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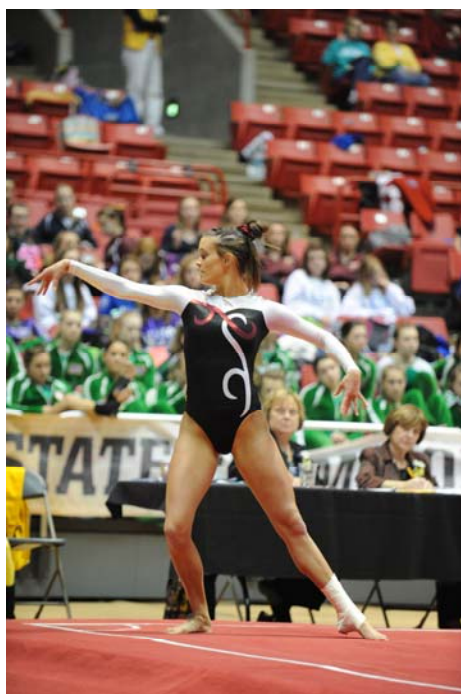
# NEWS RELEASE

March 21, 2014

## State Finals Preview: Gymnastics State Finals this Saturday

For the first time, nine teams will vie for championship honors as the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual IHSAA Gymnastics State Finals will be contested Saturday at Worthen Arena on the campus of Ball State University in Muncie. Competition will begin at 1 pm ET following the opening ceremonies.

In the re-structured tournament format, nine teams now advance to the state finals for the first time - the top three from the three regional sites.



Top-ranked Valparaiso leads a group of five returning teams from last year's state finals. The Vikings easily won their own regional last weekend and will look to add to their state-best nine championships after finishing as the runner-up each of the last two years.

No. 2 Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger, the state champ two years ago, ran away with the Huntington North regional a week ago while third-ranked Portage, the defending state champion, placed second to Valpo in the regional. The Indians won their first state crown since 1975 last year. Sixth-ranked Columbus North and No. 10 Columbus East finished 1-2 at the Columbus regional and round out the returnees.

Fourth-ranked Merrillville qualified for the team competition for the first time in 12 years while No. 12 Connersville placed its team in the state finals 25 years after its last state title in 1989. Jay County is sending a team to the state finals for the first time in school history.

The all-around winners last weekend include Morgan Township sophomore Kylee Maxwell at Valpo, Hamilton senior Alex Cool at Huntington North, and Columbus North sophomore Katrina May at Columbus East.

Alex Nickel is the lone competitor this weekend with an individual championship to her credit. She won the bars and beam in 2012 as is one of 34 competing for all-around honors on Saturday. She captured the bars and floor exercise at the Huntington North regional.

### The 42nd Annual Gymnastics State Finals

**Date:** Saturday, March 22, 2014.

**Time:** Opening ceremonies at 12:30 p.m. ET; Competition at 1 pm ET.

**Admission:** \$9.

**Site:** Worthen Arena, Ball State University, 1699 W. Bethel Avenue, Muncie.

### [Order of Participants](#)

### Media Information

**Media Host:** IHSAA Communications Assistant Toni Polizzi will be on hand to assist you in your coverage of the event.

**Media Credentials:** Approved media credential requests may be claimed at the ticket windows inside Lower Level, Gate 1 of Worthen Arena. Please have proper identification available.

**Media Services:** Complimentary copies of the official state finals program will be available and includes the order of participants in each event. The facility also is equipped for free wireless internet access. Worthen Arena's Media Work Room is located at Room 203 on the Main Level. Electrical power and phone lines will be available for use there.

**Media Seating:** An open seating policy will be used on Saturday.

**Photographers:** *During the event, please use discretion when photographing the athletes as your camera strobe can pose a danger to the safety of the athletes during their performances.* With the exception of the IHSAA's Official Photographer from "Visual Sports Network", all photographers should remain off the floor until all competition has concluded.

**Results:** Copies of the official results will be distributed at the meet's conclusion and will also be posted to the IHSAA website at [IHSAA.org](http://IHSAA.org).

## **Notables**

### **Teams Represented (25)**

Angola, Bloomington South, Carroll (Fort Wayne), Chesterton, Columbus East, Columbus North, Connersville, Crown Point, DeKalb, Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger, Franklin Central, Hamilton, Jay County, Logansport, Marion, Merrillville, Morgan Township, New Castle, New Palestine, Noblesville, Plymouth, Portage, Richmond, Seymour, Valparaiso.

### **Competing for Team Championship (9)**

Carroll (Fort Wayne), Columbus East, Columbus North, Connersville, Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger, Jay County, Merrillville, Portage, Valparaiso.

