





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jeff Boran, President
Waterville-Elysian, Morristown



Writing this after organizing the first in person conference in 3 years I'd like to say "Pheww"! Hopefully, everyone that was able to attend was able to reflect, refresh, and most importantly, renew! In looking at evaluations, the one theme that appeared was how glad attendees were to be in person once again in St. Cloud! For the MNIAAA Executive Committee, thank you to all who stepped up in some way to make the 2022 Conference a success and we're excited to again get together in 2023.

One of the things I am very proud of is the steps that have been made to improve our association's executive team by the addition of two more board members, as voted on in March. In many facets of the MNIAAA we will see transition. Dan Johnson will assume full duty of his role as the Executive Secretary of the MNIAAA July 1 and we wish

him good luck as he takes on this momentous role. With the addition of two board members, it is exciting to see the transitions that will occur in the leadership roles each of us will assume.

The MNIAAA sponsors recognition programs to recognize people we work with and serve. One of those programs is "Distinguished Service". This committee will be transitioning from Tom Bauman (Retired AD) from Buffalo to Keith Cornell of St. Michael-Albertville. During the banquet each year I can't wait to see the video and hear how much these amazing people do for not only us as Activities Administrators, but also for the students, coaches and communities they serve. Thank you, Tom, for what this has become and I am excited to see it continue under Keith's direction. Another recognition program is the "Distinguished

Alumni". As we move through this year I will be looking for members of our association to serve on a committee to select distinguished alumni. Both of these recognition programs have nomination forms found on the website and I encourage you to take a look at what would qualify someone for these recognitions. With regards to these programs, don't forget about our great fine arts programs and the people that deserve our recognition.

Now that we are into May and it at least looks like spring is upon us, continue to do what you do for our students and schools in Minnesota. And be sure to take time for yourself to make memories with your families and friends and have a great Summer! I also look forward to the 2022-2023 year and to serve as your MNIAAA President. LET'S GO!!!!



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By Mike Beck, Executive Secretary

March, 2022 was fantastic with the first in-person MnIAAA Conference since 2019. It was great to renew old acquaintances and make new ones. Plus, we got to see some people for the first time in a non-video format.

The election to the MnIAAA Board of the two additional positions is monumental. This expands the viewpoint and focus of what the MnIAAA can provide to you. Welcome to Emmett, Jill and Kenny to their new roles.

The MnIAAA needs your help in sustaining its finances. Your dues and fees that are paid for the conference are nowhere near covering the total cost of the conference or benefits you receive. How can I help

the MnIAAA maintain? At the conference, please spend more time in the trade show hall, visit the booths, give them your card, pick up their information. This helps you when you do have a project that appears or need to purchase items. It helps us, with the fact that the vendors help pay the bulk for the conference and services you receive. This is the visit the vendors speech in brief.

This is the final time I will be writing for the newsletter. I want to thank all of you for your help and support over the years. The MnIAAA Board members, those that have served on committees, conference presenters, moderators, and retired MnIAAA members. It is time

that I will be in that group. I know that I am missing some thank you's in this.

We have made many changes during my term. Dual MnIAAA and NIAAA membership is one. Some schools and districts refused to pay national dues. Since we went dual, they only have to pay Minnesota dues and you receive all the national benefits. MnIAAA life insurance is another added benefit we have done. Legal representation for those of you on the island between the principal's association and Education Minnesota. Term limits on committees allows everyone a greater chance to serve. The increase of two Board positions to include what has been in the past under represented members is

key. This will help you, your students and your staff.

Get involved yourself, present at the conference and attend the conference. This is education we share. Attend the National Conference, realize the high level that Minnesota is at both for the MnIAAA and the MSHSL. Get involved with the MSHSL,

Final comments, you are in great hands with Dan and Ken. That is the highest compliment I can give. Last, you are reading this in our newsletter. NIAAA gives out lots of awards, they do not recognize state newsletters. If they did, what Ken has done over the years for ours is outstanding. I do read the other states newsletters. Really looking for sponsors that we can get. MnIAAA's has original content. It is not a cut and paste from outside sources.

See you March 2023. No, I will not sell any 50/50 tickets, that is Rita's domain.



