



THE LINE DRIVE

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VOLUME 7

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Message from the President...

Up until just recently this had been a pleasant winter with little snow and comfortable temperatures. That sure has changed! In spite of the deep freeze we are suddenly experiencing, I am still hopeful for an early spring. I hope this newsletter finds you full of excitement and anticipation for the upcoming softball season. WFSCA Vice-President and Clinic

Director, Cindy Suess, has put together another incredible lineup for our Coaches Clinic on February 23rd and 24th at Chula Vista Resort. Cindy does a phenomenal job providing excellent educational and networking opportunities each year.

After last year's season, Dan Bayreuther stepped down from his position as the District 3 Large Representative. I would like to thank him for his work representing the schools in his district, and as a board member and conference representative. During our fall meeting, the Board selected Jamie Olson, head coach at Sun Prairie, to replace him. We are very excited to welcome Jamie to the Board and look forward to her experience and insight to help enhance the softball experience for student athletes and coaches.

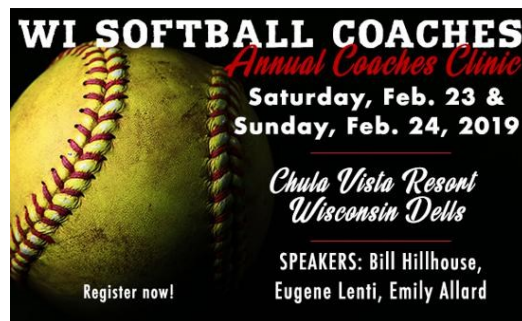
An analysis of the conference assignments in the WFSCA Districts also took place at our fall meeting. The result of the discussion was the movement of two conferences. The Capitol South was moved from District 3 to District 4 and the Classic 8 was moved from District 4 to District 3. This change better balances the number of small and large schools in each district.

Jeff Agnew has put together another excellent program to honor five outstanding coaches who will be inducted into the WFSCA Hall of Fame. We will again have a social prior to the banquet for Hall of Fame members. Jeff always does an excellent job making this a memorable event for the inductees and their families. Please join us to honor these legendary coaches on Saturday night of our clinic.

Spring will be here before we know it! We are excited to connect with everyone next month and kick off the 2019 season. See you at the clinic!

Brad Ceranski

WFSCA President



Inside this Issue:

Message from the President.....	1
2019 Hall of Fame Inductees.....	2
WFSCA Hall of Fame Coaches.....	3
2018 State Softball Qualifier Teams.....	4-5
Changes for the 2019 Season.....	6
Incentives for WFSCS Coaches.....	6
Know a Great Senior?	7
All-Star Coaches Needed.....	8
Coaches Clinic Speakers:	
Eugene Lenti.....	9
Bill Hillhouse.....	10
Emily Allard.....	11
Important Dates.....	12



WFSCA Announces 2019 Hall of Fame Inductees

Congratulations to the 2019 Hall of Fame Inductee Class:

Jerry Coggnetta – Elmwood HS

Jerry coached varsity softball at Elmwood High School as head coach from 1977-1996. He posted an overall record of 301-39. During his tenure Jerry coached Elmwood to WIAA State Championships in 1977 & 1984, and Runners-up in 1985, 1994 & 1995 for a total of nine State Tournament appearances. His teams won nine WIAA Sectional titles, 16 Regional Championships and compiled a conference play record of 163-11. After retiring from coaching softball Jerry coached varsity baseball at Elmwood from 1998-2004 and assisted at UW-Stout's softball program from 2007-2011 while also umpiring varsity softball and baseball.

Ken Franke – Kewaskum HS, Mayville HS & Dodgeville HS

Ken has been Assistant Coach for 25 years at Mayville, Dodgeville, and currently Kewaskum high school. It is estimated that at least 434 wins have been registered during his tenure, along with 12 Conference Championships, 9 Regional Championships, 5 trips to the State Tournament and the 1999 State Championship. He has coached summer traveling softball for 23 years, winning the ASA Class B State Championship in 2000 and 2002. Ken started his coaching career in baseball, coaching for 9 years prior to making the switch to softball.

Dale Gray – Wisconsin Dells HS

Dale has coached softball for 30 years at Wisconsin Dells High School; accumulating 637 games with a record of 347-290. His teams have won 5 Conference Championships, 8 Regional Championships and 2 Sectional Championships. Wisconsin Dells advanced to the State Tournament twice, winning the state title in 1995 and a state qualifier in 1997.

