

TIME OUT



WISCONSIN BASKETBALL
WBCA
COACHES ASSOCIATION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
WISCONSIN BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION
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PROUD PARTNERS OF
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WBCA COVID-19 STATEMENT

Hello Coaches, Parents, Athletes, and the Basketball Community of Wisconsin,

At the WBCA, we are watching the progression of the COVID-19 situation closely. The safety of all attendees of our events is our number one priority. With that in mind, we have a couple key upcoming events that we wanted to touch on.

Event One: The Annual WBCA All-Star Games held at Justagame Fieldhouse in Wisconsin Dells, currently on the schedule for June 19 (girls) and June 20 (boys). As of this date, April 10, we are planning to host the games as scheduled. We will continue to monitor the recommendations and mandates from our health and government officials.



In the scenario of June 19-20 not working for the All-Star Games, our plan is to postpone the events, not cancel. We fully intend on playing the events this summer under conditions that are safe for all.

For some good news in these times, let's take a moment and remember the true meaning of the All-Star Games, raising funds for charity. The All-Star Games has allowed the WBCA to donate over \$2.8 Million to the MACC Fund (Midwest Athletes Against Childhood Cancer) since 1978. At the start of the All-Star Games the Childhood Cancer survival rate was around 10%. Today the survival rate is around 80%. The WBCA takes great pride in believing we are making a difference. Information on the MACC Fund: <https://maccfund.org/>

Another Charity the WBCA has elected to donate a portion of the funds this year is Camp Wawbeek, a part of Easterseals, in Wisconsin Dells. This camp provides services for children and adults with physical disabilities. During camp, the attendees are able to take advantage of camp resources and receive help from counselors to enjoy activities they would not otherwise be able to on their own. For the children attending this camp, it also provides those parents with a worry-free weekend to enjoy knowing their child is in great hands. Information on Camp Wawbeek: <https://camp.eastersealswisconsin.com/camp-wawbeek/>

If you would like to donate to these great causes on an All-Stars behalf, please follow this link: <https://wisbca.org/allstar-game/donation-banner/>

Event Two: Our first annual All-State banquet. This event was originally scheduled for April 5th. We plan to reschedule this event when we are able. For any updates to this statement you can watch our homepage at www.wisbca.org.

Thank you and please stay safe and healthy!

The WBCA Executive Board

WBCA CORPORATE SPONSORS



FAST BREAK NOTES

Bottom Line on the All-Star Games:

We will make a decision on May 10th on whether we can have the games on June 19-20. If we have to postpone, we will select dates to have the games in July. If this is not possible, we will look at other ways to honor our senior athletes selected for the games. The bottom line is that the games will only happen if we can be assured that no one's health is compromised. The safety of our athletes, coaches, parents and fans is our number 1 priority.

Executive Board Meeting in April Cancelled:

The spring meeting of the WBCA has been cancelled. However, the board will be voting online for the following awards: Individual Academic All-State, Coaches of the Year Awards, College Staff of the Year and College Players of the Year. A mass email to all our members will go out around May 10th with the winners of these awards.

Coaches Achievement Awards:

Dan Burreson and his committee will announce the winners of these awards around June 1st.

All-State Banquet:

The first WBCA All-State banquet scheduled for April 5th in Milwaukee was cancelled. It is our hope that we will be able to hold this banquet sometime this summer. This banquet will honor the 50 boys and 50 girls who made 1st Team All-State in each of the five divisions. Two new awards will be presented at this banquet. Two legendary coaches who passed away this year will be honored by having their name on these awards: Jim Nedelcoff-"Love of the Game Award" and Jim Smallins-"Commitment to Excellence Award".

Conference Championship and Coach Awards:

Did you know that every coach who is a WBCA member can receive a plaque if they win a conference championship and other honors if they reach a win milestone? To submit your information for these awards, please visit the nomination forms page of WisBCA.org or check the forms in this newsletter and send in the form to me or submit it online.

Passing of a Great Coach:

The WBCA community mourns the death of Tim Omens, longtime Randolph High School girls' coach and WBCA Hall of Fame member. Tim was not only a great coach, but he was a tremendous person. Our deepest sympathy goes out to his family.

Lifetime Members:

As a coach, if you retire and get a lifetime membership to the WBCA, it is good for life as long as you are retired. However, if you get back into coaching, then you need to apply for a new membership while you are coaching again.

Hall of Fame:

If you know a coach that should be considered for the WBCA Hall of Fame (active or retired), please get them nominated. Go to the website to find the qualifications needed and the form is available there also or you may nominate then right online.

Membership:

As of right now the WBCA membership is 4,228.

Fall Clinic:

It is scheduled for October 1-2 at JustaGame Fieldhouse in Wisconsin Dells.

Hall of Fame Banquet:

This banquet is scheduled for Saturday, September 26th at the Glacier Canyon Lodge of the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

Computer Seeding:

Dan Witter and Jade Royston will be sending out a survey to all head coaches with one question-"Do you prefer computer seeding (yes or no). Please respond so that we can get a read on this.

Difficult Times:

In this time of crisis, it is important that we stick together as a nation. We get down on our knees and ask our God to help get us through these difficult days. Remember: "Trust in God!" Stay positive and we shall prevail.

Guest Writers:

I felt it would be good to have people in different positions comment on how the Covid-19 virus has affected them. So I chose the following: Principal, Ellie Olson-Cuba City High School; Athletic Director, Eric Nee-Sun Prairie High School; Media, Dennis Semrau-ESPN; High School Coach, Mike Foley-Platteville Girls' Coach; Student Athlete, Patrick Baldwin Jr.-Sussex Hamilton High School and WBCA Chairman, Mike Huser-Boys' All-Star Games

Personal Note:

I want to thank everyone who remembered my wife, Joan, during her recent bout with cancer and her follow-up treatments. She is doing very well and the prognosis is good.

10 POINTS FOR OFFICIALS TO CONSIDER DURING THE OFF-SEASON

By Terry Erickson

Assignor Viterbo University Men's and Women's Basketball Officials

Assignor Emmaus Bible College Men's and Women's Basketball Officials

Executive Board Member of the WBCA

I hope that you are spending some quality time this spring reflecting on your 2019-2020 season. For many of you, the season was cut short, and you were disappointed in not officiating deep into the post season. However, I am confident that opportunities for you will develop next year and into the future.

As you reflect, and look for ways to improve your officiating game, consider the following suggestions.

1. Officials Have A Decisive Role In Controlling The Game. The integrity of the game needs to be kept under control according to the rules of the game, along with sportsmanship and personal enrichment. This allows players and coaches to learn and grow within the game. If officials do not conduct themselves in a proper and professional manner, the integrity of the game will disintegrate.

2. 90% Of Officiating Is Being A People Person. If you know how to deal with people, you have an advantage. Remember that listening is an important skill (two ears, one mouth, listen twice as much as you speak). Treat everyone with the same dignity that you want from others. Show and earn respect.

3. Keep Safety Number One. The rules empower officials to penalize rough play. Even if a situation is not identified in the rule book, officials must make whatever correction is necessary to ensure player safety. In this over litigious age, erring on the side of safety is not only the correct course, but will also keep officials out of the court system.

4. Don't Make Excuses, Be Accountable. Even if you can find a plausible excuse, often times the error will not be accepted. Instead of wasting time and mental energy coming up with an excuse, your first course should always be doing what the rules say to rectify the situation. If you try and fail, it's simply a mistake. If you repeat the mistake, it's a decision that you need to live with.

5. Expect Criticism And Learn How To Handle It. There are comments from spectators, coaches and players that should be ignored. Granted, that's easier said than done. Turning a deaf ear to some criticism is crucial to maintaining focus and keeping a positive attitude. Constructive criticism from assignors, veteran officials and friends should be welcome by officials. Never stop growing and learning.

6. Officiating Builds Skills For A Lifetime – Be The Best You. The qualities of great officials are also the qualities that make a good employee, leader, spouse and friend. Teamwork, loyalty, sacrifice, knowledge, competitiveness, decision-making, accountability, integrity and honesty are just a few of the positive skills and qualities that can be learned and implemented through officiating.

7. Never Let Your Signals Convey Your Emotions. Too many officials view fouls or rules infractions as personal affronts. Instead of acting dispassionately, officials allow their body language or voice to convey their displeasure. Your facial expression and voice should not suggest you are happy or unhappy to be enforcing a penalty.

8. Know Your Role. You are part of a bigger picture. So, don't showboat. When you need to sell a call, it's ok to give an emphatic signal. But actions designed to draw attention away from participants and onto officials are unprofessional and unacceptable. Use approved mechanics and signals.

9. Don't Bring Anything Into The Game. It is vital to treat each game as a new experience. If you work a game involving a player or coach you have had to penalize or eject, your demeanor and actions must convey the feeling that you've forgotten about it. Always remember the reason that you are an official.

10. Trust And Support Your Partners. Officiating is about teamwork. Trust your partners to be responsible for their areas so you can better observe your own area. Keep a close eye on the grey area to be sure something is not missed.

COVID-19 IMPACT ON STUDENTS, ATHLETES AND SCHOOLS

Breath.....

On Friday, March 6th, 2020 students in the state of Wisconsin walked the halls of their school like any other day. They collected their materials from their lockers and went from class to class. They went to lunch and sat with friends while talking about what they were going to do over the weekend. They talked about the basketball games that were coming up and planning what the dress up theme would be for the tournament games. Life was normal....

One week later, life was different. Games were canceled and for many schools at 3:25 PM the eighth hour bell rang and the students were not coming back to school indefinitely. Today the halls are empty and the schools feel eary.

Breath...

This experience has affected each person differently and will continue to do so. The biggest question to attend to is how can we help our students, families and school staff through this pandemic? Schools have always been a place of structure and certainty for all. Students know the school routine and count on that routine and support. Schools are working on finding ways to virtually support students, families and school staff with academics but equally important are the social and emotional needs. Coming up with strategies on how to stay connected is a top priority because if students, families and school staff feel connected they will reach out when things are not going well and that is what schools are striving for through this experience.

Breath...

Virtual teaching and learning is an adventure and one schools across the state have embraced. All schools were in different places as far as being prepared for such a change. That being said, educators have stepped up to make this transition with students. Lessons cannot be taught the same way as if you are sitting in a classroom with twenty-five students. Students are not sitting at a desk taking notes and asking questions. Lessons are planned and students go online to see what tasks they have to complete. Some classes are doing virtual live sessions and/or recording lessons for students to access at a later time. Some students complete work in the morning and others complete work at night. Schedules are different and being flexible is key.

The students and educators across the country are learning skills they would not have learned in the traditional school. Technology skills have expanded, different ways of communicating, time management skills, task pacing, prioritizing, and the list goes on. We would not have imagined these skills being tested this way but these skills will be a result.

Breath...

The impact on schools from COVID-19 will continue to be uncovered as time goes on. Schools will continue to do their best to make adjustments while not knowing how those adjustments might impact them at a later time. The key is to continue to work together. The perfect scenario does not exist but being there for each other, staying positive, and creating new possibilities does. We will soon settle on what our new normal looks like, sounds like and feels like but for many of our students, this will take time and a certain level of uncomfort.

Breath...

As the players who once thought, "We were one game from the Kohl Center," or "We were one game from the Gold Ball," are transitioning to "I hope grandma and grandpa are staying at home and safe every day," we are finding that our high school athletes are now realizing what the WIAA did had to be done, even if we don't like it. It wasn't fair to our high school athletes, but it was the right thing to do for the benefit of others.

Breath...

As we try to find lessons in this, there's one that we can focus on. As we get older and become more mature we must realize, "It's not about me, it's about us." I try to imagine how this generation of students and athletes will be shaped by this and I will continue to have faith in them. It is my hope that they pay attention to and focus on "us" instead of "me." I envision organizations, businesses and entire school districts where students are focused on the needs of others, going out of their way to make someone's day better. I see our students working with their parents and teachers to figure out ways they can make their communities stronger and healthier. I can only imagine all the ways our athletes begin working with their coaches to come up with ways they can use their team's success to make their feeder programs, filled with young athletes who look up to them, into a dynasty for their community to be proud of for years to come. But before these things happen, I would like to encourage everyone to

...breath.

Ellen Olson, Cuba City

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow. Where do I even begin? There is an old quote that says, "may you live in interesting times." This quote was not meant to be positive, but as a curse. People would much rather live in calm and predictable times but, we can't always have that. As coaches, if there is anything we are good at, it is functioning in chaos.

