

Indiana High School Athletic Association

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

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HARDING WINS FIRST STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN SCHOOL HISTORY

The Harding Hawks (12-3) captured their first Class 2A IHSAA Football State Championship in school history by defeating the Southridge Raiders (12-3), 20-7, Friday night at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis. ♦

Up 14-7 in the final two minutes of the game, Harding converted on fourth and six from the Southridge 43 yard line on a 28 yard pass from quarterback Devin Dominguez to Maquelo Suel who raced down the sideline to the Southridge 15. Harding clinched the game on fourth and goal from the four yard line when Matt Jenkins recovered a Deangelo Stevenson fumble at the one and carried it into the endzone.

It was the school's first state football title after taking 2A runner-up honors in 2003. The Hawks were coached by Sherwood Haydock.

Harding's defense set the tempo early when senior defensive back DeAundre Muhammad intercepted a pass from Southridge's senior quarterback Brad Roesner at the 11:11 mark in the first quarter. ♦ The interception put the Hawks on the Raiders' 21 yard line. ♦ From there, Dominguez took advantage of good field position and lit up the scoreboard first on a 21 yard pass to Suel. ♦

Harding's passing game proved to be the dominant factor in the match-up with the Hawks out-passing the Raiders 126 yards to 10, respectively. ♦ Dominguez completed 14 of 21 passes for 126 yards and two touchdowns. ♦ Roesner completed one of six passes for 10 yards and two interceptions. ♦

Harding's rushing attack was led by freshman Roderick Smith with 68 yards on 17 carries. ♦ Suel led the receivers with seven catches for 98 yards and one touchdown. ♦ Muhammad also chipped in six catches for six yards and one touchdown. ♦

The Hawks' defensive front was led by sophomore Xavier Carr Jr. with a game high nine tackles. ♦ Senior Tramaine Scott also brought down six tackles and a game high two sacks. ♦

Southridge's rushing attack was led by senior Ross Kunkler with 61 yards on 13 carries and one touchdown. ♦ The Raiders senior defensive lineman John Reed led the way with seven tackles. ♦ Senior defensive linemen Chad Wertman and senior Andy Lichlyter tallied a sack each. ♦ Southridge was coached by Kelly Murphy.

SOUTHRIDGE'S JACOB KAHLE HONORED WITH ESKEW MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD

Jacob Kahle of Southridge High School was selected as the winner of the Phil N. Eskew Mental Attitude Award for Class 2A Football 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.

Kahle currently maintains a perfect 4.0 GPA while completing the most rigorous curriculum his school has to offer and will receive the Indiana Academic Honors Diploma upon graduation. He plans to attend the University of Evansville.

He is a member of the National Honor Society, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Students Against Drunk Driving and the Spanish Club. Outside of school, he has earned his Order of the Arrow and Eagle Scout Award.

Besides his role as co-captain on the football team, Kahle also has played baseball and basketball for the Raiders.

◆ Jacob is a young man with a great desire to succeed and has a superior work ethic second to none, ◆ says Southridge Principal Mike Eineman. ◆ He is honest, of excellent moral character and is well-respected among his peers, faculty and staff. ◆

He is the son of Wayne and Kathy Kahle of Huntingburg.

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

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).

Quotes on the Class 2A Game

Harding's Head Coach Sherwood Haydock

◆ I thought I had a special team. ◆ We opened up the season 0-2 it was kind of tough then. ◆ You never think you're going to win the state.

On the fourth down conversion in the last drive

◆ Devin Dominguez completed the pass (to Marquelo Suel) on the fourth down play late in the game. ◆ He's thrown that hitch about a 1,000 times this summer, I had confidence in him. ◆ The corner was playing soft, Marquelo made the catch and he almost went the distance. ◆ That was the key play. ◆◆

◆ We got the interception early. ◆ The first play of the game was going to be a reverse pass no matter where we were at on the field. ◆ I didn't really want to call it at the 20 but I decided to go ahead and call it. ◆ Another big play in the game was the kickoff return. ◆ Our kids made a tremendous play, but we were flagged for a clip. ◆ If we hadn't clipped there I thought it would be tough for Southridge to come back. ◆ I said at halftime that if they (Southridge) stopped us on the first series it was going to be a ballgame and they (Southridge) proved that right. ◆

◆ Southridge was tough up front. ◆ They beat us up front all night. ◆ I knew it was a matter of time that they were going to run the ball on us, but our kids toughened up when they had to. ◆

◆ We have a lot of kids who made plays. ◆ Suel made some big catches and Dominguez made some good plays to name a couple. ◆

Southridge's Head Coach Kelly Murphy

◆ We screwed the game up in the first quarter when we gave the ball away three times.◆

◆ We drove the ball right down their throat and scored in the third quarter and drove the ball in the fourth quarter too.◆ If we put that score in it◆s ◆what ifs.◆◆ It was ◆what ifs◆ is the story for us tonight.◆

◆ In the second half we decided to run the ball more inbetween the tackles instead of outside and give the ball to our fullback more.◆ But they made plays defensively when they had to and we didn◆t.◆

◆ Harding didn◆t throw the ball effectively the whole game.◆ That◆s their game plan but they sure did run the ball awfully well.◆

◆ We had too many missed opportunities.◆ We had those opportunities and that◆s all you can ask for.◆ The finals was a great experience but we◆re disappointed.◆

◆ Our kids gave it all tonight and I couldn◆t be more proud.◆ At halftime they hung their heads and I told them there is not reason to be down.◆ We score when we◆re down 14 and we◆re right back in it.◆

On Jacob Kahle the Mental Attitude Award winner

◆ Jacob is one of the best kids I have ever been around in my life.◆ I am so happy for him and his family.◆ He deserved the award.◆