

Iowa Association of Track Coaches



Fall 2014 Newsletter

IATC Website: www.iatfcc.org

President's Message

Marty Thoma, Benton Community

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Welcome to what should be another outstanding year of Cross Country and Track and Field here in the state of Iowa. The weather has been very cooperative this summer, which should make for some very exciting races in Fort Dodge on Saturday, November 1st, 2014. Everyone is working hard to prepare for a new school year, and we all are excited to be back working with our student-athletes once again. I want to take this opportunity to wish each of you and your team's good fortune in preparing for the upcoming Cross Country season and inform you of some events and changes that are coming to the IATC for the upcoming school year.

The first change that has occurred is that Mary Madsen has retired from her position as host of the Dick Washburn Middle School Cross Country Meet and the Mike Henderson Junior High Boys and Girls Track and Field Meets affective for the 2014-2015 school year. The entire IATC organization and I would like to thank Mary for her many dedicated years of service and all her long hours of hard work that she put in to make these meets run smoothly and operate successfully. Mary's efforts allowed many middle school boys and girls the opportunity to participate in a State Meet for the sports that they have worked so hard in over the years.

This leads to our next change for the IATC for the upcoming school year. The Dick Washburn Middle School Cross Country Classic will move from Saydel High School to Ankeny Centennial High

School this fall. The IATC would like to thank everyone responsible for running a successful meet at Saydel these past few years and for allowing us to host the meet at their school. We welcome the opportunity to work with the school administration and everyone else involved at Ankeny Centennial in the upcoming years as we continue to offer this event for our middle school runners. Bill Neal and the cross country coaching staff at Ankeny Centennial will oversee the coordination of the meet this fall. The date of the meet is Saturday, October 14th, 2014.

The Mike Henderson Boys and Girls Junior High Track and Field Meets will be hosted this year by Ames High School (Boys) and Waukee High School (Girls). The IATC would like to thank the administration and coaching staff at Ames and Waukee High Schools for taking on the task of hosting these meets for us. With that said we need to find someone who is willing to be the Meet Coordinator for these meets in the spring. If you are interested in helping the IATC with the coordination of either of these meets, please contact a member of the executive committee. The date for the Mike Henderson Junior High Track and Field Meets is Saturday, May 9th, 2015.

This fall we will once again have coaches send meet results to Bill Neal IATC Treasurer (bneal8888@gmail.com) to post on the IATC website. Please remember to do this as the Cross Country Team and Individual Ranking Committees take a very close look at these meet results when they make their weekly rankings. Last fall we had our best year ever of posting meet results for everyone to see. Thank you for your efforts and please continue this important work for the IATC.

The IATC is once again looking to increase the number of coaches who become involved in our organization. One way to do this is to attend our semi-annual joint meetings of the IATC/IATO. The date for our next meeting is Sunday, November 9th, 2014, beginning at 9:30 A.M. at Ames High School. We had great attendance at our meeting this past spring. We encourage all active head and assistant coaches and retired coaches to attend this meeting. At this meeting we will conduct old and new business that are pertinent to the running of the IATC, and also vote for boys' and girls' Cross Country State and Regional Coaches of the Year. Before this meeting, we will seek input from you on how the season went, how your state qualifying meet went, nominations for state and regional Cross Country Coaches of the Year, and any feedback you have on the State Cross Country Meet. I will personally collect the e-mails and faxes and group the comments into common themes. We then pass this information on at the fall meeting to the membership in attendance. The information will also be shared with the members of the joint cross country advisory committee.

We also have a change in leadership this fall at the Iowa High School Athletic Association. I would like to welcome Jared Chizek as the new director of Cross Country and Track and Field for the boys association. We look forward to working with Jared in his new role and to continue to work with John Overton, who serves in the same capacity for the girls union. The IATC will work closely again with the Iowa High School Athletic Association (www.iahsaa.org) and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (www.ighsau.org) to provide information and feedback on issues related to Cross Country. Our association has a great working relationship with the IHSAA and the IGHSAU. Our input to these groups is important. Please feel free to contact me when you have an issue or something that you would like shared with these organizations. One of our roles is to provide input from IATC membership with the boys association and the girls union. The IATC works hard to represent our membership with both groups when it comes to making decisions regarding rules, dates, events, schedules, qualifying or results, however; the governing bodies of the IHSAA and the IGHSAU make the final decisions. We will continue to work in a positive manner with these

organizations to provide the best support for our student-athletes.

