Indiana High School Athletic Association

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MEDIA



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CARDINAL RITTER TAKES CLASS A STATE CROWN

Indianapolis Cardinal Ritter got all the points it needed early on in a 28-0 shutout of Seeger in the Class A championship game at the RCA Dome

The Raiders Devin Moore rushed for 210 yards on 27 carries and a touchdown to help capture the school second state championship and first since 1977 when the school defeated Tippecanoe Valley in the Class A title game.

It was the first shutout in a Class A state title contest since 1992 when the Raiders were on the wrong end of a 6-0 defeat to Sheridan. For Seeger, it was a bitter ending to what was otherwise a spectacular season for coach Brian Moore so crew who came into the ballgame 14-0. The Patriots were making their first appearance in the state finals after winning the regional for the first time in the school sh history.

Cardinal Ritter coach Jim Boswell s group finished the season 12-2 and held its opponent scoreless for the first time this year. Besides the 1977 and 1992 games, the Raiders also finished as runners-up in 1987 (2A) and 1991 (A).

The opening possession of the game proved costly for the Patriots, who were backed up deep in their own end of the field. On a 2nd and 14 from their own 5 yard line, Cardinal Ritter So Dustin Cronnon intercepted Seeger quarterback Matt Pruitt at the 12 and returned it for the first score of the game. The extra point kick was blocked.

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Cardinal Ritter s second score came with 1:16 to go in the first quarter as Moore scooted 65 yards around the right end and went untouched to the endzone. Ritter converted the two-point conversion to take a 14-0 lead.

The Raiders got two more touchdowns in the third quarter as quarterback Alex Byrnes scored on a sneak from one yard out at the 7:57 mark. Keith Radcliff later hauled in a 60 yard pass from Byrnes with 2:45 left in the quarter.

The Raider defense held Seeger to 231 yards (177 below their average) and kept the Patriots, fourth in the state at 43.0 points per game, out of the endzone. The Patriots converted only one of their five attempts on fourth down and were 0-for-3 in the first half.

Seeger so best chance at the endzone came in the fourth quarter following a 52 yard pass on fourth down from Pruitt to Kyle Killin that set the Patriots up first and goal at the 2 yard line. Cardinal Ritter stuffed a couple of Seeger running plays and were helped out on a 10 yard holding penalty before Pruitt was sacked for an eight yard loss on fourth down.

Seeger s Thomas Marshall Named Eskew Mental Attitude Award Winner

Thomas Marshall of Class A state runner-up Seeger was named winner of the 2003 Class A Football Phil N. Eskew Mental Attitude Award. •

At the conclusion of each state championship game, the IHSAA Executive Committee presents the award to an outstanding senior participant in the football state tournament. The recipient of the award, who was nominated by his principal and coach, must excel in mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability. The award is named in honor of the third commissioner of the IHSAA who served from 1962 to 1976 and oversaw the beginning of the state football tournament.

Thomas ranks 6th in his senior class of 107 and is a member of the National Honor Society. He plans to major in Business at Indiana University.

He is the President of the school s Spanish Club, as well as Secretary of his class. Thomas also is a member of the National Art Honor Society, Students Against Destruction Decisions, Student Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Art Club and Knowledge Masters.

His volunteer work includes participation in Special Olympics and service as a Teaching Assistant.

Athletically, this year steam MVP, Thomas was a member of the Junior All-State squad in 2002 and was All-State Honorable Mention in 2001. He captured All-Wabash River Conference honors the past two seasons, as well as being named the Patriots Defensive Lineman of the Year each campaign. He is the first four-year starter in the school for shootall history. He also was a member of the basketball and track teams.

Thomas is the son of Nancy and Tim Marshall of Williamsport and is the first Seeger student-athlete to win an IHSAA Mental Attitude Award in any sport.

Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA corporate partner, presented a \$1,000.00 scholarship to Seeger High School in the name of Thomas Marshall.

Notes

Second State Championship For Cardinal Ritter

It was the second state championship in any sport in school history for Cardinal Ritter. The other also came in football when the Raiders defeated Tippecanoe Valley in the 1977 Class A championship game, 15-6, at Lawrence Central High School.

Championship Game Records

Shutouts: Fifth time in Class A; last time in 1992, Sheridan 6, Indianapolis Cardinal Ritter 0.

Most Interceptions: 2 by Alex Byrnes, Indianapolis Cardinal Ritter; tied old record held by several players.

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

Looking for holiday gift ideas? The exciting new book, <u>Play On</u>, 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 so now on sale through the Indiana High School Athletic Association. It so not available in book stores, so contact the IHSAA at 317-846-6601 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 sphotographer and the Midwest seader in Sports Action Photography, for images captured during this weekend state championship games! Action photos and team photos as well as the 20-20 state Sports Poster will be available for purchase later in the week following the state finals.

IHSAA State Championship Merchandise

For t-shirts and other merchandise commemorating this year stournament or for any of our events, visit our friends at Morris, Inc.

State Finals Programs Available

Couldn to be there for the football 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 \$5.00 by mail (postage included). To order, 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. Sorry, no credit cards.

Quotes

Indianapolis Cardinal Ritter Coach Jim Boswell

- ♦We knew coming in that Seeger was a great offensive team. We expected a low scoring football game and it turned out to be something like a basketball score. Today I have nothing but great things to say about our defense. After No. 1 (Alex Byrnes) made that touchdown saving tackle, they still had four chances to put it in the endzone. I still think that was a huge key point in this ballgame. Seeger tends to score in flurries. We saw that on film from earlier in the season. At no time did we ever think we had this thing completely wrapped up. ♦
- ♦Offensively, a lot of it was Devin Moore. But our offensive line deserves a huge amount of credit. Devin made some great runs and cutbacks. There aren♦t many guys that can do it like him. The big pass play from Alex Byrnes to Keith Radcliff was a huge play and helped us spread them out to assist our running game.♦
- ♦ Defensively our top priority was to stop their wing-T offense by using our outside linebackers to force the play to our corners. Our inside linebackers responsibility was to take away their dive. We were very concerned about their team speed but our kids played well in the trenches. ♦

Cardinal Ritter Player Devin Moore

♦I give all the credit to my offensive line. They created some huge holes. Once I got through, I had to break out the speed. Going into the game, I didn♦t think we ♦d be able to shut out their offense. They have some great players. We had a great gameplan and our guys really stepped it up and that♦s a credit to our coaches.♦

Seeger Coach Brian Moore

- ♦We had a bad break to start the game with that interception. We dug ourselves a hole, but we had some opportunities to make a few plays that we didn♦t make. Penalties and mistakes hurt us. Ritter is a great team and Devin Moore is one heckuva back.♦
- ♦That big run that Devin got was pretty important. We thought we could contain him. We made a mistake and he got loose. After that we made them drive the ball. Unfortunately for us we didn♦t do very well offensively.♦
- ♦I ♦ m a little disappointed. That wasn ♦t Seeger football. We are a better football team than we showed today. We belonged in this game but we didn ♦t play well. ♦
- At halftime we were still in the game. But they had a nice drive to start the second half and they put us in a hole that put us away. We had a couple of drives and we started to get some rhythm, but something would happen to us with a penalty or a mistake.