

# Dr. Bragg: 1 of 96 Special Giants

It hit me just the other day that the select group of men who won a state championship ring in 1926, 1975, 1976, 1985, 1986, 1987, 2000, and 2016 don’t even number 100.

In fact, the number of Marion Giant state championship boys basketball players is set right now at 96.



SPORTS TALK  
Jim Brunner



Every now and then, I run into one of those state champions and it doesn’t take me long to see what special attributes they possessed to help them cut down the nets for the Purple and Gold.

I’m thinking today of my family doctor, Jeff Bragg. When we think of 1976, they have all those memories of Dave Cole-

scott winning his second state title but also taking home the triple crown with the Trestler Award and the Mr. Basketball jersey later that year.

Jeff Bragg was a huge part of that ’76 state championship. He not only had two big games that year at state with six versus Jeffersonville and 14 in the state finals win over Rushville, but it was his defense that shut down the big boys like Tommy Baker and Brad Miley.

Bill Green always had a smart, athletic Giant playing the rover position to make the matchup zone so special. Coaches for years have tried to figure it out. All the red-head would say was that the matchup zone won he, and Marion High School, five state titles.

Jeff Bragg was everywhere that day at Market Square Arena, and other than David Colescott, made all the big play on defense to win the Giants the 1976 state title.

I went to see Dr. Bragg this week for a final look see at what the coronavirus had done to me. Every time I see one of the 96 Giants who won a state title, there is a special bond that brings back memories of those wonderful years so many years ago. Jeff, as much as any Giant, has become a giant in the medical profession here in Giant town, and we are all so proud of what he has done.

That little look at me when he first came in the room this week brought back many wonderful memories of Jeff Bragg the state champion Giant and not just Dr. Jeff Bragg the well-known and loved doctor here in Marion.

God bless men like Jeff Bragg who have gone to wonderful things outside of Giant hoops.

Remember. Giants fight, never die.

God bless Dr. Jeff Bragg.



Kyle Mangas drives to the baseline against Huntington.  
Photo by Sean Douglas

## IWU collects 13th win, remains undefeated

By Sean Douglas

In their sixth Crossroads League matchup, the No. 3 IWU Wildcats faced their toughest test of the season in the young, yet talented Huntington Foresters.

The Foresters played well for most of the contest, shooting 52.3 percent from the field and recording the second-best scoring output against the Wildcats this season.

“They played hard, and they competed from start to finish,” IWU Head Coach Greg Tonagel said. “We knew it wasn’t going to be easy. That’s a good ball club, and Kory [Alford] is a good, young coach who is going to do some good things there.”

However, the staunch play of Kyle Mangas, a double-digit run in the first half, and the Wildcats’ dominance on the glass proved to be the difference, as IWU remained undefeated with a 115-89 win over their longtime league foe.

“I thought we came out with a punch,” Tonagel said. “We came out ready to play. We were really locked in, and when we are locked in like that, we are pretty tough.”

Mangas played with a chip on his shoulder and with a purpose all afternoon, scoring 31 points and collecting six rebounds and seven assists. The Foresters had no answers for the defending Bevo Francis Player of the Year, who knocked down 12 of his 20 shots and two-of-five from the perimeter.

“Kyle is the ultimate competitor,” Tonagel said. “Of any kid I’ve ever coached, he shows up every single night. There is never a night where he thinks it’s going to be easy. There is

never a night where he takes a rest, and that includes practices. That’s what makes him special.”

As a team, the Wildcats crashed the glass on both ends, outrebounding the Foresters by a commanding 43-18 margin, including a 19-6 ratio in the opening 20 minutes. Of their 43 rebounds, 15 came on the offensive glass, which led to 23 second chance points and 58 total points in the paint.

“We’ve been trying to improve rebounding, and tonight, we got 15 offensive rebounds,” Tonagel said. “That was an emphasis.”

Four other players finished in double figures, including Dylan Alderson, who scored 23 points, 17 of which came in the second half. Seth Maxwell scored 17 points and collected five rebounds, while Tayson Parker added 12 points and six boards off the bench.

However, it was Michael Thompson III, finishing with 19 points on a perfect seven-of-seven shooting from the field, who sparked the Wildcats to their 13th consecutive victory to start the season.

