



# media information



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Finalists Announced For 2006-07 Scholar-Athlete Award**

**EAST LANSING, Mich. – Jan. 29 --** The 120 finalists for the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Scholar-Athlete Award for the 2006-07 school year have been announced.

The program, which has been recognizing student-athletes since the 1989-90 school year, will honor 32 individuals from MHSAA member schools who participate in at least one sport in which the Association sponsors a postseason tournament. Farm Bureau Insurance underwrites the Scholar-Athlete Award, and will present a \$1,000 scholarship to each recipient. This year, 2,205 applications were received from 492 schools.

Scholarships will be presented proportionately by school classification, with 12 scholarships to be awarded to Class A student-athletes, 6 female and 6 male; 8 scholarships will be awarded to Class B student-athletes, 4 female and 4 male; 6 scholarships will be awarded to Class C student-athletes, 3 female and 3 male; and 4 scholarships will be awarded to Class D student-athletes, 2 female and 2 male. In addition, there will also be 2 at-large honorees which are also part of the general judging process, may come from any classification, and are designated by their school at the time of entry.

Every MHSAA member high school could submit as many applications as there are scholarships available in their classification, and could have more than one finalist. Thirteen schools had two or more finalists this year. Okemos has four finalists; while Ann Arbor Pioneer, Dearborn, Grand Ledge, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central, Grosse Ile, Iron Mountain, Ludington, Mackinaw City, Pittsford, St. Johns, Standish-Sterling and Troy Athens each have two finalists.

Multiple-sport participation is again the norm for this year's applicants, and even more so for the finalists. The average sport participation rate of the finalists is 2.53, while the average of the application pool was 2.02. All of the 28 sports in which the MHSAA sponsors postseason tournaments are represented in the finalist field.

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**2-2-2 – Scholar-Athlete Award Finalists Announced**

The applications were judged by a 82-member committee of school coaches, counselors, faculty members, administrators and board members from MHSAA member schools, from which the 120 finalists were selected. The selection of the 32 scholarship recipients will take place in early February. Class C and D scholarship recipients will be announced on February 13; Class B scholarship recipients will be announced on February 20; and Class A scholarship recipients will be announced on February 27. All announcements will be made on the MHSAA Web Site.

To honor the 32 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.

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 at least one sport in which the MHSAA sponsors a postseason tournament. Students were also asked to respond to a series of short essay questions, submit two letters of recommendation and submit a 500-word essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

Farm Bureau Insurance, one of Michigan's major insurers, has a statewide force of 350 agents serving more than 380,000 Michigan policyholders. Besides providing life, home auto, farm, business and retirement insurance, the company also sponsors lifesaving, real-time Doppler weather tracking systems in several Michigan communities.

The MHSAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation of voluntary membership by over 1,800 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 Scholar-Athlete Award logo from the MHSAA Web Site – click on Forms & Graphics off the home page.

**RL07-032**

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**AT&T, Farm Bureau Insurance, Henry Ford Health System and MEEMIC Insurance are year-round MHSAA Corporate Partners**

**2006-07 MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award Finalists**

**Class A Girls**

Jessica Konal, Berkley  
Alina Gatowski, Birmingham Groves  
Alessa Cekauskas, Birmingham Seaholm  
Nicole Naidoo, Brighton  
Chelsea Selden, Canton  
Annie Hakim, Clinton Township Chippewa Valley  
Kerry Brennan, Dearborn  
Jennifer Pisani, Farmington Hills Mercy  
Taylor Hicks, Fraser  
Chelsea Read, Grand Ledge  
Bianca Cilla, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central  
Helena Herberg, Jackson Northwest  
Kristin Kingma, Mattawan  
Ankita Mohanty, Mt. Pleasant  
Rachel Lebovic, North Farmington  
Kimberly Rustem, Okemos  
Rachel Rideout, Okemos  
Chelsey Quinlan, Plymouth  
Joanna Halls, Rochester Adams  
Emily Martin, South Lyon  
Margeaux Leighton, Temperance Bedford  
Erica Olson, Traverse City West  
Leslie Russell, Warren Cousino  
Jennifer Hittle, White Lake Lakeland

