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Sports Event Security
Legal Issues and Strategies
No Intent to Discriminate in Maryland Track Event

BY ROBERT F. KANABY, NFHS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND RON LAIRD, NFHS PRESIDENT

There’s a game we played in younger days. One person would tell a story to someone else, who would attempt to tell the same story to yet another person. This same process would continue until the last person would tell the story and it was only a small resemblance of the original story.

We were reminded of this example earlier this year as we received numerous phone calls and e-mails regarding the track and field incident January 12 in Maryland. This was truly a case of misinformation, jumping to conclusions and wrong assumptions. Five days after the event in Maryland, we disseminated a press release in an effort to present the facts and put an end to some erroneous information.

On January 12, Juashuanna Kelly, a runner on the girls track team at Theodore Roosevelt High School in Washington, D.C., elected not to compete in the Montgomery Invitational indoor track and field meet in Maryland after meet officials advised her that she would need to replace her undergarment because it violated National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) track and field playing rules.

On January 17, we issued the following statement regarding this incident:

“The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), the national leadership organization for high school athletic and fine arts activities, writes playing rules in 17 sports for boys and girls competition at the high school level, including track and field.

“Rule 4-3-1-d of the NFHS Track and Field and Cross Country Rules Book states that ‘Any visible garment(s) worn underneath the uniform top or bottom shall be a single, solid color and unadorned except for 1) a single school name or insignia no more than 2¼ square inches with no dimension more than 2¼ inches and 2) a single, visible manufacturer’s logo as per NFHS rules.’

“Using preventive officiating, meet officials at the Montgomery Invitational checked uniforms prior to the events to make sure they complied with NFHS uniform rules. Since Kelly’s one-piece undergarment was multi-colored (blue, orange, white), it was in violation of the uniform rules. The meet officials did not disqualify Kelly; they informed her she would have to replace the multi-colored undergarment with a single-colored undergarment, an option which she declined and, thus, did not compete.

“Neither the head covering, which was a part of Kelly’s one-piece undergarment, nor the length of the undergarment, were in violation of NFHS rules. She could have worn the same style of undergarment, with a head covering, as long as the undergarment was one color throughout the entire piece of clothing. The NFHS track uniform rule was put in place for consistency across the board and for ease in identifying runners at the finish line. Multi-colored undergarments cause greater identification problems for track officials.

“The track uniform is a point of emphasis by the NFHS this year in an effort to have more consistent and widespread enforcement of the rule. Because of her Muslim faith, there were reports that her uniform undergarment was ruled unacceptable on religious grounds. While Kelly’s faith requires her to cover all parts of the body except her hands and face, a single-colored undergarment with a hood would have been acceptable both from an NFHS rules standpoint as well as meeting the requirements of her Muslim faith.”

The meet officials in Maryland were simply doing their job – enforcing the NFHS track uniform rule. The rule permits a full body undergarment, as well as a head covering involved in a one-piece uniform. Unfortunately, because she wasn’t allowed to wear the multi-colored undergarment, the story originally became twisted that she wasn’t allowed to fulfill her religious obligations which requires the entire body to be covered.

Obviously, all NFHS playing rules are written in an effort to not exclude anyone and, in fact, certain allowances are made to enable individuals to exercise their religious faith. As an example, although jewelry is not allowed in most sports for which the NFHS writes rules, a religious medal is not considered jewelry and is allowed to be worn under the uniform, if taped.

While playing rules are necessary to conduct interscholastic competition, they are always enforced fairly across the board and with no intent to discriminate against anyone.
Marching On

The Lake Zurich (Illinois) High School marching band performs at halftime of one of the Illinois High School Association State Football Championships.

Photograph provided by Illinois High School Association.
That’s where it all begins.

UCA, UDA and the NFHS along with USA and NCA have teamed together and expanded the NFHS Spirit Coaches’ Education Program. This year the courses include even bigger benefits and better support for coaches. At most of our 2008 summer camps, coaches can complete the Partner Stunt Progression I or II, the Motions, Jumps, and Tumbling or Dance Techniques courses toward Bronze Level or Silver Level Credentialing. For camp locations and information, visit www.varsity.com

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HIGH SCHOOL TODAY ONLINE
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Sports Event Security: Legal Issues and Strategies

BY LEE GREEN

Background

It was a scene no different from that played out in stadiums, arenas and ballparks around the country on a regular basis. In this case, it unfolded inside a high school gymnasium at the end of a basketball game. The clock was ticking down with the home team leading the defending regional champions by six points. The sellout crowd was on its feet and in a frenzy over its team’s impending victory over its biggest rival. The home team’s star player steals the ball, streaks towards the basket, and as time expires makes an exclamation dunk punctuating the victory. In celebration, the crowd rushes onto the floor and mobs the star player.

What happened next is illustrative of the need for effective leadership in planning and executing one of the most important duties of school and athletic administrators: providing effective event management and security measures at sports contests.

The player, Joe Kay of Tucson High School, was knocked to the floor by the charging fans and in the melee was trampled. His jaw was broken and his neck was twisted in a manner that tore his left carotid artery and induced a stroke, impairing his ability to speak and leaving him partially paralyzed on his right side. At the time of the injury, February 2004, Kay was a National Merit semifinalist with a 4.5 grade-point average who had been awarded a full-ride volleyball scholarship to Stanford. He would spend the next eight months relearning how to walk, talk and think, although the severity of the injury has permanently deprived him of the use of his right hand and limited his superior pre-injury mental acuity in mathematics and music. He is presently a junior at Stanford and has become an advocate for the rights of those challenged by disabilities.

Event Security Court Cases

Crowds storming courts and fields after sports contests represent only one aspect of the event management challenge for administrators. As the following 10 court cases illustrate, a diverse range of issues exist related to event security.

In Witherspoon v. Haft, an unruly crowd got more and more out of control throughout a game leading to a spectator falling off the back row of the bleachers and suffering fatal injuries.

In Berman v. University of Notre Dame, a fight among tailgaters in the parking lot outside the stadium led to an innocent third party who was passing by being knocked down and suffering a broken leg.

In Guttenplan v. Boston Professional Hockey Association, an on-ice brawl between players at a hockey game spilled over into the stands and ignited multiple fights in the stands during which a female spectator was severely injured.

In Wiersma v. Long Beach, tension in the stands between fans of visiting teams escalated first into a fight and then into a riot during which dozens of spectators were injured, the most serious of which was a spinal cord injury sustained by an innocent fan trying to flee the violence who was hit over the head with a folding chair.

In Turner v. Caddo Parish School Board, spectators in an overflow crowd at a high school basketball game were allowed to stand along the ends of the court and a grandmother-spectator was run over by a player coming off the end of the court.

In Woodring v. Manhasset Board of Education, a railing on a bleacher collapsed during a crowd surge at the end of a game and a student fell off the side of the bleachers and died.

In Weldy v. Oakland High School District, a glass bottle thrown from the stands during a high school basketball game hit and severely injured an innocent spectator.

In Whitfield v. Macon County Board of Education, a fan was shot by another fan in a school hallway after an in-stands confrontation escalated during a high school basketball game.

In Perry v. Seattle School District, spectators were allowed to stand along the sidelines during a high school football game and a fan sustained serious injuries when trampled by a player running out of bounds during a play in the game.

In Harris v. Independence School District, a fight broke out on the...
court between players in a high school basketball game, igniting multiple confrontations in the crowd and leading to dozens of fans being injured, three severely.

**Event Security Planning**

Development of an effective event security plan involves seven steps:

1. **Design and configuration of the event and facility:** The event and facility should be zoned into activity areas structured to control and limit access. The public area should be those locations such as entrances, ticket booths, concession stands, restrooms and first-aid stations. The performance area should be limited to event administrators, coaches and athletes and includes locker rooms and team rooms. The service area should be accessible only to ticket sellers, concession workers and custodial workers and includes ticket booths, concession stands, supply rooms and storage areas. The support area should be accessible only to event personnel such as security, police and medical personnel. The parking area should be designated for the event and carefully supervised. Closed areas should be secured to ensure that they are off-limits to everyone.

2. **Development of a spectator behavior policy:** The policy should define reasonable, enforceable and clearly communicable limitations on spectator behavior at the event. Included should be clear guidelines regarding prohibited items such as weapons, alcohol, objects that can be thrown, noisemakers, objectionable signs and the like. Also included should be clear guidelines regarding behavioral standards regarding issues such as courtesy to other spectators, cheers and chants, sportsmanship standards, and profane language restrictions. Consideration must also be given to the media that will be used to communicate the policy, including the role of the public-address announcer, signs at gates, signage, game programs and event supervisors. Training must be provided for all event managers regarding consistent enforcement of the behavior policy and response strategies for all contingencies.

3. **Event-day implementation of the plan:** Execution of the security plan on game day should focus on controlling entry to the facility and controlling movement between the activity areas zoned for the event. Successful implementation will be a function of the preparation level of event managers, including their training and communication with one another throughout the event. Special attention should also be given to those factors that contribute to event management problems and crowd violence, including competition for space by spectators, close contact between fans, involuntary contact between spectators, the level of physical discomfort in the stands at sports events, the high degree of anonymity for fans, a lack of sportsmanship in the contest, an eruption of violence in the contest, the elevated level of passion at rivalry games, and the lack of an adequate number of event supervisors.

