



IHSA Executive Director Update

Marty Hickman
IHSA Executive Director



Its hard to believe how quickly we go from trading winter hats and jackets for caps and gowns, but once again we are closing in on the end of another school year. March Madness lived up to its billing around our office, as we concluded a hectic, but exciting winter state final slate at the end of last month. A great deal has been happening within the Association since my last Executive Director Update in February, capped off by the All-State Academic Team banquet on April 19 and a busy April Board of Directors Meeting the following morning. Several items from that meeting are highlighted in this release, while a link to the full Board meeting recap is available at the bottom of the sidebar on the right side of this page. To allow our principals to tend to all of the end of the year activities in their buildings, our Board does not meet in May, thus I will send out a final Executive Director Update in June and may follow up with a release if any pressing issues arise during the summer. Until then, have a safe end to the school year and let's hope that Mother Nature continues to provide us with this warm, dry weather that managed to evade us a year ago.

-Marty Hickman, IHSA Executive Director

LAKE PARK'S CLARK WINS NATIONAL AWARD

In February's Executive Director Update I highlighted that Lake Park senior Tori Clark was the IHSA's nominee for the NFHS Spirit of Sport Award. We are beyond ecstatic to announce that Tori was not only named the Section winner for the Midwest, but was also honored as the national award winner. The NFHS will fly Tori to San Diego in July to be honored at the NFHS Summer Meeting. I am also privileged to have been invited to Lake Park High School in early May when the NFHS will have a film crew at the school to conduct interviews for a video that chronicles Tori's story for a video presentation to be shown in San Diego. For those of you who don't remember, Tori organized a fundraiser for the mother of a Neuqua Valley volleyball player who was suffering from cancer, despite having never met or having any affiliation with the family. Her selfless act helped raise nearly \$4,000 for the mother's bone marrow transplant.

We constantly hear great stories of overcoming adversity associated with high school activities, so for Tori's story to be chosen as the best in the country is really remarkable. This is a terrific honor for Tori, Lake Park High School, the community of Roselle, everyone who helped plan and participate in this event, the IHSA and, frankly, the state of Illinois.

The Spirit of Sport Award is designed to recognize any individual (athlete, coach, fan, etc.) involved with a high school sport or activity who has overcome adversity or gone above and beyond in their lives. If you have any students, coaches or anyone else associated with your school who fits this category, email Matt Troha (mtroha@ihsa.org) for more information on the nominating process for next year.

Tori is the first-ever national Spirit of Sport Award winner from Illinois and the second straight Section winner, following Belvidere North's Amy Brechon a year ago.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

APRIL

- 28 1A/2A Baseball/Softball Season Summaries Due Online
- 29 1A/2A Baseball/Softball Online Seeding
- 30 Journalism State Finals

MAY

- 5 3A/4A Baseball/Softball/Boys Volleyball Season Summaries Due Online
- 6 3A/4A Baseball/Softball/Boys Volleyball Online Seeding
- 7-8 Bass Fishing State Finals*
- 14-15 Girls Badminton State Finals
- 14-15 Boys Gymnastics State Finals
- 20-22 Girls Track & Field State Finals*
- 20-22 Boys/Girls Water Polo State Finals
- 27-29 Boys Track & Field State Finals*
- 27-29 Boys Tennis State Finals
- 28-29 Class 1A Girls Soccer State Finals*

JUNE

- 4-5 Class 1A/2A Baseball State Finals*
- 4-5 Class 1A/2A Softball State Finals*
- 4-5 Class 2A/3A Girls Soccer State Finals*
- 4-5 Boys Volleyball State Finals
- 11-12 Class 3A/4A Baseball State Finals*
- 11-12 Class 3A/4A Softball State Finals*
- 15 IHSA Foundation Golf Outing

FOUNDATION GOLF OUTING

We hope that you can join us for the 2010 IHSA Foundation Golf Outing on Tuesday, June 15 at The Den At Fox Creek in Bloomington.

[Click here for Registration Information](#)

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Monday, June 14 at IHSA office
[April Board Meeting Recap](#)

WATCH IHSA STATE FINALS ON...

WWW.IHSA.TV

* Asterisk above indicates state final will be broadcast on IHSA.TV

FOLLOW THE IHSA ON...



KURT GIBSON PROMOTED

Those who have had the pleasure of working with IHSA Assistant Executive Director Kurt Gibson through our various events and committees can attest to his professionalism and leadership skills. Kurt currently administers boys golf, boys basketball and boys & girls gymnastics at the IHSA, in addition to heading several other initiatives including the Performance-Enhancing Drug Testing Program and the Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. His responsibilities, role and leadership have all grown significantly since he joined the IHSA in his current position in 2002. The Board rewarded all of his hard work at the April meeting, when he was promoted to the title of Associate Executive Director, becoming the fourth individual in the Association's history to hold that rank. I can personally speak to Kurt's belief in the mission of the IHSA and am confident that this promotion will allow us to better utilize his skills to serve our member schools.

