Starting over was a common theme in 2020

It has been nearly nine months of new beginnings or starting over for all associated with member schools of the Minnesota State High School League. I do not know when we will be able to look back and smile, but I look forward to that time. Chris Stapleton’s song, “Starting Over” says it well:

“This might not be an easy time
There’s rivers to cross and hills to climb
Some days we might fall apart
And some nights might feel cold and dark
When nobody wins afraid of losing
And the hard roads are the ones worth choosing
Some day, we’ll look back and smile
And know it was worth every mile”

Rewind to the week of March 9, 2020: It was one that started with preparation and anticipation for the girls basketball state tournament and boys basketball section semifinals and championships. As the week progressed, we witnessed COVID-19 storming across the nation. Sporting events were postponed and other events nationwide were cancelled.

I remember vividly working our girls basketball tournament while the University of Minnesota men’s basketball team was playing Northwestern in the Big Ten Conference Tournament in the background. I went home and was hearing that spectators would not be allowed to watch that tournament, and not long afterward, it was canceled. The following day, the League’s basketball tournaments met the same unfortunate fate.

It felt like we were starting over.

The discouragement of losing basketball transitioned into hope that spring would provide a different outcome. First, there was the initial executive order identifying schools being used for two endeavors: childcare and food and nutritional services. It felt like an eternity as we waited and eagerly anticipated an opportunity to begin and complete a spring season. Many of the seniors completed high school without a prom or graduation. They graduated without our beloved spring season that is quite often symbolic of enduring a long winter, and typically, provides relief from being indoors.

It never happened, but the appetite for education-based activities grew. We longed for the opportunity of starting over.

Hope came in June as restrictions eased and youth sports started to play. Guidance was provided as our coaches and student-athletes cherished the opportunity to connect in person. Although we were alerted of what was on the horizon for another surge of COVID-19, we took advantage of the time we had. Summer transitioned quickly into our fall season and hope continued. It felt like we had a chance to start over from how spring ended.

Fortunately, we were able to do so in some fall sports, but not all. We navigated the complications and interruptions, and, continued to monitor states around us to what they were allowing. Finally, after much delay, the League was able offer a full slate of fall sports.

The season was abbreviated, however, and came to end on Friday, Nov. 20 at 11:59 p.m. with the enacting of Executive Order 20-99.

We were warned that as our weather changed, so would COVID-19. With the changes, as well as the stops and starts, we have barely had time to reflect on what we have experienced over the last nine months.

The League invited activities directors from member schools to reflect and share their challenges, accomplishments and the new norms that have become commonplace as we navigate the pandemic, and how it has changed their purpose.

Here are some of those reflections.

Continued on page 2
From the Cover: Activities administrators reflect on the challenges, rewards of navigating through the pandemic with their schools

“I was assigned extra duty of COVID Logistics Coordinator for the district. I had to help our buildings prepare for sanitation, signage room capabilities, etc. I also took on some teacher evaluations for our staff … (New norms include) Talking with other ADs, weekly team meetings in our school and the guidance and professional support from the Minnesota State High School League.”

Joel Olson, Northfield High School

“The Minneapolis Public Schools proactively developed a return to participation plan prior to any guidance and that plan has been executed by all of our athletic stakeholders … (New norms include) Yes, the common sportsmanship elements of pregame meetings and postgame handshakes will never be the same.”

Antony Fisher, Minneapolis Public Schools

“Different communities have different perspectives regarding COVID (and that) makes the decisions regarding participation very difficult at times. … (Accomplishments include) getting the community to understand and support the decisions of the board regarding participation. We have found some very positive voices in our community that can share a positive message in support of the school. We are all in this together.”

Doreen Zeier, Bagley High School

“We’ve really come together as a community to show support for our student-athletes. When we shut down in March, we celebrated our student-athletes with “Be the Light” and having a parade in their honor. We did drive-through banquets, we sent out coaches’ messages via social media, and we held a drive-up graduation. Our school board asked the community to make masks, and they stepped up making by making more than 2,000 for our students and staff. … If anything, COVID-19 has helped me realize my purpose even more. As educators, we are here for the students.”

Riley Fischer, Esko High School, sr.

“With the end of the calendar year soon, what are some of the most valuable lessons you have learned in 2020?”

