NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching

Course Description
The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching Course provides a unique, student-centered curriculum for interscholastic coaches, assisting them in creating a healthy and age-appropriate sport experience that supports the academic mission of the 18,500 schools from NFHS members associations.

This course will address the needs of our member state associations as an affordable, accessible and enriching educational experience. It is designed to prepare interscholastic coaches for their roles in an educational setting. The course will take 4-6 hours online to complete and 4-8 hours in the blinded option.

Contact
Tim Farnary, NFHS Assistant Director
Phone: 317-922-5178; e-mail: tfarnary@nfhs.org

Testimonials
"After 20-plus years in coaching and school athletic administration, I took the course. Without hesitation, I can tell you I wish I had this when I first started coaching. The content was most valuable and the instruction was up-to-date. Even after all this time in high school coaching and athletics, I still learned new, applicable things that would make me a better, more effective coach."

Bill Liber, Director of Athletics
Greenville County Schools, SC

How to get started
Contact your state association for details on how and when the course will be offered. For information on how to contact your state association, please go to: www.nfhs.org

Change is inevitable.

Some avoid it at all costs because of the challenges it can present. Some seek it out when necessary because it keeps ideas fresh and enables organizations to grow.

Here at the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), we have accepted that latter axiom to be true. An opportunity for change has approached us once again, and we have enthusiastically embraced it.

The organization has produced the NFHS News since 1983, and in June published its final issue. Beginning with this September 2007 issue, High School Today will succeed it as the news and professional development magazine of the NFHS. This ambitious challenge represents change at its fullest.

Production of a new national magazine was a part of the 2005-2008 NFHS Strategic Plan approved by the 51 member associations of the NFHS. The goals were to promote the mission and core values of education-based athletics and activities, along with reaching a wider audience throughout the country, including principals, superintendents and school board members.

This new publication will be published eight times a year, September through May, with a combined December-January issue. It will expand upon the NFHS News format to reach a broader target audience while addressing topics of interest to its reading audience.

With the project, we have incorporated three primary modifications. These include changing the look of the publication, changing the circulation and changing the content.

When you received this issue of High School Today, you probably noticed several physical and aesthetic differences. The new publication feels like a magazine with its slick cover and pages, as opposed to the newspaper feel the NFHS News had in the past.

In an effort to be more consistent with the NFHS Officials’ Quarterly and NFHS Coaches’ Quarterly, the cover will feature a photograph instead of an article.

Finally, although our initial issues will be 32 pages, we have plans to expand future issues to 48 pages.

The second change deals with who will receive High School Today. Currently, the NFHS News’ circulation is 12,000, reaching all state associations; National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association members; NFHS Speech, Debate and Theatre Association members; NFHS Music Association members; and subscribers.

In the future, we hope to reach 75,000 readers with High School Today. In addition to the aforementioned groups, it will also be mailed to superintendents, school board members and principals, among others.

The final, and possibly most important, change can be seen in the new magazine’s content. In the past, the NFHS News contained mostly news articles. High School Today will still contain that hard news, but will also include professional development articles and timely features. Through that process, we hope to both strengthen the quality of the publication and to serve more publics than ever before.

In order to facilitate this content change, we have formed a talented and experienced editorial committee for High School Today that will meet semi-annually in February and August to focus on developing and producing content that will constitute the magazine. The listing of the High School Today Publications Committee is printed on page 5. These individuals will work on the publication with Bruce Howard and John Gillis of the NFHS Publications/Communications Department.

From a historical perspective, the publication started in 1980 as the National Federation Press, which for three volumes (until 1983), was published monthly.

Three years later, it became the NFHS News, which ran from 1983 to 2007. During that time, the News went through six design changes.

We now stand at the beginning of a third transformation. This change is revolutionary, and not just evolutionary as occurred in the past.

Any good change takes time, and we are prepared to dedicate ourselves to the challenging project we have begun. After all, success is not reached by standing still. It is attained by moving forward in the right direction.
Team Effort
Indianapolis (Indiana) North Central High School swimmers at the 2003 Indiana High School Athletic Association State swimming and diving championships.

Photograph by 20/20 Photographic, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

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Cover Story: The history of gender equity is examined in the first of a two-part article regarding Title IX. –Peg Pennepacker

Photograph by 20/20 Photographic, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

Features

Legal News
Friday Night Lights Shine On First Amendment: The U.S. Supreme Court favors state associations in landmark Brentwood Academy vs. TSSAA case. –Lee Green

Activities Week
Celebrate National High School Activities Week: Activities Week recognizes high school activity programs and the people who make them possible. –Treva Dayton

Public/Private School Issues
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High School Today Online
You can read all articles – and more not published in this issue – online at www.nfhs.org/hstoday.
Title IX – 35 Years and Counting: A View of Educational Equity

BY PEG PENNEPACKER, CAA

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

In 1972, these 37 words formed the statute that began to have a profound impact on education. June 23, 2007 marked the 35th anniversary of Title IX, a law, which even after more than 30 years still leaves school personnel scratching their heads.

From a cultural standpoint, Title IX is not quite fully embraced by some and its implementation continues to be a challenge to students, parents, coaches, athletic directors, school boards, lawyers and the courts. Equal access to athletics for boys and girls is now being felt more than ever at the K-12 level. Title IX continues to be one of the most misunderstood education laws of our time, and yet, one of the most important.

Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 is the first comprehensive federal law to prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual harassment against students and employees in any educational institution that receives federal funds. It was designed to protect both males and females in federally funded educational programs and activities. Sponsored by Senator Birch Bayh and Representative Edith Green, Title IX is more than athletics – so much more.

While the common perception is that Title IX is all about athletics and single-sex education, Title IX seeks to ensure equity far beyond the playing fields. Title IX is about a school’s entire educational program from math, science, English and history to chess club, band, soccer and tennis. Title IX also covers admissions, access to courses or programs, counseling, student rules and regulations, treatment of students, athletics, cocurricular and extracurricular activities, as well as employment practices and sexual harassment of students and employees.

In spite of the overall intent, through the years Title IX has been and continues to a great extent to be a law about athletics. Even though only a small percentage of the actual written law refers to athletics, our society dictates where the emphasis has been placed.

Make no mistake about it, however, Title IX can arguably be credited with the increased involvement and opportunities for girls and women in athletics as well as many areas of education. As a result of Title IX, enormous improvements in the situations of women and girls have occurred in the past 35 years. Prior to the implementation of Title IX, females were often discriminated against in activities traditionally benefiting men.

“An athletics program can be considered gender-equitable when the participants in both the men’s and women’s sports programs would accept as fair and equitable the overall program of the other gender.”

For example, before Title IX, females often found it very difficult, if not impossible, to compete for admission in some courses and majors, which may have traditionally been the exclusive domain of men. This included scholarships and other forms of financial aid. Since the enactment of Title IX, substantial increases in the budgets and resources for females in education and athletics have occurred. Title IX has increased the number of women earning professional degrees and in 1971, one in 27 girls participated in athletics. Today, one in 2.5 girls participates in athletics at the high school level.

In the early years of Title IX compliance, the focus was mainly
on college and university athletic programs. Today, however, the interest is now reaching down into the high school and junior high school levels. Due to this evolution, school personnel need to be prepared to deal with the elements of compliance. Much of the attention has been a result of ongoing awareness, publicity and education about Title IX at the high school level.

Today, fathers who have daughters participating in school athletics programs are as likely as mothers and the students themselves to notice the continuing inequities in scheduling, facilities and equipment, among other areas. Parents, as stakeholders in the school district, expect higher levels of compliance and accountability from their schools. This accountability extends to athletics programs, and parents and students are often more knowledgeable than coaches and other employees in the school district. The reason for this is that the Internet has "leveled the playing field" when it comes to researching the rights and protections offered by Title IX.

Generally speaking, Title IX is about social change. It is about breaking down gender-role stereotypes in school settings and developing and sustaining positive self-esteem among girls and boys. To fully understand Title IX, one must think in terms of educational equity through gender equity. Gender equity seeks to guarantee an equal opportunity for males and females to participate in all courses and all activities. Educational equity exists when there are no systemic differences in conditions, practices and results based upon race, ethnicity, gender, economic status or any other characteristic.

We live in a culture where sports and athletics are ingrained in our way of life, and sports and entertainment are inextricably entwined. Many would believe that sports are the ultimate meritocracies. Two or more individuals, or two or more teams meet to compete. They compete to the best of their ability, and the best team or individual, by any combination of luck, skill and stamina, defeats the other opponent(s) or the clock or the record book. Some commentators of our culture have portrayed interscholastic athletics as a Darwin-like "survival of the fittest" where the strongest survive or, at least, prevail to be crowned champion.

When these perspectives are applied to education, Title IX and interscholastic athletics, confusion, resentment and misunderstandings occur. Title IX changes the equation when it comes to schools and interscholastic athletics. Boys and girls need to be provided equal opportunities and what is given to one must be offered to the other. The relative popularity of sports and athletics is not necessarily relevant; the opportunities for students who attend federally funded schools is. The true litmus test according to the NCAA Gender Equity Task Force is, "An athletics program can be considered gender-equitable when the participants in both the
men’s and women’s sports programs would accept as fair and eq-
uitable the overall program of the other gender.”

