Change of Season
Calendars and notes to help prepare you for spring sports tournaments, the summer period and the beginning of fall sports

Miracle on the Mat
Perrysburg’s Nick Hyndman did not let cerebral palsy stop him from wrestling and becoming a leader

Preseason Priority
Information and resources to assist with required preseason meetings – and why they are important

Setting the Scene
Ohio’s spring state tournament venues are as good as they get – and the competition is even better

Massillon Washington senior long jump state champion Devin Smith
The Game Plan

Fuel up with nutrient-rich foods, like 1% chocolate milk, fruit and yogurt parfaits, salads and whole grain breads. Play for 60 minutes every day.

FUEL UP WITH CHOCOLATE MILK

Carbohydrates to Provide Energy and Help Refuel Muscles

Protein to Support Growth and Repair of Muscles

Vitamins and Minerals to Help Build Strong Bones and Bodies.

Eat Healthy. Get Active. Make a Difference.

www.FuelUpToPlay60.com
Huntington Park in Columbus has hosted the OHSAA baseball state tournament since opening in 2009. During that year, it was recognized as the Best New Ballpark by BallparkDigest.com and Ballpark of the Year by BaseballParks.com. The 2011 baseball state championships return to Huntington Park June 2-4.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association does not seek to prepare student-athletes for the next level of competition, but for the next level of life.

350,000
Student-Athletes

1,640
Member Schools

24 sports
1 Mission
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.

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.
I had to chuckle the other day when I read an email from someone suggesting that the OHSAA is a stagnant organization with outdated rules and regulations. In reality, it is quite the opposite, and the proof of that can be found within the votes cast every spring by each of our member schools.

I’m talking about the annual referendum voting process, which occurs each May and is the culmination of a year-long process of edits, tweaks and improvements to our bylaws and constitution. As one of our Board of Directors members recently said, it is quite possibly the most important two weeks of the school year.

Each member school casts its ballot, which reflects the school’s line item vote on a list of proposed changes. It is proof that the OHSAA is truly an organization whose regulations are determined by its membership.

This spring alone, there were 12 bylaw issues and three constitution issues on which schools voted. In the last three years combined, there have been more than 40 issues. Some of those items are relatively minor, while others, like the competitive balance proposal that takes a step to address the debate between public and non-public schools, could change the landscape of interscholastic athletics in Ohio.

I had just entered high school in 1964 when I remember Bob Dylan releasing “The Times, They Are A-Changin.” That certainly remains true today.

And the change certainly isn’t slowing down. In the coming months, the OHSAA will look at proposing changes to the rules governing the summer instructional period (June 1 through July 31), along with the type and amount of off-season contact permitted by our member school coaches.

I consider it a privilege to be a part of that change. It is rewarding when our school people not only express appreciation for being a part of the process themselves, but also when they thank us for enforcing the bylaws and sports regulations. It is not always an easy job, but we do so with the intent of doing what is best for kids.

Respectfully,

Daniel B. Ross
Commissioner
Ohio High School Athletic Association

Prior to becoming the commissioner of the OHSAA in August 2004, Dr. Dan Ross served as a school superintendent for 23 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.

OHSAA STAFF
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Daniel B. Ross
Commissioner
Bob Goldring
Associate Commissioner for Operations
Deborah B. Moore
Associate Commissioner for Eligibility
Steve Neil
Assistant Commissioner
Roxanne Price
Assistant Commissioner
Jerry Snodgrass
Assistant Commissioner
Henry Zaborniak Jr.
Assistant Commissioner
Tim Stried
Director of Information Services

OHSAA SUPPORT STAFF

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Comptroller
Molly Downard
Executive Administrative Assistant
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Administrative Assistant
Angie Lawler
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Assistant Comptroller
Connie Scherpf
Administrative Assistant
Sharon Shoemaker
Administrative Assistant
Chris Walker
Production Supervisor
Brandy Young
Receptionist
Kim Zaborniak
Administrative Assistant
# OHSAA Ready Reference Sports Dates (Subject to Change)

## SPRING 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sports</th>
<th>1st Practice</th>
<th>Scrimmages</th>
<th>1st Contest</th>
<th>State Tournament/Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Mar. 7</td>
<td>4 scrimmages or 3 scrimmages/1 preview after practice begins</td>
<td>Mar. 28</td>
<td>June 2-State Semis/Akron Firestone Stad. (Div. III &amp; II) June 3-State Semis/Akron Firestone Stad. (Div. I &amp; IV) June 4-State Finals/Akron Firestone Stad. (all 4 divs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis (Boys)</td>
<td>Mar. 7</td>
<td>1 scrimmage prior to first match</td>
<td>Mar. 28</td>
<td>May 27/Hilliard Davidson H.S. (1st &amp; 2nd rnds.) May 28/Hilliard Davidson H.S. (Semis &amp; Finals)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>Mar. 7</td>
<td>None permitted</td>
<td>Mar. 26</td>
<td>June 3-4/Ohio State Jesse Owens (Div. III, II, I)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## FALL 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sports</th>
<th>1st Practice</th>
<th>Scrimmages</th>
<th>1st Contest</th>
<th>State Tournament/Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>None permitted</td>
<td>Aug. 22</td>
<td>Nov. 5-TBA (Girls III/II/III; Boys III/II/III)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Hockey</td>
<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>4 scrimmages or 3 scrimmages/1 preview after practice begins</td>
<td>Aug. 27</td>
<td>Nov. 4 - State Semis/Upper Arlington H.S., Nov. 5 - State Finals/Upper Arlington H.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>4 scrimmages or 3 scrimmages/1 preview after practice begins</td>
<td>Aug. 20</td>
<td>Nov. 8-9-State Semis (B-III; G-VIII)/Sites TBA Nov. 11-State Finals/Columbus Crew Stadium, (Boys Div. III, II, I) Nov. 12-State Finals/Columbus Crew Stadium, (Girls Div. III, II, I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis (Girls)</td>
<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>1 scrimmage prior to first match</td>
<td>Aug. 15</td>
<td>Oct. 21/Site TBA (1st and 2nd rds.) Oct. 22/Site TBA (Semis &amp; Finals)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>Aug. 1</td>
<td>4 scrimmages or 3 scrimmages/1 preview after practice begins</td>
<td>Aug. 27</td>
<td>Nov. 10-State Semis/Wright St. Nutter Ctr. (Div. III &amp; II) Nov. 11-State Semis/Wright St. Nutter Ctr. (Div. I &amp; IV) Nov. 12-State Finals/Wright St. Nutter Ctr. (all 4 divs.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## WINTER 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sports</th>
<th>1st Practice</th>
<th>Scrimmages</th>
<th>1st Contest</th>
<th>State Tournament/Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>5 scrimmages plus 1 preview after practice begins (OHSAA Foundation Game may replace 1 scrimmage)</td>
<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>Mar. 22-State Semis/Ohio State Value City Arena - (Div. IV &amp; III) Mar. 23-State Semis/Ohio State Value City Arena - (Div. II &amp; I) Mar. 24-State Finals/OSU Value City Arena (all 4 divs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>Oct. 28</td>
<td>5 scrimmages plus 1 preview after practice begins (OHSAA Foundation Game may replace 1 scrimmage)</td>
<td>Nov. 25</td>
<td>Mar. 15-State Semis/Ohio State Value City Arena - (Div. IV &amp; III) Mar. 16-State Semis/Ohio State Value City Arena - (Div. II &amp; I) Mar. 17-State Finals/Ohio State Value City Arena - (all 4 Divs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling</td>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>2 scrimmages after practice begins</td>
<td>Nov. 18</td>
<td>Mar. 2-Boys/Wayne Webb’s Bowling, Columbus Mar. 3-Girls/Wayne Webb’s Bowling, Columbus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>None Permitted</td>
<td>Dec. 5</td>
<td>Mar. 2-Team/Hilliard Bradley HS Mar. 3-Individual &amp; AA/Hilliard Bradley HS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Hockey</td>
<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>4 scrimmages or 3 scrimmages/1 preview after practice begins</td>
<td>Nov. 25</td>
<td>Mar. 10-State Semis/Nationwide Arena, Columbus Mar. 11-State Final/Nationwide Arena, Columbus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming/</td>
<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>None Permitted</td>
<td>Nov. 28</td>
<td>Feb. 22-25-C.T. Branin Natatorium, Canton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wrestling</td>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
<td>4 scrimmages or 3 scrimmages/1 preview after season begins</td>
<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>Mar. 1-3/Ohio State Value City Arena</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** Baseball and softball pitchers & catchers may begin practice on Feb. 21.
THANK YOU FOR PUTTING SCHOOL SPORTS FIRST

