



benchmarks

Spring 2020 Vol. 11 No. 3 mhsaa



Canceled

Editors Note: *The Covid-19 Pandemic put a halt to MHSAA 2020 school sports in the middle of the winter tournaments, and canceled events for the remainder of the year. Following is a timeline of the fateful hours and days leading up to the decision. Other MHSAA business did continue remotely for the remainder of the year, and we offer that content later in this issue of benchmarks.*

March 11, 12:00 pm: The MHSAA is working with state and local health authorities to monitor the developing COVID-19 situation in Michigan. At this time, all MHSAA postseason tournament events will be played as scheduled. We encourage people to follow the CDC guidance regarding hand-washing, personal hygiene and staying home when sick. We are continually monitoring this situation. If it becomes necessary to make adjustments to MHSAA tournament events, decisions will be made to ensure a healthy and safe environment for everyone involved.

March 11, 6:30 pm: The Michigan High School Athletic Association is planning to conduct all remaining winter postseason tournaments as scheduled. However, based on the recommendations from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer this afternoon, the MHSAA is finalizing plans that will either prohibit or allow limited spectators through this Saturday's events.

This weekend's Boys Swimming & Diving Finals will be held as scheduled at Oakland University and the Holland Aquatic Center, but will be conducted with no on-site spectators. All events at both Swim Final locations will be streamed live at MHSAA.tv.

Specific plans and policies for spectators at this weekend's Ice Hockey Semifinals & Finals, Girls Gymnastic Finals, Girls Regional Basketball and Boys District Basketball games will be provided by 10 a.m. Thursday, March 12. Spectator plans for the final two weeks of the Girls and Boys Basketball Tournaments will be provided by Monday, March 16.

Executive Director Mark Uyl: "While this is unfortunate for many reasons, we intend to do everything possible to allow our students who have earned the opportunities to compete at these highest levels to do so. However, we also take seriously our responsibility to help slow the spread of this disease. We will continue to follow guidance from the Governor's office, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, county health departments and our member schools, maintaining the flexibility necessary to allow us to finish this winter season and provide opportunities for lifetime memories to be made while keeping all involved in our events as safe as possible."

March 12, 10:00 am: Postseason events sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association and scheduled for March 12-14 will be conducted as scheduled. However, attendance will be restricted at all events through this weekend, with updates to be announced Monday, March 16, for the remainder of the girls and boys basketball tournaments.

The MHSAA Ice Hockey Semifinals and Finals will be played March 12-14 at USA Hockey Arena, with Lower Peninsula Boys Swimming & Diving Finals beginning Friday, March 13 and concluding March 14 at Oakland University and Holland Aquatic Center. Girls Gymnastics at Rockford High School also will be competed Friday and Saturday this weekend. Girls Basketball Regionals Finals are scheduled for tonight, March 12, across the state, as are Boys District Finals on Friday, March 13.

Based on recommendations from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer suggesting attendance limitations, no spectators will be allowed for the three Swimming & Diving Finals, both days, or Saturday's Girls Gymnastics Individual Finals. These events have the highest number of participants of this weekend's events.

However, for Hockey Semifinals and Finals and Gymnastics Team Finals – events with far fewer participants – a limited number of spectators will be allowed, as determined by participating schools, to include only parents, legal guardians and essential administrators. Basketball games during the next two days also will allow only limited spectators, as determined by participating schools and following these same restrictions. Each competing school will provide the entry list of parents, legal guardians and essential administrators to the host site prior to each contest.

CREDENTIALLED MHSAA MEDIA WILL STILL BE PERMITTED AT EVENTS

To recap, here is a breakdown of sport-by-sport attendance and broadcast stipulations.

Boys Swimming & Diving Finals

Rounds: Preliminaries on March 13, Finals on March 14

Attendance: No onsite spectators allowed.

Broadcast: Live streaming of prelims and Finals on MHSAA.tv.

Girls Gymnastics Finals

Rounds: Team Finals on March 13, Individual Finals on March 14

Attendance: Limited to parents, legal guardians and essential administrators on March 13. No onsite spectators allowed March 14.

Broadcast: Live streaming of Team and Individual Finals on MHSAA.tv.

Boys Ice Hockey Semifinals and Finals

Rounds: Semifinals on March 12-13, Finals on March 14

Attendance: Limited to parents, legal guardians and essential administrators.

Broadcast: Live streaming of all nine games on MHSAA.tv.

Girls Basketball Regional Finals

Rounds: All scheduled for March 12.

Attendance: Limited to parents, legal guardians and essential administrators.

Broadcast: Live streaming of some games, with subscription, on MHSAA.tv.

Boys Basketball District Finals

Rounds: All scheduled for March 13.

Attendance: Limited to parents, legal guardians and essential administrators.

Broadcast: Live streaming of some games, with subscription, on MHSAA.tv.