As school budgets become increasingly strained due to in-
creased demands, superintendents and board members are often
caught in the middle of this debate. It has become more important
than ever for schools to pay attention to Title IX. In the future, the
key for boards of education and superintendents is to keep fair-
ness in mind while working with limited budgets, increased ac-
countability and the realization that one disgruntled parent can
trigger a lawsuit or federal investigation.

The keys for school districts will be to:

1. Have someone on staff who knows the law and how it is to
be applied. Every school, by law, is required to designate a
Title IX coordinator. Contact information for the Title IX co-
ordinator must be readily available to school faculty, staff
and students. Title IX coordinators as well as all faculty, stu-
dents, coaches and community members can file a com-
plaint of Title IX violation with the Office of Civil Rights.
Anonymity is maintained and institutions are prohibited
from retaliation against any complainant.

2. Conduct a yearly self-audit. To accomplish this step, review
and evaluate all compliance components within the athletic
program, including effective accommodation of athletic in-
terests and abilities and equivalence of other athletics ben-
efits and opportunities.

3. Have a strategic plan in writing to meet or maintain com-
pliance and review and update this document on an annual
basis.

4. Educate, educate, educate all staff, students, parents, ad-
ministration and board members. Use multi-media meth-
ods including publications, preseason parent meetings,
school district Web sites, etc. to continually educate all
stakeholders about the law.

5. Commit to educational equity for all students. Educational
equity knowledge and practices in schools have evolved
over time and require a comprehensive approach. Equity
strategies are planned and systemic, and focus on the core
of the teaching and learning process and provide support
for success. Educational equity activities promote the real
possibility of equality of educational and career results for
each student.

The vital point to remember is that it is important to continue
to support the athletic ambition of girls and boys while not cur-
tailing the progress of one over the other. Title IX is a sensitive
subject and a delicate mix that calls for good governance, fairness and
judgment, which may go beyond what the law allows or requires.
Title IX is not an opinion; it is a law and is as important as “No
Child Left Behind” to ensure that there is “No Athlete Left Behind”
as well.

Part Two – The high school auditing process and the high
school accountability act.

Peg Pennepacker, CAA, has been in public education for 25 years and a high school
athletic director for 16 years. She is an advocate for Title IX at the high school level and
serves as a Title IX consultant for the Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Associa-
tion, as well as several school districts in southeastern Pennsylvania. She can be con-
tacted at 570-385-4069 or ppackt9@yahoo.com.
State athletics and activities associations may restrict, within reasonable parameters, recruiting of student-athletes without infringing on the free speech rights of schools and athletics personnel, the United States Supreme Court ruled unanimously in a June 21, 2007 decision.

The decade-old dispute between the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) and Brentwood Academy, a private school known for its powerhouse sports program, involved allegations of illegal recruiting of middle school students. The TSSAA has long restricted its member schools from using “undue influence” in publicity efforts directed at middle school students, an association regulation that essentially prohibits recruiting for sports participation any students prior to their enrollment at a school.

In 1997, Brentwood’s football coach mailed a letter to eighth-grade boys inviting them to attend spring football practices. The letter explained that football uniforms and equipment would be distributed at the practice sessions. The letter also stated that “getting involved as soon as possible would definitely be to your advantage” and it was signed “Your Coach.”

All of the boys to whom the letter was sent attended at least some of the spring football practices. All had also, prior to attending the sessions, signed contracts manifesting their intent to attend Brentwood, but none had yet “enrolled” as defined by TSSAA rules.

Separate allegations of prohibited recruiting involved assertions of an inappropriate relationship between Brentwood Academy and an AAU basketball coach who purportedly steered talented middle school players to attend the school.

Following a TSSAA investigation and a series of hearings, Brentwood was determined to have committed three recruiting violations and was sanctioned with a $3,000 fine, four years of probation for the school’s athletics program, and two-year exclusions of the football and boys basketball teams from postseason competition.

After exhausting all of its administrative remedies, a process that involved two levels of appeal by Brentwood pursuant to the TSSAA’s internal review procedures, the school filed a lawsuit in federal court against the state association.

The case presented three issues. The first was whether the TSSAA is a state actor obliged to comply with constitutional requirements related to free speech and due process or, in the alternative, merely a private voluntary association that does not operate as a quasi-governmental entity. This threshold question was litigated as a separate procedural matter and in 2001, the U.S. Supreme Court held that state high school athletics and activities associations are state actors and are required to respect constitutional mandates regarding free speech and due process.

The case was then remanded to federal District Court for evaluation of the remaining two issues as to whether Brentwood’s free speech rights and due-process rights had been violated. The District Court determined that the TSSAA’s anti-recruiting rule violates Brentwood’s First Amendment free speech rights because the rule is a content-based regulation of speech that is not narrowly tailored to accomplish its intended purposes. The District Court also ruled that the TSSAA violated the school’s due process rights by considering ex parte evidence (evidence presented without notice to a party that could be adversely affected by the information). The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit affirmed the District Court’s decision.

On appeal by the TSSAA, the U.S. Supreme Court granted certiorari. Oral arguments were held before the Court on April 18, 2007 and on June 21, 2007 the Court issued its decision, reversing the lower court determination and ruling in favor of the TSSAA.

The Supreme Court recognized that schools do possess free speech rights, but that those rights may under certain circumstances be limited. Writing for the Court, Justice John Paul Stevens stated, “The First Amendment protects Brentwood’s right to publish truthful information about the school and its athletic programs. It likewise protects the school’s right to try to persuade prospective students and their parents that its excellence in sports is a reason for enrolling. But Brentwood’s speech rights are not absolute.”

“The anti-recruiting rule strikes nowhere near the heart of the First Amendment. TSSAA has not banned the dissemination of truthful information relating to sports … It has only prevented its member schools’ coaches from recruiting individual middle school students …
After all, it is a heady thing for an eighth-grade student to be contacted directly by a coach—here, ‘Your Coach’—and invited to join a high school sports team. In too many cases, the invitation will come accompanied with a suggestion, subtle or otherwise, that failure to accept will hurt the student’s chances to play high school sports.”

Addressing the free speech rights of members of voluntary associations, Justice Stevens continued by stating, “Brentwood made a voluntary decision to join TSSAA and to abide by its anti-recruiting rule … This is not to say that TSSAA has unbounded authority to condition membership on relinquishment of any and all constitutional rights … TSSAA can impose only those conditions on speech that are necessary to managing an efficient and effective state-sponsored high school league.”

Finally, in a summation of the Court’s decision regarding the free speech issues in the case, the majority opinion stated, “That necessity is obviously present here. We need no empirical data to credit TSSAA’s common-sense conclusion that hard-sell tactics directed at middle school students could lead to exploitation, distort competition between high school teams, and foster an environment in which athletics are prized more highly than academics. TSSAA’s rule discourages precisely the sort of conduct that might lead to those harms, any one of which would detract from a high school sports league’s ability to operate ‘efficiently and effectively.’ For that reason, the First Amendment does not excuse Brentwood from abiding by the same anti-recruiting rule that governs the conduct of its sister schools. To hold otherwise would undermine the principle, succinctly articulated by the dissenting judge at the Court of Appeals, that ‘high school football is a game. Games have rules.’ It is only fair that Brentwood follow them.”

The final argument proffered by the school was that its due-process rights were violated when the TSSAA, during its internal review process, heard from witnesses and considered evidence during procedural stages of the investigation at which Brentwood representatives were not present. The claim involved statements purportedly made to the TSSAA board during its initial round of deliberations alleging the promise by an AAU basketball coach that a car would be provided to a star player if he chose to enroll at the school, allegations that were later refuted by live testimony during Brentwood’s final appeal before the TSSAA board.

The Supreme Court ruled that the school’s due-process rights had not been violated. “The decision to sanction Brentwood for engaging in prohibited recruiting was preceded by an investigation, several meetings, exchanges of correspondence, an adverse written determination from TSSAA’s executive director, a hearing before the director and an advisory panel composed of three members of TSSAA’s Board of Control, and finally a de novo review by the entire TSSAA Board of Directors. During the investigation, Brentwood was notified of all the charges against it. At each of the two hearings, Brentwood was represented by counsel and given the opportunity to adduce evidence. No evidence offered by Brentwood was excluded.”

The Supreme Court’s decision in the case is a significant one in terms of its impact on the landscape of interscholastic athletics in the United States. If the Court had struck down the TSSAA’s anti-recruiting rule as a violation of the First Amendment’s free speech provisions, state associations nationwide would have been faced with the conundrum of how to prevent all-out recruiting wars both in communities with open-enrollment public schools and in communities with private schools offering traditionally strong sports programs. The unanimous opinion of the Court that “[T]he anti-recruiting rule strikes nowhere near the heart of the First Amendment” is an important affirmation that level-playing-field principles between state association member schools and the protection of students against exploitation by schools or athletics personnel should be among the controlling precepts of high school sports.

It is also important to note that the Supreme Court’s decision addressed several of the required components of state association rules and procedures, all of which would also apply to governance of interscholastic sports by national organizations such as the NFHS and local entities such as individual leagues or conferences. The first is that regulations should be enacted regarding only those issues essential to the efficient and effective operation of sports programs. The second is that those rules should be tailored as narrowly as possible to accomplish their intended purposes without unnecessarily infringing on any protected rights. The third is that due process must be provided when schools are sanctioned for rules violations and that it is essential to provide schools with adequate notice, opportunity for multiple levels of hearings, and the chance to present all relevant evidence. The fourth is that ex parte communications and any procedures outside of the formally-established adjudicatory process should be avoided. ☛

Additional resources on the Brentwood case at <www.nfhs.org/hstoday>.

