



OACA Newsletter

Winter 2013

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"The five S's of sports training are: stamina, speed, strength, skill, and spirit; but the greatest of these is spirit."

– Ken Doherty

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dave Johnson, Executive Director

As we end another fall sport season and look forward to an exciting winter sport season, I am reminded once again that high school athletics is one of the best things going for our youth today. With all of the other issues/concerns regarding the maturation of our young people today, athletic activities still has the best chance of making a positive influence upon their life. Good coaches are the main ingredient for those positive experiences. This quote is of significance relating to a coach's positive impact on student-athletes: "Life is an echo. What you send out, comes back. What you sow, you reap. What you give, you get. What you see in others, exists in you." ~ Zig Ziglar

Recently, I sent our OACA Executive Board a memo titled New Adventures/Chapters which had to do with my future with the OACA. Here is the memo:

To: OACA Executive Board

I wanted to inform you that I will be retiring as your Oregon Athletic Coaches Association Executive Director at the end of this school year. I have so enjoyed my 15 years as your director while working with Marv Heater, Rob Younger and many other outstanding board members and coaches representing all sports in all classifications here in Oregon. My 46 years as a teacher, coach, Athletic Administrator and OACA Director have been awesome.

I will remain the Nike/OACA Football Clinic Co-Director and an OACA consultant to Rob next year, taking one year at a time. I will continue to work hard for you and the OACA the rest of this school year.

I feel good leaving the OACA in excellent hands with Rob as the OACA Executive Director next year. He certainly has learned much in his past 3 years of working with me in our OACA office along with his earlier tenure of serving on the OSAA Executive Board as our OACA rep. He shares the vision with me of always attempting to look at the big picture with a systematic process in place for input from coaches and others who may be involved in an issue/concern.

The lure of more fun in the sun and the different adventures/chapters with Bev and family prompts this decision. Life is great at 68!!

Thanks

Dave Johnson

I am a blessed man and will work hard for coaches the remainder of the school year before I gear down and look for some more fun in the sun.

Dave

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Rob Younger, Associate Director

**Instead of asking,
“Why me” only when bad things happen, begin asking,
“Why me” when good things happen as well.**

This past fall I had the privilege to be an assistant coach in my son's football program at South Albany High School. Having spent the last 22 years of my coaching career as a Head Coach, it was refreshing to work as an assistant coach. It renewed my perspective on what a great profession we have in coaching today's high school students. It was refreshing to develop new relationships with players, coaches, and parents.

As coaches we often get caught in the trap of instant gratification. Too many times we get caught up in the seasonal pressures of coaching and forget to focus on the life changing experiences our players develop by playing. One of the most difficult things a coach has to do is to balance short-term success with long-term player development. Teaching and coaching is a great profession; it has provided a living and a passion for me for decades.

The greatest responsibility of a coach is to the athletes who come under his/her influence. Being a role model, teacher, mentor, boss, friend and sometimes parent is an awesome responsibility. Head coach or assistant, we all need to know our responsibilities and live up to them. Quoting Grant Teaff, Director of the American Football Coaches Association, “To whom much is given, much is required.” Let's make our goal to win not only on the field or court, but also within the hearts of each student/athlete who looks to us as leaders.

Every coach I had the privilege encountering, junior high through college, influenced me and affected my life in special ways. I would rather be called “Coach” than by my own name. “Coach” exudes respect, the respect that I had for the coaches who coached me, and I hope the respect my players have for me. I have truly been blessed to be able to coach and teach the game of life. I love to coach the game, but more importantly, I love the people of coaching.

“Leadership, like coaching, is fighting for the hearts and souls of men and getting them to believe in you.”

– Eddie Robinson

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kim McLain, Santiam Christian

As I remember back to my high school days, I recall all the many different coaches that coached me during my four years. The ONE coach that still stands out to me and the one I will always remember was the coach that worked us harder than any other coach, yet she always backed up our hard work with praise and positive direction. She gave us clear expectations, set goals and would bring us to realize that we could do anything we set our minds to. It was not always the win that mattered but the journey along the way. She would bring us back to where we started the season and where we were at the moment. She truly cared about us as individuals on and off the court. I truly hope that I can be that same high school mentor for the athletes I coach!

