

MENTOR

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Vol. XVIII No. 1

It's About TEAM! Campaign Launched

To better define the mission of high school sports as educational support programs which help develop tomorrow's community leaders, the Michigan High School Athletic Association released a new video and brochure in August with the theme, "High School Sports: It's About TEAM!"

The six-minute video, hosted by sportscaster Jim Brandstatter, promotes the proper perspective that should be brought to high schools sports, a perspective that educational athletic programs should provide meaningful playing opportunities for *all* participants – not just an elite few.

The video was mailed with colorful brochures to reinforce the message. In addition, the Association will utilize the It's About TEAM! slogan as its primary message for the 2003-04 school year.

Schools have been provided artwork and ready-to-print articles for their regular season and MHSAA postseason tournament souvenir

programs. Public address announcement scripts and public service announcements for radio and television have also been developed. The It's About TEAM! logo on the home page of the



MHSAA Web site – mhsaa.com – links to the variety of resources that are being produced to help deliver the message.

"It's important that we do everything we can to provide schools tools to help promote this message,"

Roberts added.

"We want this message to not just be preached to the choir - our school people, but to the public as well. We plan as a staff, and are asking our members to be proactive in presenting this message in community forums of all types - not just at their school buildings. We must preserve high school sports as educational, as local, as a vital part of schools and communities, and as something which primarily exists to prepare young people for the next level of life – not necessarily the next level of sports."

The MHSAA encourages frequent use of any or all of these resources at school assemblies, board meetings, and booster club events, and for inclusion in game programs and local media coverage.

Guidelines for Administrators, Coaches, Parents

Recommended Uses For It's About TEAM! Resources

- Showing and distributing at team preseason meetings with players, coaches and parents.
- Showing and distributing at school board meetings – reminding our top level administrators as to why we exist.
- Showing and distributing at meetings of civic/service groups – Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, etc.
- Utilizing in regular-season and locally produced MHSAA postseason tournament souvenir programs.
- Showing on in-house school television and school district local cable television channels.

Supporting The It's About TEAM! Theme

Administrators:

- Reinforce with staff the purposes of educational athletics, touting the learning value of the programs.
- Reinforce with all parties the unlikely possibility of earning a Division 1 college athletics scholarship (1 to 2 percent), and the need to perform well academically, where 30 times more college financial aid is available.
- Instituting no-cut programs wherever possible – when a kid is cut, a future critic of the program could develop. When they become parents, they could become adversaries and challenge the very existence of the athletic program.

— Continued, next page

A RACE TO REMEMBER

The trophies and medals for a cross country race run earlier in the meet had just been passed out, and student-athletes, families and coaches were milling about the finish line on a beautiful September fall morning in mid-Michigan when the meet director took the microphone to call everyone's attention to what they were about to see.

"One of the great things about high school sports," the announcement began, "is the opportunity for all kids to have a meaningful participation opportunity." He then directed everyone's attention about 200 yards away where it appeared a lone

runner was slowly, but steadily, approaching the finish line.

This was no ordinary speck on the horizon, rather it was Anthony Sumner, a sophomore at the host school for the meet – Corunna High School – finishing his own personal race against the course, against time, and his own physical challenges in life. He was about to negotiate the mile-plus course with the help of his walker.

"Let's cheer him on as



photos by John Johnson, Okemos



he brings it in!" the announcer said, and spectators gathered along the ropes of the finish chute and began clapping and cheering for this young man with the same fervor that moments earlier they had encouraged their own children and teammates with.

Spurred by the crowd, Anthony picked up his pace, his legs pumping the walker toward the finish line in a way that we able-bodied onlookers could never imagine. Our eyes glanced toward the clock to see what kind of time Anthony was going to make, and the cheer got louder as it became apparent he would break nine minutes.

The ovation continued past the time as Anthony crossed the finish line, his face expressing the same exhilaration that the other runners had in completing their own races, and he was then attended to by meet administrators.

"Anthony runs about half the course, which is about one to two miles on flat terrain," said his coach, Gordon Aldrich. "I first spotted him when he was in middle school and he was participating in the 55/60-yard events. He really loves cross country and track, and that's how he got involved. He's had great encouragement from others."

Anthony's physical challenge is caused by Cerebral Palsy, and surgeries prevented him from participating on the running teams at Corunna as a freshman. He has no challenges, however, when it comes to being one of the team.

"Excellent!" is how Aldrich describes Anthony's relationship with his teammates. "They love him and he doesn't expect anything special. He's a very positive person."

