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Thursday, February 25, 2016

Vol. 3, No. 39

TODAY'S WEATHER

Snow likely before 7 a.m., then snow showers likely until 10 a.m. A winter weather advisory remains in effect until 1 p.m.

HIGH: 31

LOW: 24

Sheridan, Noblesville, Cicero, Arcadia, Atlanta, Carmel, Fishers, Westfield

Hamilton County Reporter

The County Line

March 2 is key date for State Road 37

By FRED SWIFT

When you're offered \$100 million if you'll put up another \$16 million to create a free-way for your community, most folks would say 'let's do it' especially when you have the \$16 million available to contribute.

But, it may not be done that easily when you're dealing with the political complexities of Hamilton County government. We'll find out on March 2 when the County Council considers approving the \$16 million from the county's cash reserve.

March 2 is when County Commissioners ask the council for the money to provide the county's share of the



much-publicized State Road 37 conversion to a signal-free highway from Noblesville to I-69 at Fishers. The project provides for eliminating grade level intersections to better move traffic on the busy section of 37.

Some business owners along 37 have voiced concerns, mostly about their access during construction. But, commissioners say they don't think a substantial number of the businesses are opposed to the project.

If opposition materializes on the council it may be partially for other reasons. The council has been deeply divided in recent months. Several members simply don't vote for spending large sums of money saying they want to safeguard the taxpayers from some of the proposals brought to them. Other, more progressive members, claim spending is essential to keep infrastructure prepared for the county's explosive growth. The tremendous traffic volume

on 37, now nearing gridlock at rush hour, is used as an example of this.

The most notable recent example of the divide on the council came when members voted 4-3 against funding an expansion of the county public safety training center. The situation was further complicated by the recent death of council member Jim Belden.

The upgrade of 37 has gotten an overall very favorable reaction in the community, but in order to proceed with the plans, commissioners will have to get two of the four council votes that went against the training center which again revealed the division on the council only a few months ago.

In any event, the March 2 vote is going to be an important moment in Hamilton County's development.



Photo provided

Endeavor, a new women's clothing boutique, plans to open at the Nash at Carmel City Center this spring.

Women's fashion boutique coming to...

The Nash at Carmel City Center

The fashion district in Carmel City Center is growing. A new women's clothing boutique offering must-have styles and the latest trends for less is coming to the Nash at Carmel City Center this spring. Carmel City Center is pleased to announce the addition of Endeavor, a women's clothing boutique geared toward college students, busy moms and working women. Located at 846 S. Rangeline Road, Endeavor will offer casual every day clothing for women of all sizes, including a carefully selected collection of curvy apparel, ranging in price from \$20 to \$100. Visitors will be able to shop the boutique Tuesday and Wednesday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Opening a women's clothing boutique has been a dream for many years for owner, Melissa Butrum. Representing a men's clothing line for 11 years, Butrum has traveled the

Midwest going to various clothing markets and boutique shops and always had the desire to own her own boutique, catering to the busy woman. After a close friend's untimely death due to breast cancer, Butrum realized that it was time to pursue her dream – as life is often too short. "I want to offer women a welcoming, relaxed environment to pop by and shop for fun, every day clothing items and accessories at an affordable price point," said Butrum. Endeavor will offer footwear, graphic tees, dresses, denim and sweaters as well as a curvy section with sizes ranging from XL-3X. Monthly Ladies Nights and special events will be scheduled once the shop is open.

"We are thrilled to have Endeavor join the lineup of this exciting downtown. With the addition of Endeavor the Center offers the community a great variety of unique

shopping options at all price points and appealing to all sizes and demographics," said Melissa Averitt, senior vice president at Pedcor Companies.

"The Nash at Carmel City Center is the perfect location for Endeavor. With convenient access from Rangeline Road and the Monon Trail, along with all of the community events, I am excited to be among the urban environment that Carmel City Center offers," said Butrum.

The Nash is located along the west side of Rangeline Road just south of Carmel City Center. Surface parking is available in front of the Nash along Rangeline Road and behind the building to the west. An underground garage (accessible from Rangeline Road) is also available.