When you get right down to it, you and I are not that much different. Even if I have never met you, I know that much is true.

If you are taking time to read OHSAA Magazine, I know that we share several things in common already. School sports are important to you. You want to do what is best – and what is right – for young people. You know that the lessons learned from school sports are far more important than the wins and losses.

And I want to thank you for that, because I fear that too few people these days share our philosophy. Sportsmanship, ethics and the life lessons taught by school sports are the messages that we all need to carry forward every day. Without question, kids will learn from the examples we set.

No matter what part of the state you call home, that much is true. I am reminded of that fact every time I leave my home in Darke County in southwest Ohio to head to an OHSAA meeting or tournament game. We are all different, but we can all share the stage as leaders and role models in interscholastic athletics.

Long before any of us were involved with school sports, the philosopher Plato had it right when he said, “you can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation.”

As spring turns to summer and I conclude my time as president of the OHSAA Board of Directors, there are so many people to thank for the roles they played in creating another successful school year. It has truly been an honor to serve as president and play a part in creating the framework for how school sports can best serve its purpose.

As summer arrives, it signals the end of another school year and another sports season, but our eyes are always focused on what lies ahead next year. Let’s all work together to ensure that kids get as much as possible out of their seasons in every facet of the game. Kids are kids only once, but the foundation we help them build as kids can last a lifetime.

The happiest people don’t necessarily have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything.

Sincerely,

Dave Gray, President
OHSAA Board of Directors
Runner’s High

Championships aren’t the only thing to be celebrated at OHSAA State Tournaments. In 2010, Lebanon junior runner Jade Kinney enjoys a moment after qualifying for the girls Division I 400 meter final. During the course of the two-day event, 1,900 athletes competed in three divisions for boys and girls, with over 25,000 spectators in attendance to root for their school. The boys and girls track & field championships return to Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium at The Ohio State University June 3-4.
THREE-Peat
WORTH WATCHING

Hebron Lakewood won its third straight softball state championship last year in front of a capacity crowd in Akron’s Firestone Stadium. In a well-pitched game by both teams, the Lancers hit an early home run by then-freshman Kelsi Thompson to defeat Poland Seminary 1-0 to claim the title. Lakewood became only the fourth school to win three consecutive softball titles. The 2011 softball championships return to Akron June 2-4.
**A Football Party for a Great Cause**

Football Jamborees provide schools and communities a chance to get an early start on football festivities.

The OHSAA Catastrophic Insurance Fund insures member school student-athletes every year in the case that a catastrophic injury occurs. The annual insurance premium covered by the OHSAA is approximately $700,000, with no charge of any kind to its member schools.

The Football Jamboree helps the OHSAA offset a portion of that cost, while promoting the school and community. Each school that participates in a Football Jamboree may charge admission and must contribute $250 that goes directly into the catastrophic insurance fund.

“The Jamboree festivities and contest are a great way for schools to raise money for their athletic departments while contributing a small portion of money raised to aid the statewide catastrophic insurance fund,” said Henry Zaborniak, OHSAA Assistant Commissioner in charge of football.

The Football Jamboree is sanctioned by the OHSAA as an opportunity for schools to host a third preseason football contest filled with fun, friends, food and football, with communities supporting their teams, all while helping support educational athletics across the state of Ohio. In 2010, schools participating in a Football Jamboree contributed around $70,750 to the OHSAA catastrophic insurance fund for all member schools.

**OHSAA to Begin Enforcement in Two Key Areas**

The OHSAA is studying enforcement in two specific areas that are required of member schools, but that have not been routinely monitored by the OHSAA in the past. The first is in the area of mandatory preseason meetings, while the second is in the area of the Pupil Activity Permit, which is required by the Ohio Department of Education for all coaches – both paid and volunteer. Stay tuned to OHSAA.org and OHSAA Magazine for updates and possible penalties for non-compliance.

**Start Date Reminder for Fall Sports**

Member schools are reminded that practice may begin for all 2011 fall sports on Monday, August 1. In the past, there were varying start dates for fall sports. Member schools sponsoring football are also reminded of the five-day aclimatization period regarding contact and equipment.

**Pair of Rulings Highlight April Board Meeting**

A pair of rulings highlighted the OHSAA Board of Directors’ April meeting. First, the Board unanimously denied a proposal from the football coaches association to allow a two-week period of skill instruction in May, citing concerns over the impact it would have on other spring sports, as well as the requests that would come from other sports. However, Commissioner Dan Ross and Board President Dave Gray indicated that the OHSAA will examine the possibility of expanding the 10 days of coaching that are currently permitted during the summer period (June 1 to July 31) in all team sports.

Second, the Board approved a proposal from the soccer coaches association to expand the girls’ soccer tournament to three divisions beginning this coming fall.

A reminder that immediately following every Board of Directors meeting, a list of highlights is posted at OHSAA.org. The complete list of meeting minutes is then posted at OHSAA.org within a couple weeks of the meeting.

**NFHS Coach Education/ Certification Update**

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) announced in March that more than 130,000 online concussion courses have been taken by coaches, officials, parents and others throughout the United States. In addition, the NFHS has developed a “tool kit” to assist schools in requiring or encouraging parents to complete “The Role of the Parent in Sport” free online course developed in conjunction with the Institute for the Study of Youth Sport at Michigan State University. Instructions for accessing the “tool kit” were distributed to 1,600 athletic administrators at the National Athletic Directors Conference in Orlando. Those instructions will be distributed through all of the NFHS distribution channels this month. The “tool kit” includes:

- an outline of the course to distribute to parents,
- ideas to promote the course to parents,
- directions for parents to register and access the course,
- 10-question parent/athlete assessment quiz, and
- 30-second video that can be shown at preseason parent meetings to direct parents to the course.

