

THSADA NEWSLETTER

Presented by Home Team Marketing



November 2012

Texas High School Athletic Directors Association Executive Director's Report *Rusty Dowling, Executive Director, THSADA*

"Welcome Back" always seems to be a common theme when a new school year starts but we know that you all never left! The duties and demands of an athletic administrator don't stop when the summer break occurs and in some cases quite a few of you are just as busy during the summer as you are during the regular school year.

I want to thank all athletic administrators who participated in the annual THSCA Convention and Coaching School. We realize that with budgets tight and districts minimizing what coaches and athletic administrators can do, it's our responsibility to use the advantages that Coaching School offers us in the way of THSADA Professional Development. We will continue to effectively utilize the opportunities of Coaching School to create forums for our athletic administrators by which professional development opportunities are available to all.

Congratulations to our new Regional Directors/Officers who were recognized at our THSADAGeneralMeeting. With many new initiatives, athletic administrative concerns and state legislation looming on the

horizon, it will be important for all athletic administrators to participate and be an active part of their Regional meetings. Our new President – Karen Funk - North East ISD, has a great challenge ahead of her and she is prepared to meet these challenges head on and with the assistance of all THSADA members and the THSADA Board of Directors.

We also want to remind everyone that we are still accepting applications for THSADA Committee work. If you are interested in serving on one of our committees please visit the front page of the web site and send in your application. A listing of our THSADA Committee's are listed under the

"Administration" tab of the web site.

I want to remind everyone that THSADA Membership Registration/ State Conference Registration is right around the corner. This dual registration opportunity will begin on November 1, 2012. Another reminder for those individuals who have not sent their information in to the THSADA Office via website data base entry, please get on the front page of the web site and submit your information.

You can also look for our THSADA ad in the next edition of Texas Coach Magazine. We also will run an ad in Texas School Business magazine as we want to reach out to all of our ISD Superintendents regarding the mission of the THSADA. You can help us with this by visiting the front page of the web site and submitting your Superintendent's information so that we have the ability to directly send your Superintendent our THSADA newsletter and keep them informed of what our association is doing.

Again, thanks for everyone's involvement at Coaching School and we look forward to a great registration period beginning November 1, 2012.



State Conference-Membership Registration Begins!

Don't be the one that is left behind...
the time is **NOW** to register for the
2013 State Conference and your 2013
Membership.

**Kick-off date — November 1st,
2012!**

The THSADA will offer two options
for your convenience to register:

- Online registration for both State
Conference and Membership
dues.
- Or download a pdf. registration
form to mail in with your check.

State Conference registration will run
through **February 15, 2013** – anyone
registering after that date will be
charged a \$20.00 late fee in addition
to the conference fee.

The time window to renew or purchase
your 2013 THSADA membership will
continue through **May 31, 2013**.

For several years, the membership
year for the association ran from
THSCA Coaching School to THSCA
Coaching School, but with approval
from our Board of Directors our
membership year will now be from
THSADA State Conference to THSADA
State Conference. This means that the
THSADA 2013 membership year will
begin March 1, 2013 and continue
through February 28, 2014.

Membership cards will be given to
all registered members at the State
Conference in San Angelo. If a member
does not attend the conference, we
will make arrangements to mail your
card to you. ★

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NFHS News: High School Sports Participation Achieves All-time High

by Shane Monaghan, graphic arts technician/editorial assistant in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (August 23, 2012) — Boosted by continued growth in several girls sports, participation in high school sports increased for the 23rd consecutive year in 2011-12, according to the annual High School Athletics Participation Survey conducted by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

Based on figures from the 51 NFHS-member state high school athletic/activity associations, which includes the District of Columbia, sports participation for the 2011-12 school year reached an all-time high of 7,692,520 participants – an increase of 24,565 from the previous year.

