MAGAZINE   WINTER 2012

March 2012 brings the 75th Anniversary of the Wrestling State Tournament

Community of One
As unique as each school may be, why we are really all in this together

Lessons of Leadership
Three stories from across Ohio that each tell why high school sports are about more than wins and losses

Progress Reports
An overview of the OHSAA’s committees and projects and how they fit into the big picture

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL
Bowling – the OHSAA’s fastest growing sport – returns to Columbus in March and prepares to expand to two divisions in 2013
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Twinsburg overcame a seven-point halftime deficit to defeat Kettering Fairmont 55-42 and win the 2011 OHSAA girls Division I basketball state championship. The Tigers finished the season as the only undefeated team in the state (boys or girls) with a final record of 27-0. The girls state basketball tournament returns to Value City Arena at the Jerome Schottenstein Center March 15-17.
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;
- 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 nine 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.

**NFHS Mission Statement**

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) serves its members, related professional organizations and students by providing leadership for the administration of education-based interscholastic activities, which support academic achievement, good citizenship and equitable opportunities.

- 51 State Associations • 20,000 High Schools • 500,000 Coaches and Sponsors
- 11,000,000 Student Participants • 500,000 Officials and Judges •
- 9 Canadian Associations • 14 Other Affiliate Members

Mayfield senior Alana Arnold (green cap) competes in the 200-yard freestyle relay during the 2011 OHSAA girls Division I state swimming championship. Mayfield finished third in the race and finished eighth overall in the meet. The C.T. Branin Natatorium will once again host the OHSAA state swimming and diving finals Feb. 22-25.
Among the many thoughts and emotions that went through my mind during our cross country state championships this past November was one word in particular – colorful. As I scanned the grandstand and sea of people walking around National Trail Raceway, the mixture of reds, purples, oranges, greens and just about every other color imaginable created a panoramic scene set against a bright blue sky and fall foliage.

And what a crowd it was – 11,367 – which marked the second-largest attendance figure in the history of our cross country state championships and once again proved that Ohio has the most popular cross country state finals in the country.

It was the combination of those two scenes – the color and the crowd – that reminded me of an important ideal that so many of us share. No matter what part of the state we now call home, our love and support of interscholastic athletics brought us to the state finals that day to participate, coach or cheer on the kids who get so much out of sports, both now and well into their future.

That is so clearly evident in the many stories of sportsmanship, leadership and community support that are on display every day throughout Ohio. Turn to pages 12, 13 and 14 in this issue of OHSAA Magazine for just three examples of how interscholastic sports impacts kids and communities in special ways.

We are entering into a crossroads of sorts in Ohio, when funding concerns and other issues threaten the future of high school sports. When I think about that and the kids and the huge crowd at our cross country state championships, I am concerned that one day kids will not have the opportunity to share in what we all experienced on that memorable day in November.

We all have a part to play in ensuring that kids for generations have that opportunity. No matter what colors you wear to support your school, we are all in this together. By staying united, we can show that the benefits of participation in interscholastic athletic programs are strong and an integral and valuable part of one’s education.

Respectfully,

Daniel B. Ross, Ph.D., Commissioner
Ohio High School Athletic Association
## WINTER 2012

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<tr>
<td>Basketball (Boys)</td>
<td>Nov. 4</td>
<td>5 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 scrimmage/1 preview (OHSAA Foundation Game may replace 1 scrimmage) (See Preview Date)</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>
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<tr>
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<td>None Permitted</td>
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<td>None Permitted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wrestling</td>
<td>Nov. 11</td>
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<td>Dec. 2</td>
<td>Mar. 1-3-Ohio State Value City Arena</td>
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## SPRING 2012

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<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
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<th>1st Contest</th>
<th>State Tournament/Site</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>May 31-State Semis/Cols. Huntington Park (Div. II &amp; I) June 1-State Semis/Cols. Huntington Park (Div. III &amp; IV) June 2-State Finals/Cols. Huntington Park (all 4 divs.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball</td>
<td>Feb. 20</td>
<td>4 scrimmages after practice begins or 3 scrimmages/1 preview (See Preview Date)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tennis (Boys)</td>
<td>Mar. 5</td>
<td>One prior to first match</td>
<td>Mar. 26</td>
<td>Mar. 25/OSU Varsity Tennis Center (1st &amp; 2nd rnds.) May 28/OSU Varsity Tennis Center (Semi &amp; Finals)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Track &amp; Field</td>
<td>Mar. 5</td>
<td>None Permitted</td>
<td>Mar. 24</td>
<td>June 1-2/Ohio State Jesse Owens (Div. III, II, I)</td>
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## FALL 2012

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
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<th>Scrimmages</th>
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<th>State Tournament/Site</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cross Country</td>
<td>Aug. 6</td>
<td>None Permitted</td>
<td>Aug. 20</td>
<td>Nov. 3/National Trail Raceway, Hebron (Boys III/II/II; Girls III/III)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Hockey</td>
<td>Aug. 6</td>
<td>4 scrimmages after practice begins or 3 scrimmages/1 preview (See Preview Date)</td>
<td>Aug. 25</td>
<td>Nov. 2 - State Semis/Upper Arlington H.S. Nov. 3 - State Finals/Upper Arlington H.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>Aug. 6</td>
<td>4 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview (See Preview Date)</td>
<td>Aug. 18</td>
<td>Nov. 6-7-State Semis (B-6th; G-7th) Sites TBA Nov. 9-State Finals/Columbus Crew Stadium, (Boys Div. II, III, I) Nov. 10-State Finals/Columbus Crew Stadium, (Girls Div. II, III, I)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis (Girls)</td>
<td>Aug. 6</td>
<td>1 scrimmage prior to first match</td>
<td>Aug. 13</td>
<td>Oct. 19/OSU Varsity Tennis Center (1st &amp; 2nd mds.) Oct. 20/OSU Varsity Tennis Center (Semi &amp; Finals)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>Aug. 6</td>
<td>5 scrimmages after practice begins plus 1 preview (See Preview Date)</td>
<td>Aug. 25</td>
<td>Nov. 8-State Semis/Wright St. Nutter Ctr. (Div. II &amp; I) Nov. 9-State Semis/Wright St. Nutter Ctr. (Div. IV &amp; III) Nov. 10-State Finals/Wright St. Nutter Ctr. (all 4 divs.)</td>
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**NOTE:** Dates and locations are subject to change.
It’s First and 10 and the Playbook is Open

It doesn’t seem like it was that long ago when one of the main topics of conversation regarding high school sports in Ohio was the initial expansion of the football playoffs. Some people were shocked that the OHSAA would double the number of qualifiers per region in its three classes. How many qualifiers, you ask? The number of regional qualifiers went from one to two!

It was 1980 and I was a high school football coach in southern Ohio during that time of initial expansion and I observed that particular change from the outside. It has been many years since then and of course there have been several more expansions (we now have eight qualifiers in each of 24 regions), but today we are again studying if expansion or change is needed in the football playoffs.

The situation, however, is a bit more complicated these days than it was back in 1980. This is due to two main reasons. First, the Division I issue, while second is the ongoing discussion of competitive balance between public and non-public schools.

