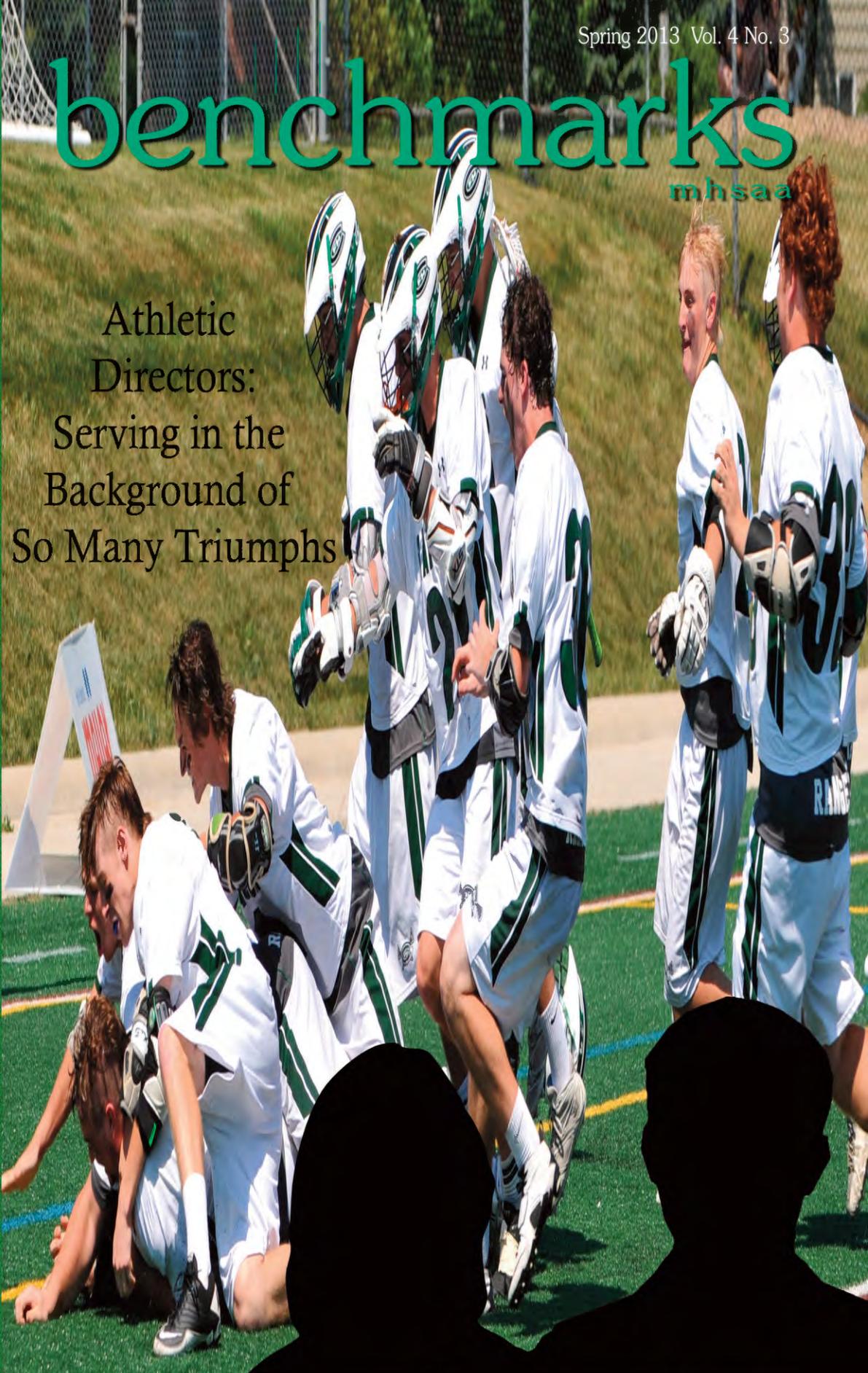
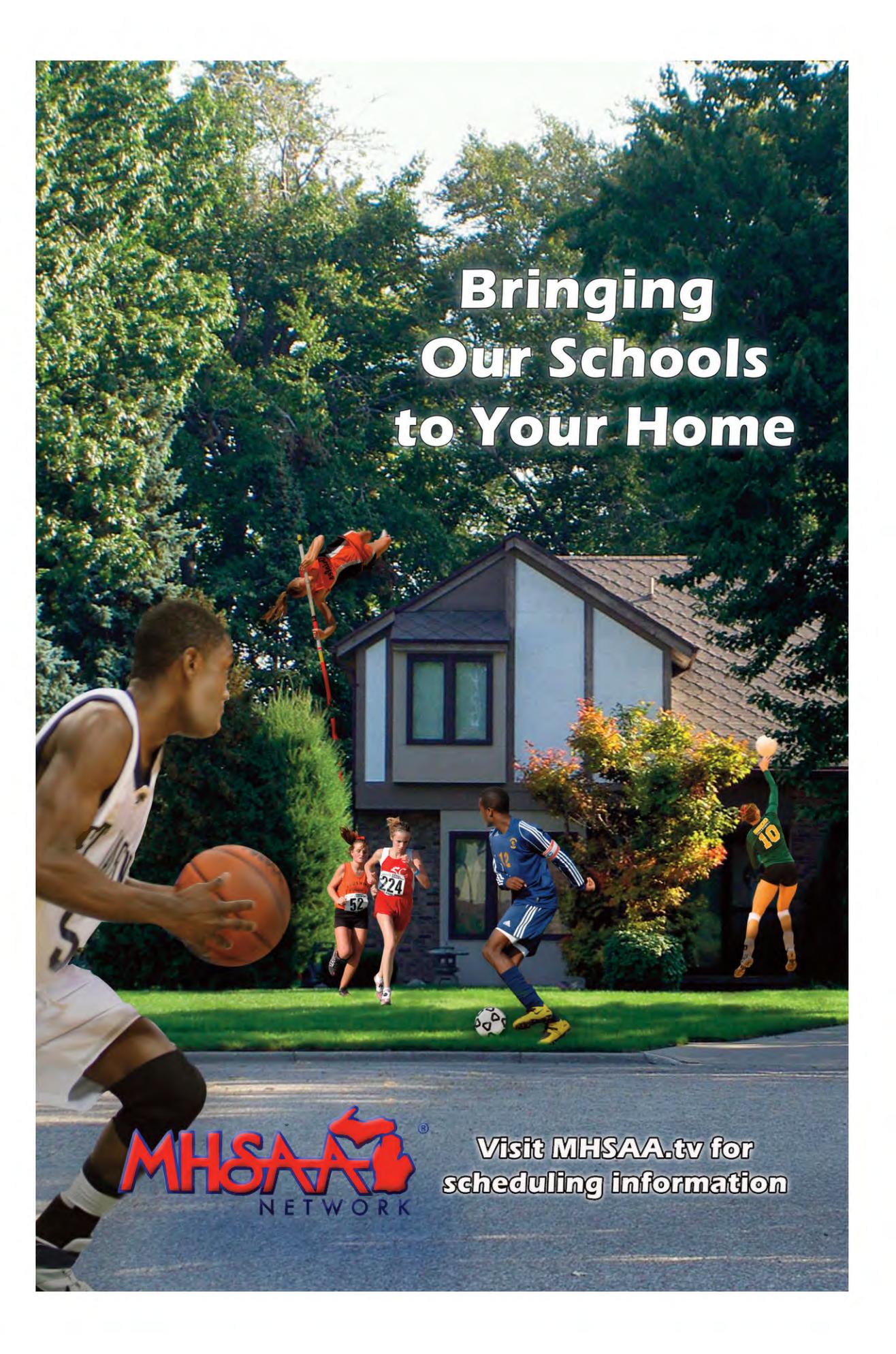


benchmarks

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Athletic
Directors:
Serving in the
Background of
So Many Triumphs





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Cover Story: Athletic Directors Provide the Beat



4 As the curtains close on indoor and outdoor stages for another year, it's time to recognize the "musicians;" those instrumental in allowing our coaches and student-athletes to take the bows. The athletic directors set the tone for our games.

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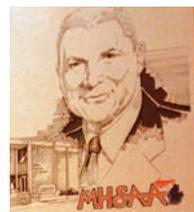
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The Vault - 22

Leaders Throughout Time

These people have blazed the trail and set the standard for school sports administration in Michigan throughout the years.



MHSAA News - 30

Classifications Announced

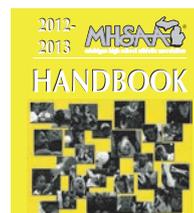
Classifications for the 2013-14 school year have been posted, signaling the start of a new year.



Regulations Review - 38

On Deck

The beginning of each school year brings more turnover to the athletic director position than ever before. Lean on the MHSAA for assistance.



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Athletic Directors Deliver



During the past year I have had some interesting speaking engagements that took me to some other states and even to a far-away nation; but the two speaking assignments I have every year that I look forward to the most and work on the hardest are here in Michigan – at the large mid-winter conference and smaller mid-summer workshop for athletic directors.

After more than a quarter century of these two-a-year addresses, I wouldn't be surprised if the audience is tiring of listening to me; but I have not tired of preparing to do my best for them . . . which is a function of my great respect for them.

Athletic directors serve school sports where the rubber meets the road; and the road is routinely rough.

Athletic directors operate where policy and people meet – in fact, where they often collide.

Athletic directors are called on to administer rules and apply penalties. They are expected to enforce codes of conduct and the consequences for violations.

Athletic directors are told they must uphold standards – attendance, academic, behavioral. And when they do what they've been asked to do, and sometimes have done at great cost personally, athletic directors are subjected to criticism by students and parents and, too frequently, receive less than full backing by their superiors and school boards.

Because I know this, I am humbled to be in their company, much less allowed to address them.

On just such an occasion, March 16, 2008, this is how I described my role, and my great respect for the interscholastic athletic administrators of this state:

“Sometimes after I hear a song over and over, and I begin to really listen to the words, I might write those words down. Especially if it's a song by Springsteen or John Fogerty or Jackson Browne.

“But after I do this, and I read the words on paper or even recite the words aloud, I'm always disappointed. The words, without the music, lose something. The lyrics are neither as moving nor as powerful without the melody.

“On occasion I have been complimented for my words about educational athletics, but I've come to appreciate that without the music, my words don't work. And I've come to appreciate that you folks provide the music.

“Sometimes I may be the words of school sports in Michigan, but all the time you are the music of school sports in Michigan. You make the words meaningful, you make the words memorable, you make the words powerful, you make the words really happen. I don't, and I get that.”

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John E. Roberts". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John E. “Jack” Roberts
MHSAA Executive Director



Lyrics to the greatest songs in the world are empty without music. Our athletic directors are the musicians who pump life into interscholastic sports programs.

Mulligan Plea is Right on Course

MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts called for a "Mulligan" in education reform in his March 29 Blog, "Hit Again."

Lack of parental concern is one of the major difficulties. when I started (1972), if I had problems with a student, when I called the home, I got a positive response and an, "It won't happen again, we will take care of it here at home." Toward the end of my career (2002), the response was, "What are you doing trying to discipline my child?" My answer was, "If you won't help your child know right from wrong, then as their teacher, I will help them understand right from wrong."

Why is it that so many of us can see the concerns and difficulties with what is going on in our education system, but no one is willing to step up and make the necessary changes to get back to really educating our youth? I am so glad to be out of the system!

–Ray Drysdale

"Why is it that so many of us can see the concerns and difficulties with what is going on in our education system, but no one is willing to step up and make the necessary changes to get back to really educating our youth?"

Amen! Maybe the '50s and '60s weren't so bad after all. While busing was perhaps necessary in some cities to break up segregation, it surely led to the

downfall of our neighborhoods and the neighborhood school. In our community I see a myriad of half empty buses running all over town to remove kids from their neighborhood to a specialized school across town. It's no wonder we see a lack of parental support and participation. Some may hardly know where their kid's school is.

– Steve Howells

On the Same Team

It's said by some that the best officials were once coaches, and the best coaches were once officials. I'm not here to brand anyone with a value judgment. But I will say that as a former coach serving now as an official, I know what it's like to "look through their window." And, I retain that consideration and perspective every game I do. It doesn't influence my calls, but it does enhance my understanding and communication as I interact with coaches. The point of the writer is valid. Any coach who has not officiated might consider me less of a pain if they considered my "pane."

– Blog Comment, April 2

On the Mark

I received the winter issue of *benchmarks* last night and read it nearly cover to cover. I loved the theme and the message(s), especially the testimonials from the Student Advisory Council members. It pleases me to see sportsmanship and character remaining in the forefront of all that you do at the MHSAA. Well done!

– Chip Hansen

It is always a highlight to receive *benchmarks* in the mail. This (winter) edition is one of your best, if not the best. Please

share my thoughts as you deem appropriate.

"Wide Angle" is my first read with each issue. Thanks for your leadership and keeping us "grounded" and focused as institutions.

– Rich Ames

Coaching Preparedness

I think having the assistants and subvarsity coaches do the rules meeting is too much. They already put in a lot of time alongside of the head coach and don't get paid nearly as much. I feel that it is up to the head coach to relay the rule meeting info to his staff. As far as the CPR stuff, I think that is a step in the right direction as not all schools have a medical person of any kind at all sporting events, especially the second-tier sports that barely get any funding.

– Blog Comment, Feb. 18

I hope your committee realizes that a lot of schools are having a hard time getting coaches to coach already, when you put these mandates up for vote.

– Blog Comment, Feb. 18

The rules meeting takes a half hour to complete. Not exactly what I would call "too much."

– Blog Comment, Feb. 22

Shots on Goal offers readers a forum for feedback. Submit your opinions, share your experiences or offer suggestions to benchmarks@mhsaa.com. Be sure to visit MHSAA.com for MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts' twice-weekly blogs. Comments are encouraged, and may also appear here in **Shots on Goal**.

Career Paths



One was a local athlete who always hoped the road would return home.

Another was a salesperson who yearned to travel, only to find that the miles most rewarding were the ones at the beginning of the journey.

Another worked in amateur athletics at the highest level – the Olympics – using positions there to reach the ultimate goal: high school athletics.

One was a sportswriter who saw the career writing on the wall and landed within the walls of a school once covered.

For these individuals and hundreds like them around Michigan, the dream job is to serve countless student-athletes behind the scenes, with little or no fanfare.

For that, the MHSAA is grateful.

To find out who matches which description above, please get to know these individuals beginning on page 6.



Singing the Praises of School Sports' Unsung Heroes

Standing in the Shadows of Motown" is a documentary released in 2002 celebrating a group of musicians who called themselves the Funk Brothers.

Never heard of them?

All this unheralded group did was rack up more No. 1 hits than the Rolling Stones, Beatles, Beach Boys and Elvis – *combined* – during their unparalleled run as the musicians who drove the Motown sound.

Smokey Robinson, Diana Ross, Martha Reeves, Marvin Gaye, et al, took the bows; but it was this group of selfless, tireless, talented artists which thrust the vocalists to the front of the stage.

How quickly we recognize those songs from the first notes of that signature bass; the vibrant siren of horns, and rhythmic snapping of fingers before a single lyric is introduced.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, without further ado, we introduce to you the Funk Brothers (and Sisters) of school sports: the athletic administrators.

The profession calls for selfless, tireless, talented individuals who trumpet the efforts of students, orchestrate harmony among coaches and parents, and set the stage for local, affordable entertainment within their communities.

In Michigan, the group assumes this responsibility with unwavering ambition and enthusiasm, setting a solid foundation for the futures of roughly 300,000 athletic participants annually.

As MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts notes on page 16, "They don't try to be the stars of the show, but they are indispensable for letting the stars shine – the student-athletes and their coaches."

It is a role they cherish, taking nearly as much pride in their

school family as their own. It's both a byproduct and a prerequisite for such a job that commands long hours and a knack for interaction with a wide array of personalities and age groups.

Mostly, it's the young people who make it all worthwhile. They are, after all, the reason the job exists.

"Just watching so many students grow up from immature kids to young adults who now are very successful, and how they appreciate all the extra time you spent with them is rewarding," said Marc Sonnenfeld, the district athletic director and dean of discipline at Warren Fitzgerald.

"And most important is the, 'Thank You,' you get five or 10 years later for pushing them and teaching them life lessons they will never forget."

In a position largely devoid of gratitude, it's little wonder that the smallest displays mean the most.

"Having a coach thank me for supporting them, and watching student growth through athletics

"They don't try to be the stars of the show, but they are indispensable for letting the stars shine — the student-athletes and their coaches."

mean a lot to me," said Eve Claar, in her fourth year as athletic director and assistant principal at Ann Arbor Pioneer High School.

Brian Gordon, less than a year into his post as director of athletics and physical education for Novi High School/Middle School after 22 years as a coach and teacher in Royal Oak, also enjoys the impromptu reunions.

"One of the things I most enjoyed was having kids come back to the programs either as a coach, parent, or simply as a fan," Gordon said. "Nothing is better than when I would look behind the backstop and see some former players watching and laughing while listening to me say the same things I had said 10 years earlier."

The typical path taken to the administrative office usually includes a stop or two in the coaching realm, which assists in the transition to life outside the playing boundaries.

"The experiences you bring from coaching are a huge help. I made plenty of mistakes as a coach that I see my own coaches make to this day," said Chris Ervin, in his seventh year as the activities director at St. Johns High School. "You make mistakes, learn from them, and then make sure not to make them again."

"My philosophy – although not realistic, but certainly something to strive for – is this: we would have much better coaches if these three prerequisites were in place. 1) coaches must be a parent first; 2) must be an official, and 3)

– continued on page 7



No Place Like Home for Mattson's Dream Job

As half of the Superdome in New Orleans went dark early in the third quarter of Super Bowl XLVII on Feb. 3, Autumn Mattson had this thought go through her mind: things can even happen during events of that magnitude.

"I thought, 'I guess some burnt popcorn setting off the smoke alarm at a basketball game isn't the worst thing that can happen,'" said the seventh-year athletic director at Cedar Springs High School.

On this day in early February, it's the OK Conference Competitive Cheer Meet scheduled for that evening which occupies much of her focus, another event in the winter sports season that can make the Red Hawks' gym feel like her home.

Coordinating events like this one – and attempting to prepare for the unexpected – is one component of her job which she had previously not given much thought.

"There were bound to be some oddities of being an athletic director that I never thought about," said Mattson. "But the amount of work that goes into the actual setup for events is something I didn't fully realize. From who's taking tickets, to the cash box, concessions, locker rooms; it's a lot to prepare for."

In a position that calls for organizational skills and a high-energy personality, accessibility also helped her become a successful administrator in a short time.

"I've learned to become a very good listener. Heading into this job, I didn't realize how essential it is to listen to people," Mattson said. "I've gained a lot of perspective on the different passions people have and why they do things. And many times it just helps to know their voice will be heard."

