

Vol. XVI No. 3

MNSAA Receives Partial Stay in Seasons Case

The United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, Ohio, issued a stay in the case of the Communities For Equity v. Michigan High School Athletic Association on May 9, an action which likely delays beyond the 2003-04 school year the implementation of any Courtordered realignment of high school sports seasons in Michigan.

In its ruling, the Sixth Circuit denied the motion of the Plaintiffs to dismiss the MHSAA's appeal for lack of jurisdiction; granted the MHSAA's Motion for Stay pending its appeal insofar as requiring a change in the alignment of sports seasons by the 2003-04 school year; but denied the Association's Motion for Stay in all other respects.

The order means that the Sixth Circuit will take up the case after the District Court has received a Compliance Plan from the MHSAA for the realignment of seasons, and the District Court rules on that plan. The plan had to be submitted by May 24. The District Court has scheduled a hearing on the matter for July 18 in Kalamazoo. After the District Court's decision, the appeals process begins, and could extend into the 2003-04 school year.

"This assures the schools of an opportunity to appeal," said John E. "Jack" Roberts, executive director of the MHSAA. "It also assures that the Court of Appeals will look at the entire District Court case, Compliance Plan and all; so that if other appealable issues arise between now and the District Court's approval of the Compliance Plan, they too can be included."

In its decision, the Appeals Court wrote, "...it is clear the stay motion raises serious appellate issues concerning liability under Title IX and the Equal Protection Clause." The decision also states, "...the defendant (MHSAA) has articulated a variety of harms that it, its member schools, and student-athletes may suffer if it must comply with the injunction by bringing its scheduling into compliance with the district court's ruling by the 2003-04 school year. For that reason, a partial stay will be granted."

The MHSAA's Representative Council, the 19-member legislative body of the Association, discussed sports seasons scheduling at its annual Spring meeting early in May, but delayed action. The Council met recently to finalize a Compliance Plan. At the time the Compliance Plan was filed, the MHSAA announced the results of a survey used to seek input for the Compliance Plan, which can be found on **mhsaa.com**.

Editor's Note

When *Mentor* debuted in February 1987, the MHSAA's intent was to provide coaches with "more specific and direct information to supplement that which is passed on by the building principal or athletic director."

It also was our hope 15 years ago to do that in the most efficient manner possible, such as the seasonal newsletter you are holding in your hands.

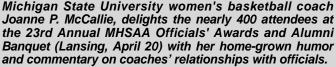
While our goals remain the same, the method will change after this issue. A great deal changes in 15 years. The most efficient, economical and timely way to provide our constituents with current information is now (and has been for some time) electronic. As such, future issues of *Mentor* and its sister publication, *Stripes*, will be available only on-line at **mhsaa.com**

A link to new issues will appear on the MHSAA home page when they are "published," and archives dating back to the 1999-00 school year can be found on the site under "Publications."

Please continue to provide letters, articles and other feedback you may have, and we hope you continue to find *Mentor* a helpful tool in your coaching profession.



John Johnson, Okemo







Take me out to the Ball Game; Take me out to the crowd."

Ah, the All-American song. Images of freckle-faced kids with their dads, and a good-natured game. Also a prime example of why nobody has ever asked me to be in a choir.

"Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack; I don't care if I ever get back..."

Once upon a time, I was that frecklefaced kid with his dad at the old ball game. Except I have no freckles. And my dad can't afford Cracker Jack because it costs \$8.

Come to think of it, that wasn't the game I went to at all. So I'll have to adjust my song.

"Take me out to the fame game, (yeah, that's what it was like). Take me out to consumer crowd. ('Cause that's what we were). Buy me some airtime and sponsorships (because my hero had just gotten a big signing bonus). 'Cause it's root, root, root for my own needs (gotta build that nest egg). If I don't win, I will call my agent and sue in the end! (Yeah, that's how it was.)"

This is today's competitive world, where sportsmanship is suffering an ugly, ugly death – on the ball field; in life.

Winning has become so important (and by winning I mean whatever's good for me), that we will sneak our way to the top. Friendly rivalry has turned into opponent bashing, team spirit has turned into solo showboating, and fair play has turned foul.