Bands, cheerleaders and gatherings in parking lots or elsewhere on-site will not be allowed. Restrictions on noisemakers, etc., will continue to be upheld for those fans who will attend.

For those allowed to be present, there will be no admission charged at any of these five events. Online ticket sales have been stopped, and all tickets that have been purchased are voided and will be fully refunded.

Fans not allowed to attend will have the opportunity to watch coverage of all three of this weekend's Finals live on MHSAA.tv. Complete streaming of all nine Hockey Semifinals and Finals games is scheduled, as is streaming of both the Team and Individual Gymnastics Finals and both preliminaries and Finals for swimming & diving. MHSAA.tv also will carry a number of girls and boys basketball games this weekend as part of its usual subscription coverage by members of the School Broadcast Program.

The streaming of all three divisions of the MHSAA Swimming & Diving Finals and both Team and Individual Gymnastics Finals will be provided FREE OF CHARGE. More details about access to these free feeds will be provided in the next update this afternoon.

This remains a fluid situation, and another update will be released here today, March 12, at 2 p.m.

March 12, 2:00 pm: As this remains a fluid situation, and in order to provide the most current information, the Michigan High School Athletic Association is preparing an update on Winter postseason events to publish before the close of business today (4:30 p.m.).

Spring Sports: The MHSAA is receiving numerous questions about Spring sports, as relates to COVID-19 concerns. The decisions to conduct practices and hold competitions for Spring sports are being made at the local school level, by local administration. Parents should contact their school's athletic director for updates.

March 12, 2:25 pm: BREAKING: All MHSAA winter tournaments are suspended, effective immediately and indefinitely, due to concerns related to COVID-19. Updates and press release to follow.

March 12, 3:00 pm: Postseason events sponsored by the Michigan High School Athletic Association have been suspended immediately and indefinitely due to concerns related to COVID-19.

The Ice Hockey, Girls Gymnastics and Lower Peninsula Boys Swimming & Diving Finals had been scheduled for this weekend, while the Girls & Boys Basketball Tournaments are midway through earlier rounds of their playoff progressions.

On Wednesday, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer recommended a stoppage of large gatherings in order to assist in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

"Based on the events of the last 48 hours and with things changing by the minute, we believe we have no choice but to suspend our winter tournaments immediately," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. "This is a suspension until we have a better handle on the situation. The health and welfare of everyone involved is our number one priority."

Uyl added that more information and updates will be forthcoming over the next few days. No timetable has been determined for possible rescheduling for tournaments.

March 13, 2:00 pm: The Michigan High School Athletic Association has directed all member schools to suspend activities in all sports for all seasons – effective Monday, March 16 through at least Sunday, April 5 – to fall in line with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's order that all schools close for the next three weeks in order to deter the spread of COVID-19.

All athletic activities to be halted include practices, scrimmages and competitions/games, as well as strength training, conditioning and any other organized sessions and activities in all MHSAA in-season and out-of-season sports.

The suspension of activities applies to sports for all three MHSAA seasons as Spring sports practices have begun, Winter tournaments were suspended Thursday and Fall sports coaches are working with limited numbers of athletes during the offseason.

"By suspending all sports activities for the next three weeks, we are taking an additional step to maintain safety and minimize risk first, and also keep a level playing field for our schools and teams during this time of uncertainty," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. "A number of schools across the state already were making this decision, and setting this as the standard across our membership is appropriate especially given the quick pace with which this situation is continuing to evolve. Given the rapid, fast-moving and unprecedented events of this week, the MHSAA will use the time during this all-sport suspension of activities to evaluate all options and next steps which will be shared with schools in a timely manner."

March 17, 4:30 pm: In doing our part to keep everyone as safe as possible, MHSAA staff is working remotely as of March 17. The MHSAA headquarters is currently closed to visitors and walk-in customers.

To contact the MHSAA via email, visit the [Contact Us](#) page on [MHSAA.com](#). You can access the "Whom to Contact" listing at this page as well as send an email through our [Help Desk](#) site.

To leave a voicemail message, call 517-332-5046 and leave a message in our general mailbox. We will be monitoring this voice mailbox on an hourly basis during normal business hours and messages will be returned on a timely basis.

We will provide an update when changes are made to this current staff and office environment approach.

We thank you in advance for your understanding and support in these unusual times.

March 24: The MHSAA has extended its suspension of activities in all sports for all seasons through Monday, April 13, to fall in line with Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's school closure and "stay home, stay safe" orders to deter the spread of COVID-19.

All athletic activities to be halted include practices, scrimmages and competitions/games, as well as strength training, conditioning and any other organized sessions and activities in all MHSAA in-season and out-of-season sports.

April 2, 12:00 p.m.: The Michigan High School Athletic Association will announce no later than Friday (April 3) afternoon the status of its 2019-20 Winter and Spring seasons, after the directive by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer closing school buildings and moving education online during her ordered "state of disaster."

