



Ohio High School Athletic Association Foundation

News Release

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EASTMOOR ALUMNUS ARCHIE GRIFFIN TO ASSIST COLUMBUS CITY SCHOOLS

Columbus, Ohio – Taking advice from his former college football coach, the legendary Woody Hayes, that a person “can never pay back; but you can always pay forward,” former Ohio State great Archie Griffin has donated funds to ensure that all of the Columbus City League’s varsity basketball teams are able to participate in the 2008 Ohio High School Athletic Association Foundation Service Week’s “Foundation Games.” Griffin, the president and CEO of The Ohio State University Alumni Association, is an alumnus of the Columbus City League, having graduated from Eastmoor Academy in 1972.

As part of its continued efforts, the OHSAA Foundation is launching a new statewide service initiative. Many schools already incorporate community service as an extension of learning in the classroom. “**Foundation Service Week**” provides an opportunity for OHSAA member schools to participate in a community service project(s), as well as a platform to highlight the community service activities schools already participate in throughout the year. Foundation Service Weeks are highlighted by “**Foundation Games**,” where participating schools are permitted to use one of the five allotted basketball scrimmages to play a live game under all normal game conditions (does not count on a team’s record). The inaugural statewide OHSAA Foundation Service Week will take place Friday, November 21, through Saturday, December 6, 2008.

“Foundation Service Week provides a wonderful opportunity to make a positive impact in our communities and with young people across the state,” said Griffin, the only two-time winner of the Heisman Trophy. “I think it’s great that the Foundation has developed Service Week, and I am honored to be able to contribute.”

Griffin created the Archie Griffin Scholarship Fund, which benefits Ohio State’s Olympic sports programs. Through his efforts, Griffin has built the Scholarship Fund to its current status exceeding \$1 million. In order to generate proceeds for Olympic sports at OSU, the 18th Annual Archie Griffin Scholarship Fund Golf Outing and Dinner was held this past July 28 in suburban Columbus at The Lakes and Medallion Golf Country Clubs. This year, Griffin is sharing some of those proceeds from the event to ensure that all high schools in the Columbus City League are able to participate in the OHSAA Foundation Service Week’s Foundation Games.

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Archie Griffin -2-2-2

As part of Foundation Service Week, all participating schools will identify a community service project that is meaningful for their school and community. Four pilot games were conducted during the 2007-08 basketball season with resounding success, where students helped flood victims, provided food for local food pantries, raised money for local scholarships and raised over \$10,000 for an education fund for the children of a coach that passed away unexpectedly. The proceeds from the Foundation Games go directly to the selected community service project, minus a \$250 donation per school to the OHSAA Foundation to be used for scholarships and leadership conferences.

The OHSAA Foundation was created over 10 years ago to provide resources for enhancing educational opportunities and services for Ohio's student-athletes.

— OHSAA FOUNDATION —