

Indiana High School Athletic Association

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

November 27, 2004

ANDREAN FINALLY GETS OVER THE HUMP

After three state runner-up finishes since 1997, Andrean finally won the big trophy it had been seeking with a 21-14 victory over top-ranked and previously unbeaten Heritage Hills in the 3A championship game at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

With the score tied at 14-14 late in the third quarter, Andrean scored the go-ahead touchdown when quarterback Tommy Finn scored his second of the day on a keeper from 10 yards out on third and five with :56 remaining. The game-winning drive was set up by a Heritage Hills field goal that sailed wide left.

The Patriots (14-1) had three possessions in the fourth quarter but couldn't get past midfield until their last drive and a Hail Mary pass from the Andrean 47 yard line fell incomplete to end the game.

The Fighting 59ers (13-2), coached by Brett St. Germain, had finished as the runner-up in their three previous appearances in the 3A final game falling each time to Indianapolis Bishop Chatard in 1997, 2001 and 2002. It was the second state championship for the school, located in Merrillville, after its girls softball team captured the 2A title in 1998.

Finn, who finished the game as the state's leading passer, finished the game 11 of 18 for 170 yards and one touchdown while also rushing 23 times for 95 yards and two scores. His passing yardage moved him into first place on this year's charts finishing with 3,380 yards. He entered the game averaging 229.2 yards through the air and 50.0 on the ground.

Heritage Hills wasted no time in getting on the board first. After deciding to go on defense following the coin toss, the Patriots' Brandon Prior intercepted Finn on the team's second play from scrimmage. On the very next play, Heritage Hills running back Jacob Nichols' 33 yard jaunt up the middle and the point after made it 7-0.

Andrean came right back on its next drive to tie the game. After a first and goal from the 10 and a pair of incompletions, Finn found Jake Kocal in the endzone for an apparent touchdown but a 15 yard holding penalty wiped out the score. On the next play on a third and goal from the 25, Finn found Ty Harangody behind the defense on the left side of the endzone. Harangody finished with 75 yards on five receptions.

The 59ers took the lead on their next possession going 53 yards in three plays capped by a 19 yard keeper by Finn. The point after made it 14-7.

Heritage Hills knotted the game just before halftime when Nichols, who finished with 88 yards in 17 carries, plunged in from one yard out on fourth and goal with :24 left. That play capped an 11-play, 60 yard drive that ran 6:33 off the second quarter clock.

The longest drive of the day from a time perspective occurred at the start of the third quarter when Heritage Hills took the kickoff and marched 48 yards in 13 plays and drained 8:19 off the clock before the drive stalled with the missed field goal.

Heritage Hills, the 3A state champs in 2000, were coached by Bob Clayton.

Heritage Hills' Bryce Pund Named Mental Attitude Award Winner

Bryce Pund of Heritage Hills High School was named winner of the 2004 Phil N. Eskew Mental Attitude Award in Class 3A 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, Bryce ranks 36th in his class of 184, pursuing an Academic Honors Diploma, and is a member of the National Honor Society. He also is active in Natural Helpers, Pep Club and Challenge Leadership Training. His volunteer activities include serving as a Teacher Assistant, Literacy Week Elementary School Reader, Cafeteria Food Service Assistant and School Bookstore Assistant Manager. His college choice remains undecided, but he intends to major in Communications.

Athletically, in addition to his efforts on the gridiron, he is a two-year captain of the Patriots basketball team, where he has been named all-conference twice, and a member of the school baseball team, also with all-conference honors coming his way.

Bryce is the son of Sheryl and Ron Pund of Dale.

He becomes the second player from Heritage Hills to claim the mental attitude award in football. ♦ The other being Adam Kress in 2000.

Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA corporate partner, presented a \$1,000.00 scholarship to Heritage Hills High School in the name of Bryce Pund.

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.

Game 3A Game Quotes

Andrean coach Brett St. Germain

♦ I ♦m just ecstatic for our kids. ♦ Earlier in the season, in weeks 6 and 8, we struggled but we fought back and to get to this point is just truly incredible. ♦

♦ Heritage Hills is a good football team. ♦ We took it right at them but they just kept coming back. ♦

♦ We wanted to run and pass the ball effectively today. ♦ We noticed at times they would have only one or two linebackers in the box. ♦ When we saw that we just tried to play a little cat and mouse with our plays. ♦ We had a couple of audibles that worked out big. ♦ That draw play was one example. ♦

♦ We wanted to run a lot of no-huddle. ♦ I think they had eight players going both ways. ♦ We thought by utilizing our no-huddle we could tire them out. ♦ That thinking seemed to work for us because we were having a lot of success doing a multitude of things. ♦ But, you have to give Heritage Hills a lot of credit, they just kept coming. ♦

♦ Every second and every inch of this game was a microcosm of our entire season. ♦ Some times we looked great, at other times we struggled. ♦ Throughout the whole process our kids just learned how to fight and how to compete. ♦ Everything we went through this season seemed to help us focus. ♦ If we don ♦t have those two losses earlier in the season maybe we don ♦t get to this point. ♦ The way this game played out was a fitting end to our entire season. ♦

(On quarterback Tommy Finn) ♦ He deserves every accolade thrown his way ♦ he handles them with class. ♦ He is a phenomenal young man and deserves a lot of credit. ♦ If he is not the best football player in the state of Indiana then I ♦m Peter Pan. ♦

Heritage Hills coach Bob Clayton

♦ If we could have scored on that first drive of the third quarter, they might have had to change their game plan. And it might have been a different game. ♦

(On Andrean ♦s winning drive) ♦ They did a nice job. Give Andrean a lot of credit. It was a huge possession. Their running game really hurt us. Finn is ♦ a good quarterback. He put a lot of pressure on our defense. We thought we played with them pretty well. ♦

♦ Their first touchdown was a matter of blown coverage on our part. We didn ♦t play well to start the game. ♦

♦ The second quarter was good for us. We played well and got some turnovers. Our score at the end of the quarter gave us momentum going into halftime. We tried to capitalize on that momentum in the third quarter. We had a nice drive but we couldn ♦t score. ♦

♦ We have to look on the bright side of things. We have a lot of kids back. We were glad to be here but you never want to finish second. ♦

(On Eskew Mental Attitude Award winner Bryce Pund) ♦ We tease Bryce about being an average athlete. But his leadership got us this far and into the championship game. ♦