



Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association NEWSLETTER

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2024 PSA "Don't let Pain Become A Killer" Winners; PIAA Award of Merit Honorees

PIAA and the PA Office of the Attorney General have partnered for the past eight years to create a program educating member schools of the dangers of prescription opioid abuse. Through those years additional partners have supported the initiative: PASA, PSADA, NFHS, PSBA, POMA Foundation, and PCN. The campaign enlists the help of students around the commonwealth through a contest to create a public service announcement to be played the following year at PIAA State Championships and on the Pennsylvania Cable Network. Two commercials were selected as the runner-up and champion for 2024. The Runner-up video entitled "Be the Reflection" was produced by Lizzy Dillon from Indiana County Technology Center. Click [here](#) to view the 2024 Runner-up video. The winning PSA for the 2024 Don't Let Pain Become a Killer Campaign was produced by Mia Patino from New Hope-Solebury High School. The PSA is titled "The Monster". Click [here](#) to view the 2024 winning PSA. Congratulations to the 2024 Winners!

PIAA Award of Merit is in recognition of an individual's years of service to PIAA and its member schools, student-athletes, and registered sports' officials. This year PIAA was honored to present the Award of Merit to three distinguished individuals: Franklin C. Hoke, Dennis F. Nemes, and Walter J. Blucas. Franklin C. Hoke was the former owner and chief financial officer of Market Street Sports Group, the official marketing company of the PIAA, since their inception in 2004. Dennis F. Nemes was the Northwestern Lehigh HS principal while also serving on the PIAA District 11 committee. He was a member of the PIAA Board of Directors for 30 years. Walter J. Blucas was a 28 year administrator at the Girard School District culminating his career as superintendent. Wally spent 40 years on the District 10 committee, with 32 of those being the District 10 Chairman. Wally also served on the PIAA Board of Directors for 32 years with 8 of those years as President of PIAA.



Pictured from L-R: Dr. Robert Lombardi (PIAA Executive Director), Michael McDermott (Administrator Director, Indiana County Technology Center), Lizzy Dillon (Student), Frank Majikes (PIAA President) and Mark Byers (PIAA COO).



Pictured from L-R: Frank Majikes (PIAA President), Frank Hoke (Honoree), Dr. Robert Lombardi (PIAA Executive Director) and Mark Byers (PIAA COO).



Pictured from L-R: Mark Byers (PIAA COO), Brad Cashman (Former PIAA Executive Director), Denis Nemes (Honoree), Wally Blucas (Honoree), Frank Majikes (PIAA President), and Dr. Robert Lombardi (PIAA Executive Director).

IMPORTANT DATES:

April 14th — 20th

- Spring Officials' Appreciation Week

May 17th—18th

- Boys' Team Tennis Championships
Hershey Racquet Club

May 24th—25th

- Boys' Singles & Doubles Tennis Championships
Hershey Racquet Club

May 24th—25th

- Track & Field Championships
Shippensburg University

June 13th—15th

Spring Festival
Penn State University

*Baseball, Softball,
Boys' Volleyball & Lacrosse*

June 13th—14th

Baseball-Medlar Field

June 13th—14th

Softball-Beard Field

June 15th

Lacrosse-Panzer Stadium

June 15th

Volleyball-REC Hall



**Pennsylvania Interscholastic
Athletic Association
(PIAA)**

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

325,000

Student-Athletes

1,450

Member Schools

775 High Schools
675 Junior High Schools

1 GOAL



**National Anthem Singers
Needed for Spring PIAA
Championships**

PIAA is looking for HS Students to
sing the national anthems at their
Spring Championships. If you
have an individual within your HS
school who would be interested
please email [Alex Mykut](mailto:Alex.Mykut).

**National HS Sports-Related
Injury Study (HS RIO)**

The High School RIO collects data
on high school athletes to identify
rates and patterns of injuries
across sports. To participate in the
RIO or learn more, please click
[here](#).

Important Links:

[Become an Official](#)

[Board of Directors Minutes](#)

[Classifications](#)

[Competition Formula](#)

[Handbook](#)

[In-Season Transfer Infographic](#)

[Name, Image, and Likeness \(NIL\)](#)

[Official Ball List](#)

[Rule Interpretation Meetings](#)

[School Log-in](#)

2024 NFHS National Student Leadership Summit

The 2024 NFHS National Leadership Summit Application is now available. The Leadership Summit is an unique opportunity for students and is designed to enhance their leadership skills as well as help them realize the privilege and power of their influence on their school, community, and state. The Summit hosted by the NFHS will take place from July 22nd—25th in Indianapolis, IN. For additional information and application, click [here](#).

The deadline to submit your application to the PIAA office is **Friday, April 5th**.

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

For additional questions please email lb@piaa.org.



**Mars Area HS was Highlighted in the Latest Issue of
High School Today Magazine for their Unusual Nickname**

Mars Area High School was highlighted in the March Issue of NFHS Today, because of their unusual nickname, of "Fightin' Planets". The town was officially incorporated as a borough dating back to 1895. As there is not one concrete story on how the name landed on Mars, some believe it was because of the astronomy loving wife of the first settler, Samuel Parks. Regardless of how the name came to be, the town has embraced the name by including classic alien characters behind their store logos. The main tourist attraction being a 3,000 pound saucer (created in the 1990s) located in the town center. The name has recently gained some interest thanks to the six PIAA championships and three runner up finishes over the past seven years across five sports: boys and girls soccer, boys and girls basketball and boys lacrosse. For the full article click [here](#) and go to page 11.



Officials' Appreciation Week

Reminder to all member schools of the
upcoming Officials' Appreciation Week. We look
forward to highlighting the efforts of our
officials for the Spring Season.
Please mark your calendars
with the following dates:

Spring Sports:

April 14th—20th, 2024



**NFHS High School
Today Magazine**

Check out the
latest articles by
clicking [here](#).

Featured Article:

[Life After High
School Athletics:
What Was
Gained?](#)

