

benchmarks

Spring 2018 Vol. 9 No. 3

mhsaa



CALVIN
College

WINGS EVENT CENTER

- ← Ticket Office - Will Call
- ← Hockey Club Offices
- Building Operations Offices
- The Valley
- The Zoo
- North Lot
- South Lot

Behind The Building

mhsaa
CHAMPIONSHIPS

2018
MHSAA
Winter
Finals

New Routes >>>
New Destinations



I have a
story...

I have a
story...



I have a
story...



I have a
story...



We tell their stories

SECOND HALF

by MHSAA



Moving Days: Finals Sites Hit New Homes



4 Three MHSAA Winter Finals welcomed fans to new homes in 2018, as both the Team and Individual Wrestling events and the Girls Basketball championships were showcased in front of enthusiastic crowds on new stages.

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The Vault – 20

Home Sweet Homes

Home is what you make of it, and the MHSAA Finals have been hosted by an array of willing and welcoming sites through the years.



MHSAA News – 18

A Purpose, Not a Job

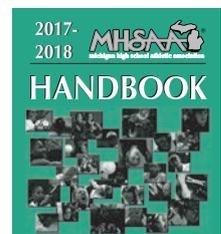
That’s how MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts described his 32-year term as leader of the Association. He will retire in August.



Regulations Review – 38

Transfer Tales

The MHSAA Transfer Regulation is undergoing significant revisions in the years ahead. Stay atop this eligibility condition before new students enroll.



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Finding Homes at the Right Price in the Right Setting

I've said and written many times before that the task of an athletic administrator is not merely event management, it is also – and more importantly – **message management**. It is defining and defending educational athletics. Doing so every day, in every way.

But this issue of *benchmarks* is events-oriented. It presents what went into the need for, and delivery of, three new venues for three big winter tournaments in 2018 – MHSAA Finals in team wrestling, individual wrestling and girls basketball.

This is a sign of the times. As college sports follow professional sports into super-sizing athletic arenas, and increase costs to access these facilities, the MHSAA will find fewer venues that are both appropriate and affordable for its season-ending showcases for school-based sports.

One of the tenets of school-based sports is that the program is inexpensive both for students to participate and spectators to attend. The professionalization and commercialization of sports on other levels by other sponsors will challenge the MHSAA to hold fast to this core value as we present MHSAA championships for this generation of student-athletes and the next.



John E. “Jack” Roberts
MHSAA Executive Director



Finding the perfect home for MHSAA Finals can be a puzzle stretching budget and imagination, but the consistent goal is to provide first-class, affordable venues in which to showcase the student-athletes.

Snapshot of a Legacy

MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts will retire in August after 32 years of guiding the MHSAA's initiatives. As the timeline below illustrates, much has happened during those three-plus decades. (Please see related story on pages 18-19)

- 1987 – Age Eligibility Advancement put in place
- 1987 – PACE Launched for coaches education
- 1988 – First Team Wrestling Tournament
- 1988 – First co-op programs launched
- 1989 – First Women In Sports Leadership Conference and WISL Award
- 1992 – First Bush and Norris Awards
- 1992 – First Athletic Directors In-Service Programs
- 1994 – Girls Competitive Cheer Added
- 1994 – Future Funding For School Athletics teleconference – participation fee surveys begin
- 1996 – Comprehensive sportsmanship package enacted
- 1997 – Current MHSAA Office is opened
- 1997 – MHSAA.com launches
- 1997 – Sportsmanship Summit & Open House of new MHSAA office
- 1998 – Sportsmanship Summit II
- 1999 – Football Playoffs expanded from 128 schools in 1990 to 256 and current format adopted
- 2000 – First concussion programming – palm cards for trainers – wins award
- 2004 – First Boys & Girls Bowling Tournaments
- 2005 – First Boys & Girls Lacrosse Tournaments
- 2005 – PACE turns into Coaches Advancement Program
- 2006 – Student Advisory Council established
- 2006 – Creation of “down time” and “dead periods” to ease pressure of year-round activity
- 2009 – Eight-player football plan announced – MHSAA tournament begins in 2011
- 2010 – Sets concussion protocols
- 2012 – Leads creation of NFHS Network, serves as board chair
- 2013 – Heat Management Policy adopted; CPR requirement for varsity head coaches approved
- 2014 – Assistant/subvarsity coaches required to take rules meetings/health meetings; football practice policies approved
- 2015 – Concussion pilot testing, mandated reporting & insurance; CPR training mandatory for head coaches
- 2016 – Multi-Sport Participation Task Force announced; 6th-grade membership; first year of concussion survey data announced; CAP required for newly hired first-time varsity head coaches
- 2017 – Basketball/volleyball changes to divisions effective 18-19; Classes remain for elections, football playoff points
- 2018 – Tougher transfer rules adopted; effective 2019-20

Top Task on the Mark

It is with great pleasure and interest that I enjoyed reading your recent blog entitled, “The Top Task” (4/17). Defining and defending Educational Athletics is something we have been doing for years, but it has never been more important than right now. The advent of Club teams, AAU, Olympic Development programs, off season programs, and the like have enticed many school aged athletes with the lure of a promising athletic future.

The results we as an entity produce speak for themselves. However, the moment you let

down your guard, much like during an athletic contest, your opponent will lay claim to all you may have accomplished to that point.

It's no different than competition from opposing schools, which has been here from the inception. The idea is to make your product more attractive so your constituents do not even consider going elsewhere or potentially attractive alternatives.

Thank you for continually trumpeting the cause, reminding us of how good we truly do have it, refocusing on the “define and defend” mantra, and for provid-

ing the necessary guidance and direction we have all come to admire and appreciate. We are “Educational Athletics” and a direct extension of the classroom. We would not want it any other way. Thank you.

– Marc G. Hage, C.M.A.A.
Livonia Churchill HS

Shots on Goal offers readers a forum for feedback. Submit your opinions, share your experiences or offer suggestions to benchmarks@mhsaa.com.



CAGE CROWNS AT CALVIN

Calvin College's Van Noord Arena was no stranger to title events, having just hosted the 2017 NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championship. This crowd of 3,600 between Michigan Center and Jackson Northwest for one of the MHSAA Class B Semifinals found the setting to its liking.

Home Games

When circumstances necessitated moving select MHSAA Finals events, the Association found itself in an unprecedented position during the 2018 Winter season: hosting three of its championship events at new venues during a four-week span. The events – and facilities – were met with enthusiastic crowds and positive results.



Hockey Weekly Action Photos

Nate Hampton had done this plenty of times, 29 times prior to this one to be exact. Yet, as he walked through the doors of Calvin College's Van Noord Arena for the first day of what would be his 30th MHSAA Girls Basketball Final as the event's director on March 15, he had the feeling of a rookie stepping to the plate for the first time.

Yes, the same number of teams would be in the building over the three-day span for the Semifinals and Finals. Yes, the games were the same, and much of the preparation was the same, but logistically things would be different, as they had been five other times during his tenure as an Assistant Director with the MHSAA.

"Whenever our events are taking place at a new facility, the unknowns are always foremost in mind," Hampton said. "Learning the new facility and its staff, and emphasizing our profile of educational athletics to new surroundings is always an interesting task."

Ironically, Hampton's supervision came full-circle of sorts with the move to Calvin in Grand Rapids. His first girls basketball championship weekend in the fall of 1989 took place on the

— continued next page

campus of Grand Valley State University in nearby Allendale.

From there, Hampton would experience similar opening-day jitters a year later at Battle Creek's Kellogg Arena; again in 1997 at Central Michigan's Rose Arena; then in 2004 at Michigan State's Breslin Center; and once more at Eastern Michigan's Convocation Center in 2008 before going back to familiar grounds at the Breslin Center again in 2010.

Each time, with his guidance and plenty of assistance from each site, the tournament has rolled along.

"I've truly been blessed in that every staff at every facility we've been to – whether it be for football or basketball – has been a privilege to work with; all have had quality people, from the business end, to event management and ticketing, to housekeeping," Hampton said. "We've teamed with people who care about what we do and who we are. The administration at Calvin College and the West Michigan Sports Commission certainly gave us the same efforts this year, and we look forward to next year's event with them."

"I've truly been blessed in that every staff at every facility we've been to – whether it be for football or basketball – has been a privilege to work with; all have had quality people, from the business end, to event management and ticketing, to housekeeping." — MHSAA Assistant Director Nate Hampton

The Girls Basketball Finals was the third of three MHSAA Finals events to stage championships in new facilities during a four-week span this winter. The Team Wrestling weekend kicked things off Feb. 23-24 at Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo, followed by the Individual Wrestling Finals one week later, March 2-3, at Ford Field in Detroit.

Spearheading the MHSAA efforts for both events was Assistant Director Dan Hutcheson, who – like Hampton – had that starting-all-over feeling, times two. Also like Hampton, Hutcheson was making his first tournament move (and second) in just his second year on the job.

Three New Winter Tournament Venues Provide Challenge

"From the Director" Blog – February 16, 2018

It is an unusual season when there is one big change for the finals sites of Michigan High School Athletic Association tournaments. This winter there are three really significant changes.

The MHSAA Team Wrestling Tournament begins the first of at least a four-year run on Feb. 23 and 24, 2018, at Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo. This event was held at Central Michigan University the past two years.

The following weekend, the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Tournament moves to Ford Field in Detroit, and it has also moved to a condensed schedule – two days, rather than three (March 2 and 3, 2018). This will reduce school and spectator costs. The demise of The Palace of Auburn Hills after the relocation of the Detroit Pistons necessitated the MHSAA's site change.

The MHSAA Girls Basketball Tournament Semifinals and Finals moves to Van Noord Arena on the campus of Calvin College in Grand Rapids, March 15-17, 2018. The previous host, Michigan State University's Breslin Student Events Center, could not commit to the MHSAA's dates because of schedule conflicts with the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament.

A single venue change is a challenge. Facilitating three major changes over four weeks will make this tournament season especially "interesting." What is even more interesting is the long-term forecast.

These changes demonstrate how new forces are putting pressure on old relationships. College venues are available on fewer dates and for fewer years; and as they become less available, they also become more costly for high school tournaments. Expenses at commercial arenas are also escalating at more rapid rates than in the past.

Making or maintaining traditions for MHSAA tournaments over future seasons will be a continuing challenge.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Team Wrestling Finals enjoyed first-class treatment at Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo in February.

After overseeing the Team Wrestling Finals at Central Michigan University's McGuirk Arena – which in and of itself presented challenges in only the event's second year at that site – and the Individual Finals in the tournament's last year at the Palace of Auburn Hills, Hutcheson was unrolling the mats at two new venues. In the case of the Individual Finals, it also marked the debut of a new two-day format.

“You always like to have the opportunity to go through an event, review your notes, and make improvements from one year to the next, but in these cases, I didn't have a chance to do that before moving to new locations,” Hutcheson said.

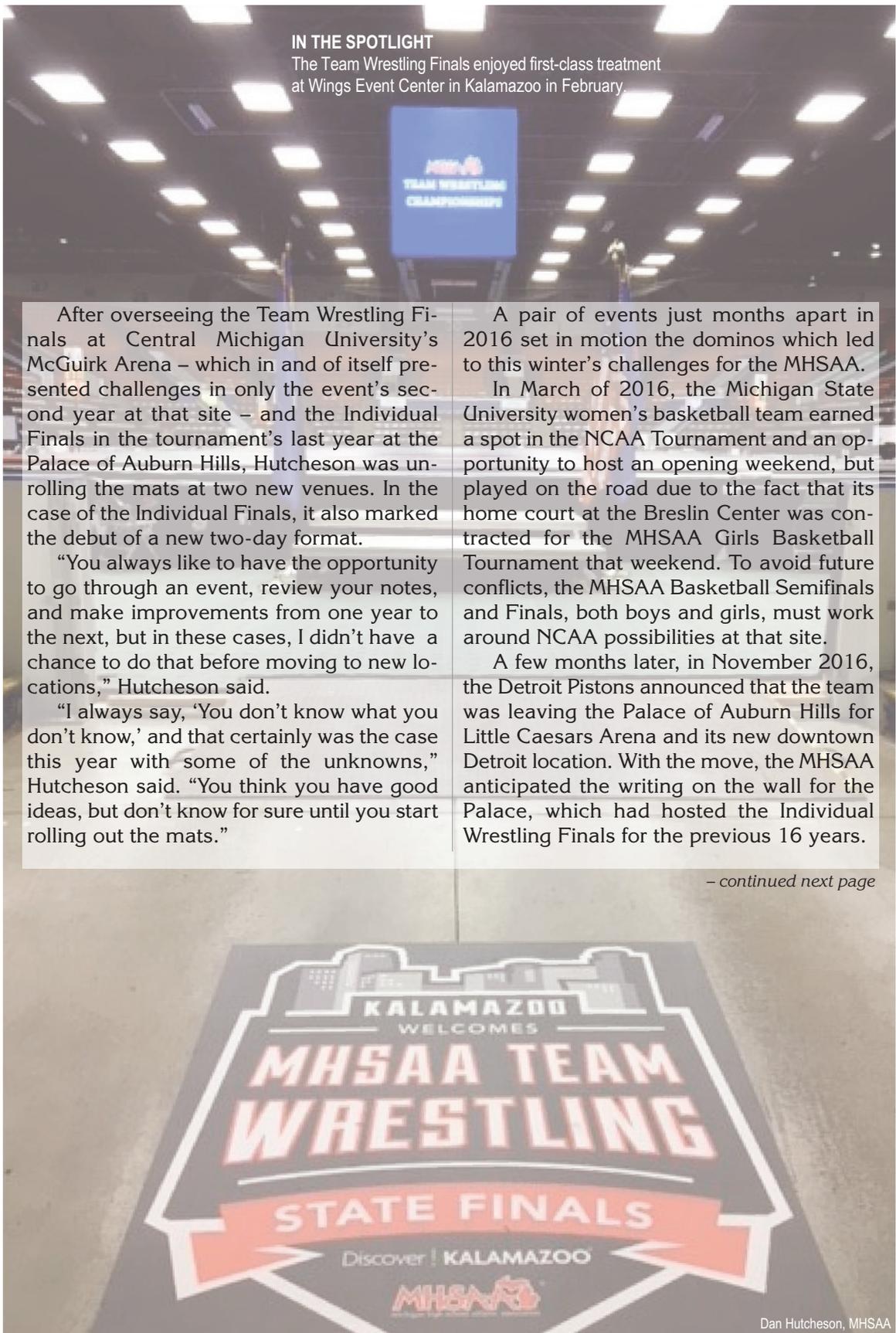
“I always say, ‘You don't know what you don't know,’ and that certainly was the case this year with some of the unknowns,” Hutcheson said. “You think you have good ideas, but don't know for sure until you start rolling out the mats.”

A pair of events just months apart in 2016 set in motion the dominos which led to this winter's challenges for the MHSAA.

In March of 2016, the Michigan State University women's basketball team earned a spot in the NCAA Tournament and an opportunity to host an opening weekend, but played on the road due to the fact that its home court at the Breslin Center was contracted for the MHSAA Girls Basketball Tournament that weekend. To avoid future conflicts, the MHSAA Basketball Semifinals and Finals, both boys and girls, must work around NCAA possibilities at that site.

A few months later, in November 2016, the Detroit Pistons announced that the team was leaving the Palace of Auburn Hills for Little Caesars Arena and its new downtown Detroit location. With the move, the MHSAA anticipated the writing on the wall for the Palace, which had hosted the Individual Wrestling Finals for the previous 16 years.

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Dan Hutcheson, MHSAA

CLOSEUP

The size of Van Noord Arena suited participants and student cheering sections alike in the inaugural year at Calvin College.



With more than 30,000 fans regularly attending one of the MHSAA's signature winter events, Hutcheson began entertaining thoughts of conducting the Individual Finals at spacious Ford Field, and began mapping out various diagrams while touring the stadium from the concourses to the tunnels beneath during the MHSAA's Football Finals in 2016.

That idea came to fruition during the May 2017 Representative Council meeting, as did the selection of Calvin College and Wings Event Center for their respective events.

In the case of the Team Wrestling Finals, there was a desire to pair with a facility which would allow the MHSAA to again stage all four championship matches on adjacent mats simultaneously – the format for most of the first 29 years of the Team Finals. In 2017 at CMU, the Finals were split into two, two-match blocks to help accommodate for attendance after the Team Finals session sold out in 2016.

