

# SPORTS

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## FRIDAY'S SCORES

**Prep boys basketball**

Greenwood	70
New Palestine	39
Center Grove	62
Lawrence Central	58
Franklin	75
Jennings County	73
Waldron	66
Indian Creek	65
Beech Grove	51
Whiteland	41

**NBA**

Atlanta	117
Indiana	112
Orlando	102
Seattle	89
Washington	102
Cleveland	94
San Antonio	83
Memphis	80
Denver	102
Minnesota	101
New Jersey	94
New York	90
Detroit	95
Chicago	87
Philadelphia	116
Milwaukee	111
Houston	91
Golden State	88
Boston	(n)
at Portland	
L.A. Lakers	(n)
L.A. Clippers	

## PREP SWIMMING

**In search of medals**  
Find out which southside swimmers put themselves in contention for podium finishes in the preliminaries of the IHSAA Boys Swimming and Diving State Championships.

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## COLLEGE BASKETBALL



### SUNDAY'S GAME

**Michigan State Spartans (19-8 overall, 7-6 in Big Ten) at Indiana Hoosiers (14-10, 6-7)**

Time: Noon  
TV: WISH-Channel 8  
Radio: WFBQ-94.7 FM

### Staying with the Buckeyes?

Thad Matta, mentioned as a potential replacement for Mike Davis at Indiana, says he hopes to remain at Ohio State.

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## AUTO RACING

### No sophomore jinx

Second-year driver Kyle Busch hopes to contend for a championship in NASCAR Nextel Cup this season.



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### On TV

**What:** NASCAR Nextel Cup Auto Club 500  
**Where:** California Speedway in Fontana, Calif.  
**When:** 3:30 p.m. Sunday  
**Defending champ:** Greg Biffle  
**TV:** WXIN-Channel 59

## PREP BASKETBALL

# Ready for tourney

## Woodmen breeze to win against New Palestine



Greenwood Community High School senior Robbie Newbold, left, goes up for a shot while being guarded by New Palestine's Cory Alter during Friday's game at Greenwood.

By JOE SKEEL

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Friday's regular-season boys basketball finale against New Palestine was supposed to be a sectional warm-up for the red-hot Woodmen. But they hardly broke a sweat.

**WOODMEN 70**

**DRAGONS 39**

Greenwood jumped out to an 18-6 first-quarter lead and never looked back, cruising to a 70-39 win.

It was the Woodmen's ninth straight win and capped an undefeated home season.

"It's what we talked about before the game," Greenwood coach Bruce Hensley said. "We needed to go out and finish off the (regular) season the right way, and we did that."

The Woodmen expect a much tougher challenge during Wednesday's first-round sectional game against Franklin Central, which was 13-7 heading into Friday's regular-season finale against Perry Meridian.

"They are always a good team. They have a good program over there," Greenwood senior Matt Allee said. "We match up pretty well. ... They have a big

(SEE WOODMEN, PAGE B3)

## TOURNEY TIME

Opening games for southside teams in IHSAA sectional play next week:

**Tuesday**

**Whiteland vs. Chatard** in Class 3A sectional at Whiteland, 7:30 p.m.

**Indian Creek vs. Park Tudor** in Class 2A sectional at Indian Creek, 6 p.m.

**Edinburgh vs. Morristown** in Class A sectional at Edinburgh, 6 p.m.

**Wednesday**

**Franklin vs. Decatur Central** in Class 4A sectional at Southport, 6 p.m.

**Greenwood vs. Franklin Central** in Class 4A sectional at Southport, 7:30 p.m.

**Friday**

**Center Grove vs. Southport or Perry Meridian** in Class 4A sectional at Southport, 6 p.m.

# Trojans get tough, down Bears

By JOHN GROTH

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER  
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His pleas for toughness finally had an effect.

Center Grove boys basketball coach Cliff Hawkins criticized the Trojans for their lack of aggressiveness much of Friday night.

They finally exhibited some resolve by getting two steals in the final two minutes and hung on by hitting their free throws down the stretch.

