



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2022

[Legislative Council makes changes to Amateur Rule](#)

The Legislative Council met in Murfreesboro on Thursday, December 8. The Council made several changes to the TSSAA Bylaws and sports calendars. The Amateur Rule now permits eligible athletes to receive compensation for instructional services and to also receive payment for activities not related to performance provided that they are carried out in a manner that does not suggest the endorsement or sponsorship of their school. The council also removed the requirement for schools to request approval to host jamborees and established a first practice date for the sport of bowling.

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[Wright recognized for distinguished service as an administrator and coach](#)

Nearly four decades and more than 800 wins later, Jody Wright remains an institutional icon at Knoxville's Fulton High School, where he has guided the Falcons to a trio of state basketball championships, five runner-up finishes and more than 10 additional trips.

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[FAQ: Name, Image and Likeness and the TSSAA Amateur Rule](#)

In December 2022, the TSSAA Legislative Council unanimously approved changes to the Amateur Rule of the TSSAA Bylaws. The change establishes that students are allowed to receive payment for instructional services and other activities not related to performance provided that they are carried out in a manner that does not suggest or reasonably suggest the endorsement or sponsorship of the TSSAA school.

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[Shaw Sports Turf revolutionizes artificial turf design with new 'GAME ON' turf system](#)

This remarkable new advancement in artificial turf fields ushers in the future, a completely new way to look at field design. With this technology, lines, numbers, hash marks, and logos are tufted in one run, limiting the number of seams in your field. These advancements allow for enhanced design capabilities, increased branding opportunities, and a higher level of performance. Game ON technology is only available from Shaw Sports Turf.

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[2022 Tennessee Titans Mr. Football Award Winners Announced](#)

Tennessee's best high school football players for 2022 were recognized at the Tennessee Titans Mr. Football Awards luncheon hosted by the Tennessee Titans.

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[Sport-Related Concussion: Current Research and the Importance of Gradual Return-to-Activity Protocol](#)

LeConte Sports Medicine draws attention to the importance of concussion training and community education for all involved in the healthcare of secondary school athletes and the importance of state-regulated concussion laws and guidelines for concussion management and clearance.

[Read More](#)

[Fall sports champions crowned in 2022](#)

More than 50 champions have already been crowned for the 2022-23 school year. See the teams and individuals that have made their mark on history at TSSAAsports.com.

[Read More](#)

[Buonocore: A view through the eyes of a youth athlete today](#)

Every moment, every interaction, every result can feel like the biggest moment in the world. I remember that from being a kid. I remember feeling every single emotion and action in my core. It was devastating when a coach pointed out my shortcomings in front of the team. The world was ending when I didn't get that hit and we lost the 6th grade conference championship. I was the best baseball player in the world when I hit my first homerun. And all of this was before the college scholarship mania, the social media obsession, the culture of early sport specialization.

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[Since 1901, Trevecca Has Led the Way in Higher Education](#)

With accreditation, esteemed faculty and a strong reputation in online education, Trevecca has helped develop the minds of students from all over the world for more than 120 years. Located in the heart of Nashville, Trevecca prepares students for lives of leadership and service. Founded in 1901, Trevecca is committed to holistic education for graduate and adult students as well as undergraduates, encouraging them to grow intellectually, professionally and spiritually.

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[TSSAA Rewind: Team chemistry, defense fueled Sweetwater's 1972 title march](#)

What the Wildcats might have lacked in numbers, they more than made up for in team chemistry, camaraderie and coaching under the late, legendary King Berrong.

[Read More](#)

[TSSAA Rewind: 1972 Tennessee High team wins second consecutive state football title](#)

A year after storming to the 1971 Class AAA state crown, Tennessee High repeated in 1972 – with an unblemished record and such a dominant tour de force that the program was heralded as national champions.

[Read More](#)

[TSSAA Rewind: Hartsville embraces the playoff era with 1972 state title campaign](#)

"We were just country boys, worked in tobacco fields and hauled hay during the days."

[Read More](#)

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 **the proper role of coaches in school sports**? 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>.



General News

Meeting Agendas/Minutes News

Legislative Council makes changes to Amateur Rule

December 8, 2022

The TSSAA Legislative Council met in Murfreesboro on Thursday, December 8.

Dan Black, the Director of Schools for the Bradford Special School District, was elected to continue to serve as President of Legislative Council. Keith Turner, Athletic Director at Science Hill High School, was elected to serve as Vice President of the Legislative Council.

The Council voted on eight proposed changes in the TSSAA Bylaws that were discussed with administrators of member schools in East, Middle, and West Tennessee at the Regional Meetings that were held in early November. Only one of the eight proposals was passed by the Council.

The Council approved a proposed change to Article II, Section 18 (Amateur Rule). With immediate effect, students who receive payment for instructional services (i.e. lessons) are not in violation of the Amateur Rule. Students would be permitted to receive payment for activities not related to performance provided that they are carried out in a manner that does not suggest the endorsement or sponsorship of their school. The student's activities for which they are compensated may not include an image or likeness of the student in a uniform, or other clothing or gear depicting the name or logo of the TSSAA member school the student is attending or has attended.

In new business, the Council voted to approve a proposal that removes the current requirement to request approval for jamborees.

