

## IT'S SECTIONAL TIME

A look at this week's girls basketball sectionals involving southside teams:

## Schedules

**Class 4A**  
**At Center Grove**  
**Tonight**  
7 p.m. — Decatur Central vs. Greenwood  
**Wednesday**  
6 p.m. — Center Grove vs. Franklin Central  
7:30 p.m. — Franklin vs. Southport  
**Friday**  
6 p.m. — Perry Meridian vs. Decatur Central/  
Greenwood winner  
7:30 p.m. — Center Grove/Franklin Central winner vs.  
Franklin/Southport winner  
**Saturday**  
7:30 p.m. — Championship

**Class 3A**  
**At Beech Grove**  
**Tonight**  
6 p.m. — Whiteland vs. Washington  
7:30 p.m. — Chatard vs. Beech Grove  
**Friday**  
6 p.m. — Whiteland/Washington winner vs.  
Chatard/Beech Grove winner  
7:30 p.m. — Roncalli vs. Howe  
**Saturday**  
7:30 p.m. — Championship

**Class 2A**  
**Speedway**  
**Tonight**  
7 p.m. — Guerin Catholic vs. Park Tudor  
**Wednesday**  
6 p.m. — Speedway vs. Indian Creek  
7:30 p.m. — Heritage Christian vs. Triton Central  
**Friday**  
6 p.m. — Scecina vs. Guerin Catholic/Park Tudor winner  
7:30 p.m. — Speedway/Indian Creek winner vs.  
Heritage Christian/Triton Central winner  
**Saturday**  
7:30 p.m. — Championship

**Class A**  
**At Southwestern (Shelby)**  
**Tonight**  
6 p.m. — Southwestern (Shelby) vs. Waldron  
7:30 p.m. — Greenwood Christian Academy vs.  
Morristown  
**Friday**  
6 p.m. — Southwestern/Waldron winner vs. Greenwood  
Christian/Morristown winner  
7:30 p.m. — Edinburgh vs. Hauser  
**Saturday**  
7:30 p.m. — Championship

## Teams at a glance

## Class 4A



**Greenwood Woodmen (11-10)**  
**vs. Decatur Central Hawks (9-11)**  
7 p.m. today  
**About the Woodmen**  
**Coach:** Debbie Guckenberger, in her fourth season at Greenwood  
**Conference:** Mid-State  
**Home record:** 6-5  
**Road:** 5-5  
**Neutral site:** 0-0  
**Conference:** 4-2  
**Current streak:** Three wins  
**Vs. sectional teams:** 3-4  
**Sagarin ratings:** 87th of 391 teams overall; 66th in strength of schedule  
**Of note:** The Woodmen beat Decatur Central 59-55 in a regular-season meeting at Greenwood on Jan. 19. Greenwood seeks its first girls basketball sectional championship in school history.

**About the Hawks**  
Decatur Central most recently won a sectional game in 2002. The Hawks' only sectional championship was in 1982. Decatur Central is 103rd in the Sagarin rankings.



**At Center Grove**  
**Center Grove Trojans (14-6)**  
**vs. Franklin Central Flashes (11-11)**  
6 p.m. Wednesday  
**About the Trojans**  
**Coach:** Joe Lentz, in his 13th season at Center Grove  
**Conference:** Metropolitan Interscholastic  
**Home record:** 7-3  
**Road:** 7-2  
**Neutral site:** 0-1  
**Conference:** 3-4  
**Current streak:** One win  
**Vs. sectional teams:** 5-0  
**Sagarin ratings:** 17th of 391 teams overall; sixth in strength of schedule  
**Of note:** The Trojans have lost three of their past five games. Center Grove seeks its first sectional title since 2001.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOE SABA

Whiteland senior Amy Orender, left, tries to steal the ball from Greenwood senior Jordan Kapitan during a Jan. 5 game at Greenwood.

The Trojans did not face Franklin Central during the regular season.  
**About the Flashes**  
The two-time defending sectional champions edged Center Grove 48-47 to win last year's sectional. The Flashes haven't put together a winning streak of longer than two games this season. Franklin Central is 30th of 391 teams in the Sagarin rankings.



**Franklin Grizzly Cubs (6-14)**  
**vs. Southport Cardinals (10-8)**  
7:30 p.m. Wednesday  
**About the Grizzly Cubs**  
**Coach:** Walt Raines, in his 19th season at Franklin

**Conference:** Mid-State  
**Home record:** 4-7  
**Road:** 1-7  
**Neutral site:** 1-0  
**Conference:** 1-5  
**Current streak:** Six losses  
**Vs. sectional teams:** 0-5  
**Sagarin ratings:** 146th of 391 teams overall; 43rd in strength of schedule  
**Of note:** Franklin has earned 10 sectional titles, its most recent one in 2001. The Grizzly Cubs are 1-9 in their past 10 games this season.

