MSHSL Hall of Fame grows with Class of 2019 inductees

THE MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE celebrated the 23rd anniversary of its hall of fame on Sunday, Oct. 20 at the InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront Hotel with the induction of the Class of 2019.

During the powerful ceremony in front of 275 attendees, 11 individuals and one girls basketball dynasty crossed the threshold into the League’s hallowed hall. There are now 231 individuals and one group in the League’s hall of fame, which had its first induction class in 1991.

“This year was a really enjoyable and powerful ceremony,” said Hal Miller of Willmar, a Class of 2015 inductee. “All of the people that got me involved in League activities, and the incredible individuals that I had had the opportunity to work with, were in attendance. It was a gathering of friends, relationships and time with the League. It was incredible.”

WCCO Radio personality Dave Lee served as the event’s emcee.

Eagan High School’s Natalie Darwitz, one of the most prolific scorers in Minnesota girls’ hockey history and a pioneer in the sport, was one of three athletes inducted. She was joined by Khalid El-Amin, the charismatic playmaking guard that led Minneapolis North to three consecutive boys basketball championships. St. Paul Academy and Summit School soccer sensation Tony Sanneh, who went on to stardom with Team USA, was also enshrined.

Representing the Grand Meadow girls’ basketball dynasty that won 94 consecutive games from 1929-39 was 100-year-old Beulah Ankeny. She is a 1936 graduate of Grand Meadow High School.

Dave Harris of Alexandria, a former coach, media representative and longtime Region 8AA Secretary was inducted in the Administrators category. He was joined by Byron Olson, a former Lakeville and Lakeville North activities administrator and wrestling official. Rounding out the Administrator’s category was Dave Stead, the longest serving executive director of the Minnesota State High School League.

St. Paul’s Bill Kronschnabel was inducted in the officials’ category. He has served as a longtime on-ice hockey official and been a League leader in rules and tournament administration.

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Participation, programming, policymaking spur decades of progress  
By Lisa Lissimore, MSHSL Associate Director

AS I REFLECT on this 103-year-old organization that I have been blessed to work for the past 30 years, I think first about the generations of Minnesotans who have, and continue, to participate in high school activity programs. Each year since 1971, the number of student participants in our activities has increased. The National Federation of State High School Association survey shows that for the 11th consecutive year, Minnesota has ranked 10th in the nation with 240,487 student participants. These figures speak volumes about the quality of programs that you, our membership of 525 schools, sponsor and the coaches, directors and administrators you employ who consistently, and enthusiastically, go the distance to help students achieve success in speech, music, debate, theater, athletics and other school activities.

Next, I think about some of the significant tournament changes that occurred over the past century, changes that allow more students the experience of playing at the highest level of high school competition. When I played in the girls’ basketball state tournament in 1976, ‘77 and ‘78, there were only two classes. Now there are four. Swimming and diving, and girls’ and boys’ hockey have changed from single-class tournaments to two class events during my time at the League. Wrestling, volleyball, and golf all expanded to three classes and softball and baseball increased from three classes to four. Football was a five-class tourney when I first joined the staff in 1988, now it’s a two-day seven-class championship event. Two years from now, cross country, track and field, and soccer, will become three-class tournaments.

While other sports and activities have been added—dance team, lacrosse, badminton, robotics, clay target, and visual arts—the most significant change of all time, in my opinion, was the addition of the adapted athletic programs in 1993. Nearly 1,800 students annually compete in adapted soccer, floor hockey, softball and bowling. This chapter in our history really tells our story of paving the way for equality for all students. Minnesota is still the only state association in the nation to sponsor adapted athletics with championship-level tournaments for student with disabilities.

Other milestones in the League’s history are the recognition programs it currently sponsors to honor all individuals involved in high school activity programs. These programs have all flourished over the years thanks to your active participation.

- **Students:** Triple 'A' Scholarship Program (1988); ExCEL Awards (1996); Spotlight on Scholarship (1996), and Most Valuable Teammate Award (2019).

- **Coaches, officials/judges, fine arts directors, administrators:** Hall of Fame (1991)

- **Contest Officials:** Officials Awards (2009)

- **Sports broadcasters and reporters:** Media Award (2015)

Finally, I am most proud of how the board of directors and League staff have responded to the ever-changing needs of today’s students and schools with timely programs, policies, procedures, and rules that are consistent with the League’s mission to provide educational opportunities for students and leadership and support for member schools.

