

- BUSINESS, B4
- HEALTH, B5
- COMICS, B7
- CLASSIFIEDS, B8-B9
- FACES & PLACES, B10

SPORTS

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SECTION B

'Hall of famer in every sense'

Twins' Puckett dies after stroke

By DAVE CAMPBELL
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS

Kirby Puckett died Monday, a day after the Hall of Fame outfielder had a stroke at his Arizona home. He was 45.

Puckett died at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix. He had been in intensive care since having surgery at another hospital following his stroke Sunday morning.

The bubbly, barrel-shaped Puckett carried the Minnesota Twins to World Series titles in 1987 and 1991 before his career was cut short by glaucoma.

His family, friends and former teammates gathered at the hospital Monday.

Puckett was given last rites and died in the afternoon, hospital spokeswoman Kimberly Lodge said.

"On behalf of Major League

(SEE PUCKETT, PAGE B2)



Kirby Puckett, shown at his Baseball Hall of Fame induction ceremony in Cooperstown, N.Y., on Aug. 5, 2001, died Monday. He was 45.

Franklin A.D. scrambling to prepare for two regionals

By JOHN GROTH
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER
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Preparing for one boys basketball regional is difficult enough.

But Franklin Community High School is planning for two.

When IHSAA regional play starts Saturday at 16 sites, Franklin will be one of five schools hosting and playing in a regional. But it's the only school that's doing so at separate sites.

Franklin plays in the Class 4A Pike regional at Hinkle Fieldhouse and hosts a Class A regional.

That means double the work and little sleep for Grizzly Cubs athletic director Noel Heminger.

"I've worked through my share of larger tournaments," said Heminger, who will be working 18- to 19-hour days this week. "But having two (regionals) on the same day has been an interesting task.

"It's a tough task. But it's nothing I can't handle."

Franklin plays Pike at 10 a.m. Saturday in the first semifinal at Hinkle. No. 1 Lawrence North (25-0) plays Carmel (17-7) at noon.

In the Class A regional at Franklin, Orleans (22-1) plays

(SEE REGIONALS, PAGE B2)



Purdue's Carol Duncan, left, and Ohio State's Tia Battle fight for a rebound during the first half of the Big Ten Women's Basketball Tournament championship game in Indianapolis on Monday.

Purdue rally falls short

Clutch shot by Packers helps top-seeded Buckeyes hang on

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS

Ohio State coach Jim Foster knew who he wanted shooting for a Big Ten title Monday night: Marsilla Packer.

She delivered with her usual flair.

With 38.4 seconds left and No. 2 Ohio State trying to fend off a frenzied second-half rally from No. 12 Purdue, Packer calmly caught the ball on the left wing, squared up and sank a 3-pointer

to give Ohio State a 63-60 victory and its first conference tournament title.

"She is one of those shooters, you love them because they have no memory," Foster said. "Packer could miss eight in a row and be convinced she's going to make No. 9."

Fortunately for the Buckeyes (28-2), Packer didn't miss much against the Boilermakers.

She made 6 of 11 shots, including two critical 3s in the final three minutes, and scored

10 of her 15 points in the second half.

Packer's presence helped Ohio State balance an offensive attack that had relied primarily on the duo of Brandie Hoskins and two-time conference player of the year Jessica Davenport to build a 17-point lead.

Davenport finished with 17 points and 14 rebounds, while Hoskins added 16 points and four assists. Hoskins was named the Most Outstanding Player.

Of greater importance to Ohio

State was this: By winning its 19th straight game, it clinched the Big Ten's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament and may have solidified a No. 1 seed.

"I feel like we worked hard all season; whatever the committee decides, they decide," Davenport said. "We stayed focused, we think the Big Ten title helped."

Still, this was not typical Ohio State basketball.

Entering Monday's game, the

(SEE PURDUE, PAGE B2)

THE BUSINESS OF SPORTS

Patient approach



Susan Williams, a Franklin College graduate, has been president of Indiana Sports Corp. for a year. She lists the Solheim Cup golf tournament as the highlight of her first 12 months.

THE WILLIAMS FILE

Name: Susan Williams

Occupation: Indiana Sports Corp. president

Husband: David Rimstidt

Children: Two sons, Aaron, 21, and Matt, 8

Sibling: A brother, Mitchell Wohlmut

College: Franklin College (undergraduate degree), Indiana University (master's degree)

Hobbies: Gardening, reading, the arts

One thing people don't know about her:

Hooked on the TV show "Boston Public"

Favorite book: "The Red Tent"

First thing she does when she gets up in the morning: Turn on the news

Phobia: Bus tours

Favorite ice cream: Chocolate chocolate chip, because that's about the most chocolate that you can stuff into a single ice cream choice

Favorite NCAA basketball team: "I love them all."

The one thing she looks forward to every day: "A phone call from one of my sons."

The one item she always carries with her: A small card with a Pablo Picasso quote, "I am always doing things that I can't do - that's how I get to do them."

ISC president celebrates year on the job

STORY BY JOHN GROTH • PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON

For Susan Williams, the most daunting challenge isn't organizing sporting events, including three major NCAA basketball tournaments conducted within a month's time.

