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HOMECOMING

benchmarks

Winter 2011-12 Vol. 3 No. 2 **mhsaa**

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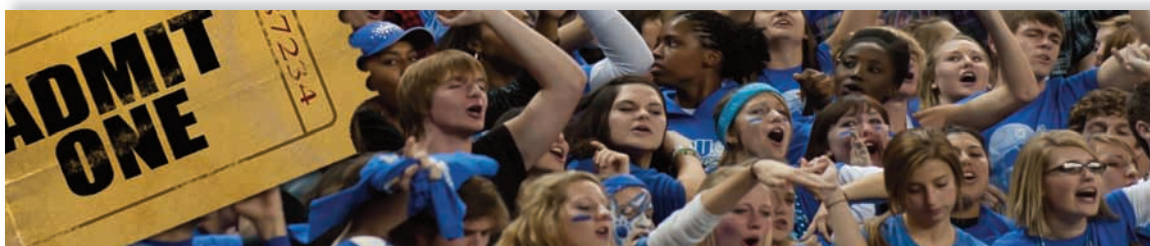


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Cover Story: The Best Value in Athletic Entertainment



4 The days begin early, end late, and the process repeats itself daily, weekly, and monthly during the school year in scenes played out around the state. The efforts of thousands deliver a product well worth the \$5 and couple hours invested by high school fans. Find out what goes into your purchase.

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The Vault – 19

Hardwood Giants From 1949-51, the Kalamazoo Central Maroon Giants cast a large shadow on the prep basketball scene. Fifty years later, folks also remembered the 1936 squad.



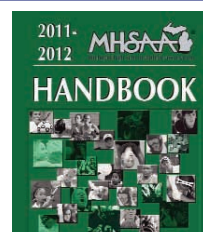
MHSAA News – 24

Giving Back The MHSAA has teamed with Licensing Resource Group to put some pep back into school coffers from the sales of spirit apparel.



Regulations Review – 36

The “R” Word—Recruiting There is a big difference between MHSAA-approved student transfers and recruiting. Such allegations can be avoided with preparation.



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Hidden Heroes



Author-activist-economist-environmentalist Paul Hawkin said this to the audience in a 2009 graduation speech at the University of Portland:

“When asked whether I am pessimistic or optimistic about the future, I always give the same answer: If you look at the science about what is happening on Earth and aren’t pessimistic, you don’t understand the data. But if you meet the people who are working to restore this Earth and the lives of the poor and you aren’t optimistic, you don’t have a pulse.”

This closely captures how I feel about the future of interscholastic athletics. In fact, here’s a portion of my closing to the membership of the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association in March of 2008:

“Sometimes after I hear a song over and over, and I begin to really listen to the words, I might write those words down. Especially if it’s a song by Springsteen or John Fogerty or Jackson Browne.

“But after I do this, and I read the words on paper or even recite the words aloud, I’m always disappointed. The words, without the music, lose something. The lyrics are neither as moving nor as powerful without the melody.

“On occasion I have been complimented for my words about educational athletics, but I’ve come to appreciate that without the music, my words don’t work. And I’ve come to appreciate that you folks provide the music.

“Sometimes I may be the words of school sports in Michigan, but all the time you are the music of school sports in Michigan. You make the words meaningful, you make the words memorable, you make the words powerful, you make the words really happen. I don’t, and I get that.”

Neither policies nor pronouncements will preserve the principles that assure a future for student-centered school-based sports. People will.

People from school districts large and small, involved in sports of high profile and low. Some paid a little; most paid nothing at all. Some with children in the program; some whose children long ago passed through the program; some who have just delighted in aiding the lives of other peoples’ children. They’ve carried concessions, kept stats, taken tickets and performed a myriad other tasks that others take for granted.

These are the hidden heroes of high school athletics. And this issue of *benchmarks* shines a light on several people who are representative of the servant heart of hundreds more like them throughout Michigan.



School sports *thanks* the multitudes who sign up for thankless jobs to make our product the best value in athletics.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads 'John E Roberts'.

John E. “Jack” Roberts
MHSAA Executive Director

A Stroke of Sportsmanship Right on Course

Utica High School was playing Grosse Pointe South in league play, a match for the league championship. GPS was undefeated and our only loss was to GPS by a few strokes earlier in the year. With two holes to go, a freshman on my team, Killian Casson, called a rule violation on herself for ball oscillation. According to the rule, the player is responsible to determine whether or not the oscillation changed the lie of the ball. The rule does not call for an automatic stroke penalty, but leaves it up to the player for interpretation. Killian showed good sportsmanship and decided to take the stroke penalty. The call could have gone either way. Killian also displayed great character by calling the foul on herself when no other player was around. Utica and GPS tied, and Utica went on to lose the match by tiebreaker.

As a coach it is great to see when a student shows character and sportsmanship.

– Anthony Adamo
Utica HS Girls Golf Coach

Following are comments in response to "From the Director" the twice-weekly blog featured on MHSAA.com from Executive Director Jack Roberts. Archived blogs may be accessed from the "News" page of the website.

Future of School Sports

What will school sports look like in Michigan in 10 years? That depends largely on how much the MHSAA assimilates or distinguishes itself from the model cast by alternatives like AAU, et al. Programs outside school affiliations, with their emphasis on victory over character, may well become the more attractive course chosen by mom,

"Programs outside school affiliations, with their emphasis on victory over character, may well become the more attractive course chosen by mom, dad, and athlete in the near future, especially as scholastic programs are curtailed and such alternatives sing their siren songs."

dad, and athlete in the near future, especially as scholastic programs are curtailed and such alternatives sing their siren songs. Will the vital links between classroom and athlete, between scholastics and athletic success, between coach as teacher and athlete as student go by the wayside? Will the MHSAA come to reflect the attributes of extra-scholastic programs, or will it boldly strive to distinguish itself and become the favored alternative?

The answers to questions such as these will make the crystal ball much less cloudy.

– Fred Krieger

Coaching Seasons

We have excellent high school football coaches who'd be willing to dedicate even more time to coach their sons' teams in youth football, but they aren't allowed per MHSAA rules. Why not? Somebody help me. At a time when attrition is a major threat to high school football programs, we're forcing the youngest players into the hands of well-intentioned, but often underprepared dads who are turning kids away from the sport.

– Rob Plumley

Foreign Exchange

At Coldwater High School we've had the benefit of meeting so many great kids as foreign exchange students. In our soccer program we've had mixed talent levels from those foreign students (we're not "recruiting" ringers), but most of all the benefit has been the interaction and understanding that's developed between the players. Some of that of course takes place in the classroom, but I think the bond grows even stronger on the athletic field.

Taking the opportunity away from those foreign exchange students and our local students would be a shame.

– Ken Delaney
Coldwater HS Girls Soccer Coach

School Start Date

I couldn't agree with you more. We are running schools not based on research but based on trying to save a buck. Yes, educators need to improve the quality of instruction, but reducing the number of instructional days and starting the school year after Labor Day does not improve instruction and student learning. It hinders student learning and puts Michigan's No. 1 resource, its children, at a serious disadvantage. Thank you for stating it so clearly.

– Al Westendorp

Shots on Goal offers readers a forum for feedback. Submit your opinions, share your experiences or offer suggestions to benchmarks@mhsaa.com. Be sure to visit MHSAA.com for MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts' twice-weekly blogs. Comments are encouraged, and may also appear here in **Shots on Goal**.



A pile of shoes clutters a doorway. A man teaches algebra to 9th-graders who have the weekend on their minds. A woman screenprints another t-shirt in her basement. A man brooms dead flies from a countertop. Riveting scenes, for sure. Yet people around Michigan pay \$5 for these and other activities on a routine basis, weekend after weekend, during the school year without knowing it. Until now. Join us for ...

5:31

9.49 a DAY (or 2) in the LIFE

of high school sports

Carly Joseph's cross country race doesn't begin in the starting box. Eric Hartley's whistle to signal the opening kickoff doesn't begin his day. Vicky Groat doesn't start coaching her volleyball team with the first serve. And Leroy Hackley's daily duties do not begin by turning the key to the football stadium gate. These are moments the spectators wait for; why they pay admission. But, the events are just the end product – and a miniscule part – of a daily intersection of paths, people and preparation played out in scenes like these throughout every community in the state on any given day.

6:45 A.M.

Eric Hartley is in his classroom at Everett High School early today. The end of the first marking period is near, and he needs to post grades and prepare for upcoming parent conferences prior to first period Senior Math class at 7:40. Today's lesson: "Linear Combinations."

The previous night was spent the same way this evening will be; on a football field armed with a whistle and flag.

"We were at Dansville," Hartley says. "Rained a bit, but nothing too bad. It was decent football, and only one game, as opposed to the two we might get on other Thursdays."

Another game looms on the horizon a half-day away. But first, there is a day's worth of classes to teach, as the bell sounds for first hour.

7:50 A.M.

Leroy Hackley settles into his office at Jenison, coordinating calendars with Assistant AD Todd Graham and Secretary Moni Marlink. Today's activities include a subvarsity football doubleheader and a swimming & diving meet, while MHSAA Division 4 Tennis Finals and a water polo tournament during the weekend add additional responsibilities to the routine calendar of events.

"I realize how good we have it here," Hackley says. "I've got a full-time assistant and full-time secretary, and we all complement one another so well. Todd's a taskmaster who loves to handle the paperwork, Moni is on top of tasks like rosters, game programs, certificates and eligibility and I can focus on schedules, contracts and parents."

8:00 A.M.

Senior Math students at Everett are checking their first grades of the fall and working on graphs while Hartley makes the rounds assisting students and answering questions.

He began first hour the same way he would start each of his classes that day, encouraging students' parents to attend teacher conferences the following week. Extra credit would be awarded to students whose parents made it to the conference. Aware that athletic events and an area-wide high school "Battle of the Bands" could create conflicts on conference night, Hartley requests phone calls or emails from parents who plan to attend such approved school-related endeavors in lieu of the conferences.

"Today, we try to do everything possible to keep parents involved and informed on student progress," Hartley explained. "And, when there are other school activities going on and they are sup-

— continued next page

THE ROSTER



VICKY GROAT
Athletic Director
Varsity Volleyball Coach
Battle Creek St. Philip HS/
St. Joseph Middle School

Vicky recently finished her 14th season as the Tigers' volleyball coach and is in her fourth year as athletic director for both the high school and middle school. She's a 1985 graduate of St. Philip, and played volleyball for her mother, Sheila Guerra, who coached the Tigers to nine MHSAA titles. Like Guerra, Groat is a member of the MIVCA Hall of Fame, and has coached six MHSAA Class D championship teams. She played volleyball and basketball at Kellogg Community College before finishing her studies at Central Michigan.



ERIC HARTLEY
MHSAA Football Official
Math Department Head,
Lansing Everett HS

Eric is a 1980 Lansing Everett grad who earned teaching degrees at Western Michigan University and Michigan State University and began teaching math at Everett in 1986. He has been the math department head for 12 years and teaches four classes with one planning period. After a brief foray into coaching, Eric became a registered football and basketball official in 1990, and worked MHSAA Football Finals in 1994, 1998 and 2002.



LEROY HACKLEY
Athletic Director
Jenison HS

Leroy is in his seventh year as athletic director at Jenison, following five years in the same position at Byron Center HS. He heads a department which sponsors 23 sports. In a school of 1,475 students, 45 percent participate in at least one sport. Leroy also was an MHSAA registered official for 27 years, and still officiates collegiate basketball.



CARLY JOSEPH
Junior, Class of 2013
Pontiac Notre Dame Prep

Carly is three-sport athlete at Notre Dame Prep and a member of the MHSAA Student Advisory Council. She runs cross country and pitched on last spring's District-winning softball team. Her third sport is unique in the high school setting. Carly started the school's competitive school snowboarding team, and spends the winter competing against other high school students in boarder cross. Carly is also involved in NDP's Varsity Club and the NHS.

porting their kids at those events, we should recognize that too.”

Of course, not every scenario can be anticipated in today’s ever-shrinking world. At the end of the period, Hartley is approached by a foreign exchange student who indicates his sponsor family is away in Cuba. And so, before 8:30 a.m., Hartley’s officiating skills click in and he makes a quick ruling, citing the same “rule book” reference that will afford the others credit via an email or phone call.

8:15 A.M.

It’s between classes at Jenison High School, and Hackley rushes from his desk to a prime spot in the hallway between the administrative and athletic offices where the pedestrian flow is swift and plentiful.

Once there, he delivers his first high-five of the day, but it’ll be far from his last. Hackley might lead the state in high-fives, and is unabashedly the Wildcats’ biggest cheerleader.

“I like to come out between classes and ‘press the flesh,’” Hackley says, beaming.

And the assault begins.

“How’s that knee going?”

“Gonna cheer on our guys tonight, right?”

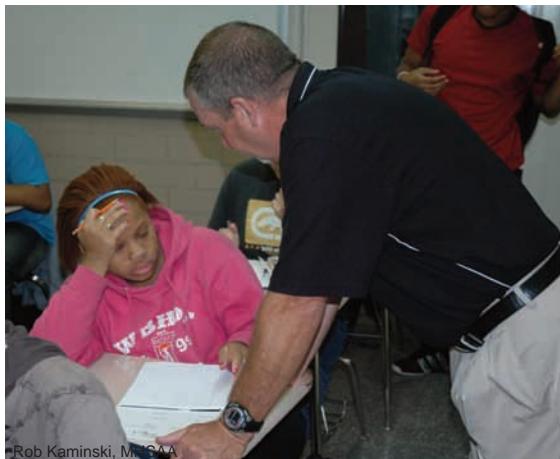
“Nice job last night!”

The last stragglers make it to the next class, and it’s time to take a visitor on a tour of the facility which, by the way, would be the envy of many a small college.

The tour begins with a stop at the girls swimming & diving donut table, a regular fixture in the corner of a hallway on this day of the week, with proceeds going to the swim team. After a brief stop in the gym and accidental participation in a “speedball” game, it’s off to the football and soccer fields, then a check on the tennis courts, 16 of them with bleacher seating. It’s little wonder the MHSAA Finals have made the school a regular destination.



Rob Kaminski, MHSAA



Rob Kaminski, MHSAA

Hartley takes time to assist one of his students with a graphing assignment in Senior Math at Lansing Everett. A solid rapport is important to Hartley in the classroom and on the field.

9:40 A.M.

Second period trigonometry – complete with some elements of the Pythagorean Theorem mixed in with today’s free-space trig session – comes and goes, and for the first time Hartley begins to think about the night’s football assignment at Fowlerville.

As the crew’s referee, he typically sends emails to his crew and the host athletic director each Sunday confirming arrival time, gametime, travel plans and facility availability.

As gameday closes in, he admits there is a different feel to the day in the classroom, although many of the elements are applicable inside and outside the walls.

“Classroom management, discipline and dealing with kids correlates directly to game management, enforcement of penalties and dealing with coaches,” Hartley said. “It’s managing students and working with administrators both in class and on the field. Like the games, some classes involve mostly teaching and run smoothly. Others require more management, control, discipline and then, ‘Oh yeah, I have to fit in some teaching too.’”

As the wind whips outside, and rain pelts the classroom windows, he wonders if it might not be a better day for basketball.

With the game hours off, but the next class just minutes away, he tunes his laptop to 70s music on Sirius/XM radio and gets the next lesson ready on his Smartboard. A neighboring teacher comes in to borrow pencils; there might not be a need for chalk anymore, but pencils have not been replaced.

Students passing by the Jenison athletic office between classes have learned to carry all possessions with one arm, leaving the other free to catch one of Hackley’s endless supply of high fives.

9:50 A.M.

Having answered and cleared his email to start the day, Hackley returns from his rounds to find 24 more emails. Most are routinely answered. One will take some coordination with the choir teacher.

“We have a conflict with a choir performance and the last football game of the year,” he says. “We have some cheerleaders who also are in choir, so we need to arrange to have them cheer half the game and get them back for the performance.”

That’s not the only juggling act of the day. Superintendent Tom TenBrink calls shortly before 10 a.m. to discuss impending O-K Conference divisional realignments, not an easy process when 51 schools are involved.

“We are in the Red with Hudsonville, Rockford and East Kentwood and have asked to be relieved from the Red,” Hackley said. “We are one of the smallest schools by far. Travel might be further in other divisions, but we need to be where the enrollments and competition are more equitable.”

It’s not as simple as a vote of ADs. The ADs have advisory votes, the principals have votes to approve plans, then it goes to school boards.

Once again, Hackley is appreciative of his footing at Jenison.

