

# FRANKLIN COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Victory moves Grizzlies closer to head of HCAC

By STEVE McCURE  
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

The Franklin College men's basketball team moved into a three-way tie for second place in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference with a 93-77 win at home Saturday against the College of Mount St. Joseph.

The Grizzlies' practices during the week focused on breaking down the Lions' defense and preparing for a physical contest, senior center Nick Kane said.

"We've known for the last two years that that's all they do is press, but we were able to break it so easily, so they went back to a zone," Kane said.

The two teams played at a torrid pace in the first half as the Grizzlies went to the break with a 53-41 advantage.

During those first 20 minutes, both teams shot a blistering 63 percent from the floor and each had four 3-pointers. But the Grizzlies augmented that hot

shooting with 16 layups sparked by superb ball movement and superior quickness to the hoop.

"I thought that was the best first half that we've had as a team in years in terms of efficiency," Franklin coach Kerry Prather said.

As the second half unfolded, the Lions played a more deliberate game and sliced the Grizzlies' lead to nine points, 55-46.

That didn't last long, as Franklin responded quickly with six straight points by freshman guard Jace Redman.

Freshman guard Dustin Marshall, averaging nearly 10 points per game, scored 15 of his career-high 23 points in the first half.

"No doubt, we did a very good job today by making smart plays," Marshall said.

Kane, conference player of the week, topped all scorers with 24 points. Senior forward Josh Finke was 5 of 7 from the field for 11 points and six rebounds.

"Everybody that came in

brought us energy and brought us something good," Prather said. "And that will go a long way in this league."

Mount St. Joseph coach Larry Cox said the Grizzlies played well, shot well and were by far the better team.

"I knew with their style of play that they like to get out quick and attack you, but we hadn't seen anybody all year just blow by us.

"We said coming in, we thought they were the best offensive team in the conference," Cox said.

Senior forward Kevin Darthard led the Lions with 20 points and seven rebounds.

Franklin, 12-5 overall and 4-2 in the conference, recorded its third straight win in the HCAC. The Grizzlies are tied for second place with Hanover and Bluffton and only one game behind league leader Transylvania.

The Grizzlies hope to knock off the HCAC leaders as the Pioneers visit Franklin for a 7:30 p.m. contest Wednesday.

## Perfect conference record spoiled by loss

Special to the Daily Journal

### CINCINNATI

The College of Mount St. Joseph held off a spirited second-half rally to deal Franklin College its first conference loss of the season with a 68-65 home victory on Saturday.

The loss also snaps the Grizzlies' 11-game Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference winning streak, which stretched back to last season.

Mount St. Joseph spoiled Franklin's conference record last season

after the Grizzlies started out 5-0.

The host Lions (7-10 overall, 4-2 HCAC) shot 48 percent in the opening half and led by as many as 18 points before Franklin pulled to within 15 points to 40-25 at the intermission.

In the second half, the Grizzlies (14-3, 5-1) steadily whittled their deficit to one point on two occasions, the second time when senior forward Leslie Mehrlich hit two free throws to pull Franklin to within one at 66-65 with 54 seconds left.

Mount St. Joseph answered with two foul shots by Shanika

Logan with 15 seconds left.

Franklin senior guard Lindsey Roberson's 3-point shot with three seconds to go didn't fall, ending the Grizzlies' bid for an unbeaten conference season.

The Lions sported a balanced scoring attack led by Logan with 15 points, Amanda Hoffman and Center Grove graduate Maria Eichhold with 13 points apiece and Christina Marsh with 10.

Roberson led all scorers with 18 points and had a career-high 16 rebounds. Senior center Becky Ballard had 12 points, and Mehrlich chipped in 11.



AP PHOTO

Indiana's Robert Vaden, left, steals the ball from Purdue's Matt Kiefer during the Hoosiers' win Saturday against the visiting Boilermakers.

## Lineup

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

Hoosiers (12-3, 4-1) don't have many problems.

