During the 1981-82 school year at Moose Lake High School, Annie Adamczak completed an unprecedented run of dominance that hasn’t been duplicated. She led Moose Lake to a combined record of 79-0 and state championships in volleyball, basketball and softball. In the prior school year, she was an all-state selection in those three sports in leading the volleyball and softball teams to state championships and a runner-up finish in basketball.

The individual honors followed with her selection as Minnesota’s Ms. Basketball Award winner, All-American recognition by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association and Minnesota’s Athlete of the Year. Sport Illustrated even included her in their popular Faces in the Crowd feature with an earned-run average of 0.005 as a softball pitcher. She played volleyball at the University of Nebraska and earned All-America honors in 1985 before playing professionally overseas and with the Minnesota Monarchs.

Adamczak was inducted into the League’s Hall of Fame in 1999. She has also been inducted into Moose Lake’s High School Softball Hall of Fame and the Minnesota State Basketball Hall of Fame. In 2020, Tell ‘Em Sports selected her as Minnesota’s greatest female athlete of all time.

**On this date:**

- **1905 ---** Fosston High School fields a girls basketball team, one year ahead of sponsoring a boys basketball team.
- **1924 ---** Eighty-three swimmers representing nine schools participate in the first girls high school swimming meet in Biwabik. The meet was held annually until 1942.
- **1932 ---** Chisholm High School 15-year-old Ann Govednic sets two state records at the swimming state meet. Three weeks later, she set a world record in the 100-yard breaststroke.

The Minnesota State High School League will celebrate the trailblazers and share their stories. **Editor’s Note:** On June 23, 2022, Title IX, the landmark federal civil rights law that brought equality and athletic opportunities for girls and women, will celebrate its 50th year. Throughout the 2021-22 school year, the Minnesota State High School League will celebrate the trailblazers and share their stories.

**Anderson set the gold standard for volleyball officiating**

In 1990, legendary Apple Valley girls volleyball coach Walt Weaver wrote a letter of recommendation to the Minnesota State High School League’s Hall of Fame Committee in support of a nominee. In the articulate, flowing letter, Weaver made a reference to the Minnesota volleyball officiating landscape in the 1970’s as being “simply out of touch with national volleyball standards and the high school game.”

His letter was in support of a Minnesota volleyball official that chose to meet that problem head on. His glowing recommendation was for Fridley’s Anna Bergstrom Anderson. Weaver’s accolades were echoed by others across Minnesota and the country as Anderson’s tireless efforts were recognized with induction in the League’s first Hall of Fame Class in 1991. In receiving the League’s highest honor of recognition, Anderson, who passed away this past July at the age of 85, was the first female official to be inducted into the prestigious hall.

During a time when Title IX was in its infancy, education and leadership were paramount as girls activities, its participants and coaches, navigated early challenges in establishing guidelines and standards. Anderson led the pack that was eager to learn and establish volleyball roots. “Anna was really good at maintaining that professional attitude while bridging the gap between people that knew what they were doing and those that did not,” Weaver said recently. “She was a calming factor that was greatly needed when things with volleyball were changing drastically. She pushed for rules interpretations at the state and national levels. She became the motivating voice that allowed kids to play and established the officiating in a way that had not been done before.”

Weaver is also quick to credit Shoreview’s Helen Swanson, who partnered with Anderson in officiating matches as well as assisted her in her trailblazing efforts. “Anna is one reason high school volleyball is played at a high level in Minnesota,” Swanson wrote in a 1990 letter of recommendation. “Good matches require good officials. She has had a hand in training almost every high school referee in the state. Besides traveling as a rules interpreter, she has donated countless hours running clinics and training sessions to develop officials. She is continually recruiting officials from college and the (United States Volleyball Association) players.”

Anderson, a 1953 graduate of Minneapolis Roosevelt High School, earned her college degree in physical education and a minor history from the University of Minnesota in 1957. At the University of Minnesota, she participated in volleyball, basketball and softball. After graduation, she taught physical education and supervised cheerleaders in the Roseville School District from 1957-69.

Continued on page 5
For mom, free throws at the prep level weren’t an option

In the late 1940’s, my mother attended Folwell Junior High School in south Minneapolis. Throughout our childhood, she would share with me and my three siblings that she used to be the free throw shooting champion at Folwell.

