



SPORTS, D1 RETIRING REGGIE'S NO. 31

Pacers hang banner honoring Miller's 18-year career in Indy



THE BUZZ PAGE, B4
NEW ORLEANS STARS
COMING TO JAZZ FEST
Wynton Marsalis will play

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

A GANNETT NEWSPAPER
★ INDYSTAR.COM ★

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty" II COR. 3:17

STATE EDITION
★ 50 CENTS ★

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2006

FINALFOUR

WEEKEND TIPOFF!

Your game plan for the Final Four — and much more — in Indy

IN TODAY'S STAR



VISITORS' GUIDE (YOU NEED THIS)

A day-by-day guide to Final Four weekend, pullout map, 100 hot spots, 10 tips on finding stuff, and must-do's for couples, families, alumni, collegians.



THINK OUTSIDE THE DOME

Go! suggests 19 cool things to do and places to go, including live music, great food and drinks, sports art and the famous fieldhouse from "Hoosiers."

CATCH THE BUZZ

Watch for our fan page today through Tuesday, including Susan Guyett's Talk of Our Town, a guide to events and insider info. Today: where LSU boosters will hang out, and where to see ESPN and 20 talk-radio stations at work. **A9**

FINAL FOUR LEGENDS

Forty years ago, Texas Western became the first team with an all-black starting lineup to win the tourney. **D1**



MATT DETRICH / The Star

TOUGH BRACKET TO UPDATE: Basketball fans paused alongside Illinois Street in Downtown Indianapolis on Thursday to take photos of a huge "human bracket" — each team is represented by a photograph of a fan displaying their team's name. And then there were four ...

QUICK TIPS

Welcome, fans. What you need to know today

- ◆ **Tickets:** The games are officially sold out, but plenty of tickets are available online and on street corners — for a price. Cost: \$175-\$3,900.
- ◆ **Weather:** Got a raincoat? There's a good chance of storms today, but at least it's not supposed to snow. Keep in mind that Indy forecasts can be wrong this time of year. **Story, B1. Full forecast, B8.**
- ◆ **Team practices:** Want to get into the Dome for free? The Final Four teams will have a free practice session at the RCA Dome from noon to 4 p.m.
- ◆ **NCAA Hoop City:** Bring the kids! A huge interactive fan zone opens at the Indiana Convention Center for three days starting at 10 a.m. today. You'll find rope and wall climbing, golf, soccer, baseball, Rupert Boneham, celebrity shootout, a do-it-yourself ESPN broadcast booth ... oh yeah — basketball, too. **Story, A8**
- ◆ **NABC College All-Star Game:** College all-stars vs. the Harlem Globetrotters. Tipoff is 7:30 p.m. at Conesco Fieldhouse. Tickets available at the door.
- ◆ **Parking and traffic:** Plan to use a parking garage or lot. Downtown has more than 66,000 parking spaces, but most metered spots will be restricted near event sites. Extra police officers will be on the streets to keep traffic moving.
- ◆ **Eating out:** Downtown restaurants will be busy, but many have added tents to expand their capacity. Most will be serving meals later, too.

— Dan McFeely



ONLINE EXTRA
INDYSTAR.COM

Sportswriters' blogs, great moments in Final Four history, video tour of the NCAA Hall of Champions and how to submit your own photos this weekend. IndyStar.com/finalfour

Governor grants bars a reprieve for DST

By Mary Beth Schneider
mary.beth.schneider@indystar.com

Final Four revelers will be able to toast their teams after 2 a.m. this Sunday despite the start of daylight-saving time.

Gov. Mitch Daniels issued a statement Thursday saying bars, restaurants and taverns can change their clocks an hour after daylight-saving time kicks in at 2 a.m. Sunday.

The switch to DST means that 2 a.m. will suddenly become 3 a.m. And that's when bars are supposed to shut down.

That lost hour, tavern owners said, would have meant a loss of at least \$250,000 in revenue.

Daniels, though, issued a reprieve.

