



Michigan High School Coaches' Association

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THE MICHIGAN COACH

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER of the MHSCA

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Points of Interests

- *Multi-Sport Athlete Award Due Date: 4-15-16*
- *Gatorade Delivery May 2016*
- *NHSACA Convention June 26-29 Galt House, Louisville Ky.*

High School Tennis Participation Way Down

In 1998 a lawsuit was filed by communities for action saying that girls were discriminated against in certain high school sports and that a change of season was necessary for some of them. The case went all the way to the Supreme Court and the MHSAA lost the case. As a result of this case, girls volleyball moved from winter to fall, girls basketball fall to winter, girls soccer to the spring, boys soccer to the fall, boys golf to spring, girls golf to fall, boys tennis to fall, and girls tennis was moved to the spring. This format began for the start of the 2007 academic year. Ironically the Upper Peninsula kept boys tennis in the spring and girls in the fall even though we are in the same state.

Participation in tennis has been hit harder than any other sport in Michigan. We are seeing schools dropping the sport due to lack of numbers and there are many with just a partial squad.

Lets look at the boys season in the fall. They are now going head to head with football, soccer, and cross country. Those are vacuum cleaner sports as they field large teams. Football, in many schools, have varsity, junior varsity and freshman teams. Soccer most often has at least varsity and junior varsity teams while there can be no limit on how many runners you have on the cross country team. In Macomb County South Lake, Mt. Clemens, Clintondale, Fitzgerald, and East Detroit no longer have teams. Many other schools have partial teams and no longer offer junior varsity. Talking to Gary Ellis of Allegan he notes that in southwest Michigan 3 schools have dropped tennis but even worse are there are many more partial teams. What happens when you have a partial team is that you have to forfeit flights hurting your chance of winning the match. Once a school drops a sport, it will be increasingly difficult to reinstate the program.

Now we will examine the spring season with the girls. The girls tennis teams are now competing with softball (varsity & junior varsity), track (numerous participants are required), soccer (varsity & junior varsity), and lacrosse. A tennis team needs 12 players to compete in a match. The sports they are going up against have much larger numbers. If a school has an enrollment of 500 students roughly half of them will be girls. You factor in that not every student participates in athletics and there are not many girls left. In 2015 West Bloomfield High School did not have a junior

Continued on page 3

Inside this issue:

- 1
- 2 **Association Update: Tennis**
- 2
- 3 **Association Clinics 2016 & 2017**
- 3
- 3 **MHSCA Calendar 2016-17**
- 3 **Gatorade State Player of the Year**
- 4

MHSFCA East v West All Star Football Game to Resume in June 2016



Coaches,

After two years playing the Ohio High School Football All Stars in the

Border Classic Game (Two wins for Team Michigan), the OHSFCA has withdrawn from the field. We'll resume the East West All Star Game this year. Players and coaches have been selected. They'll report to camp at Saginaw Valley State University on Tuesday, 22 June (coaches) and Wednesday, 23 June (players). The game will be played on Saturday, 25

June and will pit 40 of the best from the West against 40 of the best from the East. Make plans to attend. Bring your players. Bring your families. Adding to the All Star experience we'll initiate a 7 on 7 tournament with this year's All Star Game. This first iteration will include 12 teams. They'll play in two divisions, big schools and small schools. Play will start Saturday morning before the All Star Game with action taking place in SVSU's new indoor facility and in the stadium. Finals games (modified) will play at half time of the All Star game in the stadium.

*Only school-based teams are eligible. We hope to see you and your team at Saginaw Valley on June 25! Membership in the MHSFCA includes automatic membership in the MHSCA and a one million dollar insurance that covers you on the field and in the classroom.

You can renew (or sign-up as a new member) online at: www.mhsfca.com/members/join-online

Larry Merx
MHSFCA
Executive Director

MHSCA SPONSORSHIPS PROGRAM @ HOF & COTY EVENTS

Sponsor a Hall of Fame or MHSCA Coach of the Year:

- 1 Sport \$2000.00
- 2 Sports \$3,500.00
- 3 Sports \$5000.00
- 4 Sports \$6000.00
(Buy 3, get 1 Free)

All 15 Sports \$30,000.00 (\$10,000.00 savings)

- Presentation of the Hall of Fame or Coach of the Year Award at the banquet
- Two (2) Complimentary tickets to the Awards Banquet
- Sponsor banner (2'x 4') hung on wall in Banquet Room during Awards Banquet
- Recognition/Advertising in Coach of the Year Awards Program
- Complimentary exhibit booth during the awards day banquets
- Active link on MHSCA website