Junior Tyler Kitchel scored a game-high 29 points, and senior Todd Price had 15 to lift Center Grove to a 62-58 win against visiting Lawrence Central in the regular-season finale.

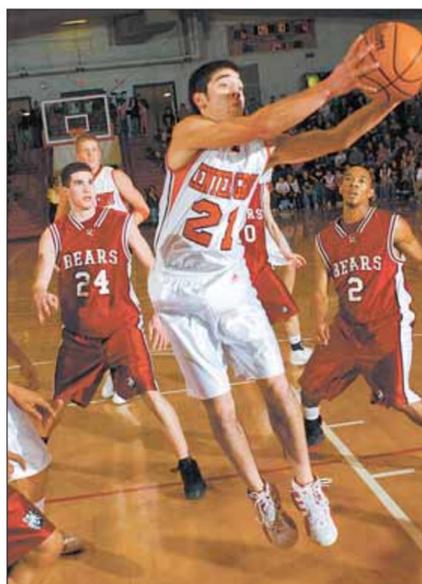
Center Grove (12-8) doesn't play again until next Friday in a Class 4A sectional semifinal at Southport.

"Our defense and rebounding were a lot better in the second half," Kitchel said. "(The win) gives us a big confidence boost going into the (sectional) tournament knowing that we can play against Lawrence Central. They're a real athletic and good team."

Center Grove heads into the sectional with

**TROJANS 62**  
**BEARS 58**

(SEE TROJANS, PAGE B3)



Center Grove junior Louis Kamo, center, pulls down a rebound during Friday's game against Lawrence Central.

## IN OTHER ACTION

### Franklin 75 Jennings County 73

Adrian Moss' basket with two seconds left in overtime lifted the visiting Grizzly Cubs past Jennings County. Cody Long had 25 points for Franklin (11-10).



### Beech Grove 51 Whiteland 41

Marcus Hanger scored a game-high 21 points, but host Whiteland (7-14) scored only four points in the first quarter on the way to a loss to Beech Grove.



### Waldron 66 Indian Creek 65

Indian Creek suffered another heartbreaking loss, falling to host Waldron despite a game-high 29 points from junior Kyle Ray, who hit 10 of his 15 shots. Indian Creek falls to 5-15 this season.



For more, see Page B3

# Pacers lose in OT

## Stojakovic's 34 still not enough

By HANK LOWENKRON  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### INDIANAPOLIS

Joe Johnson matched his career high with 40 points, including a 3-pointer that sent the game into overtime, as the Atlanta Hawks beat the Indiana Pacers 117-112 Friday night.

Johnson also had 13 assists for Atlanta, which beat Indiana for the third time in three games this season.

The game featured 18 ties and 24 lead changes, with neither team leading by more than eight points.

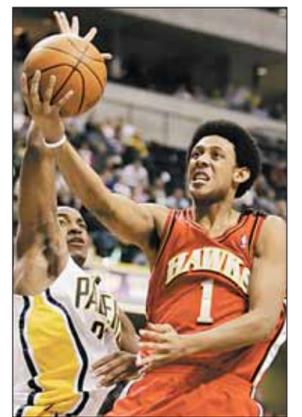
Atlanta (17-36) overcame a season-high 34 points by Indiana's Peja Stojakovic with the help of 22 points from Al Harrington and an 18-point, 11-rebound effort from reserve Josh Childress.

Fred Jones scored 31 points for Indiana, which lost Stephen Jackson to a knee injury in the first half.

Johnson's 3-pointer as time expired at the end of regulation tied the game at 104. It was made possible when Childress grabbed an offensive rebound. He passed back to Marvin Williams, who fed the ball to Johnson.

The score was tied again at 106 during the overtime period before Atlanta went ahead to stay on two consecutive baskets by Johnson.

The Pacers pulled within one when Jones made one free throw with 13 seconds left in overtime. Indiana then grabbed three consecutive offensive rebounds, with Anthony Johnson, who scored 18 for the Pacers, missing a jumper and Danny Granger missing two consecutive 1-footers.