As president of the Indiana Sports Corp., her toughest task each day is staying patient.

"The biggest challenge has been adjusting my management style to meet the dynamics of the business," Williams said. "People have described my management style as drinking from a fire hose."

"I've ratcheted it way down at ISC."

Today marks her first anniversary as Indiana Sports Corp. president. During that time, the Franklin College graduate has learned the value of patience as the organization continued to make a major

"People have described my management style as drinking from a fire hose. I've ratcheted it way down at ISC."

Susan Williams
Indiana Sports Corp. president

impact throughout Indianapolis.

Founded in 1979, Indiana Sports Corp. is a nonprofit organization that draws national and international sporting events to the state. The group has hosted more than 400 events since its inception, including the 1982 U.S. Olympics Festival, the 1987 Pan American games, four men's basketball NCAA Division I

Final Fours and one women's basketball NCAA Division I Final Four.

During March and April, Indiana Sports Corp. has hosted or will host the Big Ten men's and women's basketball tournaments and the NCAA men's Final Four. In June, the organization will host the U.S. Rowing National Championships and 2006 USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

The Big Ten Men's Basketball Tournament starts Thursday. "The Big Ten (tournament) is a big event," she said. "The Final Four is gigantic. There's a difference between a regional and national focus. There are more visitors and more media attention."

Williams is the sports corporation's

(SEE PATIENT, PAGE B3)

Team USA might face hostile crowd in 'home' game

By BOB BAUM
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX

Shouts of "Viva Mexico!" might drown out chants of "U-S-A, U-S-A" when the United States takes the field for its World Baseball Classic opener today.

At least a quarter of Arizona's five

million residents are Hispanic, so there should be a strong show of support for the "visiting" Mexican team among the 30,000 or so expected for the game at Chase Field.

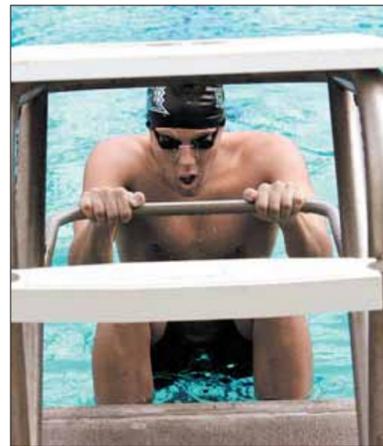
A hint came Saturday night, when a festive crowd packed Tucson Electric Park to cheer on Mexico's 6-1 exhibition victory against the Arizona Diamondbacks.

"I expect them to be very supportive, and I think that will fuel the USA fans once they get into this atmosphere," U.S. manager Buck Martinez said Monday. "From my understanding in Tucson, they had sombreros and their faces painted and a lot of Mexican flags. It was a bullfight kind of atmosphere, so that will be beautiful in this tournament."

Team USA will send Jake Peavy of the San Diego Padres to the mound.

"This is probably the coolest thing I've ever done on a baseball field," the 24-year-old right-hander said. "To be with this group of guys, have a chance to represent my country in America's pastime, I

(SEE CROWD, PAGE B3)



DAN RICHARDS PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
Center Grove High School graduate Jaime Sohn was a walk-on for the University of Hawaii men's swimming team this season. Sohn, a freshman, is majoring in accounting.

Former CG swimmer in paradise

Hawaii walk-on stays busy, leaving little time for beach

By RICK MORWICK

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS EDITOR
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Jaime Sohn was only joking when he told his family that he intended to continue his swimming career at the University of Hawaii.

But the more he thought about it, the more he thought, why not?

So he contacted the school, spoke with the coach, looked into costs and then visited the campus.

The rest, as the saying goes, is history.

"I came out on the recruiting trip, and I was just like, 'OK, I'm going to Hawaii,'" said Sohn, who concluded his freshman season last week with the Rainbow Warriors men's swimming and diving team. "I immediately clicked with the team, and I was just like, 'That's where I want to go.'"

A four-time IHSAA state meet qualifier at Center Grove High School, Sohn attends Hawaii on a partial academic scholarship.

He joined the Rainbow Warriors as a walk-on but hopes to earn an athletic scholarship in the near future.

His goal from the beginning was to swim for an NCAA Division I school. The fact that he's doing it at Hawaii is a bit more than a dream come true.

Nestled on the island of Oahu, the school is located in a year-round sunny paradise. Splendor and recreational opportunities sur-

(SEE SWIMMER, PAGE B3)

THE SOHN FILE

Name: Jaime Sohn
Sport: Swimming
College: University of Hawaii at Manoa
Year: Freshman
Major: Accounting
Age: 18
High School: Center Grove
Events: 1-mile freestyle, 1,000-yard freestyle, 500 freestyle, 200 freestyle and 200 backstroke
High school highlights: Four-time IHSAA State Meet qualifier; finished fifth in the state in the 500 freestyle during his senior year; placed eighth in the state in the 500 freestyle his junior season.
Family: Parents are Baxter and Linda Sohn. He has two sisters, Christine Diehl and Wendy Sohn.



Team USA outfielder Johnny Damon waits for a pitch during batting practice at Chase Field in Phoenix on Monday. The U.S. team will take on Mexico today.

AP PHOTO