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Minnesota Interscholastic Activities Administrators Association National Federation of State High School Associations National Association of Sports Officials

MSHSLConnect

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Click! The League's photo service has you covered

CAPTURING STATE TOURNAMENT MEMORIES via photographic images are cherished treasures that are enjoyed for generations. There is nothing better than clicking at the precise moment a thunderous slam dunk clinches a state championship or when a powerful performance in the Speech tournament leaves onlookers in awe. But what happens when you miss that key shot, become distracted by fans, or perhaps worst of all, the battery fails on your camera?

There is no reason to fret, the Minnesota State High School League has you covered. During the winter sports state tournament season, the League unveiled a landing spot that features thousands of state tournament images taken by independent contract photographers on championship day.

"The League is really excited about providing this service to share the stories, experiences and opportunities of our member schools through these powerful images," said Tim Leighton, the League's



Communications Coordinator. "This is an opportunity for participants, member schools and their communities, fans and media partners to circle back and see what shots they might have missed, or to see images that can be shared and preserved in archives for generations to come. Images taken during state tournament events range from game action, enthusiastic crowds, festive bands, jubilation scenes and other shots that tell our stories and journeys in extra-curricular activities."

The images are available for purchase and can be seen in galleries located at www.mshsl.smugmug.com. Images are available for viewing approximately one week following the completion of a state tournament event. Galleries from tournaments in the fall of 2019 and the recently completed 2020 winter season are posted.

Photos taken during state tournament events are used in a variety of ways by the League. They include, but are not limited to, marketing and promotions, online record book, the annual pictorial yearbook, souvenir tournament programs, office photos, scoreboards, graphics and sponsor signage. Recognition and awards programs, such as the Hall of Fame, Triple A, ExCEL, officials, media and all-tournament teams, along with National Anthem singers and halftime performances are all a part of planned photo coverage.

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MSHSL**connect**







reflection

Returning to play paves senior year journey of leadership, gratitude

By Laura Mackenthur

JOINING THE Minnesota State High School League staff has provided the opportunity to serve with an incredible group of people focused on working with, and providing services, to member schools to promote education-based activities. As a former participant and coach, and as a parent of three children that have participated in League activities, and as a 30-year public school employee, I had experienced the League's work in many ways. Recently, I had an opportunity to see firsthand from a high school senior's perspective, a personal account of the value of these activities. Paige, our youngest child, recently wrote an essay as part of a scholarship application. Her words speak to the value of work done by everyone—coaches, activities directors, school administrators, officials, League staff and volunteers—in providing these opportunities. Here are her words:

After my junior season of volleyball, I never wanted to step foot in the gym ever again. I was done. I had just finished the most frustrating season of my life that began with being a starter and ended with sitting on the bench. I lost all confidence in my abilities and myself. I dreaded practices for fear of not being good enough, and I dreaded games and tournaments for fear that I might get subbed in unexpectedly. I hated the sport that I had fallen in love with as a little girl. Daily, I came home from practice in tears, begging my parents to promise me that I could hang it all up when the season ended.

Suddenly, it was my senior year, and fall sports were starting. My mind was constantly racing, weighing the feeling of regret I would have if I played and got stuck with those same feelings of disappointment, frustration, and anger against the feeling of regret I would feel down the road for quitting. I understood how much it would hurt to see my best friends going to practices, games, and team meals together. I realized it was my last opportunity to everplay a high school sport. I knew I would be putting myself in an uncomfortable situation, but I did not want to leave it as a "what if?" I had to give it one more chance. I took the leap out of my comfort zone and decided to go into the season with a positive attitude.

It was the best decision I have ever made

Our volley ball team had a record-breaking season. We won our conference, went undefeated at home, and made it to the section final. But that team could not be summed up in statistics. The love, support, and passion were felt every single day in the gym.

That senior season taught me more than I ever could have imagined. I learned how to celebrate the successes of others by jumping off the bench with the same pure enthusiasm and joy as that ninth-grader I was

Continued on page 4

voices we asked, you answered

During this unprecedented time of change during the containment of COVID-19, Connect reached out to a superintendent and asked:

What important messages do you share with your district during times of uncertainty?



