



Emily Hubler
WINTER SPORTS DIARY

Hard work pays off as season winds down

Winter break is finally over. For the team it has been a long, hard-working break.

We have had many grueling practices with little sleep, and our bodies ache, but in the upcoming weeks we will begin to see the rewards of our diligence.

This is the time of the season when swimmers expect to be worn down and tired in order to perform our best.

Our coaches, fans and team members all are encouraging everybody to keep going and not give up. Without the support from them, winter break would have seemed twice as long.

The team became closer during the two-week period. In order to be successful as a team, we needed to work together to achieve our goals.

We grow as a team as tight friendships develop.

The Mid-State Conference meet, a two-day event, was this weekend at Mooresville. We faced Greenwood, Franklin, the host Pioneers, Plainfield and Decatur Central.

It's now coming down to crunch time. These next few weeks are what the season is all about.

Everyone is anxious to shave some time off their personal bests so far. And if that can't happen, we will all just be happy with shaving the hair off our bodies. Sorry, guys, but that's part of it. It takes a real man to be a swimmer.

We don't know where the season will take us, but we are all ready for the outcome. Until then we will just keep swimming, swimming, swimming.

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

• Good

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

emulating those kinds of behaviors.

More young athletes are copying the crass verbal and physical displays during games. Even an untucked jersey is now unsportsmanlike conduct in the world of high school basketball.

That's why the federation is cracking down on unsportsmanlike conduct, especially in basketball. The group has placed an emphasis on unsportsmanlike behavior for the 2005-06 basketball season, Howard said.

In recent years, the federation has noticed that problem appears to be getting worse.

"It's been an ongoing problem for more than the past few years," Howard said. "This is educational athletics, not a profession or an arena like college where you only have a few out of many thousand playing."

"We're making sportsmanship a strong emphasis because it's very important that we try to be different than those other two levels."

Indiana High School Athletic Association Commissioner Blake Ressa is an advocate of emphasizing sportsmanship. Ressa, in his sixth year as commissioner, helped the IHSAA develop a sportsmanship program two years ago.

The IHSAA and Indiana Criminal Justice Institute created the IHSAA/ICJI Sportsmanship Award.

High schools qualify for an award and a banner by complying with the two groups' requirements. Schools must create a written sportsmanship plan, not have players or coaches ejected in any sport and not violate IHSAA rules or bylaws.

Ressa said 96 of 398 (24.1 percent) of IHSAA member high schools received the award for the 2004-05 school year, including Greenwood and Indian Creek. During the 2003-04 school year, 70 schools earned the award.

"In Indiana, we've made gains on unsportsmanlike behavior," Ressa said. "I feel sportsmanship in general is improving. We've gotten pretty positive feedback from the schools. We're making headways."

Local coaches are supportive.

Franklin Community High School basketball coach Dave Clark appreciates the emphasis the IHSAA is placing on sportsmanship.

He said the program increases awareness among administrators, coaches and players.

"It's a more proactive way of approaching it," Clark said. "I

2005-06 National Federation of State High School Associations points of emphasis for high school basketball:

Uniforms: The committee expects jerseys to be worn properly and remain on. A new rule states: "A player shall not remove the jersey and/or pants/skirt in the confines of the playing area." The result is a technical foul.

The jersey must be tucked in, and shorts must be worn properly. When a player is in violation of this rule, the player is directed to leave the game.

Time outs: Coaches must make sure bench personnel remain in the team bench area after a time out is called. Officials must be aware of the potential for confrontation, use preventive officiating techniques and penalize appropriately.

Spectators: Game administrators must create and follow security procedures and support efforts to have offending fans removed from the premises. Proactive policies lead to fewer problems. It is the game administrator's ultimate

responsibility to provide a safe environment for players, coaches and officials.

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Joe Lentz, Center Grove High School girls basketball coach
"I think it comes from TV and society in general. It's more likely to see boys do it because of the NBA and it's tolerated. As a society, we tend to tolerate some of that really stupid behavior. Kids see it on TV and think that must be OK and a really cool thing to do. But it's really not."