4. **Development of a communication plan for the event:** The International Association of Assembly Managers (IAAM), the professional organization for event managers, offers extensive resources related to event security, including books, videos, journals and seminars. The IAAM has created a “phase-coding system” for use in governing communication over radios, walkie-talkies or cellphones during events. Information is available at <www.iaam.org>.

5. **Preparation of an emergency contingency plan:** The planning process for event management must include anticipation of the types of crises that might arise and appropriate response measures, including fire, bomb threat, contact emergency, crowd disturbances, a medical emergency such as an illness, a medical emergency such as an injury, a problem in the parking area, a lighting failure, a weather problem, and the like. Contact information for outside emergency response personnel and agencies should be compiled in advance and access for those personnel and agencies to the venue should be communicated to them in advance. Evacuation procedures should be designed so that training and rehearsal may be provided for event managers.

6. **Consideration of the special needs of the disabled:** The key to addressing special needs issues is to understand and anticipate the challenges that confront the disabled, including seating locations and access to those locations, accessibility of entrances to and exits from the venue, companions and companion animals, restroom accessibility, concession and merchandising access, emergency issues, and evacuation procedures.

7. **Assessment of the liability insurance needs for the event:** The IAAM has resources available regarding suggested insurance strategies for sports events. In addition, you should consider consulting with your state high school association to inquire about group insurance options related to your school’s sports events.

Lee Green is an attorney and a professor at Baker (Kansas) University, where he teaches courses in sports law, business law and constitutional law. He may be contacted at Lee.Green@BakerU.Edu.
Our school systems are constantly recruiting new coaches. While turnover rates for coaches vary from school to school and from system to system, it is not uncommon for a school system to lose 25 percent of its coaches annually. At times, paid coaching positions go unfilled, forcing one coach to directly supervise two teams or forcing the school to drop the sport. As a result, many schools have to increasingly rely on emergency coaches from the community.

None of these scenarios benefit students. No student and school community likes to adjust to a new coach year after year. Nor do they like to drop teams and/or programs that engage students and keep them connected to the school. Coaches, at worst, resent coaching double the number of students, become discouraged and soon resign. At best, they are frustrated by the lack of attention they can give each athlete. Imagine doubling the number of students in a typical English or math class. Then imagine teaching many different ability levels at once. This is not an ideal situation for students or teachers-coaches.

The benefits of participation in interscholastic athletics are indisputable. Student-athletes usually earn better grades, attend school and class more consistently, and are more likely to graduate. In addition, athletes are better behaved, and they are more likely to be future leaders in society. In short, athletic programs are charged not with winning contests, but rather with enriching the educational experience of students while in school. The intent is to help students become productive citizens in our communities. Coaches whose primary goal is “winning at all costs” not only impede the development of students as citizens, they often quit coaching, compounding the outcome.

Principal who recognize the value of “in-house” teacher-coaches have the greatest impact on the hiring and retention process. They simplify an athletic administrator’s life and ensure that the coaching staff is stable and long-serving. Experienced, trained, education-based coaches become the backbone of a successful athletic program.

Recruiting coaches

Athletic administrators need to educate their high school principals, providing data that encourages them to recruit and hire teachers who are willing to coach or sponsor student activities. In turn, principals should educate superintendents, who are under the gun to hire highly qualified teachers in an era of assessments and “No Child Left Behind,” and they sometimes miss the real value of athletics and activities programs. Principals and athletic administrators should be constantly developing strategies, including regular communication with the superintendent who assists them when recruiting coaches.

- When interviewing prospective teachers, ask them if they have an interest in coaching. If they are interested, pursue the conversation. Share your philosophy and the benefits for them and your students.
- Develop master coaches who are willing and able to mentor new and less-experienced coaches. Involve them at some stage in the recruiting process. Head coaches should be encouraged to recruit, supervise and evaluate their assistant coaches within the policies and procedures of the school system.
- Work with the school system to negotiate fair compensation (pay) for coaching. Show the teachers that the system values their time and effort by providing better coaching stipends. Better stipends may attract more candidates from your teaching staffs.
- Attend new teacher orientations. Set up a booth and provide literature about the benefits of coaching. Talk with the new hires as they arrive and depart for their orientation meetings.
- In short, advertise and sell your program.
Retaining Coaches

Veteran coaches give athletic programs leadership, stability and vision. While some turnover on a coaching staff is normal and expected due to retirements, relocations and childbearing, athletes and communities are quickly discouraged by excessive turnover. Your veterans can become recruiters by looking for capable assistants whom they will mentor and ultimately train.

- Provide support, mentoring and guidance for new teachers in the classroom. If they are good teachers, it is highly likely they will be good coaches.
- Give professional development opportunities for your coaches by helping defray the cost of attending a clinic or conference. Attending these training sessions provides coaches with the opportunity to incorporate new ideas and best practices while rekindling the passion for their sport.
- Support your coaches by defining the appropriate lines of communication with parents. Unreasonable and overbearing parents are all too often a major cause of coaching burnout and why coaches leave the profession.
- Back up your coaches by refusing to discuss with parents team selections (cuts), playing time, position(s) played, tactics and strategies. These are coaching decisions.
- Maintain and upgrade your athletic facilities, equipment and uniforms as often as is practical and financially possible. No coach wants to work in a shabby environment.
- Encourage your coaches to incorporate a philosophy that keeps the game fun and develops solid citizens through sportsmanship. If they take on this philosophy, winning becomes only one outcome in an education-based athletic program. If the students are having fun and learning, the coaches will also be having fun.

Many of us are acutely aware of the increased litigation surrounding and involving interscholastic athletics. Parent management, risk management, Title IX, ADA, event security, employment law, participant safety, sexual harassment and hazing all require coaches to know the current standards of care and to be trained professionals who are recognized as such in courts of law. All too often the compensation we offer is not a professional wage, rather a minimum wage. Nothing, combined with a love of young people and sport, goes further in attracting and retaining acceptable and qualified coaches than fair compensation. All administrators need to fight for a fair wage that compensates coaches for the countless hours they devote to the care of students after school and being away from their families.

Recruiting and retaining coaches is a difficult, ongoing task for most administrators. Through communication, educational efforts and hard work, athletic administrators can enlist the help of principals and superintendents in meeting the challenge of providing qualified coaches for their programs. After all, student-athletes and programs depend on the leadership of highly qualified, educationally based coaches.

Michael L. Williams, CMAA, is coordinator of athletics of the Howard County Public School System in Ellicott City, Maryland.
Pinning the Issue of Girls Wrestling in High School

BY CASSIE KRISHER

The atmosphere is buzzing with electricity as the opponents take to the wrestling mat. During the match, they grab each other’s legs, ride each other’s backs and pin each other on the mat. Both opponents are in the same weight class, but that does not necessarily mean their strength is equal.

One of the opponents is a girl.

Although girls who participate in high school wrestling often have amazing physical strength, it is possibly their mentality that is strongest as they approach the mat to wrestle in a male-dominated sport.

While women’s wrestling has been gaining acceptance worldwide — it made its first appearance in the 2004 Summer Olympics — girls wrestling in high school has not been equally accepted. Only three states recognize separate state championships for girls wrestling, and a few more have combined participation at their state meets.

Since the 1996-97 school year, the number of girls participating in wrestling has more than tripled, according to the NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey. Growth in girls wrestling has been steadily increasing since girls first participated in the sport in 1979-80.

Last year, more than 5,000 girls participated in wrestling, according to the 2006-07 participation survey. While this number accounts for only two out of every 100 high school wrestlers in the country, it is a number that requires some insight into the issues that both girls and boys face when it comes to girls’ participation in wrestling.

When girls wrestle on boys teams, it creates conflict for both genders. With co-ed competition, girls have no choice but to wrestle stronger boys, and boys can feel pressure to forfeit a match with a girl.

Should high school girls wrestle on boys teams and against boys in competition, or should schools and state associations establish separate girls wrestling teams and competitions?

Separating boys and girls in wrestling

Texas, Hawaii and Washington have established girls wrestling state championships separate from the boys championships. Girls in Texas account for more than one-fifth of the nation’s high school girls wrestlers, with 1,460 girls participating in 191 schools. Hawaii has 456 girls wrestling, and Washington has 490 girls wrestling in 141 schools.

Separate boys and girls divisions in wrestling have existed in Texas since the University Interscholastic League (UIL) took official control of the high school sport in the 1998-99 season. Girls compete against other girls during the regular season and have their own state meet every February. Girls’ participation in the sport has been consistently increasing.

“Everything that we’ve heard has been positive,” said Mark Cousins, UIL athletic coordinator. “We haven’t received any negative feedback in reference to our program at all.”

Although the high school community has received girls wrestling well in Texas, the same may not be true in all states.

“It’s worked well for us, but each state has to take into account its schools and systems,” Cousins said. “What works for us may not work for others.”

