

Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

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WARREN CENTRAL WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN FINAL RACE

After finishing as the state runner-up in 2002 and 2003, Warren Central captured its first state championship on Friday but the outcome wasn't decided until the final race of the 33rd Annual IHSAA State Finals.

The Warriors, coached by Hope Robinson, scored 47 points to outpace Fort Wayne Northrop and Muncie Central, which tied for second with 41 points. Ben Davis was fourth with 40 with Chesterton a distant fifth with 29.

Heading into the final event of the day, the 1600 meter relay, Fort Wayne Northrop and Muncie Central were tied with 41 points each with Warren Central trailing in third with 37 and Ben Davis fourth with 33.

Warren Central anchor Candyce McGrone held a sizeable lead heading down the front stretch toward the finish but saw it almost completely evaporate as she tired over the final few meters. She managed to edge two challengers by the slimmest of margins crossing in 3:52.471, just .007 ahead of North Central runner Ashley Caldwell to pick up 10 points securing the team title for the Warriors. Ben Davis placed third in 3:52.51 to collect seven additional points. A Northrop runner, running in the previous heat, fell during the race and the team did not finish. The Bruins had been looking to extend their state championship streak to seven consecutive years. Muncie Central didn't have a relay team entered.

McGrone, just a sophomore, also won the 200 meters and was part of the Warriors' winning 400 relay team.

Two state meet records were set this year in Bloomington.

Chesterton's 3200 meter relay team continued the trend of annually lowering the meet record with its 9:03.77. The team of Allyson Harvey, Kelly Peller, Alison Bishel and Sarah Kehe combined to help their school win the event for the third time in four years crushing the previous mark set of 9:08.33 set last year. It was also the fifth straight year the state meet record fell in the event.

The pole vault, in its fourth year of competition and second as a scored event, saw Homestead junior Katie Veith set the meet record for the third straight year and win her second championship during that time at 13-6. She also set the meet record last year (12-9), but settled for second place overall based on more attempts. No other vaulter went higher than 12-0 on Friday.

Northrop senior Tamara Adams won the 100 hurdles for the second time in three years in 13.94 and her time would have set a state meet record for the event but was ruled to be wind-aided. She edged defending champion Vanneisha Ivy of Muncie Central by .02 in the final. Ivy's time of 13.95 set last year stands as the record.

Adams was the meet's only double winner in the individual events as she then proceeded to win the 100 dash in the very next race in 11.85.

South Dearborn's Kathy Klump became the first track athlete in her school's history to win a state title taking the 800 meters while a pair of freshmen also won -- Erynn Young of Muncie Central in the long jump and Hannah Farley of Park Tudor in the 400 meters. Alex Banfich, a sophomore from Culver Academies who won the girls cross country state championship last fall, won the 3200 meters.

Rachel Thiel of Lowell Named Winner of Mental Attitude Award

Members of the IHSAA Executive Committee selected Rachel Thiel of Lowell High School as the winner of the Mental Attitude Award following the meet.

She is the first Lowell student-athlete to win the mental attitude award in track and third from her school overall. She is the daughter of Rick and Betsy Thiel of Lowell.

Thiel will graduate as the salutatorian of her class with an Academic Honors Diploma this month. She was inducted into the National Honor Society as a junior and elected secretary of that organization as a senior. She has been a member of the Academic Superbowl Math and Science teams, and served as a student representative on Lowell's committee for school improvement.

Besides track, she has also lettered in volleyball and track for the Red Devils and qualified for the state finals in the discus and shot put as a junior and senior.

Thiel will attend Marquette University in Milwaukee in the fall where she will compete in track and field while working toward a degree in human biology. She intends to follow that up with a Doctorate in Physical Therapy.

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, the proud corporate partner of the IHSAA, presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Lowell High School in the name of Rachel Thiel.

State Champions

Pole Vault ♦ Katie Veith, 11, Homestead, 13-6, *State Meet Record*.

Long Jump ♦ Erynn Young, 9, Muncie Central, 19-2.25.

Discus ♦ Sabrina Johnson, 11, Jeffersonville, 141-2.

High Jump ♦ Emily Breslin, 11, Indianapolis Cathedral, 5-6.

Shot Put ♦ Rachel Thiel, 12, Lowell, 45-3.25.

3200 Relay ♦ Chesterton (Allyson Harvey 10, Kelly Peller 12, Alison Bishel 12, Sarah Kehe 12) 9:03.77, *State Meet Record*.♦

100 Hurdles ♦ Tamara Adams, 12, Fort Wayne Northrop, 13.94.

100 Meters ♦ Tamara Adams, 12, Fort Wayne Northrop, 11.85.

1600 Meters ♦ Lauren Hardesty, 11, Valparaiso, 4:56.48.

400 Relay ♦ Warren Central (Candyce McGrone 10, Ashley Seehase 12, Ebony Wright 9, Keona Bruen 9) 46.72.

400 Meters ♦ Hannah Farley, 9, Park Tudor, 55.24.

300 Hurdles ♦ Vanneisha Ivy, 12, Muncie Central, 42.67.

800 Meters ♦ Kathy Klump, 10, South Dearborn, 2:11.15.

200 Meters ♦ Candyce McGrone, 10, Warren Central, 24.34.

3200 Meters ♦ Alex Banfich, 10, Culver Academies, 10:47.20.

1600 Relay ♦ Warren Central (Jaminnia States 12, Ashley Seehase 12, Candyce McGrone 10, Melanie Gilbert 12), 3:52.48.

Top 10 Teams

1.	Warren Central	47
T2.	Fort Wayne Northrop	41
T2.	Muncie Central	41
4.	Ben Davis	40
5.	Chesterton	29
6.	Lawrence North	24
7.	Pike	23
T8.	Lowell	21
T8.	North Central (Indpls.)	21
T8.	Valparaiso	21