Athletic Director Spotlight

Ryan Fitzgerald
Hamilton Township

1. What was your journey to the position of an athletic director?

After graduating with my Masters of Education from The Ohio State University, I began my career in education at Hamilton Local Schools as a Gifted Intervention Specialist teaching grades 4-6. During this time, I coached football and track and also worked during the winter sports season as an Athletic Event Manager. After four years of teaching, I moved to Hamilton Township High School as Dean of Students for one year and then Assistant Principal for one year, before moving into the Athletic Director position. This will be my eighth year as an Athletic Director.

2. What role do you believe athletics play in a student’s development?

Athletics play a crucial role in the development of students. It is through experiences in athletics that students have the opportunity to gain the life skills of dedication, teamwork, perseverance and overcoming adversity. They also develop a strong understanding of time management and in many instances, learn to overcome failure. Athletics make it necessary for students to develop accountability in many different ways, including but not limited to, academics and behaviors in and outside of school.

3. What have been the most enjoyable and rewarding aspects of being an athletic administrator?

The most enjoyable and rewarding aspects of being an athletic administrator are seeing students achieve goals that they have set out to do. Whether it is individual or team, seeing athletes in this positive light is great. Being an athletic administrator for grades 7-12, it is very rewarding to see athletes as they mature through their school years. This maturation certainly occurs athletically, but also socially and academically in many instances. There are certainly negative aspects, but the positivity of watching the athletes develop on many fronts is much greater. Athletes also provide students opportunities that they may not have if it were not for their participation, including scholarship opportunities, community service and traveling to new places for contests or camps.

4. What advice would you offer to anyone entering his/her first athletic administrative position?

The best advice I can give is to be not hesitant to seek advice and assistance from athletic administrators who have experience in the role. There is a strong possibility that if you are faced with a situation, you are not the first athletic administrator who has been in that situation. Not all decisions that you make will be popular, but consistently make decisions that keep the best interest of the student-athletes in mind. I would also suggest, if possible and applicable, to try to keep a balance between time at athletic events and time spent with your family.

Central District
Pam Bosser—Female Rep (AD, Lancaster H.S.)
Bob Britton—Class A Rep (Supt., Ridgedale Local Schools)
Jay Cauley—7th/8th Grade Rep (AD, Hilliard Warren M.S.)
Molly Feester—Class AAA Rep (AD, Pickerington North H.S.)
Ryan Fitzgerald—Class AA Rep (AD, Hamilton Township H.S.)
Jim Hayes—Treasurer (Circleville)
Chad Little—Class AA Rep (AD, Bloom-Carroll H.S.)
Troy McIntosh—Class A Rep (Head of School, Worthington Christian Schools)
Mark Shively—Class AAA Rep (Dir. of Classified Personnel & Support Services, Newark City Schools)
Doug Ute—Secretary (Supt., Newark City Schools)
Bill Warfield—Ethnic Minority Rep (Curriculum Supervisor, Olentangy Local Schools)

East District
Chelsey Fletcher—Ethnic Minority Rep (AD, Toronto H.S./M.S.)
Gina Franks—Female Rep (Dir. of Student Services, Dover H.S.)
TBA—7th/8th Grade Rep
Richard Hall—Treasurer (Supt., Mid-East CTC)
John Harris—Class AAA Rep (Principal, Tri-Valley H.S.)
Dan Leffingwell—Class A Rep (Supt., Noble Local Schools)
Chad Shawger—Class AA Rep (Supt., West Muskingum Local Schools)
Walt Skaggs, PhD—Class AAA Rep (Supt., St. Clairsville-Richland City Schools)
Don Spinnell—Secretary (Minerva)
Gary Spinnell—Class A Rep (AD, Strasburg H.S.)
Jesse Wheeler—Class AA Rep (Asst. Principal/AD, Meadowbrook H.S.)

Northeast District
Larry Acker—Secretary (Wooster)
Brian Banfield—Class AA Rep (AD, Poland Local Schools)
Jeff Cassella—Class AAA Rep (AD, Mentor H.S.)
Sean Jackson—Ethnic Minority Rep (AD, Lakewood H.S.)
Andy Jalwin—Class AAA Rep (AD, Copley H.S.)
Dick Kerschbaum—7th/8th Grade Rep (AD, Brookside M.S.)
Mark McGuire—Treasurer (AD, Solon H.S.)
Rocco Nero—Class A Rep (Supt., Southtown Local Schools)
Bill Nye, PhD—Class A Rep (Supt., Grand Valley Local Schools)
Rhonda Rickelman—Female Rep (Dir. of Auxiliary Programming, Gilmore Academy)
Randy Tevepaugh—Class AA Rep (AD, Streetsboro H.S.)

Central: ohsaa.org/CDAB
East: ohsaa.org/EDAB
Northeast: ohsaa.org/NEDAB
Northwest: ohsaa.org/NWDAB
Southwest: ohsaa.org/SEDAB
Southwest: ohsaa.org/SWADAB

Northwest District
David Alvarado—Ethnic Minority Rep (Assoc. Principal, Findlay H.S.)
Kevin Calver—Secretary (Shelby)
Shawn Coakley—Class AAA Rep (AD, Sandusky H.S.)
Brad Cooley—Class AAA Rep (Principal, Norwalk H.S.)
Brenda Frankart—Female Rep (Principal, Liberty-Benton H.S.)
Bill Hanna—Treasurer (Ottawa)
Kevin Katafias—7th/8th Grade Rep (Principal, Genoa M.S.)
Gary Kreinbrink—Class A Rep (AD, Leipsic H.S.)
Jeremy Kuhlman—Class A Rep (Principal, Ayersville H.S.)
Jayson Selgo—Class AA Rep (Supt., Archbold Area Local School District)
Jeff Snyder—Class AA Rep (Supt., Lincolnview Local Schools)

Southwest District
Bo Arnett—Class AAA Rep (Dean of Students/AD, Waverly H.S.)
Rick Barrett—7th/8th Grade Rep (AD, Dawson Bryant M.S.)
Dan Brisker—Secretary (Oak Hill)
Tony Deem—Class A Rep (Supt., Southern Local Schools)
Rick Edwards—Treasurer (Athens-Meigs ESC)
Stephanie Evans—Female Rep (Asst. Principal/AD, Belpre H.S.)
Wayne Horsley—Class AAA Rep (Teacher, Athens City Schools)
Mark Knapp—Class AA Rep (Supt., Wheelersburg Local Schools)
Mark LaFon—Ethnic Minority Rep (Dir. of Student Services, Ironton City Schools)
Mark Rose—Class A Rep (AD, Portsmouth Clay H.S.)
Leonard Steyer—Class AA Rep (Principal, Chillicothe Southeastern H.S.)

Southwest District
Andy Bixler—Class A Rep (Supt., Anna Local Schools)
Tim Cook—Class AAA Rep (Asst. Principal/AD, Western Brown Local Schools)
Dale Creamer—Secretary (Brookville)
Doug Footo—Class AA Rep (AD, New Richmond H.S.)
Bob Huesman—Treasurer (Beaver Creek)
Scott Kaufman—Class A Rep (AD/Asst. Principal, Lakota West H.S.)
John Kronour, PhD—Class AA Rep (Supt., Springfield Northeastern Local Schools)
Mike Macy—Class A Rep (AD, Ansonia H.S.)
TBA—Ethnic Minority Rep
Paul Stone—7th/8th Grade Rep (AD, Oakwood Junior H.S.)
Jan Wilking—Female Rep (AD, Wyoming H.S.)