Jim Kivisto – Hurley HS

Hurley's softball program began in 1989. The school hired 23-year old Jim to be the head coach, who led them to a Regional Championship in the first year of the program. Over the last 30 seasons, Jim has compiled an overall record of 458-126 with a conference record of 222-16, winning the Indianhead Coach of the Year award 17 times, 20 Regional Championships, 7 Sectional Championships and earned the WIAA State Runner-up in 2001 and 2007. The Hurley Athletic Hall of Fame has inducted three of Jim's teams (1999, 2001 & 2007) and he coached in the Wisconsin All-Star game in 2008.

Sandy Waltzer – Antigo HS

Sandy coached varsity softball at Antigo for 14 years. She coached 234 games with a record of 168-66. Her teams won 3 Conference Championships, 10 Regional Championships and 3 Sectional Championships. Antigo advanced to the State Tournament in her very first year of coaching (1976) and placed 3rd. Sandy's teams again advanced to the tournament in 1979 placing 3rd, and in 1981, placing 5th.

Hall of Fame Coaches

2019

Jerry Cognetta

Jim Kivisto

Ken Franke

Sandy Waltzer

Dale Gray



2018

Don Bjelland, Grantsburg

Tom Drohner, Stevens Point

Doug Mock, Oakfield

Cindy Seuss, Oshkosh, UW-Oshkosh & Verona

2012

Kris Allison, Westosha Central

Mike Regner, LaCrosse Central

Del Schneeberger, Johnson Creek & Fort Atkinson

2017

Denny Coppernoll, River Valley

Tim Hering, Whitewater

Jeff Setz, New Berlin Eisenhower

2011

Jim Haines, Pepin

Steve Ryan, Waunakee

Steve Schmikla, McFarland

Diane Yager, DC Everest & Seneca

2016

Dave Keel, Homestead

Roger Schliewe, Horicon

Jim Wickert, McFarland & Madison College

2015

Tim Pederson, Amherst

Bob Sulser, Madison Memorial, Beloit Turner
& Madison Edgewood

Marv Youngbeck, Mayville

2010

Greg Lampe, Oak Creek

Bob LeCaptain, Denmark & Green Bay West

Phillip Adam, Ashwaubenon

David and Mary Lou Jones, Platteville

Pete Kopplin, Marshfield

Darrell Laschen, Loyal

Debbie Malueg, Marion

2014

John Schroeder, Beloit Memorial

Glenda Smith, Tigerton

Don Vruwink, Milton

2013

Dale Buvid, Monroe

Paul Olson, Fort Atkinson

Jim Turner, Altoona

2009

Tory Acheson Whitnall, UW-Parkside & TN Tech

John Malin, Kimberly

Russell Shaub, Middleton

Bob Tomlinson, Poynette

Rod Wilterdink, Cedarburg

A good coach can change a game. a great coach can change a life.

Congratulations to all the 2018 State Softball Qualifiers!

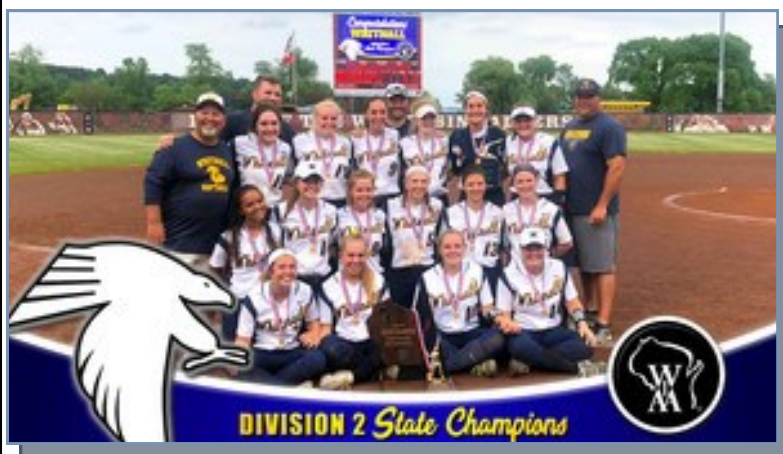
Division 1

Menomonee Falls Indians
Waukesha North NorthStars
Appleton North Lightning
Chippewa Falls Cardinals
Burlington Demons
Oak Creek Knights
Slinger Owls