While crowds in Mt. Pleasant pushed the limits of the facility, the move to Kalamazoo offered room for spectator growth as Wings has seating for 5,100 fans and additional standing-room capacity for 1,000 more.

Equally as important was the consideration of floor space, which had always been plentiful at Kellogg Arena, but was cramped for four mats, teams and school personnel at CMU.

Hutcheson's task was to elevate and improve an event that was already one of the MHSAA's most popular and well attended.

Among the most visible changes greeting the fans as they entered Wings Event Center for Friday's Quarterfinal round was, well, the elevation of the event. For the first time, mats were placed atop risers to better showcase the wrestlers while teammates, coaches and ancillary personnel remained at floor level.

"You try to look at things from all viewpoints – wrestlers, coaches, media, event

workers, ticketing, customers and technology – and attempt to make it functional for everyone,” Hutcheson said.

The wrestling stage was indeed an attraction beneath the massive video board displaying in-progress results, and the setup allowed for ample floor space for the pre-meet marches and access to the floor for all accredited personnel.

“The mats on the risers, our 40-foot video board above, and a great DJ created a unique finals atmosphere,” said Wings Event Center General Manager Rob Underwood.

“We heard a lot of positive feedback from Kalamazoo, including the opinions of many coaches who have done this for a long time; they felt like the event was meant to be there,” Hutcheson said. “But, the roots of the event run deep. Credit goes to Mark Uyl (MHSAA Assistant Director and former coordinator of the event) and his predecessors.

“Many times the best improvements are between year one and year two. We’re off to a good start, and now it’ll be a matter of tweaking some things.”

Working hard to attract the event to Wings Event Center was Discover Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County’s destination marketing organization. The group was familiar with the energy of MHSAA Championships and the quality of youth and prep wrestling around Michigan, and landing the Team Finals didn’t disappoint.

“What has been immediately apparent to us after year one of hosting this event in our community is how big of a following the wrestling community has in general, and how

passionate the fans are,” said Brian Persky, Sports Event Development Manager for Discover Kalamazoo.

Persky estimates the event generated \$1.4 million in direct visitor spending throughout the community in its first year.

“The event exceeded my expectations in nearly every aspect, and that is a huge testament to the event organizers at the MHSAA and Wings Event Center. Discover Kalamazoo has heard nothing but positive feedback locally, and well beyond into the wrestling community statewide,” Persky said.

Likewise, operations inside the building gave the event a huge boost, and in return added another highly visible event to its docket.

“Wings Event Center is excited to be the home of the MHSAA Team Wrestling Finals for the next three years,” said Underwood. “We learned a lot about the flow of this event and how we can make improvements for the upcoming years. Our team was very excited and pleased with the event. The folks at the MHSAA are very professional and provide a level of detail and organization that allows our event staff to execute at a high level.”

On the heels of that inaugural setting, Hutcheson was off to another new venue and new format less than a week later at Ford Field in Detroit. The facility was certainly familiar enough, as the MHSAA Football Finals have called the Motown digs home since 2005, but how would the large structure play to the wrestling community?

– continued next page



TAKING THE STAGE

Among the more notable changes at the 2018 Team Wrestling Finals was the elevated platform, showcasing the wrestlers while coaches and teammates remained at floor level.



ROOM TO BREATHE

Ford Field's spacious accommodations made for a prep wrestling spectacle unlike any other in the nation. The extra room was welcomed by competitors and coaches.

John Johnson, MHSAA

Again, space proved to be among the event's biggest assets for many reasons, some perceived and others unintended.

Since the floor space allowed for 20 mats to be laid out (eight more than the maximum at The Palace), and a greater number of matches taking place simultaneously, the event could take place in two days rather than three, as previously conducted in Auburn Hills.

"Sometimes we talk about unintended consequences that arise during the course of an event, but there can be unintended bonuses as well," Hutcherson said.

From a coach and competitor standpoint, the sheer enormity of surface at Ford Field was one of the pleasant surprises. The student-athletes had seemingly boundless areas in which to warm up for their bouts, and coaches often enjoyed better communication with the wrestlers as the crowds were a bit further back (*see related story on page 16*).

"Until you get to the site, you don't know how all of the diagrams and mock-ups will be received, and how it will all work out," said Hutcherson, who developed, revised and edited several blueprints in the year-plus leading up to the event, as depicted at right on page 11.

"The final arrangement at Ford Field provided more warmup area than past facilities, and more opportunity for the wrestlers to get a sweat going, and hopefully that translated into athletes who were a little more ready to go.

"When I was coaching (at Howell High School), we'd literally have kids warm up in a

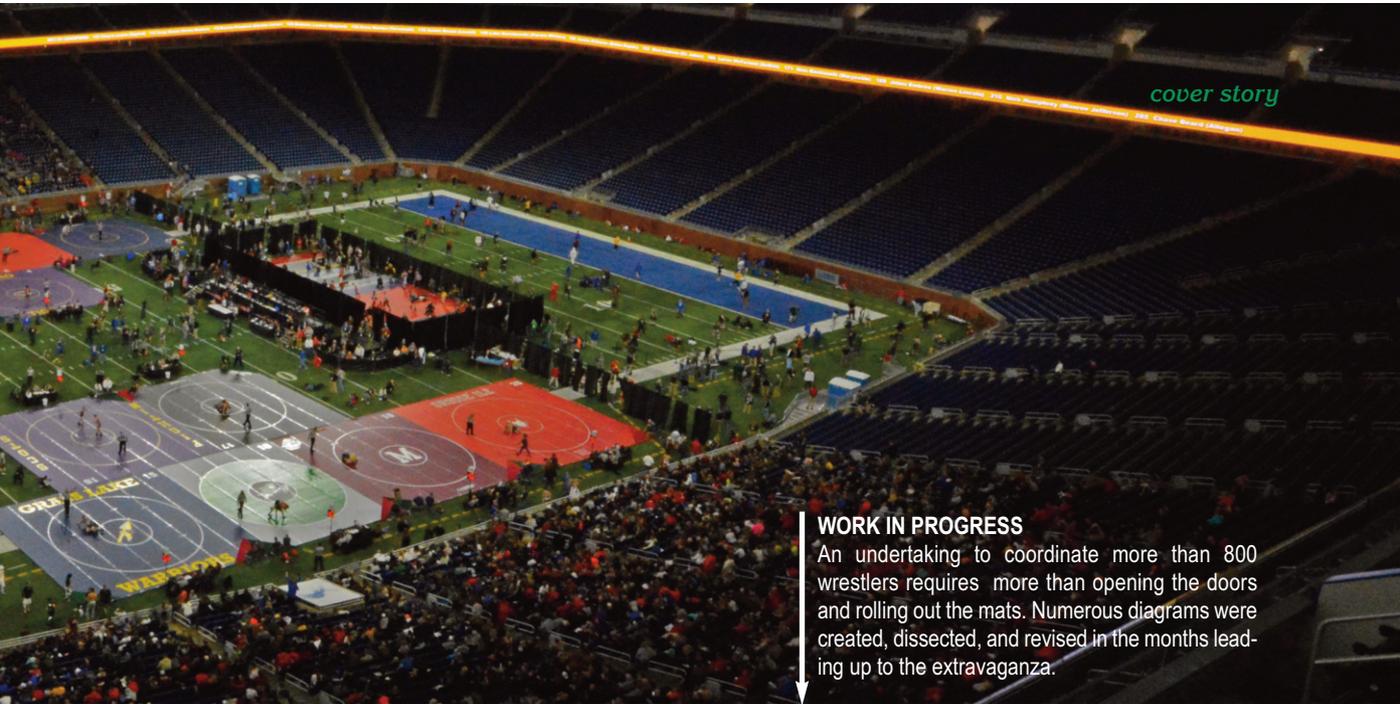
"What has been immediately apparent to us after year one of hosting this event in our community is how big of a following the wrestling community has in general, and how passionate the fans are." — Brian Persky, Sports Event Development Manager, Discover Kalamazoo

closet area to replicate what it would be like at the Finals."

Year one also provided a new benchmark for attendance utilizing a two day format versus three days.

A two-day total of nearly 25,000 was reached for the most recent Individual Wrestling Finals, with Friday's day-long session seeing 10,696 enthusiasts come through the gates, followed by 14,233 for two-sessions combined on Saturday, a grand total of 24,939.

"Hosting the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals at Ford Field for the first time was challenging, satisfying and immensely successful in our eyes," said Brad Michaels, the Director of Events at Ford Field. "We've been told Ford Field is the largest known venue for any high school state wrestling tournament in the country, ever. The feedback has been outstanding, especially from the athletes and coaches who mentioned that the setup positively affected their performance. The MHSAA is always



WORK IN PROGRESS

An undertaking to coordinate more than 800 wrestlers requires more than opening the doors and rolling out the mats. Numerous diagrams were created, dissected, and revised in the months leading up to the extravaganza.

great to work with and this event was no exception.”

Two weeks later, the MHSAA Finals facility was considerably smaller for its third new home of the season, but with results that were just as big. While the increased floor space at the newest venues drew praise within wrestling circles, the confines of Calvin’s Van Noord Arena scored huge points with the girls basketball coaches, players and spectators.

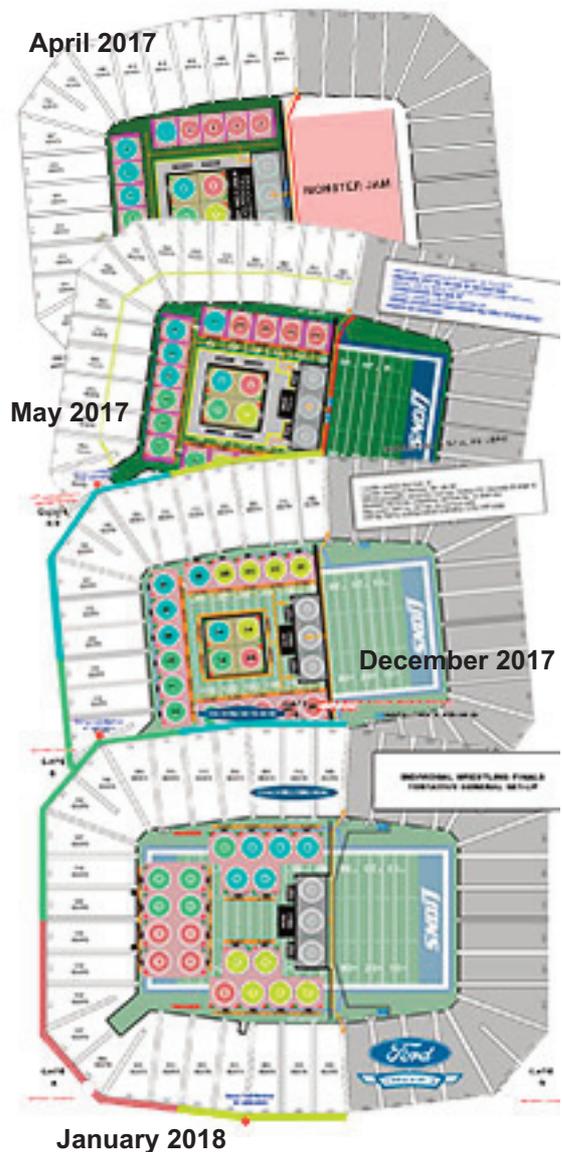
“While we know that student-athletes who have played at the Breslin Center in previous years mark that as a special experience, we feel we provided the student-athletes with a top-notch, collegiate-level experience here as well,” said Connie Porte, Senior Event Planner at Calvin College.

“Hosting an event like this provided us with an opportunity to welcome families from throughout the state, some of whom were stepping onto our campus for the very first time. Calvin strives to create a top-tier experience for all visitors, and this event was another occasion to do just that.”

And, it succeeded. From the opening Semifinal on Thursday to the last Final on Saturday, a constant refrain carried the sentiment of the weekend.

“This was great. Everyone has done a great job, we felt welcome, and the size was perfect. It was a great atmosphere,” said Pe-wamo-Westphalia Coach Steve Eklund, whose team *lost* in the Class C Semifinals to open three-day event.

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Longtime Detroit Country Day Coach Frank Orlando echoed those feelings following the last game of the weekend, the Class B Final won by his Yellowjackets.

“Wow, that crowd sure got loud, especially when they (Jackson Northwest) got going. What a great atmosphere for a championship game,” said Orlando, who knows a thing or two about MHSAA Girls Basketball Finals, having now won 13 of them. “It was like Rose Arena at CMU back in those years.”

He was referring to a period from 1997-2003 when the sport enjoyed four of its top five Finals crowds in history.

While the 2018 attendance did not rival those days, the enthusiasm did at times in large part due to the size of 5,000 seat Van Noord Arena.

“The intimacy of the arena in a first-class facility which has hosted national-caliber events made it feel like what it was: a championship event with great emotion,” said Hampton.

With a couple of the weekend’s sessions around the 3,500 mark, Van Noord’s layout al-

“We had a great team of volunteers who provided student-athletes, their families, and their fans with the hospitality visitors have come to expect. We received a lot of verbal feedback from attendees about our beautiful facility, the great spectator experience, and the numerous food offerings.” — Connie Porte, Senior Event Planner, Calvin College

lowed for a higher percentage of those spectators to be closer to the action than they would be at MSU’s Breslin Center.

Hindering the weekend’s draw to a degree was the anomaly of having no west Michigan teams advance to the Semifinals in any class. Pewamo-Westphalia was the closest of the competing schools to the site, with a little more than an hour’s drive.

Those who attended, however, enjoyed the experience (*see related story on page 17*).



“We had a great team of volunteers who provided student-athletes, their families, and their fans with the hospitality visitors have come to expect,” said Porte. “We received a lot of verbal feedback from attendees about our beautiful facility, the great spectator experience, and the numerous food offerings.”

The MHSAA Girls Basketball Finals will again return to Calvin in 2019, but will flip weekends with the Boys Finals, meaning the event will wrap up next year’s winter tournament season.

With the Calvin and MHSAA staffs having experienced a year together, the 2019 event promises to shine once again.

“For a first-time event, things seemed to go about as smoothly as possible. One challenge we encountered in this first year related to parking, as classes were still in session. In 2019 Calvin will be on spring break so we should not have parking issues,” said Porte.

The day after staging such massive undertakings often provides a few hours for relaxation and reflection. In Hutcheson’s case, he opted for more wrestling; this time as a spec-

tator at the Big Ten Wrestling Championships which happened to be hosted by Michigan State University at the Breslin Center this year.

However, the Finals at Ford Field weren’t yet out of the conversation.

“I was sitting near a group of former MSU wrestlers, and a friend pointed in my direction to one of the people in the group,” Hutcheson said. “It was the former long-time wrestling head coach from Brother Rice, John Major. He said to me, ‘I hear you were the guy in charge of the high school finals at Ford Field.’ And I’m shaking his hand wondering what’s coming next. Then he said, ‘I thought things went really well.’ He was very complimentary. Whew!”

For the most part, that opinion reflected the feedback regarding all three of the sites which joined a proud lineage of facilities making the MHSAA Finals a memorable experience through the years.

On to 2019.

– Rob Kaminski
benchmarks Editor

HISTORY IN STRIPES

For the 2018 MHSAA Girls Basketball Finals officials, Calvin College’s Van Noord Arena will always hold a special place in their hearts, and in MHSAA history.

March 17 was a landmark day, as for the first time ever, all 12 officials in the four Finals contests were females.

Those working the games appear below, clockwise from upper left: Class D - **Tammy Sedlar-Wing**, Beulah; **April Martin**, Harper Woods, and **Cozette Ealy**, Detroit; Class A - **Amanda Chapman**, St. Clair Shores; **Delonda Little**, Detroit (tossing ball at left), and **Shana Ojala**, Chassell; Class C - **Penny McDonald**, Cadillac; **Nichole Fisher**, Lansing, and **Wanda Clayton**, Pontiac; Class B - **Stacey Thomas**, Novi; **Whitney Schafer**, Lansing, and **Sharon Sawyers**, Freeland.



