



News Release

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Norm Persin Leads List of Ohio Coaches Honored by NFHS

Seven other Ohio coaches named 2009 NFHS Section 2 Coach of the Year

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Oak Hill High School's Norm Persin has been named the 2009 National Boys Basketball Coach the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and seven other Ohio coaches received Section 2 Coach of the Year honors as the NFHS recently announced its national, sectional and state awards winners.

The Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) Board of Directors publically recognized Persin and Ohio's award-winning coaches Thursday during its Board meeting in Columbus. The NFHS confirmed in January that Ohio had more coaches nominated than any other state.

Persin led the Oaks to the 2009 OHSAA Division IV state title and a 25-2 overall record. In 31 seasons coaching high school basketball in Ohio, he has won 20 conference championships and entered the 2009-10 season with a career record of 575-151.

Since 1982, the NFHS has sponsored a coaches awards program and, new in 2009, selects a coach of the year in its top 10 girls and boys sports, respectively, according to participation numbers, and in one "other" category that is not among those 20 categories. A coach must have been active during the 2008-09 season and nominated by his/her athletic director and principal. State coaches of the year were then selected by a person representing the sport in each state and the state association.

The NFHS is divided into eight geographical sections. Section 2 is comprised of Delaware, the District of Columbia, Kentucky, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

2009 NFHS Coaches Association National Coaches of the Year

Curt Bladt, Football, Harlan High School, Harlan, IA

Norm J. Persin, Boys Basketball, Oak Hill High School, Oak Hill, OH

Karl Koonce, Boys Track and Field, Lake Hamilton High School, Percy, AR

Dean Jones, Baseball, Chesnee High School, Chesnee, SC

Robert L. Weir, Boys Soccer, Plano Senior High School, Plano, TX

Barry Chooljian, Wrestling, Timberlane High School, Plaistow, NH

Tony Rowe, Boys Cross Country, Daviess County High School, Owensboro, KY

David S. Ghareeb, Boys Golf, East Grand Rapids High School, Grand Rapids, MI

Rivers F. Lynch, Boys Tennis, Myrtle Beach High School, Myrtle Beach, SC

Bill Reichle, Boys Swimming and Diving, The Pingry School, Martinsville, NJ

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Don Petranovich, Girls Basketball, Winslow High School, Winslow, AZ
Ronald Smith, Girls Track and Field, Henley High School, Klamath Falls, OR
Linda K. Lampkin, Volleyball, Hermann High School, Hermann, MO
Mike Jodoin, Softball, North Eugene High School, Eugene, OR
Frankie Whitlock, Girls Soccer, Ronald Reagan High School, San Antonio, TX
Tracy Waters Miller, Girls Tennis, Barrington High School, Barrington, IL
Eldon "Pete" Moss, Girls Cross Country, Benzie Central Schools, Benzonia, MI
Ronald Johns, Girls Swimming and Diving, Chatfield High School, Littleton, CO
Kathleen DeBonis, Field Hockey, Bridgewater-Raritan High School, Bridgewater, NJ
Jodi Schoeck, Girls Golf, Barrington High School, Barrington, IL

Other Sport:

Charles Apel, Boys Lacrosse, Bridgewater-Raritan High School, Bridgewater, NJ

2009 Section 2 Coaches of the Year (who were not named national coach of the year)

Kent Schulten, Boys Soccer, St. Xavier High School, Louisville, Kentucky
Chris Moore, Girls Soccer, Sacred Heart Academy, Louisville, Kentucky
Larry Heflin, Girls Tennis, Lone Oak High, Paducah, Kentucky
Tim Saunders, Baseball, Dublin Coffman High School, Dublin, Ohio
Keith Waesch, Boys Golf, Rootstown High School, Rootstown, Ohio
Jim Brower, Boys Swimming & Diving, St. Xavier HS, Cincinnati, Ohio
Dennis Schwinnen, Boys Tennis, Elida High School, Elida, Ohio
Don Johnson, Field Hockey, Mount Notre Dame High School, Cincinnati, Ohio
Marianne Utz Sahms, Girls Golf, Ursuline Academy, Cincinnati, Ohio
Ken Fenik, Softball, Elyria High School, Elyria, Ohio
Timothy Janocko, Football, Clearfield Area HS, Clearfield, Pennsylvania
Anthony Crisafulli, Volleyball, North Star, Boswell, Pennsylvania
Ron Wilkerson, Boys Track & Field, Riverheads High School, Staunton, Virginia
Lauren Knott, Girls Gymnastics, Kempsville HS, Virginia Beach, Virginia
Jack Cullen, Wrestling, Point Pleasant Jr/Sr High School, Point Pleasant, West Virginia
William Malone, Girls Basketball, East Fairmont High School, Fairmont, West Virginia
John Rowland, Girls Cross Country, Berkeley Springs High School, Berkeley Springs, West Virginia

2009 Ohio Coaches of the Year (who were not named sectional or national coach of the year)

Al Martin, Football, Cuyahoga Hts. High School, Cuyahoga Hts.
Robert Dougherty, Boys Soccer, Bay High School, Bay Village
Ed Rarey, Boys Track & Field, Gahanna Lincoln High School, Columbus
Frank Baxter, Wrestling, Kettering Fairmont High School, Kettering
Vincent Granito, Girls Basketball, Wickliffe High School, Wickliffe
Jack Gregory, Bowling, Fairborn High School, Fairborn
Carlo Trafficante, Girls Soccer, Austintown Fitch High School, Youngstown
Terry Butler, Girls Tennis, Elyria Catholic High School, Elyria
Jeni Case, Volleyball, Ursuline Academy, Cincinnati

The NFHS Coaches Association has an advisory committee with a chair and eight sectional representatives who consider the state award recipients from the states in their respective sections and choose who they feel are the best candidates for the sectional award in each sport category. They forward those recommendations to the NFHS national office in Indianapolis.

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 the one "other category."

OHSAA