We figured she was joking.

My childhood journey began in Duluth, had a two-year stop in the Battle Creek neighborhood of East St. Paul before returning full circle for my mother to south Minneapolis where I spent the majority of my formative years. As a student, yep, I attended Folwell, too. I spent plenty of time with co-curricular activities, before and after school, and wondered if my mother’s claims about being a free throw champion were true.

Astonishingly, they were. Not only was it true, she also held a school record for consecutive free throws made. I can’t recall how many, but they were the underhand kind of free throws, often referred to as “granny style.” It was recorded in a journal in one of the physical education offices.

Her feat occurred during “sandwich time,” that span when organized basketball for girls had come to a halt and would not revive again until the passage of Title IX legislation in 1972. With a free throw resume like that, I think of what kind of prep career she might have had at Minneapolis Central High School. During that time, female students were relegated to playing in a gym, a park or if they were lucky, in an alley where someone might have a hoop, which was considered a luxury of the times.

For my mother, though, most of her athletic-type of displays were limited to activities like playing catch, throwing a frisbee or shooting a basketball in the driveway. She was quite skilled, I will say, at gunny-sack races and the shoe toss at family picnics.

As she became a longtime resident of south Minneapolis, more than 40 years prior to her passing in 2014, she became quite a cheerleader for the Minneapolis Public Schools, especially at the high school level. When a Minneapolis City Conference school qualified for a state tournament, she became an instant fan of that member school. And if that school qualified for a semifinal or a championship game that was televised, boy, did that get her excited.

It was during these times that I learned the value of listening and learning. To hear her stories and colorful memories of childhood and learning of the opportunities that were, and were not, available. I asked questions. Plenty of them. I wanted to visualize what it was like to not be able to go to a practice after school, to not have a coach guide you and encourage you, and perhaps most of all, what it was like to not have teammates.

It was a difficult picture to visualize.

These things were always a given for my generation. We had a wealth of opportunities in athletics, a sea of park space to use and not enough hours in the day to fit it all in. We were too young and too busy at the time to reflect on how fortunate we were to be able to run and play, to have parents volunteer as coaches and have that Schwinn as your best friend that took us from park to park, lake to lake and every adventure in between.

My mother’s generation was filled with mini trailblazers that shared their stories with passion, thoughtful reflection and encouragement to pursue the abundance of opportunities before us. As encouraging as she was to stay active and try things, she was a stickler, too, for balance and responsibility. Sure, we had plenty of fun, but there were responsibilities at home, too. There was often a to-do list and all items had to be crossed off before joining the neighborhood kids. Sprinkle in our music lessons, Boy Scouts, church activities and community service, it was a complete childhood.

I didn’t thank her enough at the time and I should have.

I was too busy shooting free throws of my own.
meet the hall of fame class of 2022

Ron Ackerman, Fridley
Official
In addition to being a registered wrestling official with the League for more than 50 years, Ackerman has been a major force with his commitment and dedication to improving the quality of wrestling officiating and providing consistency across the state of Minnesota. On the mat, he officiated 17 League state tournaments. He also officiated wrestling at the middle school, junior college and the Division I, II and III levels. He began working Big Ten Conference wrestling matches at the age of 25. He has also served as the League’s Rules Clinician for 26 years. In that role, he presented rules meetings to officials and coaches while providing rules interpretations, training materials, and was the voice for online rules meetings. He has represented wrestling on the League’s Officials Advisory Board and still serves as a wrestling observer. A native of Pipestone, he was one of the founders of Gold Country Wrestling Officials Association and is in his 40th year as the assignor. At Pipestone High School, he was a three-time state participant, placing second in 1962 and fourth in 1963. He was the MIAC champion at 123 pounds in 1965 when he helped propel Gustavus Adolphus College to the conference crown. In 2006, he was just the second wrestling official to be inducted into the Dave Bartelma National Wrestling Hall of Fame. In 2014, he represented Gold Country Officials when the group was recognized by the League with an Officials Association Citation Award for Exemplary Mentoring Program.

