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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Norris Award To Be Presented To James Danhoff At Officials Awards Banquet; 20-30-40-45-50 Year Officials To Also Be Honored On April 18

EAST LANSING, Mich. – April 6 – A leader in the recruitment and education of high school game officials, James Danhoff of Richland has been selected to receive the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Vern L. Norris Award for 2009.

The Norris Award is presented annually to a veteran official who has been active in a local officials association, has mentored other officials, and has been involved in officials' education. It is named for Vern L. Norris, who was executive director of the MHSAA from 1978-86, and well-respected by officials on the state and national levels. Danhoff will be presented the award at the MHSAA's 30th annual Officials' Awards and Alumni Banquet on April 18 at the Radisson Hotel Lansing, which begins at 7 p.m.

The role of the game official in high school sports is that of an educator – someone who not only administers the rules of the game, but who helps maintain the educational atmosphere of the event. Danhoff has not only been in the role of a teacher-official for 44 years, but has spent that same amount of time as a teacher-coach and school administrator in northeastern and southwestern Michigan.

Following his graduation from Otterbein College in 1965, Danoff was a teacher and two-sport coach at Alpena High School for seven years. He then served as principal at Hopkins High School and Plainwell High School over a 21-year span. Since 1993, he's been a part-time professor in Education at Western Michigan University, and he's also a Truant Officer in Kalamazoo County.

As a basketball official, Danhoff received the opportunity to work an MHSAA Boys Championship game in 1982, but has left his mark in the southwestern part of the state by coordinating, educating and recruiting other officials.

Since 1993, Danhoff has been an assignor, trainer, clinician and observer of officials in basketball and football for three conferences – the Southwestern Michigan Athletic (Big 16), Wolverine and Kalamazoo Valley Association – serving 36 schools. He will be retiring from that role at the conclusion of the 2008-09 school year.

Danhoff has received distinguished service awards from the Wolverine Conference and the KVA. Western Michigan University honored him with a Teacher Excellence Award in 2005. His community involvement includes membership in the Plainwell Rotary and Optimist Clubs, working with the Plainwell youth community programs in basketball and baseball, and as a Palliative Care Visitor for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He also earned a Master's degree in Educational Administration from Central Michigan University in 1970.

“The leadership Jim Danhoff has provided to the Big 16, Wolverine and Kalamazoo Valley conferences has been exemplary,” said John E. “Jack” Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA. “He has successfully recruited, trained and directed officials, and the level of officiating in that part of the state has improved greatly because of Jim's outstanding leadership, organization and commitment. He is the epitome of what a Norris Award winner should be.”

(more)

2-2-2 – Danhoff Receives Norris Award; Officials Banquet April 18

“Jim Danhoff is out observing and assisting officials every night games are being played in his leagues, and he’s been the most visible local officiating assignor and supervisor we have in this state,” said Mark Uyl, assistant director of the MHSAA. “It’s obvious that Jim’s successful career as a high school principal has served him well in working with school personnel and officials in resolving many difficult situations that come about through athletic competition. He is one of the true officiating leaders in our state, and we wish him well as he heads into retirement.”

Previous recipients of the Norris Award are:

1992 – Ted Wilson, East Detroit	2001 – Herb Lipschultz, Kalamazoo
1993 – Fred Briggs, Burton	2002 – Robert Scholie, Hancock
1994 – Joe Brodie, Flat Rock	2003 – Ron Nagy, Hazel Park
1995 – Jim Massar, Flint	2004 – Carl Van Heck, Grand Rapids
1996 – Jim Lamoreaux, St. Ignace	2005 – Bruce Moss, Alma
1997 – Ken Myllyla, Escanaba	2006 – Jeanne Skinner, Grand Rapids
1998 – Blake Hagman, Kalamazoo	2007 – Terry Wakeley, Grayling
1999 – Richard Kalahar, Jackson	2008 – Will Lynch, Honor
2000 – Barb Beckett, Traverse City; Karl Newingham, Bay City	

High school game officials with 20, 30, 40, 45 and 50-years of service will also be honored at the Officials’ Awards & Alumni Banquet on April 18 at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing.

Nine officials with 50 or more years of service will be honored, along with 15 officials with 45 years. A 40-year award will be presented to 27 officials. In addition, 115 officials with 30 years, and 191 officials with 20 years, of experience, will be honored. With the induction of this year’s group of 357, the honor roll of officials who have aided young student-athletes grows to 7,568 since the inception of the banquet in 1980.

This year’s banquet will again feature brief multimedia presentations prior to the introduction of each group of recipients, with historical highlights from 1989, 1979, 1969, 1964 and 1959.

