

MENTOR

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Vol. XVIII No. 2

Mentor, Stripes to Join Forces

MHSAA Coaches & Officials:

As many of you are aware, the MHSAA has—since 1987—produced publications targeting its officials and coaches: *Stripes* and *Mentor*.

These publications served their constituents in a variety of ways, from emphasizing pertinent dates on the athletic calendar to important rules updates for officials and coaches alike. The eight-page publications arrived three times annually, striving to provide its readership with information relevant to officiating and coaching high school athletics.

Our primary goal this spring is to create a joint publication that would fuse the two original publications and unite coaches and officials via one publication. The new publication will continue to provide significant dates, helpful hints, and insightful information to both the officiating and coaching communities. The MHSAA also intends to return the publication to a printed format, rather than the "online-only" format implemented in the fall of 2002.

Coaches and officials share the same fields and gyms during competition, yet the relationship is too often viewed as adversarial. We hope this publication will serve as a vehicle to

express and understand different perspectives, philosophies and responsibilities that officials and coaches bring to our games. After all, the No. 1 goal for coaches and officials alike is to provide the best competitive environment possible for our student-athletes.

The MHSAA hopes to enhance the content of the new publication by including contributions from those in the field in the form of testimonials and first-person accounts of current issues concerning interscholastic athletics. Input from Approved Officials Associations and Coaches Associations should provide the bulk of the content for the publication, as this publication exists for the membership. Articles and/or topics that might be of interest could include new training tips, practice ideas, motivational activities, sportsmanship, tournament experiences, outstanding performances, and health and safety issues. It is our hope that athletic directors and sports medicine personnel get involved as well.

We need your help to create a publication worthy of our members, and we feel the best way to do that is to include stories from the perspective of those on the fields and in the gyms.

The next step in this endeavor — other than cultivating content from our readers — is to name the publication.



Please e-mail name suggestions to: programs@mhsaa.com (type "Publication Name" in the subject line of the e-mail).

Thank you for your cooperation and support on this project.

2004 WINTER FINAL DATES

Feb. 20-21 — UP Individual Wrestling

Feb. 21 — UP Swimming & Diving

Feb. 23 — Boys & Girls Skiing

March 5-6 — Team Wrestling;
Boys & Girls Bowling

March 11-13 — Ice Hockey;
LP Individual Wrestling

March 12-13 — Girls Gymnastics;
LP Boys Swimming & Diving

March 13 — Girls Competitive Cheer

March 18-20 — Girls Volleyball

March 25-27 — Boys Basketball

Forsythe Award To Frankenmuth's Marco Marcet

It's not often anymore that someone devotes nearly of lifetime of service to a single high school, let alone be on the ground floor when that school started sponsoring interscholastic athletics. For Marco Marcet, the recipient of the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Charles E. Forsythe Award for 2004, it was a labor of love starting 50 years ago that goes on to this very day.

This annual award is in its 27th year of existence and is named after former MHSAA Executive Director Charles E. Forsythe, the Association's first full time and longest-serving chief executive. One or two recipients are selected each year by the MHSAA Representative Council, based on an individual's outstanding contribution to the interscholastic athletics community. Marcet will be presented the award on March 27 at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing at halftime of the Boys Basketball Class A Final.

Frankenmuth High School had only been in operation a couple of years when Marcet arrived there in the fall of 1954 after brief teaching stints in Kingsley and Manton. But from that school year until the spring of 1988, as the school's first athletic director, he built a program based on a credo of being there for the kids.

Marcet was also Frankenmuth's first boys basketball and baseball coach, guiding the latter team to a 100-49 record over a 16-year period, a time when schools played only a fraction of the games each season compared to today, and the first MHSAA postseason tournament had yet to be played.

The building of athletic facilities, the establishment of an athletic program for girls, the organization of an athletic booster club and serving as the host of numerous MHSAA postseason tournaments all took place on Marcet's watch. That was at the same time as he was serving as the chair of Business Department at Frankenmuth High School for 36 years and as a driver's education instructor for 20 years.

