A WHOLE New Ballgame

Following in the footsteps of The Athlete, OHSAA Magazine enters its freshman year

From Y2K to Why To Play

Looking back at the OHSAA’s last 10 years and looking ahead to the next decade

Keeping SCORE

News and notes from the OHSAA, including eligibility, athletic administration and officiating

Football finals return to Stark County for 20th consecutive year
Flyin’ High

Maria Stein Marion Local made it back-to-back Div. IV state volleyball championships last November as the Flyers topped Jackson Center at Wright State’s Nutter Center. Ranked No. 2 in the Associated Press state poll, Marion Local avenged a regular-season loss to Jackson Center, which entered the game ranked No. 1. The Flyers were also the state runnerup in 2002 and were state semifinalists in 2000, while the Tigers were in their first state title match.
The OHSAA is a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), which consists of the 50 individual state high school athletic and/or activities associations and the association of the District of Columbia and 10 Canadian organizations. These associations have united to secure the benefits of cooperative action and increased efficiency through the coordinating of ideas of all who are engaged in high school athletic and activities programs.
Prior to becoming the commissioner of the OHSAA in August 2004, Dr. Dan Ross served as a school superintendent for 21 years at three districts, including Patrick Henry (1983-86), Pickerington (1986-97) and Avon Lake (1997-2004). He has more than 30 years in education, having served as a superintendent, principal, teacher, counselor, coach and official. Dr. Ross is a native of Portsmouth, Ohio, and graduated from Columbus St. Charles High School in 1967. He received degrees from Ohio Dominican, Xavier and Bowling Green. Dr. Ross was a registered OHSAA official for 20 years and was selected to work state finals games five times in boys basketball and twice in girls basketball while also being certified in volleyball and baseball.

Mission
The Ohio High School Athletic Association’s mission is to regulate and administer interscholastic athletic competition in a fair and equitable manner while promoting the values of participation in interscholastic athletics as an integral part of a student’s educational experience. The OHSAA represents its member schools by recognizing and promoting academics, the safety of participants, good citizenship and lifelong values as the foundation of interscholastic athletics.

Commitment
The Ohio High School Athletic Association is committed to serving its member schools by being the nation’s premier non-profit athletic administration organization.

We will:
• Provide exemplary athletic oversight through swift, fair, consistent and impartial regulatory rulings;
• Operate with openness that generates trust and with strict fiscal accountability;
• Provide impartial, responsive and inclusive leadership;
• Conduct tournaments of nationally recognized excellence; and
• Honor our ultimate purpose, which is to foster lifelong values, good citizenship, ethics and a fair-play approach to life among student-athletes while promoting safe and sporting-like athletic environments.

Educational Athletics Starts with You
Welcome to the first issue of OHSAA Magazine and thank you for allowing us an opportunity to tell our story. The purpose of this magazine is to communicate the role the Ohio High School Athletic Association plays in interscholastic athletics and why education-based sports are so important.

Today, more than ever, this message needs to be communicated not only to our member school administrators and coaches, but also to student-athletes, parents, fans, contest officials, legislators, the media and anyone interested in extracurricular programs.

On the pages of this magazine you will not only find information for administrators, coaches and student-athletes, but you will also get a feel for what we do and why we do it. The answer is simple – we believe that high school sports should be one of the most positive and memorable experiences in a young person’s life and we are dedicated to helping provide structure and equality for those experiences.

That is not an easy thing to do, but no one said it would be. The OHSAA’s constitution and bylaws – which are adopted and approved by the member schools – need to be enforced. Officials need to be trained. Coaches need to be educated and certified. State tournaments need to be facilitated. It’s a monumental challenge, but it is also our passion.

And we cannot do it alone. We cannot be inside the hallways or on the practice fields of all 831 member high schools and 800 member 7th and 8th grade schools. Just as our bylaws and our Board of Directors are chosen by the membership, the enforcement of the rules and fundamental principles needs to start with our school people.

We welcome your feedback about this magazine and hope it serves its purpose. The OHSAA is truly an organization for the membership and works every day to be the leader in education-based athletics. That is never more important than today.

Sincerely,

Daniel Ross, Commissioner
Ohio High School Athletic Association
I have made the hour drive north to Columbus up State Route 33 countless times, but this time seemed a little different. As I departed from my home in the Southeast Ohio town of Logan that August 5 morning, I was not only reminded of the renewed energy and responsibility that comes with a new school year, but also of new challenges and opportunities.

Each year as August turns into September and autumn settles into Ohio, I feel that energy. I am sure that all of our schools feel the same – a new season, a new school year, a new beginning.

And as the 2009-10 school year begins, I welcome both the opportunity and the challenge of serving as the President of the Board of Directors of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Just as I feel a deep commitment toward my students and faculty of the Logan-Hocking Local School District, I am dedicated to fulfilling the mission of the OHSAA and leading a talented and eager Board of Directors.

The Board has established a set of goals that is both exciting and extensive. It will not only help guide us for the 2009-10 school year, but also will be instrumental in shaping the future of the OHSAA and the opportunities it provides to Ohio’s student-athletes, coaches and officials. This is the heart of our mission and has inspired me throughout my career.

I would like to share some of these goals with you here to help you get an idea of what your Board of Directors is focusing on in 2009-10. Despite our current economic climate, we seek to expand participation opportunities when some states are cutting or decreasing opportunities. Throughout this school year you will hear about the extensive work of our Board committees and we are dedicated to supporting those committees.

Also among our goals are to review the focus of our middle school athletics programs, assist with the OHSAA Foundation, find specific ways to promote sportsmanship, ethics and integrity, implement the OHSAA’s Strategic Plan, construct an OHSAA Technology Plan and evaluate the financial status of the OHSAA.

As a Board, we would like to see enhanced communication at all levels of the OHSAA, and this new quarterly magazine is just one way our member schools will see that put into action in 2009-10.

I accept my role as Board President with a humble sense of determination. I truly believe that this coming school year will be among the most successful – in so many different ways – that interscholastic athletics in Ohio has seen. I ask for your help in achieving that goal, because we can only accomplish it together.

Sincerely,

Steve Stirn, President
OHSAA Board of Directors

More Than Just a New Season

Steve Stirn
Board President, Superintendent,
Logan-Hocking Local Schools
(Class AAA Rep., Southeast District)

Rocco Nero
Board Vice President,
Superintendent, Lowellville
Local Schools (Class A Rep.,
Northeast District)

Teresa Alberts
Female Representative
Principal, Sugarcreek
Garaway H.S.

