

Indiana High School Athletic Association

9150 North Meridian Street, Box 40650, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240-0650

Phone: 317-846-6601 ♦♦♦ Fax: 317-575-4244 ♦♦♦ Website: www.ihsaa.org

Blake Ress, Commissioner

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RONCALLI CLAIMS STATE RECORD EIGHTH FOOTBALL CROWN

Roncalli scored 35 unanswered points across the second and third quarters and claimed its third 4A title in a row and state record eighth championship in a 35-10 triumph over Wawasee at RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

With the victory, Roncalli (13-2) broke a three-way tie with Ben Davis and Indianapolis Bishop Chatard with seven titles each. It also handed 15th-year Roncalli coach Bruce Scifres his sixth championship moving him into a tie for second place among his peers and marked the Rebels 18th consecutive post-season victory.

After falling behind 10-0 to start the game, Roncalli's defense forced three turnovers in the middle two quarters and the offense kicked into high gear.

After recovering the opening kickoff, Wawasee (13-2) got on the board first on Ben Champoux's 31 yard field goal for a 3-0 lead. The Warriors took a 10-0 lead on quarterback Kory Lantz's keeper for 13 yards with 7:57 left in the second quarter. From there on, Roncalli had its way capitalizing on each of those three turnovers with a touchdown.

The Rebels scored twice in three minutes time to wrestle the lead away. Following Wawasee's touchdown drive, Zac Kidwell's 44 yard burst up the left side with 5:39 left in the first half along with the extra point brought the Rebels within 10-7. Then, following a Jason Werner interception of Lantz, Roncalli quarterback Andrew Hasty found Werner on a beautiful 46 yard toss with 2:46 to go. The point after made it 14-10.

Roncalli scored three more times in the third quarter starting with Kidwell's 30 yard reception from Hasty with 8:41 to go to make it 21-10. The drive was set up by Bill Perry's interception of Lantz. Hasty added a one yard run with 7:30 left and Phil Andrews was the quarterback's target on a 28 yard touchdown catch at the 2:47 mark. Hasty finished the game 7 of 13 for 215 yards and three scores. Lantz finished 12 of 20 for 129 yards calling signals for Wawasee.

The Warriors, making their second appearance in the state finals, were coached by Joe Rietveld. The game was also rematch of sorts from past years when Roncalli claimed a 37-3 victory in the 1985 3A championship, the second year the finals were played in the Dome.

Class 4A State Finals Records Tied

Most Passing Touchdowns by a Team ♦ 3 by Roncalli

Most TD Receptions ♦ 3 by Roncalli

Most TD Passes ♦ 3 by Andrew Hasty, Roncalli

Most PAT Kicks ♦ 5 by Tim Curren, Roncalli

Kory Lantz of Wawasee Named Mental Attitude Award Winner

Kory Lantz of Wawasee High School was named winner of the 2004 Phil N. Eskew Mental Attitude Award in Class 4A 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, Kory ranks 14th in his class of 226, while pursuing an honors curriculum. ♦ A member of the National Honor Society, he has not made his collegiate choice, but will major in Exercise Science. ♦

His school involvement includes IMPACT Student Leader, Student Council and Art Club. ♦ He is also active in youth ministry, Crosstraining for Life and Lancer Camp. ♦ He traveled to the Dominican Republic this past summer for a 10-day service project of visiting orphanages, doing service projects and conducting Vacation Bible School for Dominican children.

In addition to being a three-year starter on the football squad, Kory is also a member of the school basketball team, where he has started every game since his freshman season. ♦ Last year, he led the team in scoring, with a 14.8 average, and in assists with a 4.3 average.

He is the son of Cindi and Mark Lantz of Milford.

He becomes the second player from Wawasee to claim the mental attitude award in football. The other Warrior was Brad Traviolia in 1985.

Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA corporate partner, presented a \$1,000.00 scholarship to Wawasee High School in the name of Kory Lantz.

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 4A Game Quotes

Roncalli coach Bruce Scifres

(On winning multiple state titles) ♦ It doesn't get old at all. ♦ Each team has its own personality. ♦ Every senior class has their own team chemistry that they create. ♦ I always say, the team goes as the seniors go. ♦ To have made it here three years in row and won it three years in a row ♦ they're an awesome group of young men and I'm very proud of them. ♦

♦ We are certainly battle-tested. ♦ The previous three games came right down to the wire. ♦ We were able to put together drives in the last minutes of the game to pull them out. ♦ Tonight, we were behind but the kids never lost focus despite a couple of mistakes early on and I'm very pleased we were able to fight back. ♦ You take away the first half of the first quarter and we played very, very good football. ♦

♦ Coming indoors to a facility like this, kids tend to get gassed a little earlier than normal. ♦ We wanted to use Jason (Werner) as much as we could on offense but not at the risk of taking away from his performance on defense. ♦ We just tried to use him (Werner) here and there, but when we did he just came through huge for us. ♦

♦ They (Wawasee) were stacked up in there. ♦ They were doing a nice job of defending our run. ♦ On many occasions they had eight, nine and even 10 men in the box defending against our running game. ♦ We noticed they were leaving some things open over the top of the defense. ♦ Andrew Hasty put the ball where it needed to be and our receivers made some great catches. ♦ That turned the ballgame around. ♦ You have to give Wawasee credit, they played some great run defense that made it very challenging to run the ball. ♦

(On #24 Jason Werner) ♦ Jason Werner is a phenomenal athlete ♦ he can do it all. ♦ As phenomenal of an athlete he is, he is an even better kid. ♦ We knew he was going to be able to do some pretty special things, with his speed, on the turf. ♦ He has as much going for him as anybody to earn the Mr. Football award. ♦ He is a great football player. ♦

Wawasee coach Joe Rietveld

♦ Roncalli is a good football team and tonight they were better than we were. ♦

♦ We knew if we shut down their sweep we would do something good. We did that but we couldn't defend the long pass. A lot of that was because (Roncalli's) Jason Werner is a good receiver. ♦

♦ In the last three weeks we haven't played a team that throws the ball much. We were a little worried about that. Our defensive backs had it tough to play against a talented team like Roncalli. And especially to play against a receiver like Jason Werner. ♦

♦ We never to get our defense established and get anything going consistently. They wore us down as the game went on and got us out of our routine. A big difference was they had some big plays with the pass. ♦

♦ We played hard and came out to win but it just didn't happen. They have a pretty good defense. They were able to keep us from running the ball effectively and they played us pretty tight against the pass. When you can do both things, that's a pretty good defense. ♦

(On Kory Lantz winning the Eskew Mental Attitude Award) ♦ He's very deserving. He's first class in everything he does on or off the field. ♦