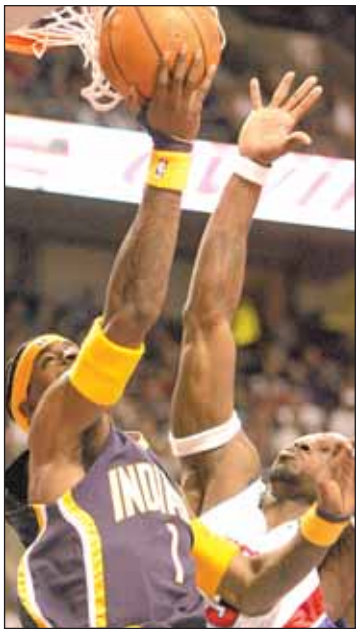


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SPORTS

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SECTION B



AP PHOTO
The Pacers' Stephen Jackson, left, makes a layup while being defended by the Pistons' Ben Wallace during Thursday's NBA game at The Palace in Auburn Hills, Mich.

Pistons down Pacers

The Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich.
Rasheed Wallace scored 11 of his game-high 28 points in a key fourth-quarter surge to lift the Detroit Pistons to an 88-83 victory against the Indiana Pacers on Thursday night.

With Detroit leading 70-64 early in the fourth, Wallace hit four straight shots, three from 3-point range, in 97 seconds to put the game away.

The win was Detroit's first at home against Indiana since April 4, 2004. Indiana won both meetings at the Palace last year; the first ended early by the infamous brawl, and the second was delayed by a bomb threat aimed at the Pacers locker room.

There were no such incidents in this one, in which Ben Wallace added 13 points, eight rebounds and five blocks for the Pistons, while Chauncey Billups had 14 points and nine assists.

Stephen Jackson led the Pacers with 15 points, and Peja Stojakovic added 14.

Detroit led 46-41 at the half, thanks to 13 points from Rasheed Wallace. The Pistons led by as many as 13 in the third quarter.

(SEE PACERS, PAGE B2)



TONIGHT'S GAME

Atlanta Hawks (16-36)
at Indiana Pacers (27-24)

Time: 7 p.m.
TV: Fox Sports Midwest
Radio: WIBC-1070 AM

C-P starting intermediate spring football

By JOHN GROTH
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER
jgroth@thejournalnet.com

Teaching younger students fundamental football skills has been a goal of Whiteland Community High School football coach Darin Fisher.

The Clark-Pleasant school board is helping him fulfill that dream.

The board voted Tuesday night to start a spring football program for students at Clark-Pleasant Intermediate School.

The program will begin in April and will focus on developing fundamentals and introducing students to the sport. The fifth- and sixth-graders won't play any games.

Fisher said he expects learning correct football techniques will benefit students in fall youth football leagues and later in high school.

"We want to focus on the skills of the game rather than playing the game," Fisher said. "We don't want to spend time running plays and worrying about winning and losing. We want to get players to be prepared to be better players in the fall."

(SEE FOOTBALL, PAGE B3)

Cohen lets gold slip away

Japan's Arakawa finishes first in women's skating

By NANCY ARMOUR
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TURIN, Italy

Shizuka Arakawa clutched the Olympic gold medal in her hand, refusing to let it go lest it all be a mistake.

It was hers, all right, and Japan's. Arakawa was a surprise

INSIDE

A capsule look at Thursday's news from the Turin Winter Games.
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winner from a surprise country.

"I still can't believe this," said Arakawa, whose gold in women's figure skating Thursday night gave Japan its first medal of these games.

For Sasha Cohen and Irina Slutskaya, gold was theirs to grab but got away.

Falls and mistakes pulled Cohen

down to silver and left Slutskaya with a bronze.

They knew they are lucky to have anything. Arakawa finished with 191.34 points, almost eight points ahead of Cohen. Slutskaya was third at 181.44.

"It's bittersweet," Cohen said. "I tried hard. I have no regrets."

Arakawa is the first Japanese woman to win Olympic gold, and she has lifted a burden for those who will come after her.

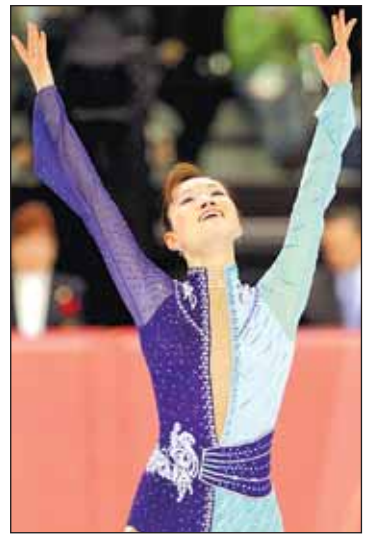
When Midori Ito finished second to Kristi Yamaguchi in 1992, Ito apologized, fearing she had disappointed her country. No one had come close since then, and pres-

sure mounted with every passing games.

Arakawa dropped to ninth at worlds last year after having won the title in 2004. Worse, she had to watch while the next generation emerged: Miki Ando, the junior world champion and the first woman to do a quadruple jump; and Grand Prix champion Mao Asada, whose age, 15, was the only thing that kept her away from Turin.

In November, Arakawa called Nikolai Morozov and asked if he'd be her coach. She wanted a

(SEE GOLD, PAGE B3)



AP PHOTO
Japanese figure skater Shizuka Arakawa finishes her gold-medal winning performance at the Turin Winter Olympic Games on Thursday.

PREP SWIMMING: IHSAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ready for repeat

STORY BY JOHN GROTH

PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON

CG swimmer aims for another state title despite illness

Chris Oleksiak is confident he'll successfully defend his 500-yard freestyle championship at the IHSAA Boys Swimming and Diving State Championships. But he knows it won't be easy, and not just because of the competition.