Dave Gray
Superintendent,
Pittsburg Franklin Monroe
Local Schools (Class A Rep.,
Northeast District)

Jose Hernandez
Principal, Fremont Ross H.S.
(Ethnic Minority Rep.)

Steve Keller
Principal, Coldwater H.S.
(Class AA Rep.,
Northwest District)

Mike Rotonda
Director of Student
Activities, Columbus City
Schools (Class AAA Rep.,
Central District)

Walt Skaggs
Superintendent, St.
Clairsville-Richland City Schools
(Class AA Rep., East District)

Steve Zimmerman
Athletic Administrator, Cincinnati
Nagel M.S. (7th-8th Grade Rep.)

Matt Shomper
Athletic Administrator, Tipp City
Tippecanoe H.S. (ex-officio,
Ohio Interscholastic Athletic
Administrators Association Rep.)

Jeff Jordan
Director of Finance Program
Services, Ohio Department of
Education (ex-officio, State
Department of Education Rep.)
One at a Time, Please

The Bulldogs had the bite they needed last November in Columbus Crew Stadium as Cincinnati St. Ursula Academy topped Strongsville, 1-0, in the Division I girls soccer championship game. St. Ursula wrapped up an undefeated season at 20-0-3 and won its fourth girls soccer state title to tie Clayton Northmont and Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit for the most girls soccer championships in OHSAA history.
Blue Jays Are Singing

Winning its fifth state football championship in five tries, Delphos St. John’s scored the game’s final 27 points and held the ball for all but 4:26 in the second half to top previously undefeated Bascom Hopewell-Loudon, 34-14 in the 2008 Division VI championship game in Massillon Paul Brown Tiger Stadium. Senior Tyler Hayson and the Blue Jays finished the season 13-2, with their two losses during the regular-season (to Marion Local and Coldwater) both coming to defending state champions in their own league – the Midwest Athletic Conference.
August Board of Directors Meeting
Ushers in New School Year

The OHSAA Board of Directors met in Columbus Aug. 6 to get started on another new school year. New Board President Steve Stirn (superintendent of Logan-Hocking Local Schools) and Vice President Rocco Nero (Superintendent of Lowellville Local Schools) welcomed seven new Board members who will go about the task of guiding and serving 831 member schools in 2009-10.

Schools to Receive OHSAA Publications

In early fall, each school should receive several OHSAA publications, including the 2009-10 handbook, school directory, pocket calendar, wall calendar and eligibility guide for guidance counselors. Schools needing additional copies should call the OHSAA at 614-267-2502. Note that in the spring, a limited number of eligibility brochures are mailed to each school, with a PDF version of the brochure available at ohsaa.org for duplicating.

Softball Finals Added to OHSAA’s 10-Year Contracts

For the fourth time in the last two years, the OHSAA Board of Directors voted to sign a 10-year contract for a state championship site when in June it revised its contract with the city of Akron to host the OHSAA softball finals at Firestone Stadium. The Board voted to change its initial three-year contract with Akron to a 10-year contract, adding softball to the list of championship sites that also have 10-year contracts, including hockey (Nationwide Arena in Columbus), swimming and diving (C.T. Branin Natatorium in Canton) and gymnastics (Hilliard City Schools). Visit the softball page at OHSAA.org for the complete release.

Board Approves Flat Budget for 2009-10

In June, the OHSAA Board of Directors approved a nearly identical operating budget for the Association and the six District Athletic Boards for the 2009-10 school year. In addition, the Board reaffirmed the OHSAA’s longstanding policy to remain one of the few state associations that does not assess an annual membership fee or tournament entry fee to its member schools. The Association also does not impose a fee to assist with the $700,000 catastrophic insurance premium that covers student-athletes, cheerleaders, student managers and student trainers. Check out OHSAA.org for the complete release.

Canton and Massillon Football Stadiums Listed Among Nation’s Best

Last fall, ESPN compiled a list of the nation’s top high school football stadiums and announced Canton Fawcett Stadium as the best in the United States and Massillon Paul Brown Tiger Stadium as No. 10, making Ohio the only state with two stadiums listed in the Top 10. This year marks the 20th consecutive year that the OHSAA football finals will be played in Canton and Massillon. Visit the football page at OHSAA.org for the complete release.

Let’s Ensure Eligibility

With the fall sports season upon us, school administrators are reminded of the important responsibility of verifying the eligibility of your student-athletes to ensure that no OHSAA bylaws have been violated. This is particularly important in the sport of football, where forfeitures due to the use of ineligible participants can be detrimental to playoff opportunities and create frustration within the entire school community. Emphasis cannot be placed enough on making it a priority to check eligibility carefully and to take the time to educate your coaches, guidance counselors, parents and student-athletes on the importance of understanding OHSAA eligibility requirements.
OHSSAA Foundation Service Week Expands

The OHSSAA Foundation announced that its “OHSSAA Foundation Service Week” initiative would expand in 2009-10 to include the sport of girls volleyball. The statewide community service initiative was held Aug. 14-29 and partnered with UGive.org. The upcoming basketball Foundation Service Week, which raised nearly $250,000 for charitable organizations and causes around the state last year, will be held Nov. 18 through Dec. 5. Participation materials have been sent to all member schools and additional information can be found at ohsaafoundation.org.

Preseason Meeting Format and DVD Available

Check out the “Administrator’s Corner” at OHSSAA.org for sample scripts and information regarding the mandatory preseason sport meeting that all schools must hold with student-athletes and parents. In addition, the OHSSAA has produced and mailed new DVDs to all member schools that includes information on OHSSAA eligibility standards, sportsmanship, healthy lifestyles and more which can be shown at your preseason meetings. If additional copies are needed, please e-mail Chris Walker at the OHSSAA at cwalker@ohsaa.org. Please include the school name and the administrator’s name in the body of the email.

OHSSAA to Study Basketball Replay Proposal

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has approved states to allow officials to use a video replay system at the end of basketball games to determine if a last-second shot was released prior to time expiring or if a shot was a two-point attempt or a three-point attempt. Use of a replay system is dependent on the game being televised and the television company having the capability to provide replays to the scorer’s table. Each state must decide on its own if it will utilize the replay option and the OHSSAA is currently studying the possibility.

