

SPORTS

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SECTION B

FRIDAY'S SCORES

Prep boys basketball

Greenwood	67
Decatur Central	62
North Central	89
Center Grove	69
Franklin	81
Plainfield	60
Whiteland	75
Washington	69
Brown County	50
Indian Creek	49
Edinburgh	54
South Decatur	53

PREP WRESTLING

First step toward title
Find out which southside wrestlers advanced to today's final round of the IHSAA Individual Wrestling State Finals.
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NBA



Not your typical rookies
Danny Granger and Sarunas Jasikevicius, both first-year players for the Indiana Pacers, have shown an uncommon level of maturity and have earned regular playing time with the team.
Page B5

The sky's the limit

The Lakers' Kobe Bryant scored 81 points in a regular-season game this season. Imagine how many points he might score in Sunday's NBA All-Star game, where few players make an effort to play defense.
Page B5



AUTO RACING

Just like starting over
Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Jeff Gordon suffered through miserable NASCAR Nextel Cup seasons last year. But Sunday's Daytona 500 marks the start of a new season, and both Earnhardt and Gordon are among the favorites to win the Great American Race. Plus, former crew chief Kirk Shelmerdine finally qualifies for the Daytona 500.
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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

WHERE THEY STAND

The Big Ten men's basketball standings going into this weekend's games:

Team	Conf. W-L	All W-L
Iowa	9-3	20-6
Wisconsin	8-4	18-7
Ohio State	7-4	18-4
Illinois	7-4	21-4
Michigan	7-5	17-6
Michigan State	6-5	18-7
Indiana	5-6	13-9
Northwestern	4-7	12-11
Penn State	4-8	12-11
Minnesota	3-8	12-10
Purdue	3-9	9-14

Today's games
Northwestern at Ohio State, noon, WTTV-Channel 4
Penn State at Purdue, 2:30 p.m., WTTV-Channel 4
Michigan at Michigan State, 4 p.m., ESPN
Iowa at Minnesota, 4:30 p.m., WTTV-Channel 4
Sunday's game
Indiana at Illinois, 3:30 p.m., WISH-Channel 8

PREP BASKETBALL

Streak grows to 7 wins

Woodmen get taste of tourney in tough game

By GREG SEITER
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Greenwood Community High School's 67-62 boys basketball victory against visiting Decatur Central on Friday night was perhaps much more than just another win.

In fact, coach Bruce Hensley believes the Woodmen's seventh consecutive win against the Hawks and the team's seventh straight win this season may have been exactly the type of game Greenwood needed in order to help prepare for sectional competition.

"This was a good physical game, and Decatur Central is a very athletic team that is hard to defend," Hensley said. "We needed a game like this."

Despite holding a comfortable lead throughout most of the contest, turnovers and missed free-throw opportunities by the Woodmen (15-4) allowed the Hawks to claw their way back into the contest.

After outscoring Greenwood 17-10 in the third period, Decatur Central (9-9) used clutch free-throw shooting down the stretch to eventually narrow the gap to four points with 41 seconds remaining in the game.

But free throws by seniors Matt Allee

WOODMEN 67
HAWKS 62



Web extra
For more photos from Friday's games at Center Grove and Greenwood, visit www.thejournalnet.com



Greenwood senior Jeff Geoghegan, right, pulls down a rebound while being pressured by a Decatur Central defender during Friday's game at Greenwood. The Woodmen downed the Hawks 67-62.
STAFF PHOTO BY MATT OOLEY/mooley@thejournalnet.com

IN OTHER GAMES

Franklin 81 Plainfield 60
Host Franklin sizzled from the field, hitting 32 of 50 field-goal attempts in a Mid-State Conference win against Plainfield. Adrian Moss scored 27 points, and Ben Gordon added 21 points and a game-high nine rebounds for Franklin (9-10).



Whiteland 75 Washington 69
Host Whiteland led 59-42 going into the final quarter and then held on to beat Washington, a possible sectional opponent. Whiteland's Marcus Hanger shared game-high scoring honors with Washington's Justin Keys, as each scored 25 points. Whiteland improved to 7-12.



Brown County 50 Indian Creek 49
Host Indian Creek suffered a heartbreaking loss to nearby rival Brown County. Mark Dunn had a double-double for the Braves (5-13), scoring a game-high 15 points and grabbing a game-high 11 rebounds.



Edinburgh 54 South Decatur 53
Jeremy Hadley scored 16 points, and Brandon Cravens added 14 as host Edinburgh held off South Decatur in a Mid-Hoosier Conference game. The win was the Lancers' first in six MHC games.



For more, see Page B3

Lapse in third quarter proves too much for CG

By JOHN GROTH
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER
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North Central High School basketball player Eric Gordon stood outside the visiting locker room autographing mini-basketballs after the game.

By now, the junior standout and University of Illinois recruit is accustomed to the attention.

But he wasn't the only Panthers player lighting up the scoreboard Friday night.

No. 7 North Central (17-3, 6-1 MIC) had four of five starters score in double figures in an 89-69 win at Metropolitan Interscholastic Conference rival Center Grove.

"I guess people like my play," said Gordon, who scored a game-high 26 points. "I like the fans and how the fans come up to me, shows me they like me."

For Center Grove (11-8, 3-4 MIC) the loss ended a two-game winning streak and gave the Trojans a below .500 finish in the MIC conference. Center

PANTHERS 89

TROJANS 69

A LOOK AHEAD

Today's boys basketball teams involving southside schools:
Edinburgh at Hauser, 7:30 p.m.
Martinsville at Franklin, 7:30 p.m.
Whiteland at Connersville, 7:30 p.m.