Executive Director Mark Uyl: "We're reviewing the governor's announcement, asking questions and will make a statement as we continue to digest this order."

April 3, 1:00 p.m.: The Michigan High School Athletic Association has canceled the remainder of the 2019-20 Winter and Spring sports seasons, in compliance with the Thursday (April 2) "state of disaster" directive by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer closing school buildings and moving education online for the remainder of the school year to help decrease the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

APRIL 3 PRESS RELEASE:

The Michigan High School Athletic Association has canceled the remainder of the 2019-20 Winter and Spring sports seasons, in compliance with the Thursday "state of disaster" directive by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer closing school buildings and moving education online for the remainder of the school year to help decrease the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus.

This will be the first school year to not see MHSAA Finals played in multiple sports since 1942-43, when World War II led to the elimination of Finals in most sports.

The MHSAA on March 12 suspended its girls and boys basketball, girls gymnastics, boys ice hockey and boys swimming & diving tournaments amid COVID-19 concerns. All activity in all sports was halted March 13. Spring sports to that point had begun practice, but not competition.

The MHSAA's Representative Council approved during its Winter Meeting on March 27 a series of concepts for completing the Winter tournaments and an abbreviated Spring season, contingent on the lifting of a statewide quarantine. The closure of school buildings into June made those possibilities void.

The MHSAA's Executive Committee, comprised of officers of the larger Council, affirmed the decision today to cancel the remainder of this school year's activities.

"We are heartbroken to not be able to provide these opportunities for Michigan's student-athletes, and especially seniors. We continue to hear from dozens asking us to hold out hope. But safety always must come first, and Governor Whitmer is making courageous decisions to safeguard the people of our state," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. "We understand as much as anyone how much school sports mean to athletes and their communities. We had ideas and hopes for finishing Winter and Spring and helping bring some sort of normalcy after this long break. But this is the correct decision, and we will play our part in bringing schools and communities together again when the time is right.

"For now, we cannot state strongly enough that all students, staffs and others follow the guidelines established to slow the spread of this virus – we all must do our part."

Because the five Winter sports were not able to conclude with Finals, no champions will be awarded in those sports for 2019-20. However, championships won at earlier rounds of those tournaments (District or Regional) will continue to stand.

The MHSAA will in coming weeks provide guidelines and other information pertinent to this unusual off-season as attention is turned to preparing for Fall 2020.

APRIL 3, 2020 VIDEO ADDRESS FROM MHSAA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARK UYL

Classifications Announced for 2020-21

Classifications for Michigan High School Athletic Association elections and postseason tournaments for the 2020-21 school year have been announced – including football divisions determined preseason for the first time since 1998 – and 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. 12. 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.

All sports’ tournaments are conducted with schools assigned to equal or nearly equal divisions, with lines dependent on how many schools participate in those respective sports.

For 2020-21, there are 752 tournament-qualified member schools. Schools recently were notified of their classification, and sport-by-sport divisions were posted to the MHSAA Website today (April 20). MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said schools may not subsequently lower their enrollment figure. However, if revised enrollment figures are higher and indicate that a school should be playing in a higher division, that school would be moved up.

Football will undergo a significant classification change for the 2020 season, with teams in both 11 and 8-player assigned their divisions before the season for the first time since 1998; from 1999-2019, divisions for the 256-team 11-player field (and later the 8-player tournament) were determined after the regular season. A hard enrollment limit also will take effect this fall for teams to be eligible for the 8-player tournament – all schools with 215 or fewer students are eligible for the 8-player playoffs if they play that format during the regular season.

Two 11-player football champions will play in different divisions in 2020 than those they won a year ago. Grand Rapids Catholic Central will move to Division 5 after winning the Division 4 championship last season, while reigning Division 6 champion Monroe St. Mary Catholic Central will play in Division 7 this upcoming season. Also, 2019 Division 2 runner-up Detroit Martin Luther King will play in Division 3 this fall. In 8-player football, the reigning champions will trade divisions – 2019 Division 1 winner Colon moving into Division 2, and Division 2 champ Pickford moving into Division 1 for this fall.

A number of 2019-20 champions will be playing in different divisions in 2020-21. Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern’s boys soccer team will move into Division 1 after winning the Division 2 title in 2019. The East Grand Rapids girls swimming & diving team will move back into Lower Peninsula Division 2 – which it won in 2017 – after earning the last two championships in Division 3. Bridgman’s girls cross country team will move into Lower Peninsula Division 3 after winning Division 4 last fall, and Grass Lake’s boys bowling team will move into Division 3 after winning the Division 4 title this winter. The Allegan boys tennis team will move into Lower Peninsula Division 3 after sharing the Division 4 title in the fall, while the Ishpeming Westwood girls tennis team will move into Upper Peninsula Division 1 after winning the Division 2 title the last four seasons. (NOTE: MHSAA Finals in five Winter sports and all Spring sports were canceled in 2019-20 due to COVID-19.)