Mattson can also talk, particularly when it comes to her favorite subject: Red Hawks athletics, and the town of Cedar Springs in general. She belongs to the sixth generation of family in Cedar Springs, and says the city and its schools have always had a close-knit relationship.

That much is evident driving through the neighborhood near the high school, where street signs are painted Cedar Springs red. How many other towns across the state have residential street signs painted in school colors (the school long ago adopted the color of its "Red Flannel" heritage)?

"We've always been a close-knit community with so many good people looking out for each other, and so many groups pulling for each other here," Mattson said. "I always dreamed of coming back here, it just happened sooner than I thought. When I got the job, I had to pinch myself."

A 1997 Cedar Springs grad, Mattson just missed playing in the Red Hawks' current facilities, as she was part of the last graduating class in the old building. Her prep career led to a basketball scholarship at Lake Superior State University,

where she played from 1997-2001. When she returned, she had a new role in a new building, but made herself right at home.

In her initial position as athletic department secretary, Mattson had the good fortune of working for Pete Bush, now principal at Coopersville HS.

"He was a fabulous mentor who showed me the passion and desire it took to be an athletic director," Mattson said. "He didn't label me as a secretary, and sought my feedback and advice. Looking back, that was so instrumental; I probably wouldn't have this job if he hadn't told the administration to give me a chance."

Mattson also served as the Red Hawks' girls basketball coach until four years ago, another role that helped her prepare for administration.

"I sometimes struggled to understand why kids might not have the same passion that I did. I learned that some played for the competition, and some did it just to be part of a team."

She now gets her fix of student interaction through the school's Athletic Leadership Council, a group Mattson started in 2010 to unite students, staff and community members (see story on page 26). It's a



"I get goosebumps when I see kids have that 'Aha' moment when they get that payoff and I know how much hard work they've put in."

unique representation of the entire athletic student body, which represents roughly half of the 950 students enrolled when multiple-sport athletes are counted. In many respects, Mattson feels like a coach – or mentor – to all of them.

"These kids all become part of the Red Hawk athletic family, and it's overwhelming the amount of joy this job brings. I get goosebumps when I see kids have that 'Aha' moment when they get that payoff and I know how much hard work they've put in," she said.

A big factor in the success of any athletic director is having the support of one's own family. Team Mattson – husband Scott, a former college tennis player and coach, along with sons Drew (9) and Evan (6) – is behind her 100 percent.

"We eat dinner in the office a lot," said Mattson. "I am truly blessed to have a flexible family. We also try to keep a balance with the boys; we don't force athletics down their throats. We take them to band concerts, plays, and all of the different sports. They've grown up around a lot of awesome young adults. The kids are true Red Hawk fans."

A seventh generation of Mattson's family appears set for the land of red street signs.

—Rob Kaminski
benchmarks Editor

must be an athletic director. If coaches had to have these three experiences before being allowed to coach, they would have a whole new perspective when working with students, parents and officials.”

Having been coaches first, however, lends an appreciation to the task of working with students on a daily basis, and an understanding as to how an athletic director can best assist their coaches.

“Being a coach helped me to learn time management, and I became better at making relationships. In my job now, it helps me to look at things from the coaches’ viewpoints,” said Christian Wilson, the athletic director and assistant principal at Gaylord High School for 11 years. “As a coach, you have an immediate impact on students; administration involves more interaction with adults.”

A coaching background can also cause an athletic director to re-examine his or her days as a coach, and how they might have had a greater awareness for their former administrator’s tasks.

“The learning curve as the athletic director is massive,” said Gordon. “The job itself is huge. As a coach, you just worry about your own sport. As athletic director, I

create and maintain positive relationships with kids in an administrative role.”

The majority of administrators who have had experience coaching admit to missing the close interaction with students and the opportunity to watch them develop into successful adults.

But, in some respects, the number of lives one can reach as an administrator is multiplied, and the scrapbook moments just take on slightly different poses.

Mike Thayer, athletic director and assistant principal for the past six years at Bay City Western High School following a decade at Merrill, recounts one of his proudest days in the business.

“In 1999, Merrill Community Schools had two MHSAA Scholar-Athletes Award winners,” Thayer said. “The senior class that year had approximately 80 students; yet, they produced two winners of this prestigious award. I miss the student interaction and school pride associated with team-building in coaching, but I do not miss the travel.”

Some ADs, however, might rather board the buses than schedule them, another of the many duties carried out on a weekly basis. In some cases, the position is responsible for school-wide transportation, not just athletic transportation.

Where once being the AD meant just that, the title for many in the profession today also includes a “/” before or after the words “athletic director.” It’s a trend which threatens the growth and quality of athletics in the educational mission of schools.

Even in schools where athletics are well entrenched and participation numbers soar, the people leading the charge are being asked to do more with less, often taking on responsibilities once doled out to two, and even three, individuals.

“Some of the larger challenges for me include the budget, balancing a very large work load, and just having enough time to evaluate coaches and programs effectively,” said Claar, who estimates that 60 percent of Pioneer’s 1,893 students participate in at least one sport.

Figuring conservatively, that’s more than 1,000 students deserving of her utmost attention in their extracurricular pursuits, but Claar is also assistant principal to the entire student body.

“Given the additional responsibilities, ADs are often spread too thin,” she said. “The time constraints make it difficult to complete all of the assigned tasks.”

Sonnenfeld, like so many others, attempts to split the time down the middle, but it rarely works out that way by the time he’s also done with monitoring the cafeteria during lunch for a couple periods most days.

“I see between 35-60 kids every morning for various discipline issue,” said Sonnenfeld of one portion of his title. “I usually get to athletics by 1:00. I do as much as I can in the time that I have, and then stay late on game days and catch up. And in my free time I’m responsible for renting out the athletic facilities. I make myself leave at a normal time on non-event days so that my family sees me.”

Additionally, he oversees the middle school ath-



“I do as much as I can in the time that I have, and then stay late on game days and catch up. And in my free time I’m responsible for renting out the athletic facilities. I make myself leave at a normal time on non-event days so that my family sees me.” – Marc Sonnenfeld, Warren Fitzgerald

have more than 70 teams to tend to and over 100 coaches to worry about. Coaching and teaching only scratch the surface of what happens in any athletic office every day, but doing that for more than 20 years has helped the transition significantly.”

It is a viewpoint shared by Ken Mohny, a 14-year director of student activities for both the high school and middle school at Mattawan Consolidated Schools.

“Athletic administration opens up the big picture of the department and school mission. Instead of only focusing on the sport that one coaches, administrators must coordinate a program so that all sports collectively enhance the academic success of the entire school,” said Mohny, who also coached three sports at Mattawan for eight years prior to assuming his current duties. “I miss the connection to players and students that I had as a teacher and coach, as it is much more difficult to

Tomlin Now Selling Opportunity at Alma Mater

Edward Tomlin had it all. Or, at least, everything he wanted when he left Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, to launch himself into the real world.

"I was in sales. My big thing in college was that I wanted a company car, and a laptop, and I wanted to travel. That was it," Tomlin recalled on a cold February morning recently. "Well, 25 pounds later, I realized, 'You know what? This is not all it's cracked up to be.' It was a lot of fun for a guy coming right out of college, but it really wasn't meaningful."

The erstwhile traveler is now firmly entrenched in a first-floor office at Detroit's Cass Technical High School selling the most precious of all commodities: opportunity to student-athletes.

He recalls going into work one day in his prior life and thinking that there must be something else to do. A phone call to his mother was all it took.

"She said, 'Well then, quit.' And, I quit, that day," Tomlin said. "It's funny because my mom told me before I left college I should get certified to teach, and I said, 'Nah, I'm going into sales.'"

Well, mother knows best. In Tomlin's case, both his mother, Jacqueline, and his father, Kern, were lifetime educators.

And, now, so is he.

After beginning as a substitute teacher within a week after retiring his sales briefcase, he landed his first teaching gig at Detroit Crockett High School.

A solid golfer, Tomlin was never at a loss to find people seeking to fill out a foursome during his sales travels. So, he puts the talents to use as the Crockett golf coach in that first year.

"I started to coach golf in the fall of 1994 and found that I enjoyed it," Tomlin said. "Plus I got to hit my golf ball a little bit and show some kids that they could play."

A year later, his coaching path took duck-hook if there ever was one when he arrived at his alma mater, Cass Tech. It was then that one of his dad's friends told Tomlin the Technicians needed help with girls volleyball.

"About all I knew was what I'd seen in the Olympics. So over the next three or four years I learned to coach volleyball, and we went from being a good program to a bad program," Tomlin laughed, while adding that Cass had just won an MHSAA Regional and had some solid individual talent when he stepped in.

"But, through MIVCA (the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association), and some additional training, and sports performance videos, I've turned into a better coach," he added.

Such is Tomlin's approach to administration. As he was trying to find his way during the early years, and to the present, he leaned on the network of people and resources available.

Tomlin had worked closely with long-time Cass Tech athletic director Robert Shannon, and early in

his educational career was introduced to the Michigan Interscholastic Administrators Association by Doris Rogers, then AD at Crockett.

"I started going to MIAAA and taking leadership courses and training," said Tomlin, now in his second year as Cass Tech's AD. "It really opened up a side of interscholastic athletics that I had not been exposed to. Going to those conferences have really helped me to develop my philosophies, and helped establish what we try to do here at Cass."

There is so much more that he'd like to do, but like all ADs in the PSL, there are time limitations.

"One of the things holding us back in the Detroit Public Schools is that our position has turned into a stipend position," Tomlin said. "I've got five Algebra I classes, so I'm in class until 2:00 every day. The things that I really want to do with this program in terms of moving it forward by finding more sponsorships for new teams and facilities suffer a bit due to time."

As such, much of the responsibilities placed on athletic directors at other schools statewide fall to the coaches in the PSL. Cass Tech has won two straight MHSAA Division 1 football titles, something other coaches at Cass aspire to do. But, warns Tomlin, there's a price to pay.



"Well, 25 pounds later I realized, 'You know what? This is not all it's cracked up to be.' It was a lot of fun for a guy coming right out of college, but it really wasn't meaningful."

"Everyone likes the end-result of a state championship, but the support and the effort it takes to get there is totally on the coaches here. They deserve all the credit," Tomlin said. "The coaches have

huge tasks because, hey, your AD has five classes so you have to be really passionate about what you're doing; if you're not, this isn't the job for you."

Hiring the right coaches is paramount today, as the expectations of parents and students seem to be at odds with reality.

"Parents' and students' expectations have changed so much. Everyone wants that scholarship, or this level of athlete, but are they willing to put in the work?" Tomlin said.

Tomlin knows a bit about parental expectations, and hopes to instill all he's learned in daughter Montana (16) and son Chase (11), as they continue to enjoy athletic participation.

When it's time, Tomlin might even try to sell them on a career in education, as his mother did to him years ago.

— Rob Kaminski
benchmarks Editor

letic program, and feels guilty that he can't devote more time to that level. He needn't feel that way. If it weren't for Sonnenfeld, the middle school would not have athletics at all.

"The middle school suffers because I cannot get down there to watch over stuff, but this is better than not having any middle school sports at all. They canceled them for a year, and got rid of the middle school athletic coordinator position and put the duties on me," he said.

Sonnenfeld is not alone. Duties seem similar across the board.

"I am also responsible for coordinating all building facility usage, fundraising and transportation as well as lunch/hallway supervision before, during and after school," Mohney said. "Athletic administration alone for grades 6-12 in a Class A school is a full-time, 14-hour-a-day job. It is extremely difficult."

While not included in his title of activities direc-



MULTI-TASK SPECIALISTS

The role of an athletic director in today's schools seldom is limited to athletics. If anything, multi-tasking has become the specialty, ranging from cafeteria monitoring, to bus scheduling, and then to the actual athletic contests



tor, Ervin, too, is expected to mete out discipline and supervise lunches on a regular basis.

"Time is a major obstacle," Ervin said. "When our assistant principal is out of the building I take on most of the discipline in his absence, which leads to days where athletics and activities get zero attention."

While frustrations can mount, the leaders of school sports programs also tend to be tough self-critics. Somewhere along the line, these folks no-

"Time is a major obstacle. When our assistant principal is out of the building I take on most of the discipline in his absence, which leads to days where athletics and activities get zero attention." — Chris Ervin, St. Johns



ticed sacrifices being made by people like them while they were the same age as today's students. They now carry those lessons forward.

"I had a very positive experience as a three-sport athlete in high school. My coaches all motivated me toward excellence while providing positive lessons and guidance," said Mohney. "After graduation and upon returning to Michigan after four years of active military duty, my high school football coach offered me a JV football coaching position and strongly suggested that I may have what it takes to be a good teacher and coach. That guidance inspired me."

Ditto for Gordon.

"When I hired into Royal Oak, there were several people who impacted me as a professional,"

Gordon said. "Chuck Jones was our district AD and he along with Frank Clouser (varsity baseball coach) really made a difference in where I am today. Chuck was always the constant professional who is arguably the most organized and efficient man I have ever met. Frank is the best coach I have ever been around. I have never met a coach who would break down skills and have the unique ability to teach every facet of the game."

Creating similar moments for countless student-athletes in their hallways is the ultimate goal for today's athletic directors in their efforts to provide memorable, educational athletic experiences.

Being told they've done just that is enough to make all the cafeteria supervision worthwhile.

"The most rewarding part of athletics is when I observe a student who has come from a tough home environment, and through his or her involvement in athletics, they shine," said Ervin.

"I always love it when graduated student-athletes come back to visit the school so I can meet their children and hear of their successes in life," Mohney said.

— Rob Kaminski
benchmarks Editor

Whidden's Olympic Run Leads to Northern Michigan

To a generation of sports fans, Lake Placid, NY, will always conjure images of the "Miracle on Ice" orchestrated by the 1980 US Olympic Hockey Team and the voice of Al Michaels counting down the seconds and asking, "Do you believe in miracles?"

Maureen Whidden grew up a sports fan in a sports household. She, too, has a memory of Lake Placid, but it's unlike most other people in the world, let alone the country.

"Right from college I went to Lake Placid, NY, and was an intern for the Olympic Training Center, working operations and events," she said. "I got to go down the bobsled run, which was awesome. We started from about halfway up and I clocked about 45 miles per hour. It was just cool."

Now in her third year as athletic director at Houghton Lake High School, Whidden maintains a pace which on most days during the school year must feel like twice her speed down the icy track in Lake Placid.

A self-proclaimed gym rat, she wouldn't have it any other way. Her father, Rick Radulski, was the boys varsity boys basketball coach at Utica High School. When she was not in the gym, she was, "watching game film with the guys. that's how I grew up."

After earning a master's degree in sport administration from Central Michigan University, it was off to Lake Placid, and on the fast track – literally – to launching her career.

The unexpected bobsled run opened Whidden's eyes in more ways than the obvious thrill of the moment.

"It was my introduction to non-traditional sports such as luge, skeleton; just awesome sports. Those athletes are so strong. Real power and strength athletes," Whidden said.

Following her internship, Whidden was hired by USA Taekwondo in Colorado Springs, where she worked for a year and a half while being exposed to yet another sport in the process.

Her path then led to operations with the US Olympic Committee, working at the headquarters for three years. Whidden was involved with National Governing Bodies, coordinating events and processing athletes' stays at the headquarters from start to finish.

Though vastly different than the sports she followed growing up, she could easily see a common thread in the people who participated.

"All athletes have the same goals and the same values; the same drive," Whidden said. "Not all of them get the same publicity. Taekwondo, for instance, didn't get the publicity that basketball or soccer got."

It was that type of experience that helped in her transition to heading up a high school program of 15 sports, a couple of which were in their infancy for the 2012-13 school year. Whidden called upon

her USOC experience as she welcomed bowling and cross country to Houghton Lake.

"Bringing new students into the athletic world, or exposing others to a new sport, really opened my eyes," Whidden said. "On the bowling team we have 12 kids who may have never played another sport in their lives and they just went to the Regionals. It's not just mainstream sports – football, basketball, baseball – that can succeed."

The two additional sports were a welcome addition to Whidden's workload, at a school where 23 percent of the student body participates in at least one sport, and only 11.5 percent suit up in two different uniforms.

She wishes the numbers were higher, but several factors are at play for the Class B school of 468 students in one of Michigan's prime resort towns, with the economy and funding posing as the highest hurdles.

"We're one of the poorest counties in the state of Michigan, based on average income," Whidden said. "Our student count has dropped in recent years. People come here during peak seasons and support our businesses, and that's great, but people aren't moving here."



"We don't have the budget to pay our event workers: ticket takers, announcers, scoreboard...anybody. But, I'm never scrambling to find workers."

Some, in fact, are moving away, which has left Whidden looking for football and boys basketball coaches in each of her three years.

Yet, if there's one thing clear when meeting Whidden, the challenge is not too daunting. It is worth noting that the recent additions of bowling and cross country came to fruition through old school dedication and heart; the programs are self-funded, and the coaches are not paid.

Whidden knows all about paying dues. This is just her first year as a full-time staffer at the high school, after starting as a half-time employee, then moving to three-quarters-time.

"Our community support has been the most amazing aspect of this job," Whidden said. "We don't have the budget to pay our event workers: ticket takers, announcers, scoreboard...anybody. But, I'm never scrambling to find workers. That's amazing to me."

Whidden often brings extra "volunteers" along – twin 5-year-olds, Troy and Blake – to afford them the same opportunities she had as a child and start them down the right track.

— Rob Kaminski
benchmarks Editor

Health, Safety Issues Top Update Opinion Poll

One of the components of the Annual MHSAA Update Meetings across the state each fall is the accompanying survey filled out by attendees to test the climate on various topics involving school sports.

Results are in for the 2012 poll, which focused heavily on health and safety issues, particularly concerning football and soccer.

Note: Items listed here are not necessarily supported by MHSAA Representative Council, committees or staff. Items which receive support of Update Meeting attendees will be subject of more research and discussion.



HEADY ISSUE

Update Meeting attendees were asked for their opinion on limiting the frequency of soccer heading at various levels of competition.

- Presently, at the start of the football season, teams must have three days of practice during which players wear no protective equipment except helmets prior to the first day of practice when additional equipment may begin to be worn. Would you favor extending the acclimatization/conditioning requirement to **four** days?

YES - 374 (59.2%)

29	Superintendents (7.8 %)	115	Class A (31.0%)
54	Principals (14.4 %)	101	Class B (27.2%)
274	Athletic Directors (73.3 %)	89	Class C (24.0%)
1	Coaches (0.3 %)	63	Class D (17.0%)
3	Board Members (0.8 %)	4	JH/Middle (1.1%)
13	Other (3.5 %)	0	Other (0.0%)

NO - 258 (40.8%)

12	Superintendents (4.7 %)	63	Class A (24.6%)
50	Principals (19.4 %)	87	Class B (33.9%)
184	Athletic Directors (71.3 %)	67	Class C (26.1%)
5	Coaches (1.9 %)	38	Class D (14.8%)
2	Board Members (0.8 %)	2	JH/Middle (0.8%)
5	Other (1.9 %)	0	Other (0.0%)

- Would you favor extending the football acclimatization/conditioning requirement to **five** days?