**NFHS Coaching Today Unveiled**


This replaces the NFHS Coaches’ Quarterly, which is no longer being printed. Material on the site will be changed regularly, with new features and department articles being posted each month. The NFHS Coaching Today Publications Committee is responsible for approving all editorial material.

**Coaching Sports in Middle School Course Announced**

The NFHS is pleased to announce the launch of the online course “Coaching Sports in Middle School.” Developed in conjunction with the National Middle School Association (NMSA) and with the input and assistance from the Illinois Elementary School Association, the goal of the course is to provide middle school coaches and administrators coach education that recognizes that middle school sports should be developmentally appropriate. The course will cost $20 and be available on www.nfhslearn.com.

Gahanna Columbus Academy’s senior Eoghan Bahnson and then-sophomore Langston Hughes teamed up to make it to the 2011 Division II doubles state championship match. Bahnson and Hughes would finish as runners-up in the finals to fellow Vikings’ teammates Andrew Enslen and Chad Buchanan. The 2011 boys state tennis tournaments will be played at Hilliard Davidson High School May 27-28.
Certified Athletic Trainers Are a Key Member of Every Athletic Department

The national participation statistics for high school athletics continue to rise with more than 7.6 million student-athletes participating in the 2009-2010 school year, according to the National Federation of State High School Associations. Approximately two million injuries are suffered annually by high school athletes. The inevitable question posed by parents, athletes, coaches and administrators should be, “Who is taking care of my child in the event that he/she is injured?”

The ideal answer is, “A licensed athletic trainer.” The American Medical Association recognized and addressed this need in 1998 with the proclamation that “emphasis should be given to ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of participants in high school athletics… (and that) appropriate measures to ensure funding to provide the services of a certified athletic trainer…” to accommodate that need. However, a recent four-month national review by Scripps Howard News Service, found that only about one in three high schools employ the services of a full-time certified athletic trainer. That means that the approximately 6,400 athletic trainers working in secondary schools cannot provide for the nearly 18,400 private and public schools that sponsor interscholastic sports.

This creates a void in quality healthcare for a higher percentage of the sports participants. Some schools fill this void with part-time athletic trainers, certified first responders, coaches trained in first aid, nurses, EMTs and team physicians, most of which are utilized for game-coverage only. This practice contradicts the statistics that show athletes are two or three times more likely to sustain an injury during practice and conditioning than in competition.

Although multiple professionals are accessible to the high number of participating high school athletes, the licensed athletic trainer provides the best option for continuity of care within the school system. The athletic trainer can also address the need to establish, and to follow, an emergency action plan that spells out who is responsible for the different components of various injury scenarios so that otherwise minor injuries are not clogging emergency rooms and physician offices. This distinction solidifies the need for continued efforts to employ full-time athletic trainers in all of the secondary schools in Ohio.

The offensive line of Huber Heights Wayne and the defensive line of Lakewood St. Edward do battle in the 2010 Division I state championship game at Canton Fawcett Stadium. St. Edward came back from a 14-point second-half deficit to claim the Eagles’ first state title in a 35-28 victory.

NFHS Position Statement on Supplements

In September 2009, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) published a position statement on supplements from its Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC), which strongly opposes the use of dietary supplements for the purpose of athletic advantage.

The committee identified three common MYTHS regarding dietary supplements:

- If a substance is natural, it must be safe and beneficial.
- Athletes who consume a well-balanced diet still have nutritional deficiencies.
- Since dietary supplements may be purchased at a store or over the internet, they must be safe and legal.

Because of a lack of scientific research addressing the benefits and possible long-term health effects of supplements, particularly in the adolescent age group, the NFHS SMAC discourages the use of dietary supplements. Many of the substances that can be obtained from nutrition stores and the internet, they must be safe and legal.

School personnel and coaches should not recommend, endorse or encourage the use of any dietary supplement, drug or medication for performance enhancement. Student-athletes should be encouraged to pursue their goals through hard work and good nutrition, not dietary shortcuts.
Miracle on the Mat
Nick Hyndman was only 5 months old when his mother, Amy, opened a letter from an insurance company informing her that the company would not cover her son’s therapy.

Nick, the letter said, was “nonrestorable.”

Now there’s an interesting term. Nonrestorable. How shameful. Imagine it being used to describe one of your kids. A human life, non restorable, like a shattered antique vase.

Less than a week after Amy and husband, Greg, welcomed their beautiful, healthy baby boy, he experienced a medical emergency that left him with brain damage. Four months later, he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and doctors suggested he might never sit up, might never walk, and would likely suffer cognitive delays, which is a polite term for mental retardation.

Nonrestorable.

Well, the insurance executive who wrote and signed that letter should be sentenced to 10 minutes on a Perrysburg High School wrestling mat with Nick, now 16 years old. He should walk the track with him. Listen to some of the music he’s written. Read his compositions and poems. Go with him to class; regular, mainstream classes, by the way, the only kind he’s ever attended. Go ziplining with him, from tree to tree, down in the Hocking Hills. Help him make his college plans.

Nonrestorable. There are an awful lot of words in Nick’s vocabulary. That isn’t one of them.

Nick Hyndman can’t walk on water. At least he hasn’t yet. But he’s walking. Who knows what’s next?

Nick has serious issues. Technically, he is a quadriplegic since the disorder affects all four limbs. He has suffered progressive hearing loss. His speech is articulate beyond his years, but sometimes difficult to understand. Growth spurts can create orthopedic setbacks because his muscles have no memory. He is often, if not always, in pain because of nerve damage in some extremities.

An expert on his disorder once told Amy that Nick always feels the way a healthy person might feel after running a marathon because of the stress any type of physical activity places on his muscles.

On Thanksgiving Day, 2001, young Nick enjoyed a family dinner at the home of his maternal grandparents, Jim and Pat Jagel. Out of the blue, for the first time in his life, he pushed himself to his feet and walked unassisted. He made it about 8 feet before crumbling to the floor.

During the next eight years, he’d often repeat the feat while wearing leg braces. But there was always a limit. Eight feet, maybe 10, maybe 12. The rest of the time he was in his wheelchair, or crawling. That was the case as recently as November.

Today Nick walks around the indoor track on the upper level of Perrysburg High’s gym. Once, twice, three times without falling, without assistance, without braces. His dad told him the best way to endear himself to his teammates was to try to do what they do. So when the Yellow Jacket wrestlers go for a run, Nick walks. The first time his dad witnessed this, and he choked up telling the story, “all the guys were finished, but they waited for Nick and cheered him in. There were a lot of high fives.”

Never walk? Ah, child’s play. A couple weeks ago, when his grandpa was at practice, Nick actually jogged for a stretch.

“It was amazing,” Jim Jagel said.