Parts of county
under Travel Watch

Roads in unincorporated areas of Hamilton County are now under an orange level Travel Watch. The temperature has dropped and precipitation has frozen making roads slippery and hazardous in some areas of the county. A Travel Watch, which is higher than a Travel Advisory, means conditions are threatening to the safety of the public. During a Travel Watch only essential travel, such as to and from work or in emergency situations, is recommended and emergency action plans should be implemented by businesses, schools, government agencies, and other organizations.

Grand Park releases 2015 economic impact numbers

Grand Park is pleased to release its 2015 economic impact numbers. In its second year of operations, the park's overall annual economic impact more than doubled from \$66.4 million in 2014 to \$147.7 million in 2015.

Among the metrics covered in the report are visitor spending, which increased from \$43.9 million in 2014 to \$97.2 million in 2015, and the park's impact on the state's sales tax revenues, from \$2.8 million in 2014 to \$6.2 million in 2015.

"It's validating to see the results of this economic analysis completed by independent research firm, Applied Economics. We always strive to continuously improve and this shows us that we're heading in the right direction," said Westfield Mayor Andy Cook.

Grand Park hosted 997,990 unique visitors at the park in 2015 for tournaments and

events, which amounted to 1.5 million total visits/impressions. Furthermore, the park was responsible for 61,970 hotel room nights throughout the central Indiana region.

While travel tournaments are the primary draw for visitors to Grand Park, a large number of local youth athletes also use the fields on a regular basis. Last year, 1,438

See Grand Park...Page 2

Letters to the Editor

Cigarette tax increase can close the gateway to harder drugs

Recently, the Indiana House of Representatives took a stand for Hoosiers health and approved a bill to increase the state cigarette tax by one dollar.

Much press and discussion currently surrounds heroin, opioid and other illicit drug abuse in Indiana, however we overlook that nicotine has been proven to be a gateway to harder drugs. Youth especially are susceptible and findings show that youth who smoke cigarettes are 32 percent more likely to use harder drugs at some point in the future. Youth are price sensitive and when cigarettes are cheap and easily accessible that are a higher risk of picking up the habit.

If we look to the future while focusing on the present the cigarette tax increase is a means of prevention not only for tobacco use, but other drugs use down the line. I encourage our Hamilton County Senators to make a lasting impact on the health of Indiana residents by voting to increase the state tobacco tax by one dollar.

George L. Kristo, Executor Director
Hamilton County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs

Efforts to keep a daily newspaper are appreciated

Good morning Jeff and Don,

I just wanted to take a minute to thank you for your efforts to keep a daily newspaper that actually reports local news alive in Hamilton County. I know that this is no small effort. “Back in the day” as they say, keeping up with what was happening in and around the county by reading the Ledger was a given and it wasn’t until it disappeared that we all came to fully appreciate what it means to have local news coverage on a regular basis and, more importantly, reported by people who actually had insights into the stories they were covering! That is what makes The Reporter so refreshing!

Best wishes and best regards,
Doug Church

Riverview Health to host sinus and allergy seminar



Riverview Health will host a sinus and allergy seminar from 6 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15.

Learn more about sinus and allergy issues and treatment options with Dr. Michael Agostino, a

board certified ear, nose and throat specialist.

The seminar will take place at Riverview Health in the Krieg DeVault Conference Room, located in the lower level of the Women’s Pavilion. A light dinner will be served. The program is free, but registration is required.

Register at riverview.org/classes or call 317.776.7999.

Agostino

GRAND PARK

From Page 1

local kids participated in baseball, softball, football and lacrosse through Westfield Youth Sports (WYSI) and 1,100 local kids played soccer at Grand Park through Indiana Fire Juniors. Starting this spring, Westfield Youth Soccer Association (WYSA) will move its recreational soccer program to the newly added recreational fields, which will give an additional 1,500 local youth the opportunity to play at Grand Park.

Do You Have A Community Announcement?

Wedding, Birth Announcement, Anniversary

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Chris Wahman, Victor McCarty and Ian Weber join State Rep. Donna Schaibley (R-Carmel) in the House Chamber located at the Indiana Statehouse. Wahman, McCarty and Weber are interning with the House of Representatives' Republican caucus throughout the 2016 legislative session.

