



MASSACHUSETTS INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



MIAA Coaches Receive Sectional and National Recognition in 2019-2020

February 4, 2021



The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) announced the selection of the 2020 National Coaches of the Year in the top 10 girls sports and top 10 boys sports (by participation numbers). Of the 23 high school coaches selected from across the country, two Massachusetts coaches received National and Section I honors. Two additional Massachusetts coaches received NFHS Section 1 Coach of the Year recognition. Under the NFHS structure, Section 1 is comprised of the six New England states, New York and New Jersey.

Bill Gaine, MIAA Executive Director stated, “On behalf of the MIAA Board of Directors we applaud the selection of these four exceptional MIAA teacher-coaches for their superlative careers promoting Educational Athletics through their sport.”

Congratulations to National and Section I Coaches of the Year

Doug Chapman

NFHS National Boys Tennis Coach of the Year and Section 1 Coach of the Year
Somerset Berkley Regional High School



Doug has been the Head Tennis Coach at Somerset Berkley Regional High School for the last 43 years. His team qualified for State Tournament 35 times, and he had a career winning percentage of 72%. Joe Francis, Athletic Director, said, “Coach Chapman is a champion of tennis both at our school and in our community. He has spent a lifetime dedicated to our program. Whether a student-athlete is a first-ranked singles player or is someone working their way up the ladder, Coach Chapman motivates them to work hard and to get better each and every day.” Named Coach of the Year by various agencies over the past eight years, Doug also has received personal commendations including Hall of Fame inductions at Somerset (individual 2012, 1983-1984 teams), Roger Williams University (2002-03 team) and the New England Soccer Hall of Fame (1985, individual). Doug is the Founder and Chairman of the Somerset Hall of Fame. Doug stated, “I am extremely honored and humbled to receive these prestigious honors. While I am receiving these honors individually, no coach can be successful on their own. I share them with all of my assistant coaches, players, school and community, who have provided the resources to be successful. It is rewarding to be recognized for doing something that you love.”

Steve Estelle

NFHS National Girls Soccer Coach of the Year and Section 1 Coach of the Year
Gateway Regional High School



Steve developed Gateway Regional's soccer program in 1990 and has been a Soccer Head Coach for 30 years. His teams have won 11 League Championships and seven Western Massachusetts Championships, and they have been State Finalists three times. In 2012 he was named the Division 3 Western Mass Coach of the Year and the Springfield Republican Girls Soccer Coach of the Year. Steve retired from teaching middle school history in 2014. According to Athletic Director and longtime colleague and friend, Matt Bonenfant, Steve, as a coach, "was always fair and honest with his players. Many of the players wanted to make sure he coached through the entirety of their high school career. He demanded a lot from his players. He appreciated everything his players gave to the team, and he tried to give back twofold." Steve's philosophy of coaching is to give students the opportunity to dedicate themselves to excellence, both individually and as a team member, playing a sport that they truly love. Steve said, "I am honored and pleasantly surprised to be recognized by the National Federation of State High School Associations as the Section 1 Coach of the Year and the National Girls Soccer Coach of the Year. I have had the privilege to teach and coach at the beautiful little school district of Gateway Regional in the hill towns of Western Massachusetts for the past 30 years. I believe this award is a tribute to the excellence of my student-athletes at Gateway and the support of my assistant coaches."

Congratulations to Section I Coaches of the Year

Mary O'Brien

NFHS Section 1 Fall Golf Coach of the Year
Weston High School



Mary has been the Varsity Fall Golf Head Coach at Weston High School for the past 17 years. During this time, her team has captured seven Division 3 State Championships and 11 Division 3 North Sectional Championships. Mike McGrath, Athletic Director at Weston High School, said, "Mary without a doubt is one of our most accomplished coaches. Her teams are always well prepared, knowledgeable, highly motivated and always respectful. She provides guidance and direction with an uncanny ability to motivate and relate to young men and women within her program. Weston is very proud to have such an amazing coach in Mary O'Brien." Mary is a four-time Boston Globe Division 3 Golf Coach of the Year, MIAA Fall and Spring Golf Tournament Director, and member of the MIAA Golf Committee. She has been the Weston Booster Organization Treasurer for the past 15 years, and she is the Weston Swim Team Announcer. Mary commented, "This award is a tribute to the cumulative accomplishment of my golf teams. To be successful as a coach your team has to buy into your coaching philosophy and individually feel respected as a valued member of the team. I will be forever grateful to former Athletic Director Pete Foley for giving me the opportunity to be a coach and mentor to so many Weston athletes."

Andrew MacKay

NFHS Section 1 Football Coach of the Year
Ashland High School



The Varsity Football Head Coach at Ashland High School for the past nine years, Andrew’s coaching philosophy is about “creating relationships.” Andrew said, “I am privileged to accept this award on behalf of our entire staff. What an honor for our staff, kids, administration, and most importantly, our community. This award is an extension of our football team and program, and I accept it on their behalf.” Ashland High School Football was the 2019 Division 6 MIAA State Champions and in the same year Andrew received Coach of the Year recognition from the Boston Globe, Boston Herald, MetroWest Daily News and Friday Night Football Magazine. He was the 2019 New England Patriots Coach of the Year, as well as a finalist for the Don Shula National Coach of the Year. Andrew has also received Coach of the Year recognition from the Referee Association and the Tri-Valley League. His team has been two-time Tri-Valley Champions. Andrew also volunteers time with the Special Olympics. Steve Marks, Athletic Director, said, “This is an incredible and well deserved honor for Coach

MacKay. Leading the football team to a Super Bowl win was fantastic, however, that pales in comparison to the effect Coach has on the Ashland community. He is a leader, a role model, and the epitome of Clocker Pride. An educator through and through, Coach teaches life lessons through Athletics—consistently leading, inspiring and pushing those under his watch to be the best possible versions of themselves. Simply put, you can’t ask for a better person to be on your sidelines. We are certainly very proud of him and all he represents.”

The NFHS Coaches Association has an advisory committee composed of a chair and eight sectional representatives. The sectional committee representatives evaluate the state award recipients from the states in their respective sections and select the best candidates for the sectional award in each sport category. The NFHS Coaches Association Advisory Committee then 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, the spirit category and two “other” categories.

EDUCATIONAL ATHLETICS

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