“We – superintendent, principal and I – talk all the time and we are all in the loop. The communication is a real plus for me being an advocate for our kids, because I know it’s not like that at a lot of places,” Hackley said.

10:40 A.M.

Hartley is accustomed to throwing a lanyard around his neck during his avocation of officiating, but he puts one on early today for fourth-hour trig. One of the students in this class has a hearing disability and sometimes is accompanied with a signer for assistance. Today, the student brings a small amplifier for Hartley to wear during the class.

“That’s the first time I’ve been given that to wear,” he said. “Sometimes the student doesn’t



By late morning at Jenison, Marlink (above) has produced the game programs, while Graham readies the cash boxes for admissions and concessions.

have the assistant there either. It depends on the complexity of the classes that day.”

Across the state at Jenison, Marlink has printed programs for the evening’s football and swimming events, and is on her way to Subway to order food for the weekend’s tennis and water polo tournaments. En route, she’ll stop at the football field to drop off a supply of pop before returning to the office.

Graham is preparing money boxes for the ticket gates, when Hackley prepares an email to alert students and staff of special parking procedures and bus routes affected by the MHSAA Tennis Finals.

Junior high cross country coach and high school teacher Karina White stops by and says, “Thanks for the help yesterday.”

Hackley explains that the high school had no activities so he went to help administer the junior high meet. One gets the feeling this is routine.

11:25 A.M.

Hackley takes a brief moment to look up the Culpepper (Virginia) Football Association online, where he tracks the early football careers of his 3rd, 4th and 5th-grade nephews. The phone cuts his research short, however, as a caller asks where to find MHSAA Tennis Finals seedings and results for the coming weekend. This is an easy one for Hackley, as he’s the one who will be sending files to the MHSAA during the event.

– continued next page

Hartley is accompanied by a signer in fourth-period trigonometry to assist a hearing-impaired student in the class.

Noon

Lunchtime is more like crunchtime back in Lansing for Hartley, who has the whole process timed to the minute, as if the play clock were running down on a quarterback.

“Got about 27 minutes by the time all is said and done,” he says on a brisk trip to McDonald's. The meal is ordered to-go, and eaten back in the classroom just before the bell for his final class of the day.

Hackley, meanwhile, has a bit more time and heads to Grand Rapids-area Italian favorite Vitale's for some dine-in pizza, where an altogether different situation unfolds on the big-screen TVs.

An attempted bank robbery in small-town Ravenna dominates the local channels and the conversation. The ensuing chase and chain of events has closed down a portion of I-96 near Walker, prompting a phone call to Hackley's son, Mitch. Mitch is a freshman at Muskegon Community College, who comes home to assist on the chain crew at home football games, and I-96 is the quickest route. In this case, Mitch will be traveling East, the opposite direction of the blockade, but Hackley calls nonetheless to advise his son.

12:55 P.M.

While Hackley has recently completed another round of high fives in the Jenison hallway, challenging a football player to test the limits of his scoreboard, Hartley has his own challenge in front of him. He needs to bring out his game management officiating skills a bit early to take control of his Algebra 1 class, made up mostly of freshmen who can smell the weekend.

“One teacher talking, 35 students learning right now. People talking now will be asking questions later, which I will not answer,” he warns, and the chatter subsides through the end of the period.

Perhaps it was a bit of foreshadowing, as it won't be the last time he'll need to address behavior on this day.

1:30 P.M.

As if on cue from Hackley's earlier comments regarding communication up and down the administrative chain of command, Superintendent Ten-Brink drops by the office to deliver updated news on the O-K realignment. Moments later, Mitch ar-

rives from Muskegon and gets some last-minute instruction from Dad prior to his work at the stadium.

Hartley's teaching duties have been completed for another week, but he'll stay in the classroom a bit longer to tend to his first marking period grades, just as he had done at the beginning of the day.

2:00 P.M.

Hackley goes through a checklist, surfs for a weather forecast, gets a printed itinerary from Marlink for the weekend, then grabs the money boxes and programs and heads toward the field.

On the way, the door to the music room is open and a female student vocalist is performing a stirring solo number. Hackley pauses to watch through its conclusion and applauds. The students and instructor turn to acknowledge Jenison's No. 1 fan.



Among the many routine duties of the athletic director, pest control isn't one of them. But, when the situation calls for it, Hackley adjusts on the fly.

After unlocking the bathrooms and getting the money to the concessions booth, Hackley sets up the officials room, chats with the athletic trainer, and then heads up to the press box where unwanted guests had been seeking refuge from the coming colder weather.

Flies – maybe a hundred – lay dead on the countertops, while a few buzz slowly against the windows certain to meet the same fate. Unfazed, Hackley simply grabs a broom and says, “I'm glad I came out a little early,” then sweeps them up and leaves the windows open a bit just in case the few living pests want to try their luck back outside.

2:45 P.M.

Carly Joseph, a junior at Pontiac Notre Dame Prep, exhales at the sound of the final school bell and utters, “I'm exhausted.” It's been a long academic week with a course load that includes three AP and two honors classes.

But, Joseph also runs cross country, and this week has already featured a meet on Tuesday and more than 40 miles run during practice. Another practice is on the horizon, one last tune-up for a huge invitational scheduled for Carly and her teammates the next day.

In Lansing, it's time for Hartley to guide his own “students,” as he heads home for a couple hours before meeting his crew for the trip to Fowlerville.

At home, he will make sure sons Trevor and Austin get their homework done.

“I push them to get it done on Fridays after school, because on Saturdays and Sundays they officiate youth football with me, so their time is limited,” Hartley says.



Andy Frushour, MHSAA

4:00 P.M.

Joseph's Notre Dame Prep team is headed to Holly High School's cross country invitational Saturday morning, but first, it gets in one last practice. An easy four-mile run followed by eight progressive strides down the football field marks the shortest practice of the year.

It's a good time for the short workout, because Joseph and her teammates have dinner plans in Clarkston. The team heads to Carly's house for a pasta dinner prepared by her parents.

5:00 P.M.

Vicky Groat sends her Battle Creek St. Philip volleyball team home following a two-hour practice, its final preparation for Saturday's 34th Battle Creek All-City Tournament. Groat has set her players free for the night. They have a curfew of 10 p.m., and although she calls on occasion to keep them honest, she won't this time. There are other preparations for the next day's tournament that will keep her busy into the evening, as we'll see later.

At a parking lot in Okemos, Hartley's crew gathers for a short ride to Fowlerville, which has a conference battle with Haslett. At this point, there is more talk of the weather than the game, as 30 mile-per-hour winds, rain, and temperatures in the 30s promise to make things uncomfortable.

Hartley (right) and umpire Mark Tisdale discuss possible scenarios prior to their game at Fowlerville. The pregame pays off mid-way through the second quarter.

6:15 P.M.

Eighty shoes are piled high just inside the front door of the Joseph house, as 40 Notre Dame Prep runners and coaches gather for the meal. Kids have seized every room in the house, and as one would expect, there's rarely a quiet moment. Mrs. Joseph serves platefuls of penne, lasagna, salad, rolls and a brownie (or two). Clearly, it is a scene

Thanks to a Friday pasta dinner at the Joseph's, Notre Dame Coach Adam Frezza will know his team is carb-loaded for Saturday morning's meet.

that would dispel the myth that distance runners don't eat.

In Fowlerville, Hartley and his crew walk from the locker room to the playing field which, remarkably, is in great shape for the amount of rain it's taken on. The crowd is sparse for Senior Night, as the officials meet with each coach and then conduct the coin toss.

8:00 P.M.

In a modified game of Twister, dozens of people search Shoe Mountain as two-by-two the shoes clear the Joseph house. Suddenly, all is quiet. The Joseph family does some quick cleanup – including vacuuming brownie crumbs out of the carpet – and is able to relax.

At nearly the same time one county over, the mood is anything but serene. It's time for serious game management as temperatures on the field are beginning to heat up the atmosphere. The Fowlerville-Haslett football game is getting chippy after each play, and Hartley quells the extracurriculars by calling both coaches to the field to discuss matters in the middle of the second quarter. The impromptu summit works, as kids get back to football as it's meant to be played.

– continued next page



Rob Karpinski, MHSAA

9:00 P.M.

Lights are out for Joseph, with tomorrow's race in Holly one of the biggest of the year.

The lights are on, however, in Groat's basement. She wants her team to look good for the All-City Tournament, but she's not reviewing opponents' tendencies or diagramming offensive sets. At the moment, she is screen-printing shirts in her basement. St. Philip will debut new red jerseys Saturday. Oh, by the way, Groat also is in her fourth year as the school's athletic director.

9:49 P.M.



Hartley (above right) and Co. head out of Fowlerville High School – roughly 15 hours after his day began – through an empty hallway to an empty parking lot. Haslett pulled away in the second half for a 40-21 win, and another week was in the books for this crew. The next two days are ones which Hartley relishes, the opportunity to pass along his passion for officiating while mentoring his sons.

Hackley also is calling it a day in Jenison, but the night's sleep will be fast with the MHSAA Tennis Finals and the water polo invite the next day. The "to-do" list Marlink prepared for him during the day has Saturday's first item slated for 7 a.m.

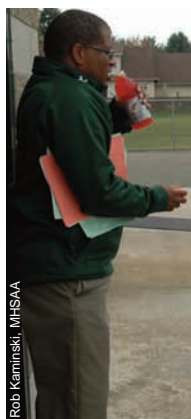
11:30 P.M.

Right about now, Groat is probably thankful she's not coaching a football team, as she completes the last of her team's shirts. At this point, Saturday is only 30 minutes away.

5:31 A.M.

The alarm goes off in Joseph's room – it's race day. After a breakfast of maple brown sugar granola cereal, whole wheat toast and orange juice, she heads to the school for a 7 a.m. bus departure. "I'm our seventh runner, but one of our team strengths is our depth. I have to keep pushing those ahead of me to help the team succeed," Joseph explains.

7:00 A.M.



While Joseph and her teammates board the bus bound for Holly, tennis courts at Jenison will begin to come to life shortly. Before they do, Hackley (left) is off to Ida's Bakery to pick up a dozen cinnamon rolls and danishes, followed by a stop at Subway to grab 15 box lunches for tournament officials at the MHSAA Tennis Finals.

Since it's Saturday, Hackley and Graham arrive early to pick up trash, replace bags, and open the restrooms. "Saves on maintenance overtime," he says.

7:45 A.M.

The Notre Dame Prep cross country team arrives at Springfield Oaks County Park, and a long line of busses greet them at the gate. After a short wait, the team de-boards, finds the perfect camp spot and sets up three canopy tents for all the varsity and JV runners. Once their spot is staked out, the varsity girls head out for a warm-up run.

8:05 A.M.

Groat arrives at Pennfield High School, followed over the next 10 minutes by her players. Some of the team's tournaments mean waking up at 5:45 a.m. for a 7 a.m. departure. This invitational, close to home, has afforded everyone another hour of sleep. Groat is plenty familiar with the All-City. At the end of this day she'll leave with her sixth championship as St. Philip's coach. And she was a senior on the 1985 team that won the school's first All-City title under Groat's mother, Sheila Guerra.



After a 7 a.m. bus ride, camp setup, a warm-up period and team cheer, the Irish of Notre Dame Prep are among the 113 runners in the boxes for the start of the Holly Invitational.

8:55 A.M.

Joseph and her teammates report to the starting chute, perform some last-minute stride-outs, take off layers of clothing, and grab attention with their unique team cheer. “Everyone always stares at us as we do the cheer, but it helps loosen us up right before the race begins,” Joseph said.

They’re lined up three-deep in the starting box, and at 9 a.m. sharp, the gun sounds and 113 runners take off.



Geoff Kimmerly, MHSAA

Groat delivers some last-minute instructions to her Tigers as they begin the quest for the All-City title with a match against Battle Creek Harper Creek at host school Battle Creek Pennfield.

About 100 miles southwest, Groat and the Tigers are ready for the first match of the day vs. Harper Creek. Following warm-ups, the team gathers in a circle for a pre-match prayer – the same one they’ve said before matches for five years. Some girls were in charge of bringing hair ribbon for the team, others had other tasks. Senior Megan Lassen was to find an inspirational quote, and before the huddle breaks she reads it off her hand to her teammates. The match starts at 9:03.

To the northwest, the courts at Jenison again become a hub of activity, as teams vie for the MHSAA Division 4 title.

9:18 A.M.

In Holly, Rachele Schulist of Zeeland West (the reigning MHSAA Division 2 Cross Country champion) crosses the finish line first, with Notre Dame Prep’s Sara Barron in second. Joseph finishes in 22:41 (sixth on her team) as the Irish run their best team race of the year.

9:37 A.M.

St. Philip finishes the first match of pool play with a 25-12, 25-17 win over Harper Creek. It’s a good sign for a few reasons – Harper Creek is a solid program coming off a District title in 2010,

and Groat has to run a home football game kicking off in nine hours. It’s “Parents Night” for the football players, and she’s banking on volleyball being done by 4 p.m. in case she needs to make a pick-up at the florist on the way to setting up.

10:26 A.M.

After beating Pennfield, 25-18, to open the second round of pool play, the Tigers fall in the second game, 26-24. This is a rarity – despite playing a number of much larger schools throughout the fall, St. Philip began the tourney with a 37-3-1 record. Groat doesn’t say much to her players afterward – by design. She expects them to prepare themselves without her giving an additional push. Sometimes it’s hard to not jump in, but she can tell after this split it isn’t necessary. “By the looks on their faces, they knew they weren’t ready to go,” Groat said. “In Game 2 we didn’t play very well, and Pennfield had the intensity there. Our girls knew they didn’t come ready to play. I didn’t have to say it.”



Geoff Kimmerly, MHSAA

– continued next page



Andy Frushour, MHSAA

Carly Joseph finishes the Holly meet sixth among the Irish, helping her team to its best finish of the season.

11:30 A.M.

Teams congregate in the pavilion area for the awards ceremony at Springfield Oaks. Pontiac NDP hasn't won a trophy in a few years, but fortunes have changed today and the girls are excited to accept the fourth-place team trophy.

"I can't wait to show (NDP Athletic Director) Ms. Wroubel. We'll find a place for it in the trophy case," Joseph said.

With the great finish today, it's hard not to talk about making the MHSAA Finals in November.



Andy Frushour, MHSAA

Joseph (center) and teammates are excited about the team's fourth-place finish at Holly, and look forward to presenting it to their AD and making room in the school trophy case. Joseph will soon trade the trophy for textbooks, getting back to her studies.

11:48 A.M.

The Tigers get a bye and then lunch break back-to-back. So after nearly an hour-and-a-half they begin warming up for their third pool play match, against Battle Creek Central. During the bye, St. Philip players kept score or served as line



Geoff Kimmerly, MHSAA

Groat takes time to mingle with parents and students during her team's bye and the lunch break; and possibly to think about details concerning the football game at St. Philip later that evening.

judges for other matches, while Groat talked with parents and watched a little bit of Lakeview – the Tigers' eventual championship match opponent.

12:15 P.M.

Joseph returns to Clarkston for some homework and rest, but her sporting weekend is far from over. She'll head to Roseville the next day for three games with her travel softball team, including two where she'll be on the mound. And then she'll cap off the weekend with a 12-mile run, get ready for school on Monday and repeat the cycle.

1:36 P.M.

St. Philip has swept Central and Lakeview to finish pool play, and changes into the new red jerseys Groat finished the night before. Next up is a semi-final match against Harper Creek – which the Tigers win in two games. They've bounced back while maintaining the cool demeanor of their coach.

"We always just take deep breaths, because if we get riled by anything, we get nervous," St. Philip junior Amanda McKinzie said. "She's usually pretty calm about it, which is always helpful. She probably has to hold back pretty hard, because if we start losing, it's kind stressful."



Geoff Kimmerly, MHSAA

St. Philip – and the newly printed jerseys – were ready for the All-City semifinals, as the Tigers cruised to the championship round.

2:27 P.M.

The final begins. By 3:07 p.m., the Tigers have won 25-22 and 25-5 to clinch their fourth-straight All-City title. The Pennfield split might have been a blessing in disguise.

"Sometimes a loss is good for a program. It kind of woke us up," Groat said. "It can't happen Oct. 31 (when Districts begin)."

3:24 P.M.

Groat leaves Pennfield for St. Philip to prepare the public address announcements for the football game and pick up flowers, the money box, water and checks for the officials who will work that night. Earlier in the day she'd secured someone to take tickets – her niece, also a former volleyball player – and by 5:45 she's on her way to Battle Creek Central's C.W. Post Stadium, less than half a mile from St. Philip and the home field for the Tigers.



