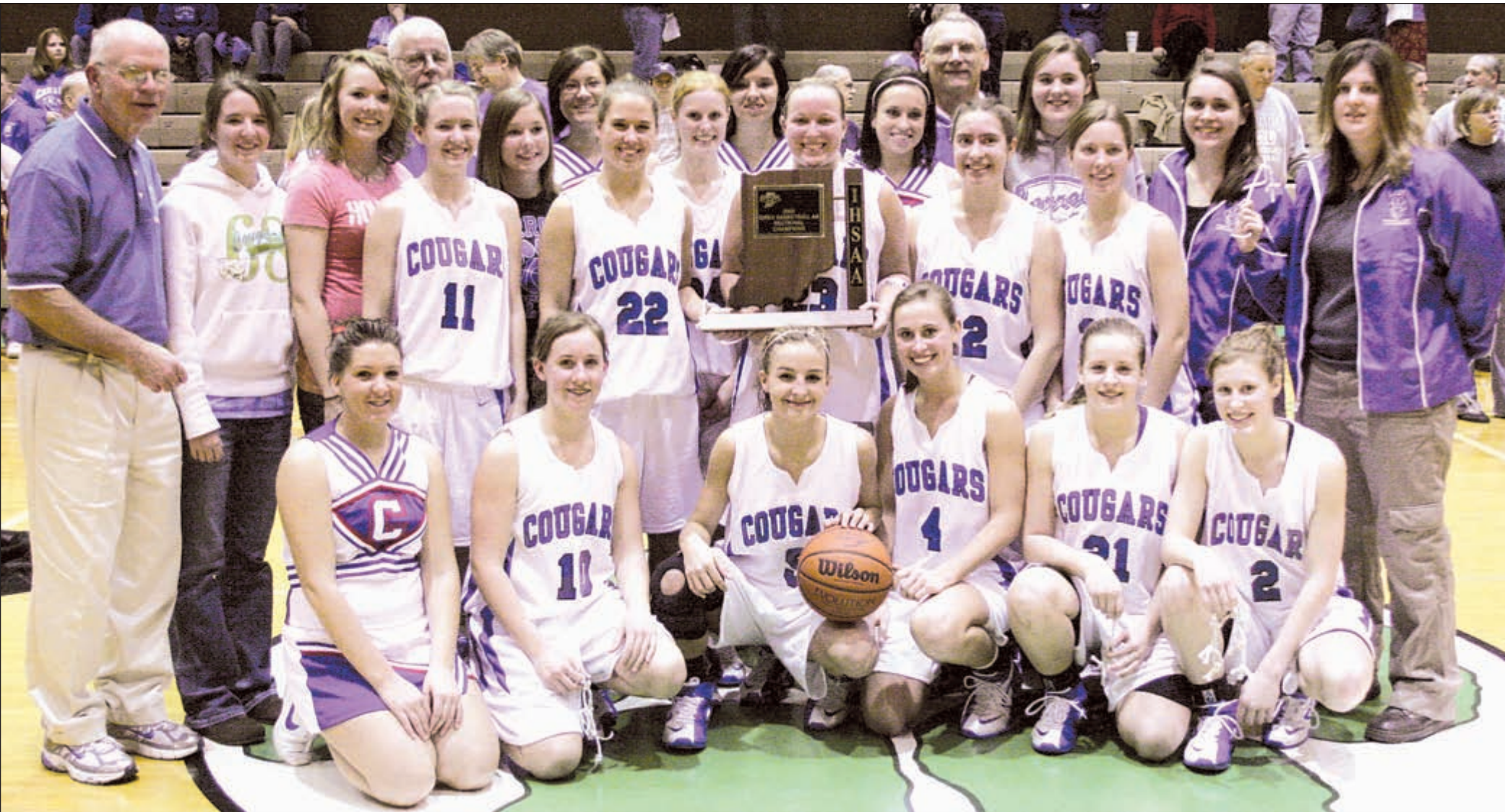


# Carroll girls win sectional



## Sectional champs

Carroll girls' varsity basketball team are seen after Saturday's Sectional championship. Pictured are, left to right: Front row - Lauren Bosley (cheerleader), Abby Reinke, Brooke Yoder, Morgan Yoder, Quinci Eller, Jessica Yoder. Middle Row - Assistant Coach Wayne Esserman, manager Malena Zook, Cayla Macaluso, Lucy Zook, Alyssa Hudspeth, Jaime McCarter, Carly Yoder, Krystal Brazel, Cally Ayres (cheerleader), Sarah Griffin, Amber Hughes, Maria Lewis, Assistant Coach Katie Seward. Back Row - Assistant Coach Jack Malson, Brooke Bosley and Katie Pearson (cheerleaders), Coach Mike McCroskey, and manager Susanna Taylor. Bill Stauffer photo

By Jim McCarter  
Contributing sportswriter

As the Carroll Lady Cougars were cutting down the nets following their 64-58 victory over Fountain Central in the Class 2A Clinton Central Sectional cham-

pionship game Saturday night, first-year Carroll coach Mike McCroskey spoke about his belief in his team from the day he took the job. "The day I interviewed for the Carroll job I believed these girls could win this sectional," Mc-

Croskey said. "I had only seen Carroll play once last year when I saw their game with Maconaquah. We were there to scout Maconaquah, but Carroll's team caught my eye. I told Jack (Malson, McCroskey's long-time assistant) they were an in-

teresting team with some good players that was only a player or two away from being pretty good." McCroskey hopes Saturday's victory is just the first step in returning a once proud program that won seven sectional titles from 1986-1998 to its former lofty status.

"We have come so far from where we were last summer," McCroskey said following his 15th sectional title as a girls' basketball coach. "I give all the credit to these kids. They have worked so hard. There never was a time this season when I didn't think we could get to this point. Fifteen minutes after (Saturday) morning's walk through we had to kick them out of the gym. They wanted to stay and practice longer. "Carroll girls basketball has been down for a while, but

**Class 2A  
Cass Regional**  
Game 1 - Oak Hill (23-0) vs. Carroll (13-9). 10 a.m.  
Game 2 - North Miami (18-4) vs. Fort Wayne Bishop Luers (15-7). 12 p.m.  
Championship - Winner of Game 1 vs. Winner of Game 2. 8 p.m.

