



SECTION VI *newsletter*

November 2005

355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, NY 14224 • (716) 821-7299 • (716) 821-7365 • Fax (716) 821-7352 • cszczesny@e1b.org

Volume 12 Issue 2

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

Next Athletic Council Meeting

November 16, 2005
10:30 AM

Danny's South,
4300 Abbott Rd., Orchard Park

Action Items:

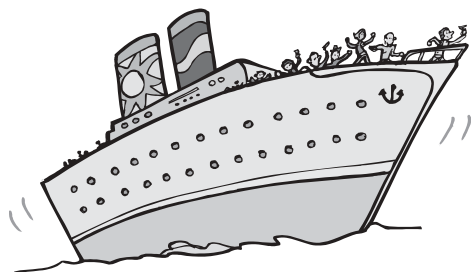
Approvals for Senior All-Star and
Outside Agency Contests

Discussion Items:

Proposed Budget 2006-2007

Winter Sports Handbooks 2005-2006

Winter Sports Handbooks are all currently available on the Section website www.section6.wnyric.org Click on *Handbooks, Forms and Information*. Hard copies will be distributed to Athletic Directors and head coaches (via your AD) as soon as they are printed in mid-November.



Welcome Aboard!!

Congratulations and welcome to the new Section VI representatives appointed at the September Athletic Council meeting Softball Co-chairs Mark Kruzynski, Medina and Larry Lash, Wilson. Section VI is looking forward to sharing their energy and enthusiasm for interscholastic sports!

Section VI Congratulates Member Schools for Academics and Sportsmanship

Clarence is Presented the 2004-2005 Scholar-Athlete "School of Distinction" Award



Left to Right: Nina Van Eck - NYSPHSAA Exec. Director, Scott MacBeth, Joe Gentile - HS Principal, Stephanie Turner, Dr. Tom Coseo - Superintendent, Grag Kaszubski - AD.

The "School of Distinction" award is the highest award handed out in the Scholar-Athlete program and is in its third year of existence. **Clarence** earned the award by having 100% of its varsity sports teams earn above a 90.0% grade point average, thus achieving "School of Distinction" status. Clarence sponsors 29 Interscholastic varsity was presented with the award at the Section VI Athletic Council meeting, Wed. Sept. 21 at the Danny's South Restaurant. 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 program was initiated in 1991-1992 school year.

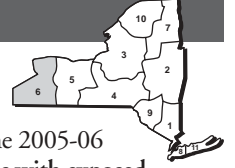
Congratulations to Clarence!

New York State Good Sports Program

Four schools have been recognized at the state level for outstanding efforts in promoting good sportsmanship in Section VI: **Olean, Panama, Brocton and Frontier**. The Athletic Directors from each school was presented the **New York State Good Sports Award** at the September 21 meeting of the Athletic Council. (see photos on page7) Congratulations to all!

NEWS FROM THE STATE OFFICE

(518) 439-8875 • www.nysphsaa.org



SUMMARY: NYSPHSAA Executive Committee Meeting October 24, 2005

Approved:

- Girls Lacrosse - Permanent waiver for goal keeper substitution.
- Dues Increase - For the 2006 - 2007 school year dues will be increased \$50 per district and \$.05 per student.
- Modified - Increased the number of required practices in softball (8/10), swimming (12/15), volleyball (8/10), bowling (3) and golf (3) effective in the 2006-2007 school year.
- Boys Basketball - Shot clock interpretations (see article below)
- Girls Basketball - Proper coverage and padding of a knee brace (see article below)
- Ice Hockey - Section IX start date of November 1, 2005.
- Rifle - 30 shot format for Air Rifle competition.
- Wrestling - Waived the standard, "approval by October of the year prior to implementation" so that the wrestling proposal may be heard and voted on in January by the Executive Committee.
- Handbook - As an exemption to the Transfer Rule, "a student who is declared homeless by the superintendent pursuant to Commissioner's Regulation 100.2."

Back to the Sections for discussion:

- Handbook - "Students who return from any school to the public school district of their residence shall be exempted from the Transfer Rule. Such a transfer without penalty will be only permitted once in a high school career."

