

# SPORTS

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## SECTION B

### FRIDAY'S SCORES

**Prep basketball**  
**Boys**  
**Johnson County Tournament Semifinals**

Franklin	57
Greenwood	56
Center Grove	76
Whiteland	44

**NBA**

Washington	94
Indiana	85
New York	105
Atlanta	94
Milwaukee	103
Charlotte	102
Memphis	81
New Jersey	69
Minnesota	103
Denver	89
New Orleans	90
Sacramento	76
Orlando	(n)
at Portland	
Miami	(n)
at Seattle	
Boston	(n)
at Philadelphia	

### PREP BASKETBALL



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON  
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### On to the finals

Franklin and host Center Grove will face off in tonight's championship game of the Johnson County Boys Basketball Tournament. Here's a rundown of today's tournament games:

**4:30 p.m.** — Fifth-place game, Edinburg vs. Indian Creek  
**6 p.m.** — Third-place game, Greenwood vs. Whiteland  
**7:30 p.m.** — Championship game, Center Grove vs. Franklin

### 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
Wisconsin	3-0	13-2
Indiana	2-1	10-3
Ohio State	2-1	12-1
Northwestern	2-1	9-5
Michigan	1-1	11-2
Iowa	1-1	12-4
Illinois	1-1	15-1
Penn State	1-1	9-4
Michigan State	1-2	13-4
Minnesota	0-2	9-4
Purdue	0-3	6-8

**Today's games**

Iowa at Penn State, noon, WTTV-Channel 4  
 Northwestern at Wisconsin, 2:30 p.m., WTTV-Channel 4  
 Michigan at Illinois, 4:30 p.m., WTTV-Channel 4  
**Minnesota at Purdue, 8 p.m., WTTV-Channel 4**

**Sunday's game**

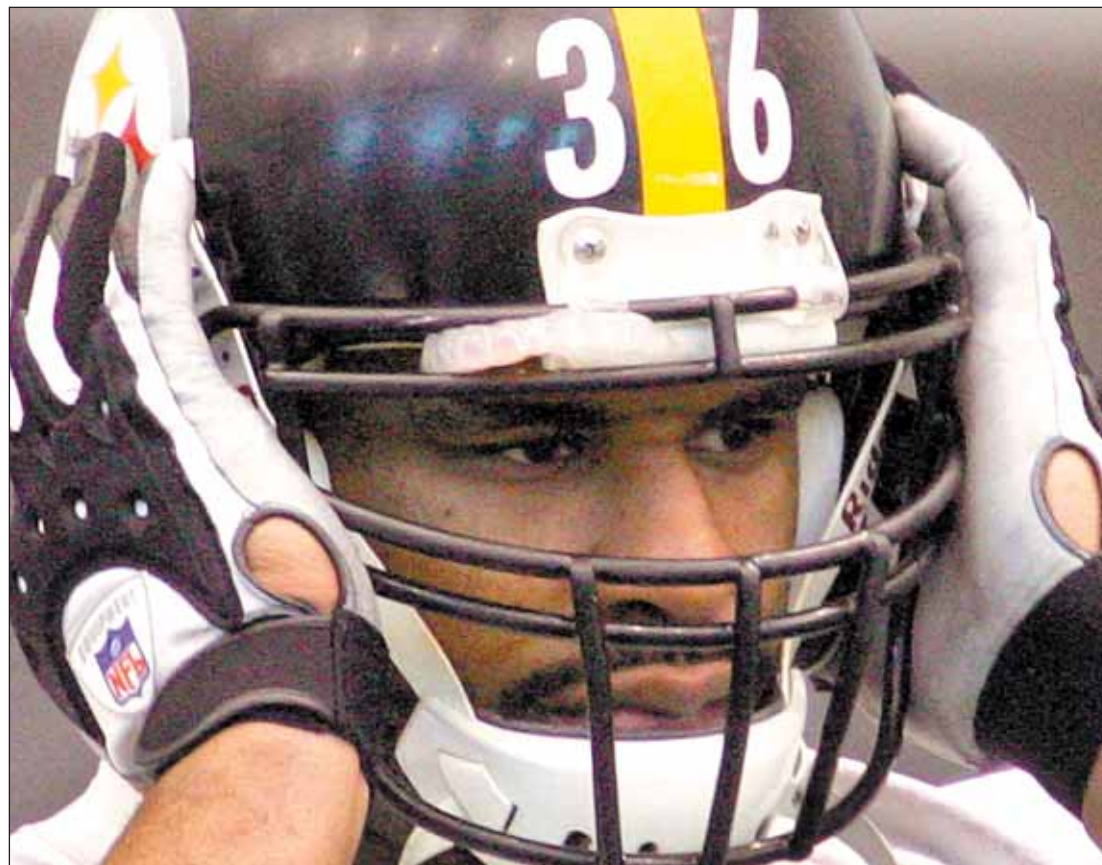
Michigan State at Ohio State, 4:30 p.m., WISH-Channel 8

## ROAD TO DETROIT: COLTS VS. STEELERS

### SUNDAY'S GAME

Pittsburgh Steelers (12-5) at Indianapolis Colts (14-2)  
 Time: 1 p.m. TV: WISH-Channel 8 Radio: WFBQ-94.7 FM

# Bring the noise



Pittsburgh Steelers running back Jerome Bettis holds his ears to protect them from noise piped into the Steelers' workout Thursday in Pittsburgh. The Steelers expect a noisy reception when they visit the RCA Dome on Sunday.

