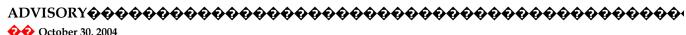
# **Indiana High School Athletic Association**

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### **MEDIA**



## NORTHRIDGE WINS FIRST CHAMPIONSHIP; ROEDER TAKES TOP SPOT

Hamilton Southeastern junior Justin Roeder and the Northridge boys team proved to be the class of this year s field at the IHSAA Boys Cross Country State Finals on

Roeder took control of the race just before reaching the 4,000 mark of the 5,000 meter race and ran away from a pair of challengers in the late going finishing in 16:06.9. Senior Ryan Byrne of North Harrison finished in the runner-up slot in 16:08.6 with Warren Central sophomore De�Sean Turner right behind in 16:10.3. Frankfort senior Scott Keeney took fourth in 16:15.0 and Fort Wayne Northrop sophomore Robert Moldovan rounded out the top five in 16:18.0.

For Northridge, it marked the second state championship in school history and the first in boys cross country. The school captured the 1987 crown in girls softball.

Coached by Josh Fletcher, the Raiders made a quantum leap from last year s inith place finish at the state meet accumulating 104 points and outmanning runner-up Carmel which finished with 131. Seniors Braxton Fritz (16:26.2) and Ken Collins (16:39.8) led the way finishing 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> overall, respectively. Sophomore Loren Spirito crossed in 35<sup>th</sup> (16:54.2), junior Andy Williams was 57<sup>th</sup> (17:06.8) and freshman Ladd Mercer in 69<sup>th</sup> (17:17.4) accounted for the rest of Northridge�s point total.

Rounding out the top teams, Franklin Central placed third with 144 points, Fort Wayne Snider ended fourth with 147 and two-time defending state champion Columbus North captured fifth with 152

This year s meet, the 59th annual gathering for boys, was contested for the first time at the LaVern Gibson Championship Cross Country Course with Terre Haute North acting as the host school for the event. The event was run under a bright, sunny sky with temperatures in the mid-70s although strong wind gusts wreaked havoc on the runners. The NCAA Men s and Women s Cross Country Championships will be held on this same course November 22.

Ryan Byrne Named Winner Of Maas Mental Attitude Award
Ryan Byrne of North Harrison High School was selected by the IHSAA Executive Committee as the recipient of the Charles F. Maas Mental Attitude Award at the meets

The award goes to the senior in the state finals meet that best demonstrates mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability during the four years of high school. It is named in honor the late Charles F. Maas who served as IHSAA Assistant Commissioner from 1973 to 1984.

Byrne ranks in the top five of his senior class academically and plans to study computer programming at the collegiate level. During his high school career, he has been a four-year member of the student council, served twice as secretary in his three years with the National Honor Society and also was elected president of the French Club.

Byrne raced to a second place overall finish in this year s meet which helped solidify his selection for this year s award. In addition to cross country, he has also participated in swimming and ran in last spring s 1600 meter run at the state track meet.

He is the son of Gary and Angie Byrne of Georgetown

Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA s corporate partner, presented a \$1,000 scholarship to North Harrison High School in the name of Byrne.

### Team Posters And Individual Action Photographs Available

Visit 20-20 Photographic, the IHSAAs photographer and the Midwest s Leader in Sports Action Photography, for images captured during Saturdays state championship meets! 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

State Finals Programs Available
Couldn ♦t be in Terre Haute 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.