Rep. Schaibley: Local students gaining experience with the legislature

State Rep. Donna Schaibley (R-Carmel) welcomes local residents, Chris Wahman, Victor McCarty and Ian Weber, to the Statehouse where they are interning with the House of Representatives during the 2016 legislative session.

Wahman, a resident of Indianapolis, is the son of Frank and Janice Wahman. A North Central High School graduate, Wahman earned a bachelor's degree from Indiana University where he majored in sports communications.

McCarty, a resident of Westfield, is the grandson of Claudia McCarty. A Westfield High School graduate, McCarty attended Huntington University, where he earned a bachelor's degree and majored in broadcast-fusion media and sociology.

As interns in the House Majority Communications Office, Wahman and McCarty help write press releases, create legislative handouts and set up press conferences.

Weber, a resident of Westfield, is the son of Ken and Barb Weber. He is a Guerin Catholic High School graduate and earned a bachelor's degree from Indiana University where he majored in exercise science.

As an intern in the House Majority Technical Office, Weber live streams video and audio of session and committee meetings, creates PowerPoint display updates to be viewed by visitors to the Statehouse, and performs website and mail-listing updates.

The House of Representatives offers paid internship opportunities to college students, law-school students, graduate students and recent college graduates for the duration of each legislative session.

Visit www.IndianaHouseRepublicans.com/student-opportunities for more information about the House Republican internship program.

DAILY BIBLE VERSE

And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

- Matthew 4:19

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Public Information Meeting

Roundabout – Allisonville Road and Cumberland Road – Please be advised, on Thursday, March 3, 2016, The Hamilton County Highway Department will hold a public information meeting for the planned roundabout at Allisonville Road and Cumberland Road. The meeting will be held in the Commissioners Courtroom at the Hamilton County Government and Judicial Center, 1 Hamilton County Square, Noblesville, at 6:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to explain the project, discuss schedule, gather pertinent information regarding the area, and afford all interested persons an opportunity to ask questions on the proposed project.

Please direct all questions to:

David Lucas

Project Coordinator

(317) 773-7770, Fax: (317) 776-9814

E-mail: david.lucas@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

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6 months \$34
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Upcoming events at Nickel Plate Arts

There are only 12 “first Fridays” in 2016. [Nickel Plate Arts](#) doesn’t want art fans to waste one doing something forgettable. Starting Friday, March 4, and continuing through the month, mix, mingle, and see and try art on our hipstoric Downtown Noblesville campus. Unplug and create with Nickel Plate Arts!

March “First” Friday

Join us Friday, March 4, 6-9 p.m., for the opening of the Young Artists Exhibit in the Judge Stone House gallery and check out Hannah Lindgren’s curated #loveHC photography exhibit inside the Stephenson House gallery. Beer and wine, among other refreshments, offer people a chance to unwind on a Friday night, with proceeds supporting Nickel Plate Arts’ programs. Registration is not required. Just come on out and enjoy.

Young Artists Exhibit

Approximately 500 student artists in grades K-5 from all seven Noblesville Schools public elementary schools will have works to show off during the Young Artists Exhibit at Nickel Plate Arts, March 3-25. Two-D and 3-D works will be on display made from a variety of materials. Expect to see family tree collages, before-and-after self-portraits, sculpture and much more.

“The children in Noblesville Schools have worked hard to learn about the elements and principles of art using a variety of media, techniques and subject matter. We hope you enjoy the show,” says Darlene Patterson, art teacher at Promise Road Elementary who is helping organize the exhibit.

A student reception will take place Thursday, March 3, 5:30-7 p.m. The public gets their first chance to see the exhibits during FirstFriday, March 4, 6-9 p.m. The exhibit is open to the public for free March 4-25 during regular business hours (Wednesday-Friday, noon-5 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.).

#loveHC Artist Showcase

Instagram, Hamilton County and crowdsourcing collide in a most loving way during the March Artist Showcase exhibit March 2-31, curated by the multi-faceted Hannah Lindgren. The #loveHC exhibit will fill the walls of our historic Stephenson House with photos showing the sights, people, foods and more we love in Hamilton County.