The things we are worried about and the problems that seemed really important a few weeks ago are now taking a back seat to what is the new normal. At this time in our lives, we are staying safe at home, while learning how to navigate this new normal.

We missed the finish of the girls' state tournament, the boys' state tournament, NCAA and March Madness along with spring break trips for a lot of schools. Now we are left with the unknown, will we go back to school, will we have graduation, what will our summer schedule look like (if we have one)? I have talked to a number of coaches and most are planning like we will have a summer of basketball.

I don't know what the correct answer is but, I think you need to keep in touch with your players and plan as if there will be a summer schedule. If that changes, then your program can adjust to whatever the new summer schedule will look like. Make sure they are keeping up with their classes. Also, give them some thoughts and ideas on what they can be doing at home to improve on skills with limited space.

Coach Petitgoue will be giving you some of the dates and how we will adjust as time moves forward.

Make sure you still send in all coaches awards that will be given out next season. We are moving forward with investigating automated seeding and how it will look. We were still able to have our advisory meeting via Zoom on April 8th.

In closing, thank you for being leaders in your school and in your community. The two things that we can help our students and student athletes at this time is to be positive and flexible in these uncertain times. Continued communication with your athletes will be very important and also being fully aware that things can change monthly, weekly, daily as we have seen. Good Luck to everyone as we move through these uncertain and very interesting times.

Yours In Basketball,
Dan Witter

ALL STAR GAMES UPDATE

Coaches,

Good Morning and I hope this email finds you safe and doing well with all the uncertainty that is going on around us. We have gotten several emails regarding concerns about the upcoming All Star Games that are scheduled to be held in June in the Wisconsin Dells. We can all appreciate the questions and concerns and I think right now everyone would like concrete answers on the next steps in all the scenarios we are dealing with but I will give do my best to give some guidance for the All Star Event.

As of right now, we are still scheduled to have the games the weekend of June 20th. However, this is ongoing and we have to follow the advice of Health Professionals, State Mandates and the overall well being of everyone involved. We are going to make a decision on the games in June on May 10th. We really want to be able to have the games, but we understand the questions and issues that can arise if we move the games back into July. We are working through those scenarios.

We understand the questions about fundraising we have gotten. We would like to everyone to continue with their efforts, however we realize that fundraising right now is difficult and we just ask that everyone does the best that they can.

I know we all want to be able to have this experience, but I do know that we will do what is best and above all else we will not put anyone involved either players, coaches, parents or fans in harms way or a life threatening situation. We will be taking that into account above everything, but we do want this to play out see what options are available to have the games.

I know you will have question and Matt and I are here to help answer them, but we appreciate everyone's thoughts and patience with how this plays out.

Take Care and Stay Safe,

Mike & Matt

THE PERFECT SEASON

By: Mike Foley, Head Girls Basketball Coach, Platteville High School

It is every coach's dream to have a team of dedicated student athletes that has the perfect chemistry that defines greatness. To have a team that is able to become a family and buy into the concepts you teach and dedicate themselves to both the physical and mental aspects of becoming champions is really rare.

As a coach, this year provided me a roller coaster of emotions. The highest highs and some of the lowest lows. As a team, we set forth some pretty high goals for ourselves. After 3 years of shortfalls in losing in either a sectional semi-final or the sectional final game to talented Marshall and Edgewood teams we set our goals on making it to the WIAA State Tournament. As a team with 5 senior starters, they knew this was their year. They knew that they needed to work hard, buy in, and most importantly handle adversity as they had a hard schedule ahead of them.

We started the year off with broadening our coaching staff. I am lucky to have 3 great coaches behind me that worked as hard if not harder than me to help set the frame work for success. We implemented many new things this year and every single girl bought in. Our younger players worked hard to reach the same level of play as our senior girls. As a coach, it makes you excited to see what the future holds.

The Lady Hillmen played a very tough non-conference schedule. That was planned to pave their way to the state tournament. With having such a small conference, we needed to go out and seek for those "sectional" like games. These games at times really challenged us as a team and taught us how to handle adverse situations on the floor. Another factor in our success was that the majority of these games were road games. This too created adversity. The long bus trips and not having your home crowd, provided us an opportunity to become mentally tough.

After last year's grueling loss to Marshall in the sectional final game I looked at the sad faces of a team and told them to take a look around and remember what it felt like to be here. What it felt like to hear the other school still out on floor celebrating their win. We returned to school as a team and we hung up the score of that game and used it as a reminder that we would be better next year.

As a team, we set our goals the first day of practice. Conference champs, regional champs, and sectional champs. As a coaching staff, we told them that our goal was to coach them in the very last game of the year. Which meant the championship game at the Resch Center in Green Bay. As the season progressed, we checked one box at a time never overlooking the game in front of us. As we started to reach one goal at a time, I could see the confidence and determination of the team grow. To see the smiles on the faces of these hardworking athletes and see them believe in themselves and their teammates was a reward most coaches dream of.

Winning the sectional final game against Marshall in Baraboo was a day that my team will never forget. One of those special moments in life. As a coaching staff, we told them to celebrate this win. But tomorrow it's back to work. We prepared and worked hard as we knew we weren't done. This team went from a goal of getting to the state tournament to wanting to win the tournament and finish perfect. Undefeated.

The day of the semi-final game at the WIAA State Tournament, we were notified that our school would only be allowed 88 spectators. In true Lady Hillmen fashion, we talked about this and said that this does not affect the actual game itself. They worked as a group to divide tickets up so each player could have as many family members there as possible. Then it was back to business. With a win against a very talented Arcadia team, we were one step closer to checking off the last goal.

Later that evening, I found out that the WIAA had made the decision to cancel the remainder of the tournament due to the Corona Virus pandemic. As a coaching staff, we decided we needed to pull the team together and share this news with them. Upon sharing the news with the team, there were all sorts of emotions. The feeling of being so close and to have it all end. To end without them determining their fate was a tough pill to swallow. They literally had been experiencing perhaps one of the highest moments of their athletic lives and now they were dealt a hand that they couldn't play out. I shared with them that in my mind they were perfect. 26-0. That's a perfect season no matter how you look at it.

As a coach, this was one of the hardest things I have had to do. Worse than talking to a team after an upsetting loss. I told them that all year we have been faced with adversity and we have held our heads high, rolled up our sleeves, and handled it in the Hillmen way. With grace and dignity. I explained to them that the news we received was out of our control and that in their

lives they will face similar situations. How they choose to handle these situations will define their character and successes. That this pandemic is about something way bigger than the game of basketball and that the decisions that were made were made for the protection of all parties. The players, coaches, fans, workers etc. We stressed the importance of respecting the decision set forth by the WIAA realizing that this was a difficult decision on their part and that they had the best interest of the health and safety of others.

As a coach, this season provided some of the most special moments I have ever had in my years of coaching. I saw a team set goals and one by one reach them. I saw a team come together to support and trust one another like family. Perhaps the most rewarding part of this season was getting together with Wrightstown at the Resch Center to take a team photo of the two championship participants and the camaraderie among two teams who were both in the exact same position. I watched them talk and laugh amongst themselves and share in the mutual respect of each one's hard work. Right then and there I realized we were perfect and were all champions.

ONE STEP BACK, TWO STEPS FORWARD.

Patrick Baldwin Jr.
Junior Hamilton HS

MY STORY WITH COVID-19

About thirteen months ago, I put out a tweet that read “365 days,” which marked the beginning of Hamilton’s quest towards hoisting the coveted gold ball in March. Fast forward about 8 months from the time of that tweet and you’ll arrive at our first team practice of the young 2019-2020 season. At that moment in time, nobody knew how it would end. We were all playing the sport we loved, free of the notion that it could be taken away during the final leg of our season. On so many levels, I feel for the people that put their heart and soul into sports just to have it placed on public ban due to a historical outbreak. For the players, coaches, and fans, this outbreak has seemingly divided the sports world, and forced social humans into the confinement of their home. While I have no platform to speak on behalf of all, for me personally, the corona virus has been nothing more than one step back and two steps forward.

REGULAR SEASON

In many cases, the season was going as planned; We traveled to Illinois and defeated a tough team, finished the season 22-3, we improved ourselves one percent at a time, and at the end of the day we had fun together. As I take a step back and analyze this season, I can confidently say this was one of the closest groups of players and coaches that I’ve ever played with. Through the good and the bad, there was never a moment during the season that I would’ve changed. I’m sure many of my teammates feel the same.

During the regular season, we were winning games and winning with a smile. In practice we were pushing each other to be the best every day, and holding each other accountable. The regular season was nearing an end. Towards the end of the season one singular goal became king in everyone’s mind - that goal was to be the last team standing in the Kohl center.

During the final month of the season, our entire focus was put toward gearing up for the playoffs. Our diets improved, our sleep changed, and our habits changed. During the last month of the season everyone was locked in.

PLAYOFFS

At the start of the playoffs, we adapted the analogy of “Free Solo,” which stemmed from the inspiring story of Alex Honnold. Alex Honnold, a world famous rock climber, has a passion for climbing bigger and more rigorous mountains than the typical human can even imagine. His biggest climbing accomplishment would later be El Capitan in Yosemite National Park. Alex had free soloed large walls and mountains before, however, El Capitan was a terrain that could not be simulated anywhere else in the world. He was up for the challenge, and he began mapping out the terrain and memorizing foot placements and rock patterns so he could eventually make the journey without a harness. The day finally came for Alex to begin the quest up El Capitan, and unlike a normal person, He was undaunted by the challenge because he had prepared and mastered the terrain for years prior with a harness. In the end Alex Honnold climbed the 3,000 foot landark (a trip that took just under 4 hours) without a harness, and lived to tell the story.

We used this story to give us motivation into our playoff run. Alex was climbing the mountain solely off of instincts and patterns, and one mistake could mark the end of his life. This applies to the playoffs because we were climbing that mountain towards a gold ball, with nothing to save us if we were to fall. If we lose one game, all the work we put in to get to that point is washed and we have to start over next year. My teammates and I are all very competitive and we took this story to heart.

The first two regional games against Hartford and De Pere was a step in the right direction as we came out victorious by large margins. After those games, we hit the court hard in the week following in order to prepare for Arrowhead.

News broke on game day that the WIAA would only allow 88 people per team to be inside the gym to witness the game. I was unfazed by this change because that meant that my family would still be there to watch, which means the world to me. But, this was the first time that questions began to rise about the fate of our season. Though all the chaos we still had a game to play, and we were ready for battle.

Admittedly it was weird to walk out onto the floor of a sectional game and see large amounts of empty seats. The energy felt a bit off, but it was business as usual and we came out with the win.

The game against Arrowhead put us at the halfway point of our free solo climb. Everything was great, life was good...

ONE STEP BACK

Following that game, news broke about an update on the corona virus outbreak from the WIAA. Multiple sources tweeted out that the WIAA had cancelled all winter sports, effective immediately, which would mean that our free solo had been cancelled. I was not surprised due to the fact that many other states had already cancelled its tournament play. Even though I had an idea of what to expect in the back of my mind, I was never truly prepared for the news to come to reality.

Like any normal team, my teammates and I immediately took to our phones and began talking about the situations. A chaotic mixture of reactions flooded the group chat nearly instantaneously. Typically our group chats are humorous and productive. However, the tone of this conversation shifted to a somber tone, a tone in which we were all dwelling together. A typical initial response to the news would've been "Are you serious," or "Your joking right?" The news was almost too extraordinary to be true.

In a blink of an eye, our free solo was cut short, leaving us stranded half way up the climb to the Gold Ball. Something that we had been working for, ended abruptly due to an uncontrollable factor.

At the time, the news introduced a flurry of emotions that overtook me. While I understand the reasoning behind the decision was necessary for everyone's safety, the competitor in me wanted the games to continue.

Ultimately what seemed in the moment as one step back, turned into a positive that pushed me 2 steps forward.

TWO STEPS FORWARD

Throughout life, I have always carried myself with a shooter's mentality. In basketball I've learned that it is impossible to be perfect. Even professional marksmen such as JJ Reddick, Steph Curry, and Klay Thompson view a 50% shooting percentage as a success. In sports you can never dwell on the last mistake, the last missed shot, the last turnover, because the game is played at such a fast pace. I treat life the same way, and I've treated the Corona Virus situation the same way as well.

YOU MUST LOOK AT THE POSITIVES.