Maia Bowman | East Grand Forks High School, sr.

“This year, I learned not to take anything for granted. Whether it be cheering on a friend at a tennis meet, playing a song with fellow band members, or simply seeing my classmates on a Zoom, 2020 taught me to be grateful for it all. Being a senior this year forced me to learn this lesson quickly. Even though my last year of high school was nothing like I anticipated, this unique situation taught me to stay optimistic even in the most difficult circumstances.”

Riley Fischer | Esko High School, sr.

“One of the most valuable lessons I’ve learned in 2020 is to never take anything for granted. With distance learning and sports seasons on hold, we are all living a very different life. Instead of complaining about running at practice, I’d give anything to be on the line running some killers. Each day, as I fire up my iPad to “go to class” I am reminded of how much I miss my friends, classmates, teachers and coaches. In the end, I know these challenges will make me stronger, but I sure hope this is the only pandemic I have to live through.”

Voices We asked, you answered

Challenges in many forms have confronted administrators, coaches and participants of the member schools. The League reached out to two seniors and posed this question:

With the end of the calendar year soon, what are some of the most valuable lessons you have learned in 2020?
Students have a golden opportunity to excel in high school and beyond.

Participating in arts, academics and athletics makes a significant impact in a student’s life. A first job can, too. Teamwork, serving customers, and managing money are just some of the life skills a young person can learn—and working at McDonald’s® is a great way to acquire them.

The 41 owner/operators in the McDonald’s Minnesota Co-Op take pride in making a difference in the lives of students who work in their combined 226 restaurants in Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

“We’re really in the people business,” said co-op president and owner/operator Courtney Henry. “We want to help our employees reach their potential, whether that’s at McDonald’s or in another field. There’s nothing more satisfying than seeing our employees grow, and to know we’ve played a role in helping them achieve their dreams.”

McDonald’s Archways to Opportunity® can make that happen.

The Archways program offers upfront tuition assistance to eligible McDonald’s restaurant employees; crew receive $2,500 per year, while managers receive $3,000 per year. In 2020, 320 employees in McDonald’s Minnesota Co-Op restaurants have received tuition assistance of $725,500 (figures are through 10/20/2020). In 2019 and 2020 combined, co-op employees received a total of $1.41 million in tuition assistance.

To be eligible, students must be on the job at least 90 days and work a minimum 15 hours per week to receive tuition assistance, which can be applied to community colleges, trade schools, or four-year universities. The program underscores McDonald’s and its independent franchisees’ commitment to providing jobs that fit around the lives of restaurant employees so they may pursue their education and career ambitions at their own pace. Also, there is no lifetime cap on tuition assistance.

Many independent franchisees invest in education programs on top of McDonald’s corporate contribution in Archways to Opportunity, including additional tuition assistance support, loan repayment, and ACT courses.

Additional benefits in the Archways to Opportunity program include:

- English Under the Arches® English as a second language (ESL) courses for employees
- Earning an accredited high school diploma through Career Online High School®
- Access to free Education and Career Advising Services*

(Benefits above extend to immediate family of eligible employees of participating restaurants).

Those who have graduated while utilizing the Archways to Opportunity program have received college degrees and embarked on careers in fields including accounting, business administration, communications, human resources, microbiology and more.

For more information, visit https://www.archwaystoopportunity.com/about.html.

As a sponsor of the Spotlight on Scholarship program, McDonald’s® owner/operators in Minnesota and western Wisconsin are proud to serve as partners of the Minnesota State High School League.

**Most McDonald’s restaurants are operated by independent franchisees who are independent employers, and set their own employment policies and practices, including pay and benefits for the people working in their restaurants. McDonald’s does not control the independent franchisees’ employment policies and practices and does not employ those working at franchised restaurants.

Recognition Programs

The League is counting on you to help us recognize student leaders in your school who are difference makers. We are pleased to announce that we are now accepting nominations for the 2020-21 MSHSL student recognition programs. These programs, some of which have been on the MSHSL’s books for more than 25 years, recognize students for academic achievement, community serve, and leadership. Please take a moment to go to www.mshsl.org/awards to review additional information and nomination instructions for these programs.

**EXCEL** — This program recognizes high school juniors who are involved in MSHSL activities for leadership and community service.