In Division I, there is significant concern due to the fact that in some regions, the biggest Division I school has nearly three times the number of boys of the smallest school in that region. To be honest, the reason we have divisions is so that such a disparity does not exist.

Interwoven in the Division I issue is the competitive balance between our public and non-public schools. Much has been said and written on this topic in the last two years and the membership voiced their opinion last May when a referendum proposal was narrowly defeated that would have allowed the OHSAA to use a formula to place schools into divisions. The Competitive Balance Committee is still intact, however, and could make another proposal down the road.

The OHSAA wants to keep public and non-public schools in the same tournaments, but for the schools that make up the “small” portion of Division I, their issues negate any impact a competitive balance formula would have. Therefore, the OHSAA’s Competitive Balance Committee is taking a step back from its work to give the Division I Committee time to study possible options.

These two issues are linked in several ways and it will be an interesting winter and spring as we continue to study ideas and discuss the ramifications. Change is never easy, but we’re all in this together – just like in 1980. I think we would all agree that those changes proved to be for the best.

Sincerely,

Tony Mantell, President, OHSAA Board of Directors
BACK ON TOP

The Hawks of Berlin Hiland celebrate their second (2011, 1992) state title during the 2011 OHSAA state basketball tournament at Value City Arena. In a game where neither team led by more than six points for the first three quarters of the game, Hiland used a fourth quarter surge to secure a 63-48 victory. The boys basketball state tournament returns to Value City Arena at the Jerome Schottenstein Center March 22-24.
SEEING STARS

Brecksville-Broadview Heights then-freshman Michaela Romito competes on the uneven bars during the 2011 OHSAA girls state gymnastics tournament. Brecksville-Broadview Heights fought off a determined Hudson squad to win the team championship by a score of 146.600 to 144.325. It was the Bees’ eighth consecutive title and 11th overall. This year, the team competition will be held on Friday, March 2, with the individual competition taking place Saturday, March 3, at Hilliard Bradley High School.
A MARcH TRADITION

At the beginning of March, athletes and spectators gather in Columbus for a three-day weekend and dreams of celebrating a state championship. Now in its 75th year, the OHSAA state wrestling tournament has been a nationally acclaimed Ohio tradition. The tournament has been hosted in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Dayton and Columbus, comfortably settling in at the Jerome Schottenstein Center since 1999. Last year, the event saw three four-time champions crowned from the same school (Monroeville). It’s also been home to the one-time champion, of course, that single achievement that is still just as sweet. It has seen defeat and the knowledge that sometimes your best effort comes up a little short, but that effort is still worth celebrating. The tournament’s fans are its pulse, telling the story of a match in their reactions. 75,000 fans in a weekend before and over 800,000 total since 2000. A tunnel filled with pictures of past champions awaits each participant, looking to see who will be added. The tournament has its own Parade of Champions Saturday evening. In its 75th year, the OHSAA state wrestling championships aren’t just another state tournament, they are a proud March tradition.
Annual Statewide Athletic Discussion Meetings Coming in April

In April, OHSAA staff will once again conduct a series of athletic discussion meetings around the state in preparation for the annual referendum voting process. The meetings are used to explain the referendum issues on which member school principals will vote in May. The schedule of meetings in each athletic district will be emailed to all member schools and posted at OHSAA.org.

Pupil Activity/Coaching Permit Reminders

A reminder to all coaches (paid and volunteer) and school administrators that the Ohio Department of Education requires a valid Pupil Activity/Coaching Permit (PAP) for all individuals involved in athletics, routine or regular physical activity or activities with health and safety considerations. Specifically regarding coaches, page two of the application has a section for “Additional Coaching Requirements” and includes 1.) Coaches must hold a valid CPR card during his/her season; and 2.) Coaches must complete the NFHS ‘Fundamentals of Coaching’ class. This has been a requirement of the OHSAA since June 2008. For more information, turn to page 17. To locate the form, log on to www.education.ohio.gov and click on the ‘Teaching’ tab. Then click on ‘Educator Licensure.’

Scholar-Athlete Award Process Begins

In January, the process began by which the six OHSAA District Athletic Boards select scholar-athletes to represent their district and receive college scholarship assistance. Member school principals are responsible for nominating worthy candidates. Recipients are selected based on a point system based on grade point average, ACT or SAT scores, varsity letters earned, individual and team athletic honors and an essay. Students who receive an athletic scholarship from NCAA Division I or II institutions are not eligible for the award.
SuRf OvER TO OHSAA AnD nfHS REcORD BOOkS

the National High School Sports record Book has officially moved online and can be accessed on the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Web site at www.nfhs.org/recordbook.

The NFHS Record Book contains all-time records for boys and girls in 16 high school sports. Visitors to the site can select from the menu of sports and will have the option to search for specific records across all sports in the record Book. National interscholastic records are maintained by the NFHS through a detailed system of verifying, recording and preserving the accomplishments of high school student-athletes.

The first edition of the National High School Sports record Book was published in 1978.

Thirty member Schools Honored with SEI Awards

In October, the OHSAA Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity (SEI) Committee announced that 30 member schools were selected to receive school sportsmanship awards for the 2010-11 academic year. All 30 schools met the newly created ‘Respect the Game Challenge,’ while 20 of those schools also received the prestigious Harold A. Meyer Award. The list of recipients is posted in a press release on the ‘News & Media’ page at OHSAA.org.

This is the first year the OHSAA’s revised three-tiered process for the SEI school awards has been implemented. In order to meet the ‘Respect the Game Challenge,’ schools must complete a form that confirms they have emphasized sportsmanship, ethics and integrity within their school and will develop an educational program on sportsmanship. Meeting the ‘Respect The Game Challenge’ is the precursor to being considered for the Harold A. Meyer Award, named in honor of the late OHSAA commissioner from 1969 to 1977. The applications and presentations were judged by the student-run Sportsmanship Council at The Ohio State University and several members of the OHSAA staff. The Meyer Award has been presented every year since 1992.

NFHS Launches Free Officiating Course

In December, the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) launched its Interscholastic Officiating Course. The online course is the “first-of-its-kind” in a series of officiating courses from the NFHS and is designed to introduce new officials or individuals interested in becoming an official to the world of interscholastic officiating. The course covers topics such as the basics of becoming and staying an official, the science of officiating a contest, the art of officiating a contest and putting it all together.

Designed to take 30 to 45 minutes to complete, the NFHS Interscholastic Officiating Course is free for members of the NFHS Officials Association, while non-member individual officials may take the course for a fee of $20. A discounted bulk rate of $10 is also available to non-100-percent states and officiating groups when 50 or more licenses are purchased. The course can be accessed at www.nfhsofficials.com.

Surf Over to OHSAA and NFHS Record Books

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The Ohio High School Athletic Association Sports Record Book has been available online for almost 10 years. Records are available for 19 sports, including all-time Associated Press polls and All-Ohio teams, state championship records and a state champion’s database. Records may be viewed by going to http://www.ohsaa.org/sports/records/default.htm.