They've won 12 straight Big Ten home games (their longest streak since winning 31 in a row between 1991 and 1995), have grabbed a share of the conference lead and are surging up the polls.

They still are ranked among the nation's best shooting teams, even if that wasn't clear after Saturday's dreadful performance when they shot a season-low 39.1 percent from the field and hit 8 of 19 3-pointers. Three of those came in the final six minutes.

And, of course, Indiana still has one of the Big Ten's strongest inside threats in Marco Killingsworth.

But the sluggish starts worry Davis, especially now that they must go on the road. They have trailed early in home games against Michigan, Ohio State, Illinois and Purdue but steadied themselves enough to win all four.

On the road, they may not be so fortunate.

"If we do that against Iowa on Tuesday, it could be a long night," Davis said.

So what's the answer? By replacing Ben Allen in the starting lineup with Vaden, Davis thinks it could create more matchup problems for opponents. If he does that, Davis will then have to decide whether to start Roderick Wilmont, who has become the Hoosiers' energizer off the bench, or A.J. Ratliff, who is just starting to make a bigger impact after being slowed much of the nonconference season with a broken right thumb.

Ratliff hit a key 3-pointer in a 13-2 run that helped Indiana take control against Purdue on Saturday.

"Our rhythm has been off, and I think that's more because Vaden has been playing the three," Davis said, scratching his head. "Then the question is whether I start Ratliff or Wilmont because Wilmont gives us energy."

Not surprisingly, it was Wilmont and Vaden who helped right

the Hoosiers again Saturday.

Killingsworth almost single-handedly kept the Hoosiers close during the first half when he scored 11 points and had seven rebounds. He finished with 18 points and 10 rebounds.

But in the decisive final minutes, it was Wilmont and Vaden who changed the game by making shots, getting to loose balls and creating chaos for Purdue on defense.

The Boilermakers (7-10, 1-5) didn't have an answer for the Hoosiers' deep pool of talented athletes. Purdue shot a season-low 34 percent from the field, finished with a season-low point total and was outrebounded 38-31.

Marcus White led the Boilermakers with 19 points. Matt Kiefer had seven points and 10 rebounds, but it wasn't the kind of start Purdue's Matt Painter wanted in his head coaching debut in this bitter series.

"They had a better nose for the basketball, especially late in the game, and rightfully so," Painter said. "We've had a tough road."

Despite missing four starters Saturday, Purdue managed to hang around long enough to scare the Hoosiers. They outscored Indiana 15-8 in a nine-minute stretch late in the first half and early in the second half to tie the score at 30.

The Hoosiers answered that with a 13-2 run paced by Killingsworth and Wilmont to rebuild a 43-32 lead. Purdue charged back, getting as close as 43-39, but Vaden hit a 3, Wilmont a 12-footer, Vaden another 3 and Wilmont a 3 to make it 54-41 with 4:18 left.

It was all the Hoosiers needed Saturday.

"We were just missing open shots and weren't executing the way we should," Wilmont said. "We started scoring off transition, and that's what we got back to doing."

Now, Davis wants to see the Hoosiers get back to doing what they did so well in the nonconference season, starting fast, taking control quickly and keep winning.

"I thought we did a good enough job defensively to keep us in the game in the first half," Davis said.

"We just didn't shoot the basketball. We need to make sure guys are playing the way they're supposed to be playing."

## SUNDAY'S NCAA ROUNDUP

The Associated Press

### WOMEN'S

#### No. 11 Purdue 57 Illinois 53

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Lindsay Wisdom-Hylton scored 14 points, and No. 11 Purdue beat Illinois, snapping the Illini's nine-game home winning streak.

Aya Traore added 12 points for the Boilermakers (15-2, 7-0 Big Ten), who shot just 32 percent from the floor. They forced 19 Illinois turnovers, however, and withstood an Illini rally that trimmed a 10-point deficit to one with 2:15 left.

