

Colts to recognize Carroll senior as 'All-Star' student-athlete

Comet staff report

Carroll senior Carson Spesard is one of 24 high school student-athletes who will be honored Sunday by the Indianapolis Colts as Indiana High School Academic All-Stars. They will meet in the morning with Colts President Bill Polian and be guests at the Colts-Detroit Lions game (kickoff at 1 p.m.).

The Colts, the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and the Indiana Football Coaches Association (IFCA) have worked together for the past 10 years to present this annual award to the top student-athletes at each position.

This year, the IFCA polled high school head coaches around the state, and the coaches tabbed approxi-

mately 90 players who ranked in the top five percent of their respective classes. The IFCA selection committee narrowed the list to 24 winners. Eighteen of the 24 honorees are either class valedictorian (14) or salutatorian (four). All of the 10 high school regions throughout the state have an award-winner, and each of the state's five classes is represented on the all-star team.

Spesard had not played football since junior high when he decided this year he wanted to play. He said he was tired of watching the game and his friends from the stands.

"And I thought it would be a good experience," he added.

"Carson excelled on the field for us this year," said his coach and nominator, Steve

Keown. "Carson had 400 yards receiving and 54-55 tackles. We're really proud of him. He puts academics first and then works hard to achieve on the athletic field, too. He's an outstanding student-athlete."

Spesard is currently ranked number one in his class at Carroll.

"Carson is a very gifted and talented three sport athlete," commented Carroll Athletic Director Shaun Rose. "His ability to perform at such a high level athletically and remain at the top of his class with a 4.163 GPA is remarkable. His academic and athletic success speaks volume of his work ethic and character."

Spesard and the 23 other



Spesard

student-athletes will be presented during Sunday's game. They will each receive a 2008 Indiana High School Academic All-Stars award.

"On behalf of Jim Irsay and the Irsay family, and with deep appreciation for the

IHSAA and IFCA, the Colts are pleased to honor 24 outstanding football players who represent their families and schools in an outstanding manner," said Polian. "The dedication it takes to be an excellent achiever in the classroom and on the playing field is something that goes unnoticed too often," said Polian. "This award honors those young men who carry themselves with dignity, integrity and a sense of pur-

pose. They, like many other students, possess the values cherished in young adults. We are pleased to identify these individuals, and it will be an honor to recognize them on our playing field this Sunday."


Spesard was selected on the offense at the wide receiver position. He is the second Carroll player to earn the honor; the first was Eric Barnard.

Spesard said he was given four tickets for Sunday's game and will be accompanied by his parents, Lonnie and Jennifer Spesard, and brother, Aaron.

His future plans are undecided. He has been accepted at both Purdue and Butler universities.

"I just have to make a decision," he said.

If he chooses Purdue, he will study engineering, and if he chooses Butler, he will study business.



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Young Delphi driver has a future in racing

By Jennifer Archibald Staff writer

At 11 years old, Kolt Kinsler of Delphi has a need for speed.

It earned him three trophies at the recent Miami County Speedway awards banquet.

He won the points championship in junior sprint and came in third place in the 600 restrictor modified midget.

Kolt was the youngest driver this season in the 600 sprint. Most of his other competitors were teenagers.

At Peru, Kolt is the first person to ever race the junior and the 600 the same night. He raced both cars in every points race (over 90 laps per night), moving back and forth from the bigger car to the smaller car. In all the points races, with both cars, he didn't have one DNF (did not finish). For this accomplishment, he received a special award, the Double Play Golden Cup.

This season, at Peru, Kolt won 12 feature races, 18 heat races and 15 trophy dashes.

He started racing junior sprints in 2007, finishing a close second in the points championship. Now, since he's won the first place trophy in junior sprints, he said his goal is to win the championship in the restrictor class.

His parents, Tony and Renee Kinsler, said Kolt started riding a dirt bike at age two.

"He could ride it, but he couldn't stop it, so we had to stop him," Renee said.

He started racing at age four - dirt

bike hill climbing. He won the Indiana State District 15 Hill Climb championship in 2005.

Kolt also took up motocross racing and continued that even into 2008.

He has won several races in hill climbing and motocross. He competed in hill climbing at Cayuga, Goshen, and Nashville. His motocross racing has been at Wildcat Creek MX in Rossville.

In his race cars, he has competed mostly at Peru, but also at Camden Speedway and at US 24 Speedway at Lake Cicott.

Kolt has flipped his car twice while racing - once last year and once this year - but wasn't hurt.

"Both times he was able to continue," Tony said. "Last year he flipped once, we turned him over, and he still won the race."