Instead of mourning the tragic end of our season, I began looking for ways that the Sports lockout can help me. I've found that it has helped in two ways; one, strengthening my relationships with important people in my life such as my family, my teammates, my day-one friends, and coaches that I'm connected to. Secondly, I've found that this "coroanacation" has allowed me to explore different hobbies, such as art and trading cards.

For the seniors and spring sport athletes, I can never imagine how it feels to have your season end in this tragedy for I still have one more year of high school basketball. For many seniors, this will be the last time taking the court/field/stage alongside their teammates and peers. Ultimately it's important for everyone to stay optimistic, make the best out of this situation, and cherish the memories that have nothing to do with the scoreboard.

Having a shooter's mentality in life has really helped me get through the Covid-19 outbreak and I encourage the readers of this letter to also expand your comfort zones during this time.

I'm a strong believer that Covid-19 is nothing more than one step back and two steps forward, and I hope we can power through this together.

2020 RECRUITING CALENDAR – NABC PRINCIPLES EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Below is a series of principles the NABC Board of Directors has identified as cornerstones as adjustments are made to the 2020 recruiting calendar in response to the Coronavirus.

- **Health and Safety**

The health, safety and well-being of all stakeholders, including prospective student-athletes and men's basketball coaches remains the central priority.

- **Providing Scholarship and Participation Opportunities**

To the extent doing so is safe, prospects should be provided opportunities to be evaluated by NCAA men's basketball coaches.

- **Care for Current Student-Athletes**

Changes that increase recruiting opportunities during the academic year must balance coaches' responsibilities for current student-athletes and recruiting.

- **Missed Class Time**

Changes must not interfere with prospective student-athletes' academic schedules.

- **Fiscal Responsibility**

Changes should provide effective and cost-efficient evaluation opportunities for prospective student-athletes and NCAA men's basketball coaches.

- **Collaboration**

As decisions are made, collaboration between all stakeholders is essential.

- **Timelines**

Definitive decisions about specific dates and events should not be made until there is increased certainty that it is safe to provide recruiting opportunities.

- **Coaches' Commitment**

Unprecedented times offer coaches an opportunity to unify in commitment to ethical conduct.

2020 RECRUITING CALENDAR – NABC PRINCIPLES

Opening Statement

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic on intercollegiate athletics is unprecedented and continues to evolve. The NABC Board of Directors has been actively engaging the topic in recent weeks, and the issue at hand now shifts to how the virus will impact the 2020 recruiting calendar. Below are principles the board believes should serve as cornerstones as models are adjusted and decisions are ultimately made. Any alterations should only serve to address the current crisis and should not be considered permanent.

Unique circumstances warrant a unique response. On behalf of coaches from all levels of the game, we stand ready to do our part.

Health and Safety

Above all else, the health, safety and wellbeing of all stakeholders – prospects, current student-athletes, coaches, staff, families, event operators and the like – must remain the central priority. Every decision must begin and end with proper health precautions in mind and include input from outside medical experts.

Providing Scholarship Opportunities

More than coaches evaluating talent, the recruiting calendar is ultimately about prospects striving to earn scholarships. And in order to earn scholarships, they need to be seen. To the extent doing so is safe, prospects should be given ample opportunity to showcase their talent en masse – from the top-100 stars to the little-known fringe players. Our goal is by no means to add more recruiting days to the calendar, but rather to preserve as many existing opportunities as possible.

Care for Current Student-Athletes

Changes that increase recruiting opportunities during the academic year must balance coaches' responsibilities for current student-athletes and recruiting. Our student-athletes are experiencing a crisis, and many will be directly impacted by the coronavirus. As coaches, our priority is to do our part to meet their physical, emotional and academic needs. The calendar – particularly the August and September months – must be structured in a manner that allows for adequate if not increased presence on campus. Options such as reducing the number of staff allowed on the road or loosening restrictions on who can perform recruiting and coaching duties would be wise to consider.

Missed Class Time

Changes must not interfere with prospective student-athletes' academic schedules. Most prospects will have already experienced significant missed class time in the spring due to school closures.

Fiscal Responsibility

No program will be immune to the financial impact of campus closures and the loss of postseason revenue. Moreover, many prospects' families are likely to face financial hardships due to job loss or other coronavirus-related situations. Changes should provide effective and cost-efficient evaluation opportunities for prospective student-athletes and coaches.

Collaboration

As decisions are made, collaboration between all stakeholders – the NCAA, college, high school and club coaches, state associations, shoe companies, event operators, USA Basketball, the NBA and more – is essential. Our objectives may not always align, but the goal for 2020 should be shared by all: providing prospects as many evaluation opportunities as conditions allow.

Timelines

Any change to the recruiting calendar will produce a ripple effect. Should NLI deadlines be adjusted? If events take place in September, how can missed class time be avoided? Will event operators have adequate notice to ensure efficient operations? Can travel be booked early enough to avoid exorbitant prices? Definitive decisions about specific dates and events should not be made until there is increased certainty that it is safe to provide recruiting opportunities.

Coaches' Commitment

Finally, unprecedented times - and a likely increase in recruiting restrictions - present coaches an opportunity to unify in commitment to ethical conduct. Now more than ever, our priority must be to put others ahead of ourselves. With the NABC Board of Directors serving as examples, we're confident our profession will do just that.

COVID-19 VIRUS

The Covid-19 virus has been very difficult on everyone involved (students, coaches, parents, and administrators). While it has been a very difficult time (especially for our senior athletes) it has been a learning and growing period. Our coaching staff and athletes have had to shift how they coach and learn. All of our coaches have set up google classrooms to communicate and share practice plans with athletes.

From the athletic department end, we have had to shift how we complete our daily tasks. Like our end of season meeting, we have moved all of our coaches meetings and evaluations to Zoom meetings. All meetings regarding the second high school have all moved to zoom. As Big 8 athletic directors we meet once a week via zoom to discuss our current state and plans moving forward.

I would say the most challenging aspect for all involved is not being able to be with one another. Sun Prairie athletics is a very close knit family and not being able to work towards a common goal together has been tough. I would end by saying how proud I am of everyone involved. While this time has been very difficult, everyone understands the importance of what is taking place and is doing what they can to make sure everyone stays healthy and safe.

Eric Nee, Sun Prairie

LOVE OF THE GAME

**“ WBCA HALL OF FAMER
THOMAS WILKINS MAY HAVE
SET A RECORD THAT MAY
NEVER BE BROKEN.”**

THOMAS WILKINS TOUCHED MANY LIVES WITH HIS JOURNEY ACROSS WISCONSIN AND NORTHERN ILLINOIS AND FINISHED HIS COACHING CAREER WITH OVER 500 WINS. BELOW IS THE PATH THAT WILKINS TOOK.

Wilkens, a Black Earth, Wisconsin native coached basketball for over 55 years in the high school and college ranks. Wilkins started his career at the small town of Gratiot, now part of the Black Hawk school district, in 1959. Since then he has coached at 16 different schools, 15 of those as a head coach for both boys and girls basketball.

You may ask, he must be a terrible coach and been let go at many of these schools to move on to the next. The answer would be quite the opposite. Wilkins would go to schools that were in need of a coach at the last minute to keep that program going. His last fulltime position as an educator was ironically at the school district where he started, Black Hawk. Wilkins was the Superintendent and also coached the girls basketball team. After his retirement, Wilkins went on to coach at 6 different schools that were in dire need of a coach.



1. GRATIOT BOYS - 1959 – 1964
2. WAUSAKEE BOYS - 1964 – 1969
3. RHINELANDER BOYS - 1969 – 1974
4. GLIDDEN BOYS - 1974 – 1977
5. CRYSTAL LAKE, IL. BOYS - 1978 – 1980
6. EDGEWOOD COLLEGE MEN - 1981 – 1984 ASSISTANT
7. CADOTT BOYS - 1984 – 1990
8. BUTTERNUT BOYS - 1990 – 1992
9. CORNELL - 1992 – 1994
10. BLACK HAWK GIRLS - 1994 – 2004
11. CAMPBELLSPORT GIRLS - 2004 -2009
12. PECATONICA GIRLS - 2009 – 2011
13. BOWLER GIRLS - 2011 – 2012
14. CHEQUAMEGON BOYS - 2012 – 2014 PARK FALLS
15. LANCASTER GIRLS - 2014 – 2015
16. ORANGEVILLE, IL. GIRLS - 2015 – 2016

THOMAS WILKINS - HALL OF FAME

CREATING A PROGRAM AND CULTURE OF TOUGHNESS

The questions need to be asked. As coaches, are you evolving? Kids mindsets have changed. Parents interactions have changed. Fans expectations have risen! The coaching landscape has dramatically shifted! Are coaches adjusting? Next question! What is easily the single biggest issue in sports today? Some might say winning and that's a good answer. However, the better answer might be PT (playing time). So, what are coaches doing to address this? We all want to win and there are two good ways to get there. With superior talent or superior effort. If you have both, you are special and well on your way to some championships. For the most part you cannot control the first way but certainly can control the second. What can you do to maximize superior effort? Simple answer! YOU PRESS! Specifically, you Run and Jump Press. As the saying goes, "you kill two birds with one stone." You will 1) get superior effort automatically, and you will 2) play more kids. Add on the bonus that 3) builds toughness and depth, and you are well on your way.

So why the Run and Jump Press? Here are some additional reasons other than the ones already mentioned. 4) It Levels the Talent Difference. 5) More Kids Playing Equals Happier Parents, Administrators, and Fans. 6) Unskilled Players Will Get on the Floor. 7) Creates Excitement Every Day. 8) Brings Energy to Practice and Games. 9) Cultivates NO FEAR Mindset. 10) Makes Opponents Uncomfortable. 11) Ability to Speed Up and Slow Down Game. 12) Constantly Trains Your Team to Handle Pressure. 13) Creates Great Scoring Opportunity. 14) Team ALWAYS Plays and Practices Hard. 15) Unpredictable. 16) Causes Great Chaos, Fatigue, and Stress. 17) Creates Poor Shot Selection and Low DFG%. 18) Causes Massive Opponent Turnovers and Collateral Damage. 19) Puts Opponent in Panic and Survival Mode 20) Less Thinking and More Doing. 21) Creates Infectious Enthusiasm. 22) It is Easy to Teach and Learn. 23) It is Fun to Run. 24) It Feeds the Program Long Term. The positives are endless.

This is a "never say never" defense. It frees up your athletes to play and run and rotate and trap and jump and attack and have fun. Of course, there is a METHOD TO THE MADNESS! We do like to jump middle and trap sideline. We train to be a great trapping team because we know, if we are, we are pretty good. We like to pressure the inbounds because pressure is our best friend. We have developed a mindset, an attitude, a toughness, and you really don't want to play us. We have created a storm with few rules, but we will protect our goal, we will not foul, we will not give up layups, and when you miss, we want that rebound every time. The Run and Jump Press is "outside the box." It is not A to B to C and that makes coaches and players nervous. Your opponent will be so stressed, they will forget to score, and did I mention? YOU WILL PLAY MORE KIDS!

Why don't we take the fight to our opponent! Let's Run and Jump Press off makes and misses and dead balls! Positive Energy from a Positive System. When the clock reads 0:00 we have NO DOUBT, we left it all out there.

ALL THE BEST and STAY SAFE COACHES!

Eddie Andrist

AQUINAS' LEXI DONARSKI SELECTED AS 2020 MISS BASKETBALL BY THE WBCA

Aquinas' Lexi Donarski has been named the 2020 Miss Basketball award-winner by the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association, sponsored by JustAGame Fieldhouse in Wisconsin Dells.

"Was super excited when my parents shared the news with me. It's a great honor to be named Miss Basketball," explained Donarski.

Donarski is a highly skilled and dynamic point guard that can take over a game with her ability to shoot the three, get to the hoop and find the open player. She also plays at a high level on the defensive end of the floor, using her length and athleticism to get steals and deflections.

"Was definitely a goal of mine (to be named Miss Basketball)."

Donarski added that said that playing around great teammates helped her reach this goal.

The 5-foot-10 point guard and Iowa State signee averaged 24.2 points, 4.5 rebounds, 7.0 assists, and 5.5 steals per game for coach and father Dave Donarski.

Donarski was a four-time WBCA all-state selection, and finished her career with 2,106 points, 561 assists and 388 steals.