MIKE REDMOND | Shakopee Public Schools

"In recent days, our school district has been called upon to serve our community in ways we've never before imagined. In responding to this call, we are working incredibly hard to navigate in such a way as to balance the personal concerns of the amazing individuals who work for our district and serve our students with the call to continue to serve our community as we face a global health pandemic.

With the monumental shift in operations and the nature of services being provided, the roles different employees and employee groups play in providing these services changes, too. Our Response Team has been working to develop appropriate employee plans for the unique situation we are navigating, one that balances service to our students and community in relation to taking care of the health and wellbeing of our employees and their families.

Our Response Team has been meeting and working to prepare plans that will provide a variety of services to our school community:

- Shift our learning format from in person to distance learning delivery, with the potential of this service lasting for an extended period of time. Distance learning begins on Monday, April 6.
- Food distribution for all children across the district began on Wednesday, March 18.
- Launch a child care program on Wednesday, March 18 for the children of essential personnel—medical, police, fire, and public services.

I am proud and appreciative of the people working in our school district and how they are responding to meeting the needs of our community in these challenging times. Together, our community will meet the challenges we are facing with grace, dignity, and deep compassion for our neighbors."

MSHSL news

Media award winners

During halftime of the Class AAA girls basketball semifinals at Williams Arena on March 12, League Communications Coordinator Tim Leighton announced during an interview on 45TV the recipients of the 2020 Minnesota State High School League's Outstanding Media Service Award. The award recognizes outstanding coverage and service to the participants, member schools and their communities.

The recipients for 2020 are:



Print DivisonMitchell Palmer McDonald
Minnesota Spokesman-Recorder



Electronic Division
Dave Lee
WCCO-AM/45TV

The MSHSL thanks all media partners for their coverage of League activities.

Past winners:

2015 Dave Harris, Alexandria

2016 Wally Wakefield, Lillie News, Maplewood

2017 Print Division: Mike Bialka, Brainerd Daily Dispatch

Electronic Division: Craig Olson, Fergus Falls

2018 **Print Division:** John Sherman, Sun Newspapers

Electronic Division: Bill Bentson, KFIL Radio, Preston

2019 Print Division: Tom Elliott, St. Cloud Times

Electronic Division: Jim Bartels, KNJU Radio, New Ulm

NFHS news

The National Federation of State High School Associations announced it late March that current high school sports officials, as well as individuals interested in becoming an official, will be able to access online education courses on the NFHS Learning Center for free through



July 1. To accommodate many individuals that are working from home for an indefinite period of time during the current health crisis, the NFHS decided to make its 11 sports officiating courses available for free on the Learning Center at www.NFHSLearn.com.

"In addition to current officials, those individuals interested in pursuing officiating can access these courses," said NFHS Executive Director Dr. Karissa Niehoff. "We know that a number of high school seniors will be unable to participate in spring sports this year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Officiating could provide an opportunity for high school seniors to stay involved in sports and taking some of these courses during this down time for free could help to determine their interest level."

Strike up the Band!

The high school pep bands from Red Wing and Kasson-Mantorville merged as one to create a fun and festive atmosphere while the girls basketball teams from their schools played for the Section IAAA championship last month at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester.



Craig Perry recognized

Longtime League Associate Director Dr. Craig Perry was recognized in an on-ice presentation prior to the Class AA boys hockey championship game last month at the Xcel Energy Center. Jack Larson, the general manager of the Xcel Energy Center, presented Perry with a commemorative Minnesota Wild



jersey bearing his number during his playing days. League Executive Director Erich Martens presented Perry with a replica Stanley Cup in appreciation of his 15 years of service to the participants, member schools and communities. Perry has been the girls and boys hockey tournament director the past 15 years. He is retiring from the League, effective Aug. 8.



In what League document were these words written? "(The) development of better and happier boys and girls is our aim. Winning games is incidental."

When did the association change its name to Minnesota State High School League?