Leading Cincinnati Summit Country Day to its first girls soccer state championship, sophomore Meredith Schertzinger netted two goals and an assist. The title was not only the Silver Knights’ first, but the first girls Division III soccer championship after the tournament expanded in the offseason. All three divisions of boys and girls soccer finals return to Crew Stadium in November 2012.

News & Notes

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As any cancer survivor will tell you, the road to recovery is a marathon, not a sprint. Perhaps that is one reason why South Range High School senior Ryan Roush was destined to become one of Ohio’s top high school cross country runners the last few years.

Diagnosed with leukemia when he was three years old, Roush went through years of successful aggressive treatment and began running in seventh grade. This past fall, a couple weeks after he placed third overall in the OHSAA Division III state championship race and was named All-Ohio, he organized a charity 5K race to benefit the same Akron Children’s Hospital Showers Family Center for Childhood Cancer and Blood Disorders that saved his life.

“I don’t remember a whole lot about the three years of treatment, but I remember they made me feel like a kid and they told me they were going to fix it,” Ryan said from his school in Canfield, near Youngstown, shortly before holiday break. “I still go back every year to have my blood platelet count checked and do a bunch of other tests, and the doctors are still surprised with what I have done.”

Ryan is not permitted to play contact sports, but his competitive nature led him to consider running.

“My dad ran cross country, so I wanted to try it out,” Ryan said. “When I got into my sophomore year I started taking it seriously and putting in the miles. I won three races my sophomore year. I never thought I could win a race.”

Ryan’s success quickly went beyond just winning races, as he qualified for the state championships as a sophomore, when he finished 42nd overall, and again as a junior (sixth) and senior (third).

Ryan took his success story to another level when he decided to use his senior class project in Bonnie Molnar’s English class to organize a communitywide 5K charity run, with proceeds donated to the Showers Center at Akron Children’s.

“Everybody thinks about their senior class project pretty early, so we had time to plan and I figured ‘let’s go for it,’” Ryan said. “It was fun to see how to put on a race. My dad did a lot and Second Sole in Boardman donated the timing equipment.”

Race day was bittersweet for Ryan, though, as he was in Kettering, Ohio, competing at the Mideast Cross Country Championships and missed the charity run.

“When I was selected for the Mideast championships, I initially decided not to go because it was the same day as the 5K,” said Ryan, who plans to run at the college level next fall. “But everyone told me to go and that they would handle it. I was surprised to see how many of my friends showed up and helped out. I don’t know if I have done anything for them, but they wanted to come out and support this.”

A total of 99 runners participated in the charity 5K and more than $3,000 was donated to Akron Children’s Hospital through entry fees and donations from individuals and local businesses.

“I think I’d like to do something like this again,” Ryan said. “Just being involved with the sport and running road races for a great cause is very rewarding.”
Like many rivalry games around Ohio each fall, Centerville and Kettering Fairmont annually hook up on the football field in a game filled with anticipation, huge community support and lasting memories.

Since 1985, this particular game in southwest Ohio has also included a contest known to both schools as Spirit Chain, in which the two student bodies and communities raise money, support and awareness for selected charities in their area. The total dollars raised by the two schools since the challenge’s inception has now reached $1.4 million.

“This is a real life-learning experience for our students,” said Jenny Borchers, Student Activities Coordinator at Fairmont. “We start thinking about Spirit Chain over the summer and the campaign lasts for weeks. It’s jam packed with fundraisers and events and is truly a community-wide initiative.”

Borchers said that each year Fairmont tries to reach out to more of the community. Donations are accepted from both students and staff and student leaders go on a community walk for donations, hold community garage sales and partner with local businesses and restaurants to have portions of sales donated to Spirit Chain.

Likewise, Centerville begins planning in the summer and gets the whole community involved to support the selected charities. In 2011, Centerville selected ‘Food 2 Go’ and Children’s Hunger Alliance, while some other past beneficiaries include the Special Wish Foundation, Special Olympics, TJ’s Place of Hope, Habitat for Humanity and the Ronald McDonald House.

Activities begin in the summer, but the major focus is the week of the game,” said Jon Wesney, Centerville’s principal. “Each day of game week is designated as a spirit day and activities are planned throughout the week to raise money. The class officers are the driving force behind Spirit Chain, as they plan events and assist in counting the money.”

Fairmont has selected such charities as A Kid Again, We Care Arts and Daybreak, a shelter for homeless teens in Dayton. Money also has been donated to a specific member of the community in need.

“Our community really responds to local causes and our students rally around causes where they feel they have an immediate impact,” Borchers said. “Our United Student Body Cabinet, which is made up of 10 elected senior students, spearheads the campaign, with strong support from each Class Council.”

The total dollar amount raised is announced annually before the football game kicks off and the school which brings in the most money is announced as that year’s winner, but the real winners are the charities, which are invited to attend the football game to be a part of the festivities and the celebration of community support.

“From the crowning of our spirit king and queen (boy and girl who raise the most money), to our Spanish Club, to the strong support we receive each year from the Centerville Noon Optimists and Centerville Rotary Club, there are so many ways to be involved in Spirit Chain,” Wesney said.

Both schools said Spirit Chain has become a huge part of their school culture and has been embraced by both communities.

“We are all very proud of our students for stepping up to this challenge and making a difference in our community,” Borchers said. “Part of our mission at Fairmont is to ‘create contributing citizens’ and Spirit Chain is one great example of how Fairmont makes this happen.”

By Tim Stried, OHSAA Director of Information Services
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM TEACHING SPORTSMANSHIP

Dictionaries define a ‘league’ as an association of groups, organizations or individuals for a common action or alliance. But when it comes to athletics, too often the rivalries within a league or conference are so intense that there isn’t much shared interest involved.

Don’t tell that to the eight member schools of the Akron area Suburban League, though, which have bonded together to create a plan to promote sportsmanship, respect and leadership amongst its student bodies. The Suburban League Leadership Program was born in the spring of 2011 after the athletic directors, principals and superintendents of Lodi Cloverleaf, Copley, Uniontown Green, Medina Highland, Macedonia Nordonia, Richfield Revere, Tallmadge and Wadsworth met to discuss what could be done to address several unsporting situations that had recently happened.

“Our goal was just to change the culture of our student sections,” said Wadsworth Athletic Director Rich Berlin, who called the first meeting together. “It’s not a quick fix and we haven’t fixed it overnight. It’s a work in progress, but we have kids who have bought in and it’s going well. We have come together as a league.”

The program is on display at every conference football and basketball game, as the student leaders from both schools meet at midfield or center court in special camouflage shirts in their school colors to join the officials and captains. While doing so, a public address announcement is read that explains the program and encourages fans to show respect. During the game, the student leaders then address any unsportsmanlike issues that might arise.

“The leadership program team members met on a Saturday morning in October to review how the football games were going and to plan for the basketball season,” said Keith Walker, Suburban League Commissioner. “They also discussed how else they could combine their efforts to display leadership and camaraderie among the schools.”

Before joining the officials and captains from both teams for the coin toss at conference football games, the student leaders met for a tailgate meal before the game to get to know each other.

