Next Athletic Council Meeting
January 21, 2009
Lunch 11:00 am – Meeting begins at 11:30 am
Erie 1 BOCES Education Campus, 355 Harlem Rd., W.Seneca, Building B, Room B2b

ACTION ITEMS:
Section VI Budget 2009-2010
Federating girls lacrosse
Transportation Policy Update
Approvals for Combining Schools for 2008-09
Approvals for Senior All-Star and Outside Agency Contests

DISCUSSION ITEMS:
Recommendations from the State Fiscal Concerns Committee
Updates to the Section VI By-Laws

SOUTHWESTERN ACHIEVES STATE CHAMPIONSHIP IN BOTH ATHLETICS AND ACADEMICS!!

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association and Section VI are proud to announce that the Southwestern Football Team is the leader in New York State for not only excellence on the field but excellence in the classroom. The Trojans culminated their 2008 football season with a Class C State Championship, the first state championship in any team sport at Southwestern. The team’s motto “Be in Balance” is exemplified with their achievement of state championship in academics as well. The Southwestern football team had an overall GPA of 95.427. This is the 2nd year in a row that the Football Team has achieved this honor!

NYSPHSAA reported that the only 6 teams have achieved the State Championships in both their sport and academics in the 18 year history of the program. They include Suffern Boys Cross Country in 1999-00, New Hartford Ice Hockey in 1996-97, Sandy Creek Softball in 2003-04, New Hartford Boys Soccer (co-champs) 2004-05, Cold Spring Harbor Boys Lacrosse 2005-06 and this year Southwestern Football 2008-09.

The Scholar/Athlete Team Award Program, begun in 1991 has been co-sponsored by The Pupil Benefits Plan, Inc. since 1995.

NYSPHSAA SCHOLAR/ATHLETE TEAM AWARDS FALL 2008 STATE CHAMPIONS

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</table>

*see page 6

Congratulations To All The Section VI Fall Scholar/Athlete Team Award Winners (listed on pages 12-13)

SECTION VI 2008 FALL SPORTS STATE CHAMPIONS

(articles on page 3-11)

Girls Swimming
100 Yard Freestyle – Marissa Dressel, Kenmore West

Cross Country
Girls Class B Team Champ – East Aurora
Boys Class A – Joe Whalen, Hamburg
Girls Class B Champ – Brenna Symoniak, Amherst

Boys Gymnastics
The Section VI Team
All-Around - Jonathan Zirna, Clarence
Floor Exercise – Noah Roberson, Williamsville South
Pommel Horse – Jonathan Zirna, Clarence
Still Rings – Jonathan Zirna, Clarence
Vault – Eric Niedermeier, Clarence
Parallel Bars – Nathaniel Roberson, Williamsville South
High Bar – Nathaniel Roberson, Williamsville South

Football
Orchard Park – Class AA
Sweet Home – Class A
Southwestern – Class C
Maple Grove – Class D

Girls Volleyball
Class C – Salamanca
Class D – Portville

Boys Volleyball
Class A – Orchard Park


The Scholar/Athlete Team Award Program, begun in 1991 has been co-sponsored by The Pupil Benefits Plan, Inc. since 1995.
FISCAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

On December 8th members of the Fiscal Concerns Ad Hoc Committee held a telephone conference call meeting to discuss ways the NYSPHSAA could assist member schools, leagues/conferences and Sections to reduce costs while maintaining quality interscholastic athletic programs for all students in grades 7-12. After considerable discussion on the merits and feasibility of each of the suggestions, the members of the committee unanimously reached consensus on the following items for consideration by the NYSPHSAA Executive Committee:

1. Supporting the use of telephone conference calls and video conferencing for NYSPHSAA meetings to reduce the travel reimbursement costs for the NYSPHSAA and Sections.
2. Support the use of officials from the host section at all NYSPHSAA regional contests. Officials at semi final and final contests will be reviewed in the future.
3. Support a moratorium on the expansion of NYSPHSAA tournaments as it pertains to participation.
4. Support the use of centralized sites for all NYSPHSAA Championship competition.
5. Support the reduction of the maximum number of contests permitted during the regular season. Sports with 24 contests be reduced to 20, sports with 20 contests be reduced to 18 and sports with 18 contests be reduced to 16. Wrestling would be reduced to 19 points (5 tournaments) and football would be reduced by one contest. Junior Varsity and Freshmen programs would be reduced by two (2) additional contests and the modified program would be reduced by two contests.
6. Support the reduction of the number of classes and divisions in team and individual NYSPHSAA championship competition.
7. Support the reduction of participants in NYSPHSAA Championships in individual and combination (team/individual) sports.
8. Support the reduction of tournaments (multi school competition) for team and individual sports.
9. Support the establishment of a maximum number of scrimmages permitted by a team to: Varsity, JV and freshmen – 2 scrimmages and Modified – 1 scrimmage.
10. Support the reduction of Central/Executive Committee meetings to three per year. (Constitutional change)
11. Support the establishment of a team travel restriction for all member schools limiting out of state team travel to competition with bordering states only.
12. Support the establishment of a moratorium on the following NYSPHSAA (mandated) workshops such as Safety, Life of an Athlete, Sportsmanship and Chemical Health workshops.
13. Support eliminating participation in the NFHS Student Leadership Conference.

QUESTIONS and comments regarding these recommendations in Section 6 can be directed to Section 6 committee member Mark Ward at mward@eville.wnyric.org or 699-2368.

POSTPONED ITEMS FROM NYSPHSAA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Redefining a scrimmage to be a practice competition.
- Eliminating Friends & Neighbor status at the high school level

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (JANUARY 30)

Modified - Mercy rule experiment in baseball and softball.
Safety - Collect data on injuries to head and neck area in girls lacrosse.
Softball - Super Regional in Classes B&C for Sections 1,8,9 & 11. Increase student athlete roster size from 20 to 23 and bench personnel from 4 to 6 to equal baseball.
Baseball - Tied and Suspended game rule.
Girls Lacrosse - Increase student athlete roster size from 25 –35 to equal boys lacrosse.
Boys Tennis - To increase medals to award places 3-6 to equal girls tennis.
Girls Tennis - To permit coaching on the court at championship, but no cheering.
Boys and Girls Tennis - The student athlete’s certified high school coach must be present at NYSPHSAA Championship events.
Boys Volleyball - The use of NCAA Volleyball CITIZENSHIP THROUGH ATHLETICS COURSE

February 4, 2009 at the NYSPHSAA Office. NO REGISTRATION FEE. Materials and lunch will be provided. To register contact: Todd Nelson at 518-690-0771 or tnelson@nysphsaa.org

COACHING CLINICS

January 16 Softball @ Field of Dreams, Utica
January 30 Lacrosse @ SUNY Corland
February 27 Baseball @ Hall of Fame
March 6 Field Hockey @ Field of Dreams Utica
March 27-28 Cross Country & Track & Field @ Syracuse Holiday Inn at Carrier Circle

JANUARY 2009 CALENDAR

15 Handbook Committee Conference Call 9:30 AM
16 Championship Advisory Committee 9:00 AM
20 Fiscal Concerns Ad Hoc Committee Conference Call 9:00 AM
30/31 Executive Committee
UPCOMING MANDATORY WORKSHOPS

Section VI will be hosting the mandatory workshops for Athletic Directors: Life of an Athlete Year 5 and the Safety Workshop. Attendance is mandatory for Athletic Directors (or a designee). Details are being finalized and will be forwarded by the Section office in late January. Athletic Directors will be asked to pre-register in April.

