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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2007

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Four Schools Honored As Recipients Of Inaugural SCOPE Award, Presentation To Take Place At Boys Basketball Finals

EAST LANSING, Mich. – March 13 – To help promote the proper perspective for educational athletics, the Michigan High School Athletic Association has teamed with AT&T to create an awards program which acknowledges the efforts to schools to maintain student-centered, educationally focused sports programs.

Four schools have been selected for the 2006-07 school year to receive the SCOPE Award, and will be presented \$2,500 checks from AT&T to be used in the continued promotion of an educational attitude for their programs in ceremonies at halftime of the MHSAA Class D Boys Basketball Championship game at the Breslin Center in East Lansing on March 24.

Alpena, Richland Gull Lake, Grandville Calvin Christian and Caseville were selected as the inaugural recipients of the SCOPE Award in their respective classes (A-B-C-D). All schools entering the program were required to submit an essay describing how they would use the \$2,500 to further the promotion of a proper perspective for school sports; a series of essays from an athletic administrator, student, school faculty member and community member about how the school's perspective on educational athletics affects the school and community; and any materials the school has used to promote its perspective on athletics.

“The biggest challenge school sports faces in maintaining its different niche from all other levels of athletics by all other sponsors is maintaining a sane scope – realizing that these programs are here to educate students,” said John E. “Jack” Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA. “Schools which promote the proper perspective will find success in all respects – including between the lines. We’re proud of the schools which have been selected to receive this year’s SCOPE Award.”

AT&T is also the sponsor of the MHSAA’s new Student Advisory Council, a 16-member group which provides feedback on issues impacting educational athletics from a student’s perspective, and is also involved in the operation of Association championship events and other programming.

The MHSAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation of voluntary membership by over 1,200 public and private senior high schools and junior high/middle schools which exists to develop common rules for

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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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