

benchmarks

Spring 2022 Vol. 12 No. 3

mhsaa

TITLE IX at





I have a
story...

I have a
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I have a
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I have a
story...



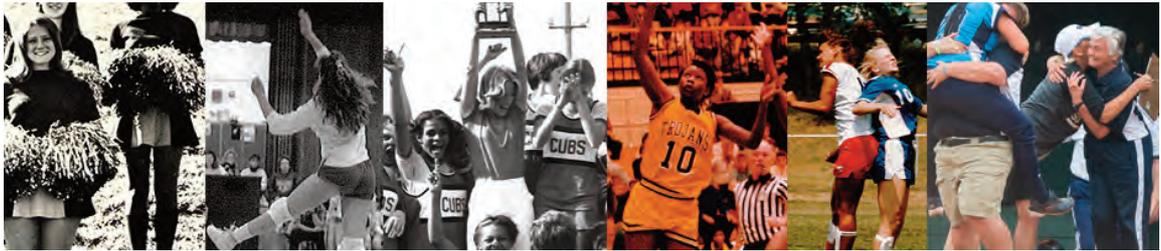
We tell their stories

SECOND HALF

by MHSAA



Title IX at 50: Changing the Face(s) of School Sports



4 As the most singularly significant edict to change the face – quite literally – of interscholastic and intercollegiate athletics in our lifetimes turns 50 this June, it is cause for celebration and recognition.

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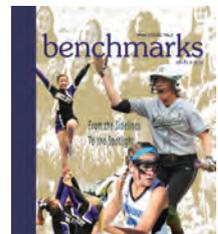
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The Vault – 24

In the Spotlight

The 2016 issue of *benchmarks* shined a spotlight on girls sports in Michigan and those instrumental at the outset.



MHSAA News – 26

Class in Session

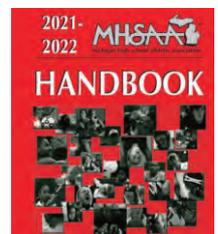
MHSAA Classifications have been announced for the 2022-23 school year across the state.



Regulations Review – 41

Transfer Tales

The MHSAA Sport-Specific Transfer Regulation went into effect for the 2019-20 school year. Know the regulation before student-athletes participate.



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Title IX is Far-Reaching; And Also Hits Home

As we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Title IX, which was signed into law by President Richard Nixon in 1972, we can clearly see the far-reaching, incredible impact this landmark legislation has had on our athletic world.

The most obvious change since June of 1972 has been the continual growth of female athletic participation which has simply become the norm; a constant and consistent fabric woven into interscholastic and intercollegiate athletic communities from coast to coast. This is perhaps the most obvious, and also the most significant, indication of the success of Title IX.

While the significance of Title IX ranges far and wide, most of us need to look no further than our own homes and communities to find living, breathing beneficiaries and role models of the movement.

My wife, Marcy, was a standout small college basketball player in the early 1990s, taking advantage of a direct opportunity from Title IX. Since those days, she has been an educator, high school coach for the past 28 years and most importantly, has been an incredible role model to other young women through school sports. She has always believed that strong women leaders are the best athletic advocates and role models for our high school students, knowing how important it is for high school girls to be led, mentored and inspired by other women. Our daughter, Madi, has followed this trail blazed by her mom, playing three sports and enjoying the same opportunities for participation since childhood that her two brothers had. She has already found her athletic advocacy voice as a 15-year old, knowing that she and her teammates will continue to stand up and speak up on equal footing with those of her male friends and fellow student-athletes.

Countless families are like mine, with meals, vacations and quality time scheduled in and around trips to fields and gyms, practices and tournaments, for sons and daughters alike. For us, it's simply the norm and anything else is unacceptable.

One of the greatest joys of my life has been watching the two women in my house chase their dreams through sports, and the athletic and competitive light that radiates from them both will continue to draw more young women into this incredible school sports environment. Because of that, it is important that we pause to recognize all who have been in on the ground floor building this foundation over the past 50 years, and that's exactly what this issue of *benchmarks* is all about.

MHSAA Communications Director and storyteller extraordinaire Geoff Kimmerly has done a fantastic job chronicling some of the many influential women involved in the MHSAA on the Second Half website this year during his Title IX at 50 series. Those stories – just a small sample size of the incredible achievements we've witnessed during this timeframe – are reprinted on the following pages for your enjoyment.

Here's to even more growth, advocacy and progress over the next 50 years!



Mark Uyl
MHSAA Executive Director



Title IX has had far-reaching effects over five decades; at the center of it are millions of girls right in our homes and communities.

Happy New Year! Prep for 2022-23 School Year

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

Coach Requirements: ALL MHSAA coaches – head coaches, assistant and subvarsity coaches – must complete a sport rules meeting. Schools shall attest that all assistant and subvarsity coaches have completed an MHSAA rules meeting (online or in person) for that sport for the current school year prior to the deadline. Assistant or subvarsity coaches, who coach more than one sport during a school year, must fulfill the requirement each season unless the sport is the same and the coach had completed the MHSAA sport-specific rules meeting earlier in the school year for that sport. Athletic Directors also must attest each season that all their coaches have met MHSAA coaching requirements and that all head coaches (Varsity, J.V. and 9th grade) have a valid CPR Certification. Coaches who have not met the two requirements (rules meeting or CPR Certification) are not allowed to be present at that school's MHSAA tournament in the sport they coach.

CPR Requirements: – High schools must attest by each season's established deadline that all varsity, junior varsity and 9th-grade head coaches of each high school team have a valid current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification. This will ensure that each team generally has one coach present who is CPR certified. The requirement for non-varsity head coaches takes effect Aug. 1, 2022. The established deadline for all high school head coaches (regardless of level) shall be the latest date set for the completion of the MHSAA rules meeting for the sport. A person who is head coach for more than one sport during the school year must meet the deadline for the first of those sports. It is expected that schools will impose the penalty of Section 8(B) to varsity, JV and 9th-grade head coaches who do not meet this requirement.

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

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

Athletic Directors hired this spring or summer, or late this past school year (after Dec. 1, 2021), are to attend a 2022-23 AD Orientation Program on either Thursday, July 28, Monday, Aug. 15, Wednesday, Aug. 17 or Monday, Sept. 12. All meetings are in the MHSAA Office from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. A registration form may be downloaded from MHSAA.com.

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

The MHSAA Office Summer Hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Thursday from June 20-July 21, 2022. The MHSAA Office will be closed July 4-11.

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



TITLE IX

Celebrating Legislation that Changed the Face(s) of School Sports

In 1972, President Richard Nixon signed the following into Federal law, a portion of the United States Education Amendments; 37 words known as Title IX:

“No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.”

It is ironic that nowhere can the words “sports” or “athletics” be found in the above decree.

Title IX has become synonymous with athletic equality and advancement for female students but, in fact, it wasn’t until three years later, in 1975, that regulations were put into effect requiring schools to comply with *athletic* opportunities for both genders over a three-year span.

This could be, in part, due to the spike in female sports participation between 1972 and 1975. In 1971-72, there were already slightly more than 290,000 girls participating in high school athletic programs. The total increased to 817,073 girl student-athletes nationally in 1972-73, and that figure doubled to 1.6 million for the 1975-76 school year.

Thus, it could be debated that participation helped the growth of Title IX as much as Title IX spawned girls participation. At the least, they were in lock-step, as it was 1975 when the law specifically expanded to include and address interscholastic and intercollegiate athletics.

The basic compliance requirements are three-pronged: institutions must (1) Provide athletic participation opportunities that are substantially proportionate to the student enrollment; (2) Demonstrate a continual expansion of athletic opportunities for the underrepresented gender; (3) Accommodate fully the interests and abilities of the underrepresented gender.



As a result school-sponsored sports for girls changed the *focus* of Title IX. A great increase in girls athletic participation had already occurred; Title IX compliance accelerated recognition, resources, facilities and further participation.

Female participation reached a high of 2,083,040 for the 1977-78 school year, a year ahead of the three-year deadline to meet the 1975 requirements, but that figure would dip below 2 million for the next 15 years.

In 1993-94, the 2-million summit was once again surpassed and the ledger continues to grow. The total eclipsed 3 million in 2006-07 and has stayed above that mark, reaching an all-time high of 3,415,306 in 2017-18.

During the 2019-20 school year – even with the COVID-19 pandemic wiping out spring sports – nearly 76,000 girls competed in athletics in Michigan alone, filling more than 120,000 spots on teams for 750 high schools statewide.

As the most singularly significant edict to change the face – quite literally – of interscholastic and intercollegiate athletics in our lifetimes turns 50 this June, it is cause for celebration and recognition.

MHSAA *Second Half* editor Geoff Kimmerly has authored an excellent year-long series featuring numerous personalities from Michigan who have served as pioneers in their sports and endeavors during the last five decades.

This issue includes excerpts of his works. For complete stories, please visit secondhalf.mhsaa.com or scan the QR code here.





Best-Ever Conversation Must Include Leland's Glass

Labeling just one athlete the “greatest” of millions who have competed over a half century of MHSAA girls sports history – comparing the all-time best from multiple sports over multiple eras – is both bound to be unfair and ultimately impossible.

But Leland two-sport star Alisha Glass should be part of any related conversations.

The 2006 grad finished her Comets career with national high school career records of 3,584 kills and 937 aces, and her then-national record of 680 career blocks now ranks second. Total she continues to hold four MHSAA records, including for 48 kills during a five-set win over Battle Creek St. Philip in the 2006 Class D Final. She also earned all-state on the basketball court.

After finishing at Leland, Glass started all four of her seasons at Penn State and set the Nittany Lions to three straight NCAA championships. She was named USA Volleyball Indoor Female Athlete of the Year for both 2013 and 2014 and also was honored as the Best Setter of the 2016 Olympics after helping the U.S. to the bronze medal.



Guerra/Groat Legacy Continues to Serve St. Philip

Nearly 100 years of MHSAA history have yielded plenty of multiple-generation coaching families, and a number of those have guided multiple generations of athletes to great success.

But what Battle Creek St. Philip volleyball coaches Sheila Guerra and her daughter Vicky (Guerra) Groat have accomplished is unmatched among coaching legacies – with their individual accomplishments also stacking up well with the rest of the state’s legends on the volleyball sideline.

The 2021 five-set win over Auburn Hills Oakland Christian in the Division 4 title decider gave the Tigers 21 Finals championships in the sport – more than twice the next program on the list. The championship match appearance was St. Phil’s 30th – also more than twice as many as the next most successful team.

Guerra took over the program to start the 1981-82 season (when volleyball was still played during the winter) and finished in 1997 with a record of 862-180-46, with those 862 victories still ranking 25th on the all-time MHSAA volleyball coaching wins list. She led the Tigers to nine Class D championships, including four straight from 1992-96, and two runner-up finishes.



Groat – who graduated from St. Phil in 1985 – followed her mom taking over for the 1997-98 season, leading that team to a Class D runner-up finish, but then stepping away after 1998-99. She returned a season later and has run her record to 1,179-275-93 heading into this fall – with the sixth-most wins in MHSAA history. She’s led 11 teams to Finals championships, 10 in Class D and last season’s in Division 4, plus six more runner-up finishes. The Tigers won a record nine-straight titles beginning with the final winter season of 2006-07 through the fall of 2014.

Portage Northern Star Becomes Play-by-Play Pioneer

From Portage Northern, to Northwestern University, to the smallest of TV markets to the sidelines of the most recognized sports networks in the world, Lisa Byington has blazed trails all over the Midwest and beyond.

Beginning in October, she took another historic step for women in sports-casting. Byington took the microphone as Bally Sports Wisconsin's play-by-play announcer for the Milwaukee Bucks – becoming the first female full-time TV play-by-play announcer for a men's "major" pro team: NBA, MLB, NFL or NHL.

This will be just the latest accomplishment for the former Huskies basketball and soccer all-stater, who went on to play four seasons of basketball and two of soccer at Northwestern. Byington began her broadcast career at WBKB in Alpena – currently the third-smallest TV market in the nation – and then moved on to become a beloved fixture at WLNS in Lansing for nearly a decade. Her next moves took her into regional and then national spotlights, from broadcasting games with FOX Sports and the Big Ten Network, among a number of major entities, to working as a sideline reporter from 2017-19 at the NCAA men's basketball tournament for CBS and Turner Sports. In March, Byington also became the first female play-by-play voice at the NCAA men's basketball tournament when she called games for CBS and Turner.

Byington was a finalist for the Miss Basketball Award as a Portage Northern senior in 1993. She also made the Class A all-state girls soccer team as a senior after earning honorable mention as a junior. At Northwestern, she was a three-time Big Ten all-academic selection in basketball and two-time academic all-Big Ten pick in soccer.

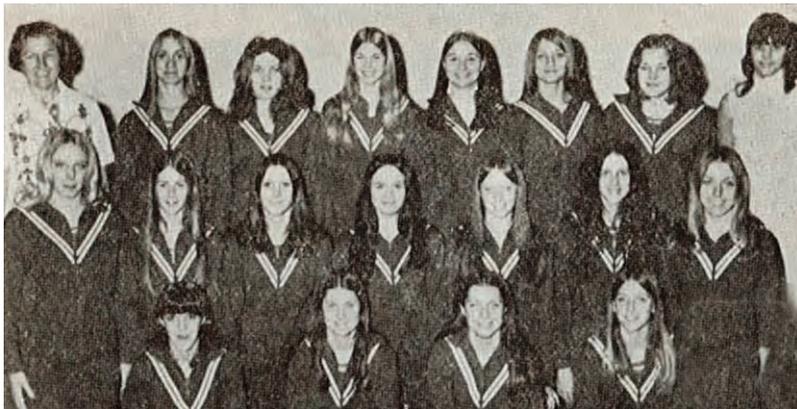


Taylor Kennedy Earns Fame as 1st Gymnastics Champ

The date was March 11, 1972. The host site was Hillsdale High School. A total of 276 gymnasts from 33 schools took the mat. And Taylor Kennedy earned the first Finals championship in MHSAA girls sports history.

The Eagles scored 216.35 points over the six events, edging runner-up East Lansing by 1.35. Amy Balogh was the most awarded individual for Kennedy, as she earned first places in the uneven parallel bars and balance beam and finished second on vault. The Eagles were coached by Jean Barlow, who would lead them to a repeat championship – again just ahead of runner-up East Lansing – in 1973.