Tickets for the banquet are available to the public and are priced at \$20.00. Tickets will not be sold at the door. For additional information, contact Faye Verellen at 517-332-5046.

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 complete listing of officials to be honored, in alphabetical order by city, is included in this release. We hope you will recognize any individuals from your area who have contributed over the years to interscholastic athletics. Members of the media interested in attending the banquet may contact Faye Verellen at the MHSAA office for complimentary tickets.)

RL09-055

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

20, 30 & 40-YEAR OFFICIALS

The officials on this list will receive their 20, 30, 40, 45 or 50-year service awards at the 30th annual Officials' Awards & Alumni Banquet at the Radisson Hotel Lansing on April 18.

20 YEAR OFFICIALS

Adrian - Gregory Kellie
Adrian - Dennis Kirkendall
Allegan - Thomas Collins
Alma - Dyanna Moes
Alpena - Terry King
Ann Arbor - Michael Craig
Ann Arbor - Michele Dziubinski

Bay City - Michael Hadd
Bay City - Paul Sevilla
Bay City - Holly Watson
Belleville - Doug La Boda
Belleville - Ken La Cross
Belmont - Kevin Langseth
Birmingham - E Joseph Michael Jr.
Bloomfield Hills - Bette Norman
Brooklyn - Kevin Carpenter
Burton - Gerald Hambley
Byron Center - Gordon Alles

Caledonia - Dale Scheerhorn
Caledonia - Thomas VandenBerg
Calumet - Sean Jacques
Capac - Scott Glombowski
Carleton - Richard Grant
Carney - Paul Polfus
Caro - Neil Beckwith
Carson City - Donald Baese
Cassopolis - William Ward
Clare - Burke Rilett
Coldwater - Brien Kelly
Commerce Township - Brian Conley
Comstock Park - Donald Bigger Jr.
Comstock Park - Terri Richards

Davison - Michael McKenna
Dearborn - Kenny Fawaz
Deckerville - David Messing
Delton - Wayne Adams
Detroit - Troy Campbell
Detroit - Melvin George
Detroit - Johnny Green
Detroit - Bernard Muhammad
Detroit - Howard Portis
Detroit - John Walton
DeWitt - Dennis Beecham
Dowagiac - Ashley Wagel
Dundee - Robert Kroeger

East Grand Rapids - Rocco Vulpetti
East Jordan - Charles Gothro
Eastpointe - David Vojinov
Edwardsburg - Richard Cox
Edwardsburg - Roger Hostetler

Escanaba - Thomas Abramson
Escanaba - Michael Smajda
Essexville - Douglas Horner

Farmington Hills - Derek Adolf
Farmington Hills - David Drake
Farwell - Fred Wittchell
Fenton - Earl Coad
Flint - Alvin Calloway
Flint - Anthony Lewis
Flint - Michael Tipton
Flint - Gregory Waller
Fort Gratiot - Timothy Maxwell
Fort Gratiot - Lowell Spiess

Gaylord - David Becker
Gaylord - Richard Olson
Goodrich - Kathleen Schollar
Grand Haven - Mark Knopf
Grand Haven - David Rodgers
Grand Ledge - Daniel West
Grand Rapids - Ruth Bigelow
Grand Rapids - Dawn Brackmann
Grand Rapids - Karl Dyksterhouse
Grand Rapids - John Mahan
Grand Rapids - David Postma
Grand Rapids - James VanEennaam
Grandville - Gary Jandernoa
Grosse Pointe Woods - William Bogle Jr.

Harbor Springs - Steve Mann
Hastings - Mark Martin
Hillsdale - Ernest Gibson
Holland - Duane Baker
Holland - Robert Durham
Holland - Brent Gawlik
Holland - Bradley Knoll
Holland - Timothy Schipper
Holland - Sherry Velthouse
Holly - Daniel Camarena
Holt - David Gonzalez

Ionia - Jane Hemenway
Ironwood - Bruce Beckman

Jackson - Ronald Dear
Jackson - Michael Rider
Jackson - Kenneth Sharp
Jenison - Jack Blauwkamp
Jenison - Timothy Salamone

Kalamazoo - Mark Daniel
Kalamazoo - Glen Gevaart
Kalamazoo - Mark Heineman
Kalamazoo - Bradley Stapert

Kentwood - Greg Pilbeam
Kewadin - Jan Veliquette

Lacota - Ted Krzemen Jr.
Lansing - Robert Dziachan
Lansing - Jessie Espinoza
Lansing - Richard Hammond
Lewiston - Duane Quick
Lincoln Park - Norman Gozalka
Livonia - David Robitaille
Lowell - Randall Halstead
Lowell - Mike Schmidt