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship isn't all about sports, but let's go there for a bit.

Here's little Johnny, age 7, ready to play some ball with his friends. He's thinking about catching a fly ball, laughing a lot with his friends, and going home to track mud across mom's floor. It's gonna be a good day.

But Johnny has another thing coming to him, according to Mr. Fred Engh, president of the National Alliance for Youth Sports. He cites a recent survey by the Minnesota Amateur Sports Commission in which half of young athletes say they've been yelled at or insulted, one in five have been hit, kicked or slapped, and one in 10 say they've felt the pressure to harm others. So guess what? Wow, what a shocker; 70 percent of the 20 million kids who play sports outside of school quit by the time they're 13.

And then we have Johnny's coach and other coaches today complaining that kids have lost that love for the game. Well, where did they get that idea? Johnny looks like he's having a bang-up time over there getting "pantsed" for dropping a fly ball. Well, let's take a look at some of Johnny's role models.

Here's the starting lineup:

• A Maryland father, disappointed that his son had been left off the all-star team, had to be restrained after choking a teenage umpire during a T-ball game for 5year-olds. It's okay, though, because the National Association of Sports Officials now offers assault insurance. Never officiate without it.

• Batting clean-up is a Florida father who, while watching his son's youth football game, rushed out onto the field and tackled a child from the opposing team because he was headed for a touchdown.

• And at the bottom of the order, a Massachusetts hockey dad who effectively settled the tension after his son's game by fighting with another hockey dad – and killing him. Game over.

We believe that sports prepare young people for success in a competitive society Sports psychologist Charles Banham would like to put in his two cents. "Many kids do benefit," he says, "but for many others, sports encourages selfishness, envy, conceit, hostility, and a bad temper."

Johnny doesn't have a chance.

THIS freckle-faced kid was lucky enough to go to the old ball game with a pretty good guy. This is a typical scene from earlier in my life:

Me: "Dad, dad, I'm home from the game."

Dad: "How'd the team do?"

Me: "Well, fine, but I got ... "

Dad: How'd the team do?"

Me: "They're just great, we won, but I..."

Dad: "How'd the team do? How was the team spirit?"

Team spirit? How passé. The old ball game isn't about camaraderie anymore, it's about showboating. It's about the four relay runners who brought home the gold for America, then proceeded to wrap themselves in an American flag – the same flag veterans salute – and did a little dance on the track and flexed and paraded for the world's media as our national anthem was played—in *their* honor. What is Johnny supposed to think?

So when did fair play turn to foul play? Perhaps we took Vince Lombardi too seriously. He said, "To play the game you have to have that fire within you, and nothing stokes that fire like hate."

Or perhaps we look to the media that draws attention to the spectacular – things we would not tolerate in our own neighbors we find fabulous on the competitive field, in sports, or in life. We are a more permissive society than in the past and we have less respect for authority. Players view officials as obstacles to get around. We see rules as made to be broken or ignored. We have always wanted to win; it's just that now we are more accepting about the means used to get the victory. Americans demand winners. Winners! But winning *ethically*, that only happens through grace, teamwork and fair play.

Grace

Rulon Gardner, a farm boy from Kansas, embodies it. There he is in Sydney. The gold medal match in Greco-Roman wrestling. In his sight, the amazing Russian, Alexander "The Great" Karelin, unbeaten in 13 years. The heavy favorite in this final match. Gardner manages, somehow, to score a single point and shut out the Russian. The flash bulbs go crazy. David stuns Goliath. Rulon Gardner steps to the microphones...and...says *In your face Russian boy?* No. He thanks and praises his parents and his small farming town for their huge sacrifices. Huh. A gracious winner. What's that worth?

Teamwork

I'm on the soccer field. There are 20 other individuals out on this field playing along with me. All sweating. All panting. All enjoying. There are no standouts. No All-Americans. Just a team of guys all working together for the same thing. The season ends and they have put together the best season the school has ever seen. They do not win the state tournament, but their season is remembered for the team, not the losses.

Fair Play

We're aiming for the upper deck on this one.