What has taken place in the last two months, a miracle? Well, the miracle of the mats, perhaps.

“I was so used to looking down at Nick in his wheelchair,” his grandfather said. “Now I look up at him.”

In more ways than one. And grandpa is not alone.

“Nick was in the first grade,” Amy Hyndman recalled. “He came home one day and wanted to know why nobody could understand him, why he couldn’t run, couldn’t play. He was crying. I was crying. But I felt I had to be honest with him, to have a frank conversation despite his age. I couldn’t just say, ‘Maybe someday, sweetie.’ I told him his cerebral palsy wasn’t going to go away. I told him he had to focus on the things he could do and understand there are things he won’t be able to do. Once you tell him he can’t do something, though, there is a new determination. It started that day.”

Last fall, Nick decided to live the dream. He informed his family, including 10-year-old sister Isabella, that he was trying out for Perrysburg High’s wrestling team.

Matt Boggs was set to start his fifth year as the Yellow Jacket wrestlers’ coach. He was a Track Squad member himself in 1979.
UPDATE FROM PERRYSBURG - Nick’s Senior Year

The story by Dave Hackenberg that appeared in The Blade in February 2010 told of Nick Hyndman’s journey and development from a newborn to a junior in high school. Nick’s senior year at Perrysburg High School has been an amazing next chapter in the “Miracle on the Mat” story. And the complete story is really just beginning.

As Nick prepares for graduation from Perrysburg and enrollment at Bowling Green State, he can look back at his senior season of wrestling at PHS as a dream come true.

“Since sixth grade, I’ve had this dream about playing a sport for my school,” Hyndman said. “I [said] if I achieve this, look at what I’m representing – myself, my school, and everyone out there with a physical disability that has that dream of becoming a part of something nobody thought they could ever be.”

It was not long ago when Nick was told he would never walk. This past winter, though, he walked onto the mat, leading his team for Senior Night introductions.

“Wrestling is providing him an opportunity to participate in athletics, be a part of a team, make new friends, and learn the value of setting goals and working hard to achieve them,” said Matt Boggs, the head wrestling coach at Perrysburg. “Wrestling is, quite simply, the only physically competitive sport that groups everyone together and allows them to be an individual regardless of gender or physical ailment. It is my pleasure to be a coach that is helping a young man achieve one of his dreams.”

Being a part of the Perrysburg wrestling team has given Nick much more than wrestling skills. He has formed bonds with his teammates and classmates.

“Even the kids in his classes talk to him more since this all started last year,” said Greg and Amy Hyndman, Nick’s parents. “People actually look at him and talk to him, which they didn’t do before. This whole experience has been so much more than a sport to Nick. The coaches have been open-minded from day one and the boys have, too. We are grateful for everyone’s support and kindness. We’ll never forget it!”

Nick will also never forget the mat burns, blisters and sore muscles that are a result of wrestling, but he loved every one of them.

“Pain gives me appreciation for my life, gives me strength, and gives me the sense of accomplishment,” Hyndman said. “Instead of asking questions all the time, I’ve learned to accept myself and just live my life. Pain is a small word that has changed me in a big way.” 🙏
Nick Hyndman has one.

So that’s the ending. It’s about life.

A life, fully restored.

In Nick’s Words...

Facebook Entry Highlights

Nov. 10, 2010
“I’m no longer going to complain about being in pain. I have nothing to lose, just everything to gain.”

Nov. 13, 2010
"From now to the end, I will find a balance between doing what I have to do to get the win and just enjoying the fact that I’ve been graced to be a part of something real.”

Nov. 24, 2010
“Had a good practice this morning and felt so good that I walked a mile with my dad after.”

Jan. 24, 2011
“Thursday will be my last home meet ever. Right now, it seems like it will be bittersweet. It’s against our rival, Maumee, and it’ll be senior night. Looking forward to going out there one last time in front of the home crowd. Just gonna embrace every moment I spend with my team from now to the end.”

Jan. 27, 2011
“Senior night was amazing. Proud of my team! I got to lead my team out and wrestle during our awesome warm-up. But the best part was my family there to support me just like they always have. I want to thank Perrysburg for giving me the opportunities that I have had and for the applause and compliments. Will never forget the memories at home. I have not one regret. Thanks everyone!”

Feb. 12, 2011
“It feels good to be a league champion! All the pain and exhaustion, this is what it was for! Can’t ever explain how proud I am to be a part of this team and how much being on this team has changed my life! Can’t ever thank everyone enough for allowing me to be a part of it!”

Boggs might have attempted to throw up roadblocks. Instead, he opened his arms wide.

“It was new territory for me, but I know there are kids around the state wrestling with prosthetic limbs,” Boggs said. “You always leave the door open for something special like this.”

Boggs talked to the Hyndmans to learn more about Nick’s condition. He did research on the Internet. He read about using a medicine ball for strength training. He found methods to teach the sport to someone in Nick’s situation, someone who would always start on his knees. He concerned himself with teaching Nick how to defend himself in an aggressive sport.

“We started his conditioning by having him walk leaning on the [padded] walls,” Boggs said. “When we ran, he’d use a manual wheelchair to do his laps. After he burned through his first set of gloves, always catching his fingers in the spokes because he was trying to go so fast, nobody questioned his desire. His physical strength in the upper body is mind-boggling. And the kids love him. He’s a tremendous inspiration.”

Pat Jagel, Nick’s grandmother, calls Boggs “a hero, an educator in the truest sense. Nick has tried to do things in the past and people weren’t always open to it. They saw problems. Coach Boggs sees possibilities.”

Nick’s first match was against Maumee, the Yellow Jackets’ biggest rival. It was over quickly and Nick crawled on his knees to the corner of the mat to shake hands with the opposing coach as wrestling protocol dictates. When he arrived at the coach’s feet, Nick lifted himself and stood straight up unassisted. The Maumee coach grabbed him and bear hugged him.

“We put Nick on the mats and taught him the basics, and he’s really come a long way,” said Josh Jordan, a senior captain for Perrysburg. “He came out in a wheelchair at first, now he’s up jogging with us before practice. “It inspires all of us.”

The perfect ending to this story is Nick winning a match, the fans rushing the floor, and teammates lifting him onto their shoulders. It hasn’t happened. Yet. Nick is 0-5 in JV matches at 135 pounds and says, “I’m trying to figure out how not to get pinned.”

But consider this. His first match lasted less than 15 seconds. His last went two minutes, 20 seconds. “He’s getting so much better,” said sister Bella, his No. 1 fan. “I’m so proud of him.”

Nick says he doesn’t like losing, but knows this is “the biggest physical challenge I’ve ever had. Wrestling is tough. There’s a lot of pain. But you have to push through it with toughness. I get support and encouragement from my teammates. I’m going against kids who have wrestled for years. So I appreciate just being out there. This might be the strangest thing you’ll ever hear, but I like the fact I have to go through the pain. It gives me more of an appreciation for life. When I survive the pain, I feel like I can survive anything.”

Yes, the weakest among us can become the strongest.

