

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE
HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS**



NEWS RELEASE

**Indiana Fever's Lin Dunn to speak at
NFHS Girls and Women in Sports Day Luncheon**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Bruce Howard

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (January 20, 2009) — Lin Dunn, former Purdue University women's basketball head coach and current head coach of the Indiana Fever of the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), will be the special guest speaker at the NFHS Girls and Women in Sports Day Luncheon February 5 at the Indianapolis Downtown Marriott.

The 10th annual event, hosted by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), is presented by the Oxley Financial Group of Raymond James & Associates.

WISH-TV of Indianapolis will serve as media partner of the event, and the luncheon will be emceed for the second consecutive year by Jeané Coakley, sports

reporter at WISH. Other sponsors are St. Vincent Sports Medicine, Citizens Energy Group, Indiana Fever and Printing Partners.

NFHS Girls and Women in Sports Day is a part of the nationwide celebration of female sports pioneers and participants. The NFHS, which is the national leadership organization for high school athletic and fine arts activities, has hosted the Indianapolis event since its inception in 2000. Along with the NCAA and Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA), the NFHS will celebrate the achievements of Indiana girls and women in sports and activities through the presentation of seven awards, including the IHSAA Sportsmanship Award and the NCAA Robert F. Kanaby Citizenship Award.

Dunn has been a part of professional women's basketball for 12 years since her start in 1996 with the American Basketball League's Portland Power. She then was coach and general manager of the WNBA's Seattle Storm. In 2002, Dunn was runner-up for the WNBA's Coach of the Year after leading the Storm to its first WNBA playoffs.

In 2003, Dunn joined the Indiana Fever, serving as a scout for one year and then four years as an assistant, focusing on defensive skills. Under her tutelage, the Fever allowed the fewest points in the WNBA in 2006 and 2007, and finished first or second in the league in steals both seasons. In December 2007, Dunn was named head coach of the Fever.

Dunn began her coaching career in 1970, spending five years at Austin Peay State (Tennessee) University. After a brief stint in Mississippi, she coached at the University of Miami (Florida) for eight seasons.

Dunn is possibly best known for her Big Ten Conference coaching career at Purdue University. During her nine seasons (1988–1996), she took the Boilermakers to seven NCAA Tournaments, four Sweet Sixteen games and a Final Four appearance in 1994. At Purdue, Dunn produced a 206–68 record, making her Purdue’s winningest women’s basketball coach.

Coakley joined the WISH-TV sports team in August 2006 from KTMA-TV in Yuma, Arizona, where she was sports anchor. She also has worked in New York and Montana. In Arizona, Coakley won two Associated Press awards.

Following are the five Indiana athletes who will be honored with special awards at the February 5 luncheon:

The **NCAA Robert F. Kanaby Citizenship Award**, given to the person who best exemplifies the ability to strive for excellence in athletics and academics, will be presented to **Mary “Betsy” Jones** from Cardinal Ritter High School in Indianapolis. As well as having an outstanding girls cross country and track and field record, Jones is also well-known for her volunteer and mission work in Haiti in the summer of 2008.

She is a member of the National Honor Society and the Vice-President Executive Student Council.

The **Leadership Award**, presented to an individual who demonstrates the ability to motivate others to accomplish a specific goal or objective, will be given to **Megan Schmett**, a senior at Evansville (Indiana) North High School. As captain of the girls' golf team, Schmett led the squad to an 85-12 record, the best in the school's history. She has also raised more than \$1000 for the Susan G. Komen For the Cure by designing and selling T-shirts for a golf tournament.

The **Outstanding Contribution to Sport Award**, presented to a student or team that has made significant contributions that advance, promote, assure and/or improve their sport or activity, will be given to **Hannah Farley**, a student at Park Tudor School in Indianapolis. Farley is a three-sport athlete and has won numerous awards for her achievements in track and field, soccer, and basketball. She also maintains an A-average and is involved in community and church volunteer work.

The **Achievement Award**, given to a student or team that has overcome personal obstacles to achieve significant success, will be presented to **Marlee Maddigan**, a senior at Southport High School in Indianapolis. Maddigan is a three-sport varsity athlete and has a GPA of 4.43 on a 4.0 scale. She also has won awards for her achievements in volleyball and has been on the A-Honor Roll all four years.

The **Courage Award**, presented to an individual who overcomes adversity through persistence and determination, will be given to **Haley Chaney**, a basketball and volleyball player for Norwell (Indiana) High School. In February 2008, Chaney suffered massive head trauma in a car accident. She is currently working to re-establish her athletic talents as they were before the accident.

One high school coach and one high school athletic director also will be honored with special awards:

The **IHSAA Sportsmanship Award**, which acknowledges a person who has demonstrated responsible behavior in victory and defeat, will be presented to **Barbara Guhl**. Guhl is currently the interim athletic director at Indianapolis (Indiana) Warren Central High School, where she has worked since 1981 as a physical education teacher, sports coordinator and assistant athletic director. She has also served as a coach and official for various sports, and was awarded the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Center Circle Officials award in 2007.

The **Spirit of Sport Award**, presented to an individual who has demonstrated a dedication to interscholastic athletics and activity participation with a “true spirit” of sport, will be given to **Janis Qualizza**, athletic director at Merrillville (Indiana) High School. Qualizza has spent 38 years working as a leader for Indiana high school

student-athletes. She also serves on the IHSAA Board of Directors and was named District 1 Athletic Director of the Year in 1991 and 2002.

To order tickets (\$45 per ticket or \$450 for a table of 10), contact Kelly Russell at the NFHS at 317-822-5745 or krussell@nfhs.org. Doors open at 11 a.m. February 5, and the luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m. and will conclude by 1:30 p.m.

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This press release was written by Paige Flynn, a spring semester intern in the NFHS Publications/Communications Department and a sophomore at Butler (Indiana) University.

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.

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