

"RE-ENERGIZE, RE-ENGAGE, RE-CONNECT"

Taking a proactive leadership role in athletic issues...

Illinois

Athletic Directors Association



**2023 IADA
Conference Banquet**



FOUNDATION HISTORY OF THE IADA

During the 1964 State Basketball Tournament held at the University of Illinois, a meeting was called for all athletic directors present. The meeting was held on Saturday morning in a small room beneath the football bleachers. About 20 athletic directors attended; the number was small, but the interest and enthusiasm for forming a professional organization for athletic directors in the State of Illinois was unanimous. An acting chairman, assistant chairman, and secretary/treasurer were selected. Each attending athletic director volunteered five dollars for expenses.

The first official Illinois State Athletic Directors Convention was held in 1965 at the Chateau Louise in Dundee, Illinois. A constitution was presented and approved; permanent officers were elected: President - Jim Perkins, 1st Vice President - Harry Gaines, 2nd Vice President - Emery Ebbert, and Secretary/Treasurer - Steve Oracko. Athletic directors in attendance at the first meeting to the best of my recollection were: Steve Oracko - Downers Grove, Chuck Bennett - LaGrange, George Fencil - Morton East, Harry Gaines - Mattoon, Lee Caputi - Champaign, Sherrill Hanks - Quincy, Reid Martin - Carbondale, Bob Frank - Bloomington, Emery Ebbert - Proviso East, Leo Singer - Waukegan, Jim Cook - Glenbard, Chuck Rolinski - Toluca, Don Daluga - Pontiac, Hank Kaiser - Normal, Chuck Fuetz - Palatine, Chic Anderson - Arlington Heights, Dee Compton - Oak Park, Gene McCarter - East Moline, and myself, Jim Perkins - Riverside-Brookfield.

From this very modest beginning and through the efforts of all athletic directors who have followed, the Illinois Athletic Directors Association is one of the strongest and most effective in the country.

Sincerely, Jim Perkins
 1st IADA President
 Hall of Fame Inductee - 1996



ILLINOIS ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION - 2023 AWARDS RECIPIENTS

2023 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

BRIANT KELLY, CMAA	(DIV. 2)	LIBERTYVILLE
STAN LEWIS, CAA	(DIV. 5)	NORMAL WEST/CHAMPAIGN CENTENNIAL
STEVE MAY, CMAA	(DIV. 2)	WHEELING

CLASS 1A & 2A DIVISION ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR WINNERS

TY GOOCH	(DIV. 2)	WESTMINSTER CHRISTIAN
CRAIG CARR	(DIV. 5)	NEWTON
MARK BEATTY	(DIV. 7)	EAST ALTON-WOOD RIVER

CLASS 1A & 2A STATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR WINNER

HEATHER ALDERKS	(DIV. 4)	STILLMAN VALLEY
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CLASS 3A & 4A DIVISION ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR WINNERS

JOHN KANE, CAA	(DIV. 2)	CONANT
DAN JONES, CAA	(DIV. 3)	HINSDALE CENTRAL
TONY BAUMAN, CAA	(DIV. 5)	BLOOMINGTON
CLAY SMITH	(DIV. 7)	COLLINSVILLE
MARK PUSTELNIK	(DIV. 4)	UNITED TOWNSHIP

CLASS 3A & 4A STATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR WINNER

HERB KNOBLAUCH, CMAA	(DIV. 6)	WASHINGTON COMMUNITY
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CLASS 1A & 2A FRIENDS OF ATHLETICS AWARD WINNER

JON STRUTZENBERG	(DIV. 4)	WINNEBAGO
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CLASS 1A & 2A FRIENDS OF ATHLETICS AWARD NOMINEES

TANYA ROBINSON	(DIV. 1)	URBAN PREP ACADEMY
JOE DOOLIN	(DIV. 5)	MAROA-FORSYTH
KYLE HERSCHELMAN	(DIV. 6)	LINCOLNWOOD JR/SR
ROBERT EVANS	(DIV. 7)	CARLYLE

CLASS 3A & 4A FRIENDS OF ATHLETICS AWARD WINNER

DICK BARRY	(DIV. 2)	WAUCONDA
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CLASS 3A & 4A FRIENDS OF ATHLETICS AWARD NOMINEES

KAREN LAKE	(DIV. 3)	THORNTON FRACTIONAL NORTH
JIM HUMPHERY	(DIV. 4)	METAMORA
BOB JAMES	(DIV. 5)	MATTOON
DEREK PARRIS	(DIV. 6)	PLEASANT PLAINS
DAVE CAULK	(DIV. 7)	EDWARDSVILLE

NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

MATT FIDATI	(DIV. 1)	KENWOOD ACADEMY
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ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

CHRIS DAVIS	(DIV. 2)	LIBERTYVILLE
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PRESIDENT AWARD

STEVE GERTZ, CMAA	(DIV. 2)	DUNDEE-CROWN HIGH SCHOOL
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CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

JEFF BRAL	(DIV. 2)	BARTLETT
MIKE JEZIORO	(DIV. 2)	SOUTH ELGIN

JOHN VAN FLEET SCHOLARSHIP AWARD WINNERS

PATRICK MAHONEY	(DIV. 2)	GLENBROOK NORTH
BRAEYLN MILLER	(DIV. 7)	BENTON CONSOLIDATED

NIAAA SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

MABRY BRUHN		MONTICELLO
TYLER FINK		BENTON CONSOLIDATED



WELCOME TO THE BANQUET!