Groat (back left) enjoys another city title – for exactly 17 minutes – and then has to hustle back to St. Philip for administrative duties surrounding the Tigers' football game that evening.

3:37 P.M.

The MHSAA receives Hackley's final email of the weekend after he's entered data for the Division 4 Tennis Finals. Hackley comments on the great finish that came down to the last match, as Ann Arbor Greenhills claimed the title by one point over runners-up Lansing Catholic and Kalamazoo Christian. The bus routes can go back to normal at Jenison once again on Monday.



9:20 P.M.

Groat's athletic director duties are done for the night. She picks up a pizza and gets home to Marshall by 10 p.m. It was a busy day, but despite being tired she needs time to wind down before going to sleep at midnight.

SUNDAY

The day of rest finally is here. For Hackley and Hartley, it means a 9 a.m. meeting at the MHSAA office in East Lansing, where the two attend a mandatory Michigan Community College Athletic Association Women's Basketball Officiating staff meeting. Both work women's basketball in their "spare" time. Hartley will then be off to another football field to work youth ball again with his sons.

Joseph, meanwhile, is off to Roseville for the softball tripleheader. One thing is for sure: with her daily running regimen, her legs are more than up to that task.

For Groat, it's a little more low-key, as friends come to her house to watch the Detroit Lions game. But volleyball still owns a time slot in the day – that night, Groat will update her team's season stats.

Like virtually every other official, administrator, coach and student-athlete around the state, none even stop to think about the frenetic pace. In Groat's case, there is a little extra motivation. The memory of her mom – who died in 2006 – is never far off.

"I put a little more pressure on myself. I don't want to let the legacy down," Groat said. "My driving force is to not let her down and I don't want to let the kids down. It's a great opportunity for them to play and make lasting memories."

In turn, the memories are passed on to countless supporters in communities throughout the state.

Websites and scoreboards display the winners, losers and some statistics. The power is supplied by the people in school sports – whether behind the scenes or on center stage – who simply seem to be wired a little differently.

For that, we all are thankful. One might even agree it's worth the price of admission.

– Rob Kaminski, Andy Frushour, Geoff Kimmerly
MHSAA Staff Members

The number of courts in use at Jenison High School continues to dwindle, as Division 4 MHSAA champions will be decided by mid-afternoon. The team title comes down to the last match of the weekend, with Ann Arbor Greenhills emerging victorious.



Not Just Another Game

A long time ago, a mentor suggested to me that the greatest compliment a speaker can give an audience is preparation. A speaker who carries a canned talk to audience after audience insults every audience but the very first to hear the message. Each audience and occasion requires new thought and the renewed effort to connect the experiences of speaker and listener.

Only rarely have I departed from that advice; and when I did, it was an unfulfilling event for me and I suspect it wasn't as useful for the audience as either they or I had hoped.

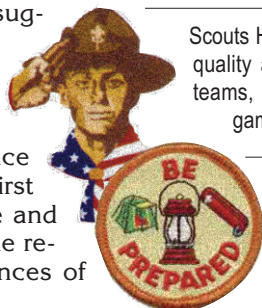
The advice for public speaking applies for many other aspects of one's life, both personal and professional. And it is competent counsel for all who are involved in interscholastic athletics.

For every practice, coaches prepare for hours. For every contest, teams prepare for days. And many weeks – even months – go into readiness for the season by athletes, coaches, administrators and many other people who prepare and repair facilities and equipment, and plan for events both at home and away. It's never just another season, game or practice for the fully prepared.

Likewise, diligent contest officials prepare for each season with a review of rules and mechanics and they ready themselves for each event with a pregame regimen that includes a checklist that assures no game on any level or at any time in the season is "routine." It's never "just another game" for an official who's fully prepared.

My greatest highs as a speaker have been when I had success with a new topic and new audience. As with travel, it's the first visit to a place that's usually best, and especially so if we've planned well for the trip.

As a coach, my highest highs followed games when I thought we had "out-coached" a better team – when our preparations helped lift the team to peak performance. And the lowest moments – I still remember some – they occurred when I just knew the team wasn't pre-



Scouts Honor: Preparation is the key element to delivering quality athletic programs to our communities. Coaches, teams, administrators and officials can all elevate their games to new heights with increased preparation.

pared, and their performance proved that prediction correct.

Much of school sports are conducted with crowds of people in an atmosphere of high emotion involving activities where participants risk injury. This setting demands trained coaches, trained officials and trained administrators.

Coaches need (and their student-athletes deserve) the kind of face-to-face training that only the MHSAA Coaches Education Program (CAP) provides.

Officials need (and both coaches and their

athletes deserve) regular, well-delivered education sessions through their local associations. Inexpensive camps under the MHSAA's leadership for inexperienced officials must continue to expand year after year.

Athletic administrators need both training and time – training through the MIAAA and MHSAA to know what to do, and then enough time on task to do it. ADs are being asked to

wear too many hats; their oversight cannot then be adequate; controversies, if not catastrophes, result.

Please see the story on the following pages to learn more about the preparation expended by MHSAA staff to equip leaders in coaching, officiating and administrative circles with the knowledge and skills needed to carry out the mission of school sports.

As an administrator I'm most pleased when I can observe from the background a tournament, program or service that our staff as a team has planned well, where we anticipated most hitches and prepared contingency plans. It's why I ask my staff for "no surprises." Being *unprepared* is the worst feeling in athletics, whether you're player, coach, official or administrator.

For every practice, coaches prepare for hours. For every contest, teams prepare for days. And many weeks – even months – go into readiness for the season by athletes, coaches, administrators and many other people who prepare and repair facilities and equipment, and plan for events both at home and away.

Leading the Leaders

The MHSAA continually strives to provide administrators, coaches and officials with a launching pad for successful journeys.

In a world taken over by iPhones, Androids and Blackberrys, there remains a place one can get back to basics with old-school pen and paper. Try the MHSAA AD In-Service and Update meetings.

It might be a bit of accidental symbolism, but the very popular sticky notes or half-page scratch pads given to meeting attendees have become building blocks for philosophies as well as timeless organizational tools for even the most contemporary administrators. Whether yesterday, today, or tomorrow, athletic directors are list-makers, and our lined gifts disappear quickly at every meeting and help ADs in their preparation for the coming year.

“We are proud of the good communication between ADs and this staff and attribute part of this relationship to regular face-to-face contact.” MHSAA Associate Director Tom Rashid

“Being an athletic director is accomplishing one detail after another, day after day, event after event,” said MHSAA Associate Director Tom Rashid. “Some details are small and some complex like proclaiming the right philosophy of school sports, which is sometimes too low on an AD’s list.”

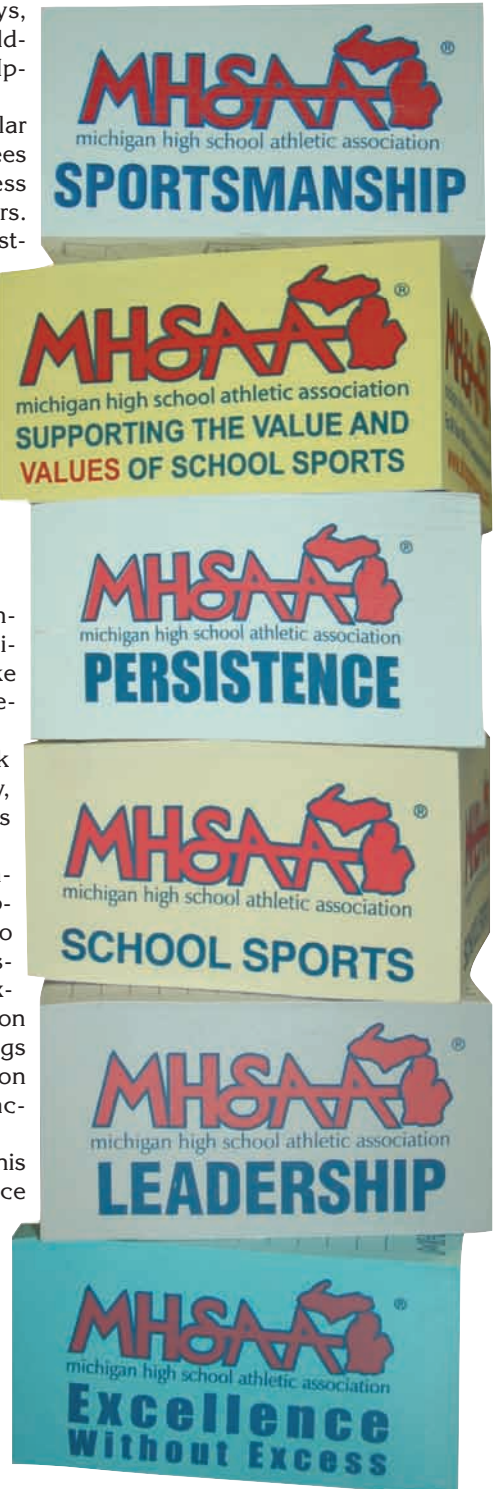
Thus, the themes used on MHSAA sticky note cubes “look good on paper” to use the old sports adage. More importantly, the MHSAA attempts to communicate such philosophies with its constituents as well and as often as possible.

Coordinating “in-person” meetings to bring school administrators and MHSAA staff together afford opportunities which are absent via phone calls, emails or letters. In-services are designed to cover what is new, refresh knowledge of rules and review administrative points of emphasis. Moreover, they provide a forum for exchange among administrators, including input and discussion on possible changes to rules or trends in school sports. Such meetings yield the intended consequence of increasing communication among ADs within geographic regions and having MHSAA staff accessible to the schools we serve.

“We are proud of the good communication between ADs and this staff and attribute part of this relationship to regular face-to-face contact,” said Rashid.

Preparation for AD In-Service programs begins when they end. Suggested topics collected during the meetings are later evaluated and developed into meaningful agendas for the next “fall tour.” These “notes for next year” represent a medley of ideas from MHSAA Staff, member school athletic directors and real-life

The world of iPhones, Blackberrys and Droids still has room for sticky notes (as any AD attending annual MHSAA In-Services and Update Meetings will attest). No matter how advanced the means, the message and philosophy remain the foundations for successful school sports programs.



situations. Often, challenging scenarios of one AD become something other ADs can learn from to assure certain situations won't happen again.

The MHSAA Representative Council plays a role in the preparation for AD In-service meetings. At each of its three annual meetings, the Council offers topics for statewide discussion, helping to publicize items under consideration and to tap into the collective thoughts of hundreds of member school administrators. Feedback is recorded and presented to the MHSAA Executive Director, Staff and the Representative Council. There is never 100 percent agreement with every rule or policy, but generally this process of talk first, listen, and then act – after constituents have input – allows for member schools to stay connected to the MHSAA. The result is fewer surprised ADs, and rules that reflect the membership.

“The post of athletic director may be the toughest job in the building. The day begins at least at the first bell and runs another eight hours on most days in any given week,” said Rashid. “Duties are being doubled when perhaps they should be halved, and yet the men and women who take on these tasks continue to both serve and lead with passion and competence.”

Preventing problems, sharing solutions and exercising caution are a large part of the educational process implemented by the MHSAA. It begins with a required new AD Orientation in August, continues through the Update and In-Service programs, a February league leadership meeting and March and July MIAAA workshops.

Knowledge of the rules and their philosophies along with the processes which schools have agreed to follow is empowering for ADs as they guide their school programs.

CAP: Preparing the People Who Prepare the Coaches

How do you prepare and practice like a champion? What helps an athlete prepare and feel confident going into competition? What are the legal responsibilities of coaches and the steps involved in risk management? How do you set a motivational climate for your athletes or a positive, task-oriented practice climate? What does it mean to be a reasonably prudent professional? These (and many more) questions are routinely discussed at MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program clinics.

Preparation in coaches education begins as each school year ends. As the summer winds down with a thorough instructor training and re-training, another year of the MHSAA Coaches Advancement Program starts up with renewed energy and enthusiasm. The preparation and assessment with the

Coaches Advancement Program is an interactive, continuous cycle of planning, teaching and assessment which includes reflection and revision as a part of the cycle – similar to the process of teaching being described as an interactive and continuous cycle.

CAP instructors are engaged in the recurring process of planning, teaching, and assessment coupled with reflection and revision. Plans (or modules) are prepared for instruction to create information based on participant needs. Effective instruction strategies involving adult learning styles challenge participants to continue to acquire skills and learn concepts and strategies in a variety of subjects. Topics include effective instruction, sports medicine, sports psychology, effective communication, legal responsibilities and many more areas. Each module and instructor is assessed, formally and informally, and plans are revised to meet the needs of the participants.



MHSAA File Photo

“CAP is designed to be less like a knowledge-transfer course and more like cooperative learning where coaching and knowledge are shared and created in context.” — MHSAA Assistant Director Kathy Westdorp

The cycle of planning, teaching and assessment is continual.

More than three-fifths of United States adults (approximately 162 million Americans) claim some relationship to sport-related activities. Parents overwhelmingly cite personal and social values when describing hopes for their children in playing sport. The USADA commissioned a survey of nearly 9,000 Americans, representing the general population, coaches, athletes and parents of athletes involved in Olympic-path sports. The result? Non-Olympic level sports and coaches were ranked as the No. 1 positive influence on today's youth involved in sport.

“Because of this and the great influence of coaches in our schools, CAP has continuous training for its instructors,” Westdorp said. “CAP is designed to be less like a knowledge-transfer course and more like cooperative learning where coaching and knowledge are shared and created in context.”

CAP instructors and CAP clinics actively engage coaches in exercises and discussions with clear learning objectives, interaction, collaboration, diversified learning, and group and individual exercises.

Training includes the challenge of teaching adults by making a presentation informative and useful; maximizing the amount of information while maintaining learner interest; and encouragement of learners to apply what is learned to their own situation. Various learning strategies are explored in each training session and the instructors relate their experiences at CAP clinics as well as their teaching strategies within the curriculum.

The role of the coach has become more than teaching skills to athletes. Additionally, having a positive experience as a part of a team will be one of the best memories that an athlete will have and building those teams will be the coach's greatest legacy. That is why the process of coaches education is a continuous cycle. It's well worth keeping the No. 1 positive influence on today's youth in sports up to date.

Setting Up Camp: Officials Earn Stripes

Officiating camps and clinics are relatively new initiatives for the MHSAA as the Association attempts to identify, recruit, train and retain contest officials. Initial efforts have produced great success in directly training officials in basketball, football, baseball, softball and wrestling with a variety of camps and clinics.

Like officiating itself, early planning and preparation are key in providing a good training experience. As educators have long known, the quality of education is directly related to the quality of the teacher. The MHSAA takes great pride in identifying clinicians who will put the needs and questions of the camp or clinic attendee first.

"We want instructors who are more concerned and interested in giving the official authentic instruction and feedback rather than sharing 'war stories' or sharing their resume of 'big games'" said MHSAA Assistant Director Mark Uyl, coordinator of more than 13,000 registered officials.

In other words, the MHSAA seeks clinicians who bring credibility to the training session yet focus on the attendee first and foremost. The staff also takes great pride in finding teachers who are great communicators; who can work with experienced and inexperienced officials in a given setting.

Clinicians prepare in advance of the training sessions by studying *high school* mechanics and rules.

"There is nothing more frustrating for a high school-level official to attend a training session sponsored by a high school organization only to receive information and anecdotes about college or

professional rules, philosophies or means of operation," Uyl said. "The focus must be on the high school attendee, and our clinicians must be content experts in the world of high school officiating in that sport. There are times where personal examples or experiences of the clinicians are helpful in making a teaching point, but the focus should then return to the official in helping that person improve each and every repetition."

Officiating is a "bottom line" business, and the bottom line in MHSAA camps and clinics is to have each attendee leave as a better official than when he or she arrived. Improvement throughout each session is the goal, one that the clinicians work toward each with each camp.

The experiences also allow officials to interact with high school athletes and coaches, since many of the training experiences are held in conjunction



MHSAA Officials Camps and Clinics include classroom instruction and live training opportunities for a combination of education, experience and exposure.

with team camps or clinics. This "live" opportunity allows officials to communicate directly with the players and coaches, a necessary and critical skill in managing a "real" school game during the season. An average official can become an excellent one with superior communication skills which positively manage the emotional ups and downs of the participants during a game. An excellent official can also become very average with poor communication patterns

"This real interaction with the athletes and coaches in our clinic and camp settings makes our training sessions so well received" said Uyl.