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.
Celebrate National High School Activities Week

BY TREVA DAYTON

October 14-20, 2007

The crowd at the volleyball game rises to their feet in applause, but it isn’t for either of the two well-coached and eager-to-play teams on the court. Instead, fans and players are responding to the “thank you” to the game officials just read over the public-address system. It’s October 16 and National Officials Day – one of a weeklong, themed celebration of high schools activities, the people who make them possible and the personal life habits and skills such activities help develop among those who participate.

“It is always nice to hear that you are doing a good job,” said Sandra Welch, volleyball president for Texas Association of Sports Officials. “Being recognized and appreciated really matters.”

National High School Activities Week was created in 1980 by the NFHS as a means to promote the value of interscholastic activity programs across the country, and in 1983, President Reagan and the U.S. Congress officially set aside one week to recognize the importance of these activities. For almost three decades, schools across the nation have participated in highlighting their athletic and fine arts programs and recognizing their dedicated coaches, sponsors and directors, fans and officials.

Sunday, October 14 is designated as National Be a Sport Day. Because sportsmanship, ethics and fair play are the bases for sound educational athletics and fine arts programs, this theme is often emphasized throughout the week as the bedrock of successful programs that help prepare young people for the future and encourage a sense of teamwork within schools and communities.

In addition to days designated to recognize athletic and fine arts participants, fans, officials, coaches and advisors, Wednesday is National Health Awareness Day, a time to promote educational and prevention efforts to encourage healthy lifestyles. The week concludes with National Community Service/Participation Day, and provides an ideal opportunity to organize a service project that allows young people to give back to their community.

This annual fall event does not celebrate the record of any individual team or the success of a fine arts group, but rather the overall importance and value of interscholastic activities programs. Ken Pickering, assistant executive director of the South Dakota High School Activities Association, says, “The intent of the Activities...
Week promotion is to inform the public that high school activities are not only fun to attend, not just a frill or a luxury, but a critical extension of the classroom and an important part of a young person’s educational experience.”

The NFHS provides a kit each year to its member state high school associations to help campuses and communities celebrate National High School Activities Week. The materials include ideas for activities for each day; testimonials from students, teachers, coaches and administrators on the value of participation; ad slicks and public-service announcements. It also includes “The Case for High School Activities,” a document created by the NFHS that contains research and statistics on the importance of activities programs.

“We have fundamental, empirical evidence that interscholastic activities provide a successful way in which to create healthy and successful citizens,” said Robert Kanaby, National Federation of State High School Associations executive director. “Through National High School Activities Week, we have an opportunity to reflect on our participation as well as the participation of our children. Our nation must continue to support these programs and the life skills they provide America’s youth.”

Treva Dayton is the academic director of the Texas University Interscholastic League.

**Sunday, October 14 – National Be A Sport Day:** to encourage awareness and discussion about the importance of sportsmanship, ethics and integrity to the conduct of interscholastic programs.

**Monday, October 15 – National Fine Arts Activities Day:** to focus on the students, coaches and sponsors involved in fine arts programs.

**Tuesday, October 16 – National Officials Day:** to salute the approximately 500,000 individuals who serve as contest officials and judges.

**Wednesday, October 17 – National Youth Health Awareness Day:** to promote education and prevention efforts that encourage healthy lifestyles.

**Thursday, October 18 – National Coaches/Sponsors/Advisors Day:** to recognize the contributions of high school coaches, sponsors and advisors.

**Friday, October 19 – National Fan Appreciation Day:** to thank the spectators who support activity programs throughout the year.

**Saturday, October 20 – National Community Service/Participation Day:** to give back to your community and show your appreciation for their support of your programs.
A Private School Coach Living In A Public School World

BY JERRY MAYES

Not since the long-ago battles of the Hatfields and McCoys has there been such a furor over public and private school differences. President Bush cries out for vouchers and public schools laud their improvement under the watchful eye of the media and a curious public. State accountability tests put public institutions on notice to raise their standards while the private schools go unchallenged.

In athletics, the battle lines of public vs. private have waged war for decades. Claims of unfair advantages for private institutions such as funding, facilities, staffing and, of course, recruiting, have all been the target of public scrutiny. Likewise, the unseen by the public is the pressure for private schools to fill their class rosters, maintain a budget without public funding assistance, and the expectation level of parents who have a vested financial interest in the outcome.

For some states, the solution has been simple: have a private league and a public league. A number of state associations have resolved the problem by requiring private school members to comply with the guidelines designed for public schools. Some states have opted to end the conflict by not allowing their public schools to play private schools at all. Others continue to compete against each other as animosity builds just below the surface.

So how does a private school coach live in a hostile situation and maintain his or her perspective? How can a private school or school-of-choice coach stay focused? Can a public school environment ever accept a private school coach’s plight? The answer is, “Yes.”

Observing some of the great programs over the years and watching systems that were compatible, there have been a number of successful co-existing programs. Each of these successful ventures had people in the center of the controversy who understood their position in the pecking order. These individuals were master communicators with sensitivity to convey the proper message to their community, colleagues and, above all, their students.

For definition purposes, a private school coach is anyone who is not supported by public funding or a coach dealing with a student enrollment with the capacity to draw students from any area within the community.
It’s time for the shroud to be lifted on private school activities. Unlike their public school counterparts, private schools draw suspicion to their credibility due to the nature of their institution. Don’t try to project one image while underneath the perception is not fitting the reality.

For instance, if your school or league allows one to attend certain activities or to market your school, don’t try to deny your participation – be accountable. It’s time to put the cloak and dagger away. You don’t have to compromise the mission of the private school environment, but don’t try to hide your actions.

- **Don’t Cheat:** If there is one thing that the private school coach falls prey to is the perception that each coach cheats. When this project began, Alan Donhoff, athletic director of St. Xavier High School in Louisville and former private school coach, commented, “The basis of your article is the assumption that every private school cheats to gain an edge.” As much as his statement points out the fallacy of that view, it is no secret that this perception does exist, like it or not. The answer to this one is real simple! Don’t give the viewpoint any fuel – don’t cheat!

Longtime coach and athletic director Jim Watkins of Louisville once said, “You can’t legislate ethics.” If your league has certain rules, make sure you are clear as to correct interpretation, then stay within those guidelines.

If a rule states that a coach may not discuss his or her athletics program with a prospective athlete, then don’t do it! However, if the rules state that you can talk about your academic program, don’t pass up that opportunity. Who knows, you might even pick up a few more fans from your faculty when you brag about your program.

- **Educate and Communicate:** As educators, we believe in the process of education. The school-of-choice coach must constantly be on the offensive to paint a picture to his counterparts as to the challenges that he or she faces in their setting. While this still may not stop the villagers of your community from speaking out, at least it will keep them from lighting their torches as if they were pursuing the Frankenstein monster of old.

Issues that generally surface are funding and recruiting. If you are ever looking for a conversation starter at your next athletic meeting, just bring up the ethics of recruiting in the private sector. When the idea for this article was discussed, retired high school and collegiate coach, David Hoch, now athletic director at Loch Haven High School in Baltimore, Maryland, said, “Jerry, you are going to open a whole can of worms.” David’s comment reflects a general feeling across the community.

Now we can call it recruiting, marketing or whatever you would like, but attracting students from across school districts is always a challenging and delicate issue. It’s important to let your colleagues know that you have to pursue students to fill your classrooms. While this may upset the general public, it’s important for them to know this is the nature of the private school business. Likewise, it’s important that in the pursuit of student-athletes, that the student side of that equation is emphasized.

- **Be Creative and Reach Out:** Find ways to promote your program by working with your public school counterparts. If your league has all-star contests, offer your facility. Be active in your coaches association.

Terry Ennis of Archbishop Thomas J. Murphy High School in Everett, Washington, has won championships at all levels. Throughout his career, Coach Ennis has had great success in both the public and private sector. He has positioned himself to be an active participant of the coaches association and the community at large.

Through a wide variety of community-service programs that integrated his programs with public and private schools and his active role in the Washington Coaches Association, Coach Ennis has built bridges from both sides of the ledger.

---

*Have a Strong Philosophy*
*Be Open and Honest*
*Don’t Cheat*
*Educate and Communicate*
*Be Creative and Reach Out*

It is important for the private school coach not to be isolated and exclusive in his or her approach. Find ways to market your program without the emphasis on athletics. In corresponding to students, emphasize study habits and include tips on improving study skills. Search for opportunities to support public school initiatives or the community at large. We are all a part of the same community. By sending that message, you will position your programs apart with a different mission.

While these few suggestions are nothing different from what any successful coach must do to promote his or her program, private school or school-of-choice coaches must not lose their focus about their role in the community. By initiating a few small steps, the school of choice will win friends, influence people and just maybe reduce the friction generated by this dilemma in our communities.

As coaches, we are some of the most powerful people in our communities. It is when we forget ourselves that we do things that will be remembered. It’s time to reach out – you might just find the community you have been looking for.