Similar to Texas, Hawaii also splits boys and girls wrestling into two separate sports throughout regular-season play and the state series. Hawaii created a separate girls wrestling state championship in 1998 because of the increasing popularity of the sport, said Keith Amemiya, executive director of the Hawaii High School Athletic As-
sociation (HHSAA). Approximately 220 girls wrestle in 11 weight classes at the state meet, compared to 280 boys in 14 weight classes.

"Creating a separate girls wrestling state championship has been one of the most successful accomplishments of the HHSAA in the past decade," Amemiya said. "It has helped the HHSAA in terms of gender equity and has provided many of our girls with opportunities to obtain college scholarships, train at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado, and even attempt to qualify for the U.S. Olympic women's wrestling team."

Washington started an official girls state wrestling championship last year. However, instead of completely separating the genders, the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) came to a compromise. Regular-season wrestling can be co-ed, but girls and boys wrestle in separate state series.

Five years ago, the WIAA started an invitational for girls as part of the state meet, and 56 girls participated, wrestling against other girls. The following year in 2005, 109 participated, and 156 participated in 2006. Then, the WIAA Executive Board established the first girls wrestling state championship for the 2006-07 season, reasoning that girls' participation in the sport would expand if they had their own state tournament. Seventy-two girls participated in the first girls wrestling state tournament last year. This year, the field was expanded to 108 participants in nine weight classes. Next year, the WIAA will add two more weight classes for girls, expanding the field once again.

"[Completely separating girls and boys wrestling] is our ultimate goal, but it is a balancing act," said Jim Meyerhoff, WIAA assistant executive director. "If you cut off the regular-season participation against boys too soon, then you will restrict the growth of girls wrestling."

Washington does not yet have enough participation in girls wrestling to account for creating a separate girls division during the regular season, even though half of the WIAA schools with wrestling have female wrestlers. Only six states – California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Texas and Washington – reported more than 200 female high school wrestlers in the 2006-07 NFHS High School Athletics Participation Survey. Some schools have only one or two girls wrestling, and the only way for them to participate in the sport is to wrestle boys. A sudden move to separated girls wrestling would discourage growth of the sport, Meyerhoff said.

"As a model, it's been very successful," Meyerhoff said. "Girls wrestling has brought more excitement and enthusiasm to high school wrestling in Washington. There are always a few parents and coaches who wish it would go away, but we are way past that point now."

**Co-ed wrestling in high school**

In 2006, Michaela Hutchison of Soldotna (Alaska) Skyview High School won a state title in the 103-pound weight class of the co-ed
Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) state wrestling championship, according to the Associated Press and the March 2006 issue of NFHS News. She defeated many boys in a male-dominated sport to become the first girl to win a high school state wrestling title in a co-ed competition.

While in charge of wrestling at the Nebraska School Activities Association, Bob Colgate, NFHS assistant director and liaison to the NFHS Wrestling Rules Committee, said that he received complaints from parents about a girl who qualified for the wrestling state championship. Parents would call him and say how despicable it was to see a girl wrestle against boys at the state meet, but Colgate responded that the courts have ruled that the state must allow girls to compete if no competition exists exclusively for girls.

“We treated her like one of the 896 participants, other than giving her a separate weigh-in and locker room,” Colgate said. “But win or lose, the audience gave her a standing ovation and there were 14 cameras going off around her mat.”

Girls like these exhibit a large amount of courage to be successful in co-ed high school wrestling. Female wrestlers can feel left out in a sport that has traditionally excluded girls. However, the weight-class system in wrestling helps limit the physical inequalities when girls and boys face off in competition. Unlike football, ice hockey and basketball, sports in which girls have no choice but to compete against bigger, taller, stronger boys in co-ed competition, the weight-class system in wrestling helps to level the playing field in co-ed competition.

The boys who are matched with girls in competition can also face mental challenges. Boys can have the mindset that girls should not participate in the sport at all and that boys should not be put in a situation where they could possibly hurt a girl. The fear of embarrassment can pressure boys into forfeiting a match rather than competing against a girl. If a boy wins a match against a girl, he is too aggressive; but if he loses, he can be ridiculed.

However, that fear of embarrassment may be an issue only before a match, and not during.

“Once the whistle blows, that’s all gone, and you are just trying to beat that person,” said Dave Gannaway, chair of the NFHS Wrestling Rules Committee and assistant executive director at the Illinois High School Association.

The mental challenges for both boys and girls in wrestling are “not really an issue anymore,” Meyerhoff said. “It is just who is the best wrestler.”

Is girls wrestling acceptable?
The few state associations that have chosen to acknowledge girls wrestling in their state series have each taken different paths. No one model is going to work for every state at this point in the growth of girls wrestling. But as the number of participants continues to increase, state associations will have to “wrestle” with the idea of incorporating girls into the male-dominated contact sport.

“It’s a struggle and a challenge,” Colgate said. “Some say girls shouldn’t be there [at the state meet], and others are more progressive. It’s a touchy subject.”

While the level of girls’ participation in wrestling varies from state to state, one thing that is common among all the states is the public’s growing acceptance of a girl donning a singlet and headgear and marching with her head high on the way to the mat, regardless of the gender of her opponent.

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Teamwork.
One of many subjects covered in this classroom.

Every time these students take the court, they’re learning valuable life lessons about leadership, commitment and respect for themselves and their community. That’s why T-Mobile and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) have partnered to create the T-Mobile Invitational. It’s the only national high school tournament sponsored by the NFHS. And it provides students with skills—and memories—that’ll last a lifetime. It’s just our way of celebrating everything that’s great about high school athletics.
n today’s world of athletic directors, there are greater expectations and expanding roles. These increased responsibilities have been added while having less time and support to accomplish everything. This is a recipe for frustration, burnout and early departures from the profession. All of this brings about a huge frequency in the turnover of athletic directors.

The turnover rate of athletic directors is a national problem and one that should be a concern for most school districts. Whether as a superintendent, principal, athletic director or a host of educational positions, anytime a new person enters into a different setting or school there will be a period of transition. It is not uncommon for newcomers to take several months to a year to learn about the culture of a school, analyze what changes or improvements should occur and to develop a plan of action.

While a change is not necessarily good or bad, there is a transitional period when it occurs and the program loses consistency. Starting, stopping, changing and restarting can be unsettling and certainly stall momentum and important initiatives. During the past 14 years in Baltimore County, for example, one neighboring high school has had seven different athletic directors. Whenever this school seemed to take a half-step forward, it had to start all over again. This is hardly the prescription for success.

Whether in the business sector or education, consistent leadership is a key to any good organization. It is difficult to change leaders and continue to make progress whether it is educational reform or running a quality athletic program. Decreasing the turnover rate of athletic directors is vital. The obvious question is what should be done about this serious problem?

The answer is as simple as providing more time and support for athletic directors. In 2000, the Maryland State Athletic Directors Association conducted a survey of its members to ascertain the status of the athletic director’s position. Not surprisingly, the No. 1 listed problem was the lack of time to meet or accomplish all of the various tasks and responsibilities on their plate.

Around the country, the athletic director’s position is not structured in a universal manner. Some may have the title of assistant principal with the oversight of the athletic program, and others may supervise all activities within the school. In Maryland, for example, most may also have to teach a few classes. That’s correct, also teach some classes. These individuals have to attend to the countless details in running a full-fledged athletic program and then have to run to teach a class.

There are some principals who may even understand the time and energy that an athletic director devotes daily to the position. However, in the bigger picture, athletics is not a tested area, and not included in “No Child Left Behind.” While athletics is the most visible aspect of education, it just doesn’t warrant more available time or support – in the opinion of some principals or superintendents – for the athletic director to do his job.

Of course, there are also supervisors who may be fairly clueless as to what is involved in athletic administration. This may create an even larger, more complicated problem and will necessitate an extensive educational effort. For example, it is fairly commonplace for an athletic director to:

- Hire, supervise and evaluate a coaching staff of anywhere between 50 to 70 coaches.
- Maintain eligibility, medical and injury records for all of the athletes.
- Attend or serve as the game manager for several hundred contests each year.
- Schedule buses and officials, arrange for field lining, provide for security personnel at contests. These only represent a quick sampling.

Creating more time for an athletic director shouldn’t be that difficult. An obvious first step would be to hire an assistant, a secretary or even game managers. Any assistance that would release the athletic director from some of the evening responsibilities, which often extend to 14-hour days and 60-plus hours a week, would be beneficial. Removing teaching responsibilities would not only free up time during the day, but it would also eliminate the time needed for lesson plans, grading requirements, department
meetings and other academic tasks, all of which cut into the efficient time management for an athletic director.

However, one athletic administrator in Baltimore County accurately pointed out that there are approximately 15,000 teachers and only 24 athletic directors. During negotiations, teachers have a gigantic advantage in terms of bargaining power as opposed to an extremely small, specialized group of athletic directors. The plight of the average athletic director does not generate much empathy.

This athletic administrator additionally explained that if you complain too much, most building or district administrators would simply take the stance of hiring another athletic director instead of helping create a better working environment. On the other hand, possible solutions do exist by eliminating teaching responsibilities and extra assignments such as lunch room duty, monitoring state assessment tests, hiring an assistant and other accommodations.