Lindgren, photographer and founder of Deliberate Media video production in downtown Noblesville, rallied Instagram and smartphone users in Hamilton County to tag and submit images for #loveHC.

Attendees to the #loveHC opening reception can get in on the exhibit’s visual conversation by writing what they love about Hamilton County and picking up a crayon to color a Hamilton County image designed by artist Kate Foster during the exhibit’s opening reception on Friday, March 4, 6-9 p.m., First Friday at Nickel Plate Arts.

Art of Business: Financial Tips, Tricks and Tools for Artists

Just in time for tax season the Noblesville Chamber of Commerce and Nickel Plate Arts team up to offer a tax-related Art of Business class on March 16, 6:30-8 p.m., at the Noblesville Library.

Artists have many of the same financial challenges other self-employed small business owners do, including paying self-employment tax and quarterly sales tax. But

artists also have unique financial requirements and challenges. During the Art of Business: Financial Tips, Tricks and Tools for Artists training session, artists will get answers to questions such as, “Which IRS forms do I need to fill out?” “How should I track and value inventory?” and “How do I claim business expenses?”

Cost is \$5 admission; Level 2 Artist Members admitted free. Register at [nickelplatearts.org](#).

Nickel Plate SMART Series: Pechakucha Launch

The new Nickel Plate Arts membership appreciation series is designed to give our members a chance to dig more deeply into the arts in every way. The series launches March 24, 6:30-8 p.m., at Nickel Plate Arts with a book-themed Pechakucha.

What’s a Pechakucha? We’re putting our own spin on this Japanese event — originally, Pechakuchas were evenings where emerging designers could present themselves and their work. In our version, emerging authors and bookmakers will mingle with members and guests, and then inspire attendees with a five-minute presentation.

Every member of Nickel Plate Arts gets in for free and can bring one guest for free. For everyone else, the cost is \$10. People can sign up to become a member for \$50 and register for the event at [nickelplatearts.org](#).

More events will appear in Friday’s Reporter.

Hamilton County Reporter Hamilton County’s Hometown Newspaper

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Both teams are 13-8...

Carmel hosts Brebeuf in finale

By **RICHIE HALL**
Reporter Sports Editor

The Carmel boys basketball team will finish its regular season Friday by playing a team with an identical record. Brebeuf Jesuit will come into the Eric Clark Activity Center as one of the top teams in Class 3A. The Braves are tied for 13th in the 3A media poll with a 13-8 mark. The Greyhounds are also 13-8 for the season.

The Carmel-Brebeuf rivalry has been a bit one-sided over the past few years. The 'Hounds have won four in a row over the Braves; their last loss to Brebeuf was on Feb. 25, 2011, and that was a close game, 48-46. Carmel then won back-to-back 4A state championships the next two years and beat the Braves by over 30 points both times. The 'Hounds were 57-32 winners two seasons ago and edged Brebeuf 39-37 last season.

The Braves are coming off an overtime loss to Louisville Ballard in their last game, 67-63. That stopped a three-game win streak over teams such as Tri-West, John Marshall and Heritage Christian. Brebeuf has gotten some wins over 4A teams, including Fort Wayne Snider, Roncali, Warren Central and Anderson.

The Braves have a pair of players that are averaging in double figures. Senior Matt Broderick leads with 11.4 points per game, while junior Kobie McNeal is contributing 10.4 points per contest. Another senior, Tarig Eldosougi, is the leading rebounder with 6.5 boards per game. Broderick is averaging 6.0 boards per game.

Carmel's leading scorers are Sterling Brown, with a 13.4 points per game average. Preston Flamion is not far behind with 12.8 points per contest. Garrett Covington, a transfer from Georgia, has established himself as the leading rebounder with 5.9 per game. Flamion has 5.7 boards per game.



Brian Reddick/File photo

Sterling Brown is averaging 13.4 points per game for Carmel this season.

University hosts 2A school...

‘Blazers take on Irvington Prep tonight

By **RICHIE HALL**
Reporter Sports Editor

As University prepares for what will be a tough Class 1A sectional at Bethesda Christian, the Trailblazers' final regular season game will be against a tough 2A school.

