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Friday, April 21, 2017

Vol. 4, No. 76

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

**Today:** Mostly cloudy.  
**Tonight:** Mostly cloudy, with isolated showers after 2 a.m.



HIGH: 56      LOW: 43

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

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*No Fair Train in 2017...*

# Hoosier Heritage Port Authority will begin search for New Nickel Plate operator

By LARRY LANNAN  
LarryinFishers.com

A new operator for the Nickel Plate railroad line could be chosen by July or August. However, since there is no operator at this time, there will be no Indiana State Fair Train in 2017. The Hoosier Heritage Port Authority, which has oversight and maintenance responsibilities for the 37 miles of rail line, which extends from Tipton to downtown Indianapolis, will begin the process of legal advertising the details about requests for proposal from interested parties.

Authority President Mike Obergfell said the request for proposal will contain a scoring sheet to evaluate each submission. The owners of the rail line – Fishers, Noblesville and Hamilton County – will then interview all

the candidates. Obergfell expects the operator will be selected at the next Authority meeting scheduled for Monday, July 10th. However, if the interviews continue through July, a special meeting of the Authority will be scheduled in August.

“Obviously, the time is short,” said Obergfell. “We’d like to get an operator back online as soon as possible. Our owners have some other interests that they’re trying to work out. So, the sooner the better.”

Fishers and Noblesville have proposed transforming the Nickel Plate rail line within their city limits into a biking and hiking trail.

An independent inspection of the rail raised safety concerns about the condition of the track, resulting in the

cancellation of the State Fair Train in 2016, which ran for many years between the fairgrounds and Fishers. In response to a question from the audience, Obergfell said there will not be an operator in place in time to operate the State Fair Train in 2017.

In response to another question from the audience, Obergfell said the request for proposal includes the entire 37 mile line.

In another matter, the Authority will be losing Executive Director Rhonda Klopfenstein, who has been in that job for 17 years. Members of the Port Authority will now be searching for a new executive director. Klopfenstein is resigning due to her husband’s job reassignment to Tennessee.

## Carmel named best place to live in America

Another study has named Carmel the "Best Place to Live in America." Niche, a website designed to help people discover schools and neighborhoods that are right for them, collects millions of data points to analyze and create its rankings. Niche's team of data scientists and engineers provide research to assist individuals and families who are making an educated decision about where to live.

Town and Country magazine picked up the news and reported about Carmel's A+ ranking, which was determined based on data analyzed for public schools, housing, families, crime and safety, nightlife and diversity. Town and Country also recognized Carmel's Best Place to Live rankings from CNN Money Magazine.

See Carmel...Page 2

## Sen. Todd Young speaks at Lincoln Day Dinner

By FRED SWIFT

Hamilton County Republicans staged their annual Lincoln Day Dinner on Wednesday night with U.S. Senator Todd Young, introduced as a hometown boy, as the featured speaker. Young, who defeated Evan Bayh in last fall's election, spent his early years in the county graduating from Carmel High School in 1990.

Although 2017 is not an election year, one would hardly know it as several early candidates for next year's GOP primary were present. Four hopefuls seeking to unseat Sen. Joe Donnelly were introduced. They are Mark Hurt, Terry Henderson, Luke Messer and Todd Rokita. Besides the Senate candidates there were candidates and likely candidates for county sheriff in attendance. Only Bill Clifford and Jason Sloderbeck have publicly announced their intentions, but two or three others were circulating in the crowd scouting the political landscape and meeting party workers.

The Lincoln Day event, held at the Ritz Charles, is a party tradition designed to honor the first U.S. President Abraham Lincoln. The dinner party draws most



Reporter photo by Fred Swift

Hamilton County Republican Womens Club members Emily Pearson (left), U.S. Senator Todd Young and Jennifer Templeton (right) take timeout for a photo with mascot Ellie the elephant during Wednesday's Lincoln Dinner. Young was the event's keynote speaker.

