Indiana High School Athletic Association

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MEDIA

ADVISORY ♦♦♦ November 6, 2004

MUNCIE CENTRAL EARNS 4A CROWN

The much-anticipated rematch of last year \$4A championship duel between Muncie Central and defending state champion Indianapolis Cathedral lived up to the hype.

Fans in attendance were treated to a marvelous display of athleticism, big hits and tenacious defense between two of the state s premier programs.

In the end, it was Muncie Central taking a 25-21, 22-25, 25-22, 27-25 decision.

For the Bearcats (38-2), it avenged last year \$\infty\$ 3-0 championship match loss to Cathedral and a 3-1 regular season setback and earned the school its fifth 4A state championship. Muncie Central had won 4A crowns in 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2002 but it was the first for coach Wes Lyon.

The Bearcats faced a tall order literally as Cathedral played four players at 6-1 or better most of the match. Central, meanwhile didn 🗣 have a player on the roster taller than 5-9, but the Bearcats came up with the big plays when it mattered.

With Muncie Central leading 2-1 overall and 19-10 in the fourth game, Cathedral went on an 11-2 run behind their big gun, 6-4 senior hitter Danita Merlau, to tie the score at 21-21. From there, the Bearcats ran off three straight to force match point before the Irish rallied again for three more to knot the score at 24-24. The two teams traded points before a pair of Bearcats blocked down a Cathedral attack and the Irish hit into the net to end the match.

Merlau led all players with 25 kills in 66 attempts but the Irish s 14 service errors played a big part in the match.

Senior Kelli Miller led Central with 19 kills in 65 attempts and junior Kamille King added 14 kills. Sophomore Kim Kuzna tallied 21 digs on defense and senior Laura Anderson assisted on 41 scores for Muncie

Coached by Jean Kesterson, Cathedral finished the year at 35-5. The Irish were playing in their third championship match in four years.

In the morning se semifinal round, the Irish swept New Albany, 3-0, while Muncie Central eliminated Penn, 3-0.

Cathedral s Danita Merlau Garners Mental Attitude Award

Danita Merlau of Indianapolis Cathedral High School was named recipient of the 2004 IHSAA Class 4A Mental Attitude Award for volleyball, as selected by the IHSAA Executive Committee. The recipient of the award, who was nominated by her principal and coach, must excel in mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability in volleyball.

a four-year starter for the Irish volleyball squad and was named 8th best high school player in the country by Prep Volleyball Magazine.� She was also a member of the school basketball team.

Scholastically, Danita ranks 49th in her class of 276 and is a member of the National Honor Society. She will attend Purdue University on a volleyball scholarship, to play for former Muncie Central High School head volleyball coach, Dave Shondell, and will major in Sports Marketing.

She holds membership in the Latin Club, Math League, A Promise to Keep, 4-H and Habitat for Humanity. She was also active as a summer volleyball and basketball camps volunteer.

Danita is the daughter of Catherine and John Merlau of New Palestine.

Farm Bureau Insurance, IHSAA corporate partner, presented a \$1,000.00 scholarship check to Indianapolis Cathedral High School in the name of Danita Merlau.

Team Posters And Individual Action Photographs Available

g, the IHSAA�s photographer and the Midwest�s Leader in Sports Action Photography, for images captured during Saturday�s state championship matches! 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
Couldnot 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.