

Iowa Association of Track Coaches



Spring 2010 Newsletter
IATC Website: www.iatfcc.org

President's Message

Al Nepl IATC President

al.nepl@ankenyschools.org

Greetings All,

The weather that we have had during this winter should make everyone look forward to spring time and the 2010 track & field season. I often wonder if coaches of other sports think about the change in seasons as much as track or cross country coaches do. The last few weeks have quickly passed by since I was given the opportunity to guide this great organization that does so much for student athletes and coaches across the state of Iowa.

I would like to thank Tony Bussan for all of his dedication and sincere desire to improve our organization. Many improvements were made with Tony's leadership and commitments. Our organization is more active now than ever and this only happens due in part to leadership and the many coaches who volunteer to help at many of the events that the IATC sponsors. Many of you probably have student-athletes who have begun to work out on their own. I personally enjoyed this time before the season really gets started. Students start to get excited about a new season and each day a few more kids show up to lift weights and run either indoors or some even brave the cold.

This is a great time in the history of both Track & Field and Cross Country in the state of Iowa. Performances have steadily improved for both boys and girls and the Co-ed State Track Meet has quickly become a premier high school meet in the country in terms of performances and attendance. The State Cross Country Meet consistently draws very large crowds as you hear many first time attendees say, "I had no idea how big this meet has become."

For me, my involvement in track & field and cross country started approximately 25 years ago when I ran at my first junior high track meet for Denison Middle School. The desire to compete and get better carried me into high school athletics where I ran both cross country

and distance events in track & field for Denison High School. During college I took my first class in coaching track & field and this sparked my interest in working with students and other coaches.

I became the Head Boys & Girls Track Coach in Denison in 1994 and the Head Cross Country Coach in 1999. During this time I learned from many fellow coaches both in Denison and throughout western Iowa. It was at this time that I decided to become involved in the IATC. I found that the best way to improve my coaching was to learn from other coaches. Today, I've taken on a new role as an Elementary Principal in the Ankeny School District. I continue my commitment to cross country and track & field by assuming the role as President of the IATC.

The IATC functions as an organization and I want and need your input. I have created a short survey on SurveyMonkey.com that will allow you to provide your input or opinion on several issues that are currently being talked about among coaches and our organization.

Here is the link to this survey,

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XPJTMN9> it will be open until February 28th.

Have a great spring and I hope to see many of you at a meet soon.

Take care and good luck,

Al Nepl, President IATC
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515-965-9620 (w)

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First Vice President's Message

Kirk Schmaltz, Ames

kschmaltz@ames.k12.ia.us

I am looking forward my new role with the Iowa Track Coaches Association this spring. I have really appreciated the leadership that Tony Bussan provided over the past two years. He helped me prepare personally for my new role, and I am very grateful. I am excited to work with our new president Al Neppl, in helping him with his new ideas for the betterment of track and field athletes, coaches, and officials.

Despite all of the late starts and missed days due to snow, it's refreshing to start thinking about spring track, and I hope you are as excited as I am. The 2010 track and field season will soon be under way, and we will all be taking our squad outdoors before we know it.

While the weather is always unpredictable in the spring during our track and field seasons, there are things predictable through our association. The association can provide three areas of opportunities for each of you. The first area is participating in as many of our spring events, including the Statewide Mike Henderson Middle School Track & Field Meets, the Senior All-Star Spotlight Meet, and the State Pentathlons. All of these events are set up for the benefit of your student-athletes, and we encourage you and your athletes to participate. These events also provide you with the opportunity to network with your fellow track coaches and friends. The second area of opportunity involves keeping you informed through this newsletter and our website (www.iatfcc.org). Both provide you with the ways to give your association feedback. It is extremely easy to communicate with each other through the newsletter and our website. E-mail any comments or concerns to any association board member. This gives the association a chance to provide the things needed to help you grow professionally in coaching track and field or officiating meets. The final opportunity for you to consider is to get involved in our meetings, held in the spring and fall.

Each spring you set goals for your team. I hope that you will consider setting another goal of getting involved in our association this year. I truly believe our association will continue to grow and become even better for our membership if each person finds an area of interest and participates. There are many ways to get involved with the association, and I hope one of your goals this year will be to get involved!

I hope to see you all this spring on the track or field!