The issue of support is equally as simple to solve. By support, it should not be inferred that this means monetary efforts, although this wouldn’t hurt. Rather, it is vital that the principal or superintendent, depending upon the hierarchal structure of your school system, backs up an athletic director when confronted with problems from misguided, disgruntled parents or coaches.

This does not mean that support emanating from principals or superintendents should be blind or without foundation, because it shouldn’t. Athletic directors should always keep their supervisor informed and updated on all issues facing the school and athletic program. However, backing from the highest level is necessary and vital in order to maintain the integrity of the program, and provide legitimacy and support of the athletic director.

The turnover rate of athletic directors should not only be a concern for those who serve in this position. Considering the educational value, the visibility of the athletic program and the benefits to the student-athletes, school and community, everyone including administrators, faculty, parents and the community members should be alarmed and take proactive steps to help curb this epidemic.

“Whether in the business sector or education, consistent leadership is a key to any good organization.”

Dr. David Hoch is the athletic director at Loch Raven High School in Towson, Maryland (Baltimore County). He assumed this position in 2003 after nine years as director of athletics at Eastern Technological High School in Baltimore County. He has 24 years experience coaching basketball, including 14 years on the collegiate level. Hoch, who has a doctorate in sports management from Temple University, is past president of the Maryland State Athletic Directors Association, and he formerly was president of the Maryland State Coaches Association. He has had more than 250 articles published in professional magazines and journals, as well as two textbook chapters. Hoch is a member of the NFHS Coaches’ Quarterly Publications Committee and the NFHS High School Today Publications Committee.
Bob Kanaby, executive director of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), speaking before a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee on February 27, said that steroid use not only threatens the integrity of sport, but even more disturbing are the health risks to young adults.

Kanaby was among the leaders of all high school, Olympic, college and professional sports organizations who spoke at the hearing entitled “Drugs in Sports: Compromising the Health of Athletes and Undermining the Integrity of Competition.” The hearing was called by a subcommittee of the House Committee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection to explore findings of performance-enhancing drug use among athletes at all levels of competition.

Kanaby shared the organization’s structure and purpose with the U.S. House subcommittee, noting that the NFHS is composed of the 50 state high school associations plus the District of Columbia. He said the NFHS strives to increase participation levels in high school sports, which has occurred for 18 consecutive years; minimize the risks of participation in sports through the publishing of playing rules in 17 sports; and protects and promotes these sport experiences as learning tools for young people to prepare for life.

Following is the remainder of Kanaby’s testimony before the U.S. House subcommittee:

"According to studies, more than one million young people in the United States have used steroids at least once in their lifetime. Other studies indicate over one-third of high school steroid users do not participate in interscholastic sports. The most recent data released by the National Institute on Drug Abuse in December 2007 reveals a steady decrease in the use of steroids by eighth-, 10th- and 12th-graders since 2004.

"This statistical improvement is hopefully one indication of a growing awareness among student-athletes of the dangerous consequences of steroid use. Such awareness may be attributed in part to the NFHS’ enhanced educational outreach efforts that commenced in 2005 through an initiative titled “Make the Right Choice.” The program offers brochures, DVDs and posters for state athletic associations to distribute among their member schools. Separate resources are also available for coaches/athletes and parents.

"Coaches are another segment of the high school community that should be well-informed on the risks associated with performance-enhancing drugs. The NFHS’ Coach Education Program has rapidly expanded in recent years, and 40 state associations have either adopted or endorsed it. The cornerstone of the initiative is to educate coaches on emphasizing ‘teachable moments’ that arise in the course of interscholastic competition. One ‘teachable moment’ addresses steroid use, education and prevention; the module includes a discussion between a football coach and student-athlete on the use of steroids.

"State athletic associations are sovereign entities; they are not subject to the control of the NFHS, and they make their own decisions about steroid testing. In January 2008, the Texas University Interscholastic League announced a two-year program with the National Center for Drug Free Sport, which also conducts testing for the NCAA and two other state associations. Prompted by a $3 million/year appropriation from the state legislature, the random tests are projected to affect between 40,000 to 50,000 student-athletes by the conclusion of the 2009-10 school year.

"Two other state athletic associations, Florida and New Jersey, have already established testing programs, and both entities also utilize the services of the aforementioned National Center for Drug Free Sport. New Jersey pioneered the testing of high school athletes in 2006-07, targeting five percent of its state championship competitors. Although only one of 500 participants tested produced a positive sample, the association has praised the deterrent effects of
the program. Florida’s policy is ‘random’ at the individual level, but targets athletes in the sports of football, baseball and weightlifting.

“The Illinois High School Association is the most recent state to adopt steroid testing procedures. In January, its Board of Directors approved a plan effective for the 2008-09 academic year, and similar to New Jersey, testing will be conducted on participants in state finals competitions. A number of other state associations address steroid use without a comprehensive testing plan. For example, Connecticut adopted a regulation that denies athletic eligibility to student-athletes if their respective local school districts discover steroid use. Many other associations, such as the Iowa High School Athletic Association and Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association, distribute educational resources through their Web sites for parents, coaches and students, and many of these materials are provided by the NFHS.

“As previously mentioned, the NFHS has no authority to demand that state associations implement steroid testing policies. Absent a federally mandated and funded program or some other plan, economic pressures will keep many states from adopting testing programs. The consequences of “false positives” are so severe that only the highest quality testing programs are acceptable. Such programs are very expensive.

Conclusion

“For the aforementioned reasons and as educators, we urge that any help from Congress should be focused on a twofold strategy. The first would be to support the deterrent that random testing provides. The second, and very critical companion, is a strong educational outreach designed to support the deterrent with accurate and effective educational initiatives.

“There is much to do on a proactive basis. We can assist with both initiatives and stand ready to cooperate as best we can – with Congress, the professional sports represented here today. Thank you for inviting me.”

Other sports leaders who addressed the U.S. House subcommittee were Bud Selig, commissioner of Major League Baseball; David Stern, commissioner of the National Basketball Association; Roger Goodell, commissioner of the National Football League; Gary Bettman, commissioner of the National Hockey League; Jim Scherr, chief executive officer of the U.S. Olympic Committee; Donald Fehr, head of the Major League Baseball players union; Paul Kelly, leader of the hockey players association; Gene Upshaw, head of the football players union; Billy Hunter, head of the basketball players association; Myles Brand, president of the NCAA; Travis Tygart of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency; and Alexander Waldrop, chief executive officer of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association.

The panel is considering introducing legislation that would force anti-doping measures on all sports in the United States.

“It’s going to take us a few months to come up with a bipartisan piece of legislation,” said Rep. Bobby Rush (D-Illinois), the chairman of the subcommittee. “The contours of the legislation have not been in any way shaped at this time. Not even in a broad sense. The goal is to ultimately have a national standard, as it relates to HGH and also anabolic steroids.”
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- Other associated occupations in education, collegiate, coaching, sporting goods levels

Additional NIAAA Initiatives:
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- Media & published materials
- NIAAA Hall of Fame
- Online logo shop
- Sports turf renovation effort
- Endowment program
- Professional outreach program
- College credit & degrees through leadership training program
- Web site Fundraiser Guide
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Fridley (Minnesota) High School junior Lindsey Paradise leaped into action at a boys basketball game on December 13, 2007, when she saw official Dale Wakasugi collapse on the floor. He was suffering a heart attack.

While most spectators’ attention was turned to the players at one end of the court, Paradise’s mom saw Wakasugi fall to the ground at the other end. Paradise, who participates in softball, cheerleading and weight training, heard her mom gasp and immediately ran down the bleachers on an instinct that something was wrong.

“I saw him convulsing as I was running down, but I knew you weren’t supposed to touch someone having a seizure,” she said. “I grabbed his head to stop it from hitting the ground.”

Three more spectators – two nurses and a man from the opposing team – came to Wakasugi’s aid. With their help, Paradise started to put her CPR training to use. She had received CPR and automatic external defibrillator (AED) training a month earlier as part of her physical education class.

She kept his airway open during CPR, but he still wasn’t responding after four rounds. That’s when someone brought a nearby AED to the court. AEDs detect whether a heartbeat is present and, if necessary, administer a shock to the heart to get it beating on its own again.

Paradise and the other Good Samaritans listened to the automated instructions and administered a shock the second time through.

“He started breathing, and the paramedics came and gave him oxygen,” she said. “He was responding in the ambulance.”

Doctors at Mercy Hospital in Coon Rapids put three stents in Wakasugi’s artery to prevent another blockage. Doctors told him that CPR alone would not have been enough to save his life.

Unfortunately, Wakasugi suffered another heart attack on December 18 and was rushed to St. Joseph’s Hospital in St. Paul. The original stents had clotted, which is very rare. He was sent back into surgery, where doctors implanted two more stents to keep his artery open.

A week later, doctors were still concerned about the possibility of another heart attack and sent him back into surgery, this time to install a Medtronic pacemaker/defibrillator. In the event that his heart ever stops again, the device will send a shock to his heart.

