

Indiana High School Athletic Association
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Blake Ress, Commissioner

Lawrence North Repeats as Class 4A Champion

Lawrence North became the first IHSAA Class 4A repeat winner with its third state title overall by defeating Muncie Central, 63-52, in front of a sellout crowd of 18,345 at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. Coach Jack Keefer's 24-2 Wildcats finish the campaign with 16 consecutive victories. They become the first repeat champion since Westview in Class 2A in 1999 and 2000. Ben Davis was the last single-class repeat winner in 1995 and 1996.

Lawrence North junior center Greg Oden put on a dominating display with a Class-4A record 29 points, breaking the previous mark of 28 by Marion's Zach Randolph in 2000. Oden made a 4A-record 14 field goals in 19 attempts, breaking the standard of 13 by Randolph. The 7-0 Oden also set a 4A mark with six blocked shots, eclipsing the former standard of five by Bloomington North's Sean May in 2000. Oden had five blocks in the first half alone.

Lawrence North led for the entire 32 minutes. The Wildcats held a 12-9 edge after the first quarter and they built a 25-17 halftime advantage on a three-pointer by senior forward Tyler Morris three seconds before the break.

Lawrence North broke its 4A record for field goal accuracy set last season by hitting 24-39 (.615) against Muncie Central.

Lawrence North senior guard Brandon McPherson joined Oden in double figures with 11 points, making all five free throw attempts. McPherson received the Arthur L. Trester Mental Attitude following the game.

Muncie Central had four players score in double figures, led by the 12-point effort from junior forward Terry Jenkins. Jenkins hit 5-7 from the field. Ty Riddle added 11, while Jordan Armstrong and Josiah Miller each had 10. Coach Matt Fine's Bearcats finished 27-2 after having their 20-game winning streak snapped.

Lawrence North's Brandon McPherson Named Trester Mental Attitude Award Winner

Lawrence North High School senior Brandon McPherson was selected as the 2005 recipient of the Arthur L. Trester Mental Attitude for Class 4A by members of the IHSAA Executive Committee.

McPherson ranks in the top 25 percent of his senior class of 533 students and scored 1,150 on the SAT. He is an academic honors student and was admitted into the school Honors Degree program.

His activities include being a member of the Lawrence North Community Service Program, serving on the Youth Board of the Mt. Zion Apostolic Church and its choir.

A part of two Class 4A state championship squads, McPherson is a 2005 McDonald's All American nominee and was named First Team All-State by Hoosier Basketball Magazine as well as All-Conference. He also participated in junior varsity football as a freshman. He has earned a full scholarship to Valparaiso University and intends to study accounting.

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 Lawrence North High School in the name of Brandon McPherson.

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 4A Championship Game Quotes

Muncie Central Coach Matt Fine

"We knew they would come out and guard us well. They've got three great guards out front that really do a good job of getting into you. Give them all the credit in the world, they defended us well. In the first half I thought that we just made a couple of mistakes at the end of the half that we normally don't make with some shot selection and things like that that could have had us right there with them."

"I love my kids, they fought their hearts out as usual."

(On the momentum swing)

"Momentum is everything, especially when you are dealing with young kids and adversity. We didn't respond well to it. I'm proud of them, we didn't knock shots down and they took us out of what we wanted to do offensively. Defensively we just didn't execute our plan."

(On them getting the ball to Greg Oden)

"Lawrence North knows what they want to do offensively. Their plan is to go through Oden and they do a great job of executing that plan. They really know how to get him the ball in positions where he's able to score."

#50 Jordan Armstrong

"It's always sad when you get to the last game of your high school career. We didn't want to go out like this, but I think we still played hard tonight."

(Armstrong on Oden)

"He's big and physical in the post. He's obviously NBA material and you can't stop him, you can only hope to contain him. Our plan was to keep a body on him at all times. We wanted to keep him off the block and make him shoot jump shots, but obviously that plan didn't work as well as we wanted to."

Lawrence North Coach Jack Keefer

"Greg is a great player, but he has some great players around him and he would be the first one to tell you that."

(On being only the 13th team in history to repeat as state champion)

"It just means that we have very dedicated players and coaches. I'm just so proud of our seniors because they worked so hard. Every state title is different. The one in 1989 was probably not expected. I think we earned this one more because of who we played. The regional was just so stacked and I was not sure if we would get past that."

(On LN's defense)

"McPherson did a great job tonight. I think our seniors just wanted it more than them (Muncie Central). We played with a real passion all night. Conley and Morris did a great job defending their outside shooters."

"This team just got better as the year went on. At the beginning of the season, we were experimenting with what everyone's roles were. Tonight, everyone knew what to do."

#50 Greg Oden

"My teammates played so well tonight that they had no choice but to play me man-to-man. Our coaches put together every defense we would face, so we were pretty prepared for this. It feels so good to be champion again. My teammates deserve this. We came out and played a good team and it just got tougher and tougher throughout the tournament. It feels better than last year because that is in the past and this is now."

#10 Brandon McPherson

"We played a great team tonight. We came out strong and played a great game. I'm just happy to be one part of this team."