



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2021

[TSSAA updates member schools with fall sports guidelines and protocols](#)

While the upcoming school year certainly looks much different than last year, COVID-19 is still an issue that member schools across the state will continue to deal with. Providing a safe environment for student-athletes to practice and participate in high school sports is something that administrators across the state will be striving to do amidst the ongoing pandemic.

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[Portrait of an unforgettable crew, fully developed after 42 years](#)

The picture, showing Miller, Larry Hutchinson, Ralph Stout, Ernest 'Blackcat' Rasar, Billy Bob Garrison and Charles McConnell in their football officials' uniforms circa 1979-80, hangs inside Dino's Restaurant, tucked downtown along Elk Avenue. This print now is part of history: the six-man crew is the first in state history to see each member earn hall of fame honors from the state's association of schools. It's not entirely clear if it's a feat with any peers around the country.

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[Baylor golf coach Gary Partrick recognized for distinguished service](#)

A former football player and coach at Austin Peay State University, Partrick transitioned into what would become a lifelong secondary educational career while on a recruiting trip at East Ridge High School on behalf of the Governors.

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School leaders emphasize sportsmanship in 2020 and beyond

A funny thing happened over the course of the 2020-21 competitive athletics calendar – there was a measurable uptick in sportsmanship by essentially every definable metric.

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TennesseeRunner: Cross Country vs. Mother Nature

Even though Cross Country is considered a "Fall Sport," each year it's feeling more and more like a summer sport. Regardless of whether it's a varsity runner or JV runner, the heat does not discriminate. It will get the best of even the best at times. As we approach the midpoint of the season with no relief in sight just yet, be careful out there and good luck this weekend and next.

[Read More](#)

TSSAA inducts Class of 2020 into Hall of Fame

The inductees of the 2020 TSSAA Hall of Fame were originally set to be inducted at the annual luncheon in April of 2020. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that ceremony was postponed not one, not two, but three times.

[Read More](#)

Tennessee high schools welcome the start of the 2021 football season

TSSAA encourages everyone -- administrators, coaches, officials, and fans -- to work together to follow the protocols that local host schools have in place so that our student-athletes have the opportunity to enjoy athletic competition throughout this new year.

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Call for Submissions

We want to include your thoughts in the monthly TSSAA Newsletter! Do you have 50-500 words to share on the topic of **using sports to promote resilience in young people**? We welcome submissions from principals, athletic administrators, coaches and students! Consider sharing your thoughts, essays or even poems for an upcoming issue. Please send submissions in Microsoft Word format to mgillespie@tssaa.org.

TSSAA continues its support of the **National SAT/ACT Prep Project** through the NFHS and eKnowledge which allows any Tennessee student to receive a 95% discount on SAT or ACT prep courses. This is a community-service, non-profit project and all student fees are reinvested to improve the program and reach more families. The project has more than 45,000 five-star reviews and has already assisted nearly 300,000 families. Learn more at <https://eknowledge.com/TSSAA>.



Sports News

General News

TSSAA updates member schools with fall sports guidelines and protocols

Recommendations provided with health and safety as a priority

July 27, 2021

While the upcoming school year certainly looks much different than last year, COVID-19 is still an issue that member schools across the state will continue to deal with. Providing a safe environment for student-athletes to practice and participate in high school sports is something that administrators across the state will be striving to do amidst the ongoing pandemic.

A memo outlining updated guidelines and protocols for the fall sports season was sent to administrators of member schools recently. The information provided to schools is as follows:

- In the absence of policy at the school or school district level, TSSAA encourages member schools to follow [recommendations for face coverings and social distancing from the Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#).
- In the absence of policy at the school or school district level, students who have been in close contact with a person with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 should follow [recommendations for quarantine from the Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#).
- All students who have tested positive for COVID-19 must receive [clearance from a medical provider](#) prior to resuming activities with his/her team. If a student tests positive for COVID-19 and subsequently receives his/her pre-participation physical and is cleared to play, no additional clearance is required. All coaches and students who are confirmed or suspected positive for COVID-19 should follow [recommendations for release from isolation from the CDC](#) when considering a return to practice or activities.

These new guidelines will hopefully provide the administration of every member school the knowledge needed to make informed decisions concerning their athletic programs as we continue to battle this coronavirus.



Shelby Miller, Larry Hutchinson, Ralph Stout, Ernest Rasar, Billy Bob Garrison, Charles McConnell

Sports News

Officiating News

Portrait of an unforgettable crew, fully developed after 42 years

All six members of celebrated officiating crew now enshrined in TSSAA Hall of Fame

August 10, 2021

The historical significance officially was cemented last month, in Murfreesboro, as the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association enshrined its 2021 Hall of Fame class.

There, Shelby Miller joined the TSSAA's latest group of legends as its only official in the most recent class.

Locally, in and around Elizabethton, a sports-rich, tight-knit community less than 25 miles from the North Carolina border and some 25 from the Commonwealth of Virginia, the sextuplet of officials long ago carved a niche in community lore.

The picture, showing Miller, Larry Hutchinson, Ralph Stout, Ernest 'Blackcat' Rasar, Billy Bob Garrison and Charles McConnell in their football officials' uniforms circa 1979-80, hangs inside Dino's Restaurant, tucked downtown along Elk Avenue.