“It is really amazing to see the creativity and energy evidenced within this outstanding group of young people from eight different schools and communities,” Walker said.

Successful start of Suburban League Leadership Program in Akron changing attitudes, creating student leaders

By Tim Stried, OHSAA Director of Information Services

Photos courtesy of Keith Walker, Suburban League Commissioner

Suburban League Football Public Address Announcement:

“Accompanying the captains to midfield tonight are members of the newly formed Suburban League leadership team from both (visiting school) and (home school). All eight league schools have formed a core group of highly motivated and energetic student leaders whose goal is to promote positive sportsmanship within the Suburban League. Easily recognized by their ‘camo’ shirts, they are working hard to promote and model good sportsmanship in support of the OHSAA theme of ‘Respect the Game.’ Let’s hope everyone can follow their example.”
Comprehensive Balance Committee

The Comprehensive Balance Committee was formed in the spring of 2010 to study the imbalance of the percentage of state championships won by non-public schools compared to their percentage of the overall membership. A group of public school superintendents provided information that since 2000, 45 percent of the team titles were won by non-public schools, even though non-public schools make up only 17 percent of the membership. A referendum item addressing the subject was narrowly voted down by the membership in May 2011, which would have put into place a formula to determine which division schools would be assigned for the OHSAA's team tournaments. In October 2011, the Board of Directors accepted a recommendation from a Comprehensive Balance Subcommittee that, based on data received from a survey with member school principals in August, no immediate changes be made to the current system used to assign high schools to divisions for OHSAA tournaments. The Comprehensive Balance Committee and Board of Directors are continuing to discuss this issue.

Division I Committee

Assembled at various times during the last 10 years, the Division I Committee is studying possible solutions to the wide disparity in enrollment between the smallest and largest Division I schools that occurs within the Association’s tournament structure. Of note, a proposal regarding the football divisions was accepted by the Board of Directors in 2008 to include only the state’s larg-est 10 percent of schools in Division I, while all remaining schools would be split evenly into five other divisions, but the plan was revoked by the Board several months later.

Coaches Education and Certification

Adopted by the Board of Directors in 2008, all coaches in Ohio (both paid and volunteer) must take the Fundamentals of Coaching course, which was created by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) in 2006. Completion of the course, along with a valid CPR card, is a part of the Pupil Activity/Coaching Permit issued by the Ohio Department of Education, which is required for all coaches.

School District Treasurers Meetings

The OHSAA has formed a new liaison group to work with school district treasurers with a spotlight on athletic and extracurricular issues in Ohio’s schools. Formed this past autumn with school treasurers from around the state, the group’s initial focus is in developing best practices and standard procedures to handle event management, including both regular season and tournament games, guidance on working with booster clubs and other affiliated support groups, and structures for effective accountability over summer sports camps. Additionally, in conjunction with our partners at OASBO, the OHSAA has presented at several school district treasurer meetings to discuss ideas and potential best practices to guide schools in making the changes to meet difficult Federal IRS regulations and requirements.

continued on page 23
How Kids are Counted

“By tying OHSAA enrollment figures with EMIS, school funding and report cards, it leads to more accurate reporting,” said Jeff Jordan, the OHSAA’s Chief Financial Officer and former ODE Director of School Finance and Grants Management, who noted that using the ODE’s systems doesn’t mean there aren’t questions or concerns about the process.

Because of changes and shifts in population, Ohio’s schools have also had changes in demographics that affect how schools fit into a division. Another common concern is enrollment numbers used aren’t “real time” figures and can lag a year or more from the date of the actual data collection. Jordan noted that every two years there are around a half-dozen legitimate appeals for change in classification, but that others appeal simply because they would not like to compete in the school’s assigned division for various reasons.

One item of note is the counts of students provided by ODE to the OHSAA do not represent eligible students but rather enrollment at a school district or nonpublic school during the first full week of October using one of about 20 status codes found in EMIS.

For public schools, this student count does not include students who have been identified as children with disabilities within the multiple-handicapped and traumatic brain injury categories as well as students who are both deaf and blind. Because the data collected by ODE is simply a raw count of enrollment, there is no correlation of the enrollment data and those eligible to participate or actually participating in athletic competition at a member school.

This process of the OHSAA using the EMIS system and the ADM-1 to determine division classifications has been in use for around 15 years. Prior to this process, superintendents from school districts and principals from nonpublic schools sent their ‘Certification of Enrollment’ for the OHSAA to obtain enrollment figures. Those numbers were then reviewed and verified by the OHSAA.

In reality, the number of schools that change divisions every two years constitutes a very small number. By having communications between local public and nonpublic administrators and their EMIS coordinators or other data entry personnel, most schools can determine fairly closely into what division they will fall.

To read more about how the OHSAA determines divisional breakdowns, visit www.ohsaa.org or consult the OHSAA Handbook.

How Kids are Counted: Timeline

First Full Week, October 2010
Students are counted by public and non-public schools. Data entry begins in EMIS and ADM-1

February 2011
ODE pulls data and presents to the OHSAA for determination of division classifications.

June 2011
End of school year and previous cycle

October 2010 - January 2011
ODE and public and non-public schools review data submitted and adjust based on corrections needed at school.

April 2011
Enrollments and preliminary data available to member schools for review.

August 2011
COACHING PERMIT VERIFICATION RAMPING UP

Tournament entry process will now include confirmation of Pupil Activity/Coaching Permit numbers from Ohio Department of Education

In September 2011, the OHSAA issued a memo to all member schools regarding a new process by which verification will be requested to ensure that all coaches have a valid Pupil Activity/Coaching Permit from the Ohio Department of Education.

For years, an OHSAA bylaw has been in place that requires all paid and volunteer coaches to meet all criteria established by the State Board of Education. In the last few years, the criteria for obtaining a Pupil Activity/Coaching Permit (PAP) has included completion of the National Federation of State High School Association’s Fundamentals of Coaching course.

During its May 2011 meeting, the OHSAA Board of Directors approved new General Sports Regulation 3, Penalties for Failure to Acquire the Pupil Activity/Coaching Permit. The new regulation says that:

• Coaches who do not possess the PAP will not be permitted to coach at any level at an OHSAA member school;
• High schools will submit on the OHSAA Tournament Entry Form the name of each board-approved coach along with the PAP number
• Any high school coach who does not possess the PAP at the first level of the tournament will not be permitted to coach at any level of the tournament until such time that the PAP is obtained and verification of such is provided to the OHSAA.

The new regulation also provides authority for the OHSAA to perform random audits throughout the year to ensure coaches have the proper credentials. Additionally, there is authority for the OHSAA to fine schools that have not complied with the bylaw $250 per coach.

To ensure wide communication of this regulation, the information was included in the May Board of Directors Meeting Highlights that were emailed to the membership immediately following the board meeting, the May Board of Directors Meeting Minutes that were distributed via email and posted on the OHSAA website and via the 2011-12 OHSAA Handbook in the General Sports Regulations section (pages 60 and 61).

