

SPORTS

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AUTO RACING

Remembering an icon

The NASCAR community pays tribute to Benny Parsons, the former Winston Cup champion and popular broadcaster who died this week from complications of lung cancer at 65.



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COLLEGE BASKETBALL



Purdue Boilermakers (13-6, 2-3 in the Big Ten) at Michigan Wolverines (15-4, 3-1)

Time: Noon today
TV: WTTV-Channel 4
Radio: WNDE-1260 AM



Indiana Hoosiers (13-4) at Connecticut Huskies (13-4)

Time: 3:45 p.m. today
TV: WISH-Channel 8
Radio: WLHK-97.1 FM

ROAD TO THE SUPER BOWL



AFC Championship Game: New England Patriots at Indianapolis Colts

Time: 6:30 p.m. Sunday TV: WISH-Channel 8 Radio: WFBQ-94.7 FM



Is it now or never?



Peyton Manning will try to lead the Indianapolis Colts to their first Super Bowl appearance by winning Sunday's AFC Championship Game.

Let's face it: Patriots have no shot at victory

You know it, I know it. Everyone in Indy knows it. Everyone in the state knows it.

Everyone but the New England Patriots and the East Coast media knows it. This is the year the Indianapolis Colts break through to the Super Bowl.

Not because they're one win away. Not because they're playing the AFC Championship Game at home.

It's because they're the best team in the NFL. Period.

That wasn't the case before the playoffs started, but it is now.

No one is playing better. No one has more offensive and defensive capability. And no one is more determined.

The latter is why the Colts will get there. In the past, they've only hoped to. But this time, they believe.

You can see it in their eyes. You can see it in their body language. They smile. They joke. But they also can be serious, analytical and introspective.

And they're not worried about the Patriots.

Trashing the Chiefs stoked their confidence. Clocking Baltimore on the road sent it soaring.

As a result, Sunday's showdown could wind up being the most convincing win of the three.

That's right. It might not be close.

New England is good but not great. Tom

(SEE SHOT, PAGE B4)



Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy, center, talks with linebackers Cato June, left, and Gary Brackett before the start of practice Friday.

Manning focusing on game, not own legacy

By DAVE GOLDBERG
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS
The word Peyton Manning constantly hears is "validate." He even uses it himself sometimes, as in having to validate his otherwise brilliant career by winning a Super Bowl.

So here he was Friday, on the threshold of his second AFC title game, once more answering questions about his playoff failures.

"What's happened in the past is what happened in the past, and things are what they are," he said as the Indianapolis Colts and the New England Patriots went through final preparations for Sunday's AFC Championship Game.

"People talk about your legacy. That really is a deep word to me. This week I've just focused on the fact that we're playing New England in a championship game. The Patriots' defense

WEB EXTRA

He wants to believe in blue

Blogger Brian Moore, an Indian Creek High School graduate, wants the Colts to win Sunday's AFC title game, Peyton Manning to secure his legacy and Tony Dungy to finally reach the Super Bowl. He just doesn't know if he believes those things will happen.



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gives you more to concentrate on than your own place in history, so that's what I'm dealing with."

This is the third time in the past four seasons that the Colts and Patriots are meeting in the playoffs, and New

England has won the first two, both in Foxborough, Mass.

The first was in the 2003 conference title game, a 24-14 loss in which Manning threw four interceptions. The second was 20-3 in a second-round game the next year when the Patriots' defense shut down the Colts' offense.

New England won the Super Bowl both seasons.

The Colts have gotten over that hump a bit with regular-season victories, both on the road. They beat the Patriots 40-21 in 2005 and 27-20 on Nov. 5, putting up enough points to dispel the idea that Manning can't do well against Bill Belichick's defenses.

His teammates also pooh-pooh the idea that their two-time MVP quarterback can't win the big game.

"I've played with him in a lot of games that I thought were big games

(SEE LEGACY, PAGE B4)

INSIDE



Putting the team first

Wide receiver Reggie Wayne is going to the Pro Bowl, but he wants to help the Colts take care of business first.

