

SPORTS

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SECTION B

FRIDAY'S SCORES

NBA	
Denver	102
Indiana	95
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San Antonio	104
Toronto	96
L.A. Lakers	92
L.A. Clippers	90
Philadelphia	89
Portland	108
Charlotte	100, OT
New Jersey	92
Boston	78
Cleveland	103
Miami	79
Memphis	105
Minnesota	97, OT
Houston at Dallas	(n)
Atlanta at Phoenix	(n)
Chicago at Golden State	(n)

PREP GIRLS SWIMMING

Opening night

Find out how southside participants fared in the preliminaries of the IHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving Championships. The meet will conclude today.

Page B3

NFL



Rookie sensation

Tennessee Titans quarterback Vince Young, playing for the AFC team, wants to make a big splash in his first Pro Bowl today.

Page B4

On TV



PRO BOWL

AFC vs. NFC
Where: Honolulu
When: 6 p.m. today
TV: WISH-Channel 8

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



TODAY'S GAME

Purdue Boilermakers
(16-8 overall, 5-5 in the Big Ten)
at **Ohio State Buckeyes** (21-3, 9-1)
Time: Noon
TV: WTTV-Channel 4
Radio: WNDE-1260 AM

AUTO RACING

On TV

What: NASCAR Nextel Cup Budweiser Shootout

(non-points race)

When: 8 tonight

Where: Daytona (Fla.) International Speedway

Who: NASCAR Nextel Cup drivers who won poles last season, plus past Budweiser Shootout champions

TV: WXIN-Channel 59



GIRLS BASKETBALL SECTIONALS

Friday's scores

Class 3A
At Beech Grove
Whiteland 51, Roncalli 46
Roncalli 81, Howe 16

Class A
At Southwestern (Shelby)
Waldron 69, Morristown 31
Hauser 61, Edinburg 41

Today's games

Class 4A
At Center Grove
Perry Meridian vs. Dec. Central, 10 a.m.
Center Grove vs. Southport, noon
Championship game, 8 p.m.

Class 3A
At Beech Grove
Championship game
Whiteland vs. Roncalli, 7:30 p.m.

First title in sight

Warriors knock off Trojans, face Rebels in final

By JEFF SKIRVIN
DAILY JOURNAL SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

BEECH GROVE

The Whiteland girls basketball team's senior class had lofty expectations as freshmen. Warriors coach Bill Hogue thought it would be the class that turned the basketball program around.

His theory moved one step closer to being proved Friday night as the Warriors defeated Class 3A No. 11-ranked Chatard 51-46 in their sectional semifinal at Beech Grove High School.

It was the third straight year that the Warriors and Trojans hooked up in sectional play, but Whiteland (16-6) prevailed for the first time and will play for the school's first-ever girls basketball sectional championship against Roncalli at 7:30 tonight.

"It's been a fun three-year rivalry with them," Hogue said. "Their kids play hard, and our kids play hard, and this is the kind of game you get in a sectional game, two teams that are pretty hard-nosed and going at it."

It was the kind of game that had everyone's attention even before tip-off. The Whiteland students arrived early enough to secure the student section behind one of the baskets. The Whiteland players responded to the crowd's energy, jumping out to a 7-2 lead.

Junior point guard Sarah Condra, Whiteland's floor leader, set the tone early with her aggressive play. She was able to break down Chatard's defense to get to the free-throw line, going 8 of 10 in the first half. The Warriors followed her lead. Her intensity and 10 first-half points embodied what Hogue thought Whiteland could do against the Trojans (17-6).

"The way they pressure you on

(SEE TITLE, PAGE B3)



Whiteland senior Brittney Wilson goes in for a shot during Friday's Class 3A sectional game against Chatard at Beech Grove. For more photos from Friday's game, visit thejournalnet.com.

IU eager to 'welcome' Illinois

By MICHAEL MAROT
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BLOOMINGTON

Last month, Kelvin Sampson was the target of Illinois fans. Today, Illinois coach Bruce Weber will endure the response.

While Indiana students have kept their intentions relatively shrouded, Hoosiers players have sensed the welcoming committee has a few surprise greetings for their border rival.

"I've heard they might be dressing like coach Sampson or there may be T-shirts with his tie on them," junior D.J. White said. "It's going to be interesting to see what happens."

Interesting, indeed, since the major player in this soap opera, Indianapolis prep star Eric Gordon, won't even be on the Assembly Hall floor today.

But these fans could care less. The increasingly heated rivalry got cranked

(SEE IU, PAGE B4)

up in the summer when Sampson continued recruiting Gordon after he had already given Illinois an oral commitment. Coaches from the two schools even stopped talking to one another although there are no NCAA rules prohibiting such contact.

So when Gordon announced in October he changed his mind and decided to play for Indiana, it created an instant spark.

