

AHSAA CENTRAL BOARD UPDATE

AHSAA

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Corporate Partners Are Essential To Success of AHSAA Programs

As we move into 2010 with full steam, I want to take a moment to recognize our corporate partners that have provided the Alabama High School Athletic Association the resources to move our athletic programs into the 21st Century.

The AHSAA is very fortunate to have eight corporate sponsors who really care about the children of this state and the schools of this association. Through their financial support, friendship and other services, we have been able to provide first-rate venues for our championship programs and provide a memorable experience for our student-athletes, coaches, schools and communities.

These corporate partners — **al.com, Alfa Insurance, Coca-Cola, Edmondson Screen Printing, Encore Rehabilitation, Regions, Russell and Wilson** — have maintained their same level of sponsorship even through the recent difficult economic times. They share our commitment to educational based athletics and



Executive Director
Steve Savarese

understand the values that sports participation teaches our youth.

These corporate partners are constantly finding new ways to serve our member schools. That is why I think it is very important that our member schools thank these corporate partners as often as possible. Any time they can benefit from the services provided by these corporate sponsors, I encourage them to do so.

Without these partners' support, the AHSAA's programs would be very difficult to provide. Without their financial contributions, the revenue-sharing

program recently approved by the AHSAA's Central Board would not be possible. Every school, whether they make the playoffs or not, will share in this revenue-sharing plan.

I urge each of you to make sure you let these companies know how much you appreciate their support and contributions. Their long-term support benefits each of us and is a direct reason we have been able to upgrade the final events of our championship play.

We also appreciate our **contributing sponsors**, the **Marines and Army**, and the Alabama High School Athletic Directors & Coaches Association sponsors -- **Alabama Power, Eporro, Coach-Comm, Victory-Swap.com** and the **Retirement Council of Alabama**.

Again, we thank you all and we look forward to many more years of partnership on behalf of the children of our great state.



Board Praises Corporate Sponsors at Quarterly Meeting



The 6A Crowd looks on at Bryant-Denny Stadium in December

The Central Board of the Alabama High School Athletic Association held its second quarterly meeting of the school year Wednesday at its Montgomery office.

Agenda topics included the status of corporate sponsorship, the volleyball championship format and pending legislation. Brett Collins and Marty Smith, representing the Alabama Sports Foundation that coordinates the corporate sponsor program for the AHSAA, reported that the eight corporate partners have maintained their same level of sponsorship even through the tough economic times.

Steve Savarese, AHSAA Executive Director, commended the corporate partners for their long-term support that benefits AHSAA member schools through a revenue-sharing program and the upgrading

of the final events in championship play. The partners are **al.com, Alfa Insurance, Coca-Cola, Edmondson Screen Printing, Encore Rehabilitation, Regions, Russell and Wilson**. AHSAA contributing sponsors are the Marines and Army. Athletic Directors & Coaches Association sponsors are **Alabama Power, Eporro, CoachComm, VictorySwap.com and the Retirement Council of Alabama**.

The format of the volleyball championship program has been under study for the past year, including the value of the sub-state round. The Board voted to continue evaluating the program for the next two-year classification period (2010-11 and 2011-12) and obtain data supporting various format options to consider.

After a brief discussion of the charter school bill now in the State Legislature, the Board voted unanimously not to support charter schools until the effect they would have on the AHSAA program is known.

The Board also voted unanimously to support the pending legislative bill that would notify coaches before the end of a school year what their contract status would be for the following school year.

The Board heard a report from Greg Brewer, AHSAA coordinator of officials, concerning an ongoing feasibility study for using video replay during football championship games. A request to establish a pilot program using video replay is being made to the National Federation. A similar request has been made by the Indiana high school association. Also, the Board reviewed the Legislative Proposals that were submitted prior to the Jan. 31 deadline.

Wrestling Sectionals Set for This Weekend at Eight Sites

CLASS 6A SECTIONALS

Section 1 at Auburn HS
Friday, Feb.
 Weigh-in, 4 p.m.
 Wrestling begins, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 6
 Weigh in, 7 a.m.
 Wrestling begins, 8:30 a.m.