Following the Bouncing Ball Might Not Be Easy

Even as new homes were being announced months ago for the Winter season just past, work had to continue to plan for sites for both genders of basketball in an environment which has become increasingly crowded due to conflicts with the NCAA; for which tenants of targeted facilities belong, and for whom postseason opportunities are the ultimate goals.

The Girls Basketball Finals weekends in 2018 and also 2020-22 will conflict with the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament and an opportunity for Michigan State's women's team to host first and second-round games.

The Boys Basketball Finals weekend in 2019 as traditionally scheduled conflicts with the NCAA Division I Women's Basketball Tournament.

Thus, the MHSAA Representative Council continues to discuss changes to future girls and boys basketball tournament schedules, but this much is known; for the 2018-19 season, the boys season will begin first and culminate with the Semifinals and Finals March 14-16 at MSU's Breslin Center. The girls season will start a week later and complete the winter tournaments with the Semifinals and Finals at Calvin College's Van Noord Arena once again, March 21-23.

"Such changes are the by-product of NCAA conflicts with those facilities which have served the MHSAA well over the years," said MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts. "If the desire of our membership is for us to secure NCAA Division I arenas for our basketball tournaments, then the reality is that we must adapt schedules."

Several scenarios have been discussed, ranging from earlier starts to the season, to simultaneous tournaments, to a one-site Finals-only weekend with Semifinals played at numerous sites around the state.

The picture for the near future could become more clear following November 2018 Council action.



HARDWOOD HARDSHIPS

Whether it be facilities like those at Michigan State University, Calvin College or Central Michigan University, potential conflicts have created a continuing shift in MHSAA tournaments for boys and girls.

At Home in the Dome: First 8-Player Doubleheader is Superior

Prior to the MHSAA Winter Tournament season's debut of three new venues, the Association returned to a former Finals home for one of its growing fall sports.

The Superior Dome on the campus of Northern Michigan University in Marquette has long served as a gateway to the 11-player football championships, hosting numerous MHSAA Semifinals throughout the years.

The facility was also the site of the first-ever MHSAA 8-Player Football Final in 2011 before the event moved to Greenville High School.

When the popularity of the sport created the need for a second division in 2017, the Superior Dome was a natural fit for a championship doubleheader in ideal conditions, a week before the 11-player event, which also takes place under a roof at Ford Field in Detroit.

The MHSAA celebrated a fantastic day of football on Saturday, Nov. 18, with two 8-player champions crowned for the first time, and the 11-player Semifinals taking place around the state. Well, all but one Semifinal. One was played the day before at, you guessed it, the Superior Dome.

"We were excited for the opportunity to host the 8-player finals, along with the opportunity to



AIRING IT OUT

The Superior Dome on the campus of Northern Michigan University was the perfect host for the MHSAA's first 8-Player Football Finals doubleheader. In a sport where passing often rules the day, conditions are perfect for the wide-open offenses.

MHSAA title after finishing just 2-7 in 2016 as an 11-player school. The Trojans defeated Deckerville for the Division 1 title to cap a 13-0 year.

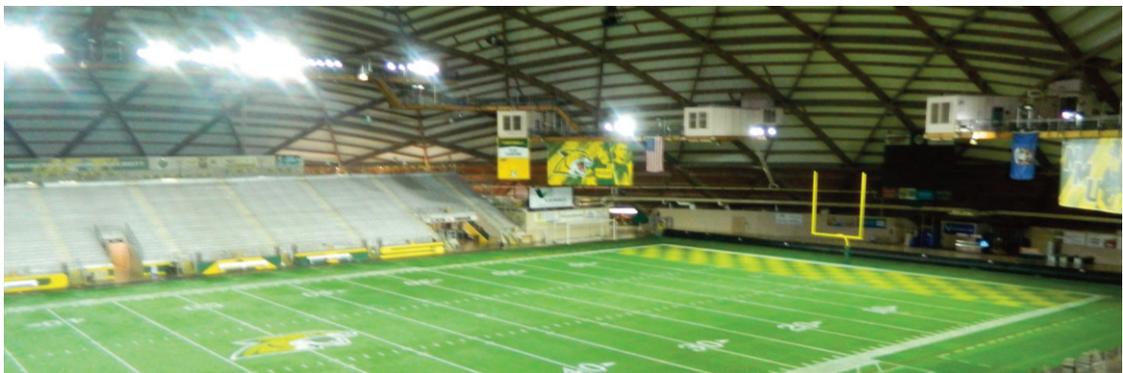
In Division 2, it was Crystal Falls Forest Park adding to its storied gridiron tradition with a win over Portland St. Patrick. It was the school's first 8-player title to go with three 11-player crowns.

"The entire NMI staff, led by Carl Bammert, was excellent as always," said MHSAA Assistant Director Mark Uyl. "It is an outstanding facility with even better people running the event to give everyone – student-athletes, coaches, spectators and officials – a tremendous Finals experience. We can't wait for the two games in the Dome next November."

"We're always excited for the opportunity for exposure from getting high school students and their families on campus and at the Superior Dome." — Carl Bammert, Northern Michigan University Associate Athletic Director

continue hosting 11-player Semifinals as well," said Carl Bammert, NMI's associate athletic director and supervisor of sports venues. "We're always excited for the opportunity for exposure from getting high school students and their families on campus and at the Superior Dome."

The 2018 participants couldn't have been happier either, with Central Lake gaining its first





Wrestling rooms around the state are often relegated to tight, small, cozy practice areas tucked into any available spot in a school.

There was nothing tiny or intimate about the 2018 MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals, hosted for the first time at Ford Field.

It's the largest ever known venue for any high school state wrestling tournament in the country.

Several coaches and wrestlers commented about how much purer the wrestling was for two main reasons – the crowd was further away from the action than normal so the noise factor was more of a dull roar, but more importantly was the vast amount of space to warm up and cool down.

"I love the atmosphere here," said Hartland 125-pounder Kyle Kantola. "I like to zone out the crowd anyway. I try to listen to my coaches in the corner; (it's easier to) listen to their voices the whole time."

"I love this place because you have a bunch of warm-up area. I was used to the Palace, but I'm liking this more and more. When you can get warmed up it makes your technique so much sharper, even if you don't think it does. It helps make you less exhausted if you start with your body warmer."

MHSAA Communications Director John Johnson said Ford Field is a one-year experiment that will be fully evaluated before the MHSAA Representative Council makes any venue decisions for next year. After the Palace closed, only three buildings in the entire state remain with the capacity to hold enough mats for four divisions and be large enough for roughly 10,000 fans.

If any of those three – VanAndel Arena in Grand Rapids, Ford Field or Little Caesars Arena – are unavailable due to scheduling conflicts, the MHSAA could be forced to split up the divisions into at least two separate locations. That was the case before the finals were combined and held at Joe Louis

Arena in 1999-01 before moving to the Palace for the last 16 seasons.

"I felt like the Palace was really closed in, and would make you even more nervous because it's too crowded," said Isaiah Berry of Southfield A&T who came into Ford Field undefeated at 44-0 at 135 pounds in Division 1.

"I think what's been nicest about Ford Field for the coaches and the wrestlers is all the open territory and more space," said tournament director Ron Nagy. "There's more room for them to move around and do what they want to do, not force them off the floor, since there's all the space."

"The warm-up area is open at all times. They can work out, run, whatever they need. There's places like that to go have their solitude. Overall, it's great. There are some tweaks we need to make but nothing that involves the matches themselves."

Moving to Ford Field increased the number of mats on the floor from 12 to 20, allowing for the event to be conducted over two days instead of three. The number of mat officials and volunteer workers increased from 175 to 250.

Senior Michael Mars, a two-time MHSAA champion from Westland Glenn, agreed that the massive extra space is beneficial.

"It helps the wrestlers' concentration because they're a little bit more separate from the crowd, and they have a lot more room to warm up in," Mars said. "I think that helps concentrate on the match at hand."

"But yeah, it's a little crazy. Normally, we're wrestling in school gyms and then in here it's like eight school gyms put together so it's pretty crazy. But I like it honestly. I wish every tournament could be in an atmosphere like this. I'm a Lions' fan and it's pretty cool to say I've been on the field now."

— Tom Lang, *Special to Detroit Free Press*
Reprinted with Permission

Van Noord Arena Suits Girls Basketball Participants

Since 2010, the Michigan high school girls championship games have called the Breslin Center home, giving the players a chance to play at Michigan State University.

But an NCAA move to award homecourt advantage to women's basketball teams forced Michigan State to reserve the first weekend of the NCAA tournament while also forcing the Michigan High School Athletic Association to look elsewhere for its games.

Enter Calvin College, a Grand Rapids university with a Division III athletic program.

"Great facility, perfect size," Saginaw Heritage Coach Vonnie DeLong said. "Breslin's too big. We played at Little Caesar's Arena, so we've had the big-arena experience."

The 2019 girls state finals will return to Calvin College, but future venues are up in the air.

"The facilities were great, and the fans were so close," Detroit Edison coach Monique Brown said. "But it's not the same as the Breslin. It's special for the players when they play at Michigan State, just to be able to play on that court."

The high school association faced few problems during the three-day event.

"For a first-time event, it was a fabulous weekend," MHSAA spokesperson John Johnson said.

"Great facility, perfect size. Breslin's too big. We played at Little Caesar's Arena, so we've had the big-arena experience." — Saginaw Heritage Coach Vonnie DeLong →

"The people at Calvin College and the West Michigan Sports Commission did a fantastic job of meeting all the needs for conducting the tournament.

"They had a huge task, having an event come to them that had been played in a fairly popular place. They responded wonderfully. The comments we got from coaches to players to parents to administrators all weekend long was what a great atmosphere that Van Noord Arena provided for the games. We had average attendance, and it sounded like it was the most exciting place in the world to be."

Calvin College's Van Noord Arena has a capacity of 5,000 fans.

"I love how the fans are close," Adrian Lenawee Christian coach Jamie Salenbein said. "Everything was top-notch. Not being able to play at Breslin was something I thought about earlier during the season, but the last couple of weeks, I haven't even thought about it."

The high school association will ask its member schools for input regarding the future placement of the tournament.

"We're faced with making some decisions that would put us in position to dance around the Breslin Center's availability so that we can keep the boys in there," Johnson said. "Or do we look at what other states have done and get completely out of the way of the NCAA tournament? Maybe we'll look at radical change, which could be a four-week tournament where the boys and girls play concurrently.

"We're going to go to our membership to see what they want to do."

Meanwhile, the girls basketball tournament will remain at Calvin College for at least one more year.

"This place is nicer than a lot of Division I arenas ... it's the biggest Division III arena in the country," Johnson said. "They know how to conduct major events. They know what's needed.



"This is the third new venue we've used in four weeks. We moved Team Wrestling from Mount Pleasant to Kalamazoo, moved Individual Wrestling from The Palace to Ford Field. We've received great responses from all three new venues."

— Hugh Bernreuter for MLive
Reprinted with Permission

Roberts Retiring After 32 Years with ‘Purpose’

This issue’s “From the Director” is actually for the director, MHSAA Executive Director John E. “Jack” Roberts whose unwavering service to school sports in Michigan during the last 32 years has left lasting impressions and a memorable legacy.

For 32 years, Jack Roberts has served as much more than a caretaker of the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

In announcing his retirement in April, he called working for 1,500 schools and hundreds of thousands of student-athletes over three decades his “purpose.”

Roberts, who has served as Executive Director of the MHSAA since the fall of 1986, will retire in August.

Roberts will conclude his tenure as the second-longest serving full-time Executive Director during the MHSAA’s 94-year history. He is the fourth person to serve that leadership role full time, following Charles E. Forsythe (1931-42, 1945-68), Allen W. Bush (1968-78) and Vern L. Norris (1978-86). Roberts currently is also the nation’s longest-serving executive director of a state high school athletic association.

200 schools in increasing its membership by more than 15 percent at the high school and junior high/middle school levels combined. In 2016, 6th-graders were allowed to compete for member schools for the first time as a push was made to increase junior high/middle school membership and serve students earlier in their athletic careers.

His tenure has seen the addition of girls competitive cheer (1994), girls & boys bowling (2004) and girls & boys lacrosse (2005) to the tournament sport lineup, the creation of separate wrestling tournament to determine champions by team format (1988) and 8-player football (2010, first playoffs 2011) as many small schools across the state began having trouble fielding 11-player teams because of enrollment and population decreases. Meanwhile, also under his leadership, the 11-player Football Playoffs expanded, doubling to 256 teams in 1999.



Among Roberts’ favorite people were his predecessors Vern Norris (above far left) and Al Bush (above center), from whom he learned so much about his position; and the student-athletes themselves, from whom he never stopped learning about his position’s purpose.

The MHSAA has enjoyed continued growth under Roberts’ guidance, particularly in the number of Michigan high school students participating in athletics and in the number of MHSAA-sponsored tournament sports available to them.

The Association has made unprecedented advances in providing for the health and safety of athletes and promoting sportsmanship and the values of educational athletics while working to preserve competitive equity for more than 1,500 member high school and junior high/middle schools.

“I don’t think anybody could have been luckier than I to enjoy their work so much and to enjoy the people he worked with so much,” Roberts said. “It has been a blessing to be able to bring my passions to work every day and be able to act on my convictions. I don’t think anybody could ever feel more called to a job than I did.”

Under Roberts’ leadership, overall participation in high school athletics in Michigan has increased 10 percent, and the MHSAA has added more than

A number of key rules changes came under Roberts’ watch and direction, including the addition of opportunities for multiple schools to create cooperative teams in sports where participation is lagging, as well as the creation of down time and dead periods (2006) to ease pressure for year-round activity. A comprehensive sportsmanship package enacted in 1996 set a statewide tone for appropriate behavior and perspective that continues to make an impact today.

But the most significant and arguably lasting work influenced by Roberts came on topics not related to specific sports or competition. The MHSAA has led nationally in concussion care with its first programming in 2000 and return-to-play protocols enacted in 2010, and with concussion pilot testing, mandated reporting and insurance for those who suffer head injuries rolled out in 2015.

A heat management policy and CPR requirements for coaches were introduced in 2013. The first program for coaches education was launched

in 1987 and evolved into the Coaches Advancement Program that is now required for all newly-hired varsity head coaches, and all coaches (head or assistant) at all high school levels (varsity and subvarsity) are now required to take annual rules/health meetings.

The Women in Sports Leadership Conference was created in 1989 and remains the first, largest and longest-running program of its type in the country, regularly drawing upwards of 500 participants. The first of now-annual statewide Athletic Director In-Service Programs was conducted in 1992, and the MHSAA's website – MHSAA.com – was launched in 1997. That same year the first of the now-annual Sportsmanship Summits was held, and Michigan remains a national leader in student services thanks to a variety of programs that have been introduced over the last three decades.

"We have accomplished a great deal over 32 years, but there is very much more to do – and it will always be that way," Roberts said. "People ask me if I have any regrets, and I don't have many. But two come to mind right now.

"I regret that I didn't spend more time writing notes to the folks I've been serving at the local level who work so hard delivering the program every day, every week, every season, every year to the young people that we serve. I wish I'd done more of that – that encouraging word to people in the trenches doing the work.

"And I suppose the second regret is that in spite of everything that we've done, there's still a lot more to do to keep school sports as safe, sane and sportsmanlike as it ought to be – as it must be for schools to continue to sponsor these programs. You see, school sports done right brings help and hope to parents and to schools trying as hard as they can to raise and educate kids in very, very scary times. School sports helps parents and helps schools bring stability and engagement into young people's lives that can provide them life lessons and turn some good athletes into great citizens down the road."

Roberts privately made the decision to retire during May 2017. But even as he has prepared for his retirement this summer, he's catalyzed a Multi-Sport Participation Task Force charged with promoting the benefits of playing more than one sport and led the facilitating of statewide discussion on a



Roberts, the youngest executive director when taking the MHSAA helm in 1986, is currently the nation's longest-serving among state high school athletic associations.

"I regret that I didn't spend more time writing notes to the folks I've been serving at the local level who work so hard delivering the program every day, every week, every season, every year to the young people that we serve. I wish I'd done more of that – that encouraging word to people in the trenches doing the work." — MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts



sport-based transfer rule proposal that went before the MHSAA's Representative Council in May.