This print now is part of history: the six-man crew is the first in state history to see each member earn hall of fame honors from the state's association of schools. It's not entirely clear if it's a feat with any peers around the country.

"In 1979, we had a photo made and I don't remember the school, I think it was at South Greene High School," Miller said. "They made the photo and it hangs here in Dino's Restaurant.

"I was the last one in this picture to go in the Hall of Fame, but every one of us is in there. That is absolutely unreal."

Rasar and Stout have passed away, but the rest of the group remain lifelong friends.

"Just being mentioned with those guys, Ralph, Billy Bob, Charlie McConnell, Shelby, Ernest Rasar, it's just pride for me to know that I was a young guy there and those other guys were in their late 30s, early 40s, me in my early 20s and just getting to be a part of that," Hutchinson, who's in the Mountain Empire chapter's National Football Foundation Hall of Fame inside Kingsport's Meadowview Convention Center alongside Miller and Stout, said. "It amazes me how much people care about other people. I haven't gotten to talk to Charlie much, because he's been kind of sick. I told Shelby, me and you are the last two left, and it won't be long till we'll be gone.

"Physically, we won't be able to referee too much more. But just to know you're in that group of men who cared about the game; that was the most impressive thing about our crew. If there was a play that wasn't right out there, it worried all of us to death. If we made a mistake, it goes to all five of us out there on the field, and it would just absolutely eat at us till the next game and we just wanted to keep getting

better and better. We were learning the rules together, being buddies together and having dinners together.”

Added Garrison, “I’ll tell you what, I think we were more like brothers than we were a crew. Everybody in our crew was good Christian people, and we believed we did the right thing or we wouldn’t be out there. Ralph would always call on Charlie McConnell, one of the finest Christian officials I’d ever worked with, to pray for the players and the coaches and the teams before games, and we were together so long that we knew just exactly what the other one was going to do. I’ve always considered that I’m in the Hall of Fame because Ralph Stout had a big deal in making me a better official, and I think everybody in this crew feels the same way.”

The group are de facto celebrities in northeast Tennessee, but that only matters inasmuch as it cements them as part of their hometowns and communities.

“I think the No. 1 reason was because every one of us loved sports, and you have to love sports to get into officiating,” Miller said. “The guys that really, really love it, they stay in it. I couldn’t wait to go work a ballgame. We just had fun, we’d get together and used to go eat after the games. Just the camaraderie, the fellowship, it was just a blast.

“I have learned and gotten to know so many people through officiating that I would not have gotten to know otherwise. I’ve seen some of them and then their kids and now some of their grandkids and maybe even some great-grandkids. Some of my best friends are former coaches. Had I not been an official, I would not have gotten those opportunities.

“I honestly believe that being an official made me a better person. I think it motivated me to stay in shape. You don’t want to just get in shape for football and basketball; I just tried to stay in shape all year. I think it helped me be able to communicate better with people. And it helped me to better understand people.”

The entire crew, Garrison, Hutchinson and Miller all explained, took their most pride in being invisible, a lesson learned from the legendary Stout – who worked major college football games for decades – who preached an approach of “not looking for things to call. Make sure both teams have an equal opportunity to win the game and follow the rules.”

Each man logged at least four decades of officiating at the high school level; a couple of them, including Miller, worked beyond 50 years and touched parts of six decades. Most every man worked at least five state football championships, with Miller, Stout, Garrison and McConnell all on the 1985 Class AAA title game. Members of the group also teamed up to work championship tilts in 1992, 1995, 2008 and 2019.

Still, accolades and title games, while nice, don’t compare to the community engagement.

“I’m in three halls of fame, TSSAA, Elizabethton High School for all sports and the Carter County Hall of Fame, so is Shelby. Charlie is on the Wall of Fame at Johnson City, but it’s when I go through town and people I don’t know come up to talk to me,” Garrison said. “Everybody in our crew was well respected. Blackcat was the superintendent of schools. Larry is one of the most humble people I’ve ever met in my life. Our whole crew, I believe we could walk through town and speak to a hundred people. I’m just as happy for them as I was myself when I went in. I’ve been a widower for 11 years and they all still stay in touch.”

Miller remains committed – to his Friday-night-stripes family, the kids and coaches and the game.

“I feel real, real fortunate to be able to do this as long as I have,” said Miller, having already worked a preseason scrimmage and also on this day fulfilled his daily regimen of a four-mile walk. “I had to quit basketball after 25 years, work got too demanding. Football, since it’s Friday nights, I was able to do it. To be able to work on the field for 56 years is probably unheard of. When I can’t work on the field, I’m going to hang em up. When you look, if I’m not carrying my load, let me know.”

Hutchinson, Miller, the rest along the way: they have been through the deaths of spouses and family members, been mentors and mentees, held fundraisers for other officials – one helped save the home for a widower and her two sons after cancer claimed an official.

The halls of fame? They’re great. The family time, well that’s been all those Friday nights.

