



Central Board Update August, 2009

T-MOBILE TOURNEY IS CHANCE FOR STATE'S PREP BASKETBALL TO SHINE

The 2009-10 school year is upon us. I welcome each of you back to school and wish you the best in the coming school year.

There is always a special excitement with the beginning of every new school year and 2009-10 is no exception. Football, volleyball, cross country and swim practice are already underway. Our basketball coaches, however, should be especially proud.

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and T-Mobile have selected Alabama and the AHSAA to host the 2009 T-Mobile National High School Basketball Invitational. Four of the nation's top boys high school teams and four of the nation's best girls teams will

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play in the tourney that is tentatively set for Dec. 27-30 in Birmingham. The site and teams are still not finalized, but should be announced soon. We do know there will be one Alabama boys team and one Alabama girls team in each field.

Many people and organizations worked tirelessly to land this tournament for Alabama. I thank the staff of the AHSAA, especially Joe Evans and Wanda Gilliland, and I thank the Alabama Sports Foundation for their hard work. I also thank the Birmingham Tip-Off Club, the Alabama Sports Hall



Joe Evans Wanda Gilliland

of Fame, the City of Birmingham and several retired and active high school basketball coaches for helping us sell T-Mobile on bringing the major event to our state. Among those coaches were Wallace Sanders, Marty Smith, and Steve Jefferson.

The tournament is now in its fourth year with major cities Seattle, Albuquerque, and Indianapolis/Muncie hosting the first three tournaments.

This is an educational-based tournament where the student-athletes do more than just play basketball.

The games will be nationally televised.

The positive opportunities are countless for our schools, coaches, association, and state.

I want to express my gratitude to all our schools, coaches, administrators, students, and fans for making 2008-09 such an outstanding year.

I also want to emphasize that we are here to serve you, our schools. If you have any questions or special needs, just give us a call. We strive to return all emails and phone calls each day.

Our staff is ready to help you in any way possible so please call on us.

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you during the course of this new school year. We will strive to do our best to serve your needs and wish each of you the best as you work to teach the children of this state those

important life lessons they will take with them as they move into adulthood.

Good luck to each of you.

2009 al.com CHAMPIONS CHALLENGE AUG. 21-22

Three games are set for this year's al.com Champions Challenge and the field couldn't be much more exciting.

The three preseason football games are scheduled for Cramton Bowl, Aug. 21-22. The first game, which kicks off at 7 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 21, pits three-time defending Class 6A state champion Prattville and last year's Class 5A semifinalist Carver-Montgomery. Each team finished 13-1 last year.

The triple-header resumes on Saturday with defending 3A state champion Leeds (15-0) taking on 2008 Class 3A semifinalist T.R. Miller (13-1) of Brewton at 5 p.m. at Cramton Bowl.



Carver's Al Pogue addresses media at recent press gathering

The final game, scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m., will feature last year's Class 6A runner-up Hoover (13-2) and Class 6A powerhouse Oxford (8-3).

The Alabama High School Athletic Directors & Coaches Association (AHSADCA), the coaches' arm of the AHSAA, manages the

Champions Challenge. Steve Bailey serves as director.

All three games will be televised live to a statewide audience through the AHSAA Television Network anchored by WIAT-TV CBS 42. The AHSAA Radio Network will also broadcast the games live across its network of state affiliates.



Steve Savarese (center) thanks out-going Central Board members Larry Boykin (left) and Moe Smith (right).

ED LATHAN TABBED AS NEW CENTRAL BOARD PRESIDENT FOR 2009-10

UMS-Wright principal Ed Lathan (District 1) was selected as the Central Board of Control president for the upcoming school year at the July Central Board meeting.

Lathan replaces Moe Smith, the retiring principal at Glencoe High School (District 6). Smith served two stints as board president. Smith stepped down as a member of the Central Board following the July meeting along with District I-II bi-district member Larry Boykin of McIntosh.

Replacing Smith on the Central Board is Mike Welsh, principal at Spring Garden High School. Replacing Boykin is Williamson head football coach and

athletic director Bobby Parrish. AHSAA Associate Director Joe Evans swore in both new members.

