

SPORTS

Contact Sports Editor  
Ken Barhorst  
498-5960; 1-800-688-4820, ext. 5960  
Fax: 498-5991  
e-mail: kbarhorst@sdnecg.com

Braun, Pedroia named top rookies

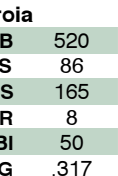
Brewers third baseman Ryan Braun edged out Colorado's Troy Tulowitzki for the NL Rookie of the Year, and Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia took the AL award Monday.

Braun	
AB	451
RUNS	91
HITS	146
HR	34
RBI	97
AVG	.324



Top NL vote-getters				
	1st	2nd	3rd	Tot
Braun, Mil	17	14	1	128
T. Tulowitzki, Col	15	17	-	126
H. Pence, Hou	-	-	15	15

Pedroia	
AB	520
RUNS	86
HITS	165
HR	8
RBI	50
AVG	.317



Top AL vote-getters				
	1st	2nd	3rd	Tot
Pedroia, Bos	24	4	-	132
D. Young, T.B.	3	12	5	56
B. Bannister, K.C.	1	8	7	36

SOURCE: Major League Baseball AF

Pedroia, Braun rookies of year

NEW YORK (AP) — Dustin Pedroia won in a runaway, just like his Red Sox in the World Series.

The little Boston second baseman with the big swing was an easy pick for AL Rookie of the Year, while Ryan Braun barely edged Troy Tulowitzki for the NL honor Monday.

Generously listed at 5-foot-9, Pedroia became a fan favorite at Fenway Park with his all-out style. Plus, few knew he played with a broken left hand down the stretch.

"Everyone doubted me at every level I've been to, saying I'm too small, I'm not fast enough, my arm's not strong enough," Pedroia said. "There's a lot of people that have stuck by me and knew deep down in, that there's something about me that makes me a winning baseball player."

Pedroia hit .317 with eight home runs and 50 RBIs. He got 24 of the 28 first-place votes to outdistance Tampa Bay outfielder Delmon Young in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Braun's brawn earned him the NL award. The slugging third baseman from Milwaukee finished two points ahead of Tulowitzki, Colorado's sparkplug shortstop.

Braun said he had trouble sleeping Sunday night, then woke up early at his condo in Santa Monica, Calif., and went for a jog to ease his "nervous energy."

"I had no idea what the vote would be based on," he said. "I knew that it would be a close vote."

Braun received 17 of 32 first-place votes and finished with 128 points. Tulowitzki got 15 first-place votes and 126 points. Ballots were completed by the end of the regular season, before Pedroia and Tulowitzki met in the World Series.

"To show you how good Ryan was, in any other year Troy Tulowitzki would have won hands down," Brewers general manager Doug Melvin said.

Called up from Triple-A in late May, Braun hit .324 with 34 home runs and 97 RBIs. The Brewers led the majors in homers this season and stayed in contention for the NL Central championship until the final week.

Braun's .634 slugging percentage led NL players and was the highest by a rookie in major league history. He did not have enough plate appearances, however, to qualify for the title.

His big offensive numbers were enough to overcome 26 errors, tied for most in the majors with Minnesota shortstop Jason Bartlett.

"Everybody has things they need to work on," Braun said on a conference call.

Braun showed off his power in the Brewers' exhibition opener, hitting a grand slam and a three-run homer. He also made a wild throw in that game.

Tulowitzki led big league shortstops in fielding percentage, got to many more balls than anyone at his position and turned an unassisted triple play.

He also set an NL rookie record for home runs by a shortstop (24) and batted .291 with 99 RBIs as the Rockies surged to the NL pennant.

Carr has a lot on the line Saturday

Tressel has been Carr's roadblock

Michigan coach Lloyd Carr has a lot at stake when he meets Jim Tressel and Ohio State Saturday. Not only is the Big Ten title on the line, Carr hopes to improve on his poor record against Tressel.



SOURCES: University of Michigan; STATS LLC AP

Record at Michigan (1995-2007)	
OVERALL	BIG TEN
121-39	81-22
Carr vs. Buckeyes	
Wins	Losses
6	6
vs. Tressel	
1	5

**Championships**  
■ 1997 National Championship  
■ Big Ten titles (1997, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2004)  
**One for the record books**  
Only one coach went 1-6\* in the history of the rivalry. (Michigan vs. Ohio State)  
**John W. Wilce,** (1921-27) OSU (1922-28)  
\*Over a seven-year stretch

talking about his record against Buckeyes coach Jim Tressel or the future in a Monday press conference. He did look and sound like he was in a good mood as a week of hype leading up to one of sport's greatest rivalries kicked off.