After 40 years as a full-time teacher, Marcet reduced his schedule, but only a bit. He still serves as a substitute teacher on a regular basis at Frankenmuth, and is a regular fixture in game management at home athletic events.

Marcet's reach extended beyond Frankenmuth. He helped form the Thumb B Athletic Association and the Tri-Valley Conference. In the community, he was a member of various service organizations, was the town's first recreation director. As a tribute to his contributions to the area, the Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankmuth has dedicated its Marcet Room in his honor.

In high school, Marcet captained the baseball and basketball squads for three seasons at what was then called Flint Tech (now Flint Southwestern Academy). It is said that he was the first high school basketball player in the Flint area to use the one-handed set shot. He graduated from Flint Tech in 1943, but stayed active in the area in sports beyond his high school days as a fastpitch softball player, and was recently enshrined with his 1946 Weller's Service team in the Greater Flint Area Sports Hall of Fame which won a state championship.

Like many others of his generation, college was delayed for Marcet by World War II. He served his country proudly as a member of the U.S. Air Force's 500th Bomb Squadron – the Rough Raiders – which fought in the Pacific Theater from 1943 to 1945. Upon his

return from service duty, Marcet attended Central Michigan College (later Central Michigan University), where he graduated in 1950. He did additional studies in CMU, the University of Michigan and Michigan State University between 1950 and 1977.

"The Tom Brokaw book, *The Greatest Generation*, is filled with success stories, and a chapter about Marco Marcet would have fit well into that publication," said MHSAA Executive Director John E. "Jack"

Roberts. "The true leaders of that generation knew the meaning of hard work, team work and community service. These true leaders helped build a post-World War II American from the ground up and Marco Marcet did just that in his lifetime of dedicated service to the community of Frankenmuth and Frankenmuth High School . A man who gave his life to a school that was just starting up when he arrived, and who still gives with equal vigor on a regular basis 50 years later. We're pleased to honor Marco Marcet with the Charles E. Forsythe Award."

Past recipients of the Charles E. Forsythe Award are:

- 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



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MENTOR welcomes contributions of articles, information or photos which focus on coaching in Michigan.

Kathy Vruggink Westdorp Receives 2004 WISL Award

Kathy Vruggink Westdorp, principal at Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central High School, has been named the recipient of the 2004 Women In Sports Leadership Award by the Representative Council of the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

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. The award will be presented during a banquet at the 2004 Women In Sports Leadership Conference on Feb. 1, in Lansing.

Westdorp was recently named to an assistant director's position on the MHSAA staff, where she will be phasing into those duties over the course of the 2003-04 school year, among which will be administering the coaches education program.

"It is through an entirely different process that Kathy was selected for this award

after being named to serve schools as a member of the MHSAA staff, demonstrating how widespread the respect is for her in Michigan," said John E. "Jack" Roberts, executive director of the Association. "The award recognizes her past service, while her hiring recognizes her potential for future service. She was nominated for the award by the West Michigan Volleyball Officials Association and chosen by the Representative Council from among seven candidates after a thorough screening by the MHSAA Awards Committee. As our newest administrative addition, the staff selected her, with the blessing of the MHSAA Executive Committee, from a field of more than 60 candidates."



As a teacher, coach, game official, athletic administrator and principal, Westdorp has long been active in advancing females in high school sports. She encouraged student-athletes to pursue coaching and officiating following high school, and has been active in recruiting and promoting female officials as a member of the West Michigan Volleyball Officials Association.

A West Michigan native, Westdorp is a 1976 graduate of Central Michigan University, where she participated in field hockey. Her educational career then started in the Grand Rapids Public Schools as a coach in girls volleyball at Central High, where she also served as an English and Physical Education teacher; and a girls track and basketball coach at Creston High. After eight years, she was named director of health and wellness programs for Grand Rapids Public Schools, where she had staff supervision and training duties, and authored grants and curriculum for the district.

