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SPORTS

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SECTION B

PREP BOYS BASKETBALL: IHSAA SECTIONALS

Hospitable hosts



Whiteland Community High School athletic director Butch Zike, right, and senior Amanda Rakow position a scorer's table in the Whiteland

gymnasium in preparation for this week's Class 3A boys basketball sectional. The host Warriors take on Chatard at 7:30 tonight.

Organizers work hard to put on good sectional

By JOHN GROTH
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Butch Zike never goes anywhere these days without his tournament checklist.

The athletic director at Whiteland Community High School calls it his life-saver.

"The key to running a sectional is that on the night of the sectional, I cannot have anything to do," said Zike, who follows a 75-item list provided by the Indiana High School Athletic Association. "The key is making sure that everything is done by someone and organized by someone."

Starting today, Whiteland, Indian Creek and Edinburgh Community high schools will host IHSAA boys basketball sectionals.

It's the first time three Johnson County schools have hosted a boys basketball sectional in the multiclass basketball era.

For athletic directors, hosting a sectional is no easy task.

Zike said organization and setting priorities are the keys to success.

Unlike the regular season, special tickets need to be printed for sectional

SITE SELECTION

How IHSAA sectional sites are designated:

- After the IHSAA announces what teams are in each sectional, the schools can choose who hosts.
- If schools unanimously agree on a designated school to host, the IHSAA generally goes along with the recommendation.
- If they don't reach a unanimous agreement, the IHSAA makes the assignment and factors in geographical location and gym size.

SOURCE: IHSAA Commissioner Blake Ress

games. Bleacher sections are assigned for each school. Parking areas must be designated and mapped out.

They also have to find ticket-takers, secure official timers and scorers and find administrators and security to help supervise the event.

Whiteland is hosting a boys basketball sectional for a third straight year. Each year, it gets a little easier, Zike said.

"You organize a lot of little things to make sure everything runs as smoothly as

possible," said Zike, who is in his 21st year as Whiteland's athletic director. "You need to tell custodians which parts of the school you want blocked off, what to clean, which locker rooms should be used. The game itself is not a whole lot different. But the things you do around it (are)."

Edinburgh athletic director Rusty Albertson started recruiting volunteers months ago.

This year is Edinburgh's second straight year hosting the boys basketball sectional. Albertson said 35 to 40 volunteers will work tonight and Friday and Saturday nights. He's found people to work selling concessions, taking tickets and supervising.

They've helped design tournament programs, organized a hospitality room and asked for food donations from area restaurants.

Last week, the school's maintenance crew moved extra bleachers into the gym and did cleaning and repairs throughout the school.

"It gives us a chance to showcase our

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Late surge boosts Cubs' confidence

By RICK MORWICK
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Close games are nothing new to the Franklin Community High School boys basketball team.

Fortunately for the Grizzly Cubs, they're finally learning how to win them.

Their timing couldn't be better.

On Friday, the Cubs concluded the regular season with a 75-73 overtime win at Jennings County. The victory was not only their fourth straight heading into the sectional, it was their first in four overtime games this season.

Little wonder the Cubs (11-10), whose season has been filled with narrow outcomes, enter the Class 4A Southport Sectional with a jolt of self-assurance.

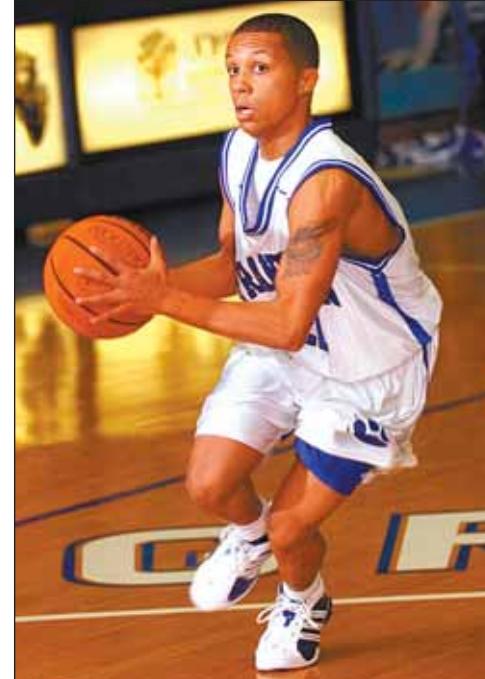
(SEE SURGE, PAGE B3)