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Jerry Mayes is assistant principal at Pleasure Ridge Park High School in Louisville, Kentucky. He is a former football coach and athletic director at duPont Manual High School in Louisville. He coached on the high school and collegiate levels for about 25 years. He served on the NFHS Coaches’ Quarterly Publications Committee for nine years.
Renn Bailey has come a long way since that horrific day eight years ago when he fell out of a tree.

Miles and miles and miles in fact.

Bailey, who graduated in May from Moriarty (New Mexico) High School, plans to enroll this fall at the University of New Mexico, the first step in his pursuit of a degree in print journalism.

It’s the next chapter in the life of a remarkable young man whose childhood was shattered by the freakish accident that left him permanently blind.

“It’s true, whatever doesn’t kill you, only makes you stronger,” Bailey said.

Strong enough to turn turmoil into triumph, injury into inspiration.

Bailey last spring won the 1,600-meter race at the Foxes and Vixens Relays in Fort Sumner. It was his first win on the track, but certainly not his first in life.

Bailey remembers little about the accident that cost him his eyesight, but he knows enough of the details.

He fell 37 feet from the Ponderosa Pine tree he and his friend Derrick Karr were climbing about a mile from Karr’s home in the rural community of Des Moines, New Mexico. The date was March 28, 1999. Bailey would turn 10 two months later.

Bailey hit a branch of the huge tree as he fell, then landed on his head, shattering much of his forehead and face.

“When I fell, my brain came forward, then came back and snapped my optic nerves in the back of my eyes,” Bailey said.

Karr went to get help. Bailey waited by the tree. Karr’s dad put the two boys in his truck and headed to Raton, the nearest town with a hospital. An ambulance met them on the way.

Bailey was initially taken to Raton, then airlifted to Albuquerque. In the months that followed, he under-
went several surgeries, two of them to reconstruct his forehead and parts of his face.

Much more than his appearance had been altered by the accident.

“It was difficult,” said Bailey, a slender 5-foot-9, 139-pound teenager who smiles and chuckles frequently as he recounts even the toughest parts of his recovery.

“We'd been living in Des Moines my whole life and it was hard for all of us, my friends included. I was used to riding my bike around town and I couldn't do that anymore. You learn to deal with things. It takes a while sometimes.”

Bailey's timeline, though, was much shorter than that of his doctors. Initially, they told him he’d have to spend 14 to 16 months in the hospital, but Bailey was able to leave the hospital three months after the accident.

Bailey's dad says finding out his son would be blind for the rest of his life was the most difficult thing he and his wife, Tana, have ever had to go through. At first, said Clay Bailey, they were told their son likely wouldn’t survive.

Once he did, his courage was unshakable.

“The only time he showed any emotion was when the doctor said, ‘you’re going to see with your hands,’ said his dad. ‘Two little tears came out of his eyes.’

Clay Bailey says the accident transformed Renn.

“Becoming blind made Renn special. He had to start working harder and it brought something out. What he's accomplished, it's because he's blind. It's part of him now. Before, he was just part of the pack. I honestly believe if he hadn't (gone blind), he never would have run.”

The Baileys now live in Edgewood, a rural community east of Albuquerque. Clay Bailey works for the state of New Mexico as an inspector/investigator. His wife is a dispatcher with Central New Mexico Cooperative in Moriarty. Renn's sister, Dee Dee, will be a junior this fall at the University of New Mexico.

It is in Edgewood that Bailey took up running as a seventh-grader.

His history teacher was also the track coach and he encouraged Bailey to give track a try. “He got me out there and I grew to like it a lot,” Bailey said.

Bailey runs with a guide, the two tethered by their wrists. At first, Bailey's dad was his guide, but as he got better, dad could no longer keep up. This past season, former University of New Mexico runner Matt Gonzales was Bailey's guide. Gonzales was an All-American in the 10,000 meters during his collegiate career.

Gonzales said he was amazed by Bailey's improvement last season. “As the season progressed, his running strategy really improved. When he was running (slower) he was pretty much in noman's land. As he got faster he was able to feel the pack around him. He really floored me.”

It was Gonzales who was at Bailey's side when he won the 1,600 race in Fort Sumner in April. It not only was Bailey's first win, but his time of 4:55.12 was the first time he'd broken five minutes.

Bailey and Gonzales ran in the middle of the pack early in the race, but steadily worked their way to the front.

“When we got to the lead, it was a whole different feeling,” Bailey said. “The last 200 meters I was just focusing on getting there before the other guy. I was going as hard as I could and then felt the (tape) hit my arm. I thought, ‘what was that?’”

Although he always runs with a guide, Bailey's career hasn't been without some unexpected speed bumps. Like the time he ran into a tree and broke his nose during a cross country meet. With blood streaming down his face, the only question he had for his guide was “Can I catch up to the pack?”

Bailey has had a busy summer. In June, he finished fourth overall in a field of more than 500 runners at the Boston Vision 5K with a time of 17:47. In July, he ran in the International World Youth Championships in Colorado Springs, an event for visually impaired runners.

When he's not competing or training, Bailey helps out around home. He can safely use a chainsaw to cut firewood, helps bale and haul hay and tends to the family's three steers, two horses and two sheep.

“I expect him to do everything I do,” says his dad. “Some people think I'm too hard on him, but he's not handicapped. He has to have some other way to do it. It may take him a little longer, but there hasn't been a challenge yet that he hasn't taken up.”

Pete Herrera has recently retired from the Associated Press after a journalism career spanning nearly four decades.
Sportsmanship, Basketball and Life
Interview with John Wooden

Editor’s Note: This interview with legendary UCLA basketball coach John Wooden was originally conducted by Don Showalter, chair of the NFHS Coaches’ Quarterly Publications Committee and a member of the High School Today Publications Committee, for a previous issue of NFHS Coaches’ Quarterly magazine.

Q: What kind of showmanship don’t you like?

Wooden: The fancy dunks. The fancy passing. The calling attention to themselves after they score or block a shot or something. They might as well say, “That’s me, me, me.” And some of them practically do that. You see it in other sports, too, especially professional football. But I suppose marketing people know what brings the fans in, and that’s what they want. I like to see finesse rather than brute power or showmanship.

Q: There’s showmanship among coaches, too.

Wooden: I don’t like it. Their job is during the week. And for the most part, during the games, they can take their seats on the bench. I don’t expect them not to be agitated. I expect them to yell at officials, as long as they don’t use profanity and don’t get personal. But there are coaches who make a show of themselves, and nobody comes to see them. They want to see the game.

Q: Away from basketball, what were the influences in your life?

Wooden: My mother and father, first of all, especially my dad, who tried to teach me and my three brothers that you should never try to be better than somebody else. Learn from others, and never cease trying to be the best you could be. But don’t get too concerned or engrossed in things over which you have no control. That came from my dad. And then, in many ways, my high school sweetheart, (Nell), the only girl I ever went with, and the one I was married to for 53 years before I lost her. She was very influential, too. I came from the farm and was a rather shy individual. She got me to go take public speaking classes. I wouldn’t have done it if it hadn’t been for her.

Q: Your father was a farmer?

Wooden: Yes. Well, we lost the farm between my freshman and sophomore years in high school because of the Depression. Then we moved into this small town, Martinsville, Indiana, only about 4,800 people.

Q: Is the role of college basketball at universities about where it should be?

Wooden: In my opinion, and it’s not a popular answer, no. The collegiate athlete should be a student-athlete. And it was for some time. Now it’s more and more the athlete-student. I can remember the days when everybody graduated, and they graduated in four years. Now so many don’t graduate, and so many are taking five years. I’ve never believed in that. I don’t believe in the redshirt rule. And I think one of the worst rules ever permitted is freshman eligibility. I think most every youngster who goes away to college, the social adjustment is the biggest, and close behind is the academic adjustment.

Q: Why not?

Wooden: I don’t want any of my players to feel that I’m selecting one over another.

Q: OK. So your top five?

Wooden: I would say probably the most valuable player that the collegiate or pro game ever had was Bill Russell. When you look what he did with (the University of San Francisco), a smaller school winning two consecutive NCAA championships, and then with the Boston Celtics, which had never won one without him and couldn’t hardly lose one with him, he has to rank in there. Then I think you have to say that Oscar Robertson was absolutely one of the best who ever played. I think Larry Bird is one of the best who has ever played.

And I think the best, and I’ve always been very reluctant to say anyone is the very best, is Michael Jordan. And I believe I’d have to put Elgin Baylor in there, too. Now that’s leaving out a lot of great players, including John Stockton.
Coach Wooden is the only person to be inducted to the Basketball Hall of Fame as a player and a coach. He was the College "Coach of the Year" six times. Coach Wooden has been named as Sportsman of the Year by both the Sporting News and Sports Illustrated. His all-time coaching record is 885-204 (.813) over 40 years of coaching at high school and college levels, which included 10 NCAA championships while at UCLA.

Q: What about the smartest players?
Wooden: Larry Bird is absolutely, in my opinion, as smart a basketball player as ever played the game. It just came naturally to him. I think Stockton is much like that. Neither of them is a great showman. It’s just their game that makes them stand out.

Q: Whom among your peers in coaching did you respect the most?
Wooden: I would say Pete Newell, from the University of California; Adolph Rupp, from the University of Kentucky; Marv Hammerman at Washington State University. I don’t think there’s been a better coach than Tony Hinkle at Butler over the years. Not as much material as others, but an extremely good coach. I’m impressed today with Mike Krzyzewski of Duke and Roy Williams at Kansas (now North Carolina) and Lute Olson at Arizona. Their teams are playing better team basketball than most today. The players have become so great individually that I think many coaches consciously or subconsciously let them go on their own because they are so good individually, and that in turn has hurt the team.