John Fogarty, Cannon Falls
Fine Arts
Fogarty has been active in the Fine Arts as a Speech and Debate coach and as an English, Speech and Humanities teacher for more than half a century. At Cannon Falls High School, he built the Speech program from a grassroots group into an elite-level program. In his tenure leading the program, Cannon Falls has had 123 medal winners and 14 state champions in Speech. The Minnesota Speech Coaches Association says that Fogarty “has had a tremendous positive impact on his students’ lives, as well as the speech community at large.” He began his career at Cannon Falls in 1969, one year after Speech transitioned to a competitive format. He served as head coach until 2009 when he transitioned to a role as an assistant coach. During the 1996–97 season, he was selected Lincoln-Douglas Debate Coach of the Year in the region. During the 2005–07 seasons, he was Minnesota’s Coach of the Year by the Minnesota Speech Coaches Association. In 2010, he was one of 12 national coaches honored by the National Federation of State High School Associations. In 2015, he was honored as the Outstanding Individual by the Communication Theater Association of Minnesota.

Debbie Driscoll, Mahtomedi
Coach
For more than 40 years at Mahtomedi High School, Driscoll made her mark as an educator and gymnastics coach that turned potential into a powerhouse. “There is talent in every kid,” Driscoll told the St. Paul Pioneer Press. “It’s what you do with that talent that counts. It’s finding the right buttons to push and giving the athletes the right guidance so they can have a positive experience.” Since beginning her coaching career in 1976, Mahtomedi has been a Class A power in gymnastics. In that span, the Zephyrs have won 28 section team championships and 10 state crowns, including seven in a row from 1987–93. That state meet run includes four runner-up finishes and three third-place trophies. In preparation for the postseason, Mahtomedi captured 36 conference championships. Under her tutelage, she has coached 42 individual state champions. Driscoll, who served for several years on the League’s Gymnastics Advisory Committee, has received numerous MGGCA section coach of the year awards and has been inducted into its hall of fame. She has also been enshrined into the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Through her teaching and coaching, Driscoll has nurtured and changed the paths of many participants at Mahtomedi High School.

Brian Luke, Stillwater
Coach
Since 1978, the Stillwater girls and boys swimming and diving teams have displayed gold-medal excellence under longtime coach, Brian Luke. In girls swimming, Luke has led the Ponies to a 394-85-5 record in dual meets. At the state meet level, Stillwater has won 11 championships and seven individual state crowns. Under his guidance, Stillwater has won 19 section crowns, 26 conference titles and crowned dozens of individual state champions. In boys swimming, Luke has led the Ponies to a dual record of 357-88-5 with 15 section titles, 21 conference crowns and multiple individual state champions. Combined, he has coached 365 all-state swimmers, 185 All-American swimmers and had 119 participants selected as Academic All-Americans. A native of Hopkins, he is a member of numerous coaching hall of fame and has been selected Minnesota’s swimming coach of the year five times.

Joe Mauer, Cretin-Derham Hall
Athlete
Mauer joins unique company in the League’s Hall of Fame. He is one of just three inductees in the modern-day era. Dave Winfield and Barry Worahler are the others, to receive scholarship offers in three different sports from major NCAA Division I schools. In his senior year at the St. Paul-based school, Mauer was the national player of the year in football and baseball. He gave a commitment to play football at Florida State, but then transitioned to a role as an assistant coach. During the 2005-07 seasons, he was selected Lincoln-Douglas Debate Coach of the Year in the region. During the 2005–07 seasons, he was Minnesota’s Coach of the Year by the Minnesota Speech Coaches Association. In 2010, he was one of 12 national coaches honored by the National Federation of State High School Associations. In 2015, he was honored as the Outstanding Individual by the Communication Theater Association of Minnesota.

Larry Martin, Minnetonka
Contributor
The longtime voice of the League’s boys and girls swimming state meets, Martin served as the public address announcer at both events for more than five decades. With his 55 years behind the microphone, he is believed to be the longest-serving public-address announcer in League history. His smooth tone and professionalism became staples during the meet as he reported times, finishes and other state tournament finishes. At the state meet level, Stillwater has won 11 championships and seven individual state crowns. Under his guidance, Stillwater has won 19 section crowns, 26 conference titles and crowned dozens of individual state champions. In boys swimming, Luke has led the Ponies to a dual record of 357-88-5 with 15 section titles, 21 conference crowns and multiple individual state champions. Combined, he has coached 365 all-state swimmers, 185 All-American swimmers and had 119 participants selected as Academic All-Americans. A native of Hopkins, he is a member of numerous coaching hall of fame and has been selected Minnesota’s swimming coach of the year five times.
Chris McDonald, Eagan
Fine Arts