2005 Fall Championships Schedule

November 12

Cross Country - Queensbury HS (II)
Boys Volleyball - Webster Schroeder HS (V)
Boys Gymnastics - SUNY Brockport (V)

November 18/19

Field Hockey - Alliance Bank Stadium (III)
Girls Volleyball - SUNY Oneonta (IV)

Girls Swimming - Erie Community College (VI)
Girls Soccer - Binghamton Area (IV)
Football Semis - Dietz (IX) Carrier Dome (III)

November 19

Federation Cross Country - Bowdoin Park (I)

November 19/20 Boys Soccer - Soccer Hall of Fame (IV)

November 26/27

Football Finals - Carrier Dome (III)

Boys Basketball - Rule Changes



The following rule changes and interpretations are necessary due to recent changes in NFHS rules and our use of the 35 second shot clock in boys basketball: **Double Foul:** We now have point of interruption meaning on a double foul, the team in control of the ball will retain possession of the ball. This affects the shot clock and we will use NCAA guidelines. If there is no team control, we have to go to the arrow and will again use NCAA guidelines. It is necessary to use the NCAA guidelines for the shot clock since the federation does not have the shot clock.

Kickball Violation: In NCAA rules, a kickball now affects the shot clock. On a violation, the ball is given back to the offensive team with no reset of the shot clock. If there is less than 15 seconds left on the shot clock, the shot clock will be set to 15 seconds.

Unauthorized Leaving of the Court: This is no longer a technical foul but a violation for both the offense and defense. If the defense commits the violation, we will treat it the same as a kickball violation regarding the shot clock (see above)

Girls Basketball - Knee Braces



There are two rules that apply to knee braces:

Rule 3 Section 7 Article 5 PBR 65: "Equipment that could cut or cause injury to another player shall be prohibited".

Rule 3 Section 7 Article 6 PBR 65 "Basketball knee braces may be worn if they are covered properly".

This is how knee braces will be considered "covered properly" for the 2005-06 season: **"ALL knee braces with exposed hard plastic or metal will be covered with the sleeve that is available to be purchased with them. IF A PLAYER DOES NOT HAVE A SLEEVE (SPORTS COVER) IN HER POSSESSION, SHE MAY NOT PLAY!!** That player should then be advised to contact her physician to obtain a cover for the brace to comply with the rule.

Coaching Clinics 2006

Jan. 27	Lacrosse at SUNY Cortland
Feb.3	Softball at Univ. of Binghamton
Mar.3	Baseball at Hall of Fame, Cooperstown
Mar.24	Field Hockey at Radisson, Utica
Mar.24-25	Track & Field and Cross Country at the Radisson, Utica
May 19	Soccer at Hall of Fame, Oneonta
June 16	Volleyball at SUNY Oneonta (tentative)



Budget and Finance

For the 2006-07 school year:

- An increase in NYSPHSAA Championship ticket prices was approved to help offset the increase in operating expenses of the new building
- A dues increase of \$50 per school and \$.05 per student was approved.

Conference - Eligibility and Standards

Once again the NYSPHSAA and NYSAAA are partnering to organize a two-day conference scheduled for November 28-29, 2005 at the Holiday Inn - Turf, Albany. The NYSAAA will be offering NIAAA Leadership Training Courses on November 28th. On November 29th the NYSPHSAA will conduct a seminar on rules, regulations and eligibility. (*Brochures have been mailed*)

2005 Section VI Veterans Honored



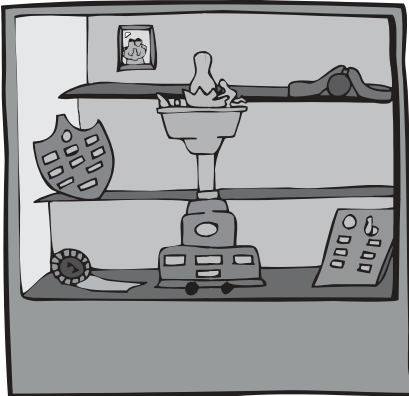
L-R: Pete Scott & Bill Malican

The Section was pleased to host another annual celebration in honor of Section VI veterans on Wednesday September 21st. A Section VI Veteran is a school-retiree who has dedicated much time and energy to Western New York athletes with service to Section VI. The Veterans each year are invited to a golf tournament followed by cocktails and dinner which this year was held at a new location, Danny's South Restaurant in Orchard Park. Special recognition was given this year to our newest Veteran **Pete Scott**, retired English teacher from Depew High School and



Section VI Softball Chairman since 1995. Pete is shown in the photo with Bill Malican who was honored for his contributions to the Indoor Track Program as Chairman since 1990.