Welcome to the 27th induction ceremony for the Illinois Athletic Directors Hall of Fame. The Illinois Athletic Directors Hall of Fame is dedicated to all the men and women who through their efforts have made interscholastic athletics a positive experience for young men and women. Their work has brought honor to themselves, their school, their community and the Illinois Athletic Directors Association.

The purpose of the Hall of Fame is threefold: first, to recognize and honor the great athletic directors who brought fame to the Illinois Athletic Directors Association; second, to establish in the hearts of our youth a motivating influence to excel in athletics; and third, to foster pride and preserve good sportsmanship, scholarship, and citizenship in school, city, and community.

Candidates must have been an athletic director for ten (10) years and an active IADA member and shall become eligible two (2) years after retiring or five (5) years after moving into another educational field. Candidates must receive a two-thirds majority vote from the Illinois Athletic Directors Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

Candidates are eligible via three criteria:

- 1) National - Individuals who have helped promote athletics and the state of Illinois through their involvement with the NIAAA and the National Federation.
- 2) IADA - Individuals who have volunteered time to promote the beliefs and purpose of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association (i.e., serving on the executive board, state conventions, etc.).
- 3) Local - Individuals who through their time and effort have promoted the importance of athletics and sportsmanship within their school and community.

Another purpose of the Hall of Fame is to recognize those individuals who have made our Association what it is today along with being the driving force for athletics in their respective communities. All the inductees helped build a basis for our organization that should never be forgotten. The current Executive Board and Membership want to thank the inductees for leaving their footsteps behind, so that we can always follow them as to what a successful athletic administrator and person should be.

Recipients of the Hall of Fame will be appropriately displayed at the Illinois High School Association in Bloomington.

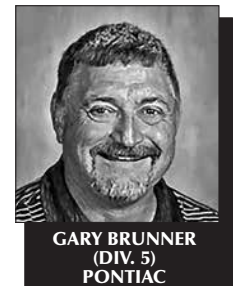
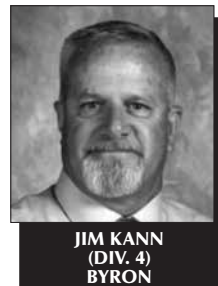
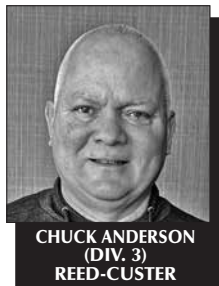
This was a very difficult process for the committee, and we would like to take this time to thank those individuals who volunteered their time and effort toward this project.

AWARDS BANQUET AND HALL OF FAME PROGRAM

- IADA VIDEO
- MASTER OF CEREMONIES
- NATIONAL ANTHEM
- IADA AWARDS:
 - 2023 CLASS "1A & 2A" FRIENDS OF ATHLETICS AWARD
 - 2023 CLASS "3A & 4A" FRIENDS OF ATHLETICS AWARD
 - 2023 CLASS "1A & 2A" ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR
 - 2023 CLASS "3A & 4A" ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR
- INVOCATION
- HALL OF FAME INDUCTION
- 50-50 DRAWING



RETIRING ATHLETIC DIRECTORS





HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

2023 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Briant Kelly, Libertyville
 Stan Lewis, Normal West/Champaign Centennial
 Steve May, Wheeling

2022 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Steve Adams, Maine South & Prospect
 Randy Conrad, Leyden
 Dan Dillard, Lisle / Farmington
 Darlene Graf, Queen of Peace / Maria / St. Barbara
 Perry Wilhelm, Mundelein

2021 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Kevin Crandall, Rochelle
 Charlie Lockenour, Heyworth
 John Overstreet, Paxton-Buckley-Loda
 Dan Wiczorek, Fieldcrest

2020 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Tim Albers, Libertyville
 Deb Ofcky, New Trier
 Todd Rosenthal, Moline

2019 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Barb Barrows, Neuqua Valley
 Henry Johnson, Woodland / Mascoutah
 Randy Oberembt, New Trier
 Drew Potthoff, South Beloit / McHenry / Marian Central Catholic
 Allen Warnecke, Breese Central

2018 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Dave Brost, Reavis / Lincoln-Way East
 Bobbie Monroe, Normal Community West / Highland Park
 Robert Swanson, Rock Island
 John Szabo, Bloomington
 Christopher "Skip" Tarran, Reed-Custer

2017 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Jimmy Daniels, Rich Central / Rich East
 Marilyn Bradley, Glenbrook North
 Rich Piatcheck, Andrew

