HomeTown Ticketing partners with MSHSL

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HomeTown Ticketing brings fast scans, happy fans to Minnesota State High School League events

HomeTown Ticketing, the leading digital ticketing and event management solution, is the exclusive partner with the Minnesota State High School League to provide digital ticketing services for select League events and tournaments. Through this partnership, ticket sales will take place on the League’s website and will not require fans to create an account, remember a password or download an app to purchase tickets.

“We are excited to partner with HomeTown Ticketing, a trusted digital ticketing provider for high school activity associations and high schools,” said League Executive Director Erich Martens. “In this era of COVID-19, the League needs this touch-free digital ticketing platform that can support a great majority of our postseason events.”

HomeTown Ticketing is the only state-wide solution that provides convenient online ticketing options, as well as additional security, capacity management tools, touchless redemption, and reporting at no cost to the association. This partnership also offers the League’s more than 500 member schools an online ticketing option that is seamlessly integrated into their school’s website, ensures they receive the full face value of every ticket sold, and access to those funds within 24 hours.

“HomeTown Ticketing is thrilled to partner with the Minnesota State High School League,” said Ryan Hart, Chairman and CEO of HomeTown. “Our state-of-the-art digital ticketing system will bring professional-level ticketing to select League championship events. In addition to working with the association, HomeTown is looking forward to supporting member schools with our (ticketing) solutions.”

HomeTown Ticketing is the exclusive digital ticketing provider for more than 6,500 schools, more than 100 colleges nationwide, and 15 state athletic and activity associations by offering touchless ticketing, the ability to manage venue capacity and access, gate management and ticket redemption tools with the HomeTown Gate App. Additionally, HomeTown provides dedicated account management, fan and user support and in-house development to offer continuous feature development.

If you’re interested in learning more about what HomeTown can offer you and your fans, contact sales@hometownticketing.com, call 1-866-HTT-4TIX or visithometownticketing.com.
Game-changing decision teaches lesson in accountability
By Lisa Lissimore

Accountability—“It is not only what we do, but also what we do not do, for which we are accountable.”—Moliere

I learned a great lesson in accountability when I was a junior in high school. One afternoon, I decided to ditch my fourth hour government class that was taught by the athletic director—yes, I had guts! Instead of going to Mr. Martin’s class, I went to the gym to shoot around. Three or four shots into it, my basketball coach, Lou Kanavati, came into the gym and busted me with the ball in my hands and my feet in the air.

Frustrated and disappointed, Coach Kanavati hauled me into his office, called my mother, told her what I had done and explained that I may not play in the game that night. My mom agreed with Mr. Kanavati’s plan to bench me. “That will teach her a good lesson,” she told him.

Immediately following warm-ups, Mr. Kanavati handed me the scorebook and a pencil and told me, “This is your job tonight.” Cocky and bull-headed, I thought, “Okay, I can do this. I am not worried. The team doesn’t need me to win tonight’s game. We had already beaten Johnson by 10 points in an earlier match up in December.”

Well much to my surprise on Friday, January 28, 1977, Johnson came to play. The Governors, led by Sue Sajavic, was with Central each step of the way. Central led most of the game, but in the fourth quarter, Johnson managed to pull ahead and win the game, 29-27. Talk about “shock!” All-you-know-what broke loose. Coach Kanavati gave me the “LOOK”—you know the one; the one that parents use on their children when they act out in public. Spectators began to question “Why didn’t Lisa play?” Is she hurt? She must be sick!” No, she ditched class and was being disciplined for her foolish actions.

Worse yet, I had to face my teammates in the locker room who were upset about the game and furious with me. My mother was so hot, her head was smoking. Mr. Martin warned he would fail me if I skipped class again. And if that wasn’t enough, I woke up the next day to newspaper headlines that read: “Johnson knocks off the defending state champs, 29-27!” The article also mentioned that I did not play.

