



SECTION VI *newsletter*

September 2008

Volume 15 Issue 1

N.Y.S. PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Next Athletic Council Meeting

September 17, 2008

Lunch 11:00 am – Meeting begins at 11:30 am
Erie 1 BOCES Education Campus,
355 Harlem Rd., W.Seneca, Building B, Room B1

ATHLETIC COUNCIL

MEETING DATES 2008-2009

Sept. 17, Nov. 19, Jan. 21, March 25, May 20

All Athletic Council meetings are held

at 11:30 am – Lunch served at 11:00 am

Erie 1 BOCES Education Campus,
355 Harlem Rd., W.Seneca, Building B

Mark your calendars!

Section VI Schools of Distinction to be Honored

NYSPHSAA announced that of the seventeen schools in New York State that achieved the status of Scholar-Athlete "School of Distinction" for 2007-08, five were schools in Section VI:

Clarence, Grand Island, Iroquois,

Williamsville East and Williamsville North

These schools achieved the "School of Distinction" status by having 100% of their interscholastic varsity sports teams earn above a 90.0% grade point average. Clarence with 30 teams, is receiving the award for the 4th time. Iroquois (27 teams), Williamsville East (28 teams) and Williamsville North (28 teams) have won the award twice. This is the first year winning the award for Grand Island with 25 teams. The districts will be honored and presented with the award at the Section VI Athletic Council meeting, Wed. Sept. 17 at the Erie 1 BOCES Education Campus in West Seneca.

The "School of Distinction" award, in its sixth year of existence, is the highest award handed out in the Scholar-Athlete program. The purpose of the "School of Distinction" award is to unite varsity coaches in challenging their teams to achieve a statewide honor in addition to the already established Scholar-Athlete Team Award. The program was initiated in 1991-1992 school year. Of the 45 schools that have won the award since its inception in 2002-03, 14 were Section VI schools. *Congratulations* to Clarence, Grand Island, Iroquois, Williamsville East and Williamsville North!!

SECTION VI AWARD WINNERS - NYS GOOD SPORTS PROGRAM

Congratulations to Albion, Iroquois, Forestville and Lockport. These Section VI schools have been recognized by NYSPHSAA through the New York Good Sports Program for outstanding efforts in promoting good sportsmanship in Section VI. All four schools and their Athletic Directors will be honored at the September meeting of the Athletic Council. Congratulation to all!

SPRING SCHOLAR ATHLETE STATE CHAMPIONS

NYSPHSAA announced that two Section VI teams achieved the State Scholar/Athlete Championship for Spring Sports! Medina Boys Tennis and Southwestern Boys Golf. (see page 6). Other spring sport champions include:

SPORT	SECTION	SCHOOL	TEAM GPA
Baseball	11	Harborfields	96.667
Golf - Girls	3	Paul V. Moore	96.421
Golf - Boys	6	Southwestern*	97.243
Lacrosse - Boys	8	Syosset	97.300
Lacrosse - Girls	8	Roslyn	96.818
Softball	8	Roslyn	96.364
Tennis - Boys	6	Medina*	98.539
Track & Field - Boys	5	Greece-Athena/Greece Odyssey	98.108
Track & Field - Girls	8	Herricks	99.750

SPRING SPORTS STATE CHAMPIONS

(articles on pages 6-7)

Boys Track and Field

Event	Division	Name	School	Time/Dist.
400 IH	I	Will Cole	Hamburg	53.43
Pole Vault	I	Ryan Pericozzi	Lancaster	15'9"
400 M	II	Jon Ramsey	Holland	48.82
Long Jump	II	Bob Makin	Holland	22' 3"
Discus	II	Jon Osucha	Alden	160'6"
4x400 M	II	Spencer Evans, Tim Prendergast, Taylor Kensy and Jon Ramsey	Holland	3:21.36

Girls Track and Field

400 M	I	Kala Allen	Wmsv. East	55.61
Shot Put	I	Melissa Kurzdorfer	Lancaster	46' 4 1/2"
Discus	I	Melissa Kurzdorfer	Lancaster	146' 7"
Discus	II	Taylor Eldridge	Cleveland Hill	135" 1"

Federation Results

400 IH	I	Will Cole	Hamburg	53.18*
400 M	I	Kala Allen	Wmsv. East	55.24*
Shot Put	I	Melissa Kurzdorfer	Lancaster	44' 6"
Discus	I	Melissa Kurzdorfer	Lancaster	141' 6"

* Section VI Record

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Email address: cszczeny@e1b.org

This Newsletter is available at our Web site: www.section6.wnyric.org - click on News

NEWS FROM THE STATE OFFICE

BREAKING NEWS

The following items were approved at the NYSPHSAA Central Committee meeting in August:

- **Softball** - pitching distance will remain at 40 feet.
- **Boys Volleyball** - An individual may have a different number when changing from a team uniform to a Libero uniform shirt.
- **Wrestling** - Revised Skin Form (available on website)
- **Wrestling** - Parent Awareness Form required for Minimum Weight Certification process (available on website)
- **Practice Regulation** - "Upon returning from military training students shall be eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics once they have completed the required number of practices. Eligibility for participation will also include meeting all eligibility requirements imposed by the Commissioner of Education and NYSPHSAA such as, but not limited to, health examination, age, grade, etc."

DISCUSSION & FUTURE CONSIDERATION ITEMS

Championship Advisory Committee

- **Indoor Track & Field** - Permission for a second entry for relay events
- **Skiing** - Permission for two divisions in Alpine and Nordic Skiing in 2010
- **Boys Volleyball** - permission for a Boys Volleyball Championship beginning in the Fall of 2009

Committees

- **Wrestling** - The committee will be voting on the concept of a regional wrestling format to advance to the state championship and on procedures for seeding the NYSPHSAA championship.
- **Safety** - The committee will be discussing the use of helmets in girls lacrosse and to permit running sports to wear wrist watches in practices and meets.
- **Baseball** - The committee is evaluating the proposal of extending the NYSPHSAA Tournament to a two day format.

NYSPHSAA OFFICE REPORT

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Committee Meetings
 16th - NYS Federation
 19th - Ice Hockey 9:30 am
 22nd - Wrestling 10:00 am
 29th - Handbook 9:30 am

OCTOBER CALENDAR

1st - Girls Lacrosse Committee
 3rd - Modified Committee
 6th - Boys & Girls Basketball
 7th - Championship Advisory
 8th - Safety Committee

Coaching Clinics

October 30th- Wrestling at Cornell University

NEW WRESTLING WEIGHT CERTIFICATION ASSESSORS

If you are interested in becoming a NYSPHSAA certified weight assessor please contact your Sectional Consultant for the dates and times of the workshops. In Section VI contact Mike Pilato, Pilato Sports Consulting 585-933-0099. Training is scheduled for October 19 at Portville High School.

