



PURDUE FOOTBALL

Johnson, Short set for combine

Purdue stars out to improve draft status

By Mike Carmin
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Josh Johnson won't soon forget the day his invitation to the NFL Scouting Combine was received.

It was Jan. 8, and his mother, Nicki Craig, was celebrating her birthday.

"She was ecstatic," Johnson said. "It just really touched her. That's something that I'll always look back on, and I'll never forget that day. It was a dream come true and also a blessing."



Josh Johnson



Kawann Short

The former Purdue cornerback would like to enjoy more memorable moments during April's NFL Draft. But Johnson needs to impress scouts and general managers during this weekend's NFL Scouting Combine at Lucas Oil Stadium.

Johnson isn't the only ex-Boilermaker in Indianapolis. Defensive tackle Kawann Short is scheduled to attend, but may not participate in drills. Short said potentially sitting out is "injury-related but nothing serious." NFL.com reported that Short is dealing with a hamstring injury.

He's disappointed, but plans to attend Purdue's Pro Day on March 1. Short is considered a late first- or early second-round draft pick.

"It's not the end of the road," said Short, who was named the North's Most Outstanding Player in the Senior Bowl in January. "I still have Pro Day to fall back on. Push comes to shove, I'll be fine."

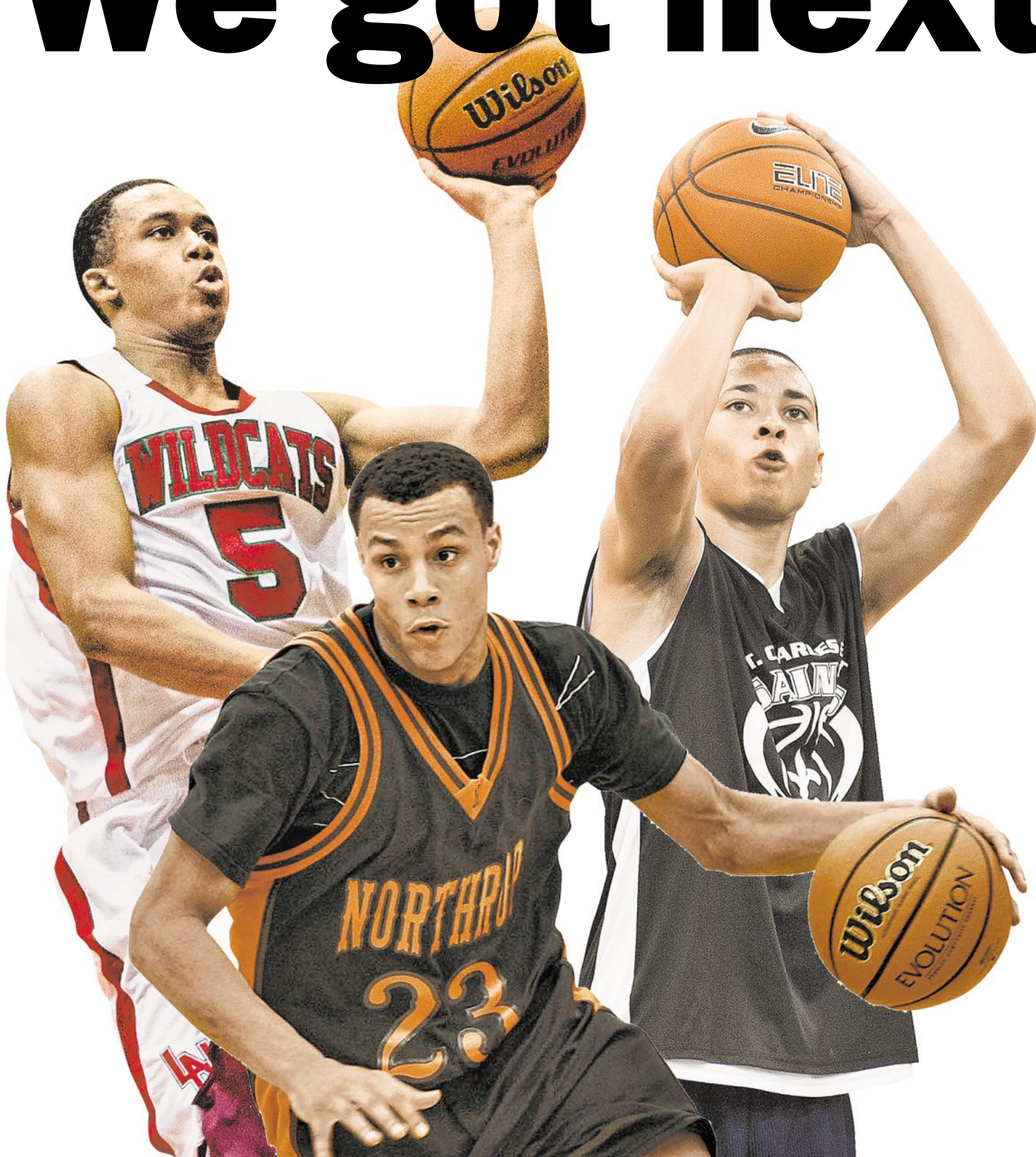
Meanwhile, Johnson wants to leave a favorable impression on everyone who's watching him in the 40-yard dash, shuttle run, 3-cone drill and vertical jump. His on-field testing is Tuesday.