“In this time of ever-increasing financial challenges in our nation’s high schools, we are greatly encouraged to know that participation in high school sports continues to rise,” said Bob Gardner, NFHS executive director. “With more than 55 percent of students enrolled in high schools participating in athletics, the value of these programs in an education-based setting continues to be significant.”

An additional 33,984 girls participated in high school sports last year, making the all-time record total 3,207,533. This also marks the 23rd consecutive year for an increase in the number of female participants. Outdoor track and field (468,747), basketball (435,885) and volleyball (418,903) continued to be the top three participatory sports for girls,

with volleyball up 9,571 participants from 2010-11.

Soccer (370,975) surpassed fast-pitch softball (367,023) as the fourth most-popular girls sport, up 9,419 from last year, while cross country (212,262), tennis (180,870), swimming and diving (160,456), competitive spirit squads (108,307) and lacrosse (74,993) completed the top 10. Along with soccer and volleyball, cross country, competitive spirit squads and lacrosse all had increased participation from 2010-11.

While girls participation continued to climb, boys participation figures dipped for the first time since the 1992-93 school year, down 9,419 from last year’s number of 4,494,406 to 4,484,987. Seven of the top 10 boys sports registered drops in participation, with 11-player football (1,095,993), outdoor track and field (575,628), basketball (535,289), wrestling (272,149), tennis (159,800), golf (152,725) and swimming and diving (133,823) all down from last year. Baseball (474,219), soccer (411,757) and cross country (248,494) all had increases from the previous year, with soccer registering the largest increase of 13,406.

Lacrosse, which ranks No. 11 in participation among boys sports, topped the 100,000 mark (100,641) with about 5,000 additional participants. Wrestling continued its rise in popularity among girls, with

almost 1,000 additional participants up to 8,235.

Participants by state stayed true to last year’s order, as Texas and California once again topped the list with 808,806 and 781,912, respectively, followed by New York (389,475), Illinois (346,896), Ohio (333,349), Pennsylvania (317,869), Michigan (308,080), New Jersey (259,219), Florida (257,282) and Minnesota (238,363). Twenty states registered increases in participation in 2011-12.

The participation survey has been compiled since 1971 by the NFHS through numbers it receives from its member associations. The complete 2011-12 High School Athletics Participation Survey is available on the NFHS Web site at www.nfhs.org.

National Federation of State High School Associations



A Quick Look at High School Happenings in the USA

Female Kicker Scores Winning Point for Godley High School

By *Andres Gutierrez*

Rachael Evans, the first girl to play for Godley's football team, kicked the winning extra point in her debut as a kicker.

The highlight of Friday night's game between Godley and Ferris came in the third quarter.

"I took my step, I backed up, and I said, 'I can do anything,'" Evans said. "Then I went for it, and I made it. It was just awesome."

Her father, Sam, recorded it on his cellphone.

"The snap was on, the holder was perfect, the kick -- you couldn't have asked for anything better than that," he said.

"I know that sometimes it can come down to that extra point, and I don't to let my boys down because I can't do my job," Rachael Evans said.

Evans, a junior, is an active athlete, also playing basketball, soccer and running track.

The team's head coach, Randy Brawner, realizes her talent.

"She gives us the best chance to kick extra points," he said. "Right now, she's the best one we've got on the team."

Evans said she wants to make a difference and inspire other girls.

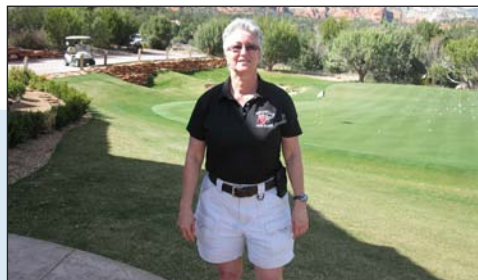
"I can show these people who never thought girls could play football that I'm playing football," she said. "All these little girls who boys tell them, 'Hey, you can't play football,' they can be, 'Hey, look at that girl. I can do anything.'"

