

STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/ sroberson@thejournalnet.com

Franklin senior Cody Johnson, front, tries to take down teammate Brad Fox during wrestling practice at the school Wednesday.

State title hopes

Franklin senior changes strategy, still undefeated

By JOHN GROTH
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER
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Cody Johnson just needed to do the math. Early in his wrestling career, the Franklin Community High School senior often tried to end matches with throw moves that sometimes had the opposite effect.

As often as not, opponents successfully executed counter moves, leaving Johnson without a Plan B. Or a win.

Now, he's mastered an addition-by-subtraction strategy that has produced an unbeaten season.

"I've learned a bunch of little moves add up to a big move," said Johnson, who is 34-0 at 215 pounds heading into tonight's team regional at Avon.

Johnson is one of three undefeated wrestlers for the sixth-ranked Grizzly Cubs, along with seniors Brad Gallagher (33-0 at 119 pounds) and Mike Reese (32-0 at 160).

For Johnson, the key to staying unbeaten is to stay focused on the little things. He hopes to extend his perfect record into Saturday's individual regional at Mooresville.

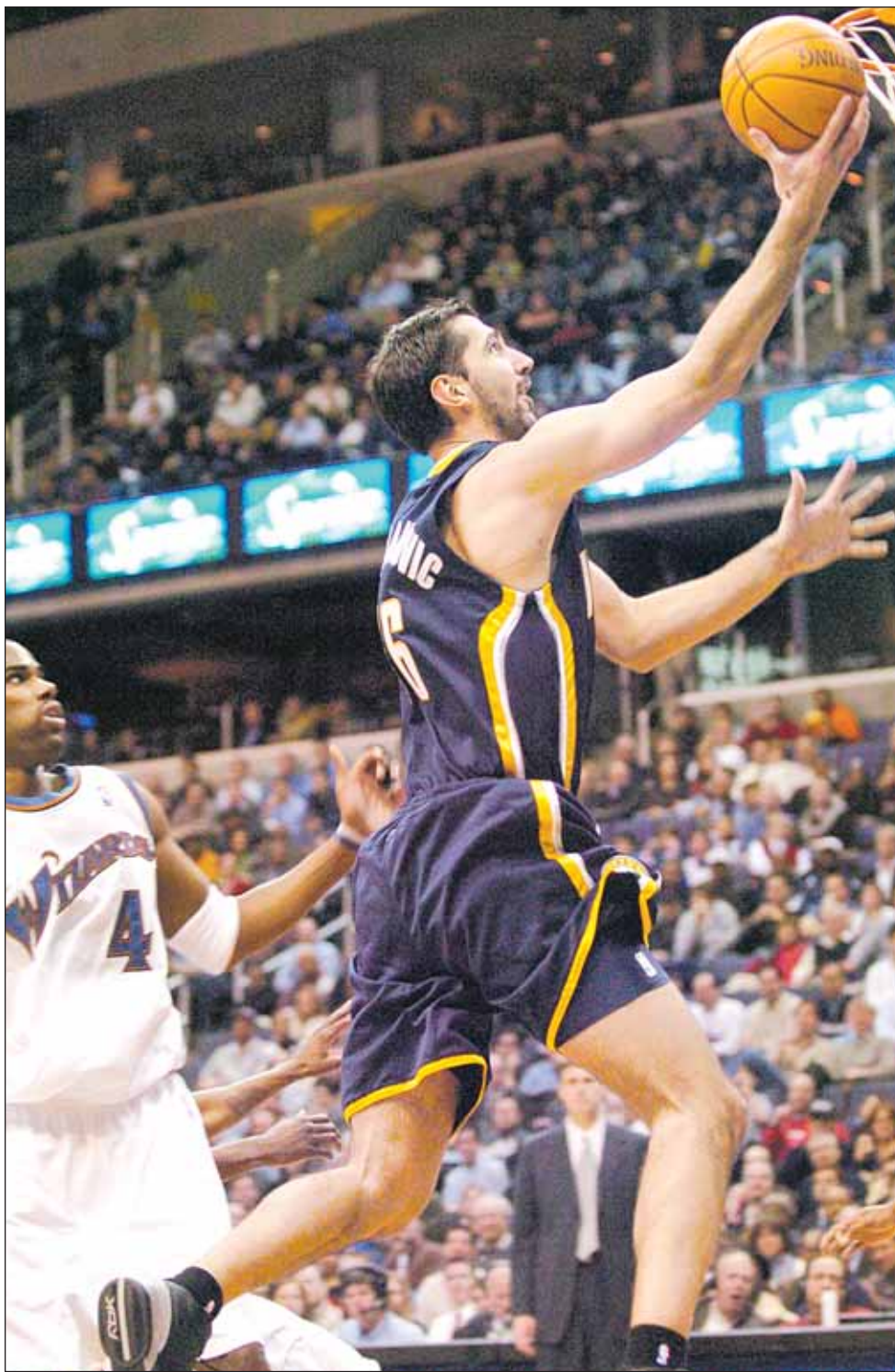
"I used to force stuff and get in trouble," Johnson said. "My coaches and even my mom and dad told me as my competition