The game was close in the early stages, as both teams traded baskets. Mangas scored five of IWU’s first seven points, but former Oak Hill star Caleb Middlesworth scored a basket in the paint to make it a 7-6 Wildcat advantage with 17:46 showing.

On the Wildcats’ next possession, Thompson knocked down a corner three and was fouled, granting him the opportunity for a rare four-point play. He knocked down the ensuing free throw, giving the Wildcats a five-point lead, and from that moment on, the Wildcats controlled the

Continued on Page 8

## Defense lifts Eastbrook girls to CIC victory

By Sean Douglas

While Eastbrook’s offensive production has rapidly improved this season, the Panthers’ strength is their play on the defensive end of the floor.

And it was the key to their third straight win in their CIC opener on Wednesday evening against Mississinewa.

Behind 25 forced turnovers, together with a shutout in the second quarter, the Panthers began their conference schedule on the right foot with a 66-32 triumph over the Indians.

The Panthers’ 66 points scored marked their second-best offensive output of the season, while the 32 points allowed was the second-lowest.

“I told them at the end of the first that I didn’t feel all five girls were working as a unit,” Eastbrook Head Coach Jeff Liddick said. “I challenged them at the beginning of the second, ‘Listen, if all five of you will react and play with intensity, we will go on a big run here.’ That defense led to a lot of steals, which led to a lot of layups.”

After Sophia Morrison and Johwen McKim led the Panthers to a 14-7 lead after the opening eight minutes of play, the duo helped the Panthers dial in defensively. Eastbrook brought Mississinewa’s offense to a screeching halt, and a plethora of steals by Morrison and McKim led to several easy baskets on the offensive end.

By the time the halftime buzzer sounded, the Panthers outscored the Indians 19-0 and held a 33-7 advantage at the break.

“That wasn’t our team tonight,” Friday said. “We were mentally checked out the whole game. I’m not sure why, but we are going to watch the film and figure it out. That wasn’t our team. We know that. The girls know that. We will figure it out, watch the film, and see where we can go for Saturday.”

In the second quarter, Mississinewa finished 0-for-10 from the field, while turning the ball over 10 times. They were unable to get anything going offensively, and Eastbrook’s stout defense did not allow them to settle into any sort of rhythm.

“We just didn’t follow the gameplan very well,” Friday said. “We knew that was the defense they were going to run. We practiced it all last week, and then two days this week. We just didn’t execute the gameplan.”

The Panthers retained their focus and composure throughout the rest of the contest, never allowing the lead to drop below double digits. After shooting six-for-11 in the second quarter, Eastbrook continued to pull away in the third, knocking down nine of their 15 attempts and four of their five looks from beyond the arc to increase their advantage to 58-16. Eastbrook’s reserves held their ground in the fourth quarter as the Panthers secured the 34-point triumph.

Morrison put together another

Continued on Page 9

### Scores for December 8-14

#### Boy's Basketball

12/8—Mississinewa **56-57** Huntington North  
12/11—Marion **78-60** Richmond  
12/11—Oak Hill **39-58** Mississinewa  
12/11—Eastbrook **31-59** Frankton  
12/12—Fort Wayne North **52-71** Marion  
12/12—Mississinewa **49-51** Yorktown  
12/12—Maconaquah **67-73 (OT)** Oak Hill

#### Boy's Swimming and Diving

12/8—Jay County **70-110** Oak Hill

#### Girl's Basketball

12/8—Fort Wayne Wayne **81-18** Marion  
12/8—Oak Hill **34-61** Maconaquah  
12/9—Madison-Grant **70-41** Lapel  
12/9—Eastbrook **66-32** Mississinewa  
12/11—Eastbrook **35-52** Frankton  
12/12—Mississinewa **34-26** Oak Hill  
12/12—Marion **22-69** Huntington North

#### Girl's Swimming and Diving

12/8—Jay County **84-101** Oak Hill

#### Men's Basketball

12/9—Taylor University **44-109** Indiana Wesleyan  
12/12—Huntington University **89-115** Indiana Wesleyan University  
12/14—Taylor University **84-69** University of Rio Grande