Aquinas posted a 107-3 record in Lexi's four years, including two state titles and they were headed to a fourth consecutive state title game with a chance at a three-peat before the Coronavirus pandemic forced the WIAA cancel the remaining games of the state tournament.

Coach Donarski said that Lexi had so many great mentors that helped her get to where she is today. "Proud of the effort level and how dedicated she has been," he added.

Coach Donarski added that you don't get recognition like this without a great supporting cast.

Lexi is a three-sport athlete at Aquinas, also excelling in volleyball and track & field. She has reached the state tournament in both sports to go along with her four trips to state in basketball.

Donarski said she was glad she played three sports in high school. "The cross training helped my speed and jumping ability."

Coach Donarski explained that playing three sports has made her a well-rounded player because of all of her experiences.

WBCA ANNOUNCES DIVISION 1 GIRLS BASKETBALL ALL-STATE TEAM

The 2020 WBCA all-state team is highlighted by repeat first-team selections Leah Earnest of Stevens Point and Natalie McNeal of Germantown.

Earnest led Stevens Point (17-8) to a sectional appearance before falling to defending state champion Bay Port in overtime. The 5-foot-11 Valparaiso University signee averaged 27.8 points, 14.5 rebounds, 3.2 assists and 2.3 steals per game for coach Kraig Terpstra and the Panthers. Earnest finished her career with 2,084 points and over 1,000 rebounds.

McNeal helped lead Germantown (22-3) to a sectional appearance. The senior and Saint Louis University signee averaged 18.1 points, 9.6 rebounds, 3 assists and 2.9 steals per contest for coach Matt Stuve and the Warhawks. McNeal compiled 1,593 points in her career.

Maddison Baker led West Bend West (23-3) to a sectional final appearance before falling to DSHA. The 6-foot-2 Minnesota soccer commit averaged 23.2 points, 11.3 rebounds, 3.3 assists and 4.4 steals per game for coach Joe Pintens and the Spartans. Baker ended her career with 1,683 points and 1,196 rebounds.

Angie Cera helped lead Mukwonago (23-3) to a sectional appearance. The UW-Milwaukee signee played a key role in helping the Indians reach the state tournament as a sophomore (D1 state runner-up) and junior. Cera averaged 15.1 points per game with 46 three-pointers as a senior for coach Rick Kolinske and the Indians. She scored over 1,000 points in her career.

Mackenzie Johnson helped lead Bay Port (24-2) to its second consecutive trip to the state tournament. She played a key role in the Pirates capturing the D1 state title as a junior. Johnson is averaging 13.6 points per game with over 72 three-pointers for coach Kati Coleman and the Pirates. Mackenzie has over 900 career points entering Friday's state semifinal against DSHA.

Leilani Kapinus led Madison Memorial (24-2) to a sectional final appearance before falling to Middleton (last year's state runner-up). The 5-foot-11 Penn State signee averaged 18 points, 9.7 rebounds, 1.7 assists, 4.1 steals and 2 blocks per game for coach Marques Flowers and the Spartans. Kapinus finished her career with over 1,200 points despite missing nearly all of her junior year with a knee injury.

Khamya McNeal led Milwaukee King (16-8) to a sectional appearance before losing to state qualifier Oconomowoc. The senior and Syracuse signee averaged 18.7 points, 6 rebounds, 3.7 assists and 3.1 steals per contest for coach Craig Machut and the Lady Generals. McNeal scored 1,374 points in her career.

Anna Mortag, an honorable mention all-state pick last season, led Brookfield Central (15-9) to a regional final appearance. The senior and IUPUI signee averaged 19.9 points, 9.1 rebounds and 2 steals per game for coach Mallory Liebl and the Lancers. Mortag finished her career with 1,522 points.

Olivia Sobczak has led Oconomowoc (22-4) to its first state tournament appearance in program history. The 6-foot senior is averaging 20.8 points, 8.1 rebounds and 3 assists per contest for coach Bob Shea and the Raccoons. Sobczak, who missed her junior year with an ACL injury, has scored 1,268 points in her career entering Friday's state semifinal against Middleton.

Sitori Tanin, an honorable mention all-state choice last season, has led Middleton (25-1) to its second consecutive trip to the state tournament. The 6-foot-2 senior and Loyola University Chicago signee is averaging 14.9 points, 11.1 rebounds, 3.1 assists, 1.7 steals and 1.5 blocks per contest for WBCA Hall of Fame coach Jeff Kind and the Cardinals. Tanin helped the Cardinals finish as the state runner-up last season. She enters Friday's state semifinal against Oconomowoc with over 950 career points.

WBCA Division 1 All-State

Maddison Baker, sr., West Bend West
Angie Cera, sr., Mukwonago
Leah Earnest, sr., Stevens Point
Mackenzie Johnson, sr., Bay Port
Leilani Kapinus, sr., Madison Memorial
Khamya McNeal, sr., Milwaukee King
Natalie McNeal, sr., Germantown
Anna Mortag, sr., Brookfield Central
Olivia Sobczak, sr., Oconomowoc
Sitori Tanin, sr., Middleton

Honorable Mention

Kamorea Arnold, frosh., Germantown
Carley Duffney, jr., Green Bay Preble
Caelan Givens, sr., Chippewa Falls
Grace Grocholski, frosh., Kettle Moraine
Dru Henning, sr., Mukwonago
Emily La Chapell, soph., Appleton East
Taylor Lauterbach, sr., Appleton West
Jordan Meulemans, soph., De Pere
Emmoni Rankins, sr., Madison Memorial
Kendall Renard, sr., Green Bay Preble
Maddy Schreiber, jr., Kimberly
Maddie Walsh, sr., Arrowhead

WBCA ANNOUNCES DIVISION 2 GIRLS BASKETBALL ALL-STATE TEAM

Macy McGlone of Hortonville, Jaddan Simmons of Green Bay Southwest and Maty Wilke of Beaver Dam highlight the 2020 WBCA Division 2 all-state team as repeat selections.

McGlone has led Hortonville (25-1) to its fourth consecutive state tournament appearance. The 6-foot-2 UW-Milwaukee signee is averaging 17.3 points and 7.9 rebounds per game for coach Celeste Ratka and the Polar Bears. McGlone has 1,300 points entering Friday's state semifinal against Oregon at the Resch Center.

Simmons has been selected as a first-team all-state pick for the second consecutive season. The Arizona State University signee led Green Bay Southwest (16-8) to a regional final appearance. Simmons averaged 21.6 points, 8 rebounds, 4.1 assists and 4.7 steals per contest for coach Berri West and the Trojans. She ended her career with 1,936 points.

Wilke has helped Beaver Dam (23-3) captured the past two of its three consecutive Division 2 state titles. The 5-foot-10 guard is averaging 16.7 points, 8 rebounds and 4.8 assists per game for coach Tim Chase and the Golden Beavers. Wilke, who holds numerous Division I offers, has 1,087 career points entering Friday's state semifinal against Pewaukee at the Resch Center.

Jada Donaldson has played a key role in Beaver Dam's three consecutive Division 2 state titles. The UW-Milwaukee signee is averaging 9.2 points, 4 rebounds and 5.7 assists per game for coach Chase and the Golden Beavers.

Erin Hedman led New Berlin Eisenhower (18-7) to a sectional appearance before falling to state qualifier Pewaukee. The 6-foot-3 Minnesota signee helped the Lions to a state runner-up finish as a sophomore. Hedman averaged 12 points, 8.1 rebounds and 1.5 blocks per contest for coach Andy Monfre and the Lions.

Jasmine Kondrakiewicz helped lead Pius XI Catholic (22-4) to a sectional final appearance, falling to Woodland West foe Pewaukee. The 6-foot-1 UW-Green Bay signee averaged 12.5 points, 10.8 rebounds and 2.7 assists per game for coach Scott Herrick and the Lady Popes.

Sammy Opichka led Notre Dame (18-7) to a sectional appearance. The 5-foot-11 guard averaged 15.5 points per game for coach Sara Rohde and the Tritons as a junior. Opichka also contributed 3.9 assists and 2.7 steals per contest in FRCC play. The Division I prospect has over 900 career points.

Kamy Peppler has helped lead Hortonville (25-1) back to the state tournament. The UW-Milwaukee commit is averaging 8.4 points, 5.7 assists and 2.4 steals per game for coach Ratka and the Polar Bears.

Kylie Strop led River Falls (20-4) to a regional final appearance. The North Dakota State signee averaged 17.6 points, 8.9 rebounds, 4.1 assists and 2.5 steals per game for coach Ian Sticht and the Wildcats. She finished her career with 1,542 career points.

Kenedy Van Zile led Rhinelander (19-6) to a sectional appearance before falling to state qualifier Hortonville. The senior averaged 21.4 points, 3.9 rebounds, 3.3 assists and 4.3 steals per game for coach Ryan Clark and the Hodags. Van Zile compiled 1,667 career points.

WBCA Division 2 All-State

Jada Donaldson, sr., Beaver Dam
Erin Hedman, sr., New Berlin Eisenhower
Macy McGlone, sr., Hortonville
Jasmine Kondrakiewicz, sr., Pius XI Catholic
Sammy Opichka, jr., Notre Dame
Kammy Peppler, soph., Hortonville
Jaddan Simmons, sr., Green Bay Southwest
Kylie Strop, sr., River Falls
Kenedy Van Zile, sr., Rhinelander
Maty Wilke, jr., Beaver Dam

Honorable Mention

Anna Breuer, sr., Slinger
Lexi Day, jr., Hortonville
Olivia Gamoke, jr., Onalaska
Natalie Jens, jr., Beaver Dam
Julianna Ouimette, frosh., Lakeland
Lauren Schill, sr., Pewaukee
Jada Spence, sr., Pius XI Catholic
Maggie Trautsch, sr., DeForest
Alexa Thomson, sr., West De Pere
Liz Uhl, sr., Oregon
Chloe Van Zeeland, jr., Kaukauna
Mahra Wieman, soph., Reedsburg

WBCA ANNOUNCES DIVISION 3 GIRLS BASKETBALL ALL-STATE TEAM

The 2020 WBCA Division 3 all-state team features four repeat selections: Ella Diny of Wrightstown, Callie Genke of Freedom, Anna Lutz of Marshall and Sami Martin of Platteville.

Diny has been named first-team all-state for a second consecutive season. She has helped lead Wrightstown (24-2) to the state tournament. Diny, a senior and Cardinal Stritch signee, is averaging 23.2 points, 5.3 rebounds and 2.4 steals per game for coach Mike Froehlke and the Tigers. She has 1,437 career points entering Thursday's state semifinal against Lake Mills.

Genke is a repeat first-team all-state pick and helped lead Freedom (22-3) to a sectional appearance before falling to NEC foe Wrightstown. The junior and UW-Green Bay commit helped the Irish reach the state tournament last season. Genke (6-0) averaged 11.9 points, 3.4 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 1.6 steals per game for coach Mike Vander Loop and the Irish.

Lutz receives first-team all-state for a second consecutive season. She led Marshall (21-5) to a sectional final appearance before falling to undefeated Platteville. The 6-foot-1 junior and UW-Milwaukee commit helped lead the Cardinals to state titles as a freshman and sophomore. Lutz averaged 23 points, 9.8 rebounds, 2.7 assists, 2.1 steals and 2 blocks per contest for coach Doug Pickarts and the Cardinals.

Martin, a two-time first-team all-state pick, has led Platteville (25-0) to its first state tournament appearance since 1984. The 6-foot-2 senior and Bradley University signee is averaging 17.4 points, 10.7 rebounds, 1.7 assists and 1.7 steals per game for coach Mike Foley and the Hillmen. Martin has 1,554 career points entering Thursday's state semifinal against Arcadia.

Bridget Froehlke of Wrightstown has been selected as a first-team all-state pick after earning honorable mention recognition last season. The senior and University of Missouri-Kansas City signee is averaging 19.7 points, 7.2 assists and 2.3 steals per game for coach and father Mike Froehlke and the Tigers. Bridget has connected on a state-best 110 three-pointers this season. She enters the state tournament with 1,426 career points.

Lily Krahn led Prairie du Chien (18-7) to a sectional appearance before falling to SWC foe Platteville (25-0). The sophomore and Division I prospect averaged 20.5 points, 5.5 rebounds, 2.3 assists and 4 steals per contest for coach Paula Shedivy and the Blackhawks.

Sarah Lazar helped lead Edgewood (16-9) to a regional final appearance before falling to state qualifier Platteville. The 6-foot-3 junior averaged 11.7 points, 6.4 rebounds, 1.6 assists and 1.4 blocks per game for coach Lora Staveness and the Crusaders.