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Dome, sweet dome?

The Colts are hosting their first AFC title game in Indianapolis, but players say home field offers no guarantees.

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Crazy about the Saints

Indianapolis isn't the only city embracing its team. New Orleans residents needed reasons to cheer, and the Saints have given them plenty.

Page B5

Kaylor's 3-pointers help CG slay Giants

By JASON MARTIN
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

INDIANAPOLIS

Ben Davis had the home crowd, but Center Grove had the real sixth man.

Senior guard Jason Kaylor came off the bench to lead all scorers with 20 points, including a couple of crucial ones in each half, to help the Trojans to a 58-51 victory in a Metropolitan Interscholastic Conference boys basketball game Friday.



KAYLOR

"When I come in, I try to stay focused and get in the game right away," Kaylor said. "I just wanted to make some shots."

Eighteen of Kaylor's points came on six 3-point shots as Center Grove (10-1, 3-0 MIC) used quick ball rotation to find him open jumpers.

Trojans coach Cliff Hawkins was

Trojans 58, Giants 51

delighted to see Kaylor burst out of a recent shooting slump to provide some instant offense.

"It's somebody different every night," Hawkins said. "Tonight, it was Jason's shooting that really was a difference for us."

In addition to Kaylor's offense, junior point guard Corey Gray scored 14 points, and senior forward Tyler Kitchel had 10.

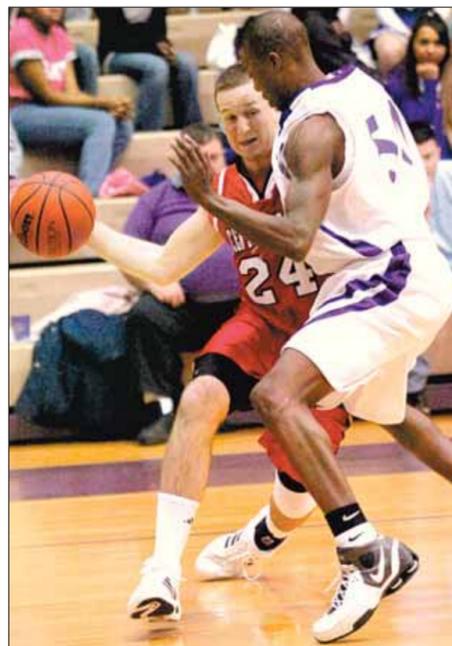
Center Grove senior guard Louis Kamo added eight points, pulled down a game-high nine rebounds, managed no turnovers against the Giants' pressure and made all six of his fourth-quarter foul shots.

"He had a steady, tough game for us," Hawkins said.

Kaylor and Gray combined for three consecutive 3-pointers during a 9-0 run as the Trojans opened up an eight-point halftime lead on the Giants (4-8, 0-4).

(SEE CG, PAGE B3)

PREP BASKETBALL



Center Grove senior Danny Gill, left, tries to drive past Ben Davis senior Devon Archie during the first half of Friday's Metropolitan Interscholastic Conference game at Ben Davis.

Moss' putback lifts Cubs past Warriors

By MATTHEW GLENESK
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER
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Adrian Moss didn't start Friday night's boys basketball game between Franklin and Whiteland. But the Grizzlies Cubs senior certainly finished it.

The county's leading scorer had a put-back basket with 3.5 seconds left in overtime to help lift the Cubs to a 60-57 victory against their Mid-State Conference rival Warriors.

His basket gave the Grizzlies Cubs a 59-57 lead in the final seconds. A free throw in the final second to seal the win.

"I'm glad we finally came out with a win," Moss said. "We haven't won any close games this year or last year; it's about time."

(SEE CUBS, PAGE B3)



Whiteland sophomore Mitch Meador, right, goes up to block a shot by Franklin senior Adrian Moss during the first half of Friday's Mid-State Conference game at Whiteland.