Congratulations to the 2020 Champion Team Spirit and Coaches Award Recipients: Central Dauphin East HS & Jen Marchetti of Delaware Valley HS

The Champion Team Spirit and Coach award is given to a deserving PIAA team and coach nominated for representing leadership, integrity, dedication, team commitment and community involvement. The Team Spirit and Coach award are presented each year during the Competitive Spirit Championships.

This year’s Champion Team Spirit award went to the Central Dauphin East Panthers. The Central Dauphin East cheerleaders have made numerous contributions to their community while also maintaining academic excellence. The Panthers annually support their local Breast Cancer Walk by not only performing cheers for the walkers but also by raising money for the organization. The cheerleaders find sponsors within the Central Dauphin East faculty members. Those sponsors then accompany the cheerleaders on the field during their “pink out” game. The cheerleaders also attend the National Night Out event in Harrisburg where they perform to entertain the crowd while also inviting children to attend their summer Youth Clinic. The cheerleaders then work with these young cheerleaders at the Youth Clinic, teaching them cheers and stunts and eventually inviting them to perform with them during a first half of a game in the upcoming season. Other events the cheerleaders are involved in are a sock drive for their local women’s shelter and also visiting the elementary schools during PSSA testing week to get the kids fired up for testing. Many of the students on the cheerleading team are on honor roll for Distinguished Honors or First Honors. Several have also been inducted into the National Honor Society. As you can see the Central Dauphin East Cheerleaders take great pride in their community and school, and because of this we congratulate them as the 2020 Champion Team Spirit Award recipients.

This year’s Champion Coaches Award was presented to Jennifer Marchetti of Delaware Valley High School. Coach Marchetti has been the cheerleading coach for almost two decades at Delaware Valley. When she first took over the program she noticed that the students needed additional work on tumbling. Having no gymnastics training facility in the area, Coach Marchetti travelled with the girls to a facility nearly an hour away every week until a closer option became available. Coach Marchetti has created the first ever cheer team for students with special needs. This team offers a unique opportunity to those special needs students but also helps develop her own team by enabling them to assist with the coaching and planning. Coach Marchetti also developed a new Cross Fit Kids Club for Delaware Valley HS because she felt it would benefit those students not traditionally involved in extra-curricular activities. She also called on her cheerleaders to assist with the daily workouts. Based on these programs and the dedication, commitment, positivity, and enthusiasm brought to the Delaware Valley Cheerleading program, we congratulate Jennifer Marchetti as the winner of the 2019 Champion Coaches Award.

Upcoming Events:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 5th—7th</td>
<td>Individual Wrestling Championships</td>
<td>GIANT CENTER—Hershey</td>
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<td>March 11th—14th</td>
<td>Swimming and Diving Championships</td>
<td>Bucknell University—Lewisburg</td>
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<td>March 19th—21st</td>
<td>100th Basketball Championships</td>
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<td>May 15th—16th</td>
<td>Boys’ Team Tennis Championships</td>
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<td>May 22nd—23rd</td>
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<td>Track &amp; Field Championships</td>
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<td>June 6th</td>
<td>Boys’ Volleyball Championships</td>
<td>Recreation Hall—PSU</td>
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<td>Boys’ &amp; Girls’ Lacrosse</td>
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<td>June 11th—12th</td>
<td>Baseball Championships</td>
<td>Medlar Field, Lubrano Park, PSU</td>
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<td>Softball Championships</td>
<td>Beard Field, Nittany Lion Softball Park, PSU</td>
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Karissa Nieoff.

athlete by Executive Director

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students through athletics.

319,000

Student-Athletes

1,434

Member Schools

766 High Schools — 668 Junior High Schools

1 GOAL

Purchase Wrestling and
Basketball Tickets now!

PIAA Individual
Wrestling Championships
March 5th – 7th
Click here.

PIAA 100th Year
Basketball
Championships
March 19th – 21st
Click here.

Playing Multiple Sports in HS
Leads to Super Bowl Success

Patrick Mahomes uses what he
learned from being a multi-sport
athlete to become a Super Bowl
Champion. Mahome’s father was
a Major League Baseball player
and had only focused solely on
baseball from a very early age. In
contrast Patrick, was a three sport
athlete who played football,
basketball, and baseball in high
school. His involvement in all
three sports has helped him
throughout his career. Click here
to read the full article on the
importance of being a multi-sport
athlete by Executive Director
Karissa Nieoff.

2020 Spring Rules
Interpretation Meetings

Click the Patch for
Information on Spring
Sport Rule
Interpretation Meetings

Congratulations to the 2020 PIAA Team Wrestling Champions.

2A: Reynolds HS
3A: Nazareth HS

2020 NFHS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Applications for the 2020 National Leadership Summit are now available on the PIAA website. The theme for this year’s summit is “Take Part, Get Set for Life.” This unique opportunity is designed to enhance the leadership skills of students and help them realize the privilege and power of their influence on their school, community, and state. The Summit hosted by the NFHS and will take place from July 20th – 22nd in Indianapolis, IN.

For additional information and application click here.

The deadline to submit your application to the PIAA office is Friday, February 28th. For any additional questions please contact Lee Ann Blascovich (lblascovich@piaa.org).

100 YEARS OF BASKETBALL

This year’s PIAA Basketball Championships will celebrate 100 years of basketball. The first basketball championship was played in 1920 at Penn State Armory in State College between Harrisburg Tech and Bellevue with Harrisburg Tech winning the first ever PIAA Basketball Championship by a score of 38-34. In celebration of the 100 years of basketball the PIAA is looking for photos, memorabilia, newspaper articles, or any historic items in connection with basketball championships over the years. If you have photos or items you are willing to share please email them to Jen Grassel at jgrassel@piaa.org.

PIAA and Special Olympics of Pennsylvania (SOPA) will host Unified Bocce Championships During the PIAA Boys’ and Girls’ Basketball Championship in March

SOPA and PIAA have once again joined forces to host the unified Bocce Championships. The unified bocce season is held from December to February with the culminating event in March. The Bocce Championships will be held Thursday, March 19th beginning at 8:00 am., in the Hershey GIANT center.

SOPA currently trains nearly 20,000 athletes, who compete annually in nearly 21 Olympic style sports in over 300 event competitions. For additional information please click here.

Pennsylvania Attorney General & PIAA Have Teamed Up Once Again for a Public Service Announcement Contest

The PA Attorney General Office and the PIAA have partnered up to fight opioid abuse. As part of this year’s “Don’t Let Pain Become a Killer” campaign we would like to encourage school TV production studios and students to create a public service announcement (PSA) that raises awareness of opioid abuse in our communities.

The winning PSA will be played during the 2020-21 statewide telecasts of selected PIAA Championships broadcasts on the Pennsylvania Cable Network as well as on site on the videoboards at PIAA Championships. In addition there will be two cash prizes to schools to enhance their TV production studios. For more information and contest rules, please click here. Deadline is Friday, March 6th.

Proposed 2020-21 & 2021-22 Qualifiers and Brackets Posted

First reading of the proposed number of qualifiers and brackets has been posted to the PIAA website. They will go through a three reading protocol. To see proposed brackets, click here.