



# COMMISSIONER'S NOTES

NOVEMBER, 2003

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## FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S DESK



It's Thanksgiving week and the time of the year to reflect on the many blessings we enjoy as Kentuckians living in America. We are mindful of the many opportunities our high school students have to participate in extracurricular activities, particularly athletics. Your

KHSAA Staff is thankful for the opportunity to work with you, and the rest of the high school community of athletic administrators, coaches, officials, event managers, parents, and student athletes.

The Fall State Championships for Golf, Volleyball, Soccer, and Cross Country have gone very well. We have had good attendance and are most appreciative of the enthusiasm shown by our host communities in preparation for these events. We continue to be energized by the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm exhibited by our student athletes this fall during championship competition in each sport.

The state football championships are coming up next on December 5 and 6, 2003, at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium. The high school football community is excited about the new venue and so are we. I hope to see you there!

Happy Thanksgiving!

## NATIONAL CITY TO SERVE AS TITLE SPONSOR OF KHSAA BOYS' SWEET 16® STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Kentucky High School Athletic Association Commissioner Brigid DeVries, along with representatives from the KHSAA Board of Control and staff announced that National City Bank of Kentucky has signed a three-year agreement to serve as title sponsor of the Boys' Sweet 16® State Basketball Tournament beginning with this year's event.

The announcement, along with the unveiling of a new tournament logo, was made at a press conference held Monday, Nov. 17, at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium along with National City representatives and iHigh, Incorporated, the KHSAA marketing representative.

"We are extremely pleased to be partnering with National City for sponsorship of our Boys' State Basketball Tournament," KHSAA Commissioner Brigid DeVries said. "We continue to look for ways to help the

Association maintain the services it provides the student athletes of the Commonwealth, and this will help us accomplish that objective."

This is the first time in the history of the Association that a title sponsor has been secured for the Boys' State Basketball Tournament and only the fifth such title sponsorship for a KHSAA event. Valvoline was title sponsor of the KHSAA State Soccer and Football Finals in 1999 and Big Blue Nation served as title sponsor of the 2003 State Baseball Finals. Currently, Houchens Industries is the title sponsor of the Girls' Sweet 16® State Basketball Tournament, a partnership that began in 2003 and runs through 2006.

"Part of the Association strategic plan directed by our Board of Control is to continue to find ways to secure funds for the overall programs of the KHSAA to help offset rising costs," DeVries added. For example, this year our cost to continue to provide the athletes at each of our member schools catastrophic insurance increased by \$40,000. Hopefully, as corporations continue to recognize the value of high school athletics, we will continue to announce more beneficial partnerships in conjunction with each of our sports programs."

"We are excited to be participating with the KHSAA on the premier high school sports event not only in Kentucky but in our country, and one that is beloved statewide," said Ted Parker, President and CEO of National City Bank of Kentucky.

The National City package includes title sponsorship as well as support at the local school district level. In addition to supporting the KHSAA, National City will underwrite 32-\$500 individual scholarships. Sixteen \$500 scholarships will be awarded to boys and 16 will be awarded to girls – one from each region and the winners will be recognized during the state basketball tournaments.

Also, additional support at the local level includes underwriting the cost of the district and regional championship trophy in boys' and girls' basketball. The deal is a cost savings of an expense usually paid for out of gate receipts by the schools competing in the district and regional tournaments. The KHSAA does not receive any revenue from District and Regional Tournaments and receives its only postseason revenue in basketball from the State Tournaments.

The official title in all references is now the National City/KHSAA Boys' Sweet 16® State Basketball Tournament for the duration of the agreement.

## **CHRISTIAN ACADEMY-LOUISVILLE SOFTBALL ALIGNMENT CHANGE**

Some clarification on the softball alignment as it pertains to Christian Academy-Louisville. CAL is in District 28, **not** District 26 as printed in the Handbook. Please make note of this for further reference.

## **TITLE IX - PRIME TIME BASKETBALL GAMES**

After review of several 2003-04 boys' and girls' basketball schedules, a concern still exists regarding "prime time" playing opportunities for girls' basketball contests.

"Prime time" is defined as contests on Friday night and/or Saturday/Saturday night and relate to home games for the contestants. "Prime time" basketball games played away from home do not address the equitable opportunities issues of Title IX. "Prime time" opportunities for girls' home basketball games should reflect a comparable percentage when compared to the "prime time" opportunities scheduled for boys' home basketball games.

In addition, for home contests scheduled during Friday and/or Saturday, a rotation of starting game times should be accomplished to ensure further equity. The KHSAA will be closely monitoring the 2004-05 boys' and girls' basketball schedules to ensure equity is achieved."

## **CHEERLEADING INFORMATION**

This is a reminder regarding Cheerleading (Spirit) limitation of season as it appears in the KHSAA Handbook:

1. The first organized practice shall not take place prior to July 15.
2. Cheerleaders are limited to a maximum of three competitions during the school year. This does not include in-game competitions. The Sweet Sixteen and KAPOS At-Large Competitions held in conjunction with the KHSAA district, region and state basketball tournaments shall not count toward the three-competition limit. Any preliminary competitions that progress to a district, region, state and/or national level will be considered as one competition.
3. The cheerleading season ends at all levels play (grades 9-12) for that academic year on or before April 1. After April 1, schools are permitted to designate a single two-week tryout period following which there shall be no further

practice or competition until the end of the academic school year.