The addition of a first practice date for the sport of bowling was approved. This clarifies that a student who practices three or more days after the first official date of practice and subsequently transfers would be ineligible to participate during that season. This would be consistent with all other sports.

The Council voted to table the addition of Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse as sanctioned sports. The Council will hold a called meeting in January after the next scheduled Board of Control meeting. The state office will work with Boys and Girls' Lacrosse to bring an official's fee structure to the Board of Control in January.

The full Council agenda can be viewed below.

Documents

[Legislative Council Minutes \(December 8, 2022\) \(PDF\)](#)



Distinguished Service

Sports News

General News

Wright recognized for distinguished service as an administrator and coach

Long-time Fulton coach active at school and in the community

December 16, 2022

The job wasn't even one for which he had applied, and after three years and 13 wins, it hardly seemed destined to result in one of the most remarkable coaching journeys in the history of Tennessee high school athletics – or anywhere, for that matter.

Now, nearly four decades and more than 800 wins later, Jody Wright remains an institutional icon at Knoxville's Fulton High School, where he has guided the Falcons to a trio of state basketball championships, five runner-up finishes and more than 10 additional trips.

He's also the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association's Distinguished Service Award winner for December.

"I have really felt like in the midst of a lot of other things that have changed, I am right where God has put me," said Wright, a 12-year member of the TSSAA Board of Control who over the years added assistant principal and athletics director duties to his Fulton responsibilities. "And I wasn't smart enough, you know, when I got here to see His handiwork in me coming here. It was a job I didn't even apply for.

"But I was able to come here as a young coach, be around guys that were stalwarts like Bob Black and Steve Brewer and to watch those guys and have those guys mentor me and really show me what high school coaching is all about."

Even with 813 victories and counting, Wright more easily reflects on his longstanding service both to the Fulton school and that tight-knit segment of the Knoxville community as well as his decision to stick with his Falcon roots despite innumerable offers to coach elsewhere for a larger paycheck.

"In the midst of a lot of opportunities to go elsewhere and make more money, I'm right where I'm supposed to be," Wright said. "I don't know what the future holds, but I know who holds my future and I've let Him direct my path.

"I do think He puts people in places where He can use them and I think He rewards us when we're faithful to His call. I've been rewarded far more than I could have ever imagined or deserved. I'm called to be here, and I'm supposed to be here."



Jody Wright

After closing his own playing career at Lincoln Memorial University, not then the NCAA Division II power for which it has emerged in recent seasons, Wright nonetheless learned under one of college basketball's all-time great ambassadors: Rick Byrd, the retired Belmont coach who turned the Bruins into a nationally acclaimed basketball program.

After a year as a graduate assistant under Byrd, followed by a year as the head coach at Horace Maynard High School, Wright was then invited to begin his record-obliterating tour de force at Fulton.

Well-versed off the court, Wright continues to pour into a number of philanthropic endeavors in addition to molding youth at Fulton High School; he's intrinsically involved with the Emerald Youth Foundation, Second Baptist Church of Clinton and Knoxville-area Boys and Girls Clubs.

Sure, it makes a busy schedule for the 61-year-old Wright, but he can't imagine another path.

"I think that's part of what your job as a basketball coach is, especially these days," Wright said of being a multifaceted influence for his charges. "If you only wear one hat, and that is of coach, you miss a great opportunity. I think the truly good ones in this profession, they embrace the fact that they're a coach, a father, mentor, role model, all those things right there.

"What I have watched from really good coaches, I have watched them do all of those things. You have to wear those other hats here at Fulton and wear them well because we have such an opportunity and platform. If all we're doing is teaching guys how to play man to man defense or motion offense, I'm missing a great opportunity that we have here to teach these kids about handling adversity, success, how to have character, how to grow from a boy to a man. How to handle all the challenges that they'll face in life."

As for his own challenges, Wright continues to attack each day as though he's missing those 800-plus wins and still building off that modest initial foundation.

"My fire is still burning hot," Wright said. "I get asked that a lot. I'm 61, and have been doing this a long time but I don't feel 61. I think people who coach and work with me would tell you, I go ... my intensity burns as strong now as it did 20 years ago.

"I hope I know when it's time to go. That's been my prayer, Lord let me know. I still love it, still enjoy it and still look forward to every day and every practice."

TSSAA proudly salutes Jody Wright for his contributions as an administrator and coach to student athletes in Tennessee.

AUTHOR

John Brice

Name, Image and Likeness and the TSSAA Amateur Rule

In December 2022, the TSSAA Legislative Council unanimously approved changes to the Amateur Rule of the TSSAA Bylaws after extensive discussion with the membership at the TSSAA Administrators Meetings in September and Regional Meetings in November.

The change establishes that students are allowed to receive payment for instructional services and other activities not related to performance provided that they are carried out in a manner that does not suggest or reasonably suggest the endorsement or sponsorship of the TSSAA school. The student's activities for which they are compensated may not include an image or likeness of the student in a uniform, or other clothing or gear depicting the name or logo of the TSSAA member school the student is attending or has attended. No reference to TSSAA accolades or championships may be used in the student's activities for which they are compensated.

It is important to note that a student who violates the amateur rule shall be ineligible for 12 months in the sport in which the violation occurs. To avoid the appearance of impropriety, schools or those directly or indirectly associated with the school should refrain from soliciting, negotiating or promoting a student's participation in activities for which they are compensated.

