

Minnesota High School Football Coaches Association
Fall Meeting, Nov. 13th, 2008, 7:00 PM
University of Minnesota, Gibson-Nagurski, Team Meeting Room

Officers

President	Shannon Gerrety, Blaine
First Vice President	Jon Johnson, Litchfield
Second Vice President	TBD
Secretary-Treasurer	Jim Dotseth, Mpls
Executive Director	Ron Stolski, Brainerd

I. Call to Order - President Gerrety

Guests: **Tim Brewster, U of M Coach** – 5 minutes

Coach Brewster stressed the idea that the Minnesota Gopher football team is “our” team. He currently has verbal commitments from six of the seven Minnesota High School players they are recruiting.

Kevin Merkle, MSHSL – 15 minutes

a. **Mercy Rule**

Kevin explained that the Mercy Rule was not instituted through the normal legislative process. The rule was added at the “Board” level.

There was a consensus that the Rule was very often administrated incorrectly during the season. When the Rule is used in the 4th quarter the clock runs only following an incomplete pass and runner going out-of-bounds. All other times the clock stops and starts again when the referee marks “ready for play”.

b. **Selection of section officials**

A committee is working on a three year rotation system. The goal is to give quality officials an opportunity for promotion.

c. **Proposed '09 rule changes**

- Adoption of a “horse collar” rule similar to the college rule.
- Modification of the pass inference rule.
- Defense advancing a blocked PAT has previously been voted down.
- A little used rule – free kick following a fair catch – may also be discussed.

Sean Gothier, NFF – 5 minutes

Sean Gothier, President of the Twin Cities Chapter of the National Football Federation and College Hall of Fame gave a review of the local Chapter. The Twin Cities Chapter achieved chapter status sooner than any other chapter in history.

The 1st Annual "Honoring Legends-Inspiring Leaders" was sold out at the University of St. Thomas. Hall of Famers, Scholar-Athletes, and many others received Awards and Recognition. Six Minnesota High School Scholar-Athletes were honored, as well as “play it Smart” winner Jimere Douglas, Park Center H.S. High School coaches are encouraged to join the association and to nominate scholar-athletes for 2009. More info is available at <http://www.nfftc.com/index.php?id=6>

II. Approval of minutes from the 3/28/08 spring meeting: **The minutes were approved without correction.**

III. Additions/deletions to agenda: **Add discussion on Mercy Rule under New Business**

IV. Roll Cole – Jim Dotseth

Conference Representatives, conference changes, substitutes, general members.

Present: Dave Frisell, John Ross, Ray Tri, Kim Nelson, Ken Helland, Jon Bakken, Dave Haugen, Chris Trostad, Mike Fritze, Mike Damman, Jason Finne, Terry Turek, Mike Hennen, Bubba Sullivan, Flint Motschenbacher, Will Wackman, Brian Strand, Jody Stone, Shannon Gerrety, Mike Mahlen, Wayne Petermeier, Cory Haala, Bill Ihrke, Ryan Galindo, Todd Niklaus, Jay DeCann, Scott Gonnerman, Paul Lemke, Mike Watson, Dave Fritze, Ron Stolski, Bill Magnuson, Con Natvig, Dave Nelson, Scott Tschimperle, Clay Anderson, Dave Nigon, Jeff Ferguson.

Absent: Dave Ziebarth, Jeff Gronner, Dennis Holsman, Bill Christianson, Charlie Campbell, Dave Louzek, John Austinson, Darrin Byklum, Tony Thiel, Jason Freed, Denny Hale, Erin Elder, Wally Kostich, Jeff Plaschko, Scott Parker, Ron Monson

V. Treasury/Membership update:

A. Financial Report – Dotseth

The current balance in the MFCA account is \$46,713.40. Much of the income comes from three areas: Dues \$12,510; MFC Clinic \$20,000; and Sponsors.

B. Membership Report – F. Motschenbacher

Membership is up sharply since 2004. Membership is currently at 916. Assistant coaches are encouraged to join. The membership includes a \$1,000,000.00 liability insurance policy that covers insurers year around including summer camps.

VI. Committee Reports:

A. Academic All-State Reports – Con Natvig & Mike Watson

2008 All-State Academic Team and Individual lists were available. There was a discussion about 5A Individual not being complete. Rick Sutton, Eagan, is addressing the problem. There was also a discussion about the website information initially being outdated. The list will soon be on the website: <http://www.mshsca.org/football/academteam.htm>

B. Mr. Football Report – Clay Anderson

There are about 25 nominees. The committee will meet on December 15th to pair the list down to ten. An additional meeting will be held on November 28th to review additional information on each of the 10 and Mr. Football will be selected from the list of 10. The Mr. Football Banquet is on Saturday, December 13, at 1:00 PM at the Doubletree Hotel in St. Louis Park. More nominees from the northern part of the state is encouraged.

