

2002 IHSAA Class 3A Girls Basketball State Finals

March 2, 2002, Conseco Fieldhouse, Indianapolis

New Coach, Same Result – Four Straight For Bishop Luers

Even with a new coach at the reins, the outcome was still the same as Fort Wayne Bishop Luers defeated Gibson Southern, 51-37, to win the Class 3A state championship at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

It was the fourth consecutive state championship for the Knights and the first in Class 3A. In the five years of class basketball, Bishop Luers becomes the first school to win titles in two different classes. The three previous championships came in Class 2A.

First year coach Teri Rosinski, who succeeded Gary Andrews after nine years, led the unranked Knights back to the top winning their ninth straight game to finish the season at 21-5.

Rosinski became the third woman to play and coach in the state finals joining Judi Warren and Leah Wooldridge. Rosinski was the 1977 Mental Attitude Award winner from Norwell and went on to be named Miss Basketball that year.

Bishop Luers' defense took Gibson Southern out of its game holding the Titans to a Class 3A record low scoring output. The Titans committed 28 turnovers in the game and Bishop Luers took advantage scoring 29 points off those miscues, 14 on fast-breaks. Luers committed 23 turnovers, but Gibson Southern only managed eight points from them.

After a tightly-played first quarter that saw Luers holding two-point lead at the break, the Knights began the second period with a 10-2 run and Gibson never got closer than six points the rest of the game. Luers enjoyed a pair of 20 point leads midway through the fourth period.

Michelle Hamlin led the way for Luers with 14 points and six rebounds. Megan Dossen added 13 points. Ashley Nelson of Gibson Southern tallied 16 points and 10 rebounds to take game honors.

Gibson Southern, also unranked and making its first appearance in the state finals, completed a 24-5 year under eighth year coach Jason Blackard. Blackard also led the Gibson Southern softball team to a state runner-up finish in Class 2A last June.

[Click for Final Box Score](#)

Game Notes

Gibson Southern's Jamie Elpers Tabbed For Roy Mental Attitude Award

Jamie Elpers of Gibson Southern High School was named as the recipient of the Patricia L. Roy Mental Attitude Award in Class 3A Girls Basketball by members of the IHSAA Executive Committee.

A 5-6 senior guard for the Titans, Elpers was the third leading scorer for her state runner-up team at 7.6 points per game and shot 51% from three point range this year. She also played soccer and softball all four years of her high school career.

Academically, Elpers ranks in the top 20 percent of her senior class with a 3.7 grade point average, earning her way onto the Distinguished Honor Roll all four years of high school. She is a member of the Student Council and a four-year participant in her school's Sunshine Society. She plans to attend Purdue University to study pharmacy.

Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA's corporate partner, presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Gibson Southern High School in the name of Elpers.

First In Two Different Classes (Sort Of)

Since the inception of class sports, now in its fifth year, Luers became the first school to win titles in two different classes. The previous three years, the Knights won the 2A title. Martinsville won the 1997 state championship and returned a year later to win the first Class 4A title.

Four Records Set In Contest

Fewest Points Allowed – 37 by Fort Wayne Bishop Luers.

Most Steals – 19 by Fort Wayne Bishop Luers

Most Combined Steals – 29 by Fort Wayne Bishop Luers (19) and Gibson Southern (10).

Most Steals by an Individual (Tied) – 5 by Jessica Hathaway, Fort Wayne Bishop Luers.

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 Girls Basketball State Finals during the week following the state finals 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 girls 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 at jwille@ihsaa.org.

Quotes

Gibson Southern Head Coach Jason Blackard

"It's been a tremendous honor to coach this group. They've been wonderful all season long. Our team has been led by four great seniors this year and they are one of the main reasons why

we made it this far.”

“It was a physical game and it was hard to play through, but we did the best we could and got through it. We weren’t able to use some of the gimmicks that we’ve been able to this season.”

“We tried to reverse the ball (on numerous occasions), but they defended us with more numbers (of players) on that side, so it was difficult for us to get a lot accomplished.”

“Our team has been all about effort the entire season. They have a lot of heart, desire and willingness to lay it all on the line. These are memories that the kids will never forget as long as they live.”

Gibson Southern’s Mental Attitude Award Winner Jamie Elpers

“The award was really unexpected. Our team is disappointed with the outcome of the game. It was still great being here. It’s a great atmosphere (at Conseco Fieldhouse). The crowd is something that you can’t explain. They have been great and really supported us all season long.”

Fort Wayne Luers Head Coach Teri Rosinski

“This really is a case of a dream coming true.”

“I was just telling Megan (Dossen) that a year ago I was sitting up in the stands watching the Fort Wayne Luers dynasty. I sat there and wished that I could coach these girls because they play with so much passion and conviction.”

“We are a pretty physical team. There were a few body slams in the paint on both ends that were let go and that led to some of the turnovers, but we managed to rise above that and come up with some loose balls.”

“I thought our defense was very, very solid tonight. This is the defense that we’ve been running for the past three weeks and the girls executed the game plan. We knew who their shooters were and we knew what we had to do to stop them. We had some girls on the perimeter that had to run and we did an excellent job of that.”

“I’m going to enjoy this for a while. It’s been a desire to be a champion and I’ve been blessed with girls that have helped me accomplish my goals, as well as, theirs.”

Fort Wayne Luers Forward Megan Dossen

(On winning four state championships) “It’s a lot better than the other three because it’s my senior year. I wanted to go out with a win. I’m just so proud of all of my teammates (for what we’ve accomplished).”