



michigan high school athletic association

# media information

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Scholar-Athlete Award Finalists Announced**

**EAST LANSING, Mich. – Jan. 29 --** The 120 finalists for the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Scholar-Athlete Award for the 2007-08 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 post-season tournament. Farm Bureau Insurance underwrites the Scholar-Athlete Award, and will present a \$1,000 scholarship to each recipient. This year, 1,965 applications were received from 477 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. Seventeen schools had two or more finalists this year. Plymouth has three finalists; while Bay City Western, Boyne City, Charlotte, Detroit Catholic Central, Detroit Country Day, Grosse Pointe South, Holland, Livonia Churchill, Onaway, Pellston, Rochester Adams, Saginaw Nouvel, St. Johns, Sturgis, Warren DeLaSalle and Zeeland West 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 2.59, while the average of the application pool was 2.07. There are 69 three-sport participants in the finalist field. All but one of the 28 sports in which the MHSAA sponsors post-season tournaments are represented in the finalist field.

The applications were judged by a 65-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 12; Class B scholarship recipients will be announced on February 19; and Class A scholarship recipients will be announced on February 26. 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 15.

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 post-season 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 over 400 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.

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

The MHSAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation of voluntary membership by over 1,600 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.

**RL08-048**

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AT&T, Farm Bureau Insurance, Henry Ford Health Systems & MEEMIC Insurance Company are year-round MHSAA Corporate Partners

# 2007-08 MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award Finalists

## Class A Girls

Paige C. Madison, Ann Arbor Pioneer  
Meagan M. Reder, Bay City Western  
Hyatt Bakri, Dearborn Fordson  
Ashley Bish, Detroit Cass Tech  
Megan Novak, Farmington Hills Mercy  
Victoria L. Cowger, Fenton  
Arin Heinz, Holland  
Rande Siroky, Holland  
Lindy Rae Melville, Jenison  
Alexandra C. Hock, Lake Orion  
Jaclyn Gribeck, Livonia Churchill  
Megan Felcyn, Macomb Dakota  
Allison Nancy Holmes, Northville  
Kelsey-Jo Ritter, Owosso  
Pam K. Bhullar, Plymouth  
Melissa Megerian, Rochester Adams  
Jenna Fredrickson, Rockford  
Amanda Kmetz, St. Clair Shores Lake Shore  
Erin J. Fedewa, St. Johns  
Amanda Putt, Tecumseh  
Maddie Lagina, Traverse City Central  
Maria Demarco, Troy Athens  
Opal Randolph, Warren Woods Tower  
Julie Harkins, Waterford Kettering

## Class A Boys

Alex Borchert, Alpena  
Alex L. Givens, Bay City Western  
Matthew Cavanaugh, Caledonia  
Anthony Joseph Mifsud, Dearborn  
Ryan J. Houska, Detroit Catholic Central  
Michael J. Pienta, Detroit Catholic Central  
Patrick T. Burks, Flushing  
Bryan Patrick Cenko, Grosse Pointe South  
Robert James Collison, Grosse Pointe South  
Logan Matthew Neil, Holland West Ottawa  
Mitchell S. Zajac, Holt  
Ryan Whittum, Livonia Churchill  
Ben Landes, Midland Dow  
Ryan Patrick Erickson, Okemos  
David L. Harvey, Plymouth  
Stephen B. Ostrowski, Plymouth  
Thomas Ronald Casey, Rochester Adams  
Andrew J. Harte, St. Johns  
Jason Gargrave, Sterling Heights  
Cody R. Rzeznik, Walled Lake Central  
Richard Powell, Warren Cousino  
Jeffrey McMahon, Warren DeLaSalle  
Jeffrey Spicuzzi, Warren DeLaSalle  
Andrew Ciennik, Waterford Mott

## Class B Girls

Carly D. Stone, Allegan  
Lyndsay Berger, Charlotte  
Marisa Coury, Detroit Country Day  
Jennifer Schaafsma, East Grand Rapids  
Clarissa Tamez, Essexville Garber  
Michele Booms, Freeland  
Lindsay Lee Bo, Fruitport  
Angie Bockheim, Grand Rapids West Catholic  
Jade Evink, Hamilton  
Kelsey Elizabeth DeLand, Ida  
Theresa Walsh, Jackson Lumen Christi  
Abigail Jane Longhurst, Marshall  
Lauren Davis, Marysville  
Sarah Cressman, Sturgis  
Michelle L. Revord, Tawas Area  
Danielle Petzak, Zeeland West

## Class B Boys

Nathan Weeks, Belding  
Scott Riley McKeel, Benzie Central  
Jordan Duby, Birch Run  
Sean M. Collon, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood  
Nick Bennett, Charlotte  
Daniel Johns, Comstock Park  
Brian Fiani, Detroit Country Day  
Zachary Harmon, Grand Rapids Forest Hills Eastern  
Derek Harrington, Kingsford  
Ethan T. Shaver, Menominee  
Joe LaMay, Montrose  
Chris Bowen Kendro, Spring Lake  
Daniel Etz, St. Clair  
Michael Gundlach, Sturgis  
Aaron Zimmerman, Yale  
Andrew Plaska, Zeeland West

## Class C Girls

Melissa H. Seelye, Boyne City  
Sonya Gast, Bridgman  
Samantha Vanderberg, Grandville Calvin Christian  
Jessica A. Racine, Ishpeming Westwood  
Brenna Field, Kalamazoo Hackett  
Anna E. Fester, Lawton  
Rebecca Holmquist, Leroy Pine River  
Julie Fielder, Manchester  
Emily Steinkraus, Marcellus  
Jenna Lange, Marlette  
Erica M. Fedewa, Pewamo-Westphalia  
Andrea Nichole Bommarito, Springport

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

### **Class C Boys**

Trenton Swank, Athens  
Kevin A. Knight, Boyne City  
Jordan Rahme, Fulton  
Zachary Putnam, Hale  
Tyler Yake, Iron Mountain  
Peter J. Vihtelic, Muskegon Catholic Central  
James Murtha, Saginaw Nouvel  
Conor Wolohan, Saginaw Nouvel  
Timothy Bergsma, Southfield Christian  
Brian Randall Halas, St. Charles  
Dustin R. Baker, St. Louis  
Parker Prusick, Traverse City St. Francis

### **Class D Girls**

Betsy A. Brown, Adrian Lenawee Christian  
Melissa Hale, Atlanta  
Roshalle J. Van Dorp, Auburn Hills Oakland Christian  
Molly Margaret Poel, Bellaire  
Jordan Alexander, Carsonville-Port Sanilac  
Clara Leutheuser, Hillsdale Academy  
Susan Elizabeth Herman, Lake Leelanau St. Mary  
Bethany A. Merfeld, Waldron

### **Class D Boys**

Nathan Glen Feldpausch, Fowler  
Joshua M. Campbell, Kingston  
Tom S. Wenzlick, New Lothrop  
Christopher Ellenberger, Onaway  
Trevor J. O'Meara, Onaway  
Robert A. Cieslak, Pellston  
Justin T. Litzner, Pellston  
David Dugree, Powers North Central