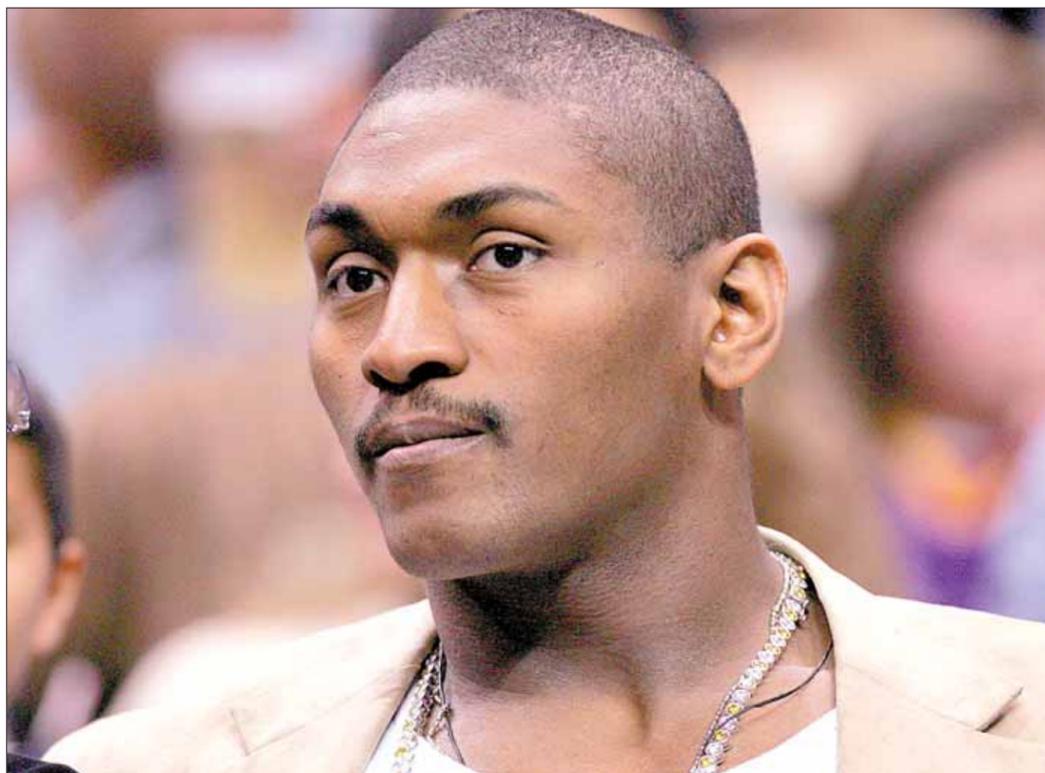


## INDIANA PACERS

## Artest not gone yet



Ron Artest, shown watching the Lakers' game against the Cleveland Cavaliers on Jan. 12 in Los Angeles, reportedly had been traded to the Sacramento Kings for Peja Stojakovic on Tuesday afternoon. But reports later in the day said the deal was off.

## Distractions continue as Indiana falls to Cavs by 30

By TOM WITHERS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## CLEVELAND

The Indiana Pacers may have bigger problems than just finding a new team for Ron Artest.

With a proposed trade sending Artest to Sacramento apparently on hold, the Pacers scored just 28 points in the second half, lost Jermaine O'Neal to another injury and were drubbed 96-66 by the Cleveland Cavaliers on Tuesday night.

"We sure have had enough bad luck for a year," said O'Neal, who may have torn a groin muscle in the fourth quarter. "I'm really, really concerned. I heard it pop. Hopefully, I won't need surgery."

O'Neal, who said he has felt tightness in the groin for weeks, also hurt his right shoulder and was playing on a tender left ankle. He limped to the locker room with 9:30 remaining, but by then the Cavaliers were ahead by 20.

(SEE INDIANA, PAGE B2)

## Pacers, Kings reportedly had trade that fell apart

By TOM WITHERS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## CLEVELAND

The Ron Artest trade to Sacramento is off for now.

The Pacers had reportedly agreed to ship the volatile forward to the Sacramento Kings for Peja Stojakovic, but Indiana coach Rick Carlisle and CEO Donnie Walsh said Tuesday night that no deal was imminent.

"There is no trade right now, and there may not be a trade," Carlisle said before Indiana played the Cavaliers in Cleveland. "There's nothing to talk about because there is no trade."

Later, Walsh released a statement. "As I have said before, until there is a deal completed, we do not have a deal," he said. "We do not have a deal and will not comment on any premature reports regarding a trade involving Ron Artest."

ESPN and an Indianapolis newspaper had reported earlier Tuesday that the

teams had agreed to the trade, which was merely awaiting league approval. But Carlisle shot down that report.

"Anything involving speculation and 'what's up' can be saved for another time," Carlisle said. "If there is a trade at some point, you'll hear about it."