The Hawks' Josh Childress, right, puts up a shot while being defended by the Pacers' Fred Jones during the first half of Friday's game in Indianapolis.

# Indianapolis wants to host Big Ten on long-term basis

By JASON MARTIN

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

### INDIANAPOLIS

The city of Indianapolis rolled out a red carpet, street signs with team nicknames and a 13-foot by 7-foot fiberglass shoe Friday at Consecro Fieldhouse to welcome the upcoming Big Ten men's and women's basketball tournaments.

Beginning next week, the tournaments kick off a series of 41 games in 33 days downtown that culminates with the NCAA men's Final Four.

Yet Indianapolis may need all that pomp and more than a little circumstance to keep the conference tournaments in town.

On Monday, a delegation of city and Indiana Sports Corp. representatives will compete with a similar Chicago contingent for the rights to a long-term contract for the men's conference tournament.

The cities have rotated as host of the event the past six years.

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"To take that next step in our next stage of growth, we need to go to a single site," Big Ten commissioner Jim Delany said Friday at a news conference at Consecro Fieldhouse. "It's not going to be forever, but there's something to be gained from the repetition of a site so that people can ... really dig in a little bit and plan awhile."

Delany said the women's conference tournament also will come up for bid Monday at the league offices in Chicago. Indianapolis, however, appears to be the heavy favorite to retain that event after hosting it 11 of the past 12 years and setting several attendance records.

Delany said the two cities will make their pitches for the men's tournament before a committee of the league's 11 athletic directors, who will take until late spring or early summer to make a decision.

(SEE BIG TEN, PAGE B5)

## IF YOU GO

**What:** Big Ten Conference basketball tournaments

**Where:** Consecro Fieldhouse in Indianapolis

**When:** Women's tournament is Thursday, Friday and March 5 and 6. The championship game will be at 7 p.m. March 6 and will be televised on ESPN2.

The men's tournament is March 9 to 12. The championship game will be at 3:30 p.m. March 12 and will be televised on WISH-Channel 8.

**Special events:** "Talk of the Town" autograph and fan session with women's semifinalist teams will be from 2:30 to 4 p.m. March 4 at Indianapolis Artsgarden in Circle Centre Mall. "Fan Fest" will take place March 9 through 11 at Indianapolis Artsgarden. The festival will include bands, cheerleaders and photo opportunities with the men's tournament trophy.

Pep rallies will be conducted before both championship games. The women's pep rally will be from 5 to 6 p.m. March 6 in the Entry Pavilion of Consecro Fieldhouse. The men's pep rally will be from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. March 12 in the Ober Lot outside Consecro Fieldhouse.

**Tickets:** Tickets for both events can be purchased at all Ticketmaster outlets, including the Consecro Fieldhouse box office; by phone at 239-5151; or at www.ticketmaster.com. Women's all-session tickets are \$55. Men's all-session tickets are \$225.

# Games haven't been all bad for U.S. Olympians

By EDDIE PELLIS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### TURIN, Italy

Jim Scherr's report card for the U.S. Olympic team looks like this: B-plus in performance; something less in behavior.

Bode's bust on the Alpine courses, flops in freestyle and hiccups in hockey were among the disappointments that forced the CEO of the U.S. Olympic Committee to give the Americans a less-than-perfect grade.

But for each of those letdowns, there were people like skier Ted Ligety, snowboarder Rosey Fletcher and the men's curling team to balance the ledger.



SCHERR

## INSIDE

More coverage of the Turin Winter Olympics.



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Add it all up, and the Americans had 23 medals, including eight golds, through Friday. Both totals ranked one behind Germany for second place.

"There are a couple areas where we thought we'd perform better but we didn't," Scherr said Friday. "We just have to go back and work a little harder for Vancouver."

The biggest single loss for the U.S. delegation, more than any flub or fall or flop, was Michelle Kwan, the game's biggest star,

(SEE GAMES, PAGE B4)