AUTHOR

John Brice



Distinguished Service

Sports News

General News

Baylor golf coach Gary Partrick recognized for distinguished service

Longtime coach touts educational benefits of participation in football and golf

August 22, 2021

Championships on football fields, golf courses and virtually every playing surface imaginable have dotted the career of Gary Partrick. But the Baylor School head boys' and girls' golf coach, who also has produced a lengthy career as an athletics administrator, cannot name all the championships nor is he inclined to do so.

Those aren't what have kept Partrick intertwined with young people, and specifically their athletic endeavors, since the early 1980s. It boils down to a single component for Partrick, the first Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Distinguished Service Award recipient of the 2021-21 school year.

"Relationships," Partrick said. "There is nothing any greater than the relationships with kids that develop, whether that's going to their wedding or they when they have kids or when you get those random texts at 10 in the morning that just say, 'Hey, Coach, thinking about you.'"

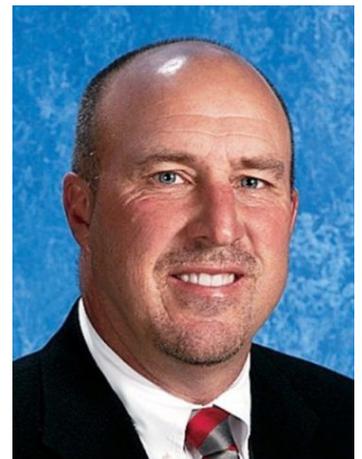
"I can't tell you how great it is, all the different schools I've gotten to be a part of, how many kids I get to stay in touch with. I'm not big on social media, not a big fan, but am as a reader because it lets me help stay in touch with former players and students."

A former football player and coach at Austin Peay State University, Partrick transitioned into what would become a lifelong secondary educational career while on a recruiting trip at East Ridge High School on behalf of the Governors.

"I grew up at Red Bank, and when I recruited at Austin Peay, they gave me Chattanooga because I knew so many people in the area," Partrick said. "I was recruiting there and they had a teaching slot and it paid a little better than Austin Peay's low man on the totem pole back then."

Partrick taught wellness, physical education, driver's education and even some general science at East Ridge for a decade before becoming an assistant football coach and head boys' baseball coach at Soddy-Daisy. That was followed by a run at Cleveland High School, where the Blue Raiders football program was a state and regionally known powerhouse; Partrick also helped launch the softball program.

Then, an old friend and coaching colleague, David Bibee – who coached with Partrick at Austin Peay – convinced Partrick to join him at Chattanooga's Baylor School.



Gary Partrick

He's never left, and, after helping with the offseason program for boys' and girls' golf from 2006-08, Partrick assumed the head coach's mantle. Baylor has amassed a bevy of individual and team titles since that time.

"It was interesting to become a part of this program," Partrick said. "I had handled winter and spring golf roles after football for a couple years. I got to be around it, got to see the part that wasn't glamorous and saw the work our kids put in. Watching how they prepare every day, it was a little different than how I grew up playing golf recreationally. It's really been an education to come from football and baseball backgrounds and being exposed to a whole other type of competition and learn there is a team element in high school golf. The unselfishness of shots they decide to hit, because they know they've got four teammates counting on them. It's neat to try to build the team aspect of high school golf to make it a little more family-oriented than individual."

The commitment from the school, as well as the dedication of his players and the relationships formed organically within those roles, give Partrick his outlook.

"We have been around some really, really good players at a place where golf matters," he said. "Golf is important here, and you can't say that at a lot of places. Our administration and school has made golf a priority for a long time and I'm lucky enough to be the steward of that right now.

"It gives perspective; I'm always trying to move kids along and help develop them in whatever time I'm fortunate to be allotted with them. I'm a lot better granddad than I was a dad. I coached everybody else's kids and kind of missed mine growing up. But the scope of my job seemed to increase the older I got, and it became a little bit bigger than just winning and losing and included trying to develop other areas as well. Football, and the sacrifice and team and blood, sweat and tears that go into counting on the guy next to you, teaches a lot of life lessons. Golf and etiquette and honor and being on your own, I don't know if there are two better sports to be around to teach everything. They're totally different in a lot of areas but their outcomes helps kids be better people."

TSSAA proudly recognizes Coach Gary Partick for his many years of dedication to Tennessee's student-athletes.

AUTHOR

John Brice

X

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Why TeamFunder.com Is Your Secret Weapon to Your Team's Continued Success

June 22nd, 2021

According to an [Ohio University study](#), American parents spend \$671 per child annually on team sports. While school athletics is costly, competitive sports are often regarded as a rite of passage for teens as they promote health, dedication, responsibility, leadership skills, and teamwork. Since the benefits outweigh the costs, what do coaches often turn to?

The answer is fundraising.

Ultimately, fundraising is facilitated by coaches (and, sometimes, team parents),

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leaving them to juggle between raising funds for the season while at the same time helping their team train and succeed. From our experience as parents and former high school athletes, the top fundraising methods (i.e., pledge drives, t-shirt sales, normal or 50/50 raffles, and spirit nights) are often unnecessarily cumbersome. There's paperwork to manage, checks to deposit, and overall a lot of details to coordinate. **What if there was a better solution for coaches that decreases the overall time associated with fundraising while still maximizing the team's donations...?**

Reclaim Your Time with TeamFunder.com!