Kirk Schmaltz, First Vice-President, IATC
Ames High School

Second Vice President's Message

Marty Thomae, Benton Community

mthomae@benton.k12.ia.us

It is a great honor to serve you as the second vice-president of the IATC for the next two years. One of my responsibilities includes publishing this newsletter to keep you informed of the many opportunities that our association provides throughout the year. These opportunities are provided to you for the betterment of your experiences as coaches and also your student-athletes. I echo the sentiments of Al Neppl and Kirk Schmaltz about the importance of communicating with the members of the executive board any concerns you may have. Any way you can get involved with the association will help to strengthen our efforts. I look forward to working with Al, Kirk, and the other members of the executive board, and to the leadership and guidance they will provide me. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to e-mail or call me. I am looking forward to a great spring track and field season.

Marty Thomae, Second Vice-President, IATC
Benton Community High School

Mike Henderson Middle School State Track and Field Meets

Mary Madsen

Saturday, May 8th is this year's date for the Mike Henderson Girls and Boys Junior High State Track Meets. Girls will continue to be held at the Ankeny High School Track and the new site for the Boys will be the Gilbert High School Track with Aaron Thomas taking over as the Boys Meet Coordinator. Doug Bacon has done a great job of getting the Boys Meet up and running and the IATC owes Doug a great deal of gratitude for all his hard work and insight for bringing both the Girls and Boys Meet into the electronic age and making the entry and meet set up an easy and understandable transition. The Boys Meet has increased in size each year under Doug's guidance and has established itself, along with the Girls Meet, as a benchmark for Junior High Track that leads our young athletes into the High School ranks having competed against the state's best at the 7th and 8th grade level.

The Mike Henderson Junior High State Track and Field Meets are one of the major events that the IATC is involved in and there is a great need for our membership to volunteer their time to make sure that these meets continue to be run as the premiere junior high athletic competitions. Please consult the informational letter under the Middle School heading on our website for all of the details of the meet and contact Mary Madsen or Aaron Thomas to volunteer your time and talent at either meet. Have a great track season.

Mary Madsen – Mike Henderson Girls Meet Coordinator

Senior All-Star Spotlight Track and Field Meet

Dick Washburn, Muscatine
wash@machlink.com

The Senior All-Star Spotlight Meet, for Track and Field athletes will be held Friday, June 11th and Saturday, June 12th. The meet competes the top senior athletes from Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin, and will be held at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

Team Iowa Athletes should plan on arriving Friday afternoon with competition being held on Saturday. Coaches are asked to nominate male and female senior athletes in one of several ways:

1. An on-line nomination form will be placed on the IATC website by the end of March.
2. E-mail the Lead Coaches for Team Iowa. Contact information can be found on the website.
3. E-mail the web-editor and he will pass the nominations along to the Lead Team Iowa Coaches.

Athletes invited to compete for team Iowa will be contacted by one of the Team Iowa Coaches. Athletes accepting an invitation to compete will be asked to complete the "Invited Athletes Acceptance and Information Form" found on the website and under the Senior All-Star Meet heading. After the acceptance has been received the accepting athlete will be notified that his/her acceptance has been received. His or Her name and school will then be placed on the "Team Iowa Athletes" list, also found on the website. Further Senior All-Star Spotlight Meet Information can be found on the website or by contacting the web-editor.

IATC Clothing for Sale

IATC Clothing items are now available to be ordered from the IATC website. To do so just download an order form and send it to Bill Neal and the items will be shipped in a few days.

25 Year Award Recipients

Mitch Anderson, Mt. Pleasant

I continue to be the coordinator of this prestigious award. Please contact me to nominate yourself or a deserving colleague. You will find a nomination form available on the IATC website. Nominations must be received no later than April 1st, 2010 in order for the recipient to be recognized at the 2010 state track and field meet. Awards are presented during the Saturday session of the state track and field meet at Drake Stadium. The award is presented to coaches who have served as contracted high school or middle school track and/or cross country coaches for 25 years or more.

Academic All-State

Barb Motes, Council Bluffs

Academic All-State Track and Field forms can be found on the IATC website in the "Track and Field" section under the All-State heading. Please be aware of the following reminders when filling out these forms:

1. Athletes MUST achieve all three criteria.
2. Fill out the entire form, completely.
3. We will take late forms but the turn around time could be slower.

Thank you for your attention to the above details.

State Pentathlon

The Pentathlon date for this year is Tuesday, May 25th at Valley High School in West Des Moines with a rain date of Thursday, May 27th. A reminder that there has been a change in the boy's portion of the event, the boys will now compete in the low hurdles, rather than the 200 meter dash. Competition will be held for both High School and Middle School for both genders at the Valley Track. Look to the IATC website for meet information and up-dates.