Anthony missed a meet a week or two later to participate as an actor in a movie designed to give hope to others challenged by Cerebral Palsy. Aldrich said he walked into his house upon returning from the meet and was greeted by a telephone call from Anthony: "Coach...how did we do today?"

It had indeed been a great meet. Like any other high school sporting events, there were team victories claimed, individual honors and personal and course records achieved; there was a lot for everyone to celebrate. But the real winner on this fall day was a young man who finished the race, who fought his own good fight, and who kept the faith that a teacher-coach instilled in him to be a runner – to be one of the team – like everyone else.

— John Johnson, MHSAA Communications Director

Guidelines – From Page 1

Coaches:

- Avoid talking about an athlete being a "Division 1 prospect" or being capable of playing "at the next level," – especially with the media. It brings inappropriate attention to individuals and distracts from the entire notion of team. The time spent by the media talking about a youngster's future prospects detracts from other team members being mentioned in the report, or worse yet, details about the game. The better athletes will distinguish themselves; they don't need to be separated from the rest of the team in this unhealthy manner.
- Eliminate the use of uniform numbers which would call attention to an individual player. The number 1, and unusual numbers worn by some professional athletes in some sports are candidates.
- Eliminate the use of names on the backs of uniforms and warm-ups. The team is everyone. Names on uniforms promote the individual concept and, in these budget-conscious times, are a luxury.
- Prohibit individual on-field celebrations by players, designed more to call attention to themselves than to actually celebrate a play. First, it's disrespectful to the other team and unsportsmanlike. Second, it takes away again from the team concept.
- If you must cut kids from a program, find a meaningful way to keep them involved in the program. Not all contributions to a team come from players in uniform. The same values, the same lifetime skill sets can be installed in those who are team managers, statisticians, or student trainers. Keeping kids involved in non-playing roles provides a healthy after-school activity, an experience they will fondly remember after their school days.

Sanctioning Procedures

The *MHSAA Handbook*, Regulation II, Sections 5 and 6 lists requirements for competitions which are hosted by non-member entities, involve teams or individuals from another state or are held out of the state. Depending on the situation, the following actions should be taken:

1. **No action by MHSAA** – Competition held in Michigan, conducted by member schools, needs no MHSAA approval. All such meets shall use MHSAA registered officials and rules of competition adopted by the MHSAA for that sport.
2. **Approval by the MHSAA** – Any meet or tournament with three or more teams held within Michigan for Michigan schools and sponsored by a non-member school or organization must be approved by the MHSAA prior to the contest.

The non-member school/organization must submit in writing the terms and conditions of the competition. The sponsors must assure that the competition will be conducted in accordance with MHSAA eligibility regulations, using MHSAA registered officials and rules of competition adopted by the MHSAA for that sport.
3. **Sanction by State Association** – Interstate competition, which is sponsored by a member school and involves three or more schools from border states, must be sanctioned by the state association of the host school, as well as the respective association of the state or states of participating schools.

The sanction form is on page 97 of the *Handbook*, and on the NFHS website (www.nfhs.org). The application must be received by the state association at least 30 calendar days before the event.

4. **Sanction by the NFHS** –
 - A. Any interstate competition involving two or more schools which is cosponsored by an organization outside the high school community (e.g. a university, shoe company, etc.), in addition to being sponsored by a member school, shall require sanction by the NFHS office.
 - B. Schools must also receive NFHS sanction and state association sanction when:
 - (1) Eight or more schools, at least one of which is from a state that does not border the host state; or
 - (2) Five or more states, at least one of which does not border the host state.
- * Whenever an event requires NFHS approval, there is a **\$75** fee made payable to the NFHS. This payment must be sent along with the request for sanction to the state association office. The host school or the organization that is hosting the event is required to have the request submitted to the state association office at least **90** days before the event to avoid being charged a late fee.

Out-of-State Practice Guidelines

The practice of taking a team on a "spring trip" is a separate issue from sanctioning procedures. Any school which conducts **practice sessions** out of state at a site more than 600 miles round-trip must submit to the MHSAA office a Travel Form for Out-of-State Practice. **This does not allow schools to compete in a scrimmage, practice or competition with a team from another school.**

The form can be found on page 108 of the *Handbook* or on the MHSAA Web site.



Remember to attend a PACE course!