With this in mind, please remember that when filling out OHSAA Tournament Entry Forms (either on paper or online), schools are required to include the name(s) of all coaches during its participation in that particular OHSAA tournament. Along with the name(s), the State I.D. Number/License Number is required for each coach. Please note this is a clarification from original Sports Regulation 3. The OHSAA requests the State I.D. Number/License Number and not the PAP Permit Number (listed as Form No. on the Pupil Activity Supervisor Permit).

As additional points of information, the License Number that appears on the Pupil Activity Supervisor Permit is the same as the State I.D. Number which appears on the Ohio Department of Education website when viewing a coach’s credentials. Also, this number usually begins with two letters.

If you need assistance finding the State I.D. Number/License Number of your coach(es), access the Ohio Department of Education’s public interface for professional licenses by going to www.education.ohio.gov, then clicking on the “Educator Profile” link under the “Educators” section.

OHSAA COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEMBER SCHOOLS

A point of emphasis by the OHSAA Board of Directors is to expand and document the Association’s communications with member schools. The following is a summary of those communications efforts, both electronically and through the mail.

EMAILED MEMOS
• Transfer Bylaw Resource Center, updated June 2011
• Mandatory Preseason Meetings Memo and new DVD, mailed June 2011
• Concussion Management Resources, updated July 2011
• Heat Precautions, updated July 2011
• New School Year Reminders (mid August 2011)
• Board Meeting Highlights (immediately following all Board meetings)
• Complete Board Meeting Minutes (following all Board meetings)
• Upcoming myOHSAA deadlines (as needed)
• myOHSAA update (annual)
• Tournament Entry/Withdrawal Deadlines
• Sport Participation Cards (annual)
• Reminders for Online Rules Meetings (seasonal)

PUBLICATIONS
• Handbook (constitution, bylaws and sports regulations)
• Eligibility Brochure and Card
• Sport Mailings (preseason manual, rules meeting dates, rule books, etc.)
• School Directory
• Pocket Calendar and Wall Calendar
• Guide to 7th and 8th Grade Athletics
• Year in Review
• OHSAA Magazine (September, February and May)
• Working with the Media Brochure

ANNUAL MEETINGS
• New Administrators Workshop, August
• Fall Update Meetings, August
• Spring Public Relations/Referendum Process Meetings, April
• State Tournament Qualifiers Meetings, annual
NFHS RELEASES THREE HEALTH POSITION STATEMENTS

By Kristin Daugherty, OHSAA Sports Information Intern

The National Federation of State High School Associations’ (NFHS) Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) is committed to educating its constituency by proactively addressing health and risk management issues. In accordance with this commitment, SMAC recently issued three position statements regarding the wellbeing and safety of the athletes who compete in interscholastic athletics. The following is a summary of its three statements.

HYDRATION AND HEAT CONCERNS

SMAC stresses that “appropriate hydration before, during, and after physical activity is an important ingredient to healthy and successful sports participation.” Many people know that dehydration can affect performance but a loss of just three percent body weight (1.5 to 3 pounds for a 150-pound athlete) can significantly increase the risk for external heat-related illness. Some important factors to consider while determining the necessary amount of fluid consumption for a specific athlete include body fat percentages, the amount of sweat they produce, medications and the amount of clothing/equipment each athlete wears. All of these factors can dramatically impact the amount of water an athlete needs in order to compete at their highest level. SMAC recommends drinking 16 oz. of fluid two hours before physical activity, another eight to 16 oz. 15 minutes before physical activity, four to 8 oz. every 15 to 20 minutes during physical activity and 16 to 20 oz. of fluid for every pound lost after play has concluded.

ENERGY DRINK RECOMMENDATIONS

Along with ensuring athletes are receiving enough hydration, the type of fluids they put into their body are just as important as how much they put in. SMAC suggests that water and sports drinks with an appropriate carbohydrate (6-8%) and sodium formulation (0.4-0.12 g/L) are the best pre-hydration and rehydration options. Unlike these beneficial sports drinks, SMAC advises athletes to avoid energy drinks which often contain a higher concentration of carbohydrates (usually 8-11%) and are not appropriate for rehydrating during physical activity. Other drinks to avoid include fruit juices and drinks high in caffeine as they can often lead to a bloated feeling and abdominal cramping.

MOUTH GUARD RECOMMENDATIONS

Though the NFHS only mandates the use of mouth guards in four OHSAA sanctioned sports, it recommends that athletes consider the use of a properly fitted, unaltered mouth guard for participation in any sport that has the potential for oral-facial injury from body or playing apparatus (stick, bat, ball, etc.) contact. They suggest that a properly fitted and unaltered mouth guard has been shown to not impede communication, breathing or create any hazards to the airway or oral cavity. Numerous studies by highly respected dental associations also show that, by wearing a properly fitted mouth guard, there is a significant reduction in the amount of oral-facial injuries. In fact, prior to the use of mouth guards in football, over 50 percent of football players’ injuries were oral-facial. They now represent less than one percent of all injuries. If you have any further questions regarding sports medicine or any of the topics mentioned above, visit http://www.ohsaa.org/medicine/default.htm and Stay in the Game.
Maximize the Coaching Experience with These Simple Tips

By Christopher Stankovich, Ph.D., OHSAA Magazine Contributor

Being a youth or interscholastic coach can be an awesome experience filled with countless exciting life experiences, including building healthy relationships with kids, pursuing team championships and coming together as a team when faced with stress, adversity, and dealing with losses. Unfortunately, for some coaches, the experience quickly becomes overwhelming as they become an unfortunate victim to things like their own perfectionism and control, inability to work with kids and unwillingness to build relationships with parents.

Coaching, like most things in life, is really what you make of it. Successful coaches have realistic personal expectations and team goals, and make sure to prioritize their own health and family before their role as a coach. Of course, there’s more to it than just those simple reminders, including a few more ideas to consider below:

<table>
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<th>Make downtime a priority</th>
<th>Involve parents</th>
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<td>Today, even youth and interscholastic coaches are at-risk for burnout as it is becoming commonplace to see these coaches put in unbelievable amounts of time into their coaching. Similar to college and pro coaches, amateur coaches sometimes go too hard for too long, resulting in a host of physical, emotional and social problems. Consequently, it is vitally important to keep a schedule that allows you to take breaks and get away when needed. Sure, this may not be easy to do, but if you don’t do it not only will coaching soon become a lot less fun, but your team will also likely suffer as a result.</td>
<td>Quite often the #1 complaint I hear from coaches is “parents.” The main reason coaches feel this way has to do with how parents feel their child should be used compared to how the coach is actually using the child. The disconnect seems to exist on every youth and interscholastic sports team to some extent, making it an issue coaches need to be proactive with when deciding upon their personal philosophy. Many successful coaches have preseason meetings to kick off the start of the season and talk about their coaching philosophy and how parents can be a positive and active part of the team. In fact, preseason meetings are a requirement of the OHSAA for interscholastic sports teams. Some coaches even set up ways for parents to ask constructive questions about their child and how he/she can improve and possibly earn more playing time in the future. Regardless of how you develop your philosophy, one thing is certain — when parents feel disconnected and under-appreciated, they often let their feelings be known, which can in turn make for a very long season.</td>
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Keep up with training

There are so many changes in youth sports today and many leading sport psychologists, sport educators and sports medicine personnel have developed important educational training to help meet these needs. While some leagues and states require specific training, it is important to consider going above the minimum in order to stay abreast of emerging trends — like sports burnout. Unfortunately, some coaches only do the minimum when it comes to training and view anything above that as “punitive” rather than educational.