Manistee - Gary Sielski
Marne - Mary Gavin
Marquette - Scot Fure
Marshall - Damon Fox
Mears - Randy Nesbit
Midland - Cathy Bourne
Midland - Kenneth Farminer
Midland - Brian Taglauer
Milford - Kevin Catchpole
Monroe - Ben Budzios
Monroe - James Bunkelman
Monroe - James Metz
Mt Clemens - David Muylaert
Mt Pleasant - Jeffrie Livingston
Mt Pleasant - Stan Shingles
Muskegon - Clayton Cochran
Muskegon - Ron Matthews

Naubinway - Elmer Albright
Negaunee - Raymond Jandron
New Lothrop - Richard Ustishen
North Adams - Steve Beach
Norway - Donald Lofholm

Olivet - Robert Judd
Olivet - Jeff Smith
Onsted - Matt Johnson

Parma - Robert Baum
Petoskey - Mark Lennemann
Pinconning - Timothy Robbins
Plainwell - Nancy Snyder
Plymouth - Jerry Abraham
Portland - Robert Troub

Reese - Tom Priebe
Rockford - James Gallery Jr.
Rockford - Robert Neier
Rockwood - John Goodell
Rogers City - Valerie Peacock
Romulus - Debbie Dick

(more)

2-2-2 – 20-30-40-45-50-Year Officials

Royal Oak - Steven Atkinson
Royal Oak - Michael DeVuyst
Rudyard - Donald Ward

Saginaw - Leon Brands
Sandusky - Daniel Guibord
Sault Ste Marie - Anthony Abramson
Shelby Township - Michael Barel
Shelby Township - Rock Dedvukaj
Shelby Township - Douglas Roberts
Shelby Township - Donald Schima
Shelby Township - Thomas Tabacchi
Sodus - Dean Case
Southfield - Steven Woodfork
Southgate - Timothy Schramm
St Clair Shores - Joseph Denomme
St Clair Shores - William Passalacqua
St Louis - Matthew Chovanec
St Louis - Mark Ward
Sterling Heights - Brian Hopp
Sterling Heights - Brian Wisniewski
Stevensville - David Cole
Stevensville - Charles Jager

Tawas City - Matthew Tripi
Tekonsha - Brian Saltzgeber
Tekonsha - Brenda Schrader
Thompsonville - Scott Lonoconus
Three Rivers - Bruce Mastny
Traverse City - James Anderson
Traverse City - Ross Schuch
Troy - John Gentilia

Wakefield - Dennis Brunelle
Walker - Joseph Geluso
Warren - Kenneth Seidenwand
Warren - Gerald Suhajda
Waterford - Charles Inama
Waterford - Christopher Lund
Watervliet - Brian Hall
West Bloomfield - Dan Kimberlin
West Branch - Douglas Grezeszak
White Lake - William Lee
Wyoming - Jon Hendrickson
Wyoming - David Joppie

Perrysburg, OH - William Ault
Toledo, OH - Thomas Donovan

30 YEAR OFFICIALS

Adrian - Darwin Hukill
Alger - Leroy Oliver
Alpena - Phil Schultz

Bath - Terry Ballinger
Battle Creek - David Metheny
Battle Creek - John Schwartz
Bay City - Brian Dugan
Benzonia - Gary Waterson
Berrien Springs - Jamie Stacey
Boyne City - Mark Case

Cadillac - William Bartholomew
Caledonia - Conroy Zuiderveen
Cass City - Craig Weaver
Charlevoix - Dennis VanGuilder
Cheboygan - Lynwood Leightner Jr.
Cheboygan - Patricia Rintamaki
Commerce Township - David Flammer
Concord - Charles Ewing
Constantine - Max Tavernier
Crystal - Bruce Waldron Sr.

Daggett - Michael Lyons
Davisburg - William Davis
Davison - Terry Lyons
Dearborn - Michael Burke
DeWitt - James Lumbert

Eaton Rapids - David Harns
Essexville - Robert Adamowski
Essexville - Joseph Pergande

Fenton - Orley Spees
Flint - Thomas Mora
Flushing - Dennis Harland
Franklin - Fred Tenorio

Galesburg - William Weese
Grand Blanc - Roy Linkowski
Grand Blanc - Michael Thornberry
Grand Ledge - Gary Steffy
Grand Rapids - Daniel Magennis

Hemlock - Richard Londry
Hillsdale - Beth Caswell
Holland - Kent Engle
Holland - Fred Schmitt