Visit the respective sport pages on the MHSAA Website at <https://www.mhsaa.com/sports> to review the divisional alignments for all MHSAA-sponsored tournament sports.

Traditional classes (A, B, C, D) – formerly used to establish tournament classifications – are used only for MHSAA elections. 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 2020-21, there are 188 member schools in each class.

Effective with the 2020-21 school year, schools with 831 or more students are in Class A. The enrollment limits for Class B are 392-830, Class C is 182-391, and schools with enrollments of 181 and fewer are Class D. The break between Classes A and B decreased 32 students from 2019-20, the break between Classes B and C decreased three students, and the break between Classes C and D is seven students fewer than the 2019-20 school year.

The new classification breaks will see 18 schools move up in Class for 2020-21 while 15 schools will move down:

Moving Up From Class B to Class A

Fowlerville
Harper Woods
Ionia

Moving Down from Class A to Class B

Battle Creek Harper Creek
Eastpointe

Moving Up from Class C to Class B

Blissfield
Canton Prep
Dearborn Riverside Academy West
Detroit Pershing
Detroit Edison
Ecorse

Moving Down from Class B to Class C

Adrian Madison
Detroit Jalen Rose Leadership Academy
Grand Rapids Wellspring Prep
Menominee
Otisville-Lakeville Memorial
Perry
Pinconning

Moving Up from Class D to Class C

Birmingham Roeper
Detroit Academy of the Americas
Detroit Southeastern
Detroit The School at Marygrove
Eau Claire
Genesee
New Buffalo
Painesdale Jeffers

Moving up from Class D to Class B

Detroit Cornerstone Lincoln King Academy

Moving Down from Class C to Class D

Benton Harbor Countryside Academy
Deckerville
Detroit Douglass
Detroit Public Safety Academy
Indian River Inland Lakes
Mayville

New Postseason Eligible Tournament Schools in 2020-21

Bay City Academy
Boyer City Concord Academy
Detroit Cornerstone Lincoln King Academy
Lansing Martin Luther
Detroit Collegiate
Redford Westfield Prep

Enrollment Breaks by Classes – 2020-21

(Number of schools in parentheses)
Class A: 831 and above (188 schools)
Class B: 392 – 830 (188)
Class C: 182 – 391 (188)
Class D: 181 and below (188)

Mike Garvey Named 2020 Forsythe Winner

Through tenures at four Michigan high schools, serving as a teacher, coach and administrator, and continuing today in various roles at the local and statewide levels, Lawton's Michael Garvey has given nearly 40 years of service to educational athletics. To celebrate his devotion and many contributions, Garvey was named the 2020 recipient of the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Charles E. Forsythe Award.

The annual award is in its 43rd 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 an individual's outstanding contributions to the interscholastic athletics community.



Mike Garvey

Garvey, who grew up mostly in Detroit, began his educational career in 1980 teaching at Marian Central Catholic in Woodstock, Ill., before returning to Michigan in 1985 to teach at Lawton High School. While at Lawton, he helped the Blue Devils' wrestling program continue a dominating run as an assistant coach on Lower Peninsula Class D championship teams in 1986 and 1987 and runner-up teams in 1988 and 1989, and then as head coach of the 1990 Class D title winner. He also served as athletic director at Lawton from 1994-99 before leaving for the same position at Delton Kellogg, where he served from 1999-2006. Garvey then was athletic director at Otsego from 2006-10, and he then served as athletic director at Kalamazoo Hackett Catholic Prep from 2010-18.

He earned a number of accolades during his time as a coach and administrator, including the MHSAA's Allen W. Bush Award in 2015 for his many contributions to educational athletics that often went unsung despite their great importance. Garvey also has been a registered MHSAA official for 35 years, in softball for all 35 and for a mix of seasons in baseball, basketball, volleyball, wrestling and track & field. He continues to instruct as part of the MHSAA's Coaches Advancement Program (CAP) and has served as tournament manager for the MHSAA Team Wrestling Finals since their 2018 move to Wings Event Center in Kalamazoo.

"I never looked at my jobs as jobs. I always looked at it as I had a mission and was trying to complete a mission," Garvey said. "I think I can still help people, so maybe my mission isn't complete.

"It's a blast. I just feel like it's a chance to give. Schools and athletics and everything have given so much to me. Plus the human interaction – working with kids and coaches and officials, it just fits me and I enjoy it."

Among accolades at the state and national levels, Garvey received the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) 2016 Distinguished Service Award and the George Lovich State Award of Merit in 2009 from the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA).

