



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

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John Van Fleet to Receive NIAAA Professional Development Award

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 17, 2010) — **John Van Fleet**, CMAA, retired athletic director from Woodstock (Illinois) High School, is the 2010 recipient of the Frank Kovalski Professional Development Award presented by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

Van Fleet will receive his award December 19 in Orlando, Florida, during banquet festivities at the 41st annual National Athletic Directors Conference conducted jointly by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the NIAAA.

The Frank Kovalski Professional Development Award is presented each year to an NIAAA member who possesses and has contributed to the vision of professional development – the legacy of Frank Kovalski – and who has made significant contributions and demonstrated excellence in professional development at the local,

state and national levels. Kovalski was director of the NIAAA, as well as assistant director of the NFHS, from 1989 until his retirement in 2005. He was responsible for starting the NIAAA Leadership Training Program in 1996 and expanding the NIAAA Certification Program in 1999.

Van Fleet retired in 2006 after an outstanding 30-year career as a high school teacher, coach, athletic trainer and athletic director at several schools in Iowa and Illinois.

Van Fleet began his career as a teacher and athletic trainer at Ames (Iowa) High School in 1977. He then served 12 years at Gilbert (Iowa) Community Junior-Senior High School before moving to Illinois, where he was a coach and athletic director at Streator (Illinois) Township High School for eight years, Sterling (Illinois) High School for three years and Woodstock (Illinois) High School for three years.

Van Fleet coached for 24 years, including 14 years as a head football coach, 12 years as a head boys track coach, two years as head baseball coach and one year as head girls softball coach. During his final 15 years at the three Illinois high schools, Van Fleet also served as athletic director.

Teaching has always been Van Fleet's passion, and he has devoted countless hours at the state and national levels to training individuals in the field of athletic administration.

At the state level, Van Fleet has served as coordinator of the Illinois Athletic Directors Association's (IADA) state Leadership Training Institute since 2003, and he has produced seven editions of the IADA Leadership Training Institute Professional Development brochure and 11 editions of the Mentoring Program for New Athletic Directors Handbook.

Van Fleet is responsible for planning professional development opportunities for the IADA State Conference, Summer Retreat and Fall Division Meetings. He trains and recruits IADA members for the Illinois Leadership Training Faculty, and, perhaps most significantly, Van Fleet has written templates for three of the 34 courses to become approved Administrators Academy courses by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Nationally, Van Fleet has made enormous contributions to the NIAAA. He has completed 31 Leadership Training Courses (LTC), and he has taught an amazing 80 Leadership Training Institute courses. He has served as national co-chair of LTC 501, as a member of the Leadership Training Institute State Coordinators Committee and as an instructor for three different courses.

In addition to his duties as a teacher, coach, trainer and athletic director, Van Fleet also was a licensed official in Iowa and Illinois in softball, baseball, basketball, football and track.

Van Fleet earned his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University and his master's from Illinois State University. Among his honors, he was named River Valley Conference Football Coach of the Year in 1988 and received an NFHS Citation in 2006. Last year, Van Fleet was inducted into the IADA Hall of Fame.

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About the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA)

The NIAAA is the largest national organization for high school athletic administrators with more than 7,000 individual members. The NIAAA consists of athletic director organizations in the 50 states plus the District of Columbia and provides an efficient system for exchange of ideas between the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and state athletic administrators organizations as well as individual athletic administrators. The NIAAA, located in Indianapolis, Indiana, strives to preserve

the educational nature of interscholastic athletics and the place of these programs in the curricula of schools. The NIAAA is a full and equal partner with the NFHS.

About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and fine arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and fine arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,000 high schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.5 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; produces publications for high school coaches, officials and athletic directors; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, spirit coaches, speech and debate coaches and music adjudicators; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS Web site at www.nfhs.org.

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