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THE JOHNSON FILE

Name: Cody Johnson
School: Franklin Community High School
Year: Senior
Age: 18
Parents: Scott and Susan Johnson
Siblings: Brothers Calvin, 17, and Dillon, 14
Hobbies: Working out, hanging out with friends and being with his family
Other sport: Football.
Johnson was a two-year starting defensive tackle on the Grizzly Cubs' varsity team.
One thing people don't know about him: He likes to watch TV shows about chefs and cooking.
Prep wrestling career
2002-03: 5-1
2003-04: 30-8, won sectional championship (215 pounds)
2004-05: 33-6 (275 pounds); won sectional and regional championships; finished second at semistate; qualified for individual state finals; lost in opening round of state finals
2005-06: 34-0 (215 pounds)
Career record: 102-15

NBA



AP PHOTOS

The Pacers' Peja Stojakovic, right, goes to the basket past the Wizards' Antawn Jamison during the second quarter of Tuesday's game in Washington. Stojakovic had 17 points in the Pacers' 84-79 loss.

New look, not result, for Pacers

Stojakovic scores 17 in debut as skid continues

By JOSEPH WHITE
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

In his Indiana Pacers debut, Peja Stojakovic resembled the early season version of Antawn Jamison with the Wizards. His shot didn't fall, and he was struggling to mesh with his new teammates.

Stojakovic can only hope that he can emulate Jamison and leave those days far behind.

Jamison completed a month-long comeback Tuesday night, with 19 points and 18 rebounds in 47 minutes in the Washington Wizards' 84-79 victory against the Pacers, who lost their sixth straight.

"Now I have my pep in my step," said Jamison, who averaged 20.9 points and 9.1 rebounds for the month. "I have that swagger. I feel like myself again."

"I'm just playing hard. I'm playing with a lot more intensity. I'm positive about everything. It's almost like a 180 from where



NEXT UP

Los Angeles Lakers (24-20) at Indiana Pacers (21-22)

Time: 7 tonight
TV: Fox Sports Midwest
Radio: WIBC-1070 AM

I was when I was struggling." Gilbert Arenas added 20 points for the Wizards, who have won eight of 11 to move within one game of .500. They can reach the break-even mark for the first time since early December with a win Wednesday at Toronto, and they don't play a team that currently has a winning record until Feb. 10.

"It's winning time for him. It's

(SEE PACERS, PAGE B2)

Sacramento Kings forward Ron Artest, left, and Geoff Petrie, president of basketball operations for the team, listen to a question during a news conference at the team's practice facility in Sacramento, Calif., on Monday. Artest was introduced to the Sacramento area media after the team returned home from a road trip.