Section VI is sponsoring Mr. John Underwood, Founder and Director of the American Athletic Institute, in cooperation with the New York State Public High School Athletic Association and the NYS Chemical Health Committee, to conduct the workshop for the final year of the 5-Year Program entitled “Life of an Athlete - Stakeholder Unity”

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. This is our culminating year during which school districts will assess the entire athletic program. Strengths, limitations, good, bad, what’s right and wrong, will be examined to make recommendations for the future of athletics and athletes in your community. Our pilot school district for this program garnered incredible amounts of information as well as trends good and bad that must be addressed. This process will establish priorities for school districts to maintain strengths and improve limitations.

The culminating year of the Life of an Athlete program is centered around stakeholder unity. Our goal is to allow all stakeholders to have an opportunity to give their views and perspectives of the athletic program. This process allows the most important aspect of success to set a course for excellence and that is communication. This is a survey oriented program that examines all aspects of your programs.

If you take the time to gather information and share it with all stakeholders, you will find that the vast majority will support any measures to deter and reduce social drug use by student athletes and support programs of excellence. The materials provided in this workshop can provide that critical information.

Dates to Remember 2009

Jan. 7 Sectional/Intersectional Committee meeting on Distance Learning
Jan. 14 Pre-Season Meeting for Spring Sport Chairs at Erie 1 BOCES, W.Seneca, room 2B2
Jan. 21 Athletic Council meeting, 11:30 am at Erie 1 BOCES, W.Seneca
Jan. 26-29 Regents Examinations
Jan. 30 Lacrosse Coaching Clinic at SUNY Cortland
Jan. 30-31 NYSFHSAA Executive Committee Meeting, Regency or Holiday Inn, Binghamton
Feb. 10 Finance Committee Meeting – Section VI office
Feb. 25 Executive Committee Meeting, Distance Learning sites TBA
Feb. 27 Baseball Coaching Clinic at Hall of Fame, Cooperstown
March 1 Deadline for All-WNY Winter Scholar Athlete applications to the Section office
March 4 Sectional/Intersectional Committee meeting, Distance Learning
March 6 Field Hockey Coaching Clinic, Field of Dreams, Utica

May 6, 2009 at Erie 1 BOCES, 355 Harlem Rd. West Seneca, NY 14224

Nominations Being Accepted

Section VI is currently accepting nominations for Fall Sport Chairperson positions. Any member in good standing of the professional staff of a member school may serve as a Sport Chairperson. Appointments will be made at the Athletic Council meeting in May. The Fall Chairpersons will be appointed for a three-year term to expire June 30, 2012. Current nominees are:

Cross Country-B: Mike Janisch,
Cross Country-G: James Zubler
Field Hockey: Judy Otto
Football: Chuck Funke, Football Asst.: Chuck Amo
Gymnastics-B: Joe Buscaglia,
Gymnastics-G: Donna Aquino
Soccer-B: Two nominees 1) Art Jaspe 2) Todd Marquardt
Soccer-B Asst.: Patrick Anderson
Soccer-G: Chris Durr, Soccer-G Asst.: Joanna Fildes
Swimming-G: Bruce Johnson,
Tennis-G: Dave Coates
Volleyball-B: Walt Johnson, Volleyball-G: Debby Schruefer & Sue Pernick (as co-chairs)

Please forward all nominations to the Section VI office, 355 Harlem Rd., West Seneca, NY 14224
csjcsnesny@elb.org

Feb. 27 Executive Committee Meeting, Regency or Holiday Inn, Carrier Circle East Syracuse
Feb. 10 Finance Committee Meeting – Distance Learning
March 1 Deadline for All-WNY Winter Scholar/ Athlete Team Award Applications
March 11 Section VI office open for Photo ID’s until 6:00 pm by appointment only
March 18-20 NYSAA Annual Conference
March 25 Athletic Council meeting, 11:30 am at Erie 1 BOCES, W.Seneca
Executive Committee meeting, 9:30 am at Erie 1 BOCES, W.Seneca
Softball Coaching Clinic at Field of Dreams Utica
March 27-28 Post Season Meeting - Winter Sports
April TBA Post Season Meeting - Winter Sports
April 15 Deadline for online Good Sports Assessments ( & hard-copy to Section Sportmanship Chair Doug Ames)

NYS Officials Coordinators
May 3 Federation spring meeting – Holiday Inn, Carrier Circle East Syracuse
May 10 Good Sports Assessments forwarded to NYSFHSAA
May 11 MANDATORY WORKSHOPS for Athletic Directors at Erie 1 BOCES, W.Seneca:
8:30am-noon - Life of an Athlete Year 5 – Stakeholder Unity
1:00-4:00 - Safety Workshop
May 15 Deadline for NYSFHSAA Spring Scholar/Athlete Team Award Applications
May 15 Deadline for Section VI Spring Scholar/ Athlete All-WNY Individual Award
May 20 Athletic Council meeting, 11:30 am at Erie 1 BOCES, W.Seneca
Executive Committee meeting, 9:30 am at Erie 1 BOCES, W.Seneca
Soccer Coaching Clinic location TBA
May 29 Good Sports Assessments: State & Section award winners selected
May 30 Executive Committee Meeting, Distance Learning sites TBA
June 17 Regents Examinations
June 16-25 State Central Committee Meeting, Crowne Plaza, Lake Placid

Aug. 4-6 State Central Committee Meeting, Crowne Plaza, Lake Placid
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<td><strong>Hamburg H.S.</strong></td>
<td><strong>January 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, 29/February 3, 5, 2009 6:00 pm-10:30 pm Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays</strong></td>
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<td><strong>CHRIS DEMARCO</strong></td>
<td><strong>Sweet Home H.S.</strong></td>
<td><strong>March 3, 5, 10, 12, 24, 26, 31/April 2, 6, 8, 2009 6:00 pm-10:30 pm Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays (Note: Monday 4/6 &amp; Wednesday 4/8)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Amherst, NY 14228</strong></td>
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<td><strong>HEALTH SCIENCE APPLIED TO COACHING</strong></td>
<td><strong>CHRIS KAPLAN</strong></td>
<td><strong>Maryvale H.S.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1050 Maryvale Drive</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Cheektowaga, NY 14225</strong></td>
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**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 Riegle 822-3333

**SAVE - Violence:** Robert Carlson 821-7553

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**ICE HOCKEY HELMET RECALL**

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued a press release (12/2/08) “Hazard: The helmet’s chinstrap can unexpectedly disengage while in use. If this happens, the helmet can fall off, posing a head and neck injury risk to consumers.” It also notes that this involves “about 1,000 units,” and that no incidents or injuries have been reported thus far. From the NFHS rules perspective, Rule 3-4-7 states: “An immediate whistle must be blown when a player’s helmet or face mask becomes dislodged during play. That player must leave the ice for equipment adjustment and cannot return until after play resumes.” The penalty is a minor penalty. While no injuries for this particular helmet have been reported thus far, we want to do everything we can to ensure that remains the case. With those thoughts in mind, we wanted to first of all simply bring this to your attention. Second, we would encourage you to share this press release and this information with your member high schools if you are so inclined. We appreciate your assistance in this effort to inform schools of this recall, which by doing so will hopefully help protect high school ice hockey players from potential injury and help keep the sport injury-free. Please let us know if you hear of any injuries or incidents related to this.

