

Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

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UNDEFEATED WHITING WINS CLASS A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

In a championship game that spanned two days due to weather, the Whiting Oilers took advantage of a pair of Tecumseh miscues to take home the Class A state softball championship, 3-0, at Hamilton Southeastern High School. Head coach Paul Laub and the Oilers finished the 2008 campaign with a perfect 34-0 record.

This is the second undefeated state championship in Class A softball for Whiting, the other coming in 2006 when the Oilers finished 33-0 and became the first softball team in any class to finish a season undefeated. They topped Lanesville, 3-0. Whiting's only other state title was in boys swimming in 1933.

In the top of the fifth inning, Whiting's first hit came courtesy of senior Sam Plavec when she led off the inning with a double to centerfield. ♦ Sophomore Sarah Watkins then bunted down the third base line for an apparent sacrifice. ♦ Tecumseh senior third baseman Katy Kruse fielded the bunt cleanly but her throw sailed wide of the shortstop covering third allowing Plavec to score and Whiting to take a 1-0 lead. Junior catcher Adi Cruz added to the Oilers lead when she lifted a fly ball to right field that deflected off the glove of Tecumseh sophomore Julie Roeder. ♦ Watkins later scored on a wild pitch that also allowed Cruz to advance to third. ♦ With just one out, and two balls and two strikes on Whiting senior Victoria Franco, the skies over Hamilton Southeastern High School opened as rain suspended play for the evening.

Play resumed on Tuesday, June 10, at 2 pm ET at Hamilton Southeastern. Franco wasted no time in giving the Oilers a 3-0 advantage when she lined the first pitch into left field scoring Cruz.

With a 3-0 advantage, Whiting junior standout pitcher Mel Dumezich continued to silence the bats of the opposition as she hurled a shutout that featured 16 strike outs and just one hit en route to her 31st win of the season. ♦ Impressive considering the encore performance followed a 17 strikeout, 1 hit shutout, against Frontier in the semifinal game. ♦ Dumezich had helped the Oilers to the Class A state title back in 2006 as a freshman, compiling an impressive 32-0 record.

VICTORIA FRANCO OF WHITING NAMED MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD WINNER

Victoria Franco of Whiting High School was recognized by members of the IHSAA Executive Committee as this year's recipient of the Mental Attitude Award in Class A softball.

Franco finished as the valedictorian of her senior class and is highly involved in numerous clubs and activities in both her school and community. ♦ Victoria has demonstrated leadership being elected as president of Whiting's chapter of the National Honor Society, Student Council president, Booster Club vice-president, as well as the math captain of the Academic Team.

Her volunteer work in her community includes her participation for project H.O.P.E. (Hispanic Organization Promoting Excellence), the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, Lions Club Breakfast, and Market Day. ♦ In addition, Victoria participated in Municipal Government Week as she helped clean 119th street in Whiting.

Athletically, Victoria has excelled in softball, volleyball and basketball all while carrying a demanding academic course load.

She is the daughter of Mark and Leslie Franco.

In the fall, she will attend Purdue University and is undecided on her course of study at this time.

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

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).