**Academics, Arts, and Athletics** — Commonly known as the Triple ‘A’ Award, this program honors high school seniors who have a 3.0 or higher-grade point average and who participate in a MSHSL-sponsored athletic and fine arts activity.

**Most Valuable Teammate** — High school coaches and directors of fine arts activities are encouraged to nominate students from their team who exemplify the qualities of a great teammate—respectful, reliable, positive, and supportive of others. These students will be recognized weekly on the League’s social media platforms—Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram—throughout the school year beginning in October.

**Spotlight on Scholarship** — This year-round recognition program honors student-athletes and fine arts participants who have a “B” or better grade point average. The program also recognizes and rewards fine arts and athletic teams that collectively achieve a 3.0 or higher-grade average.
The following was received from football official Tim Litfin after working a game between Elk River and host Rogers

This report is about a classic high school football event at Rogers High School on Nov. 20, 2020 when Rogers was playing Elk River for the section final. I share this story out of pure joy of officiating, as well as to give proper due, recognition and admiration for the football teams from Rogers and Elk River, Rogers AD Dan Ohlgren, the Rogers chain-gang, the spectators from both teams and the players from both schools.

Ohlgren and his awesome assistant, Jon Berkley, greeted us as they always do and made us feel more than welcome. Both teams arrived early as did my crew of Jim Larson, Nick Litfin, Chris Jostock and Steve Walker. Head coaches Steve Hamilton of Elk River and Marc Franz of Rogers met at midfield for the traditional pregame conversation.

Joe Plante, Joe Karls, Chris Donnay and Roger Donnay from the chain gang greeted us with smiles. This is typical at many high schools in Minnesota each and every Friday night. But, at schools like Rogers, Totino-Grace, St. Michael-Albertville, Buffalo, Monticello, Mound Westonka, Delano, Maple Grove and Orano, to mention a handful, chain-gang pride is palpable as these proud volunteers are such great citizens! The Rogers chain-gang connects with me and my crew on another level. We share proud stories of sons who have served and still do serve in our nation’s military. That conversation is particularly true with Joe Plante.

The stage was set on this crisp and cool Minnesota Friday evening for a high-profile section final. As officials, we could sense the special nature of this game well before it started. This in-district rivalry game was not just about points, key plays or winning the section crown. Not tonight. This night seemed to be more about being with friends and neighbors no matter what team they were on. It seemed to be about making connections for this one last time in 2020.

These student-athletes know each other well. Many grew up playing together on the same team in youth sports. Now, they just happen to wear a different-colored uniform on Friday nights. The coaches also know each other well. Some teach side-by-side during the day and most see each other at district learning opportunities.

True sportsmanship was on display right from the kickoff. Players helping players. Players complimenting players. Coaches complimenting officials – yes, this does happen more often than you think in Minnesota. The game, at times, seemed frozen in time as all of us experienced the night together. Forgotten, thankfully and temporarily, was this odd, seemingly never-ending year of 2020.

A few stories, in particular, from this game of high sportsmanship:

• In the middle of the second quarter, Elk River’s Hunter Nething, beat his blocker and had a clean shot at the quarterback. He pulled up quick, though, just as the quarterback released the ball. Most players would have continued on to hit the quarterback, but not Hunter. My umpire, Jim Larson, immediately said “Nicely done, 65, smart move”.

• Also in the second quarter, Rogers junior Mitch Jezierski was blocking downfield for his teammate. His teammate was now running towards him. Jezierski came back to the ball and was facing the back of an Elk River player and appeared ready to block the Elk River player in the back. But he quickly pulled up, knowing that he should not block in the back. I was focused on that lead block and was certain it would happen. I was pleasantly surprised that it did not. I told Jezierski when he got back to the huddle, “smart player, well done 42”.

• My third anecdote is about the two head coaches after the game. I greeted them both individually and congratulated them on their successful season as well as the sportsmanship from their teams. Both Steve and Marc, in turn, thanked my crew and said they always like seeing this crew of officials on the field.

After the game, both teams came out to their respective hash marks smiling and waving across the field. That picture was priceless.

The following was received by football official William Bean following a junior varsity game with St. Agnes

This report is about a classic junior varsity football event at St. Agnes Academy on Nov. 13, 2020 when St. Agnes was playing Maple Grove for the section final. I share this story out of pure joy of officiating, as well as to give proper due, recognition and admiration for the football teams from St. Agnes Academy, Maple Grove and the spectators from both teams.