The MHSAA camps and clinics provide a great opportunity for officials, on their own, to seek professional development which will improve their games on the fields and courts. The dedicated out-of-season work by many officials results in improved in-season performance, which is what the member schools of the MHSAA desire and require.

Keep It Out of the Courts: Football Saga Bad Example

At their best, high school sports are laden with redeeming values, the merits of hard work and teamwork being at the top of that list.

When done correctly, they also exude a mature respect for authority. All are invaluable in today's world.

That's why this week's (Nov. 4, 2011) legal kerfuffle between two Alabama high school football teams, Clay-Chalkville and Gadsden City, is disappointing and unnecessary.

This story's casual observer seeks a simple answer: Who wins?

Yet, the issue isn't simplistic. By filing suit to keep their team in the playoffs, Clay-Chalkville's leadership has joined the wider expanse of an increasingly litigious society. It is a society that prefers court action instead of lawyer-free negotiations. It is a society that decides the highest applicable authority – in this case, the reputable Alabama High School Athletic Association – doesn't own much authority at all.

Yes, the players at both schools want to play in the playoffs. That's impossible. Only one can go. We understand why the emotions at both schools are so intense.

But the AHSAA, which governs sanctioned competition between high school teams, ruled that Clay-Chalkville must forfeit nine victories because it played an ineligible player during the regular season. That ruling eliminated Clay-Chalkville, elevated Gadsden City into the playoff field and jumbled the playoff picture for Oxford High, which has legitimate hopes of winning the Class 6A state title.

The AHSAA, as a private organization, has an executive director and central board that uphold its bylaws and handle disputes from member schools. Like the NCAA, the AHSAA does not force schools to become members, though member schools do have an established set of rules to follow.

That should have been the end of it: Clay-Chalkville out, Gadsden City in.

But both schools lawyered up. Clay-Chalkville received an injunction from the Jefferson County Circuit Court. Gadsden City received its own favorable ruling from a different judge. The state Supreme Court, thanks to a request from the AHSAA, has become involved.

Welcome to our litigious world.

Anniston residents who follow city politics are well-versed in this unnecessary phenomena. Increasingly during the last three years, the City Council has used court action as standard procedure whenever it faces roadblocks or opposition. The council should trademark its motto: When in doubt, sue!

Clay-Chalkville supporters may feel the AHSAA erred in its initial ruling, but the AHSAA's authority in this case should be respected, as distasteful to those supporters as it might have been.

It's unfortunate that this episode is dropping high school sports into the murky waters of needless litigation. This isn't a matter of the courts. It's a game, played by teens on the field. That's where it should have remained.

– *The Anniston (AL) Star Editorial Board*
Nov. 4, 2011

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Preparation in the Form of an Old Lunchtime Favorite

Long a lunchtime staple in high school cafeterias across the country, students will be glad to find out that the chocolate milk they consume has nutritional benefits in addition to its great taste.

Part of the regimen to reach peak athletic performance includes hydration before and after workouts and competition. Many experts recommend plenty of water to keep the body healthy; however, after competition, student-athletes need more than just water to help their bodies replenish the nutrients lost during exercise or competition.

Country Fresh and Dean's Dairy have teamed up to provide just such a refueling agent – TruMoo chocolate milk. TruMoo is an excellent post-workout beverage because the carbohydrates provide energy to help refuel muscles, protein to support growth and repair of muscles, fluid and electrolytes to re-hydrate, and vitamins and minerals to help build strong bones and bodies.

The MHSAA and Country Fresh Dairy, a division of Dean's Dairy, began a partnership in 2010 which made chocolate milk the "Official Beverage of the MHSAA." The partnership gives Country Fresh the opportunity to promote the health benefits of chocolate milk to student-athletes and fans.

"We are proud to be partnering with the MHSAA, in spreading the word on the importance of refueling with a nutritious and delicious glass of TruMoo chocolate milk" said Kevin Begin, general manager at Country Fresh.

For more information on TruMoo go to www.TruMoo.com.

Legends of the Games



Kalamazoo Central stunned the prep cage world with a 1949 Class A title, then proved it was no fluke in 1950 and 1951

The following story is reprinted from the 2001 MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals program. The first school to ever win three consecutive Class A MHSAA Boys Basketball titles, the Kalamazoo Central teams of 1949, 1950 and 1951, was honored through the “Legends Of The Games” program at ceremonies during half-time of the Class A championship game that year.

Kalamazoo Central made basketball history when it became the first school in Michigan High School Athletic Association history to win three consecutive Class A state tournament boys basketball championships.

The Maroon Giants, coached by Bob Quiring, won Class A titles at Michigan State University's Jenison Field House in 1949, 1950 and 1951, which also happened to be the first three years of Quiring's tenure as head coach.

– continued next page



A Giant Gesture for Nearly Forgotten Maroon Giants

If you live long enough, you'll have promises made to you which are later broken. It's a fact of life. You'll might even break some promises yourself.

However, sometimes if you live long enough, people will make good on promises you've long since dismissed; even promises that are more than 50 years old.

Before Kalamazoo Central's historic title run from 1949-51, other Maroon Giant squads had made their marks on the hardwood, capturing MHSAA crowns in 1932 and 1938, while finishing runner-up in 1930 and 1936. At least, that's what the records say. In 1936, history has the Maroon Giants losing to Flint Northern, 28-27, in overtime.

The rest of the story involves a promise, five decades of fleeting hopes, and finally delivery on that promise. The 1936 Class A title game actually ended 27-27 after one overtime period. According to the 1936 MHSAA *Bulletin*, Association Tournament regulations at that time settled matters using a “point system involving the number of free throws, percentage of successful free throws, and the number of personal fouls committed by each team.” While the field goals were even, Flint Northern had the edge in the other two categories, and was awarded one point and declared the winner.

But, before the winner was known, officials at the site announced that the runner-up would be considered co-champs and receive a duplicate trophy and medals. Then, the waiting began.

– continued page 21

In becoming an MHSAA "Legends of the Games" group being honored Kalamazoo Central actually qualified as a legend in prep sports annals with its 1949 Class A state title run. The Maroon Giants compiled a so-so 10-5 season record that included a reversal by forfeit of a game lost on the court as the result of a player ineligibility ruling.

To make Kalamazoo Central an even greater darkhorse at tournament time was the fact that its top player, 6-8 center Jim Wenke, had graduated in midyear, leaving Quiring without his top scorer and rebounder in a lineup that included three juniors and two seniors.

But Quiring, who died in May, 1983, brought his young team closer together after losing Wenke and it won its final three regular-season games against Lansing Sexton, Muskegon Heights and Jackson.

The unit made up of seniors Al Suter and Garth Stickney and juniors Bob Topp, George Heinrich and Dick Noble kept going from there. It beat Grand Rapids Central and Benton Harbor in regional play and then moved past Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills and Ferndale to make it to the championship game.

Waiting for the Maroon Giants was Saginaw Arthur Hill, unbeaten in 21 games and led by All-American Paul Hinkin. If ever there was a mismatch this was to be it.



The 1951 team had lofty standards to reach after two straight championships. **Above**, from left: Bob Parks, John Gideon, H.B. Gardner, Gar Toornman, Bill Stuijbergen, Ron Jackson, Jim Bishop. That group and the rest of the Maroon Giants were up to the task, as they were able to celebrate a third Class A trophy after downing Highland Park in the 1951 Final (**below**).

1949 title game as a sophomore, and Sam Grow filling out the starting lineup, breezed to a 20-1 record that included a 64-50 finals victory over Port Huron.

Kalamazoo's only loss was to Benton Harbor by a 28-22 score, but the Maroon Giants recovered to close the season with 13 wins in a row.

In 1951, Jackson, who went on to play baseball and basketball at Western Michigan University and then Major League Baseball with the Chicago White Sox, was the only holdover starter. He was joined by Bill Stuijbergen (also a Legend of the Game honoree in 2000 as assistant coach on the 1959 Lansing Sexton championship team), Bob Parks, Jim Bishop, H.B. Gardner and Gar Toornman in a rotating lineup of starters.

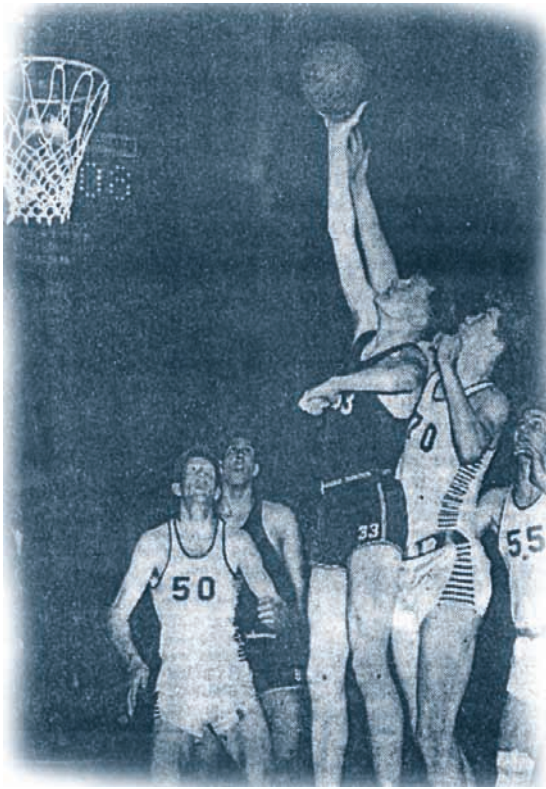
But Kalamazoo posted another 20-1 record, losing only a 57-56 overtime decision to Muskegon

Kalamazoo Central players, however, didn't flinch. The Maroon Giants took an early lead and built upon it for a runaway victory over a team rated unbeatable by most. Heinrich led the way with 21 points, but it was a team effort all the way.

After the memorable tournament run in 1949, the road to two more Class A state championships proved easier.

The 1950 team, with Topp, Noble and Heinrich as holdover starters and Ron Jackson, who played in the





Kalamazoo Central's Bob Topp gathers in a rebound during the 1950 title victory over Port Huron.

as a field goal by Jackson at the buzzer was not allowed.

The Maroon Giants had their most difficult Final game of the three championships in March, but finally prevailed over Highland Park, 50-47.

The amazing Kalamazoo Central Class A title run ended in 1952 with a 40-35 regional finals loss to a Holland team it had beaten twice during the regular season.

"It was a great run," said Quiring. "I think we put Kalamazoo Central in the record book with indelible ink."

The Kalamazoo Central squad list from the three title years included Stickney, Terry Nulf, Keith Jones, Suter, Ron Dillingham, Topp, Tom Brennan, Noble, Heinrich, Grow, Bob Henry, John Gideon, Jack Doyle, Dale Steeby, Louie Jones, Bob Casler, Tom Reiger, Jackson, Terry Husband, Ron Harder, Ron Sines, Tom Herr, Stuißberger, Gardner and Terry Nye.

Members of the Kalamazoo Central team that fashioned the MHSAA championship run have scattered around the country and enjoyed careers that ranked from Air Force pilot (Heinrich) to physician (Topp) to coach (Stuißberger) to professional baseball player (Jackson). But many of them regrouped in East Lansing in 2001 to be honored as true "Legends of the Games."

– Ron Pesch, MHSAA Historian

Giant Gesture –

– from page 19

Nobody knew exactly when the Maroon Giants of '36 would receive their hardware. And, as years went by, it wasn't a question of *when*, but *whether*.

If not for convergence of two passionate athletic employees at Kalamazoo Central, a timely reunion of the '36 squad, and a sympathetic ear at the MHSAA Office in 1992, it's likely this story would forever live on as simply "28-27 (OT)."

Richard Lemmer, a member of the '36 squad who later became a doctor and long-time athletic trainer at Central, never forgot the promise and turned to friend Blake Hagman for assistance after Hagman became the school's AD.

A newspaper clipping photo of 1936 Maroon Giant Leland Cannon, medal around his neck, is proof of a promise kept.



Hagman's repeated requests to the MHSAA kept falling on deaf ears for a decade or so, but when Lemmer planned a reunion of the team for September 1992, Hagman again contacted the MHSAA months in advance.

The response from current Executive Director Jack Roberts – at the time six years on the job – was one the Kalamazoo school had been waiting for.

"We intend to make good on the promise of duplicate awards to the members of the 1936 Kalamazoo Central boys basketball team," began a letter from Roberts.

On Sept. 19, 1992, at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo, the MHSAA made good on the promise.

"In the 12th year after the MHSAA was formed (and 12 years before I was born)," Roberts addressed the team, "something unprecedented and unduplicated in Michigan high school basketball occurred."

Roberts then reviewed the details of the game, saying, "it was immediately determined afterward that duplicate awards would be given to Kalamazoo Central. *Determined*, but never *delivered* – until tonight."

And with that, perhaps the longest promise in the history of athletics – 56 years in the making – was kept.

Teams Square Off in Wounded Warrior Contest

The meeting of two state-ranked teams always will ratchet up a typical football night. Both communities, naturally, want to see which is better on the field.

But during the hour before the opening kickoff of DeWitt's game against Portland on Oct. 14, those teams and their supporters together recognized a grander cause. The night was dedicated to the Wounded Warrior Project, which aids U.S. soldiers (and their families) who have suffered service-related injuries and illnesses.

Rain washed out some planned attractions, but the evening certainly was memorable. Both teams wore camouflage jerseys and each sent its captains to the pre-game coin toss with an honorary captain representing the military. A number of other service personnel were involved – including a local color guard that presented a 30-foot flag for the National Anthem.

It's understandable if people's visions of wars and our military are focused an ocean away. But connections hit close to home. DeWitt's honorary captain, Lansing's U.S. Army Spc. Jacob Shumway, recently returned from a deployment and has been in the service for two-and-a-half years. He's a 2003 Lansing Everett graduate, and his mother Susan Land is the principal at Lansing Eastern. His cousins Ethan and Collin



Tricia Wiefenich, MHSAA

It was evident this was no ordinary Friday night from the outset, as a local color guard presents a 30-foot flag during the National Anthem.

It's understandable if people's visions of wars and our military are focused an ocean away. But connections hit close to home.

Rennaker start for DeWitt, and he walked alongside them for the pregame flip. Shumway plans to attend Lansing Community College and study digital graphic design.

Both teams were considered contenders to make a deep playoff run. DeWitt entered the game ranked No. 7 in Division 3, while Portland was No. 4 in Division 5. And they played like it – Portland prevailed 22-20 in overtime.

A great game, no question. But similarly significant was a preliminary figure of more than \$11,000 raised for the WWP.

– Geoff Kimmerly
MHSAA Media & Content Coordinator

NOTE: This story first appeared on MHSAA.com's "First Pitch," which also includes video of the event.



Tricia Wiefenich, MHSAA

The "names" on the backs of the uniform for the Wounded Warriors game took on special meaning.

For more about the Wounded Warrior Project scan the code at right or visit woundedwarriorproject.org.



Women in Sports Leadership: Leaders Show Up!

The 20th MHSAA Women in Sports Leadership Conference is set for Feb. 5-6, 2012 at the Lexington Lansing Hotel. The conference offers opportunities for students, officials, coaches and administrators to gain a better understanding of the many responsibilities of leadership. The WISL Conference is the first, largest and longest-running conference of its type in the country. This year's theme, "Leaders Show Up!" reflects the origins of the conference and will target attributes key to the development of future leaders in athletics.

Young women who are interested in leadership and interscholastic athletics, as well as men and women responsible for recruiting, hiring, training and retaining women as coaches, administrators and officials are encouraged to attend. Schools are limited to a maximum of 12 students; there is no limit on the number of adults who may attend, however there must be one adult per four students.

Topics for 2012 include:

- Creating a Team Atmosphere
- Cultural Awareness
- Nutrition
- The Benefit of Being a Multi-Sport Athlete
- NCAA Regulations Panel
- Core Crazy
- Coaching the Millennial Athlete
- Increasing Speed and Agility
- Careers in Athletics
- Team Building Activities
- True Colors
- Talking with the Media
- Zumba
- Motivation

Register now, as the Women in Sports Leadership Conference is limited to 500 attendees. The deadline for registration is January 18, 2012.

For more about the WISL Conference, visit the Training and Education page of MHSAA.com or scan this code



Student Advisory Council in Place and Set to Lead

The MHSAA Student Advisory Council is a 16-member group which provides feedback on issues impacting educational athletics from a student's point of view.

Members of the Student Advisory Council serve for two years, beginning as juniors. Eight new members are selected annually to the SAC, with nominations made by MHSAA member schools. The Council meets five times each school year to discuss the educational value of interscholastic athletics, emphasizing scholarship, sportsmanship, safety, scope and student leadership.