McDonald has coached Speech and Debate since 1988, and in that span, has led dozens of participants to success at the state and national levels. Believing in the power of Speech and Debate to help students grow, McDonald’s teams and participants from Eagan High School are annual entrants, and champions, in the various disciplines at the state and national levels. His success at Eagan High School has been sustained for decades. In addition to coaching multiple state and national champions, McDonald has provided unrivaled leadership and service on behalf of the Minnesota Speech and Debate community. He has served the National Speech and Debate Association for more than 20 years in leadership and ambassador roles. He was inducted into the NSDA Hall of Fame in 2020. “Whether tabulating tournament results, acting as a travel agent for his students or raising funds so that those without the means can participate in competitions around the country, Chris embodies a spirit of public service,” said Kevin Troy, an Eagan High School graduate and Speech participant. McDonald also served on the League’s Board of Directors.

Mindy Myhre, Mahtomedi
Athlete

Myhre completed a dazzling high school gymnastics career that stands alone. By the time she graduated in 1994, she had won 15 individual state championships and was the cornerstone of three team state titles. She is the only gymnast in League history to win four consecutive all-around championships, a feat that stands alone. By the time she graduated in 1994, she had won 13 individual state championships and was a part of four team section crowns. A four-time conference all-around champion and 13 individual section championships and was a part of four team lower than third place. In qualifying for the state meet, she had completed from 1991 through 1994. At the state meet, she also had six runner-up places and one third-place finish. In accumulating a state-record 20 medals at the state meet, she never finished lower than third place. In qualifying for the state meet, she had 13 individual section championships and was a part of four team section crowns. A four-time conference all-around champion and four-time team most valuable player, she competed collegiately at the University of Minnesota where she was a part of one Big Ten Conference championship team.

John Washington, Minneapolis
Administrator

Washington, a 1964 graduate of Minneapolis North High School, returned to serve his home Minneapolis Public Schools district in 1969. Much of his 45-year career in education and administration was spent at Minneapolis Patrick Henry High School as a physical education and health teacher, basketball and baseball coach, assistant principal and 17 years as an activities director. He then served for 10 years as the activities director for the Minneapolis Public Schools before retiring in 2012. As the district administrator, he successfully consolidated the boys and girls hockey programs, structured coaches pre- and postseason workshops and pursued the vision to provide every Minneapolis city school with turf fields. He also served on the Region 5 Kindergarten-Grade 8 (K-8) Adjective Committee of the Minnesota State High School League and was the Minnesota State High School League Foundation Board of Directors and the AD Advisory Committee. He is a member of Patrick Henry’s Hall of Fame and was honored by the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Administrators Association as Athletic Director of the Year. In 2015, he was recognized by the Minnesota State High School League with an Award of Merit.

Jim Weinzierl, Park Rapids
Official

For more than four decades, Weinzierl is synonymous with excellence in officiating, leadership, and administration, and serving with professionalism and dignity. He served as a basketball official for 41 years, a run that included working more than 1,800 varsity games. In that span, he made 23 appearances in the League’s state tournaments and 10 championship games. He also officiated volleyball (27 years), football (10 years) and softball (a six-year run). Weinzierl officiated basketball at the Division II and III levels for 20 years. He currently serves as the Region Executive Secretary for Region 8A, a role he has had for the past 15 years. Through his leadership, the Region 8A Academic, Arts and Athletics Recognition Program has grown in influence beyond the playing field of competition where he has created participation and excellence through the fine arts activities of Music, Speech, Debate and One Act Play.