University welcomes Irvington Prep Academy to the "U" Center tonight for its Senior Night game. The 'Blazers have had



Holly

another successful season, with an 18-5 record and a No. 5 ranking in 1A.

"The Irvington Prep game on Thursday will be our senior night, and final game of the season for us," said UHS coach Brandon Lafferman. "We are hoping to finish off the regular season with a solid game, getting us ready for the tournament next week, and to send off our seniors on a high note."



Howard

The Ravens, meanwhile, are 9-11. But they're also a 2A team, and have played a decent schedule: Irvington Prep's first game of the season was against Fort Wayne North, a 4A team. The Ravens also have a pair of victories over 3A Indianapolis Washington early in the season.

"Irvington Prep is a 2A school that plays a fairly tough sched-



Halbleib

ule, so we will have to be ready for a tough one," said Lafferman.

The Ravens have four seniors on the team. Guards are A.J. Gibson (6-foot-3), Levi Jackson (6-0) and Jonathan Cousin (5-11), with Blake Linkous a 6-0 forward.

The 'Blazers are led by a senior, with Connor Holly averaging 15.0 points per game and handing out 5.1 assists. Sophomore Emerson Halbleib has been a force, with 11.9 points and 7.9 rebounds per game.

Another sophomore, David Howard, is pulling down 5.0 rebounds per contest.



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New to Sectional 8 field

Anderson and Guerin

By DON JELLISON
Reporter Editor

Did you think it was kind of strange when Anderson was moved to the Noblesville Sectional? Anderson, a school which has won 51 sectional championship.



Not an eyebrow was raised. Different era. Anderson today isn't the Anderson which traditionally has been one of Indiana's all-time tournament powerhouses.

Anderson, and Guerin Catholic, have replaced North Central and Zionsville from the sectional field which will compete at The Mill in Noblesville.

Not a bad deal for the schools which have and will participate in the local 4A sectional. North Central is gone. About time, too. This year Coach Doug Mitchell's Panthers currently are ranked No. 3 in the state.

Thank you, IHSAA.

Anderson? Well, like I wrote, these Indians aren't the Indians of old. They might be again, someday. But, not this year.

Anderson, which will play Hamilton Southeastern in the first round of the sectional, has ended its regular season with a 3-19 mark. The Indians got a couple of big wins early in the season, beating Pendleton Heights and Tech.

Their last win was on Jan. 4, a 72-37 decision over Elwood in the opening round of the Madison County Tourney. Anderson has lost 13 consecutive games.

Different things have contributed to that record. Injuries. Suspended players.

But even so, Anderson's program just isn't what it once was. Like back in the days when the Tribe played in the Wigwam. Remember those days when some of Noblesville's finest teams couldn't get out of the Anderson Regional?

Anderson's last sectional title was in 2008-09 when the Indians defeated Pendleton Heights, Anderson Highland and Muncie Central before losing to Fort Wayne Snider in the regional.

The last five sectionals, it has been one-and-done for Anderson.

Even so, Anderson's 51 sectional titles are remarkable. Think about this. Noblesville has won 22 sectionals. Carmel has won 25.

But in today's world, Carmel and Noblesville have stronger programs than Anderson. Noblesville won its last sectional in 2009-10. Carmel won last year and also in 2012-13 and 2011-12.

So much for Anderson. How about the other new kid on the block, Guerin Catholic?

Not only is Guerin new to the Noblesville Sectional, this is the Golden Eagles' first season playing in a Class 4 sectional. That's because of what the IHSAA calls the

"success factor." Win too much, and up a team goes to the next class.

Guerin won the Class 3A championship last year; won the regional in 2013-14 and won the state in 2011-12. Hello, Pete Smith.

This guy can coach. He proved that while coaching at Noblesville and he proved that while coaching at Carmel before building the program at Guerin Catholic. Smith is the only coach Guerin has known. He has won 176 games (and, yes, don't forget those two state championships) in 12 years with the Golden Eagles. In his 25-year career Pete has won 360 games.

Now, Pete and Guerin are 4A. Smith has tried to get his team ready for that by scheduling 4A opponents Tech, Muncie Central, Lawrence North, Lafayette Jeff, Roncalli and the last three games of the season playing (and defeating) Franklin Central, Pendleton Heights and, oh, yes, Anderson, 90-64 earlier this week.