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**ERIE 2-CHAUTAUQUA-CATTARAUGUS BOCES**

**COACHING COURSE SCHEDULE - WINTER 2008-09**

716-672-4371 ext. 2062

*Additional courses are posted [here](http://e2ccboces.wnyric.org/programs/intercoach.html)*

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**ADULT CPR/AED**

Session A: January 22, 2009 6:00pm - 10:00 pm
Session B: February 9, 2009 6:00pm - 10:00 pm

**FIRST AID SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE UPDATE**

February 3 & 5, 2009 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

**FIRST AID SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE**

February 9,10,11,12, 2009 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

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**ONLINE**

**PHILOSOPHY, PRINCIPLES AND ORGANIZATION OF ATHLETICS IN EDUCATION ONLINE**

January 6, 2009 - May 3, 2009

**THEORY & TECHNIQUE OF COACHING ONLINE**

January 13, 2009 – April 30, 2009

**HEALTH SCIENCE APPLIED TO COACHING ONLINE**

January 13, 2009 – April 30, 2009
2008-2009 Section VI Directory Updates

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

Page #
2 October Executive Committee Meeting is October 19-20
3 Chautauqua League Secretary-Treas, Dan Cassidy, Gowanda dcassidy@gowcsd.wnyric.org 532-3335 x6003, fax 995-2108
4 ECIC Superintendent Rep, Ron DeCarli, Frontier, rdecarli@frontier.wnyric.org, 926-1711 fax 926-1767
5 Boys Bowling, Dan Kaplan: 686-3601 x3183
5 Art Jaspe S Boys Bowling, Dan Kaplan: 686-3601 x3183
10 ADD: Newspaper Chautauqua Star, Contact Jason Sample, Jason.sample@maytumcompany.com, 366-9200, fax 366-9201
14 (also page 16) Amherst Secretary: Paula Jasinski pjasinski@amherst.k12.ny.us 362-3021
19 Cattaraugus/ Little Valley Superintendent: Jon Peterson jpeterson@cattw.wnyric.org
22 Dunkirk HS new principal: Paul Lyons pylons@dunkirk.wnyric.org; Wrestling coach: Joe McMurdy
26 Frontier AD Secretary -- Kris Passinault kpassinault@frontier.wnyric.org 926-1704
27 Grover Cleveland Principal: Casey Young cyoung@buffaloschools.org
32 Lewiston Porter Superintendent: R. Christopher Roser roserc@lew-port.com
33 MTS@ Seneca coaches:
Basketball (G) James McCarthy, Softball TBA & Tennis (B) TBA
35 Niagara Falls Superintendent: Cynthia Bianco cbianco@nfschools.net
37 Orchard Park High School Principal: Jon Wolf jwolf@opschools.org
39 Area Coordinators:
A. Buffalo Area: Pat Mangone, pmangone@buffaloschools.org
B. Section 6 North: Jeff Soker, jsoker@rand.wnyric.org
C. Section 6 South: Kris Maurer, kmaurer@littlevall.k12.ny.us
45 Williamsville South Principal: Dan Ljiljanich DLjiljanich@ williamsvillek12.org
48 Group #8 Bob Miske’s new email address: bmiske@roadrunner.com

Update - Central Management and Assigning of 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, winter sports were successfully assigned by the league assigners. In the South, sports assigners have successfully used TheArbiter to assign basketball and wrestling.

New for this year, the Section VI Girls Soccer chairperson successfully piloted the assignment of officials for sectional competition in TheArbiter. Also, the Ice hockey Federation schedule was entered into the system and officials required to register on-line. For the spring, boys lacrosse will be assigned in thearbiter by the NFLOA’s new assigner Tom Sutton. Baseball and softball for ECIC, Buffalo and MM will be assigned by G. Neunder using the WNYUA arbiter account in 2009 and the Section 6 account in 2010.

All assigners are commended for their efforts and accomplishments!!

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 spring sports officials must sign-in and update their availability on TheArbiter by January 30 in order to receive assignments!!! A Reminder (with instructions) will be emailed to spring officials January 16.

2008-2009 SECTION 6 TIMELINE FOR SCHEDULES AND ASSIGNMENTS

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

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<th>Fall</th>
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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.

East Aurora Girls Cross Country

By Coach Walt McLaughlin

The East Aurora Girls XC Team as pictured are from left to right: Marta McLaughlin, Erin Crawford, Megan Hultton, Kirsten Weberg, Ashley Beyer, Catherine Phillips, and Sarah Mars. The team was undefeated this season winning all of their invitationals and their ECIC and Section VI Championships for the 8th consecutive year. Their team time at Sectionals was the second fastest team time ever run on the course. They won the New York State Class B Championship for the 4th straight year and went on to place 5th at the Federation Championship Meet.

The All Western New York Runners of the Year were: Kirsten - 12th grade, Catherine - 11th grade, Megan - 10th grade, Marta - 7th grade. Kirsten, Catherine, Erin, and Megan were Section VI First Team All Stars. Marta was 2nd teamer and Sarah and Ashley were honorable mention. Congratulations on a great season!
CONGRATULATIONS
Section VI Fall Scholar/Athletes State Champions!!

Section VI is pleased to congratulate the Southwestern Football Team and the West Seneca West Girls Volleyball Team for achieving the State Scholar/Athlete Championship for fall sports!

Southwestern Football- 2008 State Champion with a team GPA of 95.427
The Southwestern Trojan Football team capped their 2008 season with a Class C State Championship and the New York State Academic Championship. It was the finest season in school history and the first state championship in any team sport at Southwestern. This year’s team motto was “Be in Balance”. The Trojans stayed true to that statement as the team played excellent football in all phases of the game. The balanced carried over into the classroom and also into several community service projects during the year. The team was led by several strong senior leaders Andy Lata, Dan Imfeld, and Eric Mazgaj and inspiring underclassmen Zack Sopak, Jasen Carlson, Levi Bursch.

This is the 4th Scholar Athlete State Championship that Southwestern High School has received. It is the 2nd year in a row for the Football Team. Southwestern Boys Golf team won the award in spring 2007 and spring 2008.

West Seneca West Girls Volleyball - 2008 State Champion with a team GPA of 97.964
The West Seneca West Girls Varsity Volleyball Team excelled on the court and in the classroom. The team was named the New York State Fall 2008 Scholar Athlete Team Champion in Girls Volleyball after compiling a 97.964 cumulative average. Pictured are (Front row, from right to left,) Allison Altman, Alicia Roskwielski, Sara Janovic, Taylor Jaszka, Ashley Hoffmann, Sarah Cleversley, Jenna Cleversley, Amanda Kosicki, and (back row) West Seneca West Assistant Principal John Brinker, Head Coach Molly McDermid, Kelly Flatley, Michelle Christie, Molly Minkiewicz, Bridget Bowman, Kaitlin Orcutt, and Colleen Bowman.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR STATE SCHOLAR ATHLETE CHAMPIONS !!!
Orchard Park clinches the NYSPHSAA Boys Volleyball Regional Championship

The undefeated (34-0) Orchard Park High School Boys Volleyball Team clinched the New York State Regional Championship, held in Syracuse, New York on November 8, 2008. They played against top teams in New York State: Burnt Hills – Ballston Lake High School, Suffern High School, Cicero-North Syracuse High School, and Penfield High School.