Adam Miller, 18, Franklin high school senior basketball player
"It's hard sometimes when things aren't going your way. You have to think what's best for the team. You just know that if you start saying stuff to the ref you won't get any calls anyway. They'll remember what you said and will remember that when they're making their calls."

Dave Clark, Franklin boys basketball coach
"People take off jerseys in disgust. When you talk to players, it's not what they say, it's their body language. They

roll their eyes back, throw their hands up in the air. To a certain extent, you see it on TV. But you can't blame everything on TV and you can't blame everything on society. You need to set good examples as coaches and adults so kids react the way you want them to."

Darrin Fisher, Whiteland high school football coach
"I think the officiating crews do a really nice job working not to let games get out of hand with that kind of stuff. It becomes a retaliation thing. It doesn't have to be a flag or a penalty, though. It can be a comment from them to the players or the sideline. That stops it."

Deb McClurg, Center Grove girls volleyball coach and youth basketball official
"All of a sudden (unsportsmanlike behavior) is being exploited now because of the Terrell Owens' and the ones that are acting up. But we're seeing a little trend where parents are stepping in and explaining to the kids that that's not right and that's not the correct way to act."

TV has an adverse affect," he said. "Where it might have an affect is at the middle school ages. They emulate people, I think, because they're trying to form a belief system of what's right and what's wrong."

Deb McClurg has noticed professional athletes' poor behavior trickling down.
For the past five years, McClurg has officiated basketball games for first-through sixth-graders in the Center Grove boys basketball league.

Although she can't recall giving anybody a technical foul or ejecting a player from a game, she has seen boys complain or argue about calls.
"You might see somebody argue with a ref or have a reaction to a call, and you can't help think that's what they see on TV," said McClurg, who also coaches volleyball for Center Grove High School. "I think you can see it younger and younger. We're there to teach kids and tell them it's not appropriate."

"Very little happens. They're really pretty good. We're there to teach kids what's appropriate and what's not appropriate."
In girls sports, unsportsmanlike behavior hasn't become much of a problem for a couple of local coaches. McClurg has rarely noticed poor sportsmanship or volleyball players taunting each other. The court's setup is one of the main reasons.

"In volleyball, it's two people on two different sides of the court," she said. "There's not much chance to have contact unless you're close to the net. But it's still in between you. You never ever have a chance where one player goes to the other side.

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PLAYING BY THE RULES

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Texas QB to enter NFL draft

The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas

Vince Young is headed to the NFL.

The quarterback who led Texas to its first national championship in 36 years announced Sunday he would make himself eligible for the NFL draft.



YOUNG

"I thank God for the opportunity to be in this position," Young said at a news conference. "Hard work has paid off a whole lot."

Young, who led the Longhorns to a 41-38 Rose Bowl win against top-ranked Southern California on Wednesday, could have returned to Texas for his senior season and would have been a favorite to win the Heisman Trophy.

The versatile quarterback accounted for 467 yards against USC — 200 running and 267 passing — and ran 8 yards for the winning touchdown with 19 seconds left.

Young thanked many people, including his family and coach Mack Brown, who could not attend Sunday's news conference because of a schedule conflict. He specifically thanked Brown for "helping me become a better man."

Young ends his career at Texas with a 30-2 record, the best in school history.

His stellar performance in the Rose Bowl increased speculation that he would leave school early and also started a debate about whether he would be the No. 1 pick in April's draft.

Young is Texas' all-time leader in total offense (9,167 yards), career touchdowns (81) and career rushing touchdowns by a quarterback (37).

This season, Young became the only player in NCAA history to pass for 3,000 yards (3,036) and rush for 1,000 (1,050) in one season. His 4,086 total yards set a school single-season record.

Young won the Davey O'Brien Award for the nation's best quarterback and the Maxwell Award for the top college football player, but came in second behind USC running back Reggie Bush in the Heisman voting.

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