Isabella Lenz led Prescott (21-4) to a sectional appearance, falling to state qualifier Arcadia. The junior averaged 24.1 points per game with 61 three-pointers, to go along with 8.3 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 4.3 steals per game for coach Rob Radloff and the Cardinals. Lenz scored a career-best 51 points in a win over Somerset in February. Lenz will enter her senior year with 1,357 career points.

Peyton McGinnis helped lead Waupun (21-3) to a regional final appearance, falling to last year's state runner-up Laconia. The senior averaged 19.5 points, 5.6 rebounds, 4.6 assists and 2 steals per contest for coach Tim Aalsma and the Warriors. McGinnis finished her career with 1,042 points.

Mackenzie Tlachac led Kewaunee (22-2) to a regional final appearance. She averaged 19.1 points, 5.8 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 3 steals per game for coach Lynn Geier and the Storm as a senior. She finished her career with 1,165 points.

WBCA Division 3 All-State

Ella Diny, sr., Wrightstown
Bridget Froehlke, sr., Wrightstown
Callie Genke, jr., Freedom
Lily Krahn, soph., Prairie du Chien
Sarah Lazar, jr., Edgewood
Isabella Lenz, jr., Prescott
Anna Lutz, jr., Marshall
Sami Martin, sr., Platteville
Peyton McGinnis, sr., Waupun
Mackenzie Tlachac, sr., Kewaunee

Honorable Mention

Abbie Aalsma, soph., Waupun
Olivia Argall, jr., Dodgeville
Kate Benes, sr., Lake Country Lutheran
Baluck Deang, jr., Edgewood
Abi Fraaza, jr., Wittenberg-Birnamwood
Ellie Hoesley, sr., Arcadia
Gabby Johnson, sr., Freedom
Laura Nickel, jr., Marshall
Josie Nies, sr., Platteville
Maxine Paulowske, sr., Kewaskum
Haley Rens, jr., Laconia
Grace Schmidt, soph., Watertown Luther Prep

WBCA ANNOUNCES DIVISION 4 GIRLS BASKETBALL ALL-STATE TEAM

The 2020 Division 4 all-state team is highlighted by five repeat first-team all-state selections.

Repeat selections are Lexi Donarski and Courtney Becker of Aquinas, Mesa Byom of Melrose-Mindoro, Caroline Strande of Racine Lutheran and Kylie Schmidt of Mishicot.

Donarski is a four-time first-team all-state selection. The senior and Iowa State signee has led the Blugolds to back-to-back D4 state titles and will try to win their third consecutive state title this week at the Resch Center in Green Bay. Donarski is averaging 24.3 points, 4.4 rebounds, 6.9 assists and 5.4 steals per game for coach and father Dave Donarski and the Blugolds. Lexi has connected on 63 three-pointers this season and has compiled 2,083 points in her career heading into the state tournament. Aquinas (26-1) plays Crandon in a state semifinal on Thursday.

Becker is a two-time first-team all-state choice and has helped Aquinas capture the past two Division 4 state titles. The 6-foot senior and Drake signee suffered a season-ending PCL injury at the end of the regular season. Becker averaged 13.8 points, 8.9 rebounds, 1.8 assists and 2.9 steals per game for the Blugolds.

Byom has been selected first-team all-state the past two seasons, and earned honorable mention all-state as a sophomore. She has helped Melrose-Mindoro (25-1) to three consecutive state tournament appearance, including state runner-up finishes the past two seasons, heading into this year's state tournament. Byom, 6-foot-3 senior and South Dakota State signee, is averaging 17.1 points, 9.5 rebounds, 1.8 assists, 1.9 steals and 3.1 blocks per game for coach Joey Arneson and the Mustangs. Melrose-Mindoro plays Mishicot in a state semifinal on Thursday.

Strande is a two-time first-team all-state selection. The Minnesota signee led Racine Lutheran (24-1) to a sectional appearance. She averaged 35.3 points, 10.2 rebounds, 5.5 assists, 5.5 steals and 1.6 blocks per game for coach Steve Shaffer and the Crusaders. Strande scored 40 or more points in seven games this season, including scoring a career-best 45 points in a win over Wilmot. She finished her career with 2,539 points, which puts her fifth on the state's all-time scoring list in girls' basketball.

Schmidt has received first-team all-state for a second consecutive season. She has helped lead Mishicot (23-3) to its first state tournament appearance in program history. The 6-foot junior and Purdue Northwest commit is averaging 18.6 points, 10.4 rebounds, 3.3 assists, and 2.6 steals per contest for coach Mike Garceau and the Indians. Mishicot faces Melrose-Mindoro in a state semifinal on Thursday.

Chloe Gruszynski, an honorable mention all-state pick last season, led Crivitz (19-5) to a regional final appearance. The senior and St. Norbert College commit averaged 20.5 points, 6.3 rebounds, 4.2 assists and 5.6 steals per game for coach Brett Meyers and the Wolverines. Gruszynski finished her career with 1,734 points.

Emily Herzberg, an honorable mention all-state pick the last two seasons, has helped lead Melrose-Mindoro to its third consecutive state tournament appearance. The Mustangs have finished as the state runner-up to Aquinas the past two seasons. Herzberg averages 16.1 points, 6.6 rebounds, 4.3 assist and 3.9 steals per contest for the Mustangs. The 6-foot senior is committed to South Dakota State University.

Nicole Johnson led Mineral Point (21-4) to a sectional appearance before falling to Aquinas. The 6-foot-3 senior averaged 13.5 points, 10 rebounds, 2.2 assists, 2.6 steals and 2.7 blocks per game for coach Michael Keyes and the Pointers.

Taylor Theusch has helped Aquinas reach the state tournament for the fourth consecutive season. She has played a key role in the Blugolds' back-to-back D4 state titles and they will look to make it three straight this week. Theusch, a senior and Minnesota State signee, is averaging 14.3 points per game with 74 three-pointers for the Blugolds. She also contributes 1.8 assists and 2.2 steals per contest.

Hailey Voelker of Colby (13-10) has received first-team all-state after taking home honorable mention all-state as a junior. She helped lead Colby to its first state tournament appearance in program history last season. Voelker, a senior and Lake Superior State signee, averaged 17.1 points, 8.5 rebounds, 2.9 assists and 3.6 steals per contest for coach Randy Rau and the Hornets.

WBCA Division 4 All-State

Courtney Becker, sr., Aquinas
Mesa Byom, sr., Melrose-Mindoro
Lexi Donarski, sr., Aquinas
Chloe Gruszynski, sr., Crivitz
Emily Herzberg, sr., Melrose-Mindoro
Nicole Johnson, sr., Mineral Point
Kylie Schmidt, jr., Mishicot
Caroline Strande, sr., Racine Lutheran
Taylor Theusch, sr., Aquinas
Hailey Voelker, sr., Colby

Honorable Mention

Breanna Ackley, jr., Stratford
Jada Eggebrecht, soph., Phillips
Morgann Gardner, jr., Racine Lutheran
Mackenzie Holzward, jr., Howards Grove
Desiree Kleiman, jr., Mishicot
Calette Lockington, sr., Melrose-Mindoro
Payton Marvin, sr., Horicon
Kameri Meredith, sr., Colfax
Sarah Mueller, sr., Pacelli
Tabitha Renkas, sr., Crandon
Reagan Sorenson, jr., Unity
Kara Troxel, jr., Bonduel

WBCA ANNOUNCES DIVISION 5 GIRLS BASKETBALL ALL-STATE TEAM

Six repeat selections highlight the 2020 WBCA Division 5 all-state team.

The trio of Black Hawk players in Natalie Leuzinger, Bailey Butler and Hannah Butler, along with Eleva-Strum's Brianna Nelson, Newman Catholic's Julia Seidel and River Ridge's Skylar White are all repeat first-team picks.

Leuzinger is a four-time first-team all-state selection. The senior and Wisconsin walk-on has helped lead Black Hawk to three state tournament appearances, including the D5 state title last season. Leuzinger is averaging 16.5 points, 5.1 rebounds, 3 assists and 3.3 steals per game for coach Mike Flanagan and the Warriors. Black Hawk is 26-0 and riding a 54-game winning streak heading into Friday's state semifinal against Newman Catholic.

Bailey Butler has been named first-team all-state in each of her first three years. The junior and UW-Green Bay commit has helped the Warriors reach the state tournament all three years, including taking home the Gold Ball last season. Butler is averaging 15.3 points, 6.5 assists and 6.9 steals per game, to go along with 58 three-pointers for the undefeated Warriors.

Hannah Butler is a two-time first-team all-state selection. She has played a key role in Black Hawk reaching the state tournament for a third consecutive season and they will look to repeat as D5 state champions. The senior is averaging a team-high 18.7 points and 6.8 rebounds per game, along with adding 2 assists and 4.5 steals per game for coach Flanagan and the Warriors.

Nelson led Eleva-Strum to a sectional appearance for the second consecutive season. The senior and Viterbo University signee averaged 16.4 points, 7.2 rebounds, 5.8 assists and 3.9 steals per game for coach and father Darrin Nelson and the Cardinals. Eleva-Strum ended the year with a 18-7 record, falling to state qualifier Bangor in a sectional semifinal.

Seidel is a repeat first-team all-state choice. She has led Newman Catholic to its third consecutive state tournament appearance. The senior and UW-La Crosse commit is averaging 15.4 points, 5.1 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 2.7 steals per game for coach Paul Haag and the Cardinals. Newman Catholic (22-4) plays defending state champion Black Hawk (26-0) in a state semifinal on Friday.

White is a two-time first-team all-state pick. The senior led River Ridge (23-3) to a sectional final appearance before losing to Bangor. The senior averaged 19.5 points, 5.4 rebounds, 1.8 assists and 4.8 steals per game for WBCA Hall of Fame coach Caron Townsend and the Timberwolves.

Remi Geiger, an honorable mention all-state choice last season, led Loyal (21-5) to a sectional appearance before falling to state qualifier Clear Lake. The senior averaged 18.2 points, 5.2 rebounds, 3.2 assists and 2.1 steals per contest for coach Mike Rueth and the Greyhounds. Geiger helped Loyal capture the D5 state title as a freshman.

Karsen Kershner has led Bangor (25-1) to the state tournament. The senior is averaging 13.2 points and 9.2 rebounds per game for coach Merlin Jones and the Cardinals. Bangor plays unbeaten Clear Lake in a state semifinal on Friday.

Sam Leisemann, an honorable mention all-state choice last season, led Fall River (24-2) to a sectional appearance before losing to unbeaten Black Hawk, the defending D5 state champion. Leisemann helped lead the Pirates to the state tournament as a junior. She averaged 14.2 points, 12.3 rebounds, 2.9 assists, 2.6 steals and 3.1 blocks per game for coach Jim Doolittle and the Pirates.

Madison Zimmer has helped lead undefeated Clear Lake (26-0) to its first state tournament appearance since 1997. The senior is averaging 14.1 points, 3 assists and 3.2 steals per game for coach Ryan Blanchard and the Warriors.

WBCA Division 5 All-State

Bailey Butler, jr., Black Hawk
Hannah Butler, sr., Black Hawk
Remi Geiger, sr., Loyal
Karsen Kershner, sr., Bangor
Sam Leisemann, sr., Fall River
Natalie Leuzinger, sr., Black Hawk
Brianna Nelson, sr., Eleva-Strum
Julia Seidel, sr., Newman Catholic
Skylar White, sr., River Ridge
Madison Zimmer, sr., Clear Lake

Honorable Mention

M'Kenzey Ackley, jr., Oneida Nation
Addison Baierl, sr., Columbus Catholic
Madalyn Bohn, sr., Assumption
Anna Caswell, sr., Wild Rose
Ziy Conner, jr., Independence
Jadelyn Ganski, sr., Newman Catholic
Makenna Guden, jr., Edgar
Adelynn Hyatt, jr., Cashton
Olivia Liddicoat, sr., Iowa-Grant
Brianna Preive, sr., Randolph
Julianna Rosen, sr., Clear Lake
Chole Sipsas, jr., South Shore

LA CROSSE CENTRAL'S JOHNNY DAVIS CHOSEN AS 2020 MR. BASKETBALL BY WBCA

Johnny Davis, the extremely athletic and ultra-aggressive 6-foot-5 wing prospect headed to the University of Wisconsin in the fall on a basketball scholarship, wound up distancing himself from others thanks to his consistently stellar play for coach Todd Fergot and the Red Raiders.

