



'We're No. 1!'

Catholic high school teams earn three state championships

Criterion staff report

The memories and friendships from playing high school sports can last a lifetime.

So can the pride and the joy of being part of a team that wins a state championship.

This fall, three teams from Catholic high schools in the archdiocese savored the experiences and the emotions that come with winning an Indiana State High School Athletic Association championship.

On Nov. 8, the girls' volleyball team of Cathedral High

School in Indianapolis earned the 4A state championship with a victory over Muncie Central High School.

On Nov. 28, Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School in Indianapolis defeated Sheridan High School 34-27 in the 1A state championship football game.

On Nov. 29, Cathedral's football team beat the squad from Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne 10-7 in the 4A state championship game.

As this photo essay tribute to the three winning teams shows, pure joy marks the face of a champion.

The Criterion congratulates the championship teams and

their fans. We also salute all the high school athletes and coaches in the archdiocese who have left their mark on their schools, their fans and each other through their hard work, dedication and sacrifice.

(Editor's note: Photos for the Cathedral volleyball and football teams were submitted by the high school. Action photographs of Cardinal Ritter's state championship game were provided by Bob Kelly, editor of The Sports Chronicle. See more of his photos at www.sportschronicle.net.) †

Cardinal Ritter Jr./Sr. High School Football



From left, Cardinal Ritter players Jonathon Paquette, Blake Steinacker and Glen Lee celebrate their team's dramatic victory.



Cardinal Ritter's sideline and crowd explode with joy during the team's 34-27 win.



Nothing tastes better for Cardinal Ritter's players than finishing the season No. 1.

Cathedral High School Football



Cathedral Irish head football coach Rick Streiff smiles following a shower from his players after the team's victory.



Cathedral's defense rose to the occasion during the team's 10-7 win.



Cathedral running back Nick Najem bursts into the end zone for a touchdown.

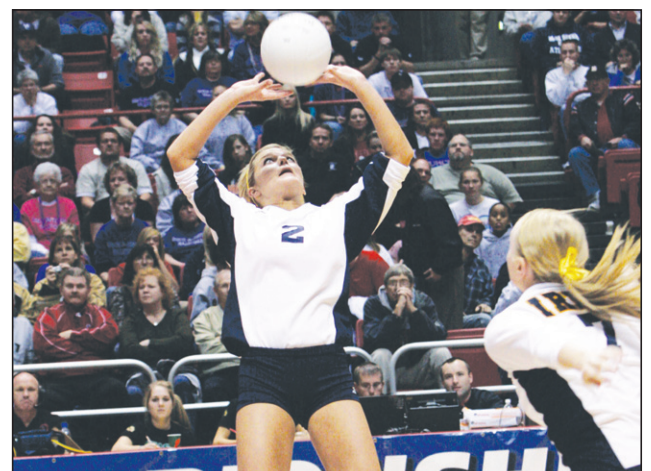
Cathedral High School Girls' Volleyball



Cathedral seniors Lauren Dedinsky and Mary Ording rise above the net for a block in the championship game.



Cathedral's Mary Ording concentrates on a kill during the Class 4A state volleyball championship game.



Cathedral's Skylar Cuppy sets a ball in the private Catholic high school's win over Muncie Central High School.