YES - 276 (43.7%)

24	Superintendents (8.7 %)	84	Class A (30.5%)
43	Principals (15.6 %)	81	Class B (29.5%)
197	Athletic Directors (71.4 %)	61	Class C (22.2%)
1	Coaches (0.4 %)	47	Class D (17.1%)
3	Board Members (1.1 %)	2	JH/Middle (0.7%)
8	Other (2.9 %)	0	Other (0.0%)

NO - 355 (56.3%)

17	Superintendents (4.8 %)	94	Class A (26.6%)
61	Principals (17.2 %)	107	Class B (30.3%)
260	Athletic Directors (73.2 %)	93	Class C (26.3%)
5	Coaches (1.4 %)	55	Class D (15.6%)
2	Board Members (0.6 %)	4	JH/Middle (1.1%)
10	Other (2.8 %)	0	Other (0.0%)

- Would you favor a football rule that permits only one full equipment practice on any one day (i.e., players would be limited to helmets after the first practice on any day)?

YES - 336 (54.0%)

23	Superintendents (6.8 %)	98	Class A (29.2%)
58	Principals (17.2 %)	100	Class B (29.8%)
244	Athletic Directors (72.4 %)	84	Class C (25.0%)
2	Coaches (0.6 %)	49	Class D (14.6%)
4	Board Members (1.2 %)	5	JH/Middle (1.5%)
6	Other (1.8 %)	0	Other (0.0%)

NO - 286 (46.0%)

18	Superintendents (6.3 %)	79	Class A (27.9%)
44	Principals (15.4 %)	85	Class B (30.0%)
207	Athletic Directors (72.6 %)	68	Class C (24.0%)
4	Coaches (1.4 %)	50	Class D (17.7%)
1	Board Members (0.4 %)	1	JH/Middle (0.4%)
11	Other (3.9 %)	0	Other (0.0%)

- Presently, practice minimums (before full pads in football, before first competition in all sports) are for teams, not individuals. Would you favor application of the minimum practice requirement to each **individual**?

YES - 381 (60.7%)

28	Superintendents (7.3 %)	115	Class A (30.4%)
66	Principals (17.3 %)	113	Class B (29.9%)
270	Athletic Directors (70.7 %)	89	Class C (23.5%)
2	Coaches (1.0 %)	56	Class D (14.8%)
3	Board Members (0.8 %)	5	JH/Middle (1.3%)
13	Other (3.4 %)	0	Other (0.0%)

NO - 247 (39.3%)

13	Superintendents (5.3 %)	60	Class A (24.3%)
37	Principals (15.0 %)	74	Class B (30.0%)
185	Athletic Directors (75.2 %)	65	Class C (26.3%)
4	Coaches (1.6 %)	47	Class D (19.0%)
2	Board Members (0.8 %)	1	JH/Middle (0.4%)
5	Other (2.0 %)	0	Other (0.0%)

- Would you favor football playing rules that reduce the frequency of kickoff returns, punt returns and interception returns at the **junior high/middle school** level?

YES - 212 (33.8%)

16	Superintendents (7.6%)	65	Class A (31.1%)
36	Principals (17.0%)	54	Class B (25.8%)
149	Athletic Directors (70.3%)	61	Class C (29.2%)
2	Coaches (1.0%)	27	Class D (12.9%)
1	Board Members (0.5%)	2	JH/Middle (1.0%)
8	Other (3.8%)	0	Other (0.0%)

NO - 416 (66.2%)

25	Superintendents (6.1%)	112	Class A (26.9%)
66	Principals (15.9%)	131	Class B (31.5%)
307	Athletic Directors (73.8%)	94	Class C (22.6%)
4	Coaches (1.0%)	75	Class D (18.0%)
4	Board Members (1.0%)	4	JH/Middle (1.0%)
10	Other (2.5%)	0	Other (0.0%)

Former Sportswriter Jakacki Knows a Good Story

It's not exactly "Man Bites Dog," the old newspaper standard by which headline stories were determined, but the role reversal that Rick Jakacki and Kevin Miller have experienced certainly makes for interesting reading.

And Jakacki, who spent 20 years as a sportswriter/editor with the *Port Huron Times Herald*, knows a good story.

After Miller, a former radio personality with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, moved to Michigan's thumb to pursue a career in education, he still yearned to keep his hand in athletics and began to work as a stringer on Friday nights covering prep football for the *Times Herald*.

It was a neat "hobby" for Miller. But for Jakacki, whose career was in print journalism, the steady hum of immediate, electronic mediums became increasingly difficult to ignore. Figuratively, the writing was on the wall.

"It's always been said that you never treat anyone badly because you never know when it'll bite you, or when someone can help you in the future," Jakacki said.

"I saw the way the newspaper trend was going, and it was scary going to work. We were cutting back all the time, not covering as many events, not traveling as much, not filling people's jobs, implementing furlows. I always wanted to go out on my own terms, not have the paper tell me when to leave."

Following the 2009-10 school year, the athletic director at one of the schools in the *Times Herald* coverage area had announced he was leaving. John Knuth, the AD at Croswell-Lexington, was headed back to Marysville, where he'd built a prep volleyball power.

By then, Miller had become the superintendent at Cros-Lex, and had been submitting stories to Jakacki for years. Now, it was Miller's turn to lend his newspaper "boss" a hand, one that Jakacki had certainly never bitten. And, so it was that Jakacki became an employee working for his own former part-time employee.

He couldn't be happier.

"I've never heard of a person going from sportswriter to athletic director, but talk about a smooth transition," Jakacki said. "I'm working with all the same people I used to write about: ADs, students, coaches, officials. And now I'm at a school that plays the same teams I covered."

The athletic office desk suits him just fine, and he's easily shifted from story writer to storyteller. Coupled with his administrative duties, he's become the Pioneers' No. 1 cheerleader, lauding the exploits of the schools 700-plus students, nearly 70 percent of whom participate in at least one extracurricular activity.

"We got a new gym and locker rooms in the fall of 2011, and a new training room and weight room

this fall" Jakacki said, putting on his tour guide hat prior to a show-and-tell session. The new digs allow for increased MHSAA Tournament opportunities, and thus increased exposure for the school.

"The best atmosphere we've enjoyed since I began here was this fall's MHSAA Volleyball Regional between Marysville and North Branch. It was electric; this place was packed," he recalled.

It's more than athletic events drawing people to Croswell-Lexington these days. Jakacki proclaims with equal enthusiasm that the Cros-Lex school district recently was ranked 20th among 560 school districts in Michigan for academic achievement.

Extracurricular activity plays a vital role in the makeup of the student population, including the Pioneer Activities Leadership Council.

"There are about 40 or 50 kids who meet with the principal and me on the second Friday of each month during the school year," Jakacki says of the Council. "It's after school, and they don't get credit, but they show up to talk about various leadership ideas."

If Jakacki sounds like a proud parent while extolling the virtues of his new workplace, well, that's fine with him. The Pioneer student-ath-



"It's always been said that you never treat anyone badly because you never know when it'll bite you, or when someone can help you in the future."

letes have become like family, adding to his own children: Liam (18), Cameron (14) and Zoe (10).

"It's funny, having these kids of my own, I got to watch them play a lot of sports," Jakacki said. "After getting to know all these kids, it's like watching my kids play. People sometimes ask, 'How can you just go to a random baseball game?' Well it's like watching nine of my own kids. That's something I didn't expect when I took this job."

So it is fitting that his office is across from the cafeterium, where the traffic flow and student interaction is steady. And, now, so is the work.

"I was looking for job security, and I love dealing with kids and sports," Jakacki said. "It was perfect transition for me. Now I deal with them every day. What's the old saying, as you get older don't get a job, get something you love to do? That's what I've done. If I work 12-hour days, I don't mind because I love what I do."

It's a story the former sportswriter never tires of telling.

— Rob Kaminski
benchmarks Editor

6. Would you favor #5 at the **subvarsity** high school level also?

YES - 97 (15.4%)				NO - 532 (84.6%)			
9	Superintendents (9.3%)	26	Class A (27.1%)	32	Superintendents (6.1%)	151	Class A (28.5%)
14	Principals (14.5%)	28	Class B (29.2%)	89	Principals (16.8%)	158	Class B (29.8%)
68	Athletic Directors(70.2%)	24	Class C (25.0%)	388	Athletic Directors(73.0%)	131	Class C (24.7%)
2	Coaches (2.1%)	17	Class D (17.7%)	4	Coaches (0.8%)	85	Class D (16.0%)
1	Board Members (1.1%)	1	JH/Middle (1.0%)	4	Board Members (0.8%)	5	JH/Middle (0.9%)
3	Other (3.1%)	0	Other (0.0%)	15	Other (2.9%)	0	Other (0.0%)

7. Would you favor soccer playing rules that would reduce the frequency of heading of the ball at the **junior high/middle school** level (e.g., in specified areas of the pitch [e.g., outside the penalty area] or on certain plays [e.g., first touch after a kick has traveled from the other half of the pitch])?

YES - 275 (44.0%)				NO - 350 (56.0%)			
16	Superintendents (5.9%)	25	Class A (7.3%)	71	Superintendents (26.2%)	107	Class A (30.5%)
48	Principals (17.5%)	56	Class B (16.4%)	77	Principals (28.5%)	110	Class B (31.3%)
196	Athletic Directors(71.3%)	255	Class C (74.6%)	72	Athletic Directors(26.6%)	78	Class C (22.2%)
2	Coaches (0.8%)	4	Class D (1.2%)	48	Coaches (17.8%)	53	Class D (15.1%)
3	Board Members (1.1%)	2	JH/Middle (0.6%)	3	Board Members (1.2%)	3	JH/Middle (0.9%)
10	Other (3.7%)	0	Other (0.0%)	0	Other (0.1%)	0	Other (0.0%)

8. Would you favor #7 at the **subvarsity** high school level also?

YES - 173 (27.9%)				NO - 447 (72.1%)			
12	Superintendents (7.0%)	45	Class A (26.5%)	29	Superintendents (6.5%)	132	Class A (29.5%)
33	Principals (19.1%)	50	Class B (29.4%)	70	Principals (15.7%)	136	Class B (30.4%)
115	Athletic Directors(66.5%)	45	Class C (26.5%)	332	Athletic Directors(74.3%)	103	Class C (23.0%)
3	Coaches (1.8%)	28	Class D (16.5%)	3	Coaches (0.7%)	72	Class D (16.1%)
3	Board Members (1.8%)	2	JH/Middle (1.2%)	2	Board Members (0.5%)	4	JH/Middle (0.9%)
7	Other (4.1%)	0	Other (0.0%)	11	Other (2.5%)	0	Other (0.0%)

9. Would you favor the MHSAA requirement that **all** coaches hold a valid certification in CPR **prior to their second year** of coaching at any level of any MHSAA member school?

YES - 473 (74.3%)				NO - 164 (25.7%)			
31	Superintendents (6.6%)	138	Class A (29.3%)	10	Superintendents (6.1%)	40	Class A (24.5%)
82	Principals (17.4%)	136	Class B (28.9%)	22	Principals (13.5%)	51	Class B (31.3%)
335	Athletic Directors(70.9%)	117	Class C (24.8%)	127	Athletic Directors(77.5%)	38	Class C (23.3%)
5	Coaches (1.1%)	74	Class D (15.7%)	1	Coaches (0.7%)	34	Class D (20.9%)
5	Board Members (1.1%)	6	JH/Middle (1.3%)	0	Board Members (0.1%)	0	JH/Middle (0.0%)
15	Other (3.2%)	0	Other (0.0%)	4	Other (2.5%)	0	Other (0.0%)

10. Would you favor the MHSAA requirement that **all** coaches have completed at least one level of the MHSAA's Coaches Advancement Program **prior to their third year** of coaching at any level of any MHSAA member school?

YES - 348 (54.9%)				NO - 286 (45.1%)			
23	Superintendents (6.7%)	103	Class A (29.9%)	18	Superintendents (6.3%)	74	Class A (25.9%)
60	Principals (17.3%)	105	Class B (30.4%)	41	Principals (14.4%)	79	Class B (27.6%)
244	Athletic Directors(70.2%)	77	Class C (22.3%)	218	Athletic Directors(76.3%)	79	Class C (27.6%)
3	Coaches (0.9%)	55	Class D (15.9%)	3	Coaches (1.1%)	53	Class D (18.5%)
4	Board Members (1.2%)	5	JH/Middle (1.4%)	1	Board Members (0.4%)	1	JH/Middle (0.3%)
14	Other (4.1%)	0	Other (0.0%)	5	Other (1.8%)	0	Other (0.0%)

11. Would you favor the MHSAA requirement that **all** coaches complete a free online course in **both** Concussions and Heat Illness and Hydration **prior to their third year** of coaching at any level of any MHSAA member school?



YES - 599 (93.6%)			
37	Superintendents (6.2%)	169	Class A (28.4%)
98	Principals (16.4%)	173	Class B (29.0%)
438	Athletic Directors(73.2%)	147	Class C (24.7%)
4	Coaches (0.7%)	101	Class D (16.9%)
4	Board Members (0.7%)	6	JH/Middle (1.0%)
18	Other (3.1%)	0	Other (0.0%)
NO - 41 (6.4%)			
4	Superintendents (9.8%)	9	Class A (22.0%)
6	Principals (14.7%)	15	Class B (36.6%)
27	Athletic Directors(65.9%)	9	Class C (22.0%)
2	Coaches (4.9%)	8	Class D (19.5%)
1	Board Members (2.5%)	0	JH/Middle (0.0%)
1	Other (2.5%)	0	Other (0.0%)

HYDRATION WORTH THE HYPE

The question receiving the most positive support involved hydration requirements for all coaches prior to their third year of coaching.

– continued on page 14

12. Would you favor a rule that limits the number of online courses that may be counted for student athletic eligibility purposes?

YES - 319 (50.0%)

15	Superintendents (4.7%)	87	Class A (27.4%)
44	Principals (13.8%)	98	Class B (30.9%)
240	Athletic Directors(75.1%)	76	Class C (24.0%)
4	Coaches (1.3%)	51	Class D (16.1%)
4	Board Members (1.3%)	5	JH/Middle (1.6%)
13	Other (4.1%)	0	Other (0.0%)

NO - 319 (50.0%)

26	Superintendents (8.2%)	89	Class A (28.0%)
59	Principals (18.6%)	91	Class B (28.6%)
225	Athletic Directors(70.8%)	80	Class C (25.2%)
2	Coaches (0.7%)	57	Class D (17.9%)
1	Board Members (0.4%)	1	JH/Middle (0.3%)
5	Other (1.6%)	0	Other (0.0%)



13. Would you favor a rule that limits the number of online courses that may be counted to make up for deficiencies in a student's previous term academic record for athletic eligibility purposes?

YES - 300 (47.2%)

14	Superintendents (4.7%)	83	Class A (27.9%)
46	Principals (15.4%)	94	Class B (31.5%)
223	Athletic Directors(74.4%)	74	Class C (24.8%)
3	Coaches (1.1%)	42	Class D (14.1%)
3	Board Members (1.1%)	5	JH/Middle (1.7%)
11	Other (3.7%)	0	Other (0.0%)

NO - 336 (52.8%)

27	Superintendents (8.1%)	95	Class A (28.4%)
58	Principals (17.3%)	94	Class B (28.1%)
239	Athletic Directors(71.2%)	79	Class C (23.6%)
3	Coaches (0.9%)	66	Class D (19.7%)
2	Board Members (0.6%)	1	JH/Middle (0.3%)
7	Other (2.1%)	0	Other (0.0%)

14. Would you favor elimination of the current prohibition of **live** television broadcasts (both cable and over-the-air) of member schools' regular-season athletic contests (currently a one-hour delay)?

YES - 294 (47.3%)

17	Superintendents (5.8%)	84	Class A (28.7%)
45	Principals (15.4%)	86	Class B (29.4%)
218	Athletic Directors(74.2%)	69	Class C (23.5%)
5	Coaches (1.8%)	51	Class D (17.4%)
1	Board Members (0.4%)	3	JH/Middle (1.0%)
8	Other (2.8%)	0	Other (0.0%)

NO - 327 (52.7%)

23	Superintendents (7.1%)	92	Class A (28.3%)
56	Principals (17.2%)	99	Class B (30.5%)
235	Athletic Directors(71.9%)	79	Class C (24.3%)
0	Coaches (0.1%)	52	Class D (16.0%)
3	Board Members (1.0%)	3	JH/Middle (0.9%)
10	Other (3.1%)	0	Other (0.0%)

15. Would you favor elimination of the current prohibition of **live Internet video** of member schools' regular-season athletic contests (currently a one-hour delay)?

YES - 305 (48.2%)

17	Superintendents (5.6%)	90	Class A (29.6%)
46	Principals (15.1%)	86	Class B (28.3%)
228	Athletic Directors(74.8%)	74	Class C (24.3%)
4	Coaches (1.4%)	52	Class D (17.1%)
2	Board Members (0.7%)	2	JH/Middle (0.7%)
8	Other (2.7%)	0	Other (0.0%)

NO - 328 (51.8%)

24	Superintendents (7.4%)	88	Class A (27.0%)
58	Principals (17.7%)	101	Class B (31.0%)
231	Athletic Directors(70.5%)	79	Class C (24.2%)
2	Coaches (0.7%)	54	Class D (16.6%)
3	Board Members (1.0%)	4	JH/Middle (1.2%)
10	Other (3.1%)	0	Other (0.0%)

16. Would you support an amendment to the MHSAA Constitution that would change the MHSAA's definition of a junior high/middle school from seventh and eighth grades only to **sixth, seventh and eighth grades**, as well as corresponding changes in rules to permit schools to allow sixth-graders to compete with and against seventh- and eighth-graders? (Sixth-graders who do so would be subject to Regulations III and IV as member school seventh- and eighth-graders are.)

YES - 305 (48.4%)

17	Superintendents (5.6%)	74	Class A (24.3%)
44	Principals (14.5%)	86	Class B (28.2%)
231	Athletic Directors(75.8%)	64	Class C (21.0%)
5	Coaches (1.7%)	79	Class D (25.9%)
2	Board Members (0.7%)	2	JH/Middle (0.7%)
6	Other (2.0%)	0	Other (0.0%)

NO - 325 (51.6%)

24	Superintendents (7.4%)	101	Class A (31.4%)
59	Principals (18.2%)	100	Class B (31.1%)
226	Athletic Directors(69.6%)	89	Class C (27.6%)
1	Coaches (0.4%)	28	Class D (8.7%)
3	Board Members (1.0%)	4	JH/Middle (1.2%)
12	Other (3.7%)	0	Other (0.0%)

17. Would you favor a different out-of-season coaching rule for **individual** sports generally conducted at **non-school** locations than currently exists for all sports? The new rule would permit a school coach in a non-school facility to provide coaching to more than three students from his/her school in grades 7-12 while other students from the same school are present (coincidentally, unplanned) in the facility but not receiving coaching from any school coach in the same sport. Initially, this would apply only to bowling, golf and skiing.