“This is more than wrestling, you know,” said his teammate Josh Jordan. “I think it has changed everything. He’s made a lot of friends. Everyone knows who he is now. You see him in the halls and he’s always smiling, saying hi to everybody.”

So that’s the ending. It’s about life.

Nick Hyndman has one.
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 the University of Virginia, Akron, Ohio State and Columbus State in the areas of student support services and athletics administration. The author of three children’s books, Roxanne oversees the sports of tennis, bowling and softball in addition to the OHSAA’s sportsmanship program.

G ETTING THE SEASON STARTED RIGHT

Preseason meetings with coaches, administrators, student-athletes and their parents are an essential part of a successful season. More than that – they are required by OHSAA bylaw 3-1-4, which reads:

No later than two weeks prior to the beginning of each sports season, the principal, through his/her athletic administrator, coaches and such other personnel as deemed advisable by said principal, shall conduct a mandatory, preseason program with all student-athletes who wish to participate in the upcoming sports seasons, their parents and booster club officers. The meeting shall consist of (a) a review of the student-eligibility bulletin and key essential eligibility requirements; (b) a review of the school’s Athletic Code of Conduct; (c) a sportsmanship, ethics and integrity component; (d) concussions and steroids.

The OHSAA and National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) have several resources available to assist member schools with their preseason meetings.

FROM THE OHSSAA

At www.OHSAA.org, go to the Member Schools page (http://www.ohsaa.org/members/default.asp) and scroll down to the “Preseason Information” section. Information can be found there for the preseason DVD and a PDF document containing sample meeting scripts and agendas, a sample student participant contract, a sample evaluation form and a sample meeting invitation. Note: a new DVD will be sent to all member schools this spring.

FROM THE NFHS

Go to: http://www.nfhslearn.com/lockerroom.aspx. Click on the locker on the right side of the page marked “More Great Stuff” and look for the section labeled Presentation Toolkits. There are two links there for “The Role of the Parent in Sports” program, which is ideal for preseason meetings.

Students from OHSAA member schools had a big part in the preseason DVD.

Mentor Lake Catholic senior Bridget Grdina goes above the net in helping lead the Cougars to their first volleyball state championship in school history. Lake Catholic made it back to the Division II championship game after finishing as runner-up in 2009. The volleyball state championships return to the Nutter Center in 2011, hosted by Wright State University in Fairborn.
In the unfortunate situation that a student-athlete or coach’s conduct results in an ejection from a contest, officials are required to submit an ejection report to the OHSAA. New for 2011-12 is the opportunity for officials to submit the report online. The OHSAA will then email the form to the school, along with a school response form.

The official’s report form is located at www.ohsaa.org/officials/sptsmsnshp/ejections.htm. The report shall be filed with the OHSAA within two business days of the ejection.

When an ejection occurs, the ejecting official shall speak with the offender’s principal/athletic director no later than the first school day following the ejection. An official failing to follow the ejection protocol and/or failing to file the official’s report may be penalized in accordance with Section VIII of the OHSAA’s Handbook for Officials.

The “Official’s Report” form may also be used to report good or poor sportsmanship, severe injuries, facility problems or equipment problems. Please use only one form per school. Unless done online, it is the official’s responsibility to contact the school by phone and then send (email, fax or mail) the forms to the OHSAA via email.

### Ejection Totals – Last Three School Year Totals

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</table>
By David White, OHSAA Foundation Intern

In 1973, Richard Nixon was the President of the United States, renowned Olympian swimmer Michael Phelps would not be born for 12 more years, and Sterling Apthorp, unofficially the first and foremost OHSAA swimming and diving liaison, began his first year officiating. With his vast experience in, his passionate love for, and his consummate knowledge of the sport of swimming and diving, Sterling Apthorp has seen it all.

Beyond being an avid fan of swimming, a swimmer himself, and a coach of swimming, Sterling has been with the swimming and diving community for nearly his entire life. He is a veteran swimming and diving official who has worked at all levels of the OHSAA tournaments, is the OHSAA state rules interpreter in swimming and diving, and is the OHSAA’s assistant state tournament manager to name a few of his duties.

Unfortunately for the swimming and diving community, his great years of service are coming to an end. It is important to acknowledge not only the hard work, but also the variety of work that Sterling has undertaken for the past 38 years.

Sam Seiple, the Canton City Schools Aquatics Director, mentioned three things when asked what Sterling brought to the swimming and diving community, “Knowledge, experience, and stability,” Seiple said.

Having 38 years of experience has proved to his colleagues to be irreplaceable. “His unwavering knowledge of the sport creates a sense of stability that makes everyone around him comfortable,” noted Seiple.

Todd Grant, the Central District Tournament Director, elaborated on the significance of Sterling’s experience.

“He knows everything about swimming and diving,” said Grant. “He is a great resource and if something goes wrong, Sterling never panics and always makes the correct decision. The sense of stability and security that he brings is something that cannot be learned.”

Above his exceptional service to swimming and diving, he is an even more exceptional man. Seiple made a point to acknowledge Sterling as, “flat out awesome. He is, simply put, the kind of person that you want to surround yourself with.”

Ken Gapsch, a Central District tournament official with over 30 years of experience, summed up his feelings, as well as the other members of the Central District tournament committee, about working next year without Sterling in five simple words: “We will greatly miss him.”

It is safe to say that the swimming and diving community will no longer be the same after Sterling Apthorp gracefully and proudly walked away from C.T. Branin Natatorium this year.
Each year the OHSAA Foundation sponsors leadership conferences in each of the OHSAA’s six athletic districts around the state. The conferences are free to member schools and are open to sophomore and junior student-athletes who are chosen by their coaches and administrators as individuals who possess characteristics of a leader. These all-day sessions address leadership, teamwork, sportsmanship, role-modeling and citizenship.

The mission of the OHSAA Foundation is to provide scholarship, leadership and service opportunities for Ohio student-athletes and all funds raised are used to fulfill this mission.

Past featured speakers have included Jim Foster, Tom Hamilton, Bill Hosket, Clark Kellogg, Thad Matta, Anthony Munoz, Gene Smith, Katie Smith, Ron Stokes, Toni Roesch and many others.

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.
NFHS PROVIDES SPORTSMANSHIP KITS

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has copies of the Sportsmanship: It’s up to you.™ sportsmanship kit. This innovative sportsmanship initiative was released one year ago and has received tremendous praise from school districts across the country. The Sportsmanship: It’s up to you.™ sportsmanship kit campaign starts with a mindset and ends with behaviors. In this kit you will find the necessary information and media resources to implement a successful sportsmanship awareness and improvement program in your school. The materials are delivered on two DVDs.

The Resource DVD contains the implementation guide in an easy-to-use PDF format; overview video; motivational video to share with students and the local community; various posters (that you can customize with your own school mascot and state association logo); live-read scripts for game/school announcements; various radio spots; a Student Pledge Card that is downloadable; a logo/photo library; and campaign guidelines.

The Presentation DVD is to be used when presenting to a large audience. This disc contains full-screen and full-resolution videos. The videos include the campaign overview and tips on how to implement a successful sportsmanship awareness and improvement program in your school. The materials are delivered on two DVDs.