Artest confirmed to the Indianapolis newspaper that the deal had collapsed but left open the possibility that something could still happen.

"There's no deal," Artest said. "It's not that I don't want to play there ... I'm letting my agent handle things. He's taken over things."

Artest's agent, Mark Stevens, said earlier Tuesday that a deal to move Artest "is imminent, almost as soon as possible." After the trade apparently collapsed, he did not return phone calls from the AP.

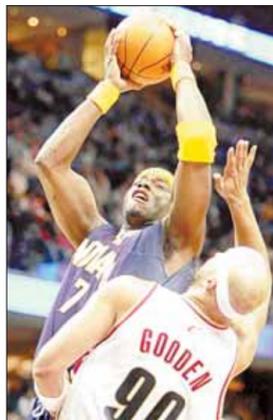
The deal would have ended a lengthy standoff between the Pacers and

(SEE ARTEST, PAGE B2)

## THE DEAL THAT WASN'T

A comparison of the Pacers' Ron Artest and the Kings' Peja Stojakovic:

Artest	Category	Stojakovic
F	Position	F-G
6-foot-7	Height	6-foot-10
260	Weight	229
26	Age	28
7 seasons	NBA experience	8 seasons
19.4	Season scoring avg.	16.5
14.6	Career scoring avg.	18.3
4.7	Career rebounds avg.	5.0
2.1	Career steals avg.	1.1
2.9	Career assists avg.	2.0
42.1	Career field-goal pct.	46.1
327	Career 3-pointers made	1,070



The Pacers' Jermaine O'Neal shoots over the Cavaliers' Drew Gooden (90) during the first quarter of Tuesday's game in Cleveland.



Indiana's Marco Killingsworth, right, battles for the ball with Iowa's Mike Henderson during Tuesday's game in Iowa City, Iowa.

## Hawkeyes hand Hoosiers Big Ten loss

Staff and wire reports

Slow starts at the beginning of each half doomed the Indiana University men's basketball team Tuesday.

The Hoosiers fell behind host Iowa 7-0 to start the game, then watched as the Hawkeyes went on a 14-0 run to open the second half in Iowa's 73-60 Big Ten Conference victory.

Indiana fell to 12-4 overall and 4-2 in the conference. Iowa (15-5 overall, 4-2 in the conference) and the Hoosiers are a half-game behind conference leader Wisconsin, which was idle Tuesday.

The Hawkeyes never trailed in the win against Indiana. The Hoosiers got within a single point at 11-10 but trailed 30-27 at halftime.

Iowa took control with its 14-0 run to start the second half. Indiana coach Mike Davis earned a technical foul shortly after the Hawkeyes' run.

Marco Killingsworth, the Hoosiers' leading scorer, was limited to 10 points on 5-for-14 shooting.

Indiana's Robert Vaden scored a game-high 26 points, hitting 8 of 11 3-pointers.

The Hoosiers took 30 of their

59 field-goal attempts from behind the 3-point arc. Indiana hit 13 3-pointers in all.

Iowa enjoyed a huge advantage from the free-throw line, hitting 23 of 30 foul shots. Indiana hit just 3 of 8 free-throw attempts.

Adam Haluska had a team-high 20 points as Iowa placed four players in double figures. Greg Brunner added 17 points.



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT O'LEARY  
mooley@thejournalnet.com

Whiteland senior Justin Cooper runs during wrestling practice Tuesday. Cooper is unbeaten this season but has been suspended for the sectional round of the state tournament.

## Career halted by call

Whiteland officials, parents ask IHSAA to reinstate wrestler

By RICK MORWICK  
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Only six seconds stood between Justin Cooper and an unbeaten record in his final match of the regular season.

But before those seconds ticked away, his dream season turned into a nightmare.

Instead of bidding for a state championship, the Whiteland Community High School senior is grieving the apparent end of his career.

It happened at the Jan. 14 Mid-State Conference Tournament in Franklin, where a referee's call in the closing seconds effectively ended Cooper's season.

Undefeated and ranked No. 2 in the state at 189 pounds, Cooper was putting the final touches on the championship match when he was called for head-butting his opponent with 6.1 seconds left.

Ruled a flagrant misconduct violation, the call resulted in Cooper's immediate ejection. Per Indiana High School Athletic Association regulations, it also means he has to sit out Whiteland's next match.

Unfortunately for Cooper, Whiteland's next match is Saturday's individual sectional.

Despite efforts by Whiteland officials and his parents, Cooper's individual season is over. He could return to wrestle in the team regional should Whiteland finish first or second in Saturday's individual sectional.

"As of now, I can't wrestle in the tournament," said Cooper, who was 32-0 at the time of the ejection, which he insists was the result of a poor call.

Cooper was leading his opponent, Plainfield's Jake Russell, by a score of 15-6 when the incident

(SEE WRESTLER, PAGE B3)

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