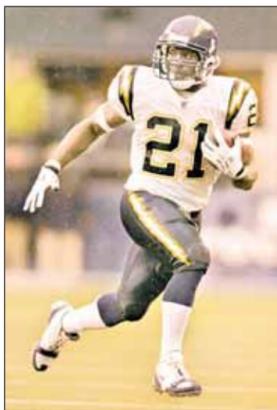


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- NASCAR, B8

# SPORTS

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## SECTION B



AP PHOTO

San Diego Chargers running back LaDainian Tomlinson rushed for 1,815 yards and scored an NFL-record 31 touchdowns this season.

NFL

# Chargers' Tomlinson is MVP

## Colts QB Manning finishes third behind former Purdue star Brees

By BARRY WILNER  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK

Spell this year's NFL MVP L.T. Record-setting LaDainian Tomlinson of the San Diego Chargers ran away with The Associated Press NFL Most Valuable Player award Thursday the way he eluded defenders in leading his team to the AFC's best record (14-2) and a favorite's role for the Super Bowl. "When you're MVP of the league, it's a great accomplishment," Tom-

linson said, adding the honor means "that I've had a great year; that's all, on a great team."

But with so much more on the horizon, he hopes.

"I would feel so much better about winning if we win the Super Bowl. It would feel like it would be everything," Tomlinson said.

Tomlinson, who broke Shaun Alexander's league record for touchdowns by scoring 31 (28 rushing) and also threw for two scores,

(SEE MVP, PAGE B3)

### TOP PLAYERS

Recent winners of The Associated Press NFL Most Valuable Player award:

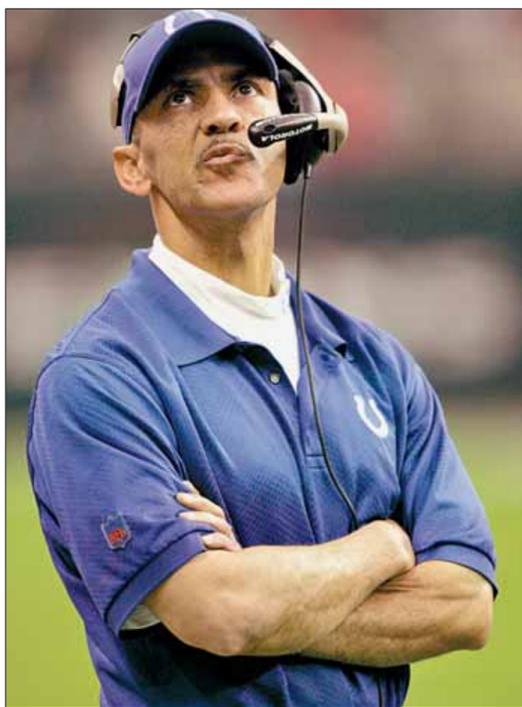
Year	Player	Pos.	Team
2006	LaDainian Tomlinson	RB	Chargers
2005	Shaun Alexander	RB	Seahawks
2004	Peyton Manning	QB	Colts
2003	Peyton Manning and Steve McNair	QB	Colts/Titans
2002	Rich Gannon	QB	Raiders
2001	Kurt Warner	QB	Rams
2000	Marshall Faulk	RB	Rams



Kansas City Chiefs (9-7) at Indianapolis Colts (12-4)  
Time: 4:30 p.m. Saturday TV: WTHR-Channel 13 Radio: WFBQ-94.7 FM



# Friends and foes



Colts coach Tony Dungy, left, and Kansas City Chiefs coach Herm Edwards, left in photo at right, have been close friends for many years.

## Opposing coaches put relationship ahead of wins

By MICHAEL MAROT  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

Herm Edwards would never let work come between him and Tony Dungy. Not last season, when the weary Jets coach put football on hold temporarily to attend the funeral of his best friend's son in Tampa, Fla., and certainly not this week when the two coaches meet again in a wild-card game.