Click the logo above for a complete 2003-04 schedule and course information

MICHIGANDERS CHOSEN TO SERVE ON NATIONAL COMMITTEES

Randy Allen, Assistant Director of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, has been appointed to two rules committees of the National Federation of State High School Associations and will serve through the 2006-07 school year on the National Federation Ice Hockey and Softball Rules Committees.

Other Michigan personnel serving on National Federation committees during 2003-04 are **Kathy McGee**, Girls Basketball Coach at Flint Powers Catholic High School, on the Basketball Rules Committee; **Madeline Siehling**, Grand Rapids area gymnastics judge, on the Girls Gymnastics Rules Committee; **Andy Weidenbach**, Ice Hockey Coach at Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook-Kingswood High School, on the Ice Hockey Rules Committee; **Kathy Hutfilz**, St. Louis area track official, on the Track & Field Rules Committee; and **Nate Hampton**, MHSAA Assistant Director, on the Football Rules Committee.

MENTOR is published three times per year by the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., 1661 Ramblewood Drive, East Lansing, MI 48823 (Phone 517-332-5046), **MENTOR** welcomes contributions of articles, information or photos which focus on coaching in Michigan. Send them to mentor@mhsaa.com, or the above address.

MICHIGAN COACHES RECEIVE TOP NATIONAL HONORS

Five Michigan coaches were among 21 individuals selected by the National Federation of State High School Association (NFHS) Coaches Association as National Coaches of the Year for 2002 and recognized last spring.

Following are brief biographical sketches of the 2002 Michigan NFHS Coaches Association award winners from Michigan:

Volleyball

John Knuth's record as volleyball coach at Marysville High School the past six years has been nothing short of amazing. Marysville has won seven consecutive MHSAA championships, and Knuth's teams sport a winning percentage of more than .925 in his 20 years at Marysville.

Swimming and Diving

Michael O'Connor, girls swimming and diving coach for 17 seasons at Grosse Pointe North High School, has led teams to 13 conference titles, won one MHSAA championship and finished second on one other occasion. He was Michigan Coach of the Year in 1999.

Tennis

Bob Wood won an amazing 27 MHSAA championships and finished second eight other times in 37 years as boys tennis coach at Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett. He also coached the girls tennis team to 12 MHSAA titles. His teams won 339 dual meets in 37 years and 30 regional championships.

Track and Field

Bryan Westfield's girls track and field teams at Ann Arbor Pioneer have won four of the past six MHSAA championships and are undefeated in regular-season competition during that time. In fact, in 25 years, his teams have lost only two regular-season meets and have claimed 13 MHSAA championships and 23 conference



20-20 Photographic

Marysville volleyball coach John Knuth was one of five Michigan coaches honored nationally recently by the NFHS.

titles. He has been selected state coach of the year 14 times.

Rob Johnson, a 34-year veteran of high school coaching, led his Clare High School boys track and field team to the 2000 MHSAA championship after finishing runner-up in 1999. Johnson's teams have claimed 19 conference championships and 18 regional titles. He was inducted into the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2000.

Scholar-Athlete Award News

We're pleased to report that Farm Bureau Insurance will again sponsor the MHSAA Scholar-Athlete Award, with 26 students to receive \$1000 college scholarships after final judging.

All applications materials and program rules will only be available online via download or on electronic files on the CD-ROM sent to schools in August. The only mailing schools will receive will be the master application list and a memo announcing the program.

The due date for receipt of applications is prior to 4 pm, December 5, 2003.

NOTE: The application on the CD-ROM has an incorrect date for submission to the school Athletic Director. It should read, Nov. 24, 2003. This date is correct on the Web site.

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. (Parents or coaches subsequently inform the AD, who then calls the MHSAA to verify and then "gets back" to the parent or coach.) A.D.'s or Principals are encouraged to contact the MHSAA Office directly.

Please follow this efficient path of communication

Remember, only written eligibility interpretations are official. Have new students complete the New Student Transfer Information Form to gather detailed eligibility information for internal school review.

Do not mail the New Student Transfer form to the MHSAA



2003-04 Officials & School Directories available on CD-ROM

The 2003-04 Officials Directory and School Directory are available for purchase on CD-ROM via 21st Century Graphic Technologies.

Click here for details

OFFICIAL MHSAA TOURNAMENT BALLS

The MHSAA has the following tournament ball adoption agreements in place in the sports of baseball, softball, girls and boys basketball, girls and boys soccer, girls volleyball and girls and boys tennis. Levels of play, length of agreement and product specifications are listed. Schools and coaches are asked to give the ball manufacturers who support the MHSAA priority consideration when purchasing balls at the local district level and league & conference level.

