



# The Tuscaloosa News

TUSCALOOSA, NORTHPORT, WEST ALABAMA

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2005 50¢

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# LONDON BLOODIED, STUNNED, STOIC

## Judge snubs Cottrell lawsuit

By Christopher Walsh  
Sports Writer

TUSCALOOSA | The high-profile \$60 million defamation lawsuit of two former University of Alabama coaches against the National Collegiate Athletic Association and others lost a lot of its luster Thursday afternoon when a circuit court judge dismissed most of the complaint.

In a pretrial hearing at the Tuscaloosa County courthouse, Judge Steve Wilson threw out all counts of conspiracy and negligence and all claims against former NCAA Committee on Infractions Chairman Thomas Yeager and investigator Richard Johanningmeier.

All that remains of the lawsuit are counts of libel and slander against recruiting analyst Tom Culpepper and Ivy Williams' defamation and invasion of privacy claims against the NCAA.

"The whole thing is baffling to me," lead plaintiff attorney Tommy Gallion of Montgomery said. "The case has basically been gutted. We'll go in and do what we can with what we have, and appeal it. I don't know what more we could have done."

Gallion said that the order on motions for summary judgment was issued. SEE COTTRELL | 8A

## WHO DID THIS?

The coordinated bombings against rush-hour transportation systems hit three subway trains and a bus. The Secret al Qaeda Jihad Organization in Europe has claimed responsibility. **More on Page 7A.**

## BRITAIN'S RESPONSE

Rescue workers, police and ordinary people streamed into the streets to help. Prime Minister Tony Blair blamed Islamic extremists and offered this resolve: "We will not be terrorized." **More on Page 7A.**

## HERE IN THE U.S.

The White House upped the terror alert to code orange for the nation's mass transit systems. President Bush said the war on terror continues and praised the resolve of the British people. **More on Page 7A.**

By Robert Barr  
The Associated Press

LONDON | The first bomb went off at 8:51 a.m., on a London Underground train just outside the financial district. Five minutes later, another train exploded, then another and finally a crowded red double-decker bus. In 56 minutes, a city fresh from a night of Olympic celebrations was enveloped in an eerie, blood-soaked quiet.

Terror had struck the British capital at the start of a busy work day, just as it had a year ago in Madrid and in 2001 in New York and Washington.

At least 37 people were killed, and more than 700 were injured Thursday in the worst attack on London since the blitz in World War II.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair blamed Islamic extremists and said the bombings were designed to coincide with the opening in Scotland of a G-8 summit of the world's most powerful leaders. Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the bombings — which came the day after London won the bid to host the 2012 Olympics — have the "hallmarks of an al Qaeda-related attack."

Police said there had been no warning. Authorities initially blamed a power surge but realized it was a terror attack after the bus bombing near the British Museum at 9:47 a.m. — less than an hour after the first explosion.

Trapped passengers in the Underground railway threw themselves on the floor, some sobbing. As subway cars quickly filled with smoke, people used their umbrellas to try to break the windows so that they could get air. Passengers emerged from the Underground covered with blood and soot. On the street, in a light rain, buses ferried the wounded, and medics used a hotel as a hospital.

"I didn't hear anything, just a flash of light, people screaming, no thoughts of what it was. I just had to get out of the train," said subway passenger Chris Randall, 28, who was hospitalized with cuts and burns to his face, legs and hands.

"It was chaos," said Gary Lewis, 32, evacuated from a subway train at King's Cross station. "The one haunting image was someone whose face was totally black [with soot] and pouring with blood."

It was the attack that Britain had long feared, following al Qaeda's Sept. 11, 2001, strikes in New York and Washington and Britain's subsequent alliance with U.S. forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. The explosions Thursday also recalled the March 11, 2004, terrorist bombs that killed 191 SEE LONDON | 9A



PHOTOS | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The scene after an explosion on a bus at Tavistock Square in London on Thursday. Coordinated explosions rocked three London subway trains and this double-decker bus during the morning rush hour.



An injured man leaves Edgware Road tube station after the explosion to be treated at the London Metropolitan on Thursday. The coordinated bomb blasts killed at least 37 and injured more than 700 people.

## Tuscaloosa residents say it's '9/11 all over again'

By Jason Morton  
Staff Writer

TUSCALOOSA | University of Alabama student Melissa Howard said she couldn't believe what she was seeing when she first saw television coverage of the London bombings.

She had just returned from London as part of a university internship. She had ridden the same subways and double-decker buses that terrorists targeted with bomb blasts that killed 37 and wounded more than 700 on Thursday morning. To Howard, this attack is very personal.

"It was total shock and panic," said Howard, a 24-year-old finance major set to graduate in December, "because I have friends there now."

Howard said she immediately began trying to contact people she knew in London and soon found the only way to get messages back and forth was via e-mail.

So far, no one she has contacted was harmed in the devastation.

"It was like 9/11 all over again," she said, "but maybe a little bit worse, because I had lived in London."

Howard, who returned to Alabama from London on Saturday with about 35 other interns, was part of a group assembled by university officials to talk about the Thursday blasts.

Also on hand were a few administrators affiliated with the school's study abroad programs.

They too said they began scrambling to check on the other interns and independent studies students who remain in Europe.

Just before noon on Thursday, administrators learned that all seven or so were safe, said Angela Channell, director of the university's Overseas Study program and assistant director of Capstone International Programs.

Elsewhere, former residents of Great SEE REACTION | 8A

## Gulf Coast readies for Dennis

Storm has killed 5 people in Haiti

The Associated Press

GULF SHORES | Coastal residents loaded plywood and stockpiled provisions on Thursday as Hurricane Dennis appeared headed on the track Ivan took when it wrecked Alabama's Gulf beach resorts and piney woods towns last year.

As residents boarded-up windows, construction crews still repairing and rebuilding beach property damaged by Ivan pulled heavy equipment back from the beachfront. Some tourists and residents planned to evacuate if Dennis continued to bear down on Gulf Shores, where Ivan made landfall Sept. 16.

"I don't want to stay in a motor home if it hits," said vacationers Dewey and Donna Skyles of Dunlap, Tenn., with their RV parked on Fort Morgan Peninsula since May 27.

The hurricane's winds grew to 130 mph as it sideswiped Jamaica and headed straight for Cuba. In the southwestern Haitian town of SEE DENNIS | 9A

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### BASKETBALL STAR'S TOUGH ROAD

Hillcrest coach Jerome Elliott offers words of encouragement, but Amber Rockwell's recovery from a torn ACL in her left knee depends on her determination. | 1C



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