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# SPORTS

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## SECTION B



# New record, new pressures

## CG junior: 'It sets up a big challenge for my next few years'

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### INDIANAPOLIS

In her three years in high school competition, Michelle McKeehan has lost only one individual race.

Every time the Center Grove High School junior gets in the pool, she's expected to win. She has learned to cope with that pressure.

But after her performance at Saturday's IHSAA girls swimming state finals, the six-time state champion has to handle the added pressures of a national record.

McKeehan, who won both the 200 individual medley and 100 breaststroke for the third straight year, broke the national high school record in the 200 individual medley Saturday with a time of 1:58.06. That was good enough to break the mark set in 2000 by later U.S. Olympian Natalie Coughlin.

"It sets up a big challenge for my next few years and years to come just knowing that (Coughlin) set the standard, and she's gone even faster," McKeehan said.

"I have to keep pushing myself to hopefully be as competitive as she is and be able to swim like that internationally."

In addition to launching her name atop the national record book, McKeehan also

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STAFF PHOTOS BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com  
Left: Center Grove junior Michelle McKeehan set a national record in the 200 yard individual medley during Saturday's IHSAA state girls swimming finals. Right: Whiteland senior Monica Dodson was second in the diving competition. See more photos at thejournalnet.com.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL: IHSAA SECTIONALS



Whiteland girls basketball players celebrate with classmates after the team knocked off Roncalli on Saturday for Whiteland's first-ever girls basketball sectional championship. See more photos at thejournalnet.com.

# County boasts two champs

## Warriors win first sectional crown

By **JEFF SKIRVIN**  
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### BEECH GROVE

It wasn't just another game. It was a chance to make school history.

Aware of the game's significance, the Whiteland girls basketball team took advantage of the opportunity and captured the school's first-ever sectional title with a 40-26 victory against Roncalli on Saturday.

Before the game, Warriors coach Bill Hogue attempted to settle his players' emotions by reminding them to treat the

game as they've treated every other one this season.

Coach, easier said than done.

"I think we can act like it was just another game, but, really, deep down inside, we knew it was the sectional final and it could be our last game," senior Brittney Wilson said.

But after a 51-46 semifinal victory Friday against Class 3A No. 11 Chatard, the team that ended Whiteland's season the past two years, the Warriors entered their showdown with the Rebels with the type of confidence and

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## Trojans to face No. 8 Ben Davis

By **GREG DODDRIDGE**  
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The Center Grove girls basketball team captured its 16th sectional title and first since 2001 with a 62-54 victory Saturday against Decatur Central.

Center Grove (17-6) is on a four-game winning streak and will play No. 8 Ben Davis (18-4) at 10 a.m. Saturday at Southport in the first regional semifinal game. The Trojans will look for revenge after losing 54-40 to the Giants on Jan. 20.

Senior Hillary Bowling, determined to keep her team in the

postseason Saturday, led all scorers with 25 points, including eight points during a key second-half stretch.

Trailing by one with six minutes to go in the third, Center Grove took control of the game with an 18-2 run to end the quarter. Bowling had two 3-pointers in the run.

Last year, the Trojans, ranked No. 5 in Class 4A, were the clear favorites in the sectional. But a 48-47 loss to Franklin Central in the title game ended Center Grove's season.

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Center Grove senior Hillary Bowling goes up for a layup during the Trojans' sectional final victory Saturday against Decatur Central. Bowling had 25 points as Center Grove won its 16th sectional championship.



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