Baseball - Rawlings — Rawlings is the "Official Tournament Baseball" of the MHSAA through the 2004-2005 school year. Rawlings baseballs will be used all tournament levels (District, Regional, Quarterfinal, Semifinals & Finals), and will be supplied to tournament managers. The Rawlings R-100 and/or R-200 will be the baseball used and supplied for tournament all contests.

Softball - Wilson — Wilson is the "Official Tournament Softball" of the MHSAA through the 2004-2005 school year. Wilson softballs will be used all tournament levels (District, Regional, Quarterfinal, Semifinals & Finals), and will be supplied to tournament managers. The Wilson A-9011 SST Optic Yellow 47 C.O.R, 375 compression softball will be used and supplied for all tournament contests.

Basketball, Girls & Boys - Rawlings — Rawlings is the "Official Finals Game Ball" of the MHSAA Finals for girls and boys basketball through the 2004-2005 school year. The Rawlings COMPMICH and COMPMICH285 will be used for the Semifinals and Finals tournament games.

Volleyball - Spalding — Spalding is the "Official Finals Game Ball" of the MHSAA Finals for girls volleyball through the 2004-2005 school year. The Spalding TF-4000 will be used for the Semifinals and Finals tournament games.

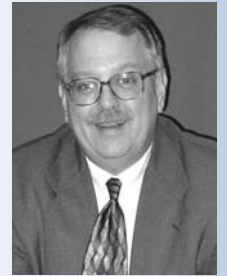
Soccer, Girls & Boys - Brine — Brine is the "Official Finals Game Ball" of the MHSAA Finals for girls and boys soccer through the 2005-06 school year. The Brine Championship ball will be used for all Finals tournament games.

Tennis, Girls & Boys — Wilson is the "Official Tournament Ball" of the MHSAA girls and boys tennis tournament through December 2004. The Wilson T-1071 US Open X-duty ball will be used at all tournament levels and supplied to all tournament managers.



TOM RASHID RECEIVES NATIONAL ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR HONORS

Tom Rashid, MHSAA Associate Director, received national Athletic Director of the Year honors at the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Awards Banquet in Tulsa, Okla., on July 31.



Rashid, Director of Physical Education and Athletics for the Archdiocese of Detroit and Director of the Catholic High School League for the last 25 years before joining the MHSAA staff in August, was selected for the top award from eight finalists throughout the country.

He earned the state's Athletic Director of the Year award from the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association last March, and is slated to receive a National Federation of State High School Associations Citation at its conference for athletic directors in Indianapolis on Dec. 16.

In 2001, Rashid was honored with the MHSAA's Allen W. Bush Award, which recognizes noteworthy support and the promise of continuing commitment to the MHSAA and interscholastic athletics.

Rashid served as MIAAA President in 1998, and sat on the organization's Board of Directors from 1988-2000. He also served on the MHSAA Representative Council from 1988 until he was hired by the MHSAA last spring.

A 1973 graduate of St. Alphonsus High School in Dearborn, Rashid obtained his bachelor's degree in history from Eastern Michigan University, and his master's degree in Urban Education from the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

Finals Program Information Kits Available Only on CD-ROM & Online

The MHSAA would like to emphasize that schools reaching the regional levels of tournaments will no longer be provided hard copy of the program information kits for the souvenir programs at MHSAA Finals in select sports. The kits are available on the CD-ROM schools received in September, and on the specific sport pages of the MHSAA Web site – mhsaa.com

Each school which advances past the Regional round of the MHSAA tournaments listed below is required to submit the finals program information kit and a team photograph in a timely manner so that your school may be properly recognized in the souvenir program for that sport in the event it reaches the final round. Those sports and the deadline for submitting that information by e-mail are as follows:

FALL

Boys Soccer--Monday, Nov. 3
Football--Tuesday, Nov. 18
Girls Basketball--Friday, Nov. 28

WINTER

Team Wrestling--Friday, Feb. 27
Competitive Cheer--Monday, March 8
Ice Hockey--Monday, March 8
Volleyball--Monday, March 15
Boys Basketball--Monday, March 22

SPRING

Baseball/Softball--Monday, June 14
Girls Soccer--Monday, June 14

Open the file on the CD-ROM or Web site for the appropriate sport, save it to your hard drive under a different name, fill out the form on your computer, and then attach it to an e-mail to send to our office, along with a team photograph. Photographs should be scanned and e-mailed with the document, or may be sent to the MHSAA via overnight mail service. Complete instructions are included on the disk. **Contact Rob Kaminski at the MHSAA with questions: 517-332-5046**

TITLE IX'S SPIRIT IS ALIVE

Throughout the first and evolving documents to implement Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, it is clear that the spirit and intent of Title IX is this: assess and accommodate the interests of males and females equally in education.