Racing is a family commitment of time and money. The season is April through September, and Kolt races every weekend. For a typical Saturday night race at Peru, Tony said he and Kolt leave home about 2 p.m. on Saturday and don't return until around 11:30 p.m. or midnight. Kolt's mother, Renee, and his younger brothers, Kaleb and Kooper, come separately. They

bring the food and provide the Kolt cheering section.

Tony said this season he spent Saturday mornings cleaning and checking the cars, and he worked on them all summer. He said soon he'll be involving Kolt in the car mechanics.

Owning and maintaining the cars is expensive so the Kinslers said they appreciate their sponsors: Kinsler Car Clinic, Morrow Shoe Shop, Carroll Drywall, Abbott Funeral Home, Cleaver Family Farms, Baldwin Automotive (NAPA), Atlas Excavating, Wildcat Creek MX, Landrum Springs, Den-Mar Wings, and Bailey Chassis. Tony said other big supporters are Rick and Lucille (Grandma) Reed, Herbi and Harold Johnson, and Jason Myers.

Racing is a tradition in the Kinsler family. Both Tony and his father, the late Steve Kinsler, raced modified midgets in the 1990s. Kolt's brother, Kaleb, age nine, will start racing junior sprint next year, and the family is anticipating that Kooper, age 4, will start racing in two to three years.

Kolt says the things he likes best about racing are: "it's fun, going fast, winning, and hanging out with my friends." His favorite race car drivers are Tony Stewart and Dale Earnhardt Jr.

He's in sixth grade this year at Delphi Community Middle School. He gets good grades, and he says his favorite subject is math.

Next year he plans to just race the bigger car, with his eye on the championship.



Already a champion

Kolt Kinsler is pictured with the two cars he raced this year - junior sprint and 600 restrictor modified midget. He won the points championship in the smaller car, and placed third in the 600 sprint. He raced both cars every Saturday night at the Miami County Speedway in Peru. Comet photo by Jennifer Archibald

Lady Oracles earn split

By Todd Swank Contributing sportswriter

The Lady Oracles defeated Clinton Prairie 48-36 Saturday after having lost to Twin Lakes 47-34 earlier in the week.

Delphi held a 3-2 lead early in the game against Twin Lakes. The Indians took the lead during an eight-point run and never trailed again. Falling behind early is be-

coming a familiar pattern for the Oracles this season. After one period they were down 18-9.

Whitney Arion hit a three to open the second, but a three by TL's Katie Reiff pushed the margin back up to nine. Good defense caused three consecutive turnovers by TL that led to a six-point Oracle run by Arion, Jordayn Jargstorf and Chanler Norman. Delphi couldn't sustain

the momentum though as the Indians reeled off eight points to regain a double digit lead. Danni Burge hit a basket at the buzzer to make the score 31-24 at the half.

Delphi came out of the locker room with some determination. Jargstorf and Kari Lake each scored and the Oracles were within a long basket at 31-28. Once again the Indians prevented the Oracles from coming all the way back

when they went up by eight at 36-28. TL headed into the final period leading 39-33

TL opened the fourth quarter with three turnovers, but the Oracles couldn't take ad-

vantage, missing easy shots and committing unforced er-

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Oracle wrestlers win Winamac Super Six

Delphi's varsity wrestling team easily defeated county rival Carroll 65-12 in a meet last week. Winning for the Oracles were Raul Flores, Randy McIlrath, Stephen Back, Cory Smith, Tanner Lynde, Aaron Back, Dayton Rummell, Brandon Delaney, Braden Atwood, Daniel Clawson, Travis Yoakum, and Wes Everett.

On Saturday the team weathered a storm at Winamac competing in the Winamac

Super Six. The Oracles came out on top to raise their dual meet record to 7-4. In round one the Oracles defeated Mississinewa 78-1. In round two the Oracles beat a much improved West Central team 70-6. In the third round the Oracles dominated Culver Academies 69-6. In the fourth round the Oracles beat Caston 75-6 and in the final round beat host Winamac 43-34.

Champions for the day were 112 - Randy McIlrath, 119 -

Stephen Back, 130 - Nathan McTigue, 135 - Cory Smith, 140 - Tanner Lynde, 145 - Aaron Back, 171 - Braden Atwood, 215 - Travis Yoakum, and 285 - Wes Everett. Going 4-1 on the day were 125 - Cody Alderman, 160 - Brandon Delaney, and 189 - Daniel Clawson. At 152 Dayton Rummell finished 3-2 and at 103 freshman newcomer Raul Flores went 2-3.

Atwood and Everett remain undefeated at 11-0 with all pins.

Lady Cougars beat Grophers thriller in OT

By Patrick Hickner Contributing sportswriter

Clinton Prairie's Lady Gophers came to Memorial Gym in Flora last week. They brought with them some height and aggressive defense. They left with an overtime loss to the Lady Cougars 40-36.