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BiPoC BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

By Kenny Maxey • FAIR School & Mpls Patrick Henry



From the editor: For those of you who were unable to attend the 2022 MNIAAA State Conference, the column below was the speech from Kenny Maxey as a candidate for the MNIAAA Board. If you ever wonder whether or not your job or that of your coaches/directors is worth the time and effort you put in, just read below. The influence of Kenny's coach is similar to what takes place in every school every year. Kids across the state benefit from what you do so well. Please read...

Hello, my name is Kenny Maxey. Sorry I am not able to be here today. As you know, working as an Athletic Director, you must work long hours, especially during the winter months, and lose valuable family time. So, today I am in Orlando, Florida, making up some of the time I missed with my family.

My position in life is to give students experiences that I experienced earlier in my life. With these experiences, I try to help to grow student-athletes, decision-making skills, build relationships, and overcome

adversity. I try to equip them to have a growth mindset. Let me give you an example of growing students through athletics. I grew up in Compton, California, during the time in which Compton was one of the worse cities in America. Gangs, drugs, death, and poverty were the norm. I lived this every day of my life. Basketball was never something I thought I could play on an organized level, but with the help of a coach, those ideas changed.

I was suspended, expelled, and labeled a gang member. During my expulsion from high school, Russell Otis was the lead teacher in the alternative program I attended and the head boys' basketball coach at my high school. During the first month in this educational setting, we developed a bond. He trusted me, and I trusted him. I was also losing classmates to murder every other week during this time. He knew I was at a fork in the road. Russell knew he only needed to provide me with an opportunity to change my environment. He introduced me to a different kind of leadership

than the one I was used to, introducing me to compound goals that create growth. In the second semester of my junior year, I exited the alternative program and went back to my high school. My coach invited me to try out for the basketball team. Tryouts were being held in the spring because of summer leagues. I never thought about making the team because my high school was a basketball powerhouse, and I never played organized basketball. I accepted his invitation, and after tryouts, all the players and coach met at center court. He started by stating he only keeps twelve players. We had thirteen players that day. I was the thirteenth player because everyone else played the previous year. He then turned to the team and asked them, should we keep thirteen this year. Without even thinking, they said: "YES." I made the team, and I inherited twelve brothers. We did everything together. We helped each other through death, pain, and failure.

Making the team was the best thing that ever happened to me. It changed my life. It helped me make better choices and showed me the passion for hard work. I received Most Improved Player every year I played basketball, even when I was one of the stars on my team. I am sharing this with you because these stories are not often told and heard in meetings that make rules and policies that affect students in these situations. These stories need to be heard and felt when we discuss



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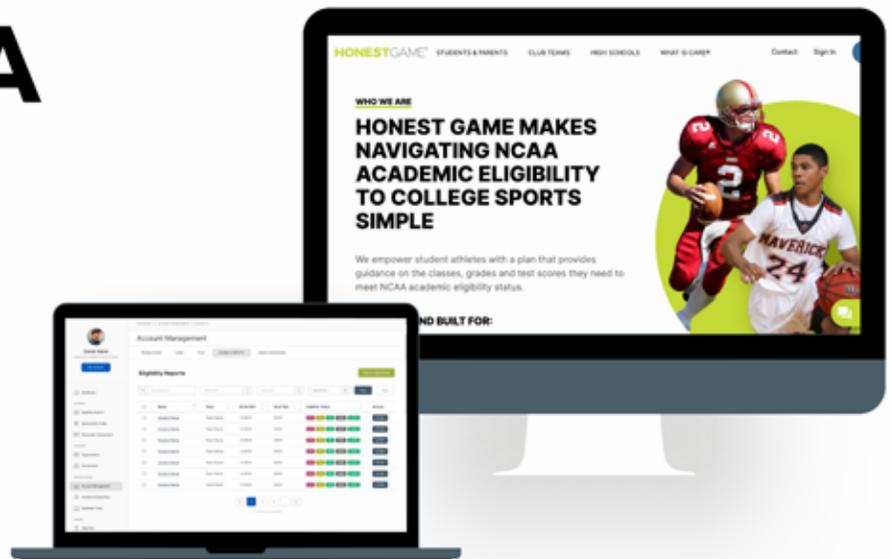
Minnesota Athletics. When they are not acknowledged, we open the gate for hate speech, lack of acceptance, and ignorance. I am not running for this position to change the world. I am running for this position to open conversations to transform our state.

