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# SPORTS

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# SECTION B



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com  
Center Grove senior Danny Gill, left, tries to drive past Whiteland senior Marcus Hanger during a Johnson County Boys Basketball Tournament semi-final game at Edinburgh on Friday.

## Shooting not in his repertoire

### CG senior content to let others do scoring

By MATTHEW GLENESK  
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Scoring balance isn't a problem for Center Grove's boys basketball team.

Points are aplenty for the Trojans' starters.

Tyler Kitchel leads the way with 18 points a game. Corey Gray and Andrew Bowman both average in double figures, while Louis Kamo chips in nearly nine points a contest.

And Danny Gill, the Trojans' fifth starter? He's not looking to score so much. In fact, the senior forward has tallied just 13 points all season.

"My role is just to make sure everybody else gets the points," he said. "I think of myself more as a role player, so I have to do more of the little things, like getting stops on the defensive end or making that extra pass to get Tyler that extra shot. I let them get all the glory and make sure I do all the little things."

Just because Gill's contributions don't fill up the stat sheet doesn't mean his importance to Center Grove's early-season success goes unnoticed.

"He's got a huge role," Gray said. "Defense, rebounds, he does all the things we need to win." Kitchel agreed.

"He does everything that you need him to do," he said. "He's the glue to our team; he really is. I'll make assists and score some points; but if it wasn't for Danny, we wouldn't be where we are."

The Trojans are 9-1 and defended their Johnson County Boys Basketball Tournament title Saturday with a win against Franklin.

(SEE SHOOTING, PAGE B4)

## FOR THE RECORD

Records for southside boys and girls high school basketball teams:

 Center Grove Boys: 9-1 Girls: 11-3	 Edinburgh Boys: 2-7 Girls: 3-11	 Franklin Boys: 3-7 Girls: 6-9	 Greenwood Boys: 1-8 Girls: 7-8
 Greenwood Christian Boys: 1-7 Girls: 3-6	 Indian Creek Boys: 5-5 Girls: 8-7	 Roncalli Boys: 9-1 Girls: 8-6	 Whiteland Boys: 4-5 Girls: 10-5

## NFL PLAYOFFS: CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

### SUNDAY'S GAME

New England Patriots (14-4) at Indianapolis Colts (14-4)  
Time: 6:30 p.m. TV: WISH-Channel 8 Radio: WFBQ-94.7 FM

# A developing trend



Ravens running back Jamal Lewis, left, is stopped by Indianapolis Colts tackle Raheem Brock during the third quarter of Saturday's AFC divisional playoff game in Baltimore. Lewis had just 53 yards in the Colts' 15-6 win.

## Patriots never seem to miss chances to win

By DAVE GOLDBERG  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Someone always seems to make a big play at a critical time to help the New England Patriots win a game they have no business winning.

### COLUMN

Take Troy Brown, for instance, New England's 35-year-old wide receiver/defensive back/return man. Or Kevin Faulk, the Patriots' do-it-all running back. Or even Stephen Gostkowski, the rookie drafted to replace Adam Vinatieri, the NFL's best big-game kicker.

All three came through for the Patriots in Sunday's 24-21 victory at San Diego that sent New England to the AFC title game in Indianapolis on Sunday.

Anyone feel like suggesting that the Patriots shouldn't be favored to win their fourth Super Bowl in six seasons, equaling what Pittsburgh did between the 1974 and 1979 seasons?

"I've said this many times," one coach said after Sunday's game. "In the playoffs, you're given an opportunity to make plays. And you have to seize those opportunities and make the plays, and you'll benefit from those."

That coach was Marty Schottenheimer of the Chargers, who dominated the game physically but lost because they committed a couple of dumb emotional penalties that gave the Patriots points. They also fumbled at the worst time and

(SEE PATRIOTS, PAGE B3)

## Not just a fluke: Colts' defense builds confidence with strong performances

By RICK MORWICK  
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When the Indianapolis Colts' bottom-ranked defense shut down Kansas City on wild-card weekend, some observers called it a fluke.

Not Tony Dungy. Despite disappointing regular-season results, he never doubted the Colts' defensive capabilities.

But the Indianapolis coach did give defenders an education on consistency as they prepared for the Baltimore Ravens.

"Well, I kind of gave them a vocabulary lesson," Dungy said. "One game is an aberration, two games is a coincidence, four or five or six games is a pattern."

"So we need to develop a pattern and make sure it's not an aberration or a coincidence."

Two games into the postseason, the Colts aren't past the coincidence stage. But a pattern might be developing.

For the second straight week, the Colts' much-maligned defense rose to the occasion against a ground-oriented opponent. And for the second straight week, defense carried the day.

Saturday's 15-6 AFC divisional playoff win at Baltimore was largely the product of another superb defensive performance, not the result of Peyton Manning heroics.

Go figure.