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**voices we asked, you answered**

Media members spend countless hours, days, weeks, months, and even years, covering the MSHSL member schools, participants and their communities. From the triumphs to the heartbreaks, the media share the journeys of those participants and teams. We asked two veteran reporters:

**JACE FREDERICK** | St. Paul Pioneer Press

“I love the passion involved in high school sports. I love kids and coaches alike sacrificing countless hours of a fall, winter or spring in the pursuit of achieving a common goal. I love seeing when all that time and effort culminates into those special moments where everyone involved—win or lose—has that look on their face where they know it was all worth it. The tears at the end of state championship games are so powerful. They are sported on the faces of winners and losers, and usually have nothing to do with the fact that one team just won a championship and one didn’t. Players often tell you they are crying because they just realized it’s all over. How special it is to be a part of something that means that much to you that it is so hard to see it end.”

**JIM PAULSEN** | Star Tribune

“Covering high school sports—indeed, all high school activities—means something. It directly affects the lives of the people around us. It’s about reflecting on communities and recognizing neighbors and friends and the people who call the Twin Cities and the state of Minnesota home. It’s unpredictable, it’s spontaneous, it’s passionate and it’s real.”

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**What do you enjoy most about covering high school activities?**
Congratulations to longtime Edina girls’ tennis coach Steve Paulsen, who retired following the state tournament after leading the program for 28 seasons. In that span, he led the Hornets to 23 state championships and compiled a 608-17 record. In that run of state championships was a spree of 19 in a row.

Verndale’s Mike Mahlen, already Minnesota’s most-winning football coach, became the first to hit 400 victories following the Pirates’ 44-6 win over Rothsay. Mahlen, in his 51st season, is one of three active coaches that have led their teams for at least 50 seasons. Brainerd’s Ron Stolski is in his 58th season and has 388 career victories. Becker’s Dwight Lundeen, in his 50th season, is third in all-time victories with 366 wins.

Former longtime Osseo High School choral director and football coach John Hansen passed away on October 8 at the age of 91. He had great success in both positions over a 40-year career in the Osseo School District. He is a member of the MSHSL’s first hall of fame class in 1991.

Former longtime Minneapolis Washburn football coach George Wemeier passed away on Oct. 22 at the age of 89. He also coached at Braham and Minneapolis Henry. At Washburn, he compiled a 131-33-2 record, which included a 60-game stretch without a defeat and a 48-game winning streak. He led the Millers to the first MSHSL Class AA championship in 1972. They won again in 1977.

In recognition of the Class of 2019 being inducted into the Minnesota State High School League’s Hall of Fame, this month’s quiz is all about the hallowed halls of the League’s hall of fame.

How many inductees reside in the League’s Hall of Fame?

What inductee won a high school hockey state championship, a college championship and an international championship?

What inductee officiated an historic state tournament game where Class of 2019 inductee Khalid El-Amin played a starring role?

Who was the first public address announcer to be inducted into the hall of fame?

When was the largest hall of fame induction class?

Bonus question:
What is the most common surname of hall of fame inductees?

Answers on page 4

In the Fine Arts category, longtime Fairmont speech coach and artistic and choral director Cliff Janke was one of two inductees. The other was Edina teaching icon Bill Webb, who spent nearly 30 years as a music educator and leader in the development of music education.

Faith Johnson Patterson was the inductee in the Coaches category. She led both Minneapolis North and DeLaSalle to three consecutive basketball championships.

Gary Smith of Minneapolis made League history when he became the first athletic trainer to be inducted. His storied career includes 40 years of athletic service and memorable chapters, including being the head athletic trainer for the 1980 U.S. Olympic men’s hockey team that won the gold medal in the Lake Placid Games.

During the ceremony, all of the inductees shared their hall of fame journeys via video stories, interviews and personal reflection.

“Wow, what a phenomenal class,” Lee shared with the attendees. The League’s next hall of fame class will be enshrined in 2021.

Climate Change
Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase market-based regulations requiring reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Criminal Justice Reform
Resolved: The United States federal government should enact substantial criminal justice reform in the United States in one or more of the following: forensic science, policing, sentencing.

On Jan. 10, 2020, the NFHS will announce the preferred topic area and resolution after states play a final vote.

The NFHS has created a resource to help parents navigate emotions while watching their participants compete in high school activities. The video, “The Parent Seat” suggest 10 tips that parents can use to create and develop a calm, respectful, demeanor while watching. Find the link here:

The following were sent to the League Office:

**Football: Hopkins at Coon Rapids**
(No. 5) is an amazing young man for Hopkins. (He is) very smart and a leader, without question. He had a very impressive presence on the field for Hopkins, so much, that all five officials were talking about him being such a great kid at halftime. Before the game and throughout, he was communicative with officials in a very polite manner. He must have said to me at least five times, “Remember, ref, you tell me if there is a problem with one of my teammates and I will take care of it for you.” He was also an extremely polite sportsman on the field. I heard him complimenting his teammates. I heard him get after one of his teammates when that teammate complained about a non-call. I heard him say nice block to an opponent. These are high-level skills and a sign of a true leader. He also walked the talk. He played, got up, smiled and never complained.

