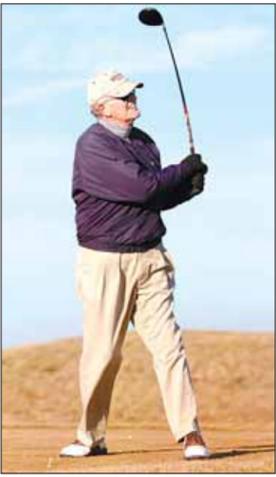


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## SPORTS

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SECTION B

STAFF PHOTO BY MATTHEW GLENESK/  
mglenesk@thejournalnet.com

Bud Thorne of Indianapolis watches one of his tee shots during a round of golf Tuesday at Hickory Stick Golf Club in the Center Grove area.

## Warm winter of golf

### Mild weather big bonus for local courses

By MATTHEW GLENESK

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER  
mglenesk@thejournalnet.com

Zero rounds of golf were played at The Legends of Indiana Golf Course in Franklin in December 2005.

What a difference a year makes. This December, more than 700 rounds were completed at the course.

"December was a very pleasant surprise," course general manager Ted Bishop said. "You don't anticipate having business this time of year."

Fewer than 100 golfers played the Hickory Stick Golf Course in the Center Grove area in December 2005. This December, the course eclipsed 100 golfers on a single day more than once.

"Last year we had snow, and it didn't go away," Hickory Stick head pro Keith Clark said. "This year, our traffic has definitely been above average."

Many golfers who reside in northern states have to wait for vacations to Arizona or Florida to fit in a round of 18 holes during the winter.

That's not been the case this winter, as mild temperatures have allowed area golfers to venture out to local courses, providing those courses with an unexpected economic boon.

In December, the average high temperature is 35 degrees. The high was above that almost every day that month. Also, there's been less than an inch of snow this season, well below average.

Bishop said winter normally represents a minimal percentage of the club's annual economic intake, so any golf that is played during the season is a bonus.

"Anytime people are playing golf, it's good for business," Bishop said. "Every day you're open is just an absolute bonus day in December, January and February."

At Royal Oak Country Club in Greenwood, any revenue collected

(SEE WARM, PAGE B6)

## PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL

# CG's statement loud and clear

## Trojans handle Whiteland in rematch



STAFF PHOTO BY SCOTT ROBERSON/sroberson@thejournalnet.com

Center Grove senior Lydia Feldman, left, tries to drive past Whiteland senior Rusti White during the second quarter of Wednesday's game at Center Grove. Feldman scored eight points, and White had 11 in the Trojans' 55-38 win.

By MATTHEW GLENESK

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS WRITER  
mglenesk@thejournalnet.com

Center Grove's girls basketball team wanted to make a statement Wednesday against visiting Whiteland. **Trojans 55 Warriors 38**

Earlier this season, Whiteland defeated Center Grove 56-53 in the Johnson County Tournament championship game. It was Warriors coach Bill Hogue's first victory against Center Grove in his six seasons at Whiteland.

The Trojans (9-3) wasted little time in avenging that loss, jumping out to a double-digit lead in the first quarter on the way to a 55-38 win against the Warriors (9-5).

"(The Warriors) were the ones that brought up the idea that people were thinking (the county tournament win) was a fluke," Center Grove coach Joe Lentz said. "Evidently it was, because we dominated in this game like I think we should."

Trojans senior forward Hillary Bowling wouldn't go as far as saying the Warriors' earlier victory was a fluke, but she admitted revenge was on the minds of Center Grove's players heading into Wednesday night's contest.

"Everyone at Whiteland said it was making their season if they beat us (in the county tournament), and we ended up losing, unfortunately," she said. "But tonight we came back and really showed them what it was all about."

The loss is Whiteland's fourth in a row after starting the season 9-1, and its 38-point total was its lowest of the season.

"We knew at 9-1 we had a lot of rough edges," Hogue said.

(SEE TROJANS, PAGE B2)

## Plan works for one quarter

### Cubs start well but give in to Chatard's pressure defense

By JEFF SKIRVIN

DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

## INDIANAPOLIS

Franklin Community High School girls basketball coach Walt Raines didn't feel his team needed to do much to prove it could compete with the Class 3A No. 6-ranked Chatard Trojans on Wednesday night.

Taking care of the basketball and matching the Trojans' defensive intensity were in his formula for success.

The Grizzly Cubs (5-7) did that for the first eight minutes, jumping out to a 16-13 first-quarter lead.

But Chatard's full-court press

**"We came out and played a physical game right along with them. But the more physical the game got, the more mentally it took us out of the game."**

Walt Raines

Franklin girls basketball coach on loss to host Chatard

and smothering defense were too much as the Trojans (12-2) cruised to a 73-51 victory.

Raines wasn't surprised when the Grizzlies took an early lead.

"I honestly felt like if we played

with some composure, we could come in and win this game," Raines said. "I was more surprised with the way we were unable to handle things after that."

What happened?

Chatard turned up its defensive intensity and outscored the Cubs 20-2 in the second quarter. Franklin's offense went stagnant, going 1 of 7 from the field and turning the ball over nine times.

As the Trojans turned up the intensity, Franklin gave in to Chatard's press, and the Cubs lost their poise and offensive flow.