A month earlier, over Feb. 17-18, the MHSAA had conducted its first girls tournament events with four Ski Regionals across the state – but this Girls Gymnastics Final was the first to award a champion from a statewide girls division. The Girls Gymnastics Final was the product of an MHSAA Girls Athletics Advisory Committee recommendation the previous October and Representative Council approval that December of 1971, and was joined during the 1972-73 school year by additional MHSAA girls state competitions in golf, tennis and track & field.



That day at Hillsdale, Balogh would finish second all-around only to East Lansing's Merry Jo Hill – who would go on to compete at Arizona State University. Kennedy would close after the 2017-18 school year and merge with the former Taylor Truman into the present-day Taylor High School.

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Warner Paved Way to Legend Status with Record Rounds

Girls golf teams across the Lower Peninsula have begun postseason play with Regionals this week, with a Monday tournament featuring the last two Division 1 Finals champions – 2020 winner Kate Brody of Grand Blanc shooting a 67 to edge 2019 medalist Allison Cui of Okemos by four strokes. The Oct. 15-16 Finals rematch at The Meadows at Grand Valley State University is sure to be a classic.



Brody’s 67 also recalls the unforgettable closing round fired by then-Livonia Churchill sophomore Shannon Warner on the way to winning the first of her back-to-back LPD1 championships during the Spring 2006 season.

Warner’s second-round 67 that June 3 followed a first-round 69 and tied the Finals record 18-hole score shot by Whitehall’s Laura Kueny on the same course in LPD3 a year earlier. But Warner’s combined 136 broke Kueny’s 36-hole Finals record, also set the year before, by one stroke.

Warner was an individual Finals qualifier in 2006, and she bested the field by 11 strokes. She also was an individual qualifier in Spring 2007 when she shot a 145 at Forest Akers West to win by five. Girls golf in the Lower Peninsula then was switched to the fall, and Warner returned to the Division 1 Finals four months after her second championship and tied for fifth, four strokes back.

Warner played her first three collegiate seasons at Michigan State University and finished her college career in 2012 at Eastern Michigan University, earning first-team all-Mid-American Conference honors as a senior. She won the Golf Association of Michigan Women’s Championship in 2013.

Bedford Pioneer Blazes Record-Setting Trail

The national high school record book’s lists for most girls volleyball coaching wins – both among those still active and all-time – is filled with Michigan legendary leaders. Temperance Bedford’s Jodi Manore tops both of those illustrious rosters. And it’s not even close.

Manore entered this season with a 2,128-369-59 coaching record at the high school level, from two stints at Bedford – beginning with the winter season of 1979-80 through 1983, and continuing with her return to her alma mater during the winter season of 1989-90 through today.

At the start and in between, Manore also served as the University of Toledo’s first women’s coach preceding and during her first tenure with Bedford, and then until returning to the Kicking Mules for her current run. Along the way, she’s led them to Class A championships in 1998, 2001 and 2005, five more Finals runner-up finishes and a total of 24 trips to the Semifinals.

Manore’s 2,128 wins were 363 more than the total of the next closest active coach after last season and 296 more than former Portage Northern and Delton Kellogg coach Jack Magelssen – the previous MHSAA and national record holder.

Manore was inducted into the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) Hall of Fame in 2019 and the National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA) Hall of Fame in 2021.

(The following is from a 2015 feature by Chip Mundy. Special for Second Half) As a child growing up in Bedford during the 1960s, Manore was faced with the fact that organized sports were not a viable option for girls. And she desperately wanted to play.

By the time Manore arrived at Michigan State University in the fall of 1971, she had developed into a decent athlete, and a twist of fate led her to volleyball.

“I took a phys ed class in volleyball, and the varsity coach (Carol Davis) happened to be the teacher,” Manore said. “She said, ‘You’re athletic; why don’t you come out for the team?’ I went out and made it on my athleticism and played for four years.”

It was the beginning of a successful and record-breaking career.



Rockford Girls Set Pace for Hundreds to Chase

For more than two decades, the best MHSAA girls cross country teams of the Lower Peninsula's biggest schools have been chasing the 2000 Rockford Rams.

That season was the first of the MHSAA classifying its championship groupings using four equal divisions, and Rockford set a standard that few have approached since.

Rockford won the Lower Peninsula Division 1 championship Nov. 4, 2000, at Michigan International Speedway with

35 points – 77 fewer than runner-up Milford. Five Rams finished among the top 15 individuals – senior Lindsey Blaisdell third, senior Kalin Toedebusch fourth, sophomore Nicole Bohnsack fifth, sophomore Kelsey Toedebusch ninth and senior Aimee Keenan 15th.

The next lowest Lower Peninsula Division 1 Finals score was achieved two seasons later, again by Rockford, with a 57. Four more Lower Peninsula teams have scored in the 30s since the dawn of the divisions era – East Grand Rapids won Division 2 in 2019 with 36 points, while Mount Pleasant Sacred Heart broke Rockford's LP record winning Division 4 with 34 points in 2016 before coming back to win again with 39 in 2017.

Rockford's 2000 championship was its third of five straight, the longest Finals title streak in Lower Peninsula history. Bohnsack went on to win the LPD1 individual championships as well in 2001 and 2002 and run collegiately at Penn State. Kalin Toedebusch ran at Colorado, Blaisdell ran at Wisconsin and Keenan ran at Michigan State. The first four of those five straight championship teams were coached by Brad Prins.



2000 Championship Team

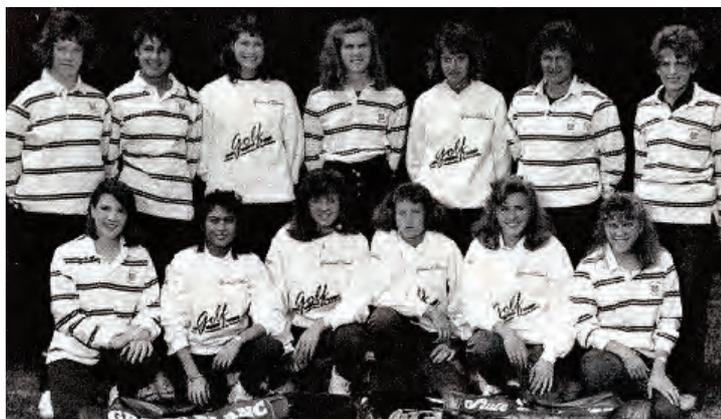
Coach Clegg Sets Standard at Grand Blanc

Grand Blanc's ninth-place finish at the Lower Peninsula Division 1 Girls Golf Final in October was its third-straight top-10 placing at the championship tournament, and the Bobcats remain second in MHSAA girls golf history with eight Finals championships.

Judy Clegg played a founding role in setting that standard nearly five decades ago.

Clegg became Grand Blanc's first girls golf coach in 1975, leading the team to a fifth-place finish that spring in the third MHSAA Girls Golf Finals – when all 83 teams were assigned to one "Open Class" and nine advanced to the championship tournament.

A decade later, her 1985 Bobcats won the first of those eight Finals championships – with girls golf still played in one Open Class – and she led them to a runner-up finish in 1986, another Open Class championship in 1988, and then a Class A runner-up finish in 1990 and Class A title in 1991.



Over 21 seasons, Clegg guided Grand Blanc to a 243-72 match record, eight league and seven Regional championships before retiring in 1995. She was named to the Michigan Interscholastic Golf Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1995 and the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2006.

1988 Championship Team





Royal Oak's Finch Leading Way on Football Field



Elyse Finch started playing football when she was 9 years old. She came up through the community league, played junior varsity as a freshman and sophomore and joined the varsity toward the end of sophomore year on the way to moving up as a junior this fall.

So playing the “boys” sport isn’t new to her, and it’s not as rare as many still think.

True, the girls who play high school football in Michigan make up a very small percentage of the more than 32,000 participants in the sport each fall. But 138 girls played in 2020, the fifth straight season with more than 100 taking part.

And Finch’s contributions to the Royal Oak football team are providing a path forward in more ways than one. Last fall was her first season as a starting offensive guard for a Division 1 school with more than 1,500 students.

“I do feel kinda special sometimes, knowing I’m doing something that a lot of people have been reluctant to do,” she said. “I just really want to change the view of how people see females in a sport like this.”

Finch had grown up with some of her teammates, and “they treat me just like everybody else.” And Finch’s other friends “haven’t seen me any other way.”

But she does want people to see female football players differently – until they see everyone on the field the same.

Pioneer's Joyce Legendary in Michigan and Nation

Michigan has had no shortage of achievers in the swimming pool over a half-century of girls swimming & diving sponsorship by the MHSAA. But nearly two decades after her last high school race, Ann Arbor Pioneer’s Kara Lynn Joyce’s achievements remain among the highest of standards.

Joyce starred on the 2001 and 2002 teams that were the second and third, respectively, of Pioneer’s nine straight champions in Lower Peninsula Class A and then Division 1 (with that reclassification in 2002). She was part of four race champions both years – in the 100-yard freestyle and as part of the 400 freestyle relay at both Finals, while as a junior in the 50 and as part of the 200 medley relay and as a senior in 200 freestyle and 200 free relay.

Her name remains an incredible 16 times in the MHSAA girls swimming & diving record book, including seven times on the all-Finals lists (for performances from all Classes and Divisions combined). Her 50 (22.04 seconds – leading off a relay) and 100 (48.59) freestyles in 2002 remain all-Finals record, as does the 200 freestyle relay (1:32.77) she swam with Margaret Kelly, Leigh Cole and Jennifer Merte. Her winning 1:46.34 in the 200 as a senior is second all-time at the Finals only to another future Olympian, Canton’s Allison Schmitt, who finished nine hundredths of a second faster five years later.

Joyce’s 50 remains fifth all-time in the national record book, and her 100 ranks 13th on that list. Pioneer’s 2002 200 freestyle relay ranks sixth nationally.

Joyce went on to swim at University of Georgia and then during the 2004, 2008 and 2012 Olympics. She won four silver medals, two each as part of 400-meter freestyle and 400-meter medley relays.

That 2002 Pioneer team is still considered arguably the most dominant in MHSAA history. The Pioneers claimed that first LP Division 1 title with 476 points, by 275 over the rest of the field. No LP Division 1 team has broken 400 points at a Final since.



Kara Lynn Joyce, middle, just below trophy

Wroubel Championed Girls School Sports from Start

Betty Wroubel began coaching as a middle schooler during the mid-1960s, when she organized, found a sponsor for and coached with a summer softball team that competed against surrounding cities.

She's coached something every year since – and a whole lot more.

In November, she guided Pontiac Notre Dame Prep's volleyball team to a fourth MHSAA Finals championship. She's the third-winningest coach in MHSAA volleyball history, with a record of 1,634-327-132 since beginning at alma mater Clawson during the 1978-79 winter season.

But that's just the start, and Wroubel has been part of Michigan's girls sports rise and growth since the beginning. She played basketball, volleyball, softball, tennis and ran track at Clawson before graduating in 1971, a year before Title IX was enacted. She then played volleyball, tennis and field hockey all for multiple seasons at Central Michigan University, graduating in 1975.

Wroubel returned to Clawson and coached basketball, volleyball and softball, then moved on to what was then Pontiac Catholic and later Oakland Catholic, and then Pontiac Notre Dame Prep when that school was formed beginning with the 1994-95 school year.

She's led Notre Dame Prep's volleyball team to Finals championships in 2007, 2013 and 2017 and coached Pontiac Catholic to the Class C softball championship in 1983 – the same year she earned her master's degree from Michigan State University.

Her coaching contributions are only part of what Wroubel has given to athletics. After previously serving as athletic director at Pontiac Catholic, she has served as athletic director at Notre Dame Prep since Fall 1994 and has filled roles as assistant principal, co-chairperson of the health and physical education department, and taught sports medicine and leadership classes. She was named the state's Athletic Director of the Year in 2020 by the MIAAA. She also received the MHSAA Women In Sports Leadership Award in 2016 and MHSAA Allen W. Bush Award in 2010 for her behind-the-scenes work in school sports.



Marysville Builds Winning Streak Yet to be Challenged

The 2021 MHSAA Volleyball Finals wrapped up a season that saw two of the most dominating team performances in nearly a half-century of MHSAA volleyball – Bloomfield Hills Marian and Pontiac Notre Dame were Finals champions, both finishing their seasons with only one loss. Over the previous decade, only one team did one better – the 2015 Ann Arbor Father Gabriel Richard team at 41-0.

All of that provides just a little more context to an accomplishment that really doesn't need too much – the 192-match win streak built by Marysville from Dec. 10, 1996 through Jan. 15, 2000.

After losing in a Lower Peninsula Class B Semifinal that previous March – when volleyball was still a winter sport – Marysville opened the 1996-97 season with a victory and didn't lose or draw again until falling to Flint Carman-Ainsworth during the Birch Run Invitational on Jan. 15, 2000.

The sport has changed plenty in Michigan over the last 20 years, from when it's played to how it's played. But the streak is incredible in any era – the next longest in volleyball is 98 straight wins by Flint Kearsley during the 1984-85 seasons. Only Grand Rapids Forest Hills Northern – with 92 straight wins from Feb. 24, 2002 through March 15, 2003 – has broken 90 since Marysville's incredible run.

This also was only part of Marysville's marvelous story at the turn of the century. The front of this run made up part of a streak of eight straight Finals championships from 1997-2004, a record as well until Battle Creek St. Philip won nine straight from Winter 2007-2014.





Basketball Season Rich in History Nearing 50

The 49th girls basketball season with MHSAA sponsorship concluded in March, and the sport’s rich history has seen 192 champions awarded – four per season except for 2020 when the Finals were canceled because of COVID-19 – with 102 schools winning at least one title.

Detroit Country Day owns the MHSAA record with most appearances in a girls basketball championship game – 17 – and also has won a record 13 championships, its most recent in 2018. Detroit Martin Luther King and Portland St. Patrick are next on the Finals appearances list – with 12 apiece – and St. Patrick, Bloomfield Hills Marian and now-closed Flint Northern all are tied for second with six championships won.



Northern, which shuts its doors as a high school at the end of the 2012-13 school year, still is the only program to win four straight championships – doing so in Class A from 1978-81.

The first MHSAA girls basketball champions in 1973 were Detroit Dominican in Class A, Hudsonville Unity Christian in B, Hamtramck St. Ladislaus in Class C and Ewen-Trout Creek

in Class D. All were coached by women; in fact, the first five Class D champions, the first three in Class C, the first three in Class B and the first four in Class A all had women coaches.

