



**media
information**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Scholar-Athlete Award Finalists Announced

EAST LANSING, Mich. – Jan. 12 -- The finalists for the Michigan High School Athletic

Association's Scholar-Athlete Award for the 2004-05 school year have been announced.

The program, which has been recognizing student-athletes since the 1989-90 school year, honors 28 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, 2,522 applications were received from 446 schools.

Every MHSAA member high school is allowed to select one student-athlete to represent it in each sport, and an individual may be nominated and be a finalist in more than one sport. Twenty-four schools had two or more finalists this year. Bloomfield Hills Lahser and Otsgeo lead the way with four finalists; Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern and White Lake Lakeland each had three; and Alma, Ann Arbor Huron, Ann Arbor Pioneer, Battle Creek Central, Birmingham Marian, Birmingham Seaholm, Dearborn Divine Child, East Lansing, Essexville Garber, Flint Powers Catholic, Grand Haven, Grand Rapids Catholic Central, Grosse Ile, Grosse Pointe South, Harbor Springs, Jackson Lumen Christi, Leroy Pine River, Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep and Wayne Memorial each had two finalists.

The applications were judged by a 70-member committee of school coaches, counselors, faculty members, administrators and board members from MHSAA member schools, from which the 124 finalists and 28 scholarship recipients were selected. Fall sports scholarship recipients will be announced on February 1; Winter sports recipients on February 8; and Spring sports winners will be announced on February 15. To

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honor the 28 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 19.

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 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.

The MHSAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation of voluntary membership by over 1,500 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 list of finalists follows this release. A complete list of scholarship nominees for the Scholar-Athlete Award can be found on the MHSAA Web Site (Click on Recognition, and then select Scholar-Athlete Award from the drop-down menu). Please scan that list for the names of student-athletes from your area. Information about 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 or e-mail the day before the public announcement. For more information about Farm Bureau Insurance, contact Luke Schafer, Public Relations Manager, at 517.323.7000. You can download the MHSAA's Scholar-Athlete Award logo from the MHSAA Web Site – click on Forms & Graphics off the home page.

RL05-037

Farm Bureau Insurance and MEEMIC Insurance are year-round MHSAA Corporate Partners

2004-05 MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award Finalists

Girls Basketball

Carrie Abdo, Riverview Gabriel Richard
Megan Clock, Houghton Lake
Kristie Coplin, Litchfield
Jessica Ann Kennard, Hillman
Christina Ashley Maertens, Birmingham Seaholm
Kelly Kathryn Ross, Caseville
Jennifer Waters, Grand Haven

Boys Cross Country

Harvey Michael Elliott, Constantine
Jason Victor Hawley, Temperance Bedford
Bruce Kaszmarek, Bloomfield Hills Lahser
Phillip Peterson, Ellsworth
Jeremy Phan, Goodrich
Ben Wales, Otsego

Girls Cross Country

Samantha Murray, Marcellus
Alison Nesbitt, Essexville Garber
Neela Rao, Bloomfield Hills Lahser
Amanda Claire Rudert, Mt. Pleasant
Anne Victoria Rush, Leroy Pine River
Kelly Nicole Sampson, Detroit Renaissance

Football

Stephen Denuyl, Clinton
Kelly C. Durr, Bad Axe
Matthew Ian Haughey, Bridgman
Jonathan M Kiekintveld, Holland West Ottawa
Jeff Schuele, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep
Steve Short, Kingsford
Michael Taylor, Redford Union

Boys Golf

Korry Bates, Detroit Denby
Stephen Gardner, Bay City Western
Brian Norton, Rudyard
Ross Osgood, Delton Kellogg
Jonathan Daniel Smith, Walled Lake Northern
Paul Wolcott, East Lansing

Boys Soccer

Ashish Chaddha, Auburn Hills Avondale
David Leslie, Dearborn Divine Child
Mark Weber, Grand Rapids Catholic Central
Andrew Wolohan, Saginaw Nouvel
Torin Yeager, Maple City Glen Lake

Girls Swimming & Diving

Christina De Simone, Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central
Jennifer Jean Lombard, Kalamazoo Hackett
Emily Weslosky, Troy Athens