Section 2 at Hoover HS
Saturday, Feb. 6
 Weigh in, 7 a.m.
 Wrestling begins, 9 a.m.

Section 3 at Hewitt-Trussville HS
Saturday, Feb. 6
 Weigh in, 8 a.m.
 Wrestling begins, 10 a.m.

Section 4 at Pell City HS
Saturday, Feb. 6
 Weigh in, 7 a.m.
 Wrestling begins, 9:30 a.m.

CLASS 5A SECTIONALS

Section 1 at Tallassee HS
Friday, Feb. 5
 Weigh-in, 4 p.m.
 Wrestling begins, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 6
 Weigh in, 7 a.m.
 Wrestling begins, 9 a.m.

Section 2 at Fort Payne HS
Friday, Feb. 5
 Weigh-in, 3:30 p.m.
 Wrestling begins, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 6
 Weigh in, 7 a.m.
 Wrestling begins, 9:30 a.m.

CLASS 1A-4A SECTIONALS

Section 1 at St. James HS, Montgomery
Friday, Feb. 5
 Weigh-in, 4 p.m.
 Wrestling begins, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 6
 Weigh in, 7 a.m.
 Wrestling begins, 8:30 a.m.

Section 2 at St. Clair County HS, Odenville
Friday, Feb. 5
 Weigh-in, 4 p.m.
 Wrestling begins, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 6
 Weigh in, 9 a.m.
 Wrestling begins, 10 a.m.

Basketball Area Tournaments Tip Off This Week

A total of 96 area tournaments for girls and 96 area tournaments for boys are set to tip off this week as the Road to the Final 48 State Basketball Tournament begins for all member schools.

Several tournaments, those with more than four schools, will tip off as early as Feb. 1 (for girls) and Feb. 2 (for boys) in most cases. Semifinals for girls tourneys are set for Thursday, Feb. 4, with finals set for Saturday, Feb. 6. Semifinals for boys tournaments are scheduled for Friday, Feb. 5, and the finals will be played on Monday, Feb. 8.

In some cases, girls and boys area tournament rounds will be played on the same day. All tournament pairings and dates are posted on line at www.ahsaa.com. All dates are listed for each specific tournament.

Each **area tournament director** is required to email scores ASAP each night upon completion of each round to the AHSAA at: ringram@ahsaa.com. Winning teams should post their scores on line on the member site as soon as they can each night as well.

All area champions and runner-up teams will advance to sub-regional play in two weeks. The **girls sub-regional round** will be played on **Thursday, Feb. 11**. The **boys sub-regional round** will be played on **Friday, Feb. 12**.

All sub-regional winners will advance to regional tournament competition the following week.

The four regional sites and dates are:

South Region at the University of South Alabama, Mobile, Feb. 16-20

Central Regional at Alabama State University, Montgomery, Feb. 15-20

Northeast Regional at Jacksonville State University, Feb. 15-20

Northwest Regional at Wallace State Community College, Hanceville, Feb. 16-21.

The AHSAA Final 48 State Tournament will be held at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex Feb. 23 through Feb. 27.

SCHOOLS ARE REMINDED THAT GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP SHOULD BE AT THE FOREFRONT OF ALL THE AHSAA'S CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS. LET US CONTINUE TO STRESS GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AS WE HEAD TO THE STATE PLAYOFFS.



Charles Henderson senior Jaquani Toney makes a lay-up vs. Enterprise

Central Region Adjusts Schedule; Probations Lifted

The bracket of the Central Regional basketball tournament scheduled Feb. 16-20 at Alabama State University has been adjusted to coincide with the host university's home basketball schedule.

The 48-team tournament, set up last summer to run from Tuesday through Saturday, has been reset to start a day earlier (Monday, Feb. 15) and conclude on Saturday to avoid a conflict with Alabama State's basketball double-header on Saturday.

Four Class 1A games will be played on Monday, followed by eight games per day on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Four championship games will be played Thursday, six on Friday and two on Saturday.

