's a big honor when the person in charge of the national team says you are the best Germany can send."

Reiss, a 39-year-old San Luis Obispo resident, moved to the Central Coast from Germany 10 years ago. Five years after the move, Reiss took a 2½-year hiatus from all forms of running and it wasn't until

former Olympian Linda Somers-Smith asked him to train with her that he picked up the sport again.

Since then, Somers-Smith has served as his coach and has trained him for multiple ultra-running events. He has rapidly risen in the sport and had success at the Tahoe Triple Marathon and the Tahoe Rim Trail 50-mile.

Please see REISS, S4

NFL

Patriots rally to remain undefeated

Brady throws TD pass with 44 seconds left to

ties that both sides complained about to beat the Baltimore Ravens 27-24 Monday night.

quired two fourth-down conversions, one on a defensive holding penalty six seconds before Gaffney



New England quarterback Tom Brady (12) is sacked by Baltimore's Antwan Barnes as the

Reiss

From Page S1

Reiss has also been in touch with the German national coach about qualifying for the country's 100K team.

A new opportunity to race for his home country came when the International Association of Ultrarunners created the 50-mile World Trail Challenge. The Saturday race in Texas at Huntsville State Park is in conjunction with the 18th Sunmart Texas Trail Endurance race.

Luckily for Reiss, he was expecting to compete in a 50-mile trail race in late November.

"It worked out great because I planned on running November 25, instead I'm running December 8," Reiss said. "It wasn't like I get this great chance and I haven't trained. I was already preparing for a 50-mile race."

Reiss is expecting the world-class field and flat course to generate a fast race.

'My dream was to make the German national team. The race doesn't make that big of a difference because I get to go and be on the national team.'

San Luis Obispo runner Thomas Reiss

The single trail surrounds a lake and goes over forest trails and dirt roads.

"The course is suited for a road runner," Reiss said. "It's going to be flat and hard packed and not very challenging. It's more suited to a fast 100K road guy than somebody who is good in mountain trail running."

Reiss is familiar with both running forms.

His most recent success came this summer at the Tahoe Rim Trail. He was three minutes shy of the course record, finishing in 8 hours, 10 minutes, 3 seconds on a course that boasts a vertical elevation change of 2,400 feet.

Unlike the mountains around Lake Tahoe, the Huntsville course is four, 12.5-mile loops on relatively flat ground.

"What makes this tough is

I'm going to run faster," Reiss said. "I'd like to finish around six hours. That's two hours less than I needed in Tahoe for 50 miles and it shows how much easier this course is. It's not like I've gotten that much better, there is no climbing and no altitude."

After the race, Reiss doesn't expect to be happy with just one world championship appearance. He is thinking about trying to make another attempt at running for Germany's 100K team, but that won't come at a cost of stopping the trail running.

If all goes well, he would like to be part of next year's IAU 50-mile World Trail Challenge.

"My dream was to make the German national team," Reiss said. "The race doesn't make that big of a difference because I get to go and be on the national team."