### **Returning Teams from 2013 (5)**

Columbus East, Columbus North, Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger, Portage, Valparaiso.

### **State Coaches Poll (Competing for Team Championship)**

1. Valparaiso; 2. Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger; 3. Portage; 4. Merrillville; T6. Columbus North; 9. Carroll (Fort Wayne); T10. Columbus East; 12. Connersville. Unranked: Jay County.

### **Former State Champions in the Meet**

Alex Nickel, 12, Angola. *2012 Bars, Beam.*

## **State Finals History Among Team Competitors**

### **Carroll (Fort Wayne)**

Appearances: **(3)** 2004, 2010, 2014

### **Columbus East**

State Champion: **(1)** 1990

Runner-Up: **(1)** 1991

Appearances: **(16)** 1979, 1983, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2010, 2013, 2014

### **Columbus North**

State Champion: **(2)** 1973, 1974

Runner-Up: **(3)** 1986, 1987, 2008

Appearances: **(18)** 1973, 1974, 1977, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

### **Connersville**

State Champion: **(3)** 1987, 1988, 1989

Appearances: **(7)** 1979, 1981, 1982, 1987, 1988, 1989, 2014

### Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger

State Champion: **(5)** 1995, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2012

Runner-Up: **(7)** 1993, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2007, 2011

Appearances: **(19)** 1993, 1994, 1995, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

### Jay County

First Appearance

### Merrillville

State Champion: **(2)** 1986, 1992

Runner-Up: **(4)** 1972, 1982, 1988, 1990

Appearances: **(13)** 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1992, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2014

### Portage

State Champion: **(2)** 1975, 2013

Runner-Up: **(1)** 1973

Appearances: **(6)** 1973, 1974, 1975, 2012, 2013, 2014

### Valparaiso

State Champion: **(9)** 1981, 1991, 1994, 1997, 1998, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011

Runner-Up: **(6)** 1992, 1996, 1999, 2004, 2012, 2013

Appearances: **(21)** 1977, 1981, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014

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### Boys Basketball Semi-States

**Date:** Saturday, March 22, 2014.

**Admission:** \$8.

**Home Team:** The winners of the even-numbered regionals will be the designated home teams.

**Official Basketball:** The Wilson Evolution Wide Channel (B0516), the official ball of the IHSAA state tournament, will be provided for use at each host site.

### [Approved Broadcast Coverage](#)

[Class 4A Bracket](#) | [Class 3A Bracket](#) | [Class 2A Bracket](#) | [Class A Bracket](#)

### Lafayette Jefferson

**Class A** | Marquette Catholic (18-6) vs. Liberty Christian (20-6) | **1 pm ET**

**Class 4A** | Lake Central (21-3) vs. Homestead (20-7) | **To follow**

### Huntington North

**Class 2A** | Westview (22-4) vs. Cass (22-2) | **4 pm ET**

**Class 3A** | Bowman Academy (21-4) vs. Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger (17-8) | **To follow**

### Seymour

**Class A** | Clay City (20-6) vs. Barr-Reeve (25-1) | **1 pm ET**

**Class 2A** | Park Tudor (22-4) vs. Clarksville (23-2) | **To follow**

### Richmond

**Class 3A** | Guerin Catholic (22-3) vs. Greensburg (26-1) | **4 pm ET**

**Class 4A** | Indianapolis Arsenal Technical (25-2) vs. Bloomington North (16-8) | **To follow**

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**INDIANA'S GAME**  
AT ALL LEVELS



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## State Finals

**Date:** Saturday, March 29, 2014.

**Site:** Bankers Life Fieldhouse, 125 S. Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis.

**Admission:** \$15.00 per session.

Reserved single session tickets may be purchased at the participating schools the week of the state finals. Contact participating schools for ticket distribution hours. Any remaining tickets will be available game day at the ticket office at Bankers Life Fieldhouse.

**Gates Open:** Bankers Life Fieldhouse will open its gates to fans beginning one hour prior to the start of each session - 9:30 am ET and again at 5 pm ET. The venue will be cleared between the Class 2A and 3A games.

**Home Team:** The winners of the north semi-states will be the designated home teams.

**Official Basketball:** The Wilson Evolution Wide Channel (B0516), the official ball of the IHSAA state tournament, will be used.

**Television:** All four state championship games will air live on Fox Sports Indiana.

**Webstream:** For viewers outside of the Fox Sports Indiana coverage area, a live stream will be available at IHSAAtv.org. For those within the FSI coverage area, the stream will be available only on delayed basis following the conclusion of the telecast.