Head Coach: Lou Sanicola
Head Coach: Shawn Grimm
Head Coach: Mike Mullen
Head Coach: Katie Fjelstad
Head Coach: Gary Caliva
Head Coach: Jeff Trask
Head Coach: Tonya Villarreal

Champions

Sun Prairie Cardinals, *Head Coach: Jamie Olson*



Division 2

Mosinee Indians
Denmark Vikings
Portage Warriors

Head Coach: Todd Felch
Head Coach: Mike Vakselis
Head Coach: Connie

Champions

Whitnall Falcons

Head Coach: Tom Hickman

Division 3

Prescott Cardinals
Tomahawk Hatchets
Westfield Area Pioneers

Head Coach: Matt Smith
Head Coach: John Larson
Head Coach: Mary Mades

Champions

Poynette Pumas

Head Coach: Bob Tomlinson



Congratulations to all the 2018 State Softball Qualifiers!



Division 4

Thorp Cardinals
Weyauwega-Fremont Indians
Pacelli Cardinals

Head Coach: Kurt Rhyner
Head Coach: Todd Breuer
Head Coach: Ann Molski

Champions

Horicon Marshladies

Head Coach: Roger Schliewe

Division 5

Assumption Royals

Head Coach: Charlie Nelson
& Rob Schill

Blair-Taylor Wildcats

Head Coach: Greg Bratina

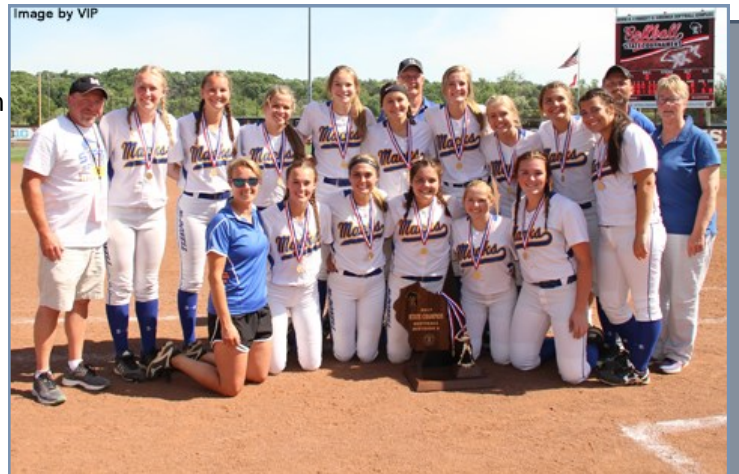
Oakfield Oaks

Head Coach: Brian Sabel

Champions

McDonell Central Catholic

Head Coach: Chelsea Seckora



3 Softball Quotes to Pump Up Your Team:



1. "I am now, and will always be me. But when it comes to step out onto that field, me gets a little more dedicated, a little more serious, and nobody stands in my way." ~Caitlin Sumpter, Catcher, Kansas
2. "We're going to step on the field knowing that every team we're going against is going to push their game to that whole new level. We've just got to be ready to step up with them." ~Crystl Bustos, Third Base, Olympian, Team USA
3. "In sport, part of the game is accepting the umpire's call, no matter how hard that might be. Sometimes the calls go your way, and some-

Changes for the 2019 Season

by Brad Ceranski

The WFSCA Executive Board discussed several topics for the upcoming season during the June meeting. Input was taken from survey results, discussion with coaches, and parameters in other sports. Recommendations from this meeting were sent to the WIAA Softball Coaches Advisory and then on to the committee process which culminates with the WIAA Board of Control. The Board of Control approved the following recommendations related to softball at their October meeting:

1. Seeding for all divisions once the State tournament field has been determined will be with the 2019 season.
2. Student-athletes may not participate in more than 26 games in a season; however, in programs with 20 or fewer players at two levels, players participating in either one inning of a varsity game or three innings of a sub-varsity game will not count toward the maximum 26 games. A waiver for counting games in this manner is no longer required.

One additional reminder about the change of the regional schedule that was approved last year and will be in place for this coming season. The regional game schedule for Divisions 2 through 5 will change from the current Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday format to a Thursday (of the prior week), Tuesday, Thursday format. Division 1 regionals will be on Tuesday and Thursday, instead of the former Wednesday and Friday schedule.