On Jan. 23, in the first meeting between the schools since Gordon's change of heart, Sampson was serenaded by boos and chants such as "Don't call us, we'll call you" and "Cheaters never win." Weber even appeared reluctant to shake hands with Sampson before the game, a 51-43 Illini victory.

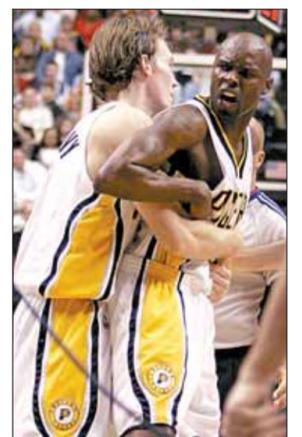
The coordinated response still is being debated. One bookstore is selling T-shirts with Sampson's trademark blue-collared shirt



TODAY'S GAME

Illinois Fighting Illini
(18-8 overall, 6-5 in the Big Ten)
at **Indiana Hoosiers** (16-6, 6-3)

Time: 1 p.m.
TV: WISH-Channel 8
Radio: WLHK-97.1 FM



The Pacers' Mike Dunleavy, left, restrains teammate Darrell Armstrong after Armstrong received a technical foul and charged at an official during the fourth quarter of Friday's game against the Nuggets in Indianapolis.

Pacers angry in loss

Indiana gets five technicals in second half

By CLIFF BRUNT
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

Carmelo Anthony celebrated his late addition to the Western Conference All-Star team by scoring 34 points, and the Denver Nuggets beat the Indiana Pacers 102-95 on Friday night to snap a three-game losing streak.

Anthony, added to the squad by commissioner David Stern as an injury placement earlier in the day, shot 11 for 24 from the field and 12 for 13 from the free throw line.

Eduardo Nájera added 18 points for the Nuggets, who played without injured starters Allen Iverson and Marcus Camby.

Mike Dunleavy scored a season-high 23 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. Danny Granger added 19 points for the Pacers, who lost their third straight home game.

Indiana was called for five technical fouls in the second half, and both coach Rick Carlisle and point guard Darrell Armstrong were ejected.

Carlisle was tossed by official Dan Crawford with 9:53 left in the third quarter after getting two technicals for arguing a no-call. Carlisle felt Denver's Nene should have been called for a charge on a move to the hoop that left Indiana center Jermaine O'Neal on the ground.

The normally calm Armstrong lost his cool after he disagreed

(SEE ANGRY, PAGE B2)

Change in weight classes works out for Whiteland wrestlers

By MATTHEW GLENESK

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A trip to Evansville for today's IHSAA wrestling individual semistate meet means a few things for Matthew Fields and Travis Thomas: a four-hour ride, a stop at Wal-Mart on Friday to stock up on essentials and dinner at Golden Corral after the meet.

But while the Whiteland Community High School duo look forward to the routine they've grown accustomed to, the trip south has one stated goal: win a semistate championship.

A year ago, Fields took home top honors in the 112-pound division, and Thomas finished third in the heavyweight division.

Both wrestlers have changed divisions. Thomas moved down to his natural, 215-pound division; and Fields moved up to 119 pounds.

IF YOU GO

What: IHSAA wrestling semistate
Where: Roberts Stadium in Evansville
When: 10 a.m. today; the final matches will start about 5:30 p.m.

Admission: \$6 for the final session; \$8 for all sessions

Johnson County participants
Center Grove: Matt Milton (103 pounds), Patrick Hersman (119), Matt Adams (125),

Blake Harvey (130), Jerod Crump (135), Tony Zubia (145) and Shelby Mappes (160)
Whiteland: Matthew Fields (119), Anthony Meister (130), Travis Thomas (215) and Jordan Sharp (Hvt.)

Franklin: Jae VanHorn (125), Brad Fox (189) and Calvin Johnson (215)

Indian Creek: Justin Cave (171) and Evan Lattimore (Hvt.)

Thomas is ranked fourth in the state in his weight class; Fields is ranked ninth.

With a state ranking and state finals appearance under their belts, expectations for the two are high.

"Returning as the semistate champion, you're expected to win it again," Fields said. "So it adds a little more pressure."

Whiteland hasn't had a wrestling state champion since 2002. That year, the

Warriors had two: Clint Palmore and Chris Cooper.

Along with Fields and Thomas, Anthony Meister (130 pounds) and Jordan Sharp (heavyweight) will look to qualify for next week's state meet at Consecration Fieldhouse. The top four finishers in each weight class advance from the semistate.

(SEE WRESTLERS, PAGE B3)



Whiteland senior Travis Thomas, right, wrestles with assistant coach Gene Willard during practice at the school Wednesday. Thomas will compete in today's semistate in Evansville.