The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has produced a free 15 minute course which gives further clarification on what is considered permissible in Tennessee and the 20+ other states where this type of compensation is permitted. This course can easily be accessed by administrators, coaches, students, and parents. It also highlights misconceptions that various stakeholders may have about these new opportunities for compensation. .

[Free Course at NFHSLearn.com](#)

A complete version of the revisions to the amateur rule is found below.

A student who has never received payment for performance who has never used and is not using his/her knowledge of athletics or his/her athletic skill for pay in the sports which this Association governs and who has always contested under his/her own name is an amateur. (Accepting money for officiating athletic contests, payment for instructional services, or for working as an employee in a city or county recreation program is not a violation of this regulation.) A student who violates the amateur rule shall be ineligible for 12 months in the sport in which the violation occurs. Bowling, golf and tennis students will abide by USBC, USGA, and USTA regulations in accepting pay. Such a student may be reinstated as an amateur after a period of one calendar year from the time he/she was declared ineligible has elapsed, provided he/she has not violated the amateur rule during this period.

Students may receive payment for activities not related to performance provided that they are carried out in a manner that does not suggest or reasonably suggest the endorsement or sponsorship of the TSSAA school. The student's activities for which they are compensated may not include an image or likeness of the student in a uniform, or other clothing or gear depicting the name or logo of the TSSAA member school the student is attending or has attended. No reference to TSSAA accolades or championships may be used in the student's activities for which they are compensated.

[TSSAA Constitution & Bylaws](#)

Below are some frequently asked questions regarding the changes to the TSSAA Amateur Rule approved by the TSSAA Legislative Council in December 2022. The revisions clarify that there are some activities that are unrelated to performance where a student can receive payment provided that they are carried out in a manner that does not suggest the endorsement or sponsorship of the TSSAA school. There should be no school involvement in the facilitation or promotion of these activities.

TSSAA Amateur Rule FAQ

1. Can an athlete post a link to a business they are receiving payment for sponsoring if there are references to the school in their social media profile where the link appears?

No. References to the school or pictures depicting the athlete in their uniform may not appear in the post containing a link to the sponsoring business.

2. Can a coach or other school official facilitate, coordinate, promote, or negotiate an NIL agreement for a student-athlete enrolled at his/her school?

No. A school can provide generic educational materials or advice regarding the factors that should be considered before entering into an NIL deal but should never be involved with coordinating, facilitating, promoting, or negotiating agreements for student-athletes.

3. Can a booster club or other school support organization make payment to a student-athlete for the use of his or her name, image, or likeness?

No. Payment from a school booster club could reasonably suggest the endorsement or sponsorship of the TSSAA school.

4. Can a school or school support organization distribute money for services to a student through a Name, Image Likeness Collective?

No. School association with a collective would be considered express or implied sponsorship or endorsement of the activity.

5. If an athlete wishes to give private lessons or run a mini camp using school facilities and advertises the lesson or camp, is he/she in violation of the Amateur Rule by mentioning the school as the host site in the advertisement?

Yes. Students may receive payment for activities not related to performance provided that they are carried out in a manner that does not suggest the endorsement or sponsorship of a TSSAA school. To avoid the inference or suggestion that the school endorses or sponsors the activity, the school should not be mentioned in the advertisement. The student may, of course, inform those who contact him or her about the location of the lessons or camp, but that location – if it is a member school – should not be mentioned in any advertisement. If a student is using a school's facility for instructional purposes, he or she should be treated the same as any member of the student population regarding usage agreements, fees, etc.

6. Are there limits as to how much an athlete can make from an endorsement or sponsorship?

No.

7. Are there limits as to how much an athlete can charge for giving lessons or putting on a camp?

No.

8. Can a coach of a school assist an athlete who is giving lessons or putting on a camp?

No. A coach's assistance would reasonably suggest support or endorsement by the school.

9. Are there restrictions as to the types of businesses athletes can sign NIL agreements with?

Not at this time.

10. Would it be a violation if an athlete and his/her family were offered a residence as a result of an NIL agreement after he/she had enrolled in and attended a school?

This would be a recruiting violation if a school was involved.

11. Does a school have to document its athletes' NIL activities?

Not for the purposes of TSSAA. However, school officials may wish to maintain an awareness of those activities in order to ensure that the activities do not suggest the endorsement or sponsorship of the school.

12. If a coach is contacted by a community member seeking a pitcher/receiver/setter/etc. to provide lessons to their child, could the coach direct them to one of his/her players?

No. A coach directing someone to one of his/her players for this purpose would reasonably suggest endorsement or sponsorship of the school.



Sports News

General News

2022 Tennessee Titans Mr. Football Award Winners Announced

Awards were presented to 10 winners and 20 finalists at Nissan Stadium

December 7, 2022

Tennessee's best high school football players for 2022 were recognized at the Tennessee Titans Mr. Football Awards luncheon hosted by the Tennessee Titans.

More than 400 people, including the honorees, their families, coaches, school administrators and members of the media from all parts of the state, attended the 2022 luncheon at Nissan Stadium.

"This is such an outstanding honor for all 30 of the young men recognized today at the Tennessee Titans Mr. Football Awards," said Mark Reeves, Executive Director of the TSSAA. "They were here not only due to their athletic ability that they displayed on the field throughout the season, but just as much for their outstanding character and academic achievements."