In a 1955 survey, what were the results from member schools on their interest in a two-class boys basketball tournament?

What member school replaced Minneapolis Roosevelt in the 1961 boys basketball tournament?

Who were the three members of a 1965 sub-committee that were instrumental in recommending competitive sports for girls in Minnesota?

Answers on page 4

- The Indiana High School Athletic Association has selected John (Paul) Neidig as its next commissioner, effective Aug. 1. He has served as an IHSAA assistant commissioner since 2017.
- The Rhode Island Interscholastic League selected Michael Lunney as its next executive director, effective Aug. 1. He has served as an assistant executive director of the RIIL since 2011.

in the mail

The following was sent to Jeff Peterson, activities director at Mound Westonka High School.

Athletic department receives praise

I wanted to reach out and let you know I really appreciate the warm hospitality you showed us last night. I was thoroughly impressed with your professionalism as you all did a great job of making us feel comfortable away from home. The Mound Westonka athletic department is most definitely in great hands and it showed (with a) great playoff environment, awesome facilities, incredible digital score board, a respectful smooth public announcer who nailed every single name correctly and a great head coach who will win a state championship in the near future. We lost a tough game last night, but each kid felt the respect and attention you showed us and I commend you for that.

Ahmil Jihad, Minneapolis Edison Boys Basketball Head Coach

The following was sent to the League office.

Preparations recognized

The cancellation of the winter sports championships doesn't mean the work that went into getting them ready didn't happen. It did. And your efforts to prepare us (i.e. - the countless referees and umpires) to be ready to go when the time came did not go unnoticed. It was really flawless communication, timeliness and professionalism all the way through. Thank you for being such a great resource for the many thousands of sports officials who love working contests for the MSHSL. Terrific work.

Michael S. Cantone, MSHSL Official



Questions on page 3

The first Minnesota State High School
 Athletic Association handbook, published
 in 1923

2. March 29, 1929

3. 150 schools voted yes; 306 voted no

4. Royalton

5. Paula Bauck, Moorhead; Mary Dickmeyer, Mankato; Dr. Helen Starr, Minneapolis

technology

THE REBUILD OF THE Minnesota State High School League's technology systems is making progress. Gravity Works, a Michigan-based web-development company, is working closely with League staff to design and build a public-facing website, as well as systems that will support member schools in managing their League activities. Gravity Works has been responsive and demonstrated a great understanding of the needs of the League and its member schools.

In recent weeks, League staff has reviewed initial drafts and provided feedback on a home page, activity pages and dashboards for coaches, activities directors and League staff. Additional pages that include school information are in the development process. The creation, architecture and the functionality of tools for school activity management is also underway.

In the coming weeks, the next drafts of these pages will be shared with stakeholders outside of the League office in an effort to gather additional feedback and provide direction for future drafts. The feedback from users will be critical in assuring that what is being built meets their needs.

It is expected that the first phase of the project will be available sometime this summer. This phase will include the public-facing web site and several management tools for activities directors. The next phase will include additional pages and tools, and is projected to be implemented early this winter. Ensuing phases will follow with the building of additional tools and functionality.

Returning to play

Continued from page 2

that worked so hard, and got in her first varsity game and earned her first two kills. I learned how to care for others by noticing that younger teammate fighting back tears as she grew more and more upset with her mistakes and talking to her after practice to remind her of how talented she was and how much she had already grown. I learned how to be a true team player by accepting and taking on a new position and doing my best because I knew my teammates were relying on me.

During the section final, as our opponent pulled away, tears formed because I was starting to see the end of something I had never believed in or loved more. I came out of the game and watched the last point of my volleyball career played over the shoulder of one of my best friends as I hugged her tight in disbelief. In the blink of an eye, such an incredible journey had ended. As I removed my jersey for the final time, it felt like my heart was being torn from my chest as I wondered what would ever make me feel that alive again.

Everyone tells you not to take it for granted, but we all did. A season like we had was too amazing not to take for granted. We all fooled ourselves into believing it would never end because we could not imagine our lives without it.

