

REBEKAH PORTER OF VALPARAISO WINS 2004 MILDRED M. BALL MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD FOR GYMNASTICS

Rebekah Porter of Valparaiso High School captured the Mildred M. Ball Mental Attitude Award in Gymnastics following the state finals at Perry Meridian High School on March 20, 2004.

◆ Mildred M. Ball served the IHSAA as an assistant commissioner from 1977 until her retirement in 1997. ◆ Among her responsibilities were the licensing and training of officials and administering tournaments in gymnastics, golf, tennis and soccer. ◆ She also served on the Gymnastics Rules Committee and the Equity Committee of the National Federation of State High School Associations. ◆

At the conclusion of the state finals, the IHSAA Executive Committee presents the award to the outstanding senior participant in the Gymnastics State Finals. ◆ The recipient of the award, who was nominated by her principal and coach, must excel in mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability in gymnastics.

In 2003, Rebekah captured the Vault, Floor Exercise and All-Around titles in the IHSAA Gymnastics Championships. ◆ This year, she turned in another outstanding effort, placing first in the Vault and Floor Exercise, with eighth place finishes in the Balance Beam and Uneven Bars. In 2003-04, she won the Duneland Athletic Conference, Sectional and Regional titles, despite being hampered by a stress fracture in her shin.

Academically, she ranks 63rd in her class of 456, was named Academic All-State and is a member of the National Honor Society. ◆ Her other awards include the Gold Award, Silver Award, Leadership Award, President's Student Service Award, her third, as presented by the Girl Scouts of America, of which she was a ◆ two-year board member. ◆ She was a representative at the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, DC. this past fall. ◆ She plans to attend the University of New Hampshire to major in Athletic Training.

A member of the school's ◆ Latin Club, she served as Secretary in 2002 and as President of the organization in 2003.

Rebekah is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Porter of Valparaiso.

Farm Bureau Insurance, IHSAA corporate sponsor, presented a \$1,000.00 check to the scholarship fund at Valparaiso High School in the name of Rebekah Porter.