In addition to his work specifically in Michigan, Roberts has carried significant influence at the national level. With his retirement, he also will be leaving the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Board of Directors. He led the creation of the NFHS Network for video productions in 2012 and is finishing an extended term as that board's chairperson. He also has served on the board of directors of the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO).

Roberts previously served as an assistant director for the National Federation from 1973-80. He came to the MHSAA in 1986 from the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, which he served as Executive Vice President. During the last 45 years, Roberts has spoken to education, business and civic groups in nearly every state and five Canadian provinces and continues to be hailed as one of the nation's most articulate advocates for educational athletics.

"We have always felt that we had the best Executive Director in the United States. What he's done for interscholastic athletics in Michigan is incredible," said MHSAA Representative Council President Scott Grimes, who serves as Assistant Superintendent of Human Services for Grand Haven Area Public Schools.

"Jack has always had student-athletes' best interests in mind when making all decisions, and he's had tough decisions to make. We certainly will miss his leadership in our state."

In addition to his MHSAA work, Roberts has served as board president for the Refugee Development Center in Lansing for nine years and this year is the chair of the board of trustees for the Capital Regional Community Foundation. He is a 1970 graduate of Dartmouth College and taught English and coached football at high schools in Milwaukee and Denver before joining the NFHS staff. He and his wife Peggy reside in East Lansing, and his late father, John Roberts, served as the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) from 1957-86.

– Geoff Kimmerly,
MHSAA Second Half Editor

This issue's trip to the "vault" offers a look at some of the places the MHSAA has called "Home" for its multitude of events throughout the years.

Home is Where the Finals Are

Earlier in this issue were stories which included glowing comments from wrestlers who experienced a rare bit of history when they competed in what is believed to be the largest facility to ever host a high school wrestling event.

For the MHSAA, it was more than just a matter of "right place at the right time." Throughout its existence, the Association has faced various scheduling obstacles when seeking hosts for its Finals tournaments.

Rather than stick with conventional wisdom, the MHSAA Staff has often thought outside the box – or arena, stadium, field – to come up with sometimes unconventional ideas that have met with huge success.

For example, who would think to run eight cross country races on one day on one course – and do it all at a NASCAR facility? That's exactly what happened in 1996, and the event is far from its final lap at the Michigan International Speedway, regularly drawing huge crowds and rave reviews speeding into its third decade.

The first facility to host all classes of the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals? A hockey arena of course, as Detroit's Olympia Stadium served as host from 1928-40.

The longest-running Finals facility continues to be Stowe Stadium at Kalamazoo College, where at least one class or division of MHSAA Finals has taken place since 1947, and will again this June.

And, while MHSAA 11-player football finalists have enjoyed the controlled climate of an indoor stadium since 1976 in the Silverdome (1976-2004) or Ford Field (2005-present), during the first year of gridiron championships the sky was the limit at Western Michigan's Waldo Stadium and Central Michigan's Perry Shorts Stadium.

Following is a pictorial review of these past MHSAA Finals homes.



HOLDING COURT

Stowe Stadium at Kalamazoo College has hosted MHSAA Tennis Events for more than 70 years. The current all-weather surface above is markedly different from the clay courts pictured during the 1950s at right, but the tradition continues this spring with the MHSAA Division 2 LP Finals. The facility is the longest-running home for an MHSAA Finals event.

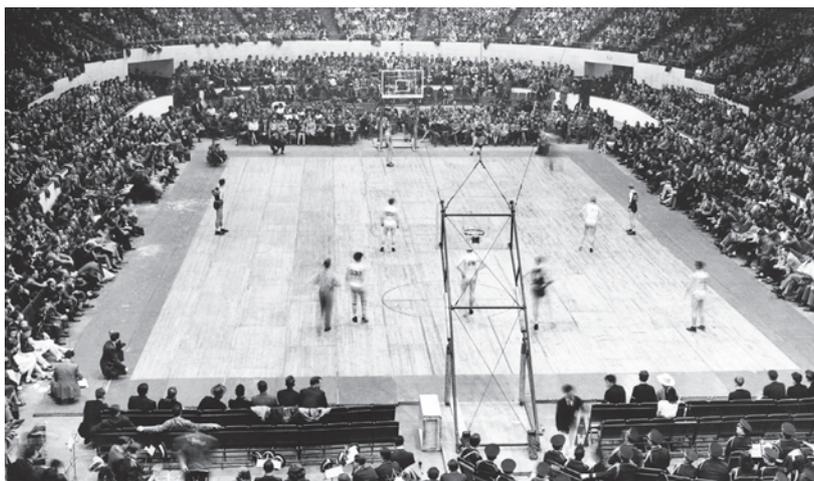


Kalamazoo College Archives



SKY'S THE LIMIT

For the last 42 years, the MHSAA Football Finals have been played in the weather-friendly confines of either the Pontiac Silverdome or Ford Field in Detroit. But, the first year of the gridiron championships took place at open-air venues Waldo Stadium at WMU, and Perry Shorts Stadium at CMU. Two classes were played at each site. Above, Livonia Franklin celebrates its Class A title in Kalamazoo, while Ishpeming (right) pulled off one of the great stunners in MHSAA history, defeating Hudson and snapping the Tigers' record 72-game winning streak for the Class C trophy in Mt. Pleasant.



ICING TITLES

From 1928-40, all classes of MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals took place under a roof more known for hockey—Detroit's Olympia Stadium. In that first year, local school Detroit Northwestern won Class A; Iron Mountain traveled a great distance to take Class B; Flint St. Michael emerged as Class C champ, and Bridgman earned the Class D crown.



VICTORY LANE

In 1996, the MHSAA and Michigan International Speedway began a partnership that changed the course of the LP Cross Country Finals – quite literally. The land in and around the track at Brooklyn would host the Finals for ALL classes of runners in one place on one day, an annual festival of nearly 2,000 runners competing for the state's top honors.

Mark Uyl Named MHSAA's Fifth Executive Director

Mark Uyl, formerly a high school teacher, coach and administrator and currently an assistant director for the MHSAA and one of the nation's most respected voices in sports officiating, was selected as the next executive director of the MHSAA by its Representative Council during the recent May meeting.

He will succeed retiring Executive Director Jack Roberts in August. Roberts, who has served as executive director since the fall of 1986, announced his retirement April 24.



Mark Uyl

Uyl, 44, joined the MHSAA staff in January 2004 and coordinates the Association's nearly 10,000 officials in addition to serving as director of baseball and administrator of the MHSAA's catastrophic and concussion care insurance plans. He also has served as director of cross country and wrestling during his tenure.

As assistant director, Uyl was instrumental as the MHSAA became the first state high school athletics association to offer concussion care insurance, which provides gap coverage to assist in covering costs for athletes who are injured while participating in MHSAA-sponsored sports. As an official, Uyl has worked to build a stronger relationship with those working high school events that has included increased training and support. As a sport director, Uyl has sought to create the best experiences for Michigan high school teams, including with the move of the MHSAA Baseball and Softball Finals to Michigan State University in 2014.

"The foundation built here by Jack Roberts over the last 32 years is the strongest in the country, and I'm honored to have the opportunity to lead our staff in building on that foundation," Uyl said. "There will be many ways we'll continue to protect the same values of educational athletics, while also looking for new ways and new opportunities to best serve the students and our member schools in Michigan."

In addition to his full-time MHSAA duties, Uyl has officiated collegiate baseball since 1997 and is regarded as one of the best at that level. In addition to umpiring major conference baseball all over the United States, Uyl was part of the crews for the 2014 and 2017 College World Series. He also officiated college football for 12 years with several NCAA postseason assignments, and did serve as coordinator of officials for the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association. He was registered with the MHSAA for at least three sports beginning in 1992 and worked the Baseball Finals in 1999.

Additionally, Uyl served on the board of directors of the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO) from 2012-15 and as its chairperson dur-

ing his final year. Currently, he serves as the high school representative on the Officiating Development Alliance (ODA), which consists of the supervisors of officials for the NFL, NBA, MLB, NHL, CFL, MLS and NCAA Division I sports.

The Council made its decision at its annual Spring Meeting on May 7 in Gaylord. Uyl will become only the fifth full-time executive in the MHSAA's 94-year history, following Charles E. Forsythe (1931-42, 1945-68), Allen W. Bush (1968-78), Vern L. Norris (1978-86) and Roberts.

"Mark has spent the past 14 years as a highly

"The foundation built here by Jack Roberts over the last 32 years is the strongest in the country, and I'm honored to have the opportunity to lead our staff in building on that foundation." — MHSAA Assistant Director Mark Uyl

effective assistant director for the MHSAA," said Representative Council President Scott Grimes, who serves as Assistant Superintendent of Human Services for Grand Haven Area Public Schools. "He is a proven leader in the organization committed to providing outstanding service to both internal and external constituents. The positive relationships he has fostered with school administrators will help make this a very smooth transition."

Prior to his time at the MHSAA, Uyl first taught and coached and then served as athletic director and assistant principal at Middleville-Thornapple Kellogg High School, the latter from 2001-03. Before becoming an administrator there, Uyl served as athletic director at Caledonia HS in 2000-01.

During his tenure as an assistant director at the MHSAA, Uyl also served a four-year term on the Baseball Committee for the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

"Mark was the obvious choice to become the next executive director of the MHSAA," Roberts said. "Mark has the proper student-focused perspective of educational athletics, excellent person-to-person communications skills and a deep practical understanding of what is happening day to day in school sports in our state and nationally."

Uyl graduated from Caledonia HS in 1992, and from Calvin College in 1996 with a bachelor's degree in history and physical education. He later received a master's in educational leadership from Grand Valley State University. At Calvin, Uyl was a four-year starter on the baseball team, earning all-conference honors twice and was a team captain.

Uyl resides in DeWitt with his wife Marcy, an accomplished educator and coach who has served as a high school varsity basketball coach since 1994. They have three children: Jackson (17), Grant (15) and Madison (11).

Gary Ellis Named 2018 Forsythe Winner



Gary Ellis

A mainstay for four decades locally as a teacher, athletic director and coach, Gary Ellis' work continues to have a statewide impact on coaches, athletes, administrators and fans all over Michigan. In recognition of his dedication to educational athletics in this state, Ellis has been named the 2018 recipient of the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Charles E. Forsythe Award.

The annual award is in its 41st year and named after former MHSAA Executive Director Charles E. Forsythe, the Association's first full-time and longest-serving chief executive. Forsythe Award recipients are selected each year by the MHSAA Representative Council, based on outstanding contributions to interscholastic athletics.

Ellis served as Allegan High School's athletic director from 1983-89 and again from 2004-13, and also taught mathematics, history and government over a career in the building that stretched 39 years. Ellis has coached the boys tennis team since 1975, and coached the girls tennis team from 1981-84 and then 1990-2003, leading the boys and girls teams to a combined 32 top-10 finishes at the MHSAA Finals.

But those are only some of the local highlights. Regionally, Ellis has served as league secretary for the Wolverine Conference and has hosted various MHSAA events at the District, Regional and Quarterfinal levels. Extending his impact across the state, Ellis is a long-serving member of the MHSAA Tennis Seeding Committee and has served on Tennis, Baseball/Softball Site Selection and Scholar-Athlete committees among others. He continues to serve as secretary/treasurer and was president of the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association (MHSTeCA) from 1995-96.

"As a leader in athletics and especially the tennis community, Gary Ellis has influenced and inspired administrators, coaches and students for more than 40 years," MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts said. "We admire his dedication and are glad to honor him with the Forsythe Award."

One of his most recent honors is one of the best indicators of Ellis' educational athletic philosophy – he was named to the USTA's national "No-Cut Coach All-Star Team" in 2016 recognizing middle and high school coaches who welcome all students to participate in the sport. Ellis' boys teams regularly have as many as 25 players, and his girls teams often approached 30. His largest team had 35 athletes.

Ellis' boys tennis team won its third straight Wolverine Conference championship in the fall and 29th since the league was formed in 1973, and he led the girls team to 13 league titles during his tenure. He also served as the first girls volleyball coach in Allegan history, leading the program from its inaugural season of 1975-76 through 1978-79. He later volunteered as a coach for middle school and high school volleyball and also coached a sea-

son of eighth grade girls basketball.

"I think sports obviously are very good for kids and their development," Ellis said. "I enjoyed (playing), and I'm trying to give other people the opportunity to enjoy athletics and tennis in particular, like I did. In volleyball, we had to make cuts and I absolutely hated it. So it's nice; we keep everybody who comes out. If a senior comes out who has never played tennis before, he's welcome."

Ellis graduated from Battle Creek Central High School in 1970 and then attended Kellogg Community College and earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Western Michigan University in 1974 and 1980, respectively. He maintains membership in the MIAAA and MHSTeCA and also the Michigan High School Coaches Association. Ellis is a member of the Allegan Lions Club and has served as president, and also is active as part of Christ Community Church and the Allegan Booster Club.

Past recipients of the Charles E. Forsythe Award

- 1978 - Brick Fowler, Port Huron; Paul Smarks, Warren
- 1979 - Earl Messner, Reed City; Howard Beatty, Saginaw
- 1980 - Max Carey, Freesoil
- 1981 - Steven Sluka, Grand Haven; Samuel Madden, Detroit
- 1982 - Ernest Buckholz, Mt. Clemens; T. Arthur Treloar, Petoskey
- 1983 - Leroy Dues, Detroit; Richard Maher, Sturgis
- 1984 - William Hart, Marquette; Donald Stamats, Caro
- 1985 - John Cotton, Farmington; Robert James, Warren
- 1986 - William Robinson, Detroit; Irving Soderland, Norway
- 1987 - Jack Streidl, Plainwell; Wayne Hellenga, Decatur
- 1988 - Jack Johnson, Dearborn; Alan Williams, North Adams
- 1989 - Walter Bazylewicz, Berkley; Dennis Kiley, Jackson
- 1990 - Webster Morrison, Pickford; Herbert Quade, Benton Harbor
- 1991 - Clifford Buckmaster, Petoskey; Donald Domke, Northville
- 1992 - William Maskill, Kalamazoo; Thomas G. McShannock, Muskegon
- 1993 - Roy A. Allen Jr., Detroit; John Duncan, Cedarville
- 1994 - Kermit Ambrose, Royal Oak
- 1995 - Bob Perry, Lowell
- 1996 - Charles H. Jones, Royal Oak
- 1997 - Michael A. Foster, Richland; Robert G. Grimes, Battle Creek
- 1998 - Lofton C. Greene, River Rouge; Joseph J. Todey, Essexville
- 1999 - Bernie Larson, Battle Creek
- 2000 - Blake Hagman, Kalamazoo; Jerry Cvengros, Escanaba
- 2001 - Norm Johnson, Bangor; George Lovich, Canton
- 2002 - John Fundukian, Novi
- 2003 - Ken Semelsberger, Port Huron
- 2004 - Marco Marcet, Frankenmuth
- 2005 - Jim Feldkamp, Troy
- 2006 - Dan McShannock, Midland; Dail Prucka, Monroe
- 2007 - Keith Eldred, Williamston; Tom Hickman, Spring Lake
- 2008 - Jamie Gent, Haslett; William Newkirk, Sanford-Meridian
- 2009 - Paul Ellinger, Cheboygan
- 2010 - Rudy Godefroidt, Hemlock; Mike Boyd, Waterford
- 2011 - Eric C. Federico, Trenton
- 2012 - Bill Mick, Midland
- 2013 - Jim Gilmore, Tecumseh; Dave Hutton, Grandville
- 2014 - Dan Flynn, Escanaba
- 2015 - Hugh Matson, Saginaw
- 2016 - Gary Hice, Petoskey; Gina Mazzolini, Lansing
- 2017 - Chuck Nurek, Auburn Hills

2018 WISL Award Goes to Meg Seng

First as a successful coach in multiple sports, then “coaching the coaches” as Ann Arbor Greenhills’ athletic director, Meg Seng has spent 25 years in educational athletics as a highly-respected mentor and advocate for those leading programs across our state and nationally. Her contributions were celebrated Feb. 4, when she received the MHSAA’s 31st Women In Sports Leadership Award during the WISL Banquet at the Crowne Plaza Lansing West.



Meg Seng

Each year, the Representative Council considers the achievements of women coaches, officials and athletic administrators affiliated with the MHSAA who show exemplary leadership capabilities and positive contributions to athletics.