New Administrators Workshop Again a Success

The OHSSAA’s New Administrators Workshop was held Aug. 4 in Columbus and attended by 120 administrators from around the state. The one-day workshop is a key opportunity to make administrators aware of OHSSAA bylaws and sport regulations with emphasis on eligibility, scholarship, residency, transfers and out-of-season competition. In 2008, a record 178 administrators attended the workshop.

Board Meeting Highlights Posted to OHSSAA.org

Last spring the OHSSAA began posting at OHSSAA.org a list of highlights of action taken by the Board of Directors immediately following each Board meeting. The complete set of minutes from each Board meeting are posted to OHSSAA.org within a couple weeks, but the highlights give a quick look at significant action. The dates of upcoming Board meetings are Oct. 8, Dec. 10 and Jan. 14.

Earlier Start Date for Boys & Girls Golf Approved

As it did earlier this year for the 2009 golf season, the OHSSAA Board of Directors discussed and approved at its August meeting earlier dates that golf practice and competition may begin for the next several years. In 2010, golf practice may begin Aug. 2 and competition may begin Aug. 9. In 2011, golf practice may begin Aug. 1 and competition may begin Aug. 8. In 2012, golf practice may begin July 30 and competition may begin Aug. 6.
Remember me?

For more than 60 years, the OHSAA produced a monthly publication called The Athlete, which contained bylaw notes, meeting notes, rule changes, tournament brackets, championship recaps, tournament regulations and school tournament assignments. Many issues were more than 100 pages. The Athlete first appeared in September of 1941 and was last printed in April of 2005. The vast amount of information posted at ohsaa.org eventually led to the discontinuation of The Athlete.

Throughout the years, readers saw everything covered from rationing and dealing with limited supplies during World War II, gender equality and opportunities, the introduction of record books and even the introduction of the beloved Disney character Goofy, which was proclaimed on the cover of the September 1984 issue as the national mascot of high school sports.

It was sixth-inning trivia time and, as usual, a slightly-heightened level of excitement was noticeable in the voices of the television announcers. During each of these Major League Baseball telecasts, the announcers do their best to prove their superior baseball knowledge.

On this particular night, the question was a good one — "As the first decade of the 21st century comes to a close, name the pitcher with the most wins this decade."

Without yet even pondering possible answers, one of the announcers simply said, "Wow, is the decade almost over already?"

Save for younger educators and coaches around Ohio, many school folks around the Buckeye state might be thinking that same thing as the cooler days of fall approach and the year-at-a-glance calendars that hang in the hallways include “2010” in the near future.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association in Columbus is no different. While it seems like just yesterday the office was contemplating the possible impact of the Y2K computer problem and setting up its first web site, the OHSAA is now fully involved in the digital communication world and even testing online meeting possibilities.

Of course that's not all that has changed at the OHSAA during the last 10 years. Among the changes, the sport of bowling was adopted for girls and boys, new divisions were created in boys soccer, girls golf and boys swimming and the number of qualifiers to the football tournament was doubled from 96 to 192. The OHSAA Foundation has also expanded to include Foundation Games in multiple sports, which generate funds for local charities.

Not only have tournaments expanded, but the way in which the OHSAA conducts business has evolved.

"The OHSAA has joined its member schools in the electronic world," said assistant commissioner Jerry Snodgrass, a longtime coach and athletic administrator at Findlay High School and former OHSAA Board of Directors president. "Things have vastly changed during the last 10 years in nearly every area, and many of them for the better. The OHSAA looked for and found new opportunities for student-athletes – the addition of bowling, for example – and the growth of girls sports has made huge strides."

The OHSAA also saw a changing of the guard in 2004, when commissioner Clair Muscaro retired and Dr. Dan Ross assumed the leadership position. Muscaro would later be inducted into the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Hall of Fame in 2009, while Ross, a longtime teacher, official and superintendent, has led the OHSAA into additional new areas.

"Addressing the diversity issue has been a key point for the OHSAA," Dr. Ross said. "I believe we are continually working to be more representative of our constituency. That’s a journey we are on and our Diversity Committee helps us work through that."

As another school year begins and a new decade approaches, Dr. Ross and his staff have their eyes on the future. As always, the fundamental values of the OHSAA remain at the top of the priority list. That is due to the fact that, now more than ever, the increasing presence of non-interscholastic teams and leagues have begun to make kids debate whether they will play for their school team or a club or travel team.

"We need to continue helping people understand what high school athletics are all about," Dr. Ross said. "We need to stress the value of education-based athletics compared to the European model, where athletics are completely separate from the schools."

Snodgrass noted that in one way, the OHSAA is indirectly responsible for the proliferation of non-school teams.

"Through our successful tournament structure, we have built the model for what
The OHSAA Foundation was created in 1997. Its stated purpose was to provide resources for enhancing educational opportunities and services for Ohio’s student-athletes in interscholastic athletics. The initial funding was provided by the OHSAA and the Foundation was established as a 501(c)3 corporation. The Foundation is governed by a volunteer board.

New to the landscape of interscholastic sports – and a potential incursion during the next 10 years of the OHSAA – is the potential for legislative conflicts with the OHSAA’s constitution and bylaws. In its 103-year history, OHSAA policies and rules have been shaped by the member schools. If that power is taken away from the membership, the essence of how the OHSAA operates would be greatly affected.

“Our hope is that legislative action doesn’t affect the OHSAA’s ability to do the job the member schools trust us to do,” said assistant commissioner Roxanne Price. “More and more we are seeing the threat of legislative action when something doesn’t fit their situation. Legislative action could change the landscape of interscholastic athletics.” It is an area that not even Dr. Ross could have predicted that so much of his time would be devoted to.

“We need to make sure we stay ahead of the game so that the legislation doesn’t turn athletics into a political issue,” he said. “High school sports should remain an educational issue.”

With his eye on the big picture, Dr. Ross has entrusted his staff to administering the OHSAA’s 24 sports, numerous committees and day-to-day task of assisting the Association’s primary constituency – school administrators.

“The one thing that separates us from non-school teams is that we are all about educational athletics,” Snodgrass said. “That is our challenge and our opportunity – to provide what we stand for.”

The OHSAA Foundation

The OHSAA Foundation was created in 1997. Its stated purpose was to provide resources for enhancing educational opportunities and services for Ohio’s student-athletes in interscholastic athletics. The initial funding was provided by the OHSAA and the Foundation was established as a 501(c)3 corporation. The Foundation is governed by a volunteer board.

