

# Windell wins state gymnastics titles



**Windell**  
Comet staff report  
Delphi Community High School sophomore Shawneci Windell advanced to regional U.S. competition in level eight gymnastics after she won two titles at the state meet March 31 in Connersville. She is currently the only level eight member of the Twin Lakes Gymnastics team.

Windell won the state title in all-around competition with a combined score of 36.5 and also won the state bar title with a score of 9.0. This is the second year in a row Windell secured the titles. She also broke the previous Twin Lakes Gymnastics gym record on vault with a 9.425. She placed second on beam and sixth on floor with scores of 9.15 and 8.925 respectively. Windell will face gymnasts from Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan and Illinois as part of the Indiana state team April 29 at 1 p.m. in the Indianapolis Convention Center.



Photo 1

## Mock crash drives home message of drunk driving risks

By Kevin Schnepf  
Staff writer

Visual reminders of the effects of driving under the influence of alcohol can leave an indelible impression, especially on a young person. That was the hope of organizers of the Every 15 Minutes program presented to sophomores, juniors and seniors last week at Delphi Community High School.

The program, initiated in Los Angeles and now a part of schools nationwide, was presented by local students, parents, past participants and emergency service personnel.

The goal of the program is to vigorously demonstrate to students the effects of drunk driving on themselves, friends, family and even strangers.

A student was summoned from a class every 15 minutes as part of the program to demonstrate the frequency of alcohol-related traffic deaths in America. When students left the classrooms, their obituaries, prepared by their parents, were then read out loud to the class by a police officer as a reminder of the tragic truth of the ordeal.

A significant component of the program was student participation in a mock crash scene in the school parking lot.

Students solemnly looked on as classmates involved in the crash were assisted by emergency personnel (see photos 1 and 2).

As is true with approximately 25,000 people each year, some "victims" did not survive. This was represented by the "grim reaper" standing near a student in one of the vehicles who "died" at the scene (photo 3).

Wearing goggles that simulated the lack of coordination experienced by those under the influence of alcohol, the "drunk driver" was placed in custody (photo 4) by police.

The morning after the mock crash, students assembled for a video presentation of the events they witnessed, filmed on-site by a professional video company and edited overnight.

Students also gathered in the Little Theatre to pay last respects to students who died in the crash. They laid flowers on caskets donated by Reinke and Abbott funeral homes.

Students and parents involved in the mock crash met later that night at Camp Tecumseh. There, they wrote letters to each other, stating things they would have said to each other had they known their time together would be cut short.

Coordinator Steve Mullin of Carroll County Sheriff's Office said the program did not stop with the crash, rescue and arrest. A chaplain and officer visited the "deceased" students' homes to inform their parents of their deaths.

He said even though parents are involved in the process, including giving permission for their child to participate, the effect is still powerful.

Mullin said the event leaves a lasting impression on everyone involved. He said participants go through four months of preparation including classes and counseling.

"It is a unique program that sends a strong message to students and their families," Mullin said.

Photos by Lori Welk, PPA Certified, M. Photog



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4

## Behind Bender's strong pitching, Oracles defeat Cougars 8-1

The Delphi Community High School baseball season began last week with the Oracles winning two of four games, including a win over Carroll Monday night.

They opened the season against the Class 2A third ranked Lewis Cass. The Oracles jumped out to the early lead and were up 6-0 at the end of the fifth inning. The Kings scored four runs in the sixth and added a five-run seventh inning to earn the win. Final score was 9-6.

**Vs. Carroll**  
Kyle Bender took the loss for the Oracles on the mound. Mike Myers and Kory Banes led the Oracle bats. Myers had three hits and Banes, two.

The Oracles played in the cold at Frontier High School, losing a close 6-4 contest to the 1A No. 1-ranked Falcons.

Andrew Cebulla picked up the loss on the mound. Cebulla gave

up just six hits and had nine strike outs. He only gave up two earned runs. Cebulla also had a solo homerun at the plate.