The stage was set on this crisp and cool Minnesota Friday evening for a high-profile section final. As officials, we could sense the special nature of this game well before it started. This in-district rivalry game was not just about points, key plays or winning the section crown. Not tonight. This night seemed to be more about being with friends and neighbors no matter what team they were on. It seemed to be about making connections for this one last time in 2020.

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The MSHSL is excited about our partnership with Smitty Official’s Apparel. Not all sports are a part of the agreement, but we encourage all officials to check out Smitty products online or in-person at General Sports in Edina.
The Minnesota State High School League's Board of Directors on Dec. 3 welcomed its newest member, Governor Appointee Dr. Julie Anderson of St. Cloud.

Anderson, a family physician at Simplicity Health in St. Cloud, has been an active member in the American Academy of Family Physicians and serves as the AAFP Foundation President. She also serves on Project Brainsafe, a community-based concussion awareness and management initiative, and also led the Tobacco 21 initiative in St. Cloud that resulted in a city ordinance that raised the purchase age of tobacco to 21. This past spring, she was recognized as the MN Family Physician of the Year.

Anderson has two sons, Elliot (senior) and Owen (freshman) at St. Cloud Cathedral High School.

"Community engagement is important to me," Anderson said. "I have had the opportunity to advocate for the health of Minnesota at local and federal levels."

Anderson joins Board of Directors

The Minnesota State High School League's Board of Directors on Dec. 3 welcomed its newest member, Governor Appointee Dr. Julie Anderson of St. Cloud. Anderson, a family physician at Simplicity Health in St. Cloud, has been an active member in the American Academy of Family Physicians and serves as the AAFP Foundation President. She also serves on Project Brainsafe, a community-based concussion awareness and management initiative, and also led the Tobacco 21 initiative in St. Cloud that resulted in a city ordinance that raised the purchase age of tobacco to 21. This past spring, she was recognized as the MN Family Physician of the Year.

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Fine Arts Corner

For more information on becoming a Fine Arts Judge, see: https://www.mshsl.org/officials-judges/fine-arts-judges

Debate

- Hill-Murray's Ben Bakken Ballentine is the Minnesota State High School League's nomination for the NFHS Outstanding Speech, Debate and Theatre Educator state award.

- Longtime Eagan High School debate and speech coach Chris McDonald in July, was one of five individuals inducted into the National Speech and Debate Association Hall of Fame. He is a former League Board Member.

- The League debate community has been successfully, and safely, running a virtual competition season, with local tournaments primarily using an online platform created by Robbinsdale Armstrong/Cooper coach DJ Brynteson and supported by the Minnesota Debate Teacher’s Association.

Music

- Longtime former Rushford-Peterson music educator Burton Svendsen is the League’s nomination for the NFHS Outstanding Music Educator Award. The award is presented annually to each state by the national federation. Svendsen is also a longtime Section 1A music administrator.

- League Staff, in coordination with the Music Advisory Committee, continues to explore options for section contests in a virtual format beginning no earlier than Feb. 1, 2021.

One Act Play

- The League and One Act Play Advisory Committee is adjusting the activity for the current school year. Participating schools will submit videos of their performances, and the performances can be in-person or through a videoconference format.

Speech

- During the recent Communication and Theater Association of Minnesota’s virtual conference, speech coaches began discussing and planning a season of virtual competitions.

Visual Arts

- The Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards competition will be in a virtual format. Entries have an online and postmark deadline of Dec. 18. The adjudication of art work will take place Jan. 8-10, 2021. The competition is open to seventh-graders that are 13 this year through 12th-grade students. Since 1923, this competition recognizes the vision, ingenuity and talent of Minnesota’s youth.

 quiz answers

Questions on page 4

2. Orv Bies, who served from 1985-88
3. Beverly Hill, who served from 1959-70
4. Dave Stead, who served from 1988-2018
5. He served as Superintendent of Anoka High School
Salute To Champions

bit.ly/20GirlsTennis

CLASS A
Section 1 --- Rochester Lourdes
Section 2 --- Litchfield
Section 3 --- Blue Earth Area
Section 4 --- Blake
Section 5 --- New London-Spicer
Section 6 --- Osakis
Section 7 --- Pequot Lakes
Section 8 --- Thief River Falls