Orchard Park High School’s boys’ volleyball team, coached by Walt Stefani and Matt Lexner, went 8-0 in pool play to qualify for the Regional State Final against Burnt Hills. The intensity of the final match could be felt in the first game as Burnt Hills poured it on but couldn’t match the fire power of Orchard Park, ending at 26-24. During the next two games (best of five), Orchard Park put on a solid display of hitting power and defensive skills that thwarted the Burnt Hills offense, winning by 25-17 and 25-18. Burnt Hills could not answer the multi-faceted attack from Orchard Park, nor the extreme jump serving that pounded them relentlessly. Many in attendance felt that the 2008 Orchard Park team was one of the finest high school volleyball teams that have played in the history of the State Regional Championships.

Team captains, Mike Stefani (Ohio State recruit), Pat Schwagler (Princeton University recruit), and Tom Comfort (undecided), led the team to the state regional title. Tom Comfort received the “Sportsmanship” award from the NYSPHSAA for Orchard Park High School – the second year in a row. The captains received tremendous support from Shane Cassell (libero), Jake Breindel and Kevin Brouillard (middle blockers), and Troy Nowak (setter). The team played an inspired, focused match to overcome the strong challenge from Burnt Hills, who had won the title in 2007 against Orchard Park.

Prior to the match, Coach Stefani addressed his team with a statement, “... boys take what is given to them; men take what they want... now go get what you want – the State Title!” Throughout the final match, Coach Stefani quoted Buffalo Bills’ Hall of Fame coach Marv Levy, “Where would you rather be than right here, right now?” Coach Lexner did an excellent job scouting the Burnt Hills team, and keeping the Orchard Park boys focused on a game plan that attacked Burnt Hills’ vulnerable rotations.

Looking back at the 2008 year, the Orchard Park team has had many distinctions:
• Clarence Tournament Champions
• Eden Tournament Champions
• Webster Tournament Champions
• Orchard Park Tournament Champions
• ECIC Division I Champions
• Section VI Class A Champions
• New York State Regional Volleyball Champions
• Western New York No 1 Ranking in the Coaches Bowl
• Undefeated Season: Divisional Record 12-0; Overall Record 34-0

This is the second time in which Orchard Park High School has had an undefeated volleyball season. In 1991, Orchard Park posted an undefeated season (25-0), winning every divisional and non divisional game, all the western New York tournaments, the Section VI Class A Championship, the ECIC Division I Championship, and the New York State Regional Volleyball Championship.

Today, the Orchard Park Volleyball Team has an unusual distinction in western New York. Not only are they State Regional Champions in 2008, their varsity coaches, Walt Stefani and Matt Lexner were named 2008 Western New York Varsity Coach of the Year, and the school’s J.V. coach, Chris Clark, was named 2008 Western New York Junior Varsity Coach of the Year. This is Coach Stefani’s 7th time (since 1978) and Coach Lexner’s 2nd time (since 2001) receiving the award.

Lady Panther Volleyball Portville...State Champs!

By Alexis Jordan

The Lady Panthers have had a lot of success this year. The ladies were the number five seed at the end of season play and went on to play Randolph, the number four seed, and Forestville, the number one seed, which allowed the ladies to play in the sectional title game against Panama. After winning the sectional title, which was the first time in twenty seven years, the ladies traveled to Geneseo Community College to play Gananda in the far west regional. The ladies had won this game which gave them the opportunity to go to states. On November 14th the ladies had left school at 8:15 to head to Glens Falls for the state championship. On that Saturday the ladies participated in a tournament play where they had came out undefeated. On Sunday at 10:00 a.m., the ladies played Chateaugay in four games and won 25-22, 25-21, 14-25, 29-27. This is the first time ever that Portville has won a state championship.

On October 20th, Portville honored their four senior captains, Lindsey Olson, Alexis Jordan, Brianne Starks, and Demi Kauppenin. The team is coached by Aaron Decker. Good Job Ladies in all that you have accomplished!
Amherst’s Symoniak Claims Class B Girls State Cross Country Title
Brenna Symoniak, a junior at Amherst High School, was the top female runner in WNY in the 2008 season. She was undefeated in division meets, won 5 invitational meets, and was first overall in the ECIC Divisional Championship meet. Brenna won the Section VI B school race and had the best time of the day overall. She went on to take the State Championship in the B school division in the New York State Meet at Sunken Meadows in Section XI with a time of 18:50.6. Brenna is coached by Bob O’Donnell.

Joe Whelan, Hamburg XC Class A State Champ
By Ronald A. Fortuna, Hamburg Boys Cross Country Coach
Winning the 2008 NYS Class A State Cross Country Championship was especially satisfying for Joe Whelan. Last year Joe was forced to watch his team at the State Championship Meet from the sidelines wearing a cast after suffering a broken foot at the Section VI Championship Meet. Despite a complete fracture of his foot at the mid-way point of the race, Joe finished 3rd enabling his team to win the Section VI title. With renewed vigor and a healed foot, Joe made his first comeback in Outdoor Track placing 2nd in the Steeple Chase at the State Championship Meet. Yet, he faced another setback with a knee injury while training over the summer for the 2008 Cross Country season. With perseverance and patience he made his second comeback by first winning the Suffolk County Officials Invitational at Sunken Meadows Long Island followed by wins at ECICs, Sectionals. Joe then won the Class A State Championship with a 26 second margin of victory, achieving a goal he made 5 seasons earlier at his first State appearance as an 8th grader. Since winning the State title, Joe has represented New York by placing 3rd at the Footlocker Northeastern Regionals held at Van Cortland Park, NYC, and then placing 9th at Nationals held in San Diego, California.

Joe Whelan Statistics:
* Qualified for State Championship Meet 5 times (Class A)
* 3 time Section VI Champion
* Top Hamburg runner 5 consecutive years
2008 * ECIC Champion, Section VI Champion, NYS Class “A” State Champion; * 3rd at Footlocker Northeastern Regionals - Time 15:38 (5k) (top NY runner); 9th at Footlocker Nationals - Time 15:44 (5k) 2nd Team All American; * Captain, Director’s Key (Most Distinguished Hamburg XC Award)
2007 * Qualified for States, but broke his foot at Sectional Championship Meet (3rd); * Captain, Leadership Award
2006 * 4th in States Class A; Section VI Champion
2005 * 18th in States Class A; Section VI Champion
2004 * 23rd in States Class A (8th grade – youngest participate of the day); 4th at Sectional VI Championship Meet

Section 6 Mens Gymnasts Sweep State Championships
By Joe Buscaglia, Section VI Mens Gymnastics Chairman
For the sixth straight year in a row the Section 6 New York State Boys Gymnastics Team finished in first place winning another State Championship. The Section 6 boys gymnastics team scored 153.6 points beating section 3 by 22 points. Section 6 continues to dominate boys gymnastics at the state level. A Section 6 gymnast won a state championship in each of the six events and the all around competition, shutting out the other sections. The victory was a combined team effort and all gymnasts competed well. Leading the team with strong performances were Clarence gymnast Jonathan Zirna and Williamsville South gymnast Nathaniel Roberson. Zirna placed first in the all around competition and won a state title on both pommel horse and rings. Nathaniel Roberson placed second in the all around competition and won a state title on both parallel bars and high bar. Other Section 6 gymnasts winning state titles were Clarence gymnast Eric Niedermeier on the vault and seventh grade Williamsville South gymnast Noah Roberson on the floor exercise. Congratulations to all Section 6 gymnasts for a great season and another State Team Title.
Maple Grove Dominates in 2008 and claims it’s 2nd State Football Title

By Kim Rambacher

The Maple Grove Red Dragons dominated each opponent with a wide-open offense setting a Section 6 record of 661 points and allowing 114 points. This made the margin of victory a whopping 42.1 points per game! They started the playoffs with a 70-0 win over Brocton. The sectional semis were against rival Randolph ending with a 49-14 verdict. Next was the Section 6 Championship game with Clymer at Ralph Wilson Stadium in which the Dragons overcame a size difference to overtake the Pirates 48-13. Onto the Far West Regional Game at UB Stadium against the Section 5 Champ the Dundee Scots……….again the Dragons put the game away at halftime, which they had done for the previous 10 games. The final score was 57-12. The State Semi Final game was against the defending Class D state Champion, the Walton Warriors. The Warriors were much bigger than the Dragons and leading at the half 28-6 while the Walton faithful were getting colder. However the quickness of the Dragons offense and defense left the Warriors in the dust of snow that fell that night. Maple Grove stunned the number #1 state ranked team with a score of 49-14, setting up the State Championship Game at the Carrier Dome in Syracuse.