Their bond is just too strong. "I feel like he's my big brother, and I never had a big brother," said Edwards, now the Kansas

City Chiefs' coach. "He's helped me a lot in my life, taught me to look at things a little differently with my faith and helped me become a better man."

In the cruel, stressful, competitive and sometimes disloyal environment of the NFL, Dungy and Edwards offer a refreshingly different perspective on life as head coaches.

The two old pals still call each other routinely to discuss family matters, trade old war stories or offer advice.

And, yes, while the sport they revere has often kept them hundreds or thousands of miles apart, they've somehow man-

aged to continually grow closer. They follow a simple set of rules: Family comes first; friendship matters more than victories; and always support your buddies, except when their teams meet.

That's why Saturday's game between Kansas City (9-7) and Indianapolis (12-4) will be anything but fun for these two.

Sure, Dungy and Edwards will exchange the customary pre-game pleasantries, probably embrace at game's end and may even send their wives out for dinner. But when it's over, one

(SEE FRIENDS, PAGE B3)

**"He's helped me a lot in my life, taught me to look at things a little differently with my faith and helped me become a better man."**

Herm Edwards  
Kansas City Chiefs coach, on his good friend Tony Dungy, coach of the Indianapolis Colts

## Colts confident they can put pieces together against Chiefs

By RICK MORWICK  
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS EDITOR  
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INDIANAPOLIS

Of all the concerns heading into the playoffs, peaking too soon isn't one of them for the Indianapolis Colts.

Because by their own admission, the Colts didn't play their best football too early.

They haven't played their best, period.

"We still haven't played that game, the game that we're looking for, the game that all three phases come together for 60 minutes," nose tackle Anthony McFarland said as the Colts prepare for Saturday's AFC wild-card game against the visiting Kansas City Chiefs.

At times, the Colts' offense has been explosive. At times, their special teams have made big plays. At times, their defense has made critical stops.

But the Colts have rarely had all three

areas in sync at the same time. The defense has been off-kilter nearly all season.

Yet the Colts are unfazed. They're in the playoffs for the fifth consecutive year. They're opening at home, where they were 8-0 during the regular season.

And they're coming off a 27-22 win against Miami in the regular-season finale. The victory gave their much-maligned

(SEE PIECES, PAGE B3)

### THEIR OPINION

Daily Journal sports writer Matthew Glensk asked local Indianapolis Colts fans what they thought about the team's chances in the upcoming NFL playoffs.

Dale Guinn

34

Indianapolis

"Watching our team go from great to not knowing what's going on is disappointing. I think a lot of people are disappointed."



Ted Ellis

37

Indianapolis

"It all falls back on the players, the coaches, too. But the players are the ones that have to make the plays."



Bill Turner

33

Greenwood

"Injuries have been the No. 1 concern. We've just taken a lot of losses, and they're double- and triple-teaming (Dwight) Freeney. They know our game."



Chris Wineland

17

Indianapolis

"Six weeks ago, we were playing great. I definitely didn't think we'd go on this losing skid. Maybe it's for the better, showing us we're not unbeatable."



Mackenzie Robinson

19

Ellettsville

"I'm more interested when they win. I get mad if they lose because they shouldn't lose. They're too good."



Mea Farris

32

Morgantown

"They just don't look as good as some of the other teams lately."



Don Clarkston

58

Franklin

"I thought they were well on their way to the Super Bowl, no question. Now, not so much."



For story, see Page B3.

# Class 3A state title realistic goal for Roncalli boys

By JEFF SKIRVIN  
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Losing to the eventual state champion three times in four years can have adverse effects. But how a team responds can dictate the program's rise or fall.

The Roncalli boys basketball team is out to prove it can turn the losses into something positive.

It would have been easy for the Rebels to look at their run to the semistate in 2005 and take satisfac-

tion in that season's success. But after losing to Washington in the semistate round, Roncalli last year advanced to the regional before falling to New Castle.

