

IHSAA NEWS RELEASE



Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.
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TICKETS

Reserved seating only (no general admission). All tickets are digital only through your mobile phone and may be purchased via [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) (service fees apply). All purchased tickets will be sent as mobile tickets to the purchaser's smart phone and that verification should be shown at the admission gate.

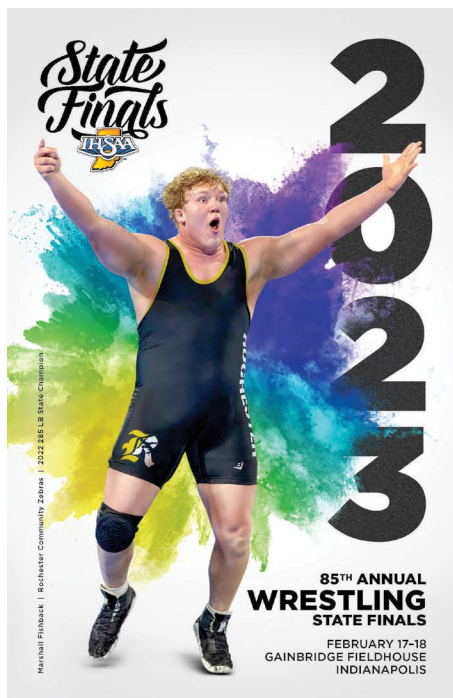


TELEVISION & STREAMING

Saturday night's state championship bouts will air live on Bally Sports Indiana beginning at 7:30 pm ET / 6:30 CT.

- Play-by-Play Mark Jaynes
- Analyst Mike Goebel
- Analyst Blake Maurer
- Mat Interviews Greg Rakestraw

Friday night's first round and all of Saturday's quarterfinal, semifinal and consolation matches will be livestreamed via pay-per-view at IHSAAtv.org.



THE 85th ANNUAL IHSAA WRESTLING STATE FINALS

Gainbridge Fieldhouse, Indianapolis

Friday, Feb. 17, 2023

Session 1

Gates open at 12:30 pm ET

Parade of Champions at 1:30 pm ET

First Round Weight Classes 106 - 145 begin at 2 pm ET

First Round Weight Classes 152 - 285 begin at 5:30 pm ET

Saturday, Feb. 18, 2023

Session 2

Gates open at 8 am ET

Quarterfinals begin at 9 am ET with Semifinals to follow

Fieldhouse cleared of all spectators following Semifinals

Session 3

Gates open at 3:30 pm ET

Consolations at 4:30 pm ET with State Championships at 7:30 pm ET

[State Finals Brackets via FloWrestling.com](https://www.flowrestling.com) | [State Championship Records Book](#)

Two hundred twenty-four (224) wrestlers in all, 16 in each of the 14 weight classes, will begin first round competition on Friday. Two sessions will be used with weight classes 106-145 beginning at 2 pm ET and weight classes 152-285 beginning at 5:30 pm ET. First-round winners will return to wrestle on Saturday with quarterfinal action beginning at 9 am ET and semifinal matches to follow after all weight classes have concluded. Consolation bouts begin at 4:30 pm ET and championship matches under the spotlight are scheduled for 7:30 pm ET.

Team scoring will begin with Friday night's preliminary matches. Scoring, per National Federation (NFHS) rules, will go to eight places and, additionally, two (2) advancement points will be awarded per match for a championship bracket victory while one (1) point is earned for advancement in the consolation bracket.

Finally, points will be awarded to the top eight place-winners: 1st place: 16 points; 2nd place: 12 points; 3rd place: 9 points; 4th place: 7 points; 5th place: 5 points; 6th place: 3 points; 7th place: 2 points; 8th place: 1 point.

■ Five of last year's state champions return, including one with hopes of joining the list of three-time state champions, as this year's field is set for the newly renovated Gainbridge Fieldhouse.

LaPorte senior Ashton Jackson (50-0) returns as a two-time state champion having won the 113 pound class (50-0) last year and the 106 division (35-2) as a sophomore in 2021. He's entered in the 120 pound class this year and should he win again on Saturday night, he would become the first LaPorte wrestler to win three state championships.

Brownsburg's Jake Hockaday is also entered in the 120 pound class and sits on the opposite side of the bracket from Jackson. The sophomore Hockaday is 29-4 this season and has title match experience having won it all at 106 last year.