CLASS AA
Section 1 --- Rochester Mayo
Section 2 --- Minnetonka
Section 3 --- Simley
Section 4 --- Mounds View
Section 5 --- Wayzata
Section 6 --- Edina
Section 7 --- Duluth East
Section 8 --- Bemidji

bit.ly/20BoysSoccer

CLASS A
Section 1 --- Austin
Section 2 --- Bloomington Kennedy
Section 3 --- Holy Angels
Section 4 --- Mahtomedi
Section 5 --- Breck
Section 6 --- Orono
Section 7 --- Duluth Denfeld
Section 8 --- St. Cloud Tech

CLASS AA
Section 1 --- Northfield
Section 2 --- Edina
Section 3 --- Lakeville North
Section 4 --- Stillwater
Section 5 --- Mounds View
Section 6 --- Wayzata
Section 7 --- Centennial
Section 8 --- Maple Grove

bit.ly/20BoysCC

CLASS A
Section 1
Team --- Lake City. Individual --- Reese Anderson, Lake City, jr.
Section 2
Team --- St. James Area. Individual --- Caleb Rivera, St. James, sr.
Section 3
Team --- Lac qui Parle Valley/Dawson-Boyd Individual --- Jayson Peyerl, Redwood Valley, sr.
Section 4
Team --- Nova Classical Academy. Individual --- Aiden Keller, Breck, soph.

CLASS AA
Section 1
Team --- Lakeville South. Individual --- Seth Hill, Rochester Century, sr.
Section 2
Team --- Buffalo. Individual --- Andrew Johnson, Mankato East, sr.

Section 5
Team --- Annandale. Individual --- Sal Wirth, Annandale, eighth
Section 6
Section 7
Section 8
Team --- Perham. Individual --- Tyson Mahar, East Grand Forks, sr.

Section 3
Section 4
Team --- Stillwater. Individual --- Ethan Vargas, Stillwater, sr.
Section 5
Section 6
Team --- Robbinsdale Armstrong. Individual --- Nick Gilles, Minnetonka, soph.
Section 7
Section 8
Team --- Bemidji. Individual --- Nathan Alto, Bemidji, sr.
Section 1

Section 2
Team --- Belle Plaine. Individual --- Clare Fischer, Sleepy Eye-St. Mary’s, jr.

Section 3
Team --- Murray County Central. Individual --- Ashley Overgaauw, Murray County Central, soph.

Section 4
Team --- Minnehaha Academy. Individual --- Greta Hansen, Math & Science Academy, soph.

Section 5

Section 6
Team --- Staples-Motley. Individual --- Lexi Bright, West Central, jr.

Section 7
Team --- Pequot Lakes. Individual --- Calia Chaney, Pequot Lakes, fresh.

Section 8
Team --- Perham. Individual --- Jade Rypkema, Nevis, soph.

CLASS AA
Section 1
Team --- Farmington. Individual --- Anna Fenske, Farmington, sr.

Section 2
Team --- Minnehaha Academy. Individual --- Isabella Roemer, Chanhassen, jr.

CLASS A
Section 1
Team --- Mankato West
Section 2 --- Breck
Section 3 --- Delano
Section 4 --- Visititation
Section 5 --- St. Cloud Cathedral-St. John’s Prep
Section 6 --- Sartell-Saint Stephen
Section 7 --- Mesabi East
Section 8 --- Grand Rapids
Class AA
Section 1 --- Farmington
Section 2 --- Minnetonka
Section 3 --- Eagan
Section 4 --- Stillwater
Section 5 --- Wayzata
Section 6 --- Edina
Section 7 --- Blaine
Section 8 --- Moorhead

Class AAA
Section 1 --- Waseca
Section 2 --- Litchfield
Section 3 --- Luverne
Section 4 --- Cannon Falls
Section 5 --- Annandale
Section 6 --- Albany
Class AAAA
Section 1 --- Kasson-Mantorville
Section 2 --- Fridley
Section 3 --- Academy of Holy Angels
Section 4 --- Becker (declared)
Section 5 --- Hermantown
Section 6 --- Rocori
Class AAAAA
Section 1 --- Owatonna
Section 2 --- St. Thomas Academy
Section 3 --- Rogers
Section 4 --- Andover (declared)
Class AAAAAA
Bracket section champions --- Blaine, Centennial, Eden Prairie, Lakeville South, Rosemount, Shakopee
As some people journey through life, they leave a footprint wherever they go. Northern Minnesota, southwestern Minnesota, and here in the Twin Cities, Jim Robinson’s footprints can be found within the community of officials.

