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SPORTS

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SECTION **B**

GIRLS BASKETBALL: IHSAA REGIONALS

Saturday's games

Class 4A

At Southport

Ben Davis Giants (18-4) vs. Center Grove Trojans (17-6), 10 a.m.
Hamilton Southeastern Royals (24-0) vs. Lawrence North Wildcats (21-4), noon
Championship game, 8 p.m.

Class 3A

At Mount Vernon (Fortville)

Whiteland Warriors (17-6) vs. Brebeuf Braves (19-6), 10 a.m.
Connersville Spartans (14-9) vs. New Castle Trojans, noon
Championship game, 8 p.m.

Ready for regionals



Center Grove High School girls basketball coach Joe Lentz makes a point during a preseason practice. Lentz has made defense a focal point of his teams, and the Trojans have limited opponents to 45.1 points a game this season.

Defense does job for Trojans

The most recent time the Center Grove girls basketball team was crowned sectional champion, the Trojans averaged nearly 70 points a game.

How things have changed since 2001. Now the Trojans, who are preparing for Saturday's Class 4A regional at Southport, rely on defense.

This season, Center Grove has held 15 of its 23 opponents to fewer than 50 points. Not surprisingly, the Trojans have won all 15 of those games.

"We preach defense throughout our program. From the time they come into camp in the third grade, we're talking defense all the time," Center Grove coach Joe Lentz said.

"This group has quickness and

desire, and you can play defense if you have those two things, and they take pride in it."

Heading into the regional game against Class 4A No. 8-ranked Ben Davis, Center Grove is limiting its opponents to 45.1 points a game, the lowest total for the Trojans in at least seven years.

"We're really cocky about our defense. That's what makes us so good," senior Gina Phillips said. "Our team is mostly seniors, and we've been playing together since the seventh grade, and aggressive defense is our game. We're very confident in our defense."

Center Grove's preferred defensive

(SEE TROJANS, PAGE B4)

STORY BY MATTHEW GLENESK
PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON



From left, Whiteland seniors Jennifer Harriman, Amy Orender, Rusti White and Brittney Wilson and junior Sarah Condra have been playing basketball together for nearly a decade. The Warriors say team chemistry is one reason for their success this season.

Warriors work, play together

Balance and chemistry are the trademarks of the Whiteland Community High School girls basketball team, coach Bill Hogue said.

Statistics provide the evidence for balance. Three Warriors average double figures in scoring.

Laughter and smiles during practices and team gatherings illustrate the chemistry.

"We're just a bunch of silly girls," senior Brittney Wilson said. "We're outgoing, crazy, and you really don't know what to expect. We joke around, and we're not really serious often. It gets under Hogue's nerves a lot."

Wilson said winning allows the girls some leeway with their coach. Plus,

Hogue has gotten used to it.

Four of the team's five starters have been starters for at least three years.

Seniors Amy Orender, Rusti White and Wilson were inserted into the starting lineup five games into their freshmen year, and junior Sarah Condra joined them a year later.

Senior Jennifer Harriman, who began this season as a starter, also was a varsity contributor as a freshman.

But the group's close bond stems from well before they reached a high school gymnasium.

Orender, White, Wilson and Condra played on the same Amateur Athletic

(SEE WARRIORS, PAGE B4)

STORY AND PHOTO
BY MATTHEW GLENESK

Boilers roll to victory

Victory against IU should help tourney hopes

By CLIFF BRUNT
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WEST LAFAYETTE

David Teague scored a career-high 32 points as Purdue beat No. 24 Indiana 81-68 on Thursday night to snap a five-game losing streak in the intrastate rivalry.

Teague made 11 of 18 field goals, including 6 for 8 from 3-point range. He also had seven rebounds.

Carl Landry added 22 points and 11 rebounds, and Tarrance Crump added 13 points for Purdue (17-9, 6-6 Big Ten).

D.J. White scored 20 points, Armon Bassett scored 16, and Roderick Wilmont added 15 for Indiana (17-7, 7-4).

Purdue improved to 14-1 at home and boosted its NCAA Tournament hopes with its second win over a ranked team this season. The Boilermakers shot 50 percent from the field and out-rebounded the Hoosiers 32-28.

Indiana won the previous meeting 85-58 on Jan. 10 in Bloomington. The Hoosiers had won eight of the previous 10 games in the series.

The game was moved from Wednesday to Thursday because of wintry weather that slowed travel throughout Indiana.

(SEE BOILERS, PAGE B2)

CG gymnast earns perfect score in vault

Daily Journal staff report

For one event, Center Grove High School gymnast Megan Roller was perfect.

Roller, a senior, earned a perfect 10.0 score in the vault during Thursday's 109.2-96.7075 victory at Roncalli.

Perfect scores are rare in high school gymnastics, Trojans coach Eric Howe said. "I've been coaching for nine years, and I haven't seen it," Howe said. "I've seen a couple of 9.9s and a couple of 9.95s, but not a 10.0."

"It was something special." Roller's teammate, sophomore Katelyn Fernandes, wasn't far from perfect in the vault, earning a 9.95 to take second place.

Fernandes won the all-around, the floor exercise and uneven bars. Roller won on the balance beam to go with her vault victory.



ROLLER

CG wrestler not backing down from foe in finals

By MATTHEW GLENESK

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER
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Center Grove High School wrestler Blake Harvey calls his wrestling style unorthodox.

Trojans coach Cale Hoover calls it funky.

Whatever it is, it's working.

Harvey, who will compete in tonight's first round of the IHSAA individual state wrestling finals at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, will look to use his unique scrambling style to become Center Grove's first state place winner since Jeremy VanAlstyne won the heavyweight championship in 2002.

"Wrestling is the kind of sport where there are very few things that are cut and dried, right and

wrong," Harvey, a senior, said. "There is a perfect breaststroke in swimming and a perfect pass in football. In wrestling, that's not so much the case.

"It's whoever wants to get it done the most. My style is a little bit off the beaten path. Some of my techniques have led to some bad habits, but we've corrected them this year."

Hoover, in his first season at Center Grove, said he knew Harvey had the potential to be a state finalist the first time he saw him perform. But he also knew the wrestler had some kinks to work out.

"We wanted to keep working on the fundamentals and take advantage of all the unique abilities he

(SEE WRESTLER, PAGE B4)

IF YOU GO

What: IHSAA individual state wrestling finals

Where: Conseco Fieldhouse, 125 S. Pennsylvania St. in Indianapolis

When: 6 p.m. today (first round); quarter-finals begin at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, with semifinals to follow; consolation matches start at 5 p.m. Saturday; championship matches begin at 7:30 p.m. Saturday

Local participants: Blake Harvey, Center Grove, 130 pounds; Matthew Fields, Whiteland, 119 pounds; and Travis Thomas, Whiteland, 215 pounds

Admission: \$8 per session or \$18 for both days



Center Grove senior Blake Harvey, top, wrestles against Franklin junior Jae VanHorn during the Johnson County Tournament in December. Harvey, a 130-pounder, will compete in the state finals starting tonight at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

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