

128 Starting Blocks.
One Finish Line.



The 2023 Tournament



Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award in 34th Year



MHSAA File Photo

Thousands of students voluntarily extend their classroom day by taking part in extracurricular activities, often improving their academic achievements in the process. The value that such programs play in the total education of a high school student is highlighted through the MHSAA/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award, which will award \$2,000 scholarships to 32 top student-athletes and recognize over 2,000 other outstanding individuals in 2022-23.

Underwritten by Farm Bureau Insurance, the Scholar-Athlete Award is now in its 34th year, and presents scholarships to students in every MHSAA enrollment classification. The scholarships may be used at any institution of higher learning.

"It is amazing to see the number of young people who are proven achievers in academics and activities," said Mark Uyl, executive director of the MHSAA. "At a time when our educational system is coming under fire, the Scholar-Athlete Award is something that proves how important athletics are to the development of a well-rounded person."

Students applying for the Scholar-Athlete Award must be graduating during the 2022-23 school year, carry a 3.5 grade-point average, and have previously won a letter in a varsity sport that the MHSAA sponsors postseason competition.

Applicants will also be required to show involvement in other school- community activities and submit an essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

Application materials can be found on MHSAA.com. Scan the code at right to access the page.

Each MHSAA member school is allowed to nominate a number of student-athletes based on the size of the school. Class A schools can nominate six boys and six girls, Class B four boys and four girls, Class C three boys and three girls and Class D two boys and two girls. The first 30 scholarships will be awarded based on this graduated scale, with two additional scholarships intended for minority applicants.

A committee composed of school administrators from across the state will select regional and statewide winners.

Farm Bureau Insurance, a long-time supporter of MHSAA activities, also sponsors other educationally oriented programs.

The 32 scholarship recipients will be recognized at the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing in March 2023.



Let The Games Begin!

Living each day with an "attitude of gratitude" is a daily pursuit that is worth chasing for us all.

As we move from the regular season into MHSAA tournaments, let's take a moment to thank those working on the "athletic front lines" who have found ways to make athletic activity happen during these past few years. These athletic leaders in each of our school communities continue to work hard for our kids and are worthy of our respect.

At this event, the front-liners are the school administrators creating a safe environment, our coaches teaching kids about the game, and more importantly life lessons, and officials applying the rules impartially for fair competition. It also includes those working behind the scenes in athletic department offices and in sports medicine that make our games happen and happen safely.

Let's remember and be thankful for the efforts of these people and many others behind the scenes for making today's contest possible.

Enjoy the game!



— Mark Uyl
MHSAA Executive Director



PLAY.PERFORM.COMPETE. *Together.*

High school sports produce an environment where students learn that we become better for our schools, our communities, and one another when we play, perform, and compete, together!

Now's the perfect time to share what high school sports mean to YOU. Post now using the hashtag **#PlayPerformCompeteTogether!**



Student Advisory Council Aids MHSAA

Eight student-athletes who are juniors at their schools during the 2021-22 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 2021-22 are: **Sam Gibson**, Plainwell; **Brady Leistra**, East Grand Rapids; **Caroline Li**, Okemos; **Sam Matias**, Lansing Catholic; **Zar'ria Mitchell**, Saginaw Heritage; **Carney Salo**, Escanaba; **Brandon Thompson**, Petersburg Summerfield; and **Keira Tolmie**, Clarkston.

Those eight new members were selected from 114 applicants. That applicant total was 40 percent more than the total number of applicants who generally apply for SAC positions every year.

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 122 schools from 46 leagues plus independent schools that do not play in a league. Combined, the new appointees have participated in 12 MHSAA sports, and five will be the first SAC members from their respective schools.

The Student Advisory Council generally meets seven times each school year, and once more for a 24-hour leadership camp. Last school year, due to COVID-19, the Council met



2021-22 Student Advisory Council

First Row: Brandon Thompson, Petersburg Summerfield; Carney Salo, Escanaba; Sam Matias, Lansing Catholic; Keira Tolmie, Clarkston; Sam Gibson, Plainwell; and Caroline Li, Okemos. **Second Row:** Faith Breinager, Frankenmuth; Amina Ferris, Dearborn; Ashton McNabb, Three Oaks River Valley; Brock Porter, Orchard Lake St. Mary's; Melik Williams, Ypsilanti Lincoln; Nico Johnson, Britton Deerfield; Brinlee Barry, Caledonia; and Brenna Kosal, Peck. **Not Pictured:** Brady Leistra, East Grand Rapids; and Zar'ria Mitchell, Saginaw Heritage.

Student Advisory Council Belief Statement

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.

nearly twice as many times, but virtually all but once when members met for an outdoor, socially-distanced session.

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.

The new additions to the SAC will join the Class of 2022 members who were selected a year ago: **Brinlee Barry**, Caledonia; **Faith Breinager**, Frankenmuth; **Amina Ferris**, Dearborn; **Nico Johnson**, Britton Deerfield; **Brenna Kosal**, Peck; **Ashton McNabb**, Three Oaks River Valley; **Brock Porter**, Orchard Lake St. Mary's; and **Melik Williams**, Ypsilanti Lincoln.



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