Seng is in her 28th year at Greenhills School, serving as the athletic director the last 15 after 13 teaching physical education and health. Previously a scholarship athlete playing both volleyball and softball at Indiana University – and winning a pair of Big Ten championships on the diamond – Seng coached both sports at Ann Arbor area high schools over nearly two decades and has continued as a role model for emerging coaches and especially women aspiring to leadership positions in athletics.

“I’m pretty sure I’ve been to every single (WISL) conference, and so for years, I’ve certainly been in the audience watching these great women be recognized,” Seng said. “To have followed for that long and now be on stage, it’s a tremendous honor for me – that group of women and their value to sport in Michigan is not lost on me at all. I truly respect that group, and I’m really proud to be part of it.”

A 1977 graduate of Maine South High School in Park Ridge, Ill., Seng began coaching at the college level after her playing days with the Hoosiers were done. She served first as a graduate assistant softball coach at Louisiana Tech University in 1983-84 while studying for her master’s degree, and then as a softball assistant at Illinois State University for 1984-85.

Seng took over the Ann Arbor Huron volleyball program in 1985, and over 12 seasons stretching two tenures led her team to five league titles and a District championship in 1993. She also served as Huron’s co-head varsity softball coach from 1986-90. She completed her teacher certification at Eastern Michigan University in 1990 and began teaching at Greenhills that year, later coaching that school’s volleyball varsity team from 1993-2000 and leading the Gryphons to a District title in 1997.

In 2001, Seng co-founded The Academy of Sports Leadership, a non-profit organization that

provides education and training for women interested in becoming coaches and hosts a five-day residential camp for high school girls with that aspiration. In 2003, Seng became Greenhills’ athletic director and began her work as well contributing to the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) and National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), serving on committees for both including as part of the MIAAA’s Leadership Academy faculty since 2011 and the NIAAA’s certification committee since 2014. She served as the MIAAA’s Executive Board president in 2013-14.

“Meg Seng has been a leader at every level of educational athletics – as an accomplished coach, respected athletic director and someone who empowers women interested in following her lead and filling the need we have in school sports for more women in all forms of leadership positions,” MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts said. “She personifies the Women In Sports Leadership Award; we’re delighted to present her with this honor.”

In addition to the MIAAA and NIAAA, and NAGWS, Seng is a member of the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) and American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD).

Past recipients of the WISL Award

- 1990 – Carol Seavoy, L’Anse
- 1991 – Diane Laffey, Harper Woods
- 1992 – Patricia Ashby, Scotts
- 1993 – Jo Lake, Grosse Pointe
- 1994 – Brenda Gatlin, Detroit
- 1995 – Jane Bennett, Ann Arbor
- 1996 – Cheryl Amos-Helmicki, Huntington Woods
- 1997 – Delores L. Elswick, Detroit
- 1998 – Karen S. Leinaar, Delton
- 1999 – Kathy McGee, Flint
- 2000 – Pat Richardson, Grass Lake
- 2001 – Suzanne Martin, East Lansing
- 2002 – Susan Barthold, Kentwood
- 2003 – Nancy Clark, Flint
- 2004 – Kathy Vrugink Westdorp, Grand Rapids
- 2005 – Barbara Redding, Capac
- 2006 – Melanie Miller, Lansing
- 2007 – Jan Sander, Warren Woods
- 2008 – Jane Bos, Grand Rapids
- 2009 – Gail Ganakas, Flint; Deb VanKuiken, Holly
- 2010 – Gina Mazzolini, Lansing
- 2011 – Ellen Pugh, West Branch; Patti Tibaldi, Traverse City
- 2012 – Janet Gillette, Comstock Park
- 2013 – Barbara Beckett, Traverse City
- 2014 – Teri Reyburn, DeWitt
- 2015 – Jean LaClair, Bronson
- 2016 – Betty Wroubel, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep
- 2017 – Dottie Davis, Ann Arbor Huron

Jill Baker-Cooley Tabbed for 2018 Norris Award

Big Rapids' Jill Baker-Cooley, whose service to education and sports officiating has stretched nearly four decades, has been honored with the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Vern L. Norris Award for 2018.



Jill Baker-Cooley

levels.

Baker-Cooley was honored at the Officials' Awards & Alumni Banquet on May 5 at the Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center in East Lansing. This was the first banquet without Norris in attendance, as he passed away this February at age 89.

Baker-Cooley is in her 39th year as an MHSAA-registered official, this school year for volleyball, cross country and track & field. She has worked MHSAA Finals in all three sports and 20 championship events total, in addition to officiating college volleyball and track as well and basketball at both levels during the first many years of her career.

Education is a cornerstone of Baker-Cooley's work. She served more than 30 years as a school counselor, in admissions at Michigan Technological University and Montcalm Community College, as a grant recipient and academic counselor at Ferris State University and then working with high school students at the Wexford-Missaukee Career Technical Center.

That love of educating has been part of her officiating career as well, as she's served as a volleyball trainer for three officials associations, presented at MHSAA "Train the Trainers" conferences four times and co-founded with 2006 Norris winner Jeanne Skinner the Ferris State Volleyball Officials Camp for those who work high school matches. She's also served as president of the Association of Track Officials of Michigan (ATOM) and been involved with USA Track & Field, the Professional Volleyball Officials Association and the Michigan Board of Volleyball Officials.

"Jill Baker-Cooley has been a strong, pioneering official, and is well-respected not only for her work during competition but for her many contributions to building up the officiating avocation in our state," MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts said. "She's personable and approachable, a valued teacher and mentor."

Baker-Cooley is a 1974 graduate of Cadillac High School, where she raced on the ski team at a time when many schools were adding girls sports or expanding those offerings. She earned bachelor and master's degrees from Central Michigan University, then received certification in administration

and training from Western Michigan University.

While at CMU, Baker-Cooley took a basketball officiating class taught by Marcy Weston, a nationally recognized advocate for women's athletics over more than four decades as a teacher, coach, official and athletic director. Baker-Cooley first registered as an MHSAA official during the 1976-77 school year, at a time when she said fewer than 10 women statewide were officiating basketball games.

"When I see how different it is now ... back then it was just a fight," Baker-Cooley said. "Not only trying to officiate, but you had to prove (yourself) every single time you stepped out there. It was a tough go for a while.

"I think at the time, you don't realize it. But I'm not a quitter. And if I do quit or retire, it's going to be on my terms."

Baker-Cooley most recently has been affiliated with the West Michigan Volleyball Officials Association, Mid-Michigan Officials Association, Northern Sports Officials Association and Mecosta-Isabella-Clare Officials Association.

Her first MHSAA Final was her only one in cross country, at the end of the 1994 season. She has officiated five Finals for volleyball, most recently the Class C championship match in 2012, and 14 in track & field and as recently as 2015.

She retired from counseling at the start of 2016 and stopped officiating basketball a decade ago due to knee injuries. In addition to her MHSAA Finals, Baker-Cooley has officiated college league playoffs in volleyball and worked as a table official for an NCAA Tournament contest in basketball.

Past recipients of the Vern L. Norris Award

- 1992 – Ted Wilson, East Detroit
- 1993 – Fred Briggs, Burton
- 1994 – Joe Brodie, Flat Rock
- 1995 – Jim Massar, Flint
- 1996 – Jim Lamoreaux, St. Ignace
- 1997 – Ken Myllyla, Escanaba
- 1998 – Blake Hagman, Kalamazoo
- 1999 – Richard Kalahar, Jackson
- 2000 – Barb Beckett, Traverse City;
Karl Newingham, Bay City
- 2001 – Herb Lipschultz, Kalamazoo
- 2002 – Robert Scholie, Hancock
- 2003 – Ron Nagy, Hazel Park
- 2004 – Carl Van Heck, Grand Rapids
- 2005 – Bruce Moss, Alma
- 2006 – Jeanne Skinner, Grand Rapids
- 2007 – Terry Wakeley, Grayling
- 2008 – Will Lynch, Honor
- 2009 – James Danhoff, Richland
- 2010 – John Juday, Sr., Petoskey
- 2011 – Robert Williams, Redford
- 2012 – Lyle Berry, Rockford
- 2013 – Tom Minter, Okemos
- 2014 – Hugh R. Jewell, West Bloomfield
- 2015 – Sam Davis, Lansing
- 2016 – Linda Hoover, Marshall
- 2017 – Michael Gentry, Shelby Township



Classifications Announced for 2018-19

Classifications for Michigan High School Athletic Association elections and post-season tournaments for the 2018-19 school year have been announced, with enrollment breaks for postseason tournaments posted to each sport's page on the MHSAA Website.

Classifications for the upcoming school year are based on a second semester count date, which for MHSAA purposes was Feb. 14. The enrollment figure submitted for athletic classification purposes may be different from the count submitted for school aid purposes, as it does not include students ineligible for athletic competition because they reached their 19th birthday prior to September 1 of the current school year and will not include alternative education students if none are allowed athletic eligibility by the local school district.

Beginning with 2018-19, traditional classes (A, B, C, D) will be used only for MHSAA elections and football playoff purposes – in 11-player to determine opponents' point values, and in 8-player to determine if schools are eligible to compete in the MHSAA Playoffs (only Class D teams may participate in the postseason). All other sports' tournaments will be conducted with schools in equal or nearly equal divisions, including volleyball and girls and boys basketball postseasons for the first time.

To determine traditional classifications, after all counts are submitted, tournament-qualified member schools are ranked according to enrollment and then split as closely into quarters as possible. For 2018-19, there are 747 tournament-qualified member schools with 186 schools in Class A, 188 schools in Class B, 186 schools in Class C and 187 schools in Class D.

Effective with the 2018-19 school year, schools with 885 or more students are in Class A. The enrollment limits for Class B are 398-884, Class C is 194-397, and schools with enrollments of 193 and fewer are Class D. The break between Classes A and B increased four students from 2017-18, the break between Classes B and C decreased eight students, and the break between Classes C and D is nine students fewer than the current school year.

Schools recently were notified of their classification. MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts said schools may not subsequently lower their enrollment figure. However, if revised enrollment figures should be higher and indicate that a school should be playing in a higher division, that school would be moved up.

Schools have the option to play at any higher division for a minimum of two years, but must exercise the option by April 15 for fall sports, August 15 for winter sports and October 15 for spring sports.

The divisions and qualifiers for the MHSAA Football Playoffs will be announced on Selection Sunday, Oct. 21, 2018. Visit the respective sport pages on the MHSAA Website to review the divisional alignments for all other MHSAA-sponsored tournament sports.

Among teams that will be playing in new divisions in 2018-19 are four reigning MHSAA cham-

pions. The Macomb Lutheran North girls golf team will move to Division 4 after winning Division 3 this past fall. The East Grand Rapids girls swimming & diving team will move into Division 3 after winning Division 2 in the fall, while the Flint Powers Catholic boys soccer team will play in Division 2 after winning Division 3 this past season. Flint Powers Catholic's girls soccer team, the reigning Division 3 champion playing in that division again this spring, will also move into Division 2 for the 2019 season.

A complete list of school enrollments used to determine classifications for the 2018-19 school year can be found on the Enrollment & Classification page of the MHSAA Website.

The new classification breaks will see 22 schools move up in class for 2018-19, while 15 schools will move down. (Note: This list does not include schools opting up in class/division for tournaments, which can be found on the Administrators page of the MHSAA Website, under Enrollment and Classification):

Moving Up From Class B to Class A

Detroit Mumford
Flint Southwestern
Haslett
Jackson Northwest
New Boston Huron
River Rouge

Moving Down From Class A to Class B

Battle Creek Harper Creek
Detroit Cody
Farmington Hills Harrison
Hazel Park
Stevensville Lakeshore

Moving Up From Class C to Class B

Constantine
Detroit Henry Ford
Detroit Jalen Rose Leadership Academy
Detroit School of Arts
Houghton
Negaunee
Pinconning
Wixom St. Catherine of Siena

Moving Down From Class B to Class C

Dearborn Advanced Technology Academy
Ecorse
Harrison
Millington

Moving Up From Class D to Class C

Bark River-Harris
Big Rapids Crossroads Academy
Hope of Detroit Academy
Mesick
Morenci
Munising
Rogers City
Wyoming Potter's House Christian

Moving Down From Class C to Class D

Detroit Southeastern
Mendon
New Buffalo
Pittsford
Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary
Saginaw Nouvel Catholic Central

New Postseason Eligible Tournament Schools in 2018-19

Dearborn Heights WISE Academy
Pontiac Arts & Technology Academy
Taylor (a merger of Taylor Truman and Taylor Kennedy)

Make Plans to Attend the 2018 AD In-Service/Update Meeting Series

Athletic directors should plan now to attend an AD In-Service and Update Meeting in the fall. While attendance is strong, some ADs have not attended as their duties have increased. We suggest the opposite approach and urge those who have not attended recently to make it a point of emphasis. Attending these efficient “2-in-1” programs improves leadership and service skills and can make your work less of a burden.

The Update meetings begin at noon and present current issues, rules, regulations, future plans, and pertinent Representative Council matters. SUPERINTENDENTS, PRINCIPALS, ATHLETIC DIRECTORS and SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS should attend Update Meetings each year. Lunch is served at Update Meetings only. The Athletic Director In-Services runs from 8:30-11:45 a.m. and will focus on new actions, describing and defining regulations, MHSAA procedures, group discussions and more.



Scan to download registration form to mobile device

2018 AD In-Service/Update Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, Sept. 19	Kalamazoo, Four Points by Sheraton
Monday, Sept. 24	Warren, DeCarlos Banquet/Convention (Annual Business Meeting)
Wednesday, Sept. 26	Frankenmuth, Zehnder's
Monday, Oct. 1	Comstock Park, English Hills Country Club
Monday, Oct. 8	Gaylord, Otsego Club & Resort
Wednesday, Oct. 10	Lansing, Causeway Bay
Friday, Oct. 26	Marquette, Superior Dome (no fee, no meal)

Got the MHSAA.com to register for a session near you!

Inform Students, Coaches and Parents of Summer Dead Period

Each school sets its own Summer Dead Period – a seven-consecutive day “zero player and coach contact period” for all sports and all coaches – no functions, fundraisers, parades, etc.

Non-school baseball and softball teams may continue their schedule during the dead period.

Set the period between a school's last day of participation in any MHSAA tournament and Aug. 1. It is recommended that the dead period include the 4th of July.

There is no requirement to report, but there is a requirement to designate and observe a dead period.

Please include ALL sports, especially tennis and swimming in the discussions. Be sure to publicize your Summer Dead Period to all parties and the community at large.



Efficiency is Effective...

The MHSAA is always willing to assist with issues concerning Association regulations. Please remember, however, the most efficient method of communication with the MHSAA on eligibility questions is through the athletic director or principal. Athletic directors should gather all information necessary on a question and then call or write the MHSAA. Coaches or parents calling the MHSAA on eligibility matters can create confusion and delay. ADs or principals are encouraged to contact the MHSAA office directly. Please follow this efficient path of communication.

Corunna Swimmers Come to Rescue of Opponent

Athletics can often bring out the best in people; qualities and abilities that participants never knew they had within.

Most times, the performances come within the boundaries of the contest taking place, under so-called “pressure,” a word all-too-often used to describe moments in competition.

Owosso and Corunna swimming and diving teams, and all those at the meet between crosstown rivals on Jan. 4, learned much more about pressure situations and people who performed flawlessly, immediately and without hesitation that day to help save a life.

Owosso swimmer Kamrin Samson was saved from a potential tragedy with the help of Corunna swimmers Xavier Staubs and Grant Warner.

Following the opening race of the meet, the medley relay event, Staubs – who had been swimming in the lane next to Samson – was still in the pool when a commotion caused him to take notice.

“People in the stands were screaming and pointing, and I looked down and I see this kid, near the bottom of the pool and not moving,” Xavier Staubs said.

Staubs went after Samson, a junior at Owosso swimming in his first meet.

“I got to the bottom of the pool, and began to push him toward the surface,” he said.

Staubs got help from teammate Grant Warner, a certified lifeguard, who was on deck and jumped in to help Staubs get Samson out of the pool. After the



Xavier Staubs and Grant Warner

two got Samson to the surface, Owosso coach Mike Gute and Warner’s father, Rich, pulled him out of the pool.