I would like to thank the coaches around the state who are pouring their lives into others whether it be a student athlete or mentoring assistant coaches. The time you are giving matters!! Coaching is more than just coaching. It is mentoring, teaching life skills and is a great opportunity to make a difference in every life you come in contact with. At times when you are exhausted from all the hours given, just remember that in the end, you may be the only one that is there for them, the only one that they can talk to, the one that really is concerned, the one that makes them tow the line, and the one person they can depend on. What you do REALLY MATTERS!! So I want to say thank you for the countless hours you give to the profession of coaching!

I have had the opportunity to coach now for 23 years along with teaching in the same school that I graduated from, Santiam Christian. Being a part of the OACA as the Women's Representative and now the president has opened my eyes to the coaches that have given their lives to the world of coaching. If you have not had the opportunity to come to the OACA Awards Banquet, I challenge you to do so. Every year as I sit and listen to the stories of the coaches who have given so many years (30-50 years of service) to the coaching world, I get emotional, challenged and flat out inspired to do more! I feel as if I am giving my all and then I hear these inspiring journeys of the coaches that have gone before me. I cannot say enough about the OACA and what it does for our state!! Dave Johnson and Rob Younger, (Directors of the OACA, and previous coaches for many, many years), have this same passion to stand up and listen to our coaches and with your help make the needed changes to every sport across the state. The OACA is so fortunate to be able to work with the OSAA, OADA and the OAOA! Together we can make decisions for our high schools, seeing the big picture of all who are involved.

Please remember you are important and make a difference in so many lives! Keep up the good fight! The OACA is here for you, and we want to help out with any ideas, frustrations, thoughts or anything that you would like to present that would make coaching in Oregon even better! Have a great season!!

NFHS Coach of the Year Nominations

Each fall, the OACA is honored to nominate outstanding Oregon High School Coaches for State, Sectional and National “Coach of the Year” Awards. The National Federation of High Schools (NFHS), which has been recognizing coaches through an awards program since 1982, honors coaches in the top 10 girls sports and top 10 boys sports (by participation numbers), and in one “other” category that is not included in these 20 categories. Winners of NFHS awards must be active coaches during the year in which they receive their award. The Oregon Athletic Coaches Association (OACA) selects and contacts the potential state award recipients to complete a coach profile form that requests information regarding the coach’s record, membership in and affiliation with coaching and other professional organizations, involvement with other school and community activities and programs, and coaching philosophy. To be approved as an award recipient and considered for sectional and national coach of the year consideration, this profile form must be completed by the coach and then approved by the Executive Director of the state athletic/activities association.

The next award level after state coach of the year is Sectional Coach of the Year. The NFHS is divided into eight geographical sections. They are as follows: Section 1 – Northeast (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT); Section 2 – Mideast (DE, DC, KY, MD, OH, PA, VA, WV); Section 3 – South (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN); Section 4 – Central (IL, IN, IA, MI, WI); Section 5 – Midwest (KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD); Section 6 – Southwest (AR, CO, NM, OK, TX); Section 7 – West (AZ, CA, HI, NV, UT); and **Section 8 – Northwest** (AK, ID, MT, **OR**, WA, WY). The NFHS Coaches Association has an advisory board, composed of a chair and eight sectional representatives, which considers the state award recipients from the states in their respective sections and selects the best candidates for the sectional award in each sport category. The advisory board forwards those recommendations to the NFHS national office in Indianapolis, Indiana. The NFHS Coaches Association advisory committee considers the sectional candidates in each sport, ranks them according to a point system, and determines a national winner for each of the 20 sport categories, plus one “other” category.

