

SCOREBOARD

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MAIN EVENTS

TV TODAY

NFL playoffs
Kansas City Chiefs at Indianapolis Colts, 4:30 p.m., WTHR-Channel 13
Dallas Cowboys at Seattle Seahawks, 8 p.m., WTHR-Channel 13

NBA
Indiana Pacers at New Orleans Hornets, 8 p.m., Fox Sports
Detroit Pistons at Chicago Bulls, WGN, 8:30 p.m.

Men's college basketball
Penn State at Purdue, noon, WTTV-Channel 4
Virginia Tech at Duke, noon, ESPN
Toledo at Ball State, 1 p.m., WNDY-Channel 10
UCLA at Oregon, 2 p.m., Fox Sports
Michigan at Northwestern, 2:30 p.m., WTTV-Channel 4
Minnesota at Wisconsin, 4:30 p.m., WTTV-Channel 4
Connecticut at LSU, 9 p.m., ESPN

Women's college basketball
Kentucky at Ohio State, noon, WISH-Channel 8
Michigan State at Maryland, 2 p.m., WISH-Channel 8
Tennessee at Connecticut, 4 p.m., WISH-Channel 8
Baylor at Kansas, 4 p.m., Fox Sports

College football
International Bowl: Western Michigan vs. Cincinnati, noon, ESPN2

TV SUNDAY

NFL playoffs
New York Jets at New England Patriots, 1 p.m., WISH-Channel 8
New York Giants at Philadelphia Eagles, 4:30 p.m., WXIN-Channel 11

College football
GMAC Bowl: Southern Mississippi vs. Ohio, 8 p.m., ESPN

Men's college basketball
Michigan State at Indiana, 4:30 p.m., WISH-Channel 8
Stanford at Virginia, 5 p.m., Fox Sports
Florida State at North Carolina, 7 p.m., Fox Sports

Women's college basketball
Washington at Arizona State, 2:30 p.m., Fox Sports
Purdue at Texas, 3 p.m., ESPN2

SPECTATOR SPORTS

TODAY
Boys basketball
Franklin at Mooresville, 7:30 p.m.
Oldenburg Academy at Edinburg, 8 p.m.
Whiteland at Greenwood, 7:30 p.m.
South Decatur at Indian Creek, 7:30 p.m.
Girls basketball
Center Grove at Rushville, 1:30 p.m.
Indian Creek at North Decatur, 2:30 p.m.
Jennings County at Franklin, 2:30 p.m.

Gymnastics
Center Grove at Valparaiso Tourney, 8:45 a.m.
Swimming and diving
Center Grove in Metropolitan Interscholastic Conference meet at Carmel, 9 a.m.
Franklin, Greenwood and Whiteland in Mid-State Conference meet at Mooresville, 6:30 p.m.

Wrestling
Indian Creek at Madison Invitational, 8 a.m.
Super Six at Franklin, 8 a.m.
Whiteland at Corydon Invitational, 8 a.m.
Center Grove at Noblesville Tourney, 8:45 a.m.
Greenwood at Columbus East, 10 a.m.

Franklin College
Men's basketball: Franklin College at Manchester College, 3 p.m., WFCL-89.5 FM
Women's basketball: Manchester College at Franklin College, 3 p.m.

Call us with results
Results can be called in to the Daily Journal sports department from 6 to 10 weeknights and Sunday evenings at 736-2715.
Results also can be faxed to 736-2766.

College football

Table of college football games including Bowl games, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday games with scores and details.

NBA

Table of NBA games including Eastern Conference, Western Conference, and Friday's games with scores and details.

Table of NHL games including Eastern Conference, Western Conference, and Friday's games with scores and details.

Preparation key to team's success



Lydia Feldman WINTER SPORTS DIARY

Being ready for a game is the key to success, but the preparation involves many steps. The Center Grove girls basketball team always has the right mind-set going into a game because we are ready for our opponents. Our practices before game days are focused on preparing for our next game. We focus on winning one game at a time.

The varsity team went on a scouting trip together with our coaches on Thursday to watch Ben Davis play Cathedral. It was a team bonding experience, but it was also helpful to see one of our upcoming opponents play so we know what to be ready for and how to approach the game.

The players in Ben Davis' starting lineup are extremely fast, and the Giants will press the entire game. Since we know what to expect, getting the ball up the floor will not be as difficult as long as we practice how to break their press.

Our coaches usually scout a team two or three times before we actually play them. They know what offenses and defenses they run the majority of the game. They know the key players and leading scorers, and they know the opposing team's in-bounds plays.

The coaches will pass this information on to us so we are prepared and know everything we can about our upcoming game. By game day, we know how to attack their defense and how to stop their offense.

Our junior varsity team will help us out by learning our opponent's offense. That way we can practice our defensive strategies against that particular offense.

Our JV team helps us out tremendously in practice. The JV players rarely get to practice on what they need to work on, yet they still are undefeated.

The JV team always plays hard to make us better. Because our JV team is so talented, our coaches know there is a bright future ahead for the Trojans.

Coach Joe Lentz will bring in boys to practice against us every other week. Like the JV team, they will learn offenses that we need to practice against.