Crown Point senior Logan Frazier (33-2) is the defending state champion at 126 pounds who will be looking to make it back to a championship match for the third consecutive year. Frazier's classmate Sam Goin (35-2) is in the 160 bracket after winning the 152 title in 2022.

Kyrel Leavell (30-1) of Warren Central, last year's 120 pound champion, is ready in the 132 pound bracket. The junior finished last year's season at 35-1.

Also of interest, this year's state finals includes Julianna Ocampo (44-2) of Fort Wayne Snider. The sophomore is making her second consecutive appearance in the state finals and won the 106 pound class at last month's Girls State Finals. She'll attempt to become the first girl to win a first round match on Friday afternoon. Kayla Miracle of Culver Academies was the first girl to compete in the state finals back in 2012.

NOTABLES

■ Defending Team State Champion

Crown Point is the defending state champion after winning the school's second wrestling crown last year and its first since 2009. The top-ranked Bulldogs are coached by Branden Lorek and boast seven semi-state champions of their 11 participants this weekend.

■ One hundred six (106) schools will be represented at this weekend's state finals with Center Grove leading the way with 12 qualifiers followed by Crown Point with 11, and Brownsburg with nine. Crown Point also led the state with seven semi-state champions with Brownsburg next tallying four. A total of 312 schools and 6,592 participants were entered into this year's state tournament at the sectional level.

State Champions in the Field (5)

120 Ashton Jackson (12) **LaPorte** (50-0)

- Last year's state champion at 113 (50-0)
- 2021 state champion at 106 (35-2)

120 Jake Hockaday (10) **Brownsburg** (29-4)

- Last year's state champion at 106 (43-2)

126 Logan Frazier (12) **Crown Point** (33-2)

- Defending state champion at 126 (34-1)
- 2021 runner-up at 120 (34-4)

132 Kyrel Leavell (11) **Warren Central** (30-1)

- Last year's state champion at 120 (35-1)

160 Sam Goin (12) **Crown Point** (35-2)

- Last year's state champion at 152 (40-0)

State Runners-Up in the Field (8)

113 Preston Haines (11) **Brownsburg** (28-9)

- 2022 runner-up at 113 (38-3)

113 Gavin Jendreas (10) **Crown Point** (21-2)

- 2022 runner-up at 106 (35-5)

132 Joey Buttler (12) **Whiteland** (41-0)

- 2022 runner-up at 132 (39-2)

138 Cheaney Schoeff (12) **Avon** (40-0)

- 2021 runner-up at 126 (35-6)
- 2020 runner-up at 113 (37-5)

138 Cole Solomey (12) **Kankakee Valley** (44-1)

- 2022 runner-up at 138 (43-4)

145 Anthony Bahl (12) **Crown Point** (18-6)

- 2022 runner-up at 132 (36-5)

OSCEOLA'S HENRY WILK NAMED OUTSTANDING WRESTLING OFFICIAL

Henry Wilk of Osceola, Indiana is the recipient of the 2022-23 Interscholastic Athletic Official Award for excellence in the sport of Wrestling.

Each year, the Indiana High School Athletic Association, in cooperation with the National Federation of Interscholastic Officials Association, recognizes and honors an outstanding official in each sport. Officials selected for this distinction have gone above and beyond to serve their association, community, and the IHSAA. Each have shown exceptional qualities of leadership, dedication, and loyalty to their sport, our student-athletes, and their fellow officials.

Henry has been a licensed Wrestling official for 16 years and has officiated 13 Sectionals, 13 Regionals, nine (9) Semi-States, and two (2) State Finals.

He is a member of the St. Joe Valley Officials Association and served as Wrestling Vice President of the association from 2013-2019. Henry also volunteered as an IHSAA Wrestling Certification Clinician from 2013-

2020, assisting with clinics and trainings in service to other officials in his community. In addition, he works to connect new officials in the St. Joe Valley Association with mentors

and meet assignments in the area annually.

Henry has volunteered at countless meets outside of the IHSAA over the years, most notably the 1985 Junior Nationals at Notre Dame and 1988 NCAA Regionals. He's worked as an official for many organizations, including the United

States Wrestling Federation, Indiana State Wrestling Association, and USA Wrestling.

The most enjoyable aspect of officiating to Henry is being a role model and trying to instill important values such as discipline, respect, and integrity to each student-athlete he comes across.