**About the Cardinals**  
Coach Denise McClanahan is in her 20th season at Southport. The Cardinals haven't won a sectional title since 1993. Southport started this season 1-5 but has won eight of its past 10 games. The Cardinals are 77th in the Sagarin rankings.

## Class 3A



**At Beech Grove**  
**Whiteland Warriors (14-6)**  
**vs. Washington Continentals (6-13)**  
6 p.m. today  
**About the Warriors**  
**Coach:** Bill Hogue, in his sixth season at Whiteland  
**Conference:** Mid-State  
**Home record:** 8-2  
**Road:** 4-4  
**Neutral site:** 2-0  
**Conference:** 4-2  
**Current streak:** One win  
**Vs. sectional teams:** 2-0  
**Sagarin ratings:** 35th of 391 teams overall; 31st in strength of schedule  
**Of note:** The Warriors' topsy-turvy season included a 9-1 start, followed by four straight losses and ending with them winning five of their final six games. Whiteland is 48-17 in the past three seasons. The Warriors have never won a sectional title.

**About the Continentals**  
Washington is in its third full season since the IPS school reopened. Washington is 344th in the Sagarin rankings.



**Roncalli Rebels (11-8)**  
**vs. Howe Hornets (0-19)**  
7:30 p.m. Friday  
**About the Rebels**  
**Coach:** Linda Niewiedde, in her sixth season at Roncalli  
**Conference:** Independent  
**Home record:** 2-4  
**Road:** 8-4  
**Neutral site:** 1-0  
**Conference:** None  
**Current streak:** One win  
**Vs. sectional teams:** 2-1  
**Sagarin ratings:** 74th of 391 teams overall; 61st in strength of schedule  
**Of note:** The Rebels started the season 4-1 before losing four straight games. Roncalli lost to Chatard in the sectional title game last year but beat the highly touted Trojans on their own floor 52-43 this season. The Rebels

earned the school's 10th sectional title in 2004.

**About the Hornets**  
Howe is in its third full season since the IPS school reopened. The Hornets are averaging just more than 23 points a game. Howe is last among the state's 391 teams in the Sagarin rankings.

## Class 2A



**At Speedway**  
**Indian Creek Braves (12-9)**  
**vs. Speedway Sparkplugs (13-6)**  
6 p.m. Wednesday  
**About the Braves**  
**Coach:** Andi Ferris, in her third season at Indian Creek  
**Conference:** Mid-Hoosier  
**Home record:** 4-4  
**Road:** 6-3  
**Neutral site:** 2-2  
**Conference:** 6-2  
**Current streak:** Two losses  
**Vs. sectional teams:** 1-1  
**Sagarin ratings:** 169th of 391 teams overall; 225th in strength of schedule

**Of note:** Five of the Braves' losses this season came against Class 3A and 4A competition. Indian Creek has earned three sectional titles, all in the 1980s.

**About the Sparkplugs**  
Speedway defeated host Indian Creek 83-77 on Jan. 11. The Sparkplugs are 3-0 against teams in their sectional. Speedway won its only two sectional titles in 1984 and '85. The Sparkplugs are 197th in the Sagarin rankings.

## Class A



**At Southwestern (Shelby)**  
**Greenwood Christian Academy Cougars (6-9)**  
**vs. Morristown Yellow Jackets (0-19)**  
6 p.m. today  
**About the Cougars**  
**Coach:** Bob Casey, in his first season at Greenwood Christian

**Conference:** Independent  
**Home record:** 2-3  
**Road:** 3-5  
**Neutral site:** 1-1  
**Conference:** None  
**Vs. sectional teams:** 0-1  
**Current streak:** Three losses  
**Sagarin ratings:** 388th of 391 teams overall; 390th in strength of schedule

**Of note:** The Cougars are in their first full IHSAA season and are playing in their first sectional. Greenwood Christian went 0-7 against IHSAA member schools this season.

**About the Yellow Jackets**  
Morristown has lost its past 21 games. The Cougars and Yellow Jackets have one common opponent, Southwestern. Greenwood Christian fell to the host Spartans 51-21 on Jan. 25. Morristown has played Southwestern at home twice this season, falling 64-36 on Nov. 17 and 51-46 on Jan. 4. The Yellow Jackets are 377th in the Sagarin rankings.



**Edinburgh Lancers (4-16)**  
**vs. Hauser Jets (10-10)**  
7:30 p.m. Friday  
**About the Lancers**  
**Coach:** Delena White, in her first season at Edinburgh

**Conference:** Mid-Hoosier  
**Home record:** 0-6  
**Road:** 3-8  
**Neutral site:** 1-2  
**Conference:** 1-7

**Current streak:** One loss  
**Vs. sectional teams:** 1-3  
**Sagarin ratings:** 366th of 391 teams overall; 347th in strength of schedule

**Of note:** The Lancers started the season 0-9. Edinburgh went 0-6 against schools larger than Class A this season. The Lancers never have won a sectional title.