Roncalli lost to eventual state champion Chatard in the sectional in 2003.

Last year's loss left most of the players with an uneasy feeling.

This year, the Rebels, ranked No. 8 in Class 3A, have dominated their opponents and are 6-0.

They said they feel it's finally their

turn to hoist the 3A state trophy.

"We feel like we're ready to take that next step and make a run to get to Consecro (Fieldhouse)," Rebels coach Mike Wantz said. "We feel like we've got the players and team to get there. We've got size, good defenders, good shooters and good ball handlers."

"We worked hard in the summer, and we feel like it's time to take it to the next level. Talking about a state championship is a realistic goal."

The hard work Wantz referred to included a 27-3 record in the sum-

mer and a victory at the Benton Central tournament. At that tournament, the Rebels defeated Marion, which received votes in the Class 4A poll, and 3A No. 4 Wawasee.

Several players split their time between playing for Roncalli and AAU teams, including seniors Paul Corsaro and Franklin resident Joe Britner, who played for Team Spiece.

Eight of Roncalli's 12 varsity players were members of the football

(SEE RONCALLI, PAGE B2)

# He's back home

## Former Cubs standout Ramey will play for FC

By RICK MORWICK

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS EDITOR  
morwick@thejournalnet.com

Joe Ramey is eager to play but ready to bide his time.

The former Franklin Community High School standout recently joined the Franklin College men's basketball team after transferring from NCAA Division III St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer.

Ramey, 20, enrolled at Franklin at the end of the fall semester and has been practicing with the Division III Grizzlies since Dec. 26.

He hasn't played in a game yet but looks forward to the opportunity as he continues to mesh with a new system and teammates.

"I think I'm doing all right, because I had to learn a whole new system, a whole new offense and a whole new defense," said Ramey, a 6-foot-5, 200-pound forward. "I'm getting along with guys pretty well and have become pretty good friends with some of them."

"I just want to come in and bond with them and let them get used to how I play, and I have to try to adjust to how they play."

So far, the transition has been smooth.

Franklin coach Kerry Prather said he likes the way Ramey, a prolific scorer in high school, has blended with teammates. And he's confident the sophomore will make an impact at some point this season.

But Prather doesn't know when, and he's not rushing the process.

"I don't want to throw him into anything until he's comfortable with it, and I don't want to throw him into anything until his teammates are comfortable with him," Prather said. "So we're just kind of taking that practice to practice, and he's made really good progress."

"He's a good fit in terms of just personality. He gets along well with the guys. That part has been easy. It will be apparent to all of us when he's ready to start to go at this for real."

When Ramey is ready, the Grizzlies (6-6, 2-2 HCAC) will get a comparatively tall, strong player who has improved all facets of

(SEE HOME, PAGE B2)

### THE RAMEY FILE

**Name:** Joe Ramey  
**School:** Franklin College  
**Position:** Forward  
**Year:** Sophomore with freshman eligibility  
**Size:** 6-foot-5, 200 pounds  
**High school:** Franklin  
**High school honors:** Three-year starter; led Grizzly Cubs in scoring all three seasons; second-leading scorer in school history with 1,250 points; was Johnson County's top scorer his senior year; was selected Daily Journal's Johnson County Player of the Year for 2004-05; three-time first-team member of Daily Journal All-County Team; was an Indiana Junior All-Star representative in 2004  
**Major:** Physical education and sociology  
**Parents:** Rodney Ramey and Kim Vanduin

### CATCH THE REBELS

Upcoming Roncalli High School boys basketball games:

Date	Opponent	Time
Friday	at Beech Grove	7:30 p.m.
Saturday	at Scecia	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday	at Beech Grove*	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 16	at Lutheran	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 20	at Zionsville	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 26	at Ritter	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 27	at Greenwood	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 30	at Park Tudor	7:30 p.m.

\*Marion County Tournament game. Tournament continues through Jan. 13.