

April 9, 2025

## Ohio Prep Sports Media Association Update

Hello OPSMA members and thank you for your continued coverage of high school sports. Please see below for several updates, including attending the annual member meeting at the OHSAA.

### **OPSWA Member Meeting May 1**

There will be an in-person OPSMA member meeting on Thursday, May 1, starting at 10:30 AM at the OHSAA office in Columbus. The OPSMA officers and members will discuss several topics and there will be time for open dialogue. After lunch, the OHSAA's football administrator, Beau Rugg, will take questions from the membership, and the contest results will be announced.

Lunch will be provided by the OHSAA. Please RSVP to Tim Stried so we get a count for lunch.

### **New OPSMA ID Badges Available**

The OHSAA produces ID badges for OPSMA members at no cost that can include the member's photo and their media outlet logo. Any OPSWA member that wants a new ID badge with the new OPSMA logo can email their headshot and media outlet logo to Saige Arnhold at [sarnhold@ohsaa.org](mailto:sarnhold@ohsaa.org).

### **Football and Basketball Participation**

The OPSWA weekly football notebook was a big success again last fall. Thank you to all members who submitted content, and thanks to Jake Furr, OPSMA Vice President, for compiling them for Tuesday release. Thank you to the district chairs for coordinating the football and basketball all-district teams and for submitting your nominees for the All-Ohio teams. That group also determined the list of finalists for the Ohio Mr. Football and Ms./Mr. Basketball Awards. The OPSMA membership is encouraged to participate in the meetings for the all-district teams.

### **OPSMA Officers**

Ohio Prep Sports Media Association members conducted officer voting last April. Congratulations to the following four individuals who were reelected to a two-year term from May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2026. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the officers with any OPSMA suggestions or issues. OPSMA officers select the Hall of Fame (members nominate potential honorees), vote for All-Ohio teams (with the district chairmen, listed below), determine any changes to OPSMA procedures, etc.

President: Eric Frantz, MaxPreps.com

Vice President: John Kampf, Willoughby News Herald

Vice President: Tom Wilson, Lancaster Eagle-Gazette

Vice President: Jake Furr, Mansfield News Journal

### **Hall of Fame**

The 2025 induction class for the OPSMA Hall of Fame was announced in January and inducted at the 2025 boys basketball state championships in Dayton. The 2025 OPSMA Hall of Fame class included Ed Puskas, Rob Todor and Tom Wilson. Puskas is the editor of the Warren Tribune-Chronicle and has worked at several newspapers in Northeast Ohio and Western Pennsylvania, that has included two stops at The

Star-Beacon in Ashtabula, plus The News-Herald in Willoughby; The Meadville, Pa., Tribune; the Warren Tribune-Chronicle, and the Youngstown Vindicator. Todor began his professional career as a sports writer with The Alliance Review before moving to the Youngstown Vindicator, where he spent 22 years. In 1999, He was named sports editor of The Vindicator, a position he held for 13 years. Todor returned to his hometown in 2012 as executive editor of The Alliance Review, and from 2019-23 he was assistant regional sports editor. Wilson has been covering high school sports for 32 years and has made stops at the Record-Herald in Washington Court House; the Mount Vernon News; the Western Star Newspaper in Lebanon, and the Newark Advocate. For the past 12 years, he has been a sportswriter at the Lancaster Eagle-Gazette.

The complete OPSMA Hall of Fame list is posted at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/news/OPSWA/HOF>

### **OPSWA Membership List**

Please check the district membership lists, and if you are aware of any edits, please email Tim Stried at [tstried@ohsaa.org](mailto:tstried@ohsaa.org). The membership lists are posted at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/news/OPSWA/membership>. The goal is that OPSMA members utilize the list to communicate with other members for such things as exchanging information on out-of-area opponents, facility details, etc.

### **OPSWA Members Encouraged to Join All-District Voting Process**

Since 2017, the OPSWA has coordinated the All-District and All-Ohio teams in football and basketball. All OPSWA members are encouraged to be a part of the selection process for the all-district teams in football and basketball. The All-Ohio teams are based on the work and nominations of the district committees. Please contact your district chairperson to be a part of the process.

Northeast Lakes: Matt Goul, Cleveland.com

Northeast Inland: Chris Beaven, Canton Repository

Northwest: Mark Hazelwood, Norwalk Reflector

Southeast: Paul Boggs, Portsmouth Daily Times

East: Sam Blackburn and Brandon Hannahs, Zanesville Times-Recorder

Central: Steve Blackledge, PressProsMagazine.com, retired from Columbus Dispatch

Southwest: Greg Shoemaker, TriStateFootball.com; Jeff Gilbert, Dayton Daily News

### **Tim Stried**

Director of Media Relations

### **Ohio High School Athletic Association**

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