**About the Jets**  
Host Hauser defeated Edinburgh 83-45 on Jan. 5. Hauser's only loss to a sectional team was to Waldron. The Jets earned the school's second sectional championship in 2005. Hauser is 230th in the Sagarin rankings.

## Trojans will learn from MIC meet

The Metropolitan Interscholastic Conference gymnastics meet Saturday was undoubtedly the toughest loss that we have endured in years.

We came in as the favorites by a slim margin, but we knew that we needed at least a decent meet to win. Unfortunately, we did not deliver.

We started on our first rotation, floor, with fairly good scores. However, our next event, vault, was unusually rocky. Adrienne Cristofoli nailed her vault for a career-high 9.55, but the rest of us did not follow her lead. Katelyn Fernandes and I both fell on our vaults, which brought down our team score immensely.

The rest of the meet seemed to follow the same pattern. On bars, we also had to count two falls into our team score. We lost our momentum after vault and never recovered.

Beam was our final chance to make up some ground on Carmel. But three of our four competitors fell, which diminished any chances of a comeback.

Losing a major competition is



Megan Roller

WINTER SPORTS DIARY

never easy, but it is especially hard when you are the five-time defending championship team. It's one thing to lose when you know that you have done your best but an entirely different feeling when you know that you did not perform up to par.

We will have to take this meet for what it was, a learning experience. We face Carmel in two weeks at a home duel meet. Until then, we must learn from our mistakes and work extra hard in practice. Next time that we compete against them, we want to know that we gave it our all.

Although the MIC meet was disappointing in the team competition, we had some individual success.

Cristofoli had a nice meet overall. She placed second on vault, floor, and all-around. I placed first on beam and floor and also tied for second in all-around with Cristofoli.

I also would like to thank Kip Kyburz, Aaron Miner and Ian McGarvey for making the trip to Carmel to watch us compete. It always helps to have some of your fans in the crowd at big meets like the MIC.

No one can deny that the meet Saturday was a huge setback, but we will just have to learn from it and move on. Almost all of our opponents from here until the end of the season are ranked, so we will need to step it up in order to be victorious.

On Thursday we have a meet at Columbus North, which is ranked No. 6 in the state. We know what we have to do to win, and we will work hard all week to prepare.

Megan Roller is a senior on the Center Grove High School gymnastics team. Her Winter Sports Diary entries appear each week in the Daily Journal.

## BASKETBALL

## Florida unanimous pick as nation's No. 1 team

The Florida Gators are No. 1 for the fourth straight week. This time, there's no doubt about it.

Florida became the first unanimous No. 1 in The Associated Press men's college basketball poll in nearly two years, garnering all 72 first-place votes Monday.

The Gators had 45 first place votes last week, but the defending national champions benefited from losses by then-No. 2 Wisconsin and No. 3 North Carolina.

Butler (22-2) moved up from 13th to No. 10.

In the women's poll, Maryland, No. 1 for the first 10 weeks this season, fell two more places to sixth after losing to an unranked opponent for the first time in two years.

Duke, North Carolina and Tennessee remained the top three teams.

Purdue (20-4) is ranked 13th. Ball State received one vote.

## FOOTBALL

## Coroner: USC kicker drunk when he died

Southern California kicker Mario Danelo was drunk when he plunged over a cliff to his death, but the coroner's office Monday was unable to say why he fell.

A toxicological report accompanying Danelo's autopsy report found he had 0.23 blood-alcohol level, nearly three times the legal limit in California. No drugs were detected in his body, the report said.

The autopsy report said the cause of death was multiple traumatic injuries, but because of unanswered questions, the cause of death was undetermined. Deputy Medical Examiner Jeffrey Gustadt of the Los Angeles County Coroner's office wrote in the report.

The 21-year-old player was found Jan. 6 more than 100 feet down a rocky cliff in San Pedro. Police said from the outset that foul play was ruled out and his death was either an accident or a suicide.

## TENNIS

## Malisse wins Delray title by getting past Blake

Xavier Malisse of Belgium rallied past top-seeded James Blake 5-7, 6-4, 6-4 Monday, completing the rain-delayed final in the wind for his second Delray Beach International title.

The third-seeded Malisse trailed 7-5, 3-3 when play ended Sunday night. Malisse, who has appeared in the final of this tournament a record five times, captured his third title and 200th career victory.

"The court is almost perfect speed for me," said Malisse, who is ranked No. 31. "I feel like I can get to every ball if I'm in good shape."

When the two returned to the court Monday, Malisse adapted better to the strong wind.

"I have to tell you if we would have played (Sunday), I probably would have lost," Malisse said. "He was hitting it hard yesterday and really clean. Today with the wind it slowed down his ball a little bit."

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