“We will miss Mr. Smith and Mr. Boykin and their many contributions to the Central Board and member schools of the AHSAA,” said Executive Director Steve Savarese. “We also look forward to working with Mr. Welsh and Mr. Parrish and the other board members as we move into the new school year.”

The Central Board was very busy in its July meeting. The board voted to instruct Mr. Savarese to move forward with developing a football region format for the new classification period that will begin in 2010-11. Several different plans are being studied and some options will be presented at the November meeting.

The Board also established the “Sports Under Jurisdiction” for schools who are interested in developing teams in sports not currently administered by the AHSAA. The emerging sports must follow all AHSAA eligibility requirements, follow NFHS rules and must use AHSAA registered officials for all contests where applicable.

This program will provide member schools with an avenue to possibly establish new sports programs where interest is warranted. The AHSAA currently requires a minimum of 10 percent of schools to field a team in a sport before a championship program may be established in that particular sport.

SCHOOL PAYOUTS TO INCREASE FOR SUPER 6, FINAL 48, HOOP REGIONALS

The payoff to participating schools in the Super 6 state football championships, the Final 48 state basketball tournament and regional basketball tournaments has increased for

the coming 2009-10 school year. The per-team payout increases \$2,000 per school in the Super 6. There is also additional money now added to cover hotel rooms. That total adds \$4,000 to each of the 6A finalists, \$3,500 for the 5A finalists, \$3,000 to each of the 4A finalists, \$2,750 to each of the 3A finalists, and \$2,500 for each of the 2A and 1A finalists.

The end result is an additional \$6,000 for 6A schools – raising the total from \$12,000 in 2008 to \$18,000 per school in 2009. The total increase for 5A schools is \$5,500, for 4A schools is \$5,000, for 3A schools is \$4,750, for 2A and 1A schools is \$4,500.

The payout almost doubles for each team in the Final 48. Each basketball team previously received \$700 per game and \$700 per day for layover not to exceed \$2,100. That figure now jumps to \$1,800 per semifinal game for 6A and 5A schools, \$1,500 for 4A and 3A schools and \$1,300 for 1A and 2A schools. It increases to \$2,000 for each school in the finals in 5A and 6A, \$1,750 for 4A and 3A and \$1,500 for 2A and 1A. That does not include the layover amount that is added on to that total. Hotel rooms are also provided for all Final 48 basketball participants.

In addition, in 2008-09, the mileage allowance was raised to offset the increased fuel prices.

An increase from \$400 to \$700 per game will be paid per game for schools advancing to the regional basketball tournaments. The total increased payoff for the regional basketball tournament is approximately \$70,000.

“This is certainly great news for our schools,” said AHSAA Executive Director Steve Savarese.

The Central Board approved the new scale that will be as follows for 2009-10.

New Super 6 Payout per team
(Includes room allotment)

Class 6A: \$18,000
 Class 5A: \$15,500
 Class 4A: \$14,000
 Class 3A: \$12,750
 Class 2A: \$11,500
 Class 1A: \$10,500
Total payout: \$164,500
Previous payout: \$104,000
Difference: \$60,500

New Final 48 Payout per class

Class 6A: \$22,400
 Class 5A: \$22,400
 Class 4A: \$19,400
 Class 3A: \$19,400
 Class 2A: \$16,400
 Class 1A: \$16,400
Total payout: \$116,400
Layover stipend: \$3,000
Total payout: \$119,400
Previous payout: \$61,400
Difference: \$58,000

****Rooms provided for all teams**

AHSAA BUILDING PAYOFF IS NOW COMPLETED

AHSAA Executive Director Steve Savarese announced to the Central Board at the July meeting that the new office building would be paid off this summer.

The AHSAA moved into the new building at 7325 Halcyon Summit Drive in Montgomery on July 1, 2006.

The Central Board added one dollar to the playoff tickets of football, basketball, volleyball, wrestling and softball and directed that dollar to go directly to the building fund designed to pay off the debt.

“The dollar was added to the price of the ticket so it did not affect the

money that went to the schools,” said Savarese. “The extra dollar was provided by the consumer. It was an exceptional financial plan the Central Board and (former Executive Director) Dan Washburn devised and it has paid big dividends. We also took advantage of the lower interest rates in the past year to refinance the loan at no additional finance costs and reduced the interest debt considerably as well.