Republican officeholders, party workers and Chairwoman Laura Campbell and her many donors. It is planned by GOP County central committee members.

## Boys & Girls Club part of Youth in Government Day



Photos courtesy the City of Noblesville

Members of the Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville's participated in Youth in Government day. The students were chosen to shadow city and county officials and also represent the club at a recognition dinner.

**Pictured:**

ABOVE LEFT: Maya Hill and Noblesville Clerk Evelyn Lees.  
ABOVE CENTER: Izzy Bastin and Captain Shannon Trump of the Noblesville Police Department's Criminal Investigation Division.  
ABOVE RIGHT: Garrett Collins and Noblesville Mayor John Ditslear.  
LEFT: Lita Bear and Noblesville Fire Chief Greg Wyant.



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## Cook's bill increasing student course options heads to the governor

State Rep. Tony Cook's (R-Cicero) bill providing students with access to additional specialty courses and programs that their schools may not provide, could soon be law.



Cook

Cook said this policy would help balance the educational playing field for students by allowing them to take courses at a different school or through an online program, while remaining enrolled in their current school. The Indiana Department of Education would have the power to create a Course Access Program that will catalog specialty classes in subject areas and business or trade certification programs that students may enroll in.

"Students shouldn't be denied the opportunity to experience quality and specialty classes because of their geographical setting or lack of teacher access," Cook said. "I want to give students and their families more choices that would benefit students in pursuing their dreams and ambitions."

According to Cook, small or rural schools, and those in urban areas, may lack the necessary resources to provide specialty classes or trade programs in high teacher demand areas. The Department of Education still has the authority to oversee courses and course providers, but students would be able to enroll in an approved class without needing authorization from their school corporation.

[House Enrolled Act 1007](#) now moves to the governor's desk for consideration as a new law.

## CARMEL

From Page 1

"These rankings help Carmel earn recognition across the country as people are searching for a place to live that is safe, has good schools and a variety of recreational and entertainment options. That, combined with the wide variety of good-paying professional opportunities make Carmel stand out among best places to live in America," said Mayor Jim Brainard.

In addition, Carmel was also ranked ninth in the nation by personal finance website, GoodCall.com as a prime area in the U.S. to build a lifelong dream home in the "2017 Best Cities to Build a Forever Home" report. GoodCall analyzed 468 cities nationwide. Carmel, ranked within the top two percent for its comparative custom home cost, growing home values, affordability, population, educational values and low employment and crime rates.

That report can be found here:

<https://www.goodcall.com/data-center/2017-best-cities-build-forever-home/>

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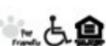


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## ROSELAKE ESTATES



**Nancy (Mau) Wermund**

September 10, 1945 - April 18, 2017



Nancy (Mau) Wermund, 71, Indianapolis, passed away April 18, 2017. She was born on September 10, 1945 in Berwyn, IL. She is survived by her husband, William; daughters, Nissa (Mike), Jennifer (Ted) and Laura (Mike); 6 grandchildren and a sister, Marilyn.

Nancy's family and friends are invited to celebrate her life with a calling at Cornerstone Lutheran Church, 4850 East Main Street, Carmel, IN, 46033 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. on Friday, April 21, 2017. Nancy's family also will receive friends from 10:00-11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 22, 2017 just prior to a service to celebrate Nancy's eternal life at 11:00 a.m. in the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions in Nancy's honor to Camp Arcadia, 3046 Oak Street, Arcadia, MI, 49612, or to Riley Hospital for Children, 705 Hospital Drive, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202. Envelopes will be available at the service.

Please visit [www.bussellfamilyfunerals.com](http://www.bussellfamilyfunerals.com) to read Nancy's complete obituary and share a memory.

**DAILY BIBLE VERSE**

And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges.