Wakasugi was released from St. Joseph’s on Christmas Day. He started a rehabilitation regimen that includes proper diet and careful exercise to keep his heart in good condition. The continual activity involved with officiating helps to keep him healthy.

Paradise and Wakasugi have kept in touch since the incident. She visited him in the hospital, and she recently went to his house for dinner.

“I got to know his family, and he showed me where they put the pacemaker,” Paradise said.

Wakasugi was able to return to his referee position at a basketball game on January 26.

“Everyone’s been talking about how I saved his life, but the others who were there deserve a lot of recognition, too,” Paradise said.

Along with Paradise, the under-credited lifesavers who rushed to Wakasugi’s side on the basketball court that December night were finally recognized for going beyond their everyday jobs. At the February 19 Fridley girls basketball game against Totino-Grace, Wakasugi and his family thanked everyone who came to his rescue that night. Wakasugi, now known as “Lazarus the Referee,” officiated the game.

“Everyone’s always watching what’s going on in the field or on the court, but no one’s ever really paying attention to the officials or coaches,” she said. “I just try to keep an extra eye out for the referee now.”

Cassie Krisher is a spring semester intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department. She is a senior at Butler (Indiana) University, majoring in journalism and media arts.
The family that wrestles together, stays together. At least when it comes to the Bultmann family.

Since 1990, the six Bultmann brothers – Pete, George, Steve, Ben, John and Jake – have created a wrestling legacy at Petersburg (Illinois) PORTA High School with a combined total of 645 victories and just 169 losses, a 79.2 winning percentage.

Pete began the tradition in 1990 with 71 victories, followed by George in 1991, who added 69 wins to the total. Steve placed third at the state tournament twice in his career – in 1995 and 1996. The three youngest brothers – Ben, John and Jake – were state qualifiers three times apiece, with John placing second at the state tournament in 2004.

Wrestling was not something new for the family, as dad, Lee, wrestled at Edwardsville (Illinois) High School. However, the family was not sure if the tradition would continue after its first son, Pete. But, five sons later, the Bultmann tradition came to a close in 2008 as Jake finished his high school career.

PORTA wrestling coach Jeff Hill has seen all of the brothers grow up on and off the mat. When he first coached Pete, he remembered watching Jake running around in diapers. Hill said each boy was different in personality, body type and skill level.

“They each had to find different ways to win,” Hill said.

The careers of the older brothers had an influence for each up-coming brother as the younger boys learned just by watching.

“They were just around it,” Hill said. “They were always here, always watching their older brothers.”

Although at times two brothers were teammates, Hill said the boys were only competitive off the mat.

“I can remember going over to their house for graduation parties, and they would be very competitive during a whiffle-ball or ping-pong game,” Hill said.

All of the brothers had early training. Ben, John and Jake began their careers in the Little Blue Jay Club, a wrestling program for kids in kindergarten through eighth grade. Each boy had a “hunger for wrestling” and through the club, they were able to refine their skills for more success during high school.

Hill enjoyed working with the family because it supported the program by trusting the coaching staff, taking a hands-off approach.

“When we had a camp to go to or weight training, they always made sure the boys were there,” Hill said. “There was never a harsh word or negative comment either way. It was nice.”

Even with a family total of 645 victories, Hill said the greatest accomplishment was that each boy graduated high school at the top of his class, with his choice of colleges.

Though it has been many years since they left the halls of PORTA, the older brothers still support the place that gave them so much success. Pete still helps his dad with the scoreboard and computer system at tournaments. The family has also left another mark on the wrestling program, through the Bultmann-Turner Scholarship.

The scholarship is named for Lee and former PORTA principal David Turner, who served on the NFHS Executive Committee (currently the Board of Directors) from 1988 to 1991. It is a $1,000 scholarship for a student who plans to continue wrestling in college. The scholarship was started in 2001 to enable students to compete in college. The students who receive the scholarship must also give back to the program by assisting with 10 summer clinics for the Little Blue Jays Club.

The Bultmann wrestling careers have ended, but the memories and the legacy will last for lifetimes.

“They will always be wrestling fans,” Hill said. “After 17 years, it’s pretty hard to stop.”

Jennifer Searcy is a spring intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department. She is a junior at Franklin (Indiana) College majoring in journalism news editorial and public relations.
National Federation of State High School Associations

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Bill Utsey, Director of Athletics, 25-Year Coach, Greenville County Schools, SC

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Carmel (Indiana) High School’s girls swimming and diving team has dominated the pool at the Indiana High School Athletic Association’s (IHSAA) state championships for 22 consecutive years. Carmel scored 387 points to take home another championship trophy at the IHSAA Girls Swimming and Diving State Finals February 9 at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis.

Carmel’s streak is the longest active streak for state championships in any sport in the country. The Paulsboro (New Jersey) boys wrestling team had won 25 consecutive championships but lost in the semifinals this year, ending its chance to continue the streak that had been going since 1983.

Carmel’s 22-year streak also ties the national record for most consecutive state championships in a girls sport, also held by Honolulu (Hawaii) Punahou girls swimming team. The two teams share the No. 6 spot on the list of most consecutive state championships regardless of gender or sport.

“It takes more than just the athletes in the pool,” said Carmel head coach Chris Plumb. “It takes people who aren’t swimming [at the state championship] and parents, as well as the 20-plus years of support prior to that. It was great to see all that hard work come to fruition.”

Carmel won two individual events and a relay at the state meet. The 200-yard freestyle relay team took the win in 1:35.28, and Trish Regan finished first in the 200-yard freestyle with a time of 1:49.78. Samantha Partridge touched the wall in 5:01.45 in the 500-yard freestyle, the only event in which a Carmel swimmer had not yet held the state title.

“We had three girls swim in the top eight of the 500 [freestyle],” Plumb said. “Sam knew she needed to go out and execute on Saturday [at the finals] and I couldn’t be happier for her to get that win for us.”

At the same state meet, Michelle McKeehan, a senior at Greenwood (Indiana) Center Grove High School, swam to a high school national record in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 1:56.87.

However, her national-record rival Mary Beck, a junior at Austin (Texas) Westlake High School, broke McKeehan’s record at the Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL) Regional VII Class 5A meet just an hour later with a time of 1:56.45. Since Beck did not improve her time at the Texas state meet a week later, her regional time will set the standard in the National High School Sports Record Book.

Last year, McKeehan and Beck swapped records in the event on three consecutive weekends. Beck set the standard at the UIL regional meet with a time of 1:58.23. The following weekend, McKeehan swam a time of 1:58.06 at the IHSAA state championship. One week later, Beck regained her title at the UIL state meet with a time of 1:57.41.

Although McKeehan lost out on the national record, she does hold three Indiana records. Her times in the 200 IM and 100 breaststroke (1:00.12) give her the Indiana state meet records. Also, she won gold medals in both events for the fourth consecutive year, placing her and Olympian Lindsay Benko of Elkhart (Indiana) Central as the only two girls in Indiana to win the same two events.
Centralia boys basketball reaches 2,000 wins

BY CASSIE KRISHER

When the Centralia (Illinois) boys basketball team won on February 15, victory was three times sweeter than any typical basketball game.

On that night, the Centralia boys basketball program became just the second in the history of high school basketball programs in the country to achieve 2,000 wins. In addition, that win guaranteed a share of the conference title and marked the defeat of longtime rival Mt. Vernon (Illinois) Township High School.

Redford sets second-highest free-throw record

BY CASSIE KRISHER

When Brad Redford, a senior at Frankenmuth (Michigan) High School, missed at the line February 9 against North Branch (Michigan), the crowd rose to their feet and gave the 6-foot player a standing ovation.

The reason for this unusual applause was that the miss marked the end of Redford’s streak of 102 consecutive free throws. The streak gives him the Michigan state record and puts him second in the National High School Sports Record Book.

Ironically, Redford's last miss also came in a game against North Branch on December 15, 2007.

In the third game in five days, he made 14 of 16 at the free-throw line, dropping his free-throw percentage to 98 for the season. He scored a game-high 38 points, and the Eagles won, 90-64, bringing their record to 17-0 this season.

Daryl Moreau of New Orleans (Louisiana) De La Salle holds the national record with 126 consecutive free throws. Moreau’s streak ran from January 17, 1978 to January 9, 1979, spanning 21 games in two seasons.

“Both teams have a successful tradition in basketball, so it was not big just because of the 2,000th win,” Centralia boys basketball coach Lee Bennett said.

The community rallied behind Centralia to support the team in its quest for the landmark 2,000th victory. The two teams battled it out in front of a sold-out crowd at Mt. Vernon High School.

“We had about as many fans as Mt. Vernon,” said Butch Border, commonly known as the “Golden Orphan” for his longtime support of the Centralia Orphans.

Border, a member of the Centralia Board of Education, said there was a lot of celebration led by the “Orphanage,” the Centralia students who attended the game.

“We had great student body support,” Bennett said. “There’s a lot of basketball tradition here and support from the community.”

Centralia went into regionals with an 18-8 record, bringing the total to 2,003 wins since 1906.