2016 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

John Martin, Hoffman Estates / Adlai E. Stevenson
 Marty Bee, Naperville North / Naperville Central
 Susan Bonner, Hillcrest / Oak Forest
 Gerald L. Brockhouse,
 Hales Franciscan / St. Ignatius College Prep / Fenwick

2015 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Doug Smith, Monmouth / Woodstock / Naperville North
 Terry Niedzwiecki, Hiawatha / Stillman Valley / Harlem /
 Rockford Auburn / Rockford Jefferson
 Tim Feigh, Berwyn Cicero Morton / York / Hinsdale South

2014 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Art Rohlman, DeKalb / Elgin
 Dale Doehring, St. Joseph-Ogden

2013 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Bob Cowan, Granite City
 Pat Coyle, Jerseyville
 Jack Drollinger, Fremd
 Tom Gillhouse, Olympia / Belvidere / Deerfield / Metamora
 Bill Murphy, Crystal Lake Central / Prairie Ridge

2012 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Craig Watson, Oswego
 Larry Stewart, Greenville

2011 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Washington Bush, Conant

2010 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Dave Gannaway, Morton
 Jim Bloch, New Trier / Glenbrook North
 Kent Ayers, Pekin
 Lenore Wilcox, Wheaton Central / Wheaton Warrenville South

2009 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Larry W. Bernard, Bolingbrook
 Terry McCombs, Downers Grove South
 John L. Selke, Schaumburg
 John A. Van Fleet, Woodstock

2008 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Don Hawkins, Nashville Community
 Mike Morris, Lyons Twp.
 Leonidas L. Pappas, Quincy Senior
 Kenneth Shultz, Homewood-Flossmoor

2007 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Donald J. Crandall, District 211
 Douglas W. Duval, Mundelein
 Norbert Kassing, New Athens
 Richard A. Kerner, Waubonsie Valley

2006 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Larry Chaney, Springfield Southeast
 Rich Griffin, Red Bud
 Patrick Hamm, Roxana
 Neil McCauley, Naperville North
 Gerald C. Turry, Niles West

2005 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Jim Brown, Oak Park and River Forest
 Ted Caiazza, Reavis
 Marv Carlson, Glenbard South
 Bob Naughton, New Trier

2004 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Ron Hansen, West Chicago
 Bill Sissel, Hoffman Estates
 Phil Svetich, Argo
 Jim Unrath, United Twp.
 Gary Woods, Normal West

2003 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Gene Dammerman, Cobden
 James Graham, Urbana
 Noree Mares, Glenbard East
 Greg Patton, Granite City
 Ross Truemper, Wheaton Central / Naperville North

2002 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Paul Bergeson, St. Charles
 John Cavaletto, Salem
 Ron Helberg, Hoffman Estates / Glenbrook South
 Bill Neibch, Wheaton North

2001 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Doug Chapman, Belvidere / Palatine
 Roland "Swede" Pearson, Harlem
 Dave Smith, Hinsdale South / Holy Cross
 Lee Westerman, Princeville

2000 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Lloyd Elmore, Belleville East
 Murney Lazier, Lyons Twp.
 Ed Murphy, H.L. Richards
 Don Wyzgowski, Amboy

1999 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Warren Cooper, Octavia
 George Egofske, Rich South
 George Gattas, Mt. Prospect
 Rod Poppe, Marengo

1998 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Gerald "Chic" Anderson, Palatine
 LeRoy "Dee" Compton, Oak Park and River Forest / Proviso West
 Frank Ibbotson, Downers Grove South
 Ward Lear, Antioch
 Gene McCarter, United Twp.

1997 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Jerry Curtis, MacArthur
 Bob Jackson, Sherrard
 Carlin Nalley, Lisle
 John Paul, Schaumburg / District 211
 Jim Shiple, Woodstock

1996 IADA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Don Daluga, Pontiac
 Ralph Krupke, Lake Park
 Emery Ebbert, Proviso East
 Reid Martin, Carbondale
 Bob Frank, Bloomington
 Steve Oracko, Downers Grove North
 Harry Gaines, Mattoon
 Jim Perkins, Oak Park and River Forest
 Hank Kaiser, Normal
 Frank Pitol, Collinsville
 Jim Smarjesse, Peoria



2023 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Please find all of the past Hall of Fame bios at our website:
<https://iada.touchpros.com/Home2.aspx>



Briant Kelly, CMAA
Div. 2
Libertyville

Briant was a member of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association from 2007 through 2017. In that time, he served the IADA on the executive board as president, president-elect, and he served on the IHSA Athletic Director Advisory Committee for four years. He was a district representative for District #6 for two years and a division representative for Division #2 for three years.

Prior to his ten years in athletic administration, Briant began as a mathematics teacher at Libertyville High School from 2000-2007. He taught courses on Geometry, Statistics, and Trigonometry. During his time at Libertyville, Briant was also an assistant girls basketball coach, assistant boys basketball coach, assistant boys track coach, and a head boys track coach. As a boys head track coach, he compiled a 24 - 7 record, and his teams won the track sectional championship in 2005 and 2006. In 2007, Briant moved into the athletic director role at Libertyville.