Garvey remains an active member of both the MIAAA and NIAAA and the Michigan Wrestling Coaches Association. He remains on the faculty for the NIAAA's Leadership Training Institute and has served as Michigan's coordinator for the program. He's been a long-serving member of the MHSAA's Wrestling Committee and hosted more than 75 tournament events while an athletic director. He served as co-commissioner of the former Kalamazoo Valley Association and currently is the executive secretary of the Southwestern Michigan Athletic Conference.

He's also rejoined the coaching ranks, taking over as head coach of Vicksburg High School's girls and boys golf teams this school year.

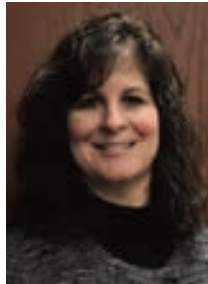
"Even in 'retirement,' Mike Garvey continues to serve students, coaches and administrators with enthusiasm," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. "He continues to pass on to our current coaches the best practices he's learned over decades, and he has played a sizable role in making the Team Wrestling Finals a record-setting event for attendance the last few seasons. He brings a genuine enjoyment to these activities, and we're fortunate to have him continuing to take leading roles."

Garvey began classes at Bloomfield Hills Brother Rice as a high school freshman, but after less than a month moved overseas as the family followed his father's job with Chrysler. Garvey matriculated in Geneva, Switzerland, and then completed high school at The American School in London, England. Once back in the United States, Garvey earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Michigan University. He remains active in community service through his church and lake association.

2020 WISL Award Goes to Nikki Norris

Over nearly 30 years, Nikki Norris has impacted educational athletics in nearly every role possible as a teacher and athletic director at multiple schools, coach at various levels and game official. Her many and continuing contributions were celebrated Sunday, Feb. 2, when she received the Michigan High School Athletic Association's 33rd Women In Sports Leadership Award during the WISL Banquet at the Crowne Plaza Lansing West.

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.



Nikki Norris

Norris is in her second year as athletic director at East Lansing High School after eight in that position for Corunna Public Schools. She previously taught for six years at Carson City-Crystal and then 11 at Corunna before taking over the Cavaliers' athletic department during the summer of 2010. She coached volleyball at multiple levels over more than 15 years including Corunna's varsity from 1999-2002 and 2006-09, and also coached high school basketball for a combined eight years during her time at the two schools where she taught. Before and between her volleyball coaching stints, Norris also has served as an MHSAA registered volleyball official for a total of 12 years.

"I try to connect with all students, athletes or not, because there are so many kids who just need a connection," Norris said. "And if we can find it through sports, or through clubs, or teaching – I do look at them all as my own children, to a certain extent. We used to say in Corunna, 'They're all our kids.' And I want them to be successful in whatever it is they want. And if I can help them, that's what I'm there for."

Those who wrote letters recommending Norris for this year's WISL Award especially noted that personal impact she has on students, staff and colleagues, locally and on wide-ranging levels.

While at Corunna, Norris served as master scheduler and part of the constitution committee for the Genesee Area Conference. Her schools have hosted various MHSAA Tournament events in multiple sports, in addition to

local invitationals and conference meets. She's served on every type of MHSAA Committee, providing input on a variety of sports, site selection, officials selection and the Scholar-Athlete Award. She also annually volunteers as a tournament administrator at the MHSAA's Volleyball Finals in November and Baseball/Softball/Girls Soccer Finals in June.

"Nikki is one of the most genuine, caring and hard-working people I've ever met in athletics," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. "She has worked extremely hard in both Corunna and East Lansing to develop a first-class program that produced high-character people. Nikki is truly a role model to everyone in the world of athletic administration."

A certified Red Cross instructor, Norris has provided CPR/AED training to coaches, bus drivers and staff members. Corunna in multiple years received the state's HEARTSafe School designation recognizing preparedness to respond to cardiac emergencies.

As a member of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA), she has facilitated sessions and presented at its conferences and served on the newsletter committee.

She was named the MIAAA's Region 7 "Athletic Director of the Year" in 2016. She also has received "Certified Athletic Administrator" designation from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

A 1987 graduate of Ithaca High School, Norris received her bachelor's degree in biology with a minor in exercise health science from Alma College – where she also competed in track & field – and then earned master's degrees in biological sciences from Michigan State University and educational leadership from American College of Education.

Norris lives in Bancroft and is the mother to two daughters, Meredith and Elizabeth Norris. Meredith was named the state's Miss Volleyball Award winner in 2017 as a senior at Corunna and plays currently at Michigan State. Elizabeth is a senior at Corunna and was a finalist for the same award this past fall, and will continue her academic and volleyball careers at University of North Dakota.

"I look at the names that are on the (WISL Award) list, and there are so many deserving women who over my career I've looked up to and aspired to be like when I 'grow up,'" Norris said. "So to even be considered in that group is amazing, humbling. It's an honor."