In 1987, Westdorp returned to Creston as an assistant principal and director of athletics, where she administered the athletics and activities program until 1995, when she moved into an administrative position at Grand Rapids Forest Hills Central High School.

Westdorp first served as an assistant principal at Forest Hills Central, where she directed several academic departments, and supervised a variety of student extra-curricular activities. In 1999, she was named principal at the school, and implemented a number of new programs. While principal, Forest Hills Central was named a Governor's Cup recipient from the State of Michigan for achieving academic excellence. Westdorp also remained active in athletic issues, co-chair-



ing an athletic task force for the school district and serving as president of the Ottawa-Kent Conference, a league consisting of 41 schools.

As a game official, Westdorp has worked softball at the high school level and girls volleyball at the high school and collegiate levels.

Westdorp also holds a Master's Degree in Secondary Education from Michigan State University, and has served as an adjunct professor in graduate studies at Grand Valley State University.

Westdorp is the 15th recipient of the Women In Sports Leadership Award. Past recipients are:

- 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

OFFICIALS RATINGS DUE
March 26

Boys Basketball, Ice Hockey, Girls Volleyball, Wrestling

ENTRY DUE DATES

Feb. 5 — Boys & Girls Skiing
Feb. 11 — Boys Basketball, Boys & Girls Bowling, Ice Hockey, Team Wrestling
Feb. 17 — UP Boys & Girls Swimming & Diving
Feb. 18 — Girls Volleyball
Feb. 20 — Girls Competitive Cheer
Feb. 23 — Boys Basketball, Boys & Girls Bowling
Feb. 27 — Girls Gymnastics
March 9 — LP Boys Swimming & Diving

Fall Tournament Good Sports Are Winners!

Award Recipients Announced

The recipients of the top Michigan High School Athletic Association's Good Sports Are Winners! Awards for the recently-completed 2003 fall sports season have been named, with each school to receive commemorative banners and crystal trophies from MEEMIC Insurance, the Association's corporate partner in sportsmanship efforts.

Saline in boys soccer, **Beal City** and **Rochester Adams** in football, and **Flint Northern** in girls basketball, were selected by the tournament management at their respective Finals for displaying the most exemplary sportsmanship by their coaches, student-athletes and spectators. Presentation dates at all four schools will be announced at a future date.

Saline was the runner-up in the Division 1 boys soccer tournament; Beal City was the runner-up in the Division 8 football playoffs, while Rochester Adams was the champion in the Division 2 tournament; and Flint Northern was a finalist in the Class A girls basketball tournament.

In addition to receiving the finals award, Beal City and Flint Northern were

honored at the District level in their respective tournaments. For Beal City and Rochester Adams, this is the second time each school has received the Good Sports Are Winners! Award at the Finals level of MHSAA tournament play. Beal City was the 1993 recipient in baseball, and Rochester Adams won the award in 1992 in girls soccer.

The Good Sports Are Winners! Award made its return in 2002-03 with the corporate underwriting of MEEMIC Insurance. The program had previously been offered from 1989 to 1996, and again during 2000-01.

At the District and Regional level of MHSAA tournaments, all schools which meet a set of sportsmanlike standards will be recognized. There will continue to be standards in the program which would automatically disqualify a school from consideration from the award. Any team which is disqualified for the Good Sports Are Winners! Award at the District or

Regional level of a tournament becomes ineligible for the award at higher levels of that same tournament.

In all, 157 teams in girls basketball, football and boys soccer are being recognized for their outstanding sportsmanship at Fall tournaments. Those teams will be recognized through the publication of their names in the MHSAA Bulletin, the MHSAA Finals program series, and on the MHSAA Web site. During the course of the school year, over 1,000 teams will be recognized in 11 activities for their sportsmanship efforts during MHSAA tournaments.

A complete list of Good Sports Are Winners! Award recipients at pre-Finals levels of the tournaments as submitted by tournament managers for the recently completed Fall sports season appears as follows.