MANDATORY CHEMICAL AWARENESS WORKSHOP FOR ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

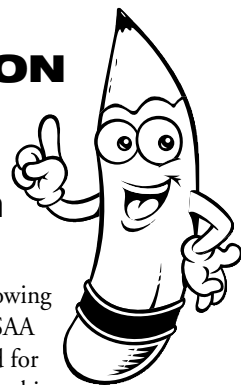
Life of an Athlete Year #5: "Stakeholder Unity"

The workshop for Year 5 of the Life of an Athlete Program is scheduled in Section VI for **Monday, May 11, 2009**. This fifth and final step in Life of an Athlete is to ensure that all members of the community take stake in eliminating drug and alcohol use among youth. Only by coordinating our efforts and empowering all stakeholders to take a "many messengers with the same message" approach can we ensure that individuals receive that message. Year five allows all stakeholders to share their views of the entire athletic program. This process gives any school district a valuable perspective of establishing priorities, strengths and limitations for the future directions of the programs. An evaluative process is utilized to garner valuable information on student athlete chemical health issues within your athletic program.

The Life of an Athlete program developer and presenter is John Underwood of the American Athletic Institute. The workshop will be conducted in cooperation with the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and the NYS Chemical Health Committee. The **required attendee is the Athletic Director**. Mark your calendars!

CORRECTION to Winter Scholar Athlete Team Awards

Please note that the following teams received the NYSPHSAA Team Scholar Athlete Award for winter sports but were omitted in the May Newsletter:



Grand Island Boys Swimming & Diving
 GPA 91.499

Pine Valley Girls Basketball
 GPA 95.427

Pine Valley Boys Basketball
 GPA 90.449

COACHING COURSE SCHEDULE FALL/WINTER 2008-09 ERIE 1 BOCES

Coaching Certification Director:

Phil Coyle (W) 821-7530 (C) 913-7120 (Fax) 821-7409 (Sect) 821-7091

*Additional courses are posted > <http://www.section6.wnyric.org/> click on the **Bulletin Board***

PHILOSOPHY, PRINCIPLES & ORGANIZATION OF ATHLETICS

CHRIS DEMARCO

September 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30/October 2, 7, 9, 2008
6:00 pm-10:30 pm
Tuesdays & Thursdays

Sweet Home H.S.
1901 Sweet Home Road, Rm 501
Amherst, NY 14228
\$165.00

Registration Deadline: September 5, 2008

HEALTH SCIENCE APPLIED TO COACHING

**PAUL PIGNATARO,
TOM HANEY & KURT HOLME**

October 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29/November 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 2008

plus balance of this course (15 hours) will be taught online.
6:30 pm-10:00 pm
Mondays & Wednesdays

Erie 1 BOCES Room A3
355 Harlem Road
West Seneca, NY 14224
\$165.00

Registration Deadline: October 10, 2008

THEORY & TECHNIQUES OF COACHING

KEN STOLDT

Dec. 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 2008/Last date to be determined by instructor
6:30 pm-10:00 pm
Tuesdays & Thursdays

Erie 1 BOCES Room A4
355 Harlem Road
West Seneca, NY 14224
\$165.00

Registration Deadline: November 26, 2008

PHILOSOPHY, PRINCIPLES & ORGANIZATION OF ATHLETICS

CHUCK AMO

January 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29/February 3,5, 2009
6:00 pm-10:30 pm
Tuesdays & Thursdays

Hamburg H.S.
411 Legion Drive, Room 216
Hamburg, NY 14075
\$165.00

Registration Deadline: December 29, 2008

THEORY & TECHNIQUES OF COACHING

CHUCK AMO

March 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 2009/Last date to be determined by instructor
6:30 pm-10:00 pm
Tuesdays & Thursdays

Hamburg H.S.
411 Legion Drive, Room 216
Hamburg, NY 14075
\$165.00

Registration Deadline: February 26, 2009

PHILOSOPHY, PRINCIPLES & ORGANIZATION OF ATHLETICS

CHRIS DEMARCO

March 3, 5, 10, 12, 24, 26, 31/April 2, 6, 8, 2009
6:00 pm-10:30 pm
Tuesdays & Thursdays (Note: Monday 4/6 & Wednesday 4/8)

Sweet Home H.S.
1901 Sweet Home Road, Rm 501
Amherst, NY 14228
\$165.00

Registration Deadline: February 25, 2009

HEALTH SCIENCE APPLIED TO COACHING

CHRIS KAPLAN

April 20, 22, 27, 29/May 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 2009
plus balance of this course (15 hours) will be taught online.
6:30 pm-9:30 pm
Mondays & Wednesdays

Maryvale H.S.
1050 Maryvale Drive
Alumni Hall
Cheektowaga, NY 14225
\$165.00

Registration Deadline: April 8, 2009

FOR FIRST AID & CPR CONTACT:

1. Sharon Barley 574-8254
2. American Red Cross - Safety Services 886-7500
3. Athletic Care – Karen Roehling 238-3742

CHILD ABUSE: Patricia Riegler 822-3333

SAVE - Violence: Robert Carlson 821-7553

COACHING COURSE SCHEDULE FALL/WINTER 2008-09 ERIE 2-CHAUTAUQUA- CATTARAUGUS BOCES

716-672-4371 ext. 2062

Additional information is posted <http://e2ccbooces.wnyric.org/programs/intercoach.html>

PHILOSOPHY, PRINCIPLES AND ORGANIZATION OF ATHLETICS

Sept. 15, 17, 22, 24, 29,

Oct. 1, 6, 8, 15, 2008

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Instructor: John Bogardus

HEALTH SCIENCE APPLIED TO COACHING

Nov. 3, 4, 5, 10, 12, 13, 17, 19, 2008

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Instructor: Marty Hemmer

THEORY AND TECHNIQUES OF COACHING

December 1, 2, 3, 4, 2008

6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Instructor: Marty Hemmer

ADULT CPR/AED

Session A:

October 7, 2008

6:00pm - 10:00 pm

OR

Session B:

Oct. 27, 2008

6:00pm - 10:00 pm

FIRST AID SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE UPDATE

October 20 & 21, 2008

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

FIRST AID SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

October 27, 28, 29, 30, 2008

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

**THEORY & TECHNIQUE OF COACHING ONLINE

September 8, 2008 – December 15, 2008

&

**HEALTH SCIENCE APPLIED TO COACHING ONLINE

September 10, 2008 – December 17, 2008



Dates to Remember 2008-2009

- Sept. 10 Annual Veterans' Recognition Golf Tournament/Dinner
- Sept. 17 Athletic Council meeting, 11:30 am at Erie 1 BOCES, W.Seneca
- Sept. 17 Executive Committee meeting, 9:30 am at Erie 1 BOCES, W.Seneca
- Sept. 23 Spring sports post-season meeting, 7:00 pm at Erie 1 BOCES, W.Seneca
- Sept. 23 Winter sports pre-season meeting, 7:30 pm at Erie 1 BOCES, W.Seneca
- Oct. 7 Finance Committee Meeting – Section VI office
- Oct. 7 NYSPHSAA Workshop on Eligibility and Standards, NYSPHSAA office, Latham, NY 10:00am
- Oct. 15 Executive Committee Meeting Distance Learning sites TBA
- Oct. 19 NYS Officials Coordinators Federation fall meeting - NYSPHSAA Office 9:00am
- Oct. 19 State Executive Committee meeting, Holiday Inn Wolf Rd., Albany
- Oct. 19 Wrestling Min. Weight Certification Assessor Training – noon at Portville HS
- Oct. 29 Sectional/Intersectional Committee meeting (Distance Learning)
- Oct. 30 Wrestling Coaching Clinic, Cornell Univ. Ithaca
- Nov. 19 Athletic Council meeting, 11:30 am at Erie 1 BOCES, W. Seneca
- Executive Committee meeting, 9:30 am at Erie 1 BOCES, W.Seneca
- Nov. 7 Deadline for submission of BEDS date to the Section VI office
- Nov. 17-20 Weight Certification:
17th – Cheektowaga,
18th – Lockport,
19th – Fredonia,
20th – Olean
- Nov. 29 NYSPHSAA Structure and Review Committee meeting
- Dec. TBA Post Season Meeting - Fall Sports
- Dec. 5 Deadline for Fall Scholar/Athlete Team Award Applications to the state
- Dec. 15 Nominations for 2010 NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame are due to the state office
- Dec. 17 Executive Committee Meeting Distance Learning sites TBA

Update Central Management & Assigning of Sports Officials in TheArbiter

Section VI is now into the second year of coordinating the efforts of centralized management and assigning of sports officials through TheArbiter.

In the North, where officials are shared by multiple leagues, the following fall sports were successfully auto-assigned by the Section VI office: Cross Country, Field Hockey, Soccer, Girls Swimming and Volleyball. Reassignments are handled by league assigners. In the South, sports assigners have successfully used TheArbiter to assign Soccer, Swimming, and Volleyball. Both manual and auto-assigning techniques were used.

New for 2008 is the addition of assigning federated sports and sectional competition in TheArbiter. Football and ice hockey officials have been entered into the system and are required to register on-line. The football schedules (N & S) along with assignments done by the WNY Chapter of the NYSACFO, have been entered into TheArbiter. The Boys and Girls Soccer chairpersons will pilot the assignment of officials for sectional competition in TheArbiter. In the not too distant future, the ice hockey and indoor track schedules will be entered as well as assignments for both sports.

All assigners are to be commended for their efforts and accomplishments!! of the problems created when multiple leagues share officials.

Reminder: All officials, assigners and Athletic Directors must comply with the Section 6 Timeline below. **Officials:** All assignments for sports in Section 6 will be made using ONLY the officials that are signed-in to the Arbiter. **All winter officials must sign-in and update their availability on TheArbiter by September 26 in order to receive assignments!!!** Reminders to winter officials will be emailed by September 12.



2008-2009 SECTION 6 TIMELINE FOR SCHEDULES AND ASSIGNMENTS

NOTE: The dates for Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties are 2 weeks delayed.

* Dates in the timeline for officials are standard across the Section.

	Winter	Spring
Officials Rankings from coaches/chairs due	Fri. Aug 22, 2008	Fri. Dec 19, 2008
Most current officials roster due*/ TheArbiter training date(s) posted at Section	Fri. Aug 29, 2008	Fri. Dec 19, 2008
Draft schedules complete	Fri. Sept 5, 2008	Fri. Dec 19, 2008
Final schedules complete including non-league games Import of schedules to TheArbiter begins	Fri. Sept 19, 2008	Fri. Jan 16, 2009
Officials registered & availabilities listed*	Fri. Sept 26, 2008	Fri. Jan. 30, 2009
Final date: ALL schedules must be imported to TheArbiter	Fri Oct. 3, 2008	Fri. Feb. 6, 2009
Varsity & JV (& S.Tier mod wrest) assignments begin	Mon. Oct. 6, 2008	Mon. Feb. 9, 2009
Assignments released to the OBR's for 72-hour review	Thurs. Oct. 23, 2008	Thurs. Feb. 26, 2009
Round Table meeting to review assignments, set publishing date & create timeline for modified assignments	Mon. Oct. 27 2008	Mon. Mar. 2, 2009

Section VI Coach Gene Masters - NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame Inductee

Gene J. Masters, long-time Section VI coach, was recently inducted into the 2008 Class of the NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame. His generous contributions to high school athletics in New York State have separated him from his colleagues in the field of coaching.

Gene J. Masters is the winningest football coach in western New York history and ranks among the top in the state in both football and baseball. From 1957-2000, Masters coached football and baseball at Brocton High School ('57-'62) and Grand Island High School (1963-2000).

Gene's coaching career started in 1957 at Brocton High School where he captured two baseball championships and three football titles until 1962. In 1963, Masters became the first varsity football and baseball coach at Grand Island High School and immediately turned both programs into highly respected ones on the field.

Over a 44 year career as Grand Island's football coach he compiled a record of 248-107-8 ranking him #1 in wins among Western New York coaches and sixth in New York State. His teams captured 19 championships, won four consecutive Section VI Class B titles (1989-92), and made ten playoff appearances. Gene coached 35 All-Western New York All Stars and had three players earn Player of the Year honor. His 1973 team was one of the greatest teams in the history of Western New York football going 8-0 that season and outscoring opponents 253-7.

In 1991, Grand Island honored Coach Masters by naming the football field "Masters Field" in his honor. That same decade he was named Western New York Coach of the Decade following Western New York Coach of the Year plaudits in 1978 and 1989.

Coach Masters also achieved great success on the baseball diamond. He compiled 440 career wins, 15 championships, ten league crowns and five sectional titles. Along the way Gene coached five players drafted in the Major League Baseball amateur draft and in 1991, he was named Coach of the Year by the Niagara Frontier League. A former Section VI baseball chairman, Coach Masters was inducted into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame in 1999, and then in 2002, he was inducted into the Tonawanda Sports Hall of Fame.

Gene was a graduate of Tonawanda High School and University of Buffalo in 1957. He also fought in the Korean War from 1952-54. Gene, who passed away in 2001, was married for 45 years to his late wife Marjorie and is survived by his son Michael, his daughter Cynthia and four grandchildren.

The induction ceremony took place at the NYSPHSAA Central Committee meeting banquet at the Rye Town Hilton in Rye on Wednesday, August 6, 2008. The NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame has been made possible by the generous support from Pupil Benefits, Inc. Congratulations to the Masters family!

Section VI Hosts Athletic Director Workshops

In May 2007, the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee approved the requirement that all school district Athletic Directors attend an annual MANDATORY NYSPHSAA Eligibility Workshop. The rationale supporting this recommendation was to ensure compliance with all NYSPHSAA Rules and Regulations and to minimize student athletes from being deemed ineligible.

