



# Commissioner's Notes

## March 2012



A monthly newsletter from Commissioner Julian Tackett, Kentucky High School Athletic Association, 2280 Executive Drive, Lexington, Kentucky 40505 859-299-5472 • www.khsaa.org

As it always seems to, the 30 days from mid-February to mid-March pass by with a blur. Beginning with the KHSAA State Wrestling Tournament, followed by the Pannell Swim Shop/KHSAA Swimming and Diving Championships, then postseason basketball – it's a merry-go-round of preparation, execution and excitement. Rarely is there a chance to step back and take a look at all that's going on around us in life.

All that changed on Friday evening, March 2. That day we found out what we do is a very small part of the puzzle of life. In just a few short minutes that day communities were changed forever and this state saw devastation on a scale it had not witnessed for generations. The day began with a stillness and conditions that made it all too obvious that something out of the ordinary was going to happen and the weather community warned us to take heed.

Soon regional basketball tournament managers took their advice and our directive, and by the time the afternoon had finished every regional tournament in the commonwealth had been postponed. In hindsight, to see the leadership exhibited that day on the part of so many people in all corners of Kentucky, realizing what is important and putting athletics in the proper perspective – just might have been one of the proudest days I have enjoyed with this organization. To think what might have happened if even one gymnasium had been packed that night is an image I hope my mind, or anyone else's for that matter, never has to see.

What my mind did see was enough to make my heart sink as the reports of untold damage and death began to circulate – first from Piner in Kenton County, then the East Bernstadt community in Laurel County and then almost a straight path down U.S. 460 – Menifee County, the town of West Liberty, Salyersville, Johnson County and Lawrence County. These were not far away places many states away – these were our own people. These are people we know, people we trust and people we love – and they are hurting!

All the television reports and photographs cannot do the scene justice. Just driving down the Mountain Parkway barely two days later on the way to the 15th Region Tournament in Pikeville was a scene I hope I never see again – twisted metal and glass wreckage stretched as far as the eye can see in Salyersville. Volunteers on the hillside going house to house to check and see if there are people trapped in the debris was something that did not seem real.

It was real, however. Far too real for the girls on the 15th Region champion Magoffin County Lady Hornets. As they made their way to Diddle Arena they just wanted to take their minds off their homes for just a few hours.

Instead, the never ending generosity of strangers proved



just how great the human spirit can be in a time of immense suffering.

During their stay in Bowling Green the following groups reached out to the team and, by extension, Salyersville:

- We were able to help orchestrate an emotional tribute with a pre-game ceremony prior to their first round game, offering to galvanize support for those affected.
- Following Thursday's first round contest against Ashland Blazer, coach Bill Bradley and the Kittens signed a card, took up a collection among team members, and donated it to the Lady Hornets.
- For the team's quarterfinal matchup with Lincoln County, fans from Marion and Lincoln counties joined forces to raise \$2,000 and donated it to Magoffin County principal Tony Skaggs for tornado relief efforts.
- A group of DuPont Manual supporters anonymously purchased tournament T-shirts and donated them to each member of the Magoffin County team.
- Nearly 200 Logan County High School students turned out to form a cheering section for the Lady Hornets, just hours after the team practiced at the school and met many of its new fans for the first time.

The emotion of it all was enough to lift the heart of the most tired cynic. While we like to joke with each other and rib our friends about their hometown or where they grew up, this tragedy emphatically drove home the point that we are all

Kentuckians, through thick and thin. And what a glorious thing it is to be!

### **JOIN THE KHSAA IN THE BLOGOSPHERE**

Within the past month several new sport specific blogs have been launched by KHSAA Assistant Commissioners and Executive Staff. The blogs deal with the latest hot-button issues relevant to each sport, as well as the latest information from the NFHS rules changes, rules clinic notices and any other issues that are important to KHSAA member schools. There are currently blogs for every sport as well as a tech forum and a Commissioner's blog. The following is a list of current KHSAA blogs with more scheduled in the coming months:

khsabaseball.blogspot.com  
khsaasoftball.blogspot.com  
khsaabowling.blogspot.com  
khsaabasketball.blogspot.com  
khsaawrestling.blogspot.com  
khsaatennis.blogspot.com  
khsaasoccer.blogspot.com  
khsaaswimmingdiving.blogspot.com  
khsaafotball.blogspot.com  
khsaacomish.blogspot.com  
khsaagolf.blogspot.com

### **DAWAHARES/KHSAA HALL OF FAME BANQUET INFO**

Twelve former high school coaches, athletes, officials and/or administrators make up the silver anniversary class inducted into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

The induction of the 12 will bring the total number of individuals honored to 406. The class of 2012 will be inducted in ceremonies scheduled for Saturday, April 28, 2012, at the Lexington Center. For tickets, contact Butch Cope at the KHSAA.

The 2012 class includes Libby Burr, the late Tim Cahill, Randy Embry, Maxine Graham, Joe Hood, Kim LaBelle, Jim McDaniels, Marvin Moore, Jim Perrin, Alvin Ratliff, Jim Tucker and Randy Wyatt.

### **CONGRATS TO PNC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

Congratulations to the following PNC Scholarship winners who were honored at the PNC/KHSAA Boys' Sweet 16® Tournament. PNC awards a one time \$1,000 scholarship to one boy and one girl from each region.

