



'Coach Of The Year' Selection Changed

Selection of the "1974 Regional Football Coaches of the Year" will be on a four region basis. There will be four coaches from each class A, B, C and D selected from each region, making a total of 16 regional coaches.

When the four regions are combined we will have a total of 64 "Regional Coaches of the Year", 16 in each class. In the coach of the year balloting each school will vote only for schools in its same class and within its play-off region. The four regions geographically will be the same as the four regions established by the Michigan High School Athletic Association for conducting the state basketball tournament. These same regions will be used for the conduct of the state football play-off. It should be understood that all schools of a region

will not be within an adjacent geographic boundaries.

For example, schools from the southwest section of the State of Michigan may be in the same play-off region as similar class schools from the northeast section of the State. In addition, the four class A regions will have different geographic boundaries than the class B, C, D regions. It is presumed this will not affect valid balloting as coaches will be interested in following the other schools of their class and in their same play-off region for purposes of play-off standings. Football coaches are therefore urged to familiarize themselves with the schools in their class and their play-off region in order to cast a valid ballot.

The old system of selection had 18 regions based on the geographic breakdown of the Michigan Education Association regions. One coach from

each class was selected from each region. This sounds equitable. However, some regions would have only 2-3 schools of a particular class while another adjacent region may have 20-30 schools of that same class. Several "regional Coach of the Year" selections have refused to accept their award as they felt there were not sufficient schools of their class in their region to honorably accept the award. In the present four region set up there will be approximately 30-50 schools of each class in each play-off region. For the 1974 paper play-off check your Michigan High School Athletic Association bulletin covering the basketball tournament.

Play-off Response Is Favorable

In April 1974 the Michigan High School Athletic Association sent a questionnaire to the Michigan High Principals requesting they vote on the desirability of a Michigan High School Football Play-off. The results of that vote were unanimous with an overwhelming favorable response for a football play-off.

As a result, Michigan will conduct a paper play-off for 1974. It is now imperative that the Michigan high school football coaches do their part in conducting the paper play-off. The greatest contribution of the football coach will be to make certain that all game scores are reported to the media.

The Michigan High School Football Coaches Association wanted to present materials on the conduct and mechanics of the football play-off at the upcoming state rules meetings to be conducted in late August, early September around the state. However, Al Bush, Director of the Michigan High School Athletic Association stated in a letter to the play-off committee, "Our Football Paper Play-off is far too important to be tagged on the end of a rules meeting." Later on in the season Al Bush and Vern Norris will conduct workshops on the play-off system. Coaches should plan to attend.

Coach you have an obligation to the high school football players of this state to make sure all scores are sent to the wire services in order to insure a valid and efficient data collection system can be easily conducted.

Your teams scores will be needed by many other schools in order to compile their point forms.

**1974 MHSCA
Hall of Fame
Inductee Dinner
at
Central Michigan University
September 7, 1974**

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Region 16

Region 17
Jerry Cyengros, Escanaba
Bob Richards, Gladstone
Region 18
Pat Gallinogh, Bessemer

What To Do?

Strike

The word strike rings in the ears of many football coaches. What should the coach do in the face of a strike? This question was asked, and kicked around at the July 1974 meeting of the MHSFCA Regional Directors. About one-half of the Officers and Directors have been involved in a teacher strike which affected football practice.

The football coach and his staff are truly caught in a power struggle between the Board of Education and the Education Association (Union) when a teacher strike affects his school district. The Board of Education likes to put the squeeze on the coaching staff. The Education Association uses the coaching staff and football players as a lever to put pressure on the Administration. Neither side cares about the coaches or the players; they are strictly being used as pawns in the struggle for power.

The MHSFCA cannot offer any concrete solutions, to the member coaches, in case of a strike. Each strike situation faces a different set of problems. The best possible solution is to sit down in advance, with the parties concerned, and form a plan of action in case of a strike. Many coaches felt the Port Huron-Jackson plan was a fairly workable solution. This plan allowed the coaches to practice up until the first game (usually after 3:00 p.m.) In this solution the required practices are allowed. In any case, the coach must weigh his situation, and then let his conscience be his guide.

The coaching staff is clearly placed in the middle and in no way can they win this battle. No matter his course of action, loyalty to the Education Association, or loyalty to his players, he becomes a loser in someone's eyes. In any course of action, if anyone but the football coaching staff coaches the team, the real losers become the young men who wish to play high school football.