Almost immediately the focus moved from curriculum to extracurricular programs and, overwhelmingly, to just one such program: competitive athletics.

And as the years went by, the emphasis shifted from assessment and accommodation to mandating equal numbers of participants and creating programs to make that happen.

The result of balancing participation numbers and dollars in intercollegiate athletics was the elimination of many so-called "Olympic" sports, especially such programs for men, even when they volunteered to pay for the programs themselves. First the "walk-ons" were barred, and then many of the programs were dropped altogether.

The result in high school sports has not been so much the elimination of programs but the reluctance of schools to add new programs that boys clearly wanted and would well support.

Such enforcement failed the spirit and intent of Title IX.

It also fails common sense. Three to five women's professional sports leagues in the United States – including volleyball and softball – have folded since being founded in the 1990s, and the professional soccer and basketball leagues have nearly done so. They wallow in general spectator apathy and red ink.

Yet the Title IX enforcers told colleges and schools to ignore consumer interest and free market principles, requiring that as much money be spent on female athletics as on male programs.

Colleges and schools burdened by reductions in government funding to education generally found they were cut no slack from the government in funding women's and girls athletics to artificial and unsupported levels.

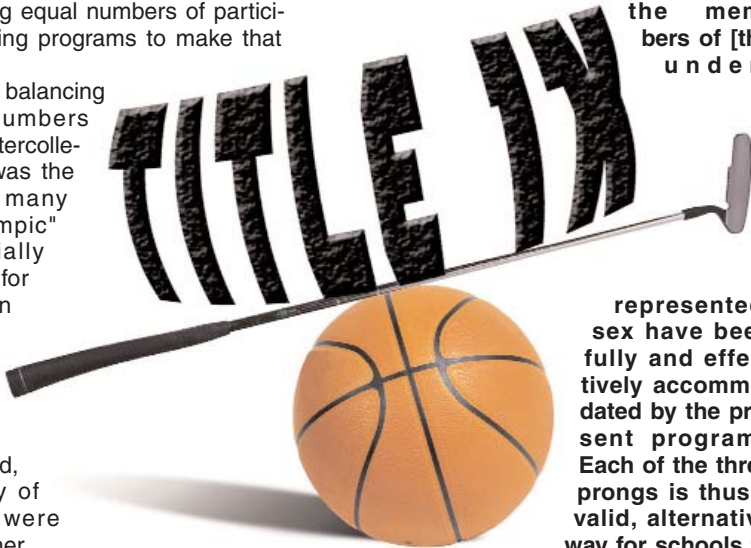
But recently there has been a gentle breeze of refreshing change.

In July, the U.S. Office for Civil Rights issued a letter which results from the work of the Commission on Opportunity in Athletics established by the U.S. Department of Education in response to

criticism of Title IX enforcement, especially from the National Intercollegiate Wrestling Coaches Association. The Commission met during the last half of 2002 and issued its findings early in 2003.

The letter states in part: **"If a school does not satisfy the 'substantial proportionality' prong, it would still satisfy the three-prong test if it maintains a history and continuing practice of program expansion for the under-represented sex, or if 'the interests and abilities of**

the members of [the under-



represented] sex have been fully and effectively accommodated by the present program.' Each of the three prongs is thus a valid, alternative way for schools to comply with Title IX.

"The transmittal letter accompanying the 1996 Clarification issued by the Department described only one of these three separate prongs – substantial proportionality – as a 'safe harbor' for Title IX compliance. This led many schools to believe, erroneously, that they must take measures to ensure strict proportionality between the sexes. In fact, each of the three prongs of the test is an equally sufficient means of complying with Title IX, and no one prong is favored."

The point is this. What we have been saying for years, and what we said in our written statement to the Commission last fall, is that the original spirit and intent of Title IX is to listen to the students and to accommodate their interests and abilities.

The third prong of the three-prong test is the most valid, the most in tune with the spirit of Title IX. The proportionality prong is no longer the safe harbor, no longer more valid or more usable than the other two prongs.

