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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2001

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Lipschultz To Be Honored With Norris Award

EAST LANSING, Mich. – May 11 – Forty-five year veteran official Herb Lipschultz of Kalamazoo will receive the Vern L. Norris Award from the Michigan High School Athletic Association in a presentation at its 22nd Annual Officials' Awards and Alumni Banquet, Saturday evening, May 12, at the Sheraton Lansing Hotel.

Lipschultz has been an MHSAA registered official in boys and girls basketball, football and softball for more than four decades, and is a member of the Tri-County Officials Association.

A Bronx, N.Y., native, he earned his bachelor's degree at Kalamazoo College and never left the area, obtaining his master's from Western Michigan University before entering the teaching profession with Kalamazoo Public Schools. Now retired from teaching, Lipschultz is a part-time athletic director for middle schools in Kalamazoo.

His officiating resume' includes an MHSAA Football Final assignment at the Pontiac Silverdome in 1999, softball umpire-of-the-year accolades in 1999, and Amateur Softball Association state finals duties for men's and women's slow pitch softball.

The leader in founding the Kalamazoo/Portage Middle School League, Lipschultz also serves the community as an advisory member of the Kalamazoo Public School's athletic board and for the local YMCA.

A lifetime member of the National Education Association, Lipschultz once received a State of Michigan Legislative Resolution for his work as a basketball official, and has 20- and 25-year awards from the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association for his efforts as an athletic director. He remains active in the MIAAA, Kalamazoo Education Association, and is a retired member of the Michigan Education Association.

The Norris Award is presented annually to a veteran official who has been active in a local officials association, has mentored other officials, and has been involved in officials education. It is named for Vern L. Norris, who was executive director of the MHSAA from 1978-86, and well-respected by officials on the and national levels.

(more)

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Previous recipients of the Norris Award are:

1992 – Ted Wilson, East Detroit

1993 – Fred Briggs, Burton

1994 – Joe Brodie, Flat Rock

1995 – Jim Massar, Flint

1996 – Jim Lamoreaux, St. Ignace

1997 – Ken Myllyla, Escanaba

1998 – Blake Hagman, Kalamazoo

1999 – Richard Kalahar, Jackson

2000 -- Barb Beckett, Traverse City; Karl Newingham, Bay City

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.

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