“I was happy that I was prepared for the situation and I had what I needed, rather than needing what I did not have, in terms of lifeguard training,” said Grant Warner.

Samson’s good fortune continued, as several people with emergency medical experience were in attendance that night.

Gute himself is a retired police officer, while the Rich Warner is a retired firefighter and EMT. Gute’s wife was one of two nurses on site at the event.

For Staubs, the reaction came naturally.

“My instinct is to help people. That’s how I was raised. Someone needed help,” said Staubs.

Corunna Athletic Director Nikki Norris said the preparedness was a by-product of program-wide emphasis on safety.

“The majority of our swimmers get their certification and work as lifeguards in various situations, including covering swim lessons for us in the summer,” Norris said. “I’m very proud of the priority our coaches and student-athletes place on safety, as evidenced by their commitment to obtain and maintain their certifications.”

Samson was treated at a nearby hospital and released that night. He did not compete the remainder of the season, but Owosso officials anticipate his return next season.

View from the Deck

MHSAA Registered Swimming & Diving Official Karen Shuster was working the meet on Jan. 4. at Corunna HS, and had this recollection:

“Thursday night, first race is the medley relay and a swimmer from Owosso appeared to pass out after his completion of 50 breaststroke. Spectators started yelling that he went under and quickly swimmers from Corunna High School reacted to save him. He was sinking in the deep end and unresponsive when he was pulled out of the water. Quick action by the Corunna swimmers Xavier Staubs and Grant Warner got him up and to the edge then Grant’s dad Rich Warner and Mike Gute (Owosso’s coach) pulled him out. The two adults are retired police and firefighters and another person helping on deck was Mike Gute’s wife Lori, an RN. He was rolled over and immediately started coughing water; they kept him covered up and warmed up and breathing before the ambulance got there. They feel he didn’t take enough breaths and passed out being a new first year swimmer. It was quite humbling to see how this incident affected all the people there. It was packed; standing room only because of the crosstown rivalry, but to see opposing team members step up and save him was amazing. I feel these boys should be recognized for their heroics, and everyone involved remained calm in a difficult situation that ended with a good result. He walked out of the pool area to a standing ovation. This was a moment which will never be forgotten by anyone at the pool that day.”

Michigan Schools Receive AEDs Through NFHS

Continuing with its focus on the health and safety of high school student-athletes, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), through the NFHS Foundation, is equipping schools with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

National Federation of State High School Associations



In an effort to ensure that every high school in NFHS member state associations is equipped with an AED, state associations were able to request AEDs for schools without the life-saving units.

In Michigan, that meant that seven MHSAA schools are now better equipped in the event of a medical emergency.

“This is a tremendous program offered through our national governing body, and the MHSAA appreciates such an endeavor at a time when safety in interscholastic athletics continues to be a primary mission,” said MHSAA Assistant Director Mark Uyl. “We identified several schools in which AEDs had been absent, a group which included both public and private schools from east, west, northern and mid-Michigan.”

The newly prepared schools are: Atlanta HS, DeWitt HS, Mason MS, Muskegon Catholic Central HS, Pewamo-Westphalia HS, Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett HS and Lansing Waverly MS.

Nationally, more than 400 Phillips Onsite AEDs were shipped this spring to schools and state association offices in 32 states thanks to a grant from the NFHS Foundation.

The AEDs were accompanied by a rescue kit, alarmed wall cabinet and a carrying case to allow the AED to be transported outside the school setting. The AED includes an attached two-inch adult pad, as well as a pediatric pad for individuals weighing 55 pounds or less.



AED sessions like the one above are now a possibility at seven additional MHSAA schools which recently received their first emergency medical units.

“The ‘Anyone Can Save a Life’ initiative in Minnesota, along with the growing concern for cardiac arrest training and emergency action planning, prompted the NFHS Foundation Board of Directors to support the provision of AEDs to member state associations based on expressed need,” said Karissa Niehoff, chair of the NFHS Foundation Board of Directors and executive director of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference. “This was a significant gesture on the part of the NFHS Foundation – a gesture that directly supports its mission and will hopefully result in fewer cardiac arrest casualties in our schools.”

Niehoff said the AEDs being provided to schools and state associations resulted in an allocation of more than \$300,000 from the NFHS Foundation.

To help schools educate students and staff members on the AED, three video tutorials have been provided on an enclosed thumb drive regarding the AED’s ease of operation, maintenance, and battery and pad replacement.

“The mission of the NFHS Foundation is to serve the interests of young people who participate in interscholastic sports and activities by awarding grants for research and program development in the areas of character education and sports risk minimization,” Niehoff said.

The plan for having an AED in every high school in the NFHS member state associations was one of the goals developed in the 2016-2021 NFHS Strategic Plan. With the funding of the AEDs, the NFHS Foundation has awarded in excess of \$1 million in grants since its founding in 1996.

Scholar-Athlete Class of 2018 Honored

The Michigan High School Athletic Association/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award has been recognizing the top student-athletes for 28 years. Applicants for the Scholar-Athlete Award must meet the following criteria: A minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale; and must have previously won a varsity letter. Applicants also 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.

Recipients of the 2017-18 Scholar-Athlete Award received a \$1,000 college scholarship to be used at the college, university, or trade school of their choice during the 2018-19 school year. This year, 1,422 applicants from 396 schools were received for the 32 scholarships. Class A students were guaranteed 12 winners, Class B eight winners, Class C six winners and Class D four winners. Two at-large winners were also selected.

All scholarship recipients were honored in ceremonies at halftime of the Class C Boys Basketball Final at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing on March 24.



32 student-athletes from around the state are honored during the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals each year for academic excellence.

2018 Scholar-Athlete Award Winners

Emily Buska, Saginaw Swan Valley, Class B
 Danny deForest, Holland West Ottawa, Class A
 Troy Joseph Distelrath, St. Clair, Class B
 Talia Naomi Edmonds, Kalamazoo Central, Class A
 Aaron Jacob Fahrner, Owendale-Gagetown, Class D
 Anna Fischer, St. Joseph, Class A
 Hunter Goldensoh, Saginaw Swan Valley, Class B
 Jack Avery Harris, Ann Arbor Greenhills, Class C
 Parker Hayes, Beaverton, Class C
 Cole Johnson, Rockford, Class A
 Kendall Jordan, Rochester, Class A
 Mackenzie M. Kalchik, Sault Ste. Marie, Class B
 Peter Kalthoff, Hillsdale Academy, Class D
 Bryant Kieft, Watervliet, Class C
 Ellen Charlotte Laurenz, Breckenridge, Class C
 Justin A. Lyle, Dowagiac, Class B

Laura Lyons, Lake Linden-Hubbell, Class D
 Paul Cheng McKinley, Okemos, Class A
 Aditya Middha, Midland Dow, Class A
 Kobie Mueller, Ann Arbor Huron, Class A
 Rachel Nesburg, Charlevoix, Class C
 Emma Pachulski, Saranac, Class C
 David Paquette, Petoskey, Class A
 Olivia Perkins, Farmington Hills Harrison, Class A
 Anthony Reo, Paw Paw, Class B
 Sophie Ruggles, Mt. Pleasant Sacred Heart, Class D
 Hannah Shorkey, Essexville Garber, Class B
 Lauren Sickmiller, Grosse Pointe North, Class A
 Izabella Marie Taylor, Three Rivers, Class B
 Grace VanArendonk, Muskegon Mona Shores, Class A
 Nicholas Weigle, Grandville, Class A
 Megan Worrel, Troy, Class A



Buska



deForest



Distelrath



Edmonds



Fahrner



Fischer



Goldensohn



Harris



Hayes



Johnson



Jordan



Kalchik



Kalthoff



Kieft



Laurenz



Lyle



Lyons



McKinley



Middha



Mueller



Nesburg



Pachulski



Paquette



Perkins



Reo



Ruggles



Shorkey



Sickmiller



Taylor



VanArendonk



Weigle



Worrel

Visit the Students page of MHSAA.com
for a Scholar-Athlete History, and
for 2018-19 Application Information

Montrose Repeats As SBP Program of the Year

Make it five in row for Montrose High School, which again claimed the top spot as the “Program of the Year” in the MHSAA’s School Broadcast Program Excellence Awards for 2017-18.

Montrose was also honored this spring by the NFHS Network with the Best Live Sports Broadcast of the 2017-18 school year. Its production of a regular season football game with Birch Run, won by Montrose in overtime, took top honors.

The SBP Excellence Awards will award certificates and plaques to the schools which took individual honors, with the presentation dates and times to be announced.

Montrose took first place in every category: Best Highlight, Best Multicamera Production, Best Student Play-by-Play, Best Produced Commercial/Feature, Best Single Camera Production with PlayOn! Sports Graphics, and Best Use of PlayOn! Sports Graphics. It also placed a second entry in five of the six categories.

Montrose continued to demonstrate good blend of productions in a variety of sports covered; and an overall command of the PlayOn! Sports software used for graphics and inserting commercials/features during the course of productions.

Other criteria used in selecting the top program awards were sporting events produced and live page views for those events. The events category was dominated by schools using Pixellot, the NFHS Network’s automated coverage solution; but still topped by a traditional SBP member. Comstock Park has produced 89 events to date this year, followed by three Pixellot schools – Freeland (76), Plainwell (76) and Macomb Lutheran North (71). For live page views, the top four schools were Dollar Bay, Lake Orion, Norway and Calumet. Dollar Bay and Norway are dedicated Pixellot schools, while Calumet produces games with traditional crews and Pixellot.

The complete list of the schools and students being honored in this year’s SBP Excellence Awards:

Best Highlight:

- *First Place* – Montrose - Eric Vandefifer, David Sackrider, Peyton Hobson, Tanner Sims – Football game v. Birch Run.
- *Second Place* – Negaunee - Thomas Bagley, Chaz Bluse, Alec Johnson – Gymnastics meet v. Super Seven co-op.
- *Third Place* – Montrose - Danny Sackrider, Steven Folsom, Taylor Burke Pennington, Randall Smith – Boys Basketball game v. Genesee Christian.

Best Multicamera Production:

- *First Place* – Montrose – Eric Vandefifer, John Blackford, Kenzie Bishop – MHSAA District Wrestling Finals
- *Second Place* – Lake Orion – WDBC Staff – Boys Basketball game v. Oxford.
- *Third Place* – Lake Orion – WDBC Staff – Boys Basketball game v. Rochester.

Best Play-By-Play:

- *First Place* – Montrose – Eric Vandefifer and David Sackrider – Football game v. Birch Run.
- *Second Place* – Montrose – Eric Vandefifer and David Sackrider – JV Boys Basketball game v. Genesee Christian.
- *Third Place* – Lake Orion – Ben Wellman and Ted Hirschfield – Boys Basketball game v. Rochester.

Best Produced Commercial/Feature:

- *First Place* – Montrose – Jared Adams, Maddie Pirc, John Blackford – Conlee Oil Company Commercial.
- *Second Place* – Montrose – Jared Adams, Molly Dunton, David Sackrider – Hamilton’s RV Commercial.

Best Single Camera Production with PlayOn! Graphics:

- *First Place* - Montrose – David Sackrider, Eric Vandefifer, Tanner Sims, Peyton Hobson, Taylor Burke-Pennington – Football Game v. Birch Run.
- *Second Place* – Negaunee – Colton Yesney, Carter Richardson, Robby Williams, Peyton Anderson – Girls Volleyball match v. Gwinn.
- *Third Place* – Montrose - David Sackrider, Eric Vandefifer, Tanner Sims, Peyton Hobson, Taylor Burke-Pennington - JV Boys Basketball game v. Genesee Christian.

Best Use of PlayOn! Graphics/Software:

- *First Place* - Montrose – David Sackrider, Eric Vandefifer, Tanner Sims, Peyton Hobson, Taylor Burke-Pennington – Football Game v. Birch Run.
- *Second Place* – Lake Orion - Ben Wellman, Isabella Larsen, Micah Williams, Samuel Jenkins – Boys Basketball game v. Clarkston.
- *Third Place* – Montrose - David Sackrider, Eric Vandefifer, Tanner Sims, Peyton Hobson - Taylor Burke-Pennington - JV Boys Basketball game v. Genesee Christian.



Student Advisory Council Names Members from 2020

Eight student-athletes who will be juniors at their schools during the 2018-19 academic year have been selected to serve two-year terms on the Michigan High School Athletic Association’s Student Advisory Council.

The Student Advisory Council is a 16-member group which provides feedback on issues impacting educational athletics from a student’s perspective, and also is involved in the operation of Association championship events and other programming. Members of the Student Advisory Council serve for two years, beginning as juniors. Eight new members are selected annually to serve on the SAC, with nominations made by MHSAA member schools. The incoming juniors will join the group of eight seniors-to-be appointed a year ago.

Selected to begin serving on the Student Advisory Council in 2018-19 are: **Grace Beardsley**, Gladwin; **Kaitlyn Bricker**, Pellston; **Nathan Eccles**, Port Huron Northern; **Jack Fairman**, Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook Kingswood; **Alexis Mohney**, Mattawan; **Trevin Phillips**, Caro; **Isabella Santiago-Lindsay**, North Muskegon; and **Lance Wiltse**, Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary.

The first Student Advisory Council was formed for the 2006-07 school year. With the addition of this class beginning this summer, members will have represented 102 schools from 43 leagues plus independent schools that do not play in a league. Combined, the new appointees have participated in 13 MHSAA sports, and six of the eight will be the first SAC members from their respective schools.

The Student Advisory Council meets seven times each school year, and once more for a 24-hour leadership camp. In addition to assisting in the promotion of the educational value of interscholastic athletics, the Council discusses issues dealing with the 4 S’s of educational athletics: scholarship, sportsmanship, safety (including health and nutrition) and the sensible scope of athletic programs. There also is a fifth S discussed by the group – student leadership.

This school year, the Council revamped its annual “Battle of the Fans” contest to allow more schools to contend for the title, and selected the 2017-18 champion. Council members also presented Sportsmanship Summits in front of more than 1,000 students from across the state, handed out championship trophies at Finals events and provided feedback to the MHSAA Representative Council on proposed rule changes.

The new additions to the SAC will join the Class of 2019 members who were selected a year ago: **Taylor Adams**, Allendale; **Neil Bazaj**, Ann Arbor Greenhills; **Megan Corbe**, St. Joseph; **Shane Dolan**, Clarkston Everest Collegiate; **Chloe Idoni**, Fenton; **William Jontz**, Brighton; **Pierce Morrissey**, Big Rapids; and **Abigail Nelson**, Negaunee.

Student Advisory Council Belief Statement

Adopted Nov. 2007

As the voice of Michigan’s student-athletes, the Student Advisory Council’s role is to convey the message of how high school sports are supposed to be played. We are responsible for helping the MHSAA maintain a positive and healthy atmosphere in which interscholastic athletes can thrive.

We believe **athletes** should be competitive, sportsmanlike and excel academically. We believe **students** in the stands should have fun, but not take the focus away from the game. We believe **coaches** should act as teachers, helping student-athletes develop while still keeping high school sports in perspective. We believe that **parents** should always be positive role models and be supportive of their child’s decisions. We believe **officials** commit their own time to high school sports and respect should always be shown and given to them.

The most important goal for student-athletes is to enjoy high school sports while keeping a high level of respect between all those involved in the games.

– Written by the Student Advisory Council, adopted by MHSAA Representative Council in Nov. 2007

Buchanan Returns as No. 1 Student Section



The Buchanan High School student cheering section has been selected as this year's MHSAA "Battle of the Fans VII" winner as the top student cheering section among member schools.

This was the seventh year for the contest, which was organized by MHSAA staff and its 16-member Student Advisory Council. Buchanan previously won Battle of the Fans II in 2013.

Student sections from Boyne City, Buchanan and Petoskey were selected as finalists from a pool of nine semifinalists after a social media "Challenge Round." MHSAA staff visited all three finalists for home basketball games during the winter and produced videos of each section for the MHSAA's YouTube channel. A public vote was conducted on the MHSAA's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages, and those results influenced the Advisory Council vote as members selected the champion.

The Student Advisory Council also based its vote on the following criteria: positive sportsmanship, student body participation, school spirit, originality of cheers, organization of the group, section leadership and overall fun.