Larry McKenzie, Minneapolis
Coach

McKenzie is well known for his passionate and experienced leadership in the community, as well as his motivation of student-athletes in guiding them to success on the basketball court. He is the first boys basketball coach in League history to lead two schools to multiple championships. From 2005-06, he led Minneapolis Patrick Henry to four consecutive championships. In 2017, he led Minneapolis North to a successful defense of its state championship to secure the milestone achievement. The state championships ranked third all-time among Minnesota boys basketball coaches. He ranks second all-time in state tournament winning percentage with a 2:1:3 record (.875). He ranks eighth all-time with eight consecutive seasons with 20 more victories. His career record is 449-162. In 2014, McKenzie became the first African-American coach selected for the Minnesota Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. A certified national speaker, he has served on numerous community boards in the non-profit sector. With his wife, Pamela, he is the co-founder of the Above the Rim Youth Sports Foundation. In 2018, he received a Living Legend Award from the NCAA.

Dr. William Roberts, St. Paul
Contributor

Internationally recognized for his leadership and advocacy for the health, safety and well-being of student-athletes, Roberts is one of the founding members of the League’s Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and its longtime chair. From its formation in the late 1980’s, the SMAC has been a driving force in increased education of medical issues and stronger emphasis on safety for student participants. Under the direction of Roberts, the SMAC has developed an abundance of guidance that includes, but is not limited to weight certifications in wrestling, standardizing health forms and establishing guidelines for participation in the heat and sub-zero conditions. “A lot of the things we have done, and delivered, have been modeled around the country,” he said in a League interview in 2017. During the global pandemic, the SMAC created COVID guidance recommendations and protocols for member schools that ranged from general hygiene to sport-specific information. Roberts is a professor and vice chair of Faculty Affairs in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health with the University of Minnesota.

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Anderson set the gold standard for volleyball officiating

Continued from Cover

In 1974, she became a League volleyball official, and two years later, was the co-founder of the Metro Volleyball Officials Association, a group that assigned nearly 150 officials for more than 100 high schools, six community colleges and 27 college programs. In addition to the recruiting and training of officials, Anderson also authored the League’s training documents and developed a guide for officials that were selected to work at the state tournament.

Her own officiating career included working basketball and volleyball at the high school, college and professional levels. Anderson was an Officials Observer for the Big Ten Conference. Coaching was also a part of her journey. She led the Inver Hills Community College softball team to a state championship in 1977, and two years later, led the North Hennepin Community College softball team to a regional championship.

In 1981, and again from 88-92, Anderson served on the National Federation of State High School Association’s Volleyball Rules Writing Committee.

“The quality of Anna’s work has always been exceptional, and her input during the meeting of the committee has always been excellent and reflective of a lot of common sense,” NFHS Assistant Director Susan True wrote in 1990. “She has a fine philosophy of officiating -- be an “invisible” official who calls the game according to the rules, calls a consistent game and facilitates the smooth administration of the match, all of which makes the experience an education and rewarding experience for the participants.”

Anderson’s devotion to the League was observed by many.

“Anna’s loyalty to the (League) is characterized by her turning down many invitations to referee in NCAA regionals when it conflicted with high school play,” Swanson said. “This probably prevented her from advancing to the national NCAA level competition. She is that competent as an official. She truly cares about the (League) and is always ready to help.”

Said Weaver: “Anna was the voice of patience and reason with an incredible vision. She was one of the few people that understood the game the way that it needed to be understood.”

Witschen answered the radio broadcasting call as high school student

In his senior year at Park High School in 1968, a speech teacher encouraged Tom Witschen to cultivate his love of sports by exploring the school’s radio club as a co-curricular opportunity. Every week, that club would produce a one-hour radio show that was broadcast on a station in nearby Newport. A 10-minute sports segment was included in that show. Witschen seized the opportunity.

Eager to pursue the activity, those first steps paved the way to a radio career that has spanned more than five decades. From his first play-by-play call of the boys hockey team playing South St. Paul at the iconic Wakota Arena to a legendary career calling Division I games, Witschen has logged more than 5,000 games in six different sports.

As Witschen seriously contemplates retirement, perhaps after the school year, he spent some time recently with the League reflecting on his career.

“It was my job to paint a picture with my words and details so that those that weren’t in attendance could get a clear sense of what was happening in the games,” he said. “I took great pride and responsibility in that. It was an honor to bring the games to the listeners.”

After calling his first game as a high school senior, he became his harshest critic. He continued to hone his craft at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls where he switched gears from his initial intention of becoming a history teacher to becoming a sports radio broadcaster. He called the League’s boys and girls hockey tournaments for 18 years and 15 years each for volleyball, boys and girls basketball and the Prep Bowl football championship games. He also called the wrestling, baseball and softball state tournaments.