The 36-game event will feature 24 boys teams and 24 girls teams in six classes. The 12 class winners will advance to the Final 48 championship tournament Feb. 23-27 in Birmingham.

Restrictive Probations Lifted from Carver, Valley Boys Programs

Carver-Montgomery and Valley high school basketball programs, placed on Restrictive Probation last February after their involvement in an unsportsmanlike incident during their regional basketball game, had that probation lifted Wednesday, Jan. 20.

Both schools have fulfilled and surpassed all mandated requirements under the probation and will now be eligible to participate in the basketball championship program. Both school teams were removed from the regional tournament last year and have been limited to only regular season play this season.

Both boys programs will remain on AHSAA probation through the 2010-11 basketball season. Any incident of this nature during this probationary period will result in restrictive sanctions.



AHSAA's First 5,000-Point Club Member

Woodland's Courtney Strain

Woodland High School senior Courtney Strain scored 15 points in a 78-25 win over Wadley two weeks ago and went over the 5,000-point mark for her incredible prep basketball career.

She scored the game's first 12 points en route to the milestone effort. She became the AHSAA's all-time girls leading scorer as a junior, breaking the record set by Speake's Starr Orr.

Since the Wadley game, the Auburn signee scored another 95 points in the next three games to give her 5,100 heading into last weekend's games. The Bobcats, coached by her father Larry Strain, are 28-1 heading into the Class 2A, Area 10 tourney to be held at Woodland Thursday and Saturday.

Strain, who is scoring 25.3 ppg this season, led the nation in scoring as a freshman (38.4 ppg) and again as a sophomore (40.7 ppg). She set a number of records as a sophomore, including points in a season (1,261), free throws attempted (407), field goals attempted (952) and field goals made (474). She had six games of 50 points or more in the last three seasons including 57 in a win over Clay County as a sophomore.



Savarese Commends Sports Advisory Committees

FOOTBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The Football Advisory Committee met January 13 with the AHSAA staff with the following highlights:

- Steve Savarese reviewed several medical issues: (1) Any student with any symptoms of a concussion may not return until released by a medical doctor. (2) Sick cell trait will be considered for inclusion on the physical form. (3) Physicals are good for one calendar year from the date of the physical. (4) Hydration will be discussed further with the AHSAA Medical Advisory Board. When there are two practices in the same day, only one can be in pads and the other must be in shorts.
- Rules clinics will continue to be free at the All-Star Sports week, but the online clinics being planned will have a fee. Satellite clinics will no longer be available. All AHSAA-affiliated groups involved in the AHSAA program are penalized for failing to follow AHSAA guidelines, but they are not published. Alabama is the only state that requires officials to take a sportsmanship program (STAR).
- Members gave their opinions on several rules changes to be considered by the National Federation rules committee. The white jersey requirement for visiting teams will be effective in 2012.
- The bracket rotation in the third round of the 2009 playoffs was liked, but the committee voted unanimously to recommend a return to a rotation that begins in the first round and to keep local officials in the first two rounds.
- The evaluation of the reclassification process will continue with travel still a major issue. AHSAA Associate Executive Director Joe Evans will head a study committee of AHSAA staffers and coaches to find the best reclassification options for our state.
- Discussed the scheduling issues with nine-team regions and the possibility of allowing week 1 for non-region games instead of week 10. An even number of nine-team regions in a class helps scheduling. An 11-week season to schedule 10 games was also discussed.
- Voted 7-2 against removing the "in class or above" from the tiebreakers.
- Discussed recruiting being a big issue. A student that has been recruited is ineligible for a year.

Attendees (by district) were: David Wofford, Baldwin County and Kerry Stevenson, Vigor (1); Kevin Collins, Enterprise (2); Brent Hubbert, Maplesville (3); Ron Nelson, Central-Phenix City (4); Greg Watts, Mortimer Jordan (5); Steve Smith, Piedmont. (6); Cody Gross, Colbert County (7); and Bob Godsey, Hartselle (8). Absent: Cedric Blair, Parker (5).