Pete did a little moaning early in the season and into January. But now he'll enter the sectional with eight straight wins.

It's going to be interesting. Can one of the state's most successful 3A programs move into a tough sectional like Guerin will see at Noblesville? The Eagles drew a first round bye and will play the winner of the Westfield-Fishers game.

The only Sectional 8 opponent Guerin Catholic has played this season is Anderson. Interesting. Very interesting.

Girls basketball state finals information

Here is general information about Saturday's IHSAA girls basketball state finals:

Session I

Class A | Jac-Cen-Del (26-1) vs. Argos (24-3)| 10:30 am ET

Class 2A | Covenant Christian (23-5) vs. Lafayette Central Catholic (24-5) | Approx. 12:45 pm ET

Session II

Class 3A | North Harrison (28-2) vs. Heritage Christian (25-4) | 6 pm ET

Class 4A | Columbus North (27-1) vs. Penn (27-2) | Approx. 8:15 pm ET

TICKETS: \$15.00 per session.

Reserved tickets can be purchased at the participating schools the week of the state finals. Contact those schools for ticket distribution hours. Any remaining tickets will be available game day at the Bankers Life Fieldhouse Ticket Office.

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GATES OPEN: Bankers Life Fieldhouse will open its gates to fans beginning one hour prior to the start of each session -- 9:30 am ET and 5 pm ET. The venue will be cleared between the Class 2A and 3A games.

TELEVISION: All four state championship games will air live on Fox Sports Indiana.

WEBCAST: For viewers outside of the Fox Sports Indiana coverage area, a live stream will be available at IHSAAtv.org. For those within the FSI coverage area, the stream will be available only on delayed basis following the conclusion of the telecast.

RADIO: The IHSAA Champions Radio Network will broadcast all four games to affiliates statewide. A list of markets and frequencies is available on the next page. A detailed list of which games each affiliate will carry will be posted to IHSAA.org this week.

Heights selling tickets for boys basketball sectional

Pre-sale tickets are now available for the Boys Basketball Sectional 24 at Marion High School, March 1, 4, and 5.

Three-day passes as well as single session tickets are available for pre-sale. There is no price break for pre-sale, just the convenience of having them in advance.

Three-day passes are \$10 and single session tickets are \$6. See Leigh Ann Moffatt in the Athletic Office during office hours to purchase tickets.

A pre-sale ticket table will be set up at the Boys Basketball game Friday night in front of the trophy case through the end halftime of the varsity game. Tickets will also be available again next Monday and Tuesday during office hours with sales ending at 2 p.m. Tuesday.

Please contact the Athletic Office if you have any questions.

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NBA standings

Wednesday's scores		Denver 87, L.A. Clippers 81
Cleveland 114, Charlotte 103		San Antonio 108, Sacramento 92
Indiana 108, New York 105		Thursday's games
Detroit 111, Philadelphia 91		Golden State at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Golden State 118, Miami 112		Milwaukee at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Toronto 114, Minnesota 105		Oklahoma City at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Chicago 109, Washington 104		Brooklyn at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Memphis 128, L.A. Lakers 119		Houston at Portland, 10:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City 116, Dallas 103		San Antonio at Utah, 10:30 p.m.

Eastern Conference				
East	W	L	PCT.	GB
Toronto	38	18	.679	-
Boston	33	25	.569	6.0
New York	24	35	.407	15.5
Brooklyn	15	42	.263	23.5
Philadelphia	8	49	.140	30.5
Central	W	L	PCT.	GB
Cleveland	41	15	.732	-
Indiana	31	26	.544	10.5
Chicago	30	26	.536	11.0
Detroit	29	29	.500	13.0
Milwaukee	24	33	.421	17.5
Southeast	W	L	PCT.	GB
Miami	32	25	.561	-
Atlanta	31	27	.534	1.5
Charlotte	29	27	.518	2.5
Washington	26	30	.464	5.5
Orlando	25	30	.455	6.0

Western Conference				
Northwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
Oklahoma City	41	16	.719	-
Portland	30	27	.526	11.0
Utah	28	28	.500	12.5
Denver	23	35	.397	18.5
Minnesota	18	40	.310	23.5
Pacific	W	L	PCT.	GB
Golden State	51	5	.911	-
L.A. Clippers	37	20	.649	14.5
Sacramento	24	32	.429	27.0
Phoenix	14	43	.246	37.5
L.A. Lakers	11	48	.186	41.5
Southwest	W	L	PCT.	GB
San Antonio	48	9	.842	-
Memphis	33	23	.589	14.5
Dallas	30	28	.517	18.5
Houston	28	29	.491	20.0
New Orleans	22	34	.393	25.5

George takes over in the second half...