At the collegiate level, he has served Augsburg University, St. Catherine University and the University of Minnesota, as well as having contracts with individual League member schools. In 2007, he was inducted into the Minnesota High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame. Eight years later, he was honored by Augsburg with a 2015 Distinguished Athletic Service Award.

“My goal was to keep getting better and better,” he said. “I share with the young people that work for me how important it is to do their homework and preparation before each and every game,” he said. “It is a special feeling that the broadcasts are an important part of the experiences of these young people.”

When did the Minneapolis public schools join the Minnesota State High School League?  
What concepts were considered when a realignment committee was formed in 1974?  
How long was curling a League-sanctioned activity?  
True of False? There has never been a five-time individual girls tennis champion.  
What member school holds the record for most consecutive volleyball championships?  

Answers on page 7
May Thao-Schuck, a vice president of career and professional development at St. Catherine University, has been appointed as a Governor’s Delegate to serve a four-year term on the League’s Board of Directors. She began her service with the board in August. Thao-Schuck formerly worked as director of the workforce development employment and training programs division for the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Thao-Schuck received her Bachelor of Science degree in therapeutic recreation from the University of Minnesota, and a Masters of Business Administration with an emphasis in leadership from Argosy University. She is currently working on her doctorate in organization development at the University of St. Thomas.

In The Mail

The following Praise Reports were received by League Staff

This was received from a soccer official following a junior varsity game between Spectrum and Esko:

“I wanted to write and send a note of high praise for the Spectrum junior varsity girls soccer team. They were on the receiving end of a lopsided score, but never once did I hear complaints or witness unsporting behavior. They encouraged each other and sought to find joy throughout the game. Rather than hang their heads at each score, or deliver unkind words or actions, they gave praise to one other and their coach made sure to remind them of the goal of team sports. I was so happy to see their behavior. It lifted my spirits on an emotional day of remembrance. Please let them and their school know that what they presented on Sept. 11, 2021 was notable and that I was honored to be their official and share that time with them.

This was received from a soccer official following a varsity game between Forest Lake and Cambridge-Isanti:

“I wanted to give activities director Mike Hennen and his team at Forest Lake a shout out. I have been at Forest Lake several times this season and enjoy the experience. Mike makes sure everything is ready to go and a site admin is open and accessible. Mike stops by and ensures that everything is fine and if I need any assistance as an official. More than a week ago, there was a lightning delay. Mike made sure to monitor the lightning and let the officials know when play needed to stop. He made sure everyone had safe shelter and helped facilitate communications between coaches and officials so play could resume when it was safe. On a Saturday, Mike had several events going on at the Forest Lake campus. I appreciated that Mike made sure everything was good to go and checked in several times. I also appreciated that he called me afterward as he wanted to make sure the event went well. Thanks for making it a great event, Mike. Forest Lake has a great new facility. A real gem.

Fine Arts Spotlight

Debate:
• The competition season is beginning with both in-person and virtual tournaments. After a strictly virtual season last year, schools are working through COVID-19 precautions to keep participants and judges safe for in-person events.

Music:
• The Music Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on a virtual platform on Wednesday, Oct. 13. Among the agenda topics will be the music approval process, adjudicator registration and recruitment of judges.

One Act Play and Speech:
• As schools recruit new judges, if you would like to host an evening or weekend judging clinic at your high school, please contact MSHSL One Act Play clinician Jerry Girton or MSHSL Speech clinician Cliff Janké. Their email addresses can be found on the MSHSL website on the One Act Play and Speech pages.

Speech:
• The Speech Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet on a virtual platform on Tuesday, Oct. 5.

• League Staff member Amy Doherty, right, teamed with Lauren McCool of the National Speech and Debate Association in a presentation on Recruiting Students and Rebuilding Programs during the NFHS Performing Arts Conference last month in Denver.
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 third year in a row—The Most Valuable Teammate (MVT) Award—for students who are GREAT TEAMMATES. These students will be recognized weekly on the League’s social media platforms throughout the year. We’re counting on YOU 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 activities 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 jmillea@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 the backbones 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 or 763-560-2262.