2003 Fall Award Recipients

Based on reports received at the MHSAA offices as of 1/22/04.

NOTE: There can be more than one winner at each site, and not all site managers responded.

BOYS SOCCER

District Awards

Division 1

Sterling Heights

Division 2

No Managers Reports Received

Division 3

Frankenmuth

Goodrich

Lake Fenton

Division 4

Glen Arbor The Leelanau School

Leland

Maple City Glen Lake

Northport

Traverse City Christian

Regional Awards

Division 1

Royal Oak Kimball

Division 2

Fruitport

Grand Rapids Christian

Holland Christian

Petoskey

Division 3

Frankenmuth

Richmond

Saginaw Nouvel

Division 4

Adrian Lenawee Christian

Kalamazoo Heritage Christian

Marcellus

Semifinal Awards

Division 1

No Managers Reports Received

Division 2

No Managers Reports Received

Division 3

No Managers Reports Received

Division 4

Lutheran Westland

FOOTBALL

Pre-District Awards

Division 1

Detroit Catholic Central

East Kentwood

Jackson

Division 2

Adrian

Farmington

Muskegon

Taylor Kennedy

Division 3

Chelsea

Division 4

DeWitt

Linden

Paw Paw

Three Rivers

Division 5

Frankenmuth

Saginaw Swan Valley

Division 6

Fennville

Kingsley

Quincy

Schoolcraft

Suttons Bay

Vermontville Maple Valley

Division 7

Ann Arbor Gabriel Richard

Burton Bendle

Manchester

Merrill

Newberry

Reading

Sand Creek

St. Ignace

Union City

Division 8

AuGres Sims
 Bay City All Saints
 Mendon
 Vestaburg

District Awards**Division 1**

Clinton Township Chippewa Valley
 East Kentwood
 Holland West Ottawa

Division 2

Adrian
 Bay City Western
 Hudsonville
 Midland

Division 3

Battle Creek Lakeview
 Charlotte
 Fowlerville
 Gaylord
 St. Johns

Division 4

Grand Rapids South Christian

Division 5

Benzie Central
 Capac
 Central Montcalm
 Essexville Garber
 Frankenmuth
 Goodrich
 Grayling

Division 6

No Managers Reports Received

Division 7

East Jordan
 Manchester
 Mio AuSable
 Sand Creek

Division 8

Baraga
 Beal City
 Carsonville-Port Sanilac

Regional Awards**Division 1**

No Managers Reports Received

Division 2

Detroit Mackenzie
 Hudsonville
 Lowell

Division 3

Charlotte
 Farmington Hills Harrison
 Stevensville Lakeshore

Division 4

Bay City John Glenn
 Mt. Morris

Division 5

No Managers Reports Received

Division 6

No Managers Reports Received

Division 7

No Managers Reports Received

Division 8

Frankfort

Semifinal Awards**Division 1**

No Managers Reports Received

Division 2

Hudsonville

Division 3

No Managers Reports Received

Division 4

Big Rapids

DeWitt

Richmond

Division 5

No Managers Reports Received

Division 6

No Managers Reports Received

Division 7

No Managers Reports Received

Division 8

No Managers Reports Received

GIRLS BASKETBALL**District Awards****Class A**

Allen Park
 Benton Harbor
 Clio
 Davison
 Dearborn Heights Crestwood
 East Detroit
 Flint Central
 Flint Kearsley
 Flint Northern
 Holland West Ottawa
 Hudsonville
 Lansing Sexton
 Lansing Waverly
 Lapeer West
 St. Johns
 Warren Cousino
 Zeeland

Class B

Bay City John Glenn
 Beaverton
 Cheboygan
 Essexville Garber
 Farwell
 Gladwin
 Midland Bullock Creek
 Ogemaw Heights
 Pinconning