Enter TeamFunder.com—a better way to fundraise. Once you've signed your team up for our site, you'll *want* to use it year after year. And here are five reasons why:

- 1. No physical fundraising documents:** It's the third decade of the 21st century, which means paperwork and other physical documents are so old-school! Instead, enter an entirely digital set-up process—personalized for *your* team. That's right: no pamphlets, sign-up sheets, signature forms, or other documents are needed.
- 2. No long periods spent waiting:** We understand how precious your time is. Chances are, coaching is not your primary job: maybe you're a high school teacher or perhaps even hold this position on top of your regular day-to-day job. So you deserve a fundraising program that's efficient as possible. With TeamFunder.com, your team's *custom* page is created within a week, and all donations are handled electronically. And plus? You'll receive one (read: big) check after your campaign closes and all orders ship—it's as straightforward as that!
We won't ask you to send any documents over postal mail or fax. It's all electronic. Now that's a promise.
- 3. Online portal:** Your online portal is where everything comes alive. Within a few clicks, you have access to your team's fundraising progress, supporter messages, shareable link to your fundraisers, and e-mail list. All backed up by robust data privacy practices.
- 4. We'll handle the other logistics:** You read that right. We'll produce your supporters' new, branded products and ship them directly to their door. (Don't worry, we'll package them extra well to ensure they arrive safely) Should there be any problems, though, our customer service team will be *on it*.
- 5. Donation options for everyone:** While we can't imagine anyone who wouldn't want useful clocks, mirrors, chalkboards, and other items branded with your logo, some family, friends, and fans might just want to give your team their money. (And we're here for it!) So we also offer traditional monetary donation options for those more inclined just to give without return.

Your Team's Secret Weapon to Success

We've talked about how [TeamFunder.com](https://www.teamfunder.com) will save you time, but how else does it benefit you and your team? How does it lead to less work on coaches, players, and parents? There's plenty ways we —here's four to start:

- 1. One simple, shareable link**
One URL (exclusive to your team) is all you and your team need to promote your ongoing fundraiser. This custom link makes it easy to share across personal networks. Teammates can easily share this link across their Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, Snapchat, and group chats. This means you don't have to carve out time out of team practices to go over fundraising progress, distribute fundraiser materials, or answer any questions. Everything is handled electronically through your custom team page.
- 2. Spend more time with your team**
You read that right! Your team has a lot of training ahead to get prepared for competition, after all. Since [TeamFunder.com](https://www.teamfunder.com)'s platform is more streamlined, you can reclaim your time towards developing your team's program and coaching them towards success. No middleman or intermediary websites involved.

3. **watch the money come in!**

We don't mean to jump ahead of ourselves here, but you can enjoy the profits without worrying about the logistics. Your role in TeamFunder.com is simply to upload your roster and team logo and then rally your team and fans towards reaching your goal. To make this easier, you can send team emails directly from your account page. Because we know that every cent matters when it comes to your team, we don't even charge a set-up fee. Your team earns 50% with each purchase of a branded team item. You'll also receive 80% of all traditional monetary donations that are received.

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2020 Girls' Soccer Championship - Signal Mountain

General News

School leaders emphasize sportsmanship in 2020 and beyond

Sportsmanship reports for 2020-21 published by TSSAA

July 20, 2021

The brightest of bright lights in Americana's high school sports scene, those of 'Friday Night Lights' fame in Odessa, Texas, also are the lights of Michel Sanchez's hometown.

She's seen those lights, lived beneath their glare and the shadows they casted – not merely during four quarters of a high school football game but throughout the days, weeks and months that comprised a season and a cultural phenomenon.

Now executive principal at Cane Ridge High School in Antioch, Sanchez also knows the attention from those pressured settings doesn't always lend itself to best life lessons.

It's why Sanchez is hyper-vigilant on sportsmanship measures and teachings – both at her school and in her additional service to the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association. The association presented the list of disciplinary actions for 2020-21 and a 10-year ejection summary report to the Board of Control last month and has published both at TSSAA.org (see links below).

“I was a sophomore when 'Friday Night Lights' was written (by H.G. Bissinger in 1990),” Sanchez said. “When I was growing up, you had no idea how unfortunate it was that there was so much pressure on these kids. Undue pressure; it wasn't healthy.

“So I just feel like coming back after COVID, all of us--coaches, administrators, everyone--continue to say, 'how do we honor our love for sport, for being on the team, for competition, but also make sure we don't put it in a wrong light?' We're not going to be happy when somebody is hurt, not going to be happy when somebody goes out of character. I'm very hopeful that there's a renewed commitment to just enjoying the sport, keeping the idea that while we are competitors, we're also trying to make each other better.”

Data suggest there just may be something to Sanchez's vision – and that of the TSSAA.

A funny thing happened over the course of the 2020-21 competitive athletics calendar – there was a measurable uptick in sportsmanship by essentially every definable metric.

Football had just 19 players ejected this past season for unsportsmanlike conduct – the first time it had been fewer than 32 players in a decade and the first time fewer than 50 players were ejected in six years.

Girls' soccer had just 18 total players ejected -- the sport's lowest total since 2012-13. Girls' basketball saw just a dozen players removed by officials -- down from 50 during the 2018-19 campaign.

