



HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER: CLASS A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

RED DAWN



West Lafayette celebrates its first state soccer championship after beating Gibson Southern, 2-0, on Saturday in Indianapolis.
BRENT DRINKUT/INDIANAPOLIS STAR

West Lafayette becomes area's first state soccer champion

By Sam King · sking@jconline.com

INDIANAPOLIS — As fifth-graders, Erin Brophy and Shelby Mann became best friends. They've created memories together that will last the rest of their lives, but Saturday's moment may be hard to top.

In the 45th minute of Saturday's Class A girls soccer state championship, Brophy set up her pal for a goal that proved to be enough in a

2-0 victory over Gibson Southern on the turf of IUPUI's Carroll Stadium.

"The first goal was amazing, because I felt like a lot of our girls still had a lot of angst in them," Mann said. "After that first goal, it really calmed my nerves down. After that, we were playing our game."

For good measure, Mann scored another — her school-record 38th goal of the season — 1:25 later, lifting the Red Devils from a good team to a great one with their first state championship.

"The program has always been very very competitive. This is kind of the exclamation point," WL coach Aaron Blessing said.

"Have you ever punched through? Not yet, until now. It's not even for the players who are here. It's for the alumni. It's a good feeling to think we worked for it. We set a goal and worked hard to get here, and we're here. We're the best in the state."

For many who suffered disappointment when their season ended at the semistate level in 2011 and again last season, finishing the task was the only acceptable conclusion.

"We've had two years of walking off the field crying. We fought hard, and we knew we were not going to be that team this year," senior Maya Alexander said. **See CHAMPS, Page B7**

OHIO STATE · 56



0 · PURDUE

Buckeyes hand Boilers a historic beating

MIKE CARMIN



56-0 defeat matches worst ever for Purdue

At least the new black helmets were sharp.

There's your positive from Saturday. It's hard to find anything else at the moment.

This was all fourth-ranked Ohio State. This was all quarterback Braxton Miller. This was all about the Buckeyes giving freshman quarterback Danny Etling another hard lesson in playing in the Big Ten Conference.

This was 56-0.

It's the most points scored by a Purdue opponent in Ross-Ade Stadium, surpassing the 55 put up by Northern Illinois in September. The 56-point defeat equals the largest in program history. It's the worst loss in series history against Ohio State.

"It's been a struggle, very much a struggle right now," coach Darrell Hazell said. "We've got to get a whole lot better."

Is this the bottom for the Boilermakers? Can the season sink any deeper?

The schedule says there's a chance to move forward. Iowa, Penn State, Illinois and Indiana aren't what Purdue has been facing. But can the Boilermakers be competitive during the

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final four games after taking beating after beating?

"We have to keep playing. We have to get better. We have to do better than what we did," said cornerback Ricardo Allen, who provided one of the few highlights with a first-quarter interception.

Miller lit up the defense and the Buckeyes (9-0, 5-0) rolled up 640 total yards in winning for the 21st straight time.

Miller's job was easy when his targets — specifically tight end Jeff Heurman — were



Ohio State's Steve Miller sacks Danny Etling during Saturday's 56-0 drubbing. JOHN TERHUNE/JOURNAL & COURIER

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HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER: STATE CHAMPIONSHIP NOTES

Red Devils' triumph a family affair

By Sam King
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Austin Mann hoped to develop a better bond with his older sister Shelby when he became West Lafayette girls soccer manager in 2011.

Instead, he gained a lot of sisters.

"This is like a dream come true," Austin Mann said. "All of these girls are like my sisters and seeing them get this, they deserve it. They've worked really hard for this."

Of course, the relationship also developed between the two siblings, born 14 minutes apart.

"I am so glad that Austin chose to be our manager sophomore year," Shelby said after scoring two goals in Saturday's 2-0 state championship victory over Gibson Southern. "Our relationship before that, we were butting heads at a very young age. We didn't like each other. Soccer has really brought us together. I feel like there's a level of trust there."

It was one of several family championship ties for West Lafayette's soccer team after

hoisting the trophy at IUPUI's Carroll Stadium.

Sarah Waters had no basis for comparison, so she took her brothers' word for it that winning a state championship is indescribable.

In 2009, Zach Waters and Ben Waters were members of West Lafayette's state championship football team. On Saturday, their younger sister joined in on the family success.