YES - 402 (64.5%)

22	Superintendents (5.5%)	137	Class A (34.2%)
65	Principals (16.2%)	116	Class B (28.9%)
299	Athletic Directors(74.4%)	81	Class C (20.2%)
4	Coaches (1.0%)	62	Class D (15.5%)
3	Board Members (0.8%)	5	JH/Middle (1.2%)
9	Other (2.3%)	0	Other (0.0%)

NO - 221 (35.5%)

19	Superintendents (8.6%)	38	Class A (17.4%)
35	Principals (15.9%)	66	Class B (30.1%)
154	Athletic Directors(69.7%)	71	Class C (32.4%)
2	Coaches (1.0%)	43	Class D (19.6%)
2	Board Members (1.0%)	1	JH/Middle (0.5%)
9	Other (4.1%)	0	Other (0.0%)

18. Would you favor adding a **second** seven-consecutive-day “dead period” in the summer?

YES - 393 (62.0%)			NO - 241 (38.0%)				
27	Superintendents (6.9%)	115	Class A (29.3%)	14	Superintendents (5.9%)	62	Class A (25.9%)
57	Principals (14.6%)	118	Class B (30.1%)	45	Principals (18.7%)	69	Class B (28.9%)
294	Athletic Directors(74.9%)	98	Class C (25.0%)	169	Athletic Directors(70.2%)	56	Class C (23.4%)
2	Coaches (0.6%)	57	Class D (14.5%)	4	Coaches (1.7%)	50	Class D (20.9%)
2	Board Members (0.6%)	4	JH/Middle (1.0%)	2	Board Members (0.9%)	2	JH/Middle (0.8%)
11	Other (2.8%)	0	Other (0.0%)	7	Other (3.0%)	0	Other (0.0%)

19. Presently, students who participate in an all-star contest lose eligibility in all sports for a maximum of one year. Would you prefer that such students lose eligibility only in the sport in which they had the all-star violation?

YES - 513 (80.8%)			NO - 122 (19.2%)				
31	Superintendents (6.1%)	146	Class A (28.6%)	9	Superintendents (7.4%)	31	Class A (25.6%)
80	Principals (15.6%)	149	Class B (29.2%)	24	Principals (19.7%)	39	Class B (32.2%)
377	Athletic Directors(73.5%)	118	Class C (23.1%)	85	Athletic Directors(69.7%)	36	Class C (29.8%)
5	Coaches (1.0%)	93	Class D (18.2%)	1	Coaches (0.9%)	14	Class D (11.6%)
4	Board Members (0.8%)	5	JH/Middle (1.0%)	1	Board Members (0.9%)	1	JH/Middle (0.8%)
16	Other (3.2%)	0	Other (0.0%)	2	Other (1.7%)	0	Other (0.0%)

20. Presently, graduated students may not wear their school game uniforms in any all-star events. Would you favor a rule change that would allow school game uniforms to be worn in summer all-star events for graduated seniors sponsored and conducted by Michigan’s nonprofit high school coaches associations?

YES - 458 (72.4%)			NO - 176 (27.6%)				
30	Superintendents (6.6%)	131	Class A (28.6%)	11	Superintendents (6.3%)	47	Class A (27.2%)
75	Principals (16.4%)	140	Class B (30.6%)	28	Principals (16.0%)	47	Class B (27.2%)
335	Athletic Directors(73.2%)	114	Class C (24.9%)	126	Athletic Directors(71.6%)	39	Class C (22.5%)
4	Coaches (0.9%)	68	Class D (14.8%)	2	Coaches (1.2%)	39	Class D (22.5%)
4	Board Members (0.9%)	5	JH/Middle (1.1%)	1	Board Members (0.6%)	1	JH/Middle (0.6%)
10	Other (2.2%)	0	Other (0.0%)	8	Other (4.6%)	0	Other (0.0%)

Summary of Survey Respondents

Site	Surveys Completed	Title	Surveys Completed	Class	Surveys Completed
Kalamazoo	64	Superintendents	41	Class A	179
Warren	123	Principals	106	Class B	192
Lansing	85	Athletic Directors	467	Class C	158
Comstock Park	114	Coaches	6	Class D	109
Frankenmuth	151	Board Members	6	Junior/Middle	6
Gaylord	76	Other	22	Other	0
Marquette	35				
Total	648				

Make Plans to Attend the 2013 AD In-Service/Update Meeting Series

Athletic directors should plan now to attend an AD In-Service and Update Meeting in the fall. While attendance is strong, some ADs have not attended as their duties have increased. We suggest the opposite approach and urge those who have not attended recently to make it a point of emphasis. Attending these efficient “2-in-1” programs improves leadership and service skills and can make your work less of a burden.

The Update meetings begin at noon and present current issues, rules, regulations, future plans, and pertinent Representative Council matters. SUPERINTENDENTS, PRINCIPALS, ATHLETIC DIRECTORS and SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS should attend Update Meetings each year. Lunch is served at Update Meetings only. The Athletic Director In-Services runs from 8:30 to 11:45am and will focus on new actions, describing and defining regulations, MHSAA procedures, group discussions and more.

2013 AD In-Service/Update Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, Sept. 25	Kalamazoo, Pine West
Monday, Sept. 30	Warren, DeCarlos Banquet/Convention
Monday, Oct. 7	Comstock Park, English Hills Country Club
Wednesday, Oct. 9	Frankenmuth, Zehnder’s
Thursday, Oct. 10	Lansing, Best Western Plus
Monday, Oct. 14	Gaylord, Otsego Club & Resort
Friday, Oct. 25	Marquette, Superior Dome (no fee, no meal)

Got the MHSAA.com to register for a session near you!

In Support of Our MVPs: The Athletic Directors

Depending on the school, the interscholastic athletic program involves at least 25 percent to more than 75 percent of the student body directly as participants, as well as dozens to hundreds more in supporting roles as cheerleaders, pep and marching band members, and drill/dance and pompon groups. Dozens to hundreds more students each week attend interscholastic athletic events as spectators.

In many cases, these events are conducted in an atmosphere of high emotion – it’s competitive athletics, after all; and there is always some risk of injury or medical emergency – more frequently among the adult spectators than the student participants.

This description of the interscholastic athletic program demands that a school district hire and support a well-trained, full-time director of athletics. Yet many districts are playing Russian roulette: unnecessarily exposing the school district to controversies over ineligibilities and forfeits and, even worse, to catastrophes leading to injuries and fault-finding legal actions.

School districts that have combined the athletic director position with other duties, or assigned athletic duties to a person without training and office support, invite problems that will result in more time and money lost than saved through penny-wise, pound-foolish budget cutting.

Aware that this advice is unheard or unheeded in many situations, the Michigan High School Athletic Association and the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association provide programs that intend to fill in the gaps of experience and expertise for those serving as athletic administrators in MHSAA member schools.

MHSAA Service

As a condition for participating in MHSAA-sponsored meets and tournaments, the MHSAA requires that member schools designate a person to serve as the high school athletic director or coordinator.

It is also required in their first year as athletic director or coordinator at any MHSAA member school that the person must attend an MHSAA-conducted Athletic Director In-Service program.

To meet the demand of newly appointed athletic directors, the MHSAA has expanded its orientation sessions to two in August, another in September and a follow-up in November. There were 115 attendees at the three early sessions in the fall of 2012, which reflects the high degree of turnover in this difficult profession.

For all athletic directors, however new or vet-

eran, the MHSAA conducts league-based programs for athletic directors each August and six regional Athletic Director In-Service meetings in August and September. There were 710 attendees at these 12 sessions last fall.

The New Athletic Director Orientation involves MHSAA staff and veteran athletic directors providing the most important rules and most effective management tips. The Athletic Director In-Service programs have more interaction between attendees and attempt to move deeper into basic subjects and reach further into the broad range of duties that confront an administrator in a program as dynamic as the modern world of competitive athletics.

MHSAA staff is also on call to meet with athletic directors on a district, league or subject matter basis throughout the year, and several of these sessions have evolved into traditional meetings.

With the development of ArbiterGame athletic department management tools, MHSAA staff has conducted multiple training sessions around the state for both athletic directors and athletic department secretaries.

MIAAA's Role



The MIAAA provides broad and deep training for its member athletic directors. It conducts three major events: its annual conference in March that ranges over many topics, its smaller mid-summer conference that usually delves deeply into a smaller number of topics, and a late summer leadership academy.

The MIAAA is also one of the nation’s leading organizations in delivering the leadership training courses of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. These courses cover in a comprehensive way the most essential subjects for the modern world of interscholastic athletic administration.

The driving force behind the MIAAA’s leadership training efforts has been Fred Smith, Director of Athletics at Buchanan High School. Fred reports:

“We continue to lead the country in the number of athletic directors who have attained their Certified Athletic Administrator (CAA) certification since the inception of the program. Currently, 353 Michigan athletic directors have earned their CAA status. The next nearest state is Pennsylvania with



The MHSAA's annual New Athletic Director In-Service series attracts an increasing amount of rookie athletic administrators each year, as current trends reveal that one in seven leave the field annually, yielding high turnover and limited experience in the ranks.

“This description of the interscholastic athletic program demands that a school district hire and support a well-trained, full-time director of athletics. Yet many districts are playing Russian roulette: unnecessarily exposing the school district to controversies over ineligibilities and forfeits and, even worse, to catastrophes leading to injuries and fault-finding legal actions.”

313. Unfortunately, we only have 111 current MIAAA members who have the CAA status. Retirement among our ranks continues to be a challenge.

“The NIAAA reports that Michigan is near the top in athletic directors earning their Certified Master Athletic Administrator (CMAA) status. We currently have 27 active CMAAs in Michigan and 14 who are retired for a total of 41 CMAAs.

“We also currently have 27 members who have earned their Registered Athletic Administrator (RAA) status.

“Michigan is in the top three states in Leadership Training courses taken each year. Between the Mid-Winter Conference, Mid-Summer Conference, Leadership Academy and those taking classes at the National Conference, over 250 classes are taken yearly by Michigan athletic directors.”

Playmakers

The job of an athletic director has never been easy. With evening and weekend events to supervise, the hours are long. They have coaches to mentor and parents to monitor. They have uniforms and equipment to purchase, inventory and recondition. They have federal and state statutes to observe. They have programs to promote and a budget to balance, often requiring multiple fundraising events. They have medical services to arrange and emergency plans to prepare and train for.

Add to all this that some athletic directors must also wear several other hats – from classroom teacher to assistant principal to transportation or technology director – and it is no wonder that more than one of every seven high school athletic directors resigns or retires each year, leading to less on-the-job experience in the profession each year.

In many schools, athletic directors have the longest hours of any employee as they labor out of the spotlight. They don't try to be the stars of the show, but they are indispensable for letting the stars shine – the student-athletes and their coaches. They deserve a lot more support locally than they're getting.

Visit the MIAAA Website →



Editor's Note: In this issue of benchmarks' "Outside Shots" department, news from around the country might ring a familiar tone, from boys and girls basketball scheduling to legislative implications.

Boys or Girls First? Debate Continues in N. Dakota

FARGO — The Class B boys basketball state tournament could once again signify the end of the winter high school sports season in North Dakota.

In June, the North Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors will vote on switching the start dates of the Class B boys and girls basketball seasons.

The 2010-11 basketball season marked the first year the boys tournament occurred before the girls.

The start dates for the B boys and girls basketball seasons are once again being left to a vote.



During a March 22 meeting in Fargo, the district chairs voted 12-4 recommending the boys and girls start dates be flipped. That recommendation will be discussed and voted on at the NDHSAA Board of Directors meetings scheduled for June 18-19 in Valley City.

"If our schools want it reversed, then I am not opposed to that," said NDHSAA Executive Secretary Sherm Sylling said.

If the NDHSAA board approves the district chairs' recommendation, the B boys will likely have to wait one more year to become the last state tournament of the winter season.

"There is no way that it will happen for next season," Sylling said. "Too many schedules have been built. If the board approves that recommendation by the district chairs, it would be for the 2014-15 school year."

Class B boys basketball continues to be the top profit-generating tournament in the state. It has produced a combined profit of more than \$1.3 million during the span of 2002-03 to 2011-12. Moving the tournament earlier in the season has coincided with a dip in profits.

In 2009-10, the B boys state tournament – played at the Minot State Dome – netted a profit of \$142,202.75. In 2010-11 – the first season when the boys started before the girls – the B turned a profit of \$136,571.74, a decline of \$5,631.01. Both

the boys and girls tournaments were played at the Minot State Dome that season.

The 2011-12 tournament played at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks generated a profit of \$83,135.91 – marking the only time in the last 10 years the tournament failed to show a profit of more than \$100,000. It also signaled the only time in the 10-year span that the B was not the NDHSAA's most profitable tournament. The Class B girls basketball tournament turned a \$87,634.93 profit later that season.



Following the 2007-08 seasons change in the MHSAA, many schools here have wrestled with which gender plays first on a nightly basis. North Dakota is currently re-thinking its tournament schedule.

The switch of seasons also limited the number of venues in which the B could be hosted.

Under the current schedule, the B boys tournament goes head-to-head with Class A boys and girls basketball region tournaments in Bismarck and Fargo.

The Bismarck Civic Center – which has hosted the B three times since the 2002-03 season – is unable to host the B boys because it remains the host of the West Region boys and girls basketball tournaments.

"When they made the switch a few years ago, I told the NDHSAA board that it would take Bismarck out of the rotation," Bismarck High School activities director Jim Haussler said. "Bismarck is the site of (Class A) West Region basketball tournaments, and that is something we didn't want to see move away."

The 2002-03 B boys tournament was played at the Bismarck Civic Center and turned a \$175,296.99 profit – the most in the last 10 years.

The potential change would be welcomed by Haussler, who said he has enjoyed managing both the B boys and girls tournaments over the years.

"I would be crazy to say we are opposed to hosting the state Class B boys basketball tournament," Haussler said. "If we could have the Class B boys basketball and the West Region tournament, we would be grateful."

The start dates were initially flipped three years ago to address the volleyball season overlapping with the start of girls basketball practices. The move sparked a lot of debate, and Sylling admits some of the decision's impacts were not addressed.

– continued on next page

NFHS Partners with USTA to Promote No-Cut Policy

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) – the national leadership organization for high school athletic and performing arts programs – is partnering with the United States Tennis Association (USTA) to support and promote the USTA’s “no-cut” policy for high school tennis teams. The “no-cut” policy allows every student who wishes to play high school tennis to be a member of a team.

The USTA and NFHS have aligned efforts to recruit and recognize coaches who commit to these inclusive efforts, which can have a positive impact on the students who participate.

The goal of the partnership is to attract new supporters of the no-cut policy through the 51 NFHS member state associations, which includes more than 19,000 high schools and almost 7.7 million participants in high school sports. With the resources and network of the NFHS, the USTA hopes to achieve a greater penetration of no-cut programs nationwide by extending its reach to high school coaches and administrators.

“We are honored to join efforts with the NFHS,” said Kurt Kamperman, USTA Chief Executive,

Community Tennis. “Ensuring students are given an opportunity to be part of a team will make a lasting impact on the lives of our youth, as well as on the sport of tennis.”

“Philosophically, the ‘no-cut’ concept fits our mission of involving as many young people as possible in high school sports and performing arts programs,” said Bob Gardner, NFHS executive director. “We are pleased to assist the USTA in encouraging more coaches and administrators to consider implementing a no-cut program in their schools.”



The NFHS and the USTA have teamed up to endorse a no-cut policy for high school tennis, allowing all interested individuals to be part of the team.

Since the inception of the no-cut program in 2006, the USTA has registered more than 3,600 coaches who have implemented a no-cut initiative, affecting more than 130,000 high school students.

The organizations will promote the initiative through their respective online and educational resources. The USTA will track and register the no-cut interscholastic tennis programs utilizing its registration system. To register as a no-cut coach or learn more about the program, visit www.usta.com/no-cut, or scan the code inset in the photo.

– continued

“The overlap of the volleyball and girls basketball season was understood, and our schools were telling us that a break was more important to our female athletes than to our male athletes, so the change was made,” Sylling said. “One of the things that we failed to talk about that is a result of the change is that a lot of the football players came into the basketball season injured.”

Milnor head boys basketball coach Ben Nelson said his team felt the negative effects of the switch in 2010. That’s when many of his players competed on Milnor-North Sargent’s Class A state runner-up football team just days prior to lacing up their sneakers for basketball practice.

“That was difficult for our guys not having any recovery time because of the physicality of football,” said Nelson, who guided Milnor to a state championship this spring. “There isn’t an easy solution to this.”

Fargo Oak Grove boys basketball coach Kyle Card said he hasn’t been opposed to starting earlier the last three seasons, but admits he is nostalgic for returning the B to its original spot.

“I have grown up with the Class B boys basketball tournament being the pinnacle or the last event of the basketball season,” Card said. “That’s the way I would like it to be if I had the choice. I can see everyone’s point of view. It isn’t an easy decision to make.”

— Tom Mix
 Fargo Forum News Service

For the Record, Arkansas Seeks to Combine its Book

When Wadie Moore started compiling a record book for the Arkansas Activities Association around 1996, he wanted it to be as comprehensive as possible.

The assistant executive director for Arkansas's organizing body for high school athletics combed through archives and drew on the contacts he'd made in his decades of sportswriting for the *Arkansas Gazette*.

All the while, though, Moore knew the record book he was creating told an incomplete story of his state's athletic past. He knew there had been two high school sports associations divided by race until 1967, when the all-white Arkansas Activities Association integrated with the all-black Arkansas State Athletic Association.

When compiling the book, which includes a list of state champions in various sports and all-time leaders in statistical categories, Moore used official records kept by the AAA dating back to the early 1900s. But he didn't find any records kept by the



teams in the late 1950s. Miles, an All-American at Seattle University who still lives in Seattle, added: "That's something that somebody one day might say, 'We need to make a change.'"

The change could be straightforward: Add a separate category in the AAA record book for ASAA records. A similar arrangement has played out in major league baseball, where comprehensive statistics for Negro leagues can be found through baseball-reference.com, a partner site of the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

Other Southern states have also integrated their record books. Texas and Georgia include state titles won in their pre-integration all-black athletic associations. The states don't include individual records, which are much harder to confirm.

Wadie Moore is open to a similar expansion of the AAA record book. He never intended it to be static and accepts new submissions for records of all kinds. He believes the pre-integration all-black



"Any time you can preserve or find out something from your past like that, I think we should have an expansion." — Arkansas Activities Association Assistant Executive Director Wadie Moore

ASAA. The paperwork, if it existed, apparently wasn't transferred to the AAA headquarters. So, Moore didn't include marks set by all-black powerhouse programs in basketball, football and track like Pine Bluff Merrill, Little Rock Dunbar, Horace Mann, Scipio Jones, Hot Springs Langston and Texarkana Washington high schools.