"For decades, the Titans have made supporting high school and youth football programs a top priority. The athletes being honored today represent some of the most talented across the state – not only showing determination on-the-field, but also demonstrating tremendous character off-the-field," said Burke Nihill, Titans President and CEO. "We are proud to support the Mr. Football Awards and highlight these incredible men who will be the leaders of tomorrow."

High school head coaches and members of the media nominated the finalists. A committee of statewide sports writers selected winners based on performance in the 2022 regular season. Academics and character were also taken into consideration.

The awards were presented to the top football players in each of the nine classifications of the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association. The top kickers in the state were also recognized. There were three finalists in this category, regardless of their school's classification.

The Titans became sponsors of the Mr. Football Awards in 2007.

2022 TENNESSEE TITANS MR. FOOTBALL AWARD WINNERS

Division I, Class 1A

Jackson Cassidy, McKenzie

Division I, Class 2A

Josh Jackson, Tyner

Division I, Class 3A

Lance Williams, Alcoa

Division I, Class 4A

Marcellus Jackson, Fulton

Division I, Class 5A

De'Sean Bishop, Karns

Division I, Class 6A

Arion Carter, Smyrna

Division II, Class A

D.J. Merriweather, Clarksville Academy

Division II, Class AA

Maureice "Junior" Sherrill, Lipscomb Academy

Division II, Class AAA

Marcel Reed, Montgomery Bell Academy

KICKER OF THE YEAR

Oziel Hernandez, Germantown

i We are limiting visitors to protect the health and safety of our patients and staff.

Read our visitation policy. | Reglamento de Visitacion en Espanol

Home / News & Blog / Concussion Safety

Concussion Safety

Posted on December 15, 2022

Keeping Athletes in the Game

Sport-Related Concussion: Current Research and the Importance of Gradual Return-to-Activity Protocol

The continued rise in popularity of high school athletics brings new awareness about the world of sports medicine and the prevention and care of athletic injuries. Lately, much of this interest pertains to the prevalence of sport-related concussions and how coaches, athletic trainers, and physicians work together to treat concussions and ensure a safe return to sport for all. Many news headlines surround recent collegiate and professional athletics events concerning concussion protocols and safe return to sports. These trending developments demonstrate the importance of concussion training and community education for all involved in the healthcare of secondary school athletes and the importance of state-regulated concussion laws and guidelines for concussion management and clearance. This highlights the importance of a monitored gradual return to sport.

Research Update

In the current research, groups such as the Concussion in Sport Group (CISG) are still working to define what concussions encompass and how concussions specifically impact the pediatric and adolescent patient demographic. Much of the existing research surrounding concussion focuses on adult male patients. Therefore, it has become incredibly important for groups such as the CISG to turn their attention to researching the impact of concussion in female patients as well as adolescent groups and how specifically these groups of patients respond and heal from a traumatic head injury. This lack of research makes advocacy for abundance of concussion care and return to play protocol in the secondary school setting and youth sports programs of the utmost importance.

Return-to-Activity

Communication between a young athlete's physician and parents, coaches, and athletic trainers in concussion management creates efficient, high-quality care that focuses on supervision of an athlete's symptomology and a safe reintroduction to activities of daily living, school, and exercise that will evolve into a return to sport. In Tennessee, officials have created a policy recognizing the need for education and early management of athletes who display concussion-like symptoms (**TSSAA Concussion Policy and RTP Form**). If a student-athlete is evaluated for a concussion during a game and symptoms are present, they must be immediately removed to prevent further harm.

The athlete who displays symptoms of a concussion is to be referred to a licensed medical doctor (M.D.), osteopathic physician (D.O.), or clinical neuropsychologist with concussion training. These practitioners work closely with the athlete's family and athletic trainers to ensure that the appropriate care is being provided to reduce patient symptoms and promote a healthy return to school and sports. Once said practitioner is confident that symptomology has diminished and the patient is able to complete schoolwork and daily activities without the onset of concussion symptoms, the state return to play form is signed and sent to the healthcare provider at the patient's school. This, in most cases, is the certified athletic trainer on-site. Patients then will engage in a gradual exercise protocol that focuses on increasing heart rate and adding sport-related movement and exercise over six days until the athlete is able to return to full competition.

Recognition and communication of concussion symptomology remain essential throughout the gradual return to play protocol, as the patient must be symptom-free and free of all pain-alleviating medications to continue advancement in the protocol. It is important to note that if symptoms do return during the return to play progression, the athlete is to return to the first level of the protocol and start again. An athlete's symptoms may include headache, dizziness, lightheadedness, nausea, and increased sensitivity to light and noise. Should symptoms persist, the athlete must communicate with the athletic trainer so that communication may be made to the treating provider to determine if additional care is necessary. This can delay the return-to-play protocol longer than the original six days. For a successful and safe return to activity, it is crucial to ensure that all parties related to the patient's healthcare are educated on concussion symptomology and how to recognize concussion-like symptoms in high school athletes. Lack of communication regarding symptoms or deficits in an athlete's daily activities is dangerous. Athletes who return to sport too soon and endure additional head trauma can sustain long-term side effects and ramifications pertaining to cognitive function, even into adulthood. As researchers continue to collaborate on defining the impact of concussions in adolescent populations, it is essential in our roles as educators, coaches, parents, and athletic trainers to be aware and educated on concussions to promote safe, healthy futures for today's youth.