This game-changing decision is one of the most embarrassing moments in my life. Not only did I let myself down, but I let down my team. They were counting on me and I let my personal desires get in the way of doing what I was supposed to do. When I skipped my government class, I never thought about the impact that my decision would have on my team or our conference standing. I thought about myself and how much fun it would be to shoot some hoops for an hour in preparation for the game we had that night.

Coach Kanavati, who was wise beyond his 31 years, could have put me in the game, especially when he realized that we may lose. But instead he used my “class-ditching incident” to teach me and our entire team to be accountable for our actions and to say no to things that could keep us from our goals and dreams.

You see, my team and I were on a mission to win our first conference basketball championship. At the time of the Johnson game, we were undefeated in conference play, including winning two games against our archrival, Highland Park. With those wins under our belt, we were destined to win the conference title with a perfect record, not the 13-1 record that’s in the record book.

I sacrificed a lot on that miserable day in January. Over time, I gained back the trust of my teammates and Coach Kanavati. Needless to say, Mr. Martin never had a problem with me again. I even sat in the front of the class, so he would surely see me.

Serving as a school’s activities administrator brings an array of challenges, and conversely, plenty of rewards, too. You are the point guard of a department that manages activities ranging from athletics to the Fine Arts to special school events like Homecoming, Snow Week and Prom. Connect caught up to two League activities administrators that also officiate and posed this question:

What advice would you give to activities administrators that are either contemplating becoming an official or continuing the service?

GARY REVENIG | Monticello High School

“Officiating can be very rewarding. It’s a special feeling to give back, and to be a part of high school activities. We have had a shortage of officials, so I encourage everyone to step up when and where they can.”

DAN ROFF | Fridley High School

“Be upfront about it and be a good planner. For me, it is a stress reliever and a time where I can shut off all outside responsibilities and be totally immersed, both physically and mentally. It is great hobby that keeps me sharp.”
EVERY TEAM HAS A MOST VALUABLE TEAMMATE!

Now is the time to honor these student leaders weekly throughout the school year

The Minnesota State High School League and Wells Fargo are excited to sponsor a weekly award program for the second consecutive school year — The Most Valuable Teammate (MVT) Award — for students who are GREAT TEAMMATES. These students are recognized weekly on the League’s social media platforms throughout the year beginning in October. We’re counting on member schools to help us recognize student leaders in your school who are contributing to your team in more ways than one!

Characteristics of a Valuable Teammate:

- Positive influence on their team
- Exemplifies leadership and sportsmanship
- Respectful, reliable and supportive of others

Call to Action. We’re calling on activity directors and all sport coaches and directors of speech, debate, music, and drama to nominate students who exemplify the qualities of a great teammate. Student nominations will be accepted throughout the year during every season of play. This award is for athletes and fine arts participants. Students who participate in League-sponsored adapted athletics are also eligible for this award.

Announcement of MVT. Every Thursday the League will announce the MVT via social media—Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. These students will receive a MVT certificate and they will be recognized in a special scoreboard feature during the fall, winter, and spring state tournaments.

Nominations. Student nominations must be emailed on Monday (prior to the announcement of the winner Thursday) to John Millea at jmilea@mshsl.org and should include the student’s name, grade, school and the activity in which the student participates. You must also submit a school or graduation photo of the student along with a brief explanation (three or four sentences) why the student deserves the MVT Award. Nomination forms are posted on the League’s web site on the Award dashboard.

The Minnesota State High School League and Wells Fargo are excited to present this award to students who are symbolic of our activity programs. We appreciate your support and look forward to receiving your Most Valuable Teammate nominee soon.

Questions about this program can be directed to Lisa Lissimore at llissimore@mshsl.org.

in memoriam

THE MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE continues to mourn the loss of two iconic educators, coaches and leaders that left a legacy of service and commitment to member schools.

On Wednesday, Oct. 14, Chisholm boys basketball coaching legend Bob McDonald passed away at the age of 87 in Hibbing. The family confirmed that he had tested positive for COVID-19 about a month earlier. Later in the day, longtime Park Rapids teacher, coach, activities director and community leader, John Schumacher, passed away at the age of 60 following a 10-year battle with cancer.