Saginaw Nouvel

Tawas Area

Class C

Brethren
 Brown City
 Cass City
 Deckerville
 Ithaca
 Kent City
 Lake City
 Leroy Pine River
 Manton
 Marlette
 Mayville
 Montague
 Muskegon Catholic Central
 Muskegon Western Michigan Christian
 Ravenna

Class D

Allen Park Cabrini
 Allen Park Inter-City Baptist
 Camden Frontier
 Freesoil
 Hillsdale Academy
 Jackson Christian
 Kimball New Life Christian Academy
 Newport Lutheran South
 North Adams Jerome
 Taylor Baptist Park
 Taylor Light & Life
 Wyandotte Mt. Caramel

Regional Awards**Class A**

No Managers Reports Received

Class B

DeWitt
 Hemlock
 Saginaw Nouvel
 Vassar

Class C

Lincoln-Alcona
 Traverse City St. Francis

Class D

No Managers Reports Received

Quarterfinal Awards**Class A**

No Managers Reports Received

Class B

Flint Beecher
 Freeland

Class C

Rapid River
 Republic-Michigamme

Class D

No Managers Reports Received

Grosse Pointe North, Saginaw Heritage Honored as MIAAA Exemplary Programs

Michigan's professional organization of high school athletic directors, the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA), recently recognized Saginaw Heritage and Grosse Pointe North high schools as having Exemplary Athletic Programs. Representatives of each school were recognized by the MIAAA and the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) at halftime of the MHSAA Class A Girls Basketball Final in Mt. Pleasant on Dec. 6.

The MIAAA, in partnership with the MHSAA, conducted the extensive review program this fall prior to recognizing Saginaw Heritage and Grosse Pointe North as two of Michigan's model high school athletic programs. The schools went through a rigorous screening process, which included an application and a written documentation of the program's strengths. Both schools also hosted a two-day, on-site visit by a MIAAA evaluation team made up of veteran athletic administrators.

The MIAAA Exemplary Athletic Award Program recognizes that outstanding school athletic programs greatly serve students, families, communities and schools.

The philosophy of the athletic program at Saginaw Township Community Schools is that it is an integral part of the total education program. The purpose of interscholastic athletics is to make a positive contribution to the development of the participants, spectators, school and community. Athletes should strive for educational excellence and playing excellence, as well as staying within the boundaries of good sportsmanship.

Heritage's athletic program offers 24 varsity sports, 12 for girls and 12 for boys, and the subvarsity offers 17 different opportunities for girls and 14 for boys, bringing a total of 55 school sponsored teams. Approximately 40 percent of Heritage students participate in at least one sport, with 37 percent playing in two different sports and nine percent participating in three

sports, which is the maximum number of teams a Heritage athlete can participate on during a school year. Education is also very important to the athletic program at Heritage as evidenced by athletes having a cumulative GPA of 3.21 over the last five years, which is .35 higher than non-athletes are. According to Pete Ryan, Athletic Director at Heritage, "The staff at Heritage has worked very hard to increase the GPA of our student-athletes."

With a tradition of athletic excellence, Heritage, which was formed by the merger of Saginaw Eisenhower and Douglas MacArthur high schools in 1988, has been a

room, on the field and in life."

Since opening its doors 35 years ago, athletics have been an integral part of Grosse Pointe North High School. The athletic program at Grosse Pointe North prides itself on excellence and is a reflection of a community that prides itself on bringing out the best in its students, parents, school and community. The mission of Grosse Pointe North athletics is to offer a program in educational athletics that provides opportunities for student growth and development through competitive interscholastic sports.

Athletics at North is a highly structured program that seeks to provide a wide variety of opportunities for student involvement. Many desirable outcomes can be expected from a student's involvement in the athletic program at North including: the development of lifelong friendships; learning team work; learning to set goals; learning to strive for excellence; learning to handle victory as well as defeat; learning that dedication and hard work usually produce positive results; learning how to manage time; and developing the qualities of good sportsmanship as a participant and a spectator.