Congratulations are extended to the honorees and sincere thanks to all Section VI Veterans. These individuals have dedicated their time and energy to the athletes of Section VI and throughout New York State for many, many years. Section VI is extremely grateful for their commitment to and love of interscholastic athletics! We are grateful for their many contributions!! If you are aware of a veteran who has not received notice of the Recognition Day, please call the Section office 821-7299!



Section VI Hall of Fame Nominees Sought

Each year, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association recognizes individuals for their outstanding contribution to high school athletics in the categories of administrator, coach, athlete, official and contributor, by inducting them into the NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame. All nominations must receive the endorsement of the Section and be received by the NYSPHSAA by December 15th.

Almost every district, at one time or another has had an athlete, coach, administrator or someone in another capacity who merits consideration for this distinction. We've seen successful high

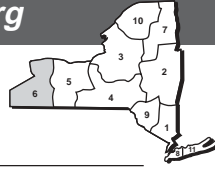
school athletic careers lead to successful collegiate and professional careers.....we've witnessed coaches amass won-loss records which seem insurmountable by today's competitions. These are the people we need to nominate!

A committee, chaired by **Jim Dunnigan** at **Kenmore East**, has been established to encourage Section VI nominations, review them for completeness and grant Section endorsement before submission to the state office. Nomination forms and instructions are available at the section office, contact Cindy 821-7365 cszczesny@e1b.org or contact Jim at 874-8402 james_dunnigan@kenton.k12.ny.us. Please forward your completed nominations as soon as possible!

The 2006 honorees that are selected will be inducted into the NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame at the annual meeting being hosted by Section VI, at the Holiday Inn Grand Island in August of 2006. The NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame is sponsored by Pupil Benefits.

NEWS FROM THE STATE OFFICE

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Continued from page 2

Championships Schedule Change

Football: The 2005 Football State Championships have been rescheduled at the Carrier Dome as follows:

Saturday, November 26, 2005: Class D at 11:00am, Class C at 2:00pm, Class A at 5:00pm

Sunday, November 27, 2005: Class AA at 12 Noon, Class B at 3:00pm

Boys Lacrosse: The East semi finals are scheduled for June 8, 2006 at Michie Stadium, USMA, West Point in Section 9. The championship finals are scheduled for June 10, 2006 at LaValle Stadium, Stony Brook University in Section 9.

The West semi finals are scheduled for June 8, 2006 at Cicero North Syracuse in Section 3.

Girls Gymnastics: State meet will be March 3-4, 2006 at Shaker High School, Latham in Section 2 (moved from Section 7).

Hall of Fame

Pupil Benefits has sponsored the NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame since its inception three years ago. The Hall of Fame recognizes individuals for their outstanding contribution to high school athletics in the categories of administrator, coach, athlete, official and contributor. Nominations must first receive the endorsement of the Section and be received by the NYSPHSAA by the **December 15th** deadline. Nomination forms are available from the section and state association office. Nomination forms are available from the section and state association office. (see page 3)

Scholar Athlete Team Award

The Fall 2005 deadline date to file is Friday, December 2nd. Instructions and application forms are on the state website www.nysphsaa.org.



Section VI

Sport Committees:

Girls Lacrosse:

Since it applies to the goalkeeper, a permanent waiver for Rule # 9 Substitution Procedure was approved. This rule reads "Before a substitute enters the game during play, she must report to the scorer's table and remain within the team substitution area" The goalkeeper, after reporting to the scorer's table is now allowed to move down the sideline to position outside the field approximately equal to where her team's goal is positioned. Once the current goalkeeper on the field has exited the playing field, the substitute goalkeeper may enter the field and position herself in the goal area.

