

# Football season is weeks away

I’m going to shock you with this statement. As you read this, its only three weeks away.

On the 20th of February, the Wildcats of Indiana Wesleyan University kick off another college football season.

Many have forgotten in the heat of the epidemic known as COVID, that IWU and many schools, rather than battle through the fall football season, moved everything to winter and spring of 2021.

So, on the 20th of February, the football ‘Cats will head to Olivet Nazarene to begin a rather different football season. Normally, we start in good weather and wrap in the cold of late fall. In 2021, we start in winter, and who knows what that will bring and finish hopefully on the second Saturday of April.

Jordan Langs has been preparing for this football season for the ‘Cats all year long. And now, as begin the countdown from months, to weeks, to just days, football will soon be back at IWU.

IWU’s first two games on Feb. 20 and Feb. 27 are on the road at Olivet and Lawrence Tech, then the

home opener is set for March 6. That afternoon, IWU will host Siena Heights.

That Saturday, you could experience something never before heard of. Taking in a College Saturday afternoon football at IWU, and that night, watching your favorite Grant County high school team play for a boys sectional basketball title. That will be different.

Speaking of basketball, the local high school will be playing in the IHSAA boys tourney in early March. At that very same time, the nationally ranked IWU Wildcats hope-

fully be starting their odyssey to contend for the school’s fourth NAIA National Mens Basketball Title.

Should be a busy opening to the month of March.

I’m sure if all goes well with the nation’s health, we will be back to fall football for the 2021-2022. But who knows? Little did we think IWU would be playing a college football in mid-February. Get out the winter gear.

Are you ready for some football?



## SPORTS TALK

Jim Brunner



*Olivia Aguilar takes the ball up the court against Lafayette Jefferson. Photo by Sean Douglas*

# Lady Giants

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do to improve. That’s the main thing.”

Olivia Aguilar, Marion’s lone upperclassman, finished with 15 points and nine rebounds in the contest and continues to provide leadership to the Giants’ younger players.

“She makes everybody else better when she is on, and going, and doing the things we needed them to do,” Freshwater said.

Boyd finished with eight points and seven rebounds, while Beal collected six

points for the Giants.

Entering the last week of their regular season, Freshwater and the Giants are just looking to finish the season strong.

“We still have to work on fundamentals and try to [put together] a complete game,” Freshwater said. “We’ve got two more games, two more conference games. We are going to keep working on the basic stuff – catch, dribble, pass – and doing those little things we need to do.”

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many points you got, and everything else. He is going to be an outstanding player, no doubt about it. He has all the tools to be one of the greats that come out of Marion.”

Matt Goolsby, who has worked diligently to rediscover his scoring touch after a few tough outings, played with confidence, scoring 11 points, which included an emphatic dunk in the third quarter.

But the most impressive player on the floor was Josh Balfour, who continues to elevate his game throughout his senior campaign. Balfour led the Giants with 15 points and six rebounds, and McPherson was impressed with all factors of his play.

“I said, ‘Josh, you are going to play all the time. Might take you out to take a drink of water, but you have to be a leader out there, and penetrate, dish, and make things happen.’ And he did,” McPherson said. “He did a good job. He just has to continue doing that for the rest of the year.”

Marion and Lafayette Jefferson hung tight with one another throughout the first two quarters. The Bronchos took an 18-16 lead after the first quarter and a 37-35 advantage after the second.

However, after halftime,

Jefferson began to run their offense through Barnhizer, and the Giants, despite playing sound defense, were unable to contain him.

After scoring 20 in the first half, Barnhizer scored 13 points in the third quarter, shooting four-of-five from the field, including a pair of triples. Whether he was beyond the arc or in the paint, the Northwestern-commit found a way to put the ball in the basket, and it helped the Bronchos increase their lead from two to 10 after the third quarter of play. Lafayette started the second half on a 12-5 run and controlled the game from that point forward.

“I was really proud of them defensively,” McPherson said. “We wore down a little bit, and Barnhizer is a great player. He’s a big-time player. He’s tough, and he’s hard to stop, but I thought overall, we did a pretty good job on them, really. He’s a great scorer. He can play in the Big 10, no doubt about that. He’s a good one. He’s top notch.”

In the fourth quarter, the Giants’ offense went cold, scoring just three points in the first five minutes of the frame. Barnhizer and the Bronchos took full advantage, pulling away to secure the 17-point triumph.

# Blackmon becomes Giants’ No.2 all-time scorers

By Sean Douglas

With each passing contest, Jalen Blackmon moves closer to history.

Marion’s star senior point guard achieved another significant milestone, moving into second place on the all-time Marion boys basketball scoring list, surpassing Giant legend and three-time state champion Jay Edwards.

However, Blackmon’s historic performance did not translate to a victory.

A sluggish performance overall, combined with several uncharacteristic breakdowns late in the contest, proved to be the difference, as the Giants fell to long-time rival Anderson 59-55 on Tuesday evening.

For the Indians, it marked their first victory over Marion since 2013.