Erie 1 BOCES in West Seneca was the site of the 2008 Section VI Workshop on August 25. Nina Van Erk, Executive Director NYSPHSAA and Bob Stulmaker, Assistant Executive Director conducted a very informative and interactive session on Eligibility and Standards in the morning for the 80-some Athletic Directors in Section VI, as well as a more in-depth review for the new Athletic Directors in the afternoon.

New this year was a mandatory session on Sportsmanship. Conducted by Section VI Sportsmanship Coordinator Doug Ames, was a discussion by a panel of participants with a wide variety of knowledge and experience. The interaction with the Athletic Directors on the many of the issues of sportsmanship in interscholastic athletics was both interesting and valuable to the Athletic Directors in attendance. Section VI would like to thank the panel participants whose contributions have given school districts in Western New York a proactive foundation regarding behavioral expectations of their student athletes.

The panel included **Dr. Michael Wendt**, Superintendent of Wilson Central Schools and Section VI President, **Michael S. Taheri**, Taheri & Todor, P.C. Law Offices, **James Dunnigan**, Assistant Principal at Kenmore East and Section VI Principal's Rep, **Cindy Bullis**, Section VI Girls Rep and Lew-Port Coach, **Tom Cowan**, Section VI Officials Coordinator, **Don Scholla**, Section VI Boys Rep and Olean Athletic Director, **Chris Durr**, Section VI Girls Soccer Chairperson and Williamsville East High School Soccer & Girls Basketball Coach and **Lois Piscitelli**, President of the Field Hockey Officials Organization. Thank you for your time and wisdom!!!

Section VI's Mark Ward Takes Over as NYSPHSAA 1st Vice President

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association has announced the appointment of Mark Ward as the Association's 1st Vice President.

First Vice President Mark Ward is currently the Superintendent of Schools at Ellicottville Central School District in Section VI. Mr. Ward served as Superintendent of the Salamanca City School District for five years and most recently was Superintendent of Schools in the Olean City School District from 2004-08. A resident of Great Valley, Ward spent most of his educational career at Ellicottville Central School where he was an athletic director, principal, social studies teacher, and a varsity football, baseball and track coach over a 24-year period. Mark's work with the NYSPHSAA includes being a member of the Central Committee since 2001 before being appointed to the 2nd Vice President position. He has served Section VI as the Superintendents Representative, chaired the Section Policy committee, and was President from 1996-98. His honors include a 2005 induction into the Cattaraugus County Sports Hall of Fame, New York State Council of School Superintendents Dimension of Leadership Award, School Administrators Association of New York State Outstanding Service Award, and Big 30 Football Coach of the Year early in his coaching tenure. Mr. Ward recently entered the world of politics where he was elected in 2008 as a Cattaraugus County Legislator. He holds a Bachelor's degree in history and masters in science both from St. Bonaventure as well as his SAS and advanced certificate of educational administration from St. Bonaventure. Mark, who began his two-year term with NYSPHSAA on September 1, has been married to his wife Barbara for 28 years and the two have two children, Justin and Vanessa. Congratulations Mark!

Heartfelt Thanks

Section VI would like to express its gratitude to the Principal's Representatives from the leagues that have served for many combined years on the Section VI Athletic Council: NFL- Jim Spanbauer, NO- Steve Burley, ECIC- Michael Baumann, Chautauqua-Steve Penhollow, Cattaraugus-Bonnie Smith and Buffalo-Dave Backes. With the new Section VI Constitution, approved June 30, 2008, the position of Principals Rep for the leagues on the Athletic Council has been eliminated. The time and energy that these individuals have given to our athletes over the years and to Section VI is truly appreciated. Section VI extends heartfelt thanks to each of them for their tireless efforts and endless dedication to interscholastic sports and Section VI!

Osucha, Discus State Champ

By Coach Ken Partell

The Alden High School Track team is proud to announce a 2008 state champion athlete. Jon Osucha, a junior at Alden High School, won the Small School Discus Title on Friday, June 13, 2008. The State Meet was hosted by the University at Buffalo in Amherst.

Osucha was seeded second in the state going into the competition. In the semifinal round, he launched a throw of 158' 11", which was good enough to earn him the top seed going into the finals. On his second throw in the finals, Osucha let it rip with his personal record, 160' 6", which won him the state championship.

Jon's coaches credit his success to his attention to detail and work ethic. He is a perfectionist in the discus ring, spending hours each day perfecting the minute details of his throwing form. Jon currently owns the school record from his throw (159' 6") on May 10th at the Starpoint Team Challenge. The record of 152' 9" had been held by Mike Durso since 1981.



CONGRATULATIONS

Section VI SPRING State Scholar/Athlete Champions

Section VI is pleased to congratulate Medina Boys Tennis and Southwestern Boys Golf for achieving the State Scholar/Athlete Champion

Southwestern Boys Golf - State Champion with a team GPA of 97.243

The 2008 Southwestern Golf Team received a state banner on June 4, 2008 as the scholar-athlete team with the highest GPA in the state with a total composite grade point average of 97.243. This marked the second consecutive year the team has been recognized. Members receiving recognition were: Robbie Newell, Jake Yartz, Duncan Oleshak, Joe DiLuca, Joe Caprino, Bonnie Gambrel, Kelsey Gambrel, Jon King, Jim Urbanski, DJ Johnson, Joe Triscuit, Jake Ahlstrom, Levi Bursch, Jason Carlson, Elliott Domagola, Troy Flinchbaugh, Tyler Haag, Adam Paterniti, Dan Swanson, Jake Currie, Karl Deck, Mike Johnson, Jim Rauh, Jon Drake, Cory Rodgers, Ryan Schutte, Jake Sopak, Peter Trathen and Chad VanEvery. The team is coached by Mark Sleggs.



Medina Boys Tennis - State Champion with a team GPA of 98.539



Congratulations to the members of the Medina High School tennis team, winners of their fifth straight NYSPHSAA Team Scholar Athlete State Championship. This is a very rare occurrence in the history of the NYSPHSAA Scholar Athlete Program. Medina won this prestigious award with an unweighted grade point average of 98.539.

Chris Horgan, Medina's tennis coach, said that, "this is a terrific award for all of the kids, for our tennis program, and for our community as a whole. This award reflects positively on the work ethic of our students, the support of our parents, and educational opportunities available at Medina. This is a tremendous honor for our program." Horgan also noted that 17 of Medina's players had an average over 90%. Mark Kruzynski, Medina's Athletic Director, said "while I am pleased with the success our tennis team has had on the court over the last five years, compiling a 50 -10 record during that time span, what really makes me proud is the success our tennis team has had in the classroom. This award is the result of the hard work of players, teachers, and parents." Kruzynski also stated that the vast majority of players on the team are enrolled in Advanced Placement and College Credit courses, many of whom started taking these classes as sophomores.

Medina received their championship banner from Section VI Boys Sports Representative, and Olean Athletic Director Don Scholla at the annual Block M Athletic Banquet. Pictured are: front row: Shannon Horgan, Joe Moriarity, Coach Chris Horgan, Steve Lin, Chris Horgan, Keith Pane, Margaret Craft; back row: Adam Hellwig, Ketan Mehta, Kevin Snyder.