Briant received two awards to honor his service and excellence in his role as an athletic administrator. In 2017, he received the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association State Award of Merit. He also received the Illinois Athletic Directors Association Distinguished Service Award in 2018.

After serving in his role as athletic director, Briant moved to the central office of Community High School District #128. He has served as an Associate Superintendent for the past six years, where his duties include being the Title IX Coordinator, overseeing and collaborating with the athletic directors at Libertyville and Vernon Hills High Schools, and serving on construction projects involving extracurricular activities.

Briant lists the following as his biggest accomplishments as an athletic director: increasing female participation in athletics at Libertyville High School; collaboratively working on construction projects that included the aquatic center, dance studio, multi-purpose facility, the Brainerd Athletic Complex, the

softball field renovation, and the renovation of the Main and West Gyms; and supporting the many teams and individuals who successfully competed at IHSA State competitions.

John Woods, current Athletic Director at Libertyville High School, stated, "Briant is an athletic director at heart. He has never really left the role. Briant's support is unwavering, and his leadership is second to none. It is rare that a high school athletic director will feel the support from their superiors, and perhaps even more rare that they will witness that support in action."

Briant's extensive contributions to high school athletics and his dedication to the IADA are a few of the many reasons that led him to this selection as a member of the IADA Hall of Fame.



Stan Lewis, CAA
Div. 5
Normal West /
Champaign Centennial

Stan has been a member of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association from 1990 through 2020. In that time, he has served the IADA on the executive board as the membership chair for fourteen years. He was a district representative for two years and a division representative for Division #5 for two years. He also served on the prize committee and technology committee during the state conference to help ensure that the conferences ran smoothly.

Prior to Stan's three decades of athletic administration at Normal West and Champaign Centennial, he served in an interim role at Champaign Centennial as an associate principal and an assistant business manager. Prior to that, Stan taught accounting and business classes at Champaign Centennial. He was also a head soccer coach in 1987, an assistant football coach in 1988, and a head baseball coach from 1995 to 2001. In those seven seasons as a head coach in baseball, he accumulated 177 wins for an average of just over 25 wins per season.

Stan says that he has been blessed to work with fantastic coaches, administrators, and support staff. He considers some of his biggest accomplishments as an athletic director to be hosting IHSA postseason events in the many sports offered at Champaign Centennial and

Normal West. He was involved with facility improvements at both schools that included recognition boards in the competition gyms. At Normal West, he helped to implement a three-dimensional coaching philosophy and created the All-State Wall to honor athletes who earned All-State honors.

Stan was twice selected as the Division 5 Athletic Director of the Year in 3A/4A by his peers. He received the IHSA Distinguished Service Award in 2018. He was selected to join the Bloomington-Normal Officials Hall of Fame in 2020 and the Illinois Basketball Officials Association Hall of Fame in 2021. He was selected by Normal West High School to join their Wall of Fame in 2022.

John Szabo, retired athletic director at Bloomington High School, stated, "Stan always puts students first and goes the extra mile to ensure their success whether they are from Normal or another school. His heart is always in the right place, and he is an outstanding role model, not only for his students/athletes, but for all of us. He possesses a real passion for his family, Christ, job, and life! Anyone that knows Stan would agree."

Stan's extensive contributions to high school athletics and his dedication to the IADA are a few of the many reasons that led him to this selection as a member of the IADA Hall of Fame.



Steve May, CMAA
Div. 2
Wheeling

Steve was a member of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association from 2001 through 2020. In that time, he served the IADA on the executive board as past-president, president, president-elect, secretary, and the state conference chair. He also served on the state conference committee for two years and the Hall of Fame committee for two years. He was a district representative for District #4 for four years and a division representative for Division #2 for four years. He also served on the first strategic planning committee of the IADA.

At the national level, he twice presented mini-sessions for the NIAAA/NFHS and served on the NIAAA/NFHS National Conference Planning Committee for two years.

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IADA 2023 CONFERENCE BANQUET
ILLINOIS ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

2023 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

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He has published two articles in the NIAAA journal.

Prior to his nearly two decades in athletic administration, Steve served Prospect High School as a Dean of Students for five years, where he also coached basketball. Steve also taught English for eight years at Winston Park Jr High in Palatine, where he coached boys basketball, girls basketball, and wrestling. Prior to that, he spent one year at Crystal Lake Central High School and Crystal Lake South High School, where he coached soccer.

Steve received three awards to honor his service and excellence in his role as an athletic administrator. In 2014, he received the Bruce Whitehead Distinguished Service Award. He

was selected as the Athletic Director of the Year for 3A/4A in 2015, and he received the NIAAA Award of Merit for the State of Illinois in 2013.

Highlights of Steve's time as an athletic administrator include working with IHSA Executive Directors Marty Hickman and Craig Anderson. He enjoyed watching numerous teams and individuals from Wheeling High School win state trophies and medals. He was able to start the Wheeling High School Hall of Fame in 2007. Lastly, he appreciates the great mentors and friends in the Mid-Suburban League and partnering with colleagues in the Mid-Suburban League and from across the state.