CHANGE TO IHSA POLICY

The IHSA Board approved a change to Policy 15 in the IHSA Handbook, which is the "Guidelines for Adding and Deleting State Series Programs." The Board changed the language in subsection #3 in the Policy to read "*The Board will entertain recommendations from staff to consider deletion of an existing state series when no less than ten percent of the member schools participate in the series and/or engage in regularly scheduled competition in the sport of activity.*" The previous language used the words "more" and "five" in the highlighted spots above.

There has been some consternation around the state in the gymnastics, water polo and debate communities over this policy change, as all three feared that this legislation may immediately trigger the elimination of their respective sports/activities, as they are the only IHSA sports/activities currently under this threshold. We are doing our best to reassure the aforementioned that this policy is more about protecting ourselves in the future when adding sports/activities should they fail to grow as expected or if there is a wave of programs cut by schools due to budgetary or other unforeseen circumstances. As I have stressed, the IHSA has not dropped a sport or activity in my 19 years here and I do not anticipate that changing any time soon.

DECATUR TO HOST GIRLS GOLF STATE FINAL

The Board voted to accept a Girls Golf State Finals hosting proposal from the Decatur Park District and Decatur Convention and Visitors Bureau. Beginning next fall, the IHSA Class A and AA Girls Golf State Finals will be played at Red Tail Run Golf Course in Decatur and Hickory Point Golf Course in Forsyth. Carbondale (Hickory Ridge) and Carterville (Crab Orchard) had been great hosts for these events, which made it a tough vote with a lot of good discussion, but location proved to be the pivotal factor. Given the current economic climate and the large majority of state final qualifiers being located in Chicagoland, especially in Class AA, the Board sought a central location that would more evenly distribute travel costs for our schools.

In addition, the Board extended state final hosting contracts for two sports and two activities. All four are remaining in their current venue and the contracts run from 2010-11 through 2014-15. Chess and Speech-Individual Events will both remain at the Peoria Civic Center, while the softball (Eastside Centre in East Peoria) and boys golf (3 courses in Bloomington-Normal) state finals contracts were also extended.

MULTIPLIER WAIVER GUIDELINES

In December, IHSA member schools voted to enact a new waiver to the multiplier. Lisle Principal Ron Logeman chaired the committee to develop the multiplier waiver criteria, which are listed below:

The Waiver Application Process guidelines are as follows:

- 1) A school must apply on an annual basis by June 1 each year.
- 2) The waiver is good for one calendar year.
- 3) Each conference the school belongs to must acknowledge that a school is applying for a waiver.
- 4) To be eligible, a school must have four years of history of IHSA state series participation.
- 5) A school is not eligible for a waiver if it has achieved any of the following during IHSA state series competition:
 - * The school has played in two or more IHSA regional championship games within the last five years or
 - * The school has placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in any IHSA sectional within the last five years or
 - * The school has qualified for the IHSA football playoffs more than once within the last five years or
 - * The school has won an IHSA football playoff game within the last five years.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

For the past five years, I have enjoyed the privilege of serving on the Board of Directors for the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). CSIET's mission is to identify, promote and support international youth exchange programs. As this year comes close to an end, I am hopeful that you will entertain the idea of having a foreign exchange student in your school next year. During this school year, Illinois high schools hosted 852 students from approved CSIET programs. Our state ranks twelfth in the total number of students hosted in semester or year-long programs. Michigan topped the rankings in 2009-10 by hosting over 2,000 foreign exchange students. It's clear that the values embedded in these programs provide tremendous benefits for all involved. And, it seems to me, these programs are more important now than ever. If you would like some additional information about CSIET and its programs, please visit www.CSIET.org.

IADA NAMES 2010 HONOREES

The Illinois Athletic Directors Association recently announced its yearly award winners. Congratulations to Byron High School's Jeff Flater and Bloomington High School's John Szabo on being named the State Athletic Directors of the Year in Class 1A/2A and Class 3A/4A, respectively. We are proud of our great relationship with the IADA and with all the often underappreciated Athletic Directors across the state. Congrats to all the winners (Click link below for list of all the award winners) for all you do for your students!

In addition, we are proud to announce that the IADA will induct IHSA Assistant Executive Director Dave Gannaway into its Hall of Fame this year. Dave, who is retiring in July, was an Athletic/Activities Director at Morton and Normal University prior to joining our staff. We look forward to seeing many of you at the IADA Conference in Peoria on April 30-May 3.

[Click here for full list of 2010 IADA Award Winners](#)

The Future Plays Here! The Future Plays Here! The Future Plays Here! The Future Plays Here! The Future Plays Here! The Future Plays Here! The Future Plays Here! The Future Plays Here!