

Indiana High School Athletic Association

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

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SEEGER WINS SCHOOL'S FIRST STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN ANY SPORT

Seeger's Joel Clem scored on a quarterback sneak with 2:35 left to go in the game which sealed the deal as the Patriots claimed a 20-7 victory over defending champ Indianapolis Cardinal Ritter for the IHSAA Class A state championship at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

Set up by Eli Cook's 31 yard punt return to the Ritter 34 with 7:01 to go in the game, Clem's sneak play capped a nine play drive that ate up 4:26 of the fourth quarter clock and allowed Seeger to avenge last year's 28-0 loss to Cardinal Ritter in the championship game.

The win capped a perfect 15-0 season for the Patriots of 12th year coach Brian Moore. Over the last four years, Seeger has amassed a 51-3 record. Interestingly, it's the fourth time in state finals history that a rematch from the previous year has occurred and each time the runner-up one year returned to win it the following year.

Seeger entered the game averaging 292.7 yards rushing and that's where the Patriots kept it today running 47 of their 54 plays on the ground picking up 153 yards. Cook led the way with 24 carries and 119 yards and one touchdown, a three yard carry on his team's opening drive of the game. The ensuing two point conversion failed.

Seeger led the state allowing only 6.0 points per game and Ritter hurt its cause with four turnovers including three fumbles in Seeger territory. The one that hurt most came in the first quarter on Ritter's second possession of the game when David Evans was hit and fumbled at the one yard line and the ball rolled through the back of the endzone for a Seeger touchback.

Ritter got on the board at 6:39 of the second quarter when David Evans scored from a yard out. Mike Stevens' point after gave the Raiders their only lead at 7-6.

Seeger scored again with 1:02 left before halftime when Curtis Sturgeon caught the ball in between two defenders inside the five yard line and jogged into the endzone. This time the Patriots converted the two point conversion as Hunter Smith scored on a reverse play around the right side to make it 14-7.

Ritter quarterback Alex Byrnes led the Raiders with 172 yards on 11 of 14 passing but was intercepted once and sacked three times. Coached by Jim Boswell, the Raiders ended the 2004 campaign at 10-5.

Cardinal Ritter's Spencer King Named Eskew Mental Attitude Award Winner

Spencer King of Indianapolis Cardinal Ritter High School was named winner of the 2004 Phil N. Eskew Mental Attitude Award in Class A Football.

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.

Academically, King ranked seventh in his class of 76 and is President of the National Honor Society, as well as President of his Senior Class. ♦ He was a member of the school High Honor Roll every quarter of his high school career. ♦ He also was a Wendy's High School Heisman Nominee. ♦ He will attend St. Joseph's College, majoring in Pharmacy.

Athletically, he also earned three varsity letters in wrestling and two varsity letters in baseball. ♦ He was a co-captain of the football, wrestling and baseball teams for the Raiders. ♦

Spencer is the son of Brenda and Phil King of Brownsburg.

He becomes the second Cardinal Ritter player to earn the Eskew Mental Attitude Award, joining Mark Franco, who captured the honor in 1991.

Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA corporate partner, presented a \$1,000.00 scholarship to Indianapolis Cardinal Ritter High School in the name of Spencer King.

Team Posters And Individual Action Photographs Available

Visit [20-20 Photographic](http://20-20Photographic.com), the IHSAA's photographer and the Midwest's Leader in Sports Action Photography, for images captured during this weekend's state championship games! Action photos as well as 20-20's Ultimate 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's tournament or for any of our events, visit our friends at [Morris, Inc.](#)

State Finals Programs Available

Couldn't be in Indy for the state finals? You can still purchase a copy of the official souvenir 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 by credit card, have your Visa or MasterCard ready and call us at 317-846-6601 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST. Or send a check for \$5.00 made payable to the IHSAA, a note with your return address and brief description of your request and mail to: IHSAA Programs, PO Box 40650, Indianapolis, IN 46240-0650.

Class A Game Quotes

Seeger Coach Brian Moore

A year ago following the game against Ritter, Eli Cook (#2) commented that we would never lose again. The kids made it a goal nothing less than a state title. Nothing less is acceptable. Now we have it and it is a great feeling. I'm just so proud of all of our kids. This championship is for all the players we have in the past and present.

We play a very aggressive style of defense and today we made some plays.

I am pretty proud of our players. They made the plays when they had to. I'm so very proud of our defense. Today we got some turnovers, something we haven't been able to do in other big games, but we were today and were able to score off a couple of them.

The opening drive of the game was the key. I said the #1 key to this game was the start, and our start, we drove it down the field and punched it in. You don't know how big of load it was off our shoulders. Last year we got a goose egg on the first drive and I felt it hurt us a bit. Today, to get a touchdown on the first drive was huge.

They've got a great quarterback, a great power game, and to only give up seven points to them is a big deal. I couldn't be prouder of our defense.

Cardinal Ritter Coach Jim Boswell

This game came down to a couple of key plays. This was a very competitive game. I give all the credit to Seeger. We made some mistakes, but Seeger forced us to make those mistakes. We fumbled and they didn't.

What we tried to do is what they did to us. We wanted to control the clock in order to keep their offense off the field. Unfortunately, it went the other way around. But Seeger did some pretty good hitting on both sides of the ball.

(Seeger) Coach Moore earned it. They were on our end last year. We have no excuses. They outplayed us today. Our kids never quit, they tried every down. We were in positions offensively every quarter but we couldn't get it in (the endzone).

(On Seeger running back Eli Cook) He's a tough runner. He doesn't go down easily. We made some hits on him but he'd run through our tackles.

The sweeps they did all year long were effective. We just didn't get enough guys around the ball. Our defense did a fine job all year long. They bent a little but didn't break.

Our boys gave everything they had. We played football the way it's supposed to be played.

(On Spencer King winning Mental Attitude Award) Spencer King is one of those kids that is the first to practice and last to leave. He's played with injury and didn't ever wanted to tell us he was hurt because he didn't want to come off the field. He's a tremendous leader in the classroom and on the field.