

IHSAA News Release



Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

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TICKETS

General admission tickets are \$10 per person and available to purchase at the Worthen Arena Ticket Office at Lower Level, Gate 1. Pre-school children admitted at no charge.

DOORS OPEN

Doors open to spectators at 11:30 am ET on Saturday, one hour prior to the Opening Ceremonies.

PARKING

Spectator parking is located just north of Worthen Arena. Please note that Ball State charges a \$5 all-day parking fee in the Worthen Arena lots. \$10 for vehicles that take up more than one parking space.



VIDEOSTREAM

Though unaffiliated with the IHSAA, JConnect will stream Saturday's action from Worthen Arena using the following link: <https://livestream.com/jconnect/2017gymnastics>

TWITTER

Follow us @IHSAA1 and use hashtag #IHSAA

THE 45TH ANNUAL IHSAA GYMNASTICS STATE FINALS

Saturday, March 11, 2017

Worthen Arena, Ball State University, Muncie

Opening Ceremonies, 12:30 pm ET

Competition, 1 pm ET

Six teams return from last year's field of state finalists along with two individual state champions, both from the same squad, as the 45th Annual IHSAA Gymnastics State Finals are contested Saturday at Worthen Arena on the campus of Ball State University in Muncie.

[Order of Competition](#) | [State Championship Records Book](#)

■ Defending Team Champion

Columbus North is the defending state champion after putting up a state record 114.850 points in this meet a year ago. The second-ranked Bull Dogs will be chasing their fourth gymnastics crown on Saturday and hope to go back-to-back again having won the crown in 1973 and 1974, the first two years of the state tournament.

■ Defending Individual State Champions

Columbus North teammates Claire Thompson and Ashley Holliday both return with state championship experience after helping last year's team win its third state title and first since 1974.

Thompson won the bars and beam competition last year propelling her to the all-around state championship, the third individual from her school to win that honor over the years. The junior captured the all-around crown at the Columbus East regional last Friday night and will defend each of those titles this weekend.

Holliday won the bars state title two years ago when the Bull Dogs finished third overall and followed with a ninth place finish in the event last year but still managed a fifth-place finish in the all-around. Thompson and Holliday were two of three Columbus North teammates to finish in the top five.

The pair finished 1-2 in the all-around at both the sectional and regional with Holliday winning the former and Thompson the latter.

■ Four schools have strung together multiple state finals appearances. Sixth-ranked Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger is making its record 18th consecutive appearance in the state finals and 22nd overall, the second-most in state history. Third-ranked Valparaiso, with a record 11 state championships, is making its 15th straight visit and state-leading 24th. Second-ranked Columbus North returns for the 11th year in a row and ninth-ranked Homestead is making its third straight appearance.

■ Sixty-one athletes representing 19 different schools have qualified for this weekend's event. Sectionals began two weeks ago with 76 schools and 540 participants.

NOTABLES

Former State Champions in Meet (2)

- Ashley Holliday, 12, Columbus North (2015 Bars).
- Claire Thompson (11) Columbus North (2016 All-Around, Bars, Beam).

Schools Represented (19)

Bloomington South, Carroll (Fort Wayne), Chesterton, Columbus East, Columbus North, DeKalb, Elkhart Central, Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger, Fort Wayne Concordia Lutheran, Franklin Central, Homestead, McCutcheon, Merrillville, Muncie Burris, New Castle, New Palestine, Seymour, Valparaiso, Wawasee.

Competing for Team Championship (9)

Bloomington South, Carroll (Fort Wayne), Chesterton, Columbus East, Columbus North, Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger, Homestead, Merrillville, Valparaiso.

Returning Teams from 2016 (6)

Chesterton, Columbus East, Columbus North, Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger, Homestead, Valparaiso.

Consecutive State Finals Appearances

18: Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger
15: Valparaiso
11: Columbus North
3: Homestead

Sectional Champions (6)

Chesterton, Columbus North, Elkhart Central, Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger, McCutcheon, New Palestine.

