

# 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](http://www.ihsaa.org)  
Blake Ress, Commissioner

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March 5, 2005

## South Bend St. Joseph ♦s wins first state championship

Top-ranked South Bend St. Joseph ♦s (25-1) used a 24-10 edge in the fourth quarter to win its first IHSAA girls ♦ basketball state title with a 70-57 triumph over Corydon Central (24-3) in the 3A finale.

St. Joseph ♦s trailed 47-46 heading into the final quarter before scoring a Class 3A-record 24 points in the final eight minutes. ♦ The previous standard for points in a quarter was 22 by Indianapolis Cathedral vs. NorthWood in 1999. ♦ Coach Mike Megyese ♦s Indians also tied the 3A mark for points in a half with 37 in the second half. ♦ That effort matches the 37 scored by Indianapolis Cathedral in the first half vs. NorthWood and NorthWood in the second half of the same 1999 final. ♦ South Bend St. Joseph ♦s and Corydon Central also tied the 3A record for most points in a quarter with 40 in the second stanza, with the Panthers out-scoring the Indians, 21-19.

The two teams shot an amazing .875 at the line, with Corydon Central breaking the Class 3A record (15-17, .882) and South Bend St. Joseph ♦s at 20-23 (.870). ♦ St. Joe broke the standard for most free throws made by a team.

St. Joe shattered Class 3A records with eight three-pointers made and .571 shooting from three-point range (8-14). ♦ The two teams set combined three-point records for treys made (12) and attempted (29) in the contest.

St. Joseph ♦s junior guard Melissa Lechlitner and senior forward Aimee Litka tied the record for three-pointers made, with both of them hitting 3-4 from beyond the arc. ♦ Lechlitner finished with 28 points for the second-highest total in Class 3A final history, trailing only the 33 points by Beech Grove ♦s Katie Gearlds against St. Joseph ♦s in 2003. ♦ Lechlitner scored 14 points in each half, finishing 9-18 from the field and 7-9 at the line with three assists and three steals while playing the entire 32 minutes.

Litka scored 16 of her 21 points in the first half, going 7-12 from the field overall with 4-4 at the line and seven rebounds.

Sophomore guard Sydney Smallbone was the third Indian in double figures with 14 points.

Corydon Central was led by senior center Dana Beaven with 20 points in 26 minutes before fouling out. ♦ Beaven, the Class 3A Patricia L. Roy Mental Attitude Award winner, also grabbed eight rebounds and had a game-high four steals. ♦ Junior guard Megan Bates scored 16 points for the Panthers.

Corydon Central led by eight points three times in the second quarter before taking a 35-33 halftime lead into the locker room. ♦ South Bend St. Joseph ♦s opened the third quarter with a 9-2 surge to take a 42-37 advantage, but Corydon Central clawed back to earn a 47-46 edge going into the final eight minutes.

South Bend St. Joseph ♦s took the lead for good at 52-49 on a three-pointer by Smallbone with 6:48 to go. ♦ St. Joe led 58-55 with 2:32 remaining when Beaven was whistled for her fifth personal foul. ♦ The Indians out-scored Corydon Central 12-2 the rest of the way to account for the final margin.

### Corydon Central ♦s Dana Beaven wins the Patricia L. Roy Mental Attitude Award

Corydon Central High School senior forward Dana Beaven is the 2004-05 recipient of the IHSAA ♦s Patricia L. Roy Mental Attitude Award for Class 3A. ♦ Beaven scored 20 points and added eight rebounds and four steals in the championship game vs. South Bend St. Joseph ♦s.

Beaven led the Panthers to their first-ever state finals berth, averaging 17.3 points and 7.0 rebounds this season. ♦ Beaven has been selected to participate in the Reebok North/South All-Star Game and she is a Hoosier Basketball Magazine first-team all-state and Top 40 Workout participant. ♦ The Mid-Southern Conference MVP and Indiana High School Guide ♦ Tremendous 26 ♦ selection was a Junior All-Star in 2004. ♦ She is a three-time team MVP who helped her 2004 Corydon Central squad to the regional finals. ♦ Beaven is a McDonald ♦s All-America candidate who is a two-time ♦ Athlete of the Year ♦ for the Panthers. ♦ She also helped her AAU team qualify for the Nationals in 2004.