I also want to take this time to remind everyone that becoming a member of the IATC is important and the start of a new school year is the best time to take care of this item of business. When we vote for Coach of the Year Awards at our fall meeting, your school needs to be an IATC member in order for your coach to be considered for an award. There have been several deserving coaches in the past who have not received an award because their school was not a current member of the IATC. This makes it harder for the people who attend the meetings and vote for the awards to do their job to the best of their ability, when a deserving coach is not eligible to receive that award.

The U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Association recently announced a list of state-by-state winners of its inaugural High School Coach of the Year Award. The state of Iowa was represented on this list by boys coach Brent Heitland of Waukee and girls coach Tim O'Neill of Davenport Assumption for the accomplishments that their teams had at the Iowa State Track and Field Meet this spring. Congratulations to these two fine coaches and to their coaching staffs, track and field team members, and to their communities for being recognized for this award.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the continued opportunity to serve you as President of our great organization. I have been fortunate to work with a great group of people who truly care about the sports of Cross Country and Track and Field. I look forward to seeing you at Cross Country meets this fall. Thank you for the continued input on how we can make the IATC better for our members. Best of luck to you all and have a safe and productive fall season.

..... *Marty*

Marty Thomae, President
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First Vice President's Message

Steve Roth, Washington Demons
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Welcome back! Hope all is well with everyone. It's that time of the year again to get excited about

your teams. A new year is what you make it. I always tell my kids what you put into it is what you get out of it. Goes for us coaches, too! It's great to have success, but it comes with a price. Long hours, late nights, and early mornings, but it's all worth it!

Remember to pay your coach's dues; we are all busy, but try to get involved in the IATC. There are so many opportunities. Not that we have extra time, but all of the colleges in Iowa are looking for officials to work their cross country and indoor meets. It's a great way to learn more and they do need our help.

Congrats to all the coaches that received awards during the spring season and we will see all of you at clinic and the awards banquet in December.

Have a great season!

..... *Steve*

Steve Roth, First Vice President

Second Vice President's Message

Mike Jay, Columbus Junction

Mikejay59@gmail.com

A new school year is upon us. Many of the youth in our state have been busy with baseball or softball this summer, gone to camps, participated in the fair; plus a number of them competed in track and field via USATF and/or the AAU.

The competitive part of the cross country season will be officially starting SOON! Exciting times for all involved!

I would like to remind coaches to check with their AD's to see if their school is an IATC member. You must be a member to be eligible to garner one of our "Coach of the Year" awards. In addition, please do what you can to make sure your meet results are being sent to Bill Neal. These results are key to our team and individual rankings.

Have a great rest of your summer!

..... *Mike*

Mike Jay, Second Vice President

Looking for a Meet? Need Teams?

Send your meet information to the web-editor and have your meet placed in the "Looking for Meets" section.

Be sure to periodically check for meets you might be looking to enter.

IATC Hall of Fame

The IATC Hall of Fame committee is always looking for deserving candidates for consideration to their Hall of Fame.

We make our selections at the IATC Spring Meeting and induct the honorees at our annual December banquet.

Candidates are up for consideration for a five year period at which time they must be re-nominated if they are not selected.

The inductees at our 2014 Hall of Fame banquet will be:

Coach: Dave Vogelgesang, Tipton.

Athletes: Kristin Hansen Dennis, Okobojo. Cortney Jacobs, Atlantic. Phil Coppess, Oxford Junction

Your Hall of Fame contact is:

Mike Jay, Chairman, IATC Hall of Fame Committee

Mikejay59@gmail.com

For more information on Hall of Fame guidelines and a nomination form go to our website:

http://www.iatfcc.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=78&Itemid=7

Hall of Fame Banquet

The Hall of Fame banquet will be held at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center in Ames on Saturday, December 6 starting at 12:30 PM.