"I think the pandemic and missing so much in 2020 definitely had an impact on it and that's what we saw even going to games as a staff and during our tournament series," said TSSAA Executive Director Bernard Childress. "We had several individuals who came up to us and said thank you for what you're doing, thank you for working so hard to give young people this opportunity. I think it did reach our schools and our coaching staffs. They are the key.

"When you're talking about young people making the right decision and looking to coaches for guidance, the coaches are the role models, the ones the kids are looking up to. And fans and everyone else at athletic contests are also looking to the coaches. When coaches set the right tone, we can only continue to improve."

Inside a pristine new school nestled in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, that's a message that was emphasized from the outset, according to school leadership.

"In the spring of 2020, we lost sports -- and all that is good about them," said Gatlinburg-Pittman Junior High School Principal Dr. A.J. Bennett. "Then last summer and into the fall, we just prayed our kids would get to compete at some level, and with fans. I think that really changed everyone's perspective. We just felt blessed to get to be part of student-athletes' competition and we talked about that with our coaches. Back to the basics of what really matters. We got a reminder of what life is like without athletics and I don't think anyone wants that."

Improvements across the Volunteer State -- a testament to coaches, players and administrators, as well as perhaps the continued impact of TSSAA's partnership with the Tennessee Titans on the Inside-Out Initiative that fosters sportsmanship goals -- are arriving at a time when many states are facing shortfalls in available personnel for officiating events.

Indeed, the National Federation of State High School Associations this spring addressed that topic in 'The NFHS Voice.'

The story's author, Dr. Karissa Niehoff, the Executive Director of the NFHS, noted the following:

For other officials, however, the pandemic was a secondary concern compared to the verbal abuse they receive from fans -- mostly parents. It is particularly hard for rookie officials to overcome the verbal shots they hear from parents. In an article in the Salt Lake City Deseret News, Jeff Cluff, assistant director in charge of officials for the UHSAA, had the following to say about unruly fans in his state:

"Parents are out of control . . . Because of the club and super-league culture, they think these games mean everything; we don't look at it that way in high school. Kids are learning, the officials are learning, the coaches are learning. We have lots of people who are interested in officiating. If we could keep these officials, we'd be fine."

As society has inched closer to pre-COVID norms, it still has been a gradual process on playing fields at all levels -- especially for high schools. TSSAA Assistant Executive Director Gene Menees sagely noted that the 2020-21 competitive calendar featured overall fewer contests as some systems eschewed fall and winter sports or slowly eased into their seasons.

However, Menees emphasized, there was an almost-palpable sense of gratitude in a return to competition -- something that can be fostered even as the pandemic so gradually recedes in rearview mirrors.

"I don't care what it is in our lives, and I'm guilty of taking things for granted, all of a sudden when something gets taken away from you like athletics, we realize it's not all about winning and losing," Menees said. "It's about students participating.

"I've said over the years, it's a high school game, and I don't mean to say it's not important, because it is important to coaches, athletes, parents, communities, but it's high school athletics. I would like to think that just trying to keep things in the proper perspective moving forward can help. For every game that's going to be played, one of two things is going to happen: Somebody will win. Somebody will lose.

"Hopefully we can just keep it all in proper perspective. Game officials go out and do the very best they can, and hopefully we can add everything together and continue having more positive sportsmanship."

"While we may all want our teams to have success," Dr. Bennett added, "I think we also now understand the importance of the opportunity to just have our kids be on the field. Our kids work so hard preparing for the opportunity to compete. It's about our kids. I'm just so thankful for the TSSAA leadership and Mr. Childress for continuing to fight for an opportunity for our student-athletes to compete. I know student-athletes all across the state. Wonderful human beings, and I'm so proud of their resilience and commitment to continuing to work hard regardless of the unknowns."

Documents

[Sportsmanship Summary 2020-21 \(PDF\)](#)

[Disciplinary Actions 2020-21 \(PDF\)](#)

AUTHOR

John Brice



Beating the Heat: Cross Country vs. Mother Nature

Ben Thompson
Aug 16, 2021



Updated:

This article was originally published in 2019 but after last week, I decided to rebanner it to the top story in response to last week's heat wave which engulfed the state. Tweets like this hit my timeline every afternoon:

 **TheVille Athletics**
@GoDragonsGo_

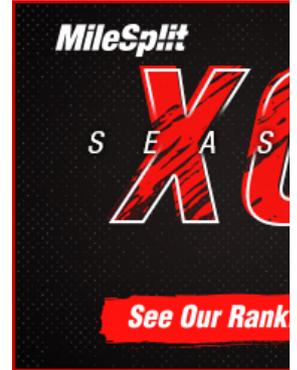
Today's @colliervillems girls' soccer season opener, at St. George's, has been cancelled because of excessive heat. #GoDragonsGo

9:18 PM · Aug 12, 2021

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Perhaps more areas of the state will pursue "Night Races." Memphis Twilight and Frank Horton are already staples on the calendar but this year another will debut. Saturday Light Fever will be hosted by Beech High School at Sanders Ferry Park on October 9th. Could be a great and unique opportunity if your team is hoping to preview the state course prior to November. Nevertheless, hopefully we can avoid weather patterns like last week's but always worth being mindful of the situations mentioned below as competition commences. The rest of the article remains unchanged from it's initial publishing.



