



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: JAN. 8, 2007

DARREN BILBERRY NAMED KHSAA ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

Darren Bilberry has been hired as an Assistant Commissioner for the Kentucky High School Athletic Association, KHSAA Commissioner Brigid DeVries announced. Bilberry fills the vacancy created with the retirement of Assistant Commissioner Roland Williams, who left in December following four and one-half years service to the Association.

Bilberry brings a wide array of experience to the Association with over 14 years working in athletics and education. He most recently worked in the Fayette County Public School System, teaching secondary students while serving as an assistant football coach at Henry Clay High School.

"We are excited to have Darren join the KHSAA staff," Commissioner Brigid DeVries said. "His experience working within the school system both on the field and in the classroom will be of great benefit."

Bilberry's other past experience includes stints with the University of Kentucky Advising Service and Transfer Center as an Academic Advisor; the University of Kentucky Athletics Department as an Academic Counselor; Southern Illinois University Athletics Department as an Academic Coordinator for Student-Athletes; and Auburn University as an Academic Counselor for Student Athletes.

"I am excited about joining the KHSAA staff, because I feel sports more so than any other endeavor is essential to instilling values such as discipline, leadership, and teamwork into young people," Bilberry said. "I look forward to the opportunity to use my past experiences in athletics to help the association continue to move forward with its mission."

Bilberry is a 1985 graduate of Fort Knox High School and was an All-State honoree on the football field for the Eagles. Playing under Coach Jerry Claiborne, Bilberry was a three year letterman for the University of Kentucky football team from 1987-89 and he received Academic All-Southeastern Conference honors in 1989.

He and his wife Cathy are the proud parents of two girls, Emma (7) and Jane (5) and the family resides in Lexington.

Bilberry begins his duties with the KHSAA Feb. 1, 2007.

NATIONAL CITY/KHSAA TROPHY TOUR

Again as part of its title sponsorship of the Boys' Sweet 16® State Basketball Tournament, National City will be touring the Boys' Championship trophy for the fourth consecutive year. First stop on this year's tour will be Tuesday, Jan. 9 at the Ryle-St. Henry game at 7:30 p.m.

On the tour, students are able to pick up scholarship application forms on each stop (forms may also be accessed through the KHSAA website). Again this year, 16 boys and 16 girls (one boy and one girl from each region) will receive a one-time \$1,000 scholarship courtesy of National City.

Scholarship recipients will be honored with a reception prior to the Championship game of the National City/KHSAA Boys' Sweet 16® as well as being recognized on the floor during the contest. The scholarship application deadline is Friday, Feb. 23. For additional information, contact Butch Cope at the KHSAA.

Following are the sites of the 2007 National City/KHSAA Trophy Scholarship Tour

- Jan. 9 – St. Henry at Ryle
- Jan. 12 – Mason County at Scott County
- Jan. 23 – Bell County at Clay County
- Jan. 26 – Daviess County at Apollo
- Jan. 27 – Williamsburg at South Laurel
- Jan. 30 – Scott County at Henry Clay
- Feb. 1 – Campbell County at Covington Catholic
- Feb. 3 – Raceland at Ashland Blazer
- Feb. 6 – Bowling Green at Warren Central
- Feb. 9 – Jeffersontown at DuPont Manual
- Feb. 16 – Mercer County at Danville

Another development from the National City sponsorship is the www.sweet-16.org website. This site, aimed at reaching the high school market, allows students to post photos, videos, view past scholarship winners, download a scholarship application, check scores and will include student blogs during the Sweet 16®. The launch date for the website is Jan. 15.

BASKETBALL STATS

The KHSAA will begin its weekly basketball stats rankings on Thursday, Jan. 11. Stats will be posted on the KHSAA website under the basketball sports link. Rankings will be compiled weekly throughout the remainder of the regular season. A final season ranking (including postseason games) will be conducted on April 15.

Individual school-by-school stats reports are posted on the Riherd's/KHSAA Scoreboard as they are received from member schools.

BASKETBALL TICKETS

Tickets to the 2007 National City/KHSAA Boys' and Houchens/KHSAA Girls' State Basketball Tournaments continue to be on sale through the KHSAA office and online at khsaa.org. At this time, only full tournament sets of tickets (one ticket to each of the eight sessions) are available. Lower arena seats are priced at \$108 each and upper arena seats are priced at \$58 each. Tickets will be on sale through the KHSAA until Feb. 23. Beginning March 2, tickets will only be available through the Rupp Arena (boys) and Diddle Arena (girls) box offices and/or the venue's respective online ticketing agent.

SWEET DATES

Following are the dates for the 2007 National City/KHSAA Boys' & Houchens/KHSAA Girls' State Basketball Tournaments:

Houchens/KHSAA Girls' Sweet 16@
March 14-17
WKU E.A. Diddle Arena, Bowling Green

National City/KHSAA Boys' Sweet 16@
March 21-24
Rupp Arena, Lexington

NEXT KHSAA BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

The next meeting of the KHSAA Board of Control is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 10-11 at the Association office in Lexington. For an agenda, contact the KHSAA or log on to www.khsaa.org/boardofcontrol.

UPCOMING KHSAA EVENTS

Jan. 29-Feb.3 Regional Swimming & Diving Meets
Feb. 9-10 State Swimming & Diving Meet
Feb. 9-10 Regional Wrestling Tournaments
Feb. 15-17 State Wrestling Championships
Feb. 26-March 3 District Boys' & Girls' Basketball Tournaments