On Friday the Oracles traveled to Clinton Prairie where Dustin Oliver took the mound for his first varsity start. Oliver threw a complete game, allowing only one run on three hits. Andrew Flora led the offense, going 3-4 with two runs scored. Coy Pennington also had two hits for the Oracles in the 6-1 win.

**Vs. Carroll**  
Monday, Delphi baseball squad left Carroll with an 8-1 victory. Oracle pitcher Kyle Bender allowed just six hits and no earned runs while striking out 11 Cougar hitters.

The Oracles got on the board first in the top of the third inning when Matt Lewis singled to left.

Andrew Flora sacrificed him to second. Kory Banes then had a

single to right and the ball ended up in the middle of the field. Banes ran for second because no one was covering the bag and Lewis scampered home. Myers followed with a single, followed by Andrew Cebulla with another single. Coy Pennington hit a double down the right field line to score Myers and Cebulla.

In the fourth, the Oracles kept the pressure on. Braden Atwood reached on an error and was moved to third by Gerran Wilson's at bat. Atwood scored on another fielding miscue by the Cougars on Lewis's at bat. Lewis stole second and scored on Banes' double to the gap. In the fifth inning the Oracles were not done. Cebulla had a single and advanced to second on a wild pitch. Pennington walked to start the inning. The Oracles attempted a double steal and Beamer was cut down at the

plate by a good Cougar defensive play. However Dustin Oliver picked the Oracles up with a single to score Coy Pennington. He then stole second and scored on Wilson's single.

In the seventh Pennington reached on an error. Justin Snider laid down a bunt single to move Pennington to third. He scored on another Cougar error off the bat of Paul Zink. The Cougars had a chance in the seventh to put some runs on the board when Benson hit a double with one out. A walk to Carroll's Chandler Keown with two outs put two runners on. On a passed ball both runners advanced and Bender struck out the last Cougar.

The Oracle offense ended the day with 12 hits. Eight Cougar fielding errors had the Oracles on base all evening.

## Lady Oracles win two in extra innings

By John Dunn  
Contributing sportswriter

After not being able to compete with Mother Nature, which forced the cancellation of this season's first five of seven regularly scheduled games, the Delphi girls' softball team finally made their debut with two impressive come-from-behind extra-inning wins over Tri-County (4-3 in 8 innings) and Carroll (2-1 in 10 innings).

Sandwiched between those two thrillers was a rare Friday night double-header against Hoosier Conference favorite Benton Central, moved up a day due to anticipated weather conditions on Saturday. The Bison defeated the Lady Oracles by scores of 10-0 and 14-5.

In Monday night's game against Carroll played at Delphi, timely-hitting and base-running proved to be crucial factors in a well pitched game by both team's as Oracle pitchers Amanda Schultz and Brittney

pinch-runner Wallace, who then stole second on the first pitch to the next batter Tyner, and then ran all the way home for the winning-run after an errant throw to second base.

Schultz added a double in the game for Delphi, with Barnard, Tyner and Kayla Yates accounting for the other Oracle hits. Krystal Brazel had the only other hit for Carroll.

The Oracles (2-2) will host Pioneer on Wednesday at 4:30 pm, before traveling to Clinton Central for a make-up game on Thursday, starting at 5 p.m. Delphi will then travel to Rensselaer for a Saturday morning double-header beginning at 9, then play at Carroll on the back-half of the home-and-home series on Monday night at 4:30.

The Cougars (1-2) continue a busy stretch in their schedule, hosting Tri-County Tuesday night (too late for print) before traveling to Tri-Central on Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. Carroll then plays at Taylor on Thursday at 4:30, and at Peru on Friday at 5 before returning home to host Delphi on Monday and Central Catholic on Tuesday at 4:45 p.m.