Awarding four championships each year has been a constant of the first half-century of girls basketball as part of the MHSAA championship series. But of course, many things have changed over that time. Among those 101 schools with at least one Finals championship, 14 no longer exist – including Dominican and St. Ladislaus.

Evelyn's Game Had Plenty of Magic

The last name “Johnson” was synonymous with Lansing basketball stardom during the late 1970s. But Earvin wasn’t the only player making magic on area basketball courts.

Two grades younger at Lansing Everett, sister Evelyn Johnson was putting together one of the state’s most memorable high school hoops careers as well – even besting older brother in final career scoring average.

A 5-foot-11 center, Evelyn Johnson scored 1,762 points over a three-year, 59-game varsity career with the Vikings, her 29.9 points per game career average just a few points higher than Magic’s 25.8; Evelyn’s remained the girls basketball state record until 2001. During her senior season of (Fall) 1978, Johnson averaged 36 points per game, with her 804 total over 23 games remaining the sixth-most points in one season in MHSAA history.

According to a Lansing State Journal report on Jan. 1, 1979, Johnson scored 30 or more points in 27 games and 40 or more points seven times during her career. Everett finished 52-7 over those three seasons, including 21-2 her final campaign in making the Class A Semifinals.

Johnson went on to play at South Carolina. Her 1,620 points remain 10th all-time for the Gamecocks.



Michigan Competitive Cheer Plenty to Cheer About

From its start in 1994, competitive cheer has given tens of thousands of athletes an opportunity to present an impressive array of athleticism, stunts and enthusiasm in a competitive format, while being cheered by hundreds of thousands during one of the MHSAA's best-attended tournament sports.

Competitive cheer has grown to include nearly 7,000 high school participants annually, with a high of nearly 7,800 in 2006-07, from more than 350 schools. The sport's postseason, from Districts through Finals, set attendance records for 12 straight seasons through 2015, when it drew a high of 31,284 spectators across the three levels of postseason competition.

Unlike spirit formats in other states, the MHSAA's competitive cheer format allows full teams to test their skills against each other, scoring based on difficulty and creativity among other criteria, plus the number of athletes competing for a team during each of three rounds.

Rochester High, guided during its entirety by coach Susan Wood, won the first three Class A championships and owns a record 14 Finals titles overall. Gibraltar Carlson is next with 11 titles, and Breckenridge has won 10. Grandville has won six championships, and Richmond, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, Chesaning and Michigan Center all have won five. Carlson, from 2011-16, set the record with consecutive championships, earning six straight in Division 2. Pontiac Notre Dame from 2014-18 and Rochester from 1999-2003 won five consecutive.

Rochester Adams (Division 1), Allen Park (Division 2) and Hudson (Division 4) are all enjoying current two-year championship streaks, and Richmond has won the last three Division 3 titles.



Iron Mountain Completes Championship Climb

When the Iron Mountain girls won the 1979 MHSAA Ski Finals championship at nearby Pine Mountain, it's almost a guarantee that at least a few found a way to connect the team's nickname to its success on the hill that day.

But there are many more notable reasons to recall the Mountaineers among the state's earliest champions in the sport. Iron Mountain's girls accomplished a first for their school and peninsula, becoming the first Upper Peninsula program to win an MHSAA Finals in alpine skiing since the start of statewide championship competition in 1975.

And there's some additional historical context that makes the Mountaineers' achievement even more special during this year of Title IX and girls athletics celebrations – the Upper Peninsula, in 1952, became the first to host an MHSAA-sanctioned event in any sport to include girls competition. A ski Regional, hosted in Iron Mountain that February, included a girls team from the local school, making those Mountaineers also among pioneers in girls school sports.

From its first Finals through the 1995 season, there was only one "Open Class" for skiing at the MHSAA postseason level, and the 1979 Iron Mountain team featured one of the most impressive 1-2 performances over that span.



For the second-straight season, **Susie Fox** (photo, front row, second from left) swept both the slalom and giant slalom race championships. She was followed immediately in both by teammate **Andrea Trepp**, who had placed third in slalom and fourth in GS in 1978. Trepp (standing, second from right) would go on to sweep both events at the 1980 Finals at Nubs Nob.





Decades Later, Edwards' Legend Continues to Grow

Michigan has contributed mightily to the growth of girls basketball across the nation over the last 50 years. At its height during the first few seasons of this century, nearly 21,000 athletes played for MHSAA member schools. And those schools have produced their share of legends who have gone on to also succeed at the higher levels of the game.

Four decades after starting high school as a student, Tonya Edwards remains one of the most accomplished standouts to travel that path.

The 1986 Flint Northwestern graduate completed her varsity playing career in Fall 1985 (when girls basketball was still played during the fall) with the MHSAA record of 2,307 career points (22.2 ppg) that stood until 1994 and remains 10th on that record book list.

She averaged 26.4 points per game as a senior, and her 104 games played remain tied for 10th-most by a girls basketball player in this state. Edwards helped her team to 99 wins, which remains tied for fifth-most and stood as the MHSAA girls hoops record until 1997. She led Northwestern to Class A championships as a sophomore and junior and a runner-up finish as a senior.

And that was just first chapter.

Edwards went on to play at national powerhouse Tennessee, helping the Volunteers win NCAA championships in 1987 and 1989 under coach Pat Summit. Edwards came home after graduating in 1990, and that fall began a five-year run as Northwestern's girls varsity coach. She led the 1993 team to the Class A championship and a 28-0 record – becoming the first person to win an MHSAA Finals girls basketball championship as both a player and coach.

Meanwhile, her playing talents were leading to international opportunities with USA Basketball and professional leagues overseas. She returned to play in the U.S. in 1996 and won two championships with the Columbus Quest of the former American Basketball League, then was the No. 7 pick in the 1999 WNBA Draft by the Minnesota Lynx, one of three WNBA franchises for which she played over five seasons.

Edwards went on to coach briefly in the National Women's Basketball League, then as an assistant at the college level before serving as head coach of Alcorn State from 2008-09 through 2014-15. She then served as an assistant for the L.A. Sparks from 2016-18, helping that team to the WNBA championship her first season.

But on top of all of those achievements, a unique and incredibly cool twist was yet to come.

In March 2020, COVID-19 ended the MHSAA girls and boys basketball seasons before champions could be crowned. But as Michigan's high school teams returned to the floor under various precautions the following winter, Edwards returned to Flint's high school courts as the varsity coach at Flint Carman-Ainsworth.

What's more, she's also continuing to coach in the WNBA, which begins regular-season play in May. Three months after serving as an assistant and helping Candace Parker and the Chicago Sky to the WNBA title, Edwards had Carman-Ainsworth among the top teams in the Saginaw Valley League.



Marian's Cicerone to Finish Among All-Time Elite

In March, Bloomfield Hills Marian's Mary Cicerone completed one of the most celebrated coaching careers in any sport in Michigan history.

Her Mustangs girls basketball team on Jan. 28 defeated Warren Regina to give Cicerone her 700th career win. She has a record of 701-231 since taking over the Marian program in 1983.

Cicerone's wins rank third all-time in MHSAA girls basketball history. She's also led Marian to six MHSAA Finals championships, most recently back-to-back in Class A in 2014 and 2015. The team's first title under her guidance came in 1988, and Marian also finished Class A runner-up once, in 1997.

Cicerone (then Mary Lillie) was a 1978 Coopersville graduate and went on to star at Detroit Mercy; she was named to the Mercy athletic Hall of Fame in 2007.



Marquette Ties Record for Swim & Dive Success

With its Upper Peninsula Finals championship won this past winter, the Marquette girls swimming & diving team tied the MHSAA Finals record for most team championships in the sport – matching the 24 titles won by East Grand Rapids.

The first MHSAA Finals for girls swimming & diving were hosted in 1972. Finals were separated into Upper and Lower Peninsula meets in 1980, with Upper Peninsula girls teams competing during the winter and Lower Peninsula teams continuing to compete during the fall.

The Marquette girls won that first Upper Peninsula Finals in 1980 and the next season's as well, then finished second four times before claiming their third championship in 1989. In addition to their 24 championships, they've also finished Finals runner-up 12 times. They strung together a record 12 straight titles from 2002-12.

Among individual standouts, Jenny Laughna's UP Finals record in the 500-yard freestyle (5:13.60) from 1994 continues to stand, and she at one time also held meet records in the 200 individual medley, 100 butterfly, 100 freestyle and 100 breaststroke.

Hanna Cowley is another interesting notable – her 2008 UP Finals record in the 100 freestyle stood until last winter, and her 50 freestyle record from 2008 wasn't broken until 2020. She was a freshman for Marquette that 2008 season, and after her family moved downstate she won six more individual championships (three in the 100 and three in the 200 freestyle) and swam on four championship relays, all in Lower Peninsula Division 1 for Ann Arbor Pioneer.



1995 Championship Team





Jaeger's 2004 Run Created Lasting Connection

“Just like sports, life will not always result in triumph. We must learn from these losses. Thus sports have provided the fundamentals and experiences for how to deal with life. In the end it's not how much you have won or lost but the journey you took and the people you met along the way.”

Every February, the announcement of the MHSAA/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award winners include brief bios of the honorees and excerpts from essays they've written on sportsmanship.

The above passage was pulled from the essay written by 2004 Livonia Ladywood senior Sarah Jaeger, as she became the first from her sport to receive one of these prestigious awards. Less than a month later, she'd also become one of her sport's first MHSAA champions.

The Class B Bowling Finals championship she won March 5, 2004 – capping the singles portion of the first bowling season in MHSAA history – remains something that resonates with the now-mother of two small children and 13-year veteran of TV news along the I-75 corridor.

“It was just kind of a culmination of those four years,” Jaeger, now Sarah Dorow, recalled. “From going to Ladywood and Dad starting the team from literally nothing my freshman year to seeing the sport officially a sport my senior year. Honestly, I don't think there could have been a better ending to the season and my high school bowling career.”

That 2003-04 season was the first for bowling as an MHSAA-sponsored sport, and Jaeger became one of its first state champions representing the program her father Dennis had started and her mother Judy (above, left) took over after his death in 2001.

After qualifying 12th of 16 for Class B singles match play at Sterling Heights' Sunnybrook Lanes, Sarah torched the bracket with four match wins, taking the decider against Montrose's Anna Haggerty 231-183, 192-208, 264-244.

But her MHSAA Finals experience that winter wasn't done just yet. Jaeger would be recognized with 26 other Scholar-Athlete Award winners on the during the Boys Basketball Finals later that March.

She went on to earn bachelor's degrees in communications and criminal justice at University of Detroit Mercy, and then earned a master's at Michigan State University in journalism and another master's from Mercy in intelligence analysis. She also bowled on the Spartans' club team during her time in East Lansing – and made time to stay in high school bowling as well.

Judy Jaeger continued to coach the Ladywood bowling program for a number of years, and Sarah assisted the Blazers from 2005-16. Judy also continues to serve as a tournament manager annually for one of the four MHSAA Finals sites, and Sarah has provided major assists at those events as well.

Near the end of her masters' studies, Dorow began 13 years in TV news as an anchor, reporter and producer, most recently at multiple stations in the Saginaw/Flint/Bay City/Midland market before stepping aside from the camera to be home with her two children ages 6 and 3. But her stories continue – she blogs at “The TV Mommy” and “Mid-Michigan Moms” – and she can still bowl with the best of them.

She recently she shot a personal-record 777 series. She took a brief break while her kids were younger, but is back to the lanes. Her 6-year-old son has started bowling as well, and she likes to say he's already rolled a 300 – because she did so when she was pregnant with him.

Judy Jaeger will be managing this season's Division 2 Finals, and Sarah will try to make it over to Super Bowl in Canton. She brought her son to the 2019 Finals and they crowned that year's champions together.



Kearsley Rolls On Among Bowling's Early Successes

The 19th MHSAA Bowling Finals took place this winter, with Team Finals and Singles Finals for four divisions at four sites decided over two days.

At just under two decades, it's still a young sport by MHSAA sponsorship standards. But years from now as we recall the early days, we will certainly look to the Flint Kearsley girls.

Their dynasty is still growing – the Hornets rallied from a 25-pin deficit after two Baker games to earn a 1,178-1,143 victory over Mason and claim its seventh Division 2 Finals title in eight years.

It was the second in a row, following the 2021 victory, and began another streak. The Hornets took six straight championships from 2014-19.

The win puts Kearsley's overall count at nine, two more than Vandercook Lake for most Team Finals wins. The Hornets also finished Division 2 runners-up in 2010.

Kearsley also has produced three MHSAA singles champions, most recently Megan Timm in 2020.

The other two names on that singles list are part of a family woven through Kearsley's rise. Lindsay Ploof was the Hornets' first singles champion, claiming a 24-pin victory to clinch the 2011 Division 2 Finals title. Younger sister Hannah won in 2016 by 49 pins in her championship match.

Their coaches throughout were parents Robert and Pam; Robert served as head coach for 15 seasons until retiring after 2019-20. He was named to the MHSIBCA Hall of Fame in 2016.



The Ploofs: Pam, Lindsay, Robert and Hannah, after Hannah won the 2016 Division 2 singles championship.

Binder Telling Our Story on MHSAA Network

Women have gained a growing voice on MHSAA Network radio broadcasts, and Carolyn Binder's is among those who listeners enjoyed during the MHSAA Girls Basketball Semifinals and Finals in March.

Binder is the voice of the Mattawan Wildcats Network and has more than 15 years of experience in radio broadcast and play-by-play. She provided the play-by-play for all four Division 3 and 1 Semifinals, and then those division's championship games Saturday from Michigan State's Breslin Center.

The 2009 Western Michigan University graduate lent her voice for both play-by-play and analysis of WMU women's basketball during her time as a student, and since has been part of broadcasts of Midwest League baseball, Opening Day coverage of the Detroit Tigers and Chicago Cubs, Kalamazoo Central and Loy Norrix football and basketball and the USTA Junior National Championships played in Kalamazoo.

The MHSAA Network includes approximately 100 radio stations and web outlets across the state, with about 30 generally carrying the Girls Basketball Semifinals & Finals annually. Joining Binder on the Network were her broadcast partner Lexi Ayala, and Tara Fleming who called games with Denny Kapp for Division 2 and 4.





Carney-Nadeau Sets Hoops Standard with 78 in Row

As we celebrate “Title IX at 50”, we must recall a team that didn’t lose for nearly three of those years.

From opening night 1989 until its Regional Final in 1991, Carney-Nadeau’s girls basketball team won every game – a stretch of 78 straight that remains the MHSAA record in the sport and has been approached by few others over the last three decades.