Teach kids about athletic transferable skills

I talk about these skills a lot and that’s because they are the essence of the youth sport experience! Be sure the kids you coach do not minimize the value of the skills they learn in sports, nor falsely assume that all kids have learned the same skills. Be sure to talk regularly about how things like mental toughness, confidence, discipline and resiliency are not only skills for sport success, but also life success.

Emphasize the positives!

High fives, emphatic praise and a general positive attitude can go a long, long way when it comes to sports. Choose your daily attitude and be sure to “catch” kids doing things right, especially when they give great effort (even if the results aren’t always great).

For more information about youth and interscholastic coaching success, check out Sport Success 360 or visit Advanced Human Performance Systems today!

www.drstankovich.com

Dr. Chris Stankovich

Dr. Chris Stankovich is a professional athletic counselor, media spokesperson and author in the field of sport performance science. His doctorate degree is from The Ohio State University, with an emphasis of study in sport and health psychology. Known as “The Sports Doc” for his weekly television segment on Ohio News Network, he is also a featured national columnist for The Examiner. To learn more about Dr. Stankovich, including products and services, please visit www.drstankovich.com.

SportSuccess360

Check out www.sportsuccess360.com
Henry Zaborniak

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.

**OHSAA Directors of Officiating Development**

**Baseball** - Kyle McNeely  
**Basketball** - Dennis Morris  
**Field Hockey** - Bill Gardiner  
**Football** - Bruce Maurer  
**Gymnastics** - Lori Powers-Basinger  
**Ice Hockey** - Gary Wilkins  
**Soccer** - Don Muenz  
**Softball** - Jerry Fick  
**Swimming & Diving** - Ken Gipe  
**Track & Field** - Dale Gabor  
**Volleyball** - Diane Plas  
**Wrestling** - Jim Vreeland

Dale Gabor, the OHSAA’s director of officiating development in track and field, is also the OHSAA’s sport administrator for track and field and cross country.

Officials are tasked with knowing the rules of the game and are tested on those rules throughout their careers as an official. To assist with their knowledge of the rules and to provide insight often not found in the rule book, many of the OHSAA’s Directors of Officiating Development create bulletins and newsletters that are posted on the OHSAA’s new Directors of Officiating Development webpage.

Created for officials but useful and informative for coaches, student-athletes and fans alike, the webpage was developed as part of the relaunching of the officiating website at OHSAA.org. The Directors of Officiating Development (see list in sidebar) are highlighted on the site with their photos, bios and email addresses.

Many of the directors also utilize the page for monthly or seasonal bulletins that give an inside look at the life of an official, both on and off the field of play.

“Our Directors of Officiating Development are all experts in their sport,” said OHSAA Assistant Commissioner Henry Zaborniak, who oversees the officiating development program. “Their knowledge and enthusiasm for their sport and the folks who officiate their sport is incredible and is why they were selected as directors. That enthusiasm comes out in their bulletins and they provide a great deal of information.”

A glance at the bios and careers of the directors shows that these men and women bring a remarkable amount of experience and leadership to interscholastic athletics in Ohio.

“Their experience translates into the bulletins,” Zaborniak said. “They answer frequently asked questions, provide rules interpretations and write about contest scenarios and how officials should handle those situations. Many of the bulletins also give insight into how to enjoy officiating and how to be a better all-around official.”

**Log on to the website at** [www.ohsaa.org/officials/directors.htm](http://www.ohsaa.org/officials/directors.htm).

Also, don’t forget that OHSAA Associate Commissioner Dr. Deborah Moore and Assistant Commissioner Jerry Snodgrass provide weekly bulletins on several OHSAA sports, which are mainly intended for coaches and school administrators to address frequently asked questions, give explanations of OHSAA sports regulations and give important reminders. Contest rules are often included in those bulletins, as well. They are posted on the individual sport pages at OHSAA.org.

Jessica Tafe was among the officials selected to work the 2011 girls basketball state tournament.
2011 OHSAA Fall State Tournaments Wrap-up

By Kristin Daugherty, OHSAA Sports Information Intern

Attendance

• The overall attendance at the OHSAA’s seven fall state tournaments was up from the 2010 season. Most notably, the soccer state championships set a new attendance record (six game total of 13,535), the cross country state championships saw their second-highest attendance ever (11,367), the volleyball state tournament attendance was up nearly 2,000 fans (12 game total of 13,644) and the football state championships attendance was up about 13,000 (six game total of 48,695).

Records and National Recognition

• Terri Simonetti-Frost, Thomas Worthington’s field hockey head coach, was recognized by the NFHS as the 2010-11 National Field Hockey Coach of the Year. Simonetti-Frost’s team went on to win its third field hockey state crown, defeating Shaker Heights Hathaway Brown, 1-0, in overtime.

• Kenton senior quarterback Maty Mauk finished his high school football career as the most prolific passer in OHSAA history and set five national records, as well. He threw for 18,932 yards and 219 touchdowns and led the Wildcats to the Division IV state championship game, where Mauk threw for 421 yards and five touchdown tosses.

• Trotwood-Madison senior Israel Green set four football state records (most touchdowns in a game in all divisions - 6, most rushing touchdowns in a game in all divisions - 6, most points all divisions - 36, and most rushing yards in a game for Division II - 326) to help lead the Rams to their school’s first state football crown.

• Springfield Catholic Central senior Calum Latham finished his high school soccer career with 198 goals, which sets the state soccer record for most goals in a career (boys or girls). Latham’s Irish finished the season as a regional semifinalist.

Repeat

• The Irish from Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary won their third consecutive girls cross country state title and Cleveland St. Ignatius and Dayton Carroll both repeated as the Division I and II boys soccer state champions, respectively.

• Dublin Jerome High School swept the boys and girls Division I team golf championship titles for the second time in school history (2011, 2005).

First Timers

• Of the 28 team state champions that were crowned this fall, 13 brought home their school’s first state title in each respective sport. The first timers included Dayton Chaminade Julienne (DII girls golf), Springfield Kenton Ridge (DII boys golf), Columbus Wellington (DIII boys golf), Brunswick (DII girls cross country), Liberty Center (DII girls cross country), Dublin Coffman (DI boys cross country), Springfield Shawnee (DII boys cross country), Cincinnati Summit Country Day (DII girls soccer), Caesarsown Miami East (DIII volleyball), Columbus Bishop Hartley (DII volleyball), Trotwood-Madison (DII football), Creston Norwayne (DIV football) and Kirtland (DIV football).

• After a 26-year stint at Scioto Downs, the cross country state finals made a successful transition to its new home at National Trail Raceway in Hebron and saw 11 new champions crowned.

