



## Here's Update On The Football Play-off

The Michigan School Football Paper Play-off statistics have been collected, analyzed and computed. The results have been distributed to schools and the news media.

The basic mechanics of the system seemed to be sound and worked out satisfactorily. The Michigan High School Athletic Association did have a little difficulty getting information from several schools. If reporting school coaches would be more conscious, it would greatly facilitate the statistical collection procedure. The MHSFCA would like to thank and commend the MHSAA for the exemplary job it did collecting and compiling the paper play-off results for 1974.

There have been a few comments that the play-off teams were not necessarily the same teams the polls had picked for state leaders. Let it be known the polls are simply educated guesses and opinions. The play-off is a documented statistical analysis which tends to be a far more objective evaluation process, than a list of opinions. In most cases where fault was found with the play-off system it boiled down to a matter of the objectors team not being selected as a qualifier by the system.

Another point to keep in mind is the Michigan play-off system was drafted from the best attributes of the present 31 state football play-off systems currently in operation.

### WHERE TO FROM HERE WITH THE PLAY-OFF?

The MHSAA has sent out a second survey to the Michigan High School Administrators concerning the desirability of the actual play-off for 1975. These questionnaires are to be returned. The Blue Ribbon Committee established originally by the MHSAA to study the feasibility of a football play-off will meet January 14, 1975. They will give their recommendation to the MHSAA Representative Council which is scheduled to meet May 1, 1975. At the November 1974 meeting of the MHSFCA the Board of Directors voted 100 percent in favor of the adoption of the present play-off system for 1975.



## 3rd Annual MHSFCA Coaches Clinic Set

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## Vice-president, Directors To Be Elected

There will be an election held at the Third Annual Michigan High School Football Coaches Associations' Football Clinic January 17-18, 1975. The Association will be electing a Second Vice-President and Regional Directors.

President, Dutch Schrottenboer of Alpena High will have served his one year term of office in January 1975. Bud Breed, of Portage Northern High will move from First Vice-President to President. Ron Holland, of Farmington High will move from Second Vice-President to First Vice-President. Thus the office of Second Vice-President for 1975 will be from the Western half of the State. M-127 is the dividing line for the eastern and western half of the state. In order to be eligible for an executive position a candidate must have served as a director for one year.

There will also be an election of Regional Directors at the MHSFCA Clinic from the odd numbered regions 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, etc. The MHSFCA regions are the same as the MEA regions. Each region has a director. Both positions are open in the coming election. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes in each region becomes director. The candidate with second highest votes is the alternate director.

If you are interested in running for office you must submit your name and region to Secretary Steve Sonoga, of Jackson High School by January 1, 1975.

## 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

Print set by Tuscola County Advertiser of Caro, Mich. Printed by Clen Co. of Bad Axe, Mich.

## MHSFCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE MEET

November 17, 1974 the Board of Directors for the MHSFCA met in Midland.

The objective of this meeting was for selecting the "Coaches of the Year". Following is a list of items covered at the November meeting:

1. Amendment accepted to change the present 3 U.P. regions to 1 region
2. Discussion of and 100 percent vote of approval for acceptance of the present State Football Play-off System.
3. Jim Porter, Sports Editor of the 'Macomb Daily' newspaper was voted an Honorary Membership to the MHSFCA.
4. Past President Dave Driscoll was appointed Association Historian.
5. Discussion for the formation of a football coaches ethics study committee.
6. The 3rd Annual Clinic preparation was finalized.

Next meeting of the Board of Directors was set for 4:00 p.m. January 17, 1975 Lansing Sexton High School.

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# 'Coach Of The Year' Selections

The Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Board of Directors met November 23, 1974 and tallied the voting ballots of the Michigan High School Football Coaches for Michigans Regional Coaches of the year. This year Regional Coaches of the year were selected from the four regions corresponding to the four football play-off regions. These four regions were established by the Michigan

High School Athletic Association for the previous years State Basketball Tournament. Four coaches for each class A, B, C, and D from each region were selected Regional Coaches of the Year.

From the regional coach of the year candidates, the MHSFCA Board of Directors selects one coach from each class as the "Coach Of The Year" Class A, B, C, and D.

Al Fracassa, Bloomfield Hills Brother Rice High School is the Class A Coach of the Year. Al started his coaching career as an assistant at Rochester for two years. In 1960, he became the head coach at Royal Oak Shrine for nine years. Here he amassed a 44-19-5 record with champions in 1960 and 1963. His next step was to Brother Rice, in 1969, where he has a 43-7-2 record. He has had champions in 1969-70 and 1974. In 1954, Al quarterbacked Michigan State in the Rose Bowl.

## Regional Coaches Of The Year

### Class A

#### Region I

Jeff Smith  
East Lansing  
Dar Christiansen  
Flint Southwestern  
Ken Nelson  
Lapeer  
Jim Ooley  
Traverse City

#### Region II

Tom Fagan  
Ann Arbor Huron  
Rich Jeric  
Monroe  
Ivan Muhlenkamp  
St. Joseph  
Ralph Perriello  
Ypsilanti

#### Region III

Al Fracasso  
Birmingham Brother Rice  
John Herrington  
Farmington Harrison  
Frank Buford  
Bloomfield Hills Andover  
Ivy Loftin  
Royal Oaks Dondero

#### Region IV

Charles Skinner

Hazel Park  
Dick Chapman  
Mt. Clemens  
Jim Plecas  
Warren Woods  
Mike DiAngelo  
St. Clair Shores

### Class B

#### Region I

Robert Irwin  
Coloma  
Roger Chiaverini  
Muskegon Catholic  
Gary Steudle  
South Haven  
Harley Pierce  
Sturgis

