

- COMICS, B7
- CLASSIFIEDS, B8-B9
- NASCAR, B10

SPORTS

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SECTION B

GIRLS BASKETBALL SECTIONALS

Thursday's scores

Class 4A
At Center Grove
 Center Grove 46, Franklin Central 35
 Southport 57, Franklin 55

Class 2A
At Speedway
 Speedway 56, Indian Creek 54
 Heritage Christian 50, Triton Central 30

Tonight's games

Class 3A
At Beech Grove
 Whiteland vs. Chatard, 6 p.m.
 Roncalli vs. Howe, 7:30 p.m.

Class A
At Southwestern (Shelby)
 Waldron vs. Morristown, 6 p.m.
 Edinburg vs. Hauser, 7:30 p.m.



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS WILLIAMS

Center Grove junior Michelle McKeehan will go for a state title threepeat in two events during this weekend's IHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving Championships.

Going for a triple

CG swimmer McKeehan goes for more titles

By MATTHEW GLENESK
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Five years ago, Jim Todd watched with amazement as a seventh-grader swam for the Center Grove Aquatic Club. "My exact words were, 'She's the real deal,'" Todd said. He was watching Michelle McKeehan, now a junior on Center Grove High School's swim team, and few could question Todd's assessment.

McKeehan owns four of Center Grove's nine individual state swimming championships. She has a chance to further her legacy at the IHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving State Championships today and Saturday at the Indiana University Natatorium on IUPUI's campus.

Last year, McKeehan became just the fourth female swimmer in state history to repeat as the state champion in the same two individual events (200 individual medley and 100 breaststroke) in her freshman and sophomore seasons.

In the state's swimming history, there have been 26 occasions when a female swimmer has won at least three consecutive titles in an individual event.

Of that group, 11 won their state crowns in their first three years in high school. McKeehan is looking to become just the third swimmer in state history to win three successive state titles in two individual events in her first three years as a high school swimmer.

Anderson's Debbie Daniel won three straight 50 freestyle state titles from 1982-84 and won four consecutive state crowns in the 100 freestyle from 1982-85.

Elkhart Central's Lindsay Benko was the second female

(SEE TRIPLE, PAGE B2)

Trojans get revenge

Offense back on track as CG opens with win

By JASON MARTIN
 DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

For a three-minute stretch of the fourth quarter Thursday night, Center Grove's girls basketball team looked like a ball-moving, basket-driving machine instead of a squad that hadn't cracked 50 points in almost a month.

"Our offense was finally moving," Trojans senior forward Hillary Bowling said.

Bowling scored seven points to start the fourth quarter, and senior guard Gina Phillips capped the 10-0 run with a 3-pointer that propelled the Trojans to a 46-35 defeat of Franklin Central in the Class 4A girls basketball sectional at Center Grove.

The Trojans (15-6) advance to the sectional semifinals Saturday against Southport, which beat Franklin on Thursday.

"(Bowling) really got us going, and (Phillips') three was the dagger," Trojans coach Joe Lentz said. "That put us up 14, and that was the killer."

Class 4A
At Center Grove
Trojans 46, Flashes 35

Bowling finished with 17 points on 6-of-9 shooting to lead the Trojans.

Senior guard Heidi Reisinger added eight points, including a 3-pointer that banked in just ahead of the halftime buzzer.

In addition to getting the Trojans back on track offensively, the victory also brought a measure of payback against the Flashes (11-12).

Franklin Central had eliminated Center Grove from the sectionals each of the past two years and in three of the past four seasons. Last year, the Flashes won a 48-47 heartbreaker.

"We wanted revenge," Bowling said. "It felt good to finally win one."

Center Grove has survived its late-season offensive struggles

(SEE TROJANS, PAGE B3)



Center Grove senior Hillary Bowling, right, drives past Franklin Central's Kelsey Pieratt during a Class 4A sectional game Thursday at Center Grove. The host Trojans beat the Flashes 46-35.

STAFF PHOTOS BY CHRIS WILLIAMS

"In high school basketball, a 10-point lead is nothing. But once Gina made that shot and we were up 14, ... well, that was just huge."

Hillary Bowling
 Center Grove basketball player on 3-point shot by teammate Gina Phillips



Franklin freshman Caitly Shuck shoots as Southport's Natalie Lay defends during Thursday's sectional game at Center Grove.

Final shot just misses for Grizzly Cubs

By MATTHEW GLENESK
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Down by two points with seven seconds left in Thursday night's sectional game, Franklin got the basketball to its hottest scorer.

And she came oh-so close to delivering.

Sophomore Lindsay Vandivier, the team's leading scorer, already had 20 points and had a chance to send the game to overtime or win it with a 3-pointer.

She drove to the basket, but her shot trickled off the rim at the buzzer, allowing Southport to hang on for a 57-55 first-round Class 4A sectional win at Center Grove.

Class 4A
At Center Grove
Cardinals 57
Grizzly Cubs 55

The Grizzly Cubs (6-15) were down by as many as 11 points in the second half but made a late run in the fourth quarter to narrow the gap.

