



CENTRAL BOARD UPDATE MARCH, 2009

FINAL 48 STATE TOURNAMENT WAS FIRST-CLASS EVENT

The 2009 Alabama High School Athletic Association Final 48 state basketball tournament is now in the history books and 12 champions have been crowned. Congratulations to that dozen – six boys champions and six girls champions. I am proud of all 48 teams and their fans, however. The sportsmanship they all displayed was not only exemplary, but also contagious to those around them.

On the girls' side, Midfield, which finished 31-6, won its third straight Class 4A state championship.

Coach Reggie Ware's Patriots beat Anniston in the finals, 41-32.

Cold Springs (34-1), coached by Tammy West, won its second straight title with a 75-60 win over Ider in the 2A finals. Bob Jones (33-3) downed Hoover in the 6A finals to claim its second straight crown. It was the third title in four years for Coach Tim Miller. He also coached Jeff Davis to the 2006 Class 6A state title.

Other girls' champions included Hazlewood in Class 1A, T.R. Miller in Class 3A and LeFlore in Class 5A.

On the boys side, Leeds (27-9), downed Madison Academy, 72-64, to claim the school's first ever 3A championship. With the win, the Green Wave ended the Mustangs' stranglehold on Class 3A at

three straight crowns. Madison Academy won the 3A title in 2006, 2007 and 2008. Leeds also became the first school since Colbert County in 1997 to win the football and basketball crowns in the same year. After the game, Coach Michael Turner announced he was leaving coaching to work in administration in the Leeds City School System. We wish him well in his new endeavor and know he will continue to be an asset to the children of Leeds and this state.

Vestavia Hills (27-8) downed Bob Jones in the 6A boys finals to claim Coach George Hatchett's second state title with the Rebels. His previous state title came in 1992. With the win, Vestavia became the first school in state history to win the state wrestling and basketball crowns in the same year.

In 5A, Butler (34-3) beat Parker to claim its second state championship in a row and fourth in the last six years. It was Coach Jack Doss' fifth state crown overall. He led Hayes of Birmingham to the 1982 Class 4A title for his first championship.

Other boys winners last weekend included Loachapoka in Class 1A, Barbour County in Class 2A and Anniston in Class 4A.

Attendance was up for the state tournament at the BJCC with close to 50,000 in attendance for the week, and the games were exciting. A total of 303 media requested credentials and over 200 college coaches attended the week-long tourney in Birmingham.

The regional tournaments also drew close to 80,000 the week before with the Northwest Regional leading the way with more than 27,000.

We thank the BJCC, the Birmingham Tip-Off Club, our own staff and especially the Alabama Sports Foundation for their excellent leadership. Now I look forward to

the spring sports season and a good finish to the 2008-2009 school year.

ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI ALL-STAR BASKETBALL CLASSIC MARCH 20

The Alabama-Mississippi All -Star Basketball Classic is set to be played at Pelham Civic Complex March 20 .

The players are being selected this week for the boys and girls basketball teams that will take on Mississippi's finest. Coaches will also be selected this week. The games will tip off at 5 and 7 p.m. March 20 and will be broadcast live statewide on the AHSAA Radio Network.

Tickets can be obtained through the Pelham Civic Complex ticket office .

Alabama holds a 10-8 edge in the girls' competition and is tied at 9-9 in the boys competition.

Alabama swept last year's competition with two exciting wins. The Alabama girls won 89-86 in overtime and the boys squeaked out a 101-99 win.

NINE TO BE INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

Nine major contributors to prep athletics in Alabama have been selected to the 19th class of the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame.

The 2009 class, which will be inducted at a March 23 banquet at the Renaissance Hotel at the Convention Center in Montgomery, includes coaches, administrators and contributors.

Selected were baseball coach Larry Andrews of Baker High School, Tuscaloosa track coach Hugh Thomas "Tom" Danner, football official Joe Frank Fowler, longtime Talladega County Central athletic director and boys basketball coach Clarence Marble, legendary Legion Field public address

announcer Simpson Pepper, former Thompson High School football coach and principal Larry Simmons, former Erwin tennis coach Barbara Snider, former Banks High School football coach George O. "Shorty" White, and former Fairhope boys basketball coach Bailey Yelding. Andrews, Danner, Marble and Pepper are deceased.

The 17-member Hall of Fame Committee made the selections from the 50 nominations on the Hall of Fame ballot. The Hall of Fame is located at the State Office of the Alabama High School Athletic Association in Montgomery.

Sponsors of the Hall of Fame program are the Alabama High School Athletic Directors & Coaches Association and the AHSAA. The corporate sponsors are al.com, Alfa Insurance, Regions, Coca-Cola, Encore Rehabilitation, ESP Screen Printing, Russell Athletic and Wilson.

To order tickets (\$35 each), mail requests along with check or money order (payable to AHSAA) to: Alabama High School Athletic Association, P. O. Box 242367, Montgomery, AL 36124. Additional information is available at 334 -263-6994.

BRYANT-JORDAN COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Bryant-Jordan Student-Athlete Award Selection Committee will meet at the AHSAA Office Wednesday, March 18, at 10 a.m.

The committee, which is comprised of some of our state's brightest business leaders, educators and media representatives, will choose the overall winners from the 48 Scholar-Athlete and 48 Achievement Award region winners.

The program annually awards more than \$600,000 in scholarship money to the 96 region winners. It has grown from the initial \$8,000 awarded the first year in 1986. This year, the Bryant-Jordan Foundation Board of Directors voted unanimously to

increase the regional scholarship award from \$1,500 to \$2,500 for the 2009 winners – an overall increase of almost \$100,000.

The Bryant-Jordan Banquet is scheduled at the Birmingham Sheraton Hotel Ballroom Monday, April 13, at 6:30 p.m.

IMPORTANT DATES:

March 4: AHSAA Basketball Committee meeting, at AHSAA Office

March 18: Bryant-Jordan Selection Meeting, at AHSAA Office

March 20: Alabama-Mississippi All-Star Basketball Classic, at Pelham Civic Complex

March 23: AHSAA Sports Hall of Fame Induction Banquet, Renaissance Center, Montgomery

March 31: Wrestling Committee Meeting, at State Office

April 13: 24th annual Bryant-Jordan Banquet, Sheraton Ballroom, Birmingham

FEBRUARY EJECTIONS DOWN FROM 2008

Ejections were down from 50 to 20 in the month of February from last year with fines down almost \$12,000.

ADVANCED MIDDLE SCHOOL STAR PROGRAM

This will allow 7-8th grade students to log in with their correct age and grade but be able to select this version or take the high school version. This will probably be ready by April 1.