#### Region II

Bob Lapointe  
Dearborn Divine Child  
Walter Wynienko  
Bishop Foley  
Donald Lessner  
Riverview  
Pat Connors  
Tecumseh

#### Region III

George Barcheski  
East Grand Rapids  
Fred Julian

G.R. West Catholic  
Jerry Sieracki  
Forest Hills Northern  
Roger Thompson  
Frankenmuth  
Region IV  
Barry Aspenleiter  
Petoskey  
Bob Wallace  
Hemlock  
Dave Arnold  
Alma  
Lew Fenton  
Saginaw Eisenhower

### Class C

#### Region I

Dave Horn  
Constantine  
Curt Evans  
Homer  
Bob White  
Middleville-Thornapple,  
Kellogg  
Gerald Barchett  
Watervliet

#### Region II

Ken Mullin  
Addison  
Michael Hume

B.C. St. Phillip  
Tom Saylor  
Hudson  
Glen Stevenson  
Concord  
Region III  
Eric Wilde  
Unionville-Sebewaing  
Walter Purigroski  
Vassar  
Jim Ahern  
Ithaca  
Walter Schultze  
Kent City  
Region IV  
Gary Brouwer  
Benzie Central  
Leonard Brown  
Newberry  
John Connell  
Onaway  
Richard Koski  
Negauner

### Class D

#### Region I

Dan Marco  
North Adams  
Randy Salisbury  
Britton Macon  
Gary Ford

Climax Scott  
John Seckinger  
Grass Lake  
Region II  
Mickey Hamilton  
Flint Holy Rosary  
Jerry Winkler  
Caseville  
Arnie Besonen  
Owendale-Gagetown H.S.  
Mike Boyd  
Waterford Lady  
of the Lakes  
Region III  
Larry Sellers  
Traverse City St.  
Francis  
Tom Seroczynski  
North Muskegon  
Tom Cutler  
Hesperia  
Jim Taylor  
Onkama  
Region IV  
Tom Atkinson  
Johannesburg-Lewiston  
Darrel Ledy  
Detour  
Pat Gallinagh  
Bessemer-A.D. Johnston  
Louis Clarkowski  
Posen

Harley Pierce, Sturgis High School, is the Class B Coach of the Year. Harley started his coaching career in Plainwell as an assistant to Jack Stridel for six years. He was head Football Coach at Zeeland for one year and has been the head coach of Sturgis High School for 16 years. His overall record is 92 wins, 41 losses and 2 ties. He has had undefeated seasons in 1969 and 1974. His team was State Class B honorary champs in 1969. Coach Pierce has had 5 conference football champions and 7 state champions in tennis.

Mike Hume, Battle Creek St. Phillips High School, is the Class C Coach of the Year. Mike was one year in Hesperia, three years in Marcellus and now fifteen years at St. Phillips. St. Phillips was an independent for nine years not allowing for championships. Nevertheless, Mike has a 72-26 record going. He has had seven 8-1 seasons. This year he was 9-0. Mike is a very modest coach, who gives credit for his success to his family, school supports and assistants.

Mickey Hamilton, Flint Holy Rosary High School is the Class D Coach of the Year. Mickey started his coaching career at Holy Rosary eleven years ago as an assistant. For the last ten years he has been the head coach. He has compiled a win-loss record of 57-20-2. For nine years Holy Rosary was an independent, thus, conference championships could not be gained. For the last two years Holy Rosary has been the conference champs of a league composed of 4 B, 3 C and 1 D school.



# Michigan's First State Football Play-off

The information for the following article was taken from Louis Forsythe's book, "Athletics in Michigan High Schools", Prentice Hall, 1950. Louis was the brother of the late Charles Forsythe, long time Director of Athletics in Michigan.

Although the Michigan High School Athletic Association is currently gearing for a football play-off in 1975, it will not be the first football play-off in Michigan. In 1899, the High School Athletic Committee in conjunction with the University of Michigan Athletic Association formed a Michigan Interscholastic Football league and encouraged teams that joined would be eligible for the state football play-off.

The state was divided into 6 sections. A sectional champion evolved, and then went on to play semi and quarter finals against other sectional champions. The final game was played Thanksgiving Day in Ann Arbor. The first state football play-off was conducted in 1899 at Ann Arbor with Pontiac playing Plainwell. Pontiac won the game 6 to 5. At this

time touchdowns were 5 points and extra points worth 1. There were no class distinctions in the first play-off games. The Upper Peninsula was included.

Ishpeming won the state title for the next three years. In 1900, Ishpeming defeated Michigan Military. In 1901, Ishpeming defeated Kalamazoo and in 1902 they beat Benton Harbor. Fielding Yost attended the latter game and said Ishpeming was one of the finest teams he had seen play.

In 1903, Benton Harbor won the State Football Championship with a victory over Escanaba. In 1904, however, Escanaba became the state champion with a victory over Mt. Pleasant. There is no record shown for the years 1905, 1906 and 1907.

In 1908 and 1909, Ann Arbor was the state champion. In 1909, Ann Arbor had 11 points scored against them. Those 11 were scored by a G.R.C. team. They shut out all high school opponents. Detroit Central won the championship in 1910, 1911 and 1912. In 1913, Muskegon was the state

football play-off champion. Some of the play-off games were attended by as many as 3,000 people.

There is no further information on state play-off games after 1913. There is no reason given for abandoning the state play-offs after 1913 or whether they were resumed after 1913. World War I may have been a factor.



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## MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COACHES ASSN.

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