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June 4, 2018- Article 6 Lacrosse News for Central Indiana- pg. 2

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The first semi-final went into overtime. Culver's Topher Bower scored a game-tying goal with only :04 on the clock. And then Topher Bower scored again in overtime to have the #4 seed Culver advance to the Championship game. It was the first time since 2004 that a #4 seed had defeated a #1 seed in the semi-finals when #4 Carmel had defeated #1 Brebeuf Jesuit 6-5. And the first time since 2010 since Culver had made it to the championship game, where they defeated St. Joseph's to win the title.

In the second semi-final game, Hamilton Southeastern's Lukas DeVoe scored 5 goals while his teammate David Sage scored 2 late tallies to put Hamilton Southeastern over #2 Cathedral 11-9. We had another close exciting game that could have gone either way. But the result was, for the first time in IHSLA history, a championship game between the #3 and #4 seeded teams. And the first time in 8 years it was not a Carmel-Cathedral match up.

The Championship game did not disappoint either. Culver's freshman Faceoff Midi Alec Vacarro dominated at the faceoff X. It gave Hamilton Southeastern fits. The Royals were down at one point in the third quarter by 5 goals. The Royals rallied back against the Eagles late. Defenseman Nick Riina from Hamilton Southeastern was moved up to the faceoff x to try to stymie the Culver wunderkind. It worked to some success. But it was the Royal's own freshman phenom Ryan Kemp who notched 3 late goals, of his 4 on the night, including the game winner, that finally put the victory in the hands of the Hamilton Southeastern Royals for the first time!!

After a great season of upsets and parity, it was great to see such a thrilling final four with excellent lacrosse all around. This season will go down in the history books. I can only hope that we continue to see more teams rise and new blood surface as lacrosse continues to grow in the state of Indiana. All the best until next season and...

Congratulation to IHSLA STATE CHAMPIONS:

**The HAMILTON SOUTHEASTERN
ROYALS**