The result affects not only the AAA record book, but all the news reports that use it as a source. This was evident in early March when Little Rock Hall High won its fourth straight state title in boys' basketball. News accounts described the achievement as the third time such a four-peat had been achieved in the state. It was actually the fourth time. No mention had been made of Scipio Jones, the North Little Rock school that won four straight all-black state titles in the late 1950s.

This oversight is a problem, said William McCraw and Eddie Miles, two members of Jones

schools deserve recognition in the only record book of its kind. "Any time you can preserve or find out something from your past like that, I think we should have an expansion," he said.

The key is compiling and verifying the information. The best route to researching pre-integration state titles would be scouring past issues of the *Arkansas Democrat*, *Arkansas Gazette* and *Arkansas State Press*, a Little Rock-based black newspaper, available on microfilm at the Central Arkansas Library System's Main Library.

Moore would accept clips from any of these sources. The project would not be easy, but he hopes someone with free time will tackle it. "If someone was willing to do that, it would be a blessing. I would love to see something like that."

— Evin Demirel
Demirel blogs about sports history and culture at thesportsseer.com

Gutting the FHSAA Hurts Students and Athletics

One of the keys to deregulation is to portray the regulator as a villain.

In Florida, for example, the push to deregulate growth included vilifying the Department of Community Affairs and the state's water management districts.

The newest bad guy is the non-profit Florida High School Athletic Association, a 93-year-old institution whose dastardly agenda includes encouraging sportsmanship and fair play and protecting young athletes from being exploited.

Over the years the FHSAA has come down – sometimes hard – on players, coaches and schools that bend or break rules designed to preserve integrity and fairness in prep sports.

But in Florida, you mess with sports – especially big-time football programs – at your own peril.

In 2012 then-state Rep. Kelli Stargel successfully introduced legislation designed to weaken the FHSAA and make it easier for student-athletes to switch schools.

Stargel happens to represent Lakeland, where a legendary high school football program had been nailed for eligibility violations the previous year.

The bill passed. But Stargel, now a state senator, and Rep. Larry Metz of Yalaha, are taking another run at gutting the organization that governs high school sports in Florida. Their bills would starve the FHSAA of money, add political appointees to the board of directors, let the state education commissioner pick an executive director, and quite likely replace the organization in 2017.

Stargel, Metz and others justify their legislation using due process arguments that would make the ACLU proud. No doubt student-athletes and their parents shouldn't be railroaded, and perhaps some

changes to the way the FHSAA operates are warranted. Provisions that would control salaries and perks for FHSAA employees sound fine, too.

But that's a Trojan horse. Stargel and others are bringing their zeal for deregulation to high school athletics. Their changes would effectively direct an organization that enforces the rules to back off.

Stargel, Metz and others are missing the point, which isn't surprising in a state where athletics – especially football – have such outsized influence.

A state where salaries for college coaches dwarf those of college presidents. Where university scandals are disproportionately related to sports.

Where boosters write massive checks for athletic facilities while academics starve for funding.



“These bills . . . encourage unscrupulous behavior by vilifying and hamstringing the organization that's devoted to integrity in sports.”

Legislators should value not only protecting the rights of student-athletes but also protecting high school athletics from the influences that have corrupted college sports.

These bills don't do that. They encourage unscrupulous behavior by vilifying and hamstringing the organization that's devoted to integrity in sports.

The Legislature would be better off tearing up these bills and starting over. High school athletics in Florida — and student-athletes — would be better off, too.

— Orlando Sentinel Editorial
April 6, 2013

Cheer Association Awards \$12 Thousand in Scholarships

The Lake Michigan Competitive Cheer Officials Association held its 10th Annual Scholarship Meet at East Kentwood High School on Saturday, Jan. 28. Twelve \$1,000 scholarships were awarded to outstanding student-athletes who have demonstrated leadership in their classrooms, in both practice and competition, and in their communities. Recipients were: Kara Fadanelli of Portage Northern; Sara Bickel of Grandville; Annika Vaneyl of Forest Hills Northern; Jenna White of Hudsonville; Ashley Talarico of Byron Center; Christina Allen of East Kentwood; Kassi Nelson of Grand Haven; Jordyn Hills of Rockford; Alyssa Hoffman of DeWitt; Kara Berry of Comstock Park; Kaitlin Hamacher of Hudsonville; and Rachel Rick of DeWitt. Each coach spoke highly of their athlete's positive impact on their teams and programs, and they are confident the young women will carry this same success on to their future college and life endeavors. Congratulations!

This issue's "vault" finding uncovers the origins of the MHSAA's Bush Award, established to recognize "legends in the making" in athletic administration, as this August 1991 MHSAA Bulletin article states.

Bush Award was Created to Honor Today's Leaders

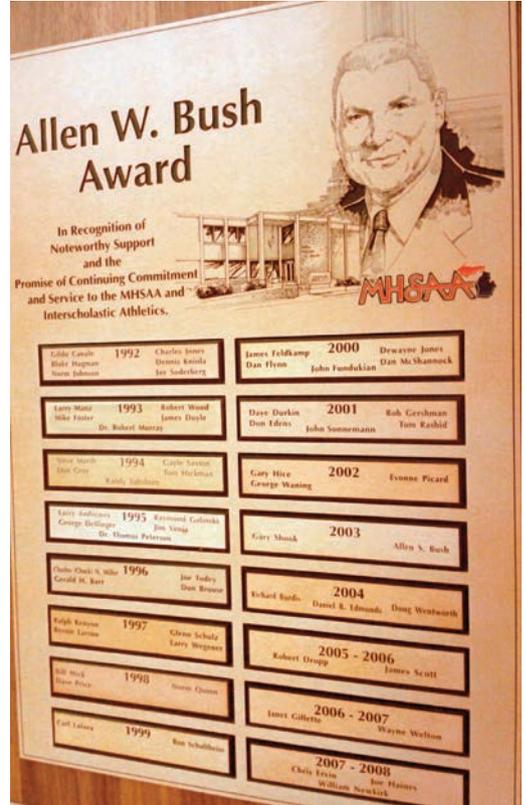
The Michigan High School Athletic Association has been served by state directors of wisdom and unequivocal integrity, and continues to be served by legions of coaches, administrators, officials, and others with extraordinary ability and energy; and the MHSAA Representative Council has announced an expanded program to honor both groups on a perpetual basis.

Since 1978, the MHSAA has presented in honor of its longest-serving director the Charles E. Forsythe Award to one or two individuals who have served Michigan interscholastic athletics, including the MHSAA, with rare distinction for 25 years or more.

The Forsythe recipients have been at or near retirement; and for every one of those legends, there are a dozen legends-in-the-making . . . younger men and women in the prime of their careers, giving and serving without a lot of attention or appreciation. That will change with the Allen W. Bush Award, which the Representative Council has authorized to honor up to eight individuals annually for past and continued service to interscholastic athletics as coach, administrator or other capacity.

The Bush recipients will have at least 15 years of especially noteworthy service to Michigan Interscholastic athletics, and promise for many more years of contributions. The award, to be presented at occasions in the recipients' own communities or professional association, will be an expression of appreciation for the past and encouragement for the future.

Al Bush served the MHSAA for 18 years, including three as assistant director, five as associate director, and 10 as state director, retiring in 1978. Prior to his service for the MHSAA, he was a teacher, coach and administrator at Battle Creek Central, University High, Dearborn, and Bay City Handy. He was active nationally, particularly in the sport of swimming, where he chaired the National



A PLACE IN OUR HISTORY

The Allen W. Bush Award was established in 1992 to recognize current school sports leaders for their exemplary efforts in serving our schools and students. They are forever honored and appreciated at the MHSAA Offices in East Lansing.

Federation Swimming & Diving Rules Committee, and served on the US Olympic Swimming Committee.

Bifocal Vision Suits Athletic Directors

In the scheme of interscholastic athletic administration, athletic directors are "middle management." The athletic director is not the delivery system (that's the coaching staff). The AD is not the CEO.

The athletic director is a middle manager; responsible for some staff, and responsible to others. As a result, the athletic director must have "bifocal vision."

This is the ability to look in the distance, see the big picture, and share the vision of the school-district leadership; along with the ability to look at immediate needs, keep after the little details and make sure ideas and ideals are put into practice.

Lots of folks become embarrassed when they start wearing bifocal eyeglasses. Athletic directors should see bifocals only as an outward manifestation of their special gift; bifocal vision.

— from the November 1991 MHSAA Bulletin

INTRODUCING THE BUSH AWARD

At the Annual Sports Sages Meeting on Aug. 4, 1992, at Boyne Mountain, current MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts (left) presents a replica plaque of the Allen W. Bush Award to its namesake, former Executive Director Al Bush. At right is Vern Norris, who served as the Association's Executive Director between Bush and Roberts.



All-Time Bush Award Recipients

1992

Gil Canale, Northern Michigan University
 Blake Hagman, Kalamazoo
 Norm Johnson, Bangor
 Chuck Jones, Royal Oak
 Dennis Kniola, Stevensville
 Jay Soderberg, Gaylord

1993

Larry Manz, Port Huron
 Mike Foster, Gull Lake
 James Doyle, Bay City John Glenn
 Bob Wood, Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett
 Dr. Robert Murray, Trenton

1994

Don Gray, Owosso
 Tom Hickman, Spring Lake
 Steve Marsh, Midland
 Randy Salisbury, Britton-Macon
 Gayle Saxton, Houghton Lake

1995

Larry Andrewes, Grosse Pointe Woods
 George Dellinger, Flint
 Raymond Galinski, Ludington
 Dr. Thomas Peterson, Ann Arbor
 Jim Venia, Marysville

1996

Jerry Barr, Romeo
 Don Brouse, Monroe
 Chuck Miller, Vandercook Lake
 Joe Today, Essexville-Garber

1997

Ralph Kenyon, Battle Creek Harper Creek
 Bernie Larson, Battle Creek Pennfield
 Glen Schultz, Battle Creek Lakeview
 Larry Wegener, Battle Creek Central

1998

Bill Mick, Midland
 Dave Price, Rockford
 Norm Quinn, Bloomfield Hills

1999

Carl Latora, Portage Northern
 Ron Schultheiss, Charlotte

2000

Jim Feldkamp, Troy Public Schools
 Dan Flynn, Escanaba High School
 John Fundukian, Novi Public Schools
 Dewayne Jones, West Bloomfield Schools
 Dan McShannock, Midland Dow High School

2001

Dave Durkin, Lapeer East
 Bob Gersham, Berkley
 John Sonneman, Traverse City
 Tom Rashid, Detroit Catholic League
 Don Edens, Kingsford

2002

Gary Hice, Petoskey
 George Waning, St. Joseph
 Evonne Picard, East Lansing

2003

Al Bush Jr., Traverse City
 Gary Shook, Otsego

2004

Richard Burdis, Flushing
 Daniel Edmunds, Taylor
 Doug Wentworth, Grand Rapids

2005

Robert Dropp, Garden City
 Jim Scott, Allendale

2006

Jan Gillette, Comstock Park
 Wayne Welton, Chelsea

2007

Chris Ervin, St. Johns
 Joe Haines, Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills
 William Newkirk, Sanford Meridian Public Schools

2008

Jerry Rosevear, Petoskey
 Michael Young, Buchanan

2009

Tom Smith, Escanaba

2010

Keith Alto, Newberry
 Betty Wroubel, Pontiac

2011

Dennis Chartier, Iron Mountain
 Rick Schmidt, Holt

2012

Robin Dilday, Utica
 Robert Dowd, Troy
 Curt Ellis, Saline
 Greg Lattig, Mason

Second Annual “Battle of the Fans” Winner is . . .

Josh Money had gone to just about every Buchanan boys basketball game during his first three years of high school, taking his place in the frequently semi-full student section.

But as the senior “Trophy Buck” stood in front of his school’s newly-created “Herd” for its first theme night on Dec. 7, he hardly could believe his eyes.

He, his classmates and athletic director Fred Smith had hatched the idea of creating the section only a few months before. But as Money looked up to see – and hear – dozens of students dressed up for “Christmas on the Court” and waving “Buck Power” spirit towels, he began to believe winning this year’s MHSAA Battle of the Fans II was possible.

Now, an MHSAA championship banner announcing the Herd as this year’s BOTF champion and best student cheering section in Michigan hangs in the Buchanan gym.

“Words can’t really explain it. It just feels good that we are the best. There’s no guessing. We are the best,” Money said. “I’m proud of our school, proud of our community. How much support we had throughout has just been amazing. I never knew it was going to come out to be this big.”

The most widespread slogan of many put out by this year’s MHSAA Battle of the Fans II champion starts with the friendliest of greetings – “Welcome.”

But to see the entire Buchanan community – from elementary schools students to high school leaders to grandmas and grandpas locking arms and standing together – in our eyes, there was no more meaningful sign of the community-building power of the Herd.

Buchanan was chosen based on a vote by the MHSAA’s 16-member Student Advisory Council influenced by public vote on the MHSAA’s Facebook page. A total of 8,024 fans voted in the MHSAA Facebook poll, with those results then equated against a school’s enrollment.

Buchanan far and away received the most Facebook votes – 4,522, or 63 more than the size of the town’s population. Zeeland East received 2,056 votes. The Student Advisory Council based its vote on the following criteria: positive sportsmanship, student body participation, school spirit, originality of cheers, organization of the group, section leadership and overall fun.

Other numbers to consider from this season’s contest: The 26 application videos have been watched more than 28,500 times, and the MHSAA-produced videos from our tour stops have 14,500 views. The stories on the five finalists plus a page on voting instructions had been viewed 17,206 times by the contest’s culmination.

With a second year in the books, the MHSAA remembers fondly each of its Battle of the Fans visits this winter. Any of the five schools would’ve been a worthy champion.

Here’s some of what we enjoyed most about each finalist:

Tradition Doesn’t Graduate Award: Frankenmuth

What we saw: More of what made Frankenmuth our inaugural BOTF champion in 2012. A large crowd reaching to the top of the bleachers, completely engaged in the game throughout, and having a blast from opening tip to final buzzer. And when it comes to halftime, no one is more creative – the “Silent Night” sing-along at center court was a solid follow-up to the 2012 halftime chicken dance.

Why we’re fans: Watching Frankenmuth from the outside makes the casual observer want to jump in and take part. The Eagles simply have a blast, regardless of who is standing at the front directing traffic. Nearly all of the section’s leaders graduated last spring, but roles (and in a few cases, costumes) were handed down, and a few key juniors already are involved – meaning we could see Frankenmuth among the finalists again in 2014.

All in the Family Award: Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard

What we saw: A true community where one might not expect to see it – a school which draws students from not just Ann Arbor but a handful of neighboring towns as well, yet gets constant support for multiple sports no matter what day of the week. This section has plenty of history, and some recent tragedies sadly showed again the strength of Gabriel Richard’s bonds.

Why we’re fans: A fun clip we didn’t use in the video showed piles of props scattered next to the stands – the necessities of putting on an ultra-creative “Beach Night.” Our favorite was the human wave, which was then surfed by one of the section leaders. We were impressed by the big plans being made for the “Masquerade for Mott” fundraiser for the C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital, and just the overall connection throughout the section and with its basketball team on the floor, and cheerleaders and dance team on the sidelines.

One Voice, All Day Award: Zeeland East

What we saw: Members of “The Coop” don’t leave their responsibilities as student section members at the door. Living their brand of “rowdy” is a fulltime deal. Zeeland East was our largest school among this year’s finalists, but also has the most developed Facebook presence and a strong Twitter following to spread the word and keep the ideas flowing 24/7. And “High 5 Hallway” – a game day occurrence during which hundreds of Zeeland East students meet in one hallway during a break, form lines and high five each other – was our favorite new idea of this year’s tour.



Geoff Kimmerly, Lansing

HAVE YOU “HERD?”

It’s deer season all year long in Buchanan, but these Bucks are in no danger; in fact, they are beloved by the administration and community. In taking the MHSAA’s Second Annual “Battle of the Fans” contest, there’s plenty to stomp and snort about in the “Herd.”

Why we’re fans: From “High 5 Hallway” to the way senior leaders plant themselves with the underclassmen at the top of the section, the sense of unity was unmistakable despite the large size of the school and its section. Leaders have a constant dialogue with their athletic director – something we’ve found is a must for top sections – and it’s easy to get worn out just watching this non-stop Coop party.

Make a Difference Award: Vandercook Lake

What we saw: The lessons taught by Vandercook Lake’s group of 13 senior leaders are twofold: Make the most of your four years cheering on your classmates, and it’s possible to accomplish any number of goals by being driven and organized. The Jayhawks got this section going this fall in part to acquire a new mascot costume; they ended up with that costume, school flags, spirit towels and a legacy ready-made for the next group to pick up and continue building.

Why we’re fans: We have a lot of respect for a large group of students pulling together with so many possible viewpoints and abilities and turning out something this positive. Vandercook Lake also was our smallest finalist this year – but showed us a section much larger than its relative size and comparable in creativity and spirit with schools much larger. These students had an idea and made it happen.

Battle of the Fans champion: Buchanan

What we saw: All five of our finalists have created something of value in their respective schools and their communities as a whole. But nowhere is that presence felt quite like in Buchanan.

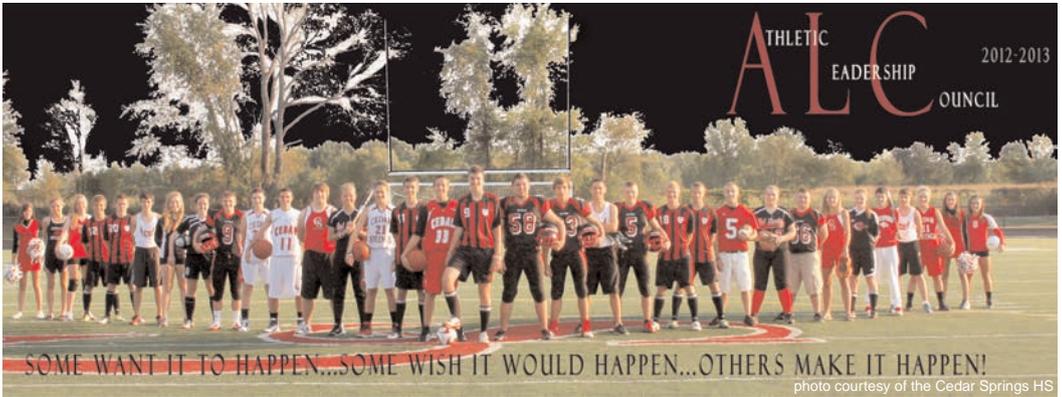
“The Herd” was little more than a group of milling “deer” a few months ago. Today, it’s a community staple, a point of camaraderie welcoming to all students not only at the high school but all the way down to the kindergarten classes. The section is invited weekly to community events, and the comments posted on our Facebook page and Second Half stories came from parents and grandparents, recent alums and those who graduated and left town long ago.