Track and Field:

The committee is investigating three proposals:

- To include the hammer and javelin events in the state tournament
- Holding the state and federation championships on two separate weekends
- Adding a second qualifier to each division

Wrestling:

The committee has proposed a process for filling the byes in the 2007 state tournament to provide for an equitable competitive opportunity for all competitors and to assure that the better wrestlers are included in the tournament. Presentations by the Section Coordinators will be made to the Sections during the next few months. The Executive Committee will be voting on the proposal at their January 2006 meeting.

Girls Tennis:

The committee will be proposing the adoption of the "Commitment to Play" declaration for the state tournament.

New Office Location

On September 12, 2005 the Executive Committee approved the acquisition of 8 Airport Park Blvd, Latham to become the NYSPHSAA new office. A thorough inspection of the office will be made to assure the building is safe and structurally sound.

Section VI Directory 2005-06 Updates



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

Page #

- 4 NFL Superintendents Rep: **Steven Achramovitch, Ken-Ton, Phone: 874-8400 x5305, Fax: 874-8624**
- 14 Allegany-Limestone: Athletic Secretary: **Libby Stanton, lstanton@alli.wnyric.org**
- 21 Falconer Athletic Director Steve Penhollow: Extension is **4282, (Cell) 450-0317**
- 26 Iroquois Senior High Principal: **Dennis Kenney**
- 28 Lake Shore Indoor Track coach (B&G) : **Jennifer Philaron**
- 29 Lewport: Athletic Director **Jim Clauss, (H) 568-1106, (C) 416-0046 claussj@lew-port.com**
- 31 Medina Athletic Director: **Mark Kruzynski, 474-3263 (H/C), mkruzynski@medinacsd.org**
- 38 Southwestern: Soccer (B) Sean Swan-Leuze, Volleyball (G) **Brandy Ormond**
- 41 Westfield High School Principal: **John Peterson**
- 43 Baseball Catt Co. Umpires: Email for G.Casey Jones: **garyjones112@adelphia.net**
- 43 Lockport Umpires new president: **Tony Nemi**
- 44 IAABO #121 Basketball Official Girls Assignor: Gary Casey Jones **garyjones112@adelphia.net**
- 48 NYSCSO James. Swimming Officials Group #27: **Cherril Castle, President, 484-8101(H), 103 Bush St., Jamestown 14701 cherril1@juno.com**

Centralized Payment of Sports Officials

The pilot program launched by Erie I BOCES in cooperation with Section VI for centralized payment of sports officials by Erie I BOCES in September is being expanded for winter sports. Boys Basketball and Indoor Track officials will receive one paycheck from Erie I BOCES for all contests worked in the pilot districts and all league meets worked within a monthly pay period. The web-based software approved by the Section to facilitate this program is League Minder. The pilot districts currently include Akron and Kenmore. Olean will be added along with several additional schools in the north for winter sports.



When fully operational, centralized payment of sports officials through Erie I BOCES will include all sports and will be open to all Section VI member districts who wish to participate. All sports officials will then receive one monthly paycheck for all contests worked at participating member schools. This program complies with SED regulations regarding Board of Cooperative Educational Services entitling districts who participate to state aid for the cost of League Minder, and the BOCES fee for the service.

Section VI and Erie I BOCES express their gratitude to the boys basketball and track officials and to the pilot districts for their cooperation with this program, developed to ensure payment of officials in a timely, efficient and cost effective manner.

Section VI Media Policy Reminder

Leo Kaminsky, Section VI Media Chairman

In order for a LIVE broadcast (TV or radio) to take place at *any sectional contest* (including football bowl games), a contract must be signed with Section VI and the proper fee must be collected (generally at the event). The contract is available on the section website: <http://www.section6.wnyric.org/> click on *Forms & Info*, scan down to Media. All media representatives are requested to complete the contract and fax to **Leo Kaminsky, Section VI Media Chairman** at 684-3157. The signed contract will be returned to the rep and must be brought to the site with a check made out to "Section VI" for the fee indicated. If preferred, the required fee can be mailed directly to the Section office at 355 Harlem Rd., West Seneca, NY 14224.