- Matthew 12:27

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**Hamilton County Reporter**

**Contact Information**

**Phone**  
317-408-5548

**Email**  
[News@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:News@ReadTheReporter.com)

**Publisher Jeff Jellison**  
[Hamiltonconorthreporter@hotmail.com](mailto:Hamiltonconorthreporter@hotmail.com)  
317-408-5548

**Editor Don Jellison**  
[Hoosiermaba@aol.com](mailto:Hoosiermaba@aol.com)  
317-773-2769

**Sports Editor Richie Hall**  
[Rhall1977@gmail.com](mailto:Rhall1977@gmail.com)  
Twitter: @Richie\_Hall

**Public Notices**  
[PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com](mailto:PublicNotices@ReadTheReporter.com)

**Web Address**  
[www.ReadTheReporter.com](http://www.ReadTheReporter.com)

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Part of its Urban Agriculture program...

# Free resources offered to Hamilton County gardeners

Thinking of starting a new garden? Do you have concerns each summer with your existing garden? The Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District can help with these and other issues. As part of its Urban Agriculture program, SWCD staff are available for free site visits to any backyard and community garden in Hamilton County. Staff can provide guidance with planning, advice on weed and pest management, tip sheets, and much more. To schedule a site visit, contact Andrew Fritz at [andrew.fritz@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:andrew.fritz@hamiltoncounty.in.gov) or (317) 773-2181. In addition, tip sheets and many other online resources are available at the following website: [www.HamiltonSWCD.org/UrbanAgriculture](http://www.HamiltonSWCD.org/UrbanAgriculture).

SWCD staff also host quarterly meetings of the Hamilton County Garden Network ([www.HamCoGardenNetwork.org](http://www.HamCoGardenNetwork.org)) which is a group for managers of community gardens. Since this quarter's meeting topic addresses the universal garden issue of weeds, all gardeners (community and backyard alike) are invited to attend. After the presentation, attendees will be invited to share weed management tips that have worked for them in the past. The meeting will be on Wednesday, April 26 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the O.V. Winks building at the Hamilton County 4-H Grounds (2003 E. Pleasant Street in Noblesville). For more information or to RSVP, contact Cara Culp at [cara.culp@hamiltoncounty.in.gov](mailto:cara.culp@hamiltoncounty.in.gov) or (317) 773-2181.



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### Public Notices

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SECOND PUBLIC HEARING**

The Town of Arcadia will hold a public hearing on May 1, 2017 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the Arcadia Town Hall located on 208 West Main Street, Arcadia, IN 46030 to provide interested citizens an opportunity to express their views on the recently completed Stormwater Master Plan. The Stormwater Master Plan was paid for using Federal Community Development Block Grant Funds from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. Representatives from the Triad Associates, Inc. firm, will present their findings and recommendations at the hearing. Every effort will be made to allow persons to voice their opinions at the public hearing. Persons with disabilities or non-English speaking persons who wish to attend the public hearing and need assistance should contact Tina Henderson, Grant Administrator at P.O. Box 428 Arcadia, Indiana 46030 or call 317-984-8639 not later than April 28, 2017. Every effort will be made to make reasonable accommodations for these persons. For additional information concerning the public hearing or the Stormwater Master Plan please contact: Tina Henderson, Grant Administrator at the address or phone number listed above.

RL270 4/21/2017 11

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# Make your home safer in wicked weather

(StatePoint) Wicked weather can happen anytime, anywhere. Being prepared will offer you, your family and your home greater protection. Here is what to know.

## Take Shelter

Oftentimes, the safest place to be during a storm is at home or in a designated shelter, depending on the storm's severity. That said, it's important to know more about how your home was constructed. Keep in mind that new homes are subject to regional safety standards to help ensure they can stand up to extreme conditions likely to occur in the area. So, if you live in an older home, consider retrofitting it with newer products that are more resistant to high winds.

If you live in a manufactured home, you can rest easier knowing that your home was subject to robust compliance and quality assurance regulations enacted by the federal government in 1976, and was engineered for wind safety and energy efficiency based on the geographic region in which you bought it.

