

2002 IHSAA Class 2A Boys Basketball State Finals

March 23, 2002, Conseco Fieldhouse, Indianapolis

Speedway Takes Checkered Flag

Speedway jumped out to an early lead and never trailed in a 62-48 victory over Bluffton for the Class 2A state championship on Saturday (March 23) at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

Speedway, located in the shadows of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, captured the first IHSAA state championship in any sport in school history. The Sparkplugs had finished as the state runner-up in Class 2A baseball last June.

The Sparkplugs led 14-6 after the first period, held a 27-21 advantage at the half and led 45-34 at the end of the third period.

It was a game of streaks as every time Bluffton would make a run to close its deficit, Speedway would go on a run of its own ballooning its lead once more.

Speedway held its largest lead of 13 points at 35-22 with 5:38 remaining in the third, but Bluffton gradually chipped away and cut it to four with 3:04 left in the game on senior guard Kaine Kinsey's three-pointer that made it 49-45. But that was as close as they would get as Speedway put the game away at the free throw line converting 11 of 16 free throws down the stretch.

Junior guard Chris West led Speedway with 23 points, while senior forward J.D. Clampitt finished with 18 and a game-best 14 rebounds. Kinsey led all scorers with 24 points and 10 boards. Senior forward Bryan Steffen added 11 points for the Tigers.

Coached by Trent Lehman, Speedway finished the season 22-4 in its first trip to this level of the tournament. Coach Wayne Barker led Bluffton to its seventh state finals appearance but first since 1932. The Tigers finished 24-4.

Game Notes

Speedway's Mark Gonzales Named Recipient of Trester Mental Attitude Award

Mark Gonzales of Speedway High School was selected as the recipient of the Arthur L. Trester Mental Attitude Award by members of the IHSAA Executive Committee.

Academically, Gonzales ranks third in his senior class of 92 students, and is a member of the National Honor Society. Besides serving as class treasurer for the last three years, he also is involved in the Spanish Club, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Ambassadors Club at Speedway High School.

Besides serving as team captain on the basketball team, he has participated in baseball all four years, including last year's Class 2A state runner-up team, and soccer, in which he was an Academic All-State selection in 2000 and 2001.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Gonzales, Mark plans to attend DePauw University to study Medicine.

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 Speedway High School in the name of Gonzales.

Game Official Sustains Injury

Greg McAdams, working the first state finals game in his 22-year officiating career, sustained a torn Achilles tendon during the second period of the Class 2A game between Bluffton and Speedway. McAdams was replaced by alternate Terry Bartell the rest of the game.

Class 2A Records

Team

Most Free Throws Attempted – 27 by Speedway.

Most Combined Free Throws Attempted – 46 by Speedway (27) and Bluffton (19).

Most Fouls – 22 by Bluffton.

(Tied) Most Combined Fouls – 41 by Bluffton (22) and Speedway (19).

Individual

(Tied) Most Field Goals Attempted – 18 by Kaine Kinsey, Bluffton.

(Tied) Most Rebounds – 14 by J.D. Clampitt, Speedway.

(Tied) Most Blocked Shots – 2 by Mark Gonzales, Speedway; 2 by Brandon Shaw, Speedway.

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

Bluffton Head Coach Wayne Barker

"We played a great basketball team in Speedway today. We weren't good enough and they made plays every time they needed to and state champions should do that."

"I wouldn't change how we played, we just needed to play better. They knocked us out of our offense and their quickness bothered us. Speedway has quick hands defensively and we struggled offensively all day."

"We represented our community well. At the beginning of the year, no one thought we'd be in this situation. We were picked to finish fifth in our conference."

"Kaine Kinsey played well and we got a yeoman's effort from Bryan Steffen. We didn't make plays when we had to. At the end we were in a situation where we had to foul. You do everything you can to win, this was for the state championship."

"We weren't very patient in trying to get into our offense. They put a lot of pressure on the basketball and all day we couldn't execute our half court offense. The only thing we could do was to put the ball on the floor, but their help side defense hurt us."

"They answered every time we made a run at them. We had difficulty guarding them and running our offense against their defense."

Bluffton Guard Kaine Kinsey

"It was difficult to penetrate their defense. It was a great season for us. To see a team come together like we did was something. That's what it takes to get to a state championship."

Bluffton Forward Bryan Steffen

"We had trouble getting into our offense. We had a little nerves to start the game."

Speedway Head Coach Trent Lehman

"I told people this week it was going to be a game of spurts. I think at times it was. They did a good job of keeping it close. We were able to withstand some of their spurts."

"When the game was close early, I told them in the huddle we are still in control here. We just setup a play to get the ball inbounds and the kids took control."

"We stressed emotionalism this week. Our JV coach, Chuck Bennett, talked all week about being steady and not be up and down. You kind of learn how to deal with those spurts that happen in a game."

(On Bluffton's Press) "We prepared for their press all week. We knew it would be there and then at times they would pull back."

(On Bluffton's Kaine Kinsey) "Chris (West) guarded him, he's our quickest player. He did a good job of staying in front of him. Kinsey is quick, he's hard to contain, and he is good at drawing fouls. His drawing fouls was a concern early. By putting one of our best players on him (Chris West), we were concerned Chris was going to get in foul trouble, but he did a great job on him."

"Defensively, we stressed doing three things, contain, contest and box out. Those were the three main keys on defense. We thought if we could contain them we could stop their 'penetrate and pitch.' We also knew they were scrappy on the boards and we had to box out. We struggled with boxing out in the first half. We were fouling and giving up some second shots."

(On Speedway players Chris West and Mo Shipley) "If I want anybody at the line at the end of a game it's Chris (West) and Mo (Shipley). They have done it all year."

Speedway guard Chris West

"A lot of times they collapsed on J.D. (Clampitt). J.D. found the open man and a lot of people stepped up and hit some open shots."

Speedway forward Mark Gonzales – Trester Award Winner

(On winning mental attitude award) "It's a great honor. My parents have always stressed having a good attitude. It's a great honor and my parents are very proud of me."