The native of Dade City, Fla.,

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PURDUE MEN'S BASKETBALL

We got next



Incoming recruits Basil Smotherman, Bryson Scott and Kendall Stephens expect to provide the Purdue men's basketball team with a much-needed boost next season. DOUG MCSCHOOLER; THE NEWS-SENTINEL; BRENT DRINKUT/J&C

Recruits eager to help Painter's team

By Jeff Washburn | jwashburn@jconline.com

The collective message from Kendall Stephens, Bryson Scott and Basil Smotherman to Purdue basketball fans would be titled, "Reinforcements are on the way."

Shooting guard Stephens, combo guard Scott and lanky left-handed wing Smotherman comprise Matt Painter's recruiting class for 2013 and are eager to join forces with the returning Boilermakers, who have suffered through a 12-14 season to date.

"Me, Kendall and Basil are going to bring a lot of help," said Scott, a senior guard at Fort Wayne Northrop. "I'm going to bring toughness, leadership and different ways to score. I want to give Purdue a

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HIGH SCHOOL SWIMMING

Miller feeling nothing but confidence entering state

Jeff diver overcomes arthritis to excel

By Sam King
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The only pain Lafayette Jeff senior Dustin Miller accrues from the diving boards these days comes from not finishing first.

Miller is diving without pain,

and he hopes that trend continues Saturday when he competes in the IHSAA state finals at IU Natatorium in Indianapolis.

This summer, a visit to Riley Hospital in Indianapolis determined Miller suffers from juvenile onset arthritis, which limited his flexibility and required longer preparation time for competition.

"I would wake up and feel like I just had an eight-mile



Dustin Miller

arthritis typically occurs in children under the age of 16 and causes joint pain, swelling and

jog," Miller said. "It was weird."

Miller now receives injections weekly or bi-weekly that keep the pain under control.

According to the Mayo Clinic website, juvenile arthritis typically occurs in children under the age of 16 and causes joint pain, swelling and

stiffness.

It stunted Miller's ability to gain muscle mass.

He'd go through weight-training sessions and not gain muscle. He wasn't able to get fully flexible for diving during his first three seasons with the Bronchos and still managed a 13th-place finish at the state finals as a junior.

The injections have cured the soreness, and it's showing. Earlier this season, Miller

broke the Hoosier Crossroads Conference meet diving record, previously held by Olympic gold medalist David Boudia. On a wild Tuesday night where the power went out at Hamilton Southeastern, forcing a change in venues, Miller was not fazed and won his first regional diving title.

It's the kind of talent Lafayette Jeff diving coach Deana

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