Even so, proper installation is crucial for maximum safety, including additional structures added by the homeowner, such as an awning, deck, carport or sunroom. Indeed, a 2014 Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety test found that newer manufactured homes performed better at high winds than traditional-built homes when attached structures are properly installed.

The Manufactured Housing Institute (MHI) says the building design criteria and anchoring systems for modern manufactured homes allow them to perform better in a storm than ones built before 1976, and that federal wind standards became even stronger in 1994.

It's also a good idea to have a professional check the anchoring system on an older manufactured home, especially one built prior to 1976. If you live in a manufactured home land-lease community, contact your community manager for assistance with identifying a qualified



Sergey Nivens - Fotolia.com

inspector. If your manufactured home is located on private property, a local licensed manufactured home installer can be hired to inspect the home's anchoring and tie-down system. To learn more, visit [manufacturedhousing.org](http://manufacturedhousing.org).

## Get Stocked Up

Taking shelter in a storm is easier when you are equipped to do so. Maintain a well-stocked supply of non-perishable food items, fresh water, batteries and a first aid kit.

It may also be wise to purchase a generator, however it's crucial to follow the manufacturer's safety instructions and to never operate the generator in an enclosed space.

## Tune In

Listen to local news to get the latest weather updates and safety instructions. Keep a battery-operated radio handy so you can stay up-to-date even if the power should go out for a long period.

Today's weather forecasting technologies often provide advance notice of weather patterns capable of producing conditions such as severe wind and tornadoes, so you can know whether it's time to seek shelter in the basement or evacuate the area. If a home, site-built or manufactured, does not have a below-ground basement, have a plan in place to seek below-ground or other appropriate shelter nearby when necessary. It's also important to follow evacuation orders when issued.

While a storm is not preventable, being unprepared for one is.

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# Grand Park kicks off season with Crossroads of America College Men's Showcase

This weekend, April 21-23, Grand Park will welcome approximately 318 teams from 13 states and Canada for the Crossroads of America College Men's Showcase. The women's showcase will take place next weekend, April 28-30, featuring an additional 316 teams. The estimated economic impact of both events is estimated to be \$5.8 million for the central Indiana region.

The Crossroads of America Showcase offers divisions for U15-U18. Each team will play one game per day over the three-day tournament in order to allow players to maximize their talents in front of the college coaches. Approximately 15,000 spectators are expected each weekend.

"We're excited to kick off our high season in such a big way with the Crossroads Showcase Tournaments," said Westfield Mayor Andy Cook. "This marks the beginning of another full and action-packed calendar of events for spring and summer."

Also taking place this weekend are the following college soccer games:

Friday, April 21 at 7 p.m. – Indiana University vs. University of Cincinnati

Saturday, April 22 at 5 p.m. – IUPUI vs. University of Indianapolis

Saturday, April 22 at 7 p.m. – University of Kentucky vs. Notre Dame

The college games will take place on Championship Field (F1) and are open to the public. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be purchased online at [www.GP2017Crossroads.Eventbrite.com](http://www.GP2017Crossroads.Eventbrite.com) or at the door.

Also taking place this weekend, April 21-23, are the Indiana Bulls Baseball Spring Shootout featuring 150 teams and the Indy Juniors JVA Classic Volleyball Tournament featuring 300 teams inside the Grand Park Events Center.

Grand Park Sports Campus has a full calendar of sport activities scheduled for 2017. [Click here for the full calendar of events.](#)

## Golf

### Deakyne makes hole in one during Millers' win

A hole in one from Jacob Deakyne highlighted the Noblesville boys golf team's dual meet win on Thursday.

The Millers beat Zionsville 149-156 after a brief rain delay at Meridian Hills Country Club in Indianapolis Thursday night. The sophomore Deakyne aced the par 3 seventh hole, totaling 153 yards.

Jacob Deakyne, senior Parker Deakyne and sophomore Clay Merchant all tied for low scores for Noblesville with 37s. Kyle Claussen carded 38, Mitchell Compton scored 40 and Michael Podzielinski carded 42.

