



Whiteland Community High School senior Amy Orender scored her 1,000th career point during Saturday's victory against visiting Franklin. She led the Warriors with 21 points.

# Warriors starting to return to form

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Whatever caused the Whiteland girls basketball team's slump earlier in the season appears to be worked out. **Warriors 63**  
**Cubs 46**

The Warriors (12-5) defeated visiting Franklin 63-46 Saturday for their third straight win.

After starting the season by winning nine of their first 10 games, the Warriors dropped four straight in December and early January.

Whiteland coach Bill Hogue said the team might have gotten a little out of sync with the holidays, but what he's seen in the past three games has been a team more like the one early in the season rather than recently.

"Right now I think we're just playing a little more for fun," Hogue said. "That's what I saw today, and that's what I saw against Connersville and a little bit against Greenwood."

"It's just kids stepping up and kids enjoying playing."

The Warriors showed no signs of their previous struggles against Franklin (6-11).

The offense was patient, working the ball around the perimeter and flashing cutters through the lane until easy shots opened up. On the defensive end they played with tenacity, limiting the Grizzly Cubs to just 4-of-15 shooting from the floor in the first half.

The Cubs did nothing to help themselves either, turning the ball over far too often and shooting just 9 of 16 from the foul line for the half.

"We're just playing with a different mentality," said Whiteland senior Brittany Wilson, who posted a double-double with 19 points and 10 rebounds. "We practice harder, and we're playing better; it's just a different mind-set."

In the second half, the Cubs started with an eight-point run and cut the lead to 12 with 5:32 left in the fourth quarter, but that was as close as they would get.

"We're at that point we should not come out in any game not ready to play," Franklin coach Walt Raines said. "In the second half we came out and played with a little heart and fire, and if we had done that the entire game, it would have been a totally different ballgame, but we didn't."

"We have to get ourselves refocused and understand that (with sectionals only a few weeks away), it's not a situation where we can come out unfocused and not prepared to do all the little things."

For Whiteland senior Amy Orender, the game had special meaning. Her 9-of-12 shooting from the foul line in the first half helped her surpass the 1,000-point mark for her career. She finished with 21 points for the game.

A special ceremony was conducted for Orender, who was presented with the game ball.

"It felt great to get my 1,000th point (Saturday) because there are only a few people who have done it here," Orender said. "It was a big achievement, because I'm going to play softball and not basketball in college."

The Warriors have some difficult games before tournament time. On Tuesday they will face a 15-2 Columbus North team, and then they have a game against conference rival Mooresville on Saturday.

# Swimmers' hair something to dye for

As I walked into school Thursday morning, I received an abnormal reaction from nearly everyone who caught glimpse of my hair.

It is a tradition for the Indian Creek boys swim team to bleach our hair blond a month before sectionals.

Dyeing hair for the swim team is not a day at the beauty salon. In fact, if beauticians saw what we did to our hair, they would probably freak out.

We use the strongest whitening



Brad Vest

WINTER SPORTS DIARY

bleach possible and let it sit as long as possible. Once it is mixed to a perfect texture, a teammate slaps it into the hair. When the

whole head of hair is finished, the swimmer wraps his head in aluminum foil and stands under a heat lamp. We have found that providing heat to the hair produces better results.

Once the swimmer can't stand the itch on his scalp any longer, the bleach is washed out, and everyone crowds around to see the outcome. Each head is different. Some are nearly white, while others are almost orange.

It does not matter; it still is the sign of a swimmer.

I was asked many times this year why swimmers bleach their hair. The only reason that I really know of is team tradition. The team has always done it, as far as I can remember.

I do not know what started it in the beginning, but now it is just a fun time for the team and lets everyone know the sectional is quickly approaching.

It is tough to think that I only have three swim meets left. There is only one meet left with the girls, and then there is an all-guys

meet, and then the boys sectional. What seems like yesterday is actually 10 weeks ago, and there are fewer than four weeks left.

Only one more week until the girls have their big meet. With two meets this week, we have lots of swimming to look forward to. It is time to follow our team theme, "men with a mission."

Brad Vest is a senior on the Indian Creek High School boys swim team. His Winter Sports Diary entries appear each week in the Daily Journal.

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### A LOOK AHEAD

Upcoming high school girls basketball games involving Johnson County schools:

**Today**

Edinburgh at Waldron, 7:30 p.m.  
International at Greenwood  
Christian Academy, 8 p.m.

**Tuesday**

Center Grove at Greenwood, 7:30 p.m.  
Indian Creek at Beech Grove, 7:30 p.m.

Whiteland at Columbus North, 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday**

Edinburgh at Trinity Lutheran, 7:30 p.m.

Roncalli at Franklin, 7:30 p.m.  
South Decatur at Indian Creek, 7:30 p.m.

Greenwood Christian Academy at Southwestern (Shelby), 7 p.m.