"They texted me before the game and they said you will remember the days for the rest of your life," Waters said. "It's one of the best feelings to win a state championship. I knew my team was excited, and to get that text from my brothers was extra exciting."

Senior Erin Brophy's brother Ryan was a teammate of the Waters brothers on the 2009 football team and junior Kasey Touloukian shared Saturday's championship victory alongside her father, WL athletic director Brock Touloukian.

Brophy's brother's state championship medal is framed with photographs commemorating that win over Evansville

Memorial. Brophy said she's going to have to talk to the friend who made one for Ryan, because now she has a medal of her own.

Alexander the great

The glory often goes to her teammates, but Maya Alexander is certainly at the center of West Lafayette's soccer success.

She had nine goals and three assists in her senior season, culminating with a state title. According to coach Aaron Blessing, this is just the beginning of Alexander's success.

"Even though we're state champion, her future as a person is incredibly bright," Blessing said. "She is going to do something great. She has been a great leader for our girls."

On Saturday, Alexander set the Red Devils up for success by keeping the ball away from Gibson Southern's playmakers. All season, she has been the player that made most of the scoring opportunities possible.

And though the notoriety wasn't hers, wearing a state

championship medal around her neck on Saturday was reward enough.

"Just being part of the team is so exciting," Alexander said. "Shelby finishes, Erin finishes, but I help set up the play and that is my job. It takes all of us."

Rematch?

Shortly after Saturday's Class A championship match concluded, next season unofficially began.

Gibson Southern had never won a sectional before this season and despite losing eight seniors, the Titans hope the first taste of success leads to more.

"To continue and come this far, I am very proud of them," Gibson Southern coach Steve Jenkins said. "I told them at the end of the game to keep their heads up. Don't count us out. We'll be back."

After departures last season, West Lafayette wondered if it would have the firepower to get a state championship.

Sure enough, the Red Devils reloaded and the improve-

ments of the returnees led to the program's first state title. Now the question is whether they can do it again.

"Sure, we will lose some people. Our younger players are going to work as hard as we can to get back here," junior Hayley Karpick said. "We can take the success of this season and a lot of people have been improving, and we're going to keep improving."

Look ahead

West Lafayette graduates six seniors this year: Meredith Marley, Mann, Rebecca Gerometta, Brophy, Alexander and Meghan Moody.

Karpick and freshman Grace Fisher will be the leading returning scorers, each finding the back of the net three times this season and assisting on four other goals. With five assists, sophomore Kylie Tracanna was third on the team behind Brophy (13) and Mann (6).

Starters Emma Burley, Monica Pinal, Waters and Jordyn Whaley also return.

HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY: STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

West Side finishes strong

Girls place fourth, boys ninth at state

By Clyde Hughes
For the Journal & Courier

TERRE HAUTE — When a team sets their standards as high as West Lafayette's third-ranked cross country programs, not finishing in the top three at the state meet may seem like a disappointment, but the girls and boys teams were all smiles Saturday.

On a sometimes wet and muddy course at the Wabash Valley Sports Center, the West Lafayette girls finished fourth with 150 points. The boys team, which finished 17th in last season's state meet, improved to ninth behind Cooper Williams' sixth-place individual finish.

Carmel continued its dominance, sweeping the boys and girls team titles for the second consecutive year. West Lafayette was the smallest school among the top 10 boys and girls finishers.

"It was a tough race and there were a lot of girls out



West Lafayette's Lauren Johnson placed 18th in the state on Saturday. DANIEL SHELTON/FOR THE J&C

there ready to race," said Lauren Johnson, who was West Side's top girls finisher, placing 18th with a time of 18:34.7.

"Last year, I was sick and was in the back the whole race. This year, I got a new view of the front and actually passing people. We went out there and pushed it and pushed some of the other girls and getting fourth was excellent."

Lauren Johnson's twin sister, Kristen Johnson, was 21st with a time of 18:36.4 while

teammate Rachel Bales was 22nd at 18:44.9. Lewark said he was particularly proud of Bales, saying that she "ran the race of her life."

Williams, also a sophomore, made a big jump from his previous state meet as a freshman, where he finished 52nd. Williams' time of 15:44.3 was the second-best sophomore time among the boys, just behind Ben Veatch (15:44.0) of Carmel.

West Side junior Dominic Patascil ran a 16:35.9 to help the Red Devils' cause.