Regional Champions (3)

Columbus North, Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger, Valparaiso.

Sectional All-Around Champions

- Sophia Hunzelman (9) Chesterton
- Julie-Ann Stephany (9) Lafayette Jeff
- Analena Vanderzwagg (10) Elkhart Central
- Sophia Wrighturflinger (11) Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger
- Ashley Holliday (12) Columbus North
- Emily Heighway (12) New Palestine

Regional All-Around Champions

- Jenna Algozine (11) Valparaiso
- Elaine Cornewell (11) Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger
- Claire Thompson (11) Columbus North

VALPARAISO'S RIN SEIBERT NAMED OUTSTANDING GYMNASTICS OFFICIAL

Rin Curtis Seibert of Valparaiso is the recipient of the 2017 Interscholastic Athletic Official Award for excellence in the sport of gymnastics. Rin will be honored in a special ceremony at Saturday's state finals tournament.



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 of 11 sports during the school year. Each year, multiple individuals are nominated for the Outstanding Official of the

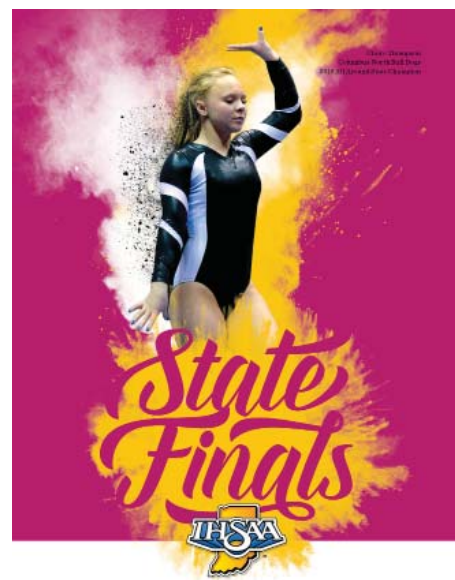
Year award. While many deserving nominees are submitted, only one is selected by his or her officiating peers in each sport.

Rin competed as a gymnast at Valparaiso University and began judging at that time as well. In her 36 years of licensure, she has worked 19 sectionals, 17 Regionals, and 12 State Finals, including today's State Championship meet.

Rin was selected for this honor by a committee representing the officials' associations. In Indiana there are 26 associations made up of men and women who give up much of their personal time to assist in providing wholesome, worthwhile, and healthy activities for the student athletes in our state. Statewide, there are more than 8,000 officials licensed by the IHSA in 11 sports.

INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASTICS FINAL COACHES POLL (2/23/17)

1. Chesterton (2)	30
2. Columbus North	27
3. Valparaiso	26
4. Columbus East	25
5. Bloomington South	21
T6. Crown Point	16
T6. Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger	16
T6. Michigan City	16
T9. Elkhart Central	15
T9. Homestead	15
11. Merrillville	13
12. Carroll (Fort Wayne)	8
13. Portage	6
14. Fort Wayne Concordia Lutheran	1
15. Wawasee	1



