

Indiana High School Athletic Association

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

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CASTLE WINS 4A TITLE ON FIRST TRIP TO FINALS

Unranked Castle upset top-ranked South Bend Washington to capture the school's first girls state basketball title 83-72, in a game which set a record for the most points ever scored by two teams in a girls state title game. ♦ Both teams were making their first appearances at the finals and proceeded to set many records.

The Knights, led by fourth year coach Wayne Allen, finished the season 25-3. They lost three mid-season games before closing the season on a 15-game winning streak to win the title. The Panthers suffered only their second loss of the season finishing 25-2 for 12th year coach Marilyn Coddens.

The Panthers had led the state in scoring offense as well as margin of victory but Castle used a balanced scoring attack in the upset with four players in double-figures. Junior forward Jasmine Ussery led the way with 22 points, senior Maria Olsthoorn added 21, senior Stephanie Gehlhausen scored 16 and senior Katelyn Smith chipped in with 11 of her own. Ussery also set a state record for rebounds in a championship game with 16.

South Bend Washington had three scorers in double figures as freshman Skylar Diggins netted 22, with four 3-pointers which tied a state record. Sophomore Emily Phillips scored 18 and junior Sherice White ended the night with 12.

The first quarter saw a record fall for most combined points at 41 with Castle leading 24-17. The Knights then used a 16-0 run midway through the second quarter to run lead to 18 before the Panthers closed the half on a 7-0 run of their own. The fourth quarter opened with South Bend Washington hitting two quick 3-pointers to cut the lead to 62-56 but the balance in the Castle line-up would allow them no closer. The two teams combined for a record 43 points in the last quarter eclipsing the previous mark of 41 set in the opening quarter.

The game set state 4A records in many categories including most points by Castle (83), most free throws made by Castle (31), most combined points (155), most combined points in a quarter (43) as well as a half (79). South Bend Washington set records with most 3-pointers made (8) and most field goal attempts (67). At the end of the night, a total of 18 team or individual records were broken and 5 others were tied. ♦

CASTLE'S LYNN MCKINNEY NAMED MENTAL ATTITUDE RECIPIENT

Castle senior forward Lynn McKinney is the 2005-06 Girls Basketball Class 4A recipient of the Patricia L. Roy Mental Attitude Award.

McKinney is a three-year starter for the Knights, helping Coach Wayne Allen's team to a 24-3 record and its first-ever State Finals appearance in 2006 after a Final Four trip in 2005. McKinney led Castle in three-pointers with 44 treys entering tonight's championship game.

McKinney is also a four-year letter winner in volleyball, serving as team captain and winning the team's Mental Attitude Award as a senior.

McKinney is 29th in her senior class with a 3.83 cumulative grade point average. The National Honor Society student is active in Fellowship of Christian Athletes and as a Senior Mentor. She volunteers in the community, serving food at a homeless shelter and working as a nursery supervisor at her church.

♦ Lynn volunteered her time and efforts to ease the suffering inflicted by a massive tornado on November 6, ♦ said Castle principal Phillip DeLong. ♦ Her willingness to give up her free time (school was not in session for two days) to help clear storm debris, serve meals and lend comfort is a true picture of the content of her character. ♦

McKinney, the daughter of Dr. Kent and Marilyn McKinney, plans to study engineering at Purdue.

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA corporate partner, presented a \$1,000.00 scholarship to Castle High School in the name of Lynn McKinney. 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

Wayne Allen, Castle Coach

(Opening comments)

Defensively, when they (SB Washington) cut the lead to just six, we came right back and ran the lead to 10. When you keep that double-digit lead it's pretty easy. We did a nice job on the glass and made our free throws when we had to.

This is an unbelievable feeling. I thank our entire administration and school for supporting us throughout the year. This is terrific for our community. I was getting goose bumps just watching our players warm up in this tremendous facility (Conseco Fieldhouse).

(On Castle's inside play)

We were very successful getting the ball into the post tonight. Both Jasmine (Ussery) and Maria (Olsthoorn) have great skills around the basket. Jasmine is also a tremendous athlete and I think her statistics showed that tonight.

(On SB Washington's #4 Skylar Diggins)

Skylar is a very special player. She is the type of player that will be good for many years to come. She is not the kind of player I would want to face on a regular basis.

(On the feeling of winning a state title)

I have done nothing in life with the exception of the birth of my three kids, birth of my two grand-children and the marriage to the wife that is better than this.

(On #40 Jasmine Ussery) (State Finals record 16 rebounds)

I'm really not surprised. She has been a phenomenal rebounder all along. She is without question the best offensive rebounder I have ever coached.

#40 Jasmine Ussery

After the first of the year (January) we got on a roll and just kept winning games. This is a great feeling. I'm happy to be part of such a special team. We really rebounded well tonight and picked up the defense when we had to.

Marilyn Coddens, South Bend Washington Coach

◆ We were behind early and we fell apart on the boards. But to our credit, we came back in the second half and pretty much played even with them. We were just in that hole at the beginning of the game and couldn't get out of it the rest of the way.◆

◆ In the second half, it was just a matter of better focus and pressing defense on our part. We really hustled and did not quit.◆

◆ Castle tonight just out-sized us. They out-rebounded us. You just can't give up 80-some points. We haven't done that all year. It was a hard lesson to learn. But I was proud because we didn't give up.◆