The OACA enlist nominations each year from members of their Executive Board, Sport Chairs and from Athletic Directors and OSAA staff. Criteria used in selections are nominees must exemplify the highest standards of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and moral character. They are not only winners in their respective sports, but as individuals in their schools and communities as well. **Longevity in coaching is also an important criteria.**

We are pleased to announce the 2013 Oregon NFHS “Coach of the Year” Award nominees:

Football:	Greg Lawrence, Sherwood HS
Boys Track:	John Elder, Nestucca HS
Boys Basketball:	Gene Potter, Jesuit HS
Baseball:	John Arnston, Clackamas HS
Wrestling:	Tony Olliff, Dallas HS
Boys Cross Country:	Ron Hebert, Oakridge HS
Boys Tennis:	Steve Hirons, Churchill HS
Boys Golf:	Mark Tichenor, Summit HS
Boys Swimming:	Ron Johnson, Sam Barlow HS
Girls Track:	Ken James, Lakeridge HS
Girls Basketball:	Craig Lannom, Junction City HS
Volleyball:	Kim McLain, Santiam Christian HS
Softball:	Ronda McKenzie, Westview HS
Girls Cross Country:	Michael Bojorquez, St. Mary’s Academy
Girls Swimming:	Debra Mandeville, Wilsonville HS

All of Oregon’s NFHS Coach of the Year Award Winners will be honored on May 24th at the annual OACA Awards Banquet.



Clark Sanders, OAOA Associate Executive Director

Where Have All the Officials Gone??????

Several newsletters ago, I shared demographic information about the Oregon officiating community. Here's the latest update, and the facts aren't pretty.

A recent 3-year comparison shows an overall decline of 12% in registered officials. By sport, wrestling has lost the most officials, 23%; basketball, the next lowest at 16%. In contrast, the number of volleyball and soccer officials have increased, but only by 2% and 1% respectively.

The average age of all officials has increased to 45 years, up 1%.

Experience-wise, officials with 4-6 years of officiating have decreased 10% and officials with over 16 years of experience have decreased 12%. For the school year 2012-13, there were only 295 new officials in all OAOA sports.

What do these numbers tell us? It's obvious that we need to attract younger folks to become officials, and then work hard to retain them. Otherwise, the day will come when there are not enough officials to cover all the games; not a pleasant thought for any of us....

Coaches.....please encourage your graduating senior players to consider becoming an official. It's an opportunity to pick up some extra \$\$\$'s and stay connected to the game.

“Nobody who ever gave his best regretted it.”

- George Halas

YEARS OF SERVICE

We will be honoring those coaches who have coached for 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 or 50 years at our May 24, 2014 Award Banquet. We need to hear from you if you fall into one of these above categories. Please check for your name at www.oregoncoach.org under *Coaches Award*. Email us at: melissa@oregoncoach.org if your name is not on the list. We receive this information from our member's application form he/she submits.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

The OACA annually awards eight scholarships to sons and daughters of OACA members. **Nike** is the sponsor of 2 scholarships, **MaxPreps**, **Sports Authority**, **Prime Time Sports** and **Fundraising.com** each sponsor 1 scholarship, and our Gold Sponsor, the **Oregon Army National Guard**, sponsors 2 scholarships.

Completed scholarship applications, including a copy of the student's transcript and two letters of recommendation, are due April 1, 2014. Scholarship applications will be reviewed by the OACA Executive Board, who will evaluate applications in the areas of academics, athletic participation, honors, school activities and out-of-school activities. Online applications can be found at www.oregoncoach.org under *Scholarships*. If you have any questions, please call the office at 541-928-2700 or email: melissa@oregoncoach.org.

ASSISTANT *or* JR. HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL COY

Deadline: April 1, 2014

Name: _____

Nomination by:

School: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

School: _____

City/St./Zip: _____

Position: _____

Nominee Information:

Years in coaching: _____ Years at current: _____ Sports Coached: _____

- Should not previously have been a head coach in the past 5 years.
- Should have a minimum of 10 years experience as an assistant coach.

Please include one letter of recommendation from an athletic director, principal or head coach.

RETURN TO:

Oregon Athletic Coaches Association
222 First Avenue West, Suite 220
Albany, OR 97321

OACA CLINICS



Nike Football Clinic - Portland

You may have been at our football clinic in the past and know that we are the largest football-only clinic on the West Coast with approximately 900 football coaches attending our 3-day event at the Portland Airport Holiday Inn. This coming year, we will have 35 speakers from all over the U.S.