Q: Do you think there will be major changes in style or rules or the way the game fits into our lives?
Wooden: I would like to see in officiating, just call the game according to the rules. It’s plain in the rules what a moving screen is. They don’t call it. Do you see any player today dribbling without palming the ball? They have a rule against hanging on the rim, you know. It’s a technical foul. Do you ever see it called? Do you ever see ’em hanging on the rims? I think it would be a better game if they would call it. But maybe it wouldn’t attract the crowds.

Q: With some outstanding players going to college for only a year or two and entering the NBA, has that damaged college basketball?
Wooden: I think it’s damaged pro basketball. I think they’d be better off to get the more solid individuals coming out of college. Even Kevin Garnett and Kobe Bryant, who have been pretty successful in the NBA, they missed a tremendously important part of their lives by not attending college.

Q: The NCAA tournament has exploded in terms of size and popularity. It seems to dominate the country for a couple of weeks. Has that been a good thing?
Wooden: I think it was better in my day when you had to win your conference championship to get in. Then you had a tournament of champions. Now, teams finish fourth and fifth and even sixth in their conference and get into the tournament. The way it is now, I think they’d be better off ending the regular season a week earlier and have all the teams play in the tournament. All of ’em. And divide all the money and let every team get one share for each game they play. Many teams in the NCAA that get nothing now could use that one share more than these teams that are going to the Final Four and getting millions.

Q: If you were basketball emperor and you could make edicts and rulings and people had to obey, what would be some of the things you might do?
Wooden: I would abolish the dunk. I would consider raising the basket. I’m not sure by how much. I would try to get better instruction of officiating, go over the rules book and call ’em by the rules. I’d make the coaches stay on the benches. I think that would help officiating. I would let all the teams into the NCAA tournament.

Q: Of all the things that you accomplished, is there something that you think is the major accomplishment of your career?
Wooden: The fact that almost all my players graduated and almost all of them have done well in their professions – lawyers, doctors, dentists, eight ministers. I’m very proud of them. And almost all my players graduated in four years. Yeah, I’m proud of that. On an individual basis, I’m more proud of one thing than any other. It’s the Big Ten Medal for Academic Achievement. It’s given to the athlete with the highest grade-point average. I earned that. That wasn’t teammates. That wasn’t the coach. So I’m more proud of that than anything.
California Sets Four Track and Field National Records

BY NIKKI MILLER

It’s impressive for one national record to be set during a single track and field season. Now, consider four new records — all from the same state — and all set at the same state track meet. Seem possible? Hardly.

At the 89th annual California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) state track and field championships, the aforementioned occurred in what is viewed as the third-best CIF state meet of all time. Six national marks were set at both the 1956 and 1981 state meets.

Alex Kosinski of El Dorado Hills Oak Ridge High School ran a remarkable time of 4:38.15 in the girls 1,600-meter run. The record was previously set at 4:39.40 by Laura Matson of Bloomfield Hills (Michigan) Andover High School in 1985.

Tori Anthony of Palo Alto Castilleja High School beat the previous girls pole vault national record of 13-feet-9, set by Mary Saxer of Lancaster (New York) High School in 2005, by reaching 14-1.

In hurdles, both Vashti Thomas and Jeshua Anderson proved they are among the nation’s best. Thomas set the national record in the girls 100-meter high hurdles at :13.03, while Anderson recorded a time of :35.28 in the boys 300-meter intermediate hurdles. Previously, the national girls 100-meter high hurdles record was :13.20 set by Nichole Denby from Riverside (California) John W. North High School in 2000, and the boys 300-meter intermediate hurdles record was :35.32 set by George Porter of Lompoc Cabrillo (California) High School in 1985.

Tennis players, friends end careers undefeated

By Nikki Miller

You would think that two of the top high school tennis players in the nation would be intense rivals, competing against one another to post more wins and come out on top.

For Whitney Taney and Liza Wischer, the opposite is true. The girls have put up phenomenal records and became close friends along the way.

Taney finished her high school career at Edina (Minnesota) High School with a record of 166-0. She earned two Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) state tournament doubles titles and three state singles titles from 2002 to 2006. Overall, during her career, Edina won six MSHSL team state championships.
Wischer recorded 129 wins and no losses during her career at Grand Forks (North Dakota) Red River High School, winning six North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA) state singles titles. In 2007, she defeated her teammate, Callie Ronkowski, to win the championship.

Although from different states, Taney and Wischer have competed against each other and played together in local and national tournaments outside of high school. The girls have been doubles partners since they were younger.

“We met through tennis when we were little, and it’s been great,” Taney said. “We often compete against one another, but leave everything on the court. Once we’re done, we’re friends again!”

Miller was a summer intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department. She is a senior at the University of Dayton (Ohio), majoring in journalism and Spanish.

Pennsylvania lacrosse player sets new record
By Allison Hickey

Tim Stratton, a recent graduate of Manheim Township (Pennsylvania) High School, set the national record for career points in lacrosse as an attack.

Stratton finished his high school career with 252 goals and 337 assists, equaling 589 points, 36 more points than the previous record. Stratton’s performance this season helped his team to a 26-1 record and only two games short of the state championship.

Stratton is one of four players to reach 500 career points in the history of high school lacrosse, a feat that led Stratton to be named a high school All-American as a senior. In addition, he is a three-time first-team all-league and all-district player.

Stratton was a four year starter for Manheim Township, helping his team to an 89-19 record and three league championships.

“Breaking the record is absolutely amazing, but what I’m most proud of is how he’s done it. Tim is a very humble person who has never mentioned, or been concerned with, his personal success. He was always more focused on his teammates and the team. Knowing the quality of person that he is makes this achievement even more special,” said Rich Lefever, lacrosse coach at Manheim Township.

Rapid City Stevens High School in South Dakota and Woodrow Wilson High School in the District of Columbia have reason to celebrate as the nation’s leaders in active state title winning streaks in girls track and baseball, respectively.

Two dominant programs continue active state title winning streaks
By Allison Hickey

The Stevens High School girls track and field team (above) is tied for the third longest all-time winning streak, but after winning its 12th consecutive state title in May, Stevens’ streak is the longest active one.

The Class AA tournament was held May 25-26 in Brandon and Sioux Falls. Junior Emily DeVries won both the 100- and 300-meter hurdles, and junior Brooke Garner took first place in discus. Rapid City Central placed second, followed by Sioux Falls Roosevelt.

Back on the East Coast, the Woodrow Wilson baseball team was setting records as well. Not only does Wilson own the top active streak with 15 consecutive titles, it is the all-time leader. The team has won 197 of the past 198 games, with its current winning streak at 110 games, which is also a national record.

The state championship game at Banneker Field was played against Theodore Roosevelt High School. Wilson senior Ian Horkley, headed for Davidson (North Carolina) College in the fall, pitched a no-hitter to lead his team to an 18-0 victory.

In addition to being athletic director at Woodrow Wilson, Eddie Saah has been the coach of all 15 state championship teams.

Hickey was a summer intern in the areas of publications, marketing and coaches education. She graduated from Indiana University in May with a degree in journalism and a second concentration in apparel merchandising.
The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has made education-based interscholastic athletics and activities its No. 1 priority. Since its founding in 1920, the NFHS has been a leader in standardizing rules, creating awareness of issues and working to enhance participation in interscholastic activities, among countless other endeavors.

On April 30, 2006, the NFHS ended its partnership with the American Sport Education Program (ASEP), and began development of the NFHS Coach Education Program. The Fundamentals of Coaching course was designed exclusively for interscholastic coaches to teach lifelong skills to students-athletes. The NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course has come a long way since its inception just over a year ago.

“Some suggested changes we would have liked to see implemented in the existing (ASEP) program were not going to be possible within the timeframe we felt was needed. Secondly, we wanted to train many thousands more coaches than we were training with the existing program,” said Bob Kanaby, NFHS executive director.

The first task in this project was to assemble a team capable of not only developing, but also implementing and promoting the program to NFHS member associations. Darren Treasure, Ph.D., of CAI Performance Systems Inc., Phoenix, Arizona, developed all content for the Fundamentals of Coaching course, and he also oversaw the development and implementation of the course.

Creative Street Media Group (CSMG) of Indianapolis began the development of the scripts and infrastructure necessary to support the NFHS online program.

“The work provided by CSMG to make both the Fundamentals of Coaching and the First Aid for Coaches course available online is indispensable and cannot be minimized,” said Tim Flannery, NFHS assistant director and coordinator of the NFHS Coach Education Program. “The behind-the-scenes workings of the site – from creating the ability to see the course, to keeping track of all the coaches and being able to pay online – took an immense amount of time.”

On January 3, 2007, the online course was officially launched. The course includes many different interactive capabilities that allow the coaches to read, watch and offer ideas on how to relate and teach students. “Teachable Moments,” for example, are short videos that show how common interactions that might otherwise be overlooked can be used to teach an important lesson.

Once the online course was offered, the blended course materials were developed, including a guide for both the instructors and participants, as well as a flash presentation CD. This allows an instructor to blend the online course with in-person teaching. This is an alternative for many coaches who want to interact and bounce ideas off other coaches and teachers.