Ionia - Kaye Breining

Jackson - William Barone
Jackson - David Clouse
Jackson - Christopher Lapinski Sr.
Jackson - Chuck Walters

Kalamazoo - Craig Melvin
Kalamazoo - Willie Watson

Lansing - Michael Conlin
Lewiston - Jim Hilgendorf
Ludington - Fredrick Immer

Manistee - Jo Arnold
Marshall - Linda Hoover
Marysville - Thomas Ridas
Mattawan - David Breithaupt
Menominee - Holly Bayerl
Metamora - Gordon Hitchcock Sr.
Midland - Ken Beaudin
Midland - Gregory Burrell
Midland - Melissa Crower
Midland - Eldon Dean
Midland - James Gillis
Monroe - Barry Little
Muskegon - Timothy Flahive

Nashville - Brian Pufpaff
New Era - Warren Dirkse
North Muskegon - Thomas Kearney
North Muskegon - Michael Robillard

Okemos - Jay Marcotullio
Otisville - Douglas Fillmore

Plymouth - Janet Avery
Plymouth - William Faunce
Plymouth - Henry George Jr.
Portage - Mike Hinga

Ravenna - Thomas Wright
Rochester - Brian York
Rochester Hills - Fred Castelvetero

Saginaw - Robert Baillie
Saginaw - Loreen Laracey
Saginaw - Michael Recob
Saginaw - Brian Wakeman
Sandusky - Alan DeMott
Schoolcraft - Terry Haas
Shelby - Edmundo Flores
Shelby Township - Tom Kurczewski
South Haven - Patrick Conroy
Southgate - Douglas Pastor
Spring Arbor - James Smith
Springport - Roland Pakonen
St Clair Shores - Tom Frattini
St Ignace - Donald Gustafson
St Joseph - David Buck
St Louis - Kathleen Hutfilz
Sturgis - Richard Kraft

Traverse City - Mark Stewart
Trenton - Edward Suchyta
Trenton - Daniel Whaley
Twin Lake - Stephen Allen

Vernon - William Benn
Vulcan - Bruce Larsen

Wallace - Bruce Pearson
Warren - Richard Manos
Waterford - Michael Callahan
Waterford - William Farrar
Waterford - Mark Richer
Wayne - Arthur Collyer
West Bloomfield - Benjamin Armstrong
Westland - Robert Allen
White Cloud - Tony McHattie
Whitmore Lake - David Wint
Williamston - Todd Schultz
Wyandotte - Thomas Palamara

Middlebury, IN - Jerry Hart
Muncie, IN - John James II

Toledo, OH - Jon Everhart

(more)

3-3-3 – 20-30-40-45-50-Year Officials

40 YEAR OFFICIALS

Bay City - David Hunt

Canton - Pamela Yockey
Corunna - Gary Schooley

Delton - Robert Ritchie

East China - William Recor
Escanaba - Daniel Flynn

Grand Rapids - Robert Rodenhouse

Holt - Dennis Fulk

Jackson - Larry Holmes
Jackson - Dennis Lautzenheiser

Kalamazoo - William Rapley
Kalamazoo - Ronald Winter

Lakeport - Donna Frohm
Lansing - Donald Murray
Lansing - Darwin Petersen

Marlette - Vern Geister

Negaunee - Rodney Guizzetti Sr.

Pontiac - Emmett Williams

Saginaw - DJ (Bud) Clement
Saginaw - William Redmond
Spring Lake - Daniel Bouma
Sterling Heights - Michael Murray
Swartz Creek - Jerry DeLisle

Traverse City - Ralph Bradley

Warren - Dolores Marquis

Toledo, OH - William Lauer
Whitehouse, OH - Luther Bonnough

45 YEAR OFFICIALS

Allegan - George Babcock
Alpena - James Bowen

Boyne City - Gary Francis

Clarkston - Alfred Cuthrell
Crystal Falls - Marvin Tollefson

Decatur - Clarence Rex

Flushing - John Kirk

Gaylord - Gilbert Zachariah
Grand Haven - Dean Wolfe

Highland - Robert Parks

Lowell - Gordon Gould

Saginaw - Leonard Callard
Sandusky - Gordon Hutson
Swartz Creek - Phillip Long

Westland - Sigvard Dietrich

50 YEAR OFFICIALS

Auburn - Robert Reeves

Barryton - Leonard Hanline
Bay City - Daniel Skrzypczak

Cheboygan - James Woiderski

Holland - Bob Bosch

Middleville - George London

Royal Oak - Charles Jones

Spring Lake - Leon Stille

Walled Lake - Robert Andrews