

# **2000 IHSAA Boys Tennis State Finals**

**October 14, 2000**

**North Central High School, Indianapolis**

## **NORTH CENTRAL DOWNS HOMESTEAD FOR STATE TENNIS CROWN**

North Central of Indianapolis fought off a stiff challenge from Homestead and captured the state championship, 4-1, in the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Indiana High School Athletic Association Boys Tennis State Finals on October 14, 2000 at North Central High School in Indianapolis.

The Panthers (17-2), ranked third in the final coaches association poll, tallied victories at every position except No. 1 singles to claim the school's 16<sup>th</sup> state title in the sport. Top-ranked Homestead suffered its first loss of the season to finish 20-1. North Central, making its state-best 20<sup>th</sup> appearance in the state finals, has won the title the last 16 times it has made the field. Homestead, making its 15<sup>th</sup> trip to the finals, finished as the runner-up for the seventh time and the fifth time to North Central.

North Central got early victories at No. 2 singles and No. 2 doubles for a 2-0 lead in the match before the Panthers' Brian Leland delivered the clincher at No. 3 singles.

Leland (25-3) rallied from a set down to hand previously unbeaten Bob Phillip his first loss of the year, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3. Phillip finished 27-1 this season. At No. 2 singles, Ruben Gonzales defeated Dan Martin, 6-3, 6-0, while Eli Baratz and Greg Wynne stayed undefeated at 16-0 with a 6-4, 7-5 victory over Ted Lohman and Nick Blume at No. 2 doubles.

Kent Butcher and Mike Valinetz accounted for North Central's fourth win of the match with a three-setter over Ryan Borne and Scott Miller at No. 1 doubles, 6-3, 5-7, 7-5. Homestead's Ryan Recht tallied the Spartans lone victory. His 6-0, 6-4 win over Matt Laramore kept him unbeaten for the year at 28-0.

Homestead, coached by Jim Clark, advanced into the championship round with a 4-1 victory over Munster, while North Central blanked defending state champion Jasper, 5-0, in the other semifinal. North Central was led by second-year skipper Spencer Fields who was also a No. 2 doubles player on North Central's 1992 state championship team.

Munster (22-1) swept all three singles positions in the consolation match to take a 3-2 decision from Jasper (19-4).

## **KENT BUTCHER NAMED MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD WINNER**

Kent Butcher of North Central High School in Indianapolis was selected by members of the IHSAA Executive Committee as the recipient of the Mental Attitude Award in Boys Tennis.

Butcher combined with classmate Mike Valinetz at No. 1 doubles and won two matches in the state finals to finish the year at 12-2. Besides serving as team co-captain, Butcher serves as treasurer of the student government as well as the managing editor of the school newspaper.

Academically, Butcher ranks in the top five percent of his senior class of 687 students. He is considering attending the United State Military Academy at West Point, New York or the United State Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.

The award is annually presented to the senior who best demonstrates excellence in mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability in boys tennis state tournament. Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA's corporate partner, presented a \$1,000 scholarship to North Central High School in the name of Butcher.

### **Championship Match**

North Central (Indpls.) 4, Homestead 1.

Singles

1. Ryan Recht (H) def. Matt Laramore (NC), 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (11-9).
2. Ruben Gonzales (NC) def. Dan Martin (H), 6-3, 6-0.
3. Brian Leland (NC) def. Bob Phillipp (H), 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

Doubles

1. Kent Butcher/Mike Valinetz (NC) def. Ryan Borne/Scott Miller (H), 6-3, 5-7, 7-5.
2. Eli Baratz/Greg Wynne (NC) def. Ted Lohman/Nick Blume (H), 6-4, 7-5.

### **Consolation Match**

Munster 3, Jasper 2.

Singles

1. Jeff French (M) def. Ross Schitter (J), 6-2, 6-2.
2. Michael Lee (M) def. Andy Staples (J), 6-3, 6-1.
3. David Culberg (M) def. Ross Gehlhausen (J), 3-6, 6-0, 6-4.

Doubles

1. Jeff Braun/ Mark Seger (J) def. David Young/Adam Rothschild (M), 6-0, 6-3.
2. John Gramelspacher/Kevin Flannagan (J) def. Andrew Schumacher/Tim Piatek (M), 6-0, 6-0.

### **Semifinals**

Homestead 4, Munster 1.

Singles

1. Ryan Recht (H) def. Jeff French (M), 6-0, 6-4.
2. Michael Lee (M) def. Dan Martin (H), 4-6, 6-4, retired.
3. Bob Phillipp (H) def. David Culberg (M), 6-2, 6-2.

Doubles

1. Ryan Borne/Scott Miller (H) def. David Young/Adam Rothschild (M), 6-1, 6-1.
2. Ted Lohman/Nick Blume (H) def. Andrew Schumacher/Tim Piatek (M), 6-4, 6-2.

North Central (Indpls.) 5, Jasper 0.

#### Singles

1. Matt Laramore (NC) def. Ross Schitter (J), 6-0, 6-3.
2. Ruben Gonzales (NC) def. Andy Staples (J), 6-0, 6-0.
3. Brian Leland (NC) def. Ross Gehlhausen (J), 6-3, 6-0.

#### Doubles

1. Kent Butcher/Mike Valinetz (NC) def. Jeff Braun/Mark Seger (J), 6-4, 6-4.
2. Eli Baratz/Greg Wynne (NC) def. John Gramelspacher/Kevin Flannagan (J), 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.