"We saw again that the entire community of Buchanan gets behind 'The Herd,' and what students started six years ago is now part of the everyday culture of the school," said Andy Frushour, MHSAA director of brand management and advisor to the Student Advisory Council. "Multiple classes of students have become part of this tradition, and Buchanan's incredible level of student section support remains an example we can share with schools all over our state."

Students were invited during the fall to submit a short video, via YouTube, of their cheering sections

"We created something from what was created in years past, and made it something we're all part of. Putting all of our heart into something, seeing it become something so amazing ... it's just something really special for all of us." – Buchanan senior Jessica Lee

in action. From that initial group of applicants, nine semifinalists were selected, also including Cedar Springs, Charlotte, Munising, Negaunee, Pellston and Traverse City West. Those semifinalists then were invited to take part in a series of social media "challenges" emphasizing the work of their student sections.

View finalists' application videos on the MHSAA YouTube Channel, and find stories on the competition at MHSAA Second Half. Buchanan accepted its Battle of the Fans VII championship banner during halftime of the first Class B Boys Basketball Semifinal on March 23 at Michigan State University's Breslin Center. Boyne City and Petoskey also attended and were honored for this season's achievement.

Buchanan, on Feb. 16, was the final stop on the MHSAA finalists tour.

"We created something from what was created in years past, and made it something we're all part of," Buchanan senior Jessica Lee said. "Putting all of our heart into something, seeing it become something so amazing ... it's just something really special for all of us."

A True Classic: Car, Nickname Drive Kingsford

A wide variety of animals exist as high school mascots in Michigan, ranging from Bison and Gators, to Eagles and Hawks and to Tigers and Panthers.

You can also watch a variety of fighters prowling the sidelines, from Patriots to Warriors, Titans to Swordsmen, to Nimrods and Roughriders, Crusaders and Fighting Irish, and Knights and Trojans and Gladiators.

There are also unusual mascots like Dux and Chix, Wykons and Hematites, Pharaohs and Technicians, Navigators and Gryphons, Achievers and Dreadnaughts, Saddlites and Railsplitters, Battling Bathers and Flying Gs, Griffons and Shorians.

But Kingsford is among the few schools with a genuine vehicle for a mascot, which perhaps could be used to transport any of these others to the playing field.

The “Flivvers” is the mascot of the Upper Peninsula school on the northern border of Wisconsin, just blocks from the neighboring Mountaineers of Iron Mountain. Two downstate schools – Boyne City and Perry – have Ramblers as their mascot in honor of the old Nash car.

“This was one of the best days I’ve had at Kingsford,” Flivvers athletic director Al

Unger said of having a restored 1923 Ford Model T brought into the middle school building by the main entrance in September 2017.

The idea began to chug along two years ago when a handful of people were chatting about a school mascot. Unger said the group thought “how cool it would be to have a real-deal mascot” for the school.

The Berlinski/Hosking family happened to have an old Model T and were willing to donate it to the school. Unger’s uncle, Clyde Unger of nearby Spread Eagle, Wis., was asked to use his restoration and rebuilding skills to renovate the car. He spent about 1,200 hours tearing it down and putting everything back together.

“The car really came back together,” said Al Unger.

The Flivvers has been Kingsford’s nickname since the early 1930s, coming from the old Ford Motor Co. plant in the area. The plant, which opened in 1925 and once employed 7,000 people, built cars and later used leftover wood to make Kingsford charcoal barbecue briquettes.

Al Unger said an *Iron Mountain Daily News* sportswriter during that time began using Fords as the school nickname, and it soon adjusted to Flivvers, or Flivs – a nickname for the old Model T vehicles.

Developing school spirit was one of the goals the group talked about when it discussed finding an old vehicle, Unger said.

The car’s renovation included a new paint job, breaking from the standard Henry Ford refrain of all black to a spiffy blue to match the maize and royal blue school colors. “There have been a lot of

positive reviews,” said the Kingsford athletic director.

The car was unveiled to the students and some community members at the adjoining football field/track, perhaps the first time all of the students in the three buildings were released for a specific event, Unger said.

It was then shown to the public when the Flivvers hosted the Escanaba Esky-

mos for the regular-season finale football game in October. “It was awesome,” Unger said of the night that included coverage from the Upper Peninsula’s three television stations.

The vehicle now is displayed in a three-sided glass enclosure with a gate. Unger said plans are in the works to place the vehicle in the community’s July 4 parade “and we will consider rolling it out for special occasions.

“You can’t help but walk by and stare at it and feel a sense of pride,” he said.

Unger said 95 percent of the project was donated. “We spent a few dollars on the enclosure,” adding everyone “has been ecstatic” about the unique mascot.

— Dennis Grall
Special for Second Half



Kingsford’s restored Model T, a 1923 “Flivver,” is on display driving school spirit, and will be rolled out for special occasions.

Rules of the Games

Sharpen your skills with the following rules questions. Answers appear at the bottom of the next page.

Baseball

- With R3 on third and one out, the suicide squeeze is called. R3 prematurely breaks for the plate. F1 legally steps back off the rubber and fires home. B1 squares and bunts, making it to first safely as R3 scores.
 - B1 is out.
 - R3 is out.
 - R3 returns to third.
 - The play stands.
 - F1 has balked.



- With R2 on second, R3 on third and one out, B1 homers. R3 touches the plate and maliciously crashes into the catcher who was standing out of the base path. R2 who had been running on the pitch, touched the plate immediately after R3 and before R3's contact with the catcher.
 - No runs score.
 - One run scores.
 - Two runs score.
 - Three runs score.
- With the bases empty and a 2-2 count, B1 swings and misses at a low pitch. F2 catches the pitch on one hop. As B1 heads for his first base dugout, the defensive coach yells for F2 to throw to first. F2 proceeds to throw the ball into right field. The first base coach now yells for B1 to come to first, which he does.
 - B1 is out for abandoning his attempt to reach first.
 - B1 may remain at first if he had not entered the dugout.
 - B1 may remain at first if he had not left the dirt circle around the plate.

Boys Lacrosse

- Which of the following statements are true regarding face off players.
 - Legal contact is generally allowed so long as the faceoff player is playing the ball.
 - Legal body contact includes checking a player who has no other part of the body touching the ground except the feet.
 - Body checks must be made below the neck, above the waist and to the front or side of

- It is no longer required that a visible contrasting color be seen between the head and top glove on the shaft of the crosse.

- Which of the following last second shots results in a goal being allowed:

Rule 4-9-2 A & O :

- A shot is released after the game horn sounds to indicate the end of a period.
 - A shot is released prior to the game horn sounding the end of the period.
 - A shot released prior to the game horn sounding is deflected by the offense.
 - A shot released prior to the game horn sounding is deflected by the defense.
- True or False: In 2017, the foul for a mouth guard violation was changed from a personal foul to technical foul to encourage penalty enforcement for those who violate the rule.



Girls Lacrosse

- Before the ball crosses the restraining line, a Blue player touches her stick to the ground as she reaches across to play the ball.
 - Legal
 - Illegal
- Attack player A1 has the ball in front of goal between 12 and 8 meters, and her teammate A2 is being guarded deep and to the side of the goal circle by a defensive player. The low attack (A2) player begins to run across the goal, and her defense (D2) player decides to stop and tries to play the attack (A1) player, moving straight on to her, more than a stick's length away.



- Legal
- Illegal

- An attack player is looking to pass to a teammate to her left while between the 12 meter and 8 meter.

- Obstruction of free space to goal should be called.
- Obstruction of free space to goal should not be called.



Soccer

1. A player, who is part of a wall in a free kick, moves her hands after the kick to protect her face from the ball. Is this a foul for deliberately handling the ball?
 - a. Yes, this is handling.
 - b. No, this is not handling.
2. A player who is in a defensive position during the taking of a free kick places hands or arms against any part of the body for protection. The offensive player kicks the ball which strikes the hands still in front of the body or arms over the chest. In both cases the hands and arms are stationary. Is this a foul for deliberately handling the ball?
 - a. Yes, this is handling.
 - b. No, this is not handling.
3. A2 kicks a low hard pass to his teammate. A3, who is in the path of the ball, moves his hand to protect his groin and the ball touches his hand. Is this a foul for deliberately handling the ball?
 - a. Yes, this is handling.
 - b. No, this is not handling.

Softball

1. All of the following are true regarding gloves/mitts, EXCEPT:
 - a. Gloves shall be a maximum of two colors, excluding lacing and manufacturer's logo.
 - b. Glove lacing shall not be the color of the ball.
 - c. Gloves shall not be entirely optic in color.
 - d. Gloves may have one American flag not exceeding 2 by 3 inches.
 - e. Gloves may have markings that give the appearance of the ball on the outside, but not the inside.

2. A small hole has naturally occurred in front of the pitching plate during the course of the game. On the pitch, the pitcher pushes off the plate with her pivot foot and loses contact with the ground as she drags across the hole. Her pivot foot, however, is no higher than the level plane of the ground around the hole as she delivers the pitch. What is the correct call?
 - a. No call. The pitch is legal because in the umpire's judgment, the foot would have been in contact with the ground had the hole not been present.
 - b. No pitch, and the game is delayed until the hole can be repaired.
 - c. Illegal pitch because the pivot foot is not touching the ground in the bottom of the hole.
 - d. No pitch and the pitcher receives a warning. If the pivot foot fails to touch the ground in the bottom of the hole on future pitches, an illegal pitch will be called.



3. There are two outs and R1 is on second base. B4 strikes out but F2 drops the ball. B4 is able to reach first base while F2 chases down the ball. F2 then overthrows third base as R1 is advancing and the ball bounces over the fence in foul territory. What is the correct procedure for advancement of the runners?
 - a. R1 is awarded home and B4 is awarded second base.
 - b. R1 is awarded home and B4 is awarded third base.
 - c. R1 is awarded third base and B4 is awarded first base.
 - d. R1 is awarded third base and B4 is awarded second base.

Baseball Answers: 1-b (7-3-5, 8-4-21); 2-d (2-21-1b, 3-3-1m Pen, 8-4-2e); 3-b (8-4-1i)
 Boys Lacrosse Answers: 1-a, b, c (4-3-1 n., Situation G); 2-a, d (4-9-2 A & O); 3-True
 Girls Lacrosse Answers: 1-a (5-2.5); 2-b (10.1.b); 3-b (10.1.1j.)
 Soccer Answers: 1-a (12-2); 2-b (12-2); 3-a (12-2)
 Softball Answers: 1-e (1-4-1); 2-a (6-1-2c); 3-b (8-4-3)

Transfer Rule Revised; Changes Take Effect 2019-20

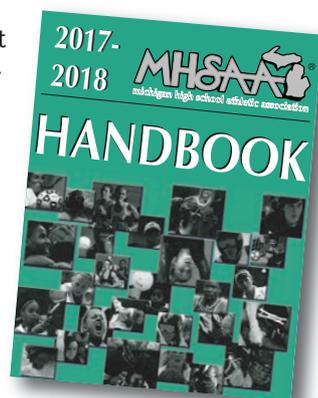
The “sport-specific” transfer rule proposal has been circulating for nearly one school year and has found support among most audiences and was adopted by the Representative Council at its May 2018 meeting. **A transfer student’s eligibility in 2019-20 will be based upon that student’s participation in the coming school year (2018-19).**

A review of the current transfer rule was initiated by the Representative Council in May 2017. A Transfer Study Work Group met several times throughout the 2017-18 school year and resulted in recommendations that the full Representative Council. Revisions to the transfer rule were the subject of dozens of MHSAA

of that season in that sport and the next season for that sport.

Participation under this and other rules means playing in an interscholastic game or scrimmage after starting the 9th grade at any high school. It does not mean practice, but entering an interscholastic game, meet or scrimmage in any way. It also may involve more than one sport so a three-sport athlete who does not have a residential change and transfers would be ineligible in those sports during the next school year – but eligible for any other sport. It also means a student cut from a team – one who never entered a scrimmage or game – may transfer and play without delay for that new school’s team.

The current transfer rule is not perfect and was written and updated by the Representa-



The sport-specific transfer rule is aimed at solving some major reoccurring problems identified by schools, parents and students often displaced by transferring students.

meetings including AD In-service and Update Meetings last fall, meetings of coaches associations, the MHSAA Student Advisory Council and the League and Conference Leadership Meeting.

The long standing 15 Exceptions to immediate eligibility, such as for a full and complete residential change or for a student moving between divorced parents by completing of an Educational Transfer Form **did not change**.

The Council passed a more lenient rule on the one hand and more restrictive on the other. The more lenient lean is a change that finds a transfer student **ELIGIBLE** in any sport in which he or she **did not participate** in a game or a scrimmage in the previous school year.

The more restrictive portion is aimed at curbing students who change schools for sports reasons. A transfer student who **did play a sport** in the previous season – and who does not meet one of the 15 Exceptions – is **NOT ELIGIBLE in that sport** for the next season. If a student changes schools in mid-season, the student would be ineligible for the rest

In Other Words . . .

The revised rule means a transfer student has

- **immediate eligibility** in a sport **not played** the previous season for that sport and (unless one of the 15 exceptions applies)
- **no eligibility** for the upcoming season in a sport actually **played** the previous season in that sport (participated in an interscholastic scrimmage or contest).

If the student’s new school requests in writing, the MHSAA Executive Committee **may** approve a waiver that reduces the period of ineligibility to 90 scheduled school days at the new school if the change of schools was for compelling reasons demonstrated with outside documentation having nothing to do with sports, curriculum, finances, and school demographics. The Executives Committee also has authority to approve immediate eligibility.

The Only Official Interpretations are Those Received in Writing

tive Council over decades. The proposed rule is not perfect either and will likely evolve over time. The sport-specific transfer rule is aimed at solving some major reoccurring problems identified by schools, parents and students often displaced by transferring students.

It may also tend to discourage students from changing schools for sports because they would be ineligible in any sport they have played in school the previous season for that sport. It will increase participation for some students who were otherwise not eligible under the current rule.

Under the new transfer rules, students participation in the previous school year deter-

mines their eligibility in the coming year. If a student transfers schools in 2018-19 that student's eligibility in 2019-20 would be based upon the sports that student played in 2018-19. **In other words, what a student plays in the coming school year (2018-19) - if that student transfers and does not meet an exception - determines that student's eligibility in those specific sports during the next school year (2019-20).** If a student transfers during the 2018-19 school year and does not meet an exception, that student would not be eligible in a sport they played in 2018-19, but would be eligible in any other sport that school offers in which the student did not play.

Poor Spring Weather Forces Regulations Audible

As a result of poor weather and numerous rescheduling difficulties for member schools, the MHSAA Executive Committee approved a rare mid-season allowance this spring. The following two actions were effective for 2018 spring sports only due to too many places experiencing conditions like the one depicted below:

Regulation II, Section 10(A) 10 and 12 – Limitations of Competition: Allowed up to two additional multi-team tournament dates in girls soccer, boys lacrosse and girls lacrosse – each counting within the 18 dates permitted in a season. Multi-team events must be held on non-school days (soccer and lacrosse) or days not followed by school (lacrosse) and follow all stipulations set forth under the regulations, including that these dates count as one of the 18 allowed in a season and three allowed dates of competition in a week (Monday through Sunday). There may be no more than two other games during a week (Monday through Sunday) when a multi-team event is played. The limits apply to both teams and individuals. **Consult page 66 of the 2017-18 MHSAA Handbook for all specifics.**

Regulation II, Section 15(B) – MHSAA Tournament Condition: For all schools and spring sports, the Executive Committee waived the requirement that a school team must have participated in four contests against MHSAA member schools this season prior to the MHSAA tournament.



Sean Jacques, Calumet

LANE CLOSINGS

Several lanes on the Calumet track were temporarily closed this spring, but these student-athletes were fighting back to get the outdoor season underway despite wintery weather well into April.

