

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

[2025 Mr. and Miss Basketball Winners Announced](#)

The top girls' and boys' basketball players in six classifications of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association were honored at the 2025 Mr. and Miss Basketball Awards Ceremony on March 18.

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[Show of on-court sportsmanship earns Watertown sophomore national award](#)

During a basketball game this season, Aaron's actions highlighted what it means to compete with character. With his team holding a narrow lead late in the fourth quarter, an opposing player fell hard near the basket. Instead of taking advantage of the momentary 4-on-5 advantage, Aaron paused to help the player up, ensuring he was unharmed before returning to play. His decision—rooted in respect for both the game and the opponent—spoke volumes, reinforcing a culture of integrity on his team.

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[NFHS Flag Football Rules Committee developing first rules for high school competition](#)

The first national rules for high school flag football is under development by the 11-member NFHS Flag Football Rules Committee. The 2025-26 rules book will be available in print and digital form in early May and will provide rules guidance for the nation's fastest-growing emerging high school sport. Currently, 14 state associations have sanctioned girls flag football. TSSAA and more than a dozen other associations are involved in independent/pilot programs at some level.

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[Meigs eighth-grader honored for prioritizing team over personal success](#)

Elle Goldman, an 8th grader at Meigs Academic Magnet School, has been recognized with the NFHS Student-Athlete Award of Excellence. After a recent game, Elle took the initiative to gather her team and publicly acknowledge each player and manager, sharing specific reasons she valued their contributions—regardless of individual stats or playing time. Her effort to uplift her teammates despite the defeat underscored her belief that every member of the team deserves respect and appreciation.

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[Transforming futures and saving lives through EMT programs at Tennessee's TCATs and community colleges](#)

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) programs offered at Tennessee's community and technical colleges are designed to prepare students as first-line responders in healthcare. These programs feature state-of-the-art training that mirrors real-world healthcare settings, ensuring students learn the most advanced techniques and technologies.

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[The importance of Athletics/Activities Director certification](#)

In the world of high school athletics, the role of the athletics and activities director is one that demands more than just a deep understanding of sports and activities. It requires a comprehensive knowledge of rules and regulations, a commitment to safety, a vision for leadership, and an unwavering dedication to the development of student-athletes and leaders. While the job itself is multi-faceted, one of the best ways to ensure long-term success and enhanced efficacy is to explore and earn certifications to increase both knowledge and competency.

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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 **teaching perseverance as part of educational athletics**? 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

2025 Mr. and Miss Basketball Winners Announced

The top girls and boys basketball players in six classifications honored at awards ceremony in Murfreesboro

March 17, 2025

The top girls and boys basketball players in six classifications of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association were honored by being named the winners of the 2025 Mr. and Miss Basketball Awards. The awards presentation took place at Tucker Theater on the campus of MTSU on Tuesday, March 18 at 5:30 p.m.

A statewide committee of sportswriters selected the winners based on performance during the 2024-2025 regular season. Academics and character were also taken into consideration. High school head basketball coaches and members of the media nominated the finalists.

“This is such an outstanding honor for all 36 of the young men and women recognized this evening at the Mr. and Miss Basketball Awards,” said Mark Reeves, Executive Director of the TSSAA. “They were here not only due to their athletic ability that they displayed on the court throughout the season, but just as much for their outstanding character and academic achievements.”

This was the 40th year that the Mr. and Miss Basketball Awards have been presented to Tennessee’s best high school basketball players. American General was the sponsor of the event since the inception of the awards in 1985 until 2001. The Memphis Grizzlies were sponsors of the awards from 2002-2004. From 2005-2015 as well as the 2020-2021 school year due to the COVID-10 pandemic, the Mr. and Miss Basketball Awards were presented at the conclusion of each respective championship game as part of the post-game trophy ceremony.