Trying to understand that it is all over hurts in an indescribable way, but slowly, the hurt is being replaced with gratitude. Gratitude for the sport that first gave me purpose. Gratitude for the sport that gave me my best friends and countless memories. Gratitude for the sport that showed me grace when I wanted to quit. Gratitude for the sport that made me take that leap outside my comfort zone and change my attitude to give me the best three months of my life.

While I would do anything to play one more game, I know my time is up. It is time for the current freshmen, sophomores, and juniors to have those incredible experiences, and I will always be their biggest fan.



salute to winter champions

Lincoln-Douglas Logan Stenzel, Lakeville South Policy Gabe Chang-Deutsch, Clara Conry,

Minneapolis South

Public Forum Morgan Swigert, Jack Johnson, Blake

Congressional Layla Foster, Eastview

ONE ACT PLAY (Starred performances)

Belle Plaine, Nova Classial Academy, Class A

Eveleth-Gilbert/Virginia

Prior Lake, Apple Valley, Buffalo, Class AA

Alexandria, Hill-Murray

BOYS' SOCCER

Class A **Holy Angels** Class AA Edina

BOYS' ALPINE SKIING

Lakeville South Team

Individual Luke Conway, Minneapolis Washburn

GIRLS' ALPINE SKIING

Team Lakeville North Individual

Sophie Palmquist, Eagan

BOYS' NORDIC SKIING

Team **Forest Lake**

Individual Henry Snider, Mounds Park Academy

GIRLS' NORDIC SKIING

St. Paul Highland Park Team

Individual Molly Moening, St. Paul Highland Park

DANCE TEAM

Class A

Lac qui Parle Valley/Dawson-Boyd lazz **High Kick** Lac qui Parle Valley/Dawson-Boyd

Class AA

Totino-Grace High Kick Sartell-St. Stephen

Class AAA

Eastview Jazz **Eastview High Kick**

GIRLS' HOCKEY

Class A **Breck Andover** Class AA

GIRLS' GYMNASTICS

Big Lake Class A

All-Around Jada Olsen, Perham Floor Exercise Jackson Hegg, Detroit Lakes Balance Beam Becca Green, Annandale Uneven Bars Becca Green, Annandale lada Olsen, Perham Vault

Class AA Lakeville North

All-Around Bella Frattalone, Mahtomedi Floor Exercise Bella Frattalone, Mahtomedi Balance Beam Nadia Abid, Maple Grove Uneven Bars Anna Altermatt, Lakeville North Vault Bella Frattalone. Mahtomedi

WRESTLING

Class A LPGE-Browerville 106 Walker Bents, B-B-E 113 Derek Steele, Sibley East 120 Drayden Morton, Sibley East 126 Trevor Janssen, Blackduck-CL-Bena

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132 Charley Elwood, Medford 138 Mason Gode, LPGE-Browerville

145 Payton Handevidt, Jackson County Central

152 Willie VonRuden, Medford 160 Owen Bjerga, Staples-Motley 170 Tyson Meyer, Minnewaska

182 Trevor Eisfeld, Tracy-Milroy-Balaton-WWG

195 Colton Krell, Westfield

Dominik Vacura, Badger-Greenbush/MR 220 Heavyweight Craig Orlando, Bertha-Hewitt-Verndale-PP

Class AA Simley

106 Tyler Wells, Princeton 113 Christian Noble, Big Lake 120 Joey Thompson, Totino-Grace 126 Chase DeBlaere, Simley 132 Charlie Pickell, Mankato West