Hugh Matson Tabbed for 2020 Norris Award

Already recognized prestigiously for his leadership as a coach and administrator, Saginaw’s Hugh Matson made lasting impacts on Michigan high school sports serving those duties over a career stretching four decades. More than 20 years after retiring from that work, Matson’s contributions to school sports continue in another key role, and he has been selected as this year’s honoree for the Michigan High School Athletic Association’s Vern L. Norris Award as he celebrates his 50th school year as an MHSAA-registered contest official.

The Norris Award is presented annually to a veteran official who has been active in a local officials association, has mentored other officials, and has been involved in officials’ education. It is named for Vern L. Norris, who served as executive director of the MHSAA from 1978-86 and was well-respected by officials on the state and national levels.



Hugh Matson

Matson is the second honoree in MHSAA history to receive both the Norris and Charles E. Forsythe Award, the latter presented to Matson in 2015 for his overall contributions to interscholastic athletics. Matson joined Kalamazoo’s Blake Haggman, who received the Norris Award in 1998 and the Forsythe Award in 2000.

Matson was to be honored with his Norris Award this month at the MHSAA’s 41st Officials’ Awards & Alumni Banquet. However, the banquet was canceled due to safety concerns because of COVID-19, and he instead will be invited to accept his award formally at the 2021 banquet.

Matson first registered with the MHSAA to officiate track & field and cross country during the 1970-71 school year and has officiated combined more than 800 meets in those sports – including more than 20 Regionals and nearly 20 MHSAA Finals. He also has officiated cross country and track & field at the Division I, II and III and NAIA collegiate levels.

His career in education began when Matson took his first teaching job in 1957, at Mattawan. He then moved to Saginaw Township Community Schools, teaching and coaching at Saginaw MacArthur High School from 1962-71 and then Saginaw Eisenhower from 1971-88. Matson served as head varsity football and track & field coach at Mattawan and as head track & field coach at both MacArthur and Eisenhower, in addition to serving as an assistant football coach at both schools. He became the first and only athletic director in Eisenhower’s history – holding that position from the

school’s first day during the 1970-71 school year until the end of the 1987-88 school year, when he became co-athletic director of the new Saginaw Heritage High School, which was created from a merger of MacArthur and Eisenhower. Matson served as the sole full-time athletic director of Heritage for 1996-97 before retiring.

“When I started, I knew wanted to be a coach; I didn’t know for sure if I wanted to be a teacher. But I found out teaching and coaching are really the same thing, and I enjoyed the teaching as much as the coaching. Then I found out that officiating is much the same,” Matson said. “I enjoy the kids. One of the things that warms my heart is when a kid will come up and say, ‘Thanks for officiating.’ Officiating is all just part of working with kids as I did as a coach and as I did as a teacher.”

Matson has been a member of the Association of Track Officials of Michigan (ATOM) since 1993 and received its 2009-10 Art Jevert/Bruce Jacobs Distinguished Service Award. He also received the Chuck Wheeler Volunteer of the Year Award from Saginaw Valley State University track & field in 2012 and the USA Track & Field (USATF) National Officials Committee Outstanding Service Award in 2014. He received designation as a Certified Master-level starter by USATF in 2000.

He has served as a volunteer track starter for SVSU and as a volunteer official for middle and high school meets as part of the Michigan Indoor Track Series, both since 1997.

While an athletic director, Matson was a member of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) from 1970-97 and served as its president during the 1989-90 school year. He was a member of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) from 1980-97 and served as a representative and speaker for the MIAAA at regional conferences in Iowa and Wisconsin and to the NIAAA Leadership Forum in 1987. Matson was named to the Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.

“The same attributes that made Hugh Matson a beloved teacher, coach and athletic director have made him beloved to the officiating community as well,” MHSAA Executive Director Mark Gyl said. “His selflessness and dedication continues to shine through in his mentorship of officials, as well as athletes and coaches, and his guidance and insights continue to benefit the track & field and cross country communities statewide.”

Matson graduated from Newaygo High School in 1953, having earned 13 varsity letters over four sports – football, basketball, baseball and track. He received his bachelor’s degree in physical education with minors in English and history in 1957 from Western Michigan University.

SEE THE 2020 VIRTUAL OFFICIALS BANQUET HERE

Make Plans to Attend the 2020 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

2020 AD In-Service/Update Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, Sept. 16	Kalamazoo, Four Points by Sheraton
Monday, Sept. 21	Warren, DeCarlos Banquet/Convention (Annual Business Meeting)
Wednesday, Sept. 23	Frankenmuth, Zehnder's
Monday, Sept. 28	Comstock Park, English Hills Country Club
Monday, Oct. 5	Gaylord, Otsego Club & Resort
Wednesday, Oct. 7	Lansing, Causeway Bay
Friday, Oct. 25	Marquette, Superior Dome (no fee, no meal)

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

Inform Students, Coaches, 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.

