

Indiana High School Athletic Association

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

June 21, 2003

McCUTCHEON TAKES SECOND CLASS 4A BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

McCutcheon High School took home its second IHSAA Baseball Championship trophy in the Class 4A title game at Victory Field on Saturday evening, easing past Brownsburg 7-1. For the Mavericks, it was their second 4A baseball title, having defeated Lawrence North 7-6 in 1999.

McCutcheon grabbed the early lead in the final contest of the day between a pair of Hoosier Crossroads Conference members, scoring twice in the opening inning. After Joel Balsler (10) led off with a single and was picked off first, Bart Hunsicker (12) picked up a single through the left side and Matt Overmyer (11) reached on a fielder's choice. Cory Peabody (12) added yet another single down the left field line and both he and Overmyer advanced on the throw back to the infield. Clayton Richard (12) then knocked both runners in with a single up the middle, the fourth hit of the inning, making it 2-0.

Coach Jake Burton's Mavericks added another tally in the bottom of the third as Brownsburg was forced into a pitching change, with Sean Gaston (12) moving from his catching position to the mound, relieving Matt Snyder (10). Gaston arrived on the scene with one run in, courtesy of an RBI single by Peabody which scored Hunsicker, and runners on second and third, with two outs. He was greeted with a single to right from Bryce Sexton (11), driving in both baserunners, making it a 5-0 contest. Before he could catch his breath, Gaston found the bases loaded, but got out of the inning without further damage on a long fly to center.

Brownsburg finally put something other than a goose egg on the scoreboard for head coach Pat O'Neil in the top of the fourth, getting its first run of the outing as Lance Lynn (10) got on base by slapping a double down the left field line. Jeromy Williamson came in to run for him, advancing to third on a wild pitch and scoring on an error.

McCutcheon kept the pressure on, allowing Brownsburg no opportunity to get back into the game, as they added yet another deuce in the bottom of the fourth, when Richard drove in his third and fourth runs of the game to make it a 7-1 margin, with Overmyer and Hunsicker crossing the plate. The Mavericks had scored those runs on 13 hits, all singles.

McCutcheon pitcher Cory Peabody, throwing a three-hitter, closed out the game in style, striking out the final batter and setting a new multi-class and single-class strikeout record with 14. The previous all-time mark of 12 was set by Jeff King of Evansville Memorial vs. Blackford in 1978 and tied by Tom Dempsey of Wabash vs. Marion in 1986. Peabody closed out the season with a 9-2 record.

It was the third meeting of the year between the two teams, with the first two matchups ending in a split, the Mavs winning the first game 10-0, and the Bulldogs the second, 1-0. McCutcheon finished the season at 30-5, while Brownsburg dropped to 30-3.

The day's four-game attendance mark was 7,851.

CLAYTON RICHARD OF McCUTCHEON NAMED L.V. PHILLIPS CLASS AAAA MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD WINNER

Clayton Richard of McCutcheon was named winner of the Class AAAA 2003 Boys Baseball L.V. Phillips Award for Mental Attitude on Saturday, June 21, 2003 at Victory Field in Indianapolis

Members of the IHSAA Executive Committee present the award to the outstanding senior participant in each classification of the boys baseball state finals. The recipient of this award, who was nominated by his principal and coach, must excel in mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability in baseball.

Clayton was named All-Hoosier Crossroads Conference for the 2003 season, his third all-conference selection. He was a member of the 2002 1st Team All-State unit and is a strong candidate for the same honor in 2003. He has been MVP of the baseball team for each of the past two seasons, holding the school record for season ERA and won-lost percentage and has the career mark for lowest ERA and win percentage. Coming into the State Finals, Clayton had an ERA of 0.00 in 76 innings pitched.

As a 1st team all-state nominee in football for four seasons, he was named the 2002 Mr. Football and the 2002 Gatorade Football Player of the Year in Indiana. He was selected to the Parade Magazine Football All-American Team. Clayton was also a member of the Mavericks basketball team. All together, he was named all-conference nine times.

Academically, Clayton ranks at the top of his class of 296 and is a member of the National Honor Society. His other interests include the Chess Club, D.A.R.E., Boys and Girls Clubs and he is an active volunteer in the MDA Telethon, Humane Society, Salvation Army, Cystic Fibrosis Walk-a-Thon, Rent-a-Kid NHS program and Elementary Volunteer programs. He will attend the University of Michigan, majoring in Business.

Clayton is the son of Cindy and Barry Richard of Lafayette.

Farm Bureau Insurance, IHSAA corporate partner, presented a scholarship check for \$1,000.00 to McCutcheon High School in the name of Clayton Richard.

Team Posters and Individual Action Photographs Available

Visit 20-20 Photographic, the IHSAA's photographer and the Midwest's Leader in Sports Action Photography, for images captured during Saturday's four championship games! Action photos

as well as 20-20's Ultimate Sports Poster will be available for purchase later in the week following the state finals.

IHSAA State Championship Merchandise

For t-shirts and sweatshirts commemorating the 37th Annual IHSAA State Finals or for any of our events, visit our friends at Morris, Inc.

State Finals Programs Available

Couldn't be at Victory Field for the state finals? You can still purchase a copy of the official souvenir program while supplies last! Programs are \$3.00 if you purchase in person at the IHSAA Office (9150 N. Meridian Street in Indianapolis) or \$5.00 by mail (postage included). To order, send a check for \$5.00 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.

Own a Video or DVD of the Championship Games

Video copies of each of the Saturday's four championship games will be available for purchase from the IHSAA Video Library courtesy of Victory Field Video Productions. VHS tapes are \$30.00 in person at the IHSAA Office or \$35.00 by mail (shipping and handling included) while DVDs are \$50.00 in person or \$55.00 by mail. For ordering instructions, see page 28 of the game program or visit the IHSAA website for a complete list of game films available in several sports down through the years.