



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

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Gerry Durgin to Receive NIAAA Award of Merit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 17, 2010) — **Gerry Durgin**, CMAA, athletic director at Gorham (Maine) High School, is the 2010 recipient of the Award of Merit presented by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

Durgin 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 NIAAA.

The Award of Merit is the most prestigious award presented by the NIAAA to an individual who has shown outstanding leadership in interscholastic athletics or related areas.

Durgin has been a teacher, coach and athletic administrator at three schools in Maine for the past 38 years and has given countless hours to the athletic administration profession at the local, state and national levels.

Since 1993, Durgin has been athletic director at Gorham (Maine) High School after 10 years at Fryeburg Academy and 11 years at Telstar Regional High School. At Fryeburg, Durgin was dean of students as well as teacher, coach and athletic director.

Durgin is “the face” of the Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (MIAAA). He served on the MIAAA Board of Directors for 15 years and was assistant executive director from 1997 to 2005. He also was chair of the MIAAA State Conference for 10 years, editor of the organization’s newsletter for a number of years and a frequent presenter at the state conference.

Durgin was MIAAA liaison to the Maine Summer Institute for Athletic Administrators, and he was the state’s NIAAA Leadership Training Institute coordinator from 1999 to 2007. In 1993, he was named Athletic Director of the Year by the MIAAA and this year, the MIAAA established the Gerry Durgin Leadership Award.

Durgin was a founding member of the Western Maine Conference, and has served as secretary, vice president and president. He also has been a member of numerous committees of the Southwestern Maine Activities Association and has hosted numerous events at Gorham for the Maine Principals’ Association. Durgin was director of the Class A & B State Basketball Tournament.

Durgin has been a fixture with the NIAAA for more than 20 years. He was chair of the NIAAA Publications Committee from 1993 to 2004, served a four-year term on the NIAAA Board of Directors and was president of the organization in 2007. Durgin, who has attended the National Athletic Directors Conference since 1987, was chairman of the NIAAA’s third Strategic Plan in 2009 and has been a Leadership Training Institute instructor at two national conferences.

Among his awards, Durgin received the NIAAA State Award of Merit in 1999, the NIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 2000 and the NFHS Citation in 2002. He has

given numerous presentations at the NFHS Summer Meeting and National Athletic Directors Conference, and has had a number of articles published in the **Interscholastic Athletic Administration (IAA)** magazine.

Durgin earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Maine–Farmington in 1972 and his master's from Plymouth (New Hampshire) State College in 1986.

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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. For more information, visit the NIAAA Web site at www.niaaa.org.

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 7.6 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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