5 State Track & Field Champions hail from Holland Central

Holland has represented Section 6 in the 4X400 Relay at the State Championship the past four years and has emerged as champions in 2005, 2007 & 2008 (2nd place in 2006). This season's HCS 4X400 Relay team of Evans, Kensy, Prendergast & Ramsey, claimed the school record (3:21.05) during the Federation Championship. These athletes finished fourth in that race despite being the only Div. II representative and being seeded eighth. In the long jump, senior Bob Makin broke the Holland Central record with a leap of 22' 3"

- **Spencer Evans** - 2-time State champ in 4X400R ('07 & '08)
- **Taylor Kensy** - 3-time State champ in 4x400R ('05, '07 & '08)
- **Thomas "Timmer" Prendergast** - first year in track & field yields a 4X400R championship
- **Jon Ramsey** - 400m champ with time of 48.82 / holds 400M HCS record @ 48.78 / 3-time State champ in 4X400 R ('05, '07 & '08)
- **Bob Makin** - HCS Class of 2008 valedictorian / Section 6 Sportsmanship/ Honoree / Long jump champion



Holland track athletes, L to R: Jon Ramsey, Taylor Kensy, Coach John Weaver, Bob Makin, Spencer Evans, Timmer Prendergast

Melissa Kurzdorfer Claims Four Titles

By Lancaster Coach Chuck Friedmann

Melissa Kurzdorfer, the sophomore from Lancaster, hit a new height this past track and field season when she won all four shot put and discus titles. In the four competitions she won the NYSPHSAA and Federation shot put with a best throw of 46'4 1/2" and the discus with a best throw of 146'7". Last year she won three of the four titles missing the NYSPHSAA shot put by one place to Betty Williams (Longwood) at Kingston.



She has come a long way since she first competed as a seventh grader placing 11th at indoor states in the shot put. Her personal bests are now 46'6" in the shot and 150'1" in the discus completed earlier this season.

Her next goals probably include working her way toward the stout 16 year old section records held by Stacy Schroeder from Grand Island. She has two more years to attack the 49'5" shot put and 172'0" discus legacy left by Schroeder.

Kudos go to her throws-coach George Rak who has nurtured this talent with love and dedication over the past four years.

Eldridge - Division II Discus State Champion

After many hours of training, lifting weights, plyometrics, and practice, **Taylor Eldridge** a sophomore from Cleveland Hill high School defended her NY State Division II Title in the discus throw. She threw her best effort all season long of 135'1".

As the emotions and excitement of winning the discus were so fresh, it was time to set it aside and focus on the shot put. Working towards another state championship, Taylor's efforts led her to a new school record of 40'5 3/4" and a well-fought 2nd place finish. The 97.5 GPA sophomore ended her season with her best efforts, school records and a large smile of accomplishment.

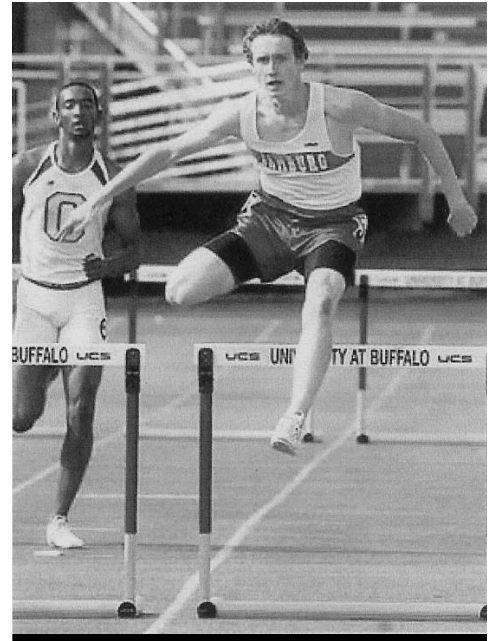


L to R: Mrs. Eldridge (mom), Taylor Eldridge and Coach Bonnie Aschenbrenner



Hamburg's Cole Defends Division I Title

Will Cole from Hamburg won both the Division I 400 Hurdles and the Federation title in the same event. Cole, a junior, broke his own Section VI record by running 53.18. Last year Cole broke the Section record for the first time when he won the Division I title in 53.34. Cole is coached by Bob Beach.



Ryan Pericozzi Claims the 2008 NYSPHSAA Pole Vault Championship

Team Captain **Ryan Pericozzi** capped off a very successful athletic career at Lancaster High School by winning the NYSPHSAA Outdoor Track Pole Vault Title clearing an all-time best of 15'9". Ryan is a four-time state meet competitor and holds the Indoor Section VI and the Outdoor ECIC Vault records. In addition to the vault, Ryan has also ranked in the top ten in the hurdles and long jump, indoors and outdoors. Ryan, who has been coached by Kevin Carriero, will continue his education this fall at Cortland State as a physical education major.



SCHOLAR/ATHLETE TEAM AWARD PROGRAM

The NYSPHSAA, Inc. believes that the athletic participation of students enhances their academic performances. To support this belief, the Scholar/Athlete Team Award Program was begun in 1991. Varsity teams who earn a 90.0% or higher average during their sport season qualify for the NYSPHSAA award. The Pupil Benefits Plan, Inc. became the co-sponsor of the program in 1995.

Section VI Team Award Winners – Spring 2008

** State Champion

BASEBALL

Iroquois	94.095
Southwestern	93.240
Sweet Home	93.016
East Aurora	92.717
Newfane	92.320
West Seneca West	92.265
Clarence	91.958
Grand Island	91.877
Frontier	91.862
Cassadaga Valley	91.850
Williamsville East	91.234
North Tonawanda	91.183
Williamsville North	90.941
Lancaster	90.800
Falconer	90.785
Niagara-Wheatfield	90.570
Jamestown	90.567
Springville	90.465
Medina	90.205
Dunkirk	90.045

East Aurora	90.180
Wilson	90.143
Grand Island	90.039

BOYS TENNIS

Medina**	98.539
Depew	96.281
Barker	95.647
Clarence	95.520
Springville	95.427
Allegany-Limestone	95.333
Newfane	95.200
Iroquois	94.978
Williamsville North	94.928
Westfield	94.829
Amherst	94.742
Williamsville East	94.734
Southwestern	94.708
Lake Shore	94.537
Maryvale	94.522
Jamestown	94.437
Falconer	94.340
Lancaster	93.844
Cleveland Hill	93.606
Frontier	93.524
Wilson	93.483
Tonawanda	93.374
East Aurora	93.159
Starpoint	93.122
Hamburg	93.082
Pioneer	92.641
Dunkirk	91.978
City Honors	91.613
West Seneca West	91.487
Lockport	91.429
Cassadaga Valley	91.421
Sweet Home	91.232
Eden	91.112
Niagara-Wheatfield	90.952
Grand Island	90.888
Chautauqua Lake	90.664
Fredonia	90.209
Lewiston Porter	90.058