Artest happy to be among Kings

By GREG BEACHAM
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif.

Ron Artest had the demeanor, the diplomacy and even the crisp, pin-striped dress shirt of a man eager for a good impression and yet another fresh start.

In his first trip to the Kings' training complex Monday night, Sacramento's controversial swingman acknowledged his new fans might be right to worry about his tumultuous past.

But Artest also knows only he can control his future with the Kings, who acquired him from Indiana in a trade for Peja Stojakovic last week.

While meeting team staff, answering questions and touring his new home, Artest even predicted the last-place Kings will reach the playoffs this season, despite their 18-26 record after a 1-5 East Coast road trip.

"I like reaching for the stars," Artest said. "Once this team gets adjusted to each other, I feel like

(SEE ARTEST, PAGE B2)



Center Grove's Traci Lippold, right, drives to the basket while being defended by Carmel's Melanie Thornton during Tuesday's game at Carmel.

Win keeps Trojans girls alive in MIC title chase

By KEN SEVERSON
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

CARMEL

Carmel had no answer for Center Grove's Jenny Gray in Tuesday night's Metropolitan Interscholastic Conference girls basketball showdown between ranked Class 4A rivals.

A senior forward, Gray scored 22 points and grabbed seven rebounds to help lift No. 8 Center Grove to a 56-54 win at No. 4 Carmel.

Center Grove's win not only snapped the Greyhounds' four-game winning streak, it kept the Trojans' once unlikely bid for a share of the MIC title alive.

Center Grove took a step back in the conference race last week with a 10-point loss at Lawrence

IN OTHER GIRLS BASKETBALL GAMES

Whiteland 64 Columbus North 45

Class 3A No. 8-ranked Whiteland got 28 points from Jessica Huffman in a win against Columbus North. The Warriors won their fifth straight game and improved to 16-3 this season.

Shelbyville 34 Franklin 19

Host Franklin struggled from the field, hitting just 7 of 37 shots in a loss to Shelbyville. The Grizzly Cubs ended the regular season with a five-game losing streak and a 9-12 record.

Medora 46 Edinburgh 42

Host Edinburgh hung tough but fell to Medora, a team the Lancers had defeated by 14 points earlier in the season. Hannah Basey led Edinburgh (4-15) with 14 points.

For more, see Page B4

North. But the Trojans moved forward again with Tuesday's win, which broke Carmel's previously unbeaten record in the MIC.

Center Grove can earn its first share of the league title since 2001 with a victory Thursday night against visiting Warren Central.

"This was a great game,"

Center Grove coach Joe Lentz said. "We kept digging and digging."

"The character of this team is unbelievable. They have been down but never out of the games, and they keep coming back like

(SEE TROJANS, PAGE B4)

Big Ben not sacked by Super Bowl media

By ALAN ROBINSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT

They came in waves from all directions, occasionally blindsiding him from angles he couldn't have anticipated.

Other times they blitized up the middle, challenging him face-to-face and daring him to stand up to the pressure.

No matter what their strategy was, Ben Roethlisberger always had the answer, adjusting on the fly when

needed or adeptly sidestepping anything he wished to avoid with the polish and poise of a John Elway or a Terry Bradshaw.

Now, if only Roethlisberger can stand up to the Seattle Seahawks the way he did the dreaded media day at the Super Bowl.

"This is the best part of it, talking to you guys," Roethlisberger said Tuesday. "Being the quarterback, you know that cameras are pointed at you and people want to talk to you. You

have to be smart and know it comes with the territory."

The Steelers kept their 23-year-old quarterback away from the media hordes Monday, not including him among a six-player contingent made available for interviews.

That created speculation they were worried he might be overwhelmed by the kind of attention no NFL player gets before any other game.

(SEE BEN, PAGE B3)



AP PHOTO

Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger reaches for a trophy handed to him by a reporter during media day at Ford Field in Detroit, site of Sunday's Super Bowl XL.