



## NEWS RELEASE

### 2022-23 National Coaches of the Year Selected by NFHS Coaches Association

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (January 23, 2024) — Twenty-three high school coaches from across the country have been selected as 2022-23 National Coaches of the Year by the NFHS Coaches Association.

The NFHS, which has been recognizing coaches through an awards program since 1982, honors coaches in the top 10 girls sports and top 10 boys sports (by participation numbers), and in two “other” sports – one for boys and one for girls – that are not included in the top 10 listings. The NFHS also recognizes a spirit coach as a separate award category. Winners of NFHS awards must be active coaches during the year for which they receive their award. This year’s awards recognize coaches for the 2022-23 school year.

Recipients of the 2022-23 national awards for boys sports are: **Kim Nelson**, baseball, Orem (Utah) Timpanogos High School; **Steve Hall**, basketball, Detroit (Michigan) Cass Technical High School; **Joe Tribble**, cross country, Atlanta (Georgia) Westminster Schools; **Mike Goebel**, 11-player football, Evansville (Indiana) Mater Dei High School; **Tim Cram**, golf, Benton (Louisiana) High School; **Rey Ramirez-Alvarez**, soccer, Wichita (Kansas) Maize South High School; **Paul Winkeler**, swimming and diving, Kansas City (Missouri) Rockhurst High School; **Darby Norman**, tennis, Amarillo (Texas) Randall High School; **Spencer Huls**, track and field, Corvallis (Montana) High School; and **Klel Carson**, wrestling, La Grande (Oregon) High School.

The recipients of the 2022-23 national awards for girls sports are: **Jan Azar**, basketball, Dacula (Georgia) Hebron Christian Academy; **Charles Covington**, cross country, Saltillo (Mississippi) High School; **Vicky Kowalski**, golf, Farmington Hills (Michigan) Mercy High School; **Patricia Alexander**, lacrosse, Raleigh (North Carolina) Cardinal Gibbons High School; **Angie Lensing**, soccer, Evansville (Indiana) Reitz Memorial High School; **Kelli Smith**, softball, Chattanooga (Tennessee) The Baylor School; **Milton “Butch” Briggs**, swimming and diving, East Grand Rapids (Michigan) High School; **Donna Roisom**, tennis, Portland (Oregon) Grant High School; **Shaun Hardt**, track and field, Queen Creek (Arizona) High School; and **Jessica Burke**, volleyball, Lafayette (Louisiana) St. Thomas More Catholic High School.

The recipient of the National Coach of the Year for spirit is **Jennifer Marks** of Raleigh (North Carolina) Cardinal Gibbons High School. **Travis White**, an 8-player football coach from Tipton (**Oklahoma**) High School, was chosen in the “Others” category for boys sports, and **Gerald Harris II**, girls wrestling coach at Tulsa (**Oklahoma**) Union High School, was chosen in the “Others” category for girls sports.

The NFHS receives nominations from its member state associations, which often works with the state coaches’ association in its respective state. The state association then contacts the potential state award recipients to complete a coach profile form that requests information regarding the coach’s record, membership in and affiliation with coaching and other professional organizations, involvement with other school and community activities and programs, and coaching philosophy. To be approved as an award recipient and considered for sectional and national coach of the year consideration, this profile form must be completed by the coach or designee and then approved by the executive director (or designee) of the state athletic/activities association.

The next award level after state coach of the year is sectional coach of the year. The NFHS is divided into eight geographical sections. They are as follows: Section 1 – Northeast (CT, ME, MA, NH, NJ, NY, RI, VT); Section 2 – Mideast (DE, DC, KY, MD, OH, PA, VA, WV); Section 3 – South (AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN); Section 4 – Central (IL, IN, IA, MI, WI); Section 5 – Midwest (KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, SD); Section 6 – Southwest (AR, CO, NM, OK, TX); Section 7 – West (AZ, CA, HI, NV, UT); and Section 8 – Northwest (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA, WY).

The NFHS Coaches Association has an advisory committee composed of a chair and eight sectional representatives. The sectional committee representatives evaluate the state award recipients

from the states in their respective sections and select the best candidates for the sectional award in each sport category. The NFHS Coaches Association Advisory Committee then considers the sectional candidates in each sport, ranks them according to a point system, and determines a national winner for each of the 20 sport categories, the spirit category and two “other” categories.

A total of 874 coaches are being recognized this year with state, sectional and national awards.

Following are biographical sketches of the NFHS National High School Coaches of the Year from Oklahoma for the 2022-23 school year:

## **8-Player Football**

### **Travis White**

#### **Tipton, Oklahoma**

In just nine years as Tipton (Oklahoma) High School’s eight-player football coach, Travis White has rapidly compiled an impressive resume, winning five Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association (OSSAA) state championships. Tipton has not lost a game in the past two seasons, capping each with a state title and a perfect 14-0 record. Overall, White has won 107 games and lost only 21 in his time as head coach. Prior to becoming head coach, White was the defensive coordinator helping lead the team to a state championship and two other finals appearances. He was the OSSAA Class C Coach of the Year on four occasions and was the assistant coach of the year once. Outside of football, White currently serves as the principal of both the high school and middle school and led the Tipton boys basketball team to the state tournament in 2013.

## **Girls Other – Wrestling**

### **Gerald Harris II**

#### **Tulsa, Oklahoma**

Gerald Harris is off to an amazing start as a girls wrestling coach in Oklahoma. He has coached the winning team in the first three sanctioned Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association

(OSSAA) Girls Wrestling State Championships – the first one at Broken Arrow High School and the last two years at Union High School in Tulsa. Including his boys state titles at Collinsville High School in 2019 and 2020, Harris has won state wrestling titles in five consecutive years. He has won numerous coaching awards, including Oklahoma Coaches Association, Oklahoma Women’s Coaches Association and OSSAA Coach of the Year in 2023. Harris is executive director of “Wrestle for Equality,” a non-for-profit for girls wrestling and financial assistance, and the Oklahoma representative for “Wrestle Like a Girl,” which seeks to empower girls and women through opportunities in female wrestling. Harris said he stresses the “importance of the classroom first, because without academics you have nothing regardless of how talented you are. I want that same mentality to carry them through life, keeping their priorities in order and making the world a better place with their presence.”

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#### **About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)**

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and performing arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and performing arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,500 high schools and 12 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.8 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; offers online publications and services for high school coaches and officials; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, speech and debate coaches, and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS website at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

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