Mike Obsuszt, retired athletic director from Barrington High School, had this to say about

Steve, "I worked closely with Steve during our time together in the Mid-Suburban League. He is a true professional. Over the course of his career, he has constantly worked to grow as an athletic administrator and at the same time serve the NIAAA, IADA, the MSL. He brings all of this knowledge and experiences back to Wheeling High School where he has been a true servant-leader to the students there for many years."

Steve's extensive contributions to high school athletics and his dedication to the IADA are a few of the many reasons that led him to this selection as a member of the IADA Hall of Fame.

IADA 2023 CONFERENCE BANQUET
ILLINOIS ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

CLASS 1A & 2A STATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR



Heather Alderks
Div. 4
Stillman Valley

Heather Alderks, a native of Stillman Valley, Illinois, has been named the 2023 1A & 2A State Athletic Director of the Year. Her educational

background includes graduating from Stillman Valley High School in 1998, earning a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education from Quincy University in 2002, and completing her Master's degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from Northern Illinois University in 2011.

In her career, Heather served as a 6th-8th grade Physical Education Teacher at Meridian Junior High School for over fourteen years before taking on the role of Athletic/Activities Director at Stillman Valley High School where she has been for the past six years. Her exceptional leadership, commitment, and dedication have made her a valuable asset to the schools and communities she has served.

Heather's contributions go beyond just her school and extend to the state and national level. She has served on the IHSA Strategic Planning Committee and the IHSA Legislative Commission. She has also been active in the Illinois Athletic Directors Association. Her passion for sports and education has made her

a respected leader in the field.

Heather's commitment to her community is evident through her involvement in various organizations. She has served as Vice President of the Rockford Hockey Club Board, a member of the Meridian Education Foundation Board, and the Meridian Athletic Booster Club Bags Tournament Committee. She has also been active in her church, Kishwaukee Community Presbyterian Church, serving in their Vacation Bible School program. Additionally, she is the 5K Run Chair for "A Day of Honor," an organization that supports veterans.

Heather's leadership extends beyond her professional career. She has also implemented the Captain's Circle Leadership Conference where she teaches leadership skills to students and helps to teach them how to be a captain. Through this program, the student-athletes she has worked with have been instilled with good values and life skills.

Heather's outstanding leadership has been recognized by many, including her Superintendent of Schools. Dr. P.J. Capose praises her work with students who are struggling to stay eligible and her implementation of ASSIST which provides dedicated support to athletes on the verge of ineligibility. She has worked collaboratively with students, staff, and the Board of Education to revamp their eligibility processes and helped to reframe the thinking of the district from using athletics as a privilege to that of athletics as an intervention for their struggling students.

These efforts have been a total game-changer for the school district.

Heather's colleague, Paula Broski, credits Heather for allowing her to develop and expand her position to however far she wanted to go. She commends Heather for creating a team and stepping in to do things commonly seen as an assistant's job if she sees Broski is having a busy day. Heather's ability to work with people with ease, without demanding expectations from other departments, has earned her the respect of her colleagues.

As a community member, Heather has been involved in various events and organizations that demonstrate her love for her community. Her reputation as an outstanding athlete, Homecoming queen, celebrated teacher, and coach to a State basketball team precedes her, and she lives up to it every day.

Heather Alderks exemplifies what it means to be a leader, and she has made an outstanding contribution to the world of sports and education. Her exceptional leadership has earned her the title of 1A & 2A State Athletic Director of the Year, and she continues to make a difference in the lives of her students, colleagues, and community members every day.





CLASS 1A & 2A DIVISION ATHLETIC DIRECTORS OF THE YEAR



Ty Gooch
Div. 2
Westminster Christian

Ty Gooch is an accomplished educator, coach, and administrator who has dedicated his career to serving student-athletes. He possesses a Bachelor of Science in Education and Social Policy from Northwestern University, a Masters of Divinity from Moody Theological Seminary, and a Doctorate of Ministry from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

Gooch has served in a variety of roles throughout his career, including Senior Bible Faculty and Staff Theology Devotional Teacher at Westminster Christian School, Assistant Boys Basketball Coach at Judson University, and Adjunct Faculty at Richland Community College. He has received numerous awards and honors, such as winning the Boys Regional Soccer Championship, creating the MVP (Most Valuable Purpose) Coach Training Content, and establishing girls high school teams in soccer and basketball. As the Athletic Director at Westminster Christian School, Gooch has made significant contributions to the school's athletic program. He has renovated the weight room closet to create a dedicated performance training room and established the Athletes Academy for Student Academic Success. He has also elevated academic standards for athletes and created a culture of coach support.

Gooch has also been an active member of the Illinois High School Association and the Illinois Athletic Directors Association. He has hosted the Regional Volleyball Tournament and Annual Thanksgiving Tournament and has volunteered for several community programs, including the Northwestern University Football Alumni Mentor program and the Wayside Cross Homeless Ministry.

Gooch's significant accomplishments and dedication to his students and coaches have not gone unnoticed. His colleagues and former staff describe him as a man of integrity, passion,

determination, wisdom, and kindness. Gooch's impact on the lives of his students and staff is a testament to his commitment to excellence in his career.