It's 1987, we're in Georgia and Rockdale High School has won the state basketball championship. Soon after, the



coach discovers that he has unknowingly used an ineligible player during the game. No big deal; nobody knows. The guy was only in for a minute. He never scored anyway. With what must have been the heaviest heart in Georgia, Coach Cleveland Stroud notifies the proper authorities of the infraction and forfeits the only state championship the school has ever earned. Where is that kind of fair play encouraged? And how long will the players of the opposing team remember his action and carry that with them? Cleveland Stroud said, "You've got to do what's right. People forget the scores; they don't ever forget what you're made of."

This is about sports. But this isn't about sports. Those are just the blatant examples, what we think of when we think of competition, but they exemplify the values and images we bring with us as we compete off the field. Be very careful. Johnny's watching our every move.

Play ball.

— John Egan

John Egan is a 2001 graduate of Eagan High School in Minnesota, now attending The Julliard School in New York in the drama division. Reprinted from the Minnesota State High School League Bulletin.



Can the "Old Ball Game" become a family night out that we all can enjoy once again?

IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR 2002-03 Effective August 1, 2002

Following are several important changes in policies and sports that take effect for the 2002-03 school year:

Awards-The limit on the "fair market value" of symbolic or merchandise awards will increase to \$25. Fair market value is that value (cost) available to any person purchasing the identical product from a retail outlet. The price charged in that situation across the state establishes what is called the "fair market value."

Basketball-The basketball "Point Differential Rule" will no longer apply to Varsity level games. Sub-varsity contests from 7th through junior varsity contests will continue to employee the highly acclaimed modification.

Competitive Cheer-Girls Competitive Cheer will increase from five to eight Regionals with the top two teams qualifying for the Final Tournament. In addition each round will permit 16 competitors however; there can be no more than a two person difference between any of the three rounds.

Golf-Each division of the Boys Lower Peninsula tournament will include eight regionals, one more than in the past. **Ice Hockey-**Netting designed to protect spectators is required behind goals if spectators are permitted to view the game from that location. A new venue, Compuware Arena in Plymouth, will host the 2003 Final Ice Hockey Tournament.

Skiing-Full helmets with a face guard will be required to be worn by all competitors in the giant slalom; and CUSSA/high school meet schedules for all high school skiers are required to be on file in the school's administration office.

Swimming & Diving-LP boys and girls programs will divided into two nearly equal divisions for MHSAA tournaments and the top 16 swimmers at the Final meet will score.

Tennis-A fourth doubles has been added to the LP Division 4 and UP Division 2 regional and final respectively.

Track & Field-Member schools will be surveyed regarding their interest in a MHSAA Team Track and Field tournament and possible revisions in other aspects of the current program. **Volleyball-**The Semifinals will be scheduled at 3 p.m. on Thursday and Friday prior to the Finals allowing two divisions to compete on each day without extensive loss of school time.

Wrestling-Several modifications to the Weight Monitoring Program were adopted to provide clarity and definition to practices currently utilized in the program. A wrestler will now be restricted to his lowest minimum weight and the weight immediately above once he achieves the lowest minimum weight. The weight loss limit per week has been changed from 3% to 1.5% to comply with other national programs.

Item 6 in the Tiebreaker criterion has been changed to apply only to "...points earned in matches which did not end with a fall." The 45-minute rest period will be applied to District and Regional final meets following Semifinal competition. There was no change in the weigh-in procedure at the LP Individual Finals; and it was determined that the UP wrestling schools would continue the UP Final Tournament and not join the LP individual tournament series.



John Johnson, Okemos

Robert Scholie of Hancock (center) is presented with the 2002 Vern Norris Award, recognizing a veteran official each year for outstanding achievement and service to the profession. Scholie is flanked by former MHSAA Executive Director Vern Norris (left), and current MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts (right). Scholie was honored at the 23rd Annual MHSAA Officials' Awards and Alumni Banquet in Lansing on April 20.

Officials Registration Reaches All-Time High

The highest number of registered officials in history, 11,746, brightened the year for the MHSAA. The growth of 463 officials demonstrated an increase in all sports except gymnastics which experienced a slight decline. The increase represented 4.15 percent more individuals registered in 2001-02 than in 2000-01.

