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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Scholar-Athlete Award Applicants, Finalists Announced

EAST LANSING, Mich. -- Jan. 11 – The applicants and the finalists for the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Scholar-Athlete Award for the 2000-01 school year have been announced.

The program, which has been recognizing student-athletes since the 1989-90 school year, honors 24 individuals, one in each sport in which the Association sponsors a post-season tournament. Farm Bureau Insurance underwrites the Scholar-Athlete Award, and presents a \$1,000 scholarship in each sport.

This year, 2,691 applications were received from 508 schools, both numbers down slightly from last year's record numbers of 2,857 applications from 516 schools.

In addition, a record 1,048 student-athletes will be recognized for having met the eligibility criteria for the award, even though they were not a scholarship nominee from their school. All will be presented with certificates commemorating their achievement. The overall number of students recognized in this program this year is 3,739.

Every MHSAA member high school is allowed to select one student-athlete to represent it in each sport, and an individual may be nominated in more than one sport. Grosse Pointe South and Okemos led the way in participation this year with 18 nominees each. Ann Arbor Huron, Grand Rapids West Catholic and Plymouth Salem each had 17 applicants; Birmingham Seaholm, Highland Milford, Plymouth Canton and Saginaw Heritage each had 16; Davison and Grosse Ile each had 15; and Birmingham Groves, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central, Grosse Pointe North, Traverse City Central and Zeeland each had 14 applicants.

The applications were judged this week by a 75-member committee of school coaches, counselors, faculty members, administrators and board members from MHSAA member schools, from which the 114 finalists and 24 scholarship recipients were selected. Fall sports scholarship recipients will be announced on February 6; winter sports recipients on February on February 13; and spring sports winners will be announced on February 20.

To honor the 24 Scholar-Athlete Award recipients, a ceremony will take place during halftime of the Class C Boys Basketball Finals at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing on March 24.

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To be eligible for the award, students must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 (on a 4.0 scale), and have previously won a varsity letter in the sport in which they are applying. Students were also asked to shown 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.

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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MEDIA ADVISORY -- A complete list of scholarship nominees and additional qualifiers for the Scholar-Athlete Award can be found on the MHSAA Web Site. Please scan that list for the names of student-athletes from your area. A complete list of finalists is attached to this release, and can also be found on the MHSAA Web Site. Information about finalists and scholarship recipients will be posted on the MHSAA Web Site according to the schedule listed in this release, and media in the markets of the scholarship recipients will be notified by fax the day before the public announcement.

RL01-042

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

2000-01 MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award Finalists

Girls Basketball

Jessica Reidy, Suttons Bay
Danielle Kowalski, Riverview
Holli Cooper, Cass City
Jessica Monroe, Brethren
Becky A. Stepp, Waterford Kettering
Kristin Cullen, Hartland
Adrianna Nebedum, Muskegon

Boys Cross Country

Michael Grammes, Tecumseh
Martin Robinson, Newberry
Matthew Thome, Hesperia
Kurt Sarsfield, Plymouth Salem
Tom Hakim, Clinton Township Chippewa Valley
Christopher Hausbeck, Bridgeport

Girls Cross Country

Camille Ceravolo, Warren Mott
Carolyn Adamson, Big Rapids
Anna Moniodis, Plymouth Salem
Megan Elizabeth Dana, Saginaw Heritage
Karen Elizabeth Latus, New Buffalo
Caryn Elaine Waterson, Benzie Central

Football

James Klein, Onsted
William D. Peterson, Cadillac
Kevin Christopher Cleary, Grosse Pointe North
Zachary Walsh, Harrison Township L'Anse Creuse
Alan Montgomery, Big Rapids
Jared Stasik, Frankenmuth
Jack Klunder, Hopkins

Boys Golf

Stephen Gisel, Midland Bullock Creek
Jerrod Braman, Stanton Central Montcalm
Brian Burt, Vermontville Maple Valley
Todd Goshorn, Wyandotte Roosevelt
Michael Lusardi, Troy Athens
Jack McKinnon, St Ignace