Our clinic is much more than football X and O's as we have speakers on character education, strength training, and concussion information from the medical and officiating aspect. All this and more with free gifts, hospitality function, and the opportunity to network with many coaches and vendors.

Our confirmed Nike college speakers are: Rich Rodriguez, University of Arizona; Chris Peterson, Boise State University; Kirk Ferentz, University of Iowa; Mike Riley, Oregon State University; Troy Calhoun, United States Air Force Academy; and Nigel Burton, Portland State University.

We have other outstanding football coaches from other colleges and high schools already confirmed from Oregon, Washington, California, Colorado and Alabama. Our clinic begins on Friday, March 7th and ends Sunday, March 9th at the Portland Airport Holiday Inn. You can register for our football clinic beginning January 1st at our Oregon Athletic Coaches Association (OACA) website, www.oregoncoach.org.



OACA/Nike Basketball Clinic

We recently completed our 6th annual OACA/Nike Basketball Clinic held at Westview High School. The clinic was a great opportunity for professional development and networking for the 300-plus basketball coaches in attendance. We want to give a special thanks to **Pat Coons** - Westview Head Boys Basketball Coach, and his staff for the use of their beautiful clinic site and on-site organization. Other special thanks go to **Tony Dorado** - Nike Basketball Rep, for securing some top college and high school speakers for our clinic. We are also thankful to our high school coaches who spoke or attended our clinic. Oregon High School Coaches who made presentations were **Don Emry - Cleveland HS, Eric Vuihkola - West Linn HS, Joy Lease - Mazama HS, Ken Harris - Retired Hall of Fame Coach, and Kurt Guelsdorf - Oregon City HS**. We are excited for the positive future of our clinic next year as it will be conducted on the same School In-Service day, October 10th, 2014.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Sponsors are a very important part of our organization as they provide funds for our Oregon Athletic Coaches Association (OACA) that allow us to offer membership at a reduced rate and support our eight \$1,000 scholarships.



GOLD SPONSOR

We are proud to have the **Oregon Army National Guard** as a Gold Sponsor of the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association. The Oregon Army National Guard, much like the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association, takes great pride in molding young men and women into outstanding citizens. The ideals and lessons taught by coaches to their student athletes are in direct correlation with what the National Guard expects in their recruits. A goal of both groups is to mold the youth of our state into productive citizens. We are pleased that the Oregon Army National Guard has partnered with the OACA. Together we can build bright futures for Oregon's student athletes.



SILVER SPONSOR and The Official Statistician for the OACA

We would like to encourage your school's athletic programs to get involved with MaxPreps. It is a great FREE stat management provider, schedule, roster and overall tool for coaches. It provides maximum exposure for your teams and student/athletes. We have heard many positive reports from coaches in our state who have used their services. It is easy to set up and input data. Many coaches have student aides, stats keepers or even community members input the data for them. This fall, the OACA will continue the selection of a weekly Football "Player of the Week" using MaxPreps leader boards as one of the criteria and post the results on the OACA website. We appreciate MaxPreps as a Silver Sponsor of the OACA as they are helping support the many services we can provide for the coaches of our state.



We are pleased to have Sports Authority as a \$1,000 Scholarship Sponsor. Please see the OACA/Sports Authority Partnership article written by Tricia Strauch, Community Marketing Representative for Sports Authority.



We are also pleased to have Fundraising.com as a \$1,000 Scholarship Sponsor. Please see the OACA/Fundraising.com Partnership article written by Abdul Refaat, VP of Business Development for Fundraising.com.



COACH OF THE YEAR BANQUET SPONSOR

Neff Company with **Steve Hunker** provide the plaques for our annual Coach of the Year Banquet. The plaques are outstanding and add to the class of our banquet. We appreciate Steve and Neff for stepping forward to help support our Oregon Athletic Coaches Association. Please consider Neff for our needs. www.neffco.com
You can reach Steve at shunker@neffco.com.