The Center Grove High School senior has battled pneumonia since the weekend and isn't exactly at full strength as today's preliminaries approach.

Oleksiak missed school Monday and Tuesday and didn't practice either day.

But he returned to the water Wednesday. And as his health improves, so does his confidence.

"Inside, I know I'm the best," said Oleksiak, who had a 103-degree fever Monday. "I don't see why I couldn't (win). I won last year. Everybody is out to get me. (Illness) is not going to stop me."

Oleksiak is one of only two defending

INSIDE

Center Grove's boys swimming team looks to finish high in the team standings at this weekend's state finals.
Page B3

champions participating in the state finals. The other is Warsaw's Nate Taylor in the 100 breaststroke.

The preliminaries are tonight at the IU Natatorium on the campus of IUPUI. The championship and consolation finals are Saturday.

Heading in, Oleksiak has the second-fastest time (4:37.73) of 500 freestyle qualifiers and is less than a second behind top-seeded Andrew Hoffman of Homestead.

In addition to the 500, Oleksiak will compete in the 200 freestyle and Center

Grove's state-qualifying 200 medley and 400 freestyle relays.

Oleksiak spent much of the week trying to relax and recuperate.

After Wednesday's practice, Center Grove coach Jim Todd noted that Oleksiak looked a bit sluggish in the water. But he added that was to be expected since he hadn't swum since Saturday's sectionals.

And he knows Oleksiak will be ready to swim at the state meet today.

"When it's a big meet and he needs to swim fast, he performs very well," Todd said. "Every time he's swum at the (Metropolitan Interscholastic) conference meet, sectionals and state meet, he's come ready to swim and swim very fast."

Two examples are fresh in both their minds.

(SEE REPEAT, PAGE B3)

IF YOU GO

What: IHSAA Boys Swimming and Diving State Championships
Where: IU Natatorium at IUPUI, 901 W. New York St., Indianapolis
When: Preliminaries at 6 p.m. today; diving preliminaries and semifinals at 9 a.m. Saturday; consolations and finals in all events at 1 p.m. Saturday
Admission: \$8 per session; \$12 for both days



Center Grove High School senior Chris Oleksiak swims during practice at the school Feb. 14.

Woodmen showing no weakness

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

On paper, nothing statistically jumps out at you. Except the county-best record. And the conference championship. And the eight-game winning streak.

Greenwood takes all of it into tonight's regular-season boys basketball finale against visiting New Palestine (7-12).

With a victory, the Woodmen (16-4) not only will put the finishing touches on a sterling regular season, they'll ride a wave of momentum into next week's Class 4A Southport Sectional.

"We feel good," said guard Robbie Newbold, one of seven seniors who have fueled the season-long success. "There are a lot of very good teams in our sectional. There are going to be a lot of good games."

"But I feel that if we execute and play the way we know how to play, I feel confident about our chances to win."

So does coach Bruce Hensley, who isn't surprised by what the senior-led Woodmen have accomplished.

ON A WINNING STREAK

A look at the past eight games for the Greenwood boys basketball team:

Date	Opponent	Result
Jan. 27	Plainfield*	W 65-48
Jan. 28	At Roncalli	W 71-59
Feb. 3	At Beech Grove	W 64-39
Feb. 4	Center Grove	W 73-56
Feb. 9	At Franklin*	W 65-53
Feb. 14	At Southport	W 63-52
Feb. 17	At Decatur Central	W 67-62
Tuesday	At Indian Creek	W 79-39

*Mid-State Conference game

Blessed with a rare mix of talent, experience and chemistry, the Woodmen had all the components to win consistently and haven't disappointed.

"I had very high expectations, and I think

(SEE WOODMEN, PAGE B3)

TONIGHT'S GAMES

Tonight's boys basketball games involving southside teams. Boys sectionals begin Tuesday:

Lawrence Central at Center Grove, 7:30 p.m.

Franklin at Jennings County, 8 p.m.

New Palestine at Greenwood, 7:30 p.m.

Indian Creek at Waldron, 7:30 p.m.

Beech Grove at Whiteland, 7:30 p.m.

Horizon School at Greenwood Christian Academy, 6 p.m.



STAFF PHOTO BY MATT DOOLEY/mooley@thejournalnet.com
Greenwood Community High School senior A.J. Edds takes a shot over an Indian Creek defender during Tuesday's game at Indian Creek. The Woodmen beat the host Braves 79-39.

Heisman hype doesn't bother Bush

By MICHAEL MAROT
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

Forget the hype or even the jinx. Reggie Bush intends to change the image of Heisman winners when he enters the NFL next fall.

Bush arrived Thursday at the annual scouting combine as the favorite to be the top pick in April's draft thanks to an uncanny combination of blazing speed, deft moves and his ability to turn nothing plays into touchdowns.

They are traits Bush believes will help him transform his college success into NFL stardom, a

WORKING OUT

What: NFL scouting combine
When: Through Tuesday
Where: RCA Dome in Indianapolis
Who: More than 330 NFL Draft prospects
Admission: Not open to the public
TV: NFL Network

transition recent Heisman winners have struggled with.

"Hopefully, you'll see the same things you've seen from me in my college career," he said. "I look forward to it."

The NFL has been inundated with recent Heisman busts. Since Barry Sanders won the award in 1988, names like Jason White, Danny Wuerffel, Gino Torretta and Andre Ware have become the rule. Players like Carson Palmer and Eddie George have been the exceptions.

Bush said he believes there is a logical explanation for the failures and insists he can change the perception.

"It's harder for a quarterback to go in and be successful as opposed to a running back," he

(SEE HYPE, PAGE B3)



AP PHOTO
Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush listens to a question during a news conference at the NFL scouting combine in Indianapolis on Thursday.