

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

November 24, 2006

SHERIDAN WINS 1A TITLE IN AN OVERTIME THRILLER

The Sheridan Blackhawks successfully defended their 1A state championship with an overtime victory over the Indianapolis Cardinal Ritter Raiders 34-28.

In the overtime session, Sheridan junior defensive back Seth Burgan broke up a fourth down Ritter pass in the end zone and the Blackhawk ♦s took over. Sheridan scored on the second play for the victory on a 3-yard run up the middle by Taylor Scott.

The win by the Blackhawks was the record eighth in school history, all under coach Larry Wright, which ties him with Dick Dullaghan for the most in state tournament history. The eight school titles ties Roncalli for the most championships in state history. It was the first overtime championship game in Class A history and only the fourth ever. Sheridan finished the season a perfect 15-0, which marks the fourth undefeated season for the Blackhawks and the first time in school history they ♦ve reach 15 victories.

In a game that featured contrasting styles, the ground game won out for the Blackhawks who were led by sophomore quarterback Nick Zachary ♦s 135 yards on 22 carries. Scott also eclipsed the 100-yard plateau with 102 yards on 22 carries. Sheridan racked up 304 yards of offense -- all on the ground. Senior Drake DeVol led the defense with 7 solo tackles from his linebacker position.

The Raiders, under first year coach Ty Hunt, finished the season 13-2. Ritter senior quarterback Nick Purichia threw for 279 yards and a Class A championship game record four touchdowns. Senior Obed Bailey caught 7 passes for 107 yards and 2 touchdowns. Junior Luke Floyd and senior Joey Anderson also caught touchdown passes for the Raiders. Seniors Adam Espinoza and DeAndre Maul led Ritter ♦s defense with 10 and 9 tackles, respectively.

Sheridan led by as many as 14 points midway though the second quarter when sophomore defensive back Nick Zachary ran 61 yards with the ball after he took it away from a Ritter receiver. Ritter never gave in to the momentum swing as they scored late in the second quarter on a 16 play drive as well as on their first possession of the second half to tie the score at 21.

SHERIDAN ♦S TAYLOR SCOTT HONORED WITH ESKEW MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD

Taylor Scott of Sheridan High School was named the Class A recipient of the Phil N. Eskew Mental Attitude Award by the IHSAA Executive Committee. ♦

The award is presented to a senior nominated by his principal and coach who excels in mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability. The award is named in honor of Mr. Eskew, who served as the IHSAA ♦s third commissioner from 1962-76. ♦ Under Eskew ♦s leadership, the IHSAA football state tournament was initiated in 1973.

Scott is a four-year starter for Sheridan and last year was named to the junior all-state team during the Blackhawks ♦ state championship season. He ♦s also played basketball the past three seasons and also participated on the track team.

Besides sports, Scott is a member of the National Honor Society and serves as senior class president. He also holds a part-time job working on a local farm, is a nine-year member of 4-H and also was invited to attend U.S. Senator Richard Lugar's Leadership Conference.

He ranks 15th in his senior class of 91 students and plans to study telecommunications but is undecided on which college he'll attend.

Taylor Scott is an exemplary student and more importantly an exemplary person, says Sheridan Principal Edwin Baker. He is mature, polite and an excellent role model for both his peers and the community.

He is the son of Tony and Renea Scott of Sheridan.

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA's corporate partner, presented a scholarship check for \$1,000 to Sheridan High School in the name of Scott.

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 Friday, has captured hundreds of images from this year's State Finals and will have them ready for viewing and purchase beginning Sunday.

STATE FINALS PROGRAMS AVAILABLE

Couldn't be in 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).

Class A Championship Game Records

New

- Most Passes Attempted, A: 33 by Nick Purichia, Sheridan vs. Indpls. Cardinal Ritter, 2006
- Most Passes Completed, A: 22 by Nick Purichia, Sheridan vs. Indpls. Cardinal Ritter, 2006
- Most Passing Yards, A: 279 by Nick Purichia, Sheridan vs. Indpls. Cardinal Ritter, 2006
- Most Passing Touchdowns, A: 4 by Nick Purichia, Sheridan vs. Indpls. Cardinal Ritter, 2006
- Most Passes Attempted, A: 33 by Indpls. Cardinal Ritter vs. Sheridan, 2006
- Most Passes Completed, A: 22 by Indpls. Cardinal Ritter vs. Sheridan, 2006
- Most Passing Yards, A: 279 by Indpls. Cardinal Ritter vs. Sheridan, 2006
- Most Passing Touchdowns, A: 4 by Indpls. Cardinal Ritter vs. Sheridan, 2006
- Most Receiving Yards, A: 279 by Indpls. Cardinal Ritter vs. Sheridan, 2006
- Most Receptions, A: 22 by Indpls. Cardinal Ritter vs. Sheridan, 2006

