

# Rally

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"Everyone wakes up, enjoys some personal hygiene (the first shower for many of the team in the past three or four days) and gets to work. ... So far this experience is like a nonstop 18- to 20-hour adrenaline rush. It's draining but amazing.

"The organizers of this race are logistical geniuses. The scale of what they do is as difficult to describe as the types of sand we've seen. This organization transports food, gear, equipment, medical facilities, media, etc... for thousands of people over some of the vastest (terrain) on Earth. It's bigger than words, larger than a picture frame, simply amazing.

"The terrain we are seeing varies from the surface of the moon to the surface of Mars, at least the pictures I've seen of these places. The people are incredibly hardy, brave souls, as the terrain is desolate, vast and mystically large.

"(Sunday) we have 1,500 kilometers for the assistance teams and the racers, who once again get to go a night without us. They ride to Tichit, approximately 620 km, of which 589 is a special (stage). We skip this and go to Nema, where we will spend two days. Originally we would go from Nema to Tombouctou, but this section was cancelled do to some political issue at Timboucto (purportedly the governing entity of this part of Mauritania was unhappy at the current ruling French party).

"So the riders will live out of their trunks again for that night, and we will meet them in Nema for a two-night stay before we continue on to Kayes in Mali."

# Shooting

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Heading into Saturday's championship game, Gill had scored eight points all season. Against the Grizzly Cubs, he provided a season-high five points, which had teammates almost as excited as the win.

"Gill had five points," Kitchel exclaimed. "That's a career night for him."

Gill's lack of scoring prowess is a constant source of banter among teammates.

"We always kind of joke around about that," Gill said. "Everybody always expects the starters to be scoring and everything. I have four guys around me that can score at will, so I let them do it."

At 6-foot-3, 200 pounds, Gill consistently matches up against the opposition's top post player.

While not being the most physically imposing specimen, Gill knows how and when to lean on opponents.



GILL

## FOR STARTERS

Center Grove's starting lineup features scoring balance, with four of the five starters averaging at least eight points a game. Here's a look at the scoring averages through the Trojans' first 10 games this season:

Name	Grade	Points	Avg.
Tyler Kitchel	Senior	182	18.2
Andrew Bowman	Senior	145	14.5
Corey Gray	Junior	129	12.9
Louis Kamo	Senior	88	8.8
Danny Gill	Senior	13	1.3

Gill, who played football for the Trojans in the fall, said he believes the physical nature of football has helped him bang with the bigger bodies in the paint.

He played tight end for the Trojans' football team this season and was second on the team in receiving with seven catches for 91 yards. Of his seven receptions, three went for touchdowns, tying him with the team lead.

"Any football player that plays basketball brings that toughness to the team," Kitchel said. "He's not stupid. He's not knocking people down."

He's just being physical, putting his body on people. He always boxes out, always does the little things that you need him to do."

Center Grove coach Cliff Hawkins doesn't struggle to find compliments to shower upon Gill, who plans to attend the University of Indianapolis next year and study physical therapy.

Hawkins calls him smart, unselfish, hard-nosed and a coach's dream.

"What I like about coaching Danny is that he knows when he makes a mistake. And so it's easy to coach him because he's hard on himself," Hawkins said. "He has no ego. All he wants to do is win. He wants to play on a winning team."

Many times during games, Gill finds himself wide open at the top of the key or on the wing yet refuses to shoot.

In his mind, the best shot the team can take is a layup, so he'll happily keep passing the ball until the easiest shot can be found.

Having played basketball since the first grade, Gill does have a shooter's touch, teammates said.

"He's got a shot. If you saw him practice, you'd be like, 'Wow, why doesn't that kid shoot in a game,'" Kitchel said. "If he needs to shoot one, he always can make it. He chooses that we can find a better shot. That's great to have a player like that on your team."

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