"The SAC provides input from the student-athlete leadership of our state, and improves our program to our community leaders of tomorrow," said MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts. "



John Johnson, MHSAA

2011-12 Student Advisory Council – Front Row (L to R): Evan Lamb, Rogers City; Matthew Freeman, Owosso; Thye Fischman, Vandercook Lake; Kyle Short, Rockford; Tyler Wilson, Rudyard; Kevin Beazley, Detroit Catholic Central; Travis Clous, Benzie Central. **Back Row:** Taylor Krumm, Walled Lake Central; Ellesse Lehman, Portland St. Patrick; Carly Joseph, Pontiac Notre Dame Prep; Abigail Radomsky, Kalamazoo Hackeitt; Lena Madison, New Buffalo; Emily Wee, Frankenmuth; Alissa Jones, Muskegon Catholic Central; Maria Buczkowski, Detroit Country Day. **Not Pictured:** Bailey Truesdell, Grand Blanc.

Giving Back: Revenue Sharing Program Nets \$60K

Historically, membership in the MHSAA has been free of financial obligations for member schools. There has been no cost to join or to enter its postseason tournaments, and schools receive reimbursement for a portion of their participation expenses in many tournaments. Of late, schools have begun to benefit financially in additional ways through the Association's two-year-old revenue-sharing program.

Early in September 2011, 142 schools were sent checks ranging from \$10 to \$300-plus through a variety of programs in which the MHSAA is engaged for the sale of school apparel, DVDs of MHSAA Network presentations, miniature tournament trophies, District tournament programs, and District awards as part of the Scholar-Athlete Award program. Over the past 20 months, the total amount of revenue given to schools exceeds \$60,000.

"This is a very modest start," said MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts. "We anticipate that as our efforts expand, schools will see even more revenue. We've always avoided having membership be a financial burden on schools, and in these especially challenging times, we're now helping our members in additional ways."

The payments are primarily driven through general school apparel sales through the MHSAA Website, in retail stores, and customized tournament merchandise. Roberts added that 100 percent of the royalty from school customized apparel available through retail sales goes to schools.



Hockey Weekly Action Photos

\$60K? Believe it! Students and parents have been buying school spirit apparel for years. Now with the MHSAA's association with LRG, schools are getting some pep back in their coffers.

"For many years, you could walk into a big box store at the start of the school year, purchase merchandise with your school's logos and colors, and not have a penny of the proceeds go back to your school," he said. "Through our association with Licensing Resource Group, schools can now benefit from the sale of these spirit items."

The Scholar-Athlete Award program at the local level is sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance agents, who support District basketball tournaments with a donation to the host institution and a scholarship to a student-athlete participating in the event who was an applicant for the Scholar-Athlete Award. A small number of agents took part during the pilot program in 2011, and more are expected to participate in 2012.

Minter Makes the Call: Longtime MHSAA Employee Retires

The 2011 Boys Soccer Finals marked the end of an era for the MHSAA – and in many respects – soccer itself.

For 53 years, MHSAA Assistant to the Executive Director Tom Minter has been involved in the game of soccer in some capacity; as player, coach, official, and – since 2003 – as the MHSAA's director of Boys and Girls Soccer. Minter retires in December, and his absence will be felt.

Tom's avocation as an MHSAA registered official for 40-plus years provides his passion for the MHSAA's work. Prior to his hire in September of 1995, Tom had worked MHSAA Finals in baseball, football, boys soccer and girls soccer, and was also an accomplished basketball official. His knowledge, experience and affable demeanor have earned the respect of officials and coaches around the state.

"Tom has given us depth and security in serving a half-dozen sports, while also managing the Association's business and administration during his tenure" said MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts, "It's an unusual blend of duties which the MHSAA has long appreciated and will surely miss."

A CAREER OF GIVING

Tom Minter of the MHSAA (right) has made a career of giving back to a number of sports – and so much more.



MHSAA File Photo

Kimmerly Aims to Make the State “A Little Smaller”

An award-winning journalist while covering high school sports over the past decade, Geoff Kimmerly joined the MHSAA staff in September as its Media & Content Coordinator.

Since 2000, Kimmerly had served as the prep sports editor for the *Lansing State Journal*, where he directed the coverage of 46 mid-Michigan athletic programs, produced blogs and hosted videos on the outlet’s website that were among its most viewed offerings. He also covered Michigan State University athletics.

Kimmerly received a number of awards for his writing from the Michigan Press Association and the Michigan Associated Press. He was also a member of the AP’s selection committee for all-state teams and a voter for its weekly football and basketball polls.

In his role with the MHSAA, Kimmerly will take a lead role in expanding the available content on the Association’s website, including the creation of original stories and features on high school sports. He will also help manage the schedules and scores section of MHSAA.com, assist with media relations, and take responsibility for coordinating statewide records.

“Geoff was an outstanding writer for the *Lansing State Journal* over the past decade, and visitors to MHSAA.com are enjoying the new content he is creating,” said MHSAA Executive Director Jack Roberts. “He has also shown versatility in new media that will help us expand our internet outreach to schools.”

Kimmerly, a native of Frankenmuth, is a 1999 graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor of arts in journalism.



Kimmerly’s stories from around Michigan will become must-read content for prep sports enthusiasts.

In his first story for the MHSAA.com, entitled “First Pitch,” Kimmerly revealed the underlying goal for his work.

“Michigan is the 10th-largest state,” he wrote. “There are more than 58,000 square miles of land, and by vehicle it’s 625 miles from Calumet High School near the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula to Bedford High on the southeastern border with Ohio. Nearly 10 million people live here.

“We aim to make the state a little smaller.”

Visit MHSAA.com or scan this code for Kimmerly’s prep features from around the state.



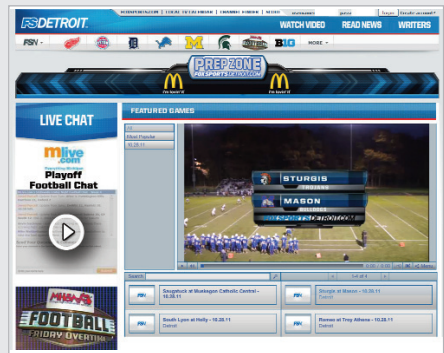
Prep Zone Debuts With Playoffs

The Prep Zone on FoxSportsDetroit.com debuted during the 2011 MHSAA Football Playoffs, streaming four games live each weekend leading up to the Finals at Ford Field Nov. 25-26.

The first-year venture attracted more than 12,000 live pageviews during the first night of the Playoffs, Oct. 28. Following the live streams, PrepZone games are archived for viewing on MHSAA.tv.

MHSAA.tv and FoxSportsDetroit.com also featured all four championship games in the Lower Peninsula Boys Soccer Tournament and a Finish Line Camera at the Lower Peninsula Cross Country Finals on Nov. 5. The Volleyball Semifinals and Finals were also covered by a combination of Fox stations, MHSAA.tv and FoxSportsDetroit.com.

Stay tuned for winter tournament coverage on the web.



Prep Zone attracted more than 12,000 viewers in Week 1 of the 2011 MHSAA Football Playoffs.

MHSAA & ArbiterSports Partner to Assist ADs

Responding to requests from athletic administrators at its member schools to provide tools to assist them in the day-to-day operation of their sports programs, the MHSAA and ArbiterSports reached an agreement in principle this fall to develop a software package which will allow schools to manage the entire process locally while being integrated with the MHSAA's systems to create a single-entry solution.

The new product – ArbiterGame – will empower athletic departments to schedule games, manage teams, create rosters, arrange transportation, change venues and times, send notifications, see officiating crews, pay referees and other game staff electronically, communicate with other schools, and to track the entire process online. The program will also connect to the MHSAA's administrative systems and allow for scores and schedules to be updated with a single input from schools.

“Increasingly over the past two years, the MHSAA office has overheard athletic administrators’ concerns regarding the electronic administrative tools they purchase; and increasingly there have been requests for the MHSAA office to provide tools so integrated with MHSAA systems that a single entry would perform tasks for both local and MHSAA needs, and all would be in an environment free of objectionable advertising and editorial content,” said Jack Roberts, executive director of the Association. “In return, our staff, often in consultation with local athletic directors and their administrative assistants, have been investigating a proper response. For many months we researched the development of these tools ourselves; but in more recent months we concluded that it was more likely we could deliver product to schools sooner and less expensively by joining forces with ArbiterSports in this project than by going it alone.

“Collaborating with ArbiterSports and participating in the design of its new product – ArbiterGame – will provide us the opportunity to assist schools with the local needs and their communication with the MHSAA; and do it in a more cost-effective manner for schools given the economic challenges they face,” Roberts continued.

The MHSAA is the flagship association with ArbiterSports for this product.



“ArbiterSports delivers tools that streamline the entire process of holding athletic events,” said Claire Roberts, chief executive officer of ArbiterSports. “With the addition of ArbiterGame, our clients will be able to manage and track almost every task associated with organizing a sporting event, all from a single platform. We are excited to work with MHSAA and believe its input will help us create an industry-leading game scheduling product that meets the demands of school athletic departments in Michigan and around the country.”

A core set of tools will be available for school use in the Spring of 2012 to get schools ready for the 2012-13 school year, and the complete suite will be available in the Spring of 2013; and will be the only such program available that will be fully integrated with MHSAA data and systems. Athletic Directors from around the state will be closely involved throughout the duration of the development to ensure their needs are fully understood and addressed. Roberts added that the cost to

schools will be largely subsidized – if not fully paid – by the MHSAA for each member schools for at least several years.

Following the agreement, two focus groups were convened to prioritize initial functionality and future development components. One group comprised athletic administrators, and another group was made up of administrative assistants.

“The initial focus groups provided a wealth of information and insight,” commented MHSAA Director of Information Systems Tony Bihn. “Pros and cons of current software programs were analyzed, and daily, monthly and yearly tasks of those we serve were clearly identified. These sessions are integral to program development and will serve us well as we move forward.”

Bihn added that the groups would be called upon again to test and review the product at various stages of development, and new groups would also be assembled.

“We are excited to work with MHSAA and believe its input will help us create an industry-leading game scheduling product that meets the demands of school athletic departments in Michigan and around the country.” – Claire Roberts, CEO, ArbiterSports

Capital Area Officials Unveil Evaluation Program

Perhaps one of the most difficult aspects of high school athletic officiating is finding enough bodies and resources to “officiate” the officials through quality evaluation programs.

Ratings come only from the coaches, but they don’t always have intricate knowledge of rules and mechanics. Objective evaluations from officiating partners are problematic, as each game official has specific areas of responsibility which preclude them from seeing the big picture.

The **Capital Area Officials Association** in Lansing is addressing the issue. What’s more, the blueprint is in place for other associations to follow. During the past two falls, the CAO A filmed 17 varsity football crews once each. In October 2011, the evaluation program was introduced.

“Our football evaluation program is the culmination of years of planning and wouldn’t be possible without the dedication of each member in our association,” said CAO A Executive Director Mike Conlin. “Our vision of a comprehensive evaluation program is now a reality because our membership made it a priority. And, the football evaluation program is just the beginning, as we plan to expand this to other sports.”

Recognizing the value of education, training and feedback to the development of all officials, the CAO A continued to earmark portions of its membership dues toward video equipment and software during the last several years.

Additionally – and here’s the twist – the CAO A began to take all scrimmage fees in football and basketball contests and invest the monies into the evaluation project. Officials working the scrimmages take home no money, but are paid in future training and on-site mentoring. Often times at CAO A scrimmages it’s not unusual to find two additional officials on a basketball court, or three to four extra officials on the football field, as experienced trainers share their knowledge.

“It takes total buy-in, but the end result is going to benefit our entire roster,” Conlin said. “This is important to us. I’ve had mentors who have been there for me through my development, and officiating is about giving back. Whatever we can do to develop better officiating is a worthwhile endeavor.”

The CAO A purchased two video cameras, an external hard drive and video software with the funds targeted for the project.

From there, CAO A member Ed Spagnuolo was assigned as the video coordinator.

“Basically, I went through the schedules and made sure that our crews would each be filmed once, and I tried as often as possible to look at games we thought would be competitive



Complete game video online is the first step in an evaluation process designed to assist the advancement of CAO A officials.

matchups,” Spagnuolo said. “I then asked for volunteers to shoot the games, and we really were never at loss, as our younger guys stepped up and were eager to dot it.”

While officials are always encouraged to take blank DVDs and self-addressed envelopes to sites and ask the home team to burn a copy, those videos are often the abridged version.

“The games we shoot include the activity between downs, where we can look at critical communication mechanics for each crew,” Spagnuolo said. “The team videos most often only show action from snap to snap.”

Spagnuolo then takes the footage and uploads the file to a website, notifying the crew that it is available for download. Each crew is encouraged to visit the site, download the file, and then convene as a crew for honest self-analysis. At the same time, veteran official Bruce Keeling, who, like Conlin, works NCAA Division 1 football, spends a few hours re-viewing the game online, then composes a written evaluation that he emails to crew members.

The goal is to identify crews in three categories: those worthy of future MHSAA Finals; those deserving of early Playoff assignments; and those which can reach the next level with increased work and improvement.

“The evaluations are intended to be educational in nature,” Keeling said. “There will be praise, criticism, suggestions and grades, and I am always available for post-evaluation discussion. I emphasize that none of this is personal; in fact, I don’t know the majority of the people I am watching. My evaluations are based on the positions on the field. As we often say, ‘It’s just business.’”

And, the business of officiating in Lansing just got an upgrade.



“It takes total buy-in, but the end result is going to benefit our entire roster. This is important to us.” – CAO A Executive Director Mike Conlin

See the Horse. See the Horse Collared.



Eric Frohriep , Portland

Most of the time, officials are required to mete out jurisdiction by the letter of the rule as it appears in the book. In other situations, good horse-sense trumps all.

En route to his first game of the 2011 season, a JV game at Climax-Scotts, Roger Laughlin of Potterville found himself coming to the aid of a most unusual pedestrian.

Laughlin, a nine-year registered official in multiple sports, met with crewmates Dar Petersen, Brian Draper and Eric Frohriep at the Holt Road park-and-ride off of US 127 for what he assumed would be a typical start to the football season on Aug. 24.

“While on country roads we came around a curve and had two horses running straight at us down the middle of the road,” Laughlin said. “I hit the breaks, as did other cars coming up behind us.”

Laughlin’s wife shows horses, so he is comfortable around the animals. Next, he did what came naturally.

A good official is always prepared to manage his sideline, as Roger Laughlin did prior to the first kickoff of his 2011 season. No word as to whether the horse was issued a warning.

“I jumped out of my car and grabbed the halter of the lead horse,” he said. “As I walked the horse to the farm where the two had broken from their pasture, the owners were walking down their drive to see the horses being led home.”

A woman from another vehicle guided the second horse, and order was restored.

However, upon returning to the car, there was a matter of penalty enforcement to resolve, as a crew member had tossed a flag onto Laughlin’s seat. The question, of course, was whether or not he was guilty of a horse-collar. Even with the photo evidence, it is doubtful Laughlin could have “subsequently pulled that opponent to the ground.”

“This is why it pays for us to leave early for our games. You never know what you’re going to run into on the way,” Laughlin told the crew.

MHSAA Registration Fees Are Region’s Lowest

A fall meeting of officiating leaders from midwest high school associations in Des Moines, Iowa, revealed that MHSAA registration fees rank the lowest among the nine states represented at the summit. While tied with Wisconsin at \$37 for registration in one sport, Wisconsin’s additional sport fee is slightly higher. The findings follow (cost to register for one sport with additional sports in parentheses):

Michigan- \$37 (each additional sport \$12)
 Wisconsin- \$37 (each additional sport \$15)
 Nebraska- \$40 (each additional sport \$40)
 Minnesota- \$42 (each additional sport \$10)
 Iowa- \$45 (each additional sport \$15)

Illinois- \$45 (each additional sport \$15)
 Kansas- \$47 (each additional sport \$25)
 South Dakota- \$55 (\$75 for two sports, \$100 for three sports, \$125 for four sports, etc)
 Missouri- \$55 (each additional sport \$30)

For Love of the Game, and Other Worthwhile Causes

While contest officials receive nominal fees for services rendered and few would work for free, most cite the No. 1 reason for working events as a love for the game, or to help students by giving back to the game. And, several times per year in local associations around the state, the opportunity to assist worthwhile causes figures into the occasion as well.

Many a football, soccer or volleyball crew swap the black whistle for pink during Breast Cancer Awareness Month each October.

These football crews took things a step further, donning pink shirts for various games in advance of Awareness Month during a pair of games in September.