MHSAA Representative Council

Dave Derocher**

Faculty Member
Reese High School
Class C-D — Northern Lower Peninsula

Scott Grimes**, President

Assistant Superintendent of Human Services
Grand Haven Public Schools
Statewide At-Large

Vicky Groat**

Principal/Athletic Director
Battle Creek St. Philip High School
Appointee

Kyle Guerrant (ex-officio)

Deputy Superintendent, Finance Operations
Michigan Dept. of Education, Lansing
Designee

Don Gustafson*

Superintendent
St. Ignace Area Schools
Junior High/Middle Schools

Courtney Hawkins*

Athletic Director
Flint Beecher High School
Appointee

Kris Isom*

Athletic Director
Adrian Madison High School
Class C-D — Southeastern Michigan

Sean Jacques**

Assistant Principal/Athletic Director
Calumet High School
Class C-D — Upper Peninsula

Justin Jennings*

Superintendent
Muskegon Public Schools
Appointee

Karen Leinaar*

Athletic Director
Bear Lake High School
Statewide At-Large

Vic Michaels**, Secretary-Treasurer

Director of Physical Education & Athletics
Archdiocese of Detroit
Private and Parochial Schools

Chris Miller*

Athletic Director
Gobles High School
Class C-D — Southwestern Michigan

Steve Newkirk**

Principal
Clare Middle School
Junior High/Middle Schools

Chris Riker**

Athletic Director
Portage Northern High School
Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan

Peter C. Ryan**, Vice President

Athletic Director
Saginaw Township Community Schools
Class A-B — Northern Lower Peninsula

John Thompson**

Athletic Director
Brighton High School
Class A-B — Southeastern Michigan

Al Unger*

Athletic Director
Kingsford High School
Class A-B — Upper Peninsula

Alvin Ward*

Administrator of Athletics
Detroit Public Schools
Detroit Public Schools Position

Pat Watson**

Principal
West Bloomfield High School
Appointee

*Term Expires December 2019

**Term Expires December 2018

ANALYSIS OF MHSAA MEMBERSHIP

April 11, 2018

749 Total High Schools

Total Public Schools	643	86%
Charter (Public School Academies)	59	8%
Traditional Schools	584	78%
Total Non Public Schools	106	14%
Religious	96	13%
Secular (Non-Public)	10	1%

797 Total Junior High/Middle Schools

Total Public Schools	704	88%
Charter (Public School Academies)	39	5%
Traditional Schools	665	83%
Total Nonpublic Schools	93	12%
Religious	87	11%
Secular (Non-Public)	6	0.8%

Happy New Year! Prep for 2018-19 School Year

MHSAA.com School Year Start Up: Beginning in mid-July, all athletic directors must log into MHSAA.com and update school contact information for administrators and coaches and double-check the sports the MHSAA shows your school as sponsoring. Adding or dropping a sport must be done in writing on school letterhead. ADs are urged to submit their mobile phone numbers which are kept private and used for necessary contact by MHSAA staff. Accurate coach information allows for rules meeting completion by head coaches.

Coach Requirements: ALL MHSAA coaches – head coaches, assistant and subvarsity coaches – must complete a sport rules meeting. Schools shall attest that all assistant and subvarsity coaches have completed an MHSAA rules meeting (online or in person) for that sport for the current school year prior to the deadline. Assistant or sub varsity coaches, who coach more than one sport during a school year, must fulfill the requirement each season unless the sport is the same and the coach had completed the MHSAA sport specific rules meeting earlier in the school year for that sport. Athletic Directors also must attest each season that all their coaches have met MHSAA coaching requirements and that all head varsity coaches have a valid CPR Certification. Coaches who have not met the two requirements (rules meeting or CPR Certification) are not allowed to be present at that school’s MHSAA tournament in the sport they coach.

FIRST TIME HEAD VARSITY COACHES – Each head coach of a varsity team in an MHSAA tournament sport hired for the first time as a high school varsity head coach at any MHSAA member high school shall have completed either Level 1 or Level 2 of the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program (CAP). If the head coach does not complete CAP Level 1 or 2 prior to the established deadline, that coach shall be prohibited from coaching in that season’s MHSAA tournament for the sport involved. The many coaches who have been attendance at CAP clinics over the last 12 years have indicated these are worthwhile sessions of learning and collaboration. Additionally, liability insurance, State Continuing Education Clock Hours, and GamePlans are available to coaches who take CAP coursework.

New AD Orientation: MHSAA Regulation II, Section 15 (I) requires that as a condition of participation in MHSAA Tournaments, a school designates a high school athletic director. In addition, that person must attend an Athletic Director’s Orientation Program prior to Dec. 1 of that school year. Schools which fail to have their first-year Athletic Director attend shall be placed on probation and prohibited from hosting or receiving reimbursement for MHSAA tournaments.

While the requirement and penalty sound quite ominous, hundreds of administrators who have attended over the years will vouch for the meeting’s value. These one-time, six-hour sessions are held in the MHSAA Office in East Lansing in July, August or September. Dozens of novice ADs come back for a voluntary second session held in November.

Athletic Directors hired this spring or summer, or late this past school year (after Dec. 1, 2017), are to attend a 2018-19 AD Orientation Program on either Thursday, July 26, Tuesday, Aug. 7 (Tuesday, Sept. 11 for later hires). All meetings are in the MHSAA Office from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. A registration form may be downloaded from MHSAA.com. Direct questions to Tom Rashid (tomr@mhsaa.com) or Camala Kinder (camala@mhsaa.com).

AD In-service and Update Meetings: Athletic directors should plan now to attend an AD In-Service and Update Meeting in the fall. While attendance is strong, some ADs have not attended as their duties have increased. We suggest the opposite approach and urge those who have not attended recently to make it a point of emphasis. Please see details on page 27 of this issue.

The MHSAA Office Summer Hours are 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday from June 25-July 27.

Ratings Due June 1

Spring is notoriously the season during which MHSAA schools lapse in their duty to rate contest officials.

We understand the number of contests taking place, the chaotic nature of scheduling due to weather, and the anticipation of summer vacation, but ratings must be submitted for officials at all levels, and on time: June 1. Not only do ratings supply feedback for officials and tournament assignments – they are a requirement your school and coaches are to follow. Please accomplish this detail in baseball, softball, soccer and lacrosse.

Schedule Membership Resolution for Board of Education Meetings

When the Representative Council meets each May, the rules are finalized for the coming school year, and meeting minutes are mailed to each member school. Every member school Board of Education or governing body of a nonpublic school wishing to join the MHSAA for the coming school year must vote to do so and adopt the rules as its own.

The MHSAA Membership Resolution must be signed by the Board of Education and returned to the MHSAA. Please complete both sides of the form: on the reverse side, list schools in your district that will be MHSAA members and include the current enrollment number for 7th and 8th grades. When membership lapses, insurance coverage, among other matters, is jeopardized.

Administrators: Please be sure to schedule the MHSAA Membership Resolution for your upcoming Board of Education Meeting – Membership Resolution Forms are mailed to superintendents and athletic directors each May and are due back to the MHSAA by July 31.

Candidates Set for September 2018 Election

BALLOTS TO BE MAILED TO SCHOOLS IN AUGUST 2018

Ballots for Representative Council elections will be mailed to principals of member schools from the MHSAA office Aug. 31, 2018. The ballots will be due back in the MHSAA office Sept. 21, 2018.

Eight positions for membership on the Representative Council will be up for election this fall. Vacancies for two-year terms beginning December 2018 will occur as follows: Class A-B Northern Section L.P., Southwestern Section L.P. and Southeastern Section L.P.; Class C-D Northern Section L.P. and Upper Peninsula; Statewide At-Large; Junior High/Middle School, elected on a statewide basis; and Private and Parochial High Schools.

In addition to the above named Representative Council positions, there are two Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee positions to be voted on in September. A representative of the Class D schools and an Athletic Coach position will be elected by Upper Peninsula schools.

Look for the ballots and return them in time to be counted by the Board of Canvassers. Be sure you mark your ballot correctly and signatures are affixed in the proper places. Ballots must have two (2) signatures to be considered valid.

Details of the Representative Council composition may be found near the beginning of the *MHSAA Handbook*.

Following the due date of Sept. 21, 2018, the Board of Canvassers as provided in Article IV of the Constitution of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, will meet on Sept. 25, 2018 and declare the winners for the various vacancies.

In accordance with the approved nomination and election procedures, listed candidates have submitted their desire to run for a position by March 15, 2018. They have included an approval to serve from their respective superintendent or principal and have certified their qualifications to run for the office which they seek. No write-ins will be possible because each candidate must be approved by March 15 in order to run for a position on the Representative Council.

Following are the declared candidates and the vacancies which will occur in December 2018:

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL CANDIDATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2018 ELECTION

Northern Section, Lower Peninsula - Class A and B Schools

- Peter Ryan, CMAA, Athletic Director, Saginaw Township Community Schools

Southwestern Section, Lower Peninsula - Class A and B Schools

- Chris Riker, CAA, Athletic Director, Portage Northern High School
- Zac Stevenson, CMAA, Athletic Director, Battle Creek-Lakeview High School

Southeastern Section, Lower Peninsula - Class A and B Schools

- Brad Bush, Athletic Director/Assistant Principal, Chelsea High School
- Greg Lattig, CMAA, Athletic Director, Mason High School
- Orlando Medina, Athletic Director, Harrison Township-L'Anse Creuse High School
- John Thompson, CMAA, Athletic Director, Brighton Area Schools

Upper Peninsula - Class C and D Schools

- Sean Jacques, Athletic Director, Calumet High School

Northern Section, Lower Peninsula - Class C and D Schools

- Dave Derocher, CMAA, Faculty Member, Reese High School
- Adam Stefanski, CAA, Athletic Director/Assistant Principal, Mackinaw City Public Schools

Statewide At-Large

- Scott C. Grimes, Assistant Superintendent, Grand Haven Area Public Schools
- Andrew Laboe, Athletic Director, Kalamazoo-Loy Norrix High School

Junior High/Middle Schools

- Steve Newkirk, Principal, Clare Middle School

Private and Parochial High Schools

- Vic Michaels, Director of Physical Education & Athletics, Archdiocese of Detroit

UPPER PENINSULA ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

Athletic Coach

- Mike Berutti, Principal/Athletic Director/Football Coach, Iron River-West Iron County High School

Class D Schools

- Jack Kumpula, Athletic Director, Lake Linden-Hubbell High School

Avoid the Search; Download Simple Apps

A good officials pregame session always includes engaged segments on mechanics and court/field/diamond coverage within the crew.

This portion of the preparation, however, is often accompanied by one of two scenarios: A) crew members scrambling through the host's office desktop, drawers or cabinets in search of pen and paper, or markers for the whiteboard; or B) partners digging through their bags in search of handheld boards which may or may not be up-to-date, or may or may not have been left in another bag.

Most officials *do* know – for better or worse – where their cell phones are. While personal communication should be at a minimum once arriving at the contest site, the crew can make good use of handheld devices during the pregame with the help of mechanics and rules apps.

The Google Play Store offers diagram apps for football and basketball in which officials can maneuver crew members and players around the surface while also drawing and erasing lines for game action. Simply go to the Google Play Store and search for Football Officials Free or Basketball Officials Free.

Additionally, there are Kindle versions for all NFHS officials publications, making it easy to find rules references through search features. Sports utilizing Hudl also make it easy for officials to review video of previous games and situations.

With more tools available in digital format, game preparation should no longer get lost in the shuffle.



Periodic browsing of app stores can uncover useful programs for officiating rules, mechanics and study.

Important Fall 2018 Administrative Dates

June 4	Four Player Rules ends; Summer Rules begin
June 4-July 30	Summer competition except during dead week (set by each school)
Aug. 1 to Start of Fall Sports	Preseason Down Time (High School)
14 Calendar days prior to the start of Middle School Practices:	Preseason Down Time (JR/MS)
Aug. 13	Four Player Rule Resumes
July 2-6	MHSAA Office Closed
Mid-July	School Year Start-Up on MHSAA.com
July 26 & Aug. 7	New AD Orientation at MHSAA
July 30 & Aug. 6	Fall Online Rules Meetings Launch
Aug. 1	MHSAA Membership Resolution due
Sept. 11	New AD Orientation at MHSAA (later hires)
Sept. 12	Administrative Assistant In-Service MHSAA
Sept. 13	ADs must attest CPR for Head varsity coaches; Fall rules meetings close
	Subvarsity & assistant coach completion of fall rules meetings
Sept. 19	Kalamazoo Update & AD In-Service
Sept. 24	Warren Update & AD In-Service
Sept. 26	Frankenmuth Update & AD In-Service
Oct. 1	Comstock Park Update & AD In-Service
Oct. 8 & 15	Winter Online Rules Meetings Launch
Oct. 8	Gaylord Update & AD In-Service
Oct. 10	Lansing Update & AD In-Service (Annual Business Meeting)
Oct. 26	Marquette Update Meeting



Remembering Vern Norris

Jack Roberts always was astonished at the amount of detail his predecessor, Vern Norris, could recall about the people he'd met over many years contributing to high school athletics at the state and national levels.

When the Michigan High School Athletic Association executive director last spoke with his predecessor, Norris had been in contact with past counterparts from Kansas, Iowa and the National Federation – although Norris had retired from the MHSAA more than three decades ago.

“He was genuinely interested in people and their backgrounds and their families. He had good friends. He was good at being a friend, and colleague. I think he genuinely cared about relationships between people.” — MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts

“He was genuinely interested in people and their backgrounds and their families,” Roberts said. “He had good friends. He was good at being a friend, and colleague. I think he genuinely cared about relationships between people.”

And he built many over 23 years at the MHSAA office.

Norris, who led the MHSAA from the fall of 1978 through the summer of 1986, died Feb. 12 in Lansing. He was 89.

Norris joined the MHSAA staff on July 15, 1963, as Assistant State Director of Athletics under long-time Executive Director Charles E. Forsythe and then-Associate Director Allen W. Bush. Norris was promoted to Associate Director when Bush was appointed Executive Director in 1968, then took over as Executive Director upon Bush's retirement in 1978. Forsythe, Bush, Norris and Roberts are the only full-time executive directors to serve during the MHSAA's 94-year history.

Norris brought to the MHSAA a wealth of experience having coached at Traverse City, Rockford and Hillsdale high schools. He served as Assistant Director of Placement at Western Michigan University for the five years prior to joining the MHSAA staff, and during that time Norris built a reputation as a highly-regarded game official in the Kalamazoo area – and worked as a referee during the 1963 MHSAA Class A Boys Basketball Final.

Norris served on a number of national rules-making bodies during his 23-year tenure with the MHSAA, and as president of the Executive Board of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) during the 1983-84 school year. But he was best known for his work with Michigan's coaches and especially officials. An award bearing Norris' name is presented by the MHSAA each spring to a veteran official who has been active in a local officials' association, has mentored other officials, and has been involved in officials' education. The award has been given since 1992 at the annual Officials' Awards & Alumni Banquet, which was begun during Norris' tenure in 1980.

“Vern was respected and admired widely by contest officials, and because of that I asked the Representative Council to approve an award for leaders who were especially involved in mentoring and training officials,” said Roberts, who succeeded Norris in 1986.

Norris shepherded a number of key advances during his tenures both as associate and executive director. The early 1970s saw the addition of MHSAA tournament events in girls sports, and football play-offs were added in 1975. Membership also grew during his time with the association; the MHSAA had 682 member high schools at the start of 1963-64, and 713 when Norris stepped down.

During his time at the MHSAA, Norris also served as a member of the NFHS Basketball Rules Committee from 1978-82, on the NFHS Constitution Revision Committee in 1979 and as a member of the editorial staff of the NFHS Rules Committee from 1980-82.

He served on the NFHS Executive Board representing Michigan's section of five Midwestern states during a four-year term that concluded with his year as president, and he also served as chairperson of the NFHS Telecommunications Committee in 1972.

After leaving the MHSAA, Norris served as Commissioner of the Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference from fall of 1987 through the close of the 1991-92 school year.

In retirement, Norris kept in touch with MHSAA staff. He and Roberts spoke every few months throughout the years. And, “he could not have been more gracious when he retired and I was hired. He gave me total support and just the right amount of advice,” Roberts added.

The Grand Rapids Godwin Heights HS graduate earned his bachelor's degree in physical education from Western Michigan University and master's in school administration from the University of Michigan.

– Geoff Kimmerly, MHSAA Second Half Editor



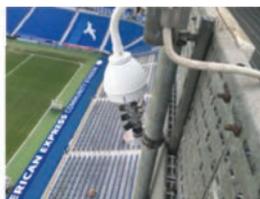
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