If Ohio State wins for the fourth straight year and sixth time since Tressel took over in 2001, it will win the conference championship outright and likely land in the Rose Bowl.

"I keep talking Tressel up to every NFL owner I see," TV analyst Dan Dierdorf, a former Michigan lineman, said on HBO's documentary about the rivalry. "I can't get this guy out of Columbus. This guy's got to

go away." Tressel, meanwhile, refuses to acknowledge he has owned the Wolverines.

"In the game of football, I don't know if there's ever someone having someone's number," he said. "The game of football is won on the field by the guys in the trenches and guys making plays."

A Michigan victory would give the program the Big Ten title by itself, a return trip to the Rose Bowl and Carr could hold his head high with a 7-6 record against Ohio State.

Since becoming head coach in 1995, Carr is 121-39 and 81-22 in the Big Ten. He has won five Big Ten titles, one national

championship and led the Wolverines to a bowl game every season.

Signs have been pointing toward this being the 62-year-old's 13th and final year. He altered his contract last December, allowing him to easily make this his final season as coach and still collect deferred compensation. In March, his assistant coaches were given two-year deals to pay them through Feb. 28, 2009, even if they are not coaching at Michigan.

Carr has consistently dodged questions about next year, saying it would be hypocritical if he answered them, and did so again when the topic was broached Monday.

"The only thing on my mind is this game," Carr said after laughing.

Many others, however, have been talking about his possible successor for months, if not years.

LSU coach Les Miles seems to be at the top of the list because he played for the late Bo Schembechler at Michigan. That is where Miles met his wife, and he was an assistant there under Schembechler.

Even though Miles appears to be in a great situation leading the top-ranked Tigers in a talent-rich area of the country, the school seemed concerned

enough about him bolting for Ann Arbor that it put a specific clause in his contract to make it an expensive move.

In the "termination by coach" section of his deal, Michigan is the only other school mentioned. It states that Miles will not seek or accept employment as Michigan's coach. If Miles does leave LSU to coach the Wolverines, he must pay LSU \$1.25 million.

Michigan's players, meanwhile, are focused on beating the Buckeyes for Carr.

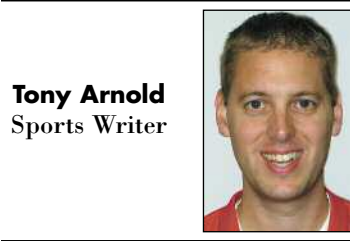
"We want to win it for him," defensive tackle Will Johnson said. "He's taken a lot of criticism. That's his job as a coach, but we represent him."

Asked about his possible retirement, Carr deflected his answers toward the team in a way that his mentor, Schembechler, would be proud.

Carr also said he is embracing the scrutiny that comes with Ohio State week.

"You embrace the pressure because the competition is why you play. It's why you coach," he said. "More than anything else, it's about competing to the best of your ability in a game you love and to try to achieve something with a group of people that you care about. And in this case, (people) that represent the University of Michigan in a way that we can all be proud."

A long day's journey at Columbus Marathon



Tony Arnold Sports Writer

out early — the spectators provided encouragement by the buckets.

In addition to the many thousands lining the streets, multiple families celebrated the event in front yards or driveways. The spectator-friendly course allowed me to see my wife and 21-month-old daughter three times during the race. The course continued down East Broad for three miles before heading east through Bexley and past the Governor's mansion and Capital University. I went through the 5-mile mark at 35:26.

Miles 6-10

The weather remained cool and comfortable during this portion of the race. The streets remained lined with supporting spectators as the course headed south on Drexel. A few nearby runners wrote their names on their shirt and received cheers from spectators who shouted their name along with words of encouragement.

Somewhere along the way a marching band was playing the theme from Rocky — runners furiously pumped their arms and waved. Runners slapped high-fives with people they might normally cross the street to avoid. My favorite was a spectator who tossed a foam football to me around mile 9. At that point, I still had enough energy to loft a spiral back.

Miles 10-17

The temperature started to rise and the sun became more prevalent during miles 10 and 11 as we made our way into German Village. The Village is a 233-acre neighborhood filled with historic buildings, shops and restaurants near downtown Columbus. I went through the



SOME 10,000 runners leave the starting line recently for the annual Columbus Marathon. The Shelby County area was well-represented in the event.

half marathon at 1:34.

Next up was a five-mile straightaway up High Street headed towards the heart of the Ohio State campus. As we neared the campus, one guy holding a Bud Light beer can invited runners to join him instead of putting themselves through the agony of the road.