In the beginning, the Foundation sponsored a single leadership conference held in Columbus and later provided a college scholarship in each of the OHSAA’s six athletic districts. Today, the Foundation sponsors six leadership conferences, one in each athletic district, for over 1,200 captains and team leaders. These all-day sessions address leadership, teamwork, sportsmanship, role-modeling, and citizenship. In addition, the Foundation underwrites the cost to send a select group of student-athletes to the National Federation’s summer leadership conference held in Indianapolis.

The Foundation’s scholarship program continues to grow and currently includes twelve $2,000 scholarships.

We are all about educational athletics

The OHSAA is truly a membership-governed organization. Each member school has an equal voice in determining the bylaws and constitution of the OHSAA. Regardless of the size of a school or whether a school is public or non-public, each member school has one vote to approve or disapprove any proposed changes to the eight articles of the OHSAA constitution and the 12 bylaws. When a school becomes a member of the OHSAA, it agrees to follow the regulations as approved by the membership.
OHSAA

Board of Directors and Staff

The OHSAA Board of Directors plays a vital role in guiding the organization in its mission and direction. There are 11 Board members at one time: six representing the six athletic districts and each school classification (A, AA, AAA), a female representative, an ethnic minority representative, a 7th/8th grade representative and two non-voting members from the Department of Education and the OIAAA. Board membership is based on a rotating schedule ensuring all districts and classifications are represented. District Athletic Board members are automatically nominated for a position on the Board of Directors when a position becomes available that they are qualified to fill based on the schedule. The District Athletic Board then selects the individual who will serve on the Board of Directors. Members serve a two-year term on the Board of Directors.

Front row (L to R): Mike Rotonda (Board Class AAA rep., Central District), Jose Hernandez (Board Ethnic Minority Rep.), Matt Shomper (Board Ex-Officio, Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association rep.), Jeff Jordan (Board Ex-Officio, Ohio Department of Education rep.), Dave Gray (Board Class A rep., Southwest District), Steve Stirn (Board President, Class AAA rep., Southeast District), Rocco Nero (Board Vice President, Class A rep., Northeast District), Walt Skaggs (Board Class AA rep., East District), Teresa Alberts (Board Female Rep.), Steve Keller (Board Class AA rep., Northwest District), Steve Zimmerman (Board 7th/8th Grade rep.).

2nd row: Roxanne Price (assistant commissioner), Henry Zaborniak Jr (assistant commissioner), Jerry Snodgrass (assistant commissioner), Bob Goldring (associate commissioner), Dr. Dan Ross (commissioner), Dr. Deborah Moore (associate commissioner), Steve Neil (assistant commissioner), Tim Stried (director of information services).

3rd row: Todd Boehm (comptroller), Molly Downard (support staff), Kim Zaborniak (support staff), Brenda Murray (support staff), Connie Scherpf (support staff), Chris Walker (support staff), Kerri Hudson (support staff), Renee Moore (support staff), Andrea Rossi (assistant comptroller), Brandy Young (support staff).

Revenue: $11,778,382
Where the money comes from

- Other Support $2,427,951 (21%)
- Corporate Partners $1,124,100 (10%)
- Official Dues $984,788 (8%)
- Apparel Sales $185,981 (2%)
- All Other Support $133,082 (1%)

79% 21%

Expenses $11,510,450
Where the money goes

- General & Administrative Expenses $5,328,504 (46%)
- Insurance $1,036,097 (9%)
- Commissioners Salaries $728,971 (6%)
- Salaries & Wages $645,815 (6%)
- Rules Books/Officials Meetings $513,837 (4%)
- Payroll Taxes & Benefits $385,606 (3%)
- Consultant Fees $323,472 (3%)
- All Other Expenses $1,694,646 (15%)

46% 54%

Tournament Revenue $9,350,431 (79%)
- Football $4,112,594 (35%)
- Boys Basketball $2,403,439 (20%)
- Wrestling $672,442 (6%)
- Girls Basketball $548,537 (5%)
- Track and Field $429,058 (4%)
- Soccer $256,286 (2%)
- Volleyball $238,778 (2%)
- All Other Sports Combined $689,297 (6%)

Tournament Expenses $6,166,839 (54%)
- Football $2,462,770 (21%)
- Boys Basketball $878,768 (8%)
- Track and Field $547,608 (5%)
- Wrestling $504,366 (4%)
- Girls Basketball $463,035 (4%)
- Soccer $214,591 (2%)
- Volleyball $181,171 (2%)
- All Other Sports Combined $514,530 (7%)

Note: financial information comes from the OHSAA’s last officially audited financial report, which was completed in the summer of 2008 for the 2007-08 school year.
# OHSAA District Athletic Boards

Each District Athletic Board consists of nine members: six representing the three school classifications (A, AA, AAA) plus an ethnic minority, female and 7th/8th grade representative. An individual must be an administrator or teacher of a member school and be nominated by at least six high school principals. Voting is conducted in early May by principals of member high schools in the nominee’s classification to determine the selection to the Board. A full term on a District Athletic Board is six years.

## Central District
- **Phil Harris**
  - Principal, Plain City Jonathan Alder H.S.
  - (Class AA Rep.)
- **Troy McIntosh**
  - Assistant Superintendent, Worthington Christian Schools
  - (Class A Rep.)
- **Max Ness**
  - Athletic Administrator, The Wellington School
  - Columbus (Class A Rep.)
- **Mike Rotonda**
  - Director of Student Activities, Columbus City Schools
  - (Class AAA Rep.)
- **Jim Hayes**
  - Athletic Director, Ashville Teays Valley H.S.
  - (Class AA Rep.)
- **Jay Wolfe**
  - Athletic Director, Lewis Center Oelentangy H.S.
  - (Class AAA Rep.)
- **Keith Bell**
  - Director of Secondary Academic Affairs, Westerville City Schools
  - (Ethnic Minority Rep.)
- **Beth Hill**
  - Principal, Newark Catholic H.S.
  - (Female Rep.)
  - Secretary, Galen Kyre
  - Treasurer, Ralph Young

## East District
- **Phil Ackerman**
  - Supervisor, Ohio Valley Educational Service Center
  - Cambridge (Class A Rep.)
- **Tom Farbizo**
  - Athletic Administrator, New Philadelphia H.S.
  - (Class AAA Rep.)