The 1989 team, with Connie Berger’s 22 points leading four scorers in double digits, downed Potterville 73-59 in Class D to win the program’s first Finals championship. The Wolves, who had made the Class D Semifinals in 1988 bowing out at 25-1, finished 1989 28-0.

Jill Wetthuhn, who had scored 16 points in the 1989 Class D Final, poured in a team-high 19 as Carney-Nadeau downed Fowler 56-31 in the 1990 Class D championship game. The Wolves finished that season 27-0.

Carney-Nadeau had won its first 23 games of the 1991 season when it met also-undefeated Baraga in a Class D Regional Final, and that’s where the streak ended – with a 54-49 Baraga win.

Paul Polfus coached all of those Carney-Nadeau teams, in total leading the program to a 502-124 record from 1979-2005. He brought the Wolves one more Class D title, in 2001.

Pittsford came closest to matching the win streak with 76 consecutive victories from Dec. 1, 2015, through Feb. 26, 2018 – a run which included Class D championships in 2017 and 2018 and began after the Wildcats lost in overtime to St. Ignace in the 2015 Class D Final. The Flint Northern teams of 1978-81 put together 75 straight wins, and Northern also won 71 straight from August 1994 – November 1996.

Tarpley Scores as State's Superstar, U.S. Soccer Hero

What Lindsay Tarpley went on to accomplish in soccer fills a list that quickly explains why she’s one of the all-time greats in U.S. history in the sport. And what she accomplished at the high school level over her four years before graduating from Portage Central in 2002 remains the stuff of legends at our level as well.

Tarpley is best-known nationally as a key contributor to Olympic teams that won gold in 2004 in Athens and 2008 in Beijing, and also on World Cup teams that finished third in 2007 and runner-up in 2011. She was named College Soccer Player of the Year in 2003 after leading North Carolina to the NCAA championship, and she went on to play professionally for multiple franchises.

She was named ESPN’s Youth Player of the Decade in 2010. Her game-winning goal in the final of the inaugural U-19 World Championships on Sept. 1, 2002, is considered one of the monumental goals in U.S. soccer history.



And only a few months earlier, she was completing a high school career as a headlining two-sport standout.

Tarpley played soccer and basketball for the Mustangs, earning four varsity letters in both sports. On the basketball court, she set multiple school records in steals and assists. But the soccer pitch is where she became one of the most storied athletes in state history.

Tarpley led Portage Central to a combined 85-7-4 record over her four soccer seasons, making the all-state Dream Team all four and earning the state’s Miss Soccer Award in 2002.

In the 2000 Division 2 Final, Tarpley scored the game’s first goal 1:38 into the first half, then assisted on both her team’s second goal and overtime winner as Central defeated Madison Heights Bishop Foley 3-2. The Mustangs finished 23-0-1.

Tarpley has continued to connect with Portage Central and youth athletics over the years. In 2020, she delivered the opening address at the MHSAA WISL Conference in Lansing.

Holmes' Strikeout Record May Be Unbreakable

When Farmington Hills Mercy freshman Kaitlyn Pallozzi struck out all 21 batters she faced in a 1-0 win over Ann Arbor Greenhills on April 8, she became one of only 12 pitchers in MHSAA history to strike out that many hitters in a seven-inning game.

But her total also tied for third on the seven-inning, single-game K list – which is topped by a record that may never be broken.

On May 5, 1992, Canton's Kelly Holmes struck out 24 hitters over seven innings during a 7-2 victory.

Yes, 24.

According to a report by the *Observer & Eccentric* recalling the performance in May, 2021, Holmes was throwing to a back-up catcher making her first varsity start and struck out five hitters during the first inning alone. The runners who reached base after dropped third strikes allowed for Holmes to face – and strike out – additional hitters, which is how she ended up with 24 strikeouts for what's almost always a 21-out game.

Holmes' 24 strikeouts also remain the national record for a seven-inning game, with Niles' Jenna Ignowski one of two tied for second nationally with 23 strikeouts, Ignowski's coming in 2007.

Holmes pitched Canton all the way to the Class A championship game that spring of 1992, before her team eventually finished runner-up with a 1-0, nine-inning loss to Jenison during which Holmes struck out 12. She went on to star at University of Michigan, and finished with a 76-27 record for the Wolverines.

Game (7 innings)

- 24 - Kelly Holmes, Canton vs. Walled Lake Central (5-5-1992)
- 23 - Jenna Ignowski, Niles (2007)
- 21 - Kaitlyn Pallozzi, Farmington Hills Mercy vs. Ann Arbor Greenhills (4-8-2021)
- 21 - Haley Lenderman, Rochester vs. Oxford (4-1-2015)
- 21 - Katie McClure, Manchester vs. Michigan Center (5-14-2012)
- 21 - Chelsea Sundberg, Olivet vs. Marshall (5-8-2009 - *Perfect game*)
- 21 - Jackie Bowe, Galesburg-Augusta vs. Battle Creek Pennfield (5-1-2008)
- 21 - Jade Fulton, Byron vs. Owosso (5-30-2007)
- 21 - Jade Fulton, Byron vs. Mount Morris (4-28-2007)
- 21 - Kelly Tomasek, Linden vs. Flint Powers Catholic (4-28-2007)
- 21 - Lyndsay Berger, Charlotte vs. Lansing Eastern (4-10-2007)
- 21 - Jessie Granger, Troy vs. Royal Oak Kimball (5-26-2005 - *Perfect game*)
- 21 - Julie Bydalek, Comstock Park vs. Shelby (6-8-1985)

Prychitko 'Legend In Her Own Time,' and All Time

When Stephanie Prychitko was inducted into the Michigan High School Tennis Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1987, she was referred to as “a legend in her own time.” What she accomplished remains legendary, and in some ways unequaled in Lower Peninsula girls tennis.

From 1976-86, Prychitko coached Grosse Pointe South to 11 consecutive LP Class A team championships, seven of them outright. Only Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett, with 10 straight LP Class C-D team titles from 1980-89, has approached that streak.

Girls tennis had become an MHSAA-sponsored sport only a few years before South's dominance began, with the 1972 season. But her coaching career predated that by decades – at the time of her Hall of Fame induction in 1987, MHSTeCA reported she had completed 36 seasons having led teams to 16 league and 15 Regional championships as well, with a 273-28 record.

Prychitko enjoyed a notable 1984, being named national high school tennis Coach of the Year by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association, and becoming the first woman elected to the Western Michigan University Athletic Hall of Fame. She was inducted into the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame, in 1986.



According to reports, Prychitko began her coaching career with three seasons leading the boys team at Western State High School in Kalamazoo before taking over at South in 1952. Prychitko had graduated from Hamtramck High, and in 1947 reached the quarterfinals of the National Junior Girls grass court tournament. She played No. 1 singles all four seasons at WMU.

Prychitko died in 2016 at the age of 87.





Regina's Laffey Retiring as Definition of Legendary

At a time many coaches and school administrators seemingly come and go like billboard signs on the highway, there are a few who, over time, become part of the fabric of their school and community.

Diane Laffey is one such person.

Some perspective on how long Laffey has been coaching: President John F. Kennedy was still alive when Laffey was about to enter her second season as a head varsity basketball coach.

The word 'legend' is often misused when applied to an individual who has achieved greatness over a long period of time. But in Laffey's case, it fits her like a woolen mitten in mid-January.

Laffey, 83, started coaching girls basketball in 1962 at St. Anthony, on Detroit's near eastside. The following spring she began her first season as the head varsity softball coach. When St. Anthony merged with Detroit East Catholic and Detroit St. Elizabeth in 1969, Laffey remained for one season before taking over both sports at Harper Woods Regina, an all-girls school, in 1970. Dave Soules, boys basketball coach at East Catholic at the time, tried to convince Laffey to stay, but to no avail.

With that move Laffey found a home, a home she would care for years to come. On June 30, Laffey will officially retire from her position as the school's athletic director and as the head coach of the two varsity sports which have been so much a part of her life for seven decades.

When one coaches for 60 seasons, the number of victories, titles and championships can boggle the mind. Laffey has had more than her share of success winning seven MHSAA Finals softball titles, the latest coming in 2019, and reaching four Final Fours in basketball. And Laffey's teams always competed at the highest level, in the Detroit Catholic League Central, and in the MHSAA tournaments. Due to a decline in enrollment Regina moved from Division 1 to Division 2 in basketball two seasons ago. Laffey opted to remain in Division 1 in softball.

As enticing as retirement might sound, making that important decision can be difficult. Change can be a challenge, especially to one who has dedicated herself with such passion and for such a long time in a profession where the reward is more often a pat on the back, a kind word or the return of former students who just want to say thanks.

There's a saying that needs repeating. It isn't work if you love what you're doing.

"It was hard," Laffey said. "It's a very hard decision for me to make."

It's not a stretch to say Laffey and the Catholic League have almost become synonymous over the years. And this relationship began well before her coaching career. Her father Jack 'Red' Laffey was the basketball and football coach at Detroit St. Charles and Detroit Nativity, where his daughter played basketball and softball before graduating in 1957. Her father died when Laffey was in the eighth grade, but she was around him long enough to know that coaching was in her blood.



"I was in the gym a lot," Laffey said. "He was down to earth, but he could yell (at his players) when he had to. He cared about the kids. He was tough, but deep down he loved his kids."

It's as if she was talking about herself. Her teams have been an extension of herself. They've worked hard. They've played the game with passion but without a bravado one might see in other teams that have achieved similar success.

Laffey has been the recipient of numerous awards – most notably her induction into the Michigan Sports Hall of Fame and the National Federation of State High School Associations' Hall of Fame – yet those honors are not what she'll remember most when her career comes to a close. No, it'll be the same reason why she entered the profession of education – people, most notably her students and assistant coaches.

Laffey finished her basketball coaching career with 668 victories including four Catholic League titles. The victory total places her seventh overall and second among women's coaches in Michigan high school history behind Bloomfield Hills Marian's Mary Cicerone (707), who also retired following this past season.

In softball, Laffey is Michigan's all-time leader with 1,231 victories.

Even though Laffey is one of the all-time greats in both sports, she prefers to deflect the attention to others.

"I've had some of the best assistants in the world," Laffey said. "You have to have someone you can talk to, someone to bounce your ideas off of. Many of our coaches are former players. They know the school. They know the program."

—Tom Markowski
Special for Second Half

Term Ends, But Leinaar Leaves Lasting Impact

Karen Leinaar won't be retiring from Michigan's school sports community any time soon – and that's good news for the hundreds of thousands of athletes, coaches, administrators, officials and more who have benefitted from her work for nearly 40 years.

But Leinaar's role is changing somewhat, as she completed her final term on the MHSAA's Representative Council in December, ending a tenure that began during the 2000-01 school year.

Leinaar has served as one of the two statewide at-large representatives on the Council. She did retire earlier in the year as athletic director at Bear Lake schools, the last stop of an athletic administration career that began in 1982 at her alma mater Delton Kellogg and included tenures at Gaylord and Benzie Central.

Leinaar's variety of experiences and connections all over the state have sourced her "global" viewpoint when working to make the best decisions for MHSAA member schools. And she has been a continuous source of support and Council representation at a multitude of MHSAA championship events, whether taking a role in helping put them on or awarding medals and trophies to champions hailing from all over the state.

Thankfully, her impact will remain significant – Leinaar now serves as executive director of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, the professional organization for school sports administrators in our state.

Leinaar received the MHSAA's Women In Sports Leadership Award in 1998, a Citation from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in 2000, and she was named MIAAA Athletic Director of the Year in 2001. From 2009-13, she also served on the NFHS Board of Directors.



Harrold Heralds Growth of Girls Wrestling

This March, for the first time, 14 championships and 112 total medals will be awarded to the highest achievers from a girls-only division at the MHSAA Individual Wrestling Finals – the latest of history-making steps over the last 30 years of girls competing on the high school mat in Michigan.

There have been many heroes along the way, as participation has grown to see more than 400 girls wrestle at MHSAA member schools during the 2019-20 season, the last not interrupted by COVID-19 (and 283 took the mat last year despite reduced participation across the sport after a late start due to the coronavirus.)

About 900 athletes open the annual Individual Finals with a “grand march” to kick off the now two-day event. First among Michigan girls to join the parade was a pioneer from a now-closed high school who, by competing at Joe Louis Arena on March 11, 1999, took a major first step toward cultivating the opportunities of today.

Saginaw Buena Vista’s Cynthia Harrold (right), then a senior, brought a 29-7 record into the Finals and competed in Division 3 at 103 pounds. She lost both of her matches, but not without plenty of deserved fanfare for her accomplishments in making the journey. Many matches are wrestled simultaneously at the Finals, especially during the early rounds, and so many photographers swarmed to capture her matches that the adjacent mats needed to be shut down to accommodate the media crowd.



According to a *Detroit Free Press* report published that Thursday highlighting the start of the tournament, Harrold had won 98 matches over her four-year high school career. She also played softball and ran track, and previously was a cheerleader before turning her winter focus completely toward wrestling.

She was in the grand march that day in Detroit with 895 other wrestlers, all boys. The following year, three girls qualified for the Individual Finals. Later, Martin’s Amy Berridge in 2004, Goodrich’s CC Weber in 2009 and Clawson’s Katlyn Pizzo in 2017 would become the first to place at the MHSAA Finals, bringing additional spotlight to girls achieving at the high school level.



The Michigan Wrestling Association (the sport’s high school coaches association) then began sponsoring a Girls Wrestling Finals in 2019 – with momentum from that event leading to the creation of the MHSAA girls individual championship division at Ford Field, which debuted this March.

Hartland senior Eliana Bommarito (left) was among those making the transition to joining the boys on the big stage for the first time in history, one of 14 champions crowned March 5. Bommarito earned a fall over Belding freshman Madasyn Frisbie in 3:53 in the 255-pound title match to become a four-time state champion.

“I’m so proud. It means, like, we’re being recognized,” said Bommarito, who was 8-0 in matches against girls this season. “There’s actually more girls joining, and this will only encourage more and more females to start wrestling and know that they have a chance to be recognized for it. It’s just great that I got to see that my last year.”

Bommarito said she picked up wrestling about six years ago. She’s been a state champion more than half that time.

The last three years, she won state titles through the Michigan Wrestling Association.



Title IX Continues to Fuel Growth of Girls and Women's Sports, Olympic Dominance

To say that American female athletes dominated the recent Olympics in Tokyo would be an understatement.