Davis was chosen in an almost unanimous vote as this year's Mr. Basketball by the WBCA, sponsored by the JustAGame Fieldhouse in Wisconsin Dells.

Davis averaged 27.2 points for La Crosse Central, which finished the season with a 20-5 record. He netted 16 points in a 55-40 win over Onalaska last Thursday in a WIAA Division 2 sectional semifinal contest and was hoping to lead the Red Raiders to their fourth straight state-tournament appearance before the COVID-19 virus forced cancellation of the event.

"I just think Johnny became a more complete player overall this season," Fergot said. "He can consistently get to the rim and his production has been outstanding. He rose to the challenge of playing a great schedule as seven teams we played this season were ranked No. 1 at one time or another in their respective states."

Davis performed especially well at the Montverde Academy Tournament in Florida in January.

In a 73-72 win over South Miami in the opening game of the event, Davis finished with 32 points against a team that was ranked No. 1 in its respective division in Florida.

The next day, he poured in 37 points in a 66-61 loss to a Long Island Lutheran team that featured no less than seven players who figure to go to play at the NCAA Division I level.

Davis was one of five players named to the All-Tournament team at the event and three of the other selections on that squad wound up earning spots in the prestigious McDonald's All-American game.

"When we played Long Island Lutheran, I thought Johnny was the best player on the floor and that is saying something because that team was loaded with talent," Fergot said. "His perimeter shooting improved this season as he shot 44 percent from three-point range. His assist-to-turnover ratio improved. His leadership improved. He basically did everything we asked of him and more."

Davis completed his four-year high school career with 2,141 points and averaged 8.7 ppg off the bench as a freshman when the Red Raiders won the Division 2 state title behind Kobe King, also a Mr. Basketball award winner.

As a sophomore, Davis increased his output to 22.5 ppg before averaging 22.9 ppg as a junior. As a senior, he scored a career-high 44 points in a win over La Crosse Logan, and had 42 in a 73-64 loss to a Minnehaha Academy team out of Minnesota that boasts players in the top 10 nationally in both the 2020 and 2021 classes.

"There were many games this season where Johnny played about half of the contest because we were up so much and didn't want to run up the score," Fergot said. "He also understood that, at times, his scoring needed to go down so he could get others involved and we could become a better team. He excelled in that area as the season progressed."

Davis and his twin brother, Jordan, also a 6-foot-5 guard, earned scholarships to play for coach Greg Gard at Wisconsin and committed together last June.

Their father, Mark Davis, is a former standout player at Old Dominion who also played locally with the Continental Basketball Association's La Crosse Catbirds and briefly with the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks.

WBCA ANNOUNCES 2020 DIVISION 1 BOYS BASKETBALL ALL-STATE TEAM

Patrick Baldwin, Jr. of Sussex Hamilton, Dalton Banks of Eau Claire North, Carter Gilmore of Arrowhead, and Max Klesmit of Neenah are repeat selections on the 2020 Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association All-State Team.

Baldwin, Jr. was an Honorable Mention All-State choice as a freshman when he led the Chargers to the state tournament. A First Team choice last year, he is a consensus top-five player in the country in his class. The 6'9" junior averages 24.6 points, 11.3 rebounds, and 4.1 assists per game this year while shooting 86% from the free throw line and 44% from behind the arc.

Banks is a repeat First Team All-State choice by the WBCA as one of the most productive players in the state once again. A two-time Player of the Year in the Big Rivers Conference, he averages 24.7 points, 10.6 rebounds, and 5.2 assists per outing.

Gilmore helped Arrowhead to a dominating Classic Eight Conference title, as the Warhawks went unbeaten in league play and claimed the league crown by four full games. A repeat WBCA All-State choice, the Wisconsin walk-on commit averages 25.8 points, 10.8 rebounds, and 5.5 assists per game as a do-it-all forward.

Klesmit is a scoring machine for Neenah, averaging 26.1 points per game on 52.6% shooting from the floor and 81.7% at the free throw line. But he's much more than just that, as the 6'3" senior guard also leads the Rockets in rebounding (8.3 per game), assists (4.7), steals (2.0), and blocks (0.6).

Jake Buchanan helped Kimberly to an outright Fox Valley Association title this season, leading the Papermakers with 18.9 points per game while shooting 82% from the free throw line and 40% from the three-point line. He added 4.0 rebounds and 4.5 assists per game.

Brookfield East's Hayden Doyle was a key part of last fall's football state championship and has been outstanding on the hardwood as well. The Spartans finished third in the ultra-competitive Greater Metro Conference, as Doyle averages 20.5 points per game.

David Joplin has continued to improve over the course of his career at Brookfield Central and is in the midst of a dominating run late in the year for the defending state champions. He's scored at least 30 points six times in the last month and is averaging 23.2 points per game on the season. The junior adds 10.2 rebounds and 3.3 assists as well for the Greater Metro Conference champs.

Quinton Murrell of Milwaukee King was recently announced as the City Conference Player of the Year, as the breakout 6'3" junior guard leads the unbeaten Generals at 18.4 points per game. He was a First Team All-Conference choice last season and has added more hardware this year.

Ben Nau was a key part of Brookfield Central's run to a state title last season but has taken on much more of the burden as a junior, with the Lancers ranked in the top five in the state all season. The 6'2" guard is averaging 12.9 points, 4.4 rebounds, and 5.7 assists per game as the team's main facilitator.

Isaiah Stewart of Madison La Follette was a solid performer for the Lancers the last two years, but is a significant breakout star as a senior, picking up not only First Team All-Conference recognition but also Big Eight Player of the Year honors. Stewart led the team with 15.8 points per game as the team spent the latter part of the year ranked number one in the WisSports.net Division 1 Coaches Poll.

Division 1 WBCA All-State

Patrick Baldwin, Jr., Jr., Sussex Hamilton
Dalton Banks, Sr., Eau Claire North
Jake Buchanan, Sr., Kimberly
Hayden Doyle, Jr., Brookfield East
Carter Gilmore, Sr., Arrowhead
David Joplin, Jr., Brookfield Central
Max Klesmit, Sr., Neenah
Quinton Murrell, Jr., Milwaukee King
Ben Nau, Jr., Brookfield Central
Isaiah Stewart, Sr., Madison La Follette

Honorable Mention

Caden Boser, Sr., Eau Claire Memorial
Shilo Bowles, Sr., West Allis Central
Mason Dopirak, Jr., Manitowoc Lincoln
Grant Flory, Jr., Wisconsin Rapids
Aiden Flynn, Sr., Marquette
Logan Geissler, Sr., Bay Port
Josh Govek, Sr., Sheboygan South
Peyton Rogers-Schmidt, Sr., Chippewa Falls
Colin Schaefer, Sr., Sun Prairie
Carson Smith, Sr., Sussex Hamilton
Karter Thomas, Sr., Oshkosh West
JaKobe Thompson, Jr., Racine Case
Jyon Young, Sr., Kenosha Tremper

WBCA ANNOUNCES 2020 DIVISION 2 BOYS BASKETBALL ALL-STATE TEAM

Johnny Davis of La Crosse Central is the lone repeat selection on the 2020 Division 2 Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association All-State Team.

A three-time WBCA All-State choice, Davis was a contributor as a freshman when the Red Raiders won a state title, and led Central back to the state tournament as a sophomore and junior. After averaging 22 points per game the previous two seasons, he's up to 28.4 points per contest as a senior.

Carson Arenz is part of an outstanding all-around Onalaska team that has spent much of the season ranked number one in the WisSports.net Division 2 Coaches Poll. Averaging 13.9 points per game, he's a deadly long-range shooter, connecting on 46.4% of his three point attempts. He adds 4.1 rebounds and 2.0 assists per game as well for the Hilltoppers.

Cedarburg's Drew Biber has been a varsity performer since his freshman season, and after earning Second Team All-Conference last year as a sophomore, he's been even better as a junior. The 6'5" guard is over 20 points per game this season with 9.0 rebounds and 3.1 assists per contest as well for the Bulldogs.

Cole Booth of Plymouth has guided the Panthers to an outright East Central Conference title while scoring in double figures 21 times in 22 regular season contests. Averaging 24 points per outing, he's one of the state's top shooter, making 56% of his shots from the field, 93% from the foul line, and 48% from behind the three-point line. Booth also averages 4.5 rebounds, 5.8 assists, and 3.0 steals per game.

Mason Dorn of Seymour is one of the most improved players in the state, nearly doubling his scoring average from last year with 24.5 per game in this, his junior season. He's shooting better than 41% from three-point this year, with 116 made three's in his career so far. In helping the Thunder to an outright Bay Conference title, Dorn added 4.7 rebounds per game.

Alex Huibregtse of Grafton is a big-time scorer who has seen his points per game average increase from 15.6 as a sophomore to 21.0 as a junior and 24.4 this season as a senior. Shooting 63% from the field, 86% from the free throw line, and 45% from the three-point arc, the 6'4" senior Wright State recruit added 7.2 rebounds and 4.5 assists per game in a very tough North Shore Conference.

River Falls finished second in the Big Rivers Conference and 17-5 overall in the regular season, as Zac Johnson improved upon a strong sophomore campaign with an even bigger junior year, averaging 21.6 points per game. Already over 1100 points in his career, the 6'3" guard is contributing 4.5 rebounds and 2.0 steals per contest as well.

Jordan Johnson of Elkhorn wasn't even an Honorable Mention All-Conference choice last year when he averaged less than six points per game, but he has exploded as a junior, averaging 24.4 points per game while shooting 51% from the floor, 84% from the charity stripe, and 48% from deep. He's adding 5.3 rebounds and 2.8 assists per game.

Nicolet's Kobe Johnson was a starter on last year's Division 2 state championship team, but was usually the third option behind older brother Jalen Johnson and Jamari Sibley. When both headed out of state (though Jalen has since returned), Kobe's role on the team increased significantly. He's averaging better than 20 points per game as the Knights have surged to a North Shore Conference title and are a strong contender to repeat as state champion.

Cameron Palesse of Waukesha West has been the dominant scorer on the team all season, averaging 24.2 points per game, with a season-high 41 points in a tough loss to Oconomowoc in late January. The 6'5" junior guard will likely repeat as a First Team All-Conference pick in the Classic Eight.

Tyrell Stuttley is the leading scorer and rebounder for the top-ranked Division 2 team in the state, averaging 14.2 points and 6.4 rebounds per contest. The 6'5" senior forward is also an outstanding defender with very good length who can be disruptive all over the court.

Milwaukee Lutheran finished three games ahead of anyone else in the Woodland-East, claiming a league title. Jourdan Weddle, a 6'2" senior guard, was a big-time catalyst, averaging more than 20 points per game for the Red Knights and head coach Marcus Jackson.

WBCA Division 2 All-State

Carson Arenz, Sr., Onalaska
Drew Biber, Jr., Cedarburg
Cole Booth, Sr., Plymouth
Johnny Davis, Sr., La Crosse Central
Mason Dorn, Jr., Seymour
Alex Huibregtse, Sr., Grafton
Zac Johnson, Jr., River Falls
Jordan Johnson, Jr., Elkhorn
Kobe Johnson, Jr., Nicolet
Cameron Palesse, Jr., Waukesha West
Tyrell Stuttley, Sr., Onalaska
Jourdan Weddle, Sr., Milwaukee Lutheran

Honorable Mention

Nate Abel, Jr., Beaver Dam
Jack Campion, So., Milton

Michael Casper, Sr., Merrill
Jordan Davis, Sr., La Crosse Central
Tyrese England, Sr., Wisconsin Lutheran
Will Fuhrmann, Sr., Reedsburg
James Graham, Jr., Nicolet
Adam Hobson, Sr., Stoughton
Jayden Jackson, Jr., Whitefish Bay
Logan Jedwabny, Sr., Kaukauna
Danilo Jovanovich, So., Whitnall
Joey Kidder, Sr., New Richmond
Gabe Krueger, Sr., Wausau East
Garret Locy, Sr., New London
Sam Ludwig, Jr., New Berlin Eisenhower
Cade Meyer, Jr., Monroe
Terrance Thompson, Sr., La Crosse Central
Javeon Tolliver, Sr., Milwaukee Lutheran

WBCA ANNOUNCES 2020 DIVISION 3 BOYS BASKETBALL ALL-STATE TEAM

Alex Antetokounmpo of Dominican, Tyrese Hunter of Racine St. Catherine's, Parker Nielsen of Prescott, and Brandin Podziemski of St. John's Northwest Military Academy are repeat selections on the 2020 Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Division 3 Boys Basketball All-State Team. In addition, AJ Vukovich of East Troy earns his third All-State honor, picking up the distinction in Division 2 last year and Division 3 as a sophomore.