Why we’re fans: Buchanan does this the right way. The “Woods” are lively, but positive. The Herd is creative and a little silly, but connected to the game and supportive of the team.

And someone give these students their honorary marketing degrees right now; by branding phrases like “Herd Dat!” with younger students, they’ve ensured this section will live on.

“Walking through the school, or in front of the stands, all the little kids are all about it,” Money said. “(They’ll say,) ‘Josh Money, you should do this. You should do that.’ I’m getting messages all day, every day from little kids telling me what we should do.”

— Geoff Kimmerly
MHSAA Media & Content Coordinator



Students of All Ages Involved in Cedar Springs Sports

As students in the Cedar Springs school district move from elementary school to middle school to high school, they are gone, but far from forgotten.

Especially if those students become Red Hawk athletes.

Two unique groups involving student-athletes at Cedar Springs High School help to keep the Red Hawk athletics program in the minds of former teachers, current teachers, and future students.

The Athletic Leadership Council (ALC) was founded in 2010 under the guidance of Autumn Mattson, the school's athletic director.

The goal is to "unite the students, staff, and community, and spread the Red Hawk Pride," as stated on the school website. So far, the initiative has been a huge success, with 30 athletes ranging from freshmen to seniors on the Council.

One of the numerous activities the leaders organize is the popular "Staff Pride Night" for each sport, during which members of varsity Cedar Springs teams invite one former or current staff member to a game or event. The honored guests then wear that athlete's jersey or a team shirt to the contest. Additionally, all staff members receive free admission on Staff Pride Nights.

"Each athlete chooses a staff member within the district who has made a difference in their lives, and invites them to attend an event," Mattson said. "It makes a connection back to teachers earlier in their lives and let's those people see that they are remembered and appreciated."

"It makes a connection back to teachers earlier in their lives and let's those people see that they are remembered and appreciated."

The ALC has six "captains" who run the meetings and plan events with Mattson. The group is also heavily involved in another successful venture, the Red Hawk Kids Club, initiated by Mattson and football coach Brian Busen.

The Kids Club entails numerous student-athletes visiting Cedar Springs' three elementary schools and participating in such activities as reading, working in the classroom, or monitoring recess and lunch for K-5th grades.

One of the readings involves the "Red Hawk Creed," which states: "I am . . . Responsible, Enthusiastic, Dedicated, Hard Worker, Achiever, Winner, Kind . . . I am a Red Hawk!"

"We want to inspire kids to be really good people, to be Red Hawks," Mattson said. "Our athletes are assigned to a teacher, and they spend an hour once a week for six weeks in that building."

Participating sports then have a Red Hawk Kids Club event once per season.



IT'S ELEMENTARY

How does a school generate enthusiasm within the community? Get all levels of students involved, which is the goal of Cedar Springs' Red Hawk Kids Club.

—Rob Kaminski

Learning Life Lessons in Losing

Sixteen teams, three days, four winners and 12 losers. The odds don't sound favorable, but to be a player on one of these 16 teams is the dream and goal of every high school basketball player.

The Breslin Center at Michigan State University was home to the MHSAA Girls Basketball Finals the weekend of March 14-16. My task was to escort the losing coach of each game, along with two or three players on his or her team, to the postgame press conferences.

To be one of the 16 teams listed in the 2013 MHSAA Girls Basketball Finals program book should be reward enough for many, but leaving the

Breslin Center without the championship trophy is total devastation to some. Tears are shed by many of the players and coaches when their season ends in defeat. It's likely the last thing the coach and players desire to do is discuss the game with members of the press, answering questions

about what went wrong, why were there so many turnovers and what the future holds.

Each team at the MHSAA girl's tournament was blessed to have a large following of fan support. Community members and classmates offered support and encouragement with loud and vigorous cheers. Such pride was not diminished when their team did not win. Often, a standing ovation and positive comments from fans, directed at their team, the team that just lost, gave this old man goose bumps and a sense of pride in just how important team athletics are to education.

Then it was time to talk with the coach of the losing team, ask them to come with me and bring two or three players to talk with members of the press. Often, those joining the coach still have a mix of tears and mascara running down their cheeks as we head off to the awaiting stage. At these moments, I marvel at the intestinal fortitude, mental veracity and composure of the young women who will be teachers, parents, professionals and future leaders.

Sitting behind microphones, answering questions and advising members of the press just how much their team members and community support

have meant to them during the season, they appear like anything but losers to anyone present.

Losing team coaches offered compliments to the winning teams and pride in their team's accomplishments. They spoke of the work ethic that got them there, the growth of the girls as a family, and how the girls will remember the year and their teammates. It isn't losing at Breslin that will be remembered but all the positives throughout the year.

Two coaches deserve special mention in my opinion: Justin Freeland of Midland Bullock Creek and Thom Staudacher of Flint Powers Catholic. Their comments and leadership were exemplary and every parent should be happy to have their

daughter play for one of these coaches.

Most losing teams are happy to clean out their locker room, get on the bus and head home; not Bullock Creek. While the team was disappointed, the locker room was positive and Coach Freeland didn't want to leave,

but rather have his team enjoy the moment, spend more time at the Breslin Center, and even watch the next game. He and the girls talked with the press representatives about the positive experience of being at the Breslin and building a hunger within the team to want to return next year. The girls were so positive about their growth throughout the year and how they were still learning how to be better as a team.

Coaches have a tendency to bring seniors to a press conference, as it will be their last opportunity to express themselves before graduating. Not so with Staudacher. He brought underclass team representatives. They expressed how tough it was to lose, but were happy to express how they planned to return next year. No sadness was exhibited, only the happiness of reaching the Finals and their desire to work harder to improve.

Yes, 12 teams went home without the championship trophy, but they are better for the experience. And, they taught me some lessons, too.

– Ernie Gaffner
Williamston



CHARACTER ON STAGE

Character development is one of the many benefits derived through the school sports experience, and more often than not, losing can be a better teacher than winning.

Scholar-Athlete Class of 2013 Honored



The Michigan High School Athletic Association/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award has been recognizing the top student-athletes for 24 years. Applicants for the Scholar-Athlete Award must meet the following criteria: A minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale; and must have previously won a varsity letter. Applicants also show involvement in other school and community activities; submit two letters of recommendation and a 500-word essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

Recipients of the 2012-13 Scholar-Athlete Award receive a \$1,000 college scholarship to be used at the college, university, or trade school of their choice during the 2013-14 school year. This year, 1,679 applicants from 409 schools were received for the 32 scholarships. Class A students were guaranteed 12 winners, Class B eight winners, Class C six winners and Class D four winners. Two at-large winners were also selected.

All scholarship recipients were honored in ceremonies at halftime of the Class C Boys Basketball Final at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing on March 23.



32 student-athletes from around the state are honored during the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals each year for academic excellence.

2013 Scholar-Athlete Award Winners

Jesse Anderson, Union City, Class C
 Charles Barchett, Watervliet Grace Christian, Class D
 Marcus Barnett, St Clair Shores Lake Shore, Class A
 Chip A Blood, Hillsdale Academy, Class D
 Connor James Bos, Holland, Class A
 Ashley M Carney, Jackson Northwest, Class B
 Amanda Ciancio, Comstock Park, Class B
 Bryan Condra, Hartland, Class A
 Mary Emington, Cadillac, Class B
 Lara Fawaz, Dearborn, Class A
 Alec Robert Fisher, Battle Creek Harper Creek, Class B
 Ashwin Fujii, Ann Arbor Greenhills, Class C
 Kayla Giese, Macomb Dakota, Class A
 Patrick Gifford, Haslett, Class B
 Kristin Nicole Green, Saline, Class A
 Nicole L Green, Portland, Class B

Kelly Hall, Saline, Class A
 Kalvis Hornburg, Traverse City Central, Class A
 Brooke Kovacic, Oxford, Class A
 Teresa LaForest, St Joseph, Class A
 Elyse Kathleen Lisznyai, Hillsdale Academy, Class D
 Connor Lockman, Royal Oak Shrine Catholic, Class C
 Elena Victoria Luce, Mason County Eastern, Class D
 Francisco Jay Noyola, Lansing Christian, Class D
 Scott Parkinson, Grayling, Class B
 Kylei Ratkowski, Bronson, Class C
 Keeton Thayer Ross, Grosse Ile, Class B
 Jeremy Simon, Richland Gull Lake, Class A
 Grace Smith, Kalamazoo Hackett, Class C
 Reinie Thomas, Portage Central, Class A
 Adam Whitener, Saline, Class A
 Nicole Winter, Watervliet, Class C



Anderson



Barchett



Barnett



Blood



Bos



Carney



Ciancio



Condra



Emington



Fawaz



Fisher



Fujii



Giese



Gifford



K. Green



N. Green



Hall



Hornburg



Kovacic



LaForest



Lisznyai



Lockman



Luce



Noyola



Parkinson



Ratkowski



Ross



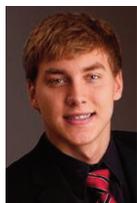
Simon



Smith



Thomas



Whitener



Winter

Visit the Students page of MHSAA.com
for a Scholar-Athlete History, and
for 2013-14 Application Information



Classifications Announced for 2013-14

Classifications for MHSAA elections and postseason tournaments in traditionally classified sports (A, B, C, D) for the 2013-14 school year have been announced. Enrollment breaks for postseason tournaments set up by divisions are posted to each sport's home page on MHSAA.com.

Classifications for the upcoming school year are based on a second semester count date, which for MHSAA purposes was Feb. 13. The enrollment figure submitted for athletic classification purposes may be different from the count submitted for school aid purposes, as it does not include students ineligible for athletic competition because they reached their 19th birthday prior to Sept. 1 of the current school year and will not include alternative education students if none are allowed athletic eligibility by the local school district.

After all the counts are submitted, tournament-qualified member schools are ranked according to enrollment, and then split as closely into quarters as possible. For 2013-14, there are 756 tournament-qualified member schools and 189 schools in each class.

Effective with the 2013-14 school year, schools with 893 or more students are in Class A in MHSAA postseason tournament competition. The enrollment limits for Class B are 429-892; Class C is 207-428; and schools with enrollments of 206 and fewer are Class D. The break between Classes A and B decreased 18 students from 2012-13, the break between Classes B and C decreased 20 students, and the break between Classes C and D is 10 students fewer than the current school year.

The new classification breaks will see 24 schools move up in class for 2013-14, while 20 schools will move down.

Schools were recently notified of their classification. MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts said schools may not subsequently lower their enrollment figure. However, if revised enrollment figures should be higher and indicate that a school should be playing in a higher class, that school would be moved up.

Schools have the option to play at any higher classification for a minimum of two years, but must exercise the option by April 15 for fall sports, August 15 for winter sports, and October 15 for spring sports.

MHSAA tournament sports that will be conducted in traditional classifications for 2013-14 are Basketball and Girls Volleyball. Football will use traditional classifications to determine playoff points.

Sports which will compete in nearly equal divisions are: Baseball, Bowling, Girls Competitive Cheer, Lower Peninsula Cross Country, Lower Peninsula Golf, Ice Hockey, Lacrosse, Lower Peninsula Soccer, Skiing, Softball, Lower Peninsula Swimming and Diving, Lower Peninsula Tennis, Lower Peninsula Track and Field and Wrestling.

The divisions and qualifiers for the MHSAA Football Playoffs will be announced on Selection Sunday, Oct. 27, 2013.

Here is a complete list of schools changing classification for 2013-14. (Note: This list does not include schools opting up in class/division for tournaments, which can be found on the Administrators page of the MHSAA Website under Enrollment and Classification):

Moving Up From Class B to Class A

Haslett
Detroit Osborn
Warren Regina
South Lyon East
Middleville Thornapple Kellogg
Trenton

Moving Down From Class A to Class B

Coldwater
Fowlerville
Fruitport
Detroit Henry Ford
Inkster
Milan
Redford Union
Romulus
Detroit Southeastern

Moving Up From Class C to Class B

Dearborn Advanced Technology Academy
Ypsilanti Arbor Preparatory
Delton Kellogg
Harrison
Houghton
Detroit Plymouth Educational Center Prep
Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central
Detroit University Prep Science & Math
Grand Rapids Wellspring Preparatory
Detroit Westside Academy

Moving Down From Class B to Class C

Southfield Bradford
Farwell
Detroit Henry Ford Academy School for Creative Studies
Houghton Lake
Kalkaska
Lakeview

Moving Up From Class D to Class C

Beal City
Detroit Dr. Benjamin Carson HS for Science & Medicine
Kimball Landmark Academy
St. Ignace LaSalle
Mendon
Mio-Au Sable
Detroit Universal Academy
Pittsford

Moving Down From Class C to Class D

Albion
Detroit Collegiate Prep
Harper Woods HEART Academy
Marcellus
Stephenson

Gilmore, Hutton Named 2013 Forsythe Winner

Tecumseh's Jim Gilmore and Grandville's Dave Hutton have made contributing to Michigan high school athletics their lives' work over the last four decades. In recognition of their efforts, they have been named the 2013 recipients of the MHSAA's Charles E. Forsythe Award.

The annual award is in its 36th year and is named after former MHSAA Executive Director Charles E. Forsythe, the Association's first full-time and longest-serving chief executive. Forsythe Award recipients are selected each year by the MHSAA Representative Council, based on an individual's outstanding contribution to the interscholastic athletics community. Hutton and Gilmore received their honors during the MHSAA Class A Boys Basketball Final on March 23 at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing.



Jim Gilmore

Gilmore served four school districts over a 37-year career before retiring in 2008. He coached and taught at his alma mater Grant High School before moving on and eventually serving as athletic director at Kalamazoo's Barbour Hall Academy (while also assisting at Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Central High School). He was the athletic director and coached at Morenci High School and then served as athletic

director at Tecumseh High School. Gilmore was named to the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2004 and also served that school year as president of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.



Dave Hutton

Hutton has coached the Grandville High School boys golf team for 42 seasons and also started and led the ice hockey program for 18. His golf teams have posted a 520-180-9 dual meet record, made the MHSAA Finals 20 times and won Class A MHSAA championships in 1976 and 1988. His hockey teams over two stints as coach amassed a record of 212-189-23 with two Regional titles and a Division 1 Semifinal berth in 2001, his second-to-last season coaching that sport.

"Jim Gilmore and Dave Hutton have made long-standing contributions to their respective sports and communities. Their dedication and high regard for school athletics are signified by their decades of work," MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts said. "Their continued efforts – Dave Hutton as a coach and MHSAA Finals director, and Jim Gilmore with the MIAAA – show that for both, this is a lifelong commitment. We're proud to honor Jim Gilmore and Dave Hutton with Forsythe Awards."

Barb Beckett Receives 2013 WISL Award

A registered MHSAA contest official for 30 years, Traverse City's Barb Beckett may be best known in that circle as the first woman to officiate an MHSAA Boys Basketball Final, in 1995. But her contributions in athletics are many and continue to be far-reaching, and thus she is the MHSAA's 26th Women in Sports Leadership Award recipient.

Each year, the Representative Council considers the achievements of women coaches, officials and athletic administrators affiliated with the MHSAA who show exemplary leadership capabilities and positive contributions to athletics.

Beckett received her award during halftime of this season's MHSAA Girls Basketball Class A Final on March 16. She was on the crew that called the 1995 Class C Boys Basketball Final between Ishpeming and Lakeview, and she achieved another MHSAA first in 2000 when she became the first female selected for the Vern L. Norris Award for her work as an official. She also was named to the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan Hall of Honor in 2006.

Beckett also has worked three MHSAA Girls Basketball Finals and three Softball Finals, twice serving at the latter as umpire in chief, and was an alternate for a number of other championship games. She has officiated several Boys and Girls Basketball Semifinals and Softball Quarterfinals during her career, and continues to serve as president of both the Grand Traverse Area Umpires Association and the Northern Sports Officials Association. She also serves as an assigner of girls and boys basketball and softball officials in the Traverse City area.

"Barb Beckett is a demonstrated leader, evidenced by her previously being awarded the Norris Award for her efforts in recruiting and training officials," said John E. "Jack" Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA. "In that regard, she's a trailblazer for women in the officiating family, and her influence continues to be felt. We're pleased to honor her with the Women In Sports Leadership Award."



Barb Beckett



Register Now for Officiate Michigan Day and Make History

The largest-ever gathering of sports officials in the state of Michigan will take place Saturday, July 27, at the DeVos place in Grand Rapids.

Take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime experience, jam-packed with motivational speeches and educational breakout sessions tailored to suit every official's needs. The "state days" preceding the National Association of Sports Officials Summit have become a staple of the event in recent years. Last July in Portland, Oregon, 750 officials attended the unique gathering. Michigan could see numbers in excess of 1,000.



Grand Rapids will shine brightly in July when Officiate Michigan Day and the NASO Summit hit town.

"We anticipate hosting the single-most impressive gathering of officiating knowledge ever to convene; certainly in Michigan, and perhaps nationally," said MHSAA Assistant Director Mark Uyl, who coordinates the Association's contest officials and serves on the NASO Board of Directors. "The lineup for this event reads like a 'Who's Who' in officiating circles. To have them all in one place for a concentrated time period is something our officials will want to take advantage of. It's a celebration of officiating, and the byproduct is an invaluable day of lessons, education and networking."

Mark your calendars for July 27, 2013. The MHSAA will contact registered officials with registration details as the event draws near.

2013 Officiate Michigan Day Workshops

July 27, 2013 – DeVos Place, Grand Rapids

- **The 23 Most Powerful Lessons in Officiating** - Bill Topp (Referee Magazine / NASO)
- **Approved Association Roundtable Discussion - How to Make Good Associations Great!**
Arbiter Sports Q & A - Clark Evans & Arbiter Sports Staff
- **Female Officials- Recruitment, Retention and Advancement Panel Discussion** - Gina Mazzolini (MHSAA), Joan Powell (NCAA), Kathy Westdorp (MHSAA)
- **Healthy Officiating- Nutrition, Fitness and Injury Prevention** - Metro Health Staff
- **Legal and Tax Issues for Officials** - Don Collins (Executive Director and Attorney, California Interscholastic Federation)
- **Life in the NBA** - Joey Crawford, Bill Kennedy (NBA) and Steve Javie (Retired NBA, Current ESPN Analyst)
- **MHSAA Officiating 101 for New (and "Newer") Officials** - Rob Kaminski (MHSAA) and Panel
- **MHSAA Staff Roundtable** - Q & A with Tom Rashid, Nate Hampton, Randy Allen, Andy Frushour (MHSAA)
- **Michigan's First Officiating Family** - Carl, Carl, Perry and Dino Paganelli (NFL)
- **National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) Roundtable Discussion** - Hot Topics in Officiating and NASO Benefits - NASO Staff
- **Outside Views on High School Officiating - Finding, Keeping, Training and Assigning** - Ernie Yarbrough (Georgia) Craig Anderson (Illinois), Kevin Merkle (Minnesota)
- **Officiating & the Media** - Barry Mano (NASO), Paul Anger (Detroit Free Press), Jack Doles (WOOD-TV 8), Ralph Swearngin (GHSAA)
- **The Assigner & Official Relationship** - Rich Fetchiet (CBIA)
- **Verbal Judo** - Dave Yeast (former NCAA National Coordinator of Baseball Umpires)



Scan the
Code to
Begin your
Registration!