## Colts love, Steelers hate loud RCA Dome

By JASON MARTIN  
 DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

### INDIANAPOLIS

On game days in the RCA Dome, Colts defensive tackle Larry Tripplett gets a familiar buzz in his ears. The roar of more than 55,000 fans cheering on the Indianapolis defense and trying to drown out the signals of the opposition comes with enough decibels to put a ring in the players' ear drums. "It's like a loud train that just never stops right in your ear," Tripplett said. "There's just something about a helmet. Once the sound gets in there, it rattles around like an echo." Tripplett notices only the volume when he's on the field. It's when he's on the sidelines resting that he notices the pain. "You get off the field, and you notice it

### INSIDE

More on this weekend's playoff games. Pages B4 and B5

hurts," he said. "But when you're out there, you love it." Much has been made this week about the issue of noise inside the dome and how the Steelers will handle the disruption. Pittsburgh looked so disoriented during a 26-7 loss to the Colts on Nov. 28 that the Steelers suffered five false-start penalties, including two on consecutive plays by normally reliable guard Kendall Simmons. Days after the game, some media outlets reported allegations that the Colts were using microphones to recycle the

(SEE NOISE, PAGE B4)

### THE TRUTH ABOUT FALSE STARTS

Colts foes have committed 18 false starts during eight regular-season games in the RCA Dome. The most frequent instances of moving before the ball is snapped have come during the two home Monday Night Football games. Pittsburgh and St. Louis had a five false starts apiece.

Week	Opponent	False starts
2	Jacksonville	1
3	Cleveland	1
6	St. Louis	5
10	Houston	1
12	Pittsburgh	5
13	Tennessee	0
15	San Diego	2
17	Arizona	3

## Sanders' bruising hits making impact

By JASON MARTIN  
 DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

### INDIANAPOLIS

When looking at the Colts' much-improved defense, measuring what or who has made the biggest difference requires three different definitions of "biggest." In pure mass, the most important addition to the football team was 300-pound defensive tackle Corey Simon, a run-stuffing free agent signed just before the season from Philadelphia. In a statistical sense, the greatest improvement is a stingier amount of yardage yielded, up from around the bottom of the NFL to 15th this year at 307 yards per game. Yet in terms of greatest impact, there's lit-

tle doubt that the shortest guy on the field has earned the most notice. Bob Sanders has transformed himself from an oft-injured rookie last year into an All-Pro safety this year. Ted Marchibroda, the former Colts coach who is now one of the team's radio broadcasters, recently said that Sanders was the single most important reason that the Colts' defense was so much better this year. "One player can help make that kind of difference if he's a standard-bearer, and that's what Bob is," Indianapolis coach Tony Dungy said. "Bob is a tempo-setter." Sanders, a 5-foot-8, 206-pound, second-round draft pick out of Iowa, is second on the team with 118 tackles.

(SEE IMPACT, PAGE B4)

### THE SANDERS FILE

**Name:** Bob Sanders  
**Team:** Indianapolis Colts  
**Position:** Safety  
**Number:** 21  
**Size:** 5-foot-8, 206 pounds  
**Date of birth:** Feb. 24, 1981  
**College:** Iowa  
**NFL experience:** Two seasons  
**This season:** Named first-team All-Pro by The Associated Press. Had 118 tackles (71 solo, 47 assists) and one interception during the regular season.



# Arenas buries Pacers

## Clutch shots lift Wizards to win

By CLIFF BRUNT  
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### INDIANAPOLIS

Gilbert Arenas focused on getting his teammates involved against the Indiana Pacers and ended up with a spectacular individual effort. Arenas had 37 points and eight assists to lead the Washington Wizards to a 94-85 win against Indiana on Friday night. He scored 18 points in the fourth quarter to help the Wizards pull away. Arenas said the Wizards' approach was much different from the one they took the most recent time the teams met. He was held to 17 points on 5-for-18 shooting in Indiana's 111-87 victory on a snowy December day. This time, Arenas shot 12 for 18 from the field and 12 for 14 from the free-throw line. "We let our offense work for us," he said. "We didn't go out there forcing anything. We're not turning the ball over now, and we're playing solid defense." Caron Butler added 24 points and eight rebounds for Washington, which has won two straight. Jermaine O'Neal led the Pacers with 20 points and seven rebounds. Jeff Foster added 10 points and 11 rebounds. The score was tied before baskets by Arenas and Antonio Daniels and two free throws by Arenas gave the Wizards an 86-80 lead. Arenas hit a short jumper with 1:20 left and the shot clock



### NEXT UP

Indiana Pacers (19-15) at Chicago Bulls (15-20)  
 Time: 8:30 tonight  
 TV: Fox Sports Midwest  
 Radio: WIBC-1070 AM

(SEE PACERS, PAGE B2)



AP PHOTO  
 The Pacers' Jermaine O'Neal, left, blocks the shot of the Wizards' Jared Jeffries during the first quarter of Friday's game at Conoco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

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