Antetokounmpo made significant strides the past two seasons, each culminating in WBCA All-State recognition. As a senior, he averaged 20.0 points, 7.3 rebounds, 2.4 assists, and 1.6 blocks per game as the Knights were the runners-up in the very tough Metro Classic Conference.

Tyrese Hunter has been the top player on the state's top Division 3 team all season, as Racine St. Catherine's is unbeaten heading to sectional play. The 6'1" junior guard is attracting more and more college attention after a junior campaign that saw him average 21.4 points, 6.5 rebounds, 3.5 assists, and 2.9 steals per contest.

Nielsen has been one of the state's top scorers the past couple seasons, averaging better than 25 points per game as a junior and 28.6 points per contest as a senior, when he's scored at least 19 points in every game. An excellent distributor, he adds 5.3 assists to go with 4.9 rebounds, and 2.0 steals per game for the Cardinals.

Podziemski is another big-time scorer, as the junior lefty upped his scoring average from 22.5 as a sophomore last season to 27.7 per contest so far this year. The 6'5" guard is a prolific scorer from every level, making 253 field goals overall, 88 foul shots, and 71 three-pointers. He adds 9.4 rebounds, 3.6 assists, and 3.7 steals per game as well.

Vukovich is likely to pick up his third Rock Valley Conference Player of the Year award and fourth time as a First Team All-Conference pick after helping the Trojans to an outright league title. Committed to Louisville for baseball, he averaged 27.9 points, 13.1 rebounds, and 2.4 assists per game as a senior, as he went over 2,000 career points.

John Bunks of Xavier barely saw varsity action as a sophomore, but paid his dues and continued to work his way into an All-State senior campaign. The Hawks are still alive heading into sectionals after upsetting Freedom behind 20 points, 14 rebounds, and 3 steals from Bunks, who averages 19.9 points, 10.7 rebounds, and 2.4 assists per contest in his senior campaign.

Gerald Gittens, Jr. of St. John's Northwest Military Academy is a well-rounded player who impacts the game in all areas, especially as a facilitator and defender. The senior guard is third on the team in scoring (14.8 points per game) and rebounding (5.9) but leads the way with 7.7 assists per contest to go with 2.6 steals.

Luke Haertle of Lake Country Lutheran is the lone sophomore on the Division 3 All-State list, as the 6'1" guard is following up a state championship football season (he was the Lightning quarterback) with a strong hoops season. He leads the high-scoring Lake Country Lutheran team with 20.1 points, 10.5 rebounds, and 4.6 assists per game.

Sam Haese has helped Wrightstown to a 23-1 record heading into sectional play, as the Tigers were champions of the very tough North Eastern Conference. Haese leads the way with 15 points per game, shooting 40% from three-point. The junior guard chips in 4.6 rebounds and 2.5 assists per game as well.

Cade Hall is a big-time scorer who finished his career with 1,399 points in three varsity seasons, averaging 24.5 per game as a senior, making 52.6% of his shots from the field. Hall would average 7.3 rebounds and 2.8 assists per contest as well, and should earn his third First Team All-Conference selection in the South Central.

Kamari McGee of Racine St. Catherine's is part of a squad that has been ranked number one on all season in the WisSports.net Division 3 Coaches Poll. The 6'0" junior is a three-year varsity performer, upping his per game averages to 11.6 points, 5.7 rebounds, 3.9 assists, and 2.3 steals in the 2019-20 season, as his three-point percentage rose to 43.1%.

WBCA Division 3 All-State

Alex Antetokounmpo, Sr., Dominican
John Bunks, Sr., Xavier
Gerald Gittens Jr., Sr., St. John's Northwest Military
Luke Haertle, So., Lake Country Lutheran
Sam Haese, Jr., Wrightstown
Cade Hall, Sr., Mauston
Tyrese Hunter, Jr., Racine Saint Catherine's
Kamari McGee, Jr., Racine Saint Catherine's
Parker Nielsen, Sr., Prescott
Brandin Podziemski, Jr., St. John's Northwest Military
AJ Vukovich, Sr., East Troy

Honorable Mention

Grant Beirne, Sr., Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau
Charlie Bender, Jr., Lake Mills

Ryan Carmichael, Sr., Kewaunee
Reed Gunnink, Sr., Laconia
Keshawn Harris, Jr., Altoona
Brett Hirst, Sr., Wisconsin Dells
Joey Immekus, Sr., Martin Luther
Cameron Jaeger, Sr., Oostburg
Ben Jelacic, Sr., Dominican
Clayton Jenny, Jr., Edgerton
Mason Johnson, Sr., Golda Meir
Armani Jones, So., Brown Deer
Mason Kramer, Sr., Prairie du Chien
Zack Mashlan, Sr., Freedom
Jamison Nickolai, Jr., Sheboygan Falls
Aiden Polzin, Sr., Clintonville
Jacob Stoltz, Sr., Kettle Moraine Lutheran

WBCA ANNOUNCES 2020 DIVISION 4 BOYS BASKETBALL ALL-STATE TEAM

Kaleim Taylor of Milwaukee Academy of Science is the only repeat selection on the 2020 Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Division 4 Boys Basketball All-State Team. Brayden Dailey of Cuba City does return to the list after earning All-State recognition as a freshman in 2018 at Mineral Point.

Taylor helped Academy of Science to the top five of the WisSports.net Coaches Poll most of the season and repeats on the WBCA All-State list. The 6'3" senior guard averages 17.6 points, 6.8 rebounds, 6.2 assists, and 2.6 steals per game for the Novas.

Dailey has helped the Cubans to an unbeaten record heading into sectional play, leading the way for head coach Jerry Petitgoue with 23.2 points and 9.6 rebounds per game. The promising 6'6" junior chips in 1.6 assists, 2.0 steals, and 1.3 blocks per game. He was also a WBCA All-State pick as a freshman at Mineral Point.

Ben Barten of Stratford is a multi-sport standout who leads the Tigers in scoring (15 points per game) and rebounding (9.5 per game) as the team is unbeaten through the regular season. Also a two-way Wisconsin Football Coaches Association All-State pick and the WFCAs Small School Defensive Player of the Year, Barten was a co-Player of the Year on the hardwood in the Marawood-South.

Ryan Claflin of Southern Door has more than 1100 career points, averaging 22.3 per game as a senior when he shot 59.3% from the field, 80.6% from the free throw line, and 39.7% from behind the three-point line. The 6'6" senior UW-Green Bay recruit also led the team in rebounding.

Darius Hannah of Milwaukee Academy of Science is the big man in the middle for the Novas, dominating the interior to the tune of 11.1 rebounds and 3.9 blocks per contest. He also averages 17.2 points per game while shooting 65% from the field.

Brookfield Academy's Aidan Clarey is a dynamic scorer who averaged at least 19 points per game all four years of high school and went over 2000 career points in his final game. Shooting 50% from the field, 88% from the free throw line, and 47% from behind the three-point arc, he averaged 24.3 points, 4.6 rebounds, and 3.0 assists per game as a senior.

Carter Lancaster of Darlington was the premier performer for the Redbirds all season. Leading the team in scoring (21.1), rebounding (7.4), and assists (3.4), Lancaster is a three-time First Team All-Conference choice in the SWAL and has helped the team to a 22-2 record prior to the sectional semi-finals.

Cuba City's Brady Olson is the floor general for head coach Jerry Petitgoue, averaging 16.9 points per game while shooting nearly 79% from the free throw line. Olson is a versatile leader for the Cubans, grabbing 7.3 rebounds per game to go with a team-high 5.3 assists and 2.6 steals per outing.

Preston Ruedinger has helped Lourdes Academy to three straight unbeaten Trailways-East Conference titles, increasing his scoring average each season from 15.1 to 19.9 and finally 27.5 this year. One of the state's top three-point shooters, he's connected on 97-of-196 shots from beyond the arc for a 49.5% clip. He adds 6.5 rebounds, 4.3 assists, and 2.9 steals per game.

Justin Sivertson of Iola-Scandinavia is a two-time First Team All-Conference choice and this year was named the CWC-East Player of the Year. The T-Birds are 23-1 heading into Sectionals, as Sivertson averages 21.4 points, 4.0 rebounds, 5.4 assists, and 3.3 steals per contest.

Trey Zastrow helped Manitowoc Lutheran to a share of the Big East-North league title in 2020, averaging more than 20 points per game for the third straight season. Finishing his career with 1,953 points, he poured in 23.3 per game as a senior to go with 2.8 rebounds and 2.3 assists.

Cooper Weinfurter of Auburndale took home First Team All-Conference accolades in the Marawood-South for a third straight year, and this season was named the co-Player of the Year in the league. He leads the team in scoring at 19.9 points per game and rebounding at 5.0 per contest. He adds 4.3 assists and 2.5 steals per game as well.

WBCA Division 4 All-State

Ben Barten, Sr., Stratford
Ryan Claflin, Sr., Southern Door
Aidan Clarey, Sr., Brookfield Academy
Brayden Dailey, Jr., Cuba City
Darius Hannah, Sr., Milwaukee Academy of Science
Carter Lancaster, Jr., Darlington
Brady Olson, Sr., Cuba City
Preston Ruedinger, Jr., Lourdes Academy
Justin Sivertson, Sr., Iola-Scandinavia
Kaleim Taylor, Sr., Milwaukee Academy of Science
Cooper Weinfurter, Sr., Auburndale
Trey Zastrow, Sr., Manitowoc Lutheran

Jaxon Flaherty, Sr., Unity
Carter Gebler, Sr., Kohler
Anthony Jones, Sr., Destiny
Kellen Kenney, Sr., Fennimore
Alex King, Sr., Neillsville
Connor Kurki, Sr., Iola-Scandinavia
Adam Larson, Jr., Fennimore
Derek Lindert, So., Pardeeville
Jack Martens, Jr., Cumberland
Donald McHenry, Jr., Milwaukee Academy of Science
Jaron Murphy, Sr., Necedah
Carson Nell, Sr., Winnebago Lutheran
Jackson Noll, Sr., Cuba City
Bryce Pautz, Sr., Roncalli
Owen Schultz, Sr., Mondovi
Donovan Schwartz, Sr., Winnebago Lutheran

Honorable Mention

Derek Bedor, Sr., Shiocton
Aiden Calderon, Jr., Palmyra-Eagle
Cole Crubel, Sr., River Ridge

WBCA ANNOUNCES 2020 DIVISION 5 BOYS BASKETBALL ALL-STATE TEAM

Carter Lomas of Wauzeka-Steuben, Grant Manke of Bangor, and Jacob Ognacevic of Sheboygan Lutheran lead the way as repeat selections on the 2020 Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Division 5 Boys Basketball All-State Team.

Lomas is a four-year, First Team All-Conference pick in the Ridge & Valley and likely to take home a second league Player of the Year award. He is averaging 23.1 points, 7.5 rebounds, and 2.7 assists per game for the conference champions.

Manke has been the Scenic Bluffs Player of the Year the past two seasons as the Cardinals are looking for a third straight trip to state in Division 5. A dominating physical presence who was also an All-State football player, the rugged 6'4" senior post player averages 22.6 points and 13.0 rebounds per game for Bangor.

Sheboygan Lutheran is a favorite to repeat as Division 5 state champion, as Ognacevic is putting up historic numbers. He is just eight points away from becoming just the third boys player in state history to score more than 1000 points in a single season and will likely move into the top five all-time in career scoring. As a senior he has 14 games of at least 40 points so far, averaging 39.7 to go with 16.1 rebounds per contest.

Adam Diedrich helped Hilbert to a share of the Big East-North Conference title this season, averaging 27 points per game while shooting 54.6% from the field, 78.1% from the free throw line, and 43.2% from behind the three-point arc. The 6'3" senior also contributed 5.3 rebounds, 2.3 assists, and 2.4 steals per game for the Wolves.

Peter Gustafson has helped Monticello to a historic season, as the Ponies went unbeaten in the Six Rivers-East and are 23-1 overall entering sectional semi-finals. Gustafson, a junior, is the team's top scorer, averaging 20.7 points per game while adding 6.1 rebounds per contest as well.