Craig Carr
Div. 5
Newton

Craig Carr is a highly respected and accomplished athletic director with a career spanning over two decades. He has been recognized for his outstanding contributions to athletics and education, winning the 1A & 2A Division Athletic Director of the Year award.

Craig's educational background includes attending Monticello High School before earning his undergraduate degree from Illinois State University. He then went on to complete his graduate studies at Eastern Illinois University. With his credentials in hand, Craig began his career in Education as a teacher, coach, and assistant principal at St. Anthony High School in Effingham, IL.

Before becoming an athletic director, Craig served as an elementary school principal, central office administrator, and guidance counselor at Jasper County Schools in Newton, IL. He also spent four years as the principal of Sacred Heart Grade School in Effingham, IL.

As athletic director at Newton Community High School, Craig has been highly involved in the Illinois High School Association and the Illinois Athletic Directors Association. He has hosted several State series tournaments over the years, including Sectional Track meets and a Cross Country Regional.

Craig has also served on the IESA Board of Directors and mentored new athletic directors. He has even recruited high school students to become licensed IHSA officials, reflecting his commitment to supporting young people in their athletic pursuits.

Outside of his professional work, Craig has dedicated himself to community service. He has served as the president of Jasper County Boys and Girls Park District and coordinated

volunteer efforts by student athletes to support local causes, including lawn work for the elderly.

According to his colleagues, Craig is a highly effective leader who emphasizes building strong relationships and creating a TEAM approach. He is committed to listening to and respecting the voices of others, constantly striving to improve himself and those around him. His innovative thinking and passion for education have elevated both the athletic programs at Newton Community High School and high school sports across Illinois.

Craig Carr's impact on his students, staff, and community members is immeasurable, and he is a deserving recipient of the 1A & 2A Division Athletic Director of the Year Award.



Mark Beatty
Div. 7
East Alton-Wood River

Mark Beatty has distinguished himself as a committed and passionate athletic director alongside

his long history as an educator and coach. His educational background includes a Bachelor's Degree in K-12 Education and Kinesiology from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville in 2001 and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Lindenwood University in 2005.

Throughout his career, Mr. Beatty has held positions in various school districts, including: East Alton-Wood River Community High School District #14 (Athletic Director/Dean of Students - 4 years), Carrollton Community Unit #1 (Athletic Director/Physical Education - 3 years), Bethalto Community Unit #8 (Physical Education Teacher-12 years), and St. Charles City School District R-VI (Physical Education Teacher - 3 years).

Mark has also been actively involved in several organizations relevant to his field, including the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) and the Illinois Athletic Directors Association (IADA).

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CLASS 1A & 2A DIVISION ATHLETIC DIRECTORS OF THE YEAR

CONT. FROM PAGE 7

He has been a member of IADA for four years and as athletic director and has been involved with the IHSA via town hall meetings for seven years. As a Physical Education teacher, Mark was a member of AAPHERD, now Shape America, and attended the national convention in Seattle with his colleagues from Bethalto.

Not only has Mark excelled in his role as an athletic director, but he has also made significant contributions to the wider community through his service to recreational programs, church, and other organizations. In his current

position at East Alton-Wood River High School, Mark has worked closely with community member Andy Russell to help the Jr. Oilers Basketball Club with gym space, events before high school basketball games, and promotion of the club in the community. He has also worked with two feeder school districts in the formation of Oiler Nation, a unified name and colors for the three districts. Additionally, he has organized events such as the Oiler Nation Celebration and the Trek for the Track 5K to support the community and various school programs.

Despite his many accomplishments, Mark remains humble and committed to the betterment of his school and community. His efforts have been recognized and celebrated by colleagues, including athletic director Mark Brigs and referee Pat Furaro, who attest to his dedication, leadership, and character. With his commitment to academic excellence, academic progress, and efforts to build stronger and more cohesive departments, Mr. Beatty has rightfully earned recognition as the 1A & 2A Division Athletic Director of the Year.



CLASS 3A & 4A STATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR



**Herb Knoblauch, CMAA
Div. 6
Washington Community**

Herb Knoblauch is a distinguished figure in the field of athletic administration, earning him the prestigious 3A & 4A State Athletic

Director of the Year award for the 2022-2023 academic year. Herb's remarkable journey started at Lowpoint Washburn High School, where he excelled in sports and earned a Track and Field scholarship to Eastern Illinois University. He went on to earn a Bachelor's degree from Illinois State University and a Master's degree from Bradley University. Herb has continued his education and completed his CMAA this past March.

Herb's career in teaching, coaching, and administration spans several decades, and all of his positions have been marked by excellence and leadership. He started as a student teacher at Benson Junior High and worked his way up to become the Athletic Director at Washington

High School. He has served in positions such as Physical Education teacher, coach, union president, bus driver, maintenance supervisor, security supervisor, and dean of students, among many others.

