



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION

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Dave Martens to Receive NIAAA Award of Merit

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN (November 29, 2007) — **Dave Martens**, former longtime New York high school coach and athletic administrator and 1984 president of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), is the 2007 recipient of the Award of Merit presented by the NIAAA.

Martens will receive his award December 17 in Nashville, Tennessee, during luncheon festivities at the 38th annual National Conference of High School Directors of Athletics conducted jointly by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and the NIAAA.

The Award of Merit is the most prestigious award presented by the NIAAA to an individual who has shown outstanding leadership in interscholastic athletics or related areas.

Now in his 49th year in interscholastic athletics, Dave Martens is a former longtime New York high school coach and athletic administrator and 1984 president of the NIAAA.

Martens was a three-year All-Scholastic baseball player at Arlington (Massachusetts) High School. He subsequently played both baseball and ice hockey at Springfield (Massachusetts) College, where he was named All-New England in baseball and participated in the 1955 College World Series.

After playing for the Milwaukee Braves in 1958, Martens began his career in high school education, coaching and athletic administration at Rushford (New York) Central School. Six years later, he moved to Brockport (New York) Central School, and from 1973 to 1991, he was with Fairport (New York) Central School. Along the way, he coached both Rushford Central School and Brockport Central School to sectional basketball championships.

A longtime leader in athletic administration, Martens was president and co-founder of the New York State Athletic Administrators Association (NYSAAA), was the NYSAAA liaison to the NIAAA in 1982, and was coordinator and founder of the NIAAA National Emergency Network.

Throughout his career, Martens has been a staunch advocate for healthy lifestyles. From 1986 to 1998, he was president and founder of Operation Offense, Inc., an organization designed to keep student-athletes chemical-free, and he received a special commendation for his efforts in this area from the United States Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration in 1991. That same year, he received a Community Service Award from the Eastman Kodak Company.

Among his statewide recognitions, Martens was chosen New York State athletic director of the year by the New York State Coaches Association of Health, Physical

Education, Recreation and Dance in 1981, and by the New York State Coaches Association five years later.

At the national level, Martens received an NIAAA Distinguished Service Award in 1986, an NIAAA New York State Award of Merit in 1990 and an NFHS Citation in 2004. Martens was inducted into the Springfield College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1999, and into the Rochester Sports Legends/Frontier Field Walk of Fame in 2002.

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ABOUT THE NATIONAL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION (NIAAA): The NIAAA is the largest national organization for high school athletic administrators with more than 6,000 individual members. The NIAAA consists of athletic director organizations in the 50 states plus the District of Columbia and provides an efficient system for exchange of ideas between the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and state athletic administrators organizations as well as individual athletic administrators. The NIAAA, located in Indianapolis, Indiana, strives to preserve the educational nature of interscholastic athletics and the place of these programs in the curricula of schools. The NIAAA is a full and equal partner with the NFHS.

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 fine arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and fine 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 18,500 high

schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; produces publications for high school coaches, officials and athletic directors; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, spirit coaches, speech and debate coaches and music adjudicators; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS Web site at www.nfhs.org.