*Tim Litfin, football official*

**Football: North Central vs. Southridge**
Both teams are to be commended for their excellent show of sportsmanship! At the pregame captain’s conference, I emphasized that the League promotes fair play and good sportsmanship and that part of their job as captain’s during game was to help maintain good sportsmanship by their teammates. This was one the best displays of sportsmanship I have seen in the 40-plus years I have officiated football. The crew agreed that this was one of their favorite games to officiate because of the relatively few fouls that were committed and the wonderful display of sportsmanship shown time and time again throughout the game.

*Julian Tuominen, football official*

**Football: Sauk Rapids-Rice, Moorhead**
To SR-R AD NaDean Schroeder: You don’t know me, but this is not something I do often. I am a football official and I worked your game against Moorhead. Before the game, I visited with your coach and asked if he had a “get back” coach to keep the kids and coaches in the correct box. When he told me he was in charge of that, I thought to myself that I was going to have a long night keeping players and coaches in their areas. To my surprise, he did what he said he was going to do. But not only that, he was a true sportsman. His actions and enthusiasm are like most, but his ability to keep his emotions to himself and not show signs of displeasure have to be recognized.

*Joe Killoran, football official*

**Football: Orono, DeLaSalle**
The following two athletes were superb to work with last Saturday Oct. 5 at the varsity FB game vs Orono: (DeLaSalle’s) No. 70 was an offensive tackle and he was engaged with my umpire, Jim Larson, in great, short conversations about his team doing the right thing, asking if that block was appropriate. Thanking the referee for talking to him. Just a nice young man who was willing to appropriately visit with an official during the game. No. 71, the other offensive tackle, and I as the white-hat official, also had great, short and appropriate conversations. He always thanked me. When a penalty was called against his team, he came up to me and said, “I’ll take care of that, ref.”

*Tim Litfin and Jim Larson, football officials*

**Soccer**
I’m writing to express appreciation for the officials who have worked a season of games adding cold and rain and hail to their usual conditions of sometimes hostile parents and disrespectful students. I imagine the refs aren’t in this for the “big bucks” but because they love the game. Kudos to them for their dedication and commitment to the game. Without them the kids literally couldn’t compete. THANK YOU! Thanks for passing along my appreciation to the folks who helped make my senior son’s four years of soccer possible, safe and fair.

*Barbara Cox and Joe Bagnoli*

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**THE LIST OF USERS** of the Minnesota State High School League’s Technology Systems and Services is long! Among them:

- Member schools looking to these systems to track eligibility, register for events, print programs, provide and verify coach’s training, register activities, order supplies, secure officials, report incidents and events, prepare for section and state tournaments and so much more.
- Judges, officials, and coaches looking to the MSHSL’s systems to register and complete the required education.
- Fans looking for information about teams and upcoming events.
- Media members looking for information that supports their coverage of events.
- And, a wide variety of other user groups looking for a wide variety of information.

Business, education, information, and entertainment are all part of what users look for when they visit the MSHSL’s online.

Identifying and organizing needs while matching them with audiences is a critical part of moving forward with rebuilding the League’s Technology Systems and Structures. This is being done by working with schools through Area Meetings, advisory groups, and input provided by many as they work through and use current resources.
GIRLS’ TENNIS STATE TOURNAMENT
Oct. 22-25  AA – Baseline Tennis Center, Minneapolis
A – Reed-Sweatt Family Tennis Center, Minneapolis

BOYS’ & GIRLS’ SOCCER STATE TOURNAMENT
Oct. 22-24  Quarterfinals: Various Sites
Oct. 28-29  Semifinals: U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis
Oct. 31  Finals: U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis

BOYS’ & GIRLS’ CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING STATE MEET
Nov. 2  St. Olaf College, Northfield

GIRLS’ VOLLEYBALL STATE TOURNAMENT
Nov. 7-9  Xcel Energy Center, St. Paul

GIRLS’ SWIMMING & DIVING STATE MEET
Nov. 14-16  Jean K. Freeman Aquatic Center, Minneapolis

ADAPTED SOCCER STATE TOURNAMENT
Nov. 22-23  Stillwater Area High School

FOOTBALL STATE TOURNAMENT
Nov. 7-9  Quarterfinals: Various Sites
Nov. 14-16  Semifinals: U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis
Nov. 29-30  Prep Bowl: U.S. Bank Stadium, Minneapolis

visit www.mshsl.org for up-to-date tournament information

section assignments  media policy manual  media credentials

volleyball  girls’ swim & dive  adapted soccer  football

State Tickets  (Adults / Students)
Single Session  $16.00 / $10.00
Daily Pass  $26.00 / $17.00