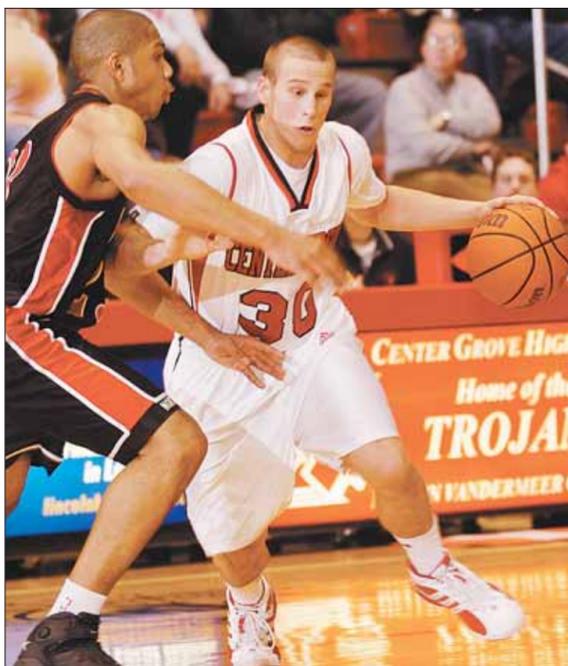
Grove has now lost five straight games to North Central and eight of its past nine.

Junior Tyler Kitchel led the Trojans with 20 points. Senior Todd Price scored 16, and freshman Jason Kaylor had 15 points off the bench, hitting 5 of 10 3-point attempts.

Center Grove coach Cliff Hawkins wasn't pleased with the Trojans' lack of focus and concentration.

After rallying from an 11-point first-quarter deficit, Center Grove trailed by 42-40 at halftime. But the Trojans were outscored 23-11 in the third quarter and never recovered.

(SEE LAPSE, PAGE B3)



Center Grove High School junior Tyler Kitchel, right, tries to drive past North Central defender Eric Gordon during Friday's game at Center Grove.
STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/roberson@thejournalnet.com

Alford already tired of questions about IU job

By STEVE HERMAN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS
Within minutes of Mike Davis' resignation, Steve Alford was a reluctant and tightlipped front-runner for the Indiana basketball coaching job.

The Iowa coach was Indiana's Mr. Basketball, a two-time All-American under Bob Knight and led the Hoosiers to the 1987 NCAA championship. Fans booed Indiana Pacers CEO Donnie Walsh when he passed on Alford in the NBA draft and instead picked Reggie Miller.

And even Davis, who coached IU for six years but still remained squarely in

Bob Knight's shadow, speculated the Hoosiers would be better served by one of their own.

There's just one problem. No matter how popular he remains in his home state, Alford is still the Iowa coach, at least through this season.

And he refuses to comment about the Indiana job or his status with the 18th-ranked and Big Ten-leading Hawkeyes.

"I have this comment: My entire focus and energy is helping my team win a Big Ten championship and get ready for the NCAA Tournament," he said during an Iowa teleconference Friday. "This is my only concern. And you can underline 'entire' and 'only.'"

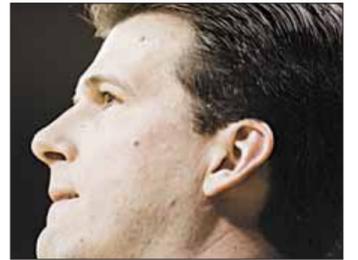
Each time the question was broached, albeit in different forms, Alford repeated the mantra, "My entire focus ..."

Finally, when asked whether the questioning about Indiana was inappropriate or unfair, he groaned, "You really don't want me to repeat the thing again, do you? I've had to repeat it seven times."

But Alford will likely have to repeat it many more times before the end of the season, which still has four more games before the Big Ten Tournament and then the NCAA.

Indiana athletic director Rick Green-span said he would not select a new

(SEE ALFORD, PAGE B6)



Iowa men's basketball coach Steve Alford is not commenting on any possibility of him being hired to replace Mike Davis at Indiana. Davis announced his resignation Thursday.
AP PHOTO



American Lindsey Jacobellis, who was leading in the final of the women's snowboardcross competition, crashes in sight of the finish at the Turin Winter Olympics in Bardonecchia, Italy, on Friday.
AP PHOTO

If snowboarder falls in woods, will anyone hear?

TURIN, Italy
The week that was ended with two gold medals that weren't.

That's not all that bad, because a wacky snowboarder and some scrappy Swedes at least gave America something to talk about other than Bode Miller's party habits and Johnny Weir's bus schedule.

The Olympics were beginning to get a bit boring when Lindsey Jacobellis had an Olympic moment unlike any other.

At least she lost her gold quickly; the same can't be said for the



Tim Dahlberg

U.S. women's hockey team. Missing some Olympic moments? For those who can't watch the 24½ hours a day NBC is devoting to the games, here's a recap of the best and worst so far:

INSIDE

More coverage of the Turin Winter Olympics, including the Americans' stunning loss to Sweden in the women's hockey semifinals.
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Best reason to hide in the woods: Jacobellis is a snowboarder. Enough said. She had the gold medal on snowboardcross wrapped up, only to blow it on a hotdog move.

In true snowboard culture,

though, she'll likely turn into a celebrated hero and the endorsements will follow. Wherever she goes, Jacobellis can tell everyone, "Dude, I was trying to do an ancillary stoke and beefed. I felt wack, like a botwoker."

Biggest upset: Do you believe in miracles Swedish style? The United States and Canada had lost to each other but to no one else in either the Olympics or world hockey championships since international competition began in 1990.

(SEE WOODS, PAGE B4)