

Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

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NEW PALESTINE WINS 3A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Second-ranked New Palestine scored four runs in the fifth inning to break open a scoreless tie and went on to beat No. 4 Jasper, 4-0, for the Class 3A state championship at Ben Davis High School in Indianapolis.

It was the second softball state championship for the school and third overall. New Palestine (29-3) previously won 3A softball and baseball titles in 2004.

With two outs and bases loaded in the fifth, Jasper pitcher Leah Miller walked New Pal's Sara Evans forcing Alysha Zimmerman across the plate and then beamed the next batter, Alyssa Marcum, forcing in Sydni Phelan. Zimmerman was pinch-running for Jamie Story who had walked and Phelan also drew a walk. Next, Michelle Marcum got New Palestine's first hit of the game dumping a single into short right field scoring Jensen Pritt and Katie Prosser. Pritt was pinch-running for Evans and Prosser also drew a walk.

For the game, New Palestine drew six walks tying the 3A championship game record.

Jasper (28-5) wasted a second inning scoring opportunity when it couldn't push runners across from second and third with no outs as the Wildcats grounded out, struck out and grounded out again to end the inning.

In semifinal action, New Palestine had defeated Belmont, 1-0, in 10 innings on Monday afternoon in a game that had been postponed on Friday and Saturday due to rain, while Jasper knocked off top-ranked Mishawaka Marian, 5-0, Monday night. Jasper, under coach Tom Rupert, was making its first appearance in the state finals. New Palestine was coached by Ed Marcum.

The game was also the first to go uninterrupted by rain or lightning since the state finals began four days earlier.

ALYSSA MARCUM NAMED MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD WINNER

Following the game, Alyssa Marcum of New Palestine High School was honored with the mental attitude award by members of the IHSAA Executive Committee.

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 her principal and coach, was determined to have best demonstrated mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability in softball.

Marcum recently graduated with an Academic Honors Diploma and was a member of the National Honor Society. She will continue her softball career at Indiana State University where she plans to study elementary education.

Marcum led the state in RBI this season and she also becomes the first New Palestine student to win an IHSAA mental attitude award.

Marcum is the daughter of Ed and Becky Marcum of New Palestine. Ed is the New Palestine head coach and sister Michelle is a sophomore on the team.

Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA's proud corporate partner, presented a \$1,000 scholarship to New Palestine High School in the name of Marcum.

VSN MEANS ACTION PHOTOGRAPHY

Visit our friends at [Visual Sports Network](http://VisualSportsNetwork.com), 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).