We would like to thank the membership for their input on these and many other improvements over the years. The information gathered through survey data and conversations with coaches is vital to the recommendation process. Please contact your district representatives, Greg Lampe, or myself with any questions or ideas for future recommendations.

Finally, we need to thank Associate Director, Stephanie Hauser, for her outstanding work and support of the WFSCA. She is always willing to help find creative solutions that support the game of softball, student athletes, and coaches in our state.



Incentives for WFSCA Coaches & Assistants

by Greg Lampe

WFSCA Incentives include:

- post season awards... all of them can be found on the WFSCA website
- 20% discount on WIAA State Softball Tournament tickets
- \$10 concession card at the State Softball Tournament
- \$250 discount for State Championship and HOF rings



For the following, coaches must present their WFSCA membership card at time of purchase:

- Milwaukee Brewers—free tickets Monday -Thursdays, & some Fridays. Go to www.brewers.com/wbca
- Timber Rattlers—Buy one ticket get one free
- Beloit Snappers—Buy one ticket get one free
- Eau Claire Express—Game ticket, hot dog & small beverage for \$12
- Wisconsin Rapids Rafters—Group of 10 or more... Game ticket, Rafters hat, hot dog & beverage for \$12
- Kenosha Kingfish—Group of 10 or more... Game ticket, Kingfish hat, hot dog & beverage for \$12



Know a Great Senior?

by Tim Whitford, All-Star Game Coordinator

As we start thinking about the 2019 softball season, the WFSCA Executive Board has already started to prepare for the 2019 Senior All-Star Game. The Senior All-Star Game will be held in Wisconsin Dells on Monday, June 17th and Tuesday, June 18th, 2019. Games will be played at the Woodside Sports Complex in Wisconsin Dells, with all the lodging and All-Star activities being held at Chula Vista Resort.

Having been involved with executive board for many years, I can tell you that this is a huge undertaking for the entire WFSCA board. Last year we had 216 seniors from all across the State of Wisconsin play in this great game. It is truly a great honor for the Seniors who are selected to play with, and against, the best seniors the State has to offer.

With that being said there are some things we would like you to be aware of when nominating a senior from your team:

Nominating a Player

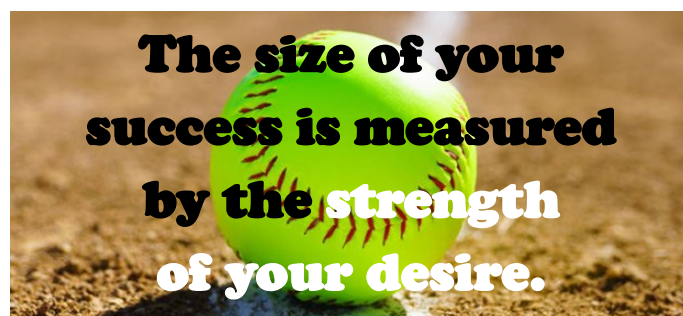
If you plan to nominate one or more seniors, **please CONFIRM** their availability to play on Monday and Tuesday June, 17th - 18th. Too often, coaches nominate a player and **they have a college visit, work, vacation, etc., and are unable to play.**

Deadlines for Coaches Nominating a Senior

The deadline for nominating a senior for the All-Star Game is Friday, April 12. This deadline is **FIRM, NO EXCEPTIONS!** With all the deadlines involved in the entire process, we cannot to allow any late entries. As coaches, please be aware of the deadline and nominate your player before the nomination window closes. WFSCA President Brad Ceranski will send no less than two reminders about nominations and the deadline. Many of you will not have many games in but the senior all selection criteria is based on players' previous 3 years.

Selection Process

As coaches you have sat in on your all-conference meetings, and as you are all aware, this is never an easy process. Hopefully, everyone gives an honest effort so that the most deserving student athletes are



represented on your all-conference team. We are no different when selecting the WFSCA Senior All Star Teams. The criteria considered when selecting the teams are basically the accomplishments that you, as coach, put down on the nomination forms. These should be related to the accolades earned on the softball diamond. We also must have balanced teams with pitchers and catchers and those take up 4 of the 12 positions on each team. Also, if you nominate multiple seniors, we ask that you rank order them, so we know who you feel is most deserving.