## **Summary of Bylaw Applicability to Cheerleaders**

Bylaws 2, 25, 26, 27 and 33 are state requirements and regulations for cheer participants and teams. Other rules for eligibility for cheer participants are to be determined at the school level.

KHSAA Eligibility Bylaw 2 specifically within its text requires a physical exam prior to trying out or participation by cheerleaders. This is essential for the KHSAA to maintain its current Catastrophic Insurance Coverage for Cheerleaders.

KHSAA Eligibility Bylaws 3 (Age), 4 (Enrollment), 5 (Academic), 6 (Transfer), 7 (Conduct), 8 (Out of Season Play), 9 (General Eligibility) and 10 (Recruitment) do not apply to cheerleaders or any other sport or activity for which the KHSAA does not sponsor a championship.

KHSAA Bylaw 25 (Limitation of Seasons) applies to cheerleading coaches explicitly within the rule. This provision is necessary to maintain the current Catastrophic Insurance Coverage for Cheerleaders.

KHSAA Bylaw 26 (Summer Dead Period) and Bylaw 27 (Requirement for Coaches) apply to cheerleaders and cheerleading coaches explicitly within the rule.

KHSAA Bylaw 33 specifically applies to cheerleading in certain penalty provisions, including the penalty for performing a stunt not allowed by National Federation Rules. Title IX Applicability.

Cheerleading is not considered a sport for the purposes of counting sports participation for Title IX purposes. Further, the KHSAA defines "sport" in its bylaws as those athletic events for which the Association conducts a state championship or licenses officials.

In compliance with these rules, please note that KHSAA schools may not participate in competitions that do not adhere to the NFHS stunt limitations, as each of the three allowed competitions (plus KAPOS) must go by these rules.

In addition, the high school cheerleading coaches **MAY NOT** accompany or coach the cheerleaders during the school year outside of the three allowed competitions and Sweet 16® or KAPOS at-large competitions that are competitions in the Limitation of Seasons or otherwise exempted, outside of the three allowed competitions plus KAPOS, during the school year (Bylaw 25).

## **STATE FOOTBALL WALK-UP TICKETS**

Tickets for the State Football Championships Dec. 5-6, 2003 will be available at the gate and each of the participating schools. We look forward to seeing you!

## ATHLETIC DIRECTORS CORNER

The National Conference for Athletic Directors is coming up December 13-18, 2003 in Indianapolis, IN. This is an excellent opportunity for professional development seminars & workshops as well as for networking with some of the nation's finest athletic administrators. Register online by visiting: [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org)

One of the premier professional development programs available through the NIAAA/KHSADA is the Leadership Training Program. Courses are offered in March, April, July, September & November here in Kentucky that are practical for every day use in local schools and which will earn four EILA hours of credit for those who need it.

Mark your calendar: Kentucky Athletic Directors' Conference – April 20-23, 2004 at the Holiday Inn-Downtown, Louisville. (Please note that these dates have been revised since the printing of the KHSAA Calendar.) Join the Kentucky High School Athletic Directors' Association TODAY if you have not already done so contact Mitchell Irvin: [mirvin@oldham.k12.ky.us](mailto:mirvin@oldham.k12.ky.us) for additional information.

The officers and Board of Directors of the KHSADA want to thank Commissioner DeVries for giving the KHSADA space in The Commissioner's Notes. If you have information you would like to contribute to this column or have additional questions or concerns you may contact Faye B. Thornton, CMAA: [ftThornto@bourbon.k12.ky.us](mailto:ftThornto@bourbon.k12.ky.us)

## RULES CLINIC SCHEDULES

Following is a listing of in-season rules clinics. To view a full listing of clinics in all sports, go to the KHSAA website at [www.khsaa.org](http://www.khsaa.org).

### BASKETBALL

12/10 Make-Up Clinic (\$50 Fine) Lexington,  
KHSAA Office, 1:30 p.m.

### WRESTLING

12/9 Make-Up Clinic (\$50 Fine) Lexington,  
KHSAA Office, 1:30 p.m.

## REPORTING OF SCORES

This is a reminder to call in the scores of games to the KHSAA/Riherd's Scoreboard following each contest. The number is 1-800-715-8388 and is toll free. If you have results, superlative performance or other note of news, you may submit that via e-mail to [bcope@khsaa.org](mailto:bcope@khsaa.org) for inclusion in the KHSAA weekly news release.

## 2003-04 KHSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS CALENDAR

Date(s)	Sport	Site	City
Dec. 5-6	FB Finals	Papa John's Cardinal Stadium	Louisville
Feb. 26-28	Wrestling	Farnham Dudgeon Arena	Frankfort
Feb. 27-28	Swimming	UK Aquatic Center	Lexington
March 17-20	Boys' BK	Rupp Arena	Lexington
March 24-27	Girls' BK	WKU Diddle Arena	Bowling Green
May 14-15	Slow Pitch	TBA	TBA
May 27-29	B&G TN	UK Boone/Downing Ctr.	Lexington
June 4-5	Track	UK Shively Track	Lexington
June 11-12	Fast Pitch	Jack Fisher Park	Owensboro
June 16-19	Baseball	Applebee's Park	Lexington

## SCHOOL MEDIA CREDENTIALS

Please remember, school media requests for advancing teams to state tournament play, must be requested **PRIOR** to the event. Schools are to submit form SI103 in advance of the event in accordance with published deadlines. Each school is limited to three (3) credentials. This includes yearbook, newspaper, journalism class personnel or video yearbook personnel. Students or other representatives simply showing up at the gate will not be issued media credentials.