Saturday
July 27, 2013
DeVos Place
Grand Rapids



Camping is Not Just for Players; Pack Your Gear

Summertime is a great time for players to hone their skills and fundamentals. Likewise, those camps offer officials the rare opportunity to work in front of assigners and peers while sharpening mechanics and getting live looks that video sessions cannot provide.

The MHSAA conducts two such officiating camps/clinics during the summer, one for basketball officials and one for football officials. These unique sessions offer both classroom instruction and live action with camp clinicians alongside the the campers to offer immediate feedback.

The MHSAA Basketball Northern Officials Camp takes place at Lake Superior State University June 21-22; the MHSAA Football Officials Clinic will be conducted at Grand Valley State University June 18-19 in conjunction with the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association All-Star game.

In addition to instruction and reps, both events include camp t-shirts, Fox-40 whistles and meals on site.



Don't miss these valuable chances to improve your game and get a leg up the competition.

Visit the Officials page at MHSAA.com, and look for the gray box entitled "Officials Clinics & Camps" for links to the registration forms.

Additionally, several other camps run by local approved associations throughout the state are listed on the page.

MDOA Golf Outing to Assist Officials for Kids

The Metro Detroit Officials Association is hosting a golf outing Sunday, June 23, to benefit Children's Miracle Network Hospitals in support of the Referees For Reading program at Beaumont Children's Hospital. The program is one of the initiatives made possible by Officials For Kids and the generosity of local MHSAA Officials in Southeastern Michigan.

The seventh annual event will take place at Whispering Willows in Livonia at 1:30 p.m. Please contact Robert Williams at (313) 919-3609 for details and registration information. Cost is \$100 per golfer and includes lunch and a buffet dinner, in addition to the chance to compete for team and individual prizes.

The event raised approximately \$15,500 for Referees For Reading in the first five years. The program allows hospitalized children at Beaumont Children's Hospital to receive a bedside visit from a volunteer with a mobile Referees for Reading Book Cart. Each child is able to select and keep a new, age-appropriate book from the cart.

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals receiving donations through the Officials For Kids programs are: Beaumont Hospital (Royal Oak); Helen DeVos Children's Hospital (Grand Rapids); Sparrow Hospital (Lansing); and Hurley Medical Center (Flint).

The MHSAA is proud to accept donations from registering officials, and will continue to promote Officials for Kids to its membership. For more information, visit the Officials for Kids page of MHSAA.com, or contact Andi Osters: aosters@mhsaa.com.



Rules of the Games

Sharpen your skills with the following rules questions. Answers appear at the bottom of the next page.

Baseball

- With a runner on first, F1 delivers the first pitch to B2 and a ball is called. After receiving the ball from F2, F1 turns toward first base, takes two steps and is standing on the back of the mound when he licks his fingers. F1 then wipes off his fingers on his jersey before touching the ball.
 - Legal.
 - A ball is called.
 - A balk is called.
 - F1 must be warned.
- With the bases loaded and a 2-2 count on B4, F1 places his feet in a set position. With the ball in his glove and his hand at his side, he goes to his mouth and licks his fingers. F1 then wipes off his fingers on his pants before touching the ball.
 - Legal.
 - A ball is called.
 - A balk is called.
 - F1 must be warned.
- B1 draws a base on balls and overruns first. He is tagged by F3 as he attempts to immediately return to first.
 - B1 is out.
 - B1 is not out.
 - If B1 attempts to advance to second, he would be out.
 - If B1 feints an advance to second, he would be out.
- A sliding runner on a force play:
 - May slide on either side of the base as long as he can reach the base with a hand.
 - May slide legally past second base, making contact with a fielder who is behind the base.
 - May make contact with the fielder who is standing on the base if the slide is a legal slide.
 - May use a pop-up slide into a fielder who is on the base.
 - All of the above.

Softball

- Which of the following statements are true regarding pitching regulations:
 - The hands must be separated prior to pitching when taking a position on the pitching plate.
 - A backward or "rocker" step is allowed with the non-pivot foot prior to the hands coming together.
 - Prior to the pitch, the hands must come together for a minimum of 10 seconds.
 - The forward step must be within the 24 inch width of the pitching plate.
- True or False: During a legal pitching delivery, the pivot foot may remain in contact with or may push off and drag away from the pitching plate prior to the front foot touching the ground as long as the pivot foot remains in contact with the ground and within the 24 inch width of the pitchers plate.
- When a player is discovered using an altered bat:
 - The batter is out and a team warning is given.
 - The batter is out and ejected and the coach is restricted to the dugout.
 - The batter is out and both the batter and coach are ejected.
- A team is properly using the DP/FLEX as the game starts. In the third inning, the DP leaves the game

and the FLEX bats. Which of the following are true:

- The FLEX must bat in the same position as the DP had in the batting order.
- The DP is not eligible for re-entry.
- The FLEX may move to a different position in the batting order.
- The DP may re-enter the game later and occupy the same position in the batting order as before.

Soccer

- During their inspection of the field, the referees note that the portable goals are not secured, anchored or counterweighted. The home team's head coach says that this is the first time all year that this has been considered a problem.
 - The goals must be secured, anchored or counterweighted before the game may begin.
 - The game may begin without the goals being secured, anchored or counterweighted, but the referees must report this to the appropriate authority.
 - The game may begin without the goals being secured, anchored or counterweighted, but the referees should report this to the home team's head coach and ask that the goals be properly secured for subsequent games.
 - Since previous referees have allowed games to be played at this site without the goals being secured, anchored or counterweighted, the referees should take no further action.
- The home coach presents a roster to the referee which shows the names of all of the players. The roster does not show the names of the coaches or other bench personnel.
 - The game may not begin until the coach provides a complete roster.
 - The game may begin if the coach promises to provide a complete roster by the end of the game.
 - The game may begin. Inclusion of the coaches' names on the roster is not required.
 - The game may begin but the referee should remind the coach that a complete roster is required for future games.
- After Team A scores a goal, the assistant referee hears the Team A head coach calling one of his players, A15, off the field. The assistant referee counts the Team A players now on the field and realizes that Team A had 12 players on the field when the goal was scored. The assistant referee notifies the referee of this. The referee should:
 - Allow the goal, caution A15 and restart with a kickoff by Team B.
 - Allow the goal and restart with a kickoff by Team B, with no caution to A15.



- c. Disallow the goal, caution A15 and restart with a kickoff by Team B.
 - d. Disallow the goal, caution A15 and restart with a goal kick taken by Team B.
 - e. Disallow the goal, restart with a goal kick taken by Team B with no caution to A15.
4. During play, A1, the goalkeeper, is injured in a collision with B5, who is also injured. The referee stops play and calls the coach or trainer from both teams onto the field to attend to their players.
- a. B5 must leave the field and may be replaced.
 - b. A1 must leave the field and may be replaced.
 - c. Both B5 and A1 must leave the field and may be replaced.
 - d. Since A1 is the goalkeeper, neither B5 nor A1 are required to leave the field.

Girls Lacrosse

1. Attack (A1) shoots on goal, the ball goes into the goal as A1 hits the defender (B1) on the shoulder with her follow through. What is the ruling?
 - a. Illegal. No goal; free position for B1 – 8 m from the goal. A card (yellow or red) must be given to A1.
 - b. Legal. Goal is scored. No card is given.
 - c. Illegal. Goal is scored. A card is given to A1.
2. A Red defense player leaves the field during play to talk with her coach near her bench area. As she returns to the field, the Blue team has the ball along the opposite sideline boundary. What is the ruling?
 - a. Illegal. The Red player re-entered the field in a more advantageous position.
 - b. Legal. The Red player did not re-enter the field in a more advantageous position.
 - c. Illegal. The Red player is not allowed to re-enter the field.
3. The definition of crosse in the sphere includes (check all that apply):
 - a. A player may not reach into or through the sphere or hold her crosse around the throat of an opponent.
 - b. A player may not directly poke or wave the crosse near an opponent's face.
 - c. A player on offense may not hold, with or without cradling, the head of her crosse in front of her face or her teammate's face.
 - d. A player on offense may not hold, with or without cradling, the head of her crosse close to her body, or her teammate's body, making a legal/safe check impossible.
4. A field player is wearing a hard-brimmed baseball cap. What is the ruling? (check all that apply)
 - a. Legal. A player may wear any attire she needs to wear.
 - b. Illegal. A player may not wear/use any type of equipment that is dangerous to other players.
 - c. Illegal. However, soft headgear is allowed made of foam type material. Soft headgear is defined as any head covering without hard or unyielding parts that have the potential to injure another player.

Boys Lacrosse

1. Which of the following unsportsmanlike conduct actions result in a one-to-three minute non-releasable penalty in all cases (check all that apply).
 - a. Entering into an argument with an official as to any decision that has been made.
 - b. A substitute deliberately fails to comply with the rules for entering the field of play.
 - c. Bait or call attention to oneself or any other act considered unsportsmanlike by the official.
 - d. Deliberately use the hand or fingers to play the ball or grab an opponent's crosse during a faceoff.
2. A player may not check an opponent with that part of the handle of the crosse that is between the player's hands, either by thrusting away from the body or by holding it extended from the body. Mark all that apply regarding cross checks.
 - a. Any thrusting action with the crosse must be a penalty.
 - b. Equal pressure is not a penalty by itself and is an important part of defensive technique. For a penalty to be called in equal pressure situations it must be clear, flagrant and a distinct advantage must be gained by this action.
 - c. The penalty for a punching or thrusting cross check is a one-minute releasable penalty, unless it is in the head and neck area, which makes it a one- to-three-minute non-releasable penalty.
 - d. This point of emphasis conflicts with the NCAA's recent directive on cross checks delivered with a punching blow as opposed to equal pressure.
3. Mark below all items that must be present to avoid an illegal procedure penalty against the home team to begin the game.
 - a. table
 - b. scorebook
 - c. extra game balls
 - d. timing device
 - e. working horn (hand-held or as part of the scoreboard).
4. Rule 5 - 4 states that a player shall not initiate contact to an opponent's head or neck with a cross-check or with any part of his body or stick. Check all statements below that apply.
 - a. An excessively violent violation of this rule results in a one minute non releasable penalty.
 - b. Any follow through that contacts the head and neck shall also be considered a violation.
 - c. A player shall not initiate an excessive, violent or uncontrolled slash to the head/neck.
 - d. If the contact to the head/neck is considered deliberate or reckless the penalty shall be a minimum two- or three-minute non-releasable foul.



Baseball Answers: 1-a (6-2-1e); 2-c (6-2-1e); 3-a (8-2-7); 4-c (2-32, 8-4-2b)

Softball Answers: 1-a, b, d (6-1, 1 & 2, Note); 2-T (6-1-2c); 3-c (7-4-2); 4-a, d (3-3-6)

Soccer Answers: 1-a (1-4-1); 2-a (3-1-3); 3-d (PR 3-1-1Ba, 12-8-1a); 4-c (3-3-1c2)

Girls Lacrosse Answers: 1-a (6-3); 2-b (5-6); 3-a, b, c, d (6-1); 4-b, c (2-9)

Boys Lacrosse Answers: 1-a, c, d (5-10); 2-a, b, c (5-2); 3-a, b, d, e (1-12; 6-5-2s); 4-b, c, d (5-4-1, 2, 3)

Four Thrusts for Four Years

In his “From the Director” blog which appears each Tuesday and Friday at MHSAA.com, MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts recently introduced a set of action plans the Association is taking on the health and safety front. Following is that blog, and related stories to early movements in the missions.

“Four thrusts for four years.” That’s the phrase we’re using to keep us focused and, we hope, effective in addressing some of the most pressing health and safety issues of school sports. The four emphases are:

- Require more initial and ongoing sports safety training for more coaches.
- Implement heat and humidity management policies at all schools for all sports.
- Revise practice policies generally, but especially for early in the fall season.
- Modify game rules to reduce the frequency of the most dangerous play situations, and to reduce head trauma.

We will use the breadth and depth of our constituency to search for best practices and earn their approval throughout our rank and file. There will be many requests for the MHSAA to do other health and safety related things; but we believe if we keep the focus on these four thrusts for four years, we can do the most good most quickly for the most students.

MHSAA Approves Model Policy for Heat & Hydration

The adoption of a heat management policy for MHSAA tournaments and a detailed model policy to be submitted to member schools for suggested use during practice and regular-season competition was the main focus of the Representative Council of the MHSAA during its annual Winter Meeting on March 22 in East Lansing.

Heat and humidity management is the next step of the MHSAA’s ongoing focus on health and safety issues in school sports. The model policy, while not setting requirements for member schools, proposes actions based on heat index – the degree of felt discomfort derived by combining temperature and humidity measurements – that are designed to minimize the risk of heat-related illness during interscholastic participation. It will be published as a recommendation for regular-season practice and competition in the 2013-14 MHSAA Handbook, and it will be mandatory for MHSAA tournaments beginning this fall.



Executive Director Jack Roberts said there are a number of member schools with solid heat management policies in place, but he hopes the adoption of this “best practice” will further raise awareness of the risks of heat-related illness while giving schools – especially those without a protocol – an opportunity to adopt a standardized policy similar to what is in place for other environmental factors such as lightning and tornadoes.

“For the past several years, we’ve used four ‘Hs’ to focus our efforts to improve the health and safety of student-athletes: Heads, Hearts, Heat and health Histories,” Roberts said. “To maintain momentum, we’ve identified several focus areas for the next four years: better acclimatization of athletes, better health and safety preparedness for coaches and modification of practice policies and contest rules to reduce head trauma and the frequency of each sport’s most injurious situations.

“This action was significant; but it’s just the next step in a continuous series of actions being taken to make school sports as healthy as possible for students.”

The heat management policy appears on the following page.

The policy and accompanying Heat Index Calculation Chart can be found by scanning this code:



Model Policy for Managing Heat and Humidity

Adopted March 22, 2013

1. Thirty minutes prior to the start of an activity, and again 60 minutes after the start of that activity, take temperature and humidity readings at the site of the activity. Using a digital sling psychrometer is recommended. Record the readings in writing and maintain the information in files of school administration. Each school is to designate whose duties these are: generally the athletic director, head coach or certified athletic trainer.
2. Factor the temperature and humidity into the Heat Index Calculator and Chart to determine the Heat Index. If a digital sling psychrometer is being used, the calculation is automatic.
3. **If the Heat Index is below 95 degrees:**
 - All Sports
 - Provide ample amounts of water. This means that water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
 - Optional water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration.
 - Ice-down towels for cooling.
 - Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.

If the Heat Index is 95 degrees to 99 degrees:

- All Sports
 - Provide ample amounts of water. This means that water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
 - Optional water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration.
 - Ice-down towels for cooling.
 - Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
- Contact sports and activities with additional equipment:
 - Helmets and other possible equipment removed while not involved in contact.
- Reduce time of outside activity. Consider postponing practice to later in the day.
- Recheck temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for increased Heat Index.

If the Heat Index is above 99 degrees to 104 degrees:

- All Sports
 - Provide ample amounts of water. This means that water should always be available and athletes should be able to take in as much water as they desire.
 - Mandatory water breaks every 30 minutes for 10 minutes in duration.
 - Ice-down towels for cooling.
 - Watch/monitor athletes carefully for necessary action.
 - Alter uniform by removing items if possible.
 - Allow for changes to dry t-shirts and shorts.
 - Reduce time of outside activity as well as indoor activity if air conditioning is unavailable.
 - Postpone practice to later in the day.
- Contact sports and activities with additional equipment
 - Helmets and other possible equipment removed if not involved in contact or necessary for safety.
 - If necessary for safety, suspend activity.
- Recheck temperature and humidity every 30 minutes to monitor for increased Heat Index.

If the Heat Index is above 104 degrees:

- All sports
 - Stop all outside activity in practice and/or play, and stop all inside activity if air conditioning is unavailable.

Note: When the temperature is below 80 degrees there is no combination of heat and humidity that will result in need to curtail activity.

A Little Help Please: ADs and the Transfer Rule

Rather than recite the entire regulation, here is an abridged guide for coaches, parents or administrators to assist with the MHSAA transfer regulation, which has grown in part due to greater mobility of students and changes to educational structures.

The transfer rule is intended to discourage students from changing high schools due to sports after they begin the 9th grade. In general terms here is the rule: A student who changes schools after beginning the 9th grade is not eligible in the new school for a set period of time unless they meet one of the 15 stated exceptions. Four of the exceptions include a full residential change (as defined in the rules), moving back home with parents after being away, moving between divorced parents, an 18-year-old moving without parents. These last two exceptions require completion of an Educational Transfer Form by both school principals and the MHSAA prior to participation in a contest. A student who meets one of these residential exceptions has immediate eligibility at one of four places: the former school (the student does not have to change schools), the public school of their new residence, the closest charter or closest non-public school.

When a student does not meet one of the stated exceptions the period of ineligibility is about half a school year depending on the student's first day of enrolment. It's a period of ineligibility with a "4th Friday" in it. A student must sit through either the 4th Friday after Labor Day or the 4th Friday of February. A student can practice if the school allows, but is not eligible for participation in a game or scrimmage against other schools. Transfer students not meeting a stated exception, who are enrolled by the 4th Friday after Labor Day become eligible on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Those who enroll later in the year, and before the 4th Friday of February become eligible for fall sports on August 1.

Here are some resources and approaches that may assist ADs and coaches with managing the eligibility of incoming transfer students.

- The penalty for participation while ineligible is forfeiture. **When in doubt, sit the student out and find out.** The disappointment of missing the first scrimmage or contest is far less than that which comes from discovering that a student new to our school or town participated and caused our team to forfeit. The MHSAA Executive Staff is ready to assist athletic directors by phone, email, fax or in person.

- Coaches should only allow students to practice in the summer before school begins **who are signed up to attend your school.** The rules require that a student have a physical exam to practice and **common sense** requires that we would not let a student practice with our team whose personal information

was not in our records. Under the rules, a student cannot compete without a physical and a complete transcript since starting the 9th grade (Interpretation 37).