Resources and Education

Concussion recognition and treatment should also be considered beyond athletics, and it is crucial to understand that often there is a process for an adolescent athlete to "return to learning" just as there is a return to athletics. Student-athletes struggling in the classroom due to concussion symptomology may benefit from an IEP or 504 plan to give them the assistance they need to complete and comprehend their school lessons and work. The athletic trainer on-site at the athlete's school can be an outstanding resource for creating an environment of collaborative care through communication with school administrators, teachers, nurses, and coaches. Getting to know your athletic trainer can provide athletes and their families with additional resources as they work diligently to advocate and provide healthcare to the athletes at their respective schools or facilities.

Further education on concussion recognition and management in sports can be found on the National Federation of State High School Association's (NFHS) website. There the NFHS provides a free concussion course for coaches and the general public to educate themselves on how to recognize and best manage concussions as they pertain to high school athletics (**NFHS Concussion Course**).

HaleyWyatt is a Certified/Licensed Athletic Trainer at LeConte Sports Medicine.

Haley is currently working on her Doctorate in Sports Neurology and concussions and Higher Education leadership.

Recent Posts

Concussion Safety

December 15, 2022

LeConte Health and Rehabilitation Center Sale

October 11, 2022

Welcome Jaime Holbert, DO

July 25, 2022

New MRI Coming to LeConte

July 8, 2022

Welcome Shelly Lewis, MD, FACOG

July 6, 2022

Categories

Archives



2022-2023 Champions

Champions by School Year:

2022-2023



VIEW BY GRAND DIVISION

Boys' Cross Country



Class AAA Team Champions

[Farragut](#)

Runner-up: [Beech](#)



Class AAA Individual Champion

Owen Clemons

[Cleveland](#)

Runner-up: Trevor Coggin, [Farragut](#)

Class A-AA Team Champions

[Signal Mountain](#)

Runner-up: [Murfreesboro Central Magnet](#)



Class A-AA Individual Champion

Jackson Martin

[Creek Wood](#)

Runner-up: Will Douglas, [Camden](#)



Division II A Team Champions

[University School of Nashville](#)

Runner-up: [Christian Academy of Knoxville](#)



Division II A Individual Champion

Drew Johnson

[Donelson Christian Academy](#)

Runner-up: Sammy Mohamed, [Harding Academy](#)



Division II AA Team Champions

[McCallie](#)

Runner-up: [Christian Brothers](#)



Division II AA Individual Champion

Luke Thompson

[Brentwood Academy](#)

Runner-up: Jack Bowen, [McCallie](#)





Girls' Cross Country



Class AAA Team Champions

[Brentwood](#)

Runner-up: [Beech](#)



Class AAA Individual Champion

Claire Stegall

[Nolensville](#)

Runner-up: Larkin Johnson, [Centennial](#)



Class A-AA Team Champions

[Signal Mountain](#)

Runner-up: [Murfreesboro Central Magnet](#)



Class A-AA Individual Champion

Zoe Arrington

[Tennessee](#)

Runner-up: Maxine Richards, [Signal Mountain](#)



Division II A Team Champions

[Westminster Academy](#)

Runner-up: [Webb School - Bell Buckle](#)

Division II A Individual Champion

Abby Faith Cheeseman

Webb School - Bell Buckle

Runner-up: Lauren Rutlin, [St. George's](#)



Division II AA Team Champions

[Harpeth Hall](#)

Runner-up: [Webb School of Knoxville](#)



Division II AA Individual Champion

Isabella Guillamondegui

[Harpeth Hall](#)

Runner-up: Anna Graves, [Webb School of Knoxville](#)

Football



Class 1A Team Champions

[McKenzie](#) (15-0)

Runner-up: [Clay County](#) (13-2)



Class 2A Team Champions

[Tyner](#) (14-1)

Runner-up: [Decatur County Riverside](#) (12-3)

Class 3A Team Champions

[Alcoa](#) (14-1)

Runner-up: [East Nashville](#) (12-3)

ALCOA



Class 4A Team Champions

Anderson County (15-0)

Runner-up: [Pearl Cohn](#) (12-3)

Class 5A Team Champions

Knoxville West (15-0)

Runner-up: [Page](#) (12-3)



Class 6A Team Champions

Oakland (14-1)

Runner-up: [Beech](#) (13-2)



Division II-A Team Champions

Friendship Christian (13-0)

Runner-up: [Nashville Christian](#) (10-3)



Division II-AA Team Champions

Lipscomb Academy (13-0)

Runner-up: [Christ Presbyterian Academy](#) (8-6)



Division II-AAA Team Champions

[Baylor](#) (11-2)

Runner-up: [Montgomery Bell Academy](#) (12-1)

Boys' Golf



Class A Team Champions

[Kingston](#)

Runner-up: [Signal Mountain](#)



Class A Individual Champion

Jason Cole Campbell

[Summertown](#)

Runner-up: Peyton Ogle, [Signal Mountain](#)



Class AA Team Champions

[Collierville](#)

Runner-up: [Page](#)



Class AA Individual Champion

Jackson Herrington

[Dickson County](#)