"We came out and played a physical game right along with them," Raines said. "But the more

(SEE CUBS, PAGE B2)

AFC  
WILD-CARD  
GAMEKansas City Chiefs (9-7)  
at Indianapolis Colts (12-4)Time: 4:30 p.m. Saturday  
TV: WTHR-Channel 13  
Radio: WFBR-94.7 FM

# Expecting to make a difference

## Sanders should give defense more energy

By MICHAEL MAROT

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## INDIANAPOLIS

Safety Bob Sanders spent the past four weeks painfully watching the Indianapolis Colts' defense founder.

He might finally get a chance to help it out Saturday.

Against Larry Johnson and the Kansas City Chiefs in a first-round playoff game, Sanders hopes to give the Colts a timely reminder of how this defense is designed to work.

"We've got to be fast, we've got to get off blocks, we've got to get into the gaps," Sanders said. "And we've got to have fun."

Neither Sanders nor his defensive teammates have had much to celebrate this season.

Sanders, who made the Pro Bowl last season, missed 12 of the past 14 games after having arthroscopic surgery on his right knee. His absence exposed the Colts' oft-criticized defense for what it lacks without him: an energizing playmaker.

At 5-foot-8 and 206 pounds, he is built like a cannonball, hurls himself toward runners like a missile and is at his best in run support.

Without him, the Colts simply aren't the same.

In 2005, Sanders earned a trip to Hawaii after helping the Colts allow the second-fewest points in the league. This season, with Sanders primarily on the

(SEE SANDERS, PAGE B3)

# Saban changes tune, accepts Alabama offer

By JOHN ZENOR

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## TUSCALOOSA, Ala.

Alabama is ready for a new era of football and is certain Nick Saban can return the Crimson Tide to college football's elite.

The Tide lured Saban from the Miami Dolphins on Wednesday, ending five weeks of denials and two days of deliberation. Saban accepted the Alabama coaching job and abandoned his attempt to rebuild the Dolphins after only two seasons.

"When I set out on this search, I noted that I was seeking a coach who has a proven record of championship success and achievement," Alabama athletic director Mal Moore said. "Coach Saban brings that proven record of accomplishment and leadership to our program."

Moore said the high-profile hiring signifies a new era of Crimson Tide football. Alabama scheduled a news conference today to introduce Saban.

Miami owner Wayne Huizenga was informed of the decision in a meeting Wednesday at Saban's house.

(SEE ALABAMA, PAGE B3)

# Sloppy Gophers top Boilermakers

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## MINNEAPOLIS

Jamal Abu-Shamala scored 12 of his 14 points and drew two key charges in the second half to ignite Minnesota's men's basketball team in a 65-59 victory against Purdue on Wednesday night.

Lawrence McKenzie added 23 points, and Dan Coleman had 13 points and 11 rebounds for the Gophers (7-8, 1-0 Big Ten), who overcame 22 turnovers to get the win.

Carl Landry had 20 points and seven rebounds for Purdue (11-4, 0-1), which was gunning for its first 12-3 start since 1997-98.

The Gophers didn't hold a lead for the first 36 minutes of the game before Abu-Shamala sparked a rally with shooting and pure hustle.

Even with the Gophers struggling under an interim coach and plenty of good seats available at Williams Arena, "The Barn" can still

## INSIDE

No. 17-ranked Notre Dame plays host to Louisville.

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get rocking. And it did when Abu-Shamala hit a wide open 3-pointer to cut Purdue's lead to 48-46 with 5:40 to go.

The sophomore from Shakopee, Minn., was a spark all second half, getting a steal and layup one minute later and drawing two charges to bring the crowd to its feet.

After the second, McKenzie hit two free throws to tie the game at 50 with 4:30 to play, starting a 9-0 run.

Coleman's two free throws with 4:13 to go gave the Gophers their first lead of the game at 52-50, and McKenzie punctuated the spurt with

(SEE GOPHERS, PAGE B2)



AP PHOTO

Purdue forward Carl Landry, right, shoots over Minnesota forward Jonathan Williams during the first half of Wednesday's Big Ten game in Minneapolis.

# Purdue women run streak to seven games with win at Iowa

By TODD DVORAK

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## IOWA CITY, Iowa

Katie Gearlds scored 27 points, and Fahkara Malone added 12 points to lift No. 10 Purdue to a 68-58 victory against Iowa in a Big Ten women's basketball game Wednesday night.

The Boilermakers (14-2, 3-0 Big Ten) led throughout the second half and held off a late Hawkeye surge to extend their winning streak to seven.

Purdue led by as many as 13 points with 8 minutes remaining, but the Hawkeyes (9-7, 1-2) pulled within five points on a jumper by

Kristi Smith with 2:36 to go.

But the Boilermakers dominated the final minutes. They outscored Iowa 7-2 down the stretch to avenge Iowa's upset in Iowa City in February when the Boilermakers were ranked No. 8.

The Boilermakers shot 50 percent from the floor and 44.4 percent from behind the 3-point arc. Purdue also benefited from Iowa's carelessness with the ball, scoring 18 points on 21 Hawkeye turnovers.

Smith led Iowa with a career-high 24 points and seven assists. Wendy Ausdemore chipped in 12, and Megan Skouby added 10

(SEE WOMEN, PAGE B2)