

## **MARTINSVILLE, SOUTHRIDGE ADVANCE TO TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS FINAL**

Martinsville and Southridge used big second-half performances Friday (March 20) to win their opening games and move into the championship round of the inaugural Indiana High School Athletic Association Girls Basketball Tournament of Champions at 4 p.m. Saturday (March 21) at Hinkle Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

Martinsville used a big third quarter to break open the game and advanced past Bloomfield 89-45, while Southridge used a fourth quarter surge that resulted in a 66-54 victory over West Lafayette in the second semifinals.

Martinsville, the Class 4A champion, outscored Bloomfield 30-10 in the third quarter after leading 30-23 at halftime. With the victory, Martinsville (28-0) extended its winning streak to 52 games, the third longest in state history.

Bloomfield, which won the first Class A state title last week, finished its season at 26-2 under coach Paula Fettig.

Coached by Jan Conner, Martinsville, placed all five starters in double figures. April Traylor's 22 points led the way, with classmates. Kristen Bodine and Leslie Deaton adding 17 and 16, respectively. Sara McIntosh of Bloomfield tallied 22 points to pace the Cardinals. Melissa Cochran finished with 11 points for the Cardinals.

Martinsville's defense caused problems for Bloomfield most of the game as the Artesians capitalized on 28 turnovers for 33 points.

Southridge, the Class 2A state champion, opened the final period with a 16-2 run after trailing 42-41.

Coached by Stan Roesner, Southridge moved to 22-5. West Lafayette, the Class 3A champions, ended its season 23-5 under coach Steve Dietrich.

Kara Meyer of Southridge led all scorers with 18 points, while teammate Jill Fenneman added 15. Rachel Matthews and Ara Uebelhor went for 14 each. Lello Gebisa led West Lafayette with 16 points.