

NFL

# Lindell delivering the goods

by MATT KRUEGER  
Reporter

With just four seconds on the clock and the Bills trailing by two points, coach Dick Jauron didn't hesitate for a second to send in kicker Rian Lindell to try a 51-yard field goal Sunday at Washington's FedEx Field.

And why should he? Lindell has been the most reliable kicker in the league this year and had already booted four field goals in the game.

Naturally, the soft-spoken Lin-

dell quietly went about his business and nailed his second game-winner of the season and ninth of his career.

"He's really a guy you trust," Jauron said.

And that pretty much sums it up for the eight-year veteran, who already owns the NFL record for most consecutive PATs to begin a career (240).

Lindell is Mr. Money in the Bank for the Bills. He's connected on 20 of 22 field goal attempts this year and has a long of 52-yards. The two he missed were both beyond

40 yards, one was past 50 yards.

Of course, Lindell got a little boost from Redskins coach Joe Gibbs Sunday. In the latest fashion move to sweep the NFL, Gibbs called a timeout from the sideline a split-second before Buffalo hiked the ball and Lindell kicked it through the uprights. It's nothing new. Coaches have done that all season, including Jauron.

But Gibbs made a classic blunder when he tried to call a second timeout before the retry. Not knowing that's illegal, as he stated in his post-game press conference, Gibbs surrendered 15 yards on a personal-foul penalty. So Lindell sent his 36-yard field goal through the center of the uprights and gave the Bills a last-second victory.

"The two-timeout rule is probably a good rule," Jauron said. "When it pertains to a kicker, it's unsportsmanlike and becomes a big penalty. I am of the opinion it had no effect on the game. The way Rian was kicking the ball in that game and the way he kicked the first one, I really don't believe it had any effect on the game. It just increased the drama. I just

had a lot of faith that he would knock it through again. As a matter of fact, I thought he could go five yards back. The way he was hitting it on that day and the way he hit the first one, I think he would have made it from five yards back."

Lindell made five field goals in the game from 38, 43, 24, 33 and 36 yards. It was the third five-field goal game of his career, tying him for second in team history. Steve Christie holds the record with his six field goals in a 25-22 win over the New York Jets in 1996.

The Washington State University product also tied a team record with his 17th consecutive field goal. Christie had 17 straight in 1994.

As well as Lindell is kicking, this is not his best year. He finished the 2006 season with a 92 percent mark and finished with 102 points. Lindell is kicking at a 90.9 percent clip this year, which has upped his career mark to 80.7. But Lindell, who spent his first three years in Seattle, has done his best work in Buffalo. He's hit 113 of 134 field goals as a Bill, which makes him the most accurate kicker in team history. His

84.33 percent accuracy easily betters Christie (78.26).

Lindell ranks only 24th in the league with 76 points, but he's playing on an offense that has posted only 184 points this year. Buffalo's offense ranks 31st in the league, so he's not getting the same opportunities to contribute as his counterparts in other cities. Nick Folk of Dallas and Green Bay's Mason Crosby lead the league with 107 points each, while New England's Shane Gostkowski is close behind at 103. But those three guys play on teams with explosive offenses.

Lindell can continue his kicking way when the Bills host Miami Sunday.

e-mail: mkrueger@beenews.com

## Micron Red Sabres beat Gray Sabres, 10-4

Led by three goals each from Conner Baetzhold and Paul Cartone, the Micron Red Sabres defeated the Micron Gray Sabres, 10-4, on Sunday.

Red Sabre Ryan Curtin added two goals while Andrew Barker and Will Redding each tallied one.

The Gray Sabres' Donte Santora scored twice and Alec Cicero and Richard Pezzino each tallied once.

The game featured great goaltending on both sides.

The Gray Sabres and Red Sabres battled hard for the entire game to the delight of the large amount of fans that came out to support their teams.

## Gold Sabres edge Red

The Micron Gold Sabres stayed undefeated by pulling out a last minute 11-10 win over the equally skilled Red Sabres.

The Gold Sabres collected five goals from Zach Esch and single tallies from Jack Gilbert, Nicholas Haas, Trevor Galante, Jackson Scinta, Hudson Curtin and Ethan Ruggiero.

Trevor Kuntar was stellar in the Gold net and strong defense was played by Victoria Willig and John Walp.

The Red was led by Andrew Barker (three goals), Paul Cartone, Ryan Curtin and Will Redding (two goals each) and Jacob Puckhaber (goal). Goalie Scott Currier played well. Evan Muldering displayed good defensive play.