**Class A Boys**

Bentley Goenka, Ann Arbor Pioneer  
Will Heininger, Ann Arbor Pioneer  
Cullen Salada, Battle Creek Lakeview  
Joseph Jakcsy, Dearborn  
David Galiyas, Detroit Catholic Central  
Alexander Ralston, Fenton  
Joshua Cupp, Fenton  
Matthew Fitzgibbon, Garden City  
Nicholas Ballou, Grand Ledge  
Neil Delaney, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central  
Jeffrey Koelzer, Grand Rapids Northview  
Alexander Davenport, Grosse Pointe North  
Alistair Smith, Kalamazoo Central  
John Gundry, Lansing Waverly  
Daniel Martin, Livonia Churchill  
Luke Knochel, Livonia Stevenson  
Anthony Schiro, Okemos  
Seth Meyer, Okemos

Michael Harden, St. Johns  
Tyler Dickenson, St. Johns  
Charles Mouch, Troy Athens  
Ryan Schell, Troy Athens  
Zachary Ciochetto, Utica Ford

James Ciennik, Waterford Mott

**Class B Girls**

Alexandria Henry, Alma  
Marissa Ash, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood  
Larissa Kimmer, Durand  
Hilary Braseth, East Grand Rapids  
Allison Assaly, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Eastern  
Shaziah Singh, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern  
Abby Gaskell, Grand Rapids South Christian  
Emily Goyert, Grosse Ile  
Jennifer Fuller, Hemlock  
Katherine Lovinger, Hillsdale  
Katelyn Preisel, Imlay City  
Ashley Thoebald, Kingsford  
Lisa Tobiczyk, Marysville  
Christine Dempsey, Portland  
Jane Sielski, Spring Lake  
Katelyn Brundige, Vicksburg

**Class B Boys**

Shane Sinda, Capac  
Andrew Cuthbert, Dowagiac  
Bradford Witt, Flint Powers Catholic  
Benjamin Williams, Freeland  
Joseph Malone, Grosse Ile  
Kurt Bjorkman, Kingsford  
Darren Quillan, Ludington  
Jason Thompson, Ludington  
Adam DeWolf, Marshall  
Jordan Schreuder, Otsego  
Derek Welmers, Standish-Sterling  
Kyle Schmidt, Standish-Sterling  
Austin Brown, Sturgis  
Tyler McCoy, Tawas Area  
Thomas Brady, Three Rivers  
Timothy Kramer, Wayland Union

**2-2-2 – Scholar Athlete Award Finalists**

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**Class C Girls**

Ciera Stevick, Addison  
Cecilia Kovach, Gobles  
Hilary Beauchamp, Iron Mountain  
Megan Boddy, Iron Mountain  
Jessica Holmes, Leroy Pine River

Kayla Thompson, Marlette  
Allyson Karaba, North Muskegon  
Jenna Urban, Saginaw Nouvel  
Alyse Gonzales, St. Charles  
Tori Beattie, St. Louis  
Shelby LaBuhn, Ubley  
Katie Rayl, Unionville-Sebewaing

**Class C Boys**

Joshua Fracassi, Athens  
Trent Herman, Bronson  
Jacob Wimmer, Charlevoix  
Ryan Klenke, Clare  
Wesley Messing, Deckerville  
Riley Ford, Harbor Springs  
Ben Halbower, Holton  
Joseph Holcomb, Homer  
William Birch, Kalamazoo Hackett  
Matthew Duckett, Niles Brandywine  
Daniel Olsen, St. Ignace  
Kristopher Marin, Suttons Bay

**Class D Girls**

Emily Feldhake, Cedarville  
Sabrina Graham, Climax-Scotts  
Samantha Danbert, Ellsworth  
Brenda Sisung, Fowler  
Kayla Horetski, Kinde-North Huron  
Cassie Giacobassi, Litchfield  
Elizabeth Sikkenga, Muskegon Western Michigan  
Christian  
Kala Belson, Pittsford

**Class D Boys**

Ryan Boden, Adrian Lenawee Christian  
Joseph Rexroat, Lake Leelanau St Mary  
Chase Closs, Mackinaw City  
Spencer McFarland, Mackinaw City  
David Kilpela, Painesdale-Jeffers  
Reggie Kehoe, Pittsford  
Aaron Fletcher, Walkerville  
Matthew Boersen, Wyoming Tri-unity Christian