Herb's contributions to his school and community have been immeasurable. He has championed several programs and initiatives, including the WCHS Hall of Fame, Student Leadership Conference, and the Panther Pride Student Service Group. He has also overseen countless development projects and enhancements, including the expansion and connection of the main part of the school to Torry Gym, improvements to athletic facilities such as turf, new bleachers and press box, and more. Herb has provided leadership for the conference as well, serving as a Conference President, Conference Transgender Liaison, and Title IX Compliance Officer.

Herb has been a prolific contributor to various organizations at the state and national levels. He has served on several committees, including the IHSA All-State Academic Team Selection Committee, IHSA Activity Directors Advisory Committee, and IHSA Athletic

Administrators Advisory Committee. He has presented at conferences, including the IADA Conference, and has won several awards, including IBCA 1500 School Victory Award, IWCOA Administrator of the Year, and Sport a Winning Attitude Award Sportsmanship recipient.

However, what sets Herb apart is not just his achievements and accolades, but his character and the relationships he has built. Herb possesses a rare ability to work well with anyone and has earned respect and admiration from colleagues, staff, and students alike. He is known for his outgoing, diligent, caring, and charismatic personality. Mayor Gary Manier attests to his infectious enthusiasm and commitment to serving student-athletes. Brad Hulet, who has worked closely with Herb for six years, praises his commitment to helping athletic directors from member schools of the conference and around the state.

In all, Herb Knoblauch's remarkable journey and achievements exemplify excellence, leadership, and service. He is a true embodiment of the values of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association and a worthy winner of the 3A & 4A

2023 NATIONAL ATHLETIC DIRECTORS CONFERENCE

The 54th National Athletic Directors Conference will be held in December in Orlando, FL. Please check out the NIAAA website for more information.



CLASS 3A & 4A DIVISION ATHLETIC DIRECTORS OF THE YEAR



John Kane, CAA
Div. 2
Conant

John Kane is an exceptional educator, coach, and administrator who has made a tremendous impact on the James B. Conant

High School community in Hoffman Estates, Illinois. With over 30 years of experience in education, including 12 as an athletic director, John has earned a reputation as a model of excellence and an advocate for students.

John's career began in 1991 as a Mathematics teacher and Assistant Wrestling and Football coach. He quickly rose to become a Dean of Students, Assistant Principal, and finally Athletic Director in 2009. Along the way, John achieved a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Illinois State University, a Master of Science in Secondary Education from Northern Illinois University, and a Master of Arts in Educational Administration & Supervision.

In addition to his work at Conant High School, John has been a valuable asset to various educational organizations. He served as the District 4 Representative for the Illinois Athletic Directors Association, President of the Mid-Suburban League, and committee member for the Northwestern University Midlands Wrestling Tournament. John's achievements also include founding the MSL Girls Wrestling Conference Tournament and hosting multiple female wrestling tournaments.

John's dedication to students goes beyond athletics. He has led several academic programs, including the Academic Eligibility and Tutoring Program for Athletics and the Cougar Climb Student Leadership Program. John is also a trained therapy dog handler and volunteers with his dog at local hospitals, schools, and nursing homes.

John has made an impact on all those he has worked with, including colleagues Erik Huaser and Cathy Ann Smith. They both recognized John's passion for student success, dedication to his staff, and the positive influence he has had on countless students and athletes. John's unwavering commitment to excellence in education and athletics has earned him the 3A & 4A Division Athletic Director of the Year award, which he rightly deserves.



Dan Jones, CAA
Div. 3
Hinsdale Central

Dan Jones has won the 3A & 4A Division Athletic Director of the Year award, marking yet another achievement in his long and illustrious

career as an educator and coach. Dan's background includes a Bachelor's Degree in Middle/Elementary School Teaching from Illinois State University, an Endorsement in Secondary School Teaching from Northern Illinois University, and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Aurora University.

Dan has served in various capacities throughout his career, including as a teacher, coach, and administrator in schools across Illinois. He has had a particular focus on athletics throughout his career and has worked as an Athletic Director at both DeKalb High School and Hinsdale Central High School. In addition to his work at the high school level, Dan has also worked as a middle school teacher and coach.

Beyond his work in individual schools, Dan has also been heavily involved with the Illinois High School Association and Illinois Athletic Directors Association. He has served on multiple advisory committees for the IHSA, as well as managing various State tournaments. He has been instrumental in the IADA as well, serving in various leadership positions and presenting at State conferences. Dan is a lifetime member of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) and has presented at multiple national conferences.

Dan's achievements and accomplishments are numerous, including multiple Athletic Director of the Year awards from the IADA and other organizations. He has also been inducted into the DeKalb High School Wrestling Hall of Fame and twice received the Hinsdale Central Make a Difference Award. Throughout his career, Dan has remained committed to providing the best possible athletic experiences for his student-athletes, coaches, and community members. He is beloved by many in the Red Devil community, and his leadership and vision have helped make Hinsdale Central a true powerhouse in athletics.



Tony Bauman, CAA
Div. 5
Bloomington

Tony Bauman is a dedicated and passionate athletic director who has made great strides in the field of Athletic

Administration. He has been in the profession for nearly two decades and has proven himself to be a leader who cares about the success of his student-athletes and coaches.