Why the sudden increase? Some credit goes to the work individuals and Approved Associations are doing to encourage participation. Some goes to the MHSAA programs intended to recruit new officials such as the TWO-DAE Clinic and the recruitment booth which is set-up at several Final events. Some credit has to go to athletic directors who are responding to the plea to find a young person in your school who has what it takes to become an official.

The MHSAA has 48 Approved Associations, 280 sports specific trainers and 72 Registered Assignors committed to make the transition from athlete to official easier than ever before.

Surpassing the new "best" in 2002-03 can occur if officials, athletic directors, coaches and Approved Associations seek out one additional person to encourage to become an official. Without officials the games we play are just scrimmages.

PACE Information & Registration

PACE (Program for Athletic Coaches Education) is a program designed and endorsed by the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrator Association and the Youth Sports Institute of Michigan State University. The 12-hour course provides interscholastic coaches with the latest information pertaining to their day-to-day coaching responsibilities.

PACE is available in two formats. Coaches have an opportunity to enroll in the traditional evening programs which will be offered in four sessions. Attendance at four evening programs and passage of a mastery-model open-book examination will complete PACE requirements and result in a certificate of completion.

PACE is also offered as a two-level program over two separate days. Level I and Level II, six-hour programs will be presented at various locations throughout the state. Completion of both Levels and passage of the examination will allow coaches to receive the certificate of completion. Completion of Level I only does not result in certification.

Attendees will receive a reference manual of supplemental reading to accompany the information presented during class sessions.

2002-03 LOCATIONS & DATES

Level I

- 1. Saturday, June 22 Britton-Macon High School (8:30-4) 2. Saturday, August 3 - Gladwin High School (8:30-4) 3. Mon. - Wed., August 5, 7 - Saginaw Heritage High School (6-9:30) 4. Saturday, August 10 - Troy High School (8:30-4) 5. Mon. - Wed., August 19, 21 - Allen Park High School (6-9:30) 6. Saturday, August 24 - Grosse Pointe North High School (8:30-4) 7. Saturday, August 24 - Caledonia High School (8:30-4) 8. Wednesday, September 18 - Farmington Training Center (8:30-4) 9. Friday, October 4 - BCAM, Lansing Holiday Inn South (8:30-4) 10. Mon. - Wed., November 4, 6 - Allen Park High School (6-9:30) 11. Saturday, February 1 - WISL, DeWitt High School (8:30-4) 12. Mon. - Wed., February 3, 5 - Flint, Genesee County ISD (6-9:30)
- 13. Saturday, March 15 MIAAA, Grand Traverse Resort (8:30-4)
- 14. Friday, April 4 Marguette High School (8:30-4)

Level II

- 15. Mon. Wed., June 24, 26 Britton-Macon High School (6-9:30)
- 16. Saturday, August 10 Gladwin High School (8:30-4)
- 17. Mon. Wed., August 12, 14 Saginaw Heritage High School (6-9:30)
- 18. Saturday, August 17 Troy High School (8:30-4)
- 19. Mon. Wed., August 26, 28 Allen Park High School (6-9:30)
- 20. Saturday, August 31 Grosse Pointe North High School (8:30-4)
- 21. Wednesday, September 25 Farmington Training Center (8:30-4)
- 22. Friday, October 4 BCAM, Lansing Holiday Inn South (8:30-4)
- 23. Mon. Wed., November 11, 13 Allen Park High School (6-9:30)
- 24. Saturday, February 1 WISL, DeWitt High School (8:30-4)
- 25. Mon. Wed., February 10, 12 Flint, Genesee County ISD (6-9:30)

DIRECTIONS

- 26. Saturday, March 15 MIAAA, Grand Traverse Resort (8:30-4)
- 27. Saturday, April 5 Sault Ste. Marie High School (8:30-4)

