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Winter Tournament Recipients Announced For Good Sports Are Winners! Awards; Little Caesars Pizza To Present Awards To Over 800 Schools

EAST LANSING, Mich. -- April 20 -- The recipients of the top Michigan High School Athletic Association's **Good Sports Are Winners!** Awards for the recently-completed 2001 fall sports season have been named, with each school to receive commemorative banners, crystal trophies and a \$1,000 donation from Little Caesars Pizza, the Association's corporate partner in sportsmanship efforts.

Dundee in team dual wrestling, Port Huron Northern in ice hockey, Suttons Bay in girls volleyball and Detroit Crockett in boys basketball, were selected by the tournament management at their respective finals for displaying the most exemplary sportsmanship by their coaches, student-athletes and spectators. Presentation dates at all four schools will be announced at a future date.

Dundee was the champion in the Division 4 team dual wrestling tournament; Port Huron Northern was the runner-up in the Division 1 ice hockey tournament; Suttons Bay was the runner-up in the Class C girls volleyball tournament and Detroit Crockett was the champion in the Class B boys basketball tournament.

In addition to receiving the finals award, Port Huron Northern was honored at the regional level of the ice hockey tournament. Dundee is being honored with a finals level award for the second time, the previous occasions being at the 1996 Team Dual Wrestling Finals.

The Good Sports Are Winners! Award is making its return in 2000-01 with the corporate underwriting of Little Caesars Pizza. The program had previously been offered from 1989 to 1996.

Major changes have been made as the program returns. At the district and regional level of MHSAA tournaments, all schools which meet a set of sportsmanlike standards will receive awards, which will result in nearly 500 additional schools being recognized annually. Previously, the award was presented to only one school at each tournament center. There have also been standards introduced into the program which would automatically disqualify a school from consideration from the award. Any team which is disqualified for the Good Sports Are Winners! Award at the District or Regional level of a tournament becomes ineligible for the award at higher levels of that same tournament.

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In all, 332 teams in girls volleyball, 249 teams in boys basketball, 215 in team dual wrestling and 33 in ice hockey will receive either certificates at the district level, or plaques at the regional level from Little Caesars Pizza during fall competition. A total of 1,240 teams have now been honored this year, and during the course of the 2000-01 school year, over 1,500 awards will be presented, recognizing schools in ten activities for their sportsmanship efforts during MHSAA tournaments.

The MHSAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation of voluntary membership by over 1,300 public and private senior high schools and junior high/middle schools which exists to develop common rules for athletic eligibility and competition. No government funds or tax dollars support the MHSAA, which was the first such association nationally to not accept membership dues or tournament entry fees from schools. Member schools which enforce these rules are permitted to participate in MHSAA tournaments which attract approximately 1.6 million spectators each year.

Little Caesars Pizza, founded in 1959 by Michael and Marian Ilitch, is an international pizza chain with locations on 5 continents. The Ilitch family has been a proud sponsor of amateur sports since 1964. The Little Caesars amateur sports program started with the sponsorship of one hockey team, and today more than 17,000 children participate in Little Caesars sponsored sports throughout the community.

The following is a list of **Good Sports Are Winners!** Award recipients as submitted by tournament managers through April 19 for the recently-completed fall sports season (**SPORTS DIRECTORS/EDITORS** -- Please scan this list for recipients from your coverage area):

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NOTE – For more information about Little Caesars, contact Public Relations Manager Lisa Cosnowski at 313.983.6175. You can download the MHSAA’s sportsmanship logo from the MHSAA Web Site – click on Forms & Graphics off the home page.

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Farm Bureau Insurance and Little Caesars Pizza are year-round MHSAA Corporate Partners