

Indiana High School Athletic Association

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

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HERITAGE CHRISTIAN WINS FIRST STATE TITLE IN GIRLS BASKETBALL

Heritage Christian used its defense to win the school's first girls basketball title by defeating Westview, 46-34, at Conesco Fieldhouse in the Class 2A Championship. The Eagles, led by first year coach Rick Risinger, held the Warriors to just 34 points and created 20 turnovers as they pulled away after a close first quarter.

Risinger took over at Heritage Christian for Dr. Mark Richards, who passed away in the fall. Richards had coached the Eagles for five years and led them to a 2A runner-up finish in 2004.

Heritage Christian (25-3) was led in scoring by two freshmen as Emily Anderson scored 16 and Kelly Faris added 11 to go with a team-leading 6 rebounds. Sophomore Tiffany Fisher and junior Michelle Haney led Westview (24-4) with nine points each. Junior Emily Lamkin and Haney led the way for the Warriors with 7 rebounds. Westview was coached by Randy Yoder who has been at the helm of the northern Indiana school for 12 years.

Westview was held to just three points in the second quarter and never got on track after that. The Eagles defense was successful in shutting down Fisher, the state's leading field goal shooter, who ended the day with nine points (4 of 7) shooting from the field. The Eagles defense, which was only allowing 38 points a game this year, added 15 steals to the defensive attack. Freshman Kelly Faris had a 2A state record 6 steals.

Heritage Christian led by one at the end of the first period, 10-9, then outscored the Warriors 13-3 in the second quarter. The scoring was even in the third quarter but momentum stayed in the Eagles' favor as they scored on a layup at the buzzer. The Eagle's defense did not allow any run by Westview in the fourth quarter.

Coach Risinger's daughter, Megan, was an assistant coach for Lafayette Central Catholic who won the 1A championship earlier in the day.

HERITAGE CHRISTIAN'S NICOLE ROUSH WINS PATRICIA ROY MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD

Heritage Christian senior guard Nicole Roush is the 2005-06 Girls Basketball recipient of the Patricia L. Roy Mental Attitude Award for Class 2A.

Roush served as team captain for coach Rick Risinger's 25-3 Eagles who won the school's first IHSAA championship in any sport. She is a four-year member of the basketball team, playing three seasons on the varsity, including the school's 2004 state runner-up team.

Roush ranks 14th in her senior class with a 3.846 cumulative grade point average.

Roush is active in her community, serving as a mentor and in elementary school tutoring programs and taking missions trips to Honduras and Mexico.

♦ It has been a pleasure watching Nicole grow in skill, diligence and leadership among the students and on the basketball team, ♦ said Heritage Christian principal Alan B. Leinbach. ♦ Starting with her freshman year, Nicole made wise decisions to impact the student body and her team in a very positive manner in the halls as well as on the basketball court. ♦

Roush will attend Indiana Wesleyan University next fall, majoring in nursing.

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA corporate partner, presented a \$1,000.00 scholarship to Heritage Christian High School in the name of Nicole Roush. Since 1989, more than \$512,000 in college scholarships have been

presented by Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance to deserving high school students in the state.

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.

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

Rick Risinger, Heritage Christian Coach

(Opening comments)

It's obviously a great day for Heritage Christian. We've been a member of the IHSAA for four years now. This is the second time we've been to Conesco Fieldhouse, and this time we pulled it off. As many of you know, (former head coach Mark) Doc Richards was instrumental in getting this program started. We dedicated this season to him and are very happy to finish it off by winning a state championship.

(On the Heritage Christian freshman class)

Some freshmen play like freshmen, and others have a strong basketball background. The challenge is always to blend those young, talented players in with tradition, work ethic and upperclassmen. My challenge as a coach was to put that all together so we'd have 12 young women on the same page.

(On the Heritage Christian defense)

We run a match-up zone with several different sets. Throughout the year, we've faced a lot of very good centers. We broke down the (Westview) tape very well, so we knew exactly what she (Westview center Tiffany Fisher) was going to do. We are a bit undersized in the post, so we put together some things to really clog the middle up.

(On the slow start)

I think everyone was a bit nervous and we started out flat. We tried to put things in place so we would have a good game plan. Our hope was to take the nerves out of the game, but that didn't happen. I get nervous as a coach. My pre-game talk wasn't the best ever, and then the girls were a bit nervous, too. You have to play through those situations.

(on Kelly Faris)

She's a fantastic player. She's been playing the last two weeks with pneumonia and was out of school some this week. She was not playing up to her full capability today.

Heritage Christian senior Lindsay Dixon

(on winning the state championship for former coach Mark Doc Richards)

I'm just thankful to make it here with the maturity of our freshmen. Our young players stepped up all season long. I'm also thankful for the support of the Richards family. They've been with us throughout the entire season. This state championship just really means a lot to us.

Heritage Christian junior Bre Jones

(on winning the state championship for former coach Mark Doc Richards)

It's amazing to finally win the state championship, because my freshman year we were so close. The entire team worked so hard this year. We wanted to accomplish all of the goals that we established at the beginning of the season. Winning it for Doc was the highlight.

(on getting an e-mail from former Heritage Christian player Cassie Freeman)

Cassie wrote all of us an e-mail, wishing us good luck today. We really wanted to win this state championship for all of the great players who came before us.

Randy Yoder, Westview Coach

Three things hurt us today their transition game, we had too many turnovers, and we didn't shoot the ball like we normally do.

Except for the second quarter when we only scored three points, I thought we did a nice job in the ball game. But, we struggled offensively in that quarter, and that was a big difference.

Whatever reason it was, we shot rather poorly today. We couldn't do on offense what we wanted to do. Defensively, we did what we wanted to do. Heritage Christian was a little tentative, but they are young and it probably took them awhile to adjust to the atmosphere.

Heritage is good defensively. They play smart and make good decisions on the floor and are a ball club without any apparent weaknesses. Defensively, we did what we had to do to limit them to the mid-40s in points. Where they hurt us was in transition because they are very quick.

We never quit in the second half. But, we had too many turnovers and when you don't take care of the basketball, you can't make a run when you're behind.

We overachieved getting here and we're extremely proud of this team. We bring everybody back except one senior the potential for our club is unlimited.