PACE ENROLLMENT FORM

Name: Home Address:			_	individ	Level I registration is \$60 per ual and includes instruction, and lunch at site for single-day is.
City:				individu	Level II registration is \$60 per al and includes instruction and t site for single-day programs.
Bus. Phone: F	Res. Phone:			Registra	ints must first complete Level I.
School Affiliation:	School ID #:	:		III. Make cl	necks payable to MHSAA.
Program Location:	Amount Enclosed: \$			IV. Registration at the door is \$70 for each PACE session. Pre-registration assists	
Make checks payable to MHSAA Level I - \$60) Level II - \$60			MHSAA ning.	A in proper and adequate plan-
Mail to: Leanne Moore MHSAA 1661 Ramblewoo East Lansing, M]	Mail to:	Leanne Moore, MHSAA 1661 Ramblewood Dr. East Lansing, MI 48823

MENTOR is published three times per year by the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., 1661 Ramblewood Drive, East Lansing, Michigan 48823 (phone 517-332-5046). Following this edition, the publication will be available on-line only at mhsaa.com

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

SCHOOL CLASSIFICATIONS ANNOUNCED FOR 2002-03

The 2002-03 school year classifications for Michigan High School Athletic Association elections and postseason tournaments in traditionally classified sports (A,B,C,D) have been announced.

Classifications for the upcoming school year are based on a second semester count date, which took place in February. 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 Sept. 1 of the current school year and will not include alternative education students if none are allowed athletic eligibility by the local school district.

After all the counts are submitted, the 755 tournament-qualified member schools were ranked according to enrollment, and then split as closely into quarters as possible. For 2002-03, it works out that 188 schools are in Classe A, and 189 schools are in Classes B, C and D.

Effective with the 2002-03 school year, schools with 1,026 or more students are in

Class A in MHSAA competition. The enrollment limits for Class B are 492 to 1,025; Class C is 243 to 491; and schools with enrollments of 242 and under are Class D. The break increased 18 students between Classes A and B; increased 4 students between Classes B and C; and the break between Classes C and D remained the same.

Schools were recently notified of their classification. MHSAA Executive Director John E. "Jack" Roberts said that schools may not appeal their classification if the appeal is to play in a lower class.

However, if revised enrollment figures indicate that a school should be playing in a higher class, that school would be moved up.

The new classification breaks will see 21 schools move up in class for 2002-03, while 11 schools will move down.

Schools have the option to play at any higher classification for a minimum of two years, but must exercise the option by April 15 for fall sports, August 15 for winter sports, and October 15 for spring sports.

MHSAA tournament sports conducted in traditional classifications are Basketball. Girls Competitive Cheer. Girls Gymnastics. Skiing, and Girls Volleyball. Sports which will compete in nearly equal divisions in 2002-03 are: Baseball, Boys and Girls Cross Country, Boys and Girls Golf, Ice Hockey, Softball, Boys and Girls Swimming & Diving, Boys and Girls Tennis, Boys and Girls Track and Field, and Wrestling. Boys and Girls Soccer will have 20 percent of sponsoring schools in Division 4 and the remaining schools divided equally into Divisions 1, 2 and 3. The division breaks in those sports, except football, will be announced in April. (Media can visit the respective sports pages on the MHSAA Web Site to review the divisional alignments) The eight divisions of the MHSAA Football Playoffs will be announced on Selection Sunday, Oct. 27, 2002.

A complete list of the schools changing classification for 2002-03 appears below (Note: This list does not include schools opting up in class/division for tournaments):

SCHOOLS CHANGING CLASSIFICATION FOR 2002-03

Moving Up From Class B To Class A

Auburn Hills Avondale Chelsea Gaylord Mattawan Petoskey Stevensville-Lakeshore Wayland Union

Moving Down From Class A To Class B

Clio Eaton Rapids Grand Rapids Central Hamtramck Ionia

Moving Up From Class C To Class B

Calumet Hemlock Livonia Clarenceville Muskegon Heights Parchment White Cloud

Moving Down From Class B To Class C

Ferndale-Academy of Oak Park Flint Beecher

Moving Up From Class D To Class C

Academy of Inkster Carsonville-Port Sanilac Detroit Dominican Detroit Loyola Detroit-Michigan Institute For Construction Trades & Technology Martin Mio

