

Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

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BISHOP CHATARD CLAIMS RECORD-TYING NINTH STATE TITLE

Indianapolis Bishop Chatard won its record-tying ninth IHSAA state football title, beating South Bend St. Joseph's, 31-7, in the Class 3A State Championship game at the RCA Dome in Indianapolis.

Chatard is now tied with Sheridan for most state championships as the Blackhawks claimed their ninth in the Class A championship game on Friday night.

It was the third championship at Bishop Chatard for coach Vince Lorenzano and the team's second consecutive title. Lorenzano is one of nine coaches to have guided two different schools (Indianapolis Cardinal Ritter) to the state finals.

Following a scoreless first quarter in which the two teams combined for five punts and a fumble, Bishop Chatard (12-3) got its offense going in the second quarter when senior running back Dan Kleinschmidt scored from three yards out, capping an eight-play, 54 yard drive with 8:03 remaining. ♦ The Trojans extended their lead to 14-0 on sophomore running back Ari Pappas' 3 yard touchdown run with 1:18 left before halftime. Eighteen seconds later on St. Joseph's next possession, Bishop Chatard's Kyle Dietrich intercepted a pass and returned it 36 yards for the touchdown to make it 21-0 at halftime.

Coach Kevin Downey's Indians (12-3) got their offense rolling to open the third quarter, moving the ball 54 yards on 15 plays but their drive stalled when they turned the ball over on downs at the Bishop Chatard 24. On the ensuing drive, the Trojans took the ball 78 yards on six plays, scoring on a 24 yard touchdown pass from senior quarterback Rob Doyle to sophomore wide receiver Garrett Arnold.

Bishop Chatard added to its lead early in the fourth quarter on a 34 yard field goal from sophomore kicker Cody Dickson to make it 31-0. ♦ St. Joseph's got on the scoreboard when junior defensive back ♦ Zach Matthews recovered a Trojan fumble, and took it 37 yards for the touchdown with 5:35 remaining in the game for the game's final score.

The Trojans racked up 255 yards of total offense, while allowing St. Joe just 133. Bishop Chatard was led by Pappas' 82 yards on the ground and a touchdown. ♦ Rob Doyle finished 10-12 passing for 120 yards and a TD for Chatard.

South Bend St. Joseph's Mitchell Speer was awarded the Phil N. Eskew Mental Attitude Award following the game.

ST. JOE'S MITCHELL SPEER NAMED MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD WINNER

Following the game, members of the IHSAA Executive Committee named Mitchell Speer of St. Joseph's High School as the winner of the Phil N. Eskew Mental Attitude Award in Class 3A football.

He is the fourth student athlete in school history to win an IHSAA mental attitude award and the first since 1993.

Academically, Speer ranks among the top 10 students in his senior class of more than 200. He currently serves as senior class treasurer and president of the National Honor Society. He sings in the school choir and participates in several cocurriculars including German Club, Intramurals, Spirit Club and Life Athletes Club. He also was selected to serve on a Student Leadership Council for the Northern Indiana Conference last year.

He intends to study Mathematics at the University of Notre Dame next fall.

Athletically, Speer serves as team captain and has been a three-year varsity starter. He was an honorable mention All-NIC selection last season. He also played baseball for the Indians during his freshman and sophomore years.

He is the son of Robert and Patricia Speer of South Bend.

The award is presented annually to a senior participant in the state finals who was nominated by his principal and coach and has demonstrated excellence in mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability. It is named in

honor of the IHSAA's third commissioner who served the association from 1962-76 and who helped initiate the state tournament in 1973.

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA's corporate partner, presented a \$1,000 scholarship to St. Joseph's High School in the name of Mitchell Speer.

Class 3A Game Quotes

Bishop Chatard coach Vince Lorenzano

"There's never been a time when the effort's not been there. These kids never stopped giving effort since I've been here and I'm proud of that."

On Kyle Dietrick's performance (two interceptions)

"If he's not a big time player, I don't know what a big-time player is. He doesn't have that amazing 4.4 speed but he makes plays and he'll hit you too."

On ninth state championship

"There are (coaches) who have been here before me who have done that (coached state champions). In the history of this school's coaches, there's a lot of Hall of Famers in there, but I don't know that I'd put myself in that category."

On winning second consecutive state championship

"You know what, they're all great. But it's not about the title, it's really about the kids. I really still believe that it's all about those kids reaching your potential. You've got to keep remembering that they're high school kids and just them getting here is a heck of an accomplishment."

On defensive performance

"Defensively, we've been good against the run all year, that's not surprising. We've played the best of the best this year. And our run defense did pretty well stopping them. (St. Joe running back) Jordan Taylor was a little injured. And that caused them problems so we were able to stop them partly because of that and partly because our coaches and kids worked so hard all year."

St. Joseph's coach Kevin Downey

"We ran into a better team. They were very physical and did a great job of dominating the line of scrimmage and scoring points. They have a quality program and it showed today."

"It's always disappointing to lose your last game, but I am never disappointed in our players. It was a great year, and we made a lot of strides. The seniors hopefully established a legacy of sharing our team chemistry and camaraderie, so we can come here and do this again."

(On injured RB's Jordan Taylor and Dustin White)

"It would have been better for us to have them because they are great playmakers. It would have been nice to showcase their talents in a state championship game."

"They (Chatard) did a great job up front on the line. There weren't a whole lot of plays that we could call. It was the first time all year that we came across someone who could stop our run game."

"We did a great job in making it here. We ran up against a better team. More credit to them, than being negative against our team. We wished it would have been different."

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 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).