The Millers will host their Noblesville Invitational Saturday at Fox Prairie Golf Course. The meet begins at 11 a.m.

### Royals cruise past New Pal

Hamilton Southeastern beat New Palestine in a Wednesday dual meet at Ironwood.

The No. 5-ranked Royals won the varsity match 150-169. Senior Luke Jolly was the medalist in the match with a one-under par 35, followed by sophomore John Cherry and senior Jake Hutmacher both with 38 and senior Alex Bullington with 39.

Southeastern won the junior varsity meet 162-187. Seniors Drew Alexander and Will Kirchmer both carded 40s and sophomores Henry Fitzgerald and Sam Smith each scored 41.

The HSE varsity takes part in the Noblesville Invite this Saturday, with the JV in Park Tudor's Invite the same day at Wood Wind.

## Westfield's Aaron Bennett honored at C. Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarship Awards



Kent Graham/File photo

Westfield's Aaron Bennett was among the 13 student-athletes honored at the C. Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarship Awards Thursday evening.

Westfield's Aaron Bennett was among the 13 Indiana senior student-athletes that were honored at Thursday's 2017 C. Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarship Awards.

Bennett and his fellow student-athletes received a \$2,500 scholarship for their prep accomplishments and were recognized in a program at the Indiana Roof Ballroom in downtown Indianapolis as part of the 12th annual Thomas A. Brady Sports Achievement Awards established by Methodist Sports Medicine.

To reward the efforts of Indiana's complete student-athletes, Methodist Sports Medicine, Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, Indianapolis Colts, Indiana Fever, Indiana Pacers, Sport Graphics, Inc., and WTHR-13 have partnered with the IHSAA to sponsor the program. These well-rounded, positive role models have demonstrated excellence in academics, school and community involvement, character, sportsmanship and citizenship.

Bennett has excelled both on and off the field of play. Achieving a 4.29 GPA in the classroom, he is a member of the Math Club, Dance Marathon, National Honor Society, Interact Club, class officer, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, student athletic board, and ACTS (A Chance To Serve). Aaron has earned 11 varsity letters from three different sports. He is a two-time captain in both Cross Country and Track and Field, and is also a senior leader on the basketball team. Away from school, he is constantly active in community service projects at Grace Church, Carey Ridge elementary, and the Shepherd Community Center among others. He has also gone on service trips to both Haiti and El Salvador. Aaron is the son of Joe and Tia Bennett, and he plans to attend Indiana University.

Each student completed and submitted a formal application and had to meet certain criteria to qualify including: 1) be enrolled and participating in interscholastic athletics at an IHSAA member school during this

See Bennett...Page 7

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# Twelve Carmel athletes sign with colleges



Photo courtesy Carmel High School

Carmel High School held a college signing ceremony for athletes in the spring signing period. The twelve Greyhounds are:  
 Seated: Adam Jerde (Wrestling–University of Indianapolis), Rachael Coleman (Allegheny College–Lacrosse), Olivia Christy (Basketball–Colorado Christian University), Natalie Cotheman (Track & Field–Indiana Wesleyan University), Rachel Anderson (Cross Country, Track & Field–Purdue University), Sam Baker (Cross Country–Taylor University)  
 Back row: Dominc Pecoraro (Wrestling–Trine University), Ethan McAndrews (Tennis–Hunter College), Austin Pratt (Track & Field–Cornerstone University), Shawn Roop (Baseball–Manhattan College), Nick Smith (Track & Field–Eastern Indiana Wesleyan University), Chris McNally (Baseball–Wabash College)



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Westfield at Hamilton Southeastern 6 pm
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-  **Softball Friday April 28th**  
Pendleton Heights at Hamilton Southeastern 5:30 pm

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## Tickets available for Noblesville-Carmel game at Victory Field

The Noblesville and Carmel baseball teams will battle at Victory Field at 8 p.m. Friday, April 28, in the second game of a doubleheader. The evening begins with Franklin Central and Brebeuf Jesuit playing at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the Noblesville High School athletic office until the day of the game for \$5.