#### Women's Basketball

12/9—Indiana Wesleyan University **69-80** Taylor University  
12/12—Taylor University **78-64** Grace College  
12/12—Indiana Wesleyan University **76-63** Huntington University  
12/14—Governors State University **67-76** Taylor University

#### Women's Collegiate Swimming

12/9—Indiana Wesleyan University @ Asbury Invitational (Day 1) – **80 points**  
**Livi Bell, Abbe Hershberger, Olivia Cummins, and Hallie Hunt – 1:41.00**  
12/10—Indiana Wesleyan University @ Asbury Invitational (Day 2) – **4<sup>th</sup> place (361)**  
**800 Free Relay - 8:06.97 - Erica Samuel, Natalie Vasiliakos, Abbe Hershberger, Hallie Hunt**  
**400 Medley Relay - 4:06.59 - Olivia Cummins, Erica Samuel, Hallie Hunt, Abbe Hershberger**  
12/11—Indiana Wesleyan University @ Asbury Invitational (Day 3) – **3<sup>rd</sup> place (678)**  
**400 IM - Erica Samuel – 1<sup>st</sup> place – 4:35.92 (Program Record)**  
**400 IM - Linnea Holmgren – 2<sup>nd</sup> place – 4:45.12**

#### Wrestling

12/9—Tri-Central/Elwood/Anderson @ Madison-Grant  
**Madison-Grant 54-24 Tri-Central**  
**Madison-Grant 54-18 Elwood**  
**Madison-Grant 34-42 Anderson**  
12/12—Marion @ Western Invitational (Eastern High School)  
**Jekwan Williams, Nic Elliott, Greg Johnson, Levi Lee – 5-0**  
12/12—Oak Hill @ Western Invitational  
**Tyson Kendall, Austin Lawrence, Brody Arthur, Aidan Hardcastle – 5-0**

### Weekly Schedule

#### Thursday, Dec. 17

5:30 p.m. —BSD—Marion @ Elwood  
5:30 p.m. —GSD—Marion @ Elwood  
6 p.m. —W—Southern Wells @ Mississinewa  
7 p.m. —WB—Indiana Wesleyan University @ University of Health, Sciences & Pharmacy  
7:30 p.m. —GB—Madison-Grant @ APA

#### Friday, Dec. 18

5 p.m. —WB—IU East @ Taylor University  
6 p.m. —WB—Indiana Wesleyan University @ Missouri Baptist University  
6 p.m. —GB—Eastbrook @ Alexandria  
7 p.m. —MB—Indiana Wesleyan University @ Arizona Christian University  
7:30 p.m. —BB—Madison-Grant @ Mississinewa  
7:30 p.m. —BB—Marion @ Kokomo  
7:30 p.m. —BB—Frankton @ Oak Hill

#### Saturday, Dec. 19

9 a.m. —BSD—Oak Hill @ Hamilton Southeastern Invitational  
9 a.m. —GSD—Oak Hill @ Hamilton Southeastern Invitational  
9 a.m. —W—Eastbrook @ Wapahani Invitational  
9 a.m. —W—Madison-Grant @ County Tournament  
9 a.m. —W—Marion @ Jay County Quad  
10 a.m. —BSD—Oak Hill @ Warsaw Diving Invitational  
10 a.m. —GSD—Oak Hill @ Warsaw Diving Invitational  
12:30 p.m. —GB—Mississinewa @ Madison-Grant  
1 p.m. —MB—Indiana Wesleyan University @ Benedictine University at Mesa  
4 p.m. —WB—Oakland City University @ Taylor University  
6 p.m. —BB—Madison-Grant @ Tri-Central  
6 p.m. —BB—Mississinewa @ Kokomo  
7:30 p.m. —BB—Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger @ Marion  
7:30 p.m. —BB—Oak Hill @ Fort Wayne Concordia  
7:30 p.m. —GB—Kokomo @ Eastbrook  
7:30 p.m. —GB—Oak Hill @ Frankton

#### Monday, Dec. 21

5:30 p.m. —WB—Indiana Wesleyan University @ IU Kokomo  
6 p.m. —W—Eastbrook @ Grant Four  
6 p.m. —W—Madison-Grant @ Grant Four  
6 p.m. —W—Mississinewa @ Grant Four  
6 p.m. —W—Oak Hill @ Grant Four