



Ohio High School Athletic Association Foundation

# News Release

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## **OHIO STUDENT-ATHLETES BENEFIT FROM OHSAA FOUNDATION'S STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCES**

**Columbus, Ohio** – For the eighth year, the Ohio High School Athletic Association Foundation sponsored leadership conferences for captains and team leaders from across the state during the months of September and October. Over 1,000 students and adult chaperones attended the one-day conferences, which were held at six locations throughout Ohio.

“The OHSAA Foundation is proud to sponsor these seminars and we hope that the student-athletes who attend go home and share the messages they hear in the areas of leadership, teamwork, sportsmanship, and citizenship with their fellow teammates, classmates and students in their conferences or leagues,” said John Muhlbach, President of the OHSAA Foundation Board of Trustees. “The student-athletes hear powerful messages delivered by all of our speakers, we incorporate group activities for the students, and this year we added a breakout session for the administrators in attendance. We are continually looking for ways to improve our leadership conferences for years to come.”

Just one state conference was offered in Columbus in 2000, but the OHSAA Foundation provided a total of six conferences this year including those held at Lorain County Community College in Elyria, Kent State University Stark Campus in Canton, and Wright State University in Fairborn, along with conferences at The Ohio State University, University of Findlay and the University of Rio Grande. Due to the generous support of many of the host institutions, OHSAA member schools do not have to pay a registration fee to attend the conferences and all conference attendees receive a conference t-shirt.

All six conferences featured a combination of messages delivered by nationally-renowned motivational speaker Harvey Alston, as well as a variety of luncheon speakers including Tom Hamilton, the radio voice of the Cleveland Indians; Ron Stokes, former basketball standout at Canton McKinley High School and The Ohio State University and current basketball analyst with 1460 WBNS radio; Bill Hosket, former basketball standout from

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Dayton Belmont High School, The Ohio State University, the U.S. Olympic team and the NBA New York Knicks and currently an analyst with the Big Ten Network; Ron Niekamp, head men's basketball coach at the University of Findlay; Jeff Lanham, director of athletics at the University of Rio Grande; Ken French, head men's basketball coach at the University of Rio Grande and Gene Smith, director of athletics at The Ohio State University.

The following are comments from some of those who have attended the OHSAA Foundation Student Leadership Conferences:

- "I will carry all the information I have been given back to my school and community. I will also take this information and carry it with me for the rest of my life."
- "I loved the tremendous amount of energy presented from the speakers and throughout the room. This conference really motivates me to become a better leader and I learned a lot from each activity."
- "I enjoyed the knowledge and love that all the speakers had toward what they were saying. Every one of them made me want to be better."
- "It was well organized and I loved the high energy speakers."
- "The activities were fun!"
- "Mr. Alston was very funny, energetic and thought provoking."
- "I will take what I have learned and apply it to my life as a student, athlete, and a member of my family. I will strive to be the best I can be so as to make the best out of everything surrounding me."
- "They were so uplifting and gave me confidence to lead and teach my teammates."
- "I liked that we were able to meet students from other schools."
- "I will definitely take what I heard today and exercise it in my daily life, on and off the court."

Formed in July 1997, the OHSAA Foundation was created to provide resources for enhancing educational opportunities and services for student-athletes in interscholastic athletics. Besides sponsoring the student leadership conferences, the OHSAA Foundation also annually provides \$30,000 in scholarships for senior student-athletes across the state and has begun a new statewide community service initiative, "Foundation Service Week."

"My high school experience was very important and helped me learn many of life's valuable lessons," said Foundation Board of Trustees member Bill Hosket. "By providing the student leadership conferences, scholarships and other opportunities for Ohio's student-athletes, the OHSAA Foundation is providing these same experiences and more for today's student-athletes throughout Ohio by enhancing their total educational and athletic experiences."