



AHSAA Board Update October, 2009

ASHAA Proud to Partner with NFHS for T-Mobile Tourney

The Alabama High School Athletic Association is committed to the concept of educational-based athletics. That is the main reason the AHSAA, with Associate Executive Director Joe Evans leading the effort, worked so diligently to land the T-Mobile Invitational National Basketball Tournament for our great state.

The T-Mobile Invitational represents this same commitment to educational-based athletics as the AHSAA and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) have. This tournament is more than a spirited competition between some of the best high school basketball teams in the nation. It offers life-changing

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- Wrestling weigh-ins set to begin
- Volleyball gearing for post-season

experiences outside the games that teach the student-athletes the importance of service and life-long educational values.

The T-Mobile Invitational is the only tournament endorsed by the NFHS. It will attract national attention to this state with all games to be televised live. The teams will also learn about Alabama's rich history with one key stop the Civil Rights Institute. The players and coaches of all teams will also participate working side-by-side in a community project. A special documentary is expected to be filmed and televised nationally following the tournament.



Joe Evans

The AHSAA has watched with great anticipation the growth in interest of the T Mobile Invitational national basketball tournament. One of our schools, LeFlore of Mobile, played in the first T-Mobile Invitational at Seattle and reached the boys finals. Last year Bob Jones played in the tournament in Indiana and also reached the finals.

Earlier this week I had the honor of announcing the tournament will be played in Alabama Dec. 29-30 at Samford University's Pete Hanna Arena.

Four boys teams and four girls teams will be competing in the two-day tourney and include two representing Alabama. Hoover (30-6) will be in the girls competition and Butler (34-3) will compete in the boys tournament. These two teams will represent our state well on and off the court.

Rounding out the boys field are defending Texas state champs Houston-Yates (34-1), Winter Park, Florida (24-8) and Covington (Washington) Kentwood High School (17-9). Butler won the AHSAA 5A state crown in 2009. Three defending state champions are in the girls field: Stockton (California) St. Mary's (31-3), Nashville (Tennessee) Hillsboro (36-1) and Pittsburgh (Pennsylvania) Mt. Lebanon (31-0). Hoover was runner-up in Alabama last season.

It took a real team effort to land this major event. Evans, with representatives from the Birmingham Tip-Off Club and the Alabama Sports Foundation, went to Indiana last

December with the goal of landing the tournament in Alabama for 2009.

Thanks to the involvement of the Tip-Off Club, which has worked hand in hand with us at our Final 48 state tournament in Birmingham since it moved here in 1994, the City of Birmingham and the ASF, we all shared Coach Evans' enthusiasm for this event. We know the prestige it brings to a state. We know the importance an event like this means to our member schools and our student-athletes. And we know that it also focuses on much more than just basketball competition.

We are extremely excited about the AHSAA's role as host. This is great news for our state, our schools, our children and our state association.

EJECTIONS CONTINUE DOWNWARD SPIRAL IN MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Ejections in AHSAA athletic events were down in September by 32 percent over the same month of 2008.

This is welcome news. Even more impressive is the fact that ejections were down a whopping 58.5 percent from September, 2007.

We want to thank our schools for working so diligently to emphasize sportsmanship at all our events. This reduction is a direct result of the commitment of our schools, the administrators, coaches and students.

Our goal has always been to have zero ejections. We will continue to strive to reach that goal. It takes an ongoing effort of emphasis on fair play and good sportsmanship to make reductions like these happen. None of us can ever let our guard down when it comes to sportsmanship.

RECLASSIFICATION:
**RECLASSIFICATION WILL
BE DONE IN NOVEMBER**

The AHSAA will reclassify member schools for the 2010-11 and 2011-12 season in November.

The Central Board voted at its July meeting to retain region play for football and area and section play for remaining sports. The reclassification numbers will be based on the average daily membership reported to the Alabama State Department of Education over a 20-day period this fall.

The Central Board considered a number of plans before deciding on keeping region play for football.

CONDUCT RULE:
**COMING OFF THE BENCH
CARRIES STIFF PENALTIES**

Earlier this summer, the Central Board approved more stringent penalties for student-athletes who are ejected from a contest for leaving the bench or coming off the sidelines onto the field or court during a contest.

Schools need to take special note of this stiffer penalty.

The rule can be found on page 36 of the 2009-10 AHSAA Handbook. It states:

Leaving The Bench Ejection: *If players come off the bench onto the court or field and are ejected under National Federation rules, they will also be suspended for 20 percent of the team's total number of regular season contests. A tournament would count as one contest except in championship play where the suspension would be in effect contest by contest.*

COACHES EDUCATION
**PREPARE COURSE NOW
AVAILABLE ON LINE**

The National Center for Sports Safety has developed some new on-line courses that can be beneficial to coaches and coaches education.

The PREPARE course can be found at www.sportsafety.org/prepare. The courses are also available to youth coaches.

PREPARE is an online sports safety course aimed at educating coaches on how to prevent common injuries, how to recognize symptoms of potentially dangerous conditions, and how to respond in emergency situations. **PREPARE** participants will gain valuable information that is relevant on and off the playing field.

PREPARE is comprised of the following seven modules:

- **Emergency Planning**
- **Heat and Cold Illnesses**
- **Emergency Recognition**
- **Medical Conditions**
- **Principles of First Aid**
- **Head, Neck and Facial Injuries**
- **Warm-up and Cool Down**

Once you complete the course, participants will receive a Sports Safety Patch, a Certificate of Completion and be added to the NCSS National Coaches Registry.

VOLLEYBALL UPDATE
**TEAMS PREPARING
FOR POST-SEASON PLAY**

The AHSAA volleyball season is winding down quickly with teams gearing up for post-season play.

Area tournaments are set to be played on Monday, Oct. 12 for Classes 1A, 2A and 3A. Area tournament for

Classes 4A, 5A and 6A are set for Tuesday, Oct. 13.

The winner and runner-up will advance to one of four regional tournaments in each class on Saturday, Oct. 17. The regional breakdown is as follows:

Regional Site A: (Areas 1-4)

Regional Site B: (Areas 5-8)

Regional Site C: (Areas 9-12)

Regional Site D: (Areas 13-16)

The top four finishers will then advance to a round of sub-state matches to be played at the sites of the winner and runner-up of each regional tourney on Thursday, Oct. 22.

Winners of the sub-state round will then advance to the Elite Eight state tournament at Pelham Civic Complex Oct. 28-29. Semifinals will be played on Oct. 28 with the finals set for Thursday, Oct. 29.

Play will be single elimination with teams playing best 3-of-5 matches. In the regional tournament, a consolation match to decide third and fourth place will be played, however.

The schedule for the state finals is as follows:

Class 2A: 9 a.m.

Class 5A: 10:30 a.m.

Class 6A: Noon

Class 1A: 1:30 p.m.

Class 3A: 3 p.m.

Class 4A: 4:30 p.m.

PRATTVILLE VOLLEYBALL TEAM DIGGING FOR CURE

Prattville High School volleyball coach Jenny Rhodes announced the Lady Lions will be “Digging for A Cure” at its tri-match scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 6, at home against Wetumpka and Stanhope Elmore.

“Digging for A Cure” is a fundraising effort to aid in the fight against breast cancer, she said.

“We are selling t-shirts, pink baked goods, bracelets, ribbons, etc.,” said Rhodes. “All proceeds from the game will be given to the Susan G. Komen breast cancer clearinghouse.”

Prattville will also have a huge ribbon in the gym for people who donate to write the names of those who they are donating in honor/memory of.

“Our girls are very excited about helping and giving to someone else,” she said.

WRESTLING UPDATE WEIGHT MANAGEMENT TESTING BEGINS OCT. 17

Weight management testing begins Oct. 17 for high school and junior high/middle school wrestling programs with the first testing to be done at Fultondale High School.

Pre-scheduled time slots will be used. Schools need to call Coach Doug Barfield at 334-467-8067 to reserve a time slot. Encore Rehabilitation Corporation has been approved to fill this need. The six testing dates with sites/locations and the telephone numbers are listed on the AHSAA website (www.ahsaa.com) and can also be found listed here.

The times will begin at 9 a.m. at each site and will be set up in half-hour intervals ending at noon.

The coach must bring a complete listing of the athletes’ names along with the complete payment for the team’s processing fees.

Coaches and complete teams should be at the testing site no later than 30 minutes before the assigned weigh-in time.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Site</u>
Oct. 17	Fultondale HS
Oct. 24	Auburn HS
Oct. 31	Pell City HS
Nov. 7	Bob Jones HS
Nov. 14	Homewood HS
Nov. 21	St. James HS, Montgomery

FOOTBALL **TEAMS BEGIN SECOND HALF OF SEASON**

The second half of the season begins this week.

Region races are tightening as schools prepare for the stretch run to the state playoffs. Schools are reminded to continue to focus on sportsmanship and fair play.

Also, the tiebreakers used to break ties in region standings have changed from the 2008 tie breakers to those used by member schools in 2007. One new factor is how three-team ties are broken. The change simply states:

If two teams tie for the highest winning percentage ahead of the other teams involved in the tie, apply the two-team tiebreaking factors to those two teams beginning with (a) and the highest ranked team will be placed ahead of all the tied teams. Then, if needed, for all other teams involved in the original tie, apply tiebreaker (a) if two teams remain and (b) if more than two teams remain.

TEAMS BEGIN SECOND HALF OF SEASON

Sand Rock High School head football coach Russell Jacoway recorded the 199th win of his career last week when the Wildcats defeated Gaston. He will be going for his 200th career win at Ider Friday night.

Jacoway is currently 199-97-0 with Sand Rock 4-1 on the year. Terry Curtis of UMS-Wright is right behind at 198-60-0, Daphne's Glenn Vickery is

194-84-0 and Russellville's Doug Goodwin is 191-77-0. All still have a chance to reach the milestone 200th win of their careers this season.

CROSS COUNTRY **CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS MUST RUN IN SANCTIONED MEETS ONLY**

The AHSAA wants to remind member schools that cross country teams are required to run in AHSAA or NFHS-sanctioned events only.

Schools are not allowed to run against non-member schools or runners not running for a member school.

Meets sanctioned by the AHSAA are listed on the AHSAA website: www.ahsaa.com. Meets sanctioned by the NFHS are listed on the NFHS website: www.nfhs.org.

Anyone with questions can call the AHSAA office.

Section cross country meets are set for either Nov. 5 or Nov. 6, based on the individual section. The state meet at Moulton's Oakville Indian Mounds Park will be Nov. 14.

PUBLICATIONS **SCHOOL DIRECTORIES SET FOR OCTOBER RELEASE**

School deadlines for submitting information for the AHSAA School Directory for 2009-10 have come and the directory is now at the printer.

A handful of middle schools and high schools failed to submit 2009-10 information and may still included if information is received by **5 p.m., Friday, Oct. 2.**

We thank our schools for responding and for the most part meeting the deadlines.

The 2009-10 AHSAA Directory will include more detailed information.

AHSAA HALL OF FAME **DEADLINE CLOSE FOR** **2009-10 NOMINATIONS**

Nominations for the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame can be received through Oct. 15, 2009.

Nomination forms can be found at the member site of www.ahsaa.com. These forms can be printed and all needed information should be turned in to the AHSAA office by the deadline.

Anyone having questions can call the AHSAA office at 334-263-6994.

AHSADCA UPDATE **MEMBERSHIP FAST** **APPROACHING 9,000**

The Alabama High School Athletic Directors & Coaches Association approaches October with nearly 9,000 in membership and growing. The AHSADCA is an organization open to all certified teacher/coaches and administrators in the AHSAA.

While the AHSADCA oversees All-Star Sports Week, the Alabama-Mississippi football and basketball classics, the AHSAA Sports Hall of Fame inductions and the Principals & Athletic Directors Conference each year, Steve Bailey, the director, has also started coaching mini-clinics in a series of championship sports. The mini-clinics made their debut last school year.

The second annual Mini-Clinic series kicks off this month with the Basketball clinic on Oct. 6 at the AHSAA office in Montgomery. Featured speakers will be Jeff Lebo of Auburn University, Lewis Jackson of Alabama State University and Jim Sanderson of Faulkner University.

The Wrestling clinic, set for Oct. 22, will feature Stephen Gaydosh of Vestavia Hills High School and Heath Esslinger of the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga.

Cost of each clinic is \$25 and will include a rules clinic.

Bailey also announced the AHSADCA has developed a partnership with Victory Swap, a film-swapping service utilized by many coaches already, and with Emporia Recruiting Service, an internet company dedicated to helping schools give positive exposure to their student-athletes.

PROTECTIVE FLOOR **COVERS NOW AVAILABLE**

Dunlap Industries is offering protective gym floor covers to schools and park and recreation departments. The covers are free to those who request them with the only cost involved for the hem on the outer edge. All shipping costs are also free. All requests are on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Protective covers are used to prevent scuffing and damage to gymnasium floors.

For more information, call Gene Stephan at 530-274-0685.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Basketball Mini Clinic, AHSAA Building, Oct. 6**
- **Wrestling Mini Clinic, AHSAA Building, Oct. 22**

- **Volleyball Area tournaments, Oct. 12-13**
- **Volleyball Regional tournaments, Oct. 17**
- **Volleyball Sub-State playoffs, Oct. 22**
- **Volleyball Elite Eight state tournament, Pelham Civic Complex, Oct. 28-29**
- **Football state playoffs, round one, Nov. 6**
- **Cross country section meets, Nov. 5 and 7.**