Student Advisory Council Names Members of 2022

Eight student-athletes who will be juniors at their schools during the 2020-21 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 2020-21 are: **Brinlee Barry**, Caledonia; **Faith Breinager**, Frankenmuth; **Amina Ferris**, Dearborn; **Nicolas Johnson**, Britton Deerfield; **Brenna Kosal**, Peck; **Ashton McNabb**, Three Oaks River Valley; **Brock Porter**, Orchard Lake St. Mary’s; and **Melik Williams**, Ypsilanti Lincoln.

Those eight new members were selected from a record-high 179 applicants, twice as many as 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 117 schools from 45 leagues plus independent schools that do not play in a league. Combined, the new appointees have participated in nine MHSAA sports, and seven 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 selected the 2019-20 “Battle of the Fans IX” champion and 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 Student Advisory Council also provided a student point of view as the MHSAA considered how to progress after sports were halted in March because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The new additions to the SAC will join the Class of 2021 members who were selected a year ago: **Pierre Brooks II**, Detroit Douglass; **Macy Brown**, Cadillac; **Lydia Davenport**, Ithaca; **Freddy Koplowl**, Traverse City St. Francis; **Colin McAuliffe**, Salem; **Avery Peters**, Mason; **Abigail Pheiffer**, Novi; and **Landen Thompson**, Stevensville Lakeshore.

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

Scholar-Athlete Class of 2020 Honored

The Michigan High School Athletic Association/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award has been recognizing the top student-athletes for 31 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 2019-20 Scholar-Athlete Award received a \$1,000 college scholarship to be used at the college, university, or trade school of their choice during the 2020-21 school year. This year, a total of 1,491 applications from 424 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.

For 2020, due to Covid-19 and the cancelation of the Boys Basketball Tournament where the Scholar-Athletes traditionally are recognized, a Zoom call brought together 31 families from around the state along with MHSAA staff and Farm Bureau Insurance CEO Don Simon to celebrate the winners.

Living rooms, kitchens and home offices replaced Breslin Center as settings for this “virtual” ceremony. And yet, this ceremony may be remembered more than any other because of its necessity, and because of how it brought so many together, remotely, while the virus forced all of us to remain apart.



VIEW THE 2020 SCHOLAR-ATHLETE CEREMONY



2020 Scholar-Athlete Award Winners

Lesley Armah, Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart, Class D
 Ericka Asmus, Marquette, Class A
 Hunter Assenmacher, Ida, Class B
 Samuel Beach, Hillsdale, Class B
 Lucy Borski, Holland West Ottawa, Class A
 Logan Canada, Fenton, Class A
 Morgan Cooper, Hartland, Class A
 Brendan Dafoe, Petersburg Summerfield, Class C
 DJ Dixon, Bloomfield Hills Brother Rice, Class A
 Noah Dusseau, Petersburg Summerfield, Class C
 Hannah Fulmer, Grosse Ile, Class B
 Malcolm Gaynor, Portage Northern, Class A
 Gabriel Hassan, Ada Forest Hills Eastern, Class B
 Hutson Hohlbein, Adrian Lenawee Christian, Class C
 Alicia Kanai, Ada Forest Hills Eastern, Class B
 Tara Keller, Frankenmuth, Class B

Lucas Kopp, Grosse Ile, Class B
 Madelyn Koski, Ishpeming Westwood, Class C
 Tej Kothari, Jenison, Class A
 Ben Lankfer, Grand Rapids Catholic Central, Class B
 Brandon Liu, Northville, Class A
 Alanna Mayer, Bronson, Class C
 Anish Middha, Midland Dow, Class A
 Kayla Moore, Madison Heights Bishop Foley, Class C
 Kylie Ray, Pinckney, Class A
 Elizabeth Saunders, Traverse City Central, Class A
 Faith Schafer, Williamston, Class B
 Emma Springer, Three Oaks River Valley, Class D
 James Storey, Pickford, Class D
 Samantha Teachworth, Portland St. Patrick, Class D
 Delaney Wesolek, Bay City John Glenn, Class B
 Kayla Wolma, Hudsonville, Class A



Armah



Asmus



Assenmacher



Beach



Borski



Canada



Cooper



Dafoe



Dixon



Dusseau



Fulmer



Gaynor



Hassan



Hohlbein



Kanai



Keller



Kopp



Koski



Kothari



Lankfer



Liu



Mayer



Middha



Moore



Ray



Saunders



Schafer



Springer



Storey



Teachworth



Wesolek



Wolma

Visit the Students page of [MHSAA.com](https://www.mhsaa.com)
for a Scholar-Athlete History, and
for 2020-21 Application Information

Bucks Reign Again as MHSAA's No. 1 Student Section



A standard for Michigan's high school student cheering sections has been set over nine years of Battle of the Fans.

Carter Aalfs has been part of it almost from the start.

