

LIVING ROOM TIMES

BINDER UPDATE

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A "GIFT" FOR INJURED UCONN STAR Nykesha Sales allowed to score record-breaking layup



PHILADELPHIA (CBS Sportszone Newswire) — Nykesha Sales limped into Connecticut's record book.

The senior forward for the second-ranked Huskies saw her career end Saturday when she ruptured her Achilles' tendon against Notre Dame. But on Tuesday night, she was allowed to score against Villanova and those two points moved her past Kerry Bascom into first place on the school's career scoring list.

"It feels good to have the record," Sales said. "It would have been better if I was playing. But I'm happy to have the record."

In a deal pre-arranged by the coaches, Sales, who was wearing a large brace from her foot to just under her knee, was allowed to score off the game's opening tap when Villanova lined all five of its players in its offensive end of the floor.

"She never asked to score a lot of points and she never asked to break the record," said UConn coach Geno Auriemma. "It was the right thing to do for all she has done for UConn the last four years."

After Sales scored the 2,177th and 2,178th points of her career, she was met by her teammates at midcourt, while receiving a standing ovation from the crowd.

At first hearing of the idea, Sales said she wasn't sure whether she wanted to go through with it, but that Auriemma "said it was a gift from him to me."

"Coach said he was thinking that he wanted to try it. I didn't know if I could walk or what people would think," Sales said. "I was a little nervous actually. Everybody thought I might miss the shot."

Coach Auriemma "said it was a gift from him to me."

—*Nykesha Sales, UConn's all-time leading scorer with 2,178 points*

"It was the right thing to do for all she has done for UConn the last four years."

—*UConn Coach Geno Auriemma*

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"Titanic" sets worldwide box-office record

LOS ANGELES (Associated Press) — Late Monday night, at a theater somewhere in the world, "Titanic" became the biggest moneymaker in movie history, breaking the global box-office record set by "Jurassic Park."

20th Century Fox said Tuesday the disaster epic has grossed more than \$919.8 million worldwide, vs. \$913.1 million for "Jurassic Park." And "Titanic" did it in just 10 weeks.

This from a movie in which you know the boat's going to sink, the hero's going to die and it will take more than three hours for the story to be told.



Yet hundreds of millions of movie-goers are saying, (Continued on page 2)

Boys basketball makes states

The Newington boys basketball team won its eighth game of the year last night at Bulkeley, thereby clinching a berth in the state tournament.

The boys join the girls basketball team and the ice hockey team as Newington sports which qualified for states this season.

Sales allowed to break record

Villanova lets injured UConn superstar score two

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Connecticut called a timeout to get her out of the game and when the timeout ended, the Huskies stayed in their huddle to let Villanova score and tie the game.

After a struggle, UConn beat Villanova 75-71 in overtime.

Villanova coach Harry Perretta said everybody signed off on the idea, from Big East Commissioner Mike Tranchese to Bascom, who played for Connecticut from 1987-1991.

"Everybody said yes to the idea," he said.

Sales needed 29 points entering Saturday's game to get the record and she had 27 when she went down with 9:48 left in the victory over Notre Dame. She she was honored in a senior ceremony before the game and the win clinched the Big East regular-season title for the Huskies.

Sales is expected to have surgery on her right foot sometime next week. Team doctors said normal recovery is from four to six months.

As a freshman, Sales played on the team that finished 35-0 and won the national championship with a 70-64 win over Tennessee.

In every year since, the Huskies have been Big East regular-season champs and played in the NCAA tournament, reaching the Final Four again her sophomore year and losing last year in the regional finals.

"Titanic" tops world box-office record

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"So what? We want more!"

The movie's appeal cannot be measured in ticket sales alone. "Titanic" cuts a far wider swath than just film: It's a pop culture phenomenon reaching into music, tourism, teen-age obsession and the very essence of what it means to be swept away.

Starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet as young lovers on the doomed ship, "Titanic" could end up selling more than \$1.2 billion in tickets, analysts say.

The movie also is on track to break the United States' domestic box-office record of \$461 million set by the 1977 release and subsequent re-releases of "Star Wars."

"Titanic" has been boosted by higher ticket prices, yet undercut by the movie's long running time, which allows many theaters only one showing a night.

A large percentage of patrons are teen-age girls, some of whom have seen the movie several times. Yet, the record could not have been reached without a broad demographic mix.

"It's a movie that's defying every pattern," Bill Mechanic, chairman of Fox Filmed Entertainment, said Tuesday.

Fox produced the film, which cost an estimated \$200 million, with Paramount Pictures. Each company is expected to enjoy profits of at least \$200 million, industry experts say.

"Titanic" soon will be shown on some 200 screens in China, believed the widest release for a Western film in that country. President Jiang Zemin reportedly enjoyed a private screening so much he asked for another showing for friends.

The movie has proved so affecting that people who have seen it have tried to recreate the emotional experience outside of theaters.

Attendance at the Queen Mary theme park in Long Beach has more than doubled from a year ago. In the first seven weeks of 1998, more than 70,000 people visited the 1934 ocean liner that looks strikingly like the Titanic.

Among the visitors on Tuesday was 54-year-old Jan Hahn, a wheat farmer and bus driver from Ohio, in town for a commodity convention.

"We had a ball in the ballroom first thing and I couldn't help (but) feel like one of the characters," Ms. Hahn said.

Thirteen-year-old Miranda Mattingly of Henderson, Ky., was visiting the Queen Mary on a family vacation. She said she saw the movie twice: She cried the first time, but kept her composure with 24 of her seventh-grade friends the next time.

"It was sad how much they loved each other and one died and the other lived," she said.

In the foothill town of Altadena, Karen Bagnard spent part of last weekend taking her 14-year-old daughter, Chelsea, to a fashion show featuring costumes from the movie.

From there, she dropped her daughter and a friend at a movie theater, where Chelsea saw "Titanic" for at least the seventh time. Later that night, Chelsea fell asleep at home, the "Titanic" soundtrack playing on the stereo.

"I would say it's a healthy interest," her mother said. "She has a lot of interests, but 'Titanic' is the main focus."