Redeemers

• Girls tennis saw three 2010 runner-ups come back and claim the 2011 title, while in boys golf Cleveland St. Ignatius’ Beau Tisworth followed up his 2010 boys golf runner-up performance by finishing as the 2011 Division I co-medalist.

• In the team tournaments, three 2010 runner-ups also came back to claim this year’s title including Trotwood-Madison in football (Div. II), Thomas Worthington in field hockey and Worthington Christian in boys soccer (Div. III).

First Timers

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• After a 26-year stint at Scioto Downs, the cross country state finals made a successful transition to its new home at National Trail Raceway in Hebron and saw 11 new champions crowned.

Jerry Snodgrass joined the OHSAA in August 2008 as assistant commissioner. 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.

Above: Stallion baseball players from Columbus St. Francis DeSales eye their trophy as they await the award presentation after the Division II championship game in 2011. Despite not having a single senior on the team, DeSales beat Akron Archbishop Hoban 9-8 in the final, finishing with a 21-9 record and its first baseball state championship since 1979.

Left: Kenton senior quarterback Maty Mauk is the Ohio and national record holder for career passing yards (18,392) and career passing touchdowns (219). While known for his passing, Ohio’s Mr. Football in 2011 had an eye for a good running lane, as well. Mauk rushed for 3,748 yards and 59 touchdowns during his four-year career for the Wildcats.

Kenton High School quarterback Maty Mauk
Jeff Jordan

After an 11-year stint at the Ohio Department of Education, Jeff Jordan joined the OHSAA’s administrative staff as Chief Financial Officer in August of 2011. He was director of finance program services for the ODE since 2006 and had oversight of districts in fiscal caution, watch and emergency. Between 2001 and 2010, he was responsible for the ODE’s Office of Federal and State Grants Management.

Jordan was appointed to an ex-officio position on the OHSAA Board of Directors by the ODE from 2001 through April 2011. He has been an OHSAA licensed basketball official since 1991.

As the OHSAA’s CFO, Jordan will oversee internal financial operations, the annual budget, tournament financial operations and the independent company that performs the annual audit. He will also serve as the financial advisor for the OHSAA Foundation.

Peninsula Woodridge’s Vibushan Sivakumaran helped lead the Bulldogs 4x800 meter relay team to its second consecutive state championship in the event and the state meet record time of 7:37.43 in Division II. Sivakumaran also finished as runner-up in the individual 800-meter finals.

2011-12 OHSAA CENTRAL OFFICE OPERATING BUDGET: $12,300,000

- Revenue
  - Services & Other Support: $2,692,100
  - Sports Tournaments: $9,607,900

- Expenses
  - Sports Tournaments: $5,994,500
  - Services & Other Support: $1,696,500
  - Operating Expenses: $4,250,500
  - Capital Improvements/Fixed Assets: $358,500

2011-12 OHSAA DISTRICT ATHLETIC BOARDS OPERATING BUDGET: $6,086,226

Revenue
- Sports Tournaments: $5,933,728
- Services & Other Support: $152,498

Expenses
- Sports Tournaments: $5,212,754
- Services & Other Support: $203,750
- Operating Expenses: $668,722
- Capital Improvements/Fixed Assets: $1,000

See page 22 of the fall issue of OHSAA Magazine for the complete operating budget breakdown with subcategories.
OHSAA Committees, continued from page 15

Booster Summit
A meeting for athletic booster club officers is scheduled for April 24, 2012, to discuss many issues that, if left unchecked, could cause state or federal irregularities regarding payments and benefits to coaches, Title IX compliance, revenue reporting and taxes, etc.

Off-Season Coaching Regulations Study
A committee has been assembled to study the OHSAA’s regulations and bylaws on off-season coaching and contact by coaches with their student-athletes. The committee is charged with reviewing all off-season regulations and recommending any possible changes to the Board of Directors.

Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Committee
Created in 1992, the OHSAA’s Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity (SEI) Committee meets regularly to determine the annual SEI school award winners, oversee the annual SEI award winners from each coaches’ association and provide OHSAA member schools with tools to help increase positive sporting behavior within their school community. The committee also works with the “Respect the Game” campaign and the “Respect the Game Respect Yourself” program. See the fall 2011 issue of OHSAA Magazine for an explanation of how this program has recently changed.

In Addition…
The OHSAA also supports the work of each District Athletic Board, the Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine, the Diversity Committee, the OHSAA Circle of Champions Recognition Program, the OHSAA Foundation, the Media Advisory Committee and the annual meeting of the presidents of the various coaches’ associations. The OHSAA also joins forces with the NFHS (see page 2), the OHSAA’s allied organizations (see page 4) and the OHSAA’s corporate partners (see page 25).
Kim Combs

After being involved with the OHSAA for three years in the areas of sponsorship, marketing, hotel partnerships and the annual Basketball FanFest, Kim Combs was named Executive Director of the OHSAA Foundation in January of 2010. Combs works directly with the Foundation’s service week initiatives, web site and newsletter correspondence and the six leadership conferences, which promote leadership, citizenship, sportsmanship and service and are attended by over 750 student-athletes around the state each year. The Grove City native is a graduate of The Ohio State University, has worked for the Columbus Sports Commission and owns her own consulting company, KNC Solutions, which provides support for non-profit sports and charity events.

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 Orville High School, Bob’s previous work has all been in collegiate sports information offices, including Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, Purdue University and Ohio State University.

OHSAA Foundation Announces Conferences

The OHSAA Foundation will once again host the 2012 spring Student Leadership Conferences. These conferences are for sophomore and junior student-athletes who exhibit leadership qualities in the classroom, on their team, and within their community.

These all day conferences will once again be facilitated by the dynamic motivational speaker Harvey Alston and each conference will consist of three to five interactive break-out sessions and a luncheon speaker. This year the Foundation will sponsor three conferences. Those locations and dates are listed below. For more information please contact Kim Combs at kcombs@ohsaaorganization.org.

Monday, March 12th - Columbus Zoo and Aquarium
Tuesday, March 27th - Wright State University, Nutter Center
Wednesday, March 28th - Kent State University, Stark County Campus

Foundation Service Week

The OHSAA Foundation would like to thank all of the schools that participated in the 2011 Foundation Service Week program! Many charitable organizations within your communities and around the state benefited from your generosity and support. Below are the lists of schools that participated and are examples of “Kids Who Care.”
In 2009, Eastbay became the Official Apparel Provider of the Ohio High School Athletic Association, as well as a sponsor for all OHSAA championship events. In this capacity, Eastbay has been a one-stop shop for players and coaches across Ohio. Some of the latest developments by Eastbay are helping shape the next generation of great athletes including the Athlete Resource Center (ARC).