Sponsor a MHSCA Service Awards Station: \$3000.00

- Company signage promoting your company as the sponsor of this award at HOF & COTY banquets.
- Presentation of the Service Award at the Coach of the Year Awards banquet

- Placement of your company's Logo on award certificates and plaques.
- Recognition ad in the MHSCA Hall of Fame & Coach of the Year Program Booklet
- Placement of your company's marketing materials on table in serving area
- Complimentary exhibit booth during the awards day banquets
- Active link on MHSCA website

Sponsor a Hospitality Station (assessable to all registrants and guests): \$300.00

- Company signage promoting your company as the sponsor of this event
- Recognition ad in MHSCA Hall of Fame & Coach of the Year Program Booklet
- Placement of your company's marketing materials on table in serving area

Active Link on the NHSACA Website: (July 1-June 30) \$1,000.00

- Your company's web page linked to the MHSCA website's homepage
- Name of company, logo and short description of products/services

Full page ads in MHSCA Hall of Fame or Coach of the Year Awards booklets:

- Newsletter Booklet (10 times a year) \$250.00
- Newsletter Booklet and Coach of the Year Awards Program or Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Program Booklet \$400.00
- Newsletter Booklet, Coach of the Year Awards Program and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Program Booklet \$500.00

MHSCA Board of Directors meetings or Hall of Fame or Coach of the Year table display or registrants' packet stuffer: \$100.00/page

- Your company's product/service information document (8.5"x11"), provided by the sponsor included in each registrant's packet

MHSCA Contact Information:

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A look at Tennis: Almost a Decade After the Season Change...

Tyler, Andy, Chris, Matt and Zack were among the top returning players on The Portland High School Varsity Tennis Team going into the 2007-08 school year. The team of 34 players had just finished 6th in the state in division IV and were looking forward to another strong season. What's more, these five guys were among the top returners on the PHS soccer team, too. Without them, either team would surely suffer a significant setback.

In the years prior, this would have been considered a good thing for two programs in such a small school to have athletes of such high caliber to lead them; but not that year. The MHSAA had finally given up on its appeals of a decade-long lawsuit that required, among other things, high school boys and girls tennis to trade seasons. In the judge's comments, the spring season was "advantageous" and therefore should be reserved for girls' tennis, leaving fall for the boys' teams.

What he failed to consider in his opinion was that switching boys and girls tennis

seasons would remove the participation balance the MHSAA preferred to one that overloaded the fall with no-cut, boys sports like tennis, soccer, cross country and football. While in the spring, girls' tennis had to compete for players with high-participation sports like soccer, track and softball.

In a study done by Nathan Immakus on behalf of the MHSTeCA shortly after the tennis seasons switched, using the MHSAA's own participation numbers, he found that had boys and girls tennis remained in their original seasons, participation in the fall and spring seasons each year would have remained relatively similar to one another across the state. As Immakus pointed out, "As the sports are distributed [after the season switch], there are nearly 20,000 more boys and nearly 20,000 more girls required to fill the teams in the fall and spring, respectively." In other words, there were significantly more boys needed to fill teams in the fall and significantly more girls needed to fill teams in the

spring. Something had to give.

While participation in girls' tennis has remained relatively stable since 2007, the results have been devastating to boys' tennis. In the spring of 2007, there were 337 schools that offered boys tennis. That number had fallen to 306 in 2015, a 9% drop. But that small drop is misleading. In a 2011 study by the MHS-TeCA of its member coaches found that 30% of schools that had routinely fielded both varsity and JV boys' tennis teams were reporting participation losses, often significant. In other words, schools with historically robust tennis programs were failing to field JV teams, and many couldn't even field a full varsity! They still existed – explaining the relatively small 9% drop -- but they were dramatically smaller teams. Anecdotally, most boys' tennis coaches would conclude this problem has only gotten worse since.

Continued on page 3.

A look at Tennis: Continued from Page 2

So in the summer of 2007, after their terrific spring season, Tyler, Andy, Chris, Matt and Zach were left with a choice: Play tennis or play soccer. There are worse choices one has to make in their lives. But for these 16 and 17 year old boys, this was the toughest one they had ever had to make. They had to choose between two sports they grew up playing

and loved. They got lucky, however. The two coaches found a way to allow them to play both. Most kids around the state weren't so lucky.

Accommodations like that aren't offered any more at Portland High School. It was only a one-year fix for the kids who got caught in the middle of the season switch.

