



February 2019 Board Report

IHSA Academic Awards

We are proud to announce that five varsity OHS fall athletic teams have earned the IHSA Team Academic Achievement Awards for obtaining a team GPA of over 3.0 for the semester during their season. The teams are:

Girls Cross Country – 3.53
Boys Soccer – 3.11
Girls Volleyball – 3.70
Girls Golf – 3.30
Boys Cross Country – 3.04

Congratulations to these teams on this fine accomplishment!

Officials shortage/Fan Behavior

The Big Northern Conference issued a press release on Monday, February 12 regarding the worsening IHSA officials shortage and spectator behavior. A copy of the release is at the end of this report.

Drug testing

As of February 5, one hundred seventy-three (173) students have been randomly tested so far this school year. All except one have been negative.

Communications/Twitter

Our athletic department Twitter account (@OregonHawks) has 1,059 followers as of February 12. Last year at this time, there were 974.

Weather/Postponements

This has been the most challenging winter in terms of athletic postponements and cancellations that we have seen in many, many seasons. Almost all district teams have had at least some events that were not able to be rescheduled.

Spring Sports

First practices for boys' track were held Feb 12. Girls track will be Feb 19. Baseball/softball/girls' soccer will begin on Mon. Feb 25. Spring participation numbers will be available in the March report.

Recent Events:

Oregon C.U.S.D. has hosted the following major events over the past month:

Oregon/KSB Fr-Soph Wrestling Classic – 23 teams participated in the event at the Blackhawk Center on Saturday, January 26.

IHSA Class 2A Girls Basketball Sectional – Winnebago, Spring Valley Hall, Rock Island Alleman, and Sherrard all advanced to the Class 2A Sectional held in the Blackhawk Center on Wednesday, February 13 and Thursday, February 14.

DLR JH Girls Basketball Tournament – Eight 7th grade and eight 8th grade teams participated at the Blackhawk Center on Saturday, February 16.

Winter Sport/Activity updates

Boys Basketball – As of Feb. 12, the Hawks had a record of 13-14 overall, 3-5 in BNC play. The JV team is 6-17, 1-7. The IHSA Regional tournament will be held beginning the week of Feb. 18 at North Boone. Oregon will play the host, North Boone, in the regional opener, Mon. Feb 18.

Girls Basketball – The Lady Hawks varsity team finished the season with an 8-23 record, including a 1-8 mark in BNC play, and a second round loss in the IHSA Class 2A Winnebago Regional. The JV team fished 8-21, 2-6 in the BNC. The freshman team finished with a record of 8-11.

Wrestling – The Hawks finished their regular season with a dual meet record of 21-14, finishing in 4th place of 9 teams at the Winnebago 1A IHSA Regional, and qualifying six wrestlers for the IHSA sectional meet. At the Byron 1A Sectional, four Hawks qualified for the IHSA State Finals – Andrew Herbst, Jacob Milliman, Noah Paul, and Chase Clark. This represents the most state qualifiers for OHS since 2008.

Boys Bowling – At the Rockford Sectional, senior Austin Strite won top individual honors and advanced to the State Finals individually where he ended up finishing in 51st place overall.

Girls Bowling – The Lady Hawks finished their regular season with a record of 10-3 in dual matches. At the IHSA regional, the Lady Hawks finished in 4th place overall to advance as a team to the Sectional meet at DeKalb where their season ended.

Academic Bowl – OHS will participate in the Big Northern Tournament on Feb. 20 at Rock Falls.

Junior High Girls Basketball – The season is underway and DLR hosted it's annual tournament in the BHC on Saturday, February 16.

Junior High Wrestling – There are 39 students out for Jr. High wrestling this year across 6th, 7th, & 8th grades. The team has had numerous meets postponed so far and will have a very “back heavy” schedule.

Junior High Music – The Route 72 Conference Solo and Ensemble Contest was postponed to Saturday, February 23 due to the inclement weather.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Lawton

Big Northern

High School Conference



PRESS RELEASE

Big Northern Conference Considering Steps to Combat Officials Shortage

At the regularly scheduled Big Northern Conference Athletic Directors meeting on Thursday, February 7, conference AD's discussed the worsening high school officials shortage in Illinois as well as possible solutions to ensure the continuance of interscholastic activities at the present level.

In a letter dated January 4, 2019, IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson addressed the shortage and indicated that according to a recent survey by the National Association of Sports Officials, more than 75 percent of all high school officials say "adult behavior" is the primary reason officials quit.

As such, Big Northern AD's are discussing numerous options to help adult spectators at high school sports better understand behavioral expectations from a conference perspective.

Amongst options being reviewed by the conference are:

- Developing a standardized announcement of spectator behavioral expectations to be announced at each conference event
- Developing methods of having student-athletes more involved in conveying behavioral expectations to spectators, including friends and families
- Development of standardized conference penalties for spectators who have been ejected from interscholastic events
- At times, closing an interscholastic event to the general public completely, limiting access to only event staff, players, coaches, and officials.
- Combining contests in events that are co-ed (i.e. boys and girls basketball) into being played on the same night in an effort to share available officials

Big Northern Conference schools will discuss these options in further at upcoming meetings. The conference hopes any steps taken will help to substantially reduce the number of adult behavioral incidents at conference events in the future and provide a less hostile environment for IHSA officials to work in.

**Byron – Dixon - Genoa-Kingston - Mendota
North Boone - Oregon - Rock Falls - Rockford Christian
Rockford Lutheran - Stillman Valley - Winnebago**