

## Sports

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Friday, June 3, 2005 • Section B • Page 1



Herald-Press/Andrew Hancock

ter Scott Bickel delivers a pitch  
ampionship game Thursday at  
ad just two hits and one run in 5  
1. Homestead defeated Hunting-

## One run enough for Spartans

Vikings' season comes to an end in sectional final

By PAUL SIEGFRIED

Sports Editor

**FORT WAYNE** — The zeros went up on the scoreboard one after the other, and it became clear that one run was likely to decide Thursday's baseball sectional championship between Homestead and Huntington North at Homestead High School.

The Vikings' Scott Bickel and the Spartans' Jared Baker set down batters one after the other, and when a rare runner reached base, they were gunned down on great defen-

sive plays.

The contest finally broke in the sixth inning.

Bickel had limited Homestead to just one hit through the first five innings, but he gave up a one-out double to the Spartans' Kyle Sherer. Despite the strong outing, Bickel gave way on the mound to Nick Webb.

Webb, the Vikes' top pitcher during the season, worked the count to 2-1 on Homestead's Ryan Cicero before Cicero laced a pitch to the wall in left field to drive in pinchrunner

Brian Robbins with the only run of the game in the Spartans' 1-0 sectional championship win.

"The bottom of our lineup came through with two sophomores getting doubles back-to-back," said Homestead coach Keith Potter. "Jared Baker ... I mean, Huntington North's a great hitting team and he just shut them down. I can't say enough about him."

The Spartans (21-8) advance to the regional to face Carroll Tuesday at Homestead. (Turn to Page 3B, Col. 4)

## Baseball Tournament

## HOMESTEAD SECTIONAL

First Round  
Monday  
FW Bricker 10, FW North Side 0, 5 Inn.  
Homestead 8, FW North 9  
Homestead 9, FW Snider 5

## Semifinals

Monday  
Huntington North 14, FW South Side 0, 5 Inn.

Homestead 1, Huntington North 0

## CHAMPIONSHIP

Monday  
Huntington North 14, FW South Side 0, 5 Inn.

East Noble 8, Wayne 1

Carroll 7, Columbus City 5

East Noble 5, DeFabb 1

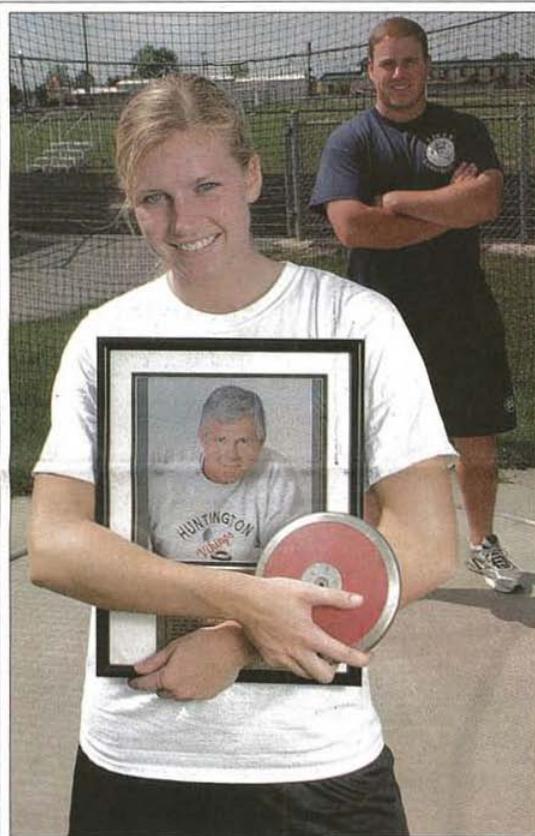
Championship  
Carroll 11, East Noble 4

## HOMESTEAD REGIONAL

Tuesday  
at Homestead

Homestead vs. Carroll, 6 p.m.

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Herald-Press/Todd Campbell

Huntington North's BreAnne Miller (front) holds a picture of her late coach, Dave Reeves, while coach Derek Dyer looks on. Reeves coached Miller in the discus for three years before his death last July. Dyer, also a former thrower taught by Reeves, took over Miller's training and helped her to reach Reeves' dream of Miller getting to the state finals.

Watching  
over  
BreAnneMiller reaches state  
meet to achieve late  
coach's dream for herBy PAUL SIEGFRIED  
Sports Editor

**D**ave Reeves was dying. The man who had coached so many Huntington North shot put and discus throwers to state prominence was losing his battle against cancer and knew that he would probably not live to see the last chapter in the career of BreAnne Miller, his final throwing project.

Miller had missed getting to the state track meet in each of her first three seasons, and Reeves wanted nothing more than for her to get there as a senior.

Reeves turned to another of his proteges, former Viking All-State thrower Derek Dyer, and asked him to take over the tutelage of Miller, to take her the final step.

"It was one of his last wishes," says Dyer. "I was here to play some golf, and he knew the time was coming, and he asked me if it was possible for me to come back and coach. I couldn't say no to the man who had taken me so far."

Miller and Dyer did make Reeves' final request come true, as Miller will compete in the discus in the Saturday's state meet at Bloomington.

