

Coaches Association choosing All-Region, All-State teams

By DOUG DONNELLY

The Michigan High School Football Coaches Association will be choosing an all-region team this season as part of a broader effort to choose a dream team and All-State team in every division in the state.

“The big thing is we are taking our coaches, who are most actively involved with the players, who watch film, who see these players week in and week out, and giving them a say in the All-State team,” said Jason Mensing, the awards chairman for the coaches association. “We feel this process gives us the best opportunity to have a true, all-state process and ensure the best representation of high school football players in Michigan.”

The format will resemble the way other all-state teams in the state are selected, such as the teams chosen by baseball or volleyball coaches associations.

All Region teams are now being chosen by all members of the association. The Regional Board of Directors are organizing and running this selection process.

“They are hosting meetings across the state via Zoom calls and other ways to choose all-region teams,” Mensing said. “That’s the first time the coaches have done that. From those selections, the regional board of directors will select the all-state team, then our past presidents and other MHSFCA executive council members will review those teams and choose an overall Dream Team.

“It’s great to see all of our coaches come together and get involved in this process.”

All-State teams are annually chosen by various media outlets across the state, from the Associated Press to the Detroit News and Detroit Free Press. The MHSFCA team does not replace those but gives coaches a direct impact on the players chosen.

MHSFCA has chosen all state teams in the past. However, this is the first time all coaches that are members have had a voice in the selection of an All-Region team and, in turn, our All State and Dream Teams.

“Our goal is that all of our coaches are active participants and in advocating kids from their region to receive recognition for success,” said Mensing, who is head coach and athletic director at Whiteford High School in Ottawa Lake.

The All-region selection meetings are being run by regional board and are occurring during first two rounds of the playoffs. The regions are set up based on the same regions the Michigan High School Athletic Association chosen for the playoff pairings. Division 1-8 have four regions and 8-Man has two.

All Region teams are being selected through November 13 and will be announced as soon as all the information can be compiled.

Only players from schools in which their head coach is a member of the association are eligible.

For more information on joining the coaches association visit www.mhsfca.com.