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SPORTS

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Jason Martin

Pittsburgh better but will it be enough?

The Pittsburgh Steelers team that will visit the RCA Dome next week will not resemble the bumbling group the Colts dismantled in a 26-7 victory Nov. 28. What's less clear is whether a healthier and more confident collection of Steelers ultimately will have any effect on the outcome. During the teams' previous meeting, Pittsburgh had just rushed back quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (out the previous three weeks after knee surgery) and left tackle Marvel Smith. They really hurried back for nothing. The Colts were amped from the start of the Monday night game, putting a roar into their crowd with a first-play 80-yard touchdown pass from Peyton Manning to Marvin Harrison. Indy only piled on from there. Challenged to match the Steelers' physical nature, Indianapolis hit as hard on defense and along the offensive line. Edgerrin James ran 29 times for 124 yards as the Colts made another statement in the 11th of what would eventually be 13 consecutive victories.

(SEE ENOUGH, PAGE B3)

Steelers bounce Cincy and QB

By JOE KAY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

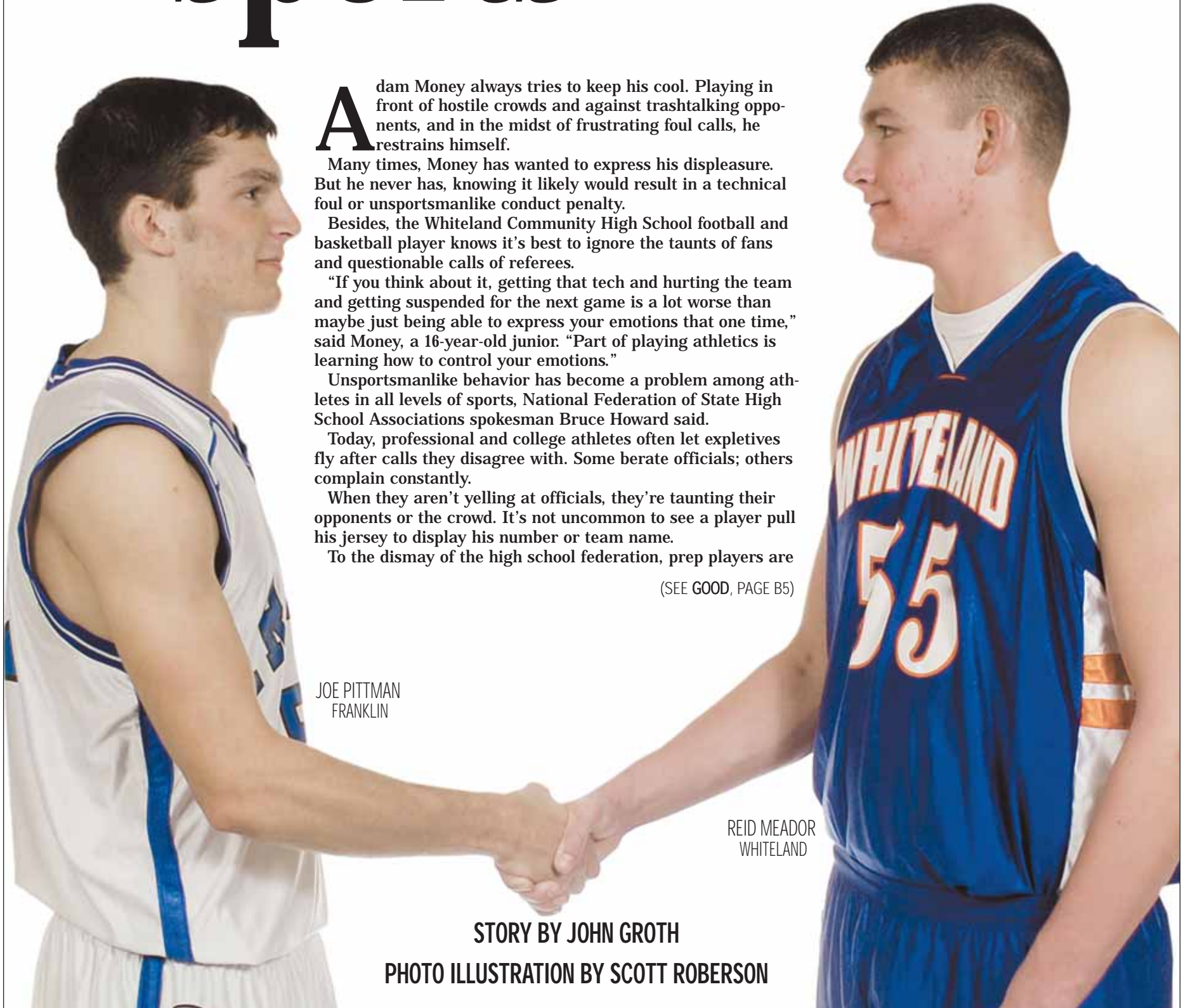
CINCINNATI
Carson Palmer stood his ground and held the ball an extra second, waiting for rookie Chris Henry to run past a defender and get open. That one second changed everything. Steelers nose tackle Kimo von Oelhoffen dived at Palmer on his first pass Sunday, hitting Palmer at the knee and knocking the Pro Bowl quarterback out of the game with a torn ligament. Pittsburgh took advantage of his absence, harassing backup Jon Kitna and rolling to a 31-17 victory against the Cincinnati Bengals that set up a rematch with the AFC's top team. The Steelers (12-5) will play in Indianapolis next Sunday, a chance to show how far they've come in a month. Pittsburgh lost at the RCA Dome 26-7 on Nov. 28, when coach Bill Cowher started the second half with a failed onside kick that seemed to be a sign of desperation. "We're the underdogs going into their place," said Ben Roethlisberger, who threw three touchdown passes. "Now we get to see what we can do."

