

August 15, 2025

Ohio Prep Sports Media Association Update

Hello OPSMA Members and welcome to several new members! Please see below for details on the weekly football notebook and more OPSMA updates and information.

OPSMA Weekly Football Notebook Returns

Once again this football season, the OPSMA will compile and distribute the weekly high school football notebook. Please send your area's top performances that merit statewide recognition to Jake Furr, OPSMA Vice President and reporter for the Mansfield News Journal, at jfurr@gannett.com **by noon Mondays** and we will release those statewide on Tuesday.

Please keep your submissions brief and limit your notes to those outstanding performances that truly deserve statewide attention. When possible, add some additional content to your notes, such as school or state records, streaks, freshmen, etc.

Please be sure to make your submission in sentence format Jake can copy and paste.

Example: *Ontario's Chase Studer ran for 275 yards and four touchdowns in a 35-7 win over Lexington in Week 1 setting a new single-game school rushing record.*

Jake Furr
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Sports Reporter
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OPSMA Members Encouraged to Join All-District Voting Process

Since 2017, the OPSMA has coordinated the All-District and All-Ohio teams in football and basketball. All OPSMA 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, Zanesville Times-Recorder

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

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

Football and Basketball Participation

Thank you to all members who submit content for the OPSMA weekly football notebook, 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 in April 2024. 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), 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

New OPSMA ID Badges Available

The OHSAA will mail a batch of ID badges that were ordered this past spring and summer by OPSMA members. The OHSAA produces ID badges for OPSMA members at no cost that can include the member's photo and their media outlet logo. Any OPSMA member who 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.

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. 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 Spring Member Meeting

There will be an in-person OPSMA member meeting in late April or early May, hosted at the OHSAA office in Columbus. The OPSMA officers and members will discuss several topics, the contest results will be announced, and there will be time for open dialogue. Lunch will be provided.

Call for Contest Judges

The annual OPSMA writing and photography contest is judged by OPSMA members in March and April. Any OPSMA member interested in being a judge should notify Tim Stried. Every category has at least two judges, with the final results being the average score of the two judges.

Annual Writing and Photography Contest Details

Entries can be submitted in January for the annual OPSMA writing and photography contest. The submission deadline is February 14 (postmark). The contest includes articles and photos about Ohio high school sports published in print or online between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2024. The cost is \$20 per person to enter the contest.

Contest Home: <https://www.ohsaa.org/news/OPSWA/contests>

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