“We now plan, as promised by the Central Board, to return that dollar to the schools in a profit sharing plan. The exact formula is currently being worked out by the Central Board Finance Committee.”



Mayor Todd Strange meets the press at AHSAA

MONTGOMERY TO HOST ALL-STAR SPORTS WEEK STARTING IN 2011

Montgomery Mayor Todd Strange, AHSAA Executive Director Steve Savarese, and AHSADCA Director Steve Bailey announced jointly that beginning in July 2011, the All-Star Sports Week will be held in Montgomery. The contract with the City of Montgomery will run through 2015.

All-Star Sports Week, which is an event of the AHSAA coaches' division (AHSADCA), includes eight all-star competitions during the week

and a Coaching School that annually attracts several thousand coaches, administrators, students, and fans. All-Star competition is held in baseball, softball, boys and girls soccer, volleyball, boys and girls basketball and football.

The special week-long all-star and coach's event began in 1997 in Montgomery where it remained until 2005 when renovations to the Montgomery Civic Center necessitated the move to Huntsville, which will host the event in 2010.

Mayor Strange said it was easy to get behind such a major event as All-Star Sports Week. “We look at this as economic development,” he said. “It means a direct impact of (approximately) \$575,000 each year. We look at this as truly a partnership that will benefit the AHSAA and benefit Montgomery.”

Savarese said the AHSAA appreciates the City of Montgomery. “We consider our relationship with Montgomery to be a partnership,” said Savarese. “We have several events each year in Montgomery. All-Star Sports Week is a major endeavor. I thank Coach Bailey and our staff for their hard work in making this event a success each year.”

All-Star Sports Week is one of several AHSAA events held annually in Montgomery. Other events include Champions Challenge, the premier preseason prep football classic in Alabama, which is set for Crampton Bowl Aug. 21-22 with three football games. Other events include the AHSAA state softball and baseball championships in May, the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame induction banquet in March, the

Principals and Athletic Directors Conference in April, the Middle School Conference in August, the Central Regional basketball tournament in February and 11 mini sports clinics held throughout the school year.



Ray Woodard



Larry Ginn

AHSAA MOURNS LOSS OF TWO COACHING LEGENDS

Two prominent longtime coaches in the AHSAA passed away in July. Larry Ginn and Ray Woodard both died after long illnesses.

Larry Ginn, inducted into the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2006, died on July 10 after a two-year bout with cancer.

Mr. Ginn, 59, coached Alexandria to three state basketball titles, along with eight Calhoun County tournament titles. He also coached the Valley Cubs to two football state championships.

Mr. Ginn played basketball at Jacksonville State, then returned to Alexandria, his alma mater, as a teacher/coach. He took over as the varsity basketball coach at Alexandria for the 1978-79 seasons. The Valley Cubs won state titles in 1992, 1993 and 1997.

Mr. Ginn, who also served as an assistant football coach to legendary coach Lou Scales, became head coach in 1986 and led the Valley Cubs to state titles in 1995 and 1997.

Indian Springs School Coach **Ray Woodard**, considered the

“Founding Father of Soccer” in Alabama, died at the age of 72 on July 16.

Mr. Woodard, who brought the game of soccer to Alabama in the 1960s, has had multiple health issues over the years since suffering a stroke in 1997.

Mr. Woodard was one of the top soccer players in the nation in the 1950s, being named an All-American for Brockport State, N.Y., and helping Brockport win a shared national title with Penn State in 1955. After teaching at a high school in his native state, he moved to Indian Springs School near Birmingham as a teacher and coach. Shortly thereafter, he started a soccer team at the school and high school soccer was established for the first time in Alabama. Over time, Woodard won numerous unsanctioned state championships in soccer.

Mr. Woodard, also a basketball, track and volleyball coach, was named the US Youth Soccer Adidas Coach of the Year as coach of the Region III boys' team.

OFFICIALS UPDATE OFFICIALS NOW HAVE 30 YEAR SERVICE PASSES

Contest officials held their annual banquet Sunday, Aug. 2, and Greg Brewer, the AHSAA Director of Officials, announced that officials with 30 or more year's service are now eligible for a special pass.

“We are proud to announce a 30-Year Special Pass for officials,” Brewer said. “Any contest official that has worked AHSAA member school contests for at least 30 years will now receive a special pass for admission into any AHSAA contest.”

