

Indiana High School Athletic Association

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

JIMTOWN UPSETS BROWNSTOWN FOR FIRST STATE BASKETBALL TITLE

The fourth-ranked Jimtown Jimmies (25-2) were without one of their starters but got a big game from a trio of players and upset top-ranked Brownstown Central, 63-59, in the championship game of the Class 2A state finals at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

With starting point guard Chris Trobaugh and his 11 points per game out due to a bout with the flu, Kyle Johnson, Tyler Leighton and Derrick DeShone picked up the slack in what was a very physical contest. Johnson scored 21 points, rebounded 11 and blocked three shots, while Leighton poured in 19 points and DeShone 12 to lead Jimtown to its first state basketball championship in as many appearances in the finals.

It was the 21st consecutive victory for the school of 490 students, which has a rich football tradition with three state titles to its credit over the years, but basketball is king for this year at the Elkhart County school.

After a low scoring first half that saw Jimtown take a 22-16 lead into the lockerroom, including 8-4 at the end of one period, the teams lit up the scoreboard in the fourth. Jimtown, directed by 13th year coach Randy DeShone, scored a Class 2A finals record 31 points in the fourth quarter alone including a combined 59 in the final eight minutes by the two points.

With the game tied at 45-45, Jimtown took the lead for good on DeShone's pass to Johnson who scored from under the basket for a two point lead with 2:59 to go. The Jimmies hit 14 of their 16 free throws down the stretch to put the game away.

A Class 2A record 46 fouls were committed by the two teams and they also combined for a 2A record 60 attempts from the free throw line.

Brownstown Central (27-2) forced 20 Jimtown turnovers for the game but the team struggled to put the ball in the bucket when it needed to. The Braves shot 32 percent for the game, but canned only three of its 18 attempts from three-point range.

Brownstown was led by Marty Young's 19 points and Chandler Lambring's 18. Clint Parker, the Braves' leading scorer at nearly 23 per game, was held to just six points. Sixth-year coach Dave Benter guided Brownstown to its first appearance in the finals since 1931.

Kyle Johnson of Jimtown Named Winner of the Arthur L. Trester Award for Mental Attitude

Kyle Johnson of Jimtown High School was named winner of the 2004 Arthur L. Trester Award for Mental Attitude in Class 2A Boys Basketball. From 1917 to 1943, this award was known as The Gimbel Medal for Mental Attitude, in honor of Jake Gimbel of Vincennes. In 1944, it was known as the IHSAA Medal for Mental Attitude. In 1945, the IHSAA Board officially named the award for Arthur L. Trester, who served as the first commissioner of the IHSAA from 1929 to 1944. Recipients were given a medal each year from 1945 through 1964, hence the Arthur L. Trester Medal for Mental Attitude. Since 1965, the award has been made in the form of a plaque and named the Arthur L. Trester Award for Mental Attitude.

Members of the IHSAA Executive Committee present the award to the outstanding senior participant in each classification of the boys basketball state finals. The recipients of this award, who were nominated by their principals and coaches, must excel in mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability in basketball.

Kyle ranks twelfth in his senior class of 116 and is a member of the National Honor Society. His college choice is yet to be determined, but his plans call for a major in Elementary Education. He has served as President of his class all four years, as well as being a member of the Student Council and active in school musicals and theatre productions.

He volunteers as a Cadet Teacher for the Third Grade at Jimtown South Elementary and is a four-year volunteer coach for the March Madness Youth Basketball Program, as well as for the Peer-Tutor/Mentor Program for at-risk students in the Middle School.

Athletically, Kyle was a two-time nominee for the All-Northern States Conference team and three-time team MVP and team captain. He was voted the 2004 Comeback Player of the Year. He was also a four-year letter winner in Football for the Jimmies.

Kyle is the son of Kim and Gene Johnson of Elkhart.

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

New IHSAA Book, *Play On*, Recaps 100 Years Of High School Sports in Indiana

The exciting new book, *Play On*, celebrating 100 years of high school sports in Indiana, is perfect for that sports fan or the history buff you know. Filled with 150 pages of engaging photographs, captivating stories and a walk down memory lane, it's now on sale through the Indiana High School Athletic Association. It's not available in book stores, so contact the IHSAA at 317-846-6601 (Mon.-Fri., 8-4 EST) or click on the link above to learn more about this special tribute to 100 years of Indiana high school athletics.

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 state championship games! Action photos and team photos as well as 20-20's Ultimate Sports Poster will be available for purchase later in the week following the state finals.

Own This Game On VHS Or DVD

If you'd like a copy of this state championship game, the IHSAA will have it as well as each of the other three contests (one game per video) available in VHS or DVD formats as part of the IHSAA Video Library collection. Phone in your order beginning Monday, March 29 to 317-846-6601 (M-F, 8-4 EST) and pay by credit card (Visa or MasterCard accepted). VHS copies are \$35 each by mail, while DVD copies are \$55 each by mail. Please allow up to four weeks delivery.

IHSAA State Championship Merchandise

For t-shirts and other merchandise commemorating this year's state finals tournament or for any of our events, visit our friends at Morris, Inc.

State Finals Programs Available

Couldn't be there for the state finals? You can still purchase a copy of the official 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, call 317-846-6601 (M-F, 8-4 EST) to pay by credit card (Visa or MasterCard accepted) or send a check for \$5.00 made payable to the IHSAA, a note including your return address and brief description of your request and mail to: IHSAA Programs, PO Box 40650, Indianapolis, IN 46240-0650.

Class 2A Championship Game Quotes

Jimtown Coach Randy DeShone

"When Chris (Trobaugh) got sick and didn't get up this morning because of the flu, you could just see it on the rest of the kids faces, 'Oh no, not again.' Because it has happened to us for two straight years, someone is either getting sick or hurt. This team has stepped up all year when someone was out and made plays. And, that's what they did today."

"They did a lot of trapping and that made us shoot a little quicker than we would have liked to. That was a good coaching move by Brownstown Central."

"It was a loosely-called game, but I felt as the game went on we adjusted and made some strong moves. That was the most physical game that we played in all year."

"Defense today was huge. Anthony Moore (#32) and Doug Polston (#22) really stepped up today and held Clint Parker to just 6 points. That's just an awesome job by them. We just have kids who step up and make plays."

"They did a nice job of trapping us and forcing some mental mistakes with the basketball. But defense wins championships and they kept getting closer and closer but we didn't break. They would make a run and our kids would bounce back with a big play."

On Trester Award Winner Kyle Johnson

"He injured his knee a year ago and missed 26 games. Then, this season, he had a rare cyst develop as a result of the surgery. Just unlucky. He has most definitely overcome adversity. He is such a great kid and most deserving of the award."

Brownstown Central Coach Dave Benter

"We came out way too impatient on offense in the first half. We took bad shots and turned the ball over. That left us scrambling the whole second half. How we got back into the game in the second half was we tried spreading them out more. It worked a little bit better, but that used up all of our energy. I thought we showed a lot of character in the second half. We used every ounce of our energy."

"We scrambled defensively and we went to a full court and half court trap after the first half. I'm proud of our kids. They worked extremely hard. We didn't play very smart in the first half and dug ourselves into a hole. You can't do that against a real quality team like Jimtown."

"Give Jimtown credit. We came back and had them on their heels. They made some big plays and we missed some shots and free throws. If we make our free throws in the second half it may have been a different story."