What to Read Next



4 more...



This past Tuesday, September 10th was the hottest day of the year in Nashville. Two days later, the Cherokee Farm All Comers Meet in Knoxville was cancelled due to Heat Index. Tomorrow will be the first race hosted at steeplechase and though the Event Title at which it is being competed under may not be the same as last year's, it appears as though the conditions will be similar.

By the time I left last year's Jr. Ward Tennessee Classic held on September 15th, there were 3 ambulances already on site treating runners for heat exhaustion and dehydration and by the time I was pulling out of the complex another was pulling in. I had tweeted a video of a runner collapsing in the training tent which I took down at the request of the Christian Brothers who said "this runner is still being treated at the hospital." A week before that at a meet I reported from, a runner from Father Ryan had to be treated by a trainer for similar heat related problems. In the video below, you can see the runner struggle to finish the race (skip to 4:15 mark).

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Two weekend's prior to that at Voyle's Classic I recall having to wait to interview Central Magnet's coach as he was busy tending to their top runner Fuji Anday who had similar heat symptoms.

Outside of the high temperatures forecasted for the races they all also had one thing in common... they ran over schedule. Two of the races were delayed due to traffic before the meet even began and the other ran late due to meet management.

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finishing it was 90 degrees with 50% humidity which puts the heat index at 95. According to the TSSAA Heat Policy for Cross Country running this race was well within the means of their guidelines.

"TSSAA Heat Policy - Modifications for Cross Country Competition when the Heat Index is 95°-104° Athletes should have access to unlimited water before and after competition. Athletes should be monitored closely for signs of heat illness following the conclusion of the competition. Athletes should be encouraged to re-hydrate and seek shade as soon as the competition is complete."

In other words, run at your own risk. Some meet directors don't think it's a risk they want to take however. Simultaneously that same day at the Trinity Valkyrie Meet in Louisville the meet cancelled the JV race and told the coaches basically, "y'all can run if you want but we're not going to time it." As you can see there are no JV results from last year's [meet page](#).

Even though Cross Country is considered a "Fall Sport," each year it's feeling more and more like a summer sport. Regardless of whether it's a varsity runner or JV runner, the heat does not discriminate. It will get the best of even the best at times. As we approach the midpoint of the season with no relief in sight just yet, be careful out there and good luck this weekend and next.



2020 TSSAA Hall of Fame Inductees

Sports News

General News

TSSAA inducts Class of 2020 into Hall of Fame

2020 honorees officially inducted after multiple postponements due to pandemic

July 17, 2021

The inductees of the 2020 TSSAA Hall of Fame were originally set to be inducted at the annual luncheon in April of 2020. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, that ceremony was postponed not one, not two, but three times. The nine inductees were officially recognized for the contributions to high school athletics at the induction ceremony that finally took place on Saturday, July 17, 2021 at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Murfreesboro.

Those inducted at this year's luncheon were: **Barbara Daush**, administrator from Memphis; **Turner Jackson**, administrator from Cleveland; **Clint Parnell**, administrator from Nashville; **Bobby Alston**, coach from Memphis; **Buck Coatney**, coach from Knoxville; **Carolyn Jackson**, coach from Chattanooga; **Jeff Morris**, coach from Milan; **Shelby Miller**, official from Elizabethton; and the late **Marion Wilhoite**, contributor from Columbia.

Barbara Daush—Administrator in the Memphis area for over 40 years...President and Chief Executive Officer at St. Agnes Academy for 22 years...Head of Hutchison Lower School from 1990-1994...administrator and teacher at Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal School for 12 years...teacher at Lausanne Collegiate School from 1975-1978...Chair of the Board of the Southern Association of Independent Schools...Board of Directors and President of the Tennessee Association of Independent Schools...served on TSSAA Division II Committee and served for ten years as a liaison on the TSSAA Legislative Council and Board of Control...received a TSSAA Distinguished Service Award as an administrator...retired in 2016 but continues to do consulting work for search committees of independent schools

Turner Jackson—Teacher, coach, and administrator for 41 years...served as head wrestling coach for 2 years at LakeView Fort Ogelthorpe High School before going to Bradley Central High School in 1979...has coached wrestling, cross country, track and field, and softball during his tenure at Bradley Central...served 20 years as athletic director...Retired in 2015, but still teaching wellness and serving as school's athletic director on 100-day contract...TIAAA Athletic Director of the Year...Region 3 A. F. Bridges Athletic Director of the Year...member of National Wrestling, Greater Chattanooga Sports, Bradley Co. Old Timers, and UTC halls of fame...TN Sports Hall of Fame Athlete of the Year in 1976

Clint Parnell—Fifty-six years as an administrator in Middle Tennessee...taught and coached football, basketball, and track at Maplewood High School for 21 years...Assistant Principal at Whites Creek High School for 5 years and Ewing Park Middle School for 4...retired from Metro-Nashville Public Schools in 1992...became Principal and Athletic Director at Goodpasture Christian School in 1992 and served as Principal until 2005...has been an athletic administrator at Goodpasture for almost 30 years, having recently been appointed the Dean of Athletics...TSSAA Athletic Director of the Year in 2009...received a TSSAA Distinguished Service Award as an administrator in 2006...TSSAA basketball official in the 1970s