For important games, we receive extensive scouting reports that sum up our opponent's strengths and weaknesses.

Keys to the game and reminders of their offensive plays are written on our scouting reports.

Every player will look over the report before the game to know what needs to be done.

Because we had already played Whiteland this year, we knew the strengths of each player and how to defend them. The preparation for this game was not as extensive as most of our other games. We knew what needed to be done based on the mistakes we made the most recent time we played Whiteland.

We have been struggling with turnovers as a team this year but recorded only 15 turnovers and had a record low of only 14 fouls against Whiteland.

Knowing what to expect from a team makes winning a whole lot easier. This will make playing Ben Davis easier since we have seen them play. My teammates and I will know what the coaches want us to do.

Before we play Rushville today, the 30 players who make up the freshman, junior varsity and varsity teams will be eating breakfast together at the annual Freshman Feast.

It is another bonding experience where all of our freshman girls make breakfast for the upperclassman. The energy will be needed against Rushville today.

Lydia Feldman is a senior on the Center Grove High School girls basketball team. Her Winter Sports Diary entries appear each week in the Daily Journal.

Sharapova, Clijsters move on to finals in Hong Kong

By MIN LEE

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONG KONG
Maria Sharapova rallied to beat Russian countrywoman Elena Dementieva 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 Friday, advancing to the final of the Champions Challenge, a warmup for the Australian Open.

Sharapova's opponent in the final Sunday will be Belgian Kim Clijsters, who defeated Patty Schnyder 4-6, 6-4, 6-4. Sharapova, ranked No. 2, was broken four times in the first set.

She broke the eighth-ranked Dementieva, twice in the second set to go up 3-0 but lost the next two games. Leading 5-2, she needed six set points to win the second set.

The final set went on serve until the fifth game, when Sharapova broke for a 3-2 lead. Trailing 5-3, Dementieva double-faulted to give Sharapova match point.

Then she netted a backhand. Despite the loss, Dementieva put on an impressive display of clean, heavy hitting. Sharapova said the close match was good preparation for the Australian Open, which starts Jan. 15.

"To be in that situation, to get out of it, to come up with a win, I think that's definitely going to help me," she said.

After splitting the opening sets, the fifth-ranked Clijsters broke Schnyder twice to go up 5-2 in the third.

But she double-faulted on match point and was broken in the next game. Ahead 5-4, she closed the match with a wide serve that forced an error. The Champions Challenge is Sharapova's only tournament before the Australian Open.

The reigning U.S. Open champion and 2004 Wimbledon winner said she doesn't like playing the week before a Grand Slam tournament.

Rally

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

our most cumbersome and most numbered spare, as the Yamahas chew through tires off road, and every possible odd and end we could think to bring. Our clutter is clearly a sign of not knowing exactly what to expect."

(The team prepares its motorcycles and support truck and heads to inspection, where the support truck needs some modifications. The team is delayed getting through the tech inspection.)

"As (rider) Terry (Curtis) runs through the gauntlet of tech inspection, he is asked to show his (vehicle identification number) and his title. VIN is missing. This is a deal killer. He is 3 meters from the end of tech; we've been here for nearly six hours. This is the culmination of months of work and sacrifices.

"The weld on his instrument tree mount (where his GPS, iTrack, etc., are mounted) must have obliterated his VIN. The paint used to cover the exposed metal after the weld was done is too thick to even see traces of numbers.

"Ed assures everyone he, personally, did this weld

in order to ensure the VIN was intact. The organizers will not let Terry continue unless we can find a VIN. Ed tells me to begin to scrape paint with a knife, so I begin to frantically dig at the paint to find a VIN or any trace of one. I get to bare metal, and nothing. Terry begins to get quiet and to back up, presumably so that when he explodes he does not kill anyone. He is about to go into nuclear meltdown.

"Ed asks me to use some fuel to rub at the metal to try to bring any etchings up on it. As I rub gasoline on the metal, the faintest trace of the VIN begins to appear but unless you have some imagination there is NO WAY an inspector can even come close to comparing what is there with the titles. ...

"We call the inspectors over and (once again as with the customs guys) I pray whoever comes over has good eye sight and (now in this case) some imagination. She comes over, I rub gas on it again, she shakes her head. I'm going to throw up and cry at the same time. She speaks in French (ASO sports, the organizer, is based in France) to her colleague, she looks at us, shakes her head again ... and she shrugs and she says 'OK.'

"Terry goes over to her and hugs her and says, 'Thank you,' all the time laughing a nervous laughter that says 'Please don't change your mind.' Terry was just told he is OK to race."

Advertisement for Center for Orthopaedic Surgery and Sports Medicine. Includes text: 'Appointments scheduled within 24-48 hours. CENTER FOR ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY AND SPORTS MEDICINE'. Lists names of doctors: Greg T. Hardin, Douglas A. Flory, James M. Kerspack, Scott P. Olvey, James K. Cole, Timothy J. Williams, David A. Levin, John N. Lomas, Tennyson Lee, Chas. Smith, Scott M. Benjamin, Paige Cotthron, Adrienne Cristofoli, Blake Harvey, Tony Zubia. Contact info: 317-888-PAIN, www.gotpain.org.