“I only want the boys to try to be as good as they can each night and for each kid to reach his best potential,” Bennett said.

“We’ve been blessed to have unbelievable coaches and athletes come through here.”

The Kingsport (Tennessee) Dobyns-Bennett boys basketball program was the first to achieve 2,000 victories on January 21, 2007. Dobyns-Bennett won its sectional this year and entered the state tournament with 2,039 wins since 1918.
Feigen breaks two national swimming records

BY CASSIE KRISHER

Few high school athletes break a national record during their high school career, but even fewer set two national records in one day.

Jimmy Feigen, a senior from San Antonio (Texas) Winston Churchill High School who was featured in the March issue of High School Today, broke both the 50-yard freestyle and 100-yard freestyle national high school records February 23 at the Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL) Swimming and Diving State Championships at the University of Texas.

He blazed through the pool in 19.49 seconds in the 50 and flirted with the 43-second barrier in the 100, reaching the wall in :43.05. He went out in the 100 freestyle in :20.43 and came back in :22.62.

“It was the most incredible performance I have ever seen by a high school swimmer,” said Churchill head coach Al Marks, who has coached there for 31 years.

Feigen had already earned top honors in the National High School Sports Record Book by swimming the 50-yard freestyle in a time of :19.65 at the UIL District 26 Class 5A meet on January 25 and the 100-yard freestyle in a time of :43.41 at the UIL Regional VII Class 5A meet on February 9. He broke both of his own records at the Texas state meet.

He also anchored both the 200-yard medley relay and 400-yard freestyle relay teams for Churchill in the state finals. His split times in both events were faster than his individual event times, but because he did not lead the relays, those times will not count for the record book. He broke 19 seconds in the 200 medley relay with a 50-yard freestyle split of :18.99, and his 100-yard split in the 400 freestyle relay was :42.71.

The previous record in the 100 freestyle was held by Joe Hudepohl of Cincinnati (Ohio) St. Xavier with a time of :43.43, and Michael Cavic of Tustin (California) previously held the 50 freestyle record with a time of :19.69.

The Churchill team honored coach Marks’ last year with the Chargers by bringing home the state championship trophy.

“A fellow coach e-mailed me and said if this was a Hollywood script, it couldn’t have been a better ending,” Marks said.

Cassie Krisher is a spring semester intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department. She is a senior at Butler (Indiana) University, majoring in journalism and media arts.

Madison wins 14th straight gymnastics title

BY JENNIFER SEARCY

Cheers were heard February 16 throughout South Dakota as two outstanding girls gymnastics feats were accomplished.

The Madison (South Dakota) High School Bulldogs won their 14th consecutive state title, setting a national record in the National High School Sports Record Book. In addition, Mitchell (South Dakota) High School won its second consecutive Class AA title and Mitchell senior Brooke Cersosimo won her third consecutive individual all-around title putting her in the record book.

The Bulldogs won the Class A title with a score of 141.896, breaking their 2006 state record of 141.893. They dominated the event with four of the top scores in the vault, three of the top five scores in the uneven bars, the top three scores in the balance beam and two of the top three scores in the floor exercise.

Coach Maridee Dossett said the team felt very fortunate to contribute to the streak and the national record.

“We knew that we had a pretty good chance of winning the meet, but when it actually happened we were overcome with emotion,” Dossett said. “It’s pretty amazing to be part of it.”

According to Dossett, seniors Kassie Finck and Katie Breuer have been strong, consistent gymnasts for the season, helping keep the team calm and focused. However, Dossett felt it was the effort by each of the 11 team members that produced the record score to win the meet.

For Dossett, the most important goal each season is that the team members finish feeling good about themselves as individuals and as athletes.

“Each athlete is able to offer something different to the team. For some, it is a high skill level; others (it is) leadership,” Dossett said. “It is my hope that the girls finish the season feeling like they
were a part of a successful team as well as a strong group of athletes and friends.”

Mitchell’s Cersosimo won three of her four events with a total score of 39.2. Her vault score of 9.85 was narrowly beaten by Amelia Rew, a teammate and daughter of coach Audra Rew. Cersosimo won 11 titles throughout her varsity career at Mitchell, including seven in the past two years.

Coach Rew said there was a little pressure on Cersosimo to repeat last year’s state meet performance, but when she gets into a rhythm, she is unstoppable.

“Brooke has had a passion and dedication to gymnastics since the moment she started,” Rew said. “I was excited that she was able to finish her senior year with such grand style. Last year, she set the highest all-around record and scored a perfect 10 on the beam at the state meet.”

Rew said Cersosimo will continue in USA Gymnastics for the local club “MEGA Gymnastics,” competing at level 10 and try to make it to nationals in May. Next year, Cersosimo plans to attend Southern Utah University and compete on the gymnastics team.

Jennifer Searcy is a spring intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department. She is a junior at Franklin (Indiana) College majoring in journalism news editorial and public relations.

Babbitt sets the bar high, becomes Nevada’s basketball scoring leader

BY JENNIFER SEARCY

It was just an ordinary basketball game for Galena (Nevada) High School senior Luke Babbitt, but with 4:40 to go in the fourth quarter, he broke the state record for most career points.

On January 18, Babbitt scored 23 points to help his team defeat Fallon (Nevada) Churchill County High School. Those points paved the way for Babbitt to pass Armon Johnson (Reno Hug High School) and Prince Fowler (Las Vegas Western High School) on the all-time state scoring list. Babbitt finished his career with 2,941 points.

The Grizzlies went on to win seven of the nine remaining games before entering the postseason, where they lost in the second round of the Northern 4A regional bracket to Minden (Nevada) Douglas High School.

Babbitt will play college basketball next year at the University of Nevada.

Jennifer Searcy is a spring intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department. She is a junior at Franklin (Indiana) College majoring in journalism news editorial and public relations.

Question: Do you have a Sports Medicine Advisory Committee?

AROUND THE NATION

Question: Do you have a Sports Medicine Advisory Committee?

41 YES

10 NO

★ Have alternative plan to address sports medicine issues.
In 1996, the leadership of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) recognized the availability of information in the sports medicine area that was relevant to the mission of the organization and formed its first NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC). As the SMAC enters its 12th year of existence, the many physicians, certified athletic trainers, referees, coaches and state association members who have served can look back with pride on the committee’s contributions to minimizing the risk of sports participation while maintaining the integrity, participation equity and fun enjoyed by more than seven million participants each year.

As a charter member of the committee who has served for 10 of the 12 years of its existence, I believe the committee has gained an understanding and strong respect for the structure and the process of NFHS rules committees and the uniform commitment of the organization to fulfill its mission to our student-athletes. Hopefully, the due diligence, professionalism and intellectual and scientific integrity exercised by the committee and its members has, in like manner, gained some credibility within the greater NFHS community.

Using the Mission Statement of the committee as an outline, following are some of the contributions the committee has made in concert with the various NFHS rules committees, member state associations and NFHS leadership, as well as projects planned in the very near future to further that mission and goal of minimizing risk for student-athletes.

**Mission Statement**

The Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) shall advise the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) concerning sports medicine issues as they relate to rules writing, as well as the other programs and services of the NFHS. It will monitor and disseminate current information to the NFHS and its membership relative to the sports medicine field. Through this committee, the NFHS will work to educate its constituency concerning sports medicine issues. The committee will proactively address health and risk management issues of general concern to the NFHS membership.

The committee and its members have conscientiously reviewed the medical literature for information relevant to goals of the SMAC and discussed those within the committee and the NFHS community. Information has been shared with the NFHS Board of Directors, the NFHS leadership, various NFHS rules committees and the NFHS community through presentations, articles in publications, postings on NFHS and member state association Web sites, and personal communications at state and national levels. A major con-
tribution has been the development of the NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook, which will be published this fall in its third edition. Another has been efforts to facilitate the development of a SMAC in every state association and member associations have done this (See map on page 25).

Goals of the Committee
1. Work cooperatively with the NFHS rules-writing committees to address sports medicine issues as they impact high school rules and the health and risk management of its participants.

The NFHS rules committees have passed 310 rules during the past 12 years that directly or indirectly relate to risk minimization. A few of the most notable and effective include expanding the pole vault pit, placing diving blocks at the deep end of the pool, and mandating eye protection for girls lacrosse, which has virtually eliminated catastrophic injuries in those sports. Many other issues, questions and concerns have been discussed and resolved without the need for new rules or equipment.

2. Work cooperatively and maintain liaison with other key medical and para-medical organizations that can assist the committee in its work.

The SMAC regularly communicates and interacts with about 12 professional organizations. Members of the committee serve as liaisons to their respective organizations such as the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Medical Society for Sports Medicine (AMSSM), etc. Also, the NFHS staff serves on many boards and policy groups such as ASTM and Joint Commission on Sports Medicine and Science. They have also represented the NFHS on many task force and expert committees such as Soccer Concussion Summit by Institute of Medicine, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) coach tool kit on concussions, Sudden Cardiac Death in Sports, NATA Injury Surveillance System, NCAA Summit on Commissio Cordis, etc. The NFHS name, influence and relevance have grown dramatically in the sports medicine community over the past decade.