He caught the fever as a fifth grader in 2013, watching an older cousin lead Buchanan's newly-organized "Herd" to the BOTF II championship. Two years later, now in seventh grade, he stepped into the MHSAA's finalists interview session with high school leaders to tell us how he already was becoming part of the growing tradition as a member of the younger students' "Junior Herd."

He was in the stands for Buchanan's second BOTF championship in 2018. And this year, as a senior, he was one of the leaders directing from up front, showing his classmates the way to the Battle of the Fans IX championship – making Buchanan the first three-time winner in BOTF history.

"We've established a place where you can be yourself. You can be outgoing. You can have fun. And you don't have to worry about anybody judging you," Aalfs said. "Many people don't get to have an experience like this where you get to be with all your friends, all having a good time, while also supporting your school.

"Everybody is going to go crazy. Everybody is going to be so excited about it. Just because of all the hard work we put in during the whole season, all the way back into football season."

Buchanan was chosen based on a vote by the MHSAA's 16-member Student Advisory Council influenced by public vote on the MHSAA's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram sites. A total of 10,086 social media votes were received – the first time the total has reached 10,000 – with those results then equated against a school's enrollment. This year's

"We've established a place where you can be yourself. You can be outgoing. You can have fun. And you don't have to worry about anybody judging you." – Buchanan senior Carter Aalfs

results came out to 3.5 votes cast for every student attending one of our finalist schools.

Buchanan totaled the most public social media support. Combined, the three finalists received more than 10,000 RTs, Shares and Likes on social media, including 6,500 on Instagram.

Other numbers to consider from this season's contest: The application videos have been watched nearly 13,000 times, and the MHSAA-produced videos from our finalist tour stops have almost 2,000 views. The stories detailing the three tour stops had been viewed more than 6,000 times up to the final tally. The three Instagram stories covering visits were viewed nearly 6,400 times.

The Student Advisory Council 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. Nine semifinalists were selected from the original application group before Buchanan, Saginaw Heritage and Zeeland East were chosen for MHSAA visits. Caro, Frankenmuth, Hart, Petersburg Summerfield, Reese and Traverse City West also were semifinalists.

In addition to its three championship years, The Herd was a BOTF finalist in 2014, 2015 and 2018.

MHSAA Representative Council

Eric Albright**
Athletic Director
Midland High School
Class A-B — Northern Lower Peninsula

Jay Alexander*
Executive Director of Athletics
Detroit Public Schools
Detroit Public Schools Position

Nicole Carter**
Principal
Novi High School
Appointee

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

Kris Isom*
Athletic Director
Adrian Madison High School
Appointee

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

Karen Leinaar*
Athletic Director
Bear Lake High School
Statewide At-Large
Detroit Public Schools Position

Mark Mattson**
Athletic Director
Maple City Glen Lake High School
Class C-D — Northern Lower Peninsula

William McKoy*
Athletic Director
Romulus Summit Academy North
Appointee

Jason Mensing*
Athletic Director
Ottawa Lake Whiteford High School
Class C-D — Southeastern Michigan

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**, Vice President
Principal
Clare Middle School
Junior High/Middle Schools

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

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

Alex Tiseo*
Athletic Director
Marquette High School
Class A-B — Upper Peninsula

*Term Expires December 2021

**Term Expires December 2020

ANALYSIS OF MHSAA MEMBERSHIP

April 22, 2020

749 Total High Schools

Total Public Schools	645	86%
Charter (Public School Academies)	61	8%
Traditional Schools	584	78%
Total Non Public Schools	104	14%
Religious	93	13%
Secular (Non-Public)	10	1%

867 Total Junior High/Middle Schools

Total Public Schools	771	89%
Charter (Public School Academies)	43	5%
Traditional Schools	728	84%
Total Nonpublic Schools	96	11%
Religious	90	10%
Secular (Non-Public)	6	0.7%

Candidates Set for September 2020 Election

BALLOTS TO BE MAILED TO SCHOOLS IN AUGUST 2020

Ballots for Representative Council elections will be mailed to principals of member schools from the MHSAA office Sept. 4, 2020. The ballots will be due back in the MHSAA office Sept. 25, 2020.

Eight positions for membership on the Representative Council will be up for election this fall. Vacancies for two-year terms beginning December 2020 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. 25, 2020, the Board of Canvassers as provided in Article IV of the Constitution of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, will meet on Sept. 29, 2020 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, 2020. 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 2020:

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL CANDIDATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2020 ELECTION

Northern Section, Lower Peninsula - Class A and B Schools

- Eric Albright, Athletic Director, Midland High School

Southwestern Section, Lower Peninsula - Class A and B Schools

- Chris Riker, CAA, Athletic Director, Portage Northern High School

Southeastern Section, Lower Peninsula - Class A and B Schools

- 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

- Mark Mattson, Athletic Director, Maple City-Glen Lake High School

Statewide At-Large

- Scott C. Grimes, Assistant Superintendent, Grand Haven Area Public Schools

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