On June 4, 2007, the blended version of the course was launched.

“We are extremely pleased with the reaction we have received from our member state associations and the enthusiasm expressed by those individuals who have taken the course, and we see it as a means of meeting our goals and objectives. We believe this program will make a difference in the lives of young people and the adults who supervise and conduct their activities,” Kanaby said.

As of August 2007, 36 states had adopted the Fundamentals of Coaching and had signed an intent form to use the course. These states require their coaches to complete this program as a requirement to coach in their state. Another nine states are currently reviewing the course.

“We are excited that this is just the beginning of an extensive program of outreach and content that will positively influence young people in this nation who choose to exercise the privilege of participation in high school sports. We believe it complements our core mission of encouraging them to take part and get set for life,” Kanaby said.

The Fundamentals of Coaching and First Aid courses are moving along at a rapid speed. With 36 states already actively using the courses, and another nine in review, the course is well on its way to being the standard.

Kanaby is confident that this is the case, stating, “We anticipate that this program will ultimately carry forth the educational message of high school sports in our nation’s secondary schools. We believe that the coach is the linchpin of any initiative that attempts to improve the culture of sport in America and most directly in the high school program.”

For more information, visit www.nfhslearn.com.
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- Sports turf renovation effort
- Endowment program
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- Buyer’s Guide located on Web site
Texas Governor Signs Steroids-testing Bill

(EDITOR’S NOTE: THE “IN THE NEWS” ITEMS WERE WRITTEN BY NIKKI MILLER, NFHS SUMMER INTERN)

In an attempt to address a growing concern of steroid use in high school athletics, Texas Gov. Rick Perry has signed a bill allowing mandatory random steroid testing for the state’s public high school athletes effective for the 2007-08 academic year.

The University Interscholastic League (UIL), Texas’ state athletic and activity association, will implement the program in at least 30 percent of schools (approximately 400 schools).

“I believe anything that provides a tool against dangerous substances for students is beneficial,” said Mark Cousins, UIL athletic coordinator. “We already have 130 schools steroid testing, and 430 schools are currently testing for other drugs. This is not a new issue, and before this bill was signed, our biggest concern was in the area of funding and not in the testing itself.”

The law now requires the state to pay for testing and will no longer force schools to raise ticket prices or fees to cover the cost. Budget planners in Texas set aside $3 million per year to test a sample of students.

The law also requires coaches to complete a training program on the dangers of using steroids, which can lead to dramatic mood swings, heart disease and cancer.

Texas now has the largest steroid-testing program in the country. New Jersey became the first state to implement a statewide testing policy for high school athletes, which began last year with 150 random samples. According to the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA), the tests didn’t produce a single positive result. Florida also passed a one-year pilot program to test one percent of high school athletes participating in football, baseball and weightlifting.

A study conducted by Texas A&M University discovered that steroid use declined from two percent in 2004 to 1.5 percent in 2006 among the 141,000 students tested in grades 7 to 12.

New Jersey scholarship program

As the scholar-athletes walk into the annual New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) luncheon each May, they are hoping for one thing. Luck.

This year, $75,000 was given away in approximately 75 scholarships to high school students who were chosen to attend the luncheon. Not everyone in attendance received a scholarship, and the ones who did were chosen out of a hat.

Each high school associated with the NJSIAA is allowed to select one student as its scholar-athlete. This year, 380 high schools were represented at the luncheon out of the 430 NJSIAA member schools. Presently, there isn’t enough funding for all of the students to be so lucky.

“Our goal in the future is to have everyone walk out of here with a scholarship,” said Jack DuBois, NJSIAA assistant director. “Last year, we gave away $67,000, this year, $75,000; and next year, we hope to expand by another $10,000.”

The money is funded by corporate sponsors associated with the NJSIAA.

According to DuBois, all of the students are acknowledged in some way, even if they are not chosen.

“It’s like a graduation ceremony,” he said. “They walk across the stage, are introduced, receive a certificate and gift, and have their photo taken. No matter what, they are recognized. This is a growing program, and it recognizes some of the best students in our high schools for all they have accomplished.”
NFHS receives award for increasing compulsive gambling awareness

The concern of high school students being involved in compulsive gambling is increasing, and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) received an award for reaching out to support awareness and education on this topic throughout the nation.

In May, the Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling (FCCG) presented the NFHS with the Monsignor Joseph Dunne Education Award at its 13th Annual Conference, Problem Gambling: Everyone’s Issue, in Lake Buena Vista, Florida.

“We had worked on a curriculum for high schools to use in connection with this topic because it is becoming evident that compulsive gambling is beginning at the high school level,” said Bob Gardner, chief operating officer of the NFHS. “The NFHS along with the FCCG and the NCAA are combining efforts to educate athletes, coaches and administrators on the problem of gambling.”

Monsignor Dunne, for whom the award is named, is considered to be the prime driving force that made problem gambling nationally known. Early in his career, he worked as a chaplain for the New York City Police Department, where he first became aware of gambling issues. In 1972, he founded the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG), which today has 35 affiliates and works to spread the word about gambling addiction and educate people on its consequences.

Along with accepting the award, Gardner was a presenter during a panel discussion, revealing the NFHS’s relationship with the FCCG and how it targets the gambling problem at the high school level.

“Throughout the conference, former addicts talked about how they got started in gambling,” Gardner said. “For most, it went from being harmless to problematic. There are many concerns with how high school students are being exposed to gambling, including wagering on the NCAA basketball tournament. This simple step into sports wagering leads a few to the next step in seeking a larger thrill from risking money.”

Also included in the concerns is the growing presence of online gambling, poker players on cable television seen as role models to the youth, school-sponsored Monte Carlo nights at events such as post-prom, family involvement and peer pressure.

“You don’t realize these things really make an impact on high school students, but they are sending confusing signals to the youth,” Gardner said. “We felt it was important to be involved in promoting positive outcomes through educating individuals on the consequences of gambling.”

eKnowledge SAT/ACT Power Prep Packs

Several NFL, AFL, CFL and NFL Europe football players represented by Victory Sports Group have joined with eKnowledge to contribute 300,000 SAT/ACT Power Prep Packs to high school students throughout the country.

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) was chosen to promote the program within its member schools.

“Victory Sports Group and eKnowledge contacted us to participate after recognizing our status in the industry and that we are a driving force behind interscholastic activity programs,” said Elliot Hopkins, NFHS director of educational services.

This is the third consecutive year Victory Sports Group has donated the preparatory programs for the SAT and ACT examinations. Each program normally sells for $200. With the donation, NFHS members are able to receive the SAT/ACT Power Prep Packs for only the cost of shipping and handling, $9.99.

“We have to acknowledge the generosity of Victory Sports Group,” Hopkins said. “The athletes donated almost $10 million worth of the Prep Packs. We also want to recognize eKnowledge for developing a great program that is viable and produces successful results.”

The SAT/ACT Power Prep Pack is an interactive video preparatory course for students studying for the college entrance exams. It contains more than nine hours of video training and 25 to 30 hours of student participation divided into 120 lecture movies and 122 explanatory answer movies.

In order to receive a program through the NFHS, visit <http://www.sat.eknowledge.com/>, click on “order” and enter the NFHS membership number, 31b8607802.
Kallok receives NFL coaching award

The National Football League (NFL) named former head football coach Rich Kallok of St. Paul (Minnesota) Cretin-Derham Hall High School the 2006 NFL High School Football Coach of the Year.

After coaching for 39 years overall and 16 seasons as head coach at Cretin-Derham Hall, Kallok accumulated a record of 200-65. Two of his former players, Minnesota Vikings center Matt Birk and Carolina Panthers quarterback Chris Weinke, nominated him for the award.

Kallok has also served as a teacher, track and basketball coach, athletic director, assistant principal and principal throughout his career. He is highly respected and considered a great role model by his former athletes.

Kallok and his wife Sue attended Super Bowl XLI in February to accept his award for being named the 2006 NFL High School Football Coach of the Year. He received a $5,000 check, and a $10,000 grant was awarded to the Cretin-Derham Hall football program.

Aside from this honor, Kallok was previously inducted into the Merrillville (Indiana) Andrean High School Hall of Fame in 2002, the Minnesota High School Football Hall of Fame in 2006 and the Minnesota Football Old Timers’ Hall of Fame in 2006.

The NFL created the High School Football Coach of the Year Award in 1995 to honor coaches who have impacted the athletic and personal development of NFL players. A committee of sports leaders appointed by the NFL chooses the finalists and winner. The award is funded by the NFL Youth Football Fund, a non-profit organization established the NFL and NFL Players Association to support the game at the youth level and promote positive youth development.

MSHSL inducts 2007 class

The Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) inducted 10 individuals into its Hall of Fame in May as part of the 17th class.

Included in the members is the 2007 National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) High School Hall of Fame inductee Terry Steinbach. He was the top high school baseball player at New Ulm (Minnesota) High School in 1980 and went on to a successful 14-year professional career with the Oakland A’s and Minnesota Twins.

The other individuals include the late Bronko Nagurski, an athlete from International Falls; former League Associate Director Skip Peltier (Woodbury); Gary Addington, former athletic administrator for Rochester Public Schools; debate and speech coaches Del Holz (Bloomington) and Gail Sarff (Wayzata); and coaches Myron Glass (Rochester), Gail Nucech (Hibbing), Jack Evans (Bloomington) and Walt Weaver (Apple Valley).

