



MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

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March 16, 2018

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MSHSL to honor Contest Officials

BROOKLYN CENTER, Minn. --- Eight individuals will be honored with service awards by the Minnesota State High School League for their decades of service and commitment to officiating.

Those honored with distinguished service awards will be Becker's Tracy Bertram; Jack Coombe of Tower; Tom Goetz from Bloomington; Bill Hafner of Maplewood, Roseville's Roy Tutt; Jim Weinzierl from Park Rapids; Pat Whalen of New Brighton, and Clark Worthington of St. Louis Park.

These fine officials will be honored during the boys' basketball state tournament during the halftime intermission of the Class A championship game on March 24 at Target Center in Minneapolis.

"All of these award winners are great officials, but more importantly, they have given so much to their Association members through mentorship and training, thus benefiting State High School League member schools and participants," said Jason Nickleby, who oversees the League's officiating programs.

Here is a look at the officials that will be honored:

Distinguished Service Awards:

- **Tracy Bertram of Becker**, from the Central Minnesota Gymnastics Judges' Association. Tracy has been a League Judge and a member of the Association for 24 years. Tracy has served the Association in many roles including Director with the Association, Assignor, a Regional Coordinator for Gymnastics with the League. Tracy has worked at the State Gymnastics Meet on 14 occasions.
- **Jack Coombe of Tower**, has been a key leader with the Range Coaches and Officials Association as the Executive Secretary, over the past 28 years. Jack has been at the forefront of mentoring and the encouragement

of new officials that serve his area. Jack has focused on serving League member schools on the Iron Range while officiating at the championship level in football and basketball.

- **Tom Goetz of Bloomington**, a baseball umpire, has provided distinguished service to the Northwest Association of Umpires. Tom served on the NWAU Board of Directors for more than 20 years, including the role of President. Tom has served as a mentor, evaluator and clinician for baseball umpires, and has been an effective leader with Northwest Umpires throughout his impressive tenure.
- **William “Bill” Hafner of Maplewood** has been a successful multi-sport official for more than 50 years, Bill has provided most of his service to Metro Umpires, where he has been a mentor and charter member for baseball beginning in 1965. Bill is regarded as the first official to work State Tournament Championships in baseball, basketball and football.
- **Roy Tutt of Roseville**, from the Minneapolis Officials Association. Roy was a member of the Association for 22 years, serving many years in a leadership position, including roles as Assignment Secretary and President of the Association. Roy officiated football, basketball, and wrestling, and before his retirement from active officiating in 1984.
- **Jim Weinzierl of Park Rapids** was instrumental in the success of the Park Rapids Officials Association serving as the assignor for the last 20 years of a 31-year stint. Jim has been an incredible advocate for Northwestern Minnesota officials across many sports, serving as a clinician, Regional Coordinator for basketball and the Region 8A Secretary. Jim has worked many State Championship basketball games and worked State Tournament games on 15 other occasions.
- **Pat Whalen of New Brighton** of the St. Paul/Capital City Official’s Association, has been a respected contributory leader for the Association in his 33 years of membership. Pat has served the Association in a variety of roles including assignor for both football and basketball. Pat has been a go-to leader by doing whatever the Association needed while officiating multiple championships in football, basketball and softball.
- **Clark Worthington of St. Louis Park**, a 24-year member of the Gopher State Officials Association, has been a leader in the Association, having served on the Board for eight years. He officiated basketball, and he is a top softball umpire working numerous State Tournament assignments. Clark continues to give back to the Association by serving as a Charter Clinician and mentor to new umpires.