## BENNETT

From Page 6

school year; 2) be a senior at an IHSAA member school who will graduate this school year; 3) win a varsity letter as an athlete in at least one of the 21 IHSAA-sanctioned athletic programs; 4) be nominated by the school's principal or athletic director; 5) carry a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.00 on a 4.00 scale or the equivalent; 6) have no violations of the school's athletic code of conduct; 7) The student must not have been ejected from any IHSAA contest due to unsportsmanlike behavior; 8) The student must verify that he/she has made a commitment to remain substance-free throughout high school.

More than 100 applications were received from across the state and a blue ribbon panel of six individuals decided upon the final recipients. They are: Bill Benner, Senior Vice President, Pacers Sports & Entertainment; Joe Fonderoli, Director of Special Events, Indianapolis Colts; Rich Nye, Eyewitness Sports Reporter, WTHR Channel 13; Dr. Dale Snead, Methodist Sports Medicine; Davis Whitfield, Chief Operating Officer, National Federation of State High School Associations and; Bobby Cox, Commissioner, Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

The scholarship program is named in tribute to the late Commissioner C. Eugene Cato who led the IHSAA from 1983 to 1995 and served as assistant commissioner from 1976 to 1983. "Gene's" passion for athletics and his belief in the intrinsic value of athletic competition on the formation of a child's character enabled Gene to positively impact generations of young men and women with his well-known "Firm, Fair, and Friendly" approach to caring for others. He passed away in 2008.

Since 2003-04, the IHSAA has recognized 165 outstanding student-athletes with scholarships totaling \$412,500.

The honored guest for the 2017 Brady Sports Achievement Awards was Tamika Catchings, former Indiana Fever Star, who received the Brady Lifetime Achievement Award and also served as keynote speaker for the evening.

The other recipients are:  
 Courtney Blackwell, Whiting  
 Logan Bontrager, Center Grove  
 Nathan Bourne, Angola  
 Brant Buczkowski, Caston  
 Brandt Callahan, Bedford North Lawrence  
 Brayden Chou, Northwestern  
 Kayla Hawthorne, Indianapolis Crispus Attucks  
 Harley Sindors, Clay City  
 Megan Skadberg, McCutcheon  
 Erin Sullivan, Southport  
 Janaya Woehner, Fort Wayne North Side  
 Mary Jane Zeh, Harrison (West Lafayette)

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# MLB standings

**Thursday's scores**  
 Boston 4, Toronto 1, 10 innings  
 Tampa Bay 8, Detroit 1  
 Cleveland 6, Minnesota 2  
 Houston 2, L.A. Angels 1  
 Baltimore 2, Cincinnati 1, 10 innings

Philadelphia 6, N.Y. Mets 4  
 Washington 3, Atlanta 2  
 Texas 1, Kansas City 0, 13 innings  
 Milwaukee 7, St. Louis 5  
 San Diego 4, Arizona 1  
 Oakland 9, Seattle 6

## American League

| East           | W  | L  | PCT. | GB  |
|----------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Baltimore      | 10 | 4  | .714 | -   |
| N.Y. Yankees   | 10 | 5  | .667 | 0.5 |
| Boston         | 10 | 6  | .625 | 1.0 |
| Tampa Bay      | 9  | 8  | .529 | 2.5 |
| Toronto        | 3  | 12 | .200 | 7.5 |
| Central        | W  | L  | PCT. | GB  |
| Cleveland      | 8  | 7  | .533 | -   |
| Detroit        | 8  | 7  | .533 | -   |
| Chi. White Sox | 7  | 7  | .500 | 0.5 |
| Kansas City    | 7  | 8  | .467 | 1.0 |
| Minnesota      | 7  | 8  | .467 | 1.0 |
| West           | W  | L  | PCT. | GB  |
| Houston        | 11 | 5  | .688 | -   |
| Oakland        | 8  | 8  | .500 | 3.0 |
| L.A. Angels    | 7  | 10 | .412 | 4.5 |
| Seattle        | 7  | 10 | .412 | 4.5 |
| Texas          | 6  | 10 | .375 | 5.0 |