Tony's educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree from Goshen College and a Master's degree from American College of Education. He is also a NIAAA Certified Athletic Administrator.

Tony's career in teaching, coaching, and administration spans several locations and positions. He has held administrative positions as District Athletic Director and Administrative Assistant in Bloomington Public Schools, District 87 (IL). He has also been a Physical Education teacher and head coach in various sports throughout his career.

Tony has been an active member of the Illinois High School Association and the Illinois Athletic Directors Association. He has served on the Athletic Administrators Advisory Committee and has an election certification. He has also advocated for athletic fundraising and facility improvements, as well as coached educational programs for various organizations.

Tony's greatest accomplishments include being recognized as the 2014 Illinois Soccer Coaches (IHSSCA) Soccer Person of the Year and the 1999 Indiana Soccer Coaches Association Men's Coach of the Year. He has also led successful fundraising campaigns and advocated for the improvement of facilities in his district.

Tony's passion for sports and dedication to his student-athletes and coaches has not gone unnoticed. His peers and colleagues have praised his leadership, commitment, and ability to make a positive impact on the athletic programs in his district.

There is no doubt that Tony Bauman is a deserving recipient of the 3A & 4A Division Athletic Director of the Year award. His accomplishments, dedication, and passion for athletic administration have made him an exemplar in his field.



CLASS 3A & 4A DIVISION ATHLETIC DIRECTORS OF THE YEAR



Clay Smith
Div. 7
Collinsville

Clay Smith is an outstanding athletic director who has consistently demonstrated his passion and commitment to the students, faculty, and community at Collinsville High School. With over 22 years of experience as a coach and educator, Mr. Smith has inspired countless students and athletes to pursue their dreams and achieve their full potential. He has been an integral part of the school's athletic programs, serving as the head coach of both the Boys and Girls Soccer teams and earning numerous accolades and awards for his coaching achievements.

In addition to his work as a coach, Mr. Smith has made significant contributions as the Athletic Director and Assistant Principal at Collinsville High School since 2018. In this role, he has been instrumental in expanding the school's athletic programs, hiring and evaluating coaches and staff, maintaining the athletic budget, and scheduling events and facilities. He has also worked tirelessly to ensure that athletes are eligible to participate in competitions and to enforce the Athletic Code of Conduct. Mr. Smith has been recognized for his outstanding leadership and organizational skills, and his ability to communicate effectively with athletes, coaches, parents, and administration.

Mr. Smith's commitment to the community extends beyond the school's athletic programs. He is an active member of the First Baptist Church of Maryville, serves on the board of the Collinsville Area Community Foundation, and

volunteers with the Maryville YMCA, SPENSA, and Special Olympics Illinois. He has also been recognized for his contributions to the Illinois High School Association, the Illinois Athletic Directors Association, and the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Overall, Clay Smith is an exceptional leader, educator, and coach, whose dedication to the students, faculty, and community at Collinsville High School has made a significant impact on the school's athletic programs and the lives of countless students and athletes. His passion, energy, and commitment to excellence are truly inspiring, and his contributions to the field of Athletic Administration have been truly remarkable. It is no surprise that he has been recognized as the 3A & 4A Division Athletic Director of the Year, and we can expect to see many more outstanding achievements from him in the years to come.



Mark Pustelnik
Div. 4
United Township

Mark Pustelnik is a well-respected athletic administrator who has been serving as the Director of Athletics and Activities at United

Township High School since 2015. He is also a graduate of UTHS, where he was a two-time IHSA State finalist and a State title winner in Wrestling. He went on to have a storied career in college and internationally, winning numerous national championships and representing the United States on several world teams.

Pustelnik began his career in Education in 1992 as a teacher at Sherrard Junior-Senior High School before moving to United Township High

School in 1993 as a Health teacher. In 2005, he became the Assistant Principal-Dean of Students at UTHS. As the Director of Athletics and Activities, Pustelnik has been instrumental in turning UTHS athletics around by working tirelessly to make improvements in each and every sport. He started this initiative by asking each coach what improvements they would like to see and worked diligently to make them happen.

Since 2015, Pustelnik has also been actively involved in various organizations such as the Illinois Athletic Directors Association and National Administrators Association. Additionally, he has served on the East Moline Zoning Commission Board and been a Midwest Ambassador for the Xtreme Couture GI Foundation for Wounded Veterans. Working alongside Randy Couture, he has raised over \$150,000 for wounded veterans over the past five years.

In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Pustelnik was inducted into the State of Illinois Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2013 and the United Township High School Hall of Fame in 1992. He has also garnered praise from his colleagues and peers. Principal Matt Wright described him as a person who uses hard work and careful strategy to become the best at everything he does. Coach Scott King, who has worked closely with him, praised Pustelnik's ability to hold his coaches to a high standard, provide opportunities for them to learn new skills, and provide the necessary resources for their athletes to excel.

Overall, Mark Pustelnik is a dedicated, hardworking, and accomplished athletic administrator who has been instrumental in the success of UTHS Athletics. His contributions have had an impact on both the school and the community in which he serves which makes him well deserving of this award.

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