

# Antetokounmpo, Middleton pace Bucks past Pacers

By **JIM HOEHN**  
*The Associated Press*

MILWAUKEE — Giannis Antetokounmpo channeled his frustration over a technical foul in the best way possible. Antetokounmpo scored 29 points and Khris Middleton added 27 to help the Milwaukee Bucks bounce back from their first consecutive losses of the season with a 117-98 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Thursday night.

Milwaukee, which improved to an NBA-best 49-16, was coming off back-to-back losses to Utah and Phoenix after opening a five-game road trip with three victories.

The Bucks ran off 13 consecutive points after Antetokounmpo was assessed a technical midway through the third quarter, one possession after he was knocked

down attempting a shot, with no foul called. The Pacers missed the technical free throw and the Bucks responded with a 13-0 run. Antetokounmpo started the spurt with a dunk and finished it with another to put Milwaukee up 80-64 with 2:56 left in the period.

“Sometimes, things are not working out the way you wanted and you just get frustrated,” Antetokounmpo said. “Sometimes you take it out on the ref, sometimes you take it out on yourself. Today, obviously I took it out on the ref and got a tech. Definitely deserved it.

“But, I think my team did a great job just picking it up, playing with energy, rebounding the ball and responding that way.”

The Bucks padded their lead with a 12-0 spurt early in the fourth quarter. Kyle O’Quinn opened the final period with a floater from the lane to bring the Pacers within 10 at 84-74. Ersan Ilyasova

hit a 3-pointer to trigger the run, capped by Antetokounmpo’s drive to make it 96-74 with 8:21 left.

Myles Turner had 22 points and Bojan Bogdanovic 17 for the Pacers.

Bogdanovic hit a pair of 3-pointers to pull Indiana within three points at 67-64 before the technical on Antetokounmpo. Indiana’s Thaddeus Young thought that was the turning point.

“The next play down, he imposed his will,” Young said. “He got a foul on me, got a dunk, and another dunk after that. I think that was the change in the game.” Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said the entire team fed off the technical foul.

“It felt like the whole arena, his teammates, I think everybody was probably somewhat frustrated, but I think that frustration got channeled into a great energy,” Budenholzer said. “His teammates, and then Giannis, I thought

made a couple big plays coming off the technical.”

The Bucks opened their largest lead of the first half at 47-33 on two free throws by Antetokounmpo, but the Pacers went on a 17-7 run to close within 54-50 at the break.

“Too much Antetokounmpo, too much Middleton,” Pacers coach Nate McMillan said. “When they have the attack at the basket and are knocking down 3s, they’re going to be tough to guard. They were pretty much knocking shots down from the perimeter and getting shots at the rim tonight. We missed some shots. We had some open looks that you need to knock down and we didn’t early.”

## ■ TIP-INS

Pacers: Indy’s two-game road trip to Milwaukee and Philadelphia has important implications in the standings. The Pacers entered the game in third place in the Eastern Conference at 42-23, one game ahead of the Sixers.

Bucks: Rookie guard Donte DiVincenzo, sidelined for almost two months with a heel injury, was available for Thursday night’s game against the Pacers. DiVincenzo, who was averaging 4.8 points and 15.6 minutes, is not likely to be back in the rotation immediately. DiVincenzo played slightly more than six minutes in the first half, then scored five points in the closing minutes.

## ■ McMILLAN LIKES BUCKS MOVES

Veteran center Pau Gasol, signed by the Bucks on Monday after a contract buyout by the Spurs, made his home debut, grabbing five rebounds in almost 11 minutes. Milwaukee already had added forward Nikola Mirotic in a three-team trade in early February. “I think they’ve done a nice job of adding to their roster,” McMillan said. “I think it’s a message to the rest of the league that they’re going for it.”

## SCOREBOARD

### Local schedule

■ **TODAY, MARCH 8**  
No events scheduled  
■ **SATURDAY, MARCH 9**  
Prep Boys Basketball  
IHSAA Regional  
Jasper vs. Center Grove at Seymour 10:00  
■ **SUNDAY, MARCH 10**  
No events scheduled