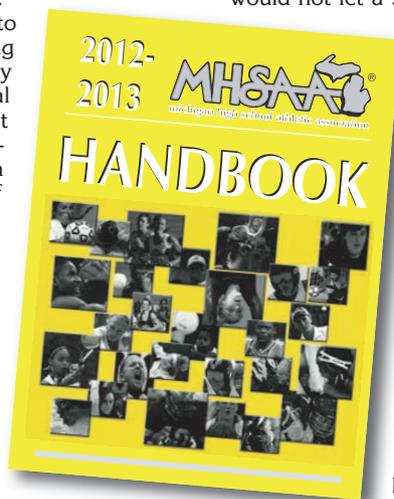
- Have new students interested in sports (other than first-time, incoming 9th-graders) complete the **New Student Transfer Information Form.** Have the guidance or admissions office give copies to new students which are then returned to the AD. At the bottom of the MHSAA.com home page, under ADs – Forms and Resources, you will find Transfer Forms.

- Contact MHSAA Staff and obtain a **"Written Interpretation of Eligibility."**

While the eligibility of some transfer students is clear, many situations need the extra review that a written interpretation can provide. The AD should write an MHSAA Executive Staff member (email is fine), laying out all details of the transfer (residential and enrollment history) and providing documentation if applicable. As most know, the only official interpretations are those provided in writing. The process of both the school and the MHSAA committing the matter to writing helps to clarify eligibility.

- Tip for fall coaches to identify new eligible students: Once practices start, line up the team. Instruct any student who was not in your high school on the 4th Friday of February to step forward. For these students, consult the **Transfer Check List for Coaches and ADs** at MHSAA.com. New students should be listed by the coach and should not play until the AD has indicated under what exception to the transfer rule the student is eligible.
- **Tryout Cards or Practice Permits:** Some ingenious ADs instruct their coaches to not allow a student to participate unless they present written approval from the athletic office. Since eligibility is a state of being involving compliance with many rules, this may be a good way to connect the field or court with the eligibility list the athletic director prepares at the start of each academic term and the start of each season.

– continued next page



The Only Official Interpretations are Those Received in Writing

- **Transfer Rule Summarized:** A short read for parents of others regarding the transfer rule can be found at MHSAA.com under “Schools,” then parents, coaches or administrators in a blue box entitled Regulations Summary. Administrators should consult the full rule in the *MHSAA Handbook* (Pages 36-41)
- Be alerted to two special considerations. Section 9 B of the transfer regulation allows for the school to request a waiver for eligibility at the **subvarsity** level only for incoming 9th or 10th grade transfer students who have never played in a scrimmage or game in an MHSAA sport since beginning the 9th grade. This only applies to these stated conditions and only serves sports with subvarsity teams. Section 9 D allows for a school to request a waiver for a student who just missed a 4th Friday by a brief number of days (Interpretation 96). In these cases where the student begins at the new school within two weeks of the 4th Friday, the school can request eligibility on the **91st school day** of enrollment rather than be ineligible for nearly two semesters. Again, this only serves for those who just miss by a **brief number of days**. Other than this, there is no “90 Day Rule,” as many misunderstand.

Inform Students, Coaches and Parents of Summer Dead Period

Each school sets its own Summer Dead Period – a seven-consecutive day “zero player and coach contact period” for all sports and all coaches – no functions, fundraisers, parades, etc.

Non-school baseball and softball teams may continue their schedule during the dead period.

Set the period between a school’s last day of participation in any MHSAA tournament and Aug. 1. It is recommended that the dead period include the 4th of July.

There is no requirement to report, but there is a requirement to designate and observe a dead period.

Please include ALL sports, especially tennis and swimming in the discussions. Be sure to publicize your Summer Dead Period to all parties and the community at large.



Spring Sport Officials Ratings Due June 1

Spring is notoriously the season during which MHSAA schools lapse in their duty to rate contest officials.

We understand the number of contests taking place, the chaotic nature of scheduling due to weather, and the anticipation of summer vacation, but ratings must be submitted for officials at all levels, and on time: June 1. Not only do ratings supply feedback for officials and tournament assignments – they are a requirement your school and coaches are to follow. Please accomplish this detail in baseball, softball, soccer and lacrosse.



Schedule Membership Resolution for Board of Education Meetings

When the Representative Council meets each May, the rules are finalized for the coming school year, and meeting minutes are mailed to each member school. Every member school Board of Education or governing body of a nonpublic school wishing to join the MHSAA for the coming school year must vote to do so and adopt the rules as its own.

The MHSAA Membership Resolution must be signed by the Board of Education and returned to the MHSAA. Please complete both sides of the form: on the reverse side, list schools in your district that will be MHSAA members and include the current enrollment number for 7th and 8th grades. When membership lapses, insurance coverage, among other matters, is jeopardized.

Administrators: Please be sure to schedule the MHSAA Membership Resolution for your upcoming Board of Education Meeting – Membership Resolution Forms are mailed to superintendents and athletic directors each May and are due back to the MHSAA by July 31.

MHSAA Representative Council

Dave Derocher**

Athletic Director
Reese High School
Class C-D — Northern Lower Peninsula

James Derocher**, President

Superintendent
Negaunee Public Schools
Class C-D — Upper Peninsula

Ken Dietz*

Athletic Director
Watervliet High School
Class C-D — Southwestern Michigan

Scott Grimes**, Vice President

Assistant Superintendent of Human Services
Grand Haven Public Schools
Statewide At-Large

Kyle Guerrant (ex-officio)

Director, Coordinated School Health & Safety
Programs Unit, Michigan Dept. of Education, Lansing
Designee

Kris Isom*

Athletic Director
Adrian Madison High School
Class C-D — Southeastern Michigan

Carmen Kennedy**

Principal
St. Clair Shores South Lake High School
Appointee

Maureen Klocke*

Athletic Director
Yale Public Schools
Appointee

Karen Leinaar*

Athletic Director
Bear Lake High School
Statewide At-Large

Jason Mellema*

Superintendent
Pewamo-Westphalia Schools
Junior High/Middle Schools

Orlando Medina**

Athletic Director
L'Anse Creuse High School
Appointee

Vic Michaels**, Secretary-Treasurer

Director of Physical Education & Athletics
Archdiocese of Detroit
Private and Parochial Schools

Steve Newkirk**

Principal
Clare Middle School
Junior High/Middle Schools

Peter C. Ryan**

Athletic Director
Saginaw Township Community Schools
Class A-B — Northern Lower Peninsula

Fred Smith**

Athletic Director
Buchanan High School
Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan

Paula Steele*

Principal
Perry High School
Appointee

John Thompson**

Athletic Director
Brighton High School
Class A-B — Southeastern Michigan

Al Unger*

Athletic Director
Kingsford High School
Class A-B — Upper Peninsula

Alvin Ward*

Administrator of Athletics
Detroit Public Schools
City of Detroit

*Term Expires December 2013

**Term Expires December 2014

ANALYSIS OF MHSAA MEMBERSHIP

April 17, 2013

758 Total High Schools

Total Public Schools	637	84%
Charter (Public School Academies)	49	6%
Traditional Schools	588	78%
Total Non Public Schools	121	16%
Religious	111	15%
Secular Non-Public	10	1%

751 Total Junior High/Middle Schools

Total Public Schools	675	90%
Charter (Public School Academies)	24	3%
Traditional Schools	651	87%
Total Nonpublic Schools	76	10%
Religious	72	10%
Secular Non-Public	4	0.5%

Happy New Year! Prep for 2013-14 School Year

MHSAA.com School Year Start Up: Beginning in mid-July, all athletic directors must log into MHSAA.com and update school contact information for administrators and coaches and double-check the sports the MHSAA shows your school as sponsoring. Adding or dropping a sport must be done in writing on school letterhead. Accurate coach information allows for rules meeting completion. ADs are urged to submit their mobile phone numbers which are kept private and used for necessary contact by MHSAA staff.

Fall Sports Rules Meetings: Head coaches are required to complete an online rules meeting. Many schools are having all staff members complete a meeting due in part to the strong health and safety content – and the presentations will continue to include important concussion information. If schools require assistant coaches to complete a rules meeting, ADs must enter their information on MHSAA.com. Increasingly, schools have an internal policy requiring coaches complete a meeting before the first contest. The windows for completing a fall sports rules meeting are as follows:

- Football, Volleyball, Soccer: Monday, July 29 – Thursday, Sept. 12, 2013;
- Cross Country, Golf, Tennis, Swimming & Diving: Monday, Aug. 12 – Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013

The penalty for failure to complete a meeting by the deadline: Head coach cannot be present at the site where their team is participating in the MHSAA Tournament in that sport for that season.

New AD Orientation: MHSAA Regulation II, Section 15 (I) requires that as a condition of participation in MHSAA Tournaments, a school designates a high school athletic director. In addition, that person must attend an Athletic Director's Orientation Program prior to Dec 1 of that school year. Schools which fail to have their first-year Athletic Director attend shall be placed on probation and prohibited from hosting or receiving reimbursement for MHSAA tournaments.

While the requirement and penalty sound quite ominous, hundreds of administrators who have attended over the years will vouch for the meeting's value. These one-time, six hour sessions are held in the MHSAA Offices in East Lansing in August or September. Dozens of novice ADs come back for a voluntary Session Two held in November.

Athletic Directors hired this spring or summer or late this past school year (after Dec. 1, 2012) are to attend a 2013-14 AD Orientation Program on either Thursday, Aug. 1, Tuesday, Aug. 13 or, for later hires, Tuesday, Sept. 17. All meetings are in the MHSAA Offices from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. A registration form may be downloaded from MHSAA.com. Direct questions to Tom Rashid (tomr@mhsaa.com) or Camala Kinder (camala@mhsaa.com).

AD In-service and Update Meetings: Athletic directors should plan now to attend an AD In-Service and Update Meeting in the fall. While attendance is strong, some ADs have not attended as their duties have increased. We suggest the opposite approach and urge those who have not attended recently to make it a point of emphasis. **Please see details on page 15 of this issue.**

The MHSAA Office **Summer Hours** are 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday from June 24-July 25. Normal Monday-Friday hours resume July 29 (8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; close Fridays at 4 p.m.).

Efficiency is Effective...

The MHSAA is always willing to assist with issues concerning Association regulations. Please remember, however, the most efficient method of communication with the MHSAA on eligibility questions is through the athletic director or principal. Athletic directors should gather all information necessary on a question and then call or write the MHSAA. Coaches or parents calling the MHSAA on eligibility matters can create confusion and delay. ADs or principals are encouraged to contact the MHSAA office directly. Please follow this efficient path of communication.

Candidates Set for September 2013 Election

BALLOTS TO BE MAILED TO SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER 2013

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Southwestern Section, Lower Peninsula -- Class C and D Schools

- Ken Dietz, Athletic Director, Watervliet High School
- Chris Miller, Athletic Director/Dean of Students, Gobles High School
- John Norton, Athletic Director/Assistant Principal, Bridgman High School

Southeastern Section, Lower Peninsula -- Class C and D Schools

- Kristen M. Isom, Athletic Director, Adrian-Madison High School

Upper Peninsula -- Class A and B Schools

- Al Unger, Athletic Director, Kingsford High School

Statewide At-Large

- Karen S. Leinaar, CAA, Athletic Director, Bear Lake Schools

Junior High/Middle Schools

- Don Gustafson, Superintendent, St. Ignace Area Schools
- Jason Mellema, Superintendent, Pewamo-Westphalia Community Schools
- Steve Muenzer, Teacher/Football & Basketball Coach, Fenton-Lake Fenton Middle School

- Kevin O'Rourke, Athletic Director, Rockford-North and East Middle Schools
- Don Watchowski, Athletic Director/Assistant Principal, Ortonville-Brandon School District

Detroit Public Schools

- Alvin Ward, Executive Director of Athletics, Detroit Public Schools

UPPER PENINSULA ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Class D Schools

- Gary Brayak, Athletic Director, Rock-Mid Peninsula High School
- Dave Duncan, Athletic Director, Cedarville High School
- Jeff Markham, Athletic Director, Baraga Area Schools

Class C Schools

- Chris Hartman, Athletic Director, Iron Mountain Public Schools
- Sean Jacques, Athletic Director, Calumet High School

Class A and B Schools

- Matthew C. Houle, Athletic Director, Gladstone High School

BALLOTS TO BE MAILED TO SCHOOLS IN SEPTEMBER 2013

Bulletin Board Material

The MHSAA recently recognized **Erik O. Furseth** for his years of service to the Association at various tournaments. Furseth has been the public address voice of the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals for more than four decades; the Football Finals since the days at the Silverdome; the Baseball Finals for 10 years, and the Girls Basketball Finals for the past six years. He is pictured here with wife, Lynn, and MHSAA Communications Director John Johnson at the Boys Basketball Finals on March 22, during which he received (what else?) a symbolic, commemorative microphone for his unwavering loyalty and dedication to the MHSAA.

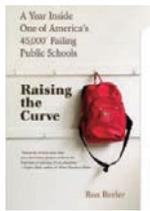


Back to School

Sportswriter Ron Berler has a new beat: education.

The former editor in chief of *NBA Inside Stuff*, a magazine for teens about professional basketball, and author of the children's book, *The Super Book of Baseball*, and editor of *Rising Stars: The 10 Best Young Players in the NBA*, has refocused his attention on youth and sports to the profoundly more important issue of youth and schools.

In *Raising the Curve: A Year Inside One of America's 45,000 Failing Public Schools* (Berkley, 2013), Berler describes what he observed and learned at Brookside Elementary School in Norwalk, Connecticut.



The author probably saw things more important to him than this, but our take-away is how damaging it is to children and their real

learning to dedicate so much time on standardized test preparation.

- How poorly it measures students' learning, much less evaluates the efforts of administrators and teachers.
- How much pressure it places on adults and children to make poor teaching and learning choices.

“The author probably saw things more important to him than this, but our take-away is how damaging it is to children and their real learning to dedicate so much time on standardized test preparation.”

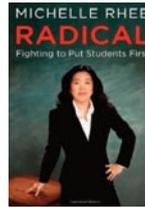
The story of this one school over one year is both maddening and heart-warming. The reader may wonder about the bureaucrats while weeping over the extraordinary efforts of real educators on the front lines.

Testy Proposition

The problem with Michelle Rhee's *Radical: Fighting to Put Students First* (Harper, 2013), is the author's reverence for standardized test scores. Her harping that US test scores are in the midrange

of nations that participate in testing score comparisons. As if they really matter as a measure for teaching and learning.

But if readers can get past their frustration with this mistaken premise, there's much to reward the perseverance to finish this passionate effort by the once



celebrated but quickly departed chancellor of the Washington, DC Public Schools who is now CEO of StudentsFirst, a political advocacy group for reforming public education.

The author's rage is right when addressing the entrenchment of unions and the bureaucracy of big urban districts. But she's wrong in the apparent presumption that beating foreign nations in standardized test scores really matters to our children here or to students of other countries who are beating a path to US high schools in record numbers to access the kind of education they cannot find in their home countries.

The United States tests a greater percentage of students

from a wider demographic range than most countries of the world. Any comparison with the tiered educational systems of most Asian and European countries is tainted; and the test scores from China are entirely invalid

for comparison purposes, where only students of select schools in Shanghai were tested.

Read any good books? We'd love to know. Send recommendations to benchmarks@mhsaa.com.

Basketball Experience Aims to Reach Higher in 2013

Now in its fourth year, BCAM and the MHSAA have united to bring the perfect venue for underclass basketball players to “showcase” their talents and maybe reach a higher level after high school.

The Reaching Higher Experience is the “Advanced Placement Course” in high school basketball. This **NCAA-approved** event will provide each student-athlete an understanding of what it takes to succeed academically, athletically and socially at the college level.

Player invitations for the 2013 events have now been sent to schools.

The Boys event is slated for July 17, 2013, and the Girls event takes place July 25, both at South Lyon High School.

Visit MHSAA.com and BCAM.org for updated information.



Football Task Force to Keep Sport in Good Health

Already a leader when it comes to standards, policies and rules of the game, the MHSAA aims to keep interscholastic football in Michigan at the forefront of safe and healthy practices to maintain its solid footing as one of the most traditional educational sports offered by schools.



Riding existing momentum, the MHSAA has created a Football Task Force, comprising 13 individuals with administrative and/or coaching backgrounds.

The mission is to, “examine both practice policies and competition rules, both to improve acclimatization and reduce the frequency of both head trauma and football’s most dangerous play situations; and the Task Force is helping MHSAA staff develop promotions that both extol the values and safety record of school-based football and exhort coaches, players, parents and others to pursue an even safer game.”

The group is discussing topics ranging from practice and scrimmage limitations to heat acclimatization to playing rules and promotion of the sport.

Look for items on MHSAA.com this summer advocating non-school, off-season activities for students to help them maintain the physical condition needed for the rigors of August practice sessions.

The mantra is: “Health and Safety has no offseason.”

Michigan Concussion Laws Take Effect June 2013

Public Acts 342 and 343 (Concussion Law) become effective June 30, 2013, and require all levels of schools and youth sports organizations to educate, train and collect forms for **non-MHSAA** activities including physical education classes, intramural and out-of-season camps or clinics. You may wish to share this information with others in your school district and youth sports groups in your community.

It should be understood that for MHSAA sports, the existing rules meeting completion requirement and concussion removal and return-to-play protocols, first begun in 2010, remain in effect. This includes that each school shall designate the person who shall evaluate suspected concussions. If a student is withheld from competition due to a suspected concussion, he or she may not return at all on that day and only on a subsequent day with the written clearance of an **MD** or **DO**. This is more stringent than the new law and must be followed for MHSAA competition and practices. Not adhering to this protocol results in ineligibility of the student and forfeiture of contests.

Compliance with other respects of the new concussion law is accomplished through a website of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) michigan.gov/sportsconcussion.

Below is a brief summary of what the new law is requiring youth sports organizations and schools to do for **non-MHSAA sport activities** such as physical education, intramurals and out-of-season or summer camps and clinics:

1. Adults (coaches and teachers) must complete the established free online training course. There are two options on the MDCH website, one through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and one through the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS.org). These courses are the only options to fulfill the adult training requirement. Schools should collect and file the certificate of completion for each adult.
2. Sponsoring organizations must provide educational training materials to students and parents and collect and maintain their signed statement of receipt of that information for the duration of the student’s involvement with the organization, or age 18. The MDCH website’s educational material is found under “Information for Parents & Athletes.” The content of this material may not be altered, but it may be reformatted. The website also links to an “Acknowledgement Form” (under Popular Documents and Links). This form can be used as the signed statement, or the sponsoring organization may create its own form provided the content is similar. Some schools are including concussion information and signed statements with school registration and handbook materials, at first for all students and in subsequent years for new students.
3. Sponsoring organizations must follow the same concussion protocols for **non-MHSAA** events as is currently done for MHSAA sports when a student is suspected of a concussion. Sit them out, find out and do not allow them to return to practice or competition until cleared in writing. The new law requires sponsoring organizations to maintain a copy of any written clearance until the student is 18 years of age.

This is not intended to be legal advice. Schools should review the website and contact their own attorneys if they so choose. This is a summary to assist schools this spring so they are in compliance for activities beginning this summer and moving into the 2013-14 school year and beyond.

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