News Release – Ohio High School Athletic Association
Commissioner Daniel B. Ross, Ph.D.


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OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame to Welcome 14 Members; Officials of the Year Announced
Annual banquet is Saturday in Columbus; Joe Pangrazio to enter National Hall of Fame July 2

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio High School Athletic Association Officials Hall of Fame will induct 14 new members Saturday at its annual banquet in Columbus and recognize the 2014-15 OHSAA Officials of the Year. Each of the 14 Hall of Fame inductees is being honored for significant contributions to interscholastic officiating in Ohio and were selected by the OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame Committee. More information on the OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame is posted at: http://www.ohsaa.org/officials/HallofFame.htm

“The Officials Hall of Fame banquet is our opportunity to recognize the best officials in Ohio for their outstanding careers and their dedication to officiating,” said Beau Rugg, OHSAA Assistant Commissioner and one of last year’s Hall of Fame inductees. “It is a joy to recognize these highly respected individuals with induction into the Hall of Fame. We thank all officials for their service to student-athletes, coaches, schools and other officials.”

In addition, the late Joseph (Joe) Pangrazio Sr., one of Ohio’s legendary football and basketball officials, will become the 28th Ohioan to enter the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Hall of Fame July 2 in New Orleans, Louisiana, during the 33rd Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, which will wrap up the 96th annual NFHS Summer Meeting.

Ohio’s 28 NFHS Hall of Fame inductees are more than any other state (Illinois ranks second with 23). The previous 27 Ohioans to be inducted are posted at: http://www.ohsaa.org/NFHSHallofFame.asp.

Pangrazio was a charter member of the OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame in 1989, and last year he was inducted into the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame. He was an OHSAA football official for 45 years (1955-2000) and an OHSAA basketball official for 55 years (1945-2000). He officiated six state football championships and 10 state basketball tournaments (eight boys, two girls). He conducted countless clinics and camps and was instrumental in recruiting and mentoring numerous new football and basketball officials. Pangrazio was also a highly successful college basketball official in several conferences and was a Big Ten Conference basketball officials observer and evaluator at Ohio State University for 25 years.

The OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame is the only Hall of Fame sponsored by the OHSAA. The OHSAA’s Circle of Champions recognizes individuals from various areas who had outstanding careers in high school athletics and have further contributed to interscholastic sports.

2015 OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame Induction Class:
Marie Anthony, Columbus (BK)
Dolores Billhardt, Willoughby (Administrator, deceased)
Joseph Grimes Jr., Shaker Heights (BK)
John Gurney, Shelby (BB, BK)
Galen Harris, Tipp City (BB, SB, VB, WR)
Ken Kaiser, Columbus (BK, FT)
Robert Peterfish, Columbus (SD, deceased)
Pat Porter, Chillicothe (BB, BK, SB, VB)
Bryan Reamsnyder, Toledo (FT, deceased)
Sue Sheck, Coshocton (BB, SB, BK, VB)
Brian Spangler, Reynoldsburg (BK, FT)
Melvin Staats, Newton Falls (BB, SB)
Elizabeth Van Tine, Englewood (CC, TF)
Eugene Wodzisz, Parma (BK, FT)

2014-15 OHSAA Officials of the Year:
Boys Cross Country - Ken Beard, West Milton
Boys Soccer - Douglas Billerman, Maria Stein
Girls Basketball - Jason Blazevich, Northwood
Wrestling - Russell Brode, New Franklin
Girls Soccer - Charles Daria, Bethel
Baseball - Frank Grubb, Grove City
Ice Hockey - Joseph Hrabak, Columbus
Boys Track and Field - Robert Jones, West Lafayette
Girls Cross Country - Arthur Joseph, Shadyside
Football – John Keener, Athens
Gymnastics - Maxine Matovic, Cleveland
Softball - Cheryl Opperman, Wellington
Boys Swimming and Diving - Jon Reidler, Blacklick
Volleyball - Mark Rose, Wheelersburg
Field Hockey - Todd Shapiro, Cleveland
Girls Track and Field - Pamela Spears, Lewisburg
Girls Swimming and Diving - Robert VanAlmen, Hartville
Boys Basketball - Mark Wanyerka, Olmsted Falls

### OHSAA ###

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