Despite being one of the smallest Class

A schools in the 32-team Macomb Area Conference, Grosse Pointe North is proud of a tradition of competitive success that includes 281 conference championships, 94 conference meet champions, 45 MHSAA District Championships, 76 MHSAA Regional Championships, eight MHSAA Runner-Up Teams, nine MHSAA Championship Teams and several individual



Members of the Grosse Pointe North and Saginaw Heritage athletic departments display Exemplary Athletic Program Award banners presented by the MIAAA at the Girls Basketball Finals in Mt. Pleasant on Dec. 6.

20-20 Photographic



member of the Saginaw Valley League since 1994. During that time span, Heritage teams have captured 49 conference championships, 32 District championships, and 15 Regional championships, and also had 21 MHSAA Final appearances, capturing seven MHSAA titles. Heritage has claimed three boys and three girls Richard Leach trophies, which are given to the most successful school in the Saginaw Valley League based on both Saginaw Valley League standings and MHSAA tournament performances. "Our coaches are dedicated to giving student-athletes the best opportunity possible to succeed," says Ryan "They encourage the athletes to excel in the class-

MHSAA champions.

When Athletic Director Chris Clark was informed his high school had been named one of two exemplary schools he stated, "We are grateful that the hard work and commitment of the athletes, parents, coaches, staff and administration at Grosse Pointe North has been recognized through such a distinguished award."

Principal Jim Steeby added, "All of us at Grosse Pointe North High School are honored to receive this award in recognition of our school's commitment to educational and athletic excellence."



TOURNAMENT TALK

Policy For Team Sports Alternate/Backup Sites During MHSAA Tournaments

In May 2003, the Representative Council authorized MHSAA staff to supplement the site selection committee process by developing and administering alternative/backup sites policies to more effectively address excessive travel that sometimes results at MHSAA Regional and Quarterfinal Tournaments. The new policies and procedures were to be implemented during 2003-04 and this topic was to be reviewed further by the Council in December 2003.

The policy was reviewed and recommended by site selection committees in hockey, volleyball and boys basketball during the fall of 2003, which provided these comments:

1. Policy is written with "may be used" to afford flexibility among sports and to cover a variety of situations. It is possible another site is not available.
2. It was felt that being non-specific on mileage was best rather than setting a specific number of miles wherein the backup site was activated.
3. Volleyball and Hockey Site Selection Committees did not want to relocate a site simply because a team would have home court or home ice. Relocating in hockey is especially problematic given the costs of ice rental and non-school facilities. In addition, many ice rinks are home to multiple teams.
4. The Basketball Site Selection Committee felt that the past practice should continue of relocating a Quarterfinal site if a team would play on its home floor.
5. Baseball and Softball Quarterfinals are held at fields "out of class." Soccer does not compete in a Quarterfinal round but may have application at the Regional level. Other sports are multiple-team events.
6. When possible, the staff would anticipate one of the two scenarios above and have "what if" plans available prior to the Regional Final.

Here is the policy approved by the Representative Council Dec. 5, 2003:

Sites other than the originally selected location may be used in one of two scenarios at the discretion of the staff member in charge of that sport:

1. A team will be playing on its own home floor at the Quarterfinal level.
2. Two teams slated to play each other have inordinate travel to a Regional Final or Quarterfinal site.

In some instances, an appropriate alternate site may not be found and the original site will be used. This policy does not supersede previously existing arrangements designed to reduce travel in specific Districts and Regionals.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS OF MHSAA TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS

- Q Why is our team assigned to the District Tournament X when our school is clearly located closer to the District Tournament Y?
- A District assignments are based on geographical groupings of schools. The host school may or may not be near the center of that grouping, as all schools which have adequate facilities and wish to host will be included in any rotation of host sites. Therefore, a school that is the easternmost of one District Tournament grouping may be further from the host site of that District Tournament than the host site of the District Tournament grouping adjacent to the east. One sometimes must look at the entire state and all the District Tournament groupings for a class to see how this fits together.
- Q How is it possible our team is assigned to the District Tournament at X when the other high school of our school district is assigned elsewhere?
- A As the nearly equal number of schools are grouped for District Tournaments, school district boundaries are not considered. Farmington, Troy, Rochester, Livonia and many other multi-school districts, especially of highly populated areas, may frequently see their schools going in different directions for MHSAA District Tournament play.
- Q Why do the schools in our District or Regional Tournament change from year to year and sport to sport?
- A New schools join the MHSAA, existing schools relocate, and the sports offered by schools change, all of which affect District and Regional assignments. Changes in school enrollments cause many schools each year to change classification. This not only will affect the school groupings for District or Regional Tournaments of each of those school's old and new classifications or divisions, it may also cause a chain reaction, bumping other schools up or down in classification or division and in or out of various District or Regional Tournaments.

WORKING WITH THE MEDIA FOR A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE

One of the things that defines high school sports as unique from all other levels of youth sports is the daily media coverage of our games.

For most of our participants, this is the only time in their lives their name will be in the newspaper, or the only time their name will ever be called by a local radio or television announcer for playing the games they love.

As athletic administrators and coaches, we have a role in seeing that our student-athletes are recognized for their efforts by providing the details of our athletic events to the media, and by properly accommodating media when they attend our events.

First, it should be stated that no single school or single sport has a right to receive media coverage. Even in the smallest communities, automatic coverage is not a given. Media outlets are driven by advertising dollars, circulation, viewership/listenership numbers, and by providing coverage of what interests most of the community they serve. Regardless, schools need to service all sports equally in terms of their promotion to the media.

In discussing coverage issues with the media each summer, we have found the same themes to be sounded, themes which will help schools receive the maximum coverage possible.

BEFORE THE SEASON

- Be sure you provide a list of schedules, including starting times, for all sports for the upcoming season well in advance of the first event. Some smaller newspapers may also run subvarsity schedules -- check with your sports editor to see if the outlet is interested in the information. You should also check to see if e-mailing the information is preferred.
- Once team rosters are available, provide that information to your local outlets. Having a roster handy will increase the chances of your students' names being spelled correctly in stories.
- Find out the timetable your local outlets have for receiving event reports on game nights. Be sure the individuals responsible for calling in results know the deadlines, and the consequences if they don't meet them. Find out if submitting results for information-intensive sports like swimming and track can be done by e-mail.

FOR HOME EVENTS

- Set up a working press area that is protected from the elements. Make sure it

has counter space for notebooks, laptop computers and broadcasting equipment; electrical outlets; and access to telephones. Press boxes are called that for a reason. Don't turn what should be a working area into a skybox for school administrators, boosters and other non-workers.

- Be sure you provide visiting media access to your facilities on a reasonable timetable. This includes marking off seats for media who have made advance arrangements with you, so they are not made to arrive early to be guaranteed working space; and providing them the



time following a contest if they are on deadline to write their report, and transmit it by telephone back for the following day's paper. Every effort should also be made to accommodate those media who do not call in advance; but it would not be inappropriate for you to request that courtesy if they plan on making return trips to your school.

- Providing rosters and statistics about your team is an appreciated courtesy.
- While not required, complimentary coffee, soda, or bottled water in the press area is appreciated.
- Some photographers may wish to set up strobe lighting in your indoor venues. Such lighting, properly set up, does not affect play. Be sure the strobes are not set up in a manner which creates a safety hazard with cords and light stands being in the way of spectators. Camera-mounted strobes and wall/ceiling-mounted strobes are allowed at MHSAA post-season tournament venues in several sports.
- Be sure photographers visiting your venue are aware of where they can -- and cannot -- work. For example, photographers should always be positioned outside the free-throw lane in basketball.

FOLLOWING AN EVENT

- Unless you are absolutely certain a media outlet was at the event, be sure it is given

a telephone call. Television stations often send a single camera out on a given night with the assignment of getting footage of several games. You can't assume they were there at game's end.