Offensively, the Giants struggled, failing to find any sort of flow. Many shots were taken out of the rhythm of the offense, and Anderson’s dominance on the glass led to a plethora of one-and-done possessions. For the game, Marion shot just 19-of-56 (34 percent) from the field and seven-of-20 (35 percent) from be-

yond the arc.

In the rebounding battle, Anderson dominated the Giants. For the game, Anderson outrebounded Marion 47-28, 26-12 in the first two quarter and had three players – Tyrelle Wills, Kedric Anderson, and Jalen Murphy – each finish with 10 or more rebounds.

The game was close from the opening tip, as neither team ever led by more than seven points. Anderson opened the game on a 9-2 run, but eight first quarter points by Rodney Gipson kept the Indians from fully grabbing the momentum.

Neither team created much separation in the third quarter, combining for just 19 points, but five straight points from Blackmon to end the frame gave Marion a 40-39 lead heading into the final eight minutes.

But from there, it all unraveled. After the Indians’ defense forced several crucial Marion turnovers, Wills hit back-to-back threes, the first two triples of the game for Anderson, to tie the game at 55-55. And with 12 seconds to play, Marcus Armstrong, drove into the lane and scored the game-winning basket.

# Puzzle answers

ANSWER:

3	8	1	7	4	6	9	2	5
4	7	2	9	1	5	3	6	8
5	6	9	3	8	2	7	1	4
8	1	3	4	5	9	2	7	6
7	4	6	8	2	1	5	3	9
9	2	5	6	7	3	8	4	1
1	5	7	2	6	8	4	9	3
6	3	4	5	9	7	1	8	2
2	9	8	1	3	4	6	5	7

## PUZZLE SOLUTION

R	E	A	P			F	R	G			R	A	H		
A	R	I	E	L		L	A	R			R	A	B	I	
D	A	N	A	E		O	V	A			A	C	E	S	
	S	U	S	U	S		W	I	N		G	E	L	S	
					A	D	E	N	O	M	A	S			
P	R	E	M	A	T	U	R	E	L	Y					
R	E	T	I	R	E	D		S	A	O					
E	V	A	D	E						P	A	S	C	H	
					N	A	M		F	A	I	L	U	R	E
					A	B	O	M	I	N	A	T	I	O	N
		R	E	S	O	N	A	N	T						
M	O	A	B		L	O	G		A	A	H	E	D		
E	L	B	A		I	C	Y			A	O	T	U	S	
N	E	B	N		S	L	A			R	A	C	K	S	
D	A	I			H	E	R			R	H	E	E		

# On the schedule

**Wednesday, Jan. 27**  
1 p.m. —SB—Taylor University @ Ottawa University  
Game 2—SB—Taylor University @ Ottawa University  
5 p.m. —MB—University of Rio Grande @ Indiana Wesleyan University  
5 p.m. —WB—Goshen College @ Taylor University  
6 p.m. —GB—Richmond @ Marion  
8 p.m. —MB—Goshen College @ Taylor University  
8 p.m. —MBB—Taylor University @ Arizona Christian University  
**Thursday, Jan. 28**  
6 p.m. —BSD—Jay County @ Marion  
6 p.m. —GSD—Jay County @ Marion  
7 p.m. —GB—Blackford @ Oak Hill  
7:30 p.m. —GB—Madison-Grant @ Alexandria  
7:30 p.m. —GB—Mississinewa @ Northwestern  
8 p.m. —MBB—Taylor University @ Benedictine University at Mesa  
**Friday, Jan. 29**  
9:30 a.m. —MTF—Taylor University @ Indiana Tech Invitational  
9:30 a.m. —WTF—Taylor University @ Indiana Tech Invitational  
1 p.m. —SB—Taylor University @ Arizona Christian University  
3 p.m. —SB—Taylor University @ College of Idaho  
6 p.m. —GB—Blackford @ Eastbrook  
7 p.m. —MBB—Taylor University @ Ottawa University  
7:30 p.m. —BB—Blackford @ Eastbrook  
7:30 p.m. —BB—Logansport @ Marion  
7:30 p.m. —BB—Alexandria @ Mississinewa  
7:30 p.m. —GB—Marion @ McCutcheon  
7:45 p.m. —BB—Madison-Grant @ Oak Hill  
**Saturday, Jan. 30**  
9 a.m. —W—Eastbrook @ Sectional (Oak Hill)  
9 a.m. —W—Madison-Grant @ Sectional (Oak Hill)  
9 a.m. —W—Marion @ Sectional (Muncie Central)  
9 a.m. —W—Mississinewa @ Sectional (Oak Hill)  
9 a.m. —W—Oak Hill @ Sectional (Oak Hill)  
1 p.m. —MB—University of Saint Francis @ Indiana Wesleyan University  
1 p.m. —MB—Taylor University @ Marian University  
1 p.m. —WB—Indiana Wesleyan University @ University of Saint Francis  
4 p.m. —MBB—University of Saint Katherine @ Taylor University  
7:30 p.m. —BB—Taylor @ Eastbrook  
7:30 p.m. —BB—Madison-Grant @ Bluffton  
7:30 p.m. —BB—Fort Wayne Northrop @ Marion  
7:30 p.m. —BB—Oak Hill @ Lapel