What this means in practical application is this. If you have interest by boys in

lacrosse but there is no interest sufficient to start any new girls sports, you can start the boys lacrosse program without waiting. The likely result is that starting boys lacrosse will ignite interest in girls lacrosse. A win-win result: accommodate boys – encourage girls.

The Commission on Opportunity in Athletics was given eight questions to answer. In its written statement last fall, the MHSAA addressed questions 3 and 4.

Question 3 was this: "Is further guidance or other steps needed at the junior and senior high school levels, where the availability or absence of opportunities will critically affect the prospective interests and abilities of student-athletes when they reach college age?"

We told the Commission it was being asked the wrong question. The issue is not what high schools should do to accommodate colleges, but what colleges should do to accommodate the demonstrated interests of high school students.

The Commission's report gets it right. While it was asked the wrong question, it gave the right answer: **"One important theme that has emerged has been the identification of a disconnect between high school and college athletic programs in terms of the respective opportunities they make available. While high school athletic participation for boys and girls has been steadily increasing, the nature of college athletics makes it possible for only a relatively small number of high school athletes to be able to participate in varsity sports at the college level. Thus, cuts in specific programs for men and women at the college level may severely limit the opportunities for boys and girls who participate in those sports in high school. The Commission heard testimony indicating that colleges are not always sensitive to national and**

Compliance with Title IX need not be a balancing act, but rather an effort to accommodate students' interests

regional trends in student interest at the high school level.

"The Commission heard arguments that Title IX enforcement may contribute to this situation by encouraging schools to add certain teams or drop others solely to increase the relative participation percentages for students of one sex. While this may help to create the impression of opportunity, it does not necessarily best serve the interests of the high school students who will eventually be served by the college system.

"In response to this disconnect, it has been suggested that if colleges are

careful to factor in demonstrated athletic interest at the high school level, there may be a greater likelihood that a larger number of student athletes will be able to participate in college athletics." Amen!

Question 4 given to the Commission was this: "How should activities such as cheerleading or bowling factor into the analysis of equitable opportunities?"

We suggested to the Commission that the very presence of this question reflected some biases and we told the Commissioners to put their personal preferences and old fashioned notions aside. We told them to believe what girls said they wanted (that's the spirit of Title IX).

We were heard. The MHSAA was even cited in the Commission's final report, the only high school association in the country to be mentioned: **"In contrast, the Office for Civil Rights does not have a definition of sports used in assessing the participation opportunities available at individual institutions. Instead, it offers technical assistance to educational institutions to help them identify whether or not activities they sponsor are athletic opportunities for purposes of Title IX compliance. This approach allows for flexibility for schools in determining which sports they will offer for their stu-**

dents.

"The five factors identified by the Office for Civil Rights for determining whether a particular activity is a 'sport' are: 1) whether the selection of teams/participants is based on factors related primarily to athletic ability, 2) whether the activity is limited to a define season, 3) whether the teams/participants prepare for and engage in competition in the same or similar way as other teams/participants in the interscholastic or intercollegiate athletics program (e.g., with respect to coaching, recruitment, budget, tryouts and eligibility, and length and number of practice sessions and competitive opportunities), 4) whether the activity is administered by the athletic department, and 5) whether the primary purpose of the activity is athletic competition and not the support or promotion of other athletes. These criteria allow institutions wide latitude in counting participation in emerging sports as athletic opportunities for purposes of Title IX compliance.

"In addition, some of the national organizations reporting to the Commission have indicated an expansion in the types of activities they recognize as sports opportunities for students. The NCAA, for instance, recog-

nizes nine sports as emerging sports for women, including bowling and squash. Similarly, the NAIA recognizes women's wrestling as an emerging sport. The NFHS lists 13 emerging sports and state athletic associations may include even more. For instance, the Michigan High School Athletic Association recognizes competitive cheer as a sport and recently added a state championship in bowling.

"Thus, emerging sports, including cheerleading and bowling as well as many others, may help schools meet their commitment to offer athletic participation opportunities to their students that meet the requirements of Title IX if they meet the guidelines of the Office for Civil Rights." Hurray!

Any school in Michigan that is not actively assessing the interests of female athletes and accommodating those interests is failing to meet its responsibilities even if Title IX never existed. But schools which meet the demonstrated interests and still do not have as much female participation or spend the same number of dollars on girls sports as boys, are doing right by their constituents and the intent of Federal law. OCR's recent affirmation of common sense and Title IX's original intent is good news for the boys and girls of Michigan.