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Pre-season meetings should be a great experience for everyone, so think about the tips provided in this article and look for creative ways to get everyone excited about the upcoming season. Your preparation, organization, and positive attitude at the pre-season meeting will be the first step toward a successful season.

Pre-season meetings can make all the difference when it comes to commonly expected problems in interscholastic sports, including playing time, cuts, funding issues, schedule conflicts and appropriate protocols for communication and conflict resolution. With a responsibly run pre-season meeting, you can expect far fewer issues to arise with the aforementioned problems; without a pre-season meeting (or one that was quickly put together with not much forethought) you can bet you will experience more problems throughout the season. The bottom line is that pre-season meetings, when structured and run responsibly, help everyone and lead to a winning program.

This meeting can lead to many great things, including the development of positive interpersonal relationships with parents and student-athletes, early excitement for the upcoming season, and the foundation from which to build a winning program.

The Pre-season meeting is your chance to introduce yourself, talk about your coaching philosophy, discuss team policies and rules and answer any questions parents or kids may have about the upcoming season.

By Dr. Chris Stankovich, Ph.D., OHSAA Magazine Contributor

One of the most important – yet often devalued and/or overlooked – opportunities for getting the season off to a great start is the pre-season meeting. Pre-season meetings can be a terrific way for you to introduce yourself, talk about your coaching philosophies, discuss team policies and rules and answer any questions parents or kids may have about the upcoming season.

Pre-season meetings can make all the difference when it comes to commonly expected problems in interscholastic sports, including playing time, cuts, funding issues, schedule conflicts and appropriate protocols for communication and conflict resolution. With a responsibly run pre-season meeting, you can expect far fewer issues to arise with the aforementioned problems; without a pre-season meeting (or one that was quickly put together with not much forethought) you can bet you will experience more problems throughout the season. The bottom line is that pre-season meetings, when structured and run responsibly, help everyone and lead to a winning program.

Listed below are eight tips for you to consider as you put together your pre-season meeting:

• While there is no right or wrong way to conduct one, think of the major four or five things you want to have happen and then work backwards from those objectives. For example, if a parent wants to communicate with you, how should he or she do so? Do you prefer calls to your office or cell phone? Or do you prefer email? Some additional topics you may want to discuss might include your philosophy on playing time, your expectations for fan behavior, and guidelines around team fund raising.

• Develop handouts that include everything you cover at the pre-season meeting (never assume attendees will remember everything you say). If you have a team website, be sure to upload any forms and handouts distributed at the pre-season meeting so that people who could not attend the meeting can still stay up-to-date on team news.

• Keep the mood upbeat and positive and never punitive! When parents arrive at the meeting, your attitude and mood will set the tempo and will make all the difference, not only in the meeting, but also in the entire season.

• Always allow time for questions, and be respectful toward all of them, even the ones that you think should be common sense.

• It’s also a nice touch to talk a little about yourself, your previous athletic experiences, and how you arrived to be a coach at the school.

• Go over your performance evaluation rubric so that everyone knows the kinds of things you evaluate when deciding on cuts (if you have to make them) and playing time. Rather than stating a general comment like “The best kids will play,” try to offer more insightful comments that allow attendees to be clear about what you value as a coach (i.e. “I really look for kids who emphasize defense”).

• Other important topics to discuss may include how volunteers can help the program, healthy training methods (and your stance on performance-enhancing supplements), and any additional costs that parents may need to subsidize.

• Talk with your assistant coaches about any other things that they feel are important to be covered during the meeting and consider giving them a chance to speak at the meeting as well. If nothing else, your assistants can briefly tell about their previous experiences as a player and coach, and what they would like to accomplish for the upcoming season.

Pre-season meetings should be a great experience for everyone, so think about the tips provided in this article and look for creative ways to get everyone excited about the upcoming season. Your preparation, organization, and positive attitude at the pre-season meeting will be the first step toward a successful season.
Implementation of NFHS Playing Rules Changes Related to Concussed Athletes and Return to Play Protocol

It is important for all adults involved in interscholastic athletics to recognize the potential for catastrophic injury and even death from concussions. Thus it is extremely important that each coach, administrator, contest official and medical support personnel review their responsibilities in protecting students.

Last year the OHSAA Board of Directors adopted a sports regulation which incorporated the NFHS rules change. This regulation reads: Any athlete who exhibits signs, symptoms or behaviors consistent with a concussion (such as loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion or balance problems) shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not return to play until cleared with written authorization by an appropriate health care professional. In Ohio, an “appropriate health care professional” shall be a physician, as authorized under ORC Chapter 4731 and includes both doctors of medicine (M.D.) and doctors of osteopathy (D.O.) and an athletic trainer, licensed under ORC Chapter 4755.

In January 2011, the OHSAA Board of Directors has further defined the following parameters to guide OHSAA licensed officials, medical personnel and member school representatives in implementing this change.

1. What are the “signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion?” The National Federation rule lists some of the signs, symptoms and behaviors consistent with a concussion. The U.S. Department of Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has published the following lists of signs, symptoms and behaviors that are consistent with a concussion:

   **Signs Observed by Others**
   - Appears dazed or stunned
   - Is confused about assignment
   - Forgets plays
   - Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
   - Moves clumsily
   - Answers questions slowly
   - Loses consciousness
   - Shows behavior or personality changes
   - Cannot recall events prior to hit
   - Cannot recall events after hit

   **Symptoms Reported by Athlete**
   - Headache
   - Nausea
   - Balance problems or dizziness
   - Double or fuzzy vision
   - Sensitivity to light or noise
   - Feeling sluggish
   - Feeling foggy or groggy
   - Concentration or memory problems
   - Confusion

2. What can happen if a student-athlete keeps on playing with a concussion or returns too soon?

   Continuing to play with the signs and symptoms of a concussion leaves the young athlete especially vulnerable to greater injury. There is an increased risk of significant damage from a concussion for a period of time after that concussion occurs, particularly if the athlete suffers another concussion before completely recovering from the first one (second impact syndrome). This can lead to prolonged recovery, or even to severe brain swelling with devastating and even fatal consequences. It is well known that adolescent or teenage athletes will often under-report symptoms of injuries. And concussions are no different. As a result, education of administrators, coaches, parents and students is the key for a student-athlete’s safety.

3. If you think your student-athlete has suffered a concussion:

   Any athlete suspected of suffering a concussion should be removed from the game or practice immediately. No athlete may return to activity after an apparent head injury or concussion, regardless of how mild it seems or how quickly symptoms clear, without medical clearance. Close observation of the athlete should continue for several hours. You should also inform your child’s coach if you think that your child may have a concussion. Remember, it’s better to miss one game than miss the whole season. And when in doubt, the athlete sits out.

For current and up-to-date information on concussions you can go to: http://www.cdc.gov/ConcussionInYouthSports

Athletic Director Spotlight

Dave Gray

It was an exciting winter sports season for Cambridge High School and no one is prouder than the man in charge of the athletic program, Dave Gray. The Bobcats’ girls basketball team (along with hordes of Bobcat faithful) made a trip to Columbus for the first state tournament appearance in program history and sophomore Taylor Endly was selected to sing the National Anthem before the Div. IV boys basketball state championship game.