Ranked last in the NFL in total defense heading into the playoffs, the Colts are No. 1 in the postseason. And with a trip to the Super Bowl on the line, the timing couldn't be better.

The Colts (14-4) aren't just playing exceptionally

### THAT'S MORE LIKE IT

A look at how the Colts' defense has performed in two playoff victories compared to per-game averages during the regular season:

Category	Season avg.	Vs. Chiefs	Vs. Ravens
Rushing yards	173.0	44	83
Yards per carry	5.3	2.8	4.8
Rushing first downs	9.4	2	5
Rushing touchdowns	1.3	0	0
Passing yards	159.2	82	161
Opp. third-down conv. pct.	47.1	9.1	18.2
Opp. time of possession	30:28	20:37	28:36

well heading into Sunday's AFC Championship Game against visiting New England (14-4), they're also playing inspired football.

"This is the way we should play," said Colts safety Bob Sanders, who had a team-high eight tackles against the Ravens. "We've got the talent. It's out there."

It has been, at least, for the past two weeks. In the playoffs, the Colts are yielding league-low averages of 185 total yards per game and 3.9 yards per play.

They've given up only one touchdown and, most astounding of all, have allowed only three successful third-down conversions in 22 attempts.

"We knew this is how we could play all year,"

(SEE DEFENSE, PAGE B3)



New England quarterback Tom Brady walks off the field after the Patriots defeated the Chargers on Sunday in San Diego.

## Small town's fans divided between Chicago, Indy

The Associated Press

### REMINGTON

As the Indianapolis Colts and Chicago Bears draw closer to a possible Interstate 65 Super Bowl matchup, Remington, a small Jasper County town that lies midway between Soldier Field and the RCA Dome, marks a dividing line of sorts in pro football loyalties.

Both teams and their home fields will host conference championship games Sunday. The AFC's Colts are attempting to defeat the New England Patriots to earn the team's first Super Bowl trip since moving to Indianapolis. Chicago will try to get past the New Orleans Saints for the Bears' first trip since the 1985 season.

"I think everyone would pretty much want to see the both of them in the

(SEE DIVIDED, PAGE B3)

## RALLY CAP

Former Greenwood resident Ed Coyle, who now lives in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, owns and manages Rally Raid Mexico Team Yamaha, a two-motorcycle team entered in the Dakar Rally. The rally is a trek of nearly 6,000 miles from Lisbon, Portugal, to Dakar, Senegal, on the west coast of Africa. It began Jan. 6 and concludes Saturday. This is Coyle's first attempt at fielding a team in the annual event.



Daily Journal assistant sports editor and motorsports columnist Jeff Decker is following the progress of Rally Raid Mexico Team Yamaha. The following are excerpts from the team's Web site, www.rallyraidmex.com, written by Juan Diaz Rivera, Coyle's stepson.

has been eliminated from the rally after his motorcycle had mechanical problems. The team's other rider, Sunny Irvine, is pressing on and was 90th overall of fewer than 190 motorcycle riders still in the event. Saturday was a day of rest for Irvine, but his team was busy doing maintenance work and repairs to his motorcycle.

**Posted Saturday**  
"OK, so today is pretty much a day to totally rebuild Sunny's bike. He gets new suspension, new motor, new Michelins, new everything. I found out the day I met with the Vodafone team that they get this every three days. Super fluffy sponsorship must be nice. Maybe Yamaha Mexico will give us a full ride if there is a next time for us."

(SEE RALLY, PAGE B4)



The Pacers' Stephen Jackson, right, and the Nets' Bostjan Nachbar battle for a loose ball during Monday's game in East Rutherford, N.J.

## Journeyman lifts Nets past Pacers

By DAVID PORTER  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.

After spending the past nine years collecting frequent-flier miles and more than a few rejection slips, Mikki Moore has found a niche with the New Jersey Nets.

The 7-foot journeyman stepped into the lineup when Nenad Krstic was lost for the season with a knee injury last month and has begun to pay regular dividends.

On Monday he scored 19 points, including four dunks in the first quarter, as New Jersey



### NEXT UP

Indiana Pacers (20-18) at Miami Heat (17-19)

Time: 7 p.m. Thursday  
TV: TNT Radio: WIBC-1070 AM

opened a big early lead and ran away from Indiana in a 105-95 victory.

Vince Carter led New Jersey with 31 points, and Jason Kidd

added 19 and narrowly missed his second triple-double in three games with 10 assists and nine rebounds.

Moore was added in the off-season to spell Krstic, who tore his left ACL on Dec. 22 against Los Angeles. In contrast to the third-year Serbian, Moore had been with eight NBA teams before arriving in New Jersey, in addition to spending time in Greece and in the CBA.

A career three-points-per-game scorer, Moore has averaged 11 points in his past six games and

(SEE PACERS, PAGE B2)