Bobby Alston—Administrator and coach at Memphis University School since 1977...has coached football at MUS since 1980, and became head coach in 1998...athletic director since 1997...has served as the school's head track coach since 1983...Dean of Students from 1994 until 1999...coached football under fellow TSSAA Hall of Famer Jake Rudolph for 17 years...overall record of 180 – 76...has captured 4 TSSAA state football championships (2004, 2005, 2008, 2009) and 3 Runner-up finishes (2012, 2013, 2018)...TSSAA Distinguished Service Award in 2000...TN Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame (2018)...TSSAA / NHFCA State of Tennessee Football Coach of the Year and TSWA Division II Coach of the Year in 2005-06...TN Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2018... his track teams have won five TSSAA state championships and two team relay championships...TSSAA A. F. Bridges Award winner 3 times...TSSAA Regional Coordinator and has served on the TSSAA State Track and Field Advisory Committee

Buck Coatney—Head football coach at Fulton High School in Knoxville for 19 seasons (1992 – 2010)...compiled a 144 – 91 overall record... TSSAA state champions in 2003, 2004, and 2006...state runner-up finishes in 2002 and 2007...awarded the Tennessee Titans Coach of the Week and Coach of the Year in 2004...received the National Football Foundation's Amateur Football Award, AP Coach of the Year, East TN Coach of the Year, and State Coach of the Year numerous times

Carolyn Jackson—Longtime girls' basketball and volleyball coach at Brainerd High School...coached volleyball from 1975 until 1989 and basketball from 1973 until 2013...compiled 985 basketball victories and won the TSSAA State Basketball Championship in 1984...named TACA Coach of the Year 16 times...Brainerd High School gymnasium named the "Jackson-High" gymnasium for Carolyn and fellow TSSAA Hall of Famer Robert High...TSSAA volleyball official for 23 years...received a TSSAA A. F. Bridges Award as an official...received the "Scrappy Moore Award" in 1984, 1994, and 1998...inducted into the Brainerd High School and Greater Chattanooga Sports Hall of Fame

Jeff Morris—Head football coach at Milan High School for 22 years...coached football and baseball at Henry Co. High School for 9 years before going to Milan in 1994...Head football coach at Milan from 1996 until 2017...overall record of 222 – 69...reached TSSAA playoffs 21 times with a record of 53 – 19...his teams were state runners-up 4 times (2008, 2009, 2011, 2012)...TSSAA State Football Champions in 1998 and 1999...served as head coach of the Tennessee All-Star game in 2001...Tennessee Titans State Coach of the Year in 2003

Shelby Miller—TSSAA football and basketball official for 54 years...officiated basketball for 25 years before retiring in 1990...officiated 16 district, 15 regional, 11 sub-state, and 2 TSSAA state tournaments (1981 girls, 1984 boys)...has been selected to work the football playoffs for 42 consecutive years...officiated 5 TSSAA state football championships (1985, 1992, 1995, 2008, 2019)...still actively officiating football as Head Linesman...TSSAA A. F. Bridges Award for Official of the Year...inducted into the Carter County Sports Hall of Fame in 2016... National Football Foundation Hall of Fame in 2017

Marion Wilhoite—Sports editor at the Columbia Daily Herald for 54 years (1962 – 2016)...reported fast-pitch softball league results from the age of 13 to 15...at age 15 he kept play-by-play sheets for the Herald Sports Editor for Columbia Central and Columbia Military Academy...State Prep Sportswriter of the Year by Lawrenceburg Quarterback Club in 1984...press box at Columbia Central HS named in his honor...charter member of City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department Hall of Fame...Metro Region 6 Hall of Fame...TSSAA Distinguished Service Award as Contributor...Tennessee Sports Writers Association Hall of Fame...honored for 50 years of service to the TN Press Association...featured in a column in *Sports Illustrated* in 1989 for his unique brand of sports coverage, as he was well-known for being devoid of negativity

Due to the pandemic, there will not be a Class of 2021. The class of 2022 is set to be inducted on April 2, 2022. Nominations can be submitted It is set to begin at 11:00 a.m. CST. Nomination forms for the Class of 2022 are due in the TSSAA office by November 1. Forms are available at tssaa.org/hall-of-fame.

Please contact Heather Carter at hcarter@tssaa.org if you have any questions or need additional information.



Tennessee high schools welcome the start of the 2021 football season

Follow teams all season long at [TSSAAsports.com](https://www.tssaa.com)

August 19, 2021

The much anticipated start of the high school football season is this week and upwards of 170 games will be played during Week 1. Fewer than 10 matchups have been postponed or cancelled this week due to COVID-19 concerns. In 2020, there were approximately 120 games held on Week 1.

"Friday Night Lights" did not look like what we're all used to a year ago, and it may still look different in 2021. TSSAA encourages everyone -- administrators, coaches, officials, and fans -- to work together to follow the protocols that local host schools have in place so that our student-athletes have the opportunity to enjoy athletic competition throughout this new year.