**Athlete Resource Center**

Striving to be the ultimate source for all things sports led Eastbay to create the Athlete Resource Center. The ARC seeks to help athletes establish a firm foundation of fundamentals on which to build the skill sets they need to advance their game. The ARC includes several serious ways young athletes can find an edge:

- **Buyer guides** for footwear, equipment and accessories for baseball, basketball, football, running, soccer, softball and more
- **Training** articles and videos covering strength and conditioning, recovery and nutrition/hydration
- **Athlete spotlights** that lend Eastbay-exclusive insight to what drives some of the most dynamic names in sports:
  - Basketball: Kevin Durant and Derrick Rose
  - Baseball: Justin Verlander and Brandon Phillips
  - Football: Anquan Boldin and Greg Jennings
  - Track & Field: Allyson Felix and Wallace Spearmon Jr.

- **Close the Gap** is an innovative program that interacts with kids who participate in baseball, basketball and football. Players from grades 6 through 12 input basic workout information – bench press reps, dash times, drill times, etc. – to see how they measure up to their peers.

These tips and drills are tailored to your specific position and age group. It’s simple to use:

- Enter your test/drill results
- Select the position you play
- See how you compare to national averages input by other users
- See where you’re strong, weak or competitive
- Watch videos for tips on how to improve your performance

Spend less time surfing and more on your workouts. To be the best, train with the best. Visit Eastbay.com/ARC.
Who is the Ohio Ophthalmological Society, and what can they do for your team?

The Ohio Ophthalmological Society’s (OOS) Play Hard. Don’t Blink. sports eye safety program works with leagues and individuals in Ohio to promote the use of protective eyewear to reduce the number of sports eye injuries in Ohio’s young players. From baseball and softball helmets with face masks to sports goggles, including prescription sports goggles, your league or school can get the eye injury protection you need to prevent youth sports eye injuries at no cost!

In its second year partnering with the OHSAA, the OOS is not only helping to fund sporting events such as field hockey, football, basketball and baseball/softball, but it is also raising awareness of one of the most common injuries doctors see in emergency rooms—how to protect yourself against them!

Why Wear the Gear?

Eye injuries are often the result of a high-speed ball, aggressive body contact, or a swinging/moving piece of sports equipment. Young players often lack the reflexes, coordination, strength, or experience to avoid these eye hazards. For example, children often misjudge balls in flight, causing them to take a blow to the face or head.

Eye injuries from sports may cause loss of vision or complete loss of an eye. Bleeding within the eye (hyphema) may cause glaucoma years later. Even a minor eye injury can cause retinal detachment and blindness. Fortunately, we can prevent most of these injuries by encouraging players to wear eye protection.

“The Play Hard. Don’t Blink. program has allowed our league to provide the safest equipment possible to our young athletes. Our players are able to focus on the sport without having to worry about being injured. We estimate that more than 100 injuries have been prevented in the past three years as the result of using the protective helmet.”

— Marty Flint, Westerville Youth Baseball & Softball League
Why wouldn’t a player use protective eyewear?

Competitors in several sports have verified that face guards and protective eyewear do not impair their concentration or reduce their ability to focus. Some coaches feel that the extra protection actually enhances their young athletes’ concentration and alleviates their fear of injuries. The OOS Play Hard. Don’t Blink. sports eye safety program provides education for parents and coaches with a variety of protective eye gear, activities, and information designed to make safe playing habits cool to kids.

How Can You Help?

Play Hard. Don’t Blink. is funded by a generous grant through the Ohio Department of Health’s Save Our Sight Program. The Save Our Sight Program was created to ensure that children in Ohio have good vision and healthy eyes. The program accomplishes this through the early identification of children with vision problems and the promotion of good eye health and safety. Citizens of Ohio fund the program through voluntary $1 donations when they apply for or renew their license plates and tags.

When renewing your license plates and tags remember to check the box!

For more information visit www.playhardgear.com
By Kristin Daugherty, OHSAA Sports Information Intern

**BOYS & GIRLS SWIMMING AND DIVING**

*When:* February 22-25  
*Where:* C.T. Branin Natatorium, Canton  
For the 31st consecutive year the largest natatorium in the state, C.T. Branin Natatorium, will host the OHSAA state swimming and diving finals. Sectionals begin the week of Feb. 5, leading up to the 65th annual boys and 36th annual girls state meet. In 2011, the girls’ tournament saw St. Gates Mills Hawken (Div. II) and Upper Arlington (Div. I) take home their school’s 21st and eighth state crowns, respectively. Cin. St. Xavier (boys Div. I) continued its dominance with its school’s 32nd state title and Hunting Valley University School (boys Div. II) took home its third consecutive title.

**WRESTLING**

*When:* March 1-3  
*Where:* Value City Arena at the Jerome Schottenstein Center, Ohio State University, Columbus  
The 75th anniversary of this nationally-acclaimed event will see 672 wrestlers hit the mats in search of a state title. Three teams and 42 individuals will be crowned state champions. In 2011, Lakewood St. Edward (Div. I) returned to the top of the leader board and won its state-record 26th title. St. Paris Graham Local won the Div. II team title for the 11th consecutive year and 19th time overall, while Bedford St. Peter Chanel claimed the Div. III state crown (fifth title).

**BOYS & GIRLS BOWLING**

*When:* March 2 (Boys) and March 3 (Girls)  
*Where:* Wayne Webb's Columbus Bowl  
For the second consecutive year the bowling state tournament will take place at Wayne Webb’s Columbus Bowl. The boys team qualifying round and individual competition will take place Fri., March 2, at 11 a.m. and the girls tournament will follow the same format on Sat., March 3. In 2011, the girls tournament saw St. Marys Memorial bring home the team title, with top individual honors going to senior Crystal Boyer from Coldwater. The boys championship trophy was won by Troy, with junior Corey Bayus from Struthers claiming the individual honors.

**GYMNAS TICS**

*When:* March 2-3  
*Where:* Hilliard Bradley High School  
Hilliard Bradley High School will once again host the 40th annual state gymnastics championships. The team competition will be held on Fri., March 2, with the individual competition taking place Sat., March 3. In 2011, Brecksville-Broadview Heights fought off a determined Hudson squad to win the team championship by a score of 146.600 to 144.325. It was the Bees’ eighth consecutive title and 11th overall.

**ICE HOCKEY**

*When:* March 10-11  
*Where:* Nationwide Arena, Columbus  
For the 10th consecutive year the ice hockey state championship will be played at the home of the NHL’s Columbus Blue Jackets in downtown Columbus. The semifinals will be played on Sat., March 10, with the championship game taking place the next day. Last year, Toledo St. Francis deSales defeated Lakewood St. Edward 2-1 in sudden-victory overtime to claim its first state ice hockey championship.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

*When:* March 15-17  
*Where:* Value City Arena at the Jerome Schottenstein Center, Ohio State University, Columbus  
March Madness will begin in Central Ohio on March 15 when the girls basketball state tournaments return to Value City Arena. The 2012 order of play will start with the small schools and finish with the big schools (Div. IV, III, II, I). In 2011, Twinsburg finished the year as the only undefeated basketball team in the state (27-0) and brought home its first state title (Div. I). Canal Winchester Harvest Prep (Div. IV) and Shaker Heights Hathaway Brown (Div. II) won their second and third-consecutive titles, respectively, while Anna (Div. III) brought home its second title.

By Kristin Daugherty, OHSAA Sports Information Intern
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