Evans plans to continue kicking goals in the future as a soccer player in college. ★

2012 Olympic Silver Medalist, Brigetta Barrett (Track and Field; High Jump)

High school: Duncanville

Questions answered by Coach Beale Tolbert, Brigetta's Duncan High School coach



What is her strongest characteristic?

A belief that she has been blessed with talent and that she is supposed to utilize it in a positive way. A close second is that she is willing to trust her coaches and make the corrections that we give her.

What is your fondest memory of coaching Brigetta?

Eating cannoli after she set a personal record 5'11" at Texas Relays or when she called me in June to tell me she believes she will graduate Summa Cum Laude next year.

Have you communicated with Brigetta recently?

We speak before each major meet and either speak or text after them. I spoke with her after the trials and then two days before she left for London. We message on Facebook and Skype.

When you first started coaching Brigetta, did you believe that one day she could be an Olympian?

After putting her through a series of drills, I knew she had the physical skills to jump extremely high. After Texas Relays, I knew she had the ability to handle the pressure of international competition.

Coach Tolbert said, "Brigetta has taken hardship and created a golden opportunity. She is kind and encouraging to other competitors. She has even given medals to other competitors for motivation until they win their own. She calls me on Mother's Day to thank me. She is special." ★



Getting to Know: Bryan Bunselmeyer

Associate Director, TAPPS



Where did you go to college?

Texas Christian University

West Texas A&M for alternative teacher certification

How many years have you been in athletic administration?

Did not serve in athletic administration prior to TAPPS position.

Five years serving as Associate Director for TAPPS.

Head Coach for basketball and various activities at Texline ISD, Quanah ISD and Liberty Christian School.

Vice Principal at Liberty Christian School for four years.

Academic Director for TAPPS for six years.

As the associate director of TAPPS, what are some of your biggest challenges?

My own time management and when to turn off the cell phone.

Communication with the various personnel who work with the programs in our schools.

Turnover in athletic and academic leadership in our member schools.

The condensed nature of our calendar

year which requires our organization to conclude activities in Mid-May.

What are the benefits to athletic administrators who join the THSADA?

Resources for Professional Development, Communication with other Athletic Directors, Networking with other Athletic Directors.

What topics do you think would be beneficial to be included at the state conference in March?

Management of time.

Personnel Training.

Professional Development – Coaching fundamentals.

Management of student activities (coordination and acceptance of cross over athletes between activities).

Materials to take back to put in place – video, etc. to assist in coach, parent and athlete training.

Are there misconceptions concerning athletics in private schools that you would like to address?

TAPPS exists to provide opportunities for students attending our member schools to participate and enjoy. TAPPS provides a classification and district structure which leads to eventual state championships in both athletic and fine art activities.

TAPPS is a proud affiliate member of the National Federation of State High School Associations. TAPPS schools follow NFHS contest rules and TAPPS utilizes the NFHS resources when developing our governance. TAPPS By-Laws provide the structure for member schools' competition. While somewhat different from the UIL and other organizations, the rules have grown with the organization since 1978 and fit the needs of our member schools. TAPPS schools are not governed by zones

or boundaries, but our eligibility rules address the needs of our students as they choose a school or transfer to a new school. While private schools must recruit students to their campus to survive as a business, the schools are not allowed by TAPPS rules to target student-athletes, tamper with students at other high schools, nor induce students to attend their school.

TAPPS rules provide as level a playing field as possible for our member schools and for those schools in the UIL and other organizations with whom our schools interact. Should questions or concerns arise, the TAPPS office is a phone call or an email away. ★

Getting to Know: Karen Funk President, THSADA



Where did you go to college?

UT Arlington

How many years have you been in athletic administration?

My first teaching and coaching job was at Lee MS in Grand Prairie where I spent my first two years. I worked the next five years at Highlands HS in San Antonio ISD as the varsity coach for volleyball and worked basketball and track as the JV

Story continued on page 7, see Funk



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assistant. I went to work for North East at Madison High School for 14 years as the head volleyball coach and assistant basketball coach. I have spent the last 12 years in North East as the Assistant Athletic Director and now as the Director of Women's Athletics.