PRIME TIME SPORTS, owned by **John McCallum** and **Gerrit Wood**, also contribute funds to the OACA and do a great job in management of the Les Schwab Bowl. This game features 5A/6A football All-Stars from Oregon High Schools. The OACA is involved in the selection of the coaches who in turn select the players. Prime Time Sports manages the game/teams while the players/coaches stay in the Portland area.



NIKE and **Lids Team Sports** have partnered with the OACA to sponsor two \$1,000 student scholarships in honor of **Bill Bowerman, co-founder of Nike and OACA President in 1938-39 and 1947-48**. We also appreciate their annual sponsorships of our NIKE/OACA Football & Basketball Clinics.



We also appreciate the support of **WILSON** ball products and the **OSAA** as they provide the many door prize gifts at our annual OACA Coach of the Year Banquet.



Jostens is the Official OACA Souvenir & Championship Rings Sponsor. We appreciate the Executive Board President's Rings they supply annually.

MaxPreps Oregon Army National Guard Team of the Week

The Oregon Army National Guard is proud to announce that we have partnered with MaxPreps to present the Oregon high school Team of the Week Award. Each week, for 25 weeks, MaxPreps will select a high school team for the award. Teams can be chosen for various reasons such as, outstanding sportsmanship, incredible upsets, creative plays, big comebacks and winning streaks. The award will be presented to the selected team by a National Guard representative. In addition, MaxPreps will promote the award through a strategic media plan that will include local newspaper, television and radio press releases. Again, the Oregon National Guard is proud to recognize the achievements of our high school student athletes.



WE ARE A READY FORCE EQUIPPED AND TRAINED
TO RESPOND TO ANY CONTINGENCY.

WE ARE YOUR SONS, DAUGHTERS, BROTHERS,
SISTERS, MOTHERS AND FATHERS.

WE ARE YOUR NATIONAL GUARD.

WE ARE OREGON.

OREGON
NATIONAL GUARD 
OREGONARMYGUARD.COM

WHEN WE ARE NEEDED, WE ARE THERE

MESSAGE FROM MAXPREPS

A lot of improvements have taken place since the last newsletter and we are excited to share them with you all.

Perhaps the biggest news is the new metro sites that we have rolled out in major areas across the country. Portland is included, and the metro site includes all schools located in areas that get Portland television coverage. It's a spot that holds rankings, photos, news and other important content and it focuses just on the schools in the Portland metro. I know that there is much more to Oregon than just Portland, but this is a great innovation for major metropolitan areas.

Now that volleyball and football playoffs have arrived, coaches and fans will get the chance to see the new and improved brackets pages. They are much cleaner, much easier to navigate, and much better when it comes to supplying correct information in a timely manner. Our goal with brackets is have them be the No. 1 go-to spot, well before the state organization or local newspapers.

We continue to see bigger numbers when it comes to coach participation and that obviously excites us. But it's less than 100 percent, so we want to let every coach know that we have support staff available to help with uploading rosters, stats, schedules and more. You can reach Coach Support at coachsupport@maxpreps.com.

The final thing I wanted to share was how a couple Oregon football teams have received some big publicity on our site via video blogs showing wacky plays. We use Hudl to upload video from football - and can do so for other sports as well - so if you see a play that you think is worthy of our national blog, contact me at lgordon@maxpreps.com and perhaps we can help it go viral.

We are always accessible to help! Reach out to me, Kylie McLarty or the Coach Support department with any questions or suggestions you might have.

Leland Gordon, Editor



2013-2014 OACA/Sports Authority Partnership



We are pleased to announce that the OACA has partnered with Sports Authority as they will provide an annual \$1,000 student scholarship to a graduating senior from one of our member's families. They will also provide numerous opportunities for our membership to receive discounts for coaches, players, schools and families. Please see below an article written by Tricia Strauch, our liaison with Sports Authority, explaining the partnership and the many benefits.

Sports Authority is extremely proud to once again support the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association this year. We are dedicated to providing the top brands and exceptional values to the coaches, players and families we serve. We are pleased to provide **15% off entire purchase ALL THE TIME** to OACA members and their teams, family & friends.