138 Cael Berg, Simley 145 Ryan Sokol, Simley

152 Payton Anderson, Fairmont-Murray County West

160 Bryce FitzPatrick, Mahtomedi 170 Bennett Berge, Kasson-Mantorville 182 Patrick Kennedy, Kasson-Mantorville

195 Kolin Baier, Mankato East 220 Bennett Tabor, Simley Heavyweight Kaleb Haase, Redwood Valley

Class AAA

106 Jore Volk, Lakeville North 113 Blake West, Shakopee

120 Ryan Henningson, Winona-Winona Cotter

126 Derrick Cardinal, Forest Lake 132 Reid Ballantyne, Stillwater 138 Cael Swensen, Wayzata 145 Trey Kruse, Stillwater 152 Hunter Lyden, Stillwater 160 Carson Manville, Shakopee 170 Max McEnelly, Waconia 182 Roman Rogotzke, Stillwater 195 RJ Chakolis, Hopkins 220 Isaiah Green, St. Cloud Tech Bennett Weber, Waconia Heavyweight

BOYS' SWIMMING & DIVING

Breck/Blake Class A Breck/Blake 200 Medley Relay

200 Freestyle Jack Herczeg, Winona

200 IM Andrew Karpenko, Minnehaha Academy

50 Freestyle Charlie Crosby, Breck/Blake 1-Meter Diving Storm Opdahl, Chisago Lakes 100 Butterfly Grant Wollner, Winona 100 Freestyle Jack Herczeg, Winona 500 Freestyle Nico Losinski, Simley

200 Freestyle Relay Winona

Charlie Crosby, Breck/Blake 100 Backstroke

100 Breaststroke Andrew Karpenko, Minnehaha Academy

400 Freestyle Relay Edina Class AA 200 Medley Relay Wayzata

200 Freestyle Jackson Kehler, Eagan Hayden Zheng, St. Louis Park 200 IM 50 Freestyle Soren Dunn, Eden Prairie

Continued on page 6



salute to winter champions Continued from on page 5

BOYS' SWIMMING & DIVING, CONT'D

1-Meter Diving Josiah Fick, Stillwater 100 Butterfly Evan Bock, Chanhassen/Chaska

100 Freestyle Soren Dunn, Eden Prairie 500 Freestyle Jackson Kehler, Eagan 200 Freestyle Relay Chanhassen/Chaska 100 Backstroke Casey Stowe, Wayzata 100 Breaststroke Hayden Zheng, St. Louis Park Chanhassen/Chaska 400 Freestyle Relay

BOYS' HOCKEY

Mahtomedi Class A Class AA Hill-Murray

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Class A Finalists Minneota, Waterville-Elysian-

Morristown, Cromwell-Wright,

Henning

Class AA Finalists Rochester Lourdes, Waseca,

> Providence Academy, Marshall School (Duluth)

Class AAA Finalists Becker, DeLaSalle **Class AAAA Finalists** Farmington, Hopkins

ADAPTED FLOOR HOCKEY Tournament Cancelled

BOYS' BASKETBALL Tournament Cancelled

"READING WITH RICK" A NIGHTLY HIT

IN THE ABSENCE of high school activities to cover in this early part of the spring, media partners are turning to alternative ways of serving their communities. Some are digging into their archives and replaying thrilling championship games or milestone events in their community's history. In central Minnesota, however, longtime broadcaster Rick Grammond has introduced "Reading with Rick," a nightly show where he reads books to his listeners. The show made its debut on March 23 with the reading of two children's books.

"These kids just love to read, and they have great imaginations," said Grammond, a sports broadcaster since 1988. "Reading to kids is really fun, and an added benefit is that it provides structure in these uncertain times."

Grammond, who covers sports primarily for Pierz High School, streams his reading sessions on his website: www.youaretheresports.com.

On opening night, he read "My Dad's Baseball Game" by Pierz author Jennifer Rose Sadlovsky. After a short musical break to allow young listeners a chance to get tucked in for the night, Grammond continued with "Dinosaurs Before Dark," the first book in the "Magic Tree House" series.

While Grammond is unsure of analytics of users on opening night, he was overwhelmed by the supportive feedback and pictures via text messages and social media.

"Going into the first night, I was so excited to do

this," he said. "I had no idea if I'd have a couple of listeners or many more. The word spread and we are reaching people farther away than I imagined. I won't have any shortage of books, that's for sure."

In the midst of the early success, Grammond has been the recipient of dozens of books from contributors and listeners. He plans to continue the reading sessions with books that cover elementary-aged children through high school students. He plans to expand his audience to include reading to adults as well. Grammond says he always pre-reads a book before sharing it with his listeners.