## Northwest District
- **Ron Hurst**
  - Superintendent, Strasburg-Franklin H.S.
  - (Class A Rep.)
- **Kyle Kanuckel**
  - Superintendent, Warsaw River View Local Schools
  - (Class AAA Rep.)
- **Walt Skaggs**
  - Superintendent, St.
  - Clairsville-Richland City Schools
  - (Class AA Rep.)
- **Barry Gullen**
  - Director of Programs, Steubenville City Schools
  - (Ethnic Minority Rep.)
- **Teresa Alberts**
  - Principal, Sugar Creek
  - Garaway H.S.
  - (Female Rep.)
- **Ron Bond**
  - Principal, Dover M.S.
  - (7th-8th Grade Rep.)
- **Richard Hall**
  - Superintendent, East Guernsey Local District
  - (Class AA Rep.)
  - Secretary/Treasurer, Joe Prosek

## Southeast District
- **Sarah Burden**
  - Principal, Tipp H.S.
  - (Female Rep.)
- **Kevin Kafatas**
  - Principal, Genoa
  - M.S. (7th-8th Grade Rep.)
  - Secretary, Geoff Palmer
  - Treasurer, Bill Hanna

## Southwest District
- **Andy Bixler**
  - Superintendent, Anna
  - Local Schools (Class A Rep.)
- **Scott Kaufman**
  - Athletic Administrator, Cincinnati Princeton H.S.
  - (Class AAA Rep.)
- **Dave Gray**
  - Superintendent, Pittsburg
  - Franklin Monroe Local Schools
  - (Class AA Rep.)
- **Mark Hughes**
  - Athletic Administrator, Dayton Oakwood H.S.
  - (Class AA Rep.)
- **Gene Klaus**
  - Director of Human Resources, Northmont City Schools
  - (Class AAA Rep.)
- **John Kronour**
  - Superintendent, Tipp City
  - Exempted Village Schools
  - (Class AA Rep.)
- **James Ladd**
  - Athletic Administrator, Trotwood-Madison H.S.
  - (Ethnic Minority Rep.)
- **Katherine Davisson**
  - Principal, Pickua H.S.
  - (Female Rep.)
- **Steve Zimmerman**
  - Athletic Administrator, Cincinnati Naggel M.S.
  - Secretary, Dale Creamer
  - Treasurer, Bob Huelsman

## OHSAA Allied Organizations

- **Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association**
  - Dan Adams, Athletic Administrator, New Concord
  - (B: 614-430-8311)
- **Ohio School Boards Association**
  - (B: 1-800-589-6722 or 614-540-4000)
  - www.osba-ohio.org
- **Buckeye Association of School Administrators**
  - (B: 614-846-4080)
  - www.basa-ohio.org
- **Ohio Association of Secondary School Administrators**
  - (B: 614-430-8311)
  - www.oassa.org
- **Ohio Middle School Association**
  - (B: 614-457-3750)
  - www.ohmsa.org
- **Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators**
  - (B: 614-794-9190)
  - www.oeasa.org
- **National Federation of State High School Associations**
  - (B: 317-972-6900)
  - www.nfhs.org
Deborah Moore
Dr. Deborah Moore joined the OHSAA as an assistant commissioner in June of 1989 and was promoted to Associate Commissioner for Eligibility in August of 2008. A native of Newark, Ohio, she owns degrees from Kent State and Ohio State and spent 15 years as a teacher and professor before joining the OHSAA. Dr. Moore also serves as the OHSAA’s administrator for the sports of field hockey, volleyball, swimming & diving and gymnastics.

Roxanne Price
After 20 years in intercollegiate athletics, Roxanne Price came to the OHSAA in February of 2006 and was promoted to assistant commissioner in August of 2007. After graduating from Fremont Ross High School and Ohio State, she worked at Virginia, Akron, Ohio State and Columbus State in the areas of student support services and athletics administration. The author of two children’s books, Roxanne oversees the sports of tennis, bowling and softball in addition to the OHSAA’s sportsmanship program.

With 1,640 member high schools and 7th-8th grade schools, eligibility enforcement and responding to questions from school administrators is no small task.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association relies on the expertise of associate commissioner Dr. Deborah Moore and assistant commissioner Roxanne Price to handle all issues and questions in the area of eligibility. OHSAA Magazine asked them to describe some of the key issues, challenges and frequently asked questions they face.

OHSAA Magazine: What are a few of the issues that cross your desk most often?

Moore: Concerns about student eligibility continue to be prominent today just as they were over the years. We continue to have some of the same issues of competitive equity, recruiting and transfer eligibility as we have had in the past. Issues involving recruiting are not as prevalent due to the fact that the transfer bylaw has been strengthened, but there is continued student movement from school to school which does create eligibility issues for our schools.

Price: We live in such a mobile society, so student transfer questions and interpretations top the list. Understanding the transfer bylaws and exceptions is crucial, such as the difference between an intradistrict transfer and an interdistrict transfer. We also must often explain what is meant by residency or what it means to have a change in custody.

OHSAA Magazine: The job of determining eligibility is often not an easy one. What makes it difficult at times?

Moore: We are much more accessible with electronic communication than we were in the past. While we strive to serve our member schools, who are our primary constituents, we are also asked to respond to the media, parents and at times, other individuals. In addition, some of the issues involving students are complicated, which makes the task of determining eligibility a bit more difficult.

Price: There are many situations that are ‘unique,’ but if something doesn’t meet an established exception that follows a bylaw, we cannot grant eligibility. We are here to apply the rules as they are written and voted on by the member schools. We don’t have the authority to set aside a bylaw or make an exception where none exists.

The 17th Annual Scholar-Athlete Banquet was held June 19 in Columbus, where 54 student-athletes were recognized for their achievements in sports and academics.
For the AD, By the AD

When it comes to life as a high school athletic director, assistant commissioner Jerry Snodgrass walked the walk. He spent 31 years as a teacher, coach and athletic director, including the last 16 years as the athletic director at Findlay High School, a Division I school in northwest Ohio, so there is no better person to consult when it comes to finding out what issues face Ohio’s athletic directors. 

OHSAA Magazine caught up with Snodgrass prior to the kickoff of the 2009-10 school year.

OHSAA MAGAZINE:
What are a few of the biggest challenges facing athletic directors today?

