



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

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Robert Hopek to Receive NIAAA Award of Excellence

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 17, 2010) — **Robert Hopek**, CMAA, retired director of athletics and assistant principal at North Hunterdon High School in Annandale, New Jersey, is the 2010 recipient of the Thomas E. Frederick Award of Excellence presented by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

Hopek will receive the NIAAA Award of Excellence 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 Thomas E. Frederick Award of Excellence is a prestigious award presented each year to an NIAAA member whose loyalty to the association and contributions to the profession represent excellence in achievement.

The award is named after the late Thomas E. Frederick, who served as NFHS assistant and associate director for 22 years before his retirement in 1989. Frederick was responsible for starting the National Athletic Directors Conference in 1971 as well as the NIAAA in 1977.

Hopek retired in 2004 after 31 years as director of athletics and assistant principal at North Hunterdon High School, but has continued his service to athletic administration at the state and national levels the past six years.

Hopek was the founder of the Hunterdon/Warren County Directors of Athletics Association in 1982 and remains president of the association today. He was president of the Delaware River Conference from 1980 to 1982, secretary of the Mid-State Conference from 1983 to 1987 and has been secretary of the Skyland Conference since 1987.

Within the Directors of Athletics Association of New Jersey (DAANJ), Hopek has served on the DAANJ Executive Committee since 1980 and was president from 1989 to 1991. He also is editor of the DAANJ Newsletter and chairman of the Awards Committee.

Hopek also has devoted many hours to the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA), serving two terms on the NJSIAA Executive Committee, 18 years on the Eligibility Committee and a term on the Scheduling Committee.

In addition to his work with the DAANJ and NJSIAA, Hopek was president of the North Hunterdon Administrators Association from 1999 to 2004 and the Hunterdon County Administrators Association from 2000 to 2004. He also served on the Board of

Directors for the New Jersey Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and the New Jersey Garden State Games.

Hopek's contributions to athletic administration at the national level are equally impressive. He has been the state's coordinator for the NIAAA Leadership Training Institute since 1998 and was a member of the NIAAA Board of Directors from 1999 to 2003. Hopek, who earned his CAA designation in 2002 and his CMAA in 2003, has served as state liaison to the NIAAA and as a member of the Leadership Training National Faculty.

Hopek has been inducted into five halls of fame, including the NJSIAA, Minnesota State University–Moorhead, National Council of Secondary School Athletic Directors, North Hunterdon High School and the DAANJ. In addition, he received the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 1989, the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 1990 and the NFHS Citation in 1999.

Hopek earned his bachelor's degree from Minnesota State University–Moorhead in 1969 and his master's from Trenton (New Jersey) State College in 1973.

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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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