

2002 IHSAA Class 4A Girls Basketball State Finals

March 2, 2002, Conseco Fieldhouse, Indianapolis

Terre Haute South Outduels South Bend Riley

Terre Haute South got a big night from its junior center and staked claim to its first girls basketball state title with a 63-42 victory over South Bend Riley in the Class 4A championship game at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

Third-ranked Terre Haute South had a decided height advantage with 6-6 junior center Reicina Russell roaming the paint. Russell tallied Class 4A records for scoring with 31 points and seven blocked shots and affected numerous other Riley attempts. The Braves constantly passed over the top of the Riley defense to Russell for easy layins. Russell scored 20 points and had five blocks in the first half alone.

Melanie Boeglin was the only other Brave in double figures with 10 points.

Juniors Suntana Granderson and Crystal Norman, Riley's two scoring leaders, did most of the damage for the Wildcats. Both chalked up 19 points and seven rebounds each, but no other Riley player scored more than two points.

The Braves, making their first appearance in the state finals, finished a 25-2 championship season under 20th year coach Alan Maroska.

Unranked South Bend Riley, also making it first trip to the finals, completed a 24-4 year under eighth-year coach Mike Megyesi.

[Click for Final Box Score](#)

Game Notes

TH South's Darci Rector Selected For Roy Mental Attitude Award

Darci Rector of Terre Haute South High School was selected by members of the IHSAA Executive Committee as the recipient of the Patricia L. Roy Mental Attitude Award in Class 4A Girls Basketball.

Academically, Rector ranks 10th in her senior class of 360 students. She has served as her class's Vice President all four years and is a member of the National Honor Society. Rector was named her school's Homecoming Queen last fall. She intends to study pharmacy at Butler University.

Athletically, she leads the team in field goal percentage at 72%. Besides basketball, Rector was a three year participant in volleyball for the Braves.

The award is named after Patricia L. Roy, the former assistant commissioner of the IHSAA, who is regarded both statewide and nationally as a pioneer in girls athletics. It is presented

annually in each classification of the state finals to a senior who best displays mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability and was nominated by her principal and coach.

Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA corporate partner, presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Terre Haute South High School in the name of Darci Rector.

Six Records Set Or Tied In Class 4A Game

Most Points Scored ♦ 31 points by Reicina Russell, Terre Haute South.

Most Field Goals Made ♦ 14 by Reicina Russell, Terre Haute South.

Most Blocked Shots ♦ 7 by Reicina Russell, Terre Haute South.

Most Combined Blocked Shots ♦ 10 by Terre Haute South (7) and South Bend Riley (3).

Most Assists ♦ 7 by Kristen Clary, Terre Haute South.

Most Combined Fouls ♦ 36 by Terre Haute South (19) and South Bend Riley (17).

Granderson Finishes 26th In 2001-02 State Scoring

South Bend Riley junior guard Suntana Granderson finished with 19 points, just shy of her 20.9 average for the season. She finishes the year with 548 points for a 20.8 average for 26th on this season's state scoring leaders list.

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

South Bend Riley Head Coach ♦ Mike Megyesi

On T.H. South's Reicina Russell ♦ ♦ I think Reicina Russell was the difference in the game. ♦ It's just so tough to defend someone of her size (6♦6♦). ♦ They (T.H. South) lobbed to her all night and we tried to front the post, but she's just too good. ♦ When she gets it two feet from the basket, she is going to score. ♦ 6♦6♦ is tough to defend. ♦

◆I◆m so proud of my kids.◆ It◆s a great accomplishment to be here and they◆re already talking about coming back next year.◆ It◆s truly the experience of a lifetime for these girls and I hope we will get to experience it again next year.◆

On the youth of S.B. Riley ◆◆We had two or three freshman on the floor tonight and all of them gained invaluable experience.◆ They got a taste of what its like to play in a game of this magnitude.◆ Everyone returning is saying that we◆ll be back (next year), and I hope they◆re right.◆

South Bend Riley Guard ◆ Suntana Granderson

◆They (T.H. South) did a great job of attacking the basket with (Reicina) Russell◆ and pressuring the ball on the perimeter.◆ Some of my teammates came out nervous but I wasn◆t.◆ If anything, our starting five seemed to be a little over-excited.◆ I◆m just excited to be here and hope we◆ll be wearing the blue ribbons next year.◆

Terre Haute South Head Coach ◆ Alan Maroska

◆We had a nice little run there when they (S.B. Riley) pulled to within three at 33-30.◆ With the strength of the MIC (Metropolitan Interscholastic Conference) opponents, I felt like it was a sink or swim situation and I think that really helped us get to the championship game.◆

(Reicina) Russell had the effort tonight because the kids were willing to get her the ball.◆ Before the game, we talked about going inside and then moving outside because of the jitters.◆ Then in the second half you could begin to see us relax a little bit.◆

◆Kristen Clary and Darci Rector both hit shots in the third quarter that I felt put a dagger in their (S.B. Riley) heart.◆ I felt they had two or three outstanding players, and what an effort they gave tonight.◆ We knew it had to be a total team effort both offensively and defensively to win this game.◆

◆Terre Haute◆s finally got the monkey off their back.◆ This championship is for all the great players, both male and female, that have played the game.◆

Terre Haute South center ◆ Reicina Russell

◆All of the fans at the game rooting for us really got our energy pumping.◆ I felt the rhythm in the first half, the guards did a great job of getting me the ball and its pretty easy getting a shot off because of my size.◆