

2002 IHSAA Class A Boys Basketball State Finals

March 23, 2002, Conseco Fieldhouse, Indianapolis

Hot-Shooting Rossville Crowned In Class A

Surviving a big second half rally, Rossville claimed its first state championship in boys basketball with a 79-68 victory over Barr-Reeve in the Class A state championship game on Saturday (March 23) at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

It was the second state championship in school history after the baseball team captured the Class A title in 1999-00.

Rossville senior Brock Graves shared game honors with Barr-Reeve junior Zane Bowman with 37 points each, a Class A record which bettered the 35 point output by Union's (Dugger) Brody Boyd in 2000. Graves averaged 16.5 points this year while Bowman averaged 13.1.

(Class A) Second-ranked Rossville (23-4) finished the game shooting .556 (25-54) but were scorching the nets in the first half. The Hornets connected on their first three shots and led 10-3 early on. They finished the half connecting on 18 of their 29 field goal attempts, including five of seven from three-point range, to take a 45-26 lead. The 45 points scored set the Class A record for most points in a half. Graves made nine of his 10 shots in the first half and finished 16-for-20 for a Class A record .800 field goal percentage.

But what looked like a possible blowout, took a 180-degree turn in the third period when Barr-Reeve scored the first 13 points of the second half. The Vikings, making their first appearance in the state finals, cut the lead to three with 1:39 to go in the third when Bowman was fouled as he hit a jumper. He canned the foul shot to complete the three-point play and cut the lead to 49-46. Barr-Reeve trimmed the lead to two on a pair of occasions at 55-53 and 57-55 early in the fourth before Rossville went on a 8-0 run that put the game away. Barr-Reeve never got closer than eight points the rest of the game.

Barr-Reeve shot near 50 percent in the second half on 12-for-25 field goals and hit all nine free throws to get back in it.

Senior Justin Chittick added 24 points for Rossville and senior Darren Wilcher hit for 15 points in support of Barr-Reeve, which had its 12-game winning streak snapped.

Rossville, coached by Jeff Henley, finished the year 23-4. Barr-Reeve, third-ranked in Class A and coached by Bryan Hughes, ended a 24-5 season.

Game Notes

Rossville's Troy Roberson Named Recipient of Trester Mental Attitude Award

Troy Roberson of Rossville High School was selected as the recipient of the Arthur L. Trester Award for Mental Attitude for Class A Boys Basketball by members of the IHSAA Executive Committee.

Roberson is an Academic All-State selection by the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association and, besides basketball, also participates in golf and track for the Hornets.

Ranking third in his senior class of 80 students, Roberson serves as Vice President for his school's National Honor Society. He also is Treasurer for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and a member of the Spanish Club.

The son of Ted and Cheryl Roberson, Troy plans to attend Purdue University to study Chemical Engineering.

The award, named in honor of the IHSAA's first commissioner, who served the association from 1929 to 1944, is presented to a senior in each classification who best displays mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability. The student also must be nominated by his principal and coach.

Farm Bureau Insurance, the corporate partner of the IHSAA, presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Rossville High School in the name of Roberson.

First in Basketball, Second in School History

It was the first state championship in boys basketball and second overall in Rossville school history. The Hornets' 1999-00 baseball team won the Class A title with a 4-3 victory over Tri-County at Victory Field that year. Interestingly, that team became the first state champion in IHSAA history with a sub-.500 record on the year. The Hornets finished with a 16-17 record that year following a 10-17 regular season.

Class A Records

Individual

Most Points – 37 by Brock Graves, Rossville; 37 by Zane Bowman, Barr-Reeve.

Most Assists – 8 by Justin Chittick, Rossville.

Field Goals Made – 16 by Brock Graves, Rossville.

Field Goal Percentage -- .800 by Brock Graves, Rossville.

Team

Field Goal Percentage -- .556 (30-54) by Rossville.

Field Goals Made – 30 by Rossville.

Points In a Half – 45 by Rossville (1st Half).

Free Throw Percentage -- .867 (13-15) by Rossville.

Most Team Assists – 21 by Rossville.

Combined Field Goal Percentage -- .509 by Rossville (30-54) and Barr-Reeve (25-54).

Combined Assists – 33 by Rossville (21) and Barr-Reeve (12).

(Tied) Most Combined Field Goals Made – 55 by Rossville (30) and Barr-Reeve (25).

(Tied) Three-Point Field Goals Attempted – 20 by Barr-Reeve.

State Finals Photographs and Team Posters

Visit the website of **20-20 Photographic**, the IHSAA's official photographer for its state championship events. The company will display action photographs from this year's Boys Basketball State Finals during the week following the event that you may purchase. Also for sale will be team posters commemorating your school's path to the state finals.

State Finals Programs Available

Couldn't be there for the Boys Basketball State Finals? You can still purchase a copy of the official state finals program while supplies last! Programs are \$3.00 if you purchase in person at the IHSAA Office (9150 N. Meridian Street in Indianapolis) or \$4.50 by mail (postage included). To order, send a check for \$4.50 made payable to the IHSAA, a note with your return address and brief description of your request and mail to: IHSAA Programs, PO Box 40650, Indianapolis, IN 46240-0650. Sorry, no credit cards. To further inquire, e-mail Assistant Sports Information Director Jason Wille.

Quotes

Rossville Head Coach Jeff Henley

"I thought Barr-Reeve could really run with us and I also felt they could hold the ball and reduce possessions. We felt it was incredibly important to get off to a good start and take those options away from them. I don't think, under the circumstances (pressure and crowd), we could have played any better in the first half. Everybody talks about our offense, but it was our defense that really got our offense going."

"I fully expected Barr-Reeve to comeback in the second half. They showed tremendous heart in the third quarter. We were not getting stops like we should and we were not running like we should have been running in the third quarter. We concentrated on doing those again in the fourth quarter."

"I just told these kids in the locker room that good things happen to those who work hard, and today we got to where we wanted to be through that hard work."

(On Troy Roberson winning the Trester Award) "Troy deserves that award, he represents our school so well. He will be successful in whatever he chooses to do."

Rossville Guard Justin Chittick

“We came out and played hard, we knew Barr-Reeve was going to make a run in the third quarter and luckily we held on and now we have a blue ribbon around our neck.”

Rossville Center Brock Graves

“Our guards did a great job tonight of getting me the ball down low. I had good position and just took it up strong. I use my quickness and ability to get around guys who are taller than I am (referring to Barr-Reeve center #52 Bryan Cole).”

(On scoring a Class A record 37 points) – “It’s a great feeling for myself and my team.”

“I definitely think our tough regular season schedule helped prepare us for the tournament. There are a lot of good Lafayette area schools and we play on the toughest 1A schedules in the state.”

Rossville Guard Troy Roberson

(On winning the Trester Mental Attitude Award) “It means as much, if not more to me than winning the championship. It seems weird, but I guess that says a lot about the kind of person you are. It means a lot to me that people see those qualities in me.

Barr-Reeve Head Coach Bryan Hughes

“At halftime we had given up 45 points and that is what we average on defense all year. I knew we couldn’t hold them scoreless, but we just had to cut into their lead.”

“Last week against White River Valley, we were up by 18 and they came back and took the lead by two. I knew we could come back on them if we played our game.”

“We just wanted to cut it to 10 points going into the fourth quarter. Going into the fourth quarter we had more than that. But we had to spend so much energy to come back that they were able to get a couple possessions and get it back up to eight points.”

“Rossville shot well in the first half and we didn’t make our free-throws. They are the best team in single A.”

“We were able to play hard and overcome some adversities. We had a couple of ACL injuries (this year) and an ankle injury to Wilcher.”