SNODGRASS:
Certainly managing finances is at the top of the list. Controlling costs is so important especially since demands have gone up so much. A four-year rotation of team uniforms often is looked at as not being good enough any more because of the equipment kids get from their club and AAU teams. Generating dollars is a huge balancing act.

Another issue is bridging the gap with the non-teacher coach. Providing them the tools to help them with the challenge of education-based athletics is key. Now, more than ever, we need to brag about what we do right. I think we have made great strides in cooperation with our allied organizations, like the OIAAA, and our coaches associations.

And third, we have got to try to keep good athletic directors in the business. We are challenged to recognize those numbers and accept the challenge of staying beyond one, two or three years. It’s just better for kids.

OHSAA MAGAZINE:
What helped make you a successful athletic director?

SNODGRASS:
I had great support from my administration at Findlay. Athletic directors really do need support from many different places, including their coaches, their administrators and our allied organizations. It shouldn’t be an ‘us vs. them’ mentality between coaches and athletic directors.

The educating and the mentoring is out there and available for athletic directors. The OIAAA and coaches associations have mentoring programs to help with the understanding that first they have to have an understanding and a compassion for other athletic directors.

OHSAA MAGAZINE:
What can the OHSAA do to help athletic directors?

SNODGRASS:
We are obviously in a communications and information age and we (the OHSAA) need to stay in their world. For some of our school districts, the OHSAA is challenged to be on the same level technologically, so if we can do that it will help with our communications. The OHSAA is challenged to stay ahead of the game. In fact, we have some catching up to do. We really are not a big organization. In fact, we are probably understaffed considering the number of schools we are serving, but we are not afraid to continually try to do things better and are willing to accept that challenge.

Jerry Snodgrass

Jerry Snodgrass is the newest assistant commissioner to join the OHSAA, beginning work there in August 2008. For the previous 31 years he served as a high school teacher, coach and athletic director, including the last 25 years at Findlay High School. Snodgrass was elected president of the OHSAA Board of Directors for the 2006-07 school year and is a trustee for the OHSAA Foundation.

OHSAA bylaws are located in the annual handbook, which is mailed to all superintendents, principals, athletic administrators and guidance counselors. The bylaws are also posted on the OHSAA web site at www.ohsaa.org/general/about/Bylaws.pdf.
Why We Play The Games

Interscholastic athletics programs are inherently educational. They provide valuable lessons for practical situations — teamwork, sportsmanship, citizenship, winning and losing and hard work. Through participation, students learn self-discipline, personal sacrifice and leadership, build self-confidence, learn to respect others, develop strategic thinking and develop skills to handle competitive situations. These are qualities the public expects schools to produce in students so that they become responsible adults and productive citizens.

There is nothing wrong with striving to be the best. Interscholastic athletics programs must strive to develop all the kids who want to participate to be their best — their best as individuals, as students, as teammates, as members of the community — not just their best as athletes.

In interscholastic athletics, we win if we develop winners. However, we lose if all we care about is winning.

Passed by the OHSAA Board of Directors at its June 2008 meeting, the Coach Education requirement moves forward, with more individuals being trained to meet the increased demand of blended version offerings.

The number of National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) trained instructors is now up to 75 throughout Ohio with all six athletic districts having instructors located in their respective districts. During the summer months of June, July and August, a total of 928 individuals completed the blended version of the NFHS Fundamentals of Coaching course, adding to the 1,270 that have completed the blended version since the requirement was enacted. To date, 3,004 individuals have completed the online version of the course since the June 2008 Board of Directors’ action.

A complete list of instructors is available through the OHSAA’s web site by going directly to www.ohsaa.org/EducationAcademy/Coach/Blended.htm. Included on the OHSAA’s Coach Education web site is information necessary on hosting the blended version of the Fundamentals of Coaching class along with class listings, registration information, etc. A ‘demo’ of the course is also available at that site.

Though we do receive many emails and calls about the requirements, information was provided in two separate mailings to superintendents, principals and athletic administrators during the 2008-09 school year. As the 2009-10 school year progresses, you may want to note the requirement will primarily affect spring sport coaches. Coaches who receive or renew their Pupil Activity Supervisor Permit after January 1, 2010, must have their Coach Education requirement met to obtain that permit.

The Coach Education requirement is a ‘one-time’ requirement and is required (as is the permit) for both paid and volunteer coaches.

The NFHS has continued to develop additional coaching courses and recently offered a “Teaching and Modeling Behavior” course that offers schools help with professional development of coaches in need. This course has actually become the OSHAA-required course for coaches who are ejected from a contest.

The course offerings through the NFHS have provided a great professional development for our schools to utilize with their coaches. As more and more states are requiring the Fundamentals of Coaching course, Ohio has become one of the leaders in providing qualified, professionally licensed coaches to the 350,000 plus student-athletes we serve.
Officiating 101.

With more than 16,000 registered officials in Ohio, the recruitment, training, retention and certification of officials takes a significant amount of work on the part of the Ohio High School Athletic Association. Leading that effort is OHSAA assistant commissioner Henry Zaborniak. Zaborniak, who is also a Big Ten Conference football official, oversees the OHSAA’s officiating department of administrative assistants who have probably spoken with nearly every one of those 16,000 officials at some time or another.

OHSAA MAGAZINE: How has the number of officials in Ohio changed and what affects that change?

ZABORNIAK: The number, which is now around 16,000, has been pretty constant the last few years. There are certain sports and certain areas of the state where there may be more or less available officials. When I started here, there were 11,000 officials, so our numbers have really grown. There were 3,600 basketball officials — today we have 5,600. There were 2,200 football officials — today we have 3,200.

OHSAA MAGAZINE: Why do you think the number of officials has increased so dramatically?

ZABORNIAK: The average age of our officials is about 48 or 49. When I got started in officiating, it was much younger. So our population has aged and younger officials are now being added to the mix. There are three main reasons why the number of officials has gone up: A., we have done a better job recruiting officials and providing opportunities, and the local officials organizations have been a big part of that; B., we have better training now, so officials are more successful and more apt to stick around; and C., we have so many more sports and teams now that need officials to work their games. Girls sports, for example, were added in the 1970s, which has caused a prolific increase in the number of opportunities, and not just at the varsity level. There are so many youth teams and leagues out there, most of which require their officials to have some kind of OHSAA certification.

OHSAA MAGAZINE: How has the process changed for becoming an official?

