

# Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

9150 North Meridian Street, Box 40650, Indianapolis, Indiana 46240-0650

Phone: 317-846-6601 | Fax: 317-575-4244 | Website: [www.ihsaa.org](http://www.ihsaa.org)

Blake Ress, Commissioner

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## CRAWFORDSVILLE PITCHING DELIVERS STATE TITLE

Fifth-ranked Crawfordsville rode the pitching performance of senior Cameron Hobson to take the 3A state title in a 5-1 victory over unranked Mishawaka Marian. The win gave Crawfordsville its first state championship in baseball, and the first state championship for the school in any boys sport since 1956.

Hobson gave up only one run and three hits, while his 11 strikeouts tied the Class 3A record, originally set in 1998. Sophomore reliever Steven Rice entered the game in the sixth inning and added six strikeouts of his own and earned his third save of the year.

Crawfordsville got things started in the bottom of the first inning as Mishawaka Marian pitcher Jordan Niespodziany walked junior Brett Linn. Linn stole second and was then driven in by a single from senior Mitchell Ray. The Athenians scored again in the bottom of the second after junior J.D. Rice doubled to left center field. Rice was replaced by pinch runner Quinten Anderson, who advanced to third on a sacrifice bunt by senior Andrew Swart. Two batters later, Anderson scored thanks to senior Justin Wright's single up the middle.

The Athenians' next scoring opportunity started with a single by junior Blake Harris. Senior Justin Wright reached second on a throwing error by Niespodziany, moving Harris to third. Hobson then was intentionally walked, loading the bases. Junior Brett McKinney stepped up and lifted a sacrifice fly out to right field, scoring Harris.

Mishawaka Marian answered in the top of the fifth with a single by senior Drew Smith. The next batter, senior Stephen Barany reached first base after a wild pitch by Hobson. With runners on first and second, junior Mike Karason, pinch hitting for Niespodziany, singled to left field, bringing home Smith for the Knight's lone score of the game.

Crawfordsville went right back to work in the sixth inning as Hobson continued to lead the way with a triple to center field. Brett Linn laid down a beautiful sacrifice bunt to score Hobson, and reached first on a fielder's choice. Linn stole second and then third, bringing his total to three stolen bases on the day, setting a Class 3A record and tying the overall state finals record.

Mishawaka Marian, coached by fifth-year coach Tim Prister, was making its first appearance in the Class 3A state finals. The Knights finished their season 21-11.

Crawfordsville head coach John Froedge was in his 27<sup>th</sup> year at the helm for the Athenians who finished the season with their last 17 games to finish 32-4.

## **Crawfordsville's Justin Wright Named Mental Attitude Award Winner**

Justin Wright of Crawfordsville High School was recognized by members of the IHSAA Executive Committee as this year's recipient of the L.V. Phillips Mental Attitude Award in Class 3A baseball.

At the conclusion of each championship game, the IHSAA Executive Committee presents an award for mental attitude to an outstanding senior participant in each classification of the state tournament. The recipient of the award, nominated by his principal and coach, was determined to have best demonstrated mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability in baseball. The award is named in honor of the late L.V. Phillips, who served as the second commissioner of the IHSAA from 1945-62.

Wright recently graduated third in his senior class at Crawfordsville with a GPA of 4.178. He is a member of the National Honor Society, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Athenian Corps—the official host for CHS, and served as senior class treasurer. He has volunteered his time working with various youth groups, attended the National Youth Leadership Forum in Washington, DC and has worked at the Family Crisis Shelter.

Wright has been a four-year participant in baseball, football and basketball and served as team captain in the latter two.

He intends to begin studying Environmental Sciences at Purdue University in the fall.

He is the son of Jim and Suzi Wright of Crawfordsville.

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, the corporate partner of the IHSAA, presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Crawfordsville High School in the name of Wright.

### **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).