Among the 66 medals earned by American female Olympians – most by any country in the history of the Games – were gold-medal performances by the U.S. basketball, volleyball, water polo and beach volleyball teams. Eighteen medals were earned by the U.S. women swimmers, female track and field athletes claimed 15 medals, and the U.S. women's softball and soccer teams won silver and bronze medals, respectively.

In the past 30 years of the Olympic Games, the United States has dominated the women's team sports of basketball (nine golds), soccer (four golds, one silver, one bronze) and softball (three golds, two silvers) — not to mention the untold number of medals in track and field. And this past summer, the U.S. women's volleyball team claimed its first gold medal.

These performances by some of our nation's most skilled female athletes never would have been possible without the passage of Title IX and the offerings of these sports through our nation's schools. With the chance to play afforded by the landmark Title IX legislation in 1972, girls participation in several high school sports skyrocketed in the years that followed.

When the NFHS conducted its first participation survey in 1971, basketball and outdoor track and field were the primary girls sports, comprising about two-thirds of the 294,000 total. However, with the opportunity to play additional sports, girls flocked to volleyball and softball first, along with cross country and eventually soccer.

Soccer, in fact, has had the most remarkable growth. In 1971, only 700 girls were playing high school soccer. Twenty-five years later, that number had climbed to almost 210,000; and as the 50th anniversary of Title IX approaches, there are now almost 400,000 girls playing high school soccer – a staggering 56,200 percentage increase in 50 years. Soccer now ranks fourth in popularity among girls high school sports – all because of that opportunity in 1972.

There are many other success stories, however. The pre-Title IX survey in 1971 indicated that 1,719 girls were participating in cross country. With increases every year until 2015, today, there are 219,345 girls competing in high school programs and the sport ranks sixth in popularity.

Although participation numbers have leveled a bit the past 10 years, fast-pitch softball is another sport that flourished after the passage of Title IX. With fewer than 10,000 participants in 1971, the numbers quickly rose to 220,000 by 1985 and

benchmarks



343,000 by 2000, and softball is currently fifth among girls sports with 362,038 participants.

Since track and field and basketball were the primary sports in the early days of girls sports programs, increases in those sports have not been as dramatic; however, they remain the first and third most-popular sports, respectively, today. Volleyball, however, much like soccer, continues its upward climb.

Without a doubt, volleyball has seen the steepest increases among girls high school sports the past 50 years. After starting with 17,952 participants in 1971, the numbers jumped to 300,810 by 1990 and 409,332 by 2010 and 452,808 by 2018. During its climb, volleyball surpassed basketball as the No. 2 girls sport.

And among the top six girls sports from 2010 to 2018 (numbers are not available the past two years due to the pandemic), volleyball has gained the most participants (43,476), followed by soccer (32,549). And all of this has occurred thanks to legislation passed in 1972 that was not fundamentally meant to address opportunities for girls to participate in high school sports.

The NFHS is leading a yearlong celebration of the 50th anniversary of Title IX, which officially occurs on June 23, 2022. "Title IX at 50 – Celebrating and Growing Opportunities" is highlighting the law's impact by celebrating the inspirational individuals and landmark moments in the history of Title IX, and continuing to grow the educational and competitive opportunities for the future.

More information, including a Title IX Timeline, Title IX Milestones, The History and Importance of Title IX, Title IX Fact Sheet, Title IX Frequently Asked Questions and several Title IX videos, can be accessed on the NFHS Website.

Dr. Karissa L. Niehoff is completing her fourth year as executive director of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in Indianapolis. She is the first female to head the national leadership organization, and the sixth full-time executive director of the NFHS.

This issue's trip to the "vault" offers a look at the 2016 winter issue of benchmarks, which put a spotlight on the introduction and growth of girls athletics in Michigan.

From the Shadows to the Spotlight

Not to be confused with today's arranged meeting of young children by their parents for some quality play time (play dates), "Playdays" once were the common gateway to school-related sports for so many of the women who have blazed the trails for current female students, coaches, athletic directors and trainers in gyms and on fields around the country. An organization called the Girls Athletic Association (GAA) once filled the void where schools failed.

"Charlotte High School housed 7th through 12th graders, so I became a member of the Girls Athletic Association as a 12-year-old," recalled Suzanne Martin, former MHSAA assistant director who would go on to spearhead the first-ever Women In Sports Leadership Conference in 1989.

"I competed in swimming events and track & field events at every 'playday' our school hosted. Playdays were organized by our physical education teacher and a few other female teachers. Other area schools that sponsored GAA programs were invited on a Saturday to participate, and we hosted these events two or three times each school year."

Martin competed in such playdays until she graduated in 1965, and was frequently bestowed top awards of the day.

"The awards were pieces of ribbon my phys ed teacher purchased at the local dry goods store, and then stapled a piece of paper on the back to designate the event and the place, 1st, 2nd or 3rd," she said.

Current MHSAA Assistant Director Kathy Vrugink Westdorp also participated in GAA activities during middle school, and arrived at Hudsonville High School during the onset of school-based programs in the 1970s. However, there weren't near the number of teams offered today.

"The GAA was more of a middle school experience for me," said Westdorp. "I think about the time they had synchronized swimming for girls rather than competitive swimming. The rationale was that girls weren't expected to swim like the young men. It's funny, because synchronized swimming is very difficult."

Hudsonville, now one of the state's larger schools, had an enrollment of approximately 750 students at the time, and offered field hockey, volleyball and basketball, with softball on the horizon as Westdorp recalls. And, of course, the usual option of the day.

"Sideline cheer was considered athletics and that's what most girls did if they wanted to be on a team," she said. "I did it too, because that was what was available to us."

Up the road a bit in St. Johns where another former MHSAA assistant director, Gina Mazzolini, attended high school, similar movements toward school-based girls teams were taking place as well,

From Cheering to Being Cheered



1960s - Early 70s

Girls Athletic Association (GAA) provided 'intramural-type' activities in which girls could participate, but they were not school-sponsored. Often, activities such as biking and camping were included.

June 21, 1975

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare issues regulations regarding Title IX enforcement, particularly as it applies to athletics. High schools and colleges that receive federal funds are given three years to comply.

Feb. 17, 1976

The NCAA files a lawsuit challenging the legality of Title IX, claiming that no athletic programs receive direct federal funds. The suit is dismissed.

June 23, 1972

President Nixon signs into law Title IX of the Education Amendments Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex for all educational programs or activities that receive funding from the federal government. Though it's now most closely associated with gender equity in sports, Title IX does not mention athletics.

1979

For the first time, women outnumber men in undergraduate enrollment at degree-granting institutions.

The Office for Civil Rights issues a policy interpretation that outlines three ways an institution can prove it is in compliance with Title IX.

even to the extent that leagues were being formed.

“The GAA was glorified intramurals, but in St. Johns we actually played other schools which had GAA teams,” she said. “What I remember most is that we didn’t have uniforms, but we had gym suits; those zipper things with the matching pants.”

Fortunately, the stylish attire would be worn for just a year. For Mazzolini’s sophomore year, St. Johns became part of the newly formed West Central Conference (the league was made up of Hastings, Ovid-Elsie, Lake Odessa, Charlotte, Waverly, Holt and Alma).

“I got my first *school* uniform,” Mazzolini said, “and it was good for all my sports: volleyball, basketball and track. Same uniform, all three sports, for three years. I wore it for nine seasons.”

The apparel for St. Johns’ other offerings – sideline cheer, swimming and gymnastics – certainly would have had a different look, but Mazzolini stuck with three activities. She would have been a natural for a fourth sport, but softball had just entered the club phase during her senior year.

Downstate, Patti Tibaldi was just trying to get to the other side of the basketball court when she began playing organized sports in 7th grade. Tibaldi, who retired from Traverse City Area Public Schools recently after 42 years as an athletic administrator in several locations, began her career under the auspices of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) while at Redford St. Mary’s near Detroit.

“Back in the day, we played 6-player basketball, first with the ball being thrown in from center court after every basket,” Tibaldi said. “Players only played either offense or defense and were allowed only three dribbles. The rules then progressed to

unlimited dribbles and the institution of the ‘rover’ position, which allowed one player to play full court. I was fortunate enough to be the rover!”

It’s been a long journey from the GAA playdays to the organized athletic events taking place in schools today. Structure, scheduling, uniforms, coaches, officials, and laws such as Title IX have secured and provided the opportunity for games to exist well into the future.

But, opportunity has always been there at the grass-roots level. And, maybe there is too much organization at times, when all that’s really needed is a ball, a field, and other kids.

“When we were kids, Mom and Dad said, ‘Go outside and play,’” Mazzolini said. “We’d find kids, and play games, and many times the moms and dads would play. Sunday afternoons were kickball, softball or touch football. It was a small, athletic, tight-knit neighborhood.

“We had a neighbor, Mr. LaChappelle, and he’d ask my Dad about the worn in basepaths in our yard, and how he felt about that. My Dad would just tell him, ‘I’m not raising grass, I’m raising kids.’”

For Sue Martin, it was biking to softball games if her chores on the farm didn’t interfere. Westdorp recalls that on certain days at certain times, it was just a given that kids would get together for a marathon softball game. Tibaldi need only look around her house to find enough people for a game, what with nine children in the family.

Maybe things will never get back to the true, impromptu sandlot games, but if today’s athletes move forward and give back the way their predecessors have done, school sports will remain on solid footing.

1994

MHSAA adds competitive cheer as its 12th championship sport for girls. Once one of the only activities for girls (sideline format), cheer is now a recognized as a sport.

2004, 2005

MHSAA adds bowling (2004) and lacrosse (2005), reaching its current total of 14 championship sports for girls.

2010-11

In the 40 years since Title IX, high school girls sports participation grows from 290,000 to 3.1 million nationally.

1981-82

The NCAA crowns Division I national champions for the first time in women’s cross country, field hockey, volleyball, swimming, basketball, golf, gymnastics, tennis, outdoor track and softball.

2005-06

MHSAA sports participation soars over 300,000, setting records for both genders. 131,662 girls take part, topping the 2004-05 mark of 127,890; and the boy’s figure of 181,927 passed the previous year’s 176,678. *The totals count students once for each sport in which he or she participates.*





Classifications Announced for 2022-23

Classifications for Michigan High School Athletic Association elections and post-season tournaments for the 2022-23 school year have been announced, with enrollment breaks for postseason tournaments posted to each sport's page on the MHSAA Website.

Classifications for the upcoming school year are based on a second semester count date, which for MHSAA purposes was Feb. 9. 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 2022-23, there are 750 tournament-qualified member schools. Schools recently were notified of their classification, and sport-by-sport divisions were posted to the MHSAA Website today (March 28). 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.

Several MHSAA Finals champions awarded so far during the 2021-22 school year are assigned to different divisions for 2022-23. In 11-player football, Detroit Martin Luther King will move to Division 4 after winning Division 3 in the fall, with Hudson moving to Division 7 after winning Division 8 this past November. Muskegon Western Michigan Christian won the Lower Peninsula Division 4 girls cross country championship in the fall but will compete in LP Division 3 next season. Dearborn Divine Child's girls golf team, winner of the LP Division 2 title in the fall, will move to LP Division 3 next season. The East Grand Rapids girls swimming & diving team will move back into LP Division 2 after winning LP Division 3 in the fall.

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.

Effective with the 2022-23 school year, schools with 814 or more students are in Class A. The enrollment limits for Class B are 388-813, Class C is 183-387, and schools with enrollments of 182 and fewer are Class D. The break between Classes A and B decreased 21 students from 2021-22, the break between Classes B and C decreased 11 students, and the break between Classes C and D is six students fewer than for the 2021-22 school year.

The new classifications will see 32 schools move up in 2022-23 and 24 schools move down:

Moving Up From Class B to Class A

Battle Creek Harper Creek
Cadillac
Detroit Henry Ford
New Boston Huron
Owosso
Plainwell
Sault Ste. Marie
Sparta
Spring Lake

Moving Down from Class A to Class B

Dearborn Divine Child
Detroit East English
Detroit Martin Luther King
Fowlerville
Garden City
Marysville
Pinckney

Moving Up from Class C to Class B

Adrian Madison
Blissfield
Brooklyn Columbia Central
Buchanan
Canton Prep
Clinton Township Clintondale
Dearborn Heights Star International
Detroit Voyageur College Prep
Elk Rapids
Grayling
Hart
Quincy
Sanford Meridian

Moving Down from Class B to Class C

Benzie Central
Coloma
Comstock
Detroit Communication Media Arts
Ecorse
Jonesville
Michigan Center
Otisville Lakeville Memorial
Shelby
Watervliet

Moving Up from Class D to Class C

Bellevue
Plymouth Christian Academy
Eau Claire
Fowler
Indian River Inland Lakes
Ironwood
Jackson Prep
Muskegon Heights Academy
New Buffalo
Ubly

Moving Down from Class C to Class D

Adrian Lenawee Christian
Breckenridge
Detroit Benjamin Carson Science & Medicine
Grand Traverse Academy
Lawrence
Rogers City
Warren Michigan Math & Science

New Postseason-Eligible Tournament Schools in 2022-23

Escanaba Holy Name Catholic
Farmington Hills Huda School
Center Line Prep
Battle Creek Academy

Enrollment Breaks by Classes – 2022-23

(Number of schools in parentheses)
Class A: 814 and above (187 schools)
Class B: 388 – 813 (188)
Class C: 183 – 387 (187)
Class D: 182 and below (188)

Bruce Horsch is 2022 Forsythe Winner

Longtime Houghton High School athletic director Bruce Horsch, who retired in 2019 after 23 years serving his school district, remains admired for his commitment not only locally but his mentorship especially throughout the Upper Peninsula to young administrators and others serving the school sports community. To celebrate his many contributions to interscholastic athletics, Horsch was named the 2022 honoree for the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Charles E. Forsythe Award.

The annual award is in its 45th 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.

Horsch was described as a "not in the spotlight guy" by one of those who recommended him for the Forsythe Award, but he certainly spent time there. Horsch was a college hockey star and NHL draft pick, and the final goaltender cut from the legendary "Miracle on Ice" U.S. hockey team that won gold at the 1980 Winter Olympics. After his playing days concluded, he coached collegiately before eventually settling in as Houghton's athletic director for the 1996-97 school year.



Bruce Horsch

Horsch was named his region's Athletic Director of the Year in both 2003 and 2019 by the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA), and served on the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee from 2001-05. He has been an active member of the MIAAA, National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) and Upper Peninsula Athletic Directors Association (UPADA), serving as secretary and president of the UPADA. He also served as president of the Keweenaw Area Athletic Directors Association and secretary and commissioner of the Western Peninsula Athletic Conference.