Pittsville scored an upset win over Almond-Bancroft in the Regional finals, and has been the case all year, Matthew Kissner was a big reason why, leading the team with 22 points and 11 rebounds. The 6'4" senior forward has season averages of 24.8 points and 10.3 rebounds per contest with more than 1300 points in his career.

Dylan Kuehl kept the Kuehl name going strong at Hustisford after his brother, Justin, was a two-time WBCA All-State choice, graduating last year. Dylan more than doubled his scoring average this year, from 11.8 as a sophomore to 23.5 per game as a junior in 2019-20. The 6'4" guard would add 6.7 rebounds, 4.0 assists, and 2.7 steals per game for the Falcons.

High-scoring senior guard Matthew Marcinske helped Birchwood to an outright Lakeland-East title as a senior to cap off a prolific prep career. A four-time First Team All-Conference pick and three-time league Player of the Year, he averaged 25.8 points per game as a senior to close his high school career with 2,129 points. He added 6.9 rebounds, 4.7 assists, and 3.3 steals per game as a senior as well.

Casey Verhagen of Sheboygan Lutheran is a true floor general, helping the Crusaders to a Division 5 title as just a freshman last season. He's been even better this year, scoring 20.0 points per game with 4.3 rebounds, 9.1 assists, and 2.2 steals per outing. He's shooting 45.5% from deep for the top-ranked Crusaders.

Wild Rose had some struggles early in the season, but rebounded to win an outright CWC-South league title, as senior guard Caleb Williams averaged a team-high 17.8 points, 7.3 rebounds, 4.0 assists, and 3.2 steals per game this season. A four-year varsity player, he finished his career with more than 1500 points.

WBCA Division 5 All-State

Adam Diedrich, Sr., Hilbert
Peter Gustafson, Jr., Monticello
Matthew Kissner, Sr., Pittsville
Dylan Kuehl, Jr., Hustisford
Carter Lomas, Sr., Wauzeka-Steuben
Grant Manke, Sr., Bangor
Matthew Marcinske, Sr., Birchwood
Jacob Ognacevic, Sr., Sheboygan Lutheran
Casey Verhagen, So., Sheboygan Lutheran
Caleb Williams, Sr., Wild Rose

Honorable Mention

Kole Bogdonovich, Sr., Loyal
Ethan Breheim, Sr., Alma Center Lincoln

Peyton Enders, Sr., Prentice
Levi Ewan, Sr., Rib Lake
Cameron Ford, Sr., Athens
Eion Kressin, Sr., McDonell Central
Zane Langrehr, Jr., Bangor
Peyton Moldenhauer, Sr., Randolph
Gavin Ralph, Jr., Wauzeka-Steuben
Reece Rufer, Sr., Monticello
Dylan Schmitt, Sr., Hustisford
Colten Sevede, Sr., Kickapoo
Isaac Soumis, Sr., Thorp
Matt Waldera, Jr., Blair-Taylor
Luke Zakovec, Sr., Mellen
Ryan Zimmerman, Jr., Eau Claire Immanuel Lutheran

PREP SPORTS REMAIN IN A HOLDING PATTERN

By Dennis Semrau
ESPN Wisconsin

High school sports came to a screeching halt in the midst of the girls' state basketball tournament on March 12, and life hasn't been the same since.

School administrators across the state remain on hold as the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds.

The holding pattern began when the WIAA suspended all athletic participation following the executive order issued by Governor Tony Evers on March 13, which closed all public and private schools by March 18.

Then on March 17, Gov. Evers extended the school closures "for the duration of the public health emergency or until a subsequent order lifts this specific restriction."

Consistent with Gov. Evers' order, all school training, practices, scrimmages and contests are suspended. In addition, schools and coaches may not bring students together or be involved with students during this time period for any extracurricular or athletic purposes, which includes practices and other instructional/organizational purposes.

Coaches may provide individual workouts virtually, but shall not encourage or organize their team assembling to practice or compete.

WIAA assistant director Kate Peterson Abiad, who supervises girls' and boys' basketball, boys' and girls' cross country, boys' and girls' soccer and boys' and girls' track and field for the WIAA, said she shares the pain of many across the state when the COVID-19 pandemic forced the prep basketball season to end prematurely.

It has also put a hold on a prep sports spring season that as each day passes comes closer and closer to being canceled, too.

"We exist to provide these opportunities for kids, for high school athletes to play sports," Peterson Abiad said. "So when we stopped being able to do that, our world comes screaming to a halt. It was something we didn't want to do at all. That was tough.

"Once (basketball) got shut down, there was a huge wave of disappointment all over the state. We heard from all types of people with all types of opinions on that decision. We had to cancel. Once the NBA went down, then the NCAAs and everybody was shutting down."

However, at its special meeting on March 19, the WIAA Board of Control resolved to postpone any decision to cancel the spring sports seasons and the spring State Tournament Series until new developments arise and new information becomes available.

The Board of Control will conduct its scheduled meeting on April 21 via video conferencing and will discuss options for the remainder of the spring sports seasons, the WIAA tournament series and summertime contact.

Peterson Abiad said that under WIAA regulations, school teams are required to hold seven separate days of practice before their first competition. Teams must also have four competitions before becoming eligible for the tournament series.

"Track and field started so if they are to resume, they are required to have five more practice days to compete," she said. "Soccer, for example, did not start, so they would have to have seven days. We spoke to our medical staff and they said cutting that back would not be safe.

"We're talking about every possibility. We're talking to other states on what they are doing."

According to the current WIAA calendar, opening dates for tournament play are:

- Softball, May 21 (state tournament, June 11-13).
- Boys and girls track and field, May 26 (state meet, June 5-6)
- Boys tennis, May 26 (individual state, June 4-6; team state, June 12-13).
- Baseball, May 28 (state tournament, June 16-18).
- Girls soccer, June 2 (state tournament, June 18-20).
- Boys golf, June 2 (state tournament, June 15-16).

However, one decision that will have an impact on a spring sports season was the decision that the University of Wisconsin-Madison extended the cancellation of campus events through June 30.

That eliminates the possibility of conducting any WIAA State Tournaments scheduled at campus venues this spring. Events impacted include the Boys Individual and Team Tennis Tournaments both scheduled at Nielsen Tennis Stadium, the State Boys Golf Championship at University Ridge, and the State Softball Tournament at Goodman Diamond.

Gov. Evers' current order has closed schools through at least April 24. If the governor decides to extend his school-closure order before the Board of Control meeting, the WIAA may make a final decision on the spring season prior to its April 21 meeting.

Peterson Abiad said she still holds out hope for at least a partial spring sports season to be offered to Wisconsin high school student-athletes.

What that might be, though, remains the question of the day.

"We're meeting virtually every week and checking in on what's happening. Half the states are shutting down their spring sports," Peterson Abiad said.

"We just said we don't want to do that. We don't want to put an end to it, not right now. There is too much to be bummed about out there. We'd just like to hold onto it as long as we can. So nothing has changed yet, figuring out if we're going to be able to offer spring sports."

Like many spring sport student-athletes, La Crosse Aquinas senior Lexi Donarski is finding ways to prepare for what she hopes is her final track and field season.

"We have a chance to repeat our state championship in track," said Donarski, who also led two-time defending WIAA Division 4 state champion Aquinas to a berth in the state basketball finals before the tournament was canceled. "I'm working on my conditioning just in case we have a chance to have a season so I would be ready."

Donarski, an Iowa State basketball recruit, earned the state's Miss Basketball and Gatorade Athlete of the Year awards and was selected to play in the prestigious McDonald's All-America game, which was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

But she would like to finish her goal of being a 12-season prep athlete before heading off to college.

"I would really like to have a track season this year. But we are getting so late in the year, if they don't make the decision soon, we won't have much of a season. But there is still hope," Donarski said. "We have a gym in our basement so I'm still able to lift and work out every day."

La Crosse Central twins Johnny and Jordan Davis can relate. The duo, who will play basketball at UW this fall, were one game away from making a return trip to the boys' state tournament when their senior season was ended prematurely by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We've been trying to get on the court every day in our back yard, playing one-on-one and 21 with our little brother so that's been fun," said Johnny Davis, the state's Mr. Basketball.

“The WIAA did what they had to do with the social distancing and all that. But we really would have loved to have gone out and competed for a state championship. We were planning to give track and field a try this spring after playing AAU basketball the past three spring seasons.”

Peterson Abiad said WIAA officials, who have been working from their homes under Gov. Evers’ “safer at home” edict, have been moving forward with the hope that some form of spring sports will be offered.

“We’re still on a wait-and-see but we’re certainly hoping we can provide something for this spring,” she said.

According to WIAA communications director Todd Clark, the association will continue to be “in alliance with the directives issued by Gov. Tony Evers in relation to the closure or reopening of schools.

“Interscholastic activities are extensions of the classroom and serve as a partner in the total education process. They do not operate independently from the school.”

Peterson Abiad said the association has not set a cut-off date which would effectively put an end to any type of a spring sports season.

“We’re going to keep plugging away until somebody says the kids aren’t going back to school,” she said. “Even then, we are discussing, if that happens, is there anything we can offer? Is there anything we can do if the kids go back to school or don’t go back to school, is there any way we can offer opportunities after school is supposed to be out or if this ban is lifted?”

Peterson Abiad said the WIAA has been receiving feedback from the various coaches associations and advisory committees.

“We’re all brainstorming,” she said. “What can we do if school doesn’t come back in session. What if the Governor says no more school and then two weeks later the stay-at-home order is lifted? Then what, can we gather, can kids practice, can we offer something? It’s just guesswork at this point.

“The short answer is, no, we don’t have a drop dead date. We don’t want to put that date out there. We don’t want a shut down everything date. We’re just holding onto hope.”

Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association executive director and Cuba City boys’ basketball coach Jerry Petitgoue said there are many questions begging for answers.

“A lot of us are questioning, when will it all end? Are we going to have a fall football season or are we going to have a basketball season next year. A lot of those things are up in the air. We just have to wait and see how those things play out,” he said.

Petitgoue, though, confirmed that the WBCA All-Star Games are still planning to be held.

“Whether those games will happen in June, I don’t know. They may have to happen in July or early August. Who knows? As of now, we really want to have those games,” he said.

“Just like most schools would like to have graduation ceremonies. They want to have a Prom. They’d like to have a scholarship day. Those seniors who are graduating this year, they deserve that. Hopefully we will see the light at the end of the tunnel and some of those things can take place this summer.”



WISCONSIN BASKETBALL
WBCA
 COACHES ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL COACHING AWARDS FORM

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Conference Championship Awards
 Can be picked up at
 The Fall Clinic

Name: _____
 School: _____
 Conference: _____

Remember to enclose
 one wallet sized photo.

*Please include home
 email address.*

Cell phone no.

CAREER WINS

(100-200-300-400-500 Plateau) If you received an award for 100 wins, you do not qualify for another award until you reach 200 wins, etc.

100 & 200 Win awards can be
 picked up at the Fall Clinic. Ev-
 erything above 200 wins is given
 at the Hall of Fame Banquet

Name: _____
 School: _____
 Total # of Wins: _____

Remember to enclose
 one wallet sized photo.

*Please include home
 email address.*

Cell phone no.

25-YEAR WATCH

You must be a WBCA Member for the last 5 consecutive years.

25-Year Watch
 Can be picked up at
 The Hall of Fame Banquet

Name: _____
 School: _____
 Total # of Years: _____

Remember to enclose
 one wallet sized photo.

*Please include home
 email address.*

Cell phone no.

35-YEAR AWARD

You must be a WBCA Member for the last 5 consecutive years.

35-Year Award
 Can be picked up at
 The Hall of Fame Banquet

Name: _____
 School: _____
 Total # of Years: _____

Remember to enclose
 one wallet sized photo.

*Please include home
 email address.*

Cell phone no.

NOTES: 1) Conference Championship awards will be handed out at the fall clinic. You must be there to pick up the award, if you cannot make the clinic please have someone pick up the award for you.

If you want award mailed to you, enclose a check for \$10.00. Make check payable to WBCA

**RETURN FORM BY AUGUST 1ST TO JERRY PETITIGUE
 218 SOUTH LINCOLN ST., CUBA CITY, WI 53807
 OR VIA EMAIL: JERRYPETITGOUE@ICLOUD.COM**