Runner-up: Tyler Williamson, [Greenbrier](#)

Division II A Team Champions

[Christian Academy of Knoxville](#)

Runner-up: [Battle Ground Academy](#)



Division II A Individual Champion

Eliot Brasher

[Battle Ground Academy](#)

Runner-up: Cooper Russell, [Christian Academy of Knoxville](#)



Division II AA Team Champions

[Ensworth](#)

Runner-up: [McCallie](#)



Division II AA Individual Champion

Blades Brown

[Brentwood Academy](#)



Girls' Golf

Class A Team Champions

[Summertown](#)

Runner-up: [Kingston](#)



Class A Individual Champion

Sophie Linder

[Gordonsville](#)

Runner-up: Karlie Campbell, [Summertown](#)



Class AA Team Champions

[Cookeville](#)

Runner-up: [Ravenwood](#)

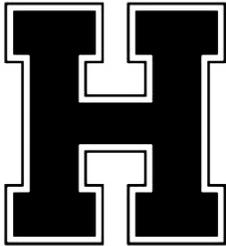


Class AA Individual Champion

Sophie Christopher

[Houston](#)

Runner-up: Lauren Slatton, [Warren County](#)



Division II A Team Champions

[Providence Christian](#)

Runner-up: [Battle Ground Academy](#)



Division II A Individual Champion

Balla Bugg

[Battle Ground Academy](#)

Runner-up: Boonchita Sriwongngam, [Webb School - Bell Buckle](#)



Division II AA Team Champions

[Ensworth](#)

Runner-up: [Baylor](#)



Division II AA Individual Champion

Anna Heck

[St. Agnes](#)

Runner-up: Reagan Robinson, [Father Ryan](#)





Girls' Soccer



Class A Team Champions

[Merrol Hyde](#) (20-2-1)

Runner-up: [Cumberland Gap](#) (19-2-2)



Class AA Team Champions

[Page](#) (23-0-2)

Runner-up: [Murfreesboro Central Magnet](#) (18-7)



Class AAA Team Champions

[Bearden](#) (24-0)

Runner-up: [Houston](#) (18-1-1)



Division II A Team Champions

[University School of Jackson](#) (19-2)

Runner-up: [Battle Ground Academy](#) (14-6-4)



Division II AA Team Champions

[Girls Preparatory School](#) (14-2-1)

Runner-up: [Briarcrest](#) (13-2-1)

Girls' Volleyball



Class A Team Champions
Summertown (44-9)
Runner-up: **Loretto** (39-12)



Class AA Team Champions
Creek Wood (40-2)
Runner-up: **East Hamilton** (37-9)



Class AAA Team Champions
Cleveland (48-5)
Runner-up: **Collierville** (37-10)



Division II A Team Champions
Battle Ground Academy (37-4)
Runner-up: **Goodpasture** (34-6)



Division II AA Team Champions
Briarcrest (34-6)
Runner-up: **Baylor** (35-8)



Sports News

General News

TSSAA Rewind: Team chemistry, defense fueled Sweetwater's 1972 title march

November 29, 2022

With a roster of just around 30 players, Sweetwater did not have the most depth nor the luxury of utilizing players on only one side of the football.

What the Wildcats might have lacked in numbers, they more than made up for in team chemistry, camaraderie and coaching under the late, legendary King Berrong.

Not to mention a remarkably stingy defense that notched shutouts in 16 of 24 games across the program's two-year tour de force in Class A football in Tennessee in the early 1970s.

It shined through when Sweetwater completed back-to-back Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A state titles in 1971-72. The Wildcats barreled through Bledsoe County, Lake County and White House enroute to their second crown. They outscored their three playoff opponents 65-9 and notched shutouts of both Bledsoe County and finally White House in the championship contest.

"The catalyst to the whole thing was Coach Berrong," said Sweetwater legend Kippy Brown, a Super Bowl-winning assistant coach with the Seattle Seahawks in 2014. "He was a terrific coach, he explained things the way that you could understand and want to do them. He had everybody on the same page.

"He molded me, he communicated well with players. And we trusted him, the players trusted him."

Brown said that the way Berrong handled desegregation, and the manner in which Berrong placed team above all, helped to foster a tight-knit team culture among the Wildcats.

"We had not integrated too long before and so he had to deal with that, bringing together Black players," Brown said of Berrong, a TSSAA Hall of Famer who also was enshrined in the Maryville College Wall of Fame. "He took his son and moved him to running back and put me at quarterback. That just wasn't hardly done back then.

"When he did that, me and him were meeting together and spent a lot of time together with game planning and we became not only coach-player but really we became good friends. He had a lasting impact on me."

The way Berrong coached each player to the same exacting standards would make a lifetime impact on Brown.

“Steve Berrong and I went to college together, and Coach Berrong was harder on Steve than anybody,” Brown said. “We knew what Coach wanted, and that’s where I got my coaching background from. He was very explicit of what he expected of you and he explained it to you where anybody could understand and he expected you to do it. And if you didn’t, it wasn’t going to be very good.”

Brown said that lesson of player-coach trust likewise stayed with him throughout Brown’s own distinguished coaching career.

“And I’ve learned this throughout the years: players have to trust you,” Brown said. “I’ve coached some really, really good players. And the ones that excelled the most were ones we had mutual trust. They won my trust and I won theirs. You’ve got to have that trust factor.