FALL RATING FORMS DUE DECEMBER 5, 2003

Officials rating forms for varsity or sub-varsity football, girls basketball, and boys soccer have been sent to all MHSAA member schools sponsoring those sports. The forms are designed to be "read" by a mark sensor scanning device. Many of the blanks already have been completed and returned. The deadline for receiving forms in this office will be Dec. 5, 2003. **Rating blanks received after this date will not be processed.**

Athletic directors are reminded that **only one rating may be submitted for each official regardless of the number of times the official works contests for one school. Each official may receive a varsity and a sub-varsity rating from one school for working more than one level of competition.**

It is important that rating forms be reviewed by athletic directors before mailing to insure that they are completely and properly filled out. All schools should be positive that EITHER the superintendent OR the principal AND the athletic director OR the coach sign and review the ratings forms and that they be returned to the MHSAA office at the earliest opportunity.

NOTE: When an official receives a rating value of 5, the school must submit an Unsatisfactory Rating Explanation form to the official and to the MHSAA with the Rating Form. WITHOUT THE DOCUMENT the "5" rating will be expunged from the officials rating record.

An official may be rated as varsity and/or sub-varsity only once pre sport, per school, per year.

2003-04 NATIONAL TESTING DATES ADMINISTRATION - COUNSELORS - COACHES

Please advise students of the 2003-04 test date schedule. Your students should be aware of athletic tournament dates and should attempt to schedule their respective test date away from tournament dates of the sport or sports in which they are interested and participate.

Following are test dates for 2003-04 and possible MHSAA Tournament conflicts:

| ACT ASSESSMENT DATES | SPORT CONFLICTS |
|-------------------------|--|
| October 25, 2003 | Soccer Districts, LP Cross Country Regionals |
| December 13, 2003 | None |
| February 7, 2004 | None |
| April 3, 2004 | None |
| June 12, 2004 | Girls Soccer, Baseball, Softball Regionals |

| SAT TESTING DATES | SPORT CONFLICTS |
|------------------------|--|
| October 11, 2003 | LP Boys Golf Regionals |
| November 1, 2003 | Football Districts, Boys Soccer Regionals, LP Cross Country Finals |
| December 6, 2003 | Girls Basketball Finals |
| January 24, 2004 | None |
| March 27, 2004 | Boys Basketball Finals |
| May 1, 2004 | None |
| June 5, 2004 | Girls Soccer, Baseball, Softball Districts, LP & UP Track & Field, LP Girls Golf, LP Boys Tennis Finals |

| AP EXAM DATES | SPORT CONFLICTS |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| May 3-14, 2004 | None |

(Advanced Placement Exams are administered over a five-day period for each subject)

BOCCC Focuses on Communication

One of the key elements to resolving conflict is communication; bringing opposite sides together to share viewpoints and opinions in hopes of obtaining positive results.

With that in mind, Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan (BCAM) Executive Director Tom Hursey spearheaded a movement in 2001 to bring basketball officials and coaches throughout the state closer together in hopes of diminishing a perceived barrier that appeared to be growing taller and thicker each year.

"While coaching or watching games in recent years, I began to notice the officials would come out and stand across the floor from coaches, and coaches would do the same, and it was almost like a barrier between the two," said Hursey, a long-time coach at Midland High School. "The process involves the good officials and the good coaches coming together to demonstrate how we can become better officials and coaches through communication."

The end result is a more positive experience for all involved in high school basketball, especially the players. What once seemed a more amicable relationship has become increasingly strained, whether from community and parental pressures heaped on coaches, or verbal – and in extreme cases physical – abuse absorbed by officials from the stands and sidelines.

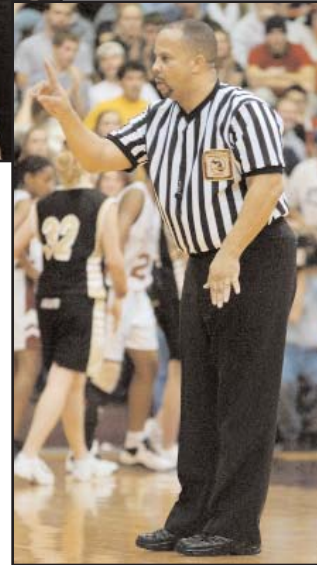
"If we can improve the relationship between coaches and officials, the game will be better and the kids will be better served," Hursey said.

