

Indiana High School Athletic Association

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

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NORTH CENTRAL WINS FIFTH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN A THRILLER

North Central (Indianapolis) captured its fifth IHSAA boys soccer state title in seven final-match appearances with an exciting 2-1 triumph over Carmel at Kuntz Stadium in Indianapolis. ♦ Coach Jerry Little ♦'s Panthers (17-3-4) got the game-winning goal with 29 seconds remaining in regulation by senior forward Steve Shively. ♦ It was Shively ♦'s team-best 18th goal of the campaign.

North Central had taken an early 1-0 lead at the 21:42 mark on a 40-yard shot by sophomore midfielder Ray Gaddis. ♦ Gaddis recorded his 12th goal of the season with a booming blast following a long run.

Carmel (18-4-3) tied the match at the 53:32 mark on the team-best 36th goal of the season from senior forward Chris Cutshaw off an assist from junior defender Robby Lynch.

North Central avenged a 1-0 defeat at Carmel on September 14.

North Central senior defender Robert Bercovitz received the Eugene Cato Mental Attitude Award after the event.

North Central advanced to Saturday night ♦'s final with a victory on penalty kicks against Lake Central (19-3-1) on Saturday morning. ♦ The match was scoreless through 94 minutes of regulation and two overtimes, before the Panthers edged the Indians on penalty kicks, 5-4.

Carmel, coached by Dan Kapsalis, reached Saturday ♦'s championship with a 3-2 triumph over Evansville Memorial (21-4), thanks to two goals by Cutshaw. ♦ Carmel also finished second in 1997 in its only other IHSAA finals appearance.

ROBERT BERCOVITZ NAMED EUGENE CATO MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD WINNER

North Central (Indianapolis) defender Robert Bercovitz is the 2005 recipient of the C. Eugene Cato Award presented to an outstanding senior participant in the boys soccer state tournament.

The recipient of the award, nominated by his principal and coach, must excel in mental attitude, scholarship, leadership, and athletic ability in soccer.

The award is named in honor of Mr. Cato, who served as the IHSAA ♦'s fifth commissioner from 1983-95, helping soccer become the association ♦'s 10th sponsored sport for boys and girls.

Bercovitz is a three-year varsity performer for North Central, helping the Panthers to two state championship matches in three years. ♦ He served as a co-captain this season.

Bercovitz ranks eighth in his senior class of 710 students with a 4.93 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale, taking exclusively honors or Advanced Placement classes.

♦ Robert is undoubtedly one of our finest students, citizens, and leaders, ♦ said North Central principal C E Quandt. ♦ ♦ He is a dynamic young man destined for an exceptional future. ♦ He has the special talent to lead by example and through encouragement. ♦

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA ♦'s corporate partner, presented a scholarship check for \$1,000 to North Central High School in the name of Robert Bercovitz. ♦ Since 1989, over \$512,000 in college scholarships have been presented by Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance to deserving high school students in the state.

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 Boys Tennis State Finals and will have them ready for viewing and purchase beginning Monday, Oct. 31.

STATE FINALS PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

Couldn't be in Indianapolis 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).