## National League

| East          | W  | L  | PCT. | GB  |
|---------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Washington    | 10 | 5  | .667 | -   |
| Miami         | 8  | 7  | .533 | 2.0 |
| N.Y. Mets     | 8  | 8  | .500 | 2.5 |
| Atlanta       | 6  | 9  | .400 | 4.0 |
| Philadelphia  | 6  | 9  | .400 | 4.0 |
| Central       | W  | L  | PCT. | GB  |
| Cincinnati    | 9  | 7  | .563 | -   |
| Chi. Cubs     | 8  | 7  | .533 | 0.5 |
| Milwaukee     | 9  | 8  | .529 | 0.5 |
| Pittsburgh    | 6  | 9  | .400 | 3.0 |
| St. Louis     | 6  | 10 | .375 | 3.0 |
| West          | W  | L  | PCT. | GB  |
| Colorado      | 10 | 6  | .625 | -   |
| Arizona       | 10 | 7  | .588 | 0.5 |
| L.A. Dodgers  | 8  | 8  | .500 | 2.0 |
| San Diego     | 7  | 10 | .412 | 3.5 |
| San Francisco | 6  | 10 | .375 | 4.0 |

## Huge Cleveland comeback sends Pacers to Game 3 defeat

By WHEAT HOTCHKISS

Courtesy nba.com/pacers

After dropping Games 1 and 2 of their first-round playoff series in Cleveland, the Pacers appeared on their way to an emphatic bounce-back win in Game 3 on Thursday night at Bankers Life Fieldhouse.

But LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers showed why they are the reigning NBA champions in the second half. James registered a triple-double and scored 28 of his game-high 41 points over the final two quarters to lead the Cavs to a stunning 119-114 comeback win.

The Pacers set a franchise record for points in the first half of a playoff game, opening up a 74-49 lead over the Cavaliers through two quarters. But Cleveland rallied, outscoring Indiana 35-17 in the third quarter and eventually moving in front with 6:28 remaining in the fourth.

"Here we are up (25) to start the second half and a chance to put our foot on their throat," Pacers forward Paul George said after the loss. "And we came out relaxed."

The two teams wound up trading the lead four times over the next couple minutes before LeBron James' layup off an inbounds pass gave Cleveland a 105-104 lead with 4:52 to play. Kyle Korver's 3-pointer pushed the Cavaliers' lead to four points, but George answered with a triple of his own on the other end.

James, however, continued his brilliant second-half performance by burying a three from the left corner that made it 111-107 with 2:50 remaining. The next basket didn't come until Channing Frye's 3-pointer with 54.8 seconds left, the finishing touch on Cleveland's colossal comeback.

"We didn't pressure on the ball, we didn't make anything tough," George said about the second half. "I thought they had stretches where they were walking into wide-open 3-pointers. They can't do that."

"We got beat like that in Game 1. We got beat like that in Game 2. At some point, we've got to nip that in the bud."

James finished with 41 points, 13 rebounds, and 12 assists, going 14-for-27 from the field and 6-for-12 from 3-point range.

George was as brilliant in the loss, nearly recording his own triple-double. He finished with 36 points, 15 rebounds, and nine assists.

The Pacers, however, struggled mightily in the second half, making just 13-of-51 shots (25.5 percent) over the final two quarters.

"How we played in the first half, they played in the second," Pacers guard Lance Stephenson said. "We just let down."

The first quarter was a back-and-forth affair initially, with four ties and six lead changes in the early going. But the Pacers seized control midway through the period when their reserves triggered a 10-0 run to give the Blue & Gold the first sizable advantage of the night.