ZABORNIAK: In 1989 and earlier, the process for becoming an official was that you would send in your check for $15 or $20, the OHSAA sent you a couple rule books and then you would take an open book test somewhere. Everything was ‘OJT’ — on the job training — from that point on. Now, we require all our officials to take an OHSAA training class, which is about 25 hours of class time that teaches proficiency in rules and mechanics. Because officials have a better foundation, our retention rate for officials is much better now than it used to be.

OHSAA MAGAZINE: What are a couple things that could help officials?

ZABORNIAK: It would just be great if a school administrator — a principal or an athletic director, for example — would stop by the officials locker room at some point before or after a game and just say thanks for being there. The official probably drove 60 miles to get there and will get paid about $50 and have to put up with fans the whole game, so it would be nice if a school administrator took a minute to either give them a bottle of water and a hot dog or just say thanks for being there.

We are also using technology more, which can help officials. The Internet and video training are useful tools and we are experimenting with online rules meetings. That area will only continue to grow.

Henry Zaborniak joined the OHSAA in 1989 and was promoted to assistant commissioner in 1995. He oversees the entire officiating program and also serves as the administrator for two of the OHSAA’s largest sports – football and wrestling. Zaborniak began officiating in 1972 and has been a Division I-A intercollegiate football official since 1990. Often requested to be a presenter and clinician around the country, Zaborniak is a member of the NFHS Football Rules Committee and is a member of the Big Ten Conference football officials staff.
**Steve Neil**

Steve Neil joined the OHSAA as assistant commissioner in August of 2005. He earned a pair of degrees from Miami University, where he also played baseball and worked in the athletic department for eight years. Steve works with the OHSAA’s corporate partners and serves as the administrator for cross country, hockey and track & field.

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**The Show That Covers the Show**

Among the most prominent of the Ohio High School Athletic Association’s corporate partners is OhioHSsports.com, which is the official online home of the OHSAA. Log on, and a virtually unlimited amount of resources for schools, teams and student-athletes around the state exists that is available for all areas of the state. In addition, as the official online home of the OHSAA, many state tournaments are streamed live at OhioHSsports.com. Mike Conley, who handles the day-to-day content of the site and also broadcasts many of the state championship games, sat down with *OHSAA Magazine* to talk about what they do to help promote and cover high school sports in Ohio.

**OHSA Magazine:** What coverage will fans see at OhioHSsports.com for the OHSAA’s fall sports and tournaments?

**Mike Conley:** OhioHSsports.com will stream live a total of 30 regular season football games this fall. We’ll have live coverage four nights a week starting on Wednesday with Talkin’ Football with Todd Bell. We’ve teamed up with Fox Sports Ohio to video stream their game of the week on Thursday nights in Northeast Ohio. Todd Bell and his crew will cover a game every Friday from the Central and Southern portion of the state. We’ll round out each weekend with our Saturday game of the week from the Northern (NW/NE) portion of the state. Both Dan Labbe and I will call those games throughout the season.

As far as our football tournament coverage is concerned, we plan on covering at least three games per weekend, with two of the three being video streamed, leading up to the championships in December. We will video stream all six state title games on December 4-5.

The entire boys and girls soccer state tournament will be video streamed and we are currently awaiting word on whether or not we will cover the state volleyball again this fall.

Continued on pg. 19
Official Supporter of Rose Parade Bands

Farmers Insurance Group is proud to be the Official Supporter of the Rose Parade Bands for the 2010 Rose Parade. OHSAA member Pickerington Central High School and the Ohio State School for the Blind are among the bands selected to participate in the parade.

“Farmers has made a year-long commitment to the Rose Parade Bands,” noted Robert Woudstra, Farmers Chief Executive Officer. “Speaking for our agents, district managers and employees, we are all excited about the opportunity to help these young musicians and their directors experience the thrill of marching in the premiere parade of them all, the Tournament of Roses®.”

“This year’s Tournament of Roses theme is ‘2010: A Cut Above the Rest’ and by stepping up to support these high school bands, Farmers is proving it really is a cut above the rest,” said Gary DiSano, 2010 president of the Tournament of Roses. “As much as this is an honor for these bands, it can also be a financial burden to pay for the expenses. Farmers’ commitment will kick-start the fund-raising efforts for many of these bands.”

Farmers Insurance is the Official Sponsor of the Tournament of Roses Parade bands. This is the 51st year Farmers has been involved with the Rose Parade. In 2009, the Farmers float proudly won the Craftsman trophy for Outstanding Showmanship.

OHSAAMAGAZINE: What were some of the highlights of the 2008-09 school year at OhioHSsports.com?

MIKE CONLEY: One of the most memorable moments of the season happened during our coverage of the state baseball tournament. We had a group of guys tune in from their Winnebago traveling through Montana to watch their beloved Braves from Indian Valley claim their first ever state title. Here I was in a booth at Huntington Park in Columbus calling a game and interacting with fans from all over the world. Technology has really come a long way over the past few years and I’m proud to say we are at the forefront of the revolution.

OHSAAMAGAZINE: What sets OhioHSsports.com apart from other web sites that cover Ohio high school sports?

MIKE CONLEY: I would have to say the interactivity. Our live coverage always includes an interactive chat room that allows viewers/listeners a chance to ask questions in real-time to our broadcast team live at the event. This really makes the user feel like they are part of the broadcast. They often add some inside knowledge of the schools and athletes that you wouldn’t gather when talking to the coaches before the game.

OHSAAMAGAZINE: What are the capabilities for team and player pages at OhioHSsports.com?

MIKE CONLEY: Schools have the ability to manage sports on a team-by-team basis. Think of it as a flowchart of sorts starting with the school page flowing all the way down to the team and then the player level. Each team has their own schedule/results, roster, statistic, photos and video page that can all be fed into the main school page.

OhioHSsports.com allows each athlete the opportunity to create their own player page that will then follow them from sport to sport throughout their high school career. All news, video, photos and statistics about that player will be housed on that page from the time they play in their first varsity game until they graduate. It acts as an athlete’s high school resume. Imagine being able to send a college who is recruiting you a single link that houses every aspect of your high school career.
The Five W’s
of Interscholastic
Athletics

Who?
We’re educational athletics, not big-time event promoters.

What?
We’re the builders of tomorrow’s community leaders, not farm clubs for college and professional teams.

When?
We’re an after-school activity, not a year-round endeavor. These are programs that should allow kids to be kids.