Purdue won its 11th straight game and seventh in a row at home, a streak that dates back to Dec. 28, 1997.

Illinois (12-6, 4-3) lost its second straight to a ranked team after dropping a 72-61 decision at No. 12 Michigan State Thursday night.

Erin Wigley scored 11 of her 15 points after halftime for Illinois. Maggie Acuna had 12 rebounds.

#### Indiana 69 Michigan 44

BLOOMINGTON — Cyndi Valentin scored 22 points to help Indiana beat Michigan.

Valentin made 7 of 14 field goals, 3-of-5 3-pointers and 5 of 6 free throws. Jenny DeMuth scored 16 points and Nikki Smith added 13 for Indiana (10-8, 4-3 Big Ten).

Stephany Skrba led Michigan (6-13, 0-7) with 14 points and eight rebounds. The Wolverines shot 31 percent in their seventh straight loss.

Indiana outscored Michigan 26-8 from the free-throw line. DeMuth made 10 of 10 free throws and Smith made 5 of 5. The Hoosiers made 26 of 32 from the charity stripe.

Indiana led 31-15 at halftime after holding the Wolverines to 23 percent shooting before the break. Indiana shot 50 percent in the first half.

Indiana took the lead for good with 13:59 left in the first half. The Hoosiers led 40-19 with 15:31 left in the game, and they never led by less than 19 points the rest of the way.

Michigan's only lead was 7-6 early in the first half.

### MEN'S

#### Creighton 77 Evansville 58

OMAHA, Neb. — Johnny Mathies scored 17 of his 26 points in the first half, and Josh Dotzler added 15 to lead Creighton to a victory against Evansville.

Anthony Tolliver had 12 points and nine rebounds and Dane Watts scored 10 points for Creighton (13-4, 7-2 Missouri Valley Conference). The Bluejays are 10-0 at home this season and are tied for first place in the MVC.

Matt Webster scored 13 points to pace Evansville (5-12, 1-8). Bradley Strickland, Kyle Ansinger and Jason Holsinger added 10 points each for the Purple Aces, who are 0-9 on the road this season and losers of 18 straight away games since December 2004.

The Bluejays scored the first eight points of the second half on a Dotzler layup, Watts' three-point play and a Mathies 3-pointer. That gave them a 15-point cushion.

## End of season bittersweet for seniors on team

Another era of the swim season has begun. The excitement is really beginning to build for sectionals.

Everyone has put in so much time, effort, and commitment that I would just like to congratulate them on an outstanding drive for the best possible season. We are moving in the right direction, and things are looking hopeful for the team.

At the recent Mid-State Conference meet, both the girls and boys teams swam well, with some swimming their personal bests. The divers also put in a great performance.

In the 50 free, we had a first place finish by Justin Shaw. Andrew Meador came in second with a lifetime, personal best swim. Shaw also captured first in the 200 free.

Though the season is nearing its end for everyone, for some athletes, their high school swimming careers are nearing their end.

The seniors on our team this year are divers Jami Sears and Josh Davis and swimmers Zach Dougherty, Jacob Houchin and Justin Shaw.

It is an emotional opportunity to watch great teammates, leaders and friends swim or dive at their final home meet.

My teammate and co-captain, Justin Mull, summed up how we all feel about each other:

"As I've progressed through my high school experience, I've come through the loss of two senior classes, and near the third. As each year ends, seniors leave, and I miss each class more and more.

"I will miss these seniors dearly, and cannot imagine high school life next year without them," Mull said.

Missing the camaraderie will be the toughest part, Shaw said.

"I will miss the team outings, hanging out together, the stories we shared and the songs we would make up on the bus rides home," Shaw said.

It's not over yet folks. We still have the rest of the season to laugh, have lots of fun, cry a time or two, but most of all, to simply make memories.

Emily Hubler is a junior on the Whiteland Community High school girls swimming team. Her Winter Sports Diary entries appear weekly in the Daily Journal.



Emily Hubler

WINTER SPORTS DIARY

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