Nominations are completed with an Online Nomination Form: Coaches, this is a very important part of the process! You **MUST COMPLETE ALL** stats requested on the online nomination form. Failure to do so will hurt your player in the selection process. There are many talented seniors. When the selection process comes down to last positions, a player without the completed stats listed may be overlooked. Please fill in the stats requested completely.

Nomination Deadline: Friday, April 12

All-Star Games: Mon, June 17 & Tue, June 18

Complete nomination form online
Include all stats

All-Star Coaches Needed!

by Tim Whitford, All-Star Game Coordinator

Are you a coach who is looking for a great experience and memories that will last a lifetime? Then the WFSCA All Star coordinators are looking for you! Every year, the Monday and Tuesday after the WIAA State Championship Softball Tournament, the best seniors in the State of Wisconsin gather at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells to participate in the WFSCA Senior All-Star game.

In my 25 years as the Head Softball coach at Winneconne High School, I was honored to be asked to coach in the 2010 and 2017 All-Star games. I had my entire coaching staff with me for both events. In 2017 my daughter was selected to the team and it was also the year I retired from coaching. Coaching in two Senior All-Star games holds many special memories for my coaching staff, my daughter and myself.

Once I retired from coaching, I wanted to stay involved with softball and the great WFSCA Executive Board. So with that, Jared Faherty (Chippewa Falls retired coach) and myself took on the roles as Senior All Star Game Coordinators. The Senior All-Star game has become such a huge event and takes much planning time. The board felt that Jared and I, both being retired, could take on the role and free up the active coaches on the WFSCA board to concentrate on coaching and their postseason runs.

We are always looking for Varsity Coaches that are interested in coaching in the Senior All Star game. We would like to formulate a list of coaches that would be interested, and we'd prefer it if coaches would project a year that they would like to coach. For example, if you have one or two student athletes that are very



good softball players and will graduate in 2021, please shoot me an email an express that you'd like to coach in that year's All Star Game. For the 2018 season, we had a total of 319 Senior All Stars nominated and 216 were chosen from all 5 divisions of play. We have 6 teams for D1, 6 teams for D2/D3 and 5 or 6 teams for D4/D5. We have many quality seniors that are nominated, but unfortunately not all are selected.

You may ask, "What is expected of me if I am selected to coach?". We need just a few things from you. We need you to be able to **COMMIT** being in the Dells by 8:00 a.m. on Monday, June 17th, and be able to stay until the end of your games on Tuesday, June 18th. WFSCA provides a room for the Head Coach and an additional room for any assistants the head coach brings. Meal tickets; the pizza lunch after practice on Monday, tickets to Senior All-Star Dinner on Monday night and breakfast on Tuesday morning are all provided by WFSCA. (tickets provided for up to 2 assistant coaches are provided. Any additional assistant coaches are required to pay for additional rooms/meals.) You will be given time to meet with and practice with your team on Monday morning at Woodside in the Dells and then coach 2 or 3 games on Saturday.

Another wonderful aspect of the State All Star Games is the fact that the WFSCA partners with Special Olympics of Wisconsin. Over the past 6 years the WFSCA has given close to \$100,000.00 to Special Olympics of Wisconsin.

So, if you are a coach that would like to have this great opportunity to coach some outstanding senior softball players, please send me an email (whitfort@wcsd.org) expressing your interest in being placed on the list.



2019 WFSCA Coaches Clinic

Sat-Sun, February 23rd—24th

Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells

SPEAKER: Bill Hillhouse

***Providence University Pitching Coach
House of Pitching Owner***

Bill Hillhouse comes to Providence after previously working as the pitching coach consultant for Drexel University and the University of Georgia.

Hillhouse is also the owner of the House of Pitching located in Erie, Pennsylvania. He has owned the establishment since 2003. The House of Pitching teaches fastpitch softball around the world to all ages and genders. He works with national teams worldwide to prepare them for international events and helps national programs with different pitching development plans. Some of the Olympic and national teams he has worked with include Taiwan, Denmark, Bahamas, Aruba, Belgium, Philippines, Columbia, Venezuela, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Japan, Guatemala and Great Britain.