• All communications regarding registration, rule or mechanics clarifications, and reminders will take place via email from officials@mshsl.org via Arbiter and Smore.
• Registration for the 2021-2022 winter and spring seasons is open! Encourage your friends, neighbors and colleagues to join us in this rewarding avocation.
• Registration should be completed via the MSHSL Arbiter Central Hub. The deadline for returning spring officials to register without a late fee is Feb. 1. New officials can register anytime with no late fee prior to the exam deadline. Those interested in becoming an official may check out information on the program in the officiating portal of the new MSHSL website.
• You may select your primary and secondary Association during the registration process. Only Associations that are a part of the Charter/Legacy Program are listed. This is optional for officials to choose an Association, but it is a helpful tool for Associations as they verify eligibility of their officials. Please do not select an Association if you are not a member with that Association.
• Officiating Recruitment Forums are continuing to expand. We will hold an additional Forum aimed at bringing in new officials for winter sports. These Forums will be held on Zoom and the next Forum is tentatively scheduled for November.
• Officiating training will continue with a virtual option for the 2021-2022 school year. Each sport that provides/requires clinics will have two in-person clinics and two Zoom clinics. Both count towards the in-person clinic requirement for post-season consideration. Sites and dates will be shared as they are finalized. Officials must attend one of these clinics once every two years to keep your eligibility current.
• Important reminder: Officials must bring the printed Eligibility badge (Profile tab) or a device with the badge on it to every varsity contest. Officials need to be proactive and show the badge to someone at the site without a request. The AD’s/site administrator/coach still needs to check at the site as we have last minute replacements.
• We continue to develop our observation program in football, soccer and volleyball during the fall season. If you have not been observed in the last three years and would like to be, please email officials@mshsl.org with your interest.
• The deadlines to complete online meetings and exams for the 2021-2022 school year are posted on the Arbiter Central Hub. Please plan ahead to complete these items on time. The Eligibility Badge cannot be printed or shared without completing all of the required items.
• Select Section officiating assignments will be assigned via Arbiter and paid with ArbiterPay during fall tournaments. All State assignments will be assigned via Arbiter and paid with ArbiterPay.
• Nominations for the 2022 Distinguished Service Award are now being accepted. Please connect with your Association leadership if you are interested in making a nomination.
• 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. Soccer may come on board as early as next season.
• Looking ahead: Winter sport coaches and officials are encouraged to be aware of the rule changes in their sports. The National Federation of State High School Associations has completed that annual process for winter sports, and the results can be found on the League’s website or through either your Coach’s Dashboard or Arbiter Central Hub page. Go to your individual sport information and select the link to the news release from the NFHS. Look for “2021-2022 Rule Changes.”

quiz answers

Questions on Page 5

1. May 28, 1932. The acceptance resulted in redistricting Minnesota into 32 districts and eight regions.
2. A 10-region concept and a plan for eight regions in each of Class A and Class AA.
3. 1969-77.
4. False. St. Paul Academy’s Gina Suh was the first to accomplish the feat in 1993, and Bloomington Jefferson’s Anh Nguyen matched it in 1996.
5. Robbinsdale Armstrong with five, from 1980-84.
WELLS FARGO
- All-Tournament Team Program
- ExCEL Award
- Spotlight on the Arts Award Excellence
- Most Valuable Teammate Award
- Sportsmanship Challenge

McDONALD's
- Spotlight on Scholarship Program
- Triple 'A' Award Program

SMITTY OFFICIAL'S APPAREL
- Supplier of MSHSL Officials Apparel

TOYOTA
- John's Journal

HOMETOWN TICKETING
- Official Digital Ticketing Provider

HUDL
- Exclusive Video Analytics/Game Exchange

MEDIA PARTNERS
- 45TV
- Minnesota Broadcasters Association
- School Space Media

OFFICIAL BALLS/
EQUIPMENT FOR MSHSL
STATE TOURNAMENTS
- Baseball - Wilson (A1010HS1)
- Basketball - Spalding Top-Flite Legacy (wide channel)
- Softball - Dudley SB 12L (Yellow)
- Tennis - Wilson (US Open Extra Duty)
- Volleyball - Baden (VX5EC-220 Perfection Blue/White/Grey)
- Hockey - Bauer
- Football - Spalding (Alpha)
- Soccer - Select Sport America