we're going to do our best to reestablish that former dominance." **Vs. Fountain Central** "In the locker room before the game Wayne (Esserman, varsity assistant coach) pulled a piece of the 1998 sectional net out of his pocket and passed it around for every girl to touch," McCroskey said. "From day one we've been telling them their goal should be to get their name on the [Carroll

gym] wall as a sectional champion. Once you get there, you're there forever. Wayne has been telling them all year to 'Build a Memory' and they did that tonight."

Morgan Yoder chose a great night to play her best game of the season. Fountain Central scored first on a put-back lay up by 6-foot post player Kelsey Everett, then M. Yoder went to work, scoring six points in the first 2:39 of the game. Abby Reinke added a pair of free throws to put Carroll on top early, 8-2.

Three-pointers by Quinci Eller and Krystal Brazel, and two more free tosses by Jess Yoder and the Lady Cougars looked poised to win their first sectional title in 10 years in a blowout, leading 16-5 with 2:59

Continued page 3B

## Alderman wins semistate wrestling title



### Remains undefeated

Delphi senior Donovan Alderman (gold) protected his undefeated record with a 4-3 decision over Mishawaka's Adam Guerra (maroon) at the team semistate last Wednesday in Rochester. Entering the third period, they were tied 2-2 and Alderman pulled off the win with a takedown. On Saturday Alderman kept his record perfect in the individual semistate at Merrillville and won the 119-pound weight class championship. He will compete in the state wrestling finals Friday. Portraits by Lori photo



### Bound for state

Braden Atwood's (gold) last second pin (5:53) over Mishawaka's Tim Forte (maroon) earned him the win in the 160-pound weight class at the Rochester Team Semistate last Wednesday. Atwood and his teammate Donovan Alderman had Delphi's only wins against the Cavemen. Atwood, a sophomore, competed in the individual semistate Saturday at Merrillville, claiming fourth place. He will compete Friday in the state wrestling finals. Portraits by Lori photo

### Comet staff report

Two members of the Delphi wrestling team will be competing in the state tournament to be held Friday and Saturday at Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis.