The Moriah Vikings from Port Henry, N.Y., representing Section 7 in the Champlain Area, would be the next victim for the Red Dragons. The Dragons took the opening kickoff 58 yards in 6 plays including a 13 yard run by MVP player of the game, QB Chris Secky. After MG kicked off, Moriah fumbled on their own 13 yard line and took only three plays to reach the end zone with a 4 yard run by Sr. Jake Larson. Then a four and out Moriah punted and the Dragons ended up with great field position at mid field. On a 6 play drive Secky, took it to the end zone on a 3 yard scamper. Just like the past 12 games, the opponents couldn’t believe what was happening………..with 4:31 left in the 1st quarter, they were down 21-0. On the first play of the 2nd quarter, Branden Fain blocked Moriah’s punt and he recovered it on their 4 yard line. In the first play of that drive, Jake Larson got his 2nd TD of the game. With the score 28-0, again the Dragons held the Vikings. So Coach Curt Fischer thought he would show off the other part of his offense. The next three scores came through his aerial attack, including 1st Team All Western NY Wide Receiver Joe Caporale with touchdown receptions of 63, 48, and 62 yards respectfully. Moriah got on the scoreboard in the 4th quarter with a 10 yard run by Ron Schofield and Mike Brassard kicking the extra point. Maple Grove finished the scoring with an 8 yard run by sophomore Brett Tordoff.

As one of the sportswriters from Syracuse wrote, this team will go down as one of the most dominating high school football teams in New York State history. On a side note: The two teams, from Bemus Point and Port Henry, were the most distant teams in miles ever to compete in a state championship game - 441 miles apart. Bemus Point, NY is closer to Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana than to Port Henry, NY.

Honors of the Game for Maple Grove went to:

➤ Adam Hover: Sportsmanship Award
➤ Andrew Wascher: Most Valuable Offensive Lineman
➤ Matt Fox: Most Valuable Defensive Lineman
➤ Jake Larson: Most Valuable Running Back
➤ Chris Secky: Most Valuable Player, 2 rushing TD’s, 3 passing TD’s & 7 extra points
➤ Cory Gens: On the top twelve list Trench Award Winner in Western NY

Season Stats:

➤ Chris Secky: Passed for 1815 yards, 23 Touchdowns and threw only one interception all year. Set a Ralph Wilson passing record of 10 for 10 for 266 yards. Kicked 73 extra points which is a Section 6 record and ranks him 2nd in the state for most extra points kicked in a season. 1st Team All Western NY.
➤ Joe Caporale: Ended the season with 45 receptions for 1134 yards and 14 touchdowns, setting a reception record of 182 yards in a state championship game at the Dome. 1st Team All Western NY.
➤ Jake Larson: Rushed for 1514 yards and 30 Touchdowns for the season.
➤ Coach Curt Fischer: Buffalo Bills HS Coach of the Week Award in Week 3. Buffalo Bills HS Coach of the Year. Career Record 138-33, 80.9% in 17 years

Panther’s Finish Perfect Season

Sweet Home brought their first State Championship in Football Class A, in school history back from Syracuse on November 29, 2008 after defeating Burnt Hills of Section 2, 35 – 28.

The Panthers finished a perfect 13-0 setting many records on the way. Sweet Home had four players make 1st team All Western New York, also a record. The Panthers are coached by John Faller.
Southwestern Football 2008 - Athletic and Academic State Champs!!

“Be in Balance.” The Southwestern Trojan football team’s motto for the season was to “be in balance” on and off the field. The Trojans achieved that goal as they earned the Class C State Championship on the field and were crowned the State Academic Champions off the field. It was the second consecutive year that the Trojans won the Academic Championship.

The regular season saw the Trojans roll through the Class C South League unblemished. On September 19, the Southwestern Central community opened its new artificial turf athletic complex in front of 3,000. Home has been a more than sweet for the Trojans, as they’ve compiled a 27-1 record there since 2003. The Section VI playoffs started with a dominating 43-8 win over JFK, followed with a 28-13 triumph over Allegany-Limestone. The Trojans earned their third trip to Ralph Wilson Stadium this decade to battle Silver Creek for the sectional title. The Trojans methodically shut down the Black Knights in a 21-0 victory, earning the Trojans their second Section VI Championship.

No other team in any sport in school history had ever won a Far West Regional before this year. On a wet morning at UB Stadium, the Trojans set out to make school history. Southwestern quickly jumped out to a 21-0 lead over Section V power and top ranked LeRoy. The Oatkan Knights staged a furious comeback that was thwarted after Eric Mazgaj sacked the LeRoy quarterback causing a fumble that was recovered by Drew Merchant. Levi Bursch accounted for four Southwestern touchdowns and quarterback Zack Sopak was a perfect 10 for 10 passing for 218 yards to lead the Trojans into the state semfinals.

Chautauqua County was hit hard by an autumn snow storm in mid-November. The adverse conditions throughout the week prepared the Trojans for their snow covered showdown with Elmira Notre Dame at Rochester’s Paetec Park. Defense again, was the key to the victory, as the Trojans bottled up the Crusader’s attack. Led by linebackers Chris Jock, Jeff DeVlieger, Ryan Buzzetto, and Tanner Delahoy, the Trojans punched their ticket to the state finals via a 20-6 verdict. Once again, quarterback Zack Sopak was named MVP of the game.

The Southwestern football team had one more stop on their journey to the become State Champions. The Croton-Harmon Tigers stood in the way at the Carrier Dome, but the Trojans would not be denied. After a scoreless first quarter, the Trojans erupted for 21 points in a 70 second span of the second quarter to stun Croton-Harmon. Levi Bursch caught a 20 yard touchdown pass from Zack Sopak. Ryan Buzzetto returned a fumble 24 yards for a score and Andy Lata caught a 10 yard touchdown pass from Sopak to take a three score lead into the second half. The Trojans added a touchdown run by Sopak and John Mistretta to lead the 35-7 rout. The Trojans returned home to several hundred fans that help celebrate the Trojans first State Championship.

In finishing 13-0, the 2008 Southwestern football team will go down in history as the best team in school history in any sport. Several players received post-season awards. Jasen Carlson and Zack Sopak were named first team All-State, with Sopak as Class C State Player of the Year. Levi Bursch, Ryan Buzzetto, and Dan Imfeld were named second-team All-State. The Trojan’s balance and faith ultimately lead them to the STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.