Although most TSSAA mandates from a year ago are no longer in place, it is important that visiting teams and spectators adhere to the rules or requirements instituted by local school boards, municipalities and other government agencies where they are traveling. TSSAA believes that every adult and every participant must do their part and conduct themselves safely and thoughtfully so that the schools can provide as many opportunities as possible for the student-athletes this fall.

If a school is forced to cancel a contest due to COVID-19 this football season, the game will be considered a "no contest" and the team will not receive a loss on their schedule. The school who is able to play will receive a win for playoff seeding purposes. They may schedule a replacement opponent, but the result of the newly scheduled contest must count in the school's overall record in place of the "COVID-19" win. A school's overall, regular season record cannot include more than 10 results.

Six schools begin the season with a contest against a region opponent:

Jellico at Cloudland
Unaka at North Greene
Manassas at Freedom Prep

Five games will feature out-of-state opponents:

White House Heritage vs. Allen County, KY
Brentwood Academy at Florence, AL
Spring Hill at Greenwood, KY
St. George's at Hartfield Academy, MS
Fayette Academy at Marshall Academy, MS
Oneida vs. Williamsburg, KY

The full scoreboard and schedules can be found at <https://tssaasports.com/sports/football/>.

Historical Matchups

This week's meeting between Oakland and Hendersonville is a rematch of the 1998 Class 5A championship game. Oakland won, 46-24 for the school's second football championship.

The Riverdale/Franklin contest is a rematch of the 2004 state championship game. Riverdale claimed its fourth state title, 35-7. The game also marked Riverdale's last appearance in a state title football game.

Two contests feature Class 5A semifinal playoff matchups from a year ago. Oak Ridge defeated South-Doyle in last season's playoff series, 14-0. Summit also knocked off Henry County to advance to the state championship game, 35-21.

NFHS Network Games

Schools will be broadcasting more games this week on the NFHS Network than ever before. Almost 50 football games will be carried live on the NFHS Network this week. With an NFHS Network subscription you can watch any and all games for one low monthly or annual fee. The games (with links to the broadcast) are:

[Waverly at Camden](#) (Thu)
[Pearl Cohn at Cane Ridge](#) (Thu)
[Greater Atlanta Christian, GA at Lipscomb Academy](#) (Thu)
[Cookeville at Upperman](#) (Thu)
[Rhea Co. at Alcoa](#) (Fri)
[Brentwood at Blackman](#) (Fri)
[Brainerd at Bradley Central](#) (Fri)
[King's Academy at CAK](#) (Fri)
[Waverly at Camden](#) (Fri)
[Moore Co. at Cascade](#) (Fri)
[Campbell Co. at Chattanooga Central](#) (Fri)
[Glenclyff at Cheatham Co.](#) (Fri)
[West Creek at Clarksville Northeast](#) (Fri)
[Stewart Co. at Clarksville Northwest](#) (Fri)
[Jackson Co. at Clay Co.](#) (Fri)
[Marshall Co. at Columbia](#) (Fri)
[Columbia Academy at Davidson Academy](#) (Fri)
[Forrest at Eagleville](#) (Fri)
[USJ at Goodpasture](#) (Fri)
[Oakland at Hendersonville](#) (Fri)
[Maryville at Heritage](#) (Fri)
[Maplewood at Hunters Lane](#) (Fri)
[Sevier Co. at Jefferson Co.](#) (Fri)
[Hillwood at Kenwood](#) (Fri)
[Knoxville Webb at Knoxville Carter](#) (Fri)
[Chuckey-Doak at Knoxville Catholic](#) (Fri)
[Stone Memorial at Lenoir City](#) (Fri)
[Giles Co. at Lincoln Co.](#) (Fri)
[Greater Atlanta Christian, GA at Lipscomb Academy](#) (Fri)
[Clarksville at McGavock](#) (Fri)
[Huntingdon at McKenzie](#) (Fri)
[Morristown East at Morristown West](#) (Fri)
[East Hickman at Mt. Pleasant](#) (Fri)
[Arlington at MUS](#) (Fri)
[BGA at Nolensville](#) (Fri)
[Rockwood at Oliver Springs Middle School](#) (Fri)
[Fairview at Page](#) (Fri)
[Hillsboro at Pope John Paul](#) (Fri)
[Cleveland at Red Bank](#) (Fri)
[Wilson Central at Rossvie](#) (Fri)
[Greenfield at South Fulton](#) (Fri)
[Smyrna at Stewarts Creek](#) (Fri)
[Montgomery Central at Sycamore](#) (Fri)
[West Ridge High School at Volunteer](#) (Fri)

[Notre Dame at Walker Valley](#) (Fri)

[Station Camp at White House](#) (Fri)

[Stratford at Whites Creek](#) (Fri)

This week, 250 contests are set to be broadcast by schools across the state on the NFHS Network, including about 40 soccer games and more than 100 volleyball matches, as well as numerous Junior Varsity and Middle School contests. For a list of all Tennessee events this week on the Network, go to <https://tssaasports.com/nfhsnetwork/>. Your subscription to the NFHS Network sends money back to the schools and helps to cover the costs of offering the service.

Watching the games is easy, whether it's on your computer, tablet or smartphone. Download the NFHS Network app from [Google Play](#) or the [iTunes App Store](#) and take the live coverage with you wherever you go.