Now please close your eyes for a second and picture a black kid, in a war zone, with limited choices. Then imagine the same kid with three degrees, one from a small private university that is difficult to be accepted, always smiling, and trying to change the world one student at a time. Open your eyes. I want you to know there is no difference in our kids. Most must adapt to their environments and it is our job to open doors to challenge their thought processes. Before I wrap up, I want you to challenge yourself to stand up and stand out when what you see or hear is not the reality of what is true.

Thank you!

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PRESIDENT ELECT

By Guillaume Paek • Burnsville



Greetings MNIAAA Membership!

Many of us in our positions struggle to achieve that magical realm of work-life balance. We are truly servants to our community, our families, and our schools. Many of us are still feeling the pressures from the COVID effect compounded by the interesting spring that we have had with the numerous cancellations and official shortages. All of these factors can easily allow us to slide out of that balance that we all so desperately need. These external pressures can exacerbate stresses that already exist in our lives, both in and out of our work life.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and I wanted to take a minute to speak on this. I am sure that many of us have been directly impacted by mental health; whether it be a family member, a friend, or perhaps this is a battle that you are fighting with yourself. I encourage those of you who are feeling all of the stressors (both in and out of work) to take the time that you need to ensure that you are taking care of yourself, your family, your friends, and your colleagues. If you need help, please, please, please ask for it. If you need to talk, please call someone. If it is the normal

everyday stresses of the Athletic/Activities Director job, please call a colleague and lean on them. We have such a strong membership with caring professionals who are here to support one another. If you need help and are in crisis, I implore you to call 1-800-273-TALK. If you are worried about a colleague, please connect with them and check in with them and just listen. I know that if I did not have my close network of colleagues to rely on to call about work and personal challenges, there is a very good chance that I would not still be in this profession. Our careers are peppered with adversity and conflict, but the outcomes always seem to outweigh the challenges.

As we approach June, and that finish line of the school year approaches, many of us are excited to exhale and decompress from the 2021-2022 school year. We are close to moving into the season where we get to reacquaint ourselves with our families and friends. Take those opportunities and cherish every single one of them.

In conclusion, I wanted to share a personal story. When I was the Athletic Director at Minneapolis Patrick Henry High School, there

was a Physical Education teacher who would come in every single day and say thank you to me for all the hard work that I was doing for our school and community. Mind you, he was a teacher who never coached at the high school (although he had coached in previous schools he had been at). I asked one day why he always thanked me, because as a non-coach, I was unsure as to why he felt compelled to thank me. His response was that he knew that the only time people tended to reach out and contact the Athletic Director was when there were problems (a missed bus, an official who didn't show up, an issue with a coach, etc.) and he recognized how difficult our professions were and he felt that thanking me was just a little thing he could do to reaffirm the work that I was doing and validate my efforts in growing young men and young women through activities.

I want to say thank you to every single one of you in our amazing state of Minnesota and let you all know that your work, which often goes unrecognized, is very much appreciated. Your efforts in leading and mentoring are making your communities, our state, and our world a better place!

Additional State Resource: <https://mn.gov/dhs/people-we-serve/seniors/health-care/mental-health/>

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FINANCIAL REPORT

By Ken Hubert
Associate Treasurer & Newsletter Editor

It was great to be able to see so many people at the 2022 MNIAAA Conference this year. I briefly shared our financial status at the ending annual business meeting, but I believe it's worthwhile to share the present figures.

As of May 15, our accounts stand as follows:

Premier Bank	\$ 92,726.15
TruStone	\$122,817.07
PayPal	\$ 1,269.24
Cash + Visa Card	\$ 690.00
TruStone Credit Card	(\$ 3,216.51)
Due NIAAA for memberships	(\$ 21,720.00)
Total Assets	\$192,565.95

At this time last year, we had about \$191,000 in the bank, so even hosting the spring conference only allows us to maintain our present status. After two years of having no conference, it's at least a good thing to be able to say that we are holding our own.

One of the things that Mike (and Pete before him) always focuses on during the conference is the vendor hall. Our vendors contributed \$40,000+ to be a part of our conference. As you can see, without their contributions, we would not be able to provide the conference that we do. That is why Mike has always asked conference attendees to take the time to stop and talk to as many vendors as possible.

Again, it was great to see everyone. If you have questions regarding any of this, please feel free to contact me at khubert55@gmail.com.