**Radio:** Each game will be broadcast on affiliates of the [IHSAA Champions Network](#).

[Class 4A Bracket](#) | [Class 3A Bracket](#) | [Class 2A Bracket](#) | [Class A Bracket](#)

### Session I

**Class A** | Winner of South Semi-State vs. Winner of North Semi-State | **10:30 am ET**

**Class 2A** | Winner of South Semi-State vs. Winner of North Semi-State | **To follow**

### Session II

**Class 3A** | Winner of South Semi-State vs. Winner of North Semi-State | **6 pm ET**

**Class 4A** | Winner of South Semi-State vs. Winner of North Semi-State | **To follow**

## Notables

### Seeking First State Finals Appearance

4A: Homestead.

3A: Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger.

2A: Clarksville.

A: Clay City, Liberty Christian, Marquette Catholic.

### Seeking to Break State Finals Drought (Five or more years since last appearance)

48: Indianapolis Arsenal Technical (1966).

30 years: Lake Central (1984).

14: Bloomington North, Westview (2000).

11: Cass (2003).

### Seeking to Repeat as Semi-State Champions

4A: None.

3A: Bowman Academy, Greensburg.

2A: None.

A: None.

### Seeking First Semi-State Championship

4A: Homestead.

3A: Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger.

2A: Clarksville.

A: Clay City, Liberty Christian, Marquette Catholic.

*Note: 1935-36 was the first year for semi-states.*

### Most Consecutive Semi-State Championships

4: Ben Davis (1993-96).

### Top 10 All-Time Semi-State Championship Leaders

14: Marion.

13: Muncie Central.  
12: Lafayette Jefferson.  
11: Anderson.  
8: East Chicago Washington, Kokomo, New Albany.  
6: Elkhart Central, Evansville Bosse, Gary Roosevelt, Jeffersonville, Washington.  
*Note: 1935-36 was the first year for semi-states.*

#### **Current Winning Streaks**

20: Cass.  
16: Barr-Reeve.  
13: Greensburg.  
11: Guerin Catholic, Westview.  
10: Clarksville, Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger, Marquette Catholic.  
9: Liberty Christian, Park Tudor.  
8: Indianapolis Arsenal Technical, Lake Central.  
6: Clay City.  
5: Bloomington North, Bowman Academy, Homestead.

#### **2013 State Champions Still Alive**

3A: Bowman Academy, Greensburg.

#### **2013 State Finalists Still Alive**

3A: Bowman Academy, Greensburg.

#### **First-Time Regional Champions**

4A: Homestead.  
3A: None.  
2A: Clarksville.  
1A: Liberty Christian, Marquette Catholic.

#### **Regional Championship Droughts Broken (Five or more years)**

40: Clay City (1974).  
36: Indianapolis Arsenal Technical (1978).  
30: Lake Central (1984).  
18: Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger (1996).  
11: Cass (2003).  
10: Bloomington North (2004).  
6: Westview (2008).

#### **Repeat Regional Champions**

3A: Bowman Academy, Greensburg.

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#### **Boys Basketball State Finals Credentials**

*The deadline for requests is Thursday, March 27, 4 pm ET/3 pm CT.* Credentials will not be granted after that time. For media outlets intending to cover the boys basketball state finals, please apply for credentials by e-mailing your request to IHSAA Sports Information Director Jason Wille ([jwille@ihsaa.org](mailto:jwille@ihsaa.org)). E-mail requests MUST originate from a recognized business account; e-mails from personal accounts (ie: yahoo.com, aol.com, gmail.com, etc.) will not be accepted. Please include the name of individual(s) to be credentialed. Approved requests will be available for pickup at media will-call at Bankers Life Fieldhouse on game day. Credentials will not be mailed.

## **Boys Basketball State Finalist Coaches Interviews on Monday**

Coaches from the eight schools in the 2014 IHSAA Boys Basketball State Finals will gather Monday, March 24, at Bankers Life Fieldhouse in Indianapolis for the pre-tournament administrative meeting with media interviews to follow. The school personnel meeting will be closed to the news media. At approximately 11 am ET / 10 am CT, the coaches will be available to answer questions from the media in a round-table setting in the media work room.

Members of the media should go to the Employee/Media Entrance on Delaware Street where Fieldhouse personnel will be on hand to escort you to the meeting area.

Updated statistics, rosters and other team information as submitted by the schools will be distributed at the interview session. For outlets that cannot attend, a special state finals information package will be available on the IHSAA.org website later that day.

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### ***About the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. (IHSAA)***

*Founded in 1903, the purpose of the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. (IHSAA) is to encourage, regulate and give direction to wholesome amateur interschool athletic competition between its 412 member schools. The Association provides state championship tournament series in 20 sports, 10 for girls and 10 for boys. Approximately 160,000 student athletes participate in IHSAA sports on an annual basis.*