**Vs. Tri-County**  
In the season-opener played last Tuesday in Delphi, the Oracles were again forced to work overtime for another come-from-behind, extra-inning affair against Tri-County, avenging last season's 3-2 loss with a 4-3 8-inning victory.

After the Cavaliers put a run on the board in the top-of-the-1st inning, Delphi came back with two runs in the bottom-half of the inning on consecutive 2-out singles from Emily Kayser, Leslie Kayser, Barnard and Schultz.

Tri-County then scored a run in each of the next two innings to take a 3-2 lead that would hold until the Oracles tied it in the bottom-of-the-5th when Yates drew a one-out walk and advanced to third on another Emily Kayser single. Yates then scored the game-tying run on a wild pitch.

Still tied in the bottom of the 8th and following a lead-off walk to L. Kayser, Delphi again reached into the gift bag on a Barnard bunt that forced another errant throw by the catcher, scoring the speedster courtesy-runner Wallace (running for the catcher Kayser) with the game-winner.

Barnard and Schultz led the Oracle offense with two hits and an RBI apiece, while Stauffer and the Kayseres each added two hits. Yates had the other single to balance out the offensive barrage.

Atwood was also strong on the mound in her season debut, pitching a complete game, allowing only three hits and striking out nine. She also gave up only one earned run.

**Vs. Benton Central**  
On Friday night, a talented and veteran Benton Central team (6-1) visited the Oracles for Hoosier Conference opening twin-billing and handed Delphi its first two losses of the season.

Bison pitcher Emily Butler was the story of game one, throwing a one-hitter and striking out seven in the five-inning contest, shortened via the 10-run rule.

Atwood collected the lone Oracle hit with a single in the 2nd inning.

Butler returned to the mound for the second game, played at Riley Park in order to have lights for the nightcap.

This time, Delphi was able to complete a bit better, rallying to close the margin to 6-5 in the 6th inning before Benton Central sent 12 batters to the plate in the bottom-half of the inning, scoring 8 times to put the game out of reach.

The Oracles were able to have some success at the plate, finishing with seven hits — led by L. Kayser with two. Yates, Stauffer, Barnard and Atwood all had singles, while Schultz hit the first triple of the season, leading off the three-run 5th inning rally. Hawn posted the lone RBI for Delphi on a sacrifice bunt during the two-run 6th inning.



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Atwood combined to only allow four Cougar hits, while striking out seven and walking none.

Equally effective was Carroll pitcher Leann Cossairt, who scattered only five Oracle hits, striking out four.

Carroll scored the game's first run in the top-of-the-4th inning as Cossairt led-off with a single and was sacrificed to second base on a bunt by Brooke Yoder.

Following an Oracle error that allowed Kollette Gillam to reach first base safely and an infield pop-up for an out, Ashley Miller came through with an RBI single to right-center, scoring Cossairt from third.

Atwood would allow only one more Cougar hit the rest of the way, a lead-off single by Yoder in the top-of-the-9th inning.

Delphi rallied to tie the game in the bottom-of-the-7th inning as Brienne Stauffer led-off with a walk, and was sacrificed to second on a bunt by Kristina Barnard as Coach Randy German implemented a "small-ball" strategy against a fierce wind blowing-in from left-center.

Stauffer advanced to 3rd base on another bunt by Atwood, who was safe at first. Following an infield pop-up for the second out, Brittney Tyner came through with a clutch two-out line-drive single into left-center, scoring Stauffer to tie the game and send it into extra innings.

Aspen Wallace, a courtesy runner for the pitcher Atwood, was thrown out at the plate on the play on a nice throw from Miller in left-center to end the inning trying to score what would have been the game-winning run.

Carroll loaded the bases with no outs in the 9th inning, but was unable to score as two straight infield grounders were converted into force outs at home, before a grounder to shortstop ended the rally.

The Oracles were able to literally steal the game in the bottom-of-the-10th inning when Erika Hawn led-off with a walk, and was lifted for the fleet-footed