Moving Down From Class C To Class D

Detroit Benedictine Detroit Rogers (Boys tournaments) Detroit School of Industrial Arts Johannesburg-Lewiston

New Schools in 2002-03

Canton Plymouth (Class C) Rochester Hills Stoney Creek (Class B) Walled Lake Northern (Class B)

Enrollment Breaks By Classes - 2002-03

(Number of schools in parentheses) Class A 1,026 and above (188) Class B 492 to 1,025 (189) Class C 243 to 491 (189) Class D 242 and below (189)

NATIONAL TESTING DATES ADMINISTRATION - COUNSELORS - COACHES

Please advise students of the 2002-03 test date schedule. Your students should be aware of athletic tournament dates and should attempt to schedule their respective test date away from tournament dates of the sport or sports in which they are interested and participate.

Following are test dates for 2002-03 and possible MHSAA Tournament conflicts:

SPORT CONFLICTS

Test Dates

October 26, 2002	Soccer Districts, LP Cross Country Regionals
December 14, 2002	
February 8, 2003	
April 12, 2003	
June 14, 2003	Girls Soccer, Baseball, Softball Finals

SAT TESTING DATES

SPORT CONFLICTS

October 12, 2002Football Districts, Boys	
December 7, 2002	Girls Basketball Finals
January 25, 2003	
April 5, 2003	
May 3, 2003	
June 7, 2003	

AP EXAM DATES	SPORT CONFLICTS

May 5-16, 2003 Boys Tennis, LP Girls Golf, Track Regionals

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

Kathy McGee Earns Top Basketball Honor

Kathy McGee, girls basketball coach at Flint Powers Catholic High School, recently was named National High School Coach of the Year by the Women's Basketball Coaches' Association, becoming the first Michigander to earn the award in the 22-year history of the WBCA.

McGee, whose team took its second of back-to-back MHSAA Class B titles in December, was honored by the WBCA at its awards banquet on March 27 in San Antonio, site of the NCAA Women's Final Four.

In addition to her squad's MHSAA Final win over Detroit Country Day on Dec. 1, McGee captured career victory No. 500 the night before with a win over Lansing Catholic Central in the Semifinals.



Game Suspension Guidelines Amended

When bad weather comes into play at outdoor events there is a new standard of "wait time" after "hearing thunder" and "seeing lightning" that officials and coaches need to be aware of. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) and National Lightning Safety Institute (NSLI) have determined that lightning must not be seen and thunder not heard for at least 30 minutes before play can continue.

The change was made in the MHSAA "Game Suspension Guidelines" found in the MHSAA Officials Guidebook, the MHSAA Handbook and the MHSAA Coaches Guidebook. It is important that coaches and officials share this information with others and observe the new guidelines during the 2002-03 school year.

Failures to adhere to the new standard should be shared with the MHSAA in order that compliance can be encouraged by all involved.

CASE BOOK NOTICE

Beginning in 2002, **National Federation Case Books** distributed by the MHSAA will be available on an every other year basis. The lone exception is that newly registered officials during the "off" year will receive case books for two consecutive years, after which they will receive a case book every two years.

Case books will be distributed according to the following schedule.

Baseball, Softball, Track & Field — 2003-04; 2005-06 Basketball, Football, Volleyball, Wrestling — 2002-03; 2004-05 New case books are available for purchase from the MHSAA or National Federation

2002-03 RULES MEETINGS

By Representative Council Action:

(1) It is necessary for officials to attend rules meetings if they wish to be considered for tournament play in that sport.

(2) Each school sponsoring the sport should be represented at one of the meetings for that sport.

(3) Head coaches must attend or pass a rules examination for the sport.

Plan accordingly to attend a rules meeting in your area. A complete list of dates, times and locations is available online at mhsaa.com

NEW COACH IN-SERVICE

The Second Annual MHSAA New Coach In-Service has been set for July 31, 2002 at DeWitt High School. The program is from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Topics include practice planning, legal liability, medical issues, insight to the MHSAA, sports psychology and several other appropriate units. You can find a registration form on the MHSAA web site, **mhsaa.com**, or contact Leanne Moore for printed registrations at 517-332-5046.

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