



Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association NEWSLETTER

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William Pfeifer Named NFHS Girls Soccer National Coach of the Year; Twelve PA Coaches Receive NFHS Sectional Coach of the Year Honors

William Pfeifer (Moon Township HS) has been named National Girls Soccer Coach of the Year for the 2021-2022 season by the NFHS (National Federation of High School Associations) Coaches Association. With 482 victories Pfeifer has the most wins in Pennsylvania girls soccer history.



Pictured: William Pfeifer

In addition to Pfeifer, eleven Pennsylvania Coaches have been named NFHS Sectional Coaches of the Year. The NFHS is divided into eight geographical sections. Pennsylvania is a member of Section 2 – Mideast (DE, DC, KY, MD, OH, PA, VA, WV). The following coaches have been named Sectional Coaches of the Year: **Craig Antush**, Girls Golf (Hickory HS); **Luann Grybowski**, Girls Basketball (Neshannock HS); **Robert Naylor**, Girls Cross Country (Montour HS); **Amy Orcutt**, Girls Lacrosse (Conestoga HS); **William Pfeifer**, Girls Soccer (Moon Area HS); **Suzannah Mayer**, Competitive Spirit (Hempfield Area HS); **Brittany Aimone**, Girls Tennis (Conestoga HS); **James Delp**, Boys Track & Field (Wyomissing Area HS); **Chad Shirk**, Boys Wrestling (Saucon Valley HS); **Bob Marcoux**, Boys Lacrosse (Mars HS); **Matthew McAuley**, Boys' Soccer (Hampton HS); and **Brian Blackwell**, Boys Swimming & Diving (Seneca Valley HS).

To read the complete press release, click [here](#).

2023 Champion Team Spirit and Coaches Award Recipients: Pope John Paul II HS and Rebecca Cucuzza of Lansdale HS

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

This year's Champion Team Spirit Award went to Pope John Paul II HS. PJP has gone above and beyond as a cheerleading team. Each week they work with the Spring Valley YMCA supporting children with special abilities. They also collected over 38 bags of food for the Patrician Society's Emergency Food Cupboard. And through their efforts of adding breast cancer awareness to their game day routines, using the themes of "Roar for a Cure" and "Think Pink", and creating a t-shirt for purchase with the back honoring those who are fighting breast cancer, raised, in coordination with other sports' teams breast cancer initiatives, almost \$13,000 dollars for The Charles A. & Betty Bott Chancer Center.



Pictured: PJP Competitive Spirit Team

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IMPORTANT DATES:

February 9th—11th

- Team Wrestling Championships:
GIANT Center, Hershey

March 9th—11th

- Individual Wrestling Championships:
GIANT Center, Hershey

March 15th—18th

- Swimming & Diving Championships:
Bucknell University, Lewisburg

March 23rd—25th

- Basketball Championships:
GIANT Center, Hershey

April 2nd—8th

- Officials' Appreciation Week

May 19th—20th

- Boys Team Tennis Championships:
Hershey Racquet Club, Hershey

May 26th—27th

- Boys Singles/Doubles Tennis Championships:
Hershey Racquet Club, Hershey

May 26th—27th

- Track & Field Championships:
Shippensburg University, Shippensburg



**Pennsylvania Interscholastic
Athletic Association
(PIAA)**

goal is to provide educational,
character building opportunities for
students through athletics.

316,400

Student-Athletes

1,441

Member Schools

771 High Schools

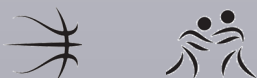
670 Junior High Schools

1 GOAL



**Basketball & Wrestling
Championship Tickets**

Championship Tickets for the
2023 Basketball and Wrestling
Championships at the GIANT
Center are on sale. Please click
the links below for information
on purchasing tickets.



[2023 Basketball Tickets](#)

[2023 Wrestling Tickets](#)



Important Links:

[Rule Interpretation Meetings](#)

[Become an Official](#)

[Board of Directors Minutes](#)

[School Log-in](#)

[Classifications](#)

[Competition Formula](#)

[Official Ball List](#)

2023 Champion Team Spirit and Coaches Award Recipients, continued:

This year's Champion Coach Award went to Rebecca Cucuzza of Lansdale Catholic. Rebecca was nominated by fellow coach Reanna Bull. Becky has made a huge impact at Lansdale Catholic cheerleading since her arrival in 2009. The team has captured 7 Philadelphia Catholic League Championships, two PIAA championships and the 2013 UCA National Championships. She is a wife, mother of young children and ever present coach, who has taught her student-athletes not only the sport of cheerleading but how to grow as individuals through confidence, independence, faith and leadership. She has maintained her coaching impact even while fighting through breast cancer and participating in weekly clinical trials that have taken a toll on her mentally and physically. She will not let this disease control her and continues to be an amazing role model to her cheerleaders and the Lansdale Catholic community.



Pictured L-R: Melissa Mertz,
Rebecca Cucuzza, Denise Bartlett

**Pennsylvania Attorney General and PIAA Have Teamed Up
Once Again to Combat OPIOID Abuse**

The PA Attorney General Office and the PIAA have partnered up to fight opioid abuse. As part of the campaign "Don't Let Pain Become a Killer" 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 2023-2024 statewide telecasts of select PIAA Championships broadcasts on the Pennsylvania Cable Network as well as on videoboards at PIAA Championships. In addition there will be two cash prizes awarded to schools to enhance their TV production studios. For more information and contest rules, please click [here](#). **Deadline is Friday, March 10th.**

Special thanks to the following partners for their support:



**2023
NFHS National Student
Leadership Summit**



Applications for the 2023 National Leadership Summit are now available on the PIAA website. This unique opportunity is designed to enhance the leadership skills of student-athletes 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 29th—31st in Indianapolis, IN. For additional information and application click [here](#).

The deadline to submit your application to the PIAA office is **Friday, March 31st**.

Don't miss out on this unique leadership opportunity supported through the PIAA Foundation.

For additional questions please email lb@piaa.org.