Jim (Mr. Robinson, my mother would have me call him) began officiating basketball and football in 1954. He worked basketball games throughout Minnesota making lasting impressions upon the minds of many coaches and players. In February of 1971 the League hired him to work the boys’ basketball state tournament, making him the first African American to do so. Ever since this historic event, there's been an African American official working at the boys’ basketball tournament.

After officiating in seven state high school basketball tournaments and many district and region contests, Jim refereed for 16 years in the Big Ten and became one of just a few officials from Minnesota to supervise and evaluate Big Ten officials. These skills, honed more than 50 years ago, continue to serve him well as he currently supervises state tournament officials and mentors and trains scores of basketball officials and keeps this director on her toes regarding rules and the application thereof.

Jim’s contributions to the officials’ associations he belonged to included membership on the Minneapolis Officials Association Board of

Director as well as serving a presidential term. He also was a member of the St. Paul Officials Association now known as St. Paul Capital City Officials Association.

As I think about Jim’s journey and his legacy, he too will be remembered for his continual dedication to youth. In addition to officiating, he ran the Summit University Teen Center (formerly the Loft Teen Center) which services students in St. Paul’s Rondo community. This is where I first met Mr. Robinson. Later, in 1988, we would reconnect when I began working for the League and Jim served on the League’s board of directors for four years and served as treasurer. Thus, the transition to calling him Jim, at his request, of course.

On April 3, Jim and several other Minnesotans were honored at the 2019 NCAA Legacy Celebration for their accomplishments and their impact on the culture of inclusiveness within athletics and society. This is not the first such recognition for Jim as he’s a member of two halls of fame, the recipient of the League’s Distinguished Service Award, and because of his unselfish efforts and his leadership in the community, the Inner Cities Athletic Association sponsored a community-wide celebration for him on April 27.

Here’s what Jim says about the journey:
Q: How did you decide to become an official and who were some of your mentors?

Jim: I have always loved sports. I was a three-year letter winner in basketball, track and football. My love of sport led me to referee at the youth level as a high schooler. I continued to ref while in college and soon it evolved into a part-time job with games all over the state. The late James Griffin and Jimmy Lee were my mentors. Both were two of the state's first black officials.

Q: What is the greatest moment you've experienced as an official?

Jim: When I was first selected to referee in the boys' state high school basketball tournament and when the Big Ten invited me to be an official.

Q: What do you remember about your first experience refereeing the tournament?

Jim: There were eight officials selected to work the tournament. I was assigned to ref the Minneapolis Central game against Melrose. It was not an easy game. I got heat from both coaches for just about every call I made. I had to fall back on advice from Mr. Lee who told me, “You go out there and do the best you can, and don’t worry about nobody. I also remember that I was one of two non-school officials chosen to work the tournament. Back then, most referees were school teachers or administrators.”

Q: How does one become a supervisor of officials?

Jim: You must gain experience over a number of years as a referee and volunteer as an observer, a camp instructor, and apply to school conferences and any league that has an opening for a supervisor.

Q: What advice would you give to an aspiring official?

Jim: Work hard and accept all games that are assigned to you. This will give you the experience to move to the next level.

Q: Identify three things that can be done to recruit and retain more officials?

Jim: First, reach out to high schools and colleges to recruit referees. Secondly, don’t listen to fans and in some cases, coaches, unless the coach has a play situation that needs to be explained. And third, let aspiring officials know that the pay is good, and that officiating is a great way to give back.

Q. Tell us something about yourself that would surprise people?

Jim: I have a certified barber license. I currently serve on the Minnesota Barber Board of Examiner as the Board Secretary. Another funny thing is that I was one of the five fastest sprinters in Minnesota my senior year of high school.

He is a man on a journey who blazed a trail, and whose footprint is too big to fill. Congratulations Jim!
THE MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE IS GRATEFUL TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS THAT CONTINUE TO INVEST IN HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY PROGRAMS.