"We're playing well," said Franklin coach Dave Clark, whose team plays defending champion Decatur Central (9-10) in a first-round game at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Decatur Central won the regular-season meeting 92-87 on Jan. 3. The Hawks needed three overtimes to win to defeat Franklin.

As if that wasn't frustrating enough, the Hawks lost at home the following night 66-65 in overtime against Seymour. The defeat was one of six for Franklin decided by three points or fewer, including a 67-64 loss against Center Grove in the county tournament final.

That's why the Cubs, who are bidding



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT OOLEY/mooley@thejournalnet.com
Junior guard Adrian Moss leads the Franklin Community High School boys basketball team in scoring with 14.9 points a game.

(SEE SURGE, PAGE B3)

Baseball hall elects first woman

Manley pushed for civil rights as owner of team in Negro League

By TRAVIS REED

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TAMPA, Fla.

Effa Manley became the first woman elected to the baseball Hall of Fame when the former Newark Eagles co-owner was among 17 people from the Negro Leagues and pre-Negro Leagues chosen Monday by a special Hall committee.

"This is a historic day at the Hall of Fame," shrine president Dale Petroskey said. "I hoped that someday there would be a woman in the Hall. It's a pretty proud moment."

This year's Hall class — 18, including former reliever Bruce Sutter — is by far the biggest in history, breaking the mark of 11 in 1946. There are now 278 Hall members.

Mule Suttles and Biz Mackey were among the 12 players selected, along with five executives.

Buck O'Neil and Minnie Minoso, the only living members among the 39 candidates, were not elected by the 12-person panel.

Manley co-owned the New Jersey-based Eagles with her husband, Abe, and ran the business end of the team for more than a decade. The Eagles won the Negro Leagues World Series in

1946, one year before Jackie Robinson broke the major league color barrier.

"She was very knowledgeable, a very handsome woman," said Hall of Famer Monte Irvin, who played for the Eagles while the Manleys owned the team, as did Don Newcombe and Larry Doby.

"She did a lot for the Newark community. She was just a well-rounded influential person," Irvin said.

"She tried to organize the owners to build their own parks and have a balanced schedule and to really improve the lot of

(SEE WOMAN, PAGE B2)



AP PHOTO
Effa Manley, left, who co-owned the Newark Eagles of the Negro National League, looks over a scrapbook with one of her former players, Don Newcombe, at her home in Los Angeles on Aug. 7, 1973.

Reports: Colts' new home named Lucas Oil Stadium

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS

The Indianapolis Colts have sold the naming rights for their new downtown stadium to California-based Lucas Oil Co., according to media reports.

The team was expected on Wednesday to announce the deal with Lucas, which makes automotive lubricants and has several sponsorships in auto racing, Indianapolis television stations WISH-Channel 8, WRTV-Channel 6 and an Indianapolis newspaper reported Monday, all citing sources they did not identify.

The company will pay the Colts

\$120 million over 20 years to have the 63,000-seat, retractable-roof facility named Lucas Oil Stadium, WISH reported.

Myra Borshoff Cook, a spokeswoman for Colts owner Jim Irsay, had no immediate comment on the reports. A receptionist at Covina, Calif.-based Lucas said no one with the company would comment.

Lucas Oil already sponsors speedways, tractor pulls and boat races. The company's Web site lists itself as the official oil of the Indianapolis Colts.

Work on the stadium, which is expected to open in 2008, started in the fall.