Your Athletic Director received a package of these 15% off entire purchase coupons at the start of the 2013-14 school year. If you need additional – please let me know. These are good through the holidays (and make sure your winter sports teams have them as they start preparing for their season). A new spring coupon will be available in January - look for those to be mailed to your AD as well.

We now have eleven Sports Authority stores in Oregon - Beaverton, Hillsboro, Clackamas, Cascade Station, Jantzen Beach, Salem, Eugene, Medford, Corvallis – and our newest two stores in Roseburg and Klamath Falls! Come visit us today and take advantage of the savings through OACA.

Thank you for your partnership and best of luck this winter!

Tricia Strauch
Community Marketing, Sports Authority
tstrauch@sportsauthority.com
Cell: 720-987-5893

See below for 15% off entire purchase through 12/31/13.



2013-2014 OACA/Fundraising.com Partnership



We are pleased to announce that the OACA has partnered with Fundraising.com as they will provide an annual \$1,000 student scholarship to a graduating senior from one of our member's families. They will also provide numerous fundraising opportunities for our members to raise funds for their programs. Please see below an article written by Abdul Refaat, our liaison with Fundraising.com, explaining the partnership and the many benefits.

Fundraising.com is thrilled to have the opportunity to support the Oregon Athletic Coaches Association. Having worked with tens of thousands of sports teams and organizations over our 20+ year history, our strength and passion has always been through our hands-on, personalized approach to raising funds.

Originally launched in 1991 as The Lollipop Company, then re-naming ourselves and re-launching in parallel to our sister site eFundraising.com four years later, Fundraising.com has helped tens of thousands of schools and non-profits raise millions for their good causes. As a recent addition to the [Great American Opportunities](#) family, we are supported by both a nationwide sales team which includes local reps throughout Oregon and a dedicated crew of expert fundraising consultants who stick with your team from your fundraiser's start through to its completion.

With the mandate to help groups earn "more profits with less work", we cherry-pick only the most profitable and easy-to-execute fundraising programs, including cookie dough, scratch cards, chocolates and team apparel. Our exclusive offerings like Nestle candy bars and Katydid's means, campaigns hold maximum appeal and profit potential. We also host MY.FUNDRAISING.COM, a free, innovative online fundraising platform: Customize it, share your unique URL, and your team's online fundraising store is open for business, 24/7!

Above all, our goal with this partnership is to make supporting the OACA easy. Every time a member requests our free Fundraising Guide or launches a free MY.FUNDRAISING Online Fundraiser, we'll donate \$3 to the OACA.

Request a free Fundraising Guide (available by mail or instant download) for an overview of products, pricing and fundraising tips and contact us with your questions at 1-800-443-5353 (we're super nice!) Visit <http://www.oregoncoach.org/Fundraising.htm> for more details on our fundraising campaigns and special offers for our new friends in the OACA.

Happy Fundraising! We look forward to a successful, winning season with you.



Kyle Stanfield, OSAA Assistant Executive Director

Even though the year is not even halfway completed, the OSAA Foundation has had a tremendous impact throughout the state so far this year, hopefully in many of your programs. Three initiatives have been in full swing since the start of the year. The first is the OSAA Foundation Donation Dispersal. The Foundation received a very generous grant from Nike over the summer of shoes and athletic gear to disperse to the member schools of the OSAA. So far there have been two donation dispersals with more to come. If you have kids in your programs that could use some gear, tell your Athletic Director to look for the dispersal e-mails from the Foundation.

The second initiative that the Foundation continues to make strides on is the Student Assistance Program. The Safeway Foundation granted the OSAA Foundation \$25,000 to help students in schools across the state that need help getting gear for their upcoming season or simply clothing to wear to school. The Foundations worked hand-in-hand in selecting schools throughout the state that may have students in need. 20 schools have already been contacted with 15 more that will be reached out to by the end of the calendar year.

Finally, but most importantly in the eyes of the Foundation, is the purchasing of life-saving Automated External Defibrillators (AED) for five schools earlier this month. The schools selected filled out a survey sent out by the OSAA Foundation in September and indicated that they did not have an AED within their building. The OSAA Foundation contacted those schools and notified them that they would donate a device. We can only hope that they will never need to use it, but if a situation occurs they will be better equipped to handle it than they were before.

