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SPORTS



Josh Mawhoor dives for a loose ball against Taylor at Luckey Arena.

IHSAA lifts July sports ban

Recently, Dr. Jennifer McCormick, State Superintendent of Public Instruction clarified the school closure order which ends on June 30, 2020. June 30th is the end of the traditionally defined school year in our state; therefore, school buildings are to remain closed through June 30, 2020. In light of this directive, the Indiana High School Athletic Association is hereby suspending any school sponsored athletic activities through June 30, 2020. School sponsored activities are any school authorized activities directed, observed or instructed by the school’s coaching staff regardless of the location. This includes any conditioning, skills development and associated activities through the end of June. Conditioning and During the School Year activities may only occur in or on school property, subsequently, these activities are hereby suspended. Question 15-56 of the IHSAA by-laws provides the following:

Q. 15-56 Can a School have a Summer Open Facility session “off-campus”, or at a location which is not owned by or officially controlled by the School?

A. No, like a Limited Contact Program, a Summer Open Facility Program must be conducted on campus or at a site where home Contests are regularly held. For example, a School cannot conduct a Summer Open Facility session at the local batting cage for its students wishing to work on their baseball skills but could hold Summer Open Facility session at a municipal field if that is where the School regularly held its home Contests.

Provided there are no adjustments to Governor Eric Holcomb’s announced plans to re-open the State of Indi-

IWU: The championship game

By Sean Douglas

Before their championship bout with Saint Francis, Indiana Wesleyan head coach Greg Tonagel, associate head coach Jeff Clark, and the coaching staff spent time with the players, and their dads, in prayer and devotion, looking to set their minds right for another contest against their longtime league rival.

“I remember that morning, we gathered up the team and instead of going through more scouting or shootaround, we said, ‘Let’s spend some time together in prayer with our dads,’” Tonagel said. “We invited all the dads in, and we just began to tell stories about the year and reminisced on what God had done throughout the year. For us, the basketball season is about spiritual growth and where we’ve come from, and so to reflect upon that, I think we walked out with a sense of freedom. It was a sense of, ‘This year has been incredible. This is a blessing and an opportunity tonight. It’s not a burden.



The Indiana Wesleyan Wildcats hold their 2016 Championship Banner after their championship victory over the University of Saint Francis

There’s no pressure.’ When you can perform under those conditions, your potential has it’s best opportunity to be maximized.”

That time spent with one another, in the stillness and presence of the Lord, helped lift any burdens that the Wildcats may have been carrying.

They knew that even if they failed to defeat Saint Francis in the championship game, they were deter-

Third
in a
series

mined to play fearless basketball for 40 minutes.

“Going into that national championship game, we didn’t have anything to lose,” Peters said. “We knew that Saint Francis had beaten us three times. We knew that Saint Francis was probably a better team than us. We always talked about playing fearlessly and playing free. They were the ones with all the pressure. They were the ones with everything on their shoulders at this point.”

Indiana Wesleyan opened the game on a tear, knock-

ing down six of their first seven shots, all of which came from beyond the arc, and with 8:43 remaining in the first half, the Wildcats held a 24-11 lead.

“At this point, we knew them very, very well. I think our post defense was probably the biggest thing that was changed,” Marlin said. “They had two guys that were just dominant inside, and they had three perimeter guys who could really shoot. Our reads just became more natural. We were much quicker in our defensive rotation.

But from then on, the game was as competitive as IWU had played all season long.

The Cougars came roaring back in the first half, eventually cutting their deficit to four points, but the Wildcats took a 32-26 lead at halftime.

Saint Francis took their first lead since early in the game on a three-pointer from Kegan Comer, and after some back-and-forth play over the next 10 minutes, the Cougars held a 62-61 advantage.

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