"If it weren't for Coach Reeves, I probably wouldn't be going to state. The coaches this year have helped, but he got me started as a freshman," says Miller. "My first year, he grabbed me in the hallway and said, 'Hey, you're throwing.' He told me I was going to go to state. I thought there was no way I was going to go, but here I am."

Reeves died last July, and Dyer, who was interning in Huntington while finishing his chiropractic studies in college, joined the HNFHS staff as a volunteer coach this season. He picked up Miller's training where Reeves had left off.

Miller understood the expectations Reeves had for her, which made her press too hard at times. Huntington North coach Don (Turn to Page 3B, Col. 1)

# Watching over BreAnne

From Page 1B

Cotton tried to ease some of that.

"Coach Reeves always referred to her as his project. I think he looked at BreAnne as his last, best hope of having a state champion," says Cotton. "That was a lot of pressure on BreAnne, but I think she's handled it well. I told her that she was a senior, go out and do her job, and whatever happens, happens."

For Miller, that meant less emphasis on trying to fulfill her late coach's dream and more about getting back to work and building on her training with Reeves.

"I've had three years of experience now, so it hasn't been a case of introducing me to a whole new idea, but just tweaking little technique things," says Miller. "Derek has a lot of Mr. Reeves in him. With him talking, it's kind of like (Reeves). I can hear him saying 'Get your left foot down faster.'"

Dyer also worked with Miller on strength training.

"I worked hard in the weight room the past couple of summers, but I worked really hard this season," says Miller. "I've never worked that hard. I know just being totally dedicated to it has helped a lot."

Miller steadily increased her distances early in the season, then made the biggest jumps at the end of the year. In the regional, she let loose with a career-best throw of 129 feet, 6 inches to better the state-meet qualifying standard of 123-3 and earn an automatic trip to Bloomington.

Performing in pressure-packed situations is nothing new to Miller. She was a four-year varsity player in basketball, helping the Lady Vikings to 76 wins over her career. She earned All-State honors in basketball and played on the Indiana Junior All-Star team.

Basketball might have been her primary sport at Huntington North, but that doesn't mean she took track any less seriously.

"If you would have asked me coming in as a freshman if I would have gone to state in basketball or track, I would have said basketball," she says. "For me, hard work gets you through anything. We didn't make it to state in basketball, but we had a lot of success and I had fun doing that, and now I'm here, still working hard."

Even though she'll be making her first trip to the state track meet, she doesn't expect to be nervous, especially after playing in front of big basket-

ball crowds the last four years.

"You'd think I would be, but at regional, I wasn't nervous at all. I haven't been in this position before, but I guess I'll just try and stay level-headed and go in trying to do my best," she says. "For me, it's like (the crowds) are not there. When you first go out, you look around, but you've got a job to get done. They're there to watch you, they're not there to make you nervous."

She's seeded 11th in the state meet, and her goal is to improve on that position and be among the top nine that earn All-State status.

As if she didn't have enough to think about, Miller will go through Huntington North graduation ceremonies Friday before heading to Bloomington Saturday.

"One event at a time. I'll go enjoy graduation, but as soon as that's over, my mind will totally be focused on throwing the next day," she says.

This weekend brings an end to one of the standout athletic and academic careers at HNHS.

Miller's classroom work is as impressive as her performances in track and basketball. She was named Academic All-State with an 11.02 grade-point average (11.0 scale), ranking her 10th in a class of 425. In four years at Huntington North, she's only missed one day of school.

She earned the Bob Straight Scholarship and is involved with the Huntington North Student Athletic Board, peer tutoring and Campus Life. Miller is headed to Indiana Wesleyan University this fall where she plans to play basketball and perhaps compete in track, with the goal of becoming a math teacher.

She draws parallels with academics and athletics.

"This last year, I had to invest in a book light, and I thought that was a little geeky for the bus rides, but you have to use every minute of your time," she says. "It's taught me about discipline. You have to be focused all the time, not just in sports, but also on schoolwork."

Her full resumé makes her a

leading contender for the mental attitude award at the state track meet, the same award Dyer won after he was runner-up in the shot put and discus at the state meet in 1998.

"She certainly is a role model for our other athletes. The academics speaks for itself. She's just a wonderful person," says Cotton. "She's put in a lot of extra hours to get where she is. A lot of them look at the watch when it's time to head out the door. That all goes together and there would not be a better candidate for that award than BreAnne."

Miller says she'll be thinking about Reeves and his final days when she competes Saturday.

"It was rough," says Miller. "He got more laid back when he found out he was sick. He was more about having fun in the last part of his life. He just wanted the best for me."

Dyer says Reeves would have been proud of Miller's achievement this season.

"She's got the natural ability. She's an athlete and she's got the hard work and determination," he says. "The fact that Reeves is watching over us has been part of it, too."

## Booster pl

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A woman who claims she financially supported a former Ohio State men's basketball player says she will appeal the dismissal of her lawsuit that led to an NCAA investigation of the program and the firing of former coach Jim O'Brien.

"It's the right thing to do," Kathleen Salyers said Thursday.

Salyers said in the suit that two Ohio State boosters reneged on a verbal agreement to pay her \$1,000 a month for letting former Buckeyes guard Boban Savovic live with her when he was a student from 1998 to 2002.

Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Alan C. Travis threw out the lawsuit last month, ruling state law requires any contract that extends beyond one year to be in writing.

Depositions in Salyers' law-

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