Cambridge sold over 1,100 tickets for its Thursday afternoon semifinal game and school festivities included a pep rally complete with the team arriving in the gym in a convertible and being sent off to Columbus in a limousine.

“It was a classic Bobcat victory for the team and the program was in full swing,” said Gray. “The Bobcats were the first Cambridge girls basketball team to appear in the state tournament and there’s a lot of community support surrounding the Bobcats.”

An owner of diplomas from Coshocton High School, Ohio University and Xavier University, Gray has been the athletic director at Cambridge for 19 years and has served as the school’s head baseball coach the last three seasons. He credits the aforementioned community support as the main reason why he loves his job.

“Considering the amount of time an athletic director logs, it may be one of the most underpaid positions in education,” said Gray. “But dealing with the people in this community and the quality of coaches and student-athletes we have at Cambridge makes it an enjoyable job.”

Cambridge has one of the more unique athletic programs in the state in that every student-athlete is drug tested at the beginning of each sports season and 10 percent are testing random throughout the season. The program is in its third year and Gray receives a number of calls from schools inquiring about its implementation.

“We didn’t start a drug-testing program to punish our student-athletes,” said Gray. “Rather, we started the program so that we can get kids help early if there is an issue.”

Such commitment to the welfare of his student-athletes and his love for the sports programs at Cambridge is what makes Dave Gray an exemplary leader for the Bobcat athletic program.
**DID YOU KNOW?**

While studying the OHSAA's finances, please keep in mind these five key financial benefits that all member schools are afforded:

1. The OHSAA does not have annual membership fees. Such fees were discontinued by the OHSAA in the mid-1980s.
2. The OHSAA does not have tournament entry fees. Those fees, even though they were often only between $25 and $50 per sport, were also discontinued in the mid-1980s.
3. The OHSAA pays for catastrophic insurance coverage for all student-athletes, cheerleaders, band members, etc. That is an annual expense of approximately $700,000. The only assistance that schools are asked to provide toward that cost is a $250 donation for the opportunity to participate in a football jamboree game in August, at which schools may charge admission and generate revenue in other forms similar to a regular-season game.
4. In some OHSAA regional and state tournaments, schools are reimbursed travel costs. Those travel costs include mileage, meals, overnight accommodations, etc.
5. In some OHSAA regional and state tournaments, schools are permitted to offer presale tickets to their communities and keep a percentage of the revenue generated.

The 2009-10 independent audit report of the OHSAA is posted online at: www.ohsaa.org/financial/AuditedFinancial10.pdf
MARATHON – FUELING THE AMERICAN SPIRIT ACROSS OHIO

If you attended an OHSAA state championship event this year, particularly the volleyball, football or the girls and boys basketball events, you have clearly noticed the positive and exciting effect that Marathon Petroleum Company has had on the OHSAA, its student-athletes and fans.

Headquartered right here in Ohio (Findlay), Marathon could not be more excited about supporting Ohio’s student-athletes. In fact, Marathon is actively engaged with everything the OHSAA has to offer. In addition to having traditional advertising elements such as on-site signage, radio and television spots that are activated at OHSAA state championship and playoff events, fans can get directions to any destination including schools and tournament sites through the “Station Locator” link on the OHSAA homepage (www.OHSAA.org). While on the way to these events, fans can stop at any one of the almost 900 Marathon Brand locations in the state and will see a “Marathon is proud to support local high school athletes” decal on the front entrance window. Other unique elements to the partnership include in-game features during all official OHSAA television broadcasts and designation as the “Official Sponsor of Tournament Directions” in the OHSAA Fan Guide.

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 ice hockey.
Fans Win Big

Marathon has had a strong presence at OHSAA events in many capacities, however, one can argue that the biggest and most positive impact it had is through the now-famous, gas card promotions at various state championship events.

Beginning with the 2010 OHSAA boy’s basketball championships, Marathon decided it would be a great idea to provide some assistance to the students who travel from all areas of Ohio to support their school and team in Columbus. That assistance would come in the form of gas cards that students had the opportunity to win in varying amounts through the Marathon Gas Card Promotion.

Prior to each game, in partnership with the OHSAA, a lucky student was selected to participate in the promotion. The student selected exuded exemplary spirit and enthusiasm of their school. At the end of the third quarter, that student had the opportunity to make different shots on the court for different gas card amounts. The ultimate prize being awarded for making a half-court shot.

Over the course of the weekend, students won different gas cards and the last contestant, during the last game of the weekend made the half-court shot on his last attempt. The student, from Massillon Jackson High School, “swished” the shot and the crowd went crazy. The student went home with a $1,000 gas card in his pocket, as well as some extra promotional items from Marathon.

Seeing the success at the 2010 basketball tournament, Marathon expanded this promotion to various OHSAA sports during each athletic season of the 2010-2011 school year. Students from across the state could be seen winning gas cards at the
volleyball, football and girls and boys basketball championships such as was the case when another student made the half court shot during the boys basketball DII final. The student, from Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, received a $500 gas card and an on-air TV interview during the broadcast.

To date, Marathon has contributed more than $6,000 worth of gas cards back to high school students throughout Ohio. It is evident that Marathon sees its partnership as more than just a sponsorship. The organization is truly doing all it can to enhance its role in the OHSAA member school communities through this effort and having fun while doing it.

“Marathon is proud to be a partner of the OHSAA and is pleased to see how excited the fans get for our on-site promotions at these events. This partnership is a great way for Marathon to show its support for student-athletes across Ohio, as well as have a little fun interacting with the crowds at the OHSAA State Championships!”

– Randy Flesch, Manager Eastern District, Marathon
SPORTSTIME OHIO

SportsTime Ohio will provide coverage of the 2011 softball championship games on Saturday, June 4. SportsTime Ohio is the official television partner of the OHSAA and has exclusive rights to selected OHSAA state tournaments. Log on to the OHSAA’s Fan Guide to purchase DVDs of state tournament contests televised by STO. During the 2010-11 school year, events included the volleyball state finals, the football state finals and other selected football playoff games, the wrestling state tournament, the bowling state tournament, the ice hockey state finals, the girls and boys basketball state finals and the softball state finals.

STO provides fans across Ohio with exceptional regional sports programming, beginning with quality coverage of the Cleveland Indians. STO’s programming expands beyond the OHSAA and baseball with coverage of the Mid-American Conference, Cleveland Browns, Ohio State, Cleveland State, golf, and outdoors programming. SportsTime Ohio is your home for Ohio sports.

OHSAA RADIO NETWORK

The OHSAA Radio Network will provide live coverage of all 12 games of the 2011 state baseball tournament at Huntington Park, from Thursday, June 2 through Saturday, June 4. Created in the spring of 2010, the OHSAA Radio Network is a free, non-exclusive, commercial-split broadcast of selected OHSAA state tournament contests. During the 2010-11 school year, those events include the football championship games, the entire girls and boys basketball state tournaments and the baseball state tournament for a total of 42 contests.

