

# Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

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## PLYMOUTH EDGES BISHOP CHATARD FOR FIRST STATE TITLE

Leslie Swihart's free throw with :03 seconds remaining gave Plymouth a one point win and the 3A state championship, the school's first in girls basketball.

With the game tied at 46-46, Swihart drove the lane and was fouled on the play by Rachel Kimack of Bishop Chatard. A .500 shooter from the line this season, Swihart missed the first and hit the second for the 47-46 lead. Chatard's Megan Gardner tossed up a last second heave which caromed off the front rim.

The girls state title came a little over 11 months after the boys team carried home the 3A state championship. It was the Plymouth girls' first trip back to state since its 3A state runner-up season in 2001.

In a game that featured 11 ties and six lead changes, Chatard went up 44-40 on Anne Boese's layup with 4:44 remaining but Plymouth came right back on its next possession as Brittany Davis nailed a jumper to pull within 44-42. Plymouth then tied it with 1:37 left on a Swihart layup. Gardner hit a pair of free throws with :47 left to give Chatard a two-point edge but Jessica Centa nailed a short jumper to even it at 46-46 with :38 seconds left.

Gardner was fouled with 16 seconds left in the game by Swihart but missed the front end of the one-and-one and Plymouth called timeout with 10 second left to set up its last play. The Pilgrims then in-bounded the ball setting up Swihart's drive to the basket in the final seconds.

Plymouth, led by 16<sup>th</sup> year coach Dave Cox, finished the season at 22-4. ♦ Centa led the way with 14 points and nine boards, junior Lyzz Smith added 13, and Leslie Swihart finished nine points and seven assists.

Kevin Sweeney, in his fourth year at the helm at Bishop Chatard, led the Trojans to a 23-5 record. ♦ Senior guard Anne Boese finished with 15 points, five rebounds, and four assists, while Caroline Schutzman added 13 points and grabbed eight boards. Megan Gardner chipped in with 13 points and six assists.

## JESSICA CENTA NAMED MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD WINNER

Following the game, members of the IHSAA Executive Committee named Jessica Centa of Plymouth High School as the winner of the Patricia L. Roy Mental Attitude Award.

The award is presented annually to a senior participant in each classification who was nominated by her principal and coach and has demonstrated excellence in mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability.

Centa ranks 13<sup>th</sup> in her class of 233 seniors with an 11.2 GPA on Plymouth's 12 point scale. She will graduate with an Academic Honors Diploma this spring and plans to study pre-medicine at St. Mary's College in South Bend.

Besides basketball, she also plays volleyball and softball for the Pilgrims. At the conclusion of the softball season, Centa will have earned nine monograms. She has been named Academic All-State in volleyball and was a Northern Lakes All-Conference selection in softball.

Centa also participates in National Honor Society, Pep Club, Spanish Club and Sunshine Club at Plymouth.

She is the daughter of Tim and Kristin Centa of Plymouth.

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, the IHSAA's corporate partner, will present a \$1,000 scholarship to Plymouth High School in the name of Centa.

The award is named in honor of the former IHSAA assistant commissioner Patricia L. Roy, who oversaw the girls basketball state tournament from its inception in 1976 until her retirement in 1999.

## 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).

## CLASS 3A POST-GAME QUOTES

### Dave Cox, Plymouth Head Coach

(on senior Jessica Centa)

"She's gotten better every game she's played. ♦ She's been a two year starter for us and she really had a heck of a tourney run all the way."

(on senior Brittany Payne)

"She played her heart out, played most of the game. ♦ She really made some good decisions for us."

"Bishop Chatard is a heck of a ball team. ♦ He (Bishop Chatard Head Coach Kevin Sweeney) does a great job coaching those kids. ♦ They are hard to guard. ♦ I thought our offense was really stagnant because of their defense. ♦ So give them credit."

"Our kids didn't give up when we had some key situations to deal with."

"It's every coach's goal to win a state title. ♦ You know a guy my age may not get many more cracks at it. ♦ It means more for the kids than me."

"We had a really good tourney run and beat some awful good teams. ♦ There are a lot of teams home watching tonight. ♦ We feel very fortunate to be where we are tonight."

(on the final free throws by Leslie Swihart)

"She hit free throws the whole tourney in the fourth quarter. ♦ She's a better free throw shooter in the fourth than she is in the first."

(on the fans)

"Plymouth has an awesome reputation in basketball, both boys and girls, and our fans are very supportive of both. ♦ We have very special fans."

### Kevin Sweeney, Indianapolis Bishop Chatard Head Coach

"It was a hard fought physical game and it was hard for either team to get into a good flow. ♦ There were a couple of plays down the stretch that we didn't execute and that was critical. ♦ But we had our opportunities and we missed three wide open layups in the last two minutes. ♦ Both teams didn't want to quit or give an inch."

"In the first half each teams were just trying to settle down and get used to the environment and get into their game style. ♦ In the second half, I think we relaxed a little bit and things got exciting and people started making plays."

"It was a back and forth game and nobody was able to take control with a big lead in points. ♦ If we make those layups in the last two minutes it's a totally different basketball game. ♦ We put them to the free throw lane more than we

wanted and didn't shoot as many as we wanted to. ♦ We played as hard as we have played all year."

"I am extremely proud of our five seniors. ♦ They have been outstanding the last four years. ♦ They won the school's first three sectional championships in Bishop Chatard history. ♦ They also got our first regional, semi-state, and state runner-up."

"We had our opportunities but give Plymouth credit. ♦ They stepped up on defense and got a couple of stops and then came down and finished on offense. ♦ When you get to a game like this, no lead is safe unless you're up 20 points in the fourth quarter."