### Bowling

**AT JASPER/Eastown Recreation Center**  
**MARCH 7**  
■ **THURSDAY AFTERNOON LADIES LEAGUE**  
Gutter Girls 4, Missing in Action 0  
Bowling Stones 3, Strike Force 1  
Pin Pals 3, Pin Action 1  
**MARCH 5**  
■ **SPRINGS VALLEY BANK CITY LEAGUE**  
YMI 7, Fuhs Lawn Care 2  
Heaven’s Best 5, Headquarters 4  
Eastown Recreation 9, Bye 0  
Fullnet 7, Ruxer Ford 2  
Brosmer Chiropractic 9, Tablex 0  
High games and series — Brad Bolling 225-234-656, Nate Messier 246-214-635, Josh Fuhs 237-268-662, Leon Reckelhoff - 227, Chris Klein - 259, Jay Neuhoff 230-234-640, Kurt Hoogesang 247-215-657, Craig Lemond 249-223-669, Andrew Gadlage 206-200-602, Eric Gadlage - 230, Steven Kieser 235-220-612, Anthony Schmitt 300-236-719, Paul Lemond 246-278-720, Jacob Kiefer 213-233-215-661, Jason Whitsitt 222-233-653.  
■ **IRELAND K OF C LEAGUE**  
Admirals 4, Wardens 1  
Squires 5, Captains 0  
Columbians 4, Anchors 1  
High games and series — Earl Boehm 236-613, Zach Emy - 220, Michael Berg 240-604, Randy Seifert 232-214-582, Allen Seifert - 204.

### Prep basketball

■ **AREA IHSAA REGIONAL PAIRINGS**  
**CLASS 4A AT SEYMOUR**  
**Saturday’s Games**  
Jasper (16-9) vs. Center Grove (19-8), 10 a.m.  
Bloomington South (23-3) vs. Jeffersonville (19-5), Noon  
**Championship**  
Winner of Game 1 vs. Winner of Game 2, 8 p.m.  
**CLASS 3A at Southridge**  
**Saturday’s Games**  
Batesville (15-10) vs. Princeton (20-5), 10:30 a.m.  
Evansville Memorial (16-9) vs. Silver Creek (21-3), 12:30 p.m.  
**Championship**  
Winner of Game 1 vs. Winner of Game 2, 8 p.m.  
**CLASS 2A at Paoli**  
**Saturday’s Games**  
Linton (24-3) vs. Paoli (23-3), 10 a.m.  
Southwestern (Hanover) (25-1) vs. Tell City (20-5), Noon  
**Championship**  
Winner of Game 1 vs. Winner of Game 2, 8 p.m.  
**CLASS 1A at Loogootee**  
**Saturday’s Games**  
Lanesville (14-11) vs. West Washington (10-15), 10 a.m.  
Evansville Day (11-11) vs. Barr-Reeve (23-2), Noon  
**Championship**  
Winner of Game 1 vs. Winner of Game 2, 8 p.m.

# Cats

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stage to showcase just exactly what the team was capable of.

“We knew it was going to be different, but we were up to the challenge,” Weidenbenner said. “There was nothing we could do about it.”

Senior guard Reece Milligan

### Pro basketball

■ **NBA GLANCE**  
**All Times EST**  
**EASTERN CONFERENCE**  
**Atlantic Division**

	W	L	PCT	GB
Toronto	.46	19	.708	—
Philadelphia	.41	24	.631	5
Boston	.40	26	.606	6½
Brooklyn	.34	33	.507	13
New York	.13	52	.200	33

**Southeast Division**

	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	.30	34	.469	—
Orlando	.30	36	.455	1
Charlotte	.29	35	.453	1
Washington	.27	37	.422	3
Atlanta	.22	44	.333	9

**Central Division**

	W	L	PCT	GB
x-Milwaukee	.49	16	.754	—
Indiana	.42	24	.636	7½
Detroit	.32	31	.508	16
Chicago	.19	47	.288	30½
Cleveland	.16	49	.246	33

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**  
**Southwest Division**

	W	L	PCT	GB
Houston	.39	25	.609	—
San Antonio	.37	29	.561	3
New Orleans	.30	37	.448	10½
Dallas	.27	37	.422	12
Memphis	.26	40	.394	14

**Northwest Division**

	W	L	PCT	GB
Denver	.43	21	.672	—
Oklahoma City	.39	25	.609	4
Portland	.39	25	.609	4
Utah	.37	27	.578	6
Minnesota	.30	35	.462	13½