Radio stations and streaming websites are welcome to obtain the feed, which is delivered either online via a 48K stereo broadband audio stream or from a phone line (32K mono). The OHSAA has selected veteran broadcasters and will utilize half of the commercial time for its public service announcements and promotion of its official corporate partners. A detailed programming log will be created for each game for stations to follow. For more information, contact Tim Stried at tstried@ohsaa.org.

2011 SPRING CHAMPIONSHIPS PREVIEWS

By Brian Day, OHSAA Sports Information Intern

What: BASEBALL
When: Thursday, June 2 – Saturday, June 4
Where: Huntington Park, Columbus

ABOUT THE CHAMPIONSHIPS: Huntington Park, the home of the Cleveland Indians’ AAA affiliate Columbus Clippers, will play host to the 84th Annual Baseball State Tournament for the third consecutive year. The semifinals for Divisions I and IV will be played Thursday, while Divisions II and III semifinals will be held Friday. Saturday’s championship games will be played at 10 a.m. (Div. I), 1 p.m. (Div. IV), 4 p.m. (Div. II) and 7 p.m. (Div. III). Rain wreaked havoc on the 2010 state tournament but not on the state championship dreams of Lakewood St. Edward (Div. I), Plain City Jonathan Alder (Div. II), Bellville Clear Fork (Div. III) and Fort Loramie (Div. IV), which came away with state titles. Sectional tournament play begins the week of May 9.

What: SOFTBALL
When: Thursday, June 2 – Saturday, June 4
Where: Firestone Stadium, Akron

ABOUT THE CHAMPIONSHIPS: 2011 marks the fourth straight year the state softball championships have been held at Firestone Stadium in Akron, home of pro softball’s Akron Racers. The three-day tournament features Division III and II state semifinals Thursday, Division I and IV semifinals Friday and all four division championship games Saturday. Championship games Saturday are at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Last year, Massillon Perry (Div. I) and Pleasant Hill Newton (Div. IV) were crowned state softball champions for the first time in school history, while Jeromesville Hillsdale (Div. III) won its sixth championship and Hebron Lakewood (Div. II) won its third consecutive title. Sectional play begins the week of May 9 leading up to the 34th Annual State Softball Tournament.

What: BOYS & GIRLS TRACK & FIELD
When: Friday, June 3 – Saturday, June 4
Where: Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium, Ohio State University, Columbus

ABOUT THE CHAMPIONSHIPS: Two days, 34 events in three divisions and thousands of student-athletes representing hundreds of schools are some of the numbers behind the 2011 State Track & Field Tournament held at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium on the campus of The Ohio State University. This year will be the 104th edition of the boys state meet and the 37th annual girls tournament. The boys state track and field tournament is the longest-running OHSAA state tournament. Boys state champions in 2010 were Warren G. Harding (Div. I), Pembroville Eastwood (Div. II) and North Robinson Colonel Crawford (Div. III), while Reynoldsburg (Div. I), Cleveland Collinwood (Div. II) and Versailles (Div. III) were champions on the girls side. District track meets begin the week of May 16.

What: BOYS TENNIS
When: Friday, May 27 – Saturday, May 28
Where: Hilliard Davidson High School

ABOUT THE CHAMPIONSHIPS: The 92nd boys state tennis tournament will be held at Hilliard Davidson High School due to the renovation of the Stickney Tennis Center at The Ohio State University, the usual site for the state tennis championships. Unlike most other OHSAA tournaments, no team champion is crowned, rather awards are handed out to singles and doubles champions in each of the two divisions. Kevin Metka of Worthington Kilbourne (Div. I) and Chris Diaz of Columbus Bishop Watterson (Div. II), both former doubles champions, were singles champions in 2010, while teams from Upper Arlington (Div. I) and Gahanna Columbus Academy (Div. II) were crowned as doubles champions. Sectional tennis begins the week of May 9.
MONROEVILLE’S FOUR HORSEMEN

Entering the 2011 state wrestling tournament, a total of 19 wrestlers in the 73 years of the OHSAA state wrestling tournament had achieved the milestone of becoming a four-time state champion.

During the 2011 state tournament, three wrestlers were added to that list — and for the first time in state tournament history, all three were from the same school.

Monroeville wrestlers Hunter Stieber at 135 pounds, Cam Tessari at 140 pounds and Chris Phillips at 171 pounds became the newest four-time state champions on March 5, 2011. They were joined on the center mat by 2010 Monroeville graduate Logan Stieber, who in 2010 became the 19th four-time state champion.

That’s four four-time state champions from the same school in a two-year period, something that has never been seen in Ohio before — and may never again.

CIRCLE OF CHAMPIONS

For the fifth consecutive year, the Ohio High School Athletic Association selected individuals who had prominent roles in the history of Ohio interscholastic athletics to be honored as part of the Association’s Circle of Champions program. This year’s six honorees were recognized at halftime of two boys basketball state tournament games.

Honored during halftime of the Division II championship game were Wayne Embry, Jim Houston and Harrison Dillard. Honored during halftime of the Division III title contest were Madeline Manning Mims, Phil Niekro and John Havlicek.

OHSAA ACCEPTING DONATIONS OF HISTORICAL ITEMS FOR NEW OFFICE SHOWCASE

The Ohio High School Athletic Association has secured a new showcase in the lobby of its headquarters in Columbus and is asking member school administrators and coaches to consider donating any historical memorabilia for display. Appropriate items would be old jerseys or uniforms from state championship teams or standout athletes; old programs, publications or photos from state championship teams or standout athletes or coaches, and old game balls that have significance such as those marked from state championships. Items can be returned after a 12-to-18-month period.

For questions or additional information, contact OHSAA Associate Commissioner Bob Goldring at bgoldring@ohsaa.org.

Bob Goldring

Bob Goldring joined the OHSAA in the fall of 1995 as Director of Information Services. He was promoted to Assistant Commissioner in June 2005 and to Associate Commissioner for Operations in August 2008. A 1977 graduate of Orrville High School, he holds two degrees from The Ohio State University. Bob’s previous work has all been in collegiate sports information offices, including Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Purdue University and Ohio State University.
A BIRD OF PREY

Columbus Bishop Hartley sophomore Jawaun Woodley’s 43-yard touchdown catch put the Hawks up 14-0 early in the first quarter en route to a 34-13 victory over Chagrin Falls in the 2010 Division IV state championship game at Paul Brown Tiger Stadium in Massillon. The 2011 state football finals return to Stark County’s Canton Fawcett Stadium and Paul Brown Tiger Stadium December 2 and 3.

A TALE OF TROJAN TRIUMPH

After finishing fourth as a junior, runner-up as a sophomore and 14th as a freshman, Cincinnati Glen Este senior Michelle Thomas jubilantly crosses the finish line as the state champion in the 2010 Division I state cross country meet at Scioto Downs Race Track in Columbus. Thomas finished with a time of 14:41.5, becoming the first Trojan state cross country champion.
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