Lake Shore	96.009
Newfane	95.813
Williamsville East	95.776
Iroquois	95.688
Sweet Home	95.636
Frontier	95.437
Wilson	95.365
East Aurora	95.347
Lancaster	95.194
Southwestern	95.127
West Seneca West	94.958
Williamsville North	94.825
Hamburg	94.823
Eden	94.681
Olean	94.575
Falconer	94.547
West Seneca East	94.502
Medina	94.316
Royalton Hartland	93.958
Maryvale	93.892
Clymer	93.758
Barker	93.685
Lockport	93.458
Pioneer	92.871
Amherst	92.731
Tonawanda	92.555
Cleveland Hill	92.139
Chautauqua Lake	91.978
Springville	91.835
Portville	91.343
Niagara-Wheatfield	90.980
Lewiston Porter	90.658
Dunkirk	90.628
Fredonia	90.538
Grand Island	90.398

West Seneca West	94.399
Orchard Park	94.322
Clarence	94.045
West Seneca East	93.316
Williamsville East	93.006
Williamsville North	92.602
Frontier	91.811
Eden	91.660
Grand Island	90.682
Niagara-Wheatfield	90.531
Amherst	90.173

GIRLS TENNIS

City Honors	94.657
Barker	94.475

GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

Frontier	98.057
Niagara-Wheatfield	98.028
Depew	97.953
Falconer	97.891
Hamburg	97.742
Lockport	97.603
West Seneca West	97.570
Clarence	97.443
Royalton Hartland	96.949
Williamsville East	96.932
Maryvale	96.900
Newfane	96.898
Southwestern	96.661
Allegany-Limestone	96.455
Olean	96.408
Westfield	96.353
Barker	96.282
East Aurora	96.272
Kenmore West	95.977
Iroquois	95.758
Williamsville North	95.556
Lake Shore	95.514
Holland	95.483
Starpoint	95.150
Medina	94.970
Pioneer	94.951
Randolph	94.941
West Seneca East	94.899
Portville	94.890
Springville	94.420

BOYS GOLF

Southwestern**	97.243
Ellicottville	95.047
Allegany-Limestone	94.278
Falconer	93.186
Westfield	92.344
Cassadaga Valley	91.893
Chautauqua Lake	91.770
Olean	91.300
Dunkirk	91.100
Salamanca	90.971
Fredonia	90.542

BOYS LACROSSE

Iroquois	93.932
Lockport	93.775
Williamsville East	93.640
Hamburg	93.324
Frontier	92.460
Williamsville North	92.439
Lancaster	92.382
Eden	91.512
Niagara-Wheatfield	91.145
Clarence	90.806
Sweet Home	90.753
West Seneca East	90.678

GIRLS GOLF

Dunkirk	92.420
Fredonia	91.206

GIRLS LACROSSE

Hamburg	96.164
East Aurora	95.930
Iroquois	95.852
Lancaster	95.846
Lockport	95.517
Springville	95.001
Sweet Home	94.581

BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

Depew	96.869
Clarence	96.868

Scholar/Athletic Team Award Winners continued...

Cleveland Hill	94.245	Clarence	93.533
Cassadaga Valley	94.124	Depew	93.383
Amherst	93.979	Holland	93.324
Eden	93.872	Niagara-Wheatfield	92.831
Tonawanda	93.571	Medina	92.727
Sweet Home	93.216	Cassadaga Valley	92.718
Franklinville/ Ellicottville	92.698	Pine Valley	92.702
Chautauqua Lake	91.833	Sweet Home	92.691
Clymer	90.927	Falconer	92.594
Lewiston Porter	90.595	Allegany-Limestone	92.531
Fredonia	90.305	Westfield	92.010
Dunkirk	90.215	Pioneer	91.740
Salamanca	90.100	East Aurora	91.710
Wilson	90.012	Lockport	91.485
Grand Island	90.000	Williamsville North	91.411

SOFTBALL

Maryvale	94.936	Portville	90.968
Hamburg	94.555	Franklinville	90.869
Iroquois	94.347	Niagara Falls	90.818
Wilson	94.279	Clymer	90.600
Williamsville East	94.225	Cattaraugus-Little Valley	90.551
West Seneca West	94.035	Chautauqua Lake	90.431
Southwestern	93.895	West Seneca East	90.323
Ellicottville	93.769	Lewiston Porter	90.318
Lancaster	93.588	Fredonia	90.291
Frontier	93.571	Dunkirk	90.269

CONGRATULATIONS to the SECTION VI All WNY Spring Scholar Athletes

Section VI congratulates the winners of the All WNY Scholar Athlete award for spring sports. There were 336 total nominations for the Section VI. 98 were selected as new winners, 39 were repeat winners from fall and winter and 11 were 3 season winners for a total of 148 total winners. Congratulations to all winners and nominees!! The criteria for this award are: Overall grade point average of 90 or above for six semesters, Starter or important reserve, s only. The nomination form can be found on the section website. Click on Forms and Information, then on All-WNY

SPRING SCHOLAR ATHLETE WINNERS**3x Indicates a 3 season winner****2x Indicates 2 season winner**

Sport	Name	School
2x Baseball	Cory Hale	Allegany-Limestone Central
Boys Track & Field	Emmett Booth	Amherst HS
Boys Track & Field	Alejandro Carbonara	Amherst HS
Boys Lacrosse	Kurt Ebsary	Amherst HS
Boys Golf	Michael Hong	Amherst HS
Boys Track & Field	Samuel Huoh	Amherst HS
2x Girls Lacrosse	Elana Korn	Amherst HS
Girls Track & Field	Violet Pena	Amherst HS
Boys Track & Field	Jerry Ren	Amherst HS
3x Boys Track & Field	David Szymkowiak	Amherst HS
2x Girls Track & Field	Emma Dewart	Barker Central
Boys Tennis	Andrew Upton	Barker Central
Boys Golf	Michael Carrig	Bishop Timon-St.Jude HS
Baseball	Michael Cassidy	Bishop Timon-St.Jude HS
Boys Track & Field	Zachary Markel	Bishop Timon-St.Jude HS
Boys Golf	Sean Repman	Bishop Timon-St.Jude HS
Boys Golf	Mark Stack	Bishop Timon-St.Jude HS
Girls Track & Field	KelliAnne Connolly	Buffalo Acad/Sacred Heart
2x Girls Track & Field	Kim Patterson	Buffalo Acad/Sacred Heart
2x Girls Track & Field	Mary Russell	Buffalo Acad/Sacred Heart
3x Girls Golf	Katie Salisbury	Buffalo Acad/Sacred Heart
3x Softball	Katie Salisbury	Buffalo Acad/Sacred Heart
2x Girls Track & Field	Liz Tramosch	Buffalo Acad/Sacred Heart
Crew	Sarah Grace	Buffalo Seminary
Crew	Heather Kimmins	Buffalo Seminary
Crew	Patrick Kenney	Canisius HS
Crew	Matthew Shea	Canisius HS
Boys Tennis	Stephen Brenner	Canisius HS
Baseball	Peter Kryzstof	Canisius HS
2x Boys Track & Field	Samuel LoPresti	Canisius HS
2x Softball	Cassandra Mathers	Cassadaga Valley Central
2x Softball	Jennifer Zanghi	Cassadaga Valley Central
2x Girls Track & Field	Lauren Habermehl	Cheektowaga Central
** Girls Tennis	Julie Keresztes	City Honors School
Boys Tennis	Luke Klein	City Honors School
Girls Tennis	Mary O'Hara	City Honors School
Boys Track & Field	Geraint Davies	Clarence Central
Girls Lacrosse	Katelynne Hein	Clarence Central
Boys Golf	Matt Sadowski	Clarence Central
Boys Tennis	David Shim	Clarence Central
2x Softball	Torrie Wydysz	Cleveland Hill UFSD