- Be sure the call is made to your local media in a timely manner. The closer you call to deadline, the less coverage your team is likely to receive due to time and space constraints. Call as soon as the game is over.
- Be sure you have accurate information about both teams. This includes first and last names for key players, season records, and key statistics. Schools which make up such information quickly get found out by their local media.
- Be sure the coach is available for interviews. After a brief cooling-off period, the coach should be prepared to meet with the local media. Some coaches oblige interviews as they're walking off the playing surface, but it would not be impolite to ask a reporter to wait until after the coach has had a brief postgame meeting with the team.
- Be sure you call, win or lose. Don't earn a reputation with you local media for calling only when you win; the only losers in that case are your kids.

MEDIA RESPONSIBILITIES

This is a two-way street in many respects. However, with dozens of schools in its coverage area sometimes, it is difficult for a media outlet to get out and cover all the schools and teams. Some of the media's responsibilities when covering your events:

- Calling in advance. You can best plan for servicing media at games when you know they're coming. In your preseason communication with your local media, request their help by asking them to call you in advance when they know they're coming to your venue.
- Compliance with game management. The more you can do to communicate in advance with the media what the do's and don'ts are at your athletic venues, the more you reduce the likelihood of questions being raised or confrontations taking place. The media does have the responsibility to respect game management when such requests are initially made in a respectful manner.

The school-media partnership, providing student-athletes and teams with recognition for their once-in-a-lifetime participation in educational athletics, is what helps make our games unique. Cooperation and good sportsmanship on both sides of this partnership will give our youngsters memories for their scrapbooks which will last forever.

Heroic Effort Brings Coaches & Officials Together

Paul Christiansen knew what he needed to do at that moment on Thursday, Sept. 18, and he did it.

When a sixth-grade student at Maple City Glen Lake Middle School collapsed on the running track, Christiansen applied CPR to revive the boy as fellow teacher Dick Hilton made an emergency call. By the time the medical unit arrive, the student was semi-conscious. He was back in school a few days later, which most certainly was rewarding enough for Christiansen, who is a teacher, high school girls track coach and middle school girls basketball coach at Glen Lake.

But, MHSAA registered official Dave Taberski felt that such a deed demanded special recognition. After learning of the incident in casual conversation with Christiansen prior to working a Glen Lake girls basketball game in the fall, Taberski began to plan a golf outing for area coaches and officials.

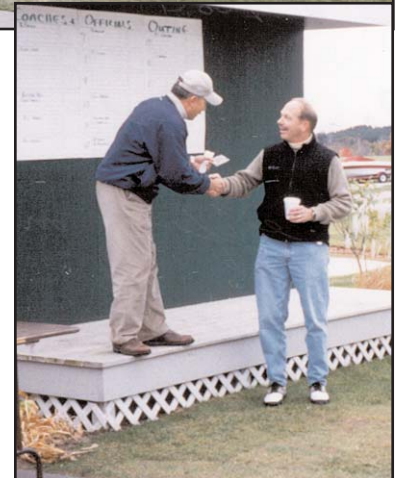
The outing took place on Oct. 19 at The Crown in Traverse City, where Taberski is director of golf. More than 50 area coaches and members of the Northern Sports Officials Association participated in the event, which culminated with a surprise for Christiansen. After being recognized for his feat of one month earlier, Taberski presented him with a 2004 golf membership to The Crown.

The outing was so well received that Taberski anticipates more than 100 golfers this coming October for what he now plans to make an annual event. Invitations will be extended to other area officials associations and a greater number of schools.

Taberski said the event served as an excellent opportunity for coaches and officials to gather outside the competitive venues they usually share.



Above, coaches and officials gathered for a day of golf and fun at The Crown in Traverse City on Oct. 19. Right, Northern Sports Officials Association member and Crown Director of Golf Dave Taberski presents Maple City Glen Lake's Paul Christiansen with a 2004 membership for his heroic deed last fall.












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