

Indiana High School Athletic Association

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

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WARREN CENTRAL, PENDLETON HEIGHTS ♦ HAGERMAN WIN IN TERRE HAUTE

Warren Central captured its first state championship while Pendleton Heights ♦ Brock Hagerman ran away to take the individual title at the IHSAA Cross Country State Finals on Saturday at the LaVern Gibson Championship Cross Country Course in Terre Haute.

The Warriors had two runners place in the top seven, including junior De ♦ Sean Turner who finished second (15:25.5) and classmate Ondraius Richardson in seventh (15:41.8), to tally 118 points for the school ♦s first state championship in the sport. Other scoring runners for Warren included senior Tim Armstrong in 40th (16:16.8), junior Cody Smith in 75th (16:42.1) and senior James Hodges in 78th (16:43.0). Warren Central was coached by Joe Brooks.

The new state champions edged second place Valparaiso with 130 points. The 12-point margin was the closest one-two finish at this meet since a four-point difference separated Ben Davis and Portage in 1995. Columbus North placed third (146), Carmel was fourth (167) and Indianapolis Bishop Chatard (172) rounded out the top five. Defending state champion Northridge ended up sixth with 211 points.

Hagerman covered the 5,000 meter course in a time of 15:13.2 and became the first cross country runner from his school to take home the blue ribbon medal. Hagerman finished fourth as a sophomore in 2003, but was 26th in last year ♦s event when the course was used for the first time for the state finals. He outdistanced Turner, who was third in 2004, Chesterton senior Adam Martin (15:31.8), Franklin Central junior Adam Green (15:36.3) and Southport senior Michael Pabody (15:37.3) among the top five. Defending champion Justin Roeder, a senior from Hamilton Southeastern, finished 18th in 15:53.2.

This year ♦s meet, the 60th annual event for the boys, was run under bright, blue skies with slight winds and temperatures in the low 60s.

HAGERMAN HONORED WITH MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD

Following the race, Hagerman was honored with the Charles F. Maas Mental Attitude Award by members of the IHSAA Executive Committee.

The award is named after the late IHSAA Assistant Commissioner and is awarded annually to the senior who, having been nominated by his principal and coach, best demonstrates excellence in the areas of mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability. Since the award was first handed out in 1973, Hagerman becomes just the sixth individual to win both the race and the mental attitude award.

He rates 25th in his current class of 234 students at Pendleton Heights. He is a member of the Beta Club and has served on the student government including two years as class Vice President.

He is a three-year letterwinner in track having qualified as many times for the 3200 meter run in the state meet and was twice named All-State in that event.

Though undecided about his college plans, Hagerman intends to study engineering, pharmacy or medicine.

He is the son of Rod and Melissa Hagerman of Markleville.

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA ♦s corporate partner, presented a scholarship check for \$1,000.00 to Pendleton Heights High School in the name of Hagerman.

VSN MEANS ACTION PHOTOGRAPHY

Visit our friends at [Visual Sports Network](http://VisualSportsNetwork.com), 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 Cross Country State Finals and will have them ready for viewing and purchase beginning Tuesday.

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, 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).