McDonald coached for 59 years, including 53 at Chisholm. The national hall of fame inductee won a state-best 1,012 games and also led Chisholm to 11 state tournaments and three Class A championships. He taught history, social studies and physical education for more than 40 years. He also coached track and field for 47 years. He will long be remembered as a disciplinarian that required short haircuts, sharp dress and honoring curfews. He retired from coaching in 2014.

Schumacher, who served at Park Rapids for 31 years, was the school’s activities director for 14 years before retiring on July 1, 2018. In addition to most recently serving as the Executive Director of Minnesota State High School Coaches Association, the always upbeat Schumacher also was a member of the League’s Board of Directors. He also served a year as the president of the League’s Board of Directors. He was Park Rapids’ football coach, and also the school’s girls basketball coach at three different times. Schumacher was also an assistant coach in four different sports.
The following Praise Reports were recently sent to the League Office.

**From swimming and diving official Abby Schneider following a meet between Rocori and Alexandria:**

Last night was by far the best I have seen both teams at a competition this year follow distancing and masking protocols. Clearly, both of these teams desire to compete, and are willing to follow the rules to allow them to have complete seasons. Beyond that, there was fantastic sportsmanship on both sides, a true camaraderie that extended beyond the team lines. The cherry on the top was that it was a top-level competition, including a school record set for Rocori in the 50 free, with amazing athletes. Two things to highlight:

- At the diving break, the p.a. announcer let us all know that it was a Rocori swimmer’s 16th birthday. Everyone cheered, and an Alexandria swimmer yelled (from their appropriate spot in the stands and distanced) “Happy Birthday! Can we sing?!” And both teams joined, keeping their masks on for the entire time, to sing happy birthday to the Rocori swimmer.

- The teams had agreed to allow their varsity divers to do 11 dives as both teams are in the Central Lakes Conference and not getting a conference meet, but needing to prepare for a section meet that they just found out they’re getting! Bottom line: what happened is the first ever 11-dive meet for girls to take place in the Rocori pool. An Alexandria diver took first place by about two points, and the Rocori team made sure to acknowledge her, and that she holds the pool record, which may never be broken since the pool could never see another 11-dive meet. They easily could have just glossed over it when it wasn’t their participant that won, but they announced the opposing diver as setting the pool record. Classy.

Kudos to your coaches for setting the standard and tone for the year, and kudos to your athletes for following through.

**From soccer official David Fergus following a girls game between Elk River and host Rogers:**

In a very well-played and evenly-skilled contest between two close rivals from the same school district, it being a section semifinal, Rogers assistant coach Todd Dusosky complimented me as the assistant referee for an offside call against his team four minutes into the second overtime that could have given his team the win with a 1-on-1 between the attacker and the keeper. Both teams played superbly well with excellent sportsmanship by players, coaches and fans. Also, a day after a very wet snowfall four inches, the grass field was in excellent condition after some innovative snow removal, and I am told, some hand shoveling by the host coaches.

**From soccer official Dennis Cladis following a girls game between St. Anthony and host Columbia Heights:**

It was a cold, rainy evening for a soccer game. However, the only thing I saw on the faces of the girls participating were a smile and a genuine appreciation for the opportunity to play soccer during this very challenging year. Throughout the contest, the players competed hard and played fair. And they had fun on the field. Their coaches were positive and supportive throughout, and the girls were supportive of their teammates as well. It was a very rewarding experience for me as an official and I left the field with a big smile on my face because of what I had just witnessed and been a part of. Both teams and their coaches are to be commended for demonstrating the very best of what high school athletics are all about!

**From soccer official Nick Boettcher following a boys game between Apple Valley and host Rosemount:**

Rosemount head coach Todd Farrington was very respectful of the officiating crew. Some examples: Several times, he preemptively quieted dissent from the bench. After the game, which his team lost, he thanked the crew and told us we are one of the best they’d had all year. Positive reinforcement like this helps keep me going and focused on perfecting the craft of officiating. Moreover, in sharing this message, the coach demonstrated strong character and dedication to the mission of coaching at the high school level.