Where?
Our games should be played locally. There’s plenty of healthy competition where kids can learn and grow through athletics in most of our backyards. We don’t need national schedules to accomplish our purposes.

Why?
Because it’s the right way to do it. Schools offer these programs because they enhance the educational experience of the young people who participate.

What: Boys Golf
When: October 16-17 (Div. II & Div. III) and October 23-24 (Div. I)
Where: Ohio State University Scarlet Golf Course, Columbus (Div. I & Div. III) and North Star Resort, Sunbury (Div. II)

About the Championships: The 2009 boys golf championships will be the 84th annual, making it the third-longest running OHSAA tournament. The Ohio State University Scarlet and Gray courses have hosted the event since 1938 with the exception of 2005 when the tournament was moved to Foxfire Golf Club in Lockbourne due to course renovation. North Star Resort in Sunbury will be used for the first time this year as host of the Div. II tournament. Cincinnati St. Xavier (Div. I), Hunting Valley University School (Div. II) and Sugarcreek Garaway (Div. III) were crowned state champions a year ago. Div. II and III sectional golf play will begin the week of September 28, with Div. I beginning the following week.

What: Girls Golf
When: October 16-17 (Div. II) and October 23-24 (Div. I)
Where: Ohio State University Gray Golf Course, Columbus

About the Championships: Since the beginning of the girls golf state tournament in 1993, the championships have been played on the Ohio State University Gray Course with the exception of 2005, when the tournament was moved to Foxfire Golf Club in Lockbourne. This marks the second year there has been a Division II tournament as participation in girls golf continues to increase. Last year, Mason (Div. I) and Poland Seminary (Div. II) were both first-time state team champions. Sectional play for Div. II will begin the week of September 28 with Div. I teeing off a week later.

What: Girls Tennis
When: October 23-24
Where: First and second rounds to be played at Stickney Tennis Center, Ohio State University, Columbus. Semifinals and finals to be played at a site to be determined.

About the Championships: The girls state tennis championships have been held at Ohio State University since the first year of the tournament in 1976. The first day will again be held at the Stickney Tennis Center on the campus of Ohio State while the second day will be played at a site to be determined due to a home OSU football game. Last year, Kara Sherwood of Mentor and Lauren Davis of Gates Mills Gilmour Academy won singles titles while West Chester Lakota West and Gahanna Columbus Academy were crowned doubles champions. Sectional tournaments will begin October 5, leading up to the 34th Annual Girls State Tennis Tournament.
What: Field Hockey  
When: November 6-7  
Where: Upper Arlington High School, Columbus

About the Championships: The 31st Annual Field Hockey State Tournament will be held at Upper Arlington High School, which has hosted the tournament since 2004. Semifinals will be played on Friday with the finals on Saturday at 1 p.m. In 2008, Shaker Heights Hathaway Brown won its second state title, beating Gahanna Columbus Academy 3-1 in the state title game. State qualifying tournaments will begin October 19, with the finals of those qualifiers being held at Dublin Scioto High School, Kent State University and Kettering Fairmont High School.

What: Boys and Girls Soccer  
When: November 13-14  
Where: Crew Stadium, Columbus

About the Championships: The boys soccer finals will be held on Friday, Nov. 13 while the girls title games are to be played on Saturday, Nov. 14 at Columbus Crew Stadium, one of the premier soccer facilities in the nation. State semifinal games will be played on Tuesday and Wednesday of that week at sites to be determined. Cleveland St. Ignatius (Div. I), Dayton Carroll (Div. II) and Toledo Ottawa Hills (Div. III) were crowned boys state champions a year ago, while Cincinnati St. Ursula Academy (Div. I) and Middletown Bishop Fenwick (Div. II) took home girls titles. Sectional play will begin Oct. 19.

What: Boys and Girls Cross Country  
When: November 7  
Where: Scioto Downs Race Track, Columbus

About the Championships: The 81st annual boys championships and 32nd annual girls championships will mark the 25th year in a row the state will be held at Scioto Downs Race Track south of Columbus. The girls races will begin at 11:05 a.m. starting with Div. III followed by Div. II and Div. I. The boys will begin at 1:20 p.m. with Div. III to be followed by Div. II and Div. I. A year ago, boys team champions included first-time winners Mason (Div. I) and Bellaire St. John Central (Div. III), while Peninsula Woodridge (Div. II) won its third title in a row. Girls team champions in 2008 were Rocky River Magnificat (Div. I), Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy (Div. II) and Minster (Div. III), who won its record-tying seventh state championship in girls cross country. District cross country meets will be October 24.

What: Girls Volleyball  
When: November 12-14  
Where: Ervin J. Nutter Center, Wright State University, Fairborn

About the Championships: This year marks the 19th consecutive year that the state volleyball tournament will be held at the Nutter Center. In 2008, the format was changed to resemble the basketball finals in that the semifinals are played Thursday and Friday and the four championship matches are played Saturday. This year, the championships divisional rotation is I, IV, III and then II. State champions crowned last year include Olmsted Falls in Div. I, Parma Padua Franciscan in Div. II, Albany Alexander in Div. III and Maria Stein Marion Local in Div. IV. Sectional tournaments begin Oct. 19 leading up to the 35th Annual State Volleyball Tournament.

What: Football  
When: December 4-5  
Where: Canton Fawcett Stadium (Div. I, IV, V) and Massillon Paul Brown Tiger Stadium (Div. II, III, VI)

About the Championships: The 2009 football state championships will once again be held at historic Fawcett Stadium and Paul Brown Tiger Stadium, which have rotated the title games since 1998. Divisions III, V and II will play on Friday while divisions IV, VI and I will be played on Saturday. State champions crowned last year include Cleveland St. Ignatius in Div. I, Sylvania Southview in Div. II, Aurora in Div. III, Kettering Archbishop Alter in Div. IV, Youngstown Ursuline in Div. V and Delphos St. John’s in Div. VI. Each division will qualify 32 teams for the five-week playoff, which will begin with regional quarterfinals on November 6 and 7.
Sweet Success

St. Paris Graham High School senior David Taylor wrapped up his fourth individual state wrestling title last March. He won state championships at 103 pounds as a freshman and sophomore, 112 pounds as a junior and 135 pounds as a senior. Lakewood St. Edward senior Collin Palmer also won his fourth state title in 2009, making him and Taylor the 17th and 18th four-time state wrestling champions in OHSAA history.