Section & State Brackets
www.mshsl.org → Brackets → Section
www.mshsl.org → Brackets → State

Meet Schedule
www.mshsl.org → Activity
→ Girls Swimming & Diving
→ 2019 Competition Schedule

State Tickets  (Adults / Students)
Diving Prelims  $7.00 / $7.00
Swimming Prelims  $10.00 / $10.00
Finals  $10.00 / $10.00

State Tickets  (Adults / Students)
Single Session  $7.00 / $4.00

State Tickets  (Adults / Students)
Quarterfinals  $11.00 / $7.00
Semifinals & Prep Bowl (per session)  $16.00 / $10.00
Prep Bowl Pass  $26.00 / $17.00

Section & State Brackets
www.mshsl.org → Brackets → Section
www.mshsl.org → Brackets → State

Yearbook & Record Books
Girls Volleyball

Yearbook & Record Books
Girls Swimming & Diving

Yearbook & Record Books
Adapted Soccer

Yearbook & Record Books
Football

Stream
PrepSpotlight.tv/MSHSL

Stream
PrepSpotlight.tv/MSHSL

Stream
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Stream
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**Reflection, Pledge of Allegiance**

**Board Actions**

1. Approved the Agenda.
2. Approved the Minutes of the June 3, 2019 Board of Directors meeting.
3. James Sommer and Steve Sommer spoke regarding student eligibility.
4. Board Member reports were received and recognized League staff for their great work and efforts in running spring state tournaments.
5. Legislative Report was received and included an overview of the 2020 Legislative Session.
6. Legal Counsel’s Report was received and included an update on two pending lawsuits.
7. The Executive Director’s Report was received and included:
   - Erich Martens thanked the board for their time and dedication to the League and its member schools as well as the time for attending workshops and the Board Meeting.
   - League staff provided reviews of spring state tournaments that were held following the June 3 Board meeting.
   - The Principals Advisory Committee is interested in participating in advising the League on policy proposals, and also has interest in supporting communication with schools.
   - Shared a review of the NFHS Summer Meeting and highlights from the Federation’s 100-year anniversary celebration with recognition for Dave Stead and Dorothy McIntyre.
   - Welcomed new board members and shared that the Governor Appointee has not yet been named.
   - Shared an update on the continuation of the development of streaming state tournament events.
   - Schedules and supporting documents are being prepared by League staff in anticipation of the Fall Area Meetings.
   - New AD’s Workshop will be held Thursday, Aug. 8 at the League Office.
8. The Executive Committee Report was received and included:
   - Approved the hiring of Laura Mackenthun as the Assistant Director of Technology.
   - Approved the annual Charitable Organization Reports for MSHSL and the MSHSL Foundation.
9. Approved a Resolution in Appreciation and Recognition for Service and Dedication to the MSHSL Board of Directors: Bill Adams, Kristen Amundson, Craig Anderson, Eric Christenson, and Brian Hegseth.
10. Approved forwarding two student eligibility requests to the Eligibility Committee for further review.
11. Approved the 2019-2020 Budget.
19. Approved a post-season team lineup process establishing the Tennis League Lineup Week beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.
20. Approved the August 6, 2019 Eligibility Committee minutes as presented.
21. Approved the May and June 2019 Financial Statements as presented.
22. Approved the insurance premiums for the 2019-2020 school year.
23. Approved an updated 457(b) Plan.

**Discussion Items**

24. The Board of Directors has identified four Strategic Directions:
   1. The MSHSL will further define, strengthen and promote the vision, values, and purpose of education-based activities and athletics.
   2. Together the MSHSL Board of Directors and League staff will further develop and deploy effective policy governance models and practices.
   3. The MSHSL will further develop a sustainable financial model that meets the needs of our students and schools and creates a foundation for the growth desired by schools and communities.
   4. The MSHSL will establish the technological systems and structures to support the needs of our students, schools, and communities.
   - A baseball proposal has been submitted seeking up to three additional games that could be played on Friday, Saturday, and holidays.
   - The Wrestling Scrimmage Policy requires additional clarity and definitions to prepare for implementation in the 2019-2020 Wrestling season. This will be an action item at the October Board meeting.
   - A proposal regarding alignment of Competitive Section Placement and District Football was discussed. This proposal will be an Action Item at the October board meeting.
   - League staff presented a working draft of updated music rules, policies and guidelines.
   - The following Spring Activity Advisory Committee Recommendations were reviewed and will be an action item at the October 2019 Board of Directors Meeting:
     1. Baseball: pitch count adjustment
     2. Speech: addition of a 14th category, Program Oral Interpretation (POI)
     3. Speech: addition of a six-participant semifinal, reduce number of finalists from eight to six.
     4. Track and Field: addition of a third classification.

The complete official Minutes may be obtained from the League office by the designated school representative of member schools.