At Freeland on Sept. 9, the officiating crew for the Clash for a Cure II game with Hemlock joined in the cause by making a group donation. The officials also fashioned pink shirts for the contest, which Freeland hoped would help achieve a school goal of raising \$50,000 for the cause. The crew (top photo) was: **Jim Clark, Matt Bauer, Guy Marcoux, Patrick Campbell and Scott Helmka.**

Across the state in Hart on Sept. 23 for the annual Pink/Green game with Shelby, another crew worked the game in pink stripes with pink hats and pink whistles. The game is intended to heighten awareness of the disease, as each player wears a jersey for a cancer survivor, or in memory of someone who lost a battle with cancer. The crew (bottom photo) on the game for the second straight year was: **George Frederick, Steve Miller, Chuck VanDongen, Ray Thomas and Doug Bazan.**



Clash for a Cure at Freeland



Pink/Green Game at Hart

West Michigan Volleyball Officials Association Scholarship Tournament

In East Kentwood, the 26th Annual WMVOA Scholarship Tournament took place on Aug. 27. All officials at the 24-team event work for free, with normal game fees going to the scholarship fund for local students. The 2011 scholarship recipients – Kayla Clementz of Belding, Laura Kooistra of Grand Haven and Kadiatu Kellah of Wyoming Godwin Heights – brings the total to 83 westside students who have received scholarships through the event. Many of the officials working the event also donate to the DeVos Children's Hospital burn unit through the MHSAA's Officials for Kids program, just one of the many ways officials give back to their communities.

Officials working the tournament this year were: **Clint Abbott, David Bott, Jeff Brown, Rebecca Cajka, Jamie Fellinger, Chuck Fisher, Charles Fisher III, Pat Folkertsma-Garrett, Bill Garrett, Cecil Goode, Tina Hamp, Jeff Harp, Harv Haverdink, Karrie Hinton, Steve Howells, Mark Howells, Alan Kaufman, Dave Mersman, Betty Near, Kirk Perry, Sandy Price, Brian Pufpaff, Dawn Rosendall, Steve Rosendall, Jeanne Skinner, Jeff Trimpe, Betsy VanderMeer, Bart Volkers and Greg Wagner.**



Rules of the Games

Sharpen your skills with the following rules questions for the following winter sports. Answers appear on page 44.

Basketball

- “Hand-Checking” refers to:
 - Inspection of players to assure that they do not expose other participants to blood-borne disease.
 - A type of incidental contact.
 - Defensive or offensive tactic using hands or arms to obtain control of an opponent.
 - Only applicable to a player with the ball and his/her defender(s).
- A goal is scored by Team A. The ball is “at the disposal” of the thrower-in when...
 - It is “available” to the thrower-in.
 - It is available to the thrower-in AND the official begins the throw-in count.
 - The thrower-in has possession of the ball out-of-bounds.
 - The clock is “live.”
- A mechanics point of emphasis for this year relates to substitutions. Which statement is false?
 - The scorer/timer should be instructed to hold substitutes at the table until an official beckons them onto the floor.
 - The official should sound her/his whistle along with a motion beckoning substitutes onto the floor.
 - When beckoning a substitute into the game, keep the “stop sign” high, visible, and directed at your partner.
 - None are false – all are true.
- B5 is shooting the second free throw of a one-and-one. A4 steps into the lane prior to B5 releasing the try. When B5 does release the try, it misses the rim (it’s an “air ball”). The official should...
 - Whistle an immediate violation on A4 when he/she steps into the lane early.
 - Penalize the first violation only and award B5 a substitute free throw.
 - Penalize the second violation (by the shooter B5) and award a throw-in to Team A.
 - Call a double violation and go to the AP arrow.



MHSAA File Photo

Competitive Cheer

- In Round 1 (Required Round) the requirements include (check all that apply):
 - Round 1 shall be a choreographed routine containing two different jumps performed in unison by every team member.
 - The two required jumps must be the first two jumps performed in the routine.
 - Unison refers to direction of skills as well as arm, leg and body position.
 - Each competitor must face the same direction in order to meet the unison requirement.
 - All of the above.
- A flyer attempts to perform a double twist from an elevator, is caught on her stomach by the bases and back spotter. The team receives no credit for the double twist in the choreography bonus requirements.
 - Legal. The double twist 720 vertical rotation was not completed.
 - Illegal. The double twist was almost completed.

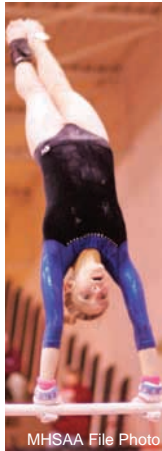


MHSAA File Photo

- A team performs seat drops from a standing position with their hands in a high “V” position.
 - Legal.
 - Illegal.
- Regarding inquiries, which of the following apply (check all that apply)?
 - A coach is allowed to question the addition of scores and check areas left blank on the score-sheet.
 - If a penalty is imposed that needs to be addressed, the coach should jump on the mat and stop the competition immediately.
 - If a penalty is imposed that needs to be addressed, there are specific steps to follow.
 - Inquires may be made by a coach regarding another team.
 - Inquires may only be made regarding own team.
 - The final outcome of the inquiry will be made by the official.

Gymnastics

- A bonus high superior that does not receive 0.2 credit in the Bonus category because it was performed with a fall or spot (check all that apply):
 - May be performed a second time and receive BHS credit if performed without a fall or spot.
 - May not be performed a second time.
 - A non-bonus BHS can still count in difficulty, event requirements or back-to-back superiors.
 - Always receives 0.2 credit even if there are several falls.
- The judges do not award Value Part credit to a giant swing that does not reach within 20 degrees of vertical prior to a fall, but do count it as one of the 8 required elements.
 - Correct.
 - Incorrect.
- An element is any movement that has a value of medium, superior, high superior or bonus high superior as listed in the rules book.
 - True.
 - False.
- On floor exercise, a deduction of 0.1 is taken in composition for lacking an acro element within a pass in each of two different directions.
 - True.
 - False.



MHSAA File Photo

Ice Hockey

- During regular-season games, the MHSAA allows 22 players in uniform on the bench.
 - True.
 - False.
- The penalty for a player using obscene language is a minor and misconduct and if continued or excessive, game misconduct. The initial minor and misconduct should be assessed in addition to any other penalties.
 - True.
 - False.
- A new rule for the 2011-12 season states that at the conclusion of a period, teams must remain at their bench area until the referee signals the players to proceed directly to their respective dressing rooms.
 - True.
 - False.
- New restrictions on goaltender equipment are effective in 2011-12.
 - True.
 - False.

Wrestling

- At the start of the two: 30 tiebreaker periods, Wrestler A wins the flip and chooses to start on the bottom. At the start of the second :30 tiebreaker, Wrestler B wishes to defer his choice to Wrestler A. By rule this is...
 - Allowed; let Wrestler A have his choice and get the match going.
 - Not allowed; Wrestler B must choose top or bottom.
 - None of the above.
- Wrestler A applies a cross face to Wrestler B. Without seeing or calling anything, the official now hears Wrestler B screaming and claims that he has been bitten. What must the official do?
 - Disqualify Wrestler A for flagrant misconduct and award the match to Wrestler B.
 - Nothing; the official must see the biting situation, and if he does not, the match continues.
 - The official can ask the timer and scorer if they saw a bite. If so, disqualify Wrestler A for flagrant misconduct and award the match to Wrestler B.
 - None of the above.
- Wrestler A is wearing long socks and they have fallen down and Wrestler B can no longer apply a normal hold to Wrestler A's ankle area. This is detected by the official. Which action by the official is correct?
 - Wrestler A is disqualified.
 - Unsportsmanlike conduct is charged to the assistant coach.
 - Injury time is started until the situation is corrected.
 - 2 match points are awarded to Wrestler B.
- The dual meet has now reached 135. School A must send their wrestler to table first, and Smith (who can legally wrestle at 135) reports for School A. School B then sends Jones to the table, which now causes School A's coach to pull Smith and send Thomas to the table instead to wrestle at 135.
 - This is legal as School A can make this change until the wrestler's shake hands.
 - This is not allowed; Thomas is disqualified and 135 is forfeited to School B. Thomas cannot wrestle at any weight class during the rest of that dual meet, and any subsequent dual meet the rest of the day.
 - This is not allowed; Smith is disqualified and 135 is forfeited to School B. Smith cannot wrestle at any weight class during the rest of that dual meet, and any subsequent dual meet the rest of the day.
 - This is not allowed; Smith is disqualified and 135 is forfeited to School B. Smith cannot wrestle at any weight class during the rest of that dual meet.



MHSAA File Photo

MHSAA Continues Concussion Awareness Efforts; Releases Video Promotional Announcement

The latest step by the MHSAA to help raise awareness about concussions in youth sports is a video promotional announcement which began airing on MHSAA Network programming in the fall and is also available for viewing on the Association's YouTube channel.

The 30-second spot, based on the popular misconception of an athlete "just getting their bell rung" is also available for download in broadcast format from the Public Service Announcements page of the MHSAA Website. The MHSAA has also made the video available to media outlets in the format of their choice.

Earlier this school year, an audio message and PSA script based on the same theme was made available, which can also be downloaded from the Public Service Announcements page

MHSAA Website. Schools and tournament sites in the fall were provided with announcements to be read during athletic events, and winter and spring hosts will also receive the scripts.

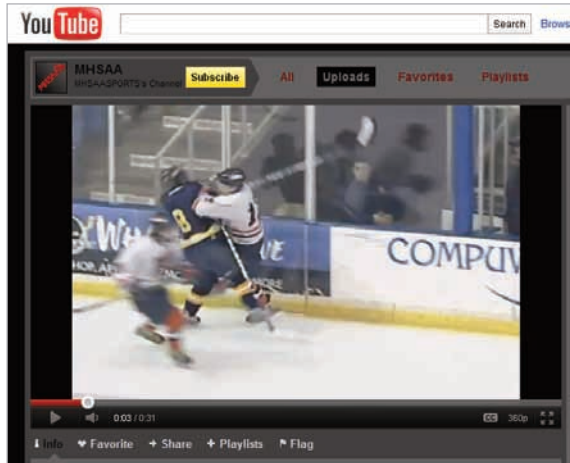
Online rules meetings feature coaches and officials taking part in a 12-minute segment specifically about concussions, describ-

MHSAA protocols when a young person is thought to have a sustained a concussion during competition and his or her ultimate return to play.

In the fall, nearly 7,000 coaches and officials viewed this concussion information online; and over 6,000 watched the winter meetings. The concussion

portion of the rules meeting is also available when the meetings are posted to the respective sports pages of MHSAA.com for public viewing.

Additionally, the MHSAA is involved in ongoing concussion awareness efforts with the Brain Injury Association of Michigan, and offers different resources on the Health & Safety Resources page of its website from the Centers for Disease Control, the National Federation of State High School Associations and the University of Michigan Health System's Neuro Sport division.



The MHSAA released a video in the fall to promote concussion awareness, part of the Association's ongoing campaign to educate its members on health and safety measures in athletics.

ing the signs and symptoms, and also explaining the applicable

University of Michigan Health System's Neuro Sport division.

AED Awareness & Action Posters Available

Over the past several years approximately 30 Michigan school age children have died from sudden cardiac arrest. Studies have shown that early 911, early CPR, early defibrillation and early advance life support can help save lives. Each year, Michigan Schools are invited to take part in an AED Drill Week, a voluntary, grassroots effort to promote the importance of school medical emergency response procedures involving a potential sudden cardiac arrest thereby improving school safety, heightening AED Awareness, and helping to save lives.

In truth, one week is probably not enough. As a reminder to emergency procedures, HeartAED has developed AED posters for schools to purchase in quantity and hang in their hallways so procedures are easy to follow when the need arises. Quantities from one to nine posters sell for \$7; 10 or more are \$5 each with all proceeds from sales in Michigan donated to the Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation.



Visit the Health & Safety page of MHSAA.com or scan the code at left for a library of valuable resources involving athletic health & safety procedures.

Risk Management – A Quiet MVP

Although we don't hear spectators chant, "We're No. 1 – in safety," developing a solid game plan for safety is one of the most important responsibilities of a coach. Athletic risk management begins with the identification of potential problems such as hazards that may lead to injuries. Therefore, an athletic risk management program has a "gameplan" for when an injury occurs.

The most essential duty of coaching from a legal sense is supervision, literally "oversight." This has two components: instruction and management. Instruction includes duties to communicate essential principles and warnings to participants and their parents. This is the how things should be done and the consequences for not doing them properly. Management includes duties to be visible and attentive wherever athletes are gathered under the auspices of the school. In both instruction and management, there are minimum standards of care that must be provided and there are also limits of care which must be respected.



Proper supervision of practices and workout sessions is among the most essential duties of coaching.

Coaches are held to something called the **reasonably prudent professional standard**. It means they need to act in the same manner as others in the profession under similar circumstances. Failing to be a reasonably prudent coach is being negligent. The test for negligence is:

- **Duty:** Coaches clearly have a duty to lower the risk of injury to their players. For example, a volleyball coach has a duty to supervise her practice.
- **Breach or failure to meet that duty:** The volleyball coach decides to watch the subvarsity team play and leaves the varsity team by herself. She is not supervising.
- **Injury:** Two varsity players get into a fight while the coach is absent. One receives a broken jaw.
- **Connection between duty, breach, and injury:** This is called "proximate cause." It would not be difficult to make the connection. If the coach were present, this injury in all probability would not have happened.

It is important to understand how the courts view the duties of a reasonably prudent coach. First, a coach *must warn* the athlete about the potential dangers of the activity. Those warning labels on football helmets or pieces of gymnastics equipment are not enough. Players must be warned of the inherent dangers of participation for courts to consider a coach reasonable and prudent.

As indicated, a coach must also supervise. Lack of constant, attentive supervision is the most obvious and the most commonly cited reason for a lawsuit. A coach's mere presence will not prevent every accident – or even a lawsuit on occasion – however, being present will make a big difference in a court of law. It is also important to recognize that simply being "on duty" does constitute supervisory capacity. Leaving the door to the wrestling room open while doing paperwork is not supervision. Also, supervision is not limited only to a practice area, it also includes the locker room and the bus ride.

A coach must properly prepare and condition an athlete. Physical conditioning of players in sport is basic common sense. It is difficult to justify a program in wrestling that did not include neck-developing exercises. Similarly, starting cross country practice with a required 10 mile run would also raise eyebrows. Start slow and show a progression. Include a warm-up period before full participation.

In addition, a coach must offer proper instruction. This means teaching in a progressive manner. The football coach who does not teach the proper techniques of tackling may be considered negligent. In general, the law requires one to teach athletes in accordance with accepted procedures of the sport, allowing for individual variations as long as those variations are not radical or dangerous.

The coach must also offer proper and safe facilities and equipment. A coach needs to check and re-check everything that will be used by the players and a coach is responsible for regularly and thoroughly inspecting the facility. Make a checklist of items or facility features in need of repair, and document request to upgrade such items. Coaches must also make sure that equipment is properly stored. Leaving equipment, such as weights, springboards, starting blocks or hurdles in unlocked and unattended areas invites injury and litigation.

At times, the responsibilities of coaching can seem daunting. The legal duties of a coach encourage responsible and professional conduct to protect athletes and others. Those who take appropriate actions to meet these legal duties, are making the fields, courts and – most of all – the student-athletes safer by managing risk.

– reprinted from *October 2011 GamePlans*,
MHSAA Publication for CAP Attendees

Selection Sunday from Computer Screen to TV Screen



John Johnson, Okemos

It's become an annual rite of fall for prep pigskin fans around the state — the MHSAA Selection Sunday show on FOX Sports Detroit. The scene above might look familiar to followers, but before the show hits the hi-def screens, it is created on computer screens at 1661 Ramblewood Drive in East Lansing.

8:00 A.M.

MHSAA staff members arrive to begin the process of mapping out the 256 playoff teams in Divisions 1-8, plus the 16 teams in the inaugural 8-player football tournament.

The first order of business is to generate a report of all the 6-win teams in 11-player football, then fill the field of 256 with a near-equal number of 5-win teams from each MHSAA classification.

Once each Division has its 32 teams in place, playoff points are verified. Schools in contention for the playoffs are allowed a period of time in the morning to review playoff point averages from a published web list, serving as a final check before the process moves to the mapping stage.

8:30 A.M.