“You’ll see a lot of teams that don’t have that. They may be talented, but unless they have that trust factor, it’s hard to believe in the coach and do exactly what he says.”

In its back-to-back Class A title runs, Sweetwater allowed just a total of 23 points across five playoff games and outscored those five foes by a whopping 133-23 margin.

Throughout their 12-game 1972 title run, which featured one regular-season loss against South Pittsburg, the Wildcats’ defense recorded nine shutouts. And their response to that 42-21 defeat to South Pittsburg?

Sweetwater won its final six games en route to that ’72 crown with a vengeance, shutting out five opponents and roaring to a 216-9 scoring differential.

The Wildcats had been a dominant force and advanced into the postseason in earlier years, Brown recalled, only to be stopped short. That scenario laid the foundation for the team’s future success.

“Madisonville was our big rival, but at no time while I was at Sweetwater were they good enough to challenge us and we didn’t get challenged until we got into the state championship games,” Brown said. “South Pittsburg was really good and their running back (the late) Jimmy Wigfall was outstanding. They beat us my first year. But we came back and took care of them the next year.

“I think (the early loss) helped us. We knew that we had to come out and play our best or there was a chance that somebody could sneak up on us. After we lost the one game my junior and my senior year, we didn’t even come close to losing.”

Brown said the Wildcats embodied their coach.

“It was fun, we came to play every game and Coach had a lot to do with that,” said Brown, who also worked a summer job with a handful of teammates on Berrong’s chicken farm near Sweetwater. “Coach Berrong reminded us that we always had to come ready to play. It meant a lot to us.”

And those days still mean a lot to Brown. Sweetwater’s home football field bears the name King Berrong Stadium, and the high school still proudly displays the markers signifying the Wildcats’ championships.

“Every time I go home, I go out to the high school and the sign is up for our team,” Brown said. “I just love to go by there and see the sign of the state championship teams. It’s fun.

“It’s where I got started, and I was able to make a career out of it. I’ve got state championships rings and I’ve got a Super Bowl ring. It doesn’t get much better than that.”

AUTHOR

John Brice



Sports News

Championships News

TSSAA Rewind: 1972 Tennessee High team wins second consecutive state football title

December 1, 2022

There had been a previous state championship, and some national acclaim.

Yet as Tennessee High School's legendary squad entered the 1972 football season, the Vikings' players approached their gauntlet with a twofold mindset: Play for the man on each side of you and "show them we can play a little football up here in Bristol."

Mission accomplished, in a superlative standard that has stood the test of time five decades henceforth.

A year after storming to the 1971 Class AAA state crown, Tennessee High repeated in 1972 – with an unblemished record and such a dominant tour de force that the program was heralded as national champions.

"Basically, I just remember us trying to get better each week and not to let each other down," said former Viking great Greg Jones, a hard-hitting linebacker who went on to play at the University of Tennessee as one of double-digit members of those Tennessee High squads to play college football. "Our practices were hard, and people thought that we weren't that good.

"We just kind of had a chip on our shoulder, and had been playing together since middle school and against each other since elementary school. We just felt like when you come to play us, you're going to play us."

The Vikings never stopped sending that message – all the way through to the title bout against Chattanooga-area private school Baylor. Tennessee High romped Baylor, 39-6, in a game that capped its three-game steamrolling of all postseason foes. The Vikings won those three playoff tilts in the state's largest division by a combined 105-18; all three wins came by at least 26 points.

Jim Stoots, who played on the Vikings' 1971 title team and graduated in '72 but has maintained decades of service to the TSSAA officiating multiple sports, recalled the program's defense from those dominant years and also the same bond that Jones said had helped drive Tennessee's success.

"We played each game just like we were 0-0 when we stepped on the field," said Stoots, who noted the Vikings yielded less than 100 points during their initial title run and barely allowed 100 through 13 games in '72. "As I think back about it, they started a youth league program in Bristol and we all played against and with each other since we were in elementary school.

"I think we had an advantage because we had some guys that taught us fundamentals at a young age. Which really helped us along the way. We didn't have to learn those fundamentals at the middle school or JV level. So I think that was a big advantage for us."

Former Vikings quarterback David Bibee, a longtime college football coach, told Tri-Cities TV station WJHL earlier this year that the Vikings had served notice in '71 and maintained their focus throughout the record-breaking campaign that capped the program's 25-0 winning binge engineered by head coach John Cropp.

"We had an outstanding coaching staff," Bibee said. "They were ahead of their time and they were all outstanding. ... They were really special.

"It was amazing, the year before we were second (nationally) and our junior year we had won the semis 49-0 and then 54-0. We had momentum going in (to the 1972 season), and they knew about us and we didn't let them down."

With the full arsenal of players who earned college football scholarships virtually too numerous to count, Tennessee High sent players from those squads to the University of Tennessee, Vanderbilt, Virginia Tech and Tennessee Tech, among a bevy of additional programs.

Winning wasn't quite enough; the Vikings were challenged week after week to find ways to improve upon their perfection.

"Our coaches had a lot to do with that. They wouldn't let us get complacent at all," Jones said. "If they thought we were starting to get the big-head, they would humble us pretty quick. It would get a little harder than normal. I never had a practice in college as hard as the practices I had in high school.