Girls Tennis

Jenny Armstrong, Harbor Springs
Colette Buckberry, East Lansing
Stephanie Chen, Troy
Amelia Eaton, Ann Arbor Huron

Boys Basketball

Eric Berschback, Grosse Pointe South
Nickolas Burkhardt, Pellston
Joe Cawood, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern
Brad Claggett, Battle Creek Central
David Presar, Harrison Township L'Anse Creuse
Jesse Reimink, Hudsonville
Jeffrey Steigerwald, Brown City

Boys Bowling

Phillip J. McDonald, Saginaw Heritage
Jeremy Pawlak, Warren DeLaSalle

Girls Bowling

Cathleen Kowalski, Farmington Hills Mercy
Grace H. Williams, Sandusky

Girls Competitive Cheer

Andrea Jee-Sun Kaczmarek, Grosse Ile
Amanda Louise Winn, G. Rapids Forest Hills Northern

Girls Gymnastics

Lindsay Orgeck, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern
Calie E. Thompson, Trenton

Ice Hockey

Mark Weber, Grand Rapids Catholic Central
Kris Young, Ann Arbor Pioneer

2-2-2 – Scholar Athlete Award Finalists

Boys Skiing

Brady Donnelly, Harbor Springs
John Stencil IV, Bloomfield Hills Lahser

Girls Skiing

Sarah Conkle, Bellaire
Ashley Marie Sykes, White Lake Lakeland

Boys Swimming & Diving

Charles Joshua Holmes, Alma
Daniel Priestley, Birmingham Seaholm
Steven Herbert Weinberg, Ann Arbor Huron

Girls Volleyball

Laura Barclay, Hale
Stephanie Booms, Marysville
Lauren Buck, Flint Powers Catholic
Madison Clark, Sturgis
Lori Hoetger, Dearborn Divine Child
Jamie Marie Jacobs, Bay City Central
Jennifer Waters, Grand Haven

Wrestling

Jay Biessel, Yale
Zachary T. Comer, Alma
Patrick Gorring, Wayne Memorial
Carl Reid Howe, Three Rivers
Ben Wales, Otsego

Baseball

Brian Delany, Jr, G. Rapids Forest Hills Central
Adam M. Hill, Uby
Aaron Douglas Hoesli, Harbor Springs Harbor
Light Christian
Cory Rogotzke, Hanover-Horton
Daniel Salvati, Morley-Stanwood
Justin Schofield, Wayne Memorial
Jason Allan Sosnowski, White Lake Lakeland

Girls Golf

Megan Elizabeth Carter, Bloomfield Hills Lahser
Karin Jors, Jackson Lumen Christi
Kristie McAlpine, Essexville Garber

Boys Lacrosse

David W. Dindoffer, Grosse Pointe South
Alex Hill, Flint Powers Catholic

Girls Lacrosse

Lauren Gaer, Birmingham Marian
Sarah Nolan, Ann Arbor Pioneer

Girls Soccer

Sarah Arnosky, Midland Dow
Kelli M. Brown, Rochester
Colleen Cullinan, Grandville
Colleen Marie Holden, Hartland
Kimberly Oberski, Port Huron

Softball

Katherine Ballor, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep
Emily Blair, Harper Woods Regina
Michelle K. Brittain, Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central
Erica Guitar, Croswell-Lexington
Rachel A. King, Lake Odessa Lakewood
Charity Knight, Otsego
Lauren Michelle Phelan, Petoskey

Boys Tennis

Brad Claggett, Battle Creek Central
Stuart Krueger, Grosse Ile
William Robert Lloyd, White Lake Lakeland
Kyle Saari, Negaunee

Boys Track & Field

Daniel Clark, Jackson Lumen Christi
Jameson F. Lamie, Hart
Nathan R. Leightner, Cheboygan
Michael Palombo, Detroit Catholic Central
Lance Travis, Unionville-Sebewaing
Ryan VanDorp, Auburn Hills Oakland Christian
Ben Wales, Otsego

Girls Track & Field

Lauren Bennett, Birmingham Marian
Rachel Burke, New Boston Huron
Hayley Ford, Gladstone
Elizabeth Huber, Holt
Courtney Klagstad, Burton Atherton
Anne Victoria Rush, Leroy Pine River
Sara Ann Sickels, Coldwater