VOLLEYBALL ADVISORY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The Volleyball Advisory Committee met January 20 with the AHSAA staff with the following highlights:

- Color panels (3 colors and the rest white) on the ball will be allowed in 2011 and the home team will determine which ball to use.
- Wilson is the approved ball for the next five years.
- Training for line judges was discussed and will be discussed with Greg Brewer, AHSAA coordinator of officials. A fee similar to that of an Electric Clock Operator would be charged (\$15 or \$20). Online rules clinics are being planned with a test and a fee. Rules clinics at All-Star Sports week will have no test or fee included.
- Favored unanimously to require certified officials for all championship play.
- Discussed championship play and the possible elimination of the sub-state round in order to reduce travel and expenses. Keeping the sub-state round was favored and the committee **RECOMMENDED** unanimously to keep the playoff format the same in 2010 and study other options for the next classification period.
- Having four big regional tournaments with 48 teams like the softball and basketball playoff formats was discussed as a good option to study.
- Coach Savarese reviewed several medical issues: (1) Any student with any symptoms of a concussion may not return until released by a medical doctor. (2) Sick cell trait will be considered for inclusion on the physical form. (3) Physicals are good for one calendar year from the date of the physical. (4) Hydration will be discussed further with the AHSAA Medical Advisory Board.
- The coaches' dinner prior to the state tournament will be moved from Sunday to Tuesday night, the day before the tournament begins.

Committee attendees: (1) Nancy Shoquist, Murphy; (2) Janie Wiggins, Kinston, and Virginia Franklin, Carver-Montgomery (3) Julie Sinclair, Montgomery Academy; (4) Pam Robinson, Benjamin Russell; (5) Katie Riggins, Hewitt-Trussville; (6) David Clark, Jacksonville; (7) Brenda Mayes, Muscle Shoals; (8) Tanya Broadway, Grissom. Invited guest (All-Star week committee): Amy Patterson, St. James.



Sports Advisory Committees — continued from Page 5

CROSS COUNTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The Cross Country Advisory Committee met January 13 with the AHSAA staff with the following highlights:

- Discussed the advantages and disadvantages of running combined races in section tournaments. This will be left up to the discretion of the section director.
- Discussed the use of the Hy-Tek software for electronic administration of section tournaments. This will be mandatory. The State Office will explore the possibility of getting a state license.
- Steve Savarese discussed several medical issues: (1) IVs may not be given at cross country meets except by a medical doctor. (2) Sickle cell trait will be considered for inclusion on the physical form.
- Discussed a protest procedure, which is permitted under National Federation rules. The committee favored by a 6-1 vote to use the procedure, which includes a jury of appeals, in section and state meets. Protests are made to the meet referee, who takes it to the jury of appeals for a ruling. Judgment calls may not be appealed. Protests are not allowed after a meet is concluded.
- Favored an earlier start in the state meet (4 in favor and 3 abstentions) and a rotation of all classes each year. Starting races at 25-minute intervals was discussed. The online tournament roster will be used to verify any eligibility questions and the 10 runners entering from each school.
- State meet substitutions must be made by noon on Wednesday of race week if necessary. If one of the six qualifying individuals from a section cannot participate, the next finisher can be entered by the section director if the substitution is made by the Wednesday noon deadline.
- The use of responders on shoes will be studied.
- Favored 6-1 to add cross country to the mini-clinic series held at the State Office.

Attendees (by district) were: Tim Yahr, Fairhope (1); Stephen Haug, Charles Henderson (2); Kevin Weatherill, Montgomery Academy (3); Glen Copeland, Beauregard (4); Charles Tiller, American Christian (5); Drew Bell, Oxford (6); Stanley Johnson, Lawrence County (7); and John Esslinger, Scottsboro (8). **Absent:** District 6 representative. **Guests:** Drew Bell, Bob Jones (former District 6 representative); Cleon Fowler, CFPI Timing.