Blank contracts should be carried to the site by the site-chairperson. In the event that a broadcaster arrives at an event without a signed contract, they should be informed of the contract and fee requirement. If they would still like to broadcast, the contract should be completed and signed by the station representative and also by the site chairperson. The station will then be billed the appropriate fee for the event.

The Section VI Media Committee is working very hard to improve the relationship with media and will increase communication with them regarding the contracts and fees. If there are any questions, contact Leo Kaminsky at 684-3157. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.



2005-2006 Dates to Remember

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| Nov. 15 | Deadline for All-WNY Fall Scholar Athlete applications to the Section office |
| Nov. 16 | Athletic Council & Exec Comm meetings, 10:30 am at Danny's South Restaurant, Orchard Park |
| Nov. 28-29 | NYSPHSAA Athletic Administrators & Sports Coordinator Workshop in Albany |
| Dec. 2 | Deadline for Fall Scholar/Athlete Team Award Applications to the state |
| Dec. 14 | Executive Committee Meeting |
| Dec. 15 | Nominations for 2006 NYSPHSAA Hall of Fame are due to the state office
*****2006***** |
| Jan. 5 (tent) | Sectional/Intersectional Committee meeting on Distance Learning |
| Jan. 18 | Athletic Council & Exec Comm meetings, 10:30 am at Danny's South Restaurant, Orchard Park |
| Jan. 27-28 | State Executive Committee Meeting, The Saratoga, Saratoga Springs |
| Jan. 27 | Lacrosse Coaching Clinic at SUNY Cortland |
| Jan. 24-27 | Regents Examinations |
| Jan. 27 | Lacrosse Coaching Clinic at SUNY Cortland |
| Feb. 3 | Softball Coaching Clinic at Binghamton University |
| Feb. 7 (tent) | Finance Committee Meeting – Section VI office |
| Feb. 12 | Tennis Coaching Clinic at Southwesterns Tennis Center |
| Feb. 15 | Executive Committee Meeting, Distance Learning |
| March 1 | Sectional/Intersectional Committee meeting, Distance Learning |
| March 1 | Deadline for All-WNY Winter Scholar Athlete applications to the Section office |



Section VI Website Update

www.wnyric.org/section6

Handbooks for 2005-06 winter sports are now available. Note that the sectional competition schedule is posted and updated as soon as changes are known. Please check it on a regular basis! Don't forget to check the Section VI *Bulletin Board* - look for positions open, posting of contests needed by schools, and current sports and fingerprinting information. Also posted are Coaching Certification classes being offered throughout Section VI.

Click on *officials* to find clearance status of sports officials. Officials now can register with League Minder and track their payment for contests worked in the pilot schools for Central Payment of Officials through BOCES...

When was the last time YOU tuned in to your web site???

Section VI Football/ Basketball/Wrestling Program Ads

For the 2005-2006 school year, Section VI has contracted with MJR Dynamic Promotions, Inc. for solicitation of all ads for the



Football, Basketball and Wrestling Programs. The Program Committee is looking forward to 100% involvement of Section VI schools in its endeavor to showcase and promote our local schools through an event program booklet!

Annual Classification of Schools: BEDS Reporting

As per NYSPHSAA Executive Committee action in January 2003, the Section VI office is collecting the BEDS numbers from each member school. They will be reviewed for accuracy and filed electronically by the Section office with the state association. Each Athletic Director has been requested to submit to the Section VI office, a copy of BOTH the District Report (page 1 which lists enrollment for each grade K through 12) and the actual BEDS Building Report Form (page 3) that was sent to SED. This information will be used by NYSPHSAA to calculate the classification of member schools for athletic purposes. It will also be used by the Section VI Football Committee for class projections. **ALSO NEW FOR 2005:**

Because, for athletic classification purposes, we must count ALL students in ALL buildings housing grades 9-11 and ungraded, an *Addendum for Enrollment Numbers* must be completed for each adjustment made to a school building's reported enrollment numbers. Please read the memo distributed and submit the Classification Addendum if you have a shared services situation.