**Pacific Division**

	W	L	PCT	GB
Golden State	.44	20	.688	—
L.A. Clippers	.37	29	.561	8
Sacramento	.32	32	.500	12
L.A. Lakers	.30	35	.462	14½
Phoenix	.15	51	.227	30

x-clinched playoff spot  
**Wednesday’s Games**  
Detroit 131, Minnesota 114  
Miami 91, Charlotte 84  
Washington 132, Dallas 123  
Brooklyn 113, Cleveland 107  
San Antonio 111, Atlanta 104  
Chicago 108, Philadelphia 107  
Utah 114, New Orleans 104  
Phoenix 107, New York 96  
Boston 111, Sacramento 109  
Denver 115, L.A. Lakers 99  
**Thursday’s Games**  
Milwaukee 117, Indiana 98  
Oklahoma City at Portland, 10:30 p.m.  
**Friday’s Games**  
Dallas at Orlando, 7 p.m.  
Washington at Charlotte, 7 p.m.  
Cleveland at Miami, 8 p.m.  
Detroit at Chicago, 8 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Houston, 8 p.m.  
Toronto at New Orleans, 8 p.m.  
Utah at Memphis, 8 p.m.  
Denver at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.  
Oklahoma City at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

### College basketball

■ **AP MEN’S TOP 25 FARED**

added: “I knew it was going to be a little bit of a challenge, but our program always welcomed that. Now look, in just our second year in [the sectional], we win it.”

Something that helped prepare the Wildcats for what they would expect in the tough 4A sectional with teams such as Castle, Evansville Harrison and Evansville Reitz was their past experience in just as tough of a sectional in Class 3A.

The Wildcats never had it easy in

### Thursday

1. Gonzaga (29-2) did not play. Next: WCC semifinals, Monday.  
2. Virginia (27-2) did not play. Next: vs. Louisville, Saturday.  
3. North Carolina (25-5) did not play. Next: vs. No. 4 Duke, Saturday.  
4. Duke (26-4) did not play. Next: at No. 3 North Carolina, Saturday.  
5. Tennessee (27-3) did not play. Next: at Auburn, Saturday.  
6. Kentucky (25-5) did not play. Next: vs. Florida, Saturday.  
7. Michigan (26-4) did not play. Next: at No. 9 Michigan State, Saturday.  
8. Texas Tech (25-5) did not play. Next: at Iowa State, Saturday.  
9. Michigan State (24-6) did not play. Next: vs. No. 7 Michigan, Saturday.  
10. LSU (25-5) did not play. Next: vs. Vanderbilt, Saturday.  
11. Purdue (22-8) did not play. Next: at Northwestern, Saturday.  
12. Houston (28-2) beat SMU 90-79. Next: at No. 20 Cincinnati, Sunday.  
13. Kansas (22-8) did not play. Next: vs. Baylor, Saturday.  
14. Florida State (24-6) did not play. Next: at Wake Forest, Saturday.  
15. Virginia Tech (22-7) did not play. Next: vs. Miami, Friday.  
16. Marquette (23-7) did not play. Next: vs. Georgetown, Saturday.  
17. Nevada (27-3) did not play. Next: vs. San Diego State, Saturday.  
18. Kansas State (23-7) did not play. Next: vs. Oklahoma, Saturday.  
19. Buffalo (27-3) did not play. Next: vs. Bowling Green, Friday.  
20. Cincinnati (25-5) lost to No. 25 UCF 58-55. Next: vs. No. 12 Houston, Sunday.  
21. Wisconsin (21-9) beat Iowa 65-42. Next: at Ohio State, Sunday.  
22. Wofford (26-4) did not play. Next: vs. VMI or Western Carolina, Saturday.  
23. Villanova (22-8) did not play. Next: at Seton Hall, Saturday.  
24. Maryland (21-9) did not play. Next: vs. Minnesota, Friday.  
25. UCF (23-6) beat No. 20 Cincinnati 58-55. Next: at Temple, Saturday.

### On the air

**All Times EST**  
■ **TODAY, MARCH 8**  
**TELEVISION**  
Noon — Women’s college basketball: Big Ten Tournament, Maryland vs. Northwestern/Michigan State (BTN)  
2:30 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Big Ten Tournament, Michigan vs. TBD (BTN)  
6:30 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Big Ten Tournament, Iowa vs. Minnesota/Indiana (BTN)  
7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Miami (Fla.) at Virginia Tech (ESPN2)  
7 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Minnesota at Maryland (FS1)  
8 p.m. — NBA basketball: Philadelphia 76ers at Houston Rockets (ESPN)  
8 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Ohio Valley Tournament, semifinal (ESPNU)  
9 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Big Ten Tournament, Rutgers vs. TBD (BTN)  
9 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: St. Joseph’s at VCU (ESPN2)  
10 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Ohio Valley Tournament, semifinal (ESPNU)

10:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Denver Nuggets at Golden State Warriors (ESPN)  
**RADIO**  
9:30 p.m. — Indiana Sports Talk (WITZ 104.7 FM)  
■ **SATURDAY, MARCH 9**  
**TELEVISION**  
9:30 a.m. — Men’s soccer: Bundesliga, Bayern Munich vs. VfL Wolfsburg (FS1)  
Noon — Men’s college basketball: Butler at Providence (FOXSMW)  
Noon — Men’s college basketball: Syracuse at Clemson (CBS)  
Noon — Men’s college basketball: Villanova at Seton Hall (FOX)  
Noon — Men’s college basketball: Tennessee at Auburn (ESPN)  
Noon — Men’s college basketball: TCU at Texas (ESPN2)  
Noon — Women’s college gymnastics: Oklahoma at Michigan (BTN)  
12:30 p.m. — Men’s soccer: Premier League, Manchester City vs. Watford (NBC)  
2 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Florida at Kentucky (CBS)  
2 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Baylor at Kansas (ESPN)  
2 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Texas A&M at Mississippi State (ESPN2)  
2 p.m. — AAF football: Orlando Apollos at Birmingham Iron (TNT)  
2:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Purdue at Northwestern (BTN)  
2:30 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Georgetown at Marquette (FOX)  
2:30 p.m. — PGA golf: Arnold Palmer Invitational, third round (NBC)  
4 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Arizona State

at Arizona (CBS)  
4 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Louisville at Virginia (ESPN)  
4 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: UCF at Temple (ESPN2)  
4 p.m. — NASCAR racing: Xfinity Series, iK9 Service Dog 200 (FS1)  
4 p.m. — NHL hockey: St. Louis Blues at San Jose Sharks (FOXSMW)  
5 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Big Ten Tournament, semifinal (BTN)  
5 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: St. John’s at Xavier (FOX)  
6 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Duke at North Carolina (ESPN)  
6 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Oklahoma at Kansas State (ESPN2)  
7:30 p.m. — Women’s college basketball: Big Ten Tournament, semifinal (ESPN2)  
8 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Michigan at Michigan State (ESPN)  
8 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: DePaul at Creighton (FS1)  
8 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Ohio Valley Tournament, championship (ESPN2)  
8 p.m. — Boxing: PBC Fight Night, Porter-Ugas (FOX)  
8:30 p.m. — NBA basketball: Boston Celtics at Los Angeles Lakers (ABC)  
10 p.m. — Men’s college basketball: Oregon at Washington (ESPN)  
**RADIO**  
9:30 a.m. — Prep boys basketball: IHSAA Class 4A Regional at Seymour, Jasper vs. Center Grove (WITZ 104.7 FM)  
12:45 p.m. — MLB baseball: Spring Training, St. Louis Cardinals vs. Miami Marlins (WQKZ 98.5 FM)  
9:30 p.m. — Indiana Sports Talk (WITZ 104.7 FM)

## BRIEFLY

### Jasper swimmers receive honor

Several Jasper High School swimmers have been recognized by the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association of America for their performance both inside and outside of the pool.

Andrew King, Raife Milligan, Carmina Armstrong, Riley Sample and Alyssa Skorge were all recognized as members of the NISCA’s All-America Team.

With more than 342,000 students involved in aquatics at the high school level, only approximately two percent of these students are recognized by the NISCA as All-Americans.

### Local officials on call at regional events

Eight members of the Southwestern Indiana Officials Association have been selected to referee in the regional round of the IHSAA boys basketball tournament this weekend.

Referees and their host sites are Brian Patton and Wayne Patterson (Class 1A at Loogootee), Brad Bane and Mike Bezy (Class 3A at Southridge), Nick Winger (Class 4A at Southport), Tim Stroud (Class 4A at Seymour), Scott Arthur (Class 2A at Paoli) and Mike Zehr (Class 3A at Greencastle).

continue to have is the fact that they’re once again the underdog at Saturday’s regional in Seymour. Center Grove, Bloomington South and Jeffersonville are all ranked in the top 15 of the Class 4A Sagarin ratings, while Jasper currently sits at 62nd.

But who needs metrics and rankings? Jasper was ranked behind both Castle and Evansville Reitz in the Sagarin rankings for the sectional, and that story turned out well for the Wildcats.

Sure, you can count the Wildcats out if you want, but they’ve heard that prediction before, and they’re not worried about it.

“I think being the underdog and flying under the radar can be beneficial,” Goebel said. “I do think it allows us to play with an edge, I don’t mind seeing us in that position.”

Milligan added: “This is just another chip on our shoulder — it just gives us extra motivation to prove people wrong.”