

Indiana High School Athletic Association

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

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JIMTOWN WINS FOURTH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN SCHOOL HISTORY

Jimtown scored 21 points and intercepted two passes in the fourth quarter to win its fourth state championship in school history 35-7 over North Posey. ♦ All of Jimtown's state championships have come under coach Bill Sharpe. ♦ The title was the school's first since 1998 and third in Class 2A. ♦

Jimtown, leading 14-7 after three quarters, drove 75 yards over 12 plays and scored on a 2-yard touchdown run by sophomore Ryan Konrath to take a 14-point lead with 6:46 left to play in the fourth quarter. ♦ The Jimmies struck again at the 4:36 mark when junior Brian DeShone intercepted a North Posey pass on 1st and 10 and returned it 76 yards for a touchdown to give the Jimmies a 28-7 lead. ♦ Junior Garrett Kavas picked off another Viking pass on the very next play from scrimmage and returned it 19 yards to the North Posey 11-yard line. ♦ Jimtown would score on senior John Soli's 7-yard touchdown run on fourth down.

On the ensuing kickoff, Jimtown junior Nathan Klosinski recovered a North Posey fumble with 1:59 to play. ♦ Jimtown took a knee on the next three snaps to kill the fourth quarter clock.

Konrath rushed 16 times for 63 yards and two touchdowns to lead the way for the Jimmies. ♦ Soli rushed for 54 yards on 11 carries and scored once.

North Posey, making its first state finals appearance in school history, would get on the board first when senior Jared Baehl scored from five yards out with 32 seconds remaining in the first quarter. ♦ Baehl's run capped off a 13 play, 77-yard drive for the Vikings. ♦ Jimtown would tie the score at seven when senior Ross Bauman returned a punt 55 yards for a touchdown with 5:03 remaining before halftime. ♦ That was the only punt for either team in the game.

North Posey junior Josh Wagner finished 22-for-37 passing for 153 yards and three interceptions. ♦ Senior Jake Voegel caught eight passes for 69 yards. ♦ Baehl finished with 52 yards rushing on 14 carries. ♦ Matt Scheller led the North Posey defense with 13 tackles, including nine of the solo variety.

Jimtown finished the season with a nine-game winning streak to finish 14-1. ♦ North Posey finished 12-3.

NORTH POSEY'S RYAN KERNEY HONORED WITH MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD

North Posey's Ryan Kerney was named by members of the IHSAA Executive Committee as the winner of the Phil N. Eskew Mental Attitude Award.

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.

Kerney is a member of the National Honor Society and has been Vice President of the Varsity Club the last two years. He volunteers some of his spare time to coach youth sports and also has helped with the St. Wendell Social Fund Raiser and has gathered clothes for the Evansville Santa Claus Clothes Drive during the holidays.

In addition to football, Kerney has been a two-year starter on the Vikings basketball team and was a member of the school's Class 2A state championship baseball team last summer.

He is undecided on his area of study but is hoping to play football on the collegiate level.

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA's corporate partner, presented a scholarship check for \$1,000.00 to North Posey High School in the name of Ryan Kerney.

VSN MEANS ACTION PHOTOGRAPHY

Visit our friends at [Visual Sports Network](#), the IHSAA's official photographer for all state championship events and one of the leading action photographers in the Midwest. VSN, which was on site on Saturday, has captured hundreds of images from this year's State Finals and will have them ready for viewing and purchase beginning Saturday.

STATE FINALS PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

Couldn't be in there 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, have your Visa or MasterCard ready and call us at 317-846-6601 during business hours (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. EST).

Quotes from the Class 2A Game

Jimtown Head Coach Bill Sharpe

◆ We thought Johnny (Quarterback John Soli) could run the quarterback trap and we thought we could run the belly play.◆ If we can run the belly we got a chance.◆ Ryan (Konrath) is a good belly runner.◆ Belly and trap are good plays for us.◆ Those plays hit for us and they (North Posey) may have gotten a bit tired.◆ We had the ball for a long time on that first drive.◆

(On the Jimtown offensive line)◆ ◆ Well, they are all underclassman.◆ Going into the season that was the group we were really worried about.◆ They did a terrific job this season and I couldn't be happier with them.◆

◆ We made a couple of big runs early.◆ They are a very good team and we had trouble all night long with them.◆

(On second half)◆ Johnny (Soli) made a great play on the cross and keep (pass play) when he hit Garrett (Kavas).◆ That was a great play by Garrett.◆ He dropped the ball earlier and came back to make that catch.◆ That was a huge play that gave us a two touchdown lead.◆ Also, I think Scott Kindig caught a split-end screen on a 2nd and 10 and he got 9.5 yards.◆ That was a big play.◆

◆◆ John Soli has done a great job for us all season.◆ If you look back at our run in the tournament he has made play, after play, after play this year.◆ And tonight, Ross Bauman got us going with the punt return.◆

◆ I have nothing but respect for North Posey.◆ Their kids played hard.◆ We made a couple of big plays, a couple of runs◆ this was a much closer game than the scoreboard indicated.◆ I just couldn't be happier for our kids and our community.◆◆

North Posey Head Coach Joe Gengelbach

◆ The first half both teams battled back and forth. The big play was the punt return by Jimtown. When I saw the wall form I knew we were in trouble. In the second half, they had great ball control and we couldn't make enough first downs.◆

◆ In the second half they were content to get three, four, or five yard runs. Jimtown didn't break any big plays, but they kept making third down conversions. In the first half we were able to slow them down.◆

◆ In a game like this when the other team has the ball, we can't do anything with it. When we did get it we got close but we didn't get the ball in the endzone when we needed to.◆

◆ We had two hideous plays with the two interceptions and you just can't do that against Jimtown.◆

◆ On offense we played pretty well. Again the turnovers hurt us and in the fourth quarter they pressed us a little more and we turned it over. On defense we just didn't make enough stops. Our kids played hard all the way. I have no complaints. We represented the North Posey community well, we just didn't come away with the win.◆