Marissa Dressel- Swimmer Kenmore-West
Wins 2 State Titles

Marissa Dressel, a junior at Kenmore-West Senior High School not only broke 3 NFL records, and 2 Section 6 records this season in swimming, but she added 2 state titles in the 200 free and 100 free events. Marissa also broke the New York State Public School record in the 200 freestyle. In the much-anticipated 200 freestyle final, Dressel swam a smart race coming back in the second half to beat defending champion Emily Kelly of down-state's Sacred Heart. In prelims the two were only separated by only .44, but Dressel poured it on after the final turn to swim a 1:48.47 to beat Kelly, who went 1:49.50. Dressel’s time broke her own Section VI record of 1:49.98. Marissa is the most decorated swimmer in Kenmore-West history. She also holds school records in the 200 free, 200 I.M., 50 free, 100 fly, 100 free, 500 free, and 400 free relay. Marissa is coached by Carrie Meetze.
Salamanca Girls Volleyball Team Digs Deep For State Win

To be able to call yourself the best, you have to beat the best. That is what the Salamanca Lady Warriors Volleyball team did during the 2008 season. The Lady Warriors claimed the NYS Title by defeating Section I representative Westlake at the Glens Falls Civic Center this fall.

This year’s team was led by a determined hard working group of 11 athletes- Ashley Abrams, Hannah Reynolds, Brittany Haines, Katie Auge, Lori Acosta, Molly Cooper, Cassie Crandall, Olivia Beattie, Kayla Siperek, Lauren Dry and Tina Leblanc.

Their title dreams began way back in the 2007 season. These ladies have worked hard to achieve their goal. Both the girls and their parents have put in hundreds of hours into becoming the best they could be. Everyone shared a common goal- “to win states.”

Their road the Final Four started with a pre-quarter sectional win against Buffalo’s Performing Arts. They beat Falconer in a quarter finals game and then they defeated Royhart in the semi-finals. In the Section VI Finals, the Lady Warriors defeated an experienced City Honors team who was ranked much of the season ahead of the Lady Warriors. The Lady Warriors traveled to the Far West Regionals to face the best that Section V had to offer- Nazareth Academy- where the Lady Warriors took care of business defeating Nazareth 25-21, 25-19, 25-15. With the exception of the pre-quarter Finals, Salamanca played every game on the road. With the Far West Regional title in hand, the Lady Warriors were in for the longest, most memorable road trip of their careers. Friday morning, the Lady Warriors boarded their bus for the seven hour road trip to Glens Falls.

Saturday’s Pool Play determined who would make it into Sundays Finals. Salamanca finished Pool Play with a 5-1 record (losing their first and only game in the run to the title). Their opponent would be Westlake who also finished 5-1 and handed Salamanca its only loss. Sunday morning’s Finals saw a determined, inspired, revengeful group of ladies. There was no denying this group as they defeated Westlake in straight sets 25-21, 25-19, 25-15.

Although it was Katie Auge and Ashley Abrams who were chosen for the NYS All-Tournament team, these two would tell you it was a total team effort. This is an incredible accomplishment for these ladies and the school. Not only are they gifted athletes, they are exceptional students. Both the Community and school should be proud of the way these girls represented Salamanca. The team is coached by Tom Roof and Colleen Wiedman.

The Orchard Park Quakers Class AA State Football Champs

The Orchard Park Quakers reached the pinnacle of success with a State Championship victory over Monroe-Woodbury. The mighty Quakers scored 21 second half points to finish the season 13-0. Orchard Park fought their way to the championship game with tough victories over Binghamton, Gates-Chili, North Tonawanda and Kenmore West.

The Quakers were led by quarterback Kyle Hoppy, with an incredible 63 yard touchdown run and a MVP offensive award. Jeff Tundo finished with 146 yards and a big touchdown to get the Quakers started. Rob Kugler and Brendan Nueesle were defensive MVP’s and helped shut down Monroe’s potent offense in the second half.

Tremendous efforts by the Quakers offensive and defensive lines sparked the victory. Dave Goltz, Kyle Robinson, Kyle Perla, Gary Davies, Dave Michael, Sean Griffin, Alex Korzaniewski and Ken Selby played stellar on defense. Cameron Hicks blocked 3 points in the Binghamton semi-final game.

The Quakers were led by Captains Nick Bonacquisti, Nate Longbine, Jeff Tundo, Dave Goltz, Kyle Hoppy and Brendan Nuesle. The Quakers dedicated their State Championship victory to the Matthews family in honor of their daughter Lindsay, a former Orchard Park student-Athlete.
**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 – Fall 2008**

**BOYS CROSS COUNTRY**
- Royalton Hartland 97.881
- Clarence 97.391
- Southwestern 96.596
- East Aurora 95.954
- Depew 95.683
- Newfane 95.557
- Dunkirk 95.214
- Hutch Tech 95.194
- Frontier 95.156
- Alden 95.043
- Hamburg 94.914
- Lake Shore 94.544
- Lockport 94.331
- Fredsburg 94.047
- Sweet Home 93.964
- Lancaster 93.897
- Barker 93.871
- Williamsville East 93.831
- Williamsville North 93.821
- Cleveland Hill 93.558
- Niagara-Wheatfield 92.957
- Wilson 92.706
- Amherst 92.564
- West Seneca West 92.424
- Eden 92.463
- Albion 92.412
- Allegany-Limestone 92.386
- Lewiston Porter 91.689
- Kenmore West 91.400
- West Seneca East 91.292
- Tonawanda 91.039
- Grand Island 90.887
- Niagara Falls 90.571
- Williamsville South 90.544
- Pioneer 90.536
- Iroquois 90.453
- Gowanda 90.293

**BOYS GYMNASTICS**
- Clarence 94.125

**BOYS SOCCER**
- Lockport 95.859
- Albion 95.226
- Cheektowaga 94.784
- Clarence 94.540
- West Seneca East 94.335
- Southwestern 94.158
- East Aurora 94.064
- Lancaster 93.884
- Alden 93.833
- Olean 93.683
- Westfield 93.616
- Newfane 93.045
- Ellicottville 92.983
- Springville 92.955
- Wilson 92.669
- Sweet Home 92.626
- Niagara Falls 92.558
- Williamsville East 92.537
- Falconer 92.407
- Medina 92.368
- Iroquois 92.334
- Maryvale 92.325
- Royalton Hartland 92.170
- North Tonawanda 92.150
- Allegany-Limestone 92.133
- Hamburg 91.892

**FIELD HOCKEY**
- Iroquois 95.964
- Clarence 95.860
- Barker 95.283
- Sweet Home 94.525
- East Aurora 94.353
- Royalton Hartland 94.320
- Williamsville East 94.318
- West Seneca West 93.885
- Hamburg 93.883
- Wilson 93.209
- Lancaster 92.776
- Williamsville North 92.653
- Newfane 92.636
- West Seneca East 92.417
- Williamsville South 92.375
- Orchard Park 92.297
- Kenmore East 91.707
- Medina 91.679
- Eden 91.333

**FOOTBALL**
- Royalton Hartland 96.982
- Clarence 96.285
- Frontier 95.919
- Lancaster 95.726
- Hamburg 95.571
- Sweet Home 95.435
- Maryvale 95.386
- Lewiston Porter 95.363
- Kenmore East 95.309
- Kenmore West 95.347
- Williamsville East 95.306

