

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE  
HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS



**NEWS RELEASE**

**National Coaches of the Year Selected by NFHS Coaches Association**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (April 9, 2008) — Twenty-one high school coaches from across the country have been selected 2007 National Coaches of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Coaches Association.

The NFHS, which has been recognizing coaches through an awards program since 1982, honors coaches in the top 10 girls sports and top 10 boys sports (by participation numbers) and in one “other” category that is not included in these 20 categories.

“These awards are not ‘single-season’ achievement awards, but rather reward coaches for a cumulative career of accomplishments, not necessarily all of which take place on the court or field,” said Tim Flannery, NFHS assistant director and liaison to the NFHS Coaches Association.

Recipients of this year’s NFHS national awards for girls sports are:

**Charles Berry**, basketball, Huntsville (Arkansas) High School; **Leon McKenzie**, track and field, Benson Polytechnic High School, Portland, Oregon; **Sue Doering**, volleyball, Colfax (Washington) High School; **Shirley Bruso**, softball, Mill River Union

High School, North Clarendon, Vermont; **Clay Smith**, soccer, Oak Grove High School, Hattiesburg, Mississippi; **Jerilyn Scardina**, tennis, Hinsdale Central (Illinois) High School; **Darrell Burmeister**, cross country, Nodaway Valley High School, Greenfield, Iowa; **Linda Bloom**, swimming and diving, Marshalltown (Iowa) High School; **Mame LaVigne Blumeyer**, field hockey, Cor Jesu Academy, St. Louis, Missouri; and **Mike Driver**, golf, Farragut High School, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Recipients of this year's national awards for boys sports are:

**Louis Vircillo**, football, Lacey Township High School, Lanoka Harbor, New Jersey; **Jack Edison**, basketball, Plymouth (Indiana) High School; **Dennis McNulty**, track and field, Warren Central High School, Indianapolis, Indiana; **Jerry Boatner**, baseball, West Lauderdale High School, Collinsville, Mississippi; **Tony Vandermeer**, soccer, Redmond (Oregon) High School; **Davie Swensen**, wrestling, Mountain Crest High School, Hyrum, Utah; **Dan Green**, cross country, The Woodlands (Texas) High School; **Richard Gaard**, golf, Decorah (Iowa) High School; **Art Stout**, tennis, Kirkwood (Missouri) High School; and **Don Helling**, swimming and diving, Sehome High School, Bellingham, Washington.

The recipient of the National Coach of the Year Award for other sports is **Ron Ganim**, girls gymnastics, Brecksville–Broadview Heights High School, Broadview Heights, Ohio.

In addition to the 21 National Coach of the Year Awards, the NFHS Coaches Association has selected **Maria Nolan** of Ridgefield, New Jersey, for the 2007 National Coach Contributor Award and **Marv Heater** of Salem, Oregon for the NFHS Coaches Association Citation.

Nolan had an outstanding 27-year career as volleyball coach at Secaucus (New Jersey) High School, winning 16 state championships, including seven consecutive. She has a 610–81 overall coaching record, which ranks No. 1 all-time in New Jersey. Nolan

was president of the NFHS Coaches Association in 1996–97. Heater has been involved with interscholastic coaching since 1952. For the past 19 years, he has been executive director of the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association.

The NFHS has a contact person in each state who is responsible for selecting deserving coach award recipients. This contact person usually works in the state high school athletic/activities association or is active in the NFHS Coaches Association and often works with his or her state coaches association. This individual contacts the potential state award recipients to complete a coach profile form that requests information regarding the coach's record, membership in and affiliation with coaching and other professional organizations, involvement with other school and community activities and programs, and coaching philosophy. To be approved as an award recipient and considered for sectional and national coach of the year consideration, this profile form must be completed by the coach or designee and then signed by the executive director (or designee) of the state athletic/activities association.

The next award level after state coach of the year is sectional coach of the year. The NFHS is divided into eight geographical sections. They are as follows: Section 1 – Northeast (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT); Section 2 – Mideast (DE, DC, KY, MD, OH, PA, VA, WV); Section 3 – South (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN); Section 4 – Central (IL, IN, IA, MI, WI); Section 5 – Midwest (KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD); Section 6 – Southwest (AR, CO, NM, OK, TX); Section 7 – West (AZ, CA, HI, NV, UT), and Section 8 – Northwest (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY).

The NFHS Coaches Association has an advisory board, composed of a chair and eight sectional representatives, that considers the state award recipients from the states in their respective sections and selects the best candidates for the sectional

award in each sport category. The advisory board forwards those recommendations to the NFHS national office in Indianapolis.

The national selection committee considers the sectional candidates in each sport, ranks them according to a point system, and determines a national winner for each of the 20 sport categories, plus the one “other category.”

The complete listing of state, sectional and national coaches of the year is available on the NFHS Web site, [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

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### **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 18,500 high schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7 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; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS Web site at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

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