

# Indiana High School Athletic Association

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

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## **TRI-WEST HENDRICKS DEFENDS CLASS 2A CROWN**

Tri-West Hendricks jumped out of the gate with three first quarter touchdowns and went on to successfully defend its 2A state championship with a 62-21 victory over Eastbrook in the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

The Bruins (15-0), making their fifth trip to the state football finals, scored three times in their first 13 plays of the game, including a 70 yard pass from sophomore quarterback Tyler Bruce to Matt Alexander that made it 13-0 before the point after attempt.

It was the third state football title for Tri-West to go along with the Class A championship it won in 1996 which also finished unbeaten at 14-0. Each has come with coach Mark Haste at the reigns.

Bruce carved up the Eastbrook defense which entered the contest allowing only 8.5 points per game. The sophomore quarterback rushed for 101 yards and two touchdowns and passed for another 302 completing 16 of 25 and three scores. The Bruins set the Class 2A record with 516 yards of offense. Alexander would finish with 101 receiving yards and three touchdowns in the game, including two on the ground.

Bruce's 21 yard touchdown run on 4<sup>th</sup> and 8 early in the second quarter which made it 27-0 put serious doubts in the minds of the Eastbrook faithful, but the Panthers got on the board on their next possession. On their third play of the drive, Kyle Kirkpatrick sprinted 46 yards past the Tri-West defenders for the touchdown. The point after made it 28-7. Kirkpatrick finished with 117 yards on 16 carries to lead the Panthers.

The Bruins would go on another 21-0 run and take a 48-7 lead into the halftime lockerroom after totaling 379 yards of offense in the first 24 minutes.

Eastbrook showed heart, however, as the Panthers mustered up a touchdown on their first drive of the second half as Jason Poe hauled in a 65 yard pass from quarterback Zachary Tuterow. The Panthers also crossed the line on the first play of the fourth quarter when Poe carried from three yards away. The point after made it 48-21.

Tri-West added two more touchdowns in the fourth quarter as Tylan Thompson caught a 38 yard pass from Bruce with 8:22 to go and Chris Rutherford intercepted a Tuterow pass and returned it 82 yards for the other with 1:09 left in the game.

Under the guidance of coach Jeff Adamson, Eastbrook suffered its first loss of the season to finish 14-1 in its first trip to the state finals.

### **Eastbrook's Rob Bragg Named Eskew Mental Attitude Award Winner**

Rob Bragg of Eastbrook High School was named winner of the 2004 Phil N. Eskew Mental Attitude Award in Class 2A 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.

Rob ranks 11<sup>th</sup> in his senior class of 135 and is a member of the National Honor Society. ♦ He also is Senior Class President and has served as a member of the Student Council, International Club, Art Club and E-Club. ♦ He will attend Ball State University, on a Presidential Scholarship, with a major in Pre-Veterinary Science.

His volunteer work includes giving his time as a Salvation Army Bell Ringer and a Mission Soup Kitchen Helper. ♦ His honors include Marion Exchange Club Youth of the Month, Most Outstanding English Student and Eastbrook Academic Excellence.

Rob is the all-time leading tackler in school history and has received numerous area scholastic honors, including All-Conference Defensive Line, All-Conference Linebacker, AP Honorable Mention All-State and Academic All-State. He was also a member of the Panthers track squad.

Rob is the son of Kari and Dan Bragg of Upland.

Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA corporate partner, presented a \$1,000.00 scholarship to Eastbrook High School in the name of Rob Bragg.

### **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 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 2A Game Quotes**

### **Tri-West Hendricks coach Mark Haste**

◆ Nobody expected us to be here.◆ Even I had some doubts.◆ When you graduate 13 seniors who play on both sides of the football from a (2003) championship team you tend to be a little realistic.◆ These kids never bought into that thinking.◆

(On scoring 62 points)◆ ◆ We coach hard and love ◆em hard and they play hard.◆ All we want to do is win.◆ We play to win and if we play hard we will look up there after the game is over and it will take care of itself.◆ When we are on it, we are capable of scoring like that.◆ We have some playmakers and given the opportunity they are going to make plays.◆ Tonight, they made a bunch of them.◆

(On quarterback Tyler Bruce)◆ He is not a sophomore, it is week 15, he is a junior.◆ Those guys who have played last year really took a lot of pressure off him and allowed him to mature.◆ The offensive line kept him clean.◆ And, we were lucky enough that we didn't have to run it.◆

(On winning the championship)◆ Every year is different.◆ Every team is different.◆ Every team has their opportunity to make a statement.◆ This team made a pretty good one tonight!◆

### **Tri-West Hendricks quarterback Tyler Bruce**

◆ It was a great atmosphere.◆ We knew what we had to do and executed it perfectly in the first half.◆ The offensive line was terrific.◆ All the receivers went up in the air and made some plays.◆ I don't think my speed was a huge factor but it was another weapon that helped us to make plays.◆

### **Eastbrook coach Jeff Adamson**

◆ It was frustrating that bad things had to happen tonight. It was disappointing but not devastating. We graduate a lot of seniors and to get here was an amazing feat.◆

◆ I think it was big advantage that Tri-West was here before. We came out flat, but not intimidated, but definitely didn't come out with the kind of emotion you need for a state championship game.◆

◆ They throw the ball so well and we've not defended the pass well all year. We wanted to get them to run the ball more but they are smarter than that. They took advantage of our pass defense.◆

◆ At halftime, we talked about wanting to play for personal pride. We tried to get our tackles to get a better rush on their passer in the second half. We needed to get more pressure on their quarterback. We didn't have enough players in pass coverage in the first half because we couldn't put pressure on their quarterback.◆

(On Rob Bragg winning the Eskew Mental Attitude Award)◆ Bragg is very deserving. As good as a football player, he is a better person. He represents himself, the school and the community.◆