How many years have you served on the THSADA board?

I have been on the board since July 2005. I have served as the Secretary, the Director for Region 8, Vice President and now as President for this year. I also served both as a Regional Director and the Volleyball Chairperson for TGCA a long time ago.

As President, what is your vision for the THSADA?

The last several years the Board has discussed increasing participation and membership in the organization. Membership has been changed in the by-laws to include athletic directors who are in the high school setting and still coaching and teaching. In addition, associate memberships have been opened up to include any 7-12 coaches in the state and someone involved in working with a state coaching/athletic association or a college/university athletic administrator. I know that our association has much to offer all of those groups with website articles, attendance at the state conference, the bi-monthly newsletters and active participation at regional meetings where current issues are discussed and potential solutions are worked out. Every athletic director in the state can benefit from becoming a member and joining on November 1st.

I really want our membership to become much more involved in the association. We are such a vast and diverse state with regional issues driving many areas, but all AD's deal with many of the same concerns. There is such a wealth of untapped knowledge across the state that could be shared and used in a number of ways to promote athletic programs and athletes

with the general public and in some cases our state legislature. There is a list of committee's on the THSADA website that members can work on. It is important that voices from the Valley, the Panhandle, West Texas or far East Texas be heard. I think it is important for every region in the state to be acknowledged and listened to about important concerns. Working on different committees is a great start to that process.

What are your greatest concerns for athletics in the state of Texas?

Budget cuts, unfunded mandates and undue pressure on hot button topics from the next legislature are my biggest concerns for this year. THSADA has been a strong voice in the past and will continue to be vocal as our legislature looks at public school programs and continues to mandate laws that affect athletic programs on a daily basis. I do see school districts across the state looking to trim their budgets and make some deep cuts as funds continue to decrease from the state level. Concussion base line testing is a prominent topic up for the spring session and could prove to be a tough and costly endeavor for some school districts if it is mandated. Private school participation in UIL activities will also be back on the table. It was narrowly averted in the last session and this one could be even tougher to keep private schools at bay. All athletic directors and coaches need to be vocal to their representatives and convey their opinion on those topics and other hot issues as the next session unfurls. I do think we need to be proactive to protect the integrity of Texas athletics and the benefits it brings to every student/athlete who participates in an UIL program.

In your opinion, what are some of the benefits athletic administrators receive from joining the THSADA?

The most important benefit happens anytime several AD's sit down together and start talking, –the sharing of ideas. How did you handle this? What did you

do with this situation and so on. From there, you see what is happening around the state, and begin to see alternative ways to work with issues that are coming up every day. Our conference provides great sessions for athletic administrators on the campus level and at the district office in looking at budgets, hot topics, personnel and a myriad of other topics. Membership in the THSADA provides opportunities to recognize those who have contributed to their communities and those who have contributed across the state. Working with other organizations such as UIL, THSCA, TGCA, and NIAAA in an open, non-threatening atmosphere gives every member a chance to express thoughts, ideas, plans (good and bad) and have their school or area heard and seen. The intimate relationship that THSADA shares with these groups is a boon to all of the membership.

In the 7 years that you have served on the THSADA board, what changes do you believe have been the most impactful?

The most impactful change has come with the creation of the Executive Director's position. We knew that we needed to provide our association a consistency with a permanent position that THSCA and TGCA have with their Director. Past President, Bob Dubey worked hard at pitching the idea and promoting the reasoning behind it so that we could move our association forward with a Director at the helm. That was a huge undertaking and Rusty Dowling has come into the job full of ideas and plans for the future. The Board with the guidance from the Executive Director will be able to move our association forward into areas that will give our membership greater opportunities to be seen and heard within the workings of several state organizations and across the nation. ★