C. Coach of the Year – Dotseth

A list was passed around to get the names of the various conference coaches of the year. Some conferences have two awards. The conference winner is automatically the conference COY. An additional vote is taken to name the MFCA coach of the year.

D. Hall of Fame – Scott Tschimperle & Paul Lemke

Need more applicants. The form is on the website. The deadline is January 1st.

E. Hall of Fame Banquet – Dave Nelson

The banquet is on April 4th at the Doubletree.

F. MFC Clinic – Ron Stolski

The MFC Clinic is partnered with the “U” and was very successful its 1st year. It has now replaced the Nike Clinic as there will not be a Nike Clinic in MPLS in 2009. Registration was over 900 including exhibitors and speakers. The goal is for over 1000 attendees in 2009. The dates are April 2-4, 2009. The mailing will go out soon.

G. Executive Director's Report – Ron Stolski

The Association has grown exponentially – financially and membership. Leadership changes are: Terry Turek is now Director of Publications and Jim Dotseth is now MFCA Secretary/Treasurer. There will be a Hall of Fame wall in the new University's TCF Stadium. The Association will fund the HOF. The Vikings have been very strong sponsors of the MFCA. Sponsors are our lifeblood.

H. Recruiting Fair – Jeff Ferguson

Very successful in 2008. It was on May 6th. A combine was held the night before at City of St. Paul McMurray Fields. A comparable date will be established for 2009. It was profitable for the MFCA. College coaches loved it. 30 high school coaches participated. More out-state are encouraged to participate. It's a great opportunity to visit with college coaches without having to do it during the school day. It should be a selling point with school administration. Info on the website: <http://www.mshsca.org/football/forsale.htm>

I. Scholarship – Will Wackman

Four scholarships were given out last year in honor of legendary coaches – Don Swanson; Tom Mahoney; Les Dreschel; and Dave Nigon. There were 32 applicants. The deadline is February 1st. Info is on the website: http://www.mshsca.org/football/scholarship_winners.htm. The goal is 8 scholarships for 2009. Monies from the MFC Clinic Raffle goes to funding scholarships.

J. Camp Outreach – W. Petermeier

Six teams in 2008. The goal is ten in 2009. Kids participate free. Coaches are paid \$500.

K. All-Star Game Report – Dave Fritze

Game Director, Dave Fritze, announced a new fund raising plan in conjunction with Impact Sports. An incentive opportunity for players will be introduced where players will receive several levels of athletic clothing depending on how many ads they sell. Wisconsin raised over \$150,000 last year. Out proceeds will go to a charity to be selected by the middle of December. Camp may move to St. John's University. Dave and the committee are investigating.

A day camp the day of the game will be held again this year. All-Star coaches from the previous year will coach. 2008 was very successful.

The 2009 game will be at St. Cloud University on June 27, 2009.

If you nominate a player be sure you are a member of the MFCA.

A motion was passed to have Dave proceed with the Impact Sports fund raising plan.

<http://www.allstarfootball.org/>

L. President's Report – Shannon Gerrety

Shannon explained that he is working on an Ethics standard for coaches.

VII. New Business

A. Community Service Awards

At the MFC Clinic in April the Association will recognize programs that have participated in Community Service Projects in the past year. Shannon Gerrety announced that a committee will be formed to select recipients. Contact Shannon if interested. A form is available on the website: <http://www.mshsca.org/football/COMMUNITYSERVICEFORM.pdf>

B. Mercy Rule.

After a discussion, the conference reps unanimously adapted the following modification to the Minnesota High School Football "Mercy Rule": **If a team is losing by 42 or more points at the end of the 3rd quarter, the head coach of the losing team has the option to invoke the "Mercy Rule".**

Note: The “Mercy Rule” as currently stated, would be changed from 35 points to 42 points.
Additional Note: Referees must be sufficiently educated so that the “Mercy Rule” is administered properly.

This modification has been forwarded to Kevin Merkle at the MSHSL.

C. Date, time, site for Spring meeting

April 3rd during the MFC Clinic. Time to be included in the MFC Clinic mailing.

D. Adjournment