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ONLINE TICKETS

Online tickets for TSSAA championship events are available via GoFan.com. Member schools can sell tickets electronically during the regular season! For more information, contact pnoles@huddleinc.com.



FIVE SPORT SENIOR SETS THE PACE AT HAMILTON HIGH

In his spare time, Marcus Crawford is researching potential college destinations.

Specifically, Crawford is looking intently at Tennessee State University. Why? Because Crawford wants to study both aviation mechanics and business management.

Spare time, of course, is a bit of a relative term for the Memphis Hamilton standout. He's coming off a 2018-19 junior year in which he was a member of the baseball, basketball, cross country, football and tennis teams for the Wildcats.

Crawford arrives to school each day before 7 AM and usually is home by about 6:30 PM.

"My coach, William Smith, he had inspired me to play more than one sport," Crawford said. "My nickname is 'Chill,' and he said, 'Chill, do you want to be an athlete, play more than one sport and really challenge yourself?' So I started playing different sports to get my body right and make sure everything was good."

Coach Smith wears nearly as many hats at Hamilton High School as Crawford does uniforms. He is the school's athletics director, boys' basketball coach and helms the boys' and girls' cross country programs.

A former college basketball player for the University of Colorado, Smith is instilling in Hamilton's students the benefits of a well-rounded high school experience.

"We don't use athletics as being only extracurricular for growth or athleticism," Smith said. "We use it to help kids, some who may not be athletic, to help them grow as a person. Some kids actually don't have a home life, just need to stay busy or maybe they have A.D.D. (Attention Deficit Disorder)

or some type of deficiency. Sometimes athletes' parents just need them to learn discipline. So it's not only athletics and winning."

"Doing multiple sports, it doesn't allow time to slack off, time to breathe. It is teaching them what the world is today. We are trying to create multifaceted people and see the chance to excel in all of them."

Crawford's finding his five-sport routine grows his skills away from the competitive environments.

"It's shown me how to be a better leader, on the court and off the court and to my teammates," he said. "It helps me to inspire other kids, to make them get going too. Hopefully to encourage them like, 'Marcus Crawford did play all these sports, I have a chance to do that too.'"

Crawford admits the rigorous schedule carries with it plenty of fatigue. But it's also Crawford's own future at stake --- as well as that as the kids in the community already looking up to him.

"I'm extremely tired when I get home, but it will pay off," Crawford said. "I've been doing research on TSU, their GPAs and ACTs. I want to go to TSU for basketball, aircraft mechanics and get my business license too."

"It takes a lot of dedication and discipline [to play so many sports]. And you have to be able to take a whole lot of criticism. But it helps me straighten up, really listen to the teacher, and it makes me want to go harder."

"I really hope it helps the younger kids, really, a lot. A whole lot."

It's an example that just might help some adults as well.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE RECOGNITION

To say that volleyball is part of her identity doesn't even remotely portray the sport's importance to Phyllis Anyango.

Rather, the native of Kenya is now an esteemed high school and collegiate official here in the United States, and a 2019-20 TSSAA Distinguished Service Award honoree, because the sport she once pursued, basketball, required too much running.

"I could write a whole book; I do have a lot to give back in volleyball, because that's what made me come to the U.S., gave me the opportunity to come here," said Anyango, who lives in the Jackson area and officiates prep games in the Mid-South Association. "I get a chance to work with people in volleyball club and also be there to officiate them, and it's just a pleasure to watch them grow and get the opportunity to train the other officials and get them on board.

"I also officiate college, Division I, NAIA, all over. My days are filled with the game."

While volleyball now consumes much of Anyango's time, the former Union University standout who majored in computer science and math remembers her first introductions to sports.

"It's a funny story, because I did not play volleyball at all in high school until I graduated," Anyango explained. "Back home we do have clubs, companies do have clubs and they do recruit kids to play for clubs, train for basketball, and I changed my mind and switched to volleyball because I didn't like to run. So I was about 19 or 20 when I first put my hands on a volleyball.

"Two years after that, I got a call for my Kenyan National Team. I played for the national team and I was on the Olympics team in Sydney at the 2000 Olympics and I did that

for over 10 years before I came to the U.S."

It was Anyango's global exposure that got her noticed by American coaches.

"I came to the U.S. in 2001 on a volleyball scholarship. In one of our international matches, we had been to play the USA Team and a coach from Texas contacted me and my other two friends in Kenya and asked if we would like to come to school and get free education and play volleyball. Funny enough, I was a freshman at 29. I couldn't play Division I but I played junior college and NAIA (at Union). I stayed here after I got my job. So my life is 8-5 work, then after 5 go to the volleyball court to train or call volleyball."

Anyango's warm memories as a player now have company from her work with the TSSAA.

"I got to officiate at the TSSAA State High School Tournament, twice, and that was a favorite moment," she said. "I have a lot of favorite moments, especially being with other officials.

"Everyday I learn something new from not just other officials but also the players. Just to see some of the plays and be able to work with other great officials, it's really an eye-opener."

TSSAA is proud to recognize Phyllis Anyango for her commitment and outstanding service as an official of high school athletics in Tennessee.



USGA TOOL AIMS TO TEACH PLAYERS THE RULES OF GOLF

Earlier this year, the USGA released a new Digital Learning Tool aimed at teaching high school and collegiate players the Rules of Golf. Developed from feedback from thousands of coaches and players, this online course is powered by adaptive-learning technology, which means that each player's experience is personalized to meet his or her specific needs. Players will advance through the course based on their own knowledge and experience levels – players who already have a good understanding of the new Rules will be able to complete this course in approximately 45-60 minutes, while others may take up to 2 hours or more. Most importantly, you can be confident that once your players have completed this course, each will have demonstrated their complete understanding of the course content.

To request access to the Tool, please complete the [registration form](#). After completing the form, your credentials will be sent from the USGA within 2 weeks. Please note, the Tool is available free of charge.

If you have an account from earlier this year, you still have access to the account and do not need to complete the registration form again.

Please contact the USGA Rules team at rules@usga.org or 908-326-1850 if you have any questions.