### Micron Gold, Gray Sabres tie

The first game of the year between the Gold Sabres and Gray Sabres saw a tight game for the full 60 minutes which ended in a 9-9 tie.

The Gold Sabres were led by Ryan Rapini, Hudson Curtin and Zachery Esch who each scored two goals.

The Gray Sabres were led by Alec Cicero (six goals), Chloe McKenna (two goals) and Dante Santora (four assists).

The goalies, Jack Rapini for the Gold and Jarret Lang for the Gray, made great saves all game.

Solid play was also turned in by Jack Gilbert, Adam Rothenthal and Liam Wojciechowski.

## Mite Flyers open tourney with shutout

The Mite Flyers had a great start to the annual Burlington/Amherst Friendship Tournament on Saturday, blanking Lorne Park, 5-0.

Goalie Jude Rajakrishnan got his first career shutout. Jason Howard and Danny Wagner played rock solid defense in front of the net. Nick Smith had a great shot to try to put the Flyers on the scoreboard in the first period but a great save was made by the Canadian netminder.

Drew Elliott got the Flyers on the board in the second period with his first of two goals. Matt Hegedus and Bryan Sokolowski were flying up and down the ice, playing great in both ends. Michael Floccarescored on a nifty pass from Chris Stryker to make it 2-0.

Michael Krasinski and Max Krasinski were keeping the puck in the

Lorne Park zone all day, putting the pressure on.

Cameron Kiefer played stellar on defense all game, stopping Lorne Park chances time and time again. Daniel Brady had a great scoring chance to increase the lead but was denied with another great save.

Will Mann scored two goals to give the Flyers the 5-0 lead. Jack Smith raced back to stop a Lorne Park breakaway to help preserve the Rajakrishnan shutout. Colin Begley and Daniel Krasinski were both racing up and down the ice helping the Flyers get the victory.

Sunday's game versus a strong Burlington team resulted in an 8-0 shutout in favor of the Canadians. The Flyers were short a few players but hustled the entire game.

## Squirt Blue Sabres, Red Wings tie

The Squirt Blue Sabres and Red Wings played a close checking game that ended in a 1-1 tie.

Matt Naples (Mike Paolini, Steve Swiantek) opened the scoring for the Sabres when he banged in a rebound during the first period.

Tim Kreuz tied it for the Wings in the second after winning a faceoff in the Sabres' end. Quinn Lacey and Peter Hillery controlled the puck until Kreuz knocked it into the net.

The Sabres' Jordan Scinta and the Wings' Joe Burke played excellent in goal. Each made several key stops to keep the game knotted till the final horn.

## Fireman's Bowling

Team	Wins	Losses
Eggertsville	69	22
Main-Transit C	56	35
Swormville	55	36
North Amherst	53	38
Getzville	51	40
East Amherst	50	41
Main-Transit B	48	43
Harris Hill	44	47
Ellicott Creek	42	49
North Bailey	41	50
Snyder	37	54

### 200 games, 550 sets

M. Gaiser 275, 244, 226 — 745; J. Maine 259, 207 — 639; AJ Shisler 245, 203 — 633; W. Leising 237, 217 — 632; B. Krebs 220, 216 — 619; G. Spoth 268 — 594; S. DiPasquale 246 — 591; B. Crossley 236; R. Eggeston 230; A. Yambor 227 — 569; M. Stafford 213; D. Hohl 213 — 588; A. Weiser 209; P. Kranz 209, 202 — 569; M. Smith 206 — 584; T. Ratzel 211; J. Abbarno 204, 200 — 577; M. Garavalle 204; T. Vanderlinden 203; J. Gesel 202; secret score winner — Garry Wright, Ruth Weiser, 151

# HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS CALENDAR

### Wednesday, Dec. 5

**Boys basketball:** Medina at Amherst, 7:30 p.m.; W.S. West at East, 7:30 p.m.

**Boys bowling:** Tonawanda at Amherst, 4:30 p.m. (Airport Lanes); Sweet Home at Hamburg (Legion Lanes), 4:30 p.m.

**Girls bowling:** Tonawanda at Amherst, 4:30 p.m. (Airport Lanes); Sweet Home at Hamburg (Legion Lanes), 4:30 p.m.

**Wrestling:** East at Royalton-Hartland, 6 p.m.; North at South, 6 p.m.

### Thursday, Dec. 6

**Girls basketball:** South at Sweet Home, 7:30 p.m.; Frontier at North, 7:30 p.m.

**Hockey:** Amherst vs. East (Feature), 9 p.m.; North vs. Clarence (Olympic), 9 p.m.

**Girls bowling:** Sacred Heart vs. Holy Angels, 4 p.m. (Thruway Lanes)

### Friday, Dec. 7

**Boys basketball:** Dick Harvey Tournament at Ken. West — Amherst vs. Lafayette, 7 p.m.; North vs. Ken. West, 8:30 p.m.; Cataract Classic at Niagara Falls — Sweet Home vs. Rochester East, 6:30 p.m.; W.S. East at East, 7:30 p.m.; South at Hamburg, 7:30 p.m.

**Girls basketball:** Cheektowaga at Amherst, 7:30 p.m.; Al Pastor Tournament — Sacred Heart vs. Immaculata or East High, 5:15 p.m.

**Hockey:** South vs. Niagara Falls (Niagara University), 9 p.m.

**Indoor track:** Amherst, Sweet Home, East, North, South at Buffalo State College, 4:30 p.m.

**Boys swimming:** Amherst at Starpoint, 4:30 p.m.; Hamburg at Sweet Home, 4:30 p.m.; East at Orchard Park, 5 p.m.; Iroquois at North, 5 p.m.; Alden at South, 4:30 p.m.

**Wrestling:** East at Sweet Home, 6 p.m.; Jamestown at North, 6 p.m.

### Saturday, Dec. 8

**Boys basketball:** Dick Harvey Tournament at Ken. West — Amherst or Lafayette vs. North or Ken. West, 5:30 p.m. (consolation), 7 p.m. (final)

**Hockey:** Sweet Home vs. Niagara Falls (Feature) 1 p.m.; East vs. North (Olympic), 5 p.m.; South vs. Bishop Timon-St. Jude (Feature), 3 p.m.

**Wrestling:** Amherst, North at Grand Island Duals, 9 a.m.

### Sunday, Dec. 9

**Hockey:** Amherst vs. Niagara Falls (Buffalo State College), 5 p.m.

### Monday, Dec. 10

**Boys basketball:** East at St. Francis, 7:30 p.m.; North at Bennett tourn., 6 p.m.

**Boys bowling:** Amherst at Maryvale, 4:30 p.m. (Airport Lanes); Iroquois at Sweet Home, 4:30 p.m.; East at W.S. East (Wimbledon Lanes), 4:30 p.m.; North at Frontier, 4:30 p.m.; South at Hamburg (Legion Lanes), 4:30 p.m.

**Girls bowling:** Amherst at Maryvale, 4:30 p.m. (Airport Lanes); Iroquois at Sweet Home, 4:30 p.m.; East at W.S. East (Wimbledon Lanes), 4:30 p.m.; North at Frontier, 4:30 p.m.; South at Hamburg (Legion Lanes), 4:30 p.m.

### Tuesday, Dec. 11

**Boys basketball:** ECIC-MMA Challenge at St. Mary's of Lancaster - Sweet Home vs. Canisius, 8 p.m.; North at Bennett tourn., TBA

**Girls basketball:** Amherst at Maryvale, 7:30 p.m.; Sweet Home at East, 7:30 p.m.; Sweet Home at East, 7:30 p.m.; North at W.S. West, 7:30 p.m.; Iroquois at South, 7:30 p.m.

**Girls bowling:** Sacred Heart vs. Immaculata, 4 p.m. (Thruway Lanes)

**Boys swimming:** South at Amherst, 6 p.m. (Amherst Middle School); Jamestown at Sweet Home, 5 p.m.; North at Hamburg, 5 p.m.

\* All hockey games are played at the Amherst Pepsi Center's Feature or Olympic Rink unless otherwise noted.

## Union College beats Cornell

Union College defeated Cornell, 3-2, on Sunday in the development division.

Union opened the scoring in the first period with a goal by Miranda Podlas. Cornell's Jane Truesdell tied the score in the second on a pass from Nadien Pizzuto.

Cornell took the lead in the third with a nice goal from Laura Finley, assisted by Carolyn Hopkins.

UC tied the score with a beautiful pass from Podlas to Emily Beauchamp. With 50 seconds left, Podlas scored unassisted for the game-winner.

Anna Quattro (Cornell) and Abbey Posner (Union) provided great goaltending. The defense on both sides was stellar.