"It's just something to be very proud of and we all know we couldn't have done it without each other. That was our goal, to let people know we play football here in Bristol. They kind of found out pretty quick."

And the Vikings' home, the fabled 'Stone Castle,' added its own aura of intimidation for opponents that traveled all the way to the edge of Tennessee-Virginia state line for a shot at powerhouse Tennessee High.

All those elements added up to cap the bookend championships. And that '72 campaign embodied wire-to-wire dominance; the Vikings won 12 of their 13 games by 20 or more points and had only rival Elizabethton play them to within a touchdown as they outscored all foes 472-107.

"I didn't expect to lose," Jones said. "Practice wasn't my favorite thing but that's where you learned your basics and how to get better. We learned that in high school.

"We weren't going to let each other down. We knew there were going to be mistakes made, that we all would make mistakes, but we would not make those mistakes twice. You just didn't let your fellow player down. These are my brothers. We sweated together, had our disagreements, but when they blew the whistle, we were all one."

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Sports News

General News

TSSAA Rewind: Hartsville embraces the playoff era with 1972 state title campaign

December 2, 2022

It's a bit of Tennessee high school football lore that, well, potentially could be lost to the sands of time.

After all, in addition to the novelty of it being the program's first-ever foray into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association state playoffs in 1972, Trousdale County – formerly Hartsville – found itself playing not only on its opponent's home field but in a scene more fit for a sandcastle than a gridiron.

Torrential rains leading into the Class AA championship bout caused locations to be shifted, and Kingston ended up as the host. To get the field ready, players recalled, Kingston officials trucked in sand.

Dump-truck loads.

"Oh lord, it looked like Daytona Beach from the hashmarks to the middle of the field from about one 30-yard line to the other 30," said Danny Joe Gregory, quarterback of that first-ever title team. "It was solid white, like we were playing in a sandbox."

Gregory recalled that his teammates left plenty of skin on the field that night in a game that proved that a football title-match certainly was no day at the beach.

"We had skinned spots all over us from rolling around in that sand all night," Gregory said. "Just luckily, we had a good group of guys and a good coaching staff. A lot of my friends from that team now are gone, but it was just special to be a part of that."

Dr. Clint Satterfield, now the school district superintendent, was a middle school ball boy for his father, iconic Trousdale coach Jim Satterfield, during that title march as a precursor to his own playing career. He remembered what a unique time it was – that Trousdale had initially resisted the creation of the playoffs, as had many programs during during the 1960s, in order to preserve the traditional postseason bowl games.

"That was the first year that Trousdale, we went by Hartsville at that time, participated in the playoffs because the bowl games were really big in Tennessee," Dr. Satterfield said. "My dad and a lot of other people thought the playoff thing was just a fad or wouldn't stick or I guess old habits sometimes are just hard to break.

"My dad was playing Lebanon and Gallatin and Portland and wanted to keep those rivals. So they went three years and didn't even play the TSSAA district or region schedule."

Once the program acquiesced to the changing tides, it emphatically served notice to the rest of the Volunteer State – not that the Yellow Jackets had not already carved a reputation of taking on any program, any time and any place.

“I remember, we were a Single A team playing Double A ball and beating Triple A ball clubs,” Gregory recalled of the three-class football postseason structure. “Coach Satterfield could take an average ballplayer and make a great ball player out of you.

“We were just country boys, worked in tobacco fields and hauled hay during the days. Coach Satterfield said, ‘Through the week you won’t like me, but on Friday night boys, it’s going to be a breeze.’ And we were 13-0.”

The Yellow Jackets of Trousdale County swarmed foes that season, holding eight of their 13 victims to single-digit scoring. They won their three playoff games by 12, nine and 12 points.

And they did so without benefit of depth; almost every starter played both ways for a team that dressed just 25 players. The Yellow Jackets deployed wide splits along their offensive front, and if Gregory got a spaced-out look from the defense, he simply rode the wave of his interior offensive line for huge chunks of real estate.

“All the praise goes to the linemen, they did all the work,” said Gregory, who also noted the rugged running of O.J. Warner and Mike Whittaker as bedrocks of the offense. “We all loved each other, there wasn’t any black or white. We were all one family, and if you were black, white, green, red or whatever it didn’t matter.”

As Trousdale marched along this dream run, the community continued to rally behind the program. Finally, as the group prepared for its team meal the night before the title clash at Kingston, a local football legend and restaurateur made a vow.

“The whole community was ecstatic about it, and I remember vividly that they had a guy, Rodney Thomas, who had played NFL football and had a restaurant there in town. He fed the team dinner the night before the state championship,” Satterfield said. “He told them, ‘If y’all win this thing, I’m going to get a big color picture and put it up in my restaurant and I will make sure everybody has a championship blazer.’”

He backed up his word after the 12-0 title-triumph; each player received a customized gold blazer in the motif of today’s iconic Pro Football Hall of Fame blazers after the community helped raise funds. The picture remained in the restaurant until it closed and has since been on display at the school.

The jackets had a 1972 Class 2A Hartsville State Champions patch and each player’s name was embroidered on the pocket.

Five decades later, the Trousdale foundation remains in place.

“The thing about Hartsville, it’s a football town,” Gregory said. “We still go on Friday nights to watch games on the creek bank, and a lot of us still go to the away games when we can.”

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