2008-2009 Section VI Directory Updates

Please mark the following changes (noted in bold) on the appropriate pages of your directory.

Page

- NYSPHSAA Joe Altieri's email **altieri@nysphsaa.org** (no j)
- NFL Superintendent rep email is **vvechiarella@ntschoools.org** (2v's and 2 c's) It is correct on page 36.
- Softball, Mark Kruzynski: **Medina HS, W: 585-798-2710 Fax: 585-798-2787**
- Iroquois email addresses are: Supt: **nrochelle@iroquoiscsd.org**, Prin: **dkenney@iroquoiscsd.org** AD: **anjacobs@iroquoiscsd.org** AD sect: **jcapizzi@iroquoiscsd.org**
- Kenmore West Principal's email is **kgeelan@kenton.k12.ny.us**
- Lancaster coaches: Girls Basketball-**Kristy Bondgren**, Boys Cross Country-**Bob Niescier**, Girls Lacrosse-Julie **Buccieri**
- Salamanca AD Chris Siebert office extension: **x6002** Sect Pam Gilbert extension: **x6301**
- Tapestry Charter School AD email: **burnsp@tapestryschool.org**
- Tonawanda AD secretary: **Kelly Harszlak, 694-7670 x2251, kharszlak@tona.wnyric.org**
- Williamsville South acting Principal is **James Brotz jbroetz@williamsvillek12.org**

Continued on page 10

SECTION VI All WNY Spring Scholar Athletes continued...

Sport	Name	School	Sport	Name	School
2x Girls Track & Field	Kristen Angierski	Depew HS	Softball	Bridget Wodowski	Mt. St. Mary's Academy
Boys Tennis	Tyler Cieslewicz	Dunkirk HS	Girls Track & Field	Hannah Attard	Nardin Academy
2x Girls Golf	Giana Porpiglia	Dunkirk HS	Girls Tennis	Elizabeth Bacher	Nardin Academy
2x Softball	Leah Woodard	Dunkirk HS	Softball	Emily Brooks	Nardin Academy
2x Baseball	Sean Bourne	East Aurora HS	Softball	Catherine Brown	Nardin Academy
Baseball	Sean Caputi	East Aurora HS	2x Girls Lacrosse	Mollie Cannon	Nardin Academy
Girls Track & Field	Alice Coughlin	East Aurora HS	Girls Golf	Cynthia Marinaro	Nardin Academy
Boys Golf	Luke Halter	East Aurora HS	Girls Track & Field	Lois Smith	Nardin Academy
Girls Track & Field	Jenna Hulton	East Aurora HS	Softball	Heather Carella	Niagara Falls HS
2x Boys Tennis	Michael Kelly	East Aurora HS	Softball	Hannah Ball	Niagara Wheatfield Central
2x Girls Track & Field	Elizabeth Mason	East Aurora HS	2x Girls Track & Field	Ashely Beamish	Niagara Wheatfield Central
2x Baseball	Thomas Metzger	East Aurora HS	Girls Track & Field	Breana Limina	Niagara Wheatfield Central
3x Softball	Julia Murak	East Aurora HS	Girls Lacrosse	Mia McKie	Niagara Wheatfield Central
Boys Track & Field	Alexander Stortz	East Aurora HS	Boys Tennis	Dal Ackerman	Nichols School
3x Girls Lacrosse	Jessica Tarantino	East Aurora HS	Boys Lacrosse	James Avino	Nichols School
3x Girls Lacrosse	Sarah Tarantino	East Aurora HS	Boys Tennis	Nitin Bansal	Nichols School
Girls Track & Field	Lacey Gustafson	Falconer Central	Girls Lacrosse	Katelyn Bothwell	Nichols School
Boys Track & Field	Zachary Norris	Falconer Central	Baseball	Brandon Broad	Nichols School
2x Boys Golf	Alex Ognibene	Falconer Central	Boys Lacrosse	Jake Levy	Nichols School
Baseball	Braden Streed	Falconer Central	Baseball	Ryan McNamara	Nichols School
2x Softball	Keriann Ketcham	Fredonia Central	Baseball	Tyler Tokarczyk	Nichols School
2x Girls Lacrosse	Nicole Karek	Frontier Central	Baseball	Keith Bogdan	North Tonawanda HS
Girls Lacrosse	Lauren Brindisi	Grand Island HS	Girls Track & Field	Erin Asquith	Pioneer Central
2x Girls Lacrosse	Cathryn Hilliard	Grand Island HS	Boys Track & Field	AbramRowe	Ripley Central
Softball	Amber Hultgren	Grand Island HS	Boys Track & Field	Aaron Wagner	Royalton-Hartland Central
Girls Lacrosse	Megan Battin	Hamburg Central	Boys Track & Field	Jason Zayac	Royalton-Hartland Central
Girls Track & Field	Laura Lesch	Hamburg Central	Boys Track & Field	John Battaglia	St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute
Girls Lacrosse	Nicole Shea	Hamburg Central	Boys Tennis	Daniel Brady	St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute
Boys Lacrosse	Ryan er	Hamburg Central	2x Boys Track & Field	Matthew Conway	St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute
2x Girls Lacrosse	Laura Yoviene	Hamburg Central	Crew	William Evangelista	St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute
2x Softball	Megan Buresch	Holland Central	2x Boys Track & Field	Daniel Panzarella	St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute
Girls Track & Field	Abby Cryan	Holland Central	Baseball	Brendan Schaefer	St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute
2x Girls Track & Field	Kim Flaig	Holland Central	Baseball	Brendon McMahan	St. Mary's of Lancaster HS
2x Girls Track & Field	Kacie George	Holland Central	Girls Track & Field	Katie Colton	Starpoint Central
Girls Track & Field	Erica Lemke	Holland Central	2x Baseball	Brian Barnas	Sweet Home HS
3x Boys Track & Field	Robert Makin	Holland Central	Softball	Amanda Cannizzo	Sweet Home HS
3x Softball	Anna Vallone	Holland Central	3x Boys Track & Field	Andrew Hopkins	Sweet Home HS
Girls Track & Field	Kristin Miga	Immaculata Academy	2x Baseball	Aaron Klein	Sweet Home HS
Girls Lacrosse	Nicole Augustine	Iroquois Central	Girls Lacrosse	Kelly Lansing	Sweet Home HS
Girls Lacrosse	Courtney Daly	Iroquois Central	Boys Tennis	Justin Pierce	Sweet Home HS
2x Boys Golf	Ryan Patterson	Kenmore East HS	Baseball	Michael Hourihan	West Seneca West HS
Boys Track & Field	Doug Hannon	Kenmore West HS	Softball	Loren Pavlovic	West Seneca West HS
Softball	Carly Taylor	Kenmore West HS	Boys Track & Field	Zinan Cheng	Williamsville East HS
Baseball	Sullivan Fitzgerald	Lewiston Porter Central	2x Boys Track & Field	Matthew Pawlicki	Williamsville East HS
Softball	Katherine Petrozzi	Lewiston Porter Central	Softball	Bridget Steele	Williamsville East HS
Girls Track & Field	Bobbi Jo Tenke	Lewiston Porter Central	Softball	Anna Stolzenburg	Williamsville East HS
Baseball	Jeremy Willard	Lewiston Porter Central	Softball	Kerri Bubar	Williamsville North HS
Boys Lacrosse	Nathan Bechtold	Lockport Senior HS	2x Girls Lacrosse	Nicole Lewis	Williamsville North HS
2x Girls Track & Field	Kelsey Fraser	Lockport Senior HS	2x Girls Track & Field	Sarah Mikulski	Williamsville North HS
Boys Lacrosse	Joseph Rinaldo	Lockport Senior HS	Girls Lacrosse	Kelsey Mulvihill	Williamsville North HS
Softball	Brittany O'Heir	McKinley HS	Baseball	Benjamin Zwierzchowski	Williamsville North HS
2x Girls Track & Field	Mary Balkin	Mt. St. Mary's Academy	Boys Track & Field	Donald Truesdell	Wilson Central
3x Girls Track & Field	Madison Galasso	Mt. St. Mary's Academy			
3x Girls Track & Field	Hillary Hamp	Mt. St. Mary's Academy			
2x Girls Lacrosse	Kara Powalski	Mt. St. Mary's Academy			