"For years Bruce was one of the most respected voices not only in the Upper Peninsula but also the entire state," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. "He brought that perspective as a high-end athlete and transitioned extremely well as an educator and athletic director."

Horsch was a frequent host of MHSAA Tournaments at the District and Regional rounds during his time at Houghton, and also hosted MHSAA Upper Peninsula Finals. He served as a host for sessions of the MHSAA PACE program, the coaching education program predecessor to the current Coaches Advancement Program (CAP).

His dedication to Houghton athletics was further noted when he considered retiring in 2017 but stayed on two more years to assist with a bond that resulted in the upgrading of the school's football field and track and building of softball and baseball fields as part of the athletic complex. Previously, he had led a referendum to have a second gymnasium built to provide an additional practice venue with girls basketball moving from the fall to winter season beginning with the 2007-08 school year.

"I'm proud of the fact that in the U.P. there are not many, if any schools that have the facilities that Houghton High School has," Horsch said.

Horsch is a graduate of Hastings High School in Minnesota and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Michigan Technological University. He led the Huskies hockey team to 58 victories in goal over four seasons and was part of the 1975 NCAA championship team and 1976 NCAA runner-up, a few of many reasons he was inducted into the Michigan Tech Sports Hall of Fame in 2007. He was drafted by the Montreal Canadiens during the ninth round of the 1976 NHL draft and played minor league hockey for two seasons. He then coached hockey collegiately for most of the 1980s as an assistant at Ferris State and then Michigan Tech.

"I was fortunate enough to play at Michigan Tech, and I was on a national championship team (in 1975) and I was on a national runner-up team (in 1976). When you played for (coach) John MacInnes up here, it wasn't individuals – although we had great individuals – we won because we were a team" Horsch said.

"I'm not out for recognition. I enjoy being part of a team. I enjoy working with other people, and that's my satisfaction."

He has continued to serve his community as a member of the Rotary Club of Houghton.

2022 WISL Award Goes to Lori Hyman

Over the last 27 years, Livonia Stevenson athletic director Lori Hyman has not only led athletic departments at two of Michigan's larger high schools but also served as a voice of leadership, education and mentorship for her colleagues statewide. To celebrate her many contributions to school sports, Hyman was named the 35th recipient of the MHSAA Women In Sports Leadership Award.

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.

Hyman is in her 22nd year at Stevenson after previously serving her first five as an athletic director at Dexter. She also is a graduate of Stevenson High School and continued her education and basketball careers at Michigan State University, then served as a women's college basketball coach over 17 seasons before transitioning into school sports administration in 1995.



Lori Hyman

Hyman received the Women In Sports Leadership Award during the MHSAA Division 1 Girls Basketball Final on March 19 at Michigan State's Breslin Center.

"Every part of my career I've been happy with, and honored, and just thoroughly enjoyed it," Hyman said. "It's been a passion of mine, every aspect."

"(Playing at Michigan State) was one of the best times, if not the best time, of my life as a youngster. And then being an athletic director has probably been the most rewarding as an adult. And being at Stevenson, coming back home, has been quite an honor and just a very rich experience for me."

Hyman has hosted a multitude of MHSAA Tournament events while at both Dexter and Stevenson and has served on the MHSAA's girls tennis, girls basketball and boys basketball committees. She also has served as the girls and boys tennis commissioner of the Kensington Lakes Activities Association, of which Stevenson is a member.

She has served as a Leadership Training Institute instructor for the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA) and as a president and speaker at the MIAAA's annual conference. She also has spoken at the MHSAA's Women In Sports Leadership Conference.

Hyman was named her region's Athletic Director of the Year by the MIAAA in 2014 and received its Jack Johnson Distinguished Service Award in 2015.

"Lori has been a leader and pioneer in the world of athletics, and in particular as an advocate for fe-

males and girls sports," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. "When she left coaching basketball to work as an AD, it was an incredible victory for kids in our state. She's been dependable, loyal and just a model of consistency in running a first-class program."

Hyman is a 1975 graduate of Livonia Stevenson, where she also played softball and competed in track & field. She was named MSU's Outstanding Athlete of the Year for women's basketball in 1979, after serving as co-captain of the team that season but rarely playing because of an injury. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in physical education and health in 1980 and also has a master's in athletic administration from Wayne State University.

Hyman served as a women's basketball graduate assistant at Ferris State University after graduating from MSU and then as head coach at Northwood Institute (now University) from 1981-82 – when she was only 23 years old – through 1985-86. She then served as an assistant coach at University of Illinois before returning as head coach at Ferris State from 1989-90 through 1994-95.

She received her certified master athletic administrator designation from the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) in 2006. In addition to her vast school sports responsibilities and contributions, Hyman has volunteered with Special Olympics, Livonia's Newburg United Methodist Church and Rotary Club.

Past recipients of the WISL Award

- 1990 – Carol Seavoy, L'Anse
- 1991 – Diane Laffey, Harper Woods
- 1992 – Patricia Ashby, Scotts
- 1993 – Jo Lake, Grosse Pointe
- 1994 – Brenda Gatlin, Detroit
- 1995 – Jane Bennett, Ann Arbor
- 1996 – Cheryl Amos-Helmicki, Huntington Woods
- 1997 – Delores L. Elswick, Detroit
- 1998 – Karen S. Leinaar, Delton
- 1999 – Kathy McGee, Flint
- 2000 – Pat Richardson, Grass Lake
- 2001 – Suzanne Martin, East Lansing
- 2002 – Susan Barthold, Kentwood
- 2003 – Nancy Clark, Flint
- 2004 – Kathy Vrugink Westdorp, Grand Rapids
- 2005 – Barbara Redding, Capac
- 2006 – Melanie Miller, Lansing
- 2007 – Jan Sander, Warren Woods
- 2008 – Jane Bos, Grand Rapids
- 2009 – Gail Ganakas, Flint; Deb VanKuiken, Holly
- 2010 – Gina Mazzolini, Lansing
- 2011 – Ellen Pugh, West Branch; Patti Tibaldi, Traverse City
- 2012 – Janet Gillette, Comstock Park
- 2013 – Barbara Beckett, Traverse City
- 2014 – Teri Reyburn, DeWitt
- 2015 – Jean LaClair, Bronson
- 2016 – Betty Wroubel, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep
- 2017 – Dottie Davis, Ann Arbor Huron
- 2018 – Meg Seng, Ann Arbor Greenhills
- 2019 – Kris Isom, Adrian
- 2020 – Nikki Norris, East Lansing
- 2021 – Dorene Ingalls, St. Ignace

Birmingham's Pat Hayes Named Norris Winner

A knowledgeable leader and valued voice for girls lacrosse from its start in Michigan, Pat Hayes' dedication to the sport began long before its eventual sponsorship by the MHSAA began with the 2004-05 school year. A longtime coach and official, Hayes has helped guide the growth of the sport most recently as one of the most respected umpires, officials assigners and trainers in the state – and she is being honored with this year's MHSAA Vern L. Norris Award.

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.



Pat Hayes

Hayes is in her 22nd year as an MHSAA-registered official, a tenure which has included eight years of soccer, five of volleyball and one of basketball – and every season of lacrosse since it became an MHSAA-sponsored sport nearly two decades ago. She also has built a legendary international career as an official for field hockey, which while not an MHSAA-sponsored sport is played by more than 30 of the state's high schools.

Hayes has officiated both field hockey and lacrosse since graduating from Detroit Western High School in 1958. She also has more than three decades of coaching experience across multiple sports, and is best-known by the recent generations in her sports as a prized trainer of new officials and assigner especially in lacrosse and field hockey.

"I played four sports in high school; that's all we had back then – basketball, swimming, field hockey and tennis," Hayes said. "And (my coach) said to me, 'Just remember the last time you didn't have officials on one of your field hockey games, or basketball games.' I said, 'Well, we always had umpires.' And she said, 'When you leave here, that's your time to give back to the next girls. And I've been doing that ever since.'"

While still a student at Wayne State University in 1960-61, Hayes coached field hockey and started the lacrosse program at Grosse Pointe Sacred Heart Academy. After two years there, she moved to Bloomfield Hills Academy of the Sacred Heart, where she remained until 1970 teaching chemistry and biology, coaching field hockey, lacrosse, basketball and volleyball and serving as athletic director as well.

She left teaching with the birth of her second of three daughters, but continued to officiate. When

her daughters reached high school at Birmingham Seaholm, she returned as a coach of the Maples' freshman boys and then junior varsity girls basketball teams. In 1985 she began a 22-year stint at Detroit Country Day coaching girls lacrosse with five years also coaching freshman boys basketball. She coached the Yellowjackets girls lacrosse team to the first Division 2 championship game and a runner-up finish in 2005.

Hayes continues to officiate five and sometimes six girls lacrosse games a week while assigning officials for 28 schools as part of the Lacrosse Zebras Organization of Michigan. She has worked seven MHSAA Girls Lacrosse Finals and also officiated college lacrosse at the Division II and III levels. She is retiring this spring after 35 years assigning girls soccer officials as well.

Perhaps her most legendary work has come in field hockey. She played on the U.S. national team and over the last half-century has been considered among the top field hockey officials in the world. She has officiated that sport at the college level for 45 years, with an NCAA Championship assignment in 1986, and she also officiated three World Cup tournaments and the 2004 Olympics as a technical official. She assigns officials for all of Michigan's high school field hockey games during the sport's fall season.

Hayes has been recognized numerous times for her extensive service to school sports. She was inducted into the U.S. Lacrosse Michigan Chapter Hall of Fame in 2009 and was named an honorary member of the USA Field Hockey Hall of Fame in 2004. She was named to the Bloomfield Hills Roper School Hall of Fame in 2016 and Detroit Catholic High School League Hall of Fame in 2018. She received the Oakland County Athletic Director Association's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015.

"Pat has been a leader and pioneer in officiating, especially creating opportunities for female officials. She has been a true leader for years in lacrosse, soccer and field hockey," MHSAA Executive Director Mark Uyl said. "She has that perfect combination of compassion, toughness, grace and grit. Michigan's officiating community is fortunate to have Pat Hayes."

Hayes graduated from Detroit Western High School in 1958 and with a bachelor's degree in education from Wayne State University in 1962.

In addition to her continued service to athletics, Hayes has received the Good Neighbor Award for volunteering with the Quarton Lake Neighborhood Association in Birmingham.

Hayes and husband John Hayes were married 50 years, until his death in 2016. Their three daughters all played college athletics, but not lacrosse or field hockey – instead golf, volleyball and soccer.

National Hall Beckons Former MHSAA Exec Roberts

John E. "Jack" Roberts, who powered substantial growth of the state's interscholastic athletics programs during 32 years as executive director of the Michigan High School Athletic Association while also providing a significant voice nationally through his retirement in 2018, was one of 12 honorees announced Tuesday (March 8) as this year's inductees into the National High School Sports Hall of Fame by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

Roberts will be inducted as one of three former state association administrators selected for the 39th Hall of Fame class at a ceremony during the NFHS summer meeting July 1 in San Antonio, Texas; the rest of the class is made up of athletes, coaches and an official.

Roberts began his tenure as MHSAA executive director in 1986, and at the time of his retirement he was the nation's longest-serving executive director of a state high school athletic association. He was the fourth person to serve the MHSAA in that leadership role full time, following Charles E. Forsythe (1931-42, 1945-68), Allen W. Bush (1968-78) and Vern L. Norris (1978-86).

Roberts will become the Hall of Fame's ninth inductee from Michigan, joining Forsythe (inducted 1983), River Rouge boys basketball coach Lofton Greene (1986), Warren Regina athletic director, softball and basketball coach Diane Laffey (2000), Fennville basketball and baseball standout Richie Jordan (2001), Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett boys and girls tennis coach Bob Wood (2005), Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook hockey standout Jim Johnson (2007), Owosso football, basketball and baseball all-stater Brad Van Pelt (2011); and Vermontville Maple Valley baseball national record holder Ken Beardslee (2016).

Roberts also follows in the footsteps of his late father, John Roberts, who served as executive director of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association from 1957-85 and was inducted into the National High School Hall of Fame in 2000. They will be the first father-son team in the Hall of Fame.

At the start of his career, Roberts served as an assistant director for the National Federation from 1973-80. During his time on the NFHS staff, Roberts was involved with the implementation of Title IX at the local and state levels, and he made immense contributions as the NFHS representative to the landmark Amateur Sports Act of 1978. He also played a significant role in the NFHS rules-writing process as the organization started writing and publishing rules for a number of new sports during the 1970s.

The MHSAA enjoyed continued growth under Roberts' guidance, particularly in the number of

Michigan students participating in athletics and in the number of MHSAA-sponsored tournament sports available to them.

"I had a head start in this work. Growing up in the home of the executive director of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association and then spending most of my 20s working for the National Federation office, and much of it with (longtime NFHS executive director) Cliff Fagan, was a jumpstart on this career," Roberts said. "But I'm also satisfied at this point that, to paraphrase Hamilton in the musical 'Hamilton,' I didn't give up on my shot. I was given a shot, I took it and I didn't waste the chance.

"The job fit me, and I think I maxed the opportunity I had to serve educational athletics in this job, and that's satisfying to think about at this time."

Under Roberts' leadership, overall participation in high school athletics in Michigan increased 10 percent, and the MHSAA added more than 200 schools in increasing its membership by more than 15 percent at the high school and junior high/middle school levels combined. His tenure saw the addition of girls competitive cheer (1994), girls & boys bowling (2004) and girls & boys lacrosse (2005) to the MHSAA Tournament sport lineup, the creation of a separate wrestling tournament to determine champions by team format (1988), and 8-player football (2010, first playoffs 2011) as many small schools across the state began having trouble fielding 11-player teams because of enrollment and population decreases. Meanwhile, also under his leadership, the 11-player Football Playoffs expanded, doubling to 256 teams in 1999.

Several key rules changes came under Roberts' watch and direction, including the addition of opportunities for multiple schools to create cooperative teams in sports where participation is lagging. He also helped Michigan become a national leader in improving sportsmanship; a comprehensive package enacted in 1996 set a statewide tone for appropriate behavior and perspective that continues to make an impact today.