"Most of us will set our clocks ahead before we go to bed. They (the bars and restaurants) can do it when they're locking up for the night," he said in a statement. "And, by the way, we won't take away the extra hour they'll get when we fall back in October."

The Champps Downtown sports bar and restaurant normally closes at 2 a.m., but its managers had planned to stay open until 3 a.m. Sunday to cash in on the Final Four crowd. Now it'll be able to do just that, legally.

"I'm sure we'll pull in a couple ex-



Gov. Mitch Daniels

INSIDE: Calm down, Matthew Tully says: DST doesn't herald the apocalypse. **Column, B1**

See Bars, Page A8

MY NIGHT AT THE CONRAD

On first night, hotel is a little shy of perfect



By Kelly Kendall
kelly.kendall@indystar.com

A so-so first date can always evolve into a great marriage. The discouraging first day on the job can be the beginning of an illustrious career.

My stay as an incognito guest on opening night at the Conrad Hotel, the hotly anticipated Downtown Indianapolis luxury

hotel, was less than perfect, but give them a few weeks — they may yet win that top hotel rating they're hoping for.

The Conrad has gotten lots of press about its reach for five stars, a ranking that would be a first for an Indiana hotel. It's all in the details: Stay in one of the Conrad's 20 worldwide locations, and next time they'll set the thermostat just the way you had it last.

Luxury, of course, comes at a price. This weekend, as hotel rates all over the city shoot up in preparation for NCAA visitors, the Conrad is all booked



FRANK ESPICH / The Star

BREAKFAST IS SERVED: An \$18 room service continental breakfast included tea, coffee, pastries and fruit but arrived half an hour late.

up starting at \$900 a night with a four-night minimum, a package that includes food, drink, photo ops and other perks.

Today's officially the "hard opening," but the hotel opened

its doors Monday. Rooms were a relative bargain then, starting at \$199, but there were snags.

Which is to be expected, said

See Perfect, Page A5



REPORTER: 'I WAS NOT HARMED'

Jill Carroll says she was confined to a small, soundproof room in Iraq for three months. **A3**

Concrete supplier to plead guilty

Fishers businessman faces longest term yet in price-fixing probe

By Ted Evanoff
ted.evanoff@indystar.com

Federal antitrust lawyers Thursday pegged prominent Fishers concrete supplier Gus B. Nuckols III as a leader in the conspiracy to illegally drive up Indianapolis concrete prices.

Nuckols, president of Builder's Concrete & Supply, agreed to plead guilty to price-fixing, said federal officials who are recommending a 21-month prison term and company fines up to \$11.5 million.

The family-owned firm is the third local concrete supplier snared by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Nuckols could serve the longest sentence handed out

◆ **Inside:** Court documents cast new light on scheme. **C1**

so far in the probe that has set off a consumer class-action lawsuit against eight concrete firms, including Builder's.

A hearing is expected today in U.S. District Court in Indianapolis to set Nuckols' sentence and fines.

The plea agreement says Nuckols repeatedly phoned other executives and met with them in smaller groups "to ensure the compliance of his co-conspirators with the conspiracy agreements."

Officials last summer said the conspiracy drove up the price of ready-mix concrete sold in the Indianapolis area from July 2000 to May 2004.

★ Call Star reporter Ted Evanoff at (317) 444-6019.



WEATHER

Low **57** High **68**

Rain off and on; strong winds likely.
5-day forecast, **B8**

2006
H3

STK#46834

FROM
\$399/MO

39 LEASE, 10,000 MILES PER YEAR.
\$3,519 DUE AT SIGNING. CMAC
APPROVAL REQUIRED. TAX
AND TITLE EXTRA. PHOTOS FOR
ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY.

9265 E 126th St., Fishers, IN (at 126th & SR 37 in Fishers)
866/401-4966 • 317/577-9600

1287 U.S. 31 South, Greenwood, IN (2 miles south of Greenwood Mall)
800/436-0415 • 317/865-1551

LOCKHART
HUMMER
LIKE NOTHING ELSE.™
www.lockharthummer.com