Thus, the directive to the newly formed Basketball Officials and Coaches Communication Committee (BOCCC) was to publish a position paper to bring about improved relations around the state. Members of the BOCCC are: officials Bob Williams, John Kirk and Mark Ditsworth; BCAM members Hursey, Dan Christner, Joe Ricard and Marshall Thomas, and Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association representative Vic Michaels.

With communication targeted as the key component to alleviating existing discord between coaches and officials, the group outlined several recommendations for coaches, officials and athletic administrators to follow.



20-20 Photographic



Recommendations for Coaches...

1. BCAM will continue to stress sportsmanship to its members.
2. BCAM will encourage coaches to maintain professionalism as they execute their coaching duties during basketball contests.
3. BCAM will encourage coaches to be realistic about their expectations of officials during games – no game has ever been played, coached or officiated perfectly.
4. BCAM will include articles in the BCAM newsletter, *Full Court Press*, written by officials.
5. BCAM will include a question-answer column in the BCAM newsletter, *Full Court Press*.
6. BOCCC, with the help of BCAM, will design a half-page "public service" ad to be placed in game programs at high school games and the MHSAA tournament. The ad will state BOCCC's basic position paper.
7. BCAM will distribute their newsletter, *Full Court Press*, to each officials association in the state.
8. BCAM will publicize the fact that many MHSAA publications are on the MHSAA Web site, including MHSAA's *Stripes*.
9. BCAM will encourage coaches to invite officials to speak to teams, coaches, parents, and fans in a preseason meeting.
10. BCAM will continue its efforts to register all basketball coaches as members.
11. BCAM will invite officials to speak at its

annual fall clinic.

12. BCAM will invite officials to its Hospitality Room at the girls and boys MHSAA Finals.

Recommendations for Officials...

1. Approved Officials Associations will educate new officials concerning proper conduct before, during, and after basketball contests.
2. Officials need to expect appropriate communication with coaches during contests.
3. Officials and associations need to enforce all the "Points of Emphasis."
4. Officials will conduct a "pregame" before each contest.
5. Local associations will develop a sportsmanship award for coaches/teams/schools in your area.
6. All officials should be members of their local MHSAA Approved Association.
7. Assignors and/or local associations

will make themselves available to local teams for preseason presentations.

8. Local associations will invite coaches to attend their meetings.
9. Assignors and/or local associations will study and support 3-person crews for all state tournament games.
10. Assignors and/or local associations will study and support 3-person crews for regular season varsity contests.

Recommendations for Administrators...

1. Athletic administrators will take full responsibility for the total environment at athletic contests.
2. Athletic administrators will follow the MHSAA's booklet: Recommended School Responsibilities for Hosting Officials.
3. Athletic administrators will encourage their coaches to invite local officials to their preseason meeting to discuss new rules and points of emphasis.
4. Athletic administrators need to make their coaches aware of what is acceptable and unacceptable conduct toward officials.

For the complete BOCCC Position paper go to the BCAM Web site, bcam.org

MHSAA COACHES IN-SERVICE

REGISTRATION FORM COACHES ORIENTATION PROGRAM

The MHSAA has announced the speaker panel for the third annual Coach In-Service program scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 25, at Bronner Auditorium in Frankenmuth High School. The four hour program will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will feature five outstanding speakers on a variety of subjects designed to assist new and recently appointed coaches at both the high school and middle school level.

Jack Roberts, Executive Director of the MHSAA will open the program with a review of regulations while providing meaningful insight on the role of high school sports. Marshall Thomas, successful basketball coach and athletic director at Saginaw High School will share his reflections on coaching and teaching while defining the role of the coach in interscholastic sports. Marty Ewing of Michigan State University's Youth Sports Institute and a noted sports psychologist will discuss effective communication with parents and athletes.

Ray Allen of Central Michigan University, a former high school and college coach, will discuss effective planning and teaching. Attorney Al Bush Jr. will conclude the program with a presentation on managing the risk of coaching interscholastic athletics.

Registration is \$20 per coach and payable in advance by returning the registration form with payment. Participants can register on-site the day of the program as well.

Name _____

School _____ School ID _____

City _____ Phone _____

Home Address _____

City _____ Phone _____

Please indicate which sport(s) you coach _____

Please Include a Payment of \$20, payable to the MHSAA

Please Return to:
MHSAA
Leanne Moore
1661 Ramblewood Dr.
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