3. Assist the NFHS in researching sports medicine issues.

The SMAC and NFHS have encouraged and supported research on concussions, injury surveillance systems, wooden vs. metal bats, wrestling weight-management programs and dangerous weight-loss practices, substance abuse, etc.

4. Develop position statements and guidelines to assist the NFHS leadership and membership in making informed decisions that contribute to minimizing risk for participation.

The SMAC has been very proactive in this area with statements in the NFHS Handbook, all rules books, and on the Web site pertaining to infectious disease issues such as MRSA, blood-borne pathogens and skin diseases. Information on heat and hydration, techniques for monitoring this issue, appropriate re-hydration fluids, emergency planning, lightning safety, asthma management for athletes, commotio cordis, and eye and dental protection have been shared widely in the NFHS community. The committee has also been proactive in providing education and leadership about Good Samaritan Laws for states, SMAC committees for member state associations and wrestling weight-management guidelines.

5. To develop and administer a national high school sport injury surveillance system. The SMAC will analyze and interpret the scientific injury data that is obtained. This information will allow the SMAC to initiate and support recommendations to the NFHS community intended to reduce risk through possible changes in rules and/or equipment.

The NFHS has been fortunate to be involved with Dr. Fred Mueller and the National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for many years. Information on reducing catastrophic injuries in sports is also critical to addressing risk minimization. The SMAC has collaborated with Randy Dick and the NCAA Injury Surveillance System (ISS) and with Dr. Dawn Comstock and her High School Reporting Information Online (RIO) program at Ohio State University. Discussions about the NFHS starting an injury surveillance system are ongoing and hopefully will be resolved soon. This injury data will be very important in providing objective information for the SMAC and the NFHS rules committees to make the best decisions on risk minimization, equipment, playing rules and management of all students who participate in high school sports.

6. The SMAC will provide the NFHS leadership and membership current information on sports medicine issues through the NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook, the Sports Medicine section of the NFHS Web site and through other NFHS publications.

Another priority of the SMAC, the NFHS leadership and the NFHS Board of Directors is to print the third edition of the NFHS Sports Medicine Handbook. The goal is to have the final revision completed, along with the addition of a few new topics, by the beginning of the 2008-09 school year.

On behalf of all the present and past members of the SMAC, we would like to thank Bob Kanaby, Bob Gardner and the entire NFHS leadership for having the vision to start the committee and the insight to support and nurture its growth. The NFHS staff liaisons have been most helpful in merging the scientific knowledge of the medical professionals with the traditions, institution and process of the NFHS. The future is indeed bright for the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.

Dr. Vito Perriello is a practicing doctor with Pediatric Associates of Charlottesville, LLC, in Charlottesville, Virginia. He is the current chair of the NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee.
Three female athletes who seized the opportunity to play high school sports after the passage of Title IX in 1972 headline the 2008 class of the National High School Hall of Fame. Jackie Brummer, four-time state gymnastics all-around champion from Amherst (New York) Sweet Home High School in the early 1980s; Natasha Kaiser-Brown, nine-time state champion (1982-85) in track and field from Des Moines (Iowa) Theodore Roosevelt High School; and Karen Smith, two-time California state basketball player of the year in the late 1970s from Sacramento (California) Rio Americano High School, were chosen in the Athlete category, along with Tom Kropp, Nebraska prep athlete of the decade in the 1970s at Aurora (Nebraska) High School.

These four former high school standouts are among 12 individuals who will be inducted in the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) National High School Hall of Fame July 7 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Washington, D.C. The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be the closing event of the 89th NFHS Annual Summer Meeting.

Four high school coaches with an amazing 184 combined years of experience were chosen for this prestigious honor. Coaches selected include Louise Crocco, who led Fort Lauderdale (Florida) Cardinal Gibbons High School to 18 state volleyball championships in 39 years of coaching; James Drewry, football coach at Booneville (Mississippi) High School who is No. 1 in state history in victories among public school coaches during his 48-year career; Warren Mitchell, who at 82 years of age is in his 55th year as track and field coach at Limon (Colorado) High School with 12 state championships to his credit; and the late Dewey Sullivan, the winningest football coach in Oregon prep history who won five state championships in 42 years at Dayton (Oregon) High School.

Two contest officials were selected for this year’s class: Tim Carr, a registered football and basketball official since 1973 from Midvale, Utah; and Dick Deitz, a multi-sport official from McLeansboro, Illinois, with 50 years of service, including the past 32 as the state’s basketball and baseball rules interpreter.

Selected in the administrator’s category is Jerry McGee, long-time coach and athletic director from North Carolina who has served as executive director of the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association since 1991.

The final inductee in the fine arts category is Barbara Seng, coach/director of speech, drama and one-act play for 43 years at Henry Sibley High School and White Bear Lake High School, both in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The National High School Hall of Fame was started in 1982 by the NFHS to honor high school athletes, coaches, contest officials, administrators, fine arts coaches/directors and others for their extraordinary achievements and accomplishments in high school sports and activity programs. This year’s class increases the number in the Hall of Fame to 350, and this year’s event will be the 26th induction ceremony.

The 12 individuals were chosen after a two-level selection process involving a screening committee composed of active high school state association administrators, coaches and officials, and a final selection committee composed of coaches, former athletes, state association officials, media representatives and educational leaders. Nominations were made through NFHS member associations.

NASSP endorses NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course

The Fundamentals of Coaching course, which was started in January 2007 by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) as the signature course of the NFHS Coach Education Program, has received the endorsement of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP).

To date, more than 16,000 Fundamentals of Coaching courses have been delivered in either online or blended formats. The first phase of the NFHS Coach Education program consists of the Fundamentals of Coaching course and the First Aid for Coaches course,
a sport safety training program developed by the American Red Cross and the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC).

“We are extremely pleased that the NASSP has endorsed Fundamentals of Coaching because it validates our course as being designed specifically for interscholastic teacher/coaches,” said Robert F. Kanaby, NFHS executive director. “This course is designed for those teacher/coaches who work in an educational setting, which separates it from other courses.

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“Coaches are one of the great pillars in a school community, and many often further their careers by moving into the position of principal,” said Gerald N. Tirozzi, NASSP executive director. “NFHS’s Fundamentals of Coaching course helps lay a great foundation for the well-rounded school leader and we are pleased to offer them our endorsement.”

The Fundamentals of Coaching course addresses the following subjects: educational athletics and the role of the coach, the coach as a manager, the coach as a teacher, the coach and interpersonal skills, and the coach and physical conditioning.

“The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course provides a unique, student-centered curriculum for interscholastic teacher-coaches, assisting them in creating a healthy and age-appropriate sport experience that supports the academic mission of the 18,845 schools from NFHS-member associations,” said Tim Flannery, NFHS assistant director and director of the NFHS Coach Education Program.

“This course addresses the needs of our member state associations as an affordable, accessible and relevant educational experience,” Flannery said. “It is designed to prepare interscholastic teacher/coaches for their roles in an educational setting.”

Currently, 39 states and the District of Columbia have adopted the Fundamentals of Coaching course to satisfy their coaching requirements or have agreed to endorse and promote the course. Five additional states are reviewing the course for adoption, while six other states have their own programs.

The course was developed following the National Standards for Sport Coaches and the Level III guidelines established by the National Council for the Accreditation of Coaches Education (NCACE).
2008 Record Book published

The 2008 edition of the National High School Sports Record Book has been published.

As in past years, it contains records and top performances in 16 sports for boys and girls, and is a history of the top achievements of high school greats.

It includes 36 new records and new photographs from the 2006-07 school year, and more than 350 photographs altogether. More than 6,500 teams and individual record-holders are featured in this 240-page 30th edition of the Record Book.

Among the individuals who set records in 2006-07 was Kaleb Oveson, a senior receiver at Wallowa (Oregon) High School, who etched his name no fewer than seven times in the 2008 National High School Sports Record Book.

Four national records were set at the 2007 California Interscholastic Federation state track meet. Alex Kosinski of El Dorado Hills Oak Ridge High School ran a 4:38.15 time in the girls 1,600-meter run, while Tori Anthony of Palo Alto Castilleja High School became the first girl to clear 14 feet in the pole vault, going 14-1. Vashti Thomas of San Jose Mt. Pleasant High School rounded out the girls records with a .13.03 time in the 100-meter high hurdles. On the boys’ side, Joshua Anderson of Woodland Hills Taft High School skimmed the 300-meter intermediate hurdles in :35.28 to set the national standard in that event.

In girls basketball, Courtney Weibel of Hononegah (Illinois) High School fired in 471 three-point field goals during her career to set the national standard in that category.

Jimmy Stevens of Oklahoma City (Oklahoma) Heritage Hall High School booted his way to glory as he kicked 50 career field goals in 11-player football. In the state immediately to the east, Brian Langford of Little Rock (Arkansas) Pulaski Academy pulled in 138 receptions in fall 2006.

In the nine-player game, quarterback Jake Steffen of Stickney-Mount Vernon (South Dakota) High School, entered the Record Book four times. He set career marks for points (814), passing yards (2,948), pass attempts (261) and pass completions (186). In that same state, Trent DesLauriers of Clark (South Dakota) High School compiled 1,215 single-season receiving yards.