Perhaps the most significant influenced by Roberts came on the topics of health and safety. The MHSAA has led nationally in concussion care with its first programming in 2000 and return-to-play protocols enacted in 2010, and with mandated concussion reporting and insurance for those who suffer head injuries rolled out in 2015. A heat management policy and CPR requirements for coaches were introduced in 2013.

Also under this leadership, the first program for coaches education was launched in 1987 and evolved into the Coaches Advancement Program, with nearly 34,000 courses administered as part of



CAP since 2004-05. The Women in Sports Leadership Conference was created in 1989 and remains the first, largest and longest-running program of its type in the country, regularly drawing upwards of 500 participants. The first of now-annual statewide Athletic Director In-Service Programs was conducted in 1992, and Michigan also remains a national leader in student services thanks to a variety of programs that were introduced under Roberts' leadership.

In addition to his work specifically in Michigan, Roberts carried significant influence at the national level. He served as part of the NFHS Board of Directors and led the creation of the NFHS Network for video productions in 2012, serving as that board's chairperson. He also has served on the board of directors of the National Association of Sports Officials (NASO).

"For 32 years, Jack Roberts was the epitome of what leadership looks like. He was the strongest advocate for high school sports that anyone could ever hope for," said MHSAA Executive Director Mark Iyl, who succeeded Roberts in 2018. "He is without question one of the preeminent pioneers and difference-makers in the world of high school sports over the past 100 years.

"And other than my father, there has not been a man who has had a bigger impact and positive influence on my life personally than Jack Roberts."

The National High School Hall of Fame was started in 1982 by the NFHS. The 12 individuals were chosen after a two-level selection process involving a screening committee composed of active high school state association administrators, coaches and officials, and a final selection com-

mittee composed of coaches, former athletes, state association officials, media representatives and educational leaders. Nominations were made through NFHS member associations; Roberts was nominated by the MHSAA. Also chosen for this class were athletes Notah Begay (New Mexico), Walter Payton (Mississippi), Sanya Richards-Ross (Florida) and Thurman Thomas (Texas); sport coaches Ray Crowe (Indiana), Ron Kordes (Kentucky) and Lamar Rogers (Tennessee); administrators E. Wayne Cooley (Iowa) and Becky Oakes (Missouri), official Jeff Risk (North Dakota) and speech/debate coach Susan McLain (Oregon).

For more on this year's Hall of Fame class, visit the NFHS Website at <https://www.nfhs.org>.

Roberts came to the MHSAA in 1986 from the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, which he served as executive vice president. He is a 1970 graduate of Dartmouth College and taught English and coached football at high schools in Milwaukee and Denver before joining the NFHS staff.

He and his wife Peggy reside in East Lansing, and in retirement they together have increased their contributions to environmental matters and international refugee issues while both serving in leadership roles. Jack Roberts has served as board president for the Refugee Development Center in Lansing for 13 years, and Peggy Roberts served six years as chairperson of the board for Lansing's Fenner Nature Center. As part of their environmental work, the Roberts are working within a small group of organizations to help them acquire and preserve land.

— Geoff Kimmerly
MHSAA Communications Director

Make Plans to Attend the 2022 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.



2022 AD In-Service/Update Meeting Schedule

Tue. Sept. 13	Kalamazoo, Four Points by Sheraton
Mon. Sept. 19	Warren, Ukrainian Cultural Center
Mon. Sept. 26	Comstock Park, English Hills Terrace
Tue. Sept. 27	Frankenmuth, Zehnder’s
Mon. Oct. 3	Gaylord, Otsego Club & Resort
Wed. Oct. 5	DeWitt, Banquet & Conference Center (Annual Business Meeting)
Fri. Oct 21	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 2022-23

Eight student-athletes who will be juniors at their schools during the 2022-23 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 2022-23 are: **Kannon Duffing**, Manchester; **Claire Gorno**, Gaylord; **M’Khi Guy**, Muskegon; **Dawsen Lehew**, Marcellus; **Christian Sanders**, Detroit Renaissance; **Ben Sytsma**, Grand Rapids Christian; **Madeline Werner**, Bay City All Saints; and **DaNia Womack**, Dearborn Advanced Tech Academy.

Those eight new members were selected from 115 applicants. That applicant total was the second-most ever, with the last three years featuring the three highest totals.

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 129 schools from 48 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 generally 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 2021-22 “Battle of the Fans X” champion, handed out championship trophies at Finals events, continued discussions about COVID-related issues and provided feedback to the MHSAA Representative Council on proposed rule changes.

The new additions to the SAC will join the Class of 2023 members who were selected a year ago: **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.

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 2022 Honored

The Michigan High School Athletic Association/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award has been recognizing the top student-athletes for 33 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 2021-22 Scholar-Athlete Award receive a \$2,000 college scholarship to be used at the college, university, or trade school of their choice during the 2022-23 school year. This year, a total of 1,434 applications from 407 schools were received for the 32 scholarships. Class A students were guaranteed 12 winners, Class B eight winners, Class C six winners and Class D four winners. Two at-large winners were also selected.

All scholarship recipients will be honored during the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals at the Breslin Center in East Lansing this March.



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

2022 Scholar-Athlete Award Winners

Cookie Estelleh Baugh, Ann Arbor Pioneer, Class A
 Megan Bennett, McBain N. Mich. Christian, Class D
 John Bungart, Orchard Lake, St Mary's, Class A
 Ella DeGraw, Rochester Hills Stoney Creek, Class A
 Derek Distelrath, St Clair, Class B
 Ryan Doty, Clinton, Class C
 Maggie Duba, Grand Rapids, West Catholic, Class B
 Whitney Farrell, Freeland, Class B
 William Goelz, Petoskey, Class A
 Klay Grant, Muskegon, Reeths-Puffer, Class A
 Joseph Hayes, Shelby, Class B
 Korah Honig, St Louis, Class C
 Curtis Knapp, Jonesville, Class B
 Colin Koot, Mason, Class A
 Jillian Koski, Ishpeming Westwood, Class C
 Ryann Locke, Springport, Class C

Alexis Maloney, St Johns, Class A
 Ashton McNabb, Three Oaks, River Valley, Class D
 Claire Meacham, Montague, Class B
 Michael A Meneguzzo, Kingsford, Class B
 Mert Oral, Ann Arbor Greenhills, Class C
 Jack Rellinger, Grand Rapids Catholic Central, Class B
 Mia Riley, Fowler, Class D
 Ty Ruddy, Ottawa Lake Whiteford, Class C
 Eli Shoup, Mason County Eastern, Class D
 Maeve Spicer, White Lake Lakeland, Class A
 Ella Spooner, Holland West Ottawa, Class A
 Rylee Tolson, Stockbridge, Class B
 Greta VanZetten, Holland, Class A
 Brady Wright, Birmingham Seaholm, Class A
 Neil Zhu, Detroit, Catholic Central, Class A
 Elzien Zomer, Holland, Class A



Baugh



Bennett



Bungart



DeGraw



Distelrath



Doty



Duba



Farrell



Goelz



Grant



Hayes



Honig



Knapp



Koot



Koski



Locke



Maloney



McNabb



Meacham



Meneguzzo



Oral



Rellinger



Riley



Ruddy



Shoup



Spicer



Spooner



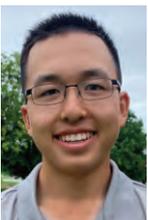
Tolson



VanZetten



Wright



Zhu



Zomer

Visit the Students page of [MHSAA.com](https://www.mhsaa.com)
for a Scholar-Athlete History, and
for 2022-23 Application Information

Thank You for Standing Up for “Oxford Strong”

The MHSAA recently received the following letter from Oxford athletic director Tony DeMare, thanking the tens of thousands across Michigan who contributed to the nearly \$310,000 recently presented to Oxford student-athletes as part of this winter's "Oxford Strong" efforts.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Teamwork and camaraderie are words that are often associated with Athletics. Seeing those words personified is sometimes a rarity. However, we all witnessed firsthand those words coming to fruition right before our eyes.

On February 4th, you were competitors, neighbors, friends, teammates and, uniquely, you were all “Oxford Wildcats.” Together, we stood, cheered, sang and played. And because we were on the same team, we did those things in unison.

It was not magic; nor was it a collection of Superheroes. It was simply our student-athletes, coaches, officials, administrators, faculty, staff and greater communities putting their hearts on full display.

Please know that those of us in Oxford saw you and heard you all very clearly. For that, we are beyond humbled. It is important for you to know that your efforts went directly to the victims of the unspeakable tragedy.

Every effort and gesture that has been extended to the Oxford community has helped us. This was the ultimate expression of the phrase, “We have your back!”

The unparalleled power of School Sports should never be underestimated. It is impactful and even life-altering. School Sports is organically educational, and it molds each of us in ways we could never imagine.

In Oxford, we have come to know that love and support transcend hate and fear. This has allowed our student-athletes and coaches to overcome when they thought it might not be possible. They are now learning, training, preparing and competing again, and you have helped make that happen.

Thank you for being “All In” and thank you for “Standing Up For Oxford!”

*Sincerely,
Tony DeMare*

Schools all over Michigan rallied to raise nearly \$310,000 for the district and its student-athletes as they continue to mourn the deaths of four classmates during a shooting at the high school Nov. 30.

E.A. Graphics, based in Sterling Heights, printed and provided T-shirts and sweatshirts for sale in communities and then donated the price of the apparel, after costs, directly to Oxford High School student-athletes and their community. Many of these were purchased in advance of “Oxford Strong” games Feb. 4 or later that month. A check was presented to Oxford for \$302,000 at the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association annual conference, with additional donations then augmenting the total.

“The support of the MHSAA and Mark Uyl’s staff getting behind our effort, supporting us and getting the word out, as well as the MIAAA with Karen Leinaar jumping on board. And most of all Bob Artymovich and E.A. Graphics; without his support and generosity, this whole initiative does not exist.” said Royal Oak athletic director Brian Gordon, who with the Oakland Activities Association (of which Oxford is a member) was among primary organizers of the event along with the Kensington Lakes Activities Association and Detroit Catholic High School League.



From left: MIAAA president Nikki Norris, Royal Oak athletic director Brian Gordon, E.A. Graphics president Bob Artymovich, E.A. Graphics vice president of sales and marketing Rich Artymovich, Oxford athletic director Tony DeMare and MIAAA past president Jeff Kline hold up the check presented to “Oxford Strong” during last month’s MIAAA annual conference.

Traverse City West Wins Battle of the Fans X



Few have studied up for the MHSAA’s Battle of the Fans as much as Traverse City West senior Patrick Guiney did before the start of this year’s BOTF X competition.

He watched all of the finalists’ videos from the first nine years, and many of the semifinalists’ as well, diving in to uncover the best strategies to help he and his classmates deliver the Bleacher Creatures their second BOTF championship.

Of course, he watched all of Traverse City West’s past videos too, trying to see if those past sections had done something well that the current Creatures should incorporate this year, and to figure out where those past sections may have fallen short.

But watching all of those schools, his and others, also left a pretty significant impression about what BOTF, and more generally student sections, should be about.

“I think it’s really about bringing people together, leaving whatever is going on just letting go of it for a while and enjoying a big game with your friends,” Guiney said. “Maybe meeting some new people, and knowing that no matter what you’ll be welcomed with open arms. It’s just a really positive environment that I feel everybody should be part of because (student sections) are just so much fun.”

The Bleacher Creatures have had a ton of fun this school year. And they’ve earned statewide fame to add to their memories of the experience.

Traverse City West accepted its Battle of the Fans X championship banner during halftime of the first Division 2 Boys Basketball Semifinal on March 25 at Michigan State University’s Breslin Center. Finalists Buchanan and Midland Dow also were invited to be honored for this season’s achievement.

“I think it’s really about bringing people together, leaving whatever is going on just letting go of it for a while and enjoying a big game with your friends.” – Traverse City West senior Patrick Guiney

Traverse City West 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, Instagram and TikTok sites. A total of 8,964 social media votes was received. The addition of TikTok this year added to the engagement substantially, as TikToks using the hashtag #MHSAABOTF2022 were viewed more than 700,000 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, Midland Dow and Traverse City West were chosen for MHSAA visits. Howell, Imlay City, North Muskegon, Petersburg Summerfield, Spring Lake and Yale also were semifinalists.

In addition to their other championship year, the Bleacher Creatures also were finalists in 2014 and 2017. Buchanan was a finalist for the seventh time this winter and has won championships in 2013, 2018 and 2020. Midland Dow entered the competition this year for the first time.

Rules of the Games

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

Baseball

- R1, R2, one out. The batter hits a double, scoring both runners; but during the play, R2 missed third base. After the play has ended, R2 runs back to third base and stands there, at which point the defensive team properly appeals that he missed the base.
 - R2 is out on appeal. R1's run counts.
 - R2 is out on appeal R1's run does not count.
 - R2 is not out because he corrected the violation before it was appealed.
- If an assistant third base coach comes onto the field to argue a call at second base:
 - The assistant coach should be restricted to the dugout.
 - The assistant coach should be ejected from the game.
 - The assistant coach should be ejected and the head coach should be restricted to the dugout.
 - Both the assistant coach and the head coach should be ejected from the game.
- This year, all coaches are restricted from coming onto the field to argue or dispute an umpire's call. If a head coach in the third base coaches box begins to come across the field to argue a play at first base:
 - He should be ejected immediately.
 - He should be restricted to the dugout immediately.
 - He should be warned not to continue and should be ejected if he ignores that warning.



- True or False: A 1 passes the ball to A 2. While the ball is in flight B 1 targets a body check on A 2 who does not see the hit coming. In this situation, the official needs to judge the hits intensity and assess a one-three minute non-releasable penalty.
- Which of the following apply to having a clearly marked center line that runs through the entire width of the field:
 - Failure to have this line results in the game beginning with the ball being awarded to the visiting team.
 - Failure to have clearly marked centerline makes faceoffs difficult.
 - Failure to have a clearly marked centerline make off-sides and over and back difficult to call.
 - A temporary chalk line or shadow line is permitted.

Boys Lacrosse



- Which of the following under the Rule 7.8.2 ENDS a flag-down, slow-whistle situation. The officials blow the whistle to stop play when there is a:
 - Ball goes out of bounds.
 - Defensive team gains possession.
 - Ground ball.
 - Subsequent or 2nd foul on the defense.