Tied

- Fewest Pass Completions, A: 0 by Indpls. Cardinal Ritter vs. Sheridan, 2006
- Fewest Passing Yards Allowed, A: 0 by Indpls. Cardinal Ritter vs. Sheridan, 2006
- Most Touchdown Receptions, A: 2 by Obed Bailey, Indpls. Cardinal Ritter vs. Sheridan, 2006

Quotes on the Class A Game

Sheridan Head Coach Larry Bud Wright

On Ritter's overtime possession

Ritter tried those first two runs in overtime and we stuffed them. We had six defensive backs in there.

On the overtime touchdown run

◆ It took a minute to soak in that it was over with. ◆ Man did we really just do it? ◆ Taylor did a heck of a job just getting it in there. ◆ Ritter put up a heck of a fight. ◆ Dustin Colvin did a nice job of setting it up on the first run getting it close to the goal line. ◆ Taylor is the one we were going to get the ball to, and he did a nice job of getting it in there (the end zone). ◆

On Sheridan's QB Nick Zachary when he stripped the ball and ran it for a TD in the 2nd quarter

◆ I thought that was going to be a game-breaker, but they came back and tied it up. ◆ He just does things like that, he's a heck of a player. ◆ I think the fumble recovery was one of the biggest plays of the game. ◆ That put us up two, but they (Ritter) came back and tied the score. ◆ But if we hadn't recovered the fumble they probably would have taken the lead. ◆

On winning Sheridan's eighth football championship

◆ I'm just happy we won the football game. ◆ I'll reflect on that later on, that's what you play for. ◆ I've always been competitive and even though I'm getting old I still have my competitiveness. ◆

On Ritter's QB Nick Purichia

◆ He's a pretty good passer. ◆ The last few weeks we've gone up against some great passers and I thought we did a good job getting underneath them. ◆ Tonight we didn't have anybody underneath them like we should have had. ◆ We worked on it but we just didn't get it done. ◆ It's hard to simulate that type of passing attack when you don't do it in practice. ◆ Overall the kids (Sheridan) responded pretty well with what they were facing. ◆ I think the key was we were dropping six in pass coverage and they (Ritter) still couldn't run the football. ◆ I wouldn't say he (Purichia) was the best quarterback we've seen but I think he was pretty good. ◆

On Sheridan QB Nick Zachary

◆ Nick's an excellent athlete. ◆ We've had several good athletes but he's going to go down as one of the best. ◆ He's only a sophomore. ◆ I don't think I'll retire in the next few years. ◆

Indpls. Cardinal Ritter Coach Ty Hunt

◆ Give credit to Sheridan. ◆ They have an outstanding team. ◆ But my players really stepped up their play today. ◆ Nobody in the state wanted to count us in this game and we did a great job. ◆ Our players gave it everything they had and came out with a lot of heart and determination. ◆

◆ The game started out with a lot of intensity and hard hitting. ◆ Nick Zachary is a heck of a player and he made a momentum change in the first half for Sheridan. ◆ But we came back and moved the ball down the field when we had to, especially at the ends of each half. ◆

◆ In overtime they overloaded our wide outs. ◆ We wanted to catch them with the running game. ◆ Unfortunately, we only got close. ◆ My kids played with heart. ◆

◆ We believed we could get the game won. ◆ We didn't get it done, but we played them (Sheridan) toe to toe. ◆

◆ Coming into the game we were mis-matched with their offensive line. ◆ Give our kids credit because we were able to put up 28 points against them (Sheridan). ◆

◆ Nick Purichia made some nice reads of their defense and he put the ball on the money to his receivers. ◆ We depend on our receivers to catch it and we were able to do that today. ◆

◆ The last possession (in regulation) I just told the kids to keep believing, just keep believing. ◆

◆ We knew our offense was capable of doing things to move the ball. ◆ We just had to step it up on defense. ◆