Stephenson brought the energy off the bench in the early going. The fan favorite received a standing ovation when he first checked into the contest, then promptly drilled an open 3-pointer. Stephenson set up fellow reserve Kevin Seraphin early and often in the first quarter, as the Frenchman racked up nine points in just 4:25 in the opening frame, six of them coming during that 10-0 run.

As a team, Indiana was on fire in the opening period, knocking down 14-of-21 shots (66.7 percent) to open up a 37-27 lead over the defending champs.

"They definitely jumped all over us," James said. "We knew we'd have to take one of their punches, but they gave us a flurry, more than we expected."

The home team also got an encouraging lift early from second-year center Myles Turner. The team's third-leading scorer struggled mightily in the first two games of the series in Cleveland, but he knocked down a jumper on the opening possession of Game 3 and ignited the crowd in the second quarter with arguably the best dunk of his young career.

Turner missed a jumper on the right baseline, but hustled past Kevin Love to collect his own rebound, then bodied Tristan Thompson out of the way in mid-air while throwing down a monster one-handed slam that sent the sellout crowd into hysterics. Turner was so jacked up by the dunk he was still pounding his chest and gesturing to the crowd when J.R. Smith's 3-point attempt bounced out of bounds on the ensuing possession.

George, meanwhile, got off to an uncharacteristically slow start offensively, missing his first four shots and scoring just two points in the first quarter before returning to his torrid playoff production in the second period. George erupted for 21 points in the second quarter alone, helping Indiana stretch its lead to as many as 26 points and taking a 74-49 lead into the break.

Indiana's 74 first-half points shattered the previous franchise NBA playoff record of 65, set on June 2, 1995 against Orlando

and again on April 17, 2004 vs. Boston. The Pacers shot 56.8 percent from the floor and went 10-for-17 from 3-point range in the first half.

"That first half, we felt like a real team," Stephenson said. "We were playing together, we were pushing the ball, we were making the right plays, we were hitting the open guys."

"We were having fun."

But the Cavaliers opened the third quarter with a 13-3 run to trim the deficit to 15. The Pacers pushed their lead back to 20 points after back-to-back 3-pointers by Jeff Teague and Stephenson, only for Cleveland to immediately reel off 14 unanswered points, capped by a James three from eight feet beyond the 3-point line.

A pair of Seraphin free throws ended the Pacers' scoreless streak, but James hit another 3-pointer on the other end to make it 89-84 with 30 seconds remaining in the third quarter. Stephenson drew James' fourth foul on the ensuing possession and knocked down both foul shots to give Indiana a seven-point advantage heading into the fourth quarter.

"We couldn't push like we were because we weren't getting stops," Pacers guard C.J. Miles said about the Pacers' second-half slump. "We were getting stops in the first half so that allowed us to push the tempo and move the ball and not let the defense get set."

"When you're not getting stops, now you're coming down against a more set defense every time and kind of getting stagnant."

The Cavaliers continued to chip away at Indiana's lead in the fourth quarter, eventually tying the game at 98 on James' driving dunk with seven minutes to play.

Cleveland stripped the ball from George on the next possession, leading to another dunk for James on the break, giving the Cavs their first lead since the 6:41 mark in the first quarter. Jeff Teague put the Pacers back in front with an acrobatic 3-pointer while drawing a foul on the other end, setting the stage for a wild finish that seemed utterly inconceivable just an hour and a half earlier.

"It happened so fast," Stephenson marveled after the game.

Teague had 15 points and seven assists in the loss, while Thaddeus Young recorded a double-double with 11 points and 14 rebounds. Stephenson added 13 points and six boards off the bench.

Love, Kyrie Irving, J.R. Smith, and Frye each scored 13 points for Cleveland, while Korver added 12 on 4-of-5 shooting from 3-point range.

The Pacers will look to stave off elimination on Sunday afternoon in Game 4, scheduled for 1 p.m. at Bankers Life Fieldhouse.

"We're playing for pride now," Teague said. "We're all competitors in here and we all believe in one another."

"We ain't getting swept."

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