Franklin coach Walt Raines attributed a more assertive offensive attitude for a late charge that came up a bit short.

"That's the way our kids have played all year long," Raines said. "That's typical of the year we've had. We told them to

attack, and they've learned by now not to give up.

"It didn't surprise me we made the run at the end. A few breaks here and there, and we're playing Saturday."

Instead, it's Southport (11-8) that advances to Saturday's sectional semifinal against tournament host Center Grove.

Thursday's loss marked the second year in a row Southport has ended Franklin's season. The Cardinals defeated the Cubs 46-42 in last year's sectional.

Things looked bright early on for the Cubs, who brought a six-game losing streak into Thursday's

(SEE SHOT, PAGE B3)

WEB EXTRA

More photos from Thursday's girls basketball sectional at Center Grove

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Indian Creek storms back, but season ends with 2-point loss to Speedway

By KEN SEVERSON
 DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

SPEEDWAY

A pair of free throws by Katie Jones with five seconds left lifted host Speedway to a 56-54 win against Indian Creek on Thursday night in a Class 2A girls basketball sectional game.

The loss not only ended the Braves' season, it nullified a spirited rally in which they battled back from a 17-point deficit with 5:25 left in the game. "The girls kept pushing and didn't

Class 2A
At Speedway
Sparkplugs 56, Braves 54

give up," Indian Creek coach Andi Ferris said. "They made it exciting."

Indian Creek, which was unable to practice the previous two days because of the recent snowstorm, wasn't sharp in the early going.

On the night, the Braves (12-10) committed 25 turnovers, including nine on errant passes. They also struggled

defensively, shot poorly from the line and played with a lack of focus until the final five minutes.

Ferris attributed part of the Braves' struggles to the canceled practices.

"I wish we could have had the last week back," Ferris said. "We made too many errors that we should not have made."

Indian Creek (12-10) trailed by nine in the first quarter and went nearly four minutes before scoring its first basket.

But the Braves showed a glimpse of things to come when they fought back

to take the lead on junior Megan Lines' jumper with 1:22 left in the first half.

It was Indian Creek's only lead of the night.

Speedway (14-6) retook the momentum with an 18-9 advantage in the third quarter. But the Sparkplugs, who committed 26 turnovers on the night, hurt themselves with mistakes, which allowed the Braves to get back in contention.

Indian Creek tied the game with 17 seconds left on a free throw by senior

(SEE STORMS, PAGE B3)



Colts assistant coach Leslie Frazier was hired as defensive coordinator for the Vikings on Thursday.

Frazier becomes first Colts assistant to leave coaching staff

The Associated Press

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn.

Surrendering control of the defense worked well for Brad Childress in his first season as head coach of the Minnesota Vikings. So he will do that again in 2007.

Leslie Frazier became the first assistant to leave Super Bowl champion Indianapolis on

Thursday when he accepted the job as defensive coordinator of the Vikings.

A special assistant to Colts coach Tony Dungy and also in charge of the team's defensive backs, Frazier couldn't interview for the position until after the Super Bowl.

But Childress was willing to wait for someone with a diverse background and a strong famil-

arity with the Tampa Cover 2 scheme run primarily by Minnesota under Mike Tomlin this past season.

A couple of rings, including one Frazier won as a player in 1986 with Chicago, didn't hurt, either. Though Tomlin was with Minnesota for only one year before he became Pittsburgh's head coach last month, Childress wasn't concerned that Frazier

also aspires to eventually run his own team.

"I think you want guys that have an aggressive mentality," Childress said.

Frazier was Cincinnati's defensive coordinator in 2003 and 2004 but was fired by coach Marvin Lewis following problems the Bengals had stopping

(SEE FRAZIER, PAGE B4)

INSIDE

The Dallas Cowboys interviewed Colts assistant coach Jim Caldwell for their opening, but the job instead went to San Diego Chargers defensive coordinator Wade Phillips.

Page B4

IF YOU GO

What: IHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving State Finals

Where: Indiana University Natatorium on the campus of IUPUI, 901 W. New York St. in Indianapolis

When: Preliminaries in the swimming events will start at tonight. Diving preliminaries and semifinals will be at 9 a.m. Saturday. Consolation heats and finals in all events will start at 1 p.m. Saturday

Admission: \$8 per session or \$12 for both days

Johnson County participants

200 medley relay: Franklin (Erin Warrenburg, Claire Wilson, Katie Lamb and Sarah Dannemiller)

200 freestyle: Melody White, Center Grove

200 individual medley: Michelle McKeehan, Center Grove

50 freestyle: Dannemiller, Franklin

Diving: Monica Dodson, Whiteland; Natalie Grissom, Franklin; Anna Wimmenauer, Center Grove

100 freestyle: Lindsey Gasiorowski, Center Grove

500 freestyle: White, Center Grove; Katie Loscar, Center Grove

200 freestyle relay: Center Grove (Gasiorowski, White, Holly Reed and McKeehan)

100 backstroke: Catie Reese, Indian Creek

100 breaststroke: McKeehan, Center Grove

400 freestyle relay: Center Grove (White, Loscar, Morgan Davis and McKeehan)