IATC/IATO SPRING 2010 Meeting

We would like to encourage all members to attend the spring 2010 IATC meeting on Saturday, May 29th in Ankeny, at Northeast Elementary. Committee meetings will begin at 9:00 A.M. with the general meeting beginning at 10:00 A.M. Voting for Coach of the Year Awards for track and field will take place at this meeting.

Membership Renewal Time

Bill Neal, Williamsburg

bill.neal@mchsi.com

This is just a reminder that you still have time to renew your school or individual Iowa Association of Track Coaches membership for the 2009 and 2010 school year. The form is found on page 5 of this newsletter.

IATC OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact information for all IATC officers and committee members, including e-mail addresses and phone numbers can be found on the IATC website www.iatfcc.org. When you enter the website, click on the heading "Contact Us" at the top of the page to access this information. We encourage you to communicate any questions or concerns to us so that we might serve you more efficiently.

IATC Hall of Fame Tim Thomas Chairman

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS BY APRIL 1, 2010.

The IATC Hall of Fame committee is always looking for deserving candidates for consideration to the Hall of Fame. We make our selections at the Spring Meeting of the IATC Executive Committee meeting. The 2009 selections were: Coach: Dave Fetterman from Tipton, and Athletes: Tiffany Pedersen from Atlantic and Randy Thompson from Corwith-Wesley-Lu Verne. I have included the guidelines for selection in this newsletter. Applications can be downloaded from our website and submitted to Tim Thomas, IATC Chairman.

IATC Hall of Fame Guidelines

I. Criteria for nomination and selection to IATC Hall of Fame.

a. Coach:

- i. Must have coached a minimum of 20 years at any level.**
- ii. Must have had outstanding success at the local level and success at the state level of competition and beyond.**
- iii. Must have received the respect of his/her peers in coaching, shown leadership and character.**
- iv. Must receive 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee membership present for the final selection.**

b. Athlete:

- i. Must have performed in an exemplary manner in Iowa High School**
- ii. Competition at the local level, state meet and/or the Drake Relays.**
- iii. Must have demonstrated outstanding talents above that of the excellent high school athlete.**
- iv. May have performed in a manner to have achieved recognition of talent which did or would make**
- v. The athlete competitive at a regional or national level.**
- vi. Must have completed their high school career at least 5 years prior to being nominated.**
- vii. Must receive 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee membership present for the final selection.**

c. Service:

- i. Must have contributed to the sport of Track and Field in Iowa in some significant manner which**
- ii. Is recognized by the Executive Committee as a supporter or contributor to the betterment of Track & Field in Iowa.**
- iii. Must receive 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee membership present for the final selection.**

II. Other items to be considered in selecting people for the Hall of Fame.

- a. A maximum of 4 candidates may be selected per year.**
- b. No more than one Service Award per year.**
- c. Final selection will be made at the spring meeting of the IATC Executive Committee.**
- d. If a nominee is on the list for 5 consecutive years without becoming an inductee the name is dropped and it must be resubmitted. The person who submitted the nominee will be notified.**
- e. A nominee's name may be submitted by completion of the form found on the IATC website.**



IATC

Membership Form 2009-2010

Print this page mail it to Bill Neal.

Send To:

Bill Neal
 P.O. Box 509
 Williamsburg, Iowa 52361
 Phone: 319-530-9703
 E-mail: bill.neal@mchsi.com

Membership:
 Individual Membership - \$15.00
 1A Staff Membership - \$30.00
 2A, 3A & 4A Staff Membership - \$40.00
 College Staff Membership - \$40.00

***Note:** Be sure to include the first and last names of all staff members and individuals that you wish to receive a membership card. Use the back of this page if needed.

Sender's Name: _____ **School Mailing Address:** _____

School: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Schools Classification: (circle one)

1A 2A 3A 4A College/University

Please list the T&F and CC Coach(s) in your School System:

New Coach(s): _____

Veteran Coach(s):
 Sample: _____ Bill Neal _____ Years Coaching: T&F 5 CC 7

Name: _____ Years Coaching: T&F _____ CC _____

Name: _____ Years Coaching: T&F _____ CC _____

Name: _____ Years Coaching: T&F _____ CC _____

Name: _____ Years Coaching: T&F _____ CC _____

Name: _____ Years Coaching: T&F _____ CC _____

Name: _____ Years Coaching: T&F _____ CC _____

Name: _____ Years Coaching: T&F _____ CC _____

Name: _____ Years Coaching: T&F _____ CC _____

Name: _____ Years Coaching: T&F _____ CC _____

Name: _____ Years Coaching: T&F _____ CC _____