Henry was selected for this honor by a committee representing the 24 officials associations in Indiana. There are more than 6,000 officials licensed by the IHSAA in 11 sports. These officials work tirelessly to provide safe, competitive environments for over 160,000 student athletes in Indiana.



170 Delaney Ruhlman (12) **Bloomington South** (37-0)

- 2022 runner-up at 152 (35-2)
- 2021 runner-up at 138 (30-3)

182 Orlando Cruz (12) **Crown Point** (31-2)

- 2022 runner-up at 182 (39-2)

Undefeated Wrestlers in the Field (17)

106 Ayden Bollinger (10) **Delta** (39-0)

113 Jalen May (11) **Kokomo** (43-0)

120 Ashton Jackson (12) **LaPorte** (50-0)

126 Tylin Thrine (9) **New Castle** (38-0)

132 Joey Buttler (12) **Whiteland** (41-0)

132 Easton Doster (10) **New Haven** (22-0)

138 Tony Wood (11) **Jay County** (41-0)

138 Michael Major (10) **Carmel** (25-0)

138 Cheaney Schoeff (12) **Avon** (40-0)

145 Aidan Torres (12) **Chesterton** (48-0)

145 Wyatt Krejsa (11) **Center Grove** (17-0)

152 Bryce Lowery (12) **Roncalli** (40-0)

170 Delaney Ruhlman (12) **Bloomington South** (37-0)

195 Christian Chavez (12) **Mishawaka** (40-0)

195 Alex Deming (11) **Rochester** (43-0)

195 Luke Hansen (12) **Roncalli** (40-0)

285 Titus Waters (12) **Muncie Central** (47-0)

■ 2023 Sectional Championship Teams (32)

Brownsburg, Carmel, Center Grove, Columbus East, Crown Point, DeKalb, Delta, East Central, Elkhart, Evansville Mater Dei, Garrett, Hamilton Heights, Harrison (West Lafayette), Heritage Hills, Homestead, Indianapolis Cathedral, Jay County, Jeffersonville, Merrillville, New Castle, New Prairie, Penn, Perry Meridian, Portage, Rensselaer Central, Rochester Community, Tell City, Terre Haute South Vigo, Warren Central, Wawasee, Western, Zionsville

■ 2023 Regional Championship Teams (16)

Carmel, Center Grove, Columbus East, Crown Point, DeKalb, East Central, Evansville Mater Dei, Garrett, Indianapolis Cathedral, Jay County, Merrillville, Penn, Rensselaer Central, Rochester Community, Tell City, Warren Central

■ 2023 Semi-State Championship Teams (4)

Center Grove, Crown Point, Rochester Community, Indianapolis Cathedral.

2022-23 IHSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

FALL SPORTS

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Sept. 30-Oct. 1 | GIRLS GOLF Prairie View Golf Club, Carmel Team: Carmel Individual: Ava Bunker, Columbus North |
| Oct. 14-15 | BOYS TEAM TENNIS Carmel HS, Carmel Team: North Central (Indianapolis) |
| Oct. 15 | UNIFIED FLAG FOOTBALL Grand Park Sports Event Center, Westfield Team: Brownsburg |
| Oct. 21-22 | BOYS SINGLES & DOUBLES Park Tudor School, Indianapolis Singles: Aaron Gu, Harrison (WL) Doubles: Akshay Guttikonda Owen Larimer (11) North Central (Indianapolis) |
| Oct. 28-29 | BOYS & GIRLS SOCCER Carroll Stadium, IUPUI, Indianapolis Class 1A Girls: Park Tudor Class 1A Boys: Park Tudor Class 2A Girls: Evansville Memorial Class 2A Boys: Brebeuf Jesuit Class 3A Girls: Noblesville Class 3A Boys: Noblesville |
| Oct. 29 | BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY LaVern Gibson Course, Terre Haute Girls Team: Noblesville Girls Indiv: Lily Cridge, Bishop Chatard Boys Team: Carmel Boys Indiv: Kole Mathison, Carmel |
| Nov. 5 | VOLLEYBALL Worthen Arena, Ball State Univ, Muncie Class 1A: FW Blackhawk Christian Class 2A: Wapahani Class 3A: Providence Class 4A: Hamilton Southeastern |
| Nov. 26-27 | FOOTBALL Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis Class A: Indianapolis Lutheran Class 2A: Evansville Mater Dei Class 3A: Indianapolis Bishop Chatard Class 4A: East Central Class 5A: Valparaiso Class 6A: Center Grove |