(SEE BOUNCE, PAGE B3)

SPORTSMANSHIP

Good sports

Coaches, officials worry young athletes learning bad behavior from pro players



Adam Money always tries to keep his cool. Playing in front of hostile crowds and against trash-talking opponents, and in the midst of frustrating foul calls, he restrains himself.

Many times, Money has wanted to express his displeasure. But he never has, knowing it likely would result in a technical foul or unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

Besides, the Whiteland Community High School football and basketball player knows it's best to ignore the taunts of fans and questionable calls of referees.

"If you think about it, getting that tech and hurting the team and getting suspended for the next game is a lot worse than maybe just being able to express your emotions that one time," said Money, a 16-year-old junior. "Part of playing athletics is learning how to control your emotions."

Unsportsmanlike behavior has become a problem among athletes in all levels of sports, National Federation of State High School Associations spokesman Bruce Howard said.

Today, professional and college athletes often let expletives fly after calls they disagree with. Some berate officials; others complain constantly.

When they aren't yelling at officials, they're taunting their opponents or the crowd. It's not uncommon to see a player pull his jersey to display his number or team name.

To the dismay of the high school federation, prep players are

(SEE GOOD, PAGE B5)

JOE PITTMAN
FRANKLIN

REID MEADOR
WHITELAND

STORY BY JOHN GROTH

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SCOTT ROBERSON



NEXT UP

**Indiana Hoosiers (10-2)
at Michigan State Spartans (12-3)**
Time: 7 p.m. Wednesday
TV: ESPN
Radio: 950 AM-ESPN Radio

Spreading the wealth: Hoosiers use crowded arsenal to key early success

By MICHAEL MAROT
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BLOOMINGTON

Indiana's opponents keep devising new ways to defend the Hoosiers, and the Hoosiers keep finding new ways to win.

So far, it's gone just like Mike Davis drew it up. Take away the middle, and the Hoosiers can win from outside. Take away the

3-pointers, and Indiana can beat opponents up inside.

"This team has bought into what we do," Davis said after Saturday's 81-79 victory against No. 18 Ohio State. "I think they've learned that no matter how much we go down, you've still got to play your style."

How much has changed in a year? Plenty.

Last season, the Hoosiers

were struggling to find scorers as they shot a dismal 42.5 percent from the field. This year, they have three players averaging in double figures and entered the Big Ten season leading the nation in field-goal percentage and 3-point percentage.

They've already won 10 games, something they didn't

(SEE HOOSIERS, PAGE B4)



AP PHOTO
Indiana's Marco Killingsworth, left, and Ohio State's Ron Lewis battle for a rebound during the first half of their game Saturday in Bloomington.

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LINCOLN BANK: A New Year. A New Perspective.