

SPORTS OUTDOORS

Talkin' to turkeys



Outdoorsman Phil Hawkins of Franklin stands next to a turkey he killed during Indiana's first legal turkey hunt in 1971. After becoming extinct in the state, turkeys were reintroduced in Indiana in the late 1960s. Hawkins has bagged 26 birds throughout the years.

Luring male birds key to successful hunting

STORY BY RICK MORWICK • PHOTOS BY SCOTT ROBERSON

Want to talk turkey? Meet Matt Morrett. Fluent in English and turkey-speak, he can converse with the wild birds better than most people. Often times, he can do it even better than the real thing, a vital skill during turkey hunting season.

Mimicking the sounds of the female of the species, after all, is the critical component for a successful hunt.

"You want to sound as much as a hen as you can," said Morrett, 36, an expert caller since age 6. "You want to have her rhythm, her tone and her cadence. It ups your chances of getting a turkey in the field."

Few experts talk turkey as well as Morrett, a five-time world champion who will conduct a seminar on the subject at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at The Outdoorsman Sport Shop in Greenwood.

Winner of more than 50 turkey calling competitions, the Harrisburg, Pa., resident will share his knowledge and secrets with a crowd that is expected to exceed 100.

Employed by Hunter's Specialties Pro Staff, a Cedar Rapids, Iowa-based manufacturer of hunting goods, Morrett travels the country conducting seminars on the increasingly popular sport of turkey hunting.



Phil Hawkins uses a variety of turkey calls to lure the birds during hunting season.

"We try to put on a show where if you can get one thing out of it to enhance your chances, it's been a success," Morrett said.

For hunters, success is determined solely by the ability to lure male turkeys, known as gobblers (older birds) or jakes (younger birds), within firing range. Only male birds can be harvested in

Indiana during the spring season, and they can only be taken with shotgun, muzzleloader or bow.

To say the least, getting a shooting opportunity is not easy.

Not renowned for high intelligence, turkeys are nonetheless equipped with

(SEE TURKEYS, PAGE B3)

CALLING ALL CALLERS

Learning to call

What: Turkey hunting seminar
When: 6:30 p.m. Thursday
Where: The Outdoorsman Sport Shop, 1010 S. State Road 135 in Greenwood
Seminar instructor: Matt Morrett
Admission: \$5; children 12 and younger free
Registration: Walk-ins will be accepted, but calling ahead to reserve a seat is recommended. To reserve a seat, call 881-7446.

About the instructor: Morrett, 36, works as a Hunter's Specialties Pro Staff member. He has won more than 50 turkey calling championships, including five World Friction Turkey Calling titles and six U.S. Open Turkey Calling championships. He won Grand National Champion title in 1990 and recently won the 2006 Masters championship in February. He began turkey calling at age 6 and won his first competition at age 16.

Talking turkey

The object of turkey calling is to mimic the sound of female birds (hens) to attract a male within shooting range.

Calls are made with three primary types to devices: Box-style calls, slate-style calls and diaphragm-style calls.

Box and slate calls are hand-held and emit sound through friction. Diaphragm calls are mouth-operated.

Aztecs want to be 'powerhouse' by downing IU

By BERNIE WILSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO

Just one victory. Is it too much to ask that a university have at least one NCAA Tournament victory in its history?

Uh, yeah, if you're San Diego State.

"Oh, man, we have no wins?" said guard Brandon Heath, cringing at his school's 0-4 NCAA tourney record.

In their seventh season under Steve Fisher, who won the national championship at Michigan 17 years ago, the Aztecs will try to shed that one-and-done image when they play the Indiana Hoosiers and their lame-duck coach, Mike Davis, on Thursday night in Salt Lake City in a first-round game in the Oakland Regional.

To be fair, the current players are blame-free. Only one, center Trimaime Davis, was with the Aztecs in 2002 when they were blown out 93-64 by Illinois in their most recent NCAA appearance. And he was redshirting then.

