



JEFF WASHBURN
COLUMNIST



Hummel hoping to make leap to NBA

Robbie Hummel's one-year professional basketball adventure in Spain appears to have the former Purdue standout in position to land a roster spot in the NBA for the 2013-14 season, likely with the Minnesota Timberwolves.

If you remember, the Timberwolves selected Hummel in the 2012 NBA Draft's second round. In part because he was still strengthening a knee that was twice surgically repaired, and in part because Minnesota is in a personnel



Robbie Hummel

transition phase, Timberwolves management asked Hummel to spend a season in Spain's top professional league, then return to the United States and play this summer in one of the pro leagues,

probably in Las Vegas or possibly Orlando.

When Hummel was back in Indiana briefly this winter for what amounted to his league's All-Star break, he said he constantly is in contact with Timberwolves officials and is optimistic that he will be given every chance to make Minnesota's roster.

Playing for Blusens Monbus, the 6-foot-8 Hummel is playing his best basketball of the season in April and now into May. Having never played more than 26 minutes in any game this season — Hummel said the coaching staff likes to play everyone on the roster in the 20- to 25-minute range — he is averaging 10.1 points and four rebounds, shooting 50.3 percent from the field, including 43.1 percent from 3-point range, and 86.5 percent from the free throw line.

Hummel has scored in double figures 11 consecutive times, and in his past five games, he is averaging 14.6 points. After a slow start, Blusens Monbus has won six of its past nine and is 12-13. A playoff berth is within reach if the team continues to play well down the stretch.

After returning to the United States in early September to have his knee cleaned up in New York City, Hummel has played relatively pain-free and has gotten stronger with each game.

He will return to Indiana at season's end and is scheduled to run a summer basketball camp for boys and girls at The Fieldhouse in Merrillville before getting down to the business of landing an NBA job.

It's going to be an especially important summer and fall for Hummel and former Boiler-maker teammate and 2011 Big Ten Conference MVP JaJuan Johnson.

See HUMMEL, Page B3

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL & SOFTBALL



Central Catholic's Ryan DeBoy, left, celebrates his game-winning hit with teammate Adam Lovell following the Knights' 4-3, nine-inning victory over Delphi on Wednesday. The Central Catholic baseball and softball teams wore orange in support of classmate Patrick Mackey, who was diagnosed with leukemia last month. BRENT DRINKUT/JOURNAL & COURIER

#PATSTRONG

Central Catholic rallies for victories in support of Mackey

By Sam King sking@jconline.com

Approximately 200 yards apart, joyous celebrations could be heard within moments of each other on the campus of Central Catholic High School Wednesday night.

Donned in orange instead of the traditional blue, white and gray uniforms, Central Catholic's varsity baseball and softball teams each secured come-from-behind victories in spectacular fashion, a symbol of the fighting spirit of classmate Patrick Mackey.

Mackey, diagnosed with leukemia on March 11, showed up to school Tuesday and made a brief appearance at Wednesday night's baseball game, an encouraging sign to his classmates to know he's not going to let the disease beat him.

Ryan DeBoy's ninth-inning single to score Jackson Anthrop in a 4-3 victory over Class 2A No. 4 Delphi capped a magical night of athletics, where the diamonds

were surrounded by fundraising efforts for the Mackey family.

"Coach mentioned earlier in the week that when this game came around, we are going to be playing for much more than one baseball game," said senior Andrew Hubertz, a teammate of Mackey's on four straight Class A state championship football teams. "We're playing for a kid that is actually fighting for his life, and it meant a

lot for us to win this game. That's why we were fighting so hard."

Orange jerseys with the label #PatStrong across the back served as a constant reminder that each team was playing with a purpose.

Clinton Prairie's softball team took a 5-0 lead, powered by a three-run homer from

See PATSTRONG, Page B3



Central Catholic head coach Tim Bordenet talks to his team prior to Wednesday's game against Delphi. The softball and baseball teams wore the orange PatStrong shirts for classmate Patrick Mackey, who was recently diagnosed with leukemia. BRENT DRINKUT/JOURNAL & COURIER

PATSTRONG

Continued from Page B1

freshman Madison Douglass. Across the large grass field separating the softball diamond from Gordon Leming Field, Delphi sophomore Ostin Clark had given the Oracles a 1-0 lead over the CC baseball team with a home run of his own.

There was a sense that no matter how far out of reach victory got, each team had to dig down and make sure victory was attained.

The school hosted a spirit day on Wednesday, where students could pay \$1 to ditch the Catholic school's dress code for the day. Sammy Bonner, the softball team's catcher, said most of the students showed up in support of Mackey, paying the \$1 fee and wearing orange.

Athletic director and baseball coach Tim Bordenet, a CC graduate, said that show of support defines the school's community.

"If something happens to someone in the community, everyone comes together and pitches in, and no one family is alone, no matter what," said senior Belle Dieterle, who scored the go-ahead run in CC's 7-5 softball victory. "We do whatever is possible to help that family out."

Mackey's family already has gone through the unfortunate process before, losing 15-year-old Claire, Patrick's sis-



Central Catholic's Dana Blichmann scores a run in the sixth inning during the game against Clinton Prairie, part of the Knights' improbable 7-5 comeback victory. BRENT DRINKUT/JOURNAL & COURIER

ter, to leukemia less than two years ago.

"Even before Claire died two years ago, they (the Mackey family) were one of the most generous families, and to have this happen all over again after they just lost a daughter is unbelievable. It's not even fair," said Maggie Bobillo, a sophomore whose double followed

an Erin Mecklenburg single during CC's four-run fourth inning.

