

## **Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association**

Beginning in Pittsburgh, on December 29, 1913, PIAA was given the privilege of serving its member schools and registered officials by establishing policies and adopting contest rules that emphasize the educational values of interscholastic athletics, promote safe and sportsmanlike competition, and provide uniform standards for all interscholastic levels of competition.



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **2024 PIAA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

MECHANICSBURG – The 2024 PIAA Basketball Championships saw 24 teams battle it out to crown 12 champions, six girls’ teams and six boys’ teams over three days of competition. It was an electric atmosphere in Chocolatetown. This was the 104<sup>th</sup> Annual PIAA Boys’ Basketball Championships and the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual PIAA Girls’ Basketball Championship.

The Giant Center has been home to the Girls and Boys Basketball Championships for 15-years. This championship saw more than 19,000 fans in attendance to watch the student-athletes represent their schools and perform on the championship stage.

During games on Friday and Saturday, numerous awards were presented. PIAA and the Pennsylvania Cable Network, in conjunction with a grant from the PA Office of the Attorney General, challenged students across the state to create 30 second public service announcements to educate classmates on the dangers of opioid abuse. Over 37 classrooms participated in the competition since January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mia Patino, of New Hope-Solebury High School, had the winning commercial to help spread awareness on the fight against opioid abuse in Pennsylvania. Mia was the lead producer on their spot entitled, “The Monster.” Mia won \$1,000 for the New Hope-Solebury TV Studio. Her spot will run statewide on PCN’s live and streamed coverage of the PIAA State Championships through January 2025.

The runner up was from Indiana County Technology Center, Lead Producer Lizzy Dillon. Lizzy’s spot entitled “Be the Reflection” has earned her school \$500 to upgrade their equipment. Lizzy was joined by Indian County Technology Center Administrative Director Michael J. McDermott to receive her award and \$500 check to enhance their program.

The PIAA Award of Merit is in recognition of an individual’s years of service to the PIAA, its member schools, student-athletes, and registered sports officials. This year, there were three recipients as the PIAA was honored to bestow the 2024 Award of Merit to Franklin C. Hoke, Dennis F. Nemes and Walter J. Blucas. Frank is a graduate of West York HS and York College. He served on the Penn Manor School Board for five years.



From left to right: PIAA Board of Directors President Frank Majikes, recipient Franklin C. Hoke, PIAA Executive Director Dr. Robert A. Lombardi, and PIAA Chief Operating Officer Mark Byers.

Frank, through his insight and corporate development, has created one of the finest marketing companies that works exclusively with high schools and interscholastic sports in the country.

Dennis Nemes is a graduate of Liberty HS in Bethlehem and a graduate of Muhlenburg College. He started his educational career as a guidance counselor at Cedar Cliff HS and moved back to the Lehigh Valley as a middle school principal at Southern Lehigh HS. Dennis then moved to Northwestern Lehigh HS where he spent 30 years as HS principal.

Dennis served on the PIAA District 11 Committee for 30 years and the PIAA Board of Directors as the Principals Representative for 27 years. He also served an additional two years on the Board as the Private School Representative.

The other PIAA Award of Merit went to Mr. Walter J. Blucas. "Wally" was a graduate of Jenner-Boswell HS and went to IUP where he was a star quarterback leading them to a birth in the Boardwalk Bowl vs. Delaware. Wally started his career in education at Karns City HS where he was also the head football coach. He moved to Girard School District where he spent 28 years as an administrator and culminated his career as Superintendent.

Wally spent 40 years on the District X Committee with 32 of them as District X's chairman. He also served 32 years on the PIAA Board of Directors and 8 years as the President of PIAA. Wally's service to the Association is unmatched and his leadership, insight and integrity has helped the Association flourish.



From left to right: PIAA Chief Operating Officer Mark Byers, Former PIAA Executive Director Brad Cashman, recipients PIAA Board of Directors President Frank Majikes, recipients Dennis F. Nemes and Walter J. Blucas, PIAA Board of Directors President Frank Majikes, and PIAA Executive Director Dr. Robert A. Lombardi.

### 2024 Results

#### **Girls**

1A: Bishop Guilfoyle def. Mt. View, 35-17  
 2A: Kennedy Catholic def. Marion Center, 42-40  
 3A: Lancaster Catholic def. Westmont Hilltop, 56-39  
 4A: Blackhawk def. Scranton Prep, 56-44  
 5A: Archbishop Wood def. Cathedral Prep, 37-27  
 6A: Cardinal O'Hara def. Spring-Ford, 42-26

#### **Boys**

Imani Christian def. Berlin Brothersvalley, 79-52  
 Aliquippa def. Holy Cross, 74-52  
 Devon Prep def. Franklin Area, 60-56  
 Lincoln Park def. Archbishop Carroll, 80-50  
 Imhotep Charter def. Franklin Regional, 59-48  
 Central York def. Parkland, 53-51

Championship Brackets: [http://www.piaa.org/sports/championship\\_details.aspx?sport=basketball](http://www.piaa.org/sports/championship_details.aspx?sport=basketball)

For a full list of any previous championship results, follow this link:

<http://www.piaa.org/news/details.aspx?ID=3095>

Media Contact: Lyndsay A. Barna, 717-697-0374 ext. \*113 or [lbarna@piaa.org](mailto:lbarna@piaa.org)

**Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc.**  
**550 Gettysburg Road \* P.O. Box 2008**  
**Mechanicsburg, PA**  
**(800) 382-1392 \* (717) 697-0374 [www.piaa.org](http://www.piaa.org)**