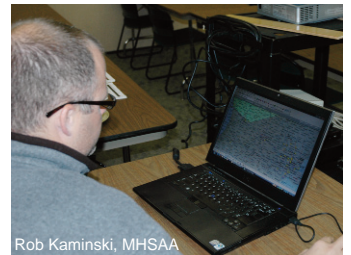
With no discrepancies to address, two teams of five MHSAA staffers move to the conference rooms upstairs to begin determining the best geographic pairings for each of the Divisions.

MapPoint software has been used to create eight digital maps, each with locations of 32 qualifying schools clearly marked with yellow dots. The files are projected to two screens at the front of the con-

ference room, as one team analyzes the odd Divisions, and the other team dissects the even Divisions.

In the past, road maps were pinned to cardboard and spread out over tables, with acetate layovers, sticky dots and marking pens used for plotting purposes.

More recently, staff simply moves lines around the designated spots on the map with the click of a mouse for a cleaner, quicker process. Additionally, highway distances can be accessed within moments to determine which locations offer the best geographic combinations.



Rob Kaminski, MHSAA

Qualifier lists are proofed and verified, yielding the accurate list of 2011 participants prior to the mapping stage.

9:00 A.M.

Geographic groups are divided first into District groups of four, and then into Regional groups of eight. When each team has its four Divisions in place and mapped, the two teams come together to review all Divisions.



Rob Kaminski, MHSAA

Two teams analyze each of four Divisions, then come together to review the entire Playoff field prior to final approval.

10:00 A.M.

As the selection committee approves lines and groups, the schools represented by the dots on the map are transferred to paper brackets, using play-off point averages to place teams on proper lines. Highest playoff point average in the District hosts the lowest, second-highest hosts second-lowest.

10:30 A.M.

The first official Division of the 2011 Football Playoffs are put to paper and delivered to coworkers in the I.T. office who will enter the pairings using preset codes. The schools are entered and pairings are rendered on screen. Two staff members proof the computer screen against the paper listing that was delivered from the committee upstairs.



Mapping software has made paper maps and manual plotting obsolete.

12:30 P.M.

The final pairings sheet – the first 8-player schedule in MHSAA postseason history (drumroll please) – is entered into the MHSAA database, proofed, and approved. A web page of all nine Divisions is created, formatted, and programmed to go live at 8 p.m. once the FOX Sports Detroit show has ended.

Selection Sunday annually attracts the most concentrated traffic period for MHSAA.com (in 2011, the pairings page registered 41,000 page-views from late Sunday through Monday morning).

This year, measures are taken to increase the flow of information for the 8 p.m. crush. An optimized home page is created, and visitors have a choice to continue to the MHSAA.com home page, or go directly to the football pairings. It is a move that proves successful seven-and-a-half hours later.

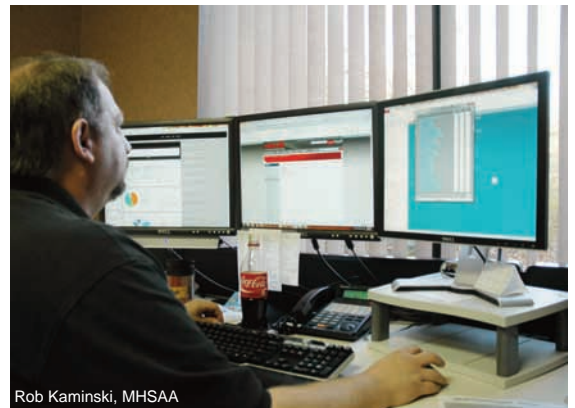
1:00 P.M.

Pairings and information on all 272 schools – school colors, coaches names, records, common opponents – are generated for the MHSAA Communications Director and subsequently emailed to producers and talent at FOX Sports Detroit so preparation can begin for the evening's show.

7:00 P.M.

Prep grid gurus and football fans statewide settle in to watch the end result of the MHSAA's early morning map quest.

– Rob Kaminski
MHSAA Website & Publications Coordinator



Rob Kaminski, MHSAA

The final stage: approved pairings lists are delivered to the I.T. office for inputting. Data generated here populates the website and provides reports for the Selection Sunday Show crew at FOX.

High School Sports: A Recruiting-Free Zone

A Guide for Parents, Students and School Personnel

In 2007, the United States Supreme Court issued a rare unanimous decision that state high school athletic association rules should prevent and penalize the recruiting of students into high schools because of athletics. The rules of the MHSAA apply equally to public schools, charter schools and nonpublic schools. A long-standing rule, **Undue Influence**, involves cooperation and compliance by more than just the athletes and coaching staff. The anti-recruiting rule states that a violation can occur if a person “directly or indirectly associated with the school” encourages or secures

ment with the school. **We strongly urge all those who support MHSAA member schools to follow the spirit and letter of the anti-athletic recruiting rules.**

In the present day, schools of all types often market or advertise to either retain or attract **students**. The anti-athletic recruiting rule must be understood and followed by those who support their local schools to protect legitimate school-wide efforts to attract **students** who make their decisions free from **athletic** recruiting. Decisions about what school to attend would involve many factors, including athletics. But because athletics is based on competition, discussions about sports are only allowed as part of general school presentations. Non-athletic depart-



Encouraging students to flee one school and attend another is prohibited by the Undue Influence rule, better known as recruiting.

the attendance of a student because of athletics. “Directly or indirectly associated with the school” may include, but not be limited to, parents of players, booster club members, alumni and representatives of non-school athletic programs. Often it is the non-school environment (AAU or youth sports) where inappropriate recruiting rule violations occur and where vigilance is needed.

Parents or others should not attempt to encourage or secure attendance by a student because of sports. They should not attempt to build up the roster by encouraging a good athlete to enroll at one school or another, or target the best athletes for enrollment. Athletic recruiting is a violation, whether to a middle school student beginning the 9th-grade or a high school student transferring between schools.

Attempting to encourage a student or parent to attend a school because the student is an athlete risks that school’s reputation, the entire program and the future involvement of adults with the high school. Violation of the anti-recruiting rule can result in penalties to the school and athletic program and ineligibility for a coach or a recruited athlete and can also result in a parent, alumnus or supporter being banned from attendance and involve-

ment school administrators and staff deal with admissions and are assigned to provide information to students and parents about their **school**. People interested in enrollment should be referred to administrators responsible for admissions.

As member schools which follow the rules of the MHSAA, administrators must insist that staff follow these rules in letter and spirit. Anti-recruiting rules require the awareness and adherence of the entire school community to ensure a level playing field in school sports. School athletic directors or principals should be notified if a violation of the anti-recruiting rules may be present.

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 school 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.

MHSAA Representative Council

William Chilman IV**

Superintendent
Beal City Public Schools
Class C-D — Northern Lower Peninsula

James Derocher, President**

Superintendent
Negaunee Public Schools
Class C-D — Upper Peninsula

Ken Dietz*

Athletic Director
Watervliet High School
Class C-D — Southwestern Michigan

Scott Grimes, Vice President**

Assistant Superintendent of Human Services
Grand Haven High School
Statewide At-Large

Kyle Guerrant (ex-officio)

Director, Coordinated School Health & Safety Programs Unit,
Michigan Dept. of Education, Lansing
Designee

Kris Isom* Athletic Director

Adrian Madison High School
Class C-D — Southeastern Michigan

Carmen Kennedy**

Principal
St. Clair Shores South Lake High School
Appointee

Karen Leinaar*

Athletic Director
Bear Lake High School
Statewide At-Large

Jason Mellema*

Superintendent
Pewamo-Westphalia Schools
Junior High/Middle Schools

Vic Michaels, Secretary-Treasurer**

Director of Physical Education & Athletics Archdiocese of Detroit
Private and Parochial Schools

Steve Newkirk**

Principal
Clare Middle School
Junior High/Middle Schools

Peter C. Ryan**

Athletic Director
Saginaw Township Community Schools
Class A-B — Northern Lower Peninsula

Fred Smith**

Athletic Director
Buchanan High School
Class A-B — Southwestern Michigan

Paula Steele*

Principal
Perry High School
Appointee

Arnetta Thompson*

Assistant Principal
Grand Rapids Riverside Middle School
Appointee

John Thompson**

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

Al Unger*

Athletic Director
Kingsford High School
Class A-B — Upper Peninsula

Alvin Ward**

Administrator of Athletics
Detroit Public Schools

Mark Woodson**

Director of Student Development and Athletics
Romulus High School
Appointee

*Term Expires December 2011

**Term Expires December 2012

Annual Business Meeting of the MHSAA, Inc.

Frankenmuth, Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2011

Peter C. Ryan, MHSAA Audit & Finance Committee

For many years, the MHSAA made its Annual Business Meeting a part of the fall conference of the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals, even sponsoring a breakfast at the MASSP conference for several years for this purpose. Since MASSP has moved its conference to a venue where the MHSAA does not conduct events, the MHSAA has attached Annual Business Meeting elements to one of the scheduled Update Meetings. Jack will address the program and policy matters in his usual presentation; and as a member of the MHSAA Audit & Finance Committee – which includes President Jim Derocher, Superintendent of Negaunee Public Schools, Secretary-Treasurer Vic Michaels of the Archdiocese of Detroit, Karen Leinaar, Athletic Director at Bear Lake High School, and me – I have this brief financial report.

The MHSAA's finances quantify the hard work of MHSAA Council and staff over the past three years to meet extraordinary obligations during very difficult economic times. After an operating surplus of more than \$944,000 for 2008-09, the MHSAA did even better in 2009-10 with an operating surplus of \$1,576,000 and nearly matched that figure again in 2010-11, producing an operating surplus of \$1,527,000. These very positive results come from deep reductions in expenses and innovative diversification of revenue streams.

The Expense Budget for 2011-12, which was adopted by the Representative Council on May 2, 2011, appears on the next page.

With the Council's advice and consent, the MHSAA staff is continuing to search for ways to trim operating expenses and to expand revenue sources, with three major objectives: (1) rebuild resources to be ready for whatever the future provides as the next big problem or project; (2) restore and maintain the association's facilities and equipment; and (3) redistribute funds to member schools. Fiscal years 2008-09 through 2010-11 were big steps forward. Jack's Update report will provide additional information.

2011-12 MHSAA Budget

The following budget for operation of the Michigan High School Athletic Association, Inc., for the 2011-12 school year was considered and approved at the May 2011 Representative Council Meeting.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 2,850,42
GENERAL PRINTING	124,50
GENERAL OFFICE EXPENSES	1,115,832
GENERAL MEETINGS.	75,000
COACHES & OFFICIALS	294,00
STUDENT SERVICES	113,00
BASEBALL TOURNAMENTS	210,00
BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS	1,075,000
BOWLING TOURNAMENTS	67,000
COMPETITIVE CHEER	105,00
CROSS COUNTRY MEETS	110,00
FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS	1,150,000
GOLF TOURNAMENTS	40,000
GYMNASTICS MEETS.	21,000
HOCKEY TOURNAMENTS	250,000
LACROSSE TOURNAMENTS	42,000
SKI MEETS	19,000
SOCCER TOURNAMENTS	205,00
SOFTBALL TOURNAMENTS	215,00
SWIMMING MEETS	70,000
TENNIS TOURNAMENTS	85,000
TRACK MEETS	240,00
VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENTS.	245,000
WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS	475,000
BROADCASTING	10,000
REVENUE SHARING	75,000
TOTAL BUDGET FOR 2011-12	\$9,281,752

Out-of-State Travel Form Required

The tradition of taking a team on a “spring trip” for practice only is a separate issue from sanctioning a competition (see Sanction guidelines on next page). Any school which conducts practice sessions out of state at a site more than 600 miles round-trip must submit to the MHSAA office a Travel Form for Out-of-State Practice at least 30 days in advance of departure. This does not allow schools to compete in a scrimmage, practice or competition with a team from another school.

The following interpretation was adopted at the May 2004 Representative Council meeting and became effective for the 2004-05 school year:

“When a school-sponsored team, or group of students which resembles the school team, intends

to conduct practice sessions out of state at a site more than 600 highway miles round-trip from that school, the Travel Form for Out-of-State Practice is required. For the purpose of this Section, it shall be considered a practice for a school team if a school coach in that sport is present with any number of players from that school's team, other than his/her family members.”

MHSAA catastrophic insurance does not cover such events.

The form can be found on the MHSAA Website. Pursuant to action of the Representative Council in May 2003, all schools which complete this form will be listed in *benchmarks* at the end of the school year.

Report of Activities of the MHSAA, 2010-11

PUBLICATIONS - *benchmarks* distributed to junior and senior high schools and registered officials; *Officials' Directory* and *School Directory* and calendars prepared; *Association Handbook* distributed to junior and senior high schools; rule books distributed to schools and registered officials; blanks and forms were distributed to schools. The *Officials Guidebook* was published online. The *Coaches Guidebook* was published online.

RULES MEETINGS/CLINICS - General meetings and rules meetings (online and face to face) were held in baseball/softball, competitive cheer, football, basketball, bowling, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, golf, wrestling, gymnastics, volleyball, soccer, and ice hockey for coaches and registered officials. The Officials' Awards and Alumni Banquet honored 20-, 30-, 40-, 45- and 50-year officials. Special meetings were conducted for coaches association presidents and league and conference executives. Tournament managers meetings were held in some sports. Meetings were held with representatives of local officials associations. In-service programs for officials assignors and sessions to train the basketball, football, volleyball, wrestling, soccer, baseball and softball trainers of approved officials associations were conducted. The statewide Women in Sports Leadership Conference was held. Regional Captain's Clinics were conducted for students. Mini-grants were provided for Sportsmanship Summits and general student-athlete leadership. The fifth class of the Student Advisory Council was appointed.

PARTICIPANTS – There were approximately 301,833 participants on interscholastic athletic squads of the 761 member high schools during the 2010-11 school year. The MHSAA membership also included 773 junior high/middle schools.

REGISTERED OFFICIALS – There were 11,729 officials registered in one or more sports during the year. The MHSAA conducted four camps for basketball officials and one for football officials.

UPDATE MEETINGS – Approximately 900 people attended meetings during the fall in Frankenmuth, Kalamazoo, Lansing, Gaylord, Warren, Comstock Park, and Marquette.

CAP SEMINARS – There were approximately 2,000 participants who completed one or more courses in the Coaches Advancement Program at sites throughout the state during the 2010-11 school year.

ATHLETIC DIRECTORS IN-SERVICE – Approximately 800 athletic directors participated in the Athletic Directors In-Service programs at sites throughout the state during the 2010-11 school year.

COMMITTEES – Approximately 500 different individuals served on the following Association committees during the 2010-11 school year:

Representative Council	Competitive Cheer Judges Selection	Scholar/Athlete
Executive Committee	Cross Country/Track & Field	Ski
Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee	Cross Country Site Selection	Soccer
Athletic Equity	Football	Soccer Off. Selection (B & G)
Awards	Football Playoff Officials Selection	Swimming
Baseball/Softball	Golf	Tennis
Baseball/Softball Umpires Selection	Golf Managers	Tennis Seeding (Boys)
Basketball	Gymnastics	Tennis Seeding (Girls)
Basketball Tournament (Boys)	Gymnastics Officials Selection	Track & Field Standards
Basketball Tournament (Girls)	Hockey	Track Managers
Boys Basketball Officials Selection	Hockey Officials Selection	Volleyball
Girls Basketball Officials Selection	Junior High/Middle School	Volleyball Off. Selection
Board of Canvassers	Lacrosse (Boys)	Wrestling
Bowling	Lacrosse (Girls)	Wrestling Head Referees
Classification	Officials Review	Wrestling Managers
Competitive Cheer		Wrestling Off. Selection

2012-13 MHSAA Committee Membership Nominations

A procedure has been adopted and recently refined by the Representative Council to select MHSAA committee members. In the early spring of 2012, all superintendents, principals, athletic directors, coaches and board of education members who desire to serve on MHSAA committees may submit their names for nomination. This is a summary of the make-up and responsibilities of MHSAA standing committees:

SPORT COMMITTEES

Baseball/Softball, Basketball, Bowling, Competitive Cheer, Cross Country/Track & Field, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Skiing, Soccer, Swimming & Diving, Tennis, Volleyball, Wrestling

Consist of a balance of administrators and varsity coaches in the particular sport, plus the president of the coaches association for that sport. Responsible for: (a) recommending to the Representative Council changes regarding MHSAA regulations relative to the sport. (b) recommending to the staff procedures, sites, and assignments for the MHSAA tournament in that sport. **Note:** Some sport committees serve multiple functions including officials selection, tournament sites, and seeding.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEES

Girls & Boys Basketball, Cross Country/Track & Field Site Selection, Track & Field Standards, Volleyball
Consist of administrators responsible for selecting sites and assigning teams for all levels of MHSAA tournaments in the particular sport.

