



Arizona Interscholastic Association

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NEWS RELEASE

AIA HIRES DON KETCHUM

PHOENIX, AZ (September 19, 2008) – The Arizona Interscholastic Association (AIA) is pleased to announce the hiring of Don Ketchum, former high school sports journalist at the Arizona Republic.

At the AIA, Don will continue to utilize his ongoing relationships with the high school community to develop content for the AIA's top story section and play a vital role in communicating the happenings of the AIA with the media and Arizona community. In addition, Don will assist the AIA in completing a lot of the research Barry Sollenberger had done before his passing in the summer of 2005 by developing an online platform for that history to be displayed.

“We are very excited to have Don onboard to assist the AIA in completing some of the research Barry was not able to finish due to his unexpected passing,” Harold Slemmer, AIA Executive Director, said. “A man of his journalistic integrity and demeanor will help the AIA in developing a stronger relationship with the media and enhancing the visibility of the Arizona high school community.”

A native of Phoenix, Don attended high school, junior college and college in the Valley, and began covering high school sports for the Arizona Republic in 1978. He continued to cover high schools off and on at the Republic and the Phoenix Gazette through 2008.

At one point in his career, Don served as the high schools editor of the Phoenix Gazette and covered high school sports again for the Republic from 2004 through 2008.

Don also covered the United States Football League's Arizona Outlaws, the National Football League's Arizona Cardinals and numerous sports at Arizona State University. He was the first beat writer for Major League Baseball's Arizona Diamondbacks.

“I would add that you know you've been around a long time when you start covering the sons and daughters of athletes you covered when they were in high school,” Don Ketchum said. “But that's what makes it fun and rewarding.”

Over his thirty plus year career, Don developed good relationships with coaches, administrators and athletes throughout the state and is looking forward to building on those relationships while helping the Arizona Interscholastic Association achieve its goal of helping student-athletes achieve success in all areas of their lives.

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