Pacers return home, beat Knicks

By WHEAT HOTCHKISS
Courtesy nba.com/pacers

It might have been a little closer than expected, but Paul George came alive in the second half to lead the Pacers (31-26) to a 108-105 win over the New York Knicks (24-35) on Wednesday night at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in the team's first home game since the All-Star break.

George scored all but two of his game-high 27 points in the final two quarters to lead Indiana, wearing their special Hickory uniforms, to their third win in their last four games.

"I just imposed my will," George said of his second-half performance. "I got to my sweet spot, which is in the paint pull-ups. Those are confidence boosters when I start in close and work my way out."

The Pacers trailed by two at the half, but opened the second half strong.

Thanks in large part to the contributions of All-Star George and rookie phenom

Myles Turner, Indiana reeled off a 12-2 run (with George and Turner combining for 10 points) to open up the third quarter. The Blue & Gold stretched that lead to as many as 11 points and appeared to be starting to put away a slumping Knicks team that had dropped 12 of its last 14 contests entering Wednesday.

But New York answered with a 13-2 run of their own, re-taking the lead with 1:02 left in the third period. The two teams headed into the fourth quarter tied at 80, but the Knicks moved back in front on Langston Galloway's 3-pointer on the quarter's opening possession.

New York maintained the advantage for over half the quarter before a jumper by Paul George, the last of eight straight Pacers points from the three-time All-Star, gave Indiana a 94-93 lead with 5:38 to play.

The lead was short-lived, as Kristaps Porzingis made a jumper of his own 16 seconds later to put New York back in front.

Eventually, however, the Pacers took the lead for good when Turner and George took turns swishing jumpers on back-to-back possessions to give Indiana a three-point lead with two and a half minutes left. They led by as many as six, though the Knicks made it a 107-105 game on Carmelo Anthony's layup with 29.6 seconds left, then got the ball back when Anthony rebounded Monta Ellis' missed baseline jumper, giving New York a chance to tie or win the game.

Porzingis got a wide-open look at a three from the top of the key, but missed long on his shot, as Turner corralled the board and knocked down one of two free throws with 1.9 seconds left.

Anthony's corner three on the other end missed long, as Pacers fans shared a collective sigh of relief.

"These last four games have been a test for us," Turner said. "So the fact that we're coming out pretty successful, minus (Monday's overtime loss in Miami), in

these late game situations is only good for us. Because that's what the playoffs are going to be like."

All eyes were on the two rookie power forwards playing starring roles for their respective teams and both young players delivered in the first half. Turner, the Pacers' 19-year-old rookie, got the slight upper hand in their first battle, finishing with 24 points on 10-of-20 shooting and six rebounds.

Porzingis, the 20-year-old Knicks forward, was nearly as good. The 7-foot-3 Latvian led New York with 22 points, going 7-for-14 from the field.

"It was great," George said about the matchup between the two rookies. "They're going to go at it for many years. These two kids are really, really, really good."

Besides George and Turner, George Hill was the only other Pacers player to reach double figures, finishing with 10 points on 5-of-8 shooting.

Jose Calderon had 20 points for New York, Kyle O'Quinn chipped in 19 off the bench, and Galloway finished with 17. The trio combined to knock down 9-of-11 3-pointers, playing a big part in the Knicks' 13-for-26 performance from beyond the arc.

The Pacers will look to continue their winning ways on Friday night, when they host the Charlotte Hornets at 7:00 PM. Indiana should be out for revenge after enduring a 117-95 drubbing at the Hornets' hands in the two teams' final game prior to the All-Star break on Feb. 10.

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