2025 MR. AND MISS BASKETBALL WINNERS

Division II-A Miss Basketball

Haylen Ayers, University School of Jackson

Division II-AA Miss Basketball

Meeyah Green, Webb School of Knoxville

Class 1A Miss Basketball

Blair Baugus, Wayne County High School

Class 2A Miss Basketball

Karina Bystry, McMinn Central High School

Class 3A Miss Basketball

Jaidynn Askins, Jackson South Side High School

Class 4A Miss Basketball

Kimora Fields, Bradley Central High School

Division II-A Mr. Basketball

Jayden Jones, Goodpasture Christian School

Division II-AA Mr. Basketball

Fred Smith, Jr., Briarcrest Christian School

Class 1A Mr. Basketball

Auden Slaughter, Santa Fe High School

Class 2A Mr. Basketball

Ty Glasper, Gatlinburg-Pittman High School

Class 3A Mr. Basketball

Ty Cobb, Upperman High School

Class 4A Mr. Basketball

Taquez Butler, Whitehaven High School



Show of on-court sportsmanship earns Watertown sophomore national award

March 28, 2025

Watertown High School sophomore Aaron Roeder has been recognized with the NFHS Student-Athlete Award of Excellence, an honor awarded by the TSSAA and National Federation of State High School Associations, for exemplifying the core values of sportsmanship and leadership.

During a basketball game this season, Aaron's actions highlighted what it means to compete with character. With his team holding a narrow lead late in the fourth quarter, an opposing player fell hard near the basket. Instead of taking advantage of the momentary 4-on-5 advantage, Aaron paused to help the player up, ensuring he was unharmed before returning to play. His decision—rooted in respect for both the game and the opponent—spoke volumes, reinforcing a culture of integrity on his team.

Aaron's leadership extended to supporting his own teammates as well. After a freshman committed a critical turnover, Aaron was quick to offer encouragement, focusing on the next play rather than dwelling on the mistake. His composure and positivity helped keep his squad composed under pressure.

Coaches noted how Aaron's actions created immediate and lasting impacts: opponents acknowledged his respect, teammates followed his example, and the team's morale remained steady. Beyond athletics, Aaron's involvement in FCA, Student Council, and tennis further reflects his commitment to community and resilience.

Educational athletics aim to nurture not just skills, but values that extend beyond competition. Aaron's behavior reminds us that leadership involves accountability, respect, and empathy—even in high-stakes moments. His example shows that by prioritizing these principles, student-athletes can uplift teammates, opponents, and their communities.

The community is encouraged to follow Aaron's lead, recognizing that sportsmanship isn't just a gesture—it's the foundation of meaningful competition. As Aaron demonstrates, integrity on the court can inspire far beyond the game itself.

Nominate a student in your school today! Please use the form linked below to share a story about a student-athlete you know who has demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship, integrity, and ethics. If you have any questions about the award or the nomination process, please contact Courtney Brunetz (cbrunetz@tssaa.org).

[More about Student-Athlete Award of Excellence](#)



Meigs eighth-grader honored for prioritizing team over personal success

March 28, 2025

Elle Goldman, an 8th grader at Meigs Academic Magnet School, has been recognized with the NFHS Student-Athlete Award of Excellence, a distinction presented by the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) and the National Federation of State High School Associations. The honor highlights Elle's commitment to sportsmanship, exemplified by her actions following a recent middle school girls basketball loss.

After the game, Elle took the initiative to gather her team and publicly acknowledge each player and manager, sharing specific reasons she valued their contributions—regardless of individual stats or playing time. Her effort to uplift her teammates despite the defeat underscored her belief that every member of the team deserves respect and appreciation.

As captain, Elle consistently leads by example, fostering an environment where unity and acceptance are prioritized. Her approach has created a stronger team dynamic, emphasizing collective effort over personal achievements.

The NFHS Student-Athlete Award of Excellence celebrates student-athletes who embody the principles of integrity, respect, and leadership. Elle's actions after the game—focused on positivity and inclusivity—represent these values well.

School athletics provide a unique opportunity to learn teamwork and resilience. By emphasizing respect for peers, athletes like Elle set a standard for how participation in sports should look: not just about competition, but about growth and support. Encouraging young athletes to follow Elle's example—prioritizing team cohesion and kindness—can shape a culture where everyone feels they belong.

Elle isn't the only extracurricular standout—she also plays in the band, showing her dedication to community through diverse interests. Her balanced approach reflects qualities schools aim to nurture: commitment, empathy, and the wisdom to recognize the strength in others.

Whether in sports or elsewhere, taking a simple moment to appreciate others, even in tough situations, makes a difference. Let's all take a page from Elle's playbook—because leading with compassion isn't just good sportsmanship, it's good citizenship.

Nominate a student in your school today! Please use the form linked below to share a story about a student-athlete you know who has demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship, integrity, and ethics. If you have any questions about the award or the nomination process, please contact Courtney Brunetz (cbrunetz@tssaa.org).



Elle Goldman