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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***
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## MSHSAA ANNOUNCES 2025-26 NFHS/MSHSAA COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

COLUMBIA – The Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) is excited to announce its 2025-26 NFHS/MSHSAA Coach of the Year award winners.

Each year, MSHSAA and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) recognize one coach in each sport in Missouri with its highest honor – the Coach of the Year Award. This award is presented to an individual who has made a lifelong commitment to the ideals of coaching interscholastic sports.

“Congratulations to each of our 2025-26 Coaches of the Year on this well-deserved recognition,” MSHSAA Executive Director Dr. Jennifer Rukstad said. “These outstanding coaches represent the very best of education-based activities through their leadership, commitment and positive influence. Their impact extends far beyond wins and losses, helping student-athletes grow as competitors, teammates and young people.”

You can see the full list of our Coach of the Year winners below:

- Girls Golf | John Plankers | Raymore-Peculiar
- Girls Tennis | Chris Salaveria | Clayton
- Girls Volleyball | Aubri Janes | Lee's Summit North
- Girls Cross Country | Andrew Pyatt | School of the Ozarks
- Boys Cross Country | David Chatlos | Liberty North
- Boys Swimming and Diving | Ian Johnston | Staley
- Boys Soccer | Jesus Rodriguez | Van Horn
- Football | Cody Hilburn | Seneca
- Girls Swimming and Diving | Emma Luem | St. Joseph's Academy
- Girls Wrestling | Jared Bonnell | Ste. Genevieve
- Boys Wrestling | Luke Gramke | Centralia
- Girls Basketball | Dustin Larsen | Strafford
- Boys Basketball | Gregg Holifield | Sikeston
- Boys Tennis | Nicole McGinness | Maryville
- Boys Golf | Brian Rea | Palmyra
- Girls Track and Field | Chandler Wilson | Mound City
- Boys Track and Field | Ben Sontheimer | Centralia
- Softball | Ali Jo Locher | Raymore-Peculiar
- Boys Volleyball | Jeff Cheak | SLUH
- Baseball | Ben Baier | Blue Springs South
- Girls Soccer | LeAnne Sanders | Ft. Zumwalt South

**--MSHSAA--**

**“MSHSAA promotes the value of participation, sportsmanship, team play and personal excellence to develop citizens who make positive contributions to their community and support the democratic principles of our state and nation.”**