Prior to his coaching background and owning the House of Pitching, he played internationally where he won the Most Valuable Player at the Colt's National Championship in New Zealand. Hillhouse began playing internationally at 18 years old and spent 10 seasons playing in New Zealand during their summer seasons and one in Perth Australia from 1990-2000. He was a bronze medalist at the 2000 ISF World Championship with Team USA in East London, South Africa. Hillhouse also earned a gold medal in the 1994 U.S. Olympic Festival in St. Louis and a bronze medal in the 1993 U.S. Olympic Festival in San Antonio. He was a member of the U.S. Men's National Team when he won the Most Valuable Pitcher title at the Pan Am Tournament in 1993. Hillhouse was also a two-time member of the United States Men's National Fastpitch Softball Team.



2019 WFSCA Coaches Clinic

Sat-Sun, February 23rd—24th

Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells

SPEAKER: Eugene Lenti

Former DePaul Head Softball Coach

Coach Eugene Lenti is not a "numbers" guy. He prefers to teach the game of softball, and when the game is done, he leaves everything on the field. And yet, what Lenti has accomplished as he enters his 37th year at DePaul University is all about the numbers, and his legacy leaves softball fans, coaches, current and former DePaul student-athletes and potential softball players astonished.

After 36 plus years in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood, Lenti has won 1,300 games. On February 17, 2018, the Blue Demons defeated Presbyterian 1-0 at the Cougar Classic in Mt. Pleasant, S.C., to capture Lenti's 1,300th victory. He also won his 1,200th game in 2014 with a 4-3 road win at Big Ten rival Illinois.

Lenti led the Blue Demons to their third BIG EAST tournament title in 2017 where DePaul finished with a 29-23 record while going 12-7 in BIG EAST play.

Coach Lenti's teams are competitive from the first out to the 21st, playing an exciting, aggressive and fundamentally sound style that is fun to watch. Exceptional pitching has been a staple of Lenti's program, and with the addition of former NCAA Player of the Year and two-time All-American Nancy Evans to the staff as pitching coach in 2011, that trend is sure to continue.

A true believer of making academics a top priority, Lenti ensures that athletes come to DePaul to be students first and softball players second. Under Lenti's direction 20 student-athletes have been named Academic All-Americans. His 2007 team had the 29th best GPA in the country and was the only team in the top-30 to go to the WCWS.

Lenti is a master of teaching his players not only the game of softball, but also the "game of life." He challenges his players to become better people while in his program. He educates them about responsibility and accountability; qualities he demands both on the field and in the classroom. He stresses critical thinking and appropriate behavior and wants each of the women in his program to become exceptional human beings as well extraordinary softball players.

Before coming to DePaul, Lenti was an English teacher and Chairman of the English Department at St. Francis DeSales High School.



2019 WFSCA Coaches Clinic

Sat-Sun, February 23rd—24th

Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells

SPEAKER: Emily Allard

**Owner "Be the Momentum" Softball
Former Professional Softball Player**

A member of the National Professional Fastpitch's Chicago Bandits, the 2015/2016 NPF Cowles Cup Champion, Emily Allard graduated from Northwestern in 2014 as the school's all-time -- and the NCAA's 19th all-time -- record holder in stolen bases (154). A four-time NFCA All-Region and All-Big Ten selection, Allard boasted a career .402 batting average that included a single-season record-breaking .491 average during her sophomore season.

After being named the 12th overall pick in the 2014 NPF draft, the Northern California native was named to the All-NPF team as a rookie. In 2015, Allard was awarded the Rally Spikes Award for the most stolen bases. Battling injury, Allard currently holds a career batting average above .350 in four seasons of NPF play.

Allard is now the Marketing & Sponsorships Specialist for the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. She currently resides in Louisville, Kentucky.



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**2019**

SAVE THE DATES!

February 23-24:	Coaches Clinic
March 11:	First Day of Practice
March 19:	Earliest Game
April 12:	Deadline to Register Seniors for State All-Star Games
May 21 & 23:	D-1 Regionals
May 16, 21 & 23:	D-2 through D-5 Regionals
May 28 & 30:	Sectionals for All Divisions
May 31:	All District/State Nominations Deadline
June 6-8:	State Tournament
June 17 & 18:	Senior All Star Banquet/Games
June 28:	Academic All State Nominations AND Coaches Awards Deadline
Mid-July:	Border Battle
October 14:	Hall of Fame Nominations Deadline