SWIMMING ADVISORY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

The Swimming and Diving Advisory Committee met January 13 with the AHSAA staff with the following highlights:

- Coach Savarese reviewed several medical issues: (1) Any student with any symptoms of a concussion may not return until released by a medical doctor. (2) Sickle cell trait will be considered for inclusion on the physical form. (3) Physicals are good for one calendar year from the date of the physical. (4) Hydration will be discussed further with the AHSAA Medical Advisory Board.
- The two-day format at the state meet went well in its first year, but an earlier start on Friday for diving (8:30 a.m.) and swimming (4 p.m.) would be better on the first day as suggested by Sarah Stallkemp, meet director.
- Discussed putting the state swimming meet at the same site as the Auburn-Alabama football game each year. Parking and motel space would be real problems.
- Discussed reevaluating and increasing the number for swimming under the Fifty Percent Rule since four swimmers may enter each event. Six is the current maximum number of swimmers from one team that can participate on the same outside team during the off-season.

Attendees were: (4) Jeff Dillinger, Auburn; (8) Marvin Chou, Randolph. **Invited guests:** site director Sarah Stallkemp of Auburn University. **Absent:** (1) David Howat, Baker; (2) Debbie Hope, Enterprise; (5) Richelle Adams, Central-Tuscaloosa.

Spring Football Practice Rule Clarified

Questions concerning **spring football practice** are among the most frequently asked questions received by the AHSAA from its member schools.

The rules concerning spring and fall evaluation periods and/or spring football training can be found on **pages 44 and 45** of the **2009-10 AHSAA Handbook**.

Below is an excerpt from the Handbook concerning the rules and regulations. A clarification is also below more clearly defines the different levels of spring football practice allowed.



Joe Evans

SECTION 15. EVALUATION PERIOD. An Evaluation Period for all sports is permitted during the offseason. All sports except football may have a maximum five days in a consecutive 10-school day calendar period. Football is permitted a maximum 10 days in a consecutive 15-school day calendar period. The evaluations for spring sports must be held anytime during the first semester and the evaluations for all other sports during the second semester. All students may participate in the evaluations.

Note: Tryouts for any sport must be conducted only during designated practice periods for that sport.

Section 16. SPRING EVALUATION PERIODS. Spring Evaluation Periods (practices) for all sports except volleyball may be held anytime during the second semester. Volleyball evaluations must be conducted anytime between the end of basketball season and the end of school.

Note: A spring evaluation (practice) is any organized or supervised group practice with or without protective equipment. Individuals or small groups who are not organized or supervised may participate in activities such as passing, punting, shooting, dribbling, etc. Touch football in a physical education class is not a violation.

SPRING FOOTBALL PRACTICE

Spring practices shall be open to incoming students from feeder schools. If the feeder school students meet eligibility requirements, they may participate in a football jamboree or regulation game. Students must be enrolled in the school system in order to participate in practice, workouts or any athletic functions of the school.

Sixth graders from a feeder school may participate in spring practice but are not eligible to participate in a game or jamboree.

A spring jamboree or regulation game is permitted only for football. A limited contest (with modified rules) is permitted, but one school may not participate in more than four 12-minute quarters.

(Ex. If a school plays in a regulation game or jamboree in the fall, then the school may also play in either of the events in the spring of the same school year.)

Separate Spring Periods Permitted for Middle, Ninth Grade and High School Programs

Each 7-12 school is permitted to have separate 10-day spring football practice periods for its high school and junior high/middle school, and each team may have a jamboree or regulation game. A student may participate in only one jamboree or regulation game (high school or junior high/middle school). A ninth grade team is considered a junior high team. A jamboree must include three or more teams with no one school playing more than four 12-minute quarters. All jamborees must be sanctioned.

Spring Football Practice Clarification: If a high school holds a separate practice period for its ninth grade, it must be held during the allotted spring practice period of the school where it's being conducted. Spring practice for any other grade level must follow the same guideline.

Legislative Proposal Vote Deadline is February 22

The deadline for submitting Legislative Proposals concluded January 31, 2010. The AHSAA encourages each of you to communicate with your coaching staff and vote on these proposals by going to proposal, vote on proposals located on the AHSAA member website. Voting began February 1, 2010, and concludes February 22, 2010.

