

Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

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Blake Ress, Commissioner

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GREYHOUNDS RUN AWAY WITH FIRST STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Carmel Greyhounds defeated the defending champion South Bend Washington Panthers, 84-72, to claim the school's first girls basketball title. It was the school's state-leading 89th IHSAA championship in all sports including the 5A football and girls swimming and diving crowned earned earlier this school year.

Balanced scoring was the key to the Greyhound victory as they placed four players in double figures. The teams mirrored each other in many statistical categories but the Greyhounds (23-4) came out on top where it mattered most to end the Panthers' hopes for back-to-back titles.

The game was back and forth with six lead changes and two ties in the first half as Carmel led at the break, 43-39. Although the Panther's press caused some Carmel turnovers, the six-point lead the Greyhounds took into the fourth quarter was never relinquished. Carmel was led in scoring by junior Chrissy Steffen who tied a 4A state finals record with 31 points (Reicina Russell, Terre Haute South, 2002). Senior Danielle Havel added a double-double with 16 points and a game-high 14 rebounds. Senior Ashlee Spearman and junior Lauren McRoberts each ended the evening with 14 points a piece.

The Panthers were led by the state's leading scorer junior Tyler Diggins with 25, four shy of her average, and fellow junior Takoia Larry added 24. Larry and senior Shalana Murray finished with a team high nine rebounds each.

The Panthers, coached by Marilyn Coddens in her 14th season, were making their third consecutive state finals appearance. They have compiled a 137-14 record over the past six years. Carmel, led by fourth year coach Scott Bowen, was making its second title game appearance and first since its 1995 state runner-up season.

Carmel's 84 points tied South Bend Washington's output from last year against Columbus East for the most points in a 4A title game. This year's 156 points between the two teams set the record for points in a final game. The Panthers attempted 25 three pointers in their effort to catch up in the second half, setting a title game record as a team and an individual record with Diggins' 11 attempts.

DANIELLE HAVEL NAMED MENTAL ATTITUDE AWARD WINNER

Following the game, members of the IHSAA Executive Committee named Danielle Havel of Carmel 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.

Havel has been a four-year starter for the Greyhounds and a three year All-Conference selection. Havel has also won a pair of letters on the volleyball team.

She has been a two year member of the Student Athletic Board, a part of Carmel's freshman and new student orientation programs and attended the IHSAA Leadership Conference last summer.

Havel is set to play college basketball at DePaul University in Chicago next year and plans to major in sports management.

She is the daughter of John and Melissa Havel of Carmel.

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

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 4A POST-GAME QUOTES

Scott Bowen, Carmel Head Coach

"I'm so excited for our kids. ♦ It's awesome watching them celebrate. ♦ It feels good for our seniors to get it done. ♦ They're a good team. ♦ Ashley Spearman was on fire, we have a lot of confidence in her. ♦ What a great effort. ♦ We wanted to play our best basketball game this year and we did."

Marilyn Coddens, South Bend Washington Head Coach

"We played tentatively, our shots weren't falling and we just didn't play our game. ♦ They took us right out of it. ♦ They did a good job. ♦ Congratulations to them."

"Their defense pulled us further away from the basket offensively. ♦ Instead of attacking we were shooting three's that we should not have been shooting."