In closing, we want to thank all of those who participate in Endowment Games throughout the year as that is the primary revenue source for the Foundation. As you can see, the money raised is going to good use throughout the state.

OSAA RECLASSIFICATION UPDATE

Tony Kootz, OACA Representative to the OSAA Executive Board

Every four years the OSAA makes a herculean attempt at bringing classifications and districts into an equitable alignment for the 292 Full Member Schools. Back-to-back-to-back-to-back Super Bowl Championships might be a more reasonable accomplishment!

The 13+month effort by the 16 member committee (including representation from each classification, OADA, OACA (John Beck), OAOA, OSBA and the OSAA) was nothing short of amazing.

Their charge included the following considerations:

- Safety of students participants, spectators, parents and other personnel
- Minimizing loss of student instructional time
- Minimizing the expenditure of school district, student, and parent funds.
- School enrollment data
- School preference, including “play up”/”play down” requests
- Creation of similar sized leagues
- Placement of schools w/in the same school district/classification in the same league
- Scheduling problems
- Athletic district history
- Move as few schools as possible.

If that is not enough, an additional charge regarding the feasibility and advisability of:

- Adjusting individual school ADM based on socio-economic status
- Decreasing the total number of classifications
- Changing classification cutoff points.

Is that it? Yes, that is it. Can you imagine for a moment weaving all these considerations into a process that included over 400 pieces of written testimony as well as in-person testimony? Well, that is exactly what occurred. No easy way around it.

If we look at the charges given to the committee, **JUST** from a coach’s point of view, how many of them have significance to us as coaches? Personally, I can’t find even one that is not relevant to me as a coach, can you? Then imagine the “other” perspectives important to the process: Superintendents, Athletic Directors, Teachers, Coaches, Parents, Student-Athletes, Officials, Community Members, the list goes on.

Each classification brings with it, different perspectives. Each league, a specific point of view. Each sport, concerns and considerations specific to them alone. Every rivalry wanting to continue their age-old tradition. Everyone concerned about the impact on their school, their team, their staff, their budget. Rightfully so. Who could blame them? It affects us all. In different ways, some will have more travel, some less. Some, a greater opportunity to compete. Some leagues will be more competitive, some less. How will we deal with the consequences? Where will the funds come from? What about additional time out of class, will the kids be able to keep up?

And so, we come to the conclusion of this edition of the Classification & Redistricting Committee, for the 2014-2018 Time Block. We have a final decision. The numbers are set. The classifications are formed. Some will be looking for a new name. Others, it will be business as usual. It is time to move on and work to create successful schools, leagues and teams for next year.

The effort was immense. People did what they believed to be “best for everyone”. The committee, like all committee’s who undertake a task this complex, evolved from representatives of their classification, organization, league...to **“big picture” thinkers...** **“big picture” problem-solvers**. For that, I applaud them all! Good Job! Way-to-Go! I hope, given the opportunity, that each of you as coaches will thank the committee members for their service. They deserve that. Not because they created a proposal that pleased everyone or met every school or league’s needs. They deserve it because their effort met the challenge of their charge. They did what we, as coaches always expect from our teams. Regardless of the outcome, we expect them to work at the highest level they are capable of. That, they did! Good Job!

We thank John Beck, OACA-Past President & Crater HS Football Coach for his service representing the OACA & our coaches on the Re-Classification Committee.

OACA MISSION STATEMENT

The OACA is committed to serve its members by promoting:

- Education through athletics and coaching which will enhance a positive experience for coaches and athletes.
- Coaching Profession certification.
- Enhancement and support of the Coaching Profession.
- Current and pertinent information regarding the Coaching Profession.
- Affordable liability insurance to coaches.
- Recognition of outstanding individuals in coaching and athletics.



OREGON ATHLETIC COACHES ASSOCIATION

222 First Avenue West, Suite 220, Albany, OR 97321

Phone: 541-928-2700

Email: oregoncoach@msn.com Website: www.oregoncoach.org