The first quarter opened with aggressive defense by both teams. The result was poor shooting by both squads and a 5-2 Gopher lead at the quarter break. Between the first and second quarter the maintenance department removed the lids on both baskets allowing more shots to go through the rim and points being scored. Carroll used good rebounding and some hustle up and down the floor to fight their way into this game.

The Lady Cougars were able to build a 17-12 lead midway through the 2nd quarter. The tandem of Jess Yoder and Quincie Eller kept Carroll close. But Clinton Prairie used a flurry of bas-

kets in the last 1:50 to take a halftime lead of 20-19.

The Gophers were able to extend their lead in the third quarter to 29-25. The Cougar press resulted in Gopher turnovers, but Carroll struggled to capitalize on the opportunities. Carroll closed to 27-25 on a 3-pointer by Abby Reinke. The Gophers countered with a basket at the buzzer to claim a 29-25 3rd quarter lead. Clinton Prairie opened the 4th quarter with a basket after a very patient offensive set and led 31-25. The Lady Cougars struggled to score in the first half of the quarter. Their troubles were compounded when Yoder picked up her fourth foul with 4:45 to play. The Gopher lead went to 33-25 on two front-ends of one-and-one free throws.

Then the tide swung the way of the Lady Cougars. With 1:18 left on the clock Yoder was fouled during a 3-point attempt. She converted 2 of 3 free-throws and things started clicking for the Cougars. Yoder fouled out

with 1:14 to play. Kate Hickner replaced Yoder and immediately scored to bring Carroll within 4 at 33-29. Carly Yoder was inserted into the line-up. A foul was called against Carroll and the Gophers made one of two free throws to lead 34-29. Carroll in bounded to Eller who passed to Reinke and she drained a 3-pointer. Carroll was breathing again, down 34-32 with 0:40 on the clock. After a time-out by Carroll, Clinton Prairie turned the ball over. Carly Yoder found Reinke for a lay-up and the game was tied at 34-34. The Gophers got a nice 14 foot shot that would not go and regulation time expired.

The overtime belonged to the Cougars. They outscored the visitors 6-2 in the 4-minute extra period. Prairie started the scoring with a 2-point basket after winning the tip-off and led 36-34. Reinke was able to score and tie the game at 36. Eller was fouled away from the ball and made 1 of 2 free throws for a 37-36

See Lady Cougars page 2B

DCHS swimmers sweep Pioneer, Central Catholic

Delphi Community High School girls swim team defeated both Pioneer, 101-70, and Central Catholic, 116-63. The boys also recorded double victories defeating Pioneer 100-57 and Central Catholic 124-51.

Against Pioneer, Andrew Burton set a school record in the 100 butterfly with a time of :54.62. Other first place winners for DCHS were the medley relay team of Austin Goodman, Andy Flora, Jared Kelly and Andrew Burton; Sterrett, 200 IM; Kelley, 50 freestyle; Kyle Price, 500 freestyle; 200 freestyle relay team of Burton, Goodman, Brent Kremer and Kelley; Flora, 100 breaststroke; and 400 freestyle relay team of Sterrett, Andrew Martin, Kel-

ley and K. Price.

First place finishes for the girls against Pioneer went to the medley relay team of Payton Windell, Jordan Hudelson, Grace Currie and Annie Mose; Taylor Thompson, 200 freestyle; Brianna Walters, 100 butterfly; Erika Matricia, 100 freestyle; Monica Hutsell, 500 freestyle; and the 400 freestyle relay team of Matricia, Hutsell, Abbey Mose and Annie Mose.

Against Central Catholic, first for the girls went to the medley relay team of Windell, Megan Tenwinkel, Currie and Emily Layman; An. Mose, 200 freestyle; Haley Richardson, diving; Brianna Walters, butterfly; Hutsell, 100 freestyle; Thompson, 500 freestyle; 200

freestyle relay team of Layman, Hudelson, Ab. Mose and Matricia; Hutsell, 100 backstroke; and the 400 freestyle relay team of Matricia, Hutsell, Hudelson and An. Mose.

Delphi boys recorded the following first place finishes against Central Catholic: 200 medley relay team of Kyle Price, Flora, Sterrett; Burton 200 freestyle; Sterrett 200 IM; Kyle Price 50 freestyle; Flora diving; Kelley 100 freestyle; 200 freestyle relay team of Sterrett, Clint McLeland, Kyle Price and Burton; Alex Price 100 backstroke; McLeland 100 breaststroke; and the 400 freestyle relay team of Burton, Kremer, Sterrett, Kyle Price.