The AHSAA Constitution and Eligibility Rules are integral to the mission of our Association and its member schools. Please be reminded that only principals may vote.

In addition, the AHSAA will be conducting an online survey relating to championship programs. An email will be forthcoming to alert you when the survey becomes active.



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IMPORTANT DATES

Feb. 11-13 — State Wrestling Championships, Huntsville

Feb. 11 — Girls Sub-Regional Basketball Playoffs

Feb. 12 — Boys Sub-Regional Basketball Playoffs

Feb. 15-20 — Regional Basketball Tournaments at Central, Northeast Regions

Feb. 16-20 — Regional Basketball Tournaments at South, Northwest Regions

Feb. 22 — Legislative Propsoal vote from member schools due

Feb. 23-27 — Final 48 State Basketball Tourney, BJCC

March 22 — Hall of Fame Banquet, Montgomery

MINI-CLINICS (at AHSAA Office)

Feb. 9 (Volleyball)

Feb. 19 (Football)

Feb. 11 (Golf)

In the News

Grant Wins 500th: Pleasant Grove head boys basketball coach Bill Grant picked up the 500th win of his career as the Spartans beat Erwin 63-50 on Jan. 15. His team is currently 28-2 heading into the post-season.

Lesley Battles Cancer: Mary Montgomery High School football coach and athletic director Scott Lesley is currently undergoing treatment for cancer. Our thoughts are with him as we wish full recovery for the popular Mobile County coach.

Basketball Dates for 2010-11 Set: The dates for next school year's basketball season have been set. The dates include:

Last day for Area Play (Feb. 2)

Area brackets due (Feb. 3)

Girls Area Tournaments (Feb. 7, 10, 12)

Boys Area Tournaments (Feb. 8, 11, 14);

Sub-Regional rounds (Feb. 17, 18)

Regional Tourneys (Feb. 22-26)

Final 48 State Finals (March 1-5).

Next Central Board Meeting: The Central Board of Control will hold its next quarterly board meeting on April 14 at the AHSAA Office. The meeting will start at 10 a.m., and the AHSAA Legislative Council will meet April 14 at 2 p.m.

Cherokee County's Coty Blanchard Named 2009 Mr. Football by Alabama Sports Writers Association

Quarterback Coty Blanchard, who led the Cherokee County Warriors to their first-ever state football championship and the AHSAA's only 15-0 record in 2009, has been named by the the Alabama Sports Writers Association as Mr. Football. The announcement was made at the annual Mr. Football Luncheon held at The Birmingham News on Jan. 20.

Blanchard finished his senior season with 1,141 yards rushing on 153 car-



ries, with 20 touchdowns. He passed 287 times, completing 199 (69.3%) for 2,924 yards and 35 TDs. Blanchard was also named the Class 4A Back of the Year by the ASWA and

Alabama's Gatorade Football Player of the year.

MR. FOOTBALL PAST WINNERS

1982 Tommy Compton, Vigor

1983 Freddie Weygand, Emma Sansom

1984 Roderick Green, Gardendale

1985 Pierre Goode, Hazlewood

1986 Larry Ware, Lee-Montgomery

1987 Robert Jones, Parker

1988 Darrell Williams, Vigor

1989 Steven Coleman, Pike Co.

1990 David Palmer, Jackson-Olin

1991 Robert Davis, Homewood

1992 Freddie Kitchens, Etowah

1993 Thomas Banks, West Jefferson

1994 Dawud Rasheed, Shades Valley

1995 Gorman Thornton, Jeff Davis

1996 Antoneyo Williams, Central-Tuscaloosa

1997 Mac Campbell, Alexandria

1998 DeMarco McNeil, Blount

1999 Cory Whisenant, Springville

2000 Carnell Williams, Etowah

2001 Brandon Cox, Hewitt-Trussville

2002 JaMarcus Russell, Williamson

2003 Chris Nickson, Pike Co.

2004 Jarod Bryant, Hoover

2005 Andre Smith, Huffman

2006 Larry Smith, Prattville

2007 Julio Jones, Foley

2008 Clint Moseley, Leroy