“We are proud to recognize the service of the people who have served our student athletes for 30 or more years with this pass.”

In addition, Brewer said that beginning this school year, all contest officials are required to complete the online Star Sportsmanship component to be eligible to call AHSAA contests.

“It is our goal to aid our officials in every way we can to help them understand the importance of good sportsmanship and their positive role in this process,” he said.

Barry Mano, the founder and president of REFEREE Enterprises and executive editor of REFEREE Magazine, was the keynote speaker at the AHSAA Officials Awards Luncheon at Montgomery’s Renaissance Hotel.

A highlight of the luncheon was recognizing the 2009 Alabama Officials of the Year.

They included:

Mike Norris (Baseball)
Ron Collins (Basketball)
Ron Craddock (Football)
Ohannes Younanian (Soccer)
Eddie Newell (Softball)
Connie McClinton-Tolbert (Track)
Becky Randolph (Volleyball)
Tim Thomas (Wrestling)

Receiving Distinguished Service Awards were George Evans, W.J. Maye, Bob Merrill, Jim Sciple, Don Stanford, Arnold Russell, Joe Howard and Ken Jones.

Also recognized was Gary McGriff for his many contributions to the AHSAA’s Officials organization.

District officials of the year in each sport were also recognized along with approximately 200 contest officials who officiated a state final.

District Officials of the Year included:

Southwest

Garrett Gibson (Baseball); Bill Wiggins (Basketball); Allen Duhon (Football); Eric Ackerman (Soccer); Larry Wallace (Softball); Charles Miller (Track); Mary Ellen Pearson (Volleyball).

Southeast

Jerry McGlone (Baseball); Joe Kyles (Basketball); Rhonda Kirk (Football); Ohannes Younanian (Soccer); Bob Wheatley (Track); Larry Smith (Softball); Wanda Weeks (Volleyball).

South Central

Jeremy Pridgeon (Baseball); Ron Collins (Basketball); Stan Dixon (Football); Talha Digitmez (Soccer); Mike Greenlee (Softball); Connie McClinton-Tolbert (Track); Morris Griggs (Volleyball); Justin Miller (Wrestling).

West Central

Mike Norris (Baseball) Marvin Wiggins (Basketball) Tony Reaves (Football); Nathan Doehring (Soccer); Roosevelt Spencer (Softball); Barbara Smith (Volleyball); Jeremy Brown (Wrestling).

East Central

Michael Gladden (Baseball); Bill Young (Basketball); Craig Cannon (Football); Eric Pollard (Soccer); Marian Hunter (Softball); Dick Bell (Track); Kathy Odom (Volleyball); Tim Thomas (Wrestling).

North Central

Quincy Brown (Baseball); Elliott Carr (Basketball); Ron Craddock (Football); Danny Colpo (Soccer); James Naramore (Softball); Walt Bell (Track); Myra Miles (Volleyball); Dwight Buzbee (Wrestling).

Northeast

Randy Wells (Baseball); Sonja Hard (Basketball); Frank Sport (Football); Charles Stanley (Soccer); Nancy Price (Softball); Buddy Jones (Track); Becky Randolph (Volleyball); Erick Pratt (Wrestling).

Northwest

Ken Boster (Baseball); Rebecca Randolph (Basketball); Brad Wood (Football); A.J.

Hicks (Soccer); Eddie Newell (Softball); Kay Carlo (Track); Wanishea Leonard (Volleyball).

MIDDLE SCHOOL/JUNIOR HIGH CONFERENCE SET FOR AUG. 26

AHSAA Associate Executive Director Joe Evans announced the early deadline for registering for the upcoming Middle/Junior High School Conference is Aug. 14.

This first-time conference, set to be held at the Drury Inn in Montgomery on Aug. 26, will bring middle and junior high school administrators and coaches together to discuss athletics at the pre-high school level.

Early registration fee is \$25 per person and on-site registration will be \$35.

Registration forms can be found on line at www.ahsaa.com.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Al.com Champions Challenge, Aug. 21-22**
- **Middle School/Junior High Conference, AHSAA, Aug. 26**
- **Volleyball first matches, Aug. 20**
- **Football and cross country first contests, Aug. 27**