SEEDING COMMITTEES

Girls Tennis Area Seeding Directors, Boys Tennis Area Seeding Directors

Consist of tournament managers and varsity coaches responsible for determining seeded players and their positions in each flight and for assisting tournament managers in conducting the tournament draw.

OFFICIAL SELECTION COMMITTEES

Baseball and Softball, Boys and Girls Basketball, Competitive Cheer, Football, Gymnastics, Ice Hockey, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Volleyball, and Wrestling

Consist of tournament managers, athletic directors and coaches responsible for selecting officials for most levels of tournaments in most sports.

OTHER STANDING COMMITTEES (Established and appointed by the Representative Council)

- 1. Athletic Equity Committee** - Committee is to meet once a year to recommend to the Representative Council annual objectives designed to encourage participation by more women and minorities in interscholastic coaching, officiating and administrative positions.
- 2. Awards Committee** - This committee meets once as a group and corresponds throughout the year to extend nominations, establish policies and procedures and to nominate and screen candidates for four MHSAA awards: Forsythe, Bush, Norris, and Women in Sports Leadership.
- 3. Classification Committee** - The committee meets annually to study and make recommendations to staff and Council regarding policies and procedures of classifying schools for tournaments and elections.
- 4. Board of Canvassers** - Comprised of a superintendent, two high school principals, one junior high/middle school principal, and one athletic director. Members are responsible for counting the ballots for the election of Representative Council members and members of the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee.
- 5. Junior High/Middle School Committee** - This committee is comprised of junior high/middle school principals and athletic directors to review rules and regulations as they pertain to junior high/middle schools.
- 6. Officials Review Committee** - This committee meets for the purpose of reviewing issues and concerns related to all officials in order to put forth recommendations to the MHSAA Representative Council.
- 7. Scholar-Athlete Committee** - Established to administer the MHSAA Scholar-Athlete program, this committee consists of approximately 80 people to review award applications.

Criteria for Nomination and Selection of MHSAA Committee Members

There are several criteria to consider before completing the Nomination Form:

1. Coaches must be employed by the school and be able to obtain release time from school.
2. The nominee should have at least two years of experience in the position currently holding.
3. Most committees require only a one meeting date commitment at the MHSAA building in East Lansing. Committee meetings are held during the work week.

Appointments to committees are based on the following criteria:

1. Committees should have male, female, and minority membership which reflects the total pool of available personnel.
2. Committees should maintain geographic and class size representation.
3. Some administrators will be appointed to sport committees.
4. The coaches association president/secretary of each sport is appointed to that sport committee, if the person is a school employee. If the President/Secretary is not a school employee, the Association must send a designee who is an administrator, faculty member or board of education member of an MHSAA member school.

Names of nominees will be submitted to the Representative Council for selection.

Over 500 people will be selected from the list of nominees submitted to serve on MHSAA committees.

— USE THE FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE —

MHSAA Committee Membership Nomination Form

Member school superintendents, principals, athletic directors, board of education members and coaches are eligible to be a member of any one of the following MHSAA committees for the 2012-13 school year. If you desire to place yourself as a nominee complete this form and fax it to the MHSAA office by March 31, 2012. THE PRINCIPAL MUST sign this form for it to be considered a valid nomination for athletic directors and coaches. Schools may choose to use this form for more than one nomination. The following form lists the committee and the month in which the meeting will be held. Please print the nominee's name and title (specify boys or girls if a coach) on the appropriate line.

Committee	Meeting Month	Nominee's Name & Title
Board of Canvassers (35)	September	
Athletic Equity (5)	October	
Awards (10)	October	
Boys Tennis Seeding (50)	October	
Girls Lacrosse (130)	October	
Gymnastics (100)	October	
Ski (150)	November	
Baseball/Softball Site Selection (25)	December	
Golf (95)	December	
Basketball Rules (30)	December	
Track & Field Standards (190)	December	
Volleyball Rules (200)	December	
Baseball/Softball Rules (20)	January	
Boys Lacrosse (125)	January & May	
Classification (55)	January	
Cross Country/Track & Field Reg. (70)	January	
XC/TR & FD Site Selection (185)	January	
Football (75)	January	
Junior High/Middle School (120)	January	
Tennis (180)	January	
Wrestling (215)	January	
Competitive Cheer (60)	February	
Scholar-Athlete (145)	February	
Soccer (155)	February	
Swimming & Diving (175)	February	
Bowling (40)	March	
GBB/BBB/GVB Site Selection (135)	May	
Girls Tennis Seeding (90)	May	
Ice Hockey	May	

City/School _____ School ID No. _____

Principal (Signature) _____

RETURN TO MHSAA NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2012

Official Report of the Board of Canvassers

East Lansing, September 19, 2011

The Aug. 10, 2011 MHSAA Executive Committee meeting minutes state the following: To conserve resources, the Executive Committee determined that because there are no positions being contested for the Representative Council, no ballots should be sent to schools and the meeting of the Board of Canvassers should be cancelled. As there is only one contested position for the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee, ballots should only be mailed to schools for that election, and those ballots counted by MHSAA staff. The Executive Committee declares elected all those candidates for uncontested positions on the Representative Council and Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee.

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

UPPER PENINSULA - CLASS A AND B SCHOOLS

Al Unger, Athletic Director, Kingsford High School

SOUTHWESTERN SECTION - CLASS C AND D SCHOOLS

Ken Dietz, Athletic Director, Watervliet High School

SOUTHEASTERN SECTION - CLASS C AND D SCHOOLS

Kristen M. Isom, Athletic Director, Adrian-Madison High School

STATEWIDE AT-LARGE

Karen S. Leinaar, CAA, Athletic Director, Bear Lake Schools

JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Jason Mellema, Superintendent, Pewamo-Westphalia Community Schools

DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Alvin Ward, Administrator of Athletics, Detroit Public Schools

UPPER PENINSULA ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

CLASS D SCHOOLS

Dave Duncan, Athletic Director, Cedarville High School

CLASS A AND B SCHOOLS

Matthew C. Houle, Athletic Director, Gladstone High School

CLASS C SCHOOLS

CLASS D SCHOOLS (No. 10)

Total number of legal ballots received	13
Don Gustafson, St. Ignace-LaSalle	5
Chris Hartman, Iron Mountain	8
Illegal or incomplete ballots received	0
Elected by Majority of Votes – Chris Hartman	

REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL & UPPER PENINSULA ATHLETIC COMMITTEE NOMINATION PROCEDURES FOR 2011-12

The Representative Council has established procedures for indicating the intention to run for elected positions on the MHSAA Representative Council.

1. Any individual who is a representative of a member school (administrator, faculty member or board of education member) may submit his or her name to the MHSAA office by March 15.
 - A. Candidates must have superintendent or principal approval in writing.
 - B. It is essential that candidates be qualified for the position they seek.
 - 1) If the position is for a representative of a certain area of the state, they must represent a school of the appropriate class (A and B or C and D) in that geographic area.
 - 2) If they seek the position of a statewide at large representative, they must be a faculty or board of education member of an MHSAA member school. This includes administrators but not non-faculty coaches.
 - 3) If they seek the position of statewide representative of junior high/middle schools or private and parochial high schools, they must be faculty (teacher or administrator) or board members for such schools.

2. Names submitted will be published on MHSAA.com in May, in the fall issue of benchmarks in August, and on the ballot mailed to member schools in September.

Elections will be held in the fall for the following positions:

Class A and B Schools — 3 openings

- Northern Lower Peninsula
- Southwestern Section
- Southeastern Section

Class C and D Schools—2 openings

- Upper Peninsula
- Northern Lower Peninsula

Statewide At-Large —1 opening

Jr. High/Middle Schools —1 opening

Private and Parochial —1 opening

The procedures established for indicating the intention to run for elected positions are the same for the Upper Peninsula Athletic Committee as those stated above for the Representative Council.

Elections will be held in the fall for the following:

Class D U.P. School—1 opening

Athletic Coach—1 opening

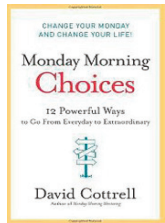
NOTE: Candidates will first appear on the Administrators page of MHSAA.com in May.

Feast on Books this Holiday Season; Expand the Mind

To a very great extent, each of us is what we eat and what we read. After family and friends, we are largely what we eat and what we read.

Still, we encounter many school administrators who complain that they cannot afford the time to read. But our thinking is that leaders cannot afford not to read.

In the book *Monday Morning Choices*, author David Cottrell writes: “You are today what you’ll be five years from now, except for the people you meet and the books you read.”



So if we care about leadership and want to improve as leaders, a part of our professional lives should include reading about it, trying some things out, practicing some things and maybe even “perfecting” an effective new leadership technique or two.

If you were to walk through the aisles of a comprehensive bookstore and scan the titles of the business section, or if you were to visit amazon.com and do the same, you would discover that many “experts” have boiled down leadership to a specified number of steps, and that the number varies widely.

- There are books with a tip a day (365); books with a tip a week (52); and books with a tip a month (12). There is *Outstanding: 47 Ways to Make Your Organization Exceptional*; and *The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*; and *Walk the Walk: The Number One Rule for Real Leadership*. What’s the magic number?
- We’ve reviewed *The Founding Fathers on Leadership*, there’s *Lincoln on Leadership*, and there is *Leadership Secrets of*

Attila the Hun. Who’s the perfect model?

- We’ve reviewed *Authentic Leadership*, *Bad Leadership*, *Resonant Leadership*, *Spiritual Leadership* and *Value Leadership*. What’s the right adjective, the key ingredient?

None of these books has a corner on the truth. In fact, we find the most help generally can be found the furthest one’s reading roams from books about education and sports, and toward books without the word “leadership” in the title. Which is one of the major messages of a really good book on leadership called *Borrowing Brilliance* (Gotham Books, 2008) by David Kord Murray, which we reviewed in *benchmarks* (Winter, 2010-11). This author asserts that creative leadership is not something you’re born with, but something you borrow. The book teaches us to be better borrowers; and the starting point to most borrowing is lots of reading.

Now Murray has a new book: *Plan B: How to Hatch a Second Plan That’s Always Better Than Your First* (Free Press, 2011). Here Murray posits that it might be better for businesses and other organizations to base their strategies on proven tactics rather than to search for effective tactics to support a preferred strategy.

Wintry Winds Are a Breeze

When you have the urge to complain about the cold and snow this winter, it might provide some perspective to read about those who **choose** that environment; and when you consider the inconvenience of having to shovel that snow so you can get to work, it might add to your perspective to follow the accounts of people – who in their **spare** time – seek to climb the world’s highest peaks and voluntarily brave

some of our planet’s harshest conditions.

Into Thin Air (Anchor Books) is Jon Krakauer’s 1997 description of the extreme climbing culture, and his firsthand account of the 1996 tragedy that claimed the lives of four climbers of Mount Everest and handicapped several others, either physically or metaphorically.



As Krakauer recalls the bitter cold and blinding blowing snow, as he recites the terrible conditions of eating, sleeping and sanitation, and

as he describes the terrifying effects of an oxygen-depleted atmosphere, the reader searches for the sense of it. Why would a person risk life and limb for a brief moment atop a mountain he or she is too delirious to experience but with a fraction of full senses?

Krakauer offers his own answers as well as those of others he quotes as chapter introductions. The reasons range from fundamental character flaws and commercial motives to romantic notions and simply, “Because it’s there.”

Intrigue is added by Krakauer’s 1999 Postscript written to defend his account of the Mount Everest disaster after it received criticism in several magazines and other media treatments, including the book *The Climb* by Anatoli Boukreev as told to G. Weston DeWalt (St. Martin’s Press, 1997). Boukreev died in an avalanche during a climb on Annapurna in Nepal on Christmas Day 1997.

Read any good books lately? News articles? We’d love to know. Submit recommendations to benchmarks@mhsaa.com.

Bulletin Board Material

“To every man there comes in his lifetime that special moment when he is figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered that chance to do a very special thing, unique to him and fitted to his talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds him unprepared or unqualified for that work.” – Winston Churchill

“Winning is wonderful. It’s one of the main reasons we play games at all. Losing is OK, too – as long as you play to win. That is the key – not winning, but playing to win, giving your all, honoring your opponent by doing your best.” – Rick Telander, *The Hundred Yard Lie*

“The institution which exploits youth for profit or for publicity betrays its calling; it impairs or destroys its capacity to fulfill its true function.” – Henry Merritt Wriston (former president, Lawrence University) *The Liberal Education*, 1937

“Only as we see what is ultimately most important can we know what is immediately most urgent.” – Harvey Seifert, *Power Where the Action Is*, 1968

Rules Quiz Answers

(From pages 30-31)

Basketball

- 1 – c (POE 2A)
- 2 – b (4-4-7c)
- 3 – d (3-3)
- 4 – d (9-1-PENALTIES: 3)

Cheer

(References from MHSAA Cheer Manual)

- 1 – e (page 22)
- 2 – a (page 40)
- 3 – b (page 49)
- 4 – a, c, e, f (page 12)

Gymnastics

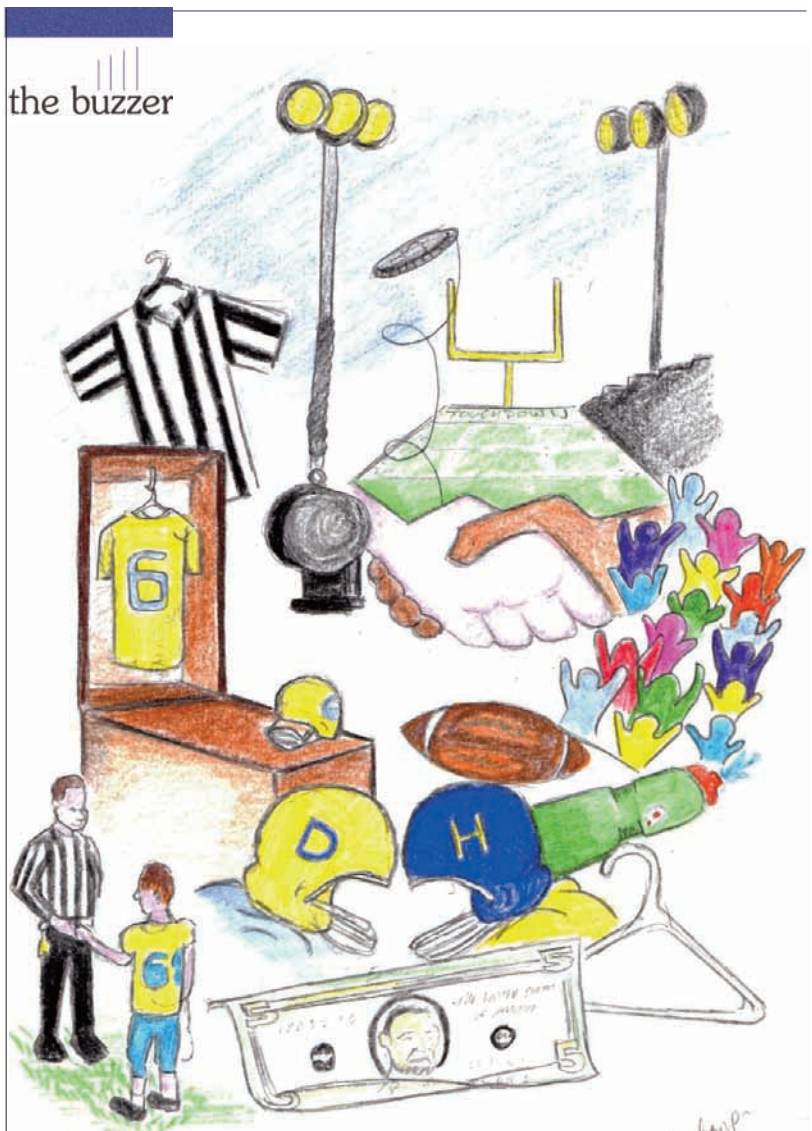
- 1 – a, c (4-1-2E)
- 2 – a (4-1-2)
- 3 – a (Rule 1)
- 4 – a (9-3-3b)

Ice Hockey

- 1 – a (2-3-1 MHSAA adaptation)
- 2 – a (6-1-9)
- 3 – a (2-3-4)
- 4 – b (3-3-3)

Wrestling

- 1 – b (6-7-1c4)
- 2 – b (7-4-3)
- 3 – c (4-3-1)
- 4 – d (5-8)



Behind any good game, there is preparation.

Ian Campa, Haslett HS

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