The inductees were selected through a multi-level process, involving the MSHSL member schools and a committee of athletic, fine arts and education leaders. The MSHSL Hall of Fame began in 1991 and now includes 163 members. It honors high school athletes, coaches, fine arts directors, officials and administrators for their contributions and involvement in developing quality high school activity programs.

Students receive IHSAA Centennial Scholarships

The Indiana High School Athletic Association awarded 10 high school student-athletes a $2,500 Centennial Scholarship for their outstanding scholastic and athletic achievements, community and school involvement, character, sportsmanship and citizenship.

The students were selected from a pool of more than 150 applicants by a panel consisting of Mark De Carlo, vice president of clinical services with Methodist Sports Medicine; Stephen Heck, executive director of Indiana Association of School Principals; Bob Kanaby, executive director of the National Federation of State High School Associations; Teresa Koopman, director of advertising and promotions of Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance; and Suellen Reed, superintendent of the Indiana Department of Education.

In order to qualify, the students submitted applications and met certain criteria. These included being enrolled and participating in interscholastic athletics at an IHSAA-member school, being a 2007 graduating senior, winning at least one varsity letter, carrying a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale and being nominated by the principal, among others.

This year’s recipients were Gant Elmore of Bloomington North High School, Monika Freiser of West Lafayette High School, Ashley Halford of Blackford High School, Kaylyn Herrold of Caston High School, Heidi Keiser of Plymouth High School, Heather Reeves of Hamilton Heights High School, Scott Schinderle of Indianapolis Covenant Christian High School, Brittany Simmerman of Bedford North Lawrence High School, Erica Watson of Noblesville High School and Jenna Witte of Indianapolis Pike High School.

The Centennial Scholarship program began in 2004 as part of the IHSAA’s 100th year of service to its member schools. Along with the IHSAA, Methodist Sports Medicine and Jostens also support the program.
NFHS names new officers, board members

At the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Summer Meeting June 30-July 4 in Palm Desert, California, two officers and two new NFHS Board of Directors members began their terms.

Ron Laird, commissioner of the Wyoming High School Activities Association (WHSSAA), is the new president of the NFHS for 2007-08. Jim Tenopir, executive director of the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA), will serve as the president-elect for the upcoming year.

Nina VanErk, executive director of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), Section 1; Bill Farney, director of the Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL), Section 6; and Charles H. Harris III, superintendent of the Sussex County Public Schools in Sussex, Virginia, will join the Board of Directors during 2007-08. They will all serve four-year terms.

Laird became commissioner of the WHSAA in July 2004 after serving many years as an instructor, assistant principal and athletic director at Powell (Wyoming) High School. He also was head basketball coach at Powell from 1980 to 2000 and assistant football coach for 15 years.

Tenopir began his career teaching and coaching football. He then became athletic director at McCook (Nebraska) High School and later at Scottsbluff (Nebraska) High School. In 1983, he was named superintendent of Cambridge (Nebraska) High School, where he remained until being named NSAA executive director in 2001.

VanErk was named NYSPHSAA executive director in 2000 after working as the director of health, physical education and athletics in the Katonah (New York) Lewisboro School District for five years. Previously, she served as a teacher and athletic director of Rhinebeck (New York) Central Schools.

Farney was chosen as the director of the UIL in 1995 after serving as assistant director and athletic director in the organization since 1977. Farney began his teaching career in 1962 and later served as the principal of Lorena (Texas) High School and Waco (Texas) Robinson High School. In 1970, he became the superintendent of schools in Crawford, Texas.

Harris has spent the past 30 years as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, education director and superintendent. He has been superintendent in Sussex, Virginia, since 2003.

For additional information on new board members, visit our Web site at <www.nfhs.org/hstoday>.

Teams named for T-Mobile Invitational

Eight highly acclaimed boys and girls teams will showcase their talent and compete for the title at the second annual T-Mobile Invitational national high school basketball tournament December 28-29, 2007, at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque.

The tournament, sponsored by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) along with T-Mobile USA, Inc., will highlight boys basketball powerhouse Jersey City (New Jersey) St. Anthony High School and girls basketball standout Long Beach (California) Poly High School. St. Anthony is led by legendary coach Bob Hurley Sr. and stands among the most storied high school basketball programs in the nation. The Long Beach Poly girls were within one win of posting an undefeated record during the 2006-07 season.

Other boys teams participating in the event will be Roswell (Georgia) Centennial High School, Highland (Utah) Lone Peak High School and Albuquerque (New Mexico) La Cueva High School.

On the girls side, Dayton (Ohio) Chaminade-Julienne Catholic High School, Hampton (Virginia) High School and Gallup (New Mexico) High School will join Long Beach Poly to compete for the title.

The T-Mobile Invitational is the only basketball tournament sponsored by the NFHS, and the field is composed only of schools from NFHS-member associations.
“We are looking forward to this year’s tournament,” said Robert Kanaby, NFHS executive director. “Not only does this event showcase some of the best teams and individuals in the country, but it also showcases the important role that activity programs play in high school education.”

Duty to Warn, Risk Management DVDs

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has produced a series of DVDs discussing the importance of risk management and the duty to warn, targeted toward specific audiences such as athletic directors, administrators, parents and students.

In collaboration with the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), the NFHS created a two-DVD series on risk management available for the general public to order in the NFHS products catalog or online.

One DVD, 15 minutes in length, will reach athletic directors and administrators while the other, six minutes long, will appeal to parents and students.

According to John Gillis, NFHS assistant director, the DVDs, produced by Allegro Media in Kansas City, Missouri, are an update of a video series produced in 1998.

Both DVDs stress the importance of minimizing risk in high school sports. The DVD geared toward parents and students discusses the importance of taking responsibility for one’s own safety by communicating with coaches and administrators. The DVD for athletic directors and administrators focuses on the 14 duties, or general areas of concern, they must consider when working with high school sports.

One such duty outlined in the risk management DVD is the duty to warn, and using this concept the NFHS worked with Creative Street in Indianapolis, Indiana, to produce a third DVD entitled “Minimizing Risk – A Shared Responsibility.”

“This DVD is one of the key projects of Bill Reader’s term as NFHS president,” Gillis said. “We taped it at Indianapolis (Indiana) Lawrence North High School using nine athletes and a fine arts student, and the DVD recaps the importance of taking responsibility and working with others to minimize risk.”

The 3:58 DVD, was shown twice at the 2007 NFHS Summer Meeting in Palm Desert, California, once at the Board of Directors Meeting and again at the Second General Session. Each state association will receive a free copy of the DVD, with both the state association and NFHS logos in the DVD. All state associations are asked to make copies of the DVD and distribute them to their high schools. The DVD will not be for sale to the general public.

“Every year, we work on a project dealing with a key issue at that particular time,” Gillis said. “This is a great piece, and we hope the state associations form a strong distribution network that will enable the DVD to be shared.”

‘Heads Up’ DVD mailed to schools

In an attempt to increase awareness about reducing the risk of concussions, neck sprains and catastrophic injuries in football, the Andrews Institute for Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine and the National Athletic Trainers Association (NATA) have teamed up to present Heads Up – Reducing the Risk of Head and Neck Injuries in Football, a 14-minute DVD, to nearly 16,000 high schools. The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and The Andrews Institute have made this distribution possible.

The DVD’s purpose is to educate college and high school football players about the updated rules on spearing and head-down contact from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the NFHS. It contains collegiate footage and comments from multiple football personnel and doctors, including Tony Dungy, Indianapolis Colts head football coach; Jerry Punch, ABC Sports and ESPN commentator and M.D.; and Grant Teaff, American Football Coaches Association executive director. The DVD stresses the importance of keeping shoulders down and head up when making contact.

“With recent rules changes, football has become safer, but athletes are still at risk when playing the game,” said Bob Colgate, NFHS assistant director. “The NFHS has sent the DVDs to the state associations, and now it’s in their hands to distribute them to the coaches. We hope that coaches take advantage of this information and show it to their athletes before football season begins.”

Miller was a summer intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department. She is a senior at the University of Dayton (Ohio), majoring in journalism and Spanish.

NFHS rules changes made in five fall sports

BY ALLISON HICKEY

One of the chief functions of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) is the writing of playing rules in the sports for boys and girls competition at the high school level.

Earlier this year, NFHS rules committees in soccer, football, field hockey, volleyball and spirit met to discuss rules changes for the 2007-08 school year. Following are the highlights of rules changes
In soccer, if a player enters the game improperly equipped, and it is discovered by an official, the coach will be cautioned (yellow card).

As a result of this addition to Rule 4-3, a portion of Rule 5-2-2-d-3 was taken away that required the official to examine the uniform and equipment of each player to ensure compliance with the rules. While the legality of player equipment is determined by the referee, the head coach has the responsibility to ensure that players are properly equipped.

With continuing emphasis on illegal helmet contact in high school football, the NFHS Football Rules Committee reorganized and clarified several rules with the intention of further reducing the risk of injury in the sport.

Rules revisions regarding illegal helmet contact were among 14 rules revisions made by the committee at its meeting.

In Rule 2, the committee placed butt blocking, face tackling and spearing under the heading “Helmet Contact – Illegal” to place more emphasis on risk-minimization concerns. In Rule 9-4-3, the committee added a note that lists examples of some types of illegal helmet contact that could result in disqualification.