**GIRLS GYMNASTICS**
- Williamsville North 96.427
- Alden 95.088
- North Tonawanda 95.000
- Lancaster 94.571
- Lake Shore 94.492
- Lockport 94.454
- Depew 93.950
- Frontier 93.625
- Clarence 93.461
- Sweet Home 93.445
- Iroquois 93.375
- Allegany-Limestone 93.342
- Clymer 93.130
- Falconer 93.041
- East Aurora 92.673
- Tonawanda 92.522
- Hamburg 92.500
- Williamsville North 92.392
- Springville 92.259
- Albion 91.715
- West Seneca East 91.558
- Eden 91.517
- Panama 91.360
- Cleveland Hill 91.326
- West Seneca West 91.294
- Williamsville East 91.250
- Medina 91.206
- Lewiston Porter 90.843
- Cheektowaga 90.750
- Williamsville South 90.660
- Niagara-Wheatfield 90.609

**BOYS SOCCER**
- Clarence 94.125

**FIELD HOCKEY**
- Iroquois 95.964
- Clarence 95.860
- Barker 95.283
- Sweet Home 94.525
- East Aurora 94.353
- Royalton Hartland 94.320
- Williamsville East 94.318
- West Seneca West 93.885
- Hamburg 93.883
- Wilson 93.209
- Lancaster 92.776
- Williamsville North 92.653
- Newfane 92.636
- West Seneca East 92.417
- Williamsville South 92.375
- Orchard Park 92.297
- Kenmore East 91.707
- Medina 91.679
- Eden 91.333

**TEAM AWARD PROGRAM**
- Royalton Hartland 96.427
- Clarence 96.285
- Frontier 95.919
- Lancaster 95.726
- Hamburg 95.571
- Sweet Home 95.435
- Maryvale 95.386
- Lewiston Porter 95.363
- Kenmore East 95.309
- Kenmore West 95.347
- Williamsville East 95.306

**STATE CHAMPION**
- Royalton Hartland 96.982
- Clarence 96.285
- Frontier 95.919
- Lancaster 95.726
- Hamburg 95.571
- Sweet Home 95.435
- Maryvale 95.386
- Lewiston Porter 95.363
- Kenmore East 95.309
- Kenmore West 95.347
- Williamsville East 95.306

**SCHOLAR/ATHLETE TEAM AWARD PROGRAM**
- Royalton Hartland 96.982
- Clarence 96.285
- Frontier 95.919
- Lancaster 95.726
- Hamburg 95.571
- Sweet Home 95.435
- Maryvale 95.386
- Lewiston Porter 95.363
- Kenmore East 95.309
- Kenmore West 95.347
- Williamsville East 95.306
**GIRLS TENNIS**

Frontier 96.531  
Williamsville North 96.406  
Sweet Home 96.253  
Clarence 96.135  
Lancaster 96.099  
Southwestern 95.749  
Falconer 95.540  
North Tonawanda 95.489  
Frewsburg 95.292  
Hamburg 95.211  
Depew 95.171  
Alden 95.144  
Starpoint 94.929  
West Seneca West 94.649  
Williamsville East 94.309  
Iroquois 94.248  
Orchard Park 94.189  
West Seneca East 94.149  
Springville 94.089  
Jamestown 94.064  
Tonawanda 93.980  
Maryvale 93.944  
Cheektowaga 93.767  
Lake Shore 93.724  
Eden 93.247  
Lewiston Porter 93.082  
Lockport 92.895  
Chautauqua Lake 92.853  
Williamsville South 92.729  
Kenmore West 92.197  
Grand Island 92.162  
East Aurora 91.426  
Amherst 91.288  
Fredonia 90.927  
Niagara-Wheatfield 90.789  
Niagara Falls 90.719  
Kenmore East 90.545  
Olean 90.146  

**GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY**

Clarence 97.395  
West Seneca West 97.054  
East Aurora 96.969  
Southwestern 96.861  
Hamburg 96.743  
Depew 96.591  
Iroquois 96.414  
Lake Shore 96.031  
Lockport 95.919  
Newfane 95.625  
Falconer 95.607  
Frontier 95.514  
Allegany-Limestone 95.271  
Wilson 95.162  
Eden 95.100  
Leonardo Da Vinci 94.889  
Williamsville North 94.886  
Amherst 93.974  
Lancaster 93.621  
Alden 92.888  
Niagara-Wheatfield 92.796  
Williamsville East 92.734  
Orchard Park 92.458  
City Honors 92.185  
Barker 92.020  
Kenmore West 91.381  
Williamsville South 91.311  
Lewiston Porter 90.931  
Cleveland Hill 90.828  
Pioneer 90.724  
Hutch-Tech 90.719  
Grand Island 90.311  
Fredonia 90.219  
Sweet Home 90.052  
Alden 90.000  

**GIRLS VOLLEYBALL**

West Seneca West ** 97.964  
Frontier 96.369  
Clarence 95.737  
Hamburg 95.338  
Sweet Home 95.259  
Brocton 95.034  
Royalton Hartland 94.955  
Cassadaga Valley 94.756  
Cheektowaga 94.691  
Iroquois 94.521  
Lockport 94.351  
Alden 94.256  
Lancaster 94.201  
Eden 94.163  
Albion 94.106  
Williamsville East 93.994  
East Aurora 93.808  
Newfane 93.735  
Maryvale 93.713  
Medina 93.645  
Tonawanda 93.586  
Cattaraugus-Little Valley 93.525  
Starpoint 93.267  
Southwestern 93.124  
Clarence 93.062  
Clymer 93.062  
Falconer 93.035  
West Seneca East 92.925  
Williamsville North 92.864  
Pine Valley 92.729  
Springville 92.670  
North Tonawanda 92.438  
Lewiston Porter 92.293  
Wilson 92.280  
Niagara Falls 92.000  
Kenmore East 91.904  
Ellicottville 91.838  
Niagara-Wheatfield 91.623  
Barker 91.429  
Williamsville South 91.296  
Allegany-Limestone 91.113  
Westfield 91.091  
Pioneer 91.078  
Grand Island 91.042  
Cleveland Hill 90.941  
Lake Shore 90.872  
Dunkirk 90.850  
Amherst 90.744  
Salamanca 90.531  
Fredonia 90.328  
Kenmore West 90.006  
Panama 89.303  
Portville 88.725
WHO DO WE BLAME FOR OUR LOSS?

I am writing this article in response to something I read in the paper from a coach, which I found very disturbing, especially in light of our constant quest to improve sportsmanship among our athletes, students, and fans. This is something I believe every coach, athlete, parent and spectator should consider and take a critical look at how they themselves handle these situations. It concerns public criticism and blaming of officials for a loss!

I want to begin by saying that I have yet to meet an official that goes out to deliberately make one team or another lose. Keep in mind that most of the calls that officials make are JUDGMENT CALLS. Coaches also make judgment calls such as who to play, when to play them, what plays to use, etc. These are calls coaches make based on our best JUDGMENT of the situation. Sometimes they work and sometimes they don't (in other words, sometimes we are right, and some times we are wrong). It is our call to make, and we do the best we can based on our best professional judgment of the situation. The same is true for the calls made by the professional officials we hire for that purpose.

When we blame officials or anyone else for our losses, we are degrading the effort of all individuals involved in the contest. Instead of blaming anyone for our losses, we should congratulate our opponents for out-playing us on that day. I feel this approach would be better for our relationship with our opponents, as well as better for our players, our spectators and the program and sport as a whole.

Let our athletes know that they played hard, but on that particular day our opponent played a little better. It wasn't luck or someone's fault that we lost. It was because they played a good game. In athletic contests, there is always a winner and a loser. There is no shame in being the loser, especially if you gave your best effort. However, when we blame the officials or anyone else for our loss, everyone involved in the contest comes out losers. No one intentionally tries to lose a contest. Everyone tries their best to win, so the winner should be congratulated. The loser should not look for anyone to blame, not even himself, for the loss.

