

# Indiana High School Athletic Association

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**Blake Ress, Commissioner**

## Washington Wins 3A Title on Half-Court Trey at Overtime Buzzer

Washington senior center Luke Zeller swished a half-court shot at the overtime horn to give his team a 74-72 triumph over Plymouth in the IHSAA Class 3A championship game in front of a sellout crowd of 18,345 at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

Plymouth, which was trying to give 32<sup>nd</sup>-year coach Jack Edison his 500<sup>th</sup> career victory, had taken a 72-71 lead on a lay-up by freshman guard Randy Davis with two seconds left in overtime. Davis scored the Pilgrims' final six points in the extra session, finishing with 10 for the game on 3-3 from the field and 4-4 at the line.

Washington gave retiring coach Dave Omer a perfect send-off, completing a 27-2 campaign with its state title. Zeller just missed a triple double, finishing with game highs of 27 points, nine rebounds, and a Class 3A-record 11 assists. The previous assist mark was 10 by Indianapolis Bishop Chatard's Dan Cage in 2003. Zeller's scoring output ties the second-highest ever by Shane Power of Andean in 2000.

Washington and Plymouth combined to break the 3A record with 31 total assists, beating the old standard of 30 by Muncie Southside and Evansville Mater Dei in 2001. Zeller, the Class 3A Trester Award winner, hit 8-13 from the field, 2-4 from three-point range, and 9-10 at the line.

Plymouth started the contest quickly, building its biggest lead at 17-12 on a three-pointer by senior guard Kyle Bengé with 1:53 remaining in the first quarter. Bengé finished with a team-high 22 points, breaking the 3A record for field goal attempts with 25. The old mark had been 23 by Power. Bengé also attempted a Class 3A-record 15 treys, beating the previous best of 11 by Joseph Poindexter of Fort Wayne Elmhurst in 2003. Bengé finished his career with a school-record 1,979 career points, good for 42<sup>nd</sup> on the state all-time list.

Washington scored the final five points of the first quarter to tie it at 17. The margin was no more than four points in the second quarter with Plymouth taking a 36-34 halftime lead. The game was tied at 47 with 3:01 left in the third before Washington ran off the final 10 points of the quarter to build a 57-47 advantage. Hatchets' senior forward Isaac Stoll nailed back-to-back treys on consecutive possessions during the run. Stoll finished with 16 points, hitting a 3A-best .500 from three-point range on 4-8 shooting. The old record was .444 by Brice Jones of Muncie Southside in 2001.

Plymouth trailed 62-51 with 5:13 remaining in regulation before mounting a furious rally to force the extra session. The Pilgrims tied it with 21 seconds on two free throws by senior guard Kyle Plumlee. Plumlee, who finished with 11 points, missed two shots in the final seconds of regulation.

Washington tied the Class 3A record with torrid .692 shooting from the field, hitting 27-39 to equal Indianapolis Cathedral's effort in 1998. The Hatchets shot 13-20 (.650) in the first half, 12-16 (.750) in the second half and 2-3 in overtime.

Pilgrims' senior guard Geoff Scheetz nailed a record five treys for 15 points in the contest. The previous standard was four treys by Brian Bell of Muncie Southside in 2001.

Plymouth nailed a 3A record 11 treys, surpassing the previous standard of eight by Muncie Southside in 2001. The Pilgrims made 10-20 from beyond the arc in the first half. Plymouth 32 three-point attempts broke the previous record of 27 by Fort Wayne Elmhurst in 2003. The two teams combined for 19 treys to beat the old 3A mark of 10 by Muncie Southside and Evansville Mater Dei in 2001, with Washington breaking the 3A accuracy record by hitting 8-14 (.571) from beyond the arc. The two teams shot a 3A-record .458 from three-point range, shattering the previous mark of .357 by Muncie Southside and Mater Dei. Plymouth and Washington had 46 combined three-point attempts, exceeding the old standard of 38 by Fort Wayne Elmhurst and Indianapolis Bishop Chatard in 2003. Plymouth was perfect at the free throw line (11-11), exceeding the .955 (21-22) shot by Delta in 2002.

Plymouth tied the 3A record with 15 steals in the contest, matching the total of Brebeuf Jesuit in 2000.

### **Washington's Luke Zeller Wins the Arthur L. Trester Award for Mental Attitude**

Washington High School senior center Luke Zeller is the 2005 recipient of the Arthur L. Trester Mental Attitude for Class 3A.

Zeller is a 2005 McDonald's All-American who has led coach Dave Omer's Hatchets to a 26-2 record and their first trip to the IHSAA state championship game since 1942. He is a finalist for the Morgan Wooten Award as the McDonald's National High School Player of the Year based on character, scholarship and community leadership/involvement.

Zeller earned All-Tournament honors at the Hall of Fame Classic in New Castle in December and he was the MVP of the GPC Holiday Tournament and the Region Roundball Rumble in Hammond in December. Zeller is a 2004 *Street & Smith's* All-American who competed in the USA Olympic Youth Development Festival last summer and the Nike All-America Camp the past two years. He was a member of the Junior All-Star core group in 2004 and he participated in the IBCA/IHSAA Top 100 Showcase in 2003 and 2004. Zeller is a four-time *Hoosier Basketball Magazine* all-state pick, three-time all-state, and four-time all-conference and all-sectional selection.