Revisions to 14 rules were approved by the NFHS Field Hockey Rules Committee at its meeting in Indianapolis earlier this year.

One of the most important changes dealt with the extension of the deadline for the new stick requirements. Rule 1-6-4, stating that players’ bows cannot exceed 25 millimeters and weigh more than 23 ounces, will not be enforced until January 1, 2009. The revised rule also requires the stick to be visibly and permanently labeled.

In volleyball, the main rule adjustment has to do with the libero – a back-row, defensive specialist – who will now be able to serve in one position in the serving order.

Several other rules related to the libero were altered. The penalty for an illegal libero replacement found in the game will now be an alignment infraction rather than unnecessary delay. In Rule 8-1-5, a libero replacement shall not take place during a re-

serve. In Rule10-4, the libero replacement shall be completed prior to the whistle and signal for serve, and the libero can be replaced once a time-out is completed and all players have returned to the court.

In its ongoing focus on minimizing risk of injury of high school spirit participants, the NFHS Spirit Rules Committee adopted six rules changes during the group’s annual meeting.

Rule 2-1-7 was modified to clarify that spring-assisted floors, mini-trampolines and other height-increasing apparatuses are not permitted during performances or competitions.

For a full list of the rules changes in these sports for the 2007-08 season, please visit our Web site at www.nfhs.org.

Mark Koski joins NFHS staff

Mark Koski, assistant director of the New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA) the past four years, has been named to a new assistant director position on the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) staff, effective August 13. Koski’s duties will involve meeting planning for NFHS conferences, assisting with NFHS marketing initiatives and administering the sport of soccer.

As the NMAA’s director of corporate development the past four years, Koski helped the organization increase its annual corporate sponsorship revenue from $27,000 to $700,000. He also was instrumental in starting the NMAA Foundation, which raised more than $100,000 in its first year of existence. Koski also served as the NMAA’s conference and meeting planner.

In addition to meeting planning and corporate development, Koski has served as administrator for the sports of swimming and diving, track and field, and cross country. In cross country, Koski introduced the chip timing system for scoring, and he created “sport-specific manuals” for all NMAA sports.

Koski graduated from Highland High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1995. He earned his bachelor’s degree in physical education from the University of New Mexico in 2000 and his master’s degree in sport administration from UNM in 2003. As a member of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), Koski earned his Certified Athletic Administrator (CAA) status in 2005 and his Certified Master Athletic Administrator (CMAA) in 2007.
Key leaders in high school sports and activity programs gathered in Palm Desert, California, June 30-July 4 for the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) 88th annual Summer Meeting.

About 600 delegates from NFHS-member state high school athletic/activity associations were in attendance at the five-day meeting held at the Desert Springs Marriott in Palm Desert.

In addition to the 38 workshops on key topics in high school sports and a report on the new NFHS Coach Education Program, the 25th induction ceremony of the National High School Hall of Fame closed the week’s activities in grand fashion with another stellar class of high school athletes, coaches, officials and contributors.

Former two-time Super Bowl champion quarterback Jim Plunkett, who was a high school standout at James Lick High School in San Jose, California, and Terry Steinbach, former Major League Baseball star who was one of Minnesota’s best two-sport athletes at New Ulm High School, were two of the more noteworthy inductees in the 2007 class. However, Hawaii’s first athlete in the Hall of Fame, Charlie Wedemeyer, stole the hearts of everyone in attendance.

Wedemeyer, a three-sport high school star in the 1960s at Honolulu Punahou High School, has survived the past 30 years with Lou Gehrig’s disease. Although he can no longer walk, talk or breathe on his own, Wedemeyer, who communicated through his wife, Lucy, delivered the acceptance speech on behalf of the 2007 class and received a standing ovation when he received his award.

Other members of the 2007 class were Clyde Duncan (Iowa), and Jim Johnson (Michigan) in the Athletes category; John Bagonzi (New Hampshire), Lewie Benitz (Wisconsin), Rick Insell (Tennessee) and Joan Wells (Kansas) in the Coaches category; Jane Hansen (New Jersey) and Sam Short (Alabama) in the Officials category; and Tim Stevens, a sportswriter from Raleigh, North Carolina.

Summer Meeting attendees also received an update on the new NFHS Coach Education Program, which was launched earlier this year as the first and only education program designed exclusively for interscholastic coaches.

Tim Flannery, NFHS assistant director who is in charge of the
Coach Education Program, told attendees that about 40 state associations will be on board with this new program in 2007-08.

The online portion of the program was started in January and the blended approach, which utilizes the classroom approach for a part of the course and the remainder online, was launched in June. The one-of-a-kind Coach Education Program consists of two courses – a Fundamentals of Coaching course and a First Aid for Coaches course.

A new four-minute DVD entitled “Minimizing Risk – A Shared Responsibility” was unveiled at the NFHS Summer Meeting as well. The DVD, which was produced to be shown at preseason meetings, will be used by athletic directors and coaches to warn athletes and their parents about the inherent risk of injury in sports. Copies of the DVD will be sent at no charge to the 51 member associations of the NFHS.

Among the national topics of concern discussed during the 38 workshop sessions were the public/private school issue, steroid use and abuse, marketing, heat and hydration, threats at events, and recruiting and retaining officials.

For additional articles on the NFHS Summer Meeting, including the closing speech by NFHS Executive Director Bob Kanaby, visit our Web site at <www.nfhs.org/hstoday>.

Five potential topics for the 2008-09 national high school debate topic were approved August 3-5 at the NFHS Debate Topic Selection Meeting in San Diego, California.

The 2008-09 debate topic will be chosen from among Immigration, Agricultural Subsidies, Health Care, Alternative Energy and Central Asia.

Forty-seven delegates from 24 states, the National Catholic Forensic League (NCFL), National Debate Coaches Association and the National Forensic League (NFL) attended this year’s meeting.

Balloting for the 2008-09 national high school debate topic will take place in a twofold process. During September and October, coaches and students will have the opportunity to discuss the five problem areas. The first ballot will narrow the topics to two. A second ballot will be distributed to determine the final topic. Each state, the NFL and the NCFL will conduct voting in November and December to determine the favored topic area. In January, the NFHS will announce the 2008-09 national high school debate topic and resolution.

For more information on the five potential topics for 2008-09, visit our Web site at <www.nfhs.org/hstoday>.
2007 National Student Leadership Conference

BY NIKKI MILLER

For a weekend this summer, some of the most promising, up-coming leaders in the world took over Indianapolis. And they’re only in high school.

Nearly 300 students from the United States, Canada and Israel gathered July 19-22 at the Hilton in downtown Indianapolis for the 2007 National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) National Student Leadership Conference. Along with adult delegates, they participated in group discussions, attended speaking sessions and did community service, among other activities.

“There are the same interests and the same problems (with high school students), no matter where you are,” Israeli delegate Matthew Neilson said. “It’s a lot more similar than you’d think. We’re all in school, we all like sports and we understand each other. It’s great to be here and help with the adjustment between cultures because I moved from Tennessee to Israel and can relate to both.”

The conference was made possible through a grant by T-Mobile USA, Inc. Other sponsors included Samsung, Gatorade and Nike.

At the Opening General Session, Elliot Hopkins, NFHS director of educational services and coordinator of the Student Leadership Conference, addressed everyone before Harvey Alston took the stage and presented his message of being the best.

“At the end of the day, we expect you to be a good person,” Hopkins said. “I challenge you to be engaged. You’ll come to find out it’s not that different in your home state.”

On Friday, July 20, the delegates attended two speaker sessions of their choice, ranging from “How to Safely Use Social Networking Web Sites” to “Successful Tips for the ACT/SAT Standardized Tests.” Ten sessions were available, with speakers from The Princeton Review, Fifth Third Bank, the NCAA and TAKKLE.com, among others.

That evening, everyone left the Hilton for an outing at the Indianapolis Children’s Museum. The students had full rein of all exhibits, and were treated to a magic show performed by Stephen Bargatz.

On Saturday, July 21, students participated in the last of three breakout sessions. All were based on topics such as respect, positive values, sportsmanship, teamwork and healthy lifestyles, and were led by college and adult facilitators from around the country.

The T-Mobile Huddle Up Community Service Project took place Saturday afternoon, and the delegates traveled to Oscar Charleston Park and Washington Park to lay mulch, pick up trash, sweep and paint. Indianapolis Mayor Bart Peterson also addressed the crowd, thanking everyone for their hard work and dedication to serving others. The night ended with a dinner and dance at the Hilton, and even the adults were allowed to show off their moves on the dance floor.

Felicia Hall-Allen, a compelling and energetic presenter from Charlotte, North Carolina, told students to “become who they were born to be,” and prepare in advance for their “moment to lead,” as part of the Closing General Session on Sunday, July 22.

Many memories were made during the weekend at the National Student Leadership Conference, and some tears were shed as the students said goodbye.

“I’m going to miss you,” Hopkins said. “You’ve done well.”

Students were encouraged to return to their respective schools and communities with new leadership skills and work with their adult counterparts to help develop a plan for their school and make a positive and significant impact on the community.

For a detailed, first-hand account of the conference, visit the Students section of the NFHS Web site, <www.nfhs.org>.

Miller was a summer intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department. She is a senior at the University of Dayton (Ohio), majoring in journalism and Spanish.