45th ANNUAL GYMNASTICS STATE FINALS
MARCH 11, 2017
BALL STATE UNIVERSITY'S WORTHEN ARENA-MUNCIE, IN

2016-17 IHSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

FALL SPORTS

Sept. 30-Oct. 1	GIRLS GOLF @ <i>Prairie View Golf Club, Carmel</i> Team: Evansville North Indiv: Holly Anderson, Columbus North
Oct. 14-15	BOYS TEAM TENNIS @ <i>North Central HS, Indianapolis</i> Team: Carmel
Oct. 21-22	BOYS SINGLES & DOUBLES @ <i>Park Tudor HS, Indianapolis</i> Singles: Patrick Fletchall, Carmel Doubles: Ethan McAndrews/Jay Natarajan, Carmel
Oct. 29	BOYS & GIRLS SOCCER @ <i>Carroll Stadium, IUPUI, Indianapolis</i> Class A Boys: Mishawaka Marian Class A Girls: Andrean Class 2A Boys: Evansville Memorial Class 2A Girls: Penn
Oct. 29	BOYS & GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY @ <i>LaVern Gibson Course, Terre Haute</i> Girls Team: Carmel Girls Indiv: Taylor Schwartz, DeKalb Boys Team: Carroll (Fort Wayne) Boys Indv: Curtis Eckstein, Oldenburg Acad
Nov. 5	VOLLEYBALL @ <i>Worthen Arena, Ball State Univ, Muncie</i> Class A: Fort Wayne Blackhawk Christ. Class 2A: Wapahani Class 3A: Yorktown Class 4A: Indianapolis Cathedral
Nov. 25-26	FOOTBALL @ <i>Lucas Oil Stadium, Indianapolis</i> Class A: Linton-Stockton Class 2A: Indianapolis Cardinal Ritter Class 3A: Fort Wayne Concordia Luth. Class 4A: Roncalli Class 5A: Westfield Class 6A: Carmel

WINTER SPORTS

Feb. 10-11	GIRLS SWIMMING & DIVING @ <i>IU Natatorium, IUPUI, Indianapolis</i> Team: Carmel
Feb. 17-18	WRESTLING @ <i>Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Indianapolis</i> Team: Brownsburg
Feb. 24-25	BOYS SWIMMING & DIVING @ <i>IU Natatorium, IUPUI, Indianapolis</i> Team: Carmel
Feb. 25	GIRLS BASKETBALL @ <i>Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Indianapolis</i> Class A: Wood Memorial Class 2A: Eastern (Pekin) Class 3A: South Bend St. Joseph Class 4A: Homestead
March 11	GYMNASTICS @ <i>Worthen Arena, Ball State University, Muncie</i>
March 25	BOYS BASKETBALL @ <i>Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Indianapolis</i>

SPRING SPORTS

June 2	BOYS TRACK & FIELD @ <i>Haugh Track & Field Complex, Indiana University, Bloomington</i>
June 3	GIRLS TRACK & FIELD @ <i>Haugh Track & Field Complex, Indiana University, Bloomington</i>
June 3	UNIFIED TRACK & FIELD @ <i>Haugh Track & Field Complex, Indiana University, Bloomington</i>
June 2-3	GIRLS TEAM TENNIS @ <i>North Central HS, Indianapolis</i>
June 9-10	GIRLS SINGLES & DOUBLES @ <i>Park Tudor HS, Indianapolis</i>
June 10	SOFTBALL @ <i>Ben Davis HS, Indianapolis</i>
June 13-14	BOYS GOLF @ <i>Prairie View Golf Club, Carmel</i>
June 16-17	BASEBALL <i>Victory Field, Indianapolis</i>



MEDIA INFORMATION

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR: Connie Walters
ASSISTANT TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR: Barbi Kern
TOURNAMENT ADMINISTRATOR: Sandra Walter, Assistant Commissioner

MEDIA HOST: IHSAA Sports Information Director Jason Wille will be on hand to assist you in your coverage of the event.

PARKING: Please note that Ball State charges a \$5 all-day parking fee in the Worthen Arena lots. \$10 for vehicles that take up more than one parking space.

MEDIA CREDENTIALS: **Media Credentials:** Deadline is Thursday, March 9, 2017, 4 pm ET. The 2016-17 IHSAA State Finals Media Credential issued previously this year is good for admission. For those news organizations without credentials and planning to cover the gymnastics state finals, please apply by e-mailing your request (with name of individual applying) to IHSAA Sports Information Director Jason Wille at jwille@ihsaa.org. E-mail requests MUST originate from a recognized business account; e-mails from personal accounts (ie: yahoo.com, aol.com, etc.) will not be accepted. 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 at the south end of the competition area.

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 "Champions Illustrated", 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.