"It really doesn't affect us," he said. "This is a whole new different ballgame and a whole new different group of people. This is the group that's motivated to break the goose egg. Very capable." SDSU's Davis knows the Hoosiers will be motivated to win for their coach, who announced earlier in the year he would



San Diego State forward Marcus Slaughter celebrates as time runs out in the Aztecs' 69-64 overtime victory against Wyoming on Saturday in Denver.

ABOUT THE AZTECS

A look at the San Diego State men's basketball team, Indiana's first-round opponent in the NCAA Tournament. The Aztecs and Hoosiers will meet at 9:40 p.m. Thursday in Salt Lake City. The game will be televised on WISH-Channel 8 and broadcast on WFBO-94.7 FM.

San Diego State

Conference: Mountain West

School colors: Red and black

Coach: Steve Fisher, 105-105 in seven seasons at San Diego State. Fisher's teams are 20-7 all-time in the NCAA Tournament. He led Michigan to the national title in 1989.

Record: 24-8 overall, 13-3 in the Mountain West. The Aztecs won the MWC regular-season title and postseason tournament. San Diego State is 16-2 in its past 18 games. The Aztecs are 0-4 in NCAA Tournament games.

Top players: Marcus Slaughter, a 6-9 junior forward who averages 16.6 points and 11 rebounds a game; Brandon Heath, a 6-4 junior guard who averages 18.5 points and 3.4 assists a game.

(SEE AZTECS, PAGE B2)

Depth at guard not problem for Pacers

By RICK MORWICK
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS EDITOR
rmorwick@thejournalnet.com

If a crowded backcourt is cumbersome for the Indiana Pacers, coach Rick Carlisle has only one thing to say: Bring it on.

"If it's a problem, it's a problem I look forward to having," said Carlisle, whose team has the luxury of healthy guards for one of the few times all season.

That's the good news. The bad news: Finding minutes for everyone is sure to be difficult, if not impossible.

Carlisle might not even try. "If you find a group that's clicking," he said, "it's usually smart to stay with it, if you can."

Carlisle stuck with the same backcourt cast during Monday night's 97-83 win against the visiting Orlando Magic, which was good for veteran Jamaal Tinsley but bad for rookie Sarunas Jasikevicius.

Tinsley, who recently returned

(SEE PACERS, PAGE B3)

AT THE POINT

A look at the Pacers' point guards:

Sarunas Jasikevicius

Size: 6-foot-4, 197 pounds

Experience: Rookie

Scoring average: 8.2

Assists average: 3.1

Free-throw percentage: 89.4

Three-pointers made: 78

Anthony Johnson

Size: 6-foot-3, 200 pounds

Experience: Ninth season

Scoring average: 9.0

Assists average: 4.2

Free-throw percentage: 75.9

Three-pointers made: 34

Jamaal Tinsley

Size: 6-foot-3, 185 pounds

Experience: Fifth season

Scoring average: 10.0

Assists average: 4.6

Free-throw percentage: 61.3

Three-pointers made: 13

live. play. prosper.

4.00%
APY
PLATINUM
SAVINGS

4.75%
APY†
10 MONTH CD

5.00%
APY
25 MONTH IRA

LINCOLN BANK
For play prosper.

1.888.895.6539 • www.lincolnbankonline.com

FDIC INSURED *4.00% Annual Percentage Yield (APY) Effective 2/27/06. Offered on all Platinum Savings accounts with balances of \$100,000 or above. Other rates apply to balances below \$100,000. Low \$5,000.00 minimum balance to open. \$10.00 fee if average daily balance falls below \$5,000.00 during the statement period. Up to 3 withdrawals per month free, then \$2.00 for each additional withdrawal. Rates subject to change. †Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective as of 2/13/06. \$1000.00 minimum deposit requirements. Substantial penalty for early withdrawal will apply and could reduce earnings on the account. Personal Funds Only. Limited time offer. *Annual Percentage Yield (APY) effective as of 1/30/06. \$1000.00 minimum deposit required. Penalty for early withdrawal applies and could reduce earnings on the account. Personal Funds Only. Limited time offer. Individual Retirement Accounts are subject to certain Internal Revenue Service rules and regulations. Consult your tax advisor for tax guidelines.