Twin Lakes sophomore Madeline Lilly was 31st with a time of 18:56.4. The Indians, who placed 12th as a team, lose only two seniors from their top seven runners.

"I'm not really happy (with my place), but it's okay," Lilly said. "The weather was better and I had better training. My time was better and I felt better. I had a lot more support having my team behind me and it made me want to go faster for them."

Harrison sophomore Olivia Johnson finished with a time of 19:44.9.



West Lafayette's Monica Pinal leaps into Jordan Whaley's arms after the Red Devils wrapped up their first state championship with a 2-0 win over Gibson Southern. BRENT DRINKUT/INDIANAPOLIS STAR

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL: CLASS A CASTON SEMISTATE

CC knocks off No. 1 Wes-Del

Burks helps Knights advance to title round

By Sam King
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FULTON — Volleyball season is a three-month escape from basketball and softball for Emily Burks.

As the season progressed, so did Burks, and on Saturday night, the Central Catholic junior was at her best.

Burks became setter Sarah Roswarski's top target and made the senior's trust pay off with 16 kills to lead the Class A No. 6 Knights to a semistate championship with an 18-25, 25-18, 25-18, 25-19 upset of No. 1 Wes-Del.

"When it's softball season, volleyball is next and I am not into the same motions," said Burks, also a member of CC's basketball team. "It's a lot different to jump into. It's just

always something I do in the fall. I really just want to play all those sports, and I never really thought about playing club (volleyball)."

Burks' performance led a balanced all-around performance by the Knights, who advance to the state championship round for the first time since winning the title in 2010.

"That kid has made leaps and bounds in her play," CC coach Brad McCarter said of Burks. "It's a kid that doesn't play club. She picks it up in August, and it takes it until the end of September to really get in a flow."

Senior Bre Fickle was the lone freshman to dress for that state championship in 2010. Now she joins a seven-player senior class hoping to go out with a goal they set as eighth-graders.

"I'm so excited right now, I don't even care who we play," said senior Emily Denhart, who

had seven kills and five blocks in the win over the Warriors.

Now the conclusion of what CC players have deemed "the journey" awaits with a trip to Ball State's Worthen Arena at 11 a.m. next Saturday.

The Knights (29-6) play No. 2 Barr-Reeve (37-2), which knocked off Lutheran in four sets Saturday to win the south semistate. Barr-Reeve, led by current Purdue senior Hilliary Fox, defeated CC in Worthen Arena in the 2009 state semifinals.

After a Warriors ace put Wes-Del ahead 16-15 in a pivotal Game 3, Roswarski executed a dump set at the net with the blockers shifting towards the pins that began a 10-2 run to close the set.

It was Roswarski's lone kill to go with 17 digs and 38 assists. Maddie Matson added 14 digs and two aces and Lindsey Powers served a pair of aces and pulled up eight digs.

CHAMPS

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For the Red Devils (15-7), it came down to playing their game. West Lafayette's focus has been to control what it does, and the results will take care of themselves.

For the first five minutes, West Side went away from that as Gibson Southern (16-4-2) was the aggressor. The rest of the morning, the Red Devils gradually wore down their counterpart, getting 10 shots on goal, including the two scores by Mann.

Mann, Brophy, Hayley Karpick and Freyda Mannering all fired at Titans keeper Hannah Bryant without success in the first half before Mann escaped the defense twice in less than two minutes.

"In the first half, we had some chances. In the second half, we were able to make them chase," Karpick said. "We played the way we wanted to play, which helped us be victorious."

Titans coach Steve Jenkins knew in order to win their first

state title, they'd have to keep playmakers Brophy and Mann from beating them. As the Gibson Southern players found out, the task is not so easy.

"They certainly have a great chemistry together. They are both technically proficient players," Jenkins said. "On this surface, it takes a great touch to keep the ball under control. They definitely did that. That's what's made them successful this year."

Emily Field finished her final match with three saves for West Lafayette, stopping shots by Amy Niehaus, Lauren Ungetheim and Sylvia Adler and watching another ricochet off the crossbar late in the second half as the Titans tired.

"Our defense really stepped up today," Blessing said. "They created a few chances. Adler is a very good player, but they weren't incredibly dangerous. The longer the game went on, their line just kind of sunk back and sunk back. They were tired of chasing."

So was West Lafayette, tired of chasing an elusive state title.

Now the Red Devils are champs.