RETIREE COLUMN

Rita Rislund, Retired, Princeton

Retirees,

As we close out our 2022 conference, I am extremely happy so many of us were able to get together. It was great to reconnect. It seems like ages since we had the opportunity. Some highlights from our few days include:

- (1) The whist tournament run by Haze. We had (3) tables [I think, (memory lapse)]. Fun and conversation abounded. We crowned a new Champ. Congrats to Dave Huffman.
- (2) 50 - 50 tickets --- Goal of \$3,000 was met. It is awesome for the Retirees organization to give the \$1,000 toward the scholarships. Thanks to all of you who bought the tickets.
- (3) Thanks for stepping up to take tickets at all the meals. It is a small way, BUT very important, to serve our organization.
- (4) Thanks to Wally, our golf guru, for taking care of our golf outings
- (5) Thanks to Sharon for the distribution of pens and \$25 reward for attending the great gathering.
- (6) A special year for me with the induction to the Hall of Fame. Thanks for all the kind words.
- (7) An outstanding Thank You to our illustrious Secretary/Treasurer, Scott Larson, for all your hard work and dedication over the years.

In closing, Thanks from the ends of the earth for all you do to be here and support the Retired ADs. See you next spring. Bring another Retiree with you by connecting in your area of the State. Keep healthy and safe

Your Prezzzzzz,
Rita



NIAAA MESSAGE

By Brad O'Donnell, St. Clair • NIAAA Liaison



Summer is almost upon us which will give you time to recharge your batteries and continue your professional growth in Athletic/ Activities Administration. This summer the NIAAA will offer a number of on-line classes that you can either take at home or at the cabin. These courses will help towards your overall certifications. Below is the upcoming schedule for LTC classes.

Summer, 2022 • All Classes will be 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

- 714 – Wednesday July 6 – Scott Dorsett, Brad O'Donnell
- 617 – Wednesday July 13 – Kevin Adams – Anne MacNeil – Jill Stobber
- 701 – Thursday July 14 – Holly Farnese, Kelly Fish
- 611 – Monday July 18 – Becky Moran – Marc Haught
- 630 – Tuesday July 19 – Jay Hammes – Gary Stevens
- 503 – Wednesday July 20 – Tim Graham - Danielle Turner
- 510 – Thursday July 21 – Daniel Armstrong – Doug Killgore
- 501 – Monday July 25 – Fred Smith, Kevin Guzzo
- 700 – Tuesday July 26 – Holly Farnese, Jake Von Scherrer
- 710A – Wednesday July 27 – Susan Robbins, Michael Krueger
- 633 – Thursday July 28 – Ron Belinko, Michael Duffy

Professional Certification Guide Booklet

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Certification Congratulation

Starting this past March the NIAAA recognizes everyone that received a certification from each state. I want to congratulate Jared Matson for his Certified Athletic Administrator; CAA and Andrew Sertich – Registered Athletic Administrator – RAA

National Faculty and State Faculty Request

The NIAAA National Instructional Faculty is requesting AD's that would be interested in teaching a LTC course at the National Convention. If you are interested please contact my office at 507-327-2791 or email me at bodonnell@stclaircyclones.org. At our state conference we are also looking

for instructors. I'm more than happy to mentor you through this process.

LTC New Classes

In Denver last year at the national conference they rolled out LTC 712: Ethical decision making in the athletic environment and LTC 717: Partnering with Parents to Build a Positive Team Culture in the 21st Century.

Potential new courses for presentation during the Nashville NADC are: LTC 629: Awareness of Diversity Management Practices in Athletic Operation; LTC 704: Hiring and Retention of Coaches/Sponsors; and LTC 910: Current Issues in the International Education-Based Community.

Retirement and New Executive Director

In February the NIAAA announced the retirement of Dr. Mike Blackburn, CMAA, as the executive director of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, effective January 20, 2023. He will retire in his seventh year as executive director, previously spending 11 years as the NIAAA associate executive director. Before joining the NIAAA as a staff member, Blackburn spent 28 years as a high school athletic administrator/assistant principal. Thank you Mike, for all of your dedication to high school athletics. Phil Rison, CMAA will be elevated to executive director of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), effective January 2023. He is currently in his sixth year as associate executive director of the NIAAA after a 30-year administrator, teaching, and coaching career.

National Conference 2022

The 2022 National Conference will be held in the Great state of Tennessee in Nashville. One of my favorite places is the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center that will host this year's National Conference December 9-13 2022.