Please send this information **by November 21: Section VI, 355 Harlem Rd., West Seneca, NY 14224 OR fax: 821-7352.** If you have any questions, please call the section office 821-7299.

Sport a Winning Attitude:

The following survey is a positive way of reinforcing sportsmanship behavior from the fans and could be printed on the back of programs, or handed out from the ticket booth.



SURVEY "How's our Sportsmanship?"

Welcome to our school. We consider it our home and hope you will enjoy your visit here. We would appreciate it while you are here if you would rate the sportsmanship behavior of our players, coaches, students and spectators. We're proud of making sportsmanship one of the top educational priorities and hope you will assist us in reaching that goal.

Please return this form to the ticket booth as you leave. Thank you!

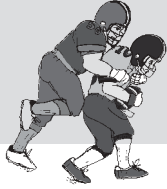
Please rate the following on a 1 to 10 basis, with the 10 being the best score and 1 the poorest.

- _____ The coaches' positive control and his/her emotions and behavior towards the team, the opponents, and officials.
- _____ The players' positive control of their emotions and behavior.
- _____ The cheerleaders' role in encouraging positive enthusiasm.
- _____ The general action of the spectators.
- _____ The coaches' handling of close/controversial situation or calls.
- _____ The sportsmanship attitude of the teams/fans at the conclusion of the game.
- _____ The school administration's active role in promoting enthusiasm or crowd control.

Transportation Concerns

The source of coach buses has been depleted drastically in WNY this fall. Grand Tours, the company that supplies buses for Section VI athletes to travel to state competition, will no longer be able to hold buses for sports teams on an "if needed" basis. They will only reserve buses for Section VI for individual sports where the need is predetermined. e.g. Track and Field, needs 3 buses each spring.

As a result of this emergency situation, the Section VI Executive Committee at the October 19 meeting, directed R.Dinse, the Transportation Committee Chairman, to notify all districts that they will need to make their own transportation arrangements to state competition for their fall sports teams if they qualify. Districts will be reimbursed by the Section for this expense based on a per-mile formula. The Transportation Committee will present a proposal to adopt a Section VI Transportation Funding Program to reimburse districts for arranging their own transportation for all team sports at a future Athletic Council meeting.



Always a winner...



by Doug Ames, Section VI Sportsmanship Coordinator
Newfane Elementary • 778-6376x2184 • dames@newfane.wnyric.org

New York Good Sports Award Winners 2004-05



Brocton: (L-R) Ken Kowal-AD, Kari Tarnowski, Nick Sobecki, Frank Nicotra- Section 6 President



Panama: (L-R) Chris Payne-AD, Joel Wiggers, Jenna Nagel, Brianna Catanese, Frank Nicotra- Section 6 President



Olean: (L-R) Don Scholla-AD, Barbara Lias-Principal, R.J. Strickler, Sarah Rhinehart, Frank Nicotra- Section 6 President

Sportsmanship:

Few will dispute that sportsmanship should be an integral part of scholastic athletics. Our sports programs provide us with a unique opportunity to teach and learn respect for self and respect for others. Quite frankly, as part of the educational community, if our programs do not reflect sportsmanship I'm not sure if we have anything worthwhile to promote and protect.

In recent years the State Association has enacted a Sportsmanship standard to address inappropriate behavior by athletes, coaches and officials. This has had a positive impact on our programs statewide. Additionally, New York Good Sports has been launched. Recently revised, it affords more high schools recognition for exemplary sportsmanship efforts. The program is based on a self-assessment process. High schools are encouraged to participate in this evaluative program, which will give direction for growth and improvement to their sportsmanship initiatives.

The state has provided each district with the "Sportsmanship Guide." This will assist you in implementing efforts in your school to enhance sportsmanship. The Association along with Section VI would hope it stimulates you to share with the section your ideas, programs, or any "acts of kindness". Please forward any information pertaining to Sportsmanship to the Section Coordinator for individual or school recognition weekly. I want to hear from you!