Boys Soccer

Adam Burns, Grosse Pointe North
Ross Ramsey, Harbor Beach
Robert Ross Coleman, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern
Scott Grant, Bloomfield Hills Lahser

Girls Swimming & Diving

Molly Gannon, Flushing
Kathryn Ladewski, Ann Arbor Pioneer
Seija Alasimi, Negaunee

Girls Tennis

Christine Marie Brooks, Grosse Pointe North
Kate MacIntosh, Traverse City Central
Joyce Chung, North Farmington
Priya Malviya, Holland

Boys Basketball

Russell Gajos, Warren Fitzgerald
Reed J. Langton, Monroe St Mary Catholic Central
Marcus A. Reath, Wyoming Godwin Heights
Michael Wolking, Grosse Pointe South
Craig Emmert, Cass City
Nicholas William Marietti, North Muskegon
Christopher Euler, Indian River Inland Lakes

Girls Competitive Cheer

Kelly Volker, Jenison
Antonette Bitonti, Pontiac Notre Dame

Girls Gymnastics

Kelly Thompson, St Johns
Christine Victor, Grosse Pointe North

Ice Hockey

Christopher Weier, Warren DeLaSalle
Kahn Lee, Jenison

Boys Skiing

Kirk Anderson, Negaunee
John Goebel, Detroit Catholic Central

Girls Skiing

Kate Quirk, Traverse City Central
Leah Sanders, Ortonville-Brandon

Boys Swimming & Diving

Christopher Sarasin, Marquette
David Michael Weinberg, Ann Arbor Huron
Jerney R. Backus, West Bloomfield

Girls Volleyball

Megan Erskine, Grand Ledge
Cindy Meyerand, Utica
Amy Lyn King, Pigeon Laker
Kathleen Elizabeth Morgan, Flat Rock
Erin C. Ackerman, Bridgman
Kelly O'Connor, Suttons Bay
Karen Kaye, Saugatuck

(more)

2-2-2 – 2000-01 Scholar-Athlete Finalists

Wrestling

Christopher Litvin, Redford Thurston
Jordan James Earley, East Kentwood
Christopher T. Hannasch, Holt
James Ranger, Lapeer West
Justin Alan DeLay, Roscommon

Baseball

Oliver J. Wolcott, Plymouth Canton
Jared Stasik, Frankenmuth
Jeffery James Courter, Rockford
Joe Hawley, Bloomfield Hills Lahser
Jeff Salling, Mesick
Collin O'Keefe, Grand Ledge
David M. Omenn, Ann Arbor Huron

Girls Golf

Christina J. Slupek, Plymouth Canton
Courtney Ann Hyun Rheinhardt, Clio
Laura Beauchamp, Dexter

Girls Soccer

Jessica Betel, West Bloomfield
Molly K. Wickenheiser, Monroe St Mary Catholic Central
Rondi Lounds, St Johns
Amy Myers, Cadillac

Girls Softball

Angela N. Nue, Plymouth Canton
Mari Doremire, Fruitport
Erin Sigelko, Reese
Cynthia Blaszak, Lake City
Amy Chelovich, Bloomfield Hills Lahser
Amy Fleming, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central
Stacey Meyers, Adrian Lenawee Christian

Boys Tennis

Ryan David Litwiller, Ithaca
Brian Doughty, North Farmington
David J. Hiniker, Ann Arbor Pioneer
Luke Ruse, Allegan

Boys Track & Field

Neil Marshall, Litchfield
Michael Lusardi, Troy Athens
Travis Young, Leroy Pine River
Joel Clark, Warren Woods-Tower
Robert Ross Coleman, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern
Steven I. Lockwood, Alpena
Jacob Grice, Sandusky

Girls Track & Field

Megan Elizabeth Dana, Saginaw Heritage
Trisha Matelski, Harbor Springs
Colleen Ann Brady, Jonesville
Deborah Michelle Lada, Birmingham Groves
Carolyn Adamson, Big Rapids
Jessica Schore, Grosse Pointe North
Laura Ketchum, Otsego