**From soccer official James Brown following a girls game between Fridley and host Totino-Grace:**

I want to mention the fine job that Fridley head coach Zack Bobick did coaching his team this evening. Coach Bobick continued to praise and coach his girls every minute of this game. It would have been very easy for him to sit on the bench during a one-sided game, but he continued to positively talk to his young team, and encourage them. I believe his positive attitude is helping his girls believe in themselves, as players and persons, because it showed on the field. His girls never gave up and never got down on each other. He is a credit to your school and the coaching profession. I did not get a chance to talk to him after the match, so please let him know that I think he did a very good job today.

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**Do you know?**

1. What were ticket prices to the 1957 Baseball State Tournament?
2. What 1971 graduate of Albert Lea High School played college football, but would become a successful hockey coach?
3. What northern school outscored the opposition 17-1 en route to winning a state championship in 1957?
4. Where was the 1957 Wrestling State Tournament held?
5. What was the length of the course for the Cross Country State Meet held in 1956?

Answers on page 5
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Minutes Links

GET CAUGHT UP with Minnesota State High School League news and information from the Board of Directors.
August 4, 2020
September 21, 2020

Technology News

CHECK THIS OUT!
Exploring www.mshsl.org

Awards:
For more than two decades the Minnesota State High School League and its member schools have sponsored programs to recognize service, reward performance, and celebrate achievements. The awards encompass students, officials, members of the media, and individuals who have made outstanding contributions as administrators or fine arts directors.

Explore the Awards pages on the website to learn more about these awards and how to apply or nominate others.

FALL 2020 APPAREL
Get your commemorative Season 2 Remember custom hoodie
https://www.mshsl.org/2020-2021-mshsl-apparel

SIMLEY HIGH SCHOOL P.A. ANNOUNCER HONORED
Brian Sweeney, a public address announcer at Simley High School, was recently honored as a co-recipient of the Bob Sheppard High School P.A. Announcer of the Year award, as presented by the National Association of Sports Public Address Announcers. Sweeney has been the p.a. announcer for Simley events the past six years, working hockey, baseball, lacrosse, football, soccer, volleyball and dance. He also is the familiar voice of the Minnesota Vixen women’s football team, the University of St. Thomas hockey team and Concordia University.

“Brian has been a huge part of the success of Simley High School athletic events,” Simley Activities Director Will Short said in a release. “As a professional announcer, he creates an atmosphere of excellence.”

APPRECIATIVE OFFICIALS THANK ALBERT LEA HIGH SCHOOL
Because of snow in Mankato and unplayable fields, Mankato West was forced to move its boys soccer section 2A semifinal against Bloomington Jefferson to Albert Lea because they were south of the snowline and had a turf field. In addition, Owatonna was forced to move its Section 1AA girls semifinal match against Northfield to Albert Lea. The referee crew we assigned for the Section 2A match was also asked to officiate the Section 1AA girls match because officials were not available on short notice and another crew was in Kasson. The crew reported close, well-played games with no issues by the teams.

The good news is for the above-and-beyond kindness of the host school, Albert Lea. On a cold evening, the referees were able to enjoy a heated referee locker room during half-times and between games. The AD also brought hot chocolate between games, not from the concession stand as they were not open. To top it off, the referee crew was surprised, and really appreciated, the pizza delivered right after the second match.

On behalf of the referees whom I assigned, we thank AD Paul Durban for his graciousness on a cold night.

Jerry Baerg
South Central Minnesota Soccer Officials Association.

MSHSL Officials Corner

1. 50 cents for students; $1 for adults
2. Craig Dahl, a standout in football, hockey and track, went to the University of Minnesota on a football scholarship, but transferred to Pacific Lutheran where he had a successful playing career. He would become a successful Division I men’s hockey coach.
3. The International Falls boys hockey team
4. Mankato State Teachers College
5. 1.8 miles