



media information

1661 ramblewood drive · east lansing, mi 48823 · 517.332.5046 · fax - 517.332.4071 ·
www.mhsaa.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: John Johnson or Randy Allen

February 13, 2002
517.332.5046 or www.mhsaa.com

Girls Volleyball Finals CHAMPS Clinic Sign-Up Begins

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Feb. 13 – To enhance the atmosphere of selected tournament finals, the Michigan High School Athletic Association, in cooperation with the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Western Michigan University, is in its fourth year of conducting a youth clinic at the MHSAA Girls Volleyball Finals, with registration now underway for this year's event in Kalamazoo on March 16.

CHAMPS (Cooperation, Hard Work, Attitude, Motivation, Participation, Sportsmanship) Clinics target local female junior high/middle school-aged students and their parents in a morning-long workshop designed to provide game skills and life skills information. Supported locally by the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Western Michigan University, the CHAMPS Clinics are free, and are underwritten by Farm Bureau Insurance.

Enrollment in the CHAMPS Clinic is limited to the first 80 girls and their parents – parental attendance is a requirement. The clinic will take place from 9 a.m. to noon in the University Arena and Student Recreation Center on the campus of Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, where the four MHSAA Girls Volleyball Finals will take place.

Applications have been sent to MHSAA member schools in the greater Kalamazoo area. An application may also be downloaded from the MHSAA Web Site – www.mhsaa.com.

"The CHAMPS Clinic continues to grow in popularity," said John E. "Jack" Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA. "The kids receive some great on-the-court skills training from some of the best clinicians around, while their parents hear about the things that are truly important about high school sports – safety, sportsmanship and scholarship in the classroom."

Student-athletes will be led in the volleyball clinic by former Western Michigan University two-time Mid-American Conference most valuable player Heather Sawyer. Now a faculty member in the Health, Physical Education and recreation Department at WMU, Sawyer will be assisted by Dr. Mary Schutten, former head volleyball coach at Calvin College; Monyka Paul, former WMU star; and several coaches from throughout the state.

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2-2-2 – Volleyball CHAMPS Clinic

Dr. Deb Berkey, chair of the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department at WMU will lead the parent's portion of the program. Clinicians include: Jeff Stone, assistant director for academic support in the WMU athletic department; Dr. Carol Weideman, an assistant professor of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at WMU; and Berkey. Stone will focus on academic requirements in high school and beyond; Dr. Weideman will discuss sports nutrition; and Dr. Berkey's presentation will focus on parental sportsmanship, and include a viewing of the MHSAA-produced video, "What Kids Wish Their Parents Knew About Sportsmanship."

All youngsters participating in the CHAMPS Clinic will receive a t-shirt, and lunch will be provided for all players and parents. CHAMPS Clinic participants and their parents will also be guests of the MHSAA for the Girls Volleyball Finals that day, and the participating youngsters will be recognized on-court at the during the Class D championship match.

Registrations must be submitted by March 9. For more information, contact: Heather Sawyer, Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, Western Michigan University, 4024 Student Recreation Center, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-3871. Telephone: 616/387-2710.

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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