Too bad, too. Participation in the Portland Boys Tennis Program has fallen from that team of 34 players back in the spring of 2007 – participation numbers that were routine in those days – to a team that will be challenged to field a JV team in 2016.

The season switch, it appears, is claiming another victim.

2016-17 MHSCA Calendar of Events

MHSAA President's Meeting: Monday, **January 26, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m.** Site-MHSAA Office

MHSCA Hall of Fame Selection Meeting: Tuesday, **February 9, 2016 @ 9:30 a.m.** Site-MHSAA Office

MHSCA Spring Meeting: Sunday, **March 13, 2016 @ 12:00 P.M.** Site: Ramada Inn, Lansing - Saginaw Hwy.

Gatorade Delivery: **May 2016, @ TBA**

NHSACA Annual Convention: **June 26-29, 2016 @ Galt House, Louisville, KY**

MHSCA/NFHS & NHSACA COTY Member Association Nominations Due: **July 1, 2016**

Fall Board of Directors Meeting: Sunday, **September 18, 2016 @ 9:30 A.M.** CMU - Bovee Center

Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony: Sunday, **September 18, 2016 @ 12:00 P.M.** CMU - Bovee Center

Winter Board Meeting: Sunday, **November 13, 2016 @ 9:30 A.M.** Lansing Area

Coach of the Year Ceremony: Sunday **November 13, 2016 @ 12:00 P.M.** Lansing Area

Tennis Participation Way Down: continued from front page

varsity. This program more often than not is in the top ten. This year Port Huron Northern, one of our state powers, does not have a junior varsity.

Overall the boys have been hit harder with the change of seasons. Soccer and tennis going head to head with each other has hurt quite a bit since both sports require great footwork. Many of our athletes play both sports and now must choose one over the other. Another factor for the decline in participation can be from enrollment dropping across the state.

In conclusion tennis and golf basically had nothing to do with the lawsuit. It was mainly a volleyball issue and our sports got thrown in the mix and due to the changing of the seasons tennis is suffering. Once a school drops the sport it will be difficult to reinstate it. I believe the state needs to reexamine the placing of our sports so that we can maximize our numbers before we lose more teams.

Mark Sobieralski

Gatorade State Player of the Year Award - Boys Basketball



Gatorade recently announced the Player of the Year (POY) award winner for Boys Basketball.

Since 1985, the Gatorade POY award has recognized and celebrated the nation's top high school athletes for their talents in athletic achievement, academic excellence and exemplary character. Now in its third decade, the Gatorade POY award has become one of the most prestigious accolades in high school sports.

We know that these athletes most likely will be participating/have participated in your championship events and we would love for you to share this through your website and social media outlets to help them celebrate the achievement.

Please use the hashtag #GatoradePOY for social media purposes and let us know if you would like us to send over copy for your use.

Please see the attached press release and you can also vis-

it www.gatorade.com/poy to view past winners.

Boys Basketball – Cassius Winston, University of Detroit Jesuit HS



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MHSCA B.O.D. & EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES CALENDAR

- * *Multi-Sport Athlete Award App*
Due 4-15-16
- * *BOD Fall Board Meeting & HOF Inductions, September 18, 2016 @ CMU, Mt. Pleasant, MI*



NHSACA Newsletter from Kirk Price 3rd VP NHSACA

The Convention is just around the corner and the Executive Committee and the Executive Director have been working hard to make it a success. The executive committee met in Louisville KY. At The Galt House on March 20th and 21st. The Galt House is an amazing Resort Type Hotel that is a center for the Kentucky Derby attendees. We met with the Louisville Convention Board that is setting up speakers and tours. We met with the Kentucky Coaches Association, they are sponsoring events for the Board of directors. (A trip to the Derby where they are providing a lunch) They are also sponsoring socials for all attendees and have been really amazing with all their support.

The Convention itself will begin for the Board on Sunday June 26th with a full meeting at 8:00 am followed by Committee meetings. That afternoon from 11 to 6 the Board will travel to Churchill Downs for free lunch, see a race or two and more. (Thanks to Ky. Coaches)

The Board will not have the early morning meetings this year. Monday at 9:00 am, Tuesday at 3:30 pm, Wednesday at 8:00 am. Is the earliest. Please get organized asap and make your Convention reservation, Room reservation, and travel plans soon. Please be generous with your donations when registering if possible for you.

A full preliminary Convention Schedule is currently available on the Website <http://www.hscoaches.org/> you can register for the convention, your room, and banquet tickets now. If you are flying in you can also set up your shuttle rides to the hotel.

This years Convention is going to be one of the best ever.

Don't miss it !!!