The versatile Beaven also plays volleyball and softball for Corydon Central.

Beaven ranks 36<sup>th</sup> in her senior class with a 3.13 cumulative grade point average. ♦ She is active in the Student Against Drunk Driving and she helps with ♦ Bidy Ball ♦ youth basketball and a youth volleyball camp.

♦ Dana demonstrates a dedication and total commitment to her school, not only through sports and academics, but also her extra-curricular activities, ♦ said Corydon Central principal Carole Shields. ♦ ♦ She accepts responsibility and is a person I trust and admire. ♦ We are very fortunate to have her as a member of our school family. ♦ She is intelligent and hard-working and she carries a rigorous academic schedule. ♦

Award recipients, nominated by their principals and coaches, must excel in mental attitude, scholarship, leadership, and athletic ability in basketball.

A member of the IHSAA Executive Staff beginning in 1972, Ms. Roy was responsible for girls basketball from the inception of the tournament series in 1976 until her retirement in 1999. ♦ Regarded both statewide and nationally as a pioneer in girls athletics, Roy served on the IHSAA Executive Staff longer than anyone in the history of the Association.

Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA corporate partner, presented a \$1,000.00 scholarship to Corydon Central High School in the name of Dana Beaven.

### **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 3A Game Quotes**

#### **South Bend St. Joseph ♦s Coach Mike Megyese**

♦ (Dana) Beaven had a great first half. ♦ I thought we did a nice job in the second half and Aimee (Litka) did a nice job on her. ♦ We switched defenses about three or four times and I thought it confused them a little bit. ♦ In the fourth quarter, we controlled the tempo a little bit better, got to the free throw line and did what we do best. ♦

♦ ♦ This is a lot nicer than two years ago. ♦ I think we took over in the fourth quarter and thought (Dana) Beaven should have fouled out a little earlier. ♦ They are a totally different team without her. ♦ We were able to start switching around our defenses and that was the key down the stretch. ♦ I thought throughout the game we kept our poise and in the fourth quarter I think our experience took over, but give a lot of credit to Corydon Central, they played a great game. ♦

♦ You look at this three-guard combo (Litka, Smallbone and Lechlitner) and I don ♦t think there is any better in the state. ♦ They hit some big threes and can really run the offense. ♦

On his seniors

♦ This is an unbelievable group. ♦ They really laid the foundation for our program since they were freshman. ♦ They said, ♦ Coach we are going to win a state championship, ♦ unfortunately we got beat by Beech Grove that year, but they came back and look where we are now. ♦ They are great leaders ♦ enough said. ♦

# 23 Melissa Lechlitner

♦ In the first half, my shots were just not falling. ♦ Until about two minutes left in the second quarter, then they started to feel it, so I just kept ripping away and they fell for me. ♦ I ♦m really excited we won. ♦ It feels so great to finally be rewarded for all the hard work. ♦ This team never doubts each other for a second. ♦ We were in the locker room at halftime and knew we had not played well. ♦

#31 Aimee Litka

♦ I was really trying to penetrate and drive to the basket. ♦ I knew if we played our game, whether it be driving or taking the open shot, everybody contributed. ♦ I ♦ve been in kind of a slump during the tournament. ♦ But in our last practice I told some of the girls, I feel good and I think the slump is gone. ♦ I knew I had to hit big shots in this game and it really felt good when they went in. ♦

#### **Corydon Central Coach Michael Uhl**

♦ We played well and hung in there, but at the end, we couldn ♦t handle their penetration. ♦ They hit some big shots, especially with (Melissa) Lechlitner on the perimeter. ♦

♦ We played as well as we possibly could. ♦ Obviously, there at the end, things didn ♦t quite go our way. ♦ St. Joe played well down the stretch. ♦

♦ I ♦m not going to second-guess what we did defensively. ♦ We wanted to keep them on the perimeter, but they hit their threes and shot well from outside. ♦

♦ We got into some foul trouble, but St. Joe is very talented offensively and that ♦s why they lead the state in scoring. ♦ Down the stretch, they got some balls to roll in and we didn ♦t. ♦

♦ We executed on offense and shot the ball well, but give St. Joe all the credit. ♦ They are an incredible ball club. ♦ We hung for awhile, but we just didn ♦t have enough at the end. ♦

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