

Indiana High School Athletic Association

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

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North Central (Indianapolis) becomes Second Class 4A repeat champions

Indianapolis North Central (20-7) repeated as the IHSAA Class 4A champions with a thrilling 57-54 victory over Gary West Side (23-5) on Saturday evening at Conseco Fieldhouse. ♦ Coach Alan Vickrey ♦s Panthers joins Ben Davis (2000, 2001) as the lone Class 4A repeat champions in girls basketball.

North Central 6-5 junior center Amber Harris put up some amazing numbers with game highs of 25 points, 14 rebounds, and five steals. ♦ Her scoring total is third-best in Class 4A finals history and her rebounding output ranks third all-time. ♦ Harris hit 11-18 field goals and 3-4 free throws, adding two blocked shots while playing the entire 32 minutes.

Gary West Side senior guard Isabell Rhenwick led the Cougars with 16 points in 21 minutes. ♦ Rhenwick, the Patricia L. Roy Mental Attitude Award winner, was 4-4 from three-point range. ♦ Rhenwick set a 4A final-game record for three-pointers made. ♦ Junior center Erica Simpson had 10 points on 5-8 shooting from the field, adding team highs of seven rebounds and four assists.

West Side raced to a 9-2 lead in the first four minutes, but North Central pulled to within 10-9 at the end of the first quarter. ♦ The champion Panthers opened the second quarter with a 12-2 surge to take a 21-12 lead. ♦ North Central led 25-16 with 28 seconds until halftime, but West Side countered with a four-point play by senior guard Shane ♦e Butler and a trey by junior forward Loreal Brown at the first-half buzzer to trail only 25-23 at the break.

North Central led the entire second half, but never by more than six points.

North Central tied a record for the most losses by a state champion with seven, equaling the total by 1999-2000 Class A champion Triton.

Gary West Side ♦s Isabell Rhenwick wins Patricia L. Roy Mental Attitude Award

Gary West Side senior guard Isabell Rhenwick is the 2004-05 recipient of the Patricia L. Roy Mental Attitude Award for Class 4A.

Rhenwick led coach Rodney Fisher ♦s Cougars to a 23-4 record and their first-ever IHSAA state finals appearance, averaging 10.3 points and 3.7 assists. ♦ Rhenwick is a four-year varsity performer in basketball, starting her last three seasons. ♦ The McDonald ♦s All-America nominee has earned all-state second team and all-area recognition. ♦ She is a two-time Big 8 Shootout all-tournament team selection and she was the MVP of the Gary Holiday Tournament as a freshman.

The versatile Rhenwick also is a four-year starter in volleyball and a regional qualifier in the 1,600 meters in track and field.

Rhenwick ranks eighth in a senior class of 242 with a 3.74 cumulative grade point average. ♦ She is a National Honor Society student who has been named to the National Honor Roll and the High School Who ♦s Who, earning the West Side ♦ Most Outstanding Math Student ♦ award three times.

Rhenwick is active in her community, making nursing home visitations and volunteering as a server for Gary ♦s Free Thanksgiving Dinner. ♦ She has worked with the Special Olympics unified track team and has served as an AAU coach for middle school teams and camps.

♦ Isabell has been an exemplary student as part of the Gary Community School Corporation ♦s Gifted and Talented Program, ♦ said West Side interim principal Joyce Peterson. ♦ ♦ She understands that the demands of becoming a successful athlete will also help her become a successful student, and eventually a successful adult citizen in her community. ♦ She is a well-rounded student-athlete who will be appreciated by her university professors, classmates, and coaches. ♦

Rhenwick will attend the University of Indianapolis on a basketball scholarship next fall, majoring in sports administration. ♦ She will join 2003 Class 2A Patricia L. Roy Mental Attitude Award Amanda Norris (Shenandoah) on the Greyhound roster.

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 Gary West Side High School in the name of Isabell Rhenwick.

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

Gary West Side Coach Rodney Fisher

◆ We played hard, but they had a superstar in Amber Harris and we just couldn't handle her. ◆ On offense at times, we were too much one-on-one. ◆ We hit some big shots, but really didn't have a good flow in the game. ◆ On defense we played well, except against Amber (Harris). ◆

◆ We were able to put pressure on them and make a few shots, but it really hurt us when (Isabell) Rhenwrick went out with an ankle injury. ◆

(At the end of the game) ◆ We had an opportunity because it was a one-possession ball game. ◆ It was unfortunate that we had a turnover on the play. ◆

◆ We had a great season. ◆ It was the first time down here for us and the kids enjoyed the experience. ◆ Going down to the wire against the defending state champion was great. ◆ We represented Gary, but we didn't come down here to play a good game, we came down to win. ◆

North Central (Indianapolis) Coach Alan Vickrey

◆ This was a great basketball game. ◆ I told everyone Gary West was going to be a great opponent. ◆ They played a great game. ◆ I just give our kids an enormous amount of credit for being tough. ◆ We just persevered when things didn't go so well. ◆ I knew this would be a good game. ◆ I have to give credit to coach (Rodney) Fisher and his team for such a great effort. ◆

◆ It was an unbelievable game of back-and-forth possessions. ◆ They would make a great play and then we would make a great play. ◆ I think it came down to who could defend better at the end. ◆ We were fortunate enough to do a little better job at the end. ◆

◆ We wanted to make sure of three things on the last few possessions defensively, to defend the corner, to keep them from driving and to double the low post inside. ◆ It was just basic basketball. ◆

◆ This is just beautiful. ◆ I just can't believe it. ◆ This (a state title) is something I thought would happen next year. ◆ It is so exciting to comeback here with a new group of girls and win. ◆ This team had a great tournament. ◆

On Amber Harris

◆ She made a great defensive stop at the end. ◆ It is always exciting to watch the number one player make great plays on both ends of the court. ◆ There are not enough superlatives to describe her (Amber Harris) play. ◆

#42 Amber Harris

◆ We had to step it up in the first half. ◆ We picked up our intensity and did what we needed to do to win. ◆

◆ That's what makes it so neat. ◆ It is so unbelievable. ◆ I've played with this group longer and that is what made it so special. ◆

◆ I wanted to come out aggressively, especially rebounding. ◆ I think we came out tonight with a lot of heart. ◆ This championship means everything to me. ◆ I'm glad my mom made me play. ◆ No words can really explain how I feel right now. ◆

#3 Briana Bass

◆ This is very exciting for me. ◆ The upperclassman took me in like everybody else on the team. ◆ It really felt good being a member of this team. ◆