Emily Burks also doubled, scoring Bobillo and Dieterle, and Camille Ulery singled in Burks as the Knights capped an amazing comeback. Bobillo, Burks and Ulery each finished with two hits.

After the game, the CC soft-

"If something happens to someone in the community, everyone comes together ... and no one family is alone."

BELLE DIETERLE,
Central Catholic senior

ball players made the trek to the baseball diamond in time to see that Delphi had scored twice in the top of the ninth inning with the assistance of Brent Hawn's RBI single.

As the crowd gathered, hoping for a second rally, the Knights obliged.

Jake Churchill scored on an error after doubling to lead off the inning, and Adam Lovell and DeBoy provided RBI singles.

"We're playing for one of our classmates, someone we've been to school with since we were little, someone we love, some close to us, so this means a lot to us," DeBoy said.

As glorious as two victories were for CC on Wednesday night, the support for one of their own was the real reason for all the smiles afterward.

"I thought it was remarkable what happened today, with everyone in the school wearing orange, the baseball and softball teams wearing orange in support of Patrick to show we are behind him and his fight," Bordenet said.

HIGH SCHOOL ROUNDUP

Palmieri, West Side slip by Indians

Lewellen's 6 RBIs power Bison in rout

Staff reports

MONTICELLO — Grace Palmieri had a pair of hits and turned a critical double play to end the sixth inning, helping the West Lafayette softball team to a 1-0 victory at Twin Lakes on Wednesday afternoon.

Meghan Moody and Tess DeBruyn combined on a five-hitter for the Red Devils, who prevailed despite managing just two hits against Twin Lakes hurler Chloe McAchren.

Softball

**Noblesville 9
McCutcheon 0**

NOBLESVILLE — Kerstyn Lowery's double was one of just three hits for the Mavericks (10-7).

**Benton Central 20
North Montgomery 0**

OXFORD — Kennedy Lewellen drove in six runs and Kelsey Bessler added three more RBIs as the Bison coasted to a five-inning victory.

Courtney Best got the win, yielding four hits.

**Sheridan 5
Delphi 2**

SHERIDAN — Summer Sutton homered and drove in both runs for the Oracles (9-8).

**Danville 4
Frankfort 0**

FRANKFORT — Ashley Mullins went the distance on the mound for Frankfort, which was within one run going into the final inning.

Baseball

**West Lafayette 6
Tipton 5**

TIPTON — Connor Micklo was 2-for-3 with a pair of RBIs and Spencer Ronchetto had two hits and scored twice as the Red Devils held off a late rally by the home team.

West Lafayette scored four first-inning runs and led 5-0 going into the bottom of the fourth, but Tipton scored twice in both the sixth and seventh innings before its comeback bid fell short.

Mark Fisher recorded the final two outs to save the win for West Side starter Wolfgang Funk.

**Benton Central 6
Twin Lakes 0**

OXFORD — James Smith tossed a six-hitter and drove in a run for the Bison, who took control with a three-run fourth inning.

**Carroll 6
Clinton Central 2**

FLORA — Levi Moore scored three runs and drove in two more as the Cougars used a four-run second inning to take command.

Jared Miller struck out eight in the complete-game victory for Carroll (9-3), which also got two RBIs from Seth Eldridge.

**North Newton 12
Calumet 1**

GARY — Chad Schultz was 3-for-3 with three runs scored, two RBIs and four stolen bases, helping the Spartans to an easy win.

Brandon Propes drove in four runs for North White, while Blake Ramos was 2-for-2 and scored three times.

HUMMEL

Continued from Page B1

Hummel is eager to prove to Minnesota that not only is his knee strong, but that he is also capable of playing several different positions with the shooting skills to be a solid, complementary player. After being picked in the first round of the 2011 NBA Draft and signing a two-year guaranteed contract, Johnson spent one season in Boston and then bounced around this season with NBDL teams in Fort Wayne, Canton and Idaho.

Johnson needs a good summer, a summer in which he can prove to an NBA team that he can play the four (power forward) spot. Johnson certainly could find an attractive spot in Europe, but JaJuan wants to show he belongs in the NBA.

Two other Matt Painter products — Carl Landry and E'Twaun Moore — have found



Former Purdue standout Robbie Hummel, sharing a laugh with Purdue Pete during a game in February, hopes to earn his way onto the roster of the Minnesota Timberwolves, or any other NBA team, next season. BRENT DRINKUT/JOURNAL & COURIER

their niche in the NBA. Landry has had a really nice season with the fun-to-watch Golden State Warriors, who currently

are in the playoffs. While Moore played for the struggling and rebuilding Orlando Magic this season, the good

news is that he did play, averaging 7.8 points a game, and got lots of crunch-time minutes.

If the Magic keep Moore on their roster through July, his 2013-14 contract, which will pay \$884,293, becomes guaranteed. As 12-year NBA veteran and former Purdue standout Brian Cardinal told me, once a player establishes himself as someone willing to play a role, that guy can play a long time in the NBA. Cardinal definitely is proof of that.

It will be interesting to follow what develops this summer for Hummel, who is optimistic that the work he has done this season in Spain's top pro league will give him an opportunity to sign that first NBA contract. Really, that's all anyone can ask.

Washburn covers Purdue men's basketball for the Journal and Courier. Contact him via e-mail at jwashburn@jconline.com and follow him on Twitter at @JeffWashburnJC.