Girls Lacrosse

- If no foul is involved in the stoppage of play when a player is in clear possession of the ball, and the ball is inside the Critical Scoring Area, play will be restarted:
 - At the closest dot
 - At the spot of the ball
 - Neither of the above

2. When the ball goes out of bounds, the player awarded possession of the ball places the ball in their crosse, then throws the ball to a teammate from out of bounds.
 - a. Legal
 - b. Illegal
3. The goalkeeper must have both feet completely within the goal circle to reach out and bring a ball back into the goal circle.
 - a. True
 - b. False

Girls Soccer



1. A2, in an offside position, receives a goal kick taken by B1. The referee shall:
 - a. Penalize Team A for A2 being offside.
 - b. Only call offside if a goal is scored.
 - c. Allow play to continue as this is permitted by rule.
 - d. None of the above.
2. Player A of the attacking team is clearly in an offside position when her teammate delivers the ball to her with a throw-in. She collects the ball and kicks it into the goal. The referee should:
 - a. Award an indirect free kick to Team B.
 - b. Award a goal to Team A.
 - c. Award a goal kick to Team B.
 - d. Award a re-take to Team A.
3. Near midfield a pass by A7 deflects off the official, changes direction and goes directly to A8 who has a clear run at the goal. What is the appropriate restart?
 - a. There is no restart, play on.
 - b. Indirect free kick for Team A.
 - c. Indirect free kick for Team B.
 - d. Drop ball to the team that last touched the ball prior to hitting the referee (Team A).
 - e. Drop ball to defending goalkeeper (Team B).



Softball

1. With a 3-2 count, B1 swings at a high and inside rise ball. B1 completely misses the pitch that subsequently hits her in the shoulder.
 - a. The ball is dead and B1 is awarded first base for a hit by pitch.
 - b. The ball is dead, a foul ball is called and B1 remains at bat.
 - c. The ball is dead and B1 is called out for strike three.
2. When obstruction occurs, the umpire should give the delayed-ball signal, regardless of whether there is a play on the obstructed runner.
 - a. True
 - b. False
3. Batter A approaches the batter's box and the defensive team's head coach requests that the batter be "intentionally walked." At that time, the home plate umpire indicates that the batter is awarded first base. The defensive coach now appeals that Batter A has batted out of order.
 - a. This appeal may not be made until Batter A reaches first base.
 - b. The appeal may not be made after the home plate umpire awards the intentional walk.
 - c. The appeal may be made at any time after the home plate umpire awards the intentional walk and before a pitch to the next batter.
 - d. All of the above.

Baseball Answers: 1-a (8-2-3); 2-b (3-3-1f); 3-c (MHSAA Baseball Rules Meeting)
 Boys Lacrosse Answers: 1-a, b, d (Rule 7.8.2); 2-False (3 minute non-releasable, ejection possible)
 5.4.6 Situation; 3-a, b, c, d (1.2.1)
 Girls Lacrosse Answers: 1-a 5-1-3-b; 2-Illegal (6-3-1a, b 3 c; 6-3-2 a, b, c 3 d; 9-1-0(2)); 3-False
 (7-1-2e, 7-2-1d, 7-2-2)
 Soccer Answers: 1-c (11-1-2); 2-b (11-1-2); 3-d (9-1-1-b1)
 Softball Answers: 1-c (7-2-1g); 2-a (8-4-3b Pen.); 3-c (2-65-2, 7-1-2 PENALTIES)

Near Helps to Open Doors for Female Officials

In the 50 years since Congress passed Title IX in order to create equal educational opportunities, huge strides have been made for female students to participate in athletics.

But the advancement of opportunities wasn't just for the athletes. It also opened a door which ushered in a generation of female sports officials.

Betty Near is one of those officials whose long and distinguished career as a high school and collegiate volleyball official is a direct result of the opportunities provided through Title IX. Unlike many today who entered officiating after having played the sport, Betty didn't have those opportunities before first climbing the ladder (literally) in 1971. She was encouraged to take up the sport by Marcia Tiesenga (a nationally-ranked collegiate official) who told Betty – who had been involved in athletics recreationally – that athletes make the best officials because of their understanding of competition.

"I'm frequently asked whether I got into officiating because I played volleyball. I tell them I didn't play because girls volleyball didn't exist when I was in school," Near said. "I try to share the story of Title IX every chance I get, to show them that they now have opportunities to both play and officiate because of those who came before them."

Near has spent more than 45 years as a registered MHSAA official and is still going strong. That run has included six appearances as a Finals official. She recalls how an injury to her knee at one of those Finals created a change in mechanics for the entire state.

"When I first began officiating in the 70s, the MHSAA had the umpires (R2s today) kneel underneath the net to look at blockers," she said. "This was quite dangerous and pretty ineffective.

"Officiating at the collegiate level, I had been trained to stand at the pole and look down the net. With this background, and seeing as my knee was still hurting from an earlier injury, I decided to use this mechanic."

Sue Martin, the MHSAA director for volleyball at the time, approached Betty following her match. Near was certain that she was going to receive an earful. Instead, Martin asked the justification for using the mechanic, and they discussed the pros and cons of each. It was ultimately decided moving forward the umpire would take a position standing at the pole.

Mechanics changes aren't the only effect Near has had on the sport. She was instrumental in the start of the West Michigan Volleyball Officials Association in 1984 and continues to help lead and grow that organization (now with more than 125 members). This has allowed her to work with the community, raising nearly \$125,000 in scholar-

ships for graduating high school seniors. And one of her biggest contributions remains her role in recruiting and mentoring new officials – especially helping the next generation of female officials.

"Mentoring is a gratifying thing," said Near, "especially when I receive emails or calls thanking me for helping them understand specific rules or situations and improving their skill sets. Watching someone I have mentored over 20 years work her way up to officiate multiple state tournaments (pleases me)."



Now officiating primarily at the college level, Betty still reserves Thursdays during the season to officiate MHSAA contests to stay connected to high school students and officials, and to build on the growth of female registered officials. She also recognizes challenges remain for female officials advancing through the system.

For young people – men and women – beginning families, home lives can be difficult to navigate while incorporating an officiating schedule.

Another hurdle that Near identifies for female officials, unfortunately, is a continuation of the "good ol' boy network." She is reminded of a not-so-distant-past example when she and another female official had been selected to officiate the Regional round of the

MHSAA Tournament; and even though both were well-established collegiate officials the host athletic director insisted that less-experienced male officials work as the R1 and R2 and the women work as line judges because the men would have better control of the tough matchup.

That mindset has no factual base, and many of the MHSAA's best officials in all sports are women. Especially in girls sports, it is important that the student-athletes see officials who represent them; but the MHSAA seeks female officials in all sports, including those dominated by male participants. This year once again included a female officiating in the MHSAA Football Finals. Female officials also have worked Finals in baseball, boys basketball, ice hockey and wrestling.

The door that was opened for women and girls with the passing of Title IX a half-century ago only provides the opportunity. Capitalizing still requires stepping through the door to take full advantage of the opportunities provided. Near wants to encourage anyone to join the avocation of officiating, but especially young women.

"My hook is that the officiating is fun, and it is an activity that can be an avocation that can pay (in many ways) throughout their lifetimes," she said.

— Brent Rice
MHSAA Assistant Director

Sport-Specific Transfer Rule In Review

Eligibility under the recent “Sport-Specific” Transfer Rule began in 2019-20. Unless one of the stated 15 exceptions is met, participation during the current school year determines eligibility for the following school year. The rule adopted by the Representative Council at its May 2018 meeting found support among most audiences. A transfer student’s eligibility in any school year is based upon that student’s participation from this past school year. It is paramount for administrators and coaches to have awareness of the sports a transfer student participated in during their previous school year (see below for the definition of “participation.”)

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

The more restrictive portion tends to discourage students who change schools for sports reasons.

Under the Sport-Specific Transfer rule, **what** a student played in the previous season determines eligibility.

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

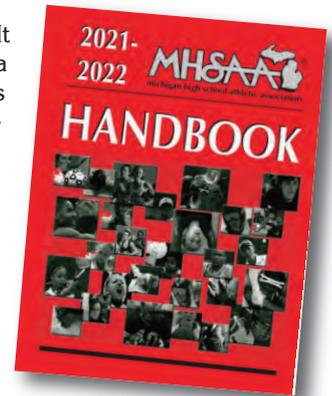
The more restrictive portion tends to discourage students who change schools for sports reasons. A transfer student who did play a sport in the previous season – and who does not meet one of the 15 Exceptions – is **NOT ELIGIBLE** in that sport for the next season. If a student changes schools in mid-season,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

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

new school’s team. It may also mean that a student who has meets one of the stated exceptions such as a residential change but enrolls in a school other than their school of residence, would have eligibility in sports not played in the previous year.

The sport-specific transfer rule is aimed at solving some major reoccurring problems identified by schools, parents and students often displaced by transferring students. The old “Fourth-Friday Transfer Rule” was not perfect and was written and updated by the Representative Council over decades. The Sport-Specific Transfer Rule is also not perfect and will likely evolve over time.

The rule will tend to discourage students from changing schools for sports because they would be ineligible in any sport they have played in school the previous season for that sport. It will increase participation for some students who were otherwise not eligible under the current rule. It is always best to contact school athletic directors who can connect with the MHSAA to verify eligibility prior to enrollment. *When in doubt, sit the student out and find out!*



In Other Words . . .

The sport-specific rule means a transfer student has

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

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

The Only Official Interpretations are Those Received in Writing

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

Brad Bush**

Athletic Director
Chelsea High School
Statewide At-Large

Nicole Carter*, Vice President

Principal
Novi High School
Appointee

Judy Cox*

Principal
Auburn-Bay City Western High School
Appointee

Scott Grimes*, President

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

Kyle Guarrant (ex-officio)

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

Kris Isom**

Athletic Director
Adrian Madison High School
Appointee

Sean Jacques*

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

Jason Malloy*

Athletic Director
Westland John Glenn High School
Junior High/Middle Schools

Mark Mattson*

Superintendent
Glen Lake Schools
Class C-D — Northern Lower Peninsula

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

Chris Riker*

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

Meg Seng**

Athletic Director
Ann Arbor Greenhills High School
Appointee

Adam Stefanski**

Athletic Director
Boyne City High School
Junior High/Middle Schools

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 2022

**Term Expires December 2023

ANALYSIS OF MHSAA MEMBERSHIP

April 22, 2022

750 Total High Schools

Total Public Schools	646	86%
Charter (Public School Academies)	35	5%
Traditional Schools	611	81%
Total Non Public Schools	104	14%
Religious	95	13%
Secular (Non-Public)	9	1%

749 Total Junior High/Middle Schools

Total Public Schools	653	87%
Charter (Public School Academies)	41	5%
Traditional Schools	612	82%
Total Nonpublic Schools	96	13%
Religious	82	11%
Secular (Non-Public)	7	0.9%

Candidates Set for September 2022 Election

BALLOTS TO BE MAILED TO SCHOOLS IN AUGUST 2022

Ballots for Representative Council elections will be mailed to principals of member schools from the MHSAA office Sept. 2, 2022. The ballots will be due back in the MHSAA office Sept. 23, 2022.

Eight positions for membership on the Representative Council will be up for election this fall. Vacancies for two-year terms beginning December 2022 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.

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

Following the due date of Sept. 23, 2022, the Board of Canvassers as provided in Article IV of the Constitution of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, will meet on Sept. 26, 2022 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, 2022. 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 2022:

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL CANDIDATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2022 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, CMAA, 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

- Joshua Crocker, Teacher/Boys Basketball Coach, Benzonia-Benzie Central High School
- Anna Rigby, Athletic Director, Harbor Springs Public Schools

Statewide At-Large

- Aaron Crouse, CMAA, CIC, Associate Athletic Director-Pontiac-Notre Dame Preparatory School
- Scott C. Grimes, Superintendent, Grand Haven Area Public Schools
- Andrew Laboe, CAA, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Kalamazoo-Loy Norrix High School
- Jeffrey J. Yorke, Administrator, Millington Community Schools

Junior High/Middle Schools

- Fred Smith, CMAA, Athletic Director, Bangor Public Schools

Private and Parochial High Schools

- Vic Michaels, Director, Catholic High School League, 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

Important Fall 2022 Administrative Dates

June 6	Four-Player Rules ends; Summer Rules begin
June 6-July 31	Summer competition except during dead week (set by each school)
July 4-11	MHSAA Office Closed
Mid-July	School Year Start-Up on MHSAA.com
July 28, Aug. 15 or 17	New AD Orientation at MHSAA
July 25 & Aug. 1	Fall Online Rules Meetings Launch
July 31	MHSAA Membership Resolution due
Aug. 1 to Start of Fall Sports	Preseason Down Time (High School)
14 Calendar days prior to the start of Middle School Practices:	Preseason Down Time (JH/MS)
Aug. 8	Four-Player Rule Resumes
Aug. 8	Practice Starts for all Fall Sports
Sept. 12	New AD Orientation at MHSAA (later hires)
Sept. 15	ADs attest CPR for all head coaches (Varsity, J.V. and 9th grade) & all coaches, all levels complete fall rules meetings
Sept. 13	Kalamazoo Update Meeting & AD In-Service
Sept. 19	Warren Update Meeting & AD In-Service
Sept. 26	Comstock Park Update Meeting & AD In-Service
Sept. 27	Frankenmuth Update Meeting & AD In-Service
Oct. 10 & 17	Winter Online Rules Meetings Launch
Oct. 3	Gaylord Update Meeting & AD In-Service
Oct. 5	DeWitt Update Meeting & AD In-Service
October 9 & 10	Power of the Past – Force of the Future - Women in Sports Leadership Conference at Crowne Plaza Lansing West
Oct. 21	Marquette Update Meeting

Ratings Due June 20

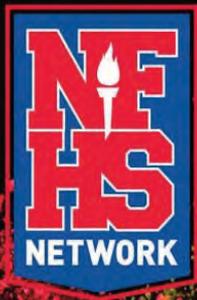
Spring is notoriously the season during which MHSAA schools lapse in their duty to rate contest officials. We understand the number of contests taking place, the chaotic nature of scheduling due to weather, and the anticipation of summer vacation, but ratings must be submitted for officials at all levels, and on time: June 20. Not only do ratings supply feedback for officials and tournament assignments – they are a requirement your school and coaches are to follow. Please accomplish this detail in baseball, softball, soccer and lacrosse.

Schedule Membership Resolution for Board of Education Meetings

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

The MHSAA Membership Resolution must be signed by the Board of Education and returned to the MHSAA. Please complete both sides of the form: on the reverse side, list schools in your district that will be MHSAA members and include the current enrollment number for 6th, 7th and 8th grades. When membership lapses, insurance coverage, among other matters, is jeopardized.

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



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