WINTER SPORTS

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Feb. 10-11 | GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING @ IU Natatorium, IUPUI, Indianapolis Team: Carmel |
| Feb. 17-18 | WRESTLING Gainbridge Fieldhouse, Indianapolis |
| Feb. 24-25 | BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING IU Natatorium, IUPUI, Indianapolis |
| Feb. 25 | GIRLS BASKETBALL Gainbridge Fieldhouse, Indianapolis |
| March 11 | GYMNASTICS Worthen Arena, Ball State University, Muncie |
| March 25 | BOYS BASKETBALL Gainbridge Fieldhouse, Indianapolis |
| SPRING SPORTS | |
| June 2 | BOYS TRACK & FIELD Robert C. Haugh Track & Field Complex, Indiana University, Bloomington |
| June 3 | UNIFIED TRACK & FIELD Robert C. Haugh Track & Field Complex, Indiana University, Bloomington |
| June 3 | GIRLS TRACK & FIELD Robert C. Haugh Track & Field Complex, Indiana University, Bloomington |
| June 2-3 | GIRLS TEAM TENNIS Center Grove HS, Greenwood |
| June 9-10 | GIRLS SINGLES & DOUBLES TBA |
| June 9-10 | SOFTBALL Bittinger Stadium, Purdue University, West Lafayette |
| June 13-14 | BOYS GOLF Prairie View Golf Club, Carmel |
| June 16-17 | BASEBALL Victory Field, Indianapolis |

FINAL WRESTLING POWER POLL INDIANAMAT.COM (1/27/23)

| | | |
|------|------------------------|-----|
| 1. | Crown Point | 186 |
| 2. | Brownsburg | 133 |
| 3. | Center Grove | 59 |
| 4. | Indianapolis Cathedral | 55 |
| 5. | Rochester | 53 |
| 6. | Avon | 43 |
| 7. | Evansville Mater Dei | 42 |
| 8. | Roncalli | 34 |
| 9. | Bloomington South | 32 |
| 10. | Warren Central | 31 |
| T11. | Western | 27 |
| T11. | Chesterton | 27 |
| T13. | Mishawaka | 26 |
| T13. | Fort Wayne Snider | 26 |
| 15. | Delta | 25 |
| T16. | Carmel | 23 |
| T16. | Kankakee Valley | 23 |
| T16. | Whiteland | 23 |
| T19. | Castle | 22 |
| T19. | LaPorte | 22 |



LAST STATE FINALS FOR LONG-TIME ANNOUNCER KEVIN WHITEHEAD

This weekend's 85th Annual IHSAA Wrestling State Finals at Gainbridge Fieldhouse will be the last event for long-time announcer Kevin Whitehead who has decided to retire.

The memorable voice you hear on the public address microphone has been part of this great tournament for 42 years.

The 1974 Franklin Central High School and 1977 Indiana State University graduate, who lives in Louisville, began working the IHSAA State Finals when the tournament first moved to Market Square Arena in 1981. He was responsible for keeping the team scoring that first year. The following



year, he introduced the finalists and the championship round and then became the full-time announcer in 1983.

During his time on the microphone, Whitehead has been witness to so many great individual performances, including calling matches for wrestlers who would go on to win NCAA titles and other national achievements. He's seen the participation numbers in the sport wildly increase and the list of four-time champions grow from four to 10!

In addition to this annual event, Whitehead served as announcer for 11 team state finals events from 1996-2006 and the 2019 Girls State Championship Tournament as well as many years calling the action at the New Castle and Evansville Semi-States.

In 2000, he announced the Big Ten Championships at Purdue University and was the assistant announcer for the 2003 Team USA Championships at the Expo Center in 2003.

During the 2023 state tournament,

Whitehead will surpass 10,000 matches announced for his career.

"When I first had the honor of taking the microphone for the championship round in 1982, I could never have imagined the journey that was about to begin," he said. "It has truly been the privilege of a lifetime to be associated not only with the IHSAA, but with the tournament, wrestlers, coaches, tournament workers, and fans for over four decades. My thanks to everyone who has been a part of this journey with me over these many years."

On behalf of the 407 member schools across the state of Indiana, the IHSAA would like express its thanks and gratitude to Kevin Whitehead for his more than four decades of dedicated service to Indiana high school athletics.