

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE
HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS



NEWS RELEASE

**National Coaches of the Year
Selected by NFHS Coaches Association**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tim Flannery

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (January 14, 2014) — Twenty-one high school coaches from across the country have been selected as 2013 National Coaches of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Coaches Association.

The NFHS, which has been recognizing coaches through an awards program since 1982, honors coaches in the top 10 girls sports and top 10 boys sports (by participation numbers), and in one “other” sport that is not included in the top 10 listings. The NFHS also recognizes a Spirit coach as a separate award category. Winners of NFHS awards must be active coaches during the year for which they receive their award. This year’s awards recognize coaches for the 2012-13 school year.

Recipients of the 2013 NFHS national awards for boys sports are:

David Gentry, football, Murphy (North Carolina) High School; **John Jones**, track and field, Columbia (South Carolina) Spring Valley High School; **Dennis Bower**, basketball, Onalaska (Washington) High School; **Larry Turner**, baseball, Owasso (Oklahoma) High School; **Gregory Oglesby**, soccer, Southlake (Texas) Carroll Senior High School; **Bill Johnson**, wrestling, Norton (Kansas) Community Senior High School; **Claney Duplechin**, cross country, Baton Rouge (Louisiana) Episcopal High School; **Skip Griese**, tennis, Ada (Oklahoma) High School; **James**

McGill, golf, Ottawa Hills (Ohio) High School; and **Joe Pereira**, swimming and diving, Salt Lake City (Utah) Skyline High School.

Recipients of this year's national awards for girls sports are:

Richard Kates Jr., track and field, Higham (Massachusetts) Notre Dame Academy; **Rhonda Farney**, basketball, Georgetown (Texas) High School; **Mary Jo Cerqua**, volleyball, Baldwinsville (New York) High School; **Thomas Hasbrouck**, soccer, Buckhannon-Upshur (West Virginia) High School; **Jeff Hulse**, softball, Olathe (Kansas) East High School; **Steven Porter**, cross country, Milan (Michigan) High School; **Philip Rudolph**, tennis, Fayetteville-Manlius (New York) High School; **Richard Hawks**, swimming and diving, Greenwich (Connecticut) High School; and **Margaret Stanley**, golf, Socorro (New Mexico) High School. There was no national coach selected for girls lacrosse.

The recipient of the National Coach of the Year Award for spirit is **Michelle Akers** of Logan (West Virginia) High School, and **Jennifer Haney** of Hudson (Ohio) High School was chosen in the other sports category for Field Hockey.

In addition to the 21 National Coaches of the Year, the NFHS Coaches Association has selected **John E. Nicolaysen** of Oakland, New Jersey, as the recipient of the National Coach Contributor Award. This award is presented to an individual who has gone above and beyond and who exemplifies the highest standards of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and moral character, and who carries the endorsement of his or her respective state high school association.

The NFHS has a contact person in each state who is responsible for selecting deserving coach award recipients. This contact person often works with the state coaches' association in his or her respective state. He or she contacts the potential state award recipients to complete a coach profile form that requests information regarding the coach's record, membership in and affiliation with coaching and other professional organizations, involvement with other school and community activities and programs, and coaching philosophy. To be approved as an award recipient and considered for sectional and national coach of the year consideration, this profile form must be completed by the coach or designee and then approved by the executive director (or designee) of the state athletic/activities association.

The next award level after state coach of the year is sectional coach of the year. The NFHS is divided into eight geographical sections. They are as follows: Section 1 – Northeast (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT); Section 2 – Mideast (DE, DC, KY, MD, OH, PA, VA, WV); Section 3 – South (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN); Section 4 – Central (IL, IN, IA, MI, WI); Section 5 – Midwest (KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD); Section 6 – Southwest (AR, CO, NM, OK, TX); Section 7 – West (AZ, CA, HI, NV, UT); and Section 8 – Northwest (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY).

The NFHS Coaches Association has an advisory committee, composed of a chair and eight sectional representatives. The sectional committee representatives evaluate the state award recipients from the states in their respective sections and select the best candidates for the sectional award in each sport category. The NFHS Coaches Association Advisory Committee then considers the sectional candidates in each sport, ranks them according to a point system, and determines a national winner for each of the 20 sport categories, the spirit category and one “other” category.

A total of 515 coaches will be recognized this year with state, sectional and national awards.

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This press release was written by Barbara Green Johnson, AIC, administrative assistant with the NFHS who works with the NFHS Coaches Association and the NFHS Coach Education Program.

About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and performing arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and performing arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 16 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,000 high schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.7 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; offers online publications and services for high school coaches and officials; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, speech and debate coaches, and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS Web site at www.nfhs.org.

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