"With so many kids home, I thought, what can we all do together?" Grammond said. "I am hearing, too, that it is giving parents a break, a chance to catch their breath."



Please note that with the cancellation of the final two days of the girls basketball state tournament, the ExCEL Award recipients were not recognized in an on-court ceremony as has been customary. With the cancellation of the adapted floor hockey and boys basketball state tournaments, those events were also not photographed. The Triple A Award recipients, officials award winners and media service winners were also not recognized at the boys basketball tournament has they are traditionally. Recognition options for those groups are still under discussion.

Photos from the 2019 fall state tournaments have also been uploaded to the galleries. They include girls tennis, soccer, cross country running, volleyball, swimming and diving, adapted soccer and football. The winter 2020 state tournament galleries include debate, one act play, alpine skiing, nordic skiing, dance team, girls hockey, girls gymnastics, wrestling, boys swimming and diving, boys hockey and the first two days of girls basketball. Planned spring coverage will include visual arts, music, speech, adapted bowling, badminton, robotics, adapted softball, boys tennis, softball, track and field, golf, lacrosse, baseball and clay target.

The League welcomes feedback on its photography service. Please contact Tim Leighton at tleighton@mshsl.org.

EXCEL

Recognizing Students for Excellence in Community, Education and Leadership

2020 AWARD WINNERS



Kaylee Arndt



Faith Balstad



Halle Bemmels
Le Sueur-Henderson



Kaitlynn Bot



Maggie Bruns Blooming Prairie



Jackson Burdor Sibley East



Cole Christopher Jackson County Central



MCKenna Cougniin *Elv*



Gracia Elia



Daniel Erlandson Breckenridge



Mya Hanson St. James



Gavyn Jensen-Schneider North Branch



Lauren Johnson Belle Plaine



Morgan Kisgen Hancock



Aubrey Kosters Alexandria Area



LaRae Kram Morris Area



Zya Lueders



Maxwell Lurken-Tvrdik



Logan McGee Lakeville North



Jack McNamee Nevis



Torii Nienow Staples Motley



Jeremy O'Connor Fillmore Central



Georgia-Rae Plathe St. Paul Central



Jack Richards ake Crystal-Wellcom



Allison Rients
Waterville-Elysian



Eli Schlangen Two Harbors



Landon Schomer Pierz Healy



Tyler Smith Norwood-Young America



Hank Stechmann

Fdina



Hadley Stephenson Orono



Cade Sundgaard Apple Valley



Sierra Thomson Mora





Sophia Tobin



Adam Tonsfeldt



Jenna Vasek Fisher



Annie Wu

WELLS FARGO

2020 Academics, Arts & Athletics Award Finalists

REGION 1A



Kailee Malone



REGION 2A

Bergen Senf Fairmont



REGION 3A

Shelby Erickson Windom Area



REGION 4A

Nalia Petersen Heritage Christian Academy



REGION 5A

Bailee Schiefelbein Kimball Area



REGION 6A

Kindra Peterson Underwood



REGION 7A

Ava Hill Mesabi East



Olivia Ellingson



Carter O'Reilly



Isaac Grev Mountain Lake



Patrick Green Windom Area



Andrew Karpenko Minnehaha Academy



Christopher Borash Royalton



Carter Grove



Jonah Giermann Chisholm



Nathaniel Thompson East Grand Forks

REGION 1AA



Kaia Elstad Owatonna



REGION 2AA

Katelyn Flatgard Mankato East





Ingrid Anderson Bloomington Kennedy





AWARD

Isabella DiGiorno Roseville Area



Iva Hammitt-Kess



Evelyn Villalobos



AnnaGrace Nelson Cambridge-Isanti



REGION 8AA

Amanda Bittmann Alexandria Area



Mark Mosser Lakeville South



Adam Koller Worthington



John Deneen



St. Paul Highland Park



Adam Johnson



Ronan Brew



Adam Boekermann



