

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

Blake Ress, Commissioner

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LAFAYETTE CENTRAL CATHOLIC BRINGS HOME ITS FIRST GIRLS ♦ STATE TITLE

Sparked by a third quarter run, Lafayette Central Catholic squeaked by with a 75-68 victory over South Central (Elizabeth) and claimed the Class A state championship, its first girls ♦ title in any sport.

After being down by as many as nine points in the first quarter, the Knights pulled to within one point before halftime bringing the score to 28-27. ♦ Both teams showed tough defensive pressure in the first half resulting in low field goal percentages.

In the third quarter, an energized Central Catholic squad outscored South Central 19-5 to take a 46-33 lead into the final eight minutes.

A high-scoring fourth quarter was the highlight of the game. ♦ South Central initiated a full-court press that they maintained for the entire quarter. ♦ The Rebels pulled to within three points at 68-65 with :50 left in the game, but the Knights never relinquished that margin. South Central did, however, outscore Lafayette Central Catholic in the final quarter 35-29.

Free throws carried the Knights in the game, who connected on 32-42 (.762) for the day. ♦ That mark also set Class A state finals team records for most free throws made and most free throws attempted. Entering today ♦s game, Central Catholic had been shooting only .553 from the line as a team.

Lafayette Central Catholic (18-10) was led by four players who ended up with double figures. ♦ Junior Katie Pechin had 20 points for the day after connecting on 12-14 from the free throw line. ♦ Seniors Katie Riddell, Jenna Jones and Rachel Bishop finished with 16, 14 and 11 points, respectively. Geoff Salmon, in only his second year, was the Central Catholic coach.

South Central (23-6) was sparked by their three-point shooting, making seven in the game. ♦ Its total also set a Class A state finals team record.

Sophomore Brittany Schoen of South Central led all scorers with a Class A record 28 points. ♦ Sarah Yelch was the only other Rebel to score in double figures with 10. ♦ Randall Schoen, in his seventh season, was the Rebels coach.

South Central committed 32 fouls in the contest as part of their effort to reclaim the lead. ♦ Their total resulted in a Class A team record for most fouls in a game. ♦

SARAH PEASE NAMED MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD WINNER

South Central (Elizabeth) senior Sarah Pease is the 2006 recipient of the Patricia L. Roy Mental Attitude Award for Girls Basketball Class A as selected by members of the IHSAA Executive Committee.

Pease helped coach Randall Schoen ♦s Rebels to a 23-6 record and the school ♦s first-ever trip to the IHSAA Finals in any sport. ♦ She entered today ♦s Class A championship game tied for ninth in the state in assists (4.6). ♦ She has earned all-sectional and all-conference honors. ♦ The versatile Pease also competes in cross country, track, and cheerleading. ♦ She is a Wendy ♦s High School Heisman state winner who was featured on the IHSAA smoke-free poster series.

Pease ranks fourth in her senior class with a 3.873 cumulative grade point average.

♦ Sarah has always been a responsible, enthusiastic, and competent young woman, ♦ said South Central principal James A. Crisp. ♦ ♦ She has always performed above and beyond the call of duty in class as well as in her numerous

extra-curricular activities. ♦

Pease has served as her class president as a sophomore and senior. ♦ The National Honor Society student has also served in SADD, student council, band, FCA, and as editor of the school newspaper.

She has been active in her community by volunteering for a blood drive, canned food drive, Relay for Life, the March of Dimes, Toys for Tots, and on two youth mission trips.

Pease, the daughter of Jeff and Jacquelyn Pease, plans to study exercise science and sports communications at Indiana University.

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA ♦s proud corporate partner, presented South Central (Elizabeth) High School with a \$1,000 scholarship in the name of Sarah Pease that goes to the school ♦s general scholarship fund. ♦ Since 1989, over \$512,000 in college scholarships have been presented to deserving high school students in Indiana.

The recipient of this award, who was nominated by his principal and coach, must excel in mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability in girls basketball.

The award honors former IHSAA assistant commissioner Patricia L. Roy, who served the association from 1972-99.

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 Monday.

CHAMPIONSHIP MERCHANDISE STILL AVAILABLE

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 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).

POST-GAME QUOTES

Randall Schoen, South Central (Elizabeth) Coach

♦ I thought our girls came out and played early in the ball game. The third quarter was our undoing. But, our girls came back late in the game and didn ♦t give up. They haven ♦t quit all year. If we could ♦ve kept a few key players on the court, we could ♦ve made a better run. ♦

♦ The officiating kind of tightened up on us in the third quarter and it made it hard for us to run our press and have it work. ♦

♦ In the second half, we probably should ♦ve been more patient when we made that run. We forced a few things and that stopped us from regaining the lead. ♦

♦ Brittany (Schoen) got a lot of points late. They made it tough on her early. We talked at halftime and said she hadn ♦t done much, yet we were still up one point. ♦

♦ I give my girls all the credit. They ♦ve never given up and the three seniors were leaders all year. That helped us in the first half. We thought we could come up here and win it all. ♦

(Comment on Sarah Pease, Mental Attitude Award winner): ♦ She ♦s always at the head of the class in anything she does. Sarah made a difference for this basketball team. ♦

Geoff Salmon, Lafayette Central Catholic Coach

◆Wow! The strides this team has made over the last month and a half is unbelievable. And the way we have won, we have been down several times throughout the tournament and had to fight back to win. The other key today was our free throw shooting. On the year we were about 56% from the line. Today, we shot 80% in the second half and 76% for the game and that is what won the game.◆

◆South Central was caught up in our game plan to get the ball to (Kathleen) Mills. They did a great job of taking care of her. I told the girls if they (South Central) are not going to come out and guard you step up and shoot the ball.◆

◆All week have shot at least 50 free throws a day. Free throws are always big. South Central did a good job, they knew we had not shot free throws well this season and they put us on the line early. Fortunately for us we hit them (free throws) today.◆

◆Every game in this tournament we have had a different leading scorer. Anybody who has followed us all year knows we do not have a superstar. It is just unbelievable. That is what has made us a good basketball team and also makes it fun coaching these kids.◆

#22 Katie Riddell

◆In the first half I only took one shot. I don't think I was getting that many good looks in the first half, but in the second half I found myself open a lot and just decided to shoot it. Luckily, they went in.◆

◆We just tried to stay focused and concentrate on making our free throws. It really boosts your confidence when you see others hit them (free throws).◆