Always A Winner...

By Doug Ames, Section VI Sportsmanship Coordinator
Newfane High School 778-6560 • dames@newfane.wnyric.org

NEW YORK GOOD SPORTS PROGRAM

The program continues to expand with the number of schools reporting both locally and across the state increasing yearly. Each athletic director has a responsibility to evaluate his/her respective programs of sportsmanship. The NYS Good Sports program offers a vehicle toward that end. The reporting is a self-evaluation and gives us all a chance to reflect on the many good things we have going on as well as plan for the future. Exemplary programs are then forwarded to the state level for recognition.

NYSPHSAA announced that **Albion, Forestville, Iroquois, and Lockport** have been recognized for outstanding efforts in promoting good sportsmanship in Section VI. All four schools and their Athletic Directors will be honored at the September meeting of the Athletic Council. Congratulations to all!

SECTION VI COACHES SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS 2007-08

In recognition of exemplary sportsmanship demonstrated throughout the year as leaders and role models for our athletes, a coach was selected from each league to receive a Sportsmanship plaque and a t-shirt from the Section. Honored at the Section VI Annual Recognition dinner in August were (pictured from left to right):

- NFL - Luke Hodgson, North Tonawanda (Volleyball, Basketball)
- Buffalo - Mike Sorrentino, McKinley (Soccer, Basketball, Baseball)
- MMHSAA - Moira Sheehan, Nardin (Girls Golf)
- Cattaraugus - Matt Finn, Ellicottville (Soccer, Softball)
- Chautauqua - Mark Petersen, Cassadaga Valley (Football, Basketball)
- NO - John Jablonski, Rot-Hart (Field Hockey, Track & Field)
- ECIC - Brian Swatland, Williamsville North (Football, Wrestling, Track & Field)

Congratulations coaches!!



THE VIRTUE OF SPORTSMANSHIP AND THE VIRTUES OF A LIFE LIVED WELL

As I have argued, sports provide an extra arena in which good character can be developed and practiced. Sport is surely not the only arena in which young people can learn to be persistent, determined, respectful, trustworthy, courageous, responsible, fair, and honest. If young student athletes devote themselves to any practices in which there are standards of excellence, traditions, and learned teachers, such virtues can be developed. Young violinists as well as young gymnasts have an opportunity to practice virtue. But sports are important and pervasive in our lives. In sports we have ample opportunities to help young and old athletes become the kind of people who will not only be successful and respected in the world of high school sports, but in life as well. And even the more mature members of the sports world: coaches, administrators, and parents will have significant and unique moral challenges to confront as they respond to the tensions and dramatic resonances of competitive athletics. Sports may not be everything, but it can have real existential bite!

Sports and life are connected, not because there are winners and losers in life, but because good character matters in both! Aristotle described the goal of a human life this way: "We reach the conclusion that the good man is an activity of the soul in conformity with excellence or virtue, and if there are several virtues, with the best and most complete". In a sense, moral education in athletics: that is, education in excellence of character: can prepare young student athletes for life. Courage, discipline, fairness, "simply put – these are good things".

TIME FOR A SPORT THOUGHT...

- Why sportsmanship? Why Sports? Why do we play these games? Why do we encourage our children to play them? Why do we include sports in our schools?
- Do you ever refer to talent as a gift?
- Do you think that greater talent implies greater responsibility?
- Is it ever acceptable to give less than a best effort to conserve energy?

...Good Sports Finish First

Sportsmanship ...let the players play, let the coaches coach, let the officials officiate ...we then can enjoy the game.

Sportsmanship ...let the players play, let the coaches coach, let the officials officiate ...we then can enjoy the game.

IT'S OFFICIAL...

By Tom Cowan/Section VI Official's Coordinator



EVALUATING THE SPORTS OFFICIAL....

The recent move to TheArbiter as the program for management and assignment of officials in Section VI has pointed out the need to revisit all of the evaluation instruments in use within the region. All sports officials are expected to have a ranking which directly impacts both the number and level of assignments he/she will receive. The process should provide helpful feedback to working officials and be designed to improve job performance. All too often today's evaluation tools provide a number which labels the official but doesn't specifically address problem areas.

The evaluation of job performance for officials should include comments from coaches, partners, retired veterans and mentors. Aspiring young officials should be able to look to recurring themes concerning professionalism, mechanics, judgment, knowledge of rules and communication as they attempt to improve. The evaluation of officials is a tool within TheArbiter that remains a function to be explored in the future as time allows.

Interscholastic programs can only benefit from consistent and extensive evaluations which provide valuable assigning information and are designed to improve job performance



SECTION VI

355 Harlem Road
West Seneca, NY 14224