There is no doubt that we have seen improved sportsmanship reflected in our athletic programs in the section and across the state in recent years. We hope you will join us in keeping sportsmanship a top priority!

Citizenship Through Athletics

The Instructor's course could be offered in our section, league or division if we can get enough participants (30) at NO cost



Frontier: (L-R) Tim Marong-AD, Michael Baumann-Principal, Brian Malek, Caitlin Mann, Frank Nicotra- Section 6 President

other than site and refreshments. Those leagues or divisions interested in becoming trainers should contact Lloyd Mott at NYSPHSAA office (518) 439-8873 to set up date and times. This one (1) day, six (6) hour course is well worth the time and energy to be trained.

Hazing: Identification and Prevention

A two (2) hour workshop for up to 100 participants could be offered in our section. Contact Lloyd Mott at NYSPHSAA office for details to set up a workshop in your league for neighboring schools around you.

Parents for Good Sports

This nationally know program which partners with parents and their local school's athletic department promoting the values of good sportsmanship has received NFHS endorsement. If you (or your district) are interested in obtaining material contact your Sportsmanship Coordinator for pertinent information.

Time for a Sport thought!

When we speak of the heroes of a sport ...say, Babe Ruth in baseball. Is that the same thing as talking about role models? What is it we admire? Or, that we should admire about the all time great players of a game?

After a game do you discuss the things your opponents did well when you're talking to your players?

New York Good Sports Program

Exemplary sportsmanship programs are recognized by NYSPHSAA as part of the New York Good Sports Program. Four Section VI schools Olean, Frontier, Brocton and Panama were recognized for outstanding efforts in promoting good sportsmanship at the September Athletic Council meeting. Congratulation to all! (see photos above)

...Good Sports Finish First

Sportsmanship... We can make it happen! • Sportsmanship... We can make it happen!

Sportsmanship... We can make it happen! • Sportsmanship... We can make it happen!



IT'S OFFICIAL...

by Tom Cowan, Section VI Officials Coordinator (821-7094)

Winter sports...

what excitement and anticipation. A chance to demonstrate the results of many well-organized off-season workouts. Endless hours of preseason preparation for what indeed should be a championship season for the home team.

The coach seems better organized than ever before and with our new uniforms, how can we miss. Most of the tangible ingredients seem to be pointing us toward the stars! Wide eyed anticipation and the optimum that accompanies opening day is a lot of what interscholastic athletics are all about. We long for competition and are convinced that we have done everything possible to succeed.

What a great start, but let's not overlook the value of character building and its potential impact on the win-loss record. If you believe that athletic programs are an integral part of the high school experiences and that competition can build lifelong values and skills; character is an essential ingredient. If John Wooden was correct when he said, "when you read about a team that wins over and over and over remind yourself, more than ability, they have character"!

As adult organizers of these programs, let's not lose sight of our responsibility to all the wide eyed youngsters who will stand in line for a much anticipated uniform in the near future. Board members, administrators and coaches are role models. A professional approach which never succumbs to the occasional breach of ethical standards may be just as important to the final won-loss record as was all of the hard work and off season preparation.

Hall of Fame Coach, Marv Levy, couldn't have said it better, "competition doesn't create character, it reveals it".

Have a great winter sports season!

Note to Boys Basketball and Track Officials:

All officials for these winter sports are reminded that these 2 sports have been selected for the Central Payment of Officials pilot program for winter (see article on page 5). Each official must go online to the Section 6 website to register with League Minder in order to receive payment for any Indoor Track league meets, any boys basketball contests worked at the pilot districts and any sectional contests. Complete instructions are on the website. Go to www.section6.wnyric.org ... click on *Officials* ... scan down to Registration with League Minder. Any official without a computer or email address can call the Section office: Cindy 821-7365 or Diane 821-7582 and be registered over the phone. Thank you for your prompt cooperation with this program! It was adopted to ensure payment of officials in a timely, efficient and cost effective manner and to protect social security numbers from identity theft.



SECTION VI

355 Harlem Road
West Seneca, NY 14224