

2002 IHSAA Class 3A Boys Basketball State Finals

March 23, 2002, Consecro Fieldhouse, Indianapolis

Robbins' Record 38 Lifts Delta To State Championship

Kelly Robbins scored a Class 3A game record 38 points to power unranked Delta to a 65-54 triumph over Harding for its first basketball state championship on Saturday (March 23) at Consecro Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

Robbins, a 6-3 senior forward who averaged 19.6 points per game, made 10 of his 20 attempts from the field, including three three-pointers, and connected on all 15 free throws. Robbins' 38-point effort was the eighth-best output in the 92-year history of the state finals.

The Eagles finished as the state runner-up in 1997, their only other appearance in the state finals. This championship also marked the second of the year for the Muncie-area school, which captured the Class 3A volleyball title and finished as the runner-up in Class 4A football in November. It was the school's seventh state championship in all sports.

Seniors Brad Wilson and Ryan Rhoades chipped in 11 and 10 points respectively for Delta.

(Class 3A) Fourth-ranked Harding, last year's Class 2A state champ, jumped out to a 6-0 lead right off the bat, but Delta grabbed the lead for good in early in the second period on a three-pointer by Kelly Robbins that put the Eagles on top 19-16. They never trailed again.

Delta was able to extend the lead to seven points late in the third but could never put away Harding for good until hitting its free throws at the end. Delta led 52-49 before the Eagles were sent to the line and made 13 of its 14 free throws over the last 2:51 of the game. Delta set a Class 3A team record for free throw percentage (.955) by connecting on 21 of 22 from the stripe.

Seniors Adrian Greene and Courtney Reese led Harding with 15 points each and classmate David Tubbs added 13.

Delta, guided by 10th year head coach Paul Keller, finished a 22-6 campaign. Harding finished its season 23-5 under 12th year head coach Al Gooden.

Game Notes

Delta's Brian Wright Named Recipient of Trester Mental Attitude Award

Brian Wright of Delta High School was selected as the recipient of the Arthur L. Trester Mental Attitude Award by members of the IHSAA Executive Committee.

Wright has played two years of varsity basketball for the Eagles and also played on the tennis team.

He has been involved in numerous volunteer organizations and activities and also is heavily involved in his church's youth ministry.

The son of Mike and Julie Wright, Brian plans to study Business Management at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

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 Delta High School in the name of Brian Wright.

Class 3A Records

Team

Highest Free Throw Percentage – .955 by Delta (21-22).

Highest Combined Free Throw Percentage -- .828 by Delta (21-22) and Harding (8-13).

Individual

Most Points – 38 by Kelly Robbins, Delta.

Most Free Throws Made – 15 by Kelly Robbins, Delta (15-15).

Most Free Throws Attempted – 15 by Kelly Robbins, Delta.

(Tied) Most Assists – 6 by Joey Lynch, Delta.

(Tied) Highest Free Throw Percentage -- 1.000 by Kelly Robbins, Delta (15-15).

First Basketball State Title – Two For Three For Delta This Year

Delta won its first state championship in its second appearance in the state finals (1997 runner-up). This marks the third trip to Indianapolis for a Delta team this school year. The girls volleyball team won the Class 3A state championship in November, while the football team finished as the state runner-up in Class 4A over Thanksgiving weekend.

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

Harding Head Coach Al Gooden

"I thought Delta played a great basketball game. (Kelly) Robbins did a heck of a job. He scored over half of their points. He got hot and he carried his team the whole game."

"Our kids played hard. We don't have great talent. We are just good basketball players that try real hard."

"They shot the ball well. We did a good job on offense and after every time-out we played hard. We only got one shot because they blocked out on the boards."

Harding forward A.J. Gooden

"We were only able to drive (to the basket) a couple of times. It was hard to get inside because of their defense."

Delta Head Coach Paul Keller

"I thought our kids executed very well. We had three keys to winning the game. One was screening out and rebounding. Harding is one of the best rebounding teams I've ever faced as a coach. Second key was turnovers. We had way too many in the first half, but finished with only 13 turnovers for the game. The third key was shot fakes so we could get to the line and create offense. We did a great job of that hitting 21 of 22 free throws."

"In my mind about 40% of Harding's offense was putbacks (offensive boards). When you are not as athletic as the team you are playing, you must box out and not jump. It's alright if some rebounds hit the floor. I think you saw that happen a couple of times."

"The kids did a great job executing what we had set up. I was really proud of the way they boxed out and screened."

(On Kelly Robbins) "When he moves and gets off screens, he's going to convert. I thought he did an excellent job of curling screens and knocking down some three's. He moved so well without the ball and the others were looking for him. When he gets to the free throw line he is pretty much automatic."

Delta forward Kelly Robbins

"Ryan Rhoades and Brad Wilson were setting the best screens they have set all year. That opens them up and in turn opens me up."