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. Congratulations 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:

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

Spring Sports State Champions

(articles on pages 6-7)

Boys Track and Field

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

Girls Track and Field

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Time/Dist.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>400 M</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Kala Allen</td>
<td>Wmsv. East</td>
<td>55.61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shot Put</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Melissa Kurzdorfer</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>46’ 4 ½”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discus</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Melissa Kurzdorfer</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>146’ 7”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discus</td>
<td>II</td>
<td>Taylor Eldridge</td>
<td>Cleveland Hill</td>
<td>135” 1”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Federation Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Time/Dist.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>400 IH</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Will Cole</td>
<td>Hamburg</td>
<td>53.18*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400 M</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Kala Allen</td>
<td>Wmsv. East</td>
<td>55.24*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shot Put</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Melissa Kurzdorfer</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>44’ 6”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discus</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>Melissa Kurzdorfer</td>
<td>Lancaster</td>
<td>141’ 6”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Section VI Record
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 Committee
  - 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.

**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

**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!
## Coaching Course Schedule

### Fall/Winter 2008-09

#### ERIE 1 BOCES

### Philosophy, Principles & Organization of Athletics
- **September 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30/October 2, 7, 9, 2008**
- **6:00 pm-10:30 pm**
- **Tuesdays & Thursdays**
- **Registration Deadline:** September 5, 2008
- **Chris Demarco**
- Sweet Home H.S.
  - 1901 Sweet Home Road, Rm 501
  - Amherst, NY 14228
- **$165.00**

#### Health Science Applied to Coaching
- **October 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29/November 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 2008**
- **6:30 pm-10:00 pm**
- **Mondays & Wednesdays**
- **Registration Deadline:** October 10, 2008
- **Paul Pignataro, Tom Haney & Kurt Holme**
- Erie 1 BOCES Room A3
  - 355 Harlem Road
  - West Seneca, NY 14224
- **$165.00**

#### Theory & Techniques of Coaching
- **December 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 20, 22, 27, 29/January 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29/February 3, 5, 2009**
- **6:30 pm-10:00 pm**
- **Tuesdays & Thursdays**
- **Registration Deadline:** January 6, 2009
- **Chuck Amo**
- Hamburg H.S.
  - 411 Legion Drive, Room 216
  - Hamburg, NY 14075
- **$165.00**

#### Philosophy, Principles & Organization of Athletics
- **March 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 2008/Last date to be determined by instructor**
- **6:30 pm-10:00 pm**
- **Tuesdays & Thursdays**
- **Registration Deadline:** November 26, 2008
- **Chuck Amo**
- Erie 1 BOCES Room A4
  - 355 Harlem Road
  - West Seneca, NY 14224
- **$165.00**

### Additional Information
- **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 Riegel 822-3333
- **SAVE - Violence:** Robert Carlson 821-7553

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### Coaching Course Schedule

#### Fall/Winter 2008-09

#### ERIE 2-CHAUTAUQUA-CATTARAUGUS BOCES

### Philosophy, Principles and Organization of Athletics
- **Sept. 15, 17, 22, 24, 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**

### **Theory & Technique of Coaching Online**
- **September 8, 2008 – December 15, 2008**
- **Health Science Applied to Coaching Online**
- **September 10, 2008 – December 17, 2008**
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Most current officials roster due*/ TheArbiter training date(s) posted at Section</td>
<td>Fri. Aug 29, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final schedules complete including non-league games</td>
<td>Fri. Sept 19, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Import of schedules to TheArbiter begins</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final date: ALL schedules must be imported to TheArbiter</td>
<td>Fri Oct. 3, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Varsity &amp; JV (&amp; S.Tier mod wrest) assignments begin</td>
<td>Mon. Oct. 6, 2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round Table meeting to review assignments, set publishing date &amp; create timeline for modified assignments</td>
<td>Mon. Oct. 27 2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 & Todoro, P.C. Law Officers, 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!!!
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.

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. Osucha let it rip with his personal record, 160’ 6”, which won him the state championship.

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 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.

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, Cattaragus-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!

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.
Section VI Newsletter

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 4X400R (’05, ’07 & ’08)
- **Bob Makin** - HCS Class of 2008 valedictorian / Section 6 Sportsmanship/ Honoree / Long jump champion

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 a side and focus on the shot put. Working towards another state championship, Taylor’s efforts led her to a new school record of 40’5 ¾” 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.

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

** BOYS 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

** 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

** GIRLS BASEBALL

City Honors 94.657
Barker 94.475

** 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
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, to all winners and nominees!! 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

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Forms and Information, then on All-WNY
### SECTION VI All WNY Spring Scholar Athletes continued...

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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
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.