In the classroom, Zeller is the Valedictorian of his senior class of 164 with a perfect 4.00 cumulative grade point average and he will graduate with an Academic Honors Diploma. The All-American Scholar annually participates in the Dr. Suess 'Read Across America' in elementary schools. He is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and he is a volunteer for the Camp Illiana Habitat for Humanity.

"Luke truly embodies the values of being a student-athlete by his mental attitude, scholarship, leadership, and athletic ability," said Washington principal Gary Puckett. "In four years of watching Luke competing on the court and working in the classroom, I have never seen him act or behave in a negative manner. His mental attitude on and off the court is exemplary. On the court, Luke respects and responds positively to his coaches and treats his teammates, opponents, and officials with the utmost class and respect."

Members of the IHSAA Executive Committee present the Trester 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. The award is named for Arthur L. Trester, who served as the first commissioner of the IHSAA from 1929-44.

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

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

The exciting 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 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 28 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 3A Championship Game Quotes**

### **Plymouth Coach Jack Edison**

"Some of you people are from the south and you know this Washington team, so up until this week for us Plymouth people, you're familiar with what they did tonight and not surprised by it. When you get a player like Luke Zeller you really have to be happy for him. He not only plays like he did tonight but for you northerners that don't know him, he's a better person even yet than he played tonight."

"He (Zeller) might have played his game of the year tonight but what do champions do on championship night? They rise to the occasion like that. I'm just fortunate to be around a group that kind of hung around in there with them. And then you get to know Dave Omer and no one could be more deserving for him to end up his career this way."

"We were as concerned with his (Zeller) passing tonight as we were with his shooting."

(On the lay-up by Randy Davis that gave Plymouth the lead)

“That was the third option, but just so you don’t think Randy went off on his own, I did kind of grab him before he went out of the huddle to try to keep the third option primary in his mind. Benge and Sheetz were the first two options.”

“We expected them to lob the ball to him (Zeller) and then anybody who got it, take them out of their rhythm. He gets it curling across the middle of the floor going to his left. I don’t think he shot it left-handed, but he probably could have. Did we make him earn it? I thought so.”

(On the question, “Is this the greatest shot in Indiana state championship history?”)

“Yeah—in this situation, it had to be under a second when it cut loose.”

(On what to tell the kids)

“Maybe your dads or grandpas don’t say much, but you know—you know. You know they know, you know when you do something neat for them they have that look in their eye and that kind of says it and they don’t have to say cheap stuff like, ‘You tried your hardest and you gave your best.’ I may say something to them, but some of you are going to have to help me because I have no clue what it will be.”

### **Washington Coach Dave Omer**

“Plymouth is a great basketball team. Plymouth is as quick, well-coached and as hard to guard as any team we have ever played.”

“It’s a situation where it doesn’t sink in for a while. We came to the huddle and I told them we had to make a play with no more than one dribble. We had time for one dribble but I didn’t want somebody just catching the ball and wheeling it down the floor in a ‘Hail Mary’-type fashion. After they saw our set and called timeout, Luke (Zeller) said get me the ball and I’ll score. I said OK. It was a Christian Laettner-type play, he caught the ball, made a quick, reverse dribble—right down the middle. Luke is a great shooter. He’s always been a great shooter. Him (Zeller) making the basket doesn’t surprise me, it was the time he had in which to make it that was the most surprising.”

“I think my son said it best. This makes up for all the years of frustration in trying to get here. We have been beaten on shots like that, maybe not exactly like that but last-second shots, made turnovers at the end of the game to lose sectionals, and the bottom line is we have not been good enough to get out of our sectional the last few years with Vincennes, Jasper and some of those people. This year we were good enough. I’m on an emotional high of course, but I don’t believe it has really sunken in yet. All the credit goes to the kids.”

(On Zeller’s shot)

“He said God told him he was going to make it. I said, I wish you had told God to tell me.”

(On his retirement)

“I don’t think me going out (retirement) had anything to do with the way we played. I made that decision a year ago. I have a lot of respect for everyone of these kids because of the attitude they have had in the past. We are as good of a team, maybe not the best individuals, but we are as good of a team as there is in southern Indiana.”

### **Luke Zeller**

“It was a situation where I didn’t want anybody else on the team to have that shot on their shoulders. Win or lose, I wanted to have it. If it was missed, I wanted it to be on me, and the same thing if it was hit. Isaac

(Stoll) and (Bryan) Bouchie were both down there and I told them to get me open. Justin (Smith) couldn't find me at first and it didn't work out right away. I wanted to get the ball on the wing, but he threw it to me at half court, I took a dribble, let go of it, and I was praying the whole way through, and God took care of the rest."

(On the Randy Davis lay-up before Zeller's heroics)

"The up-and-under shot was very impressive. It was also very depressing. He (Randy Davis) made a very impressive shot. They are a great team. After they hit that shot there was 1.8 seconds and I knew what I was going to have to do."

(On Coach Omer's last game)

"It's the perfect ending. I told someone that it's like the AMEN on a great season. It's a great way to go out."