This year's Hall of Fame inductees are Cortney Jacobs (Atlantic), Phil Coppess (Oxford Junction), Kristin (Hansen) Dennis (Okobojo), and Coach Dave Vogelgesang (Tipton).

Coach of the Year and Officials of the Year will be honored at the banquet, also. Ticket prices are \$24 for adults and \$13 for children. Hall of Fame inductees receive 2 free tickets and Coach of the Year/Officials of the Year get one reduced price ticket of \$10.

Dan Davis

Hall of Fame Banquet

**Washburn Classic
Middle School/Junior High Meet
Eric Cogdill, Ankeny Centennial
Eric.Cogdill@ankenyschools.org**

What: Twentieth Annual Washburn Classic State JH Cross Country Meet

When: Saturday, October 18, 2014

Where: Ankeny Centennial H. S. Cross Country Course (new site)

Details: Go to the IATC website (www.iatfcc.org) and read about the meets growth through the increased participation over the years. From the first 50 young runners in 1994 to over 900 runners in the 2013 meet. The meet continues to offer young runners an opportunity to compete against the best runners from around the state.

Athletes/Coaches: Can enter your team or enter as individuals anytime after Sept. 8th, 2014. Be sure to let your coaches know about the meet.

**Senior All-Star Cross Country Meet
Dick Washburn, Muscatine
wash@machlink.com**

The 2014 Senior All-Star Cross Country Meet will be held Saturday, November 8th on the DMACC Campus in Ankeny.

Please go to the IATC Website for Meet information and how to nominate a senior athlete for the All-Star Meet.

The Next Level Iowa

Be sure to check-out The Next Level Iowa. <http://www.nextleveliowa.com/> Mike and Jim Kirby have been continually up-dating and adding info with volumes of information concerning our past Iowa preps as they continue their CC and T&F careers at the college level and beyond.

Middle School/Jr. High Coaches of the Year for Cross Country

Each Fall the IATC recognizes outstanding Middle School/Jr. High coaches for Cross Country. Please keep a look out for those outstanding Middle School/Jr. High coaches to nominate for MS coach of the year who have longevity, never been a varsity CC coach, are dedicated to the kids and the sport of CC AND are IATC members.

Nominations can be sent Deb Anderson, MS COY Chairperson. msaxc@aol.com

Nike Cross Country Regional's

Meet Date and Location for 2014 will be posted on the IATC Website in the near future.

IATC/IATO Fall 2014 Meeting

We encourage all members to attend the Fall 2014 IATC meeting on Sunday, November 9th, in Ames, at Ames High School. The general meeting will beginning at 9:30 A.M. Voting for Coach of the Year Awards for Cross Country will take place at this meeting.

Join the IATC

**Bill Neal, Williamsburg
bill.neal@mchsi.com**

Coaches:

We would like to invite you and your school to become a member of the Iowa Association of Track Coaches (IATC). For the past several years, we have had over 250 individuals and schools join the IATC.

We encourage you to take advantage of the many benefits the IATC has to offer. Through your membership, we can continue to support the track and field/cross country coaches and athletes in Iowa.

If you have any questions regarding membership, please check the IATC website first, and then contact Bill Neal at [319-530-9703](tel:319-530-9703), or at bneal8888@gmail.com. If your name/school is not listed then you can assume you're not a member for the 2014-2015 school year which begins Aug. 1st, 2014 and runs thru Aug. 1st, 2015.

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.

Your membership helps the IATC provide services for coaches and athletes in the sports of track & field and cross country that would not otherwise be available. Below are examples of what an IATC Membership provides.

Track & Cross Country All-Star teams & Academic teams

Track & Cross Country Coach of the Year awards

Track & Cross Country 25 year award plaques

Track & Cross Country Hall of Fame

Track & Cross Country Newsletter

Track & Field/Cross Country Senior All-Star Meets

Representation on IHSAA & IGHS AU Advisory Boards

Cross Country Rankings

Hall of Fame Banquet

IATC Mike Henderson JH Boys & Girls Track Meets

IATC Washburn Classic Middle School Cross Country Meet

IATC State Track & Field Pentathlons

Membership forms have been mailed out to Cross Country coaches as of Aug. 1st, 2014 via the mail. To obtain another form go onto the IATC website, print one and send back with a school check.