At Saturday's semi-state at Merrillville, Donovan Alderman kept his perfect record in tact by defeating all three of his opponents to claim champion honors. Alderman's record is now 47-0. He won all of his matches on points. In his first match, he defeated a Chesterton opponent 11-2, and in round two, a tough Merrillville wrestler 12-3. The last round was a rematch with a Mishawaka wrestler who he defeated 10-4 for the championship in the 119 pound weight class.

"This was the Oracle senior's best tournament yet," said Coach Mike Atwood. Also placing and advancing to the state tour-

namment was sophomore, 160-pound Braden Atwood. In round one Atwood pinned his Hobart opponent in 0:33. He lost round two to a strong Crown Point wrestler, 2-6. In the consolation round Atwood lost another close contest 2-3. His season record is now 47-3.

Atwood and Alderman will both wrestle Friday evening. Alderman's opponent will be Tyler Clark (27-6) from South Dearborn. Atwood will take on Tanner Wedding (41-3) from Evansville Memorial.

Delphi also had three other wrestlers compete at semistate. They were: sophomore 103-pound Randy McIlrath, who lost to a strong Penn wrestler by a fall in 1:55; freshman Aaron Back at 125, who lost a close contest to a LaVille wrestler 5-7; and junior Bob Floyd, who lost an exciting close match to a Hanover Central

Continued page 3B

## Richardson and Burton break 500 free records

Saturday at the Attica, Carroll and Delphi boys' swim meet, Carroll's Brock Richardson and Delphi's Andrew Burton both set school records in the 500 freestyle.

Burton's time of 5:04.99 replaces Tim Miller's record set in 1989. Richardson's time was 5:23.73, breaking his own record.

Delphi won nine events, led by triple winners Matt Keen and Burton, double winners Jared Kelley, Alex Price, Jeremy Sterrett and Clint McLeland while Brent Kremer, Andrew Hall, Zakk Hackerd and Andy Flora each won one each.

Carroll's Corey Johnson won the 50 and 100 freestyles

while Richardson won the 200 freestyle.

Both county schools will compete at the West Lafayette Swim Sectional Thursday, Delphi's Kyle Price is the first seed in the 100 backstroke and Burton is the number 1 seed in the 50 and 100 freestyles.

## DCMS wrestler is state champion

Two Delphi Middle School wrestlers competed over the weekend in the Indiana High School Coaches Association Middle School State Tournament held in New Castle.

Tanner Lynde wrestled 132 and had 30 wrestlers in his weight class. Lynde went 5-0 on the day to become the 132 champion. He won three rounds by pins, one by a tech fall, and in the final match by a 4-1 decision.

As champion, Lynde will represent Indiana on the Middle School Duals team in March in Danville, Ill.

His teammate Stephen Back wrestled at 110 pounds and had 60 wrestlers in his weight class. Back wrestled five times, winning three rounds and losing two. He was one round from placing in the top eight.

## Home court doesn't help Cougars

By Greg Hoffman  
Contributing sportswriter

The 2A top-ranked Tipton Blue Devils (16-1) and the Carroll Cougars (6-10) faced

off for the first time in regular season play last Thursday night at CHS. The visitors came away with the 55-41 win.

The contest marked the second time this season that Carroll found itself going up against a top ranked team, right after they suffered their first loss of the season. Tipton fell to Northwestern (16-1) Tuesday night. And Northwestern, ranked No. 1 in Class 3A, lost to North Miami three days before facing Carroll on Jan. 25.

Tipton took an early 8-0 lead and never trailed. Turnovers again plagued the Cougars early. A Jacob Craig trey with 5:24 left in the quarter gave Carroll its first points. The Cougars fell behind by 11, but by the end of the first quarter had closed the gap to 8 at 19-11. Carroll had 9 miscues in the quarter and only four field goal attempts. They were 3 of 4 from the field.

In the second quarter, Carroll cut down on turnovers, but

could not find the basket, hitting on 1 of 14 attempts. As a result, they were outscored 17 to 7 in the quarter and down 18 points, 36-18 at half-time.

Continued page 2B



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