It has been my experience in watching contests of all kinds for more than 25 years as a coach, an official, and a spectator, that officials do make bad calls. But the bad calls for and against a team tend to even out throughout the course of a game or season. I have never heard a coach give the official credit for the bad calls that went that coach's way. If we don't give credit for bad calls in our favor, then we should not criticize calls we don't agree with. Keep in mind that if the calls tend to even out, then that means that there must have been some other reason for the loss………… our opponent played better that particular night.

We, as coaches, should not look for the negatives in a contest or who to blame for the loss. This leads to a negative combative attitude in the players towards that opponent or official that carries over to parents and fans. When we blame officials for the loss, we are sending the message to our athletes that the only way that opponent can beat us is by cheating. Instead, we should look for positive things achieved in the contest and work to improve in areas where we did not perform up to expectations. As a coach who has watched an athlete work hard to win, I understand the feeling of frustration when that athlete loses a contest. It is not anyone's fault that the loss occurred. The other athlete or team just out-performed our athlete on that day, so give him credit for that effort.

Please keep in mind the challenge of recruiting new officials and the difficulty your athletic director has in getting officials for your contests. It is getting more difficult every year. One reason is the verbal abuse officials receive from fans and players. In some cases it is even physical abuse, which is on the rise. When coaches openly criticize officials, they are only reinforcing and legitimizing this type of behavior from fans.

Officials, just like boundary lines, are on the field to keep the contest fair for both sides. All the officials I have talked with are involved because they want athletes to have as good an experience as possible. If you have a legitimate complaint about an official, there is a process established to file your complaint rather than voicing it in public. Remember, it is very hard to argue with a judgment call. You may not agree with it but there is very little you can do to change it.

I feel that BLAMING people for our losses, whether it is officials, players, coaches or spectators, has become a big problem in high school athletics, and it really has no place there. I have offered some ideas in this article. If we all work together and share these ideas with our colleagues, we can create a situation in our athletic programs where both sides can feel like winners in a contest, even if we are the team with the lower score on the scoreboard.

TIME OUT FOR A SPORT THOUGHT ….

➢ As a coach what can you do to instill the spirit of play in your players? Parents? Fans? Administrators?
➢ As a coach do you ever set aside some part of your practice for activities that are "pure" fun?

...Good Sports Finish First
Always A Winner…

**ALL WNY “GOOD SPORT” PROGRAM - MODELS OF SPORTSMANSHIP IN ACTION SELECTION CRITERIA**

Sportsmanship just doesn’t happen…it must be taught! Students learn immeasurable and unique lessons through interscholastic athlete participation. Educators universally agree, of all the goals established as outcomes for secondary students involved in school sports, sportsmanship is primary. Student athletes who learn to value and practice sportsmanship are developing the characteristics of good citizenship. Honesty, generosity, self discipline, a sincere concern for others, ethical behavior and a commitment to fair play are all demonstrated in sportsmanship. These are the criteria for the All WNY “Good Sports” award.

This award program is carried out seasonally for all sports in Section VI. Each division for each sport within the league is asked to select a team that best exemplifies good sportsmanship to receive the team award. The team selected then chooses one student athlete to receive the individual award, an All WNY “Good Sports” patch. The names are given to the Section VI Sportchair or directly to Doug Ames, Sportsmanship Coordinator. The selection criteria, as stated above, will identify the very best we have to offer in Section VI. The award winners are models of sportsmanship in action and this program is designed to recognize and honor them. Contact the Section VI Sportsmanship Coordinator Douglas Ames, Newfane Central Schools 778-6560 with questions or concerns.

Congratulations to the All-WNY “Good Sports” selections for fall 2008 listed below. These athletes will receive a certificate and an ALL-WNY Sportsmanship patch.

**ALL-WNY INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM RECOGNITION**

FOR OUTSTANDING SPORTSMANSHIP: FALL 2008 *(names listed are those submitted as of 1/1/09)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Division</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Individual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>AA-North</td>
<td>Niagara Falls</td>
<td>Guy Philbrick</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>AA-South</td>
<td>Frontier</td>
<td>Travis Sipos</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-North</td>
<td>Starpoint</td>
<td>Joe Delelio</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A-South</td>
<td>Amherst</td>
<td>Kevin Denny</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B- North</td>
<td>Depew</td>
<td>Brad Barth</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B-South</td>
<td>Eden</td>
<td>Robert Slisz</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C-North</td>
<td>Roy-Hart</td>
<td>Morgan Fonzi</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C-South</td>
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<td>Andrew Pignitore</td>
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<td>Pine Valley</td>
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<td>Sherman</td>
<td>Chris Persinos</td>
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<td>Girls Soccer</td>
<td>NFL</td>
<td>Niagara Wheatfield</td>
<td>Madison Brown</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NO</td>
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<td>Samantha Smith</td>
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<td>CCAA-1</td>
<td>Southwestern</td>
<td>Tori Wessel</td>
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<td>Cattaraugus / Little Valley</td>
<td>Stephanie Golembiewski</td>
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<td>CCAA -3</td>
<td>Brocton</td>
<td>Rychelle Waclawski</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ECIC-1</td>
<td>Clarence</td>
<td>Alex Rohloff</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Maryvale</td>
<td>Kailee Pundt</td>
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<td>ECIC-4</td>
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<td>Michelle Schultz</td>
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<td>Boys Soccer</td>
<td>CCIAC-1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>NFL</td>
<td>Grand Island</td>
<td>Joe Fischer</td>
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<td>NO</td>
<td>Akron</td>
<td>Sara Rosenberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Golf (fall)</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Royalton Hartland</td>
<td>Corey Callaghan</td>
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…Good Sports Finish First
As we enter a new calendar year, Section VI interscholastic sports advocates can look back on 2008 as a banner year for our region. It would be impossible to list all the major accomplishments, however several strike me as worth mentioning.

Our section led the state with 5 “School of Distinction” awards for the 2007-08 school year. “School of Distinction” status is achieved when 100% of their interscholastic varsity sports teams earn above a 90.0% grade point average.

Member schools in the Section VI Football Federation presented the section with 4 out of 5 state championships. Congratulations should be extended to the leadership, coaches and athletes whose hard work and dedication to excellence paid off.

Two of the four NYSPHSAA Association officers hail from Section VI. Dr. Ron Black (Ret.) stepped down from a very successful team as State President to become State Past President. Mark Ward, Superintendent Ellicottville Central, moved up to the 1st V.P. position from which he will soon become the state leader.

Our Section produced 5 State Champions or runners-up in the state Scholar Athlete team awards program during the Spring and Fall of ’08.

As a district, Southwestern Central won the State Class C Football Championship with a perfect 13-0 season. The 36 member team also won the NYSPHSAA State Championship Scholar Athlete Team Award with 95.427 Academic Average. Nice Job!

Throughout the section, Building and Athletic Administrators should be commended for being strong advocates of both the academic and athletic aspects of interscholastic programs.

If you are an interscholastic sports trivia fan, Take Note:

- A record 7,429,381 student athletes participated in High School Athletic program across the 50 states in 2007-08.
- Texas led the nation with 779,049. New York was third with 380,870.
- Boys 11 man football was the leader with 1,108,286 participants.
- Basketball was the most popular with girls with 449,450 participants.
- 54.8% of the students enrolled in US high schools participate in athletics.

To all who have the privilege of touching the life of an interscholastic athlete, let’s strive to make 2009 another banner year in Section VI.