A pair of nearby runners wondered out loud why this "fluid station" wasn't on the official course map. They decided to stick with the Gatorade at the next station. As the race wore on my mile splits started to rise.

Miles 18-22

Miles 18-20 weaved through a residential area of Upper Arlington. Starting to feel a little dehydrated at this point, I wondered if I should have had more Gatorade at previous stations. I made a point to drink both Gatorade and water at the next several stations. I was having a difficult time keeping up with my goal pace and began to won-

der if a few more up-tempo training runs would have been beneficial.

One particular house in Upper Arlington had a group of people standing in their driveway with a boom box playing the "Chariots of Fire" melody.

A little further along the course I came up on Lane, a familiar site for me on my way to Ohio State games on Saturdays. Just past mile marker 22 the trees opened up and I glanced up at Ohio Stadium.

Miles 23-26.2

I wasn't thinking football at this point -- I was thinking about the heavy steps of fatigue that were setting in as I crossed mile 23.

I remember thinking the race now had a little over a 5K remaining as I concentrated on putting one foot in front of the other. I attempted to make the most of my strides, as I knew each one got me closer to the finish line. The crowd got larger and I knew the finish line was near.

The 26-mile mark was just before a straightaway opening up on Nationwide Boulevard for the finish and I crossed the line in 3:31:05 to finish 604th. I didn't reach my goal time of 3:10, but felt good with the accomplishment and the improvement possibilities with additional training.

The Shelby County area was well represented in the marathon with multiple finishers and several other finishers in the half marathon. Next year's Columbus Marathon is Oct. 19.

"With the ever-growing popularity of both marathon-ing and half marathoning, we knew we'd see a tremendous jump in numbers this year," said Scott Weaver, executive director of the Columbus Marathon. "The excessive growth this year is proof positive of what a special event this is to people in central Ohio and around the nation."

Anyone wanting to see how the county/area runners did can go to [www.columbus-marathon.com](http://www.columbus-marathon.com).

Graham's field goals delight fantasy football fans

CINCINNATI (AP) — On his way back to town after kicking those seven field goals, Shayne Graham started answering all the phone calls and returning the laudatory e-mails and text messages.

For fantasy football players, the Cincinnati Bengals kicker was a difference-maker. For his teammates, Graham was a god-send.

He set a team record by going 7-for-7 on field goals in a 21-7 victory Sunday in Baltimore. Graham's biggest day as a kicker led the Bengals to their first road victory since last Nov. 26, a 30-0 win in Cleveland.

"We're all walking in the locker room with smiles today,

and that's something we didn't have for a while," Graham said Monday.

For the Bengals (3-6), it was momentary relief from a bad season. For Graham, it was the first big moment in one of his quietest seasons. He'd never kicked more than four field goals in a game during his career.

The messages started pouring while the Bengals were on their way back from Baltimore.

"Between all the phone calls and text messages, people congratulating me and thanking me for the fantasy league points and things like that — that's what a lot of the messages were for," Graham said. "Some of the e-

mails I got were kind of fun to get."

Graham connected from 34, 19, 22, 35, 35, 21 and 33 yards, bailing out an offense that couldn't come up with a touch-down play. The seven field goals were one shy of the NFL record, set earlier this season by Tennessee's Rob Bironas.

The seventh-year kicker is one of the most accurate in NFL history, converting 140 of his 164 chances, or 85.4 percent. He missed his first try of the season, coming up short on a 53-yard attempt in a 27-20 win over Baltimore in the opener.

Since then, he's been perfect on 19 tries, setting a club record for consecutive field goals

made.

With the Bengals struggling and losing, Graham hasn't had a chance to make a game-winning kick. He'd had few chances overall until Sunday.

"It had been a very quiet season for me," he said.

For the Bengals as well.

After a Monday night win over Baltimore got their season off on a high note, the Bengals won only one more game — over the lowly Jets — before their rematch on Sunday. Their defense, ranked among the league's worst on most categories, had its best game, holding the self-destructive Ravens scoreless until the fourth quarter.

In each of those two wins over Baltimore, the Ravens had a pair of interceptions and four fumbles that put the Bengals in position for a win.

"It helps," linebacker Landon Johnson said Monday. "It's only one game. We've got to build on (it). But this gives us a foundation to build on."

The offense still has a long way to go.

For the second game in a row, the Bengals averaged less than three yards per carry. They ran 34 times for 70 yards, a measly 2.1-yard average. Rudi Johnson ran 22 times for only 46 yards, and Kenny Watson picked up 24 yards on nine carries.