Mary Beck of Austin (Texas) Westlake High School swam to a 1:57.41 time in the girls 200-yard individual medley, while Austin Staab of Westerville (Ohio) Central High School tied the national record of :47.10 in the boys 100-yard butterfly.

Alisha Glass of Leland (Michigan) High School showed great versatility as she set three girls volleyball career records: kills (3,584), service aces (937) and blocks (680).

On the mat, Colton Palmer of Durham (North Carolina) Riverside High School set career wrestling records for victories (284) and falls (183) and single-season standards for victories (91) and falls (63).

The Record Book costs $12.95, plus shipping and handling. To order the Record Book, call toll-free 1-800-776-3462 or order it online at <www.nfhs.com>.

Have a Great Record Book Performance?

If you believe you have a performance that might qualify for inclusion in the National High School Sports Record Book, we would like to hear about it.

If so, simply contact Record Book Editor John Gillis at jgillis@nfhs.org. He is more than happy to assist you with the application process.

Rules changes announced for fall sports

BY CASSIE KRISHER

An essential function of the NFHS is to write rules for competition in high school sports. NFHS rules books are used by officials, coaches, players and fans across the country to ensure a standardized competitive atmosphere and to minimize risk to participants.

NFHS rules committees for fall sports – volleyball, spirit, football, field hockey and soccer – have each adopted several rules changes for the 2008-09 school year.

In volleyball, all references to referee and umpire will be changed to “first referee” and “second referee,” respectively. Also, the assistant scorer will now be referred to as the “libero tracker.”

A change in Rule 1-6-2 will allow a team to have more than one captain present at the prematch conference, since many teams now have co-captains.

In spirit, the rules committee adopted three revisions designed to minimize risk. To increase stability during transitions, Rule 2-6-10 was revised to outline several conditions in which a flyer will be required to keep in contact with a base. If a flyer is inverted, if the flyer has only one base, or if the flyer and bracer do not both have spotters, then the flyer must maintain contact with a base.

Also, Rule 2-9-1a legalizes a forward suspended roll from the performing surface if “the flyer begins from the performing surface or from a stunt at shoulder height or below.”

In football, 17 total revisions were made. Rules 2-16-2e and 10-2-4 will now state that a team must foul twice during the same down to commit multiple fouls.
The committee made an addition to Rule 3-3-4 to resolve penalty issues at the end of the half for unsportsmanlike fouls, non-player fouls, fouls that specify a loss of down and fouls that are enforced on the subsequent kickoff as outlined in Rule 8-2-2. That rule now states that fouls by the opponents of the scoring team on the last timed down of the first half can carry over to the second half, but fouls on the last timed down of the second half cannot carry over into overtime.

A similar rule revision removed the option of carrying over unused time-outs from the second half into overtime. Also, hip pads, knee pads and thigh guards must not be altered from the manufacturer's original design.

In field hockey, the rules committee adopted 18 rules changes. Effective in 2011, the home team must wear a solid white uniform top, and the visiting team must wear a single solid black or single dark-colored uniform top. The committee also specified uniform revisions concerning the position of the team name, decorative accents and side inserts.

To reduce the risk of injury, Rule 1-7-3d was revised to allow the goalkeeper to use a stick, protective equipment or any part of the body while on the ground in order to move the ball away. Rule 8-1-1o was revised to state that a goalkeeper can be penalized for "striking and/or kicking in an intimidating manner, playing the ball without a stick in her hand, or placing the ball after a hand stop of an aerial ball."

Also, effective January 1, 2009, a player's stick must meet the following requirements: must not exceed a bow of 25 mm, must not weigh more than 23 ounces and must pass through a two-inch ring.

The Soccer Rules Committee adopted three changes for the 2008-09 season. When a player is illegally equipped, the coach will receive the first caution (yellow card), and the player will receive all subsequent cautions. The committee also added definitions for "illegally equipped" and "improperly equipped." An illegally equipped player is one who is wearing legal equipment improperly or that becomes illegal during play. Cautions are not issued for being improperly equipped.

In addition, shinguards must meet the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment standard in order to minimize risk. Also, a change to Rule 1-1-1 now recommends that fields be 100 to 120 yards long and 55 to 80 yards wide.

For a complete list of the rules changes in these sports for the 2008-09 season, please visit the NFHS Web site at <www.nfhs.org>.

**NFHS Citizenship Committee addresses topic of energy drinks**

BY CASSIE KRISHER

Sportsmanship and highly caffeinated beverages were the main topics of discussion at the annual NFHS Citizenship Committee meeting January 26-28 at the Indianapolis Downtown Hilton.

The committee assists member associations by providing resources about the importance of producing good citizens through education-based athletics and activities. Its mission is to “provide lifelong learning opportunities for participants to become citizens who provide positive contributions to their schools, workplaces and society.”

“Sportsmanship, unfortunately, we feel is on the decline,” said Elliot Hopkins, NFHS director of educational services and liaison to the NFHS Citizenship Committee. “Television and bad role models present bad images that young people think are OK.”

Guest speaker Dr. Kevin Ringhofer of the Minnesota Institute of Public Health focused his presentation on the dangers of highly caffeinated beverages. Ringhofer has helped the committee in the past with issues such as alcohol education and smoking cessation.

Hopkins said energy drinks are “not good for young bodies” and can have harmful long-term effects. In addition, the topic is one that crosses over because it’s not just athletes who are drinking them, but also students involved in activities such as fine arts and debate.

This year, committee members gathered recent studies to update information showing the positive effects that high school activities have on young people because much of the research is outdated.

Also, the committee made plans to develop an educational sportsmanship video that will help administrators, coaches, officials and parents talk to high school students about proper sportsmanship conduct.

The committee currently provides sportsmanship cards for officials to use in enforcing good behavior in competition, and it also offers
Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity certificates for state associations to recognize individuals who have been effective in promoting sportsmanship.

Past topics at the annual committee meeting have included hazing, tobacco and alcohol use, and sexual orientation issues as they relate to high school athletics.

“We try to identify issues that are on the horizon,” Hopkins said. “We address issues that are at times nontraditional, but there are students and administrators dealing with those issues, so we provide resources for them for additional help.”

Hall of Fame member Smiddy receives Morgan Wootten Award

BY CASSIE KRISHER

National High School Hall of Fame member Jim Smiddy, who ranks second in the National High School Sports Record Book for most all-time girls basketball victories, has been named the recipient of the Morgan Wootten Award.

Smiddy, who won 1,217 games during his coaching career from 1948 to 1993, coached at Charleston (Tennessee) High School and Cleveland (Tennessee) Bradley Central High School.

He led the Bradley Central Bearettes to Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) state championships in 1962, 1970, 1973, 1975 and 1976. His teams also won national championships in 1975 and 1976, during which time they went undefeated and compiled a 90-game winning streak. Smiddy’s teams also won 24 district, 17 regional and 14 sub-state titles.

Smiddy is the second recipient of the Morgan Wootten Award given annually by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. The award honors lifetime achievement in making significant contributions to coaching high school basketball. His widow, Gloria, will accept the award at the 2008 McDonald’s All American Games on behalf of the late Smiddy, who died in 1995.

Smiddy was inducted into the National High School Hall of Fame in 1992. He also is a member of the Women’s Basketball Hall of Fame, the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame, and the TSSAA Hall of Fame.

SPEECH, DEBATE AND THEATRE EDUCATOR AWARDS

BY JENNIFER SEARCY

The NFHS Speech, Debate and Theatre Association awarded 18 individuals the Outstanding Speech-Theatre-Debate Educator Award.

Each state could nominate one educator in the area of speech, debate or theatre who exemplifies the highest standards of ethical conduct, and he or she must carry the endorsement of his or her respective state high school association. Seven individuals were chosen as section winners, and 11 were state award winners.

The following is a list of this year’s winners:

SECTION WINNERS
Terri Banson
Section 2 – Kentucky
Dr. Terri St. John
Section 3 – Florida
Bill Kirksey
Section 4 – Illinois
Linda Haar
Section 5 – South Dakota
Myrna Bass
Section 6 – Texas
R. Kent Hyer
Section 7 – Utah
Holly L. Lorincz
Section 8 – Oregon

STATE WINNERS
Fay E. Cunnigham, Virginia
Stacy Howell, Mississippi
Aaron P. Smith, Indiana
Thomas V. Lietz, Minnesota
Nancy S. Libke, Iowa
John Fogarty, Minnesota
Peggy Dersch, Missouri
Linda Shipley, Oklahoma
John T. Heyl, Arizona
Nathan Criman, Utah
Hal Wing, Oregon

For complete biographical information on this year’s Speech-Theatre-Debate Educator Award winners, visit the NFHS Web site at <www.nfhs.org/hstoday>.

Jennifer Searcy is a spring intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department. She is a junior at Franklin (Indiana) College majoring in journalism news editorial and public relations.

Cassie Krisher is a spring semester intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department. She is a senior at Butler (Indiana) University, majoring in journalism and media arts.