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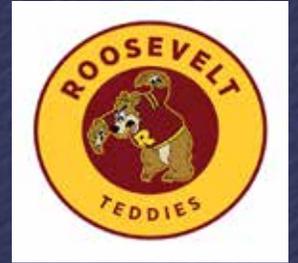
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GET TO KNOW...

ADAM FLANDERS

Minneapolis Roosevelt



1. What is your educational background?

I attended high school at Minneapolis South and I graduated from UW-River Falls with a BA in Elementary Education (1-6) and minors in Coaching and Health. I then earned my MA in Emotional/Behavioral Disorders from the University of St. Thomas and am currently working towards CAA certification.

2. In what sports or activities were you active in high school and/or college?

In high school I played organized football and baseball, but was always on a court, rink or field playing something at the local parks. I played football for five years in college including a red-shirt freshman year.

3. What sports/activities have you coached/directed and at what levels?

I have coached football for 22 years at all high school levels from Freshman to Varsity. I have coached middle school girls basketball, baseball, youth golf and even did a stint as our (Roosevelt High School) softball coach as our teachers and coaches were on strike this past spring.

4. What schools have you served as a teacher, coach, director, or administrator? How many years at each?

As a teacher, I have worked at the following schools (years); Hale Elementary (3), Willard Elementary (2), Marcy Open (1), Heart Of The Earth (1), Arlington High School (1), Harrison Center (3), Olson Middle School (1) and my current home, Roosevelt High School (10+). As a football coach, I have worked at Minneapolis South (1), DeLaSalle (5), Robbinsdale Cooper (3), Hopkins (2), East Ridge (3) and of course, Minneapolis Roosevelt (8). I currently serve as the Athletic Director at Minneapolis Roosevelt and this is my initial year in this position.

5. Who were some of the role models who have influenced your career as a coach, director, or athletic administrator?

Coaching role models that have influenced me include both my high school Head Football Coach Al

Howard, and my college Head Coach, John O'Grady. My college Defensive Coordinator, Tom Journell (current head coach at Carleton) and Linebacker Coach, Kevin Bullis (current head coach at UW Whitewater) both had a positive influence on my coaching characteristics and overall knowledge of the game. The person that influenced me the most in athletic administration and motivated me to become an Athletic Director was Roosevelt's former Athletic Director, Dennis Stockmo. Additionally, three other AD's I have experienced as a teacher and/or coach that have consistently demonstrated exemplary Athletic Administration actions and habits throughout their careers and have had a positive influence on me and many others, are Dave Wicker of Minneapolis, Dan Johnson from Hopkins and Trent Hanson from Hastings (formerly at East Ridge).

6. Who are current colleagues who have made a positive impact on your work?

Current colleagues who have a positive impact on the work we do at Roosevelt include my fellow Southside AD's, Robert Hollway at Southwest, Amy Cardarelle at South and Giovan Jenkins at Washburn. I'd be remiss if I didn't give the earned accolades to our Northside companions Kale Severson at North, Kenny Maxey at Henry and a bit to the East, Brett McNeal at Edison. Furthermore, Our Minneapolis District AD Antony Fisher also consistently demonstrates a growth mindset and a willingness to listen to new ideas, suggestions and participate in open and honest communication.



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7. What has been your most memorable moment in interscholastic activities, whether participating, coaching, or as an administrator? What made it memorable?

My most memorable experience as a player or coach would have to be winning the section championship while in my first year coaching at Hopkins High School and making it to the state tournament (which was my first and only trip to the state tourney as a player OR a coach). We then went on to play at the former and classic stadium at St. Cloud Tech high school, with the stonewall going around the perimeter (was much too close in some spots!) and fans literally breathing down our necks on the sidelines.

8. How would you describe the athletic climate in your community?

At this time overall in Roosevelt Athletics, we consider our greatest strength to be regardless of experience or skill level, all student-athletes at Roosevelt have the ability to join a program, participate in a sport of their choosing and hopefully have fun and get better along the way. We are experiencing an increase in participation numbers in all of our programs but especially, in our girls programs of Tennis, Soccer, Volleyball, Track, Nordic and Badminton. We are extremely proud of the increases in participation numbers in our girl athletic programs and in light of the 50th year anniversary of Title IX June, it is something we look to continue to develop, grow and take great pride in.

9. What part of your job might be unique compared to other ADs around the state? (i.e. Community Ed, Transportation director, lining fields, lunch duty...)

With a great sense of pride for our teams, fans