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Newsletter

The Newsletter is the official publication of the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association with the expressed aim of keeping the membership informed.

Editor

John Blackstock
Bad Axe High School
Bad Axe, Michigan 48413

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1974 Football Rules Have Several Changes

Several rules changes will be in effect for the 1974 football season. (1) The laces on the ball are limited in length from stripe to stripe. There may be 8 or 12 cross laces. (2) Each team may use the legal ball of its choice. (3) Any player may request a charged time out to his team. (4) Clarifies that no substitute shall become a player and then withdraw and no player shall withdraw and re-enter as a substitute unless during that interval there is a dead ball foul, a charged time-out, or a period

ends. (5) Prohibits blocking below the waist by any player (except to stop the runner) after a free kick or after a scrimmage kick crosses the neutral zone. (6) Removes the implication it is ever legal to rough a kicker.

The Michigan High School Athletic Association has permitted the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association to have a member sit on the MHSAA football rules committee.

A Word About All-State API Selection System

The Associated Press International team state rating and All State player selection panels for Michigan High School Football is composed exclusively of sportswriters and sports broadcasters from the State of Michigan.

For the team state ratings there are four panels. There is one for each class A, B, C and D. Each panel has 5 members which include a chairman. The class panels are organized so that they are composed of sportswriters who are in areas having a high density of schools in their particular class. Each member selects 15 teams and rates them 1 through 15. The chairman collects and compiles the 5 ratings for the class. The ratings are collected by A.P.I. on Monday and ready for

Tuesday's papers and media. Local sportswriters may contact the panel member in their area in order to affect the poll. The first poll is taken after the first game of the season. The team ranked No. 1 in each class at the season's end receives the A.P.I. rotating state championship trophy to be kept in their school for one year.

The A.P.I. all state player selections are made by dividing the state into 13 regions. Each region has a chairman. Near the end of the season a regional meeting is held to nominate players. Following the regional meetings, a state meeting is held including all 13 regions. At this meeting player statistics are presented and the A.P.I. all state slots are filled.

Membership Now At 900

The present membership in the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association is approximately 900 members. There are over 700 schools in the State of Michigan offering football. Many schools would have a 3 man staff. However, many would have as high as 5 and 6 football staff members. Therefore, it would be safe to say there are at least 3,000 football coaches in Michigan High School football. At this point it is easy to conclude that many Michigan High School football coaches do not belong to the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association. There are probably several reasons why! The

major very likely one is neglect. That is the neglect to take the time to get around and fill out an application and send it in. A second major reason is that head coaches are not encouraging assistants on their staff to join the MHSFCA. In order for a movement to have power and influence, it must have support.

Anyone who purchased a membership at last January's clinic, it is good until the Clinic of 1975. Anyone who became a member before January 1974 your membership is out this fall. However, if you register for the 1975 clinic your membership fee is included.

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CLINIC

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Directors Hold Meeting At Alpena In July

On July 26, 27, 28, 1974 the MHSFCA Board of Directors held its summer meeting at the Remington Hunting Club located near Alpena, Michigan.

The agenda covered a change in the "Coach of the Year" selection method; 1975 coaches clinic preparations; handling strike situations; rules changes and how to be more effective in rules changes; and the mechanics of the 1974 paper play-off. A request was made by Michigan's Upper Peninsula coaches to combine the U.P.'s region into just 1 MHSFCA region. The Board of Directors voted and approved this change. The Association membership will now vote for this constitutional change at the Clinic's business meeting January 18, 1975. Larry Paladino, Associated Press International sportswriter, was an honorary guest at the meeting.

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION
July 22, 1974

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance on Hand—March 28, 1974 \$2,128.76

RECEIPTS

Memberships 85.00

 Total 85.00 85.00

 Total Budget Capital... \$2,213.76

DISBURSEMENTS

Office Supplies 19.10

Joint Memberships (MHSCA) 36.00

Printing 200.00

Director's Meeting 67.16

Play-Off Committee 24.00

Telephone 5.75

Postage 10.00

 Total \$362.01 \$ 362.01

BALANCE ON HAND \$1,851.75

BALANCE SHEET**ASSETS**

Cash On Hand \$1,851.75

Cash In Bank 2,129.01

Office Equipment 225.00

Total \$4,305.76

LIABILITIES

(None)

NET WORTH \$4,305.76

**Michigan
High School
Football Coaches
Association**

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