The winners were: Region 1 - Shain Ross (Mayfield) and Tory Fehrenbacher (Marshall County); Region 2 – Warron Sutton (Lyon County) and Lauren Stull (Webster County); Region 3 - Evan Pollock (Breckinridge County) and Morgan Miller (Owensboro); Region 4 - Zach Imel (Bowling Green) and Shelby Ray (Glasgow); Region 5 – Joshua Koontz (Bethlehem) and Dierra Bell (John Hardin); Region 6 – Logan Pruitt (Bullitt East) and Maegan Arnold (Pleasure Ridge Park); Region 7 – Shayne Snyder (Atherton) and Fianna Ford (Ballard); Region 8 – Kameron Shams (North Oldham) and Victoria Silcox (Oldham County); Region 9 – Eric Schieman (Covington Catholic) and Madison Foley (St. Henry); Region 10 – Nathan Ryan (Pendleton County) and Morgan Bach

(St. Patrick); Region 11 – Hunter Conner (Model) and Ashley Hinkle (Madison Central); Region 12 – Travis McEachen (Burgin) and Julia Higginbotham (Mercer County); Region 13 – Hunter Williams (Williamsburg) and Kaitlyn Kreitzer (Red Bird); Region 14 – Ryan Goodwin (Powell County) and Lauren Little (Leslie County); Region 15 – Colby Hatfield (Phelps) and Kashenna Wolford (Phelps); Region 16 – Clay Woford (Ashland Blazer) and Casey Hutchinson (Fairview).

### **BASEBALL, SOFTBALL SCORES NEED REPORTING**

Please remember to call in the scores of all baseball and softball contests to the KHSAA/Riherd's Scoreboard immediately following each contest. The number is 1-800-453-6882 and is toll free.

While it is a Board policy that the membership cooperate with the data collection on the scoreboard or be subject to penalty, it has been proven by the membership time and again that they desire to voluntarily cooperate with this project. Baseball and softball contests began on March 7, with a full slate of games beginning this week.

### **SPORT UPDATES**

#### *Baseball, Softball, Tennis and Track*

Rules clinics are now online with a late make-up fine of \$100. The rules clinic is currently only required by the Head Coach and he must be logged in to received credit. The use of some other coach or administrator's e-mail is not permitted and credit will not be received.

#### *Baseball*

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has advised us that the BBCOR decertification process has been implemented for the Marucci CAT5 33-inch model. Effective immediately and until further notice, this bat (Marucci CAT5 33" length) should be considered a non-compliant bat and subject to NFHS Baseball Rules 4-1-3b and 7-4-1a. The prohibition is specific to this model and length bat.

#### *Basketball*

The boys' and girls' state tournaments were completed on Saturday night, capping an exciting postseason. Houchens Industries agreed to continue as title sponsor of the Girls' Sweet 16® for four more years, while the tournament will continue to be played at Western Kentucky University's Diddle Arena through 2015. The boys' state tournament is signed through 2014 for Rupp Arena in Lexington with a likely voluntary extension through 2018.

#### *Bowling*

Preparations are being made for the first Ebonite/KHSAA State Bowling Tournament on March 22 and 23 (Thursday and Friday) at Executive Strike & Spare in Louisville. Results from all eight regions as well as the state participant listing are on the KHSAA website at [www.khsaa.org/bowling](http://www.khsaa.org/bowling).

#### *Cheer*

This reminder to all administrators that cheer coaches are required to adhere to all Bylaw 27 requirements, including the online sports safety course. Please make sure your staff has completed all requirements within the bylaw.

### Swimming & Diving

The Pannell Swim Shop/KHSAA State Swimming & Diving Championships were held on Feb. 23-25 at the Ralph Wright Natatorium on the campus of the University of Louisville. Capacity crowds inside the arena as well as thousands more watching the action live on khsaa.tv were treated to several record-breaking performances. St. Xavier's boys won the team championship while DuPont Manual took home the girls' title.

### Track

State tournament dates - Class 1A Thursday, May 17; Class 2A Friday, May 18 and Class 3A on Saturday, May 18. All meets will be held at the Owsley Frazier Park at the University of Louisville.

### Wrestling

The 2012 State Wrestling tournament was contested for the first time at Alltech Arena at the Kentucky Horse Park on Feb. 17-18. The event attracted its largest attendance ever with 4,937 attending the 14 weight class finals.

### REMAINING 2011-12 KHSAA CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

|             |  |   |
|-------------|--|---|
| March 22-23 | Ebonite/KHSAA Boys' and Girls' Bowling     | Executive Bowl, Louisville                              |
| May 17-19   | Boys' & Girls' Tennis                      | Shilito Park and Boone-Downing Tennis Center, Lexington |
| May 17-19   | Boys' & Girls' Track and Field             | Owsley Frazier Cardinal Park, Louisville                |
| June 7-9    | Rawlings/KHSAA Softball                    | Jack C. Fisher Park, Owensboro                          |
| June 4-9    | Kentucky National Insurance/KHSAA Baseball | Whitaker Bank Ballpark, Lexington                       |

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 16 KHSAA Board of Control Meeting, KHSAA Office, Lexington
- April 16 Deadline for Current School Year Title IX Forms to be submitted via website to the KHSAA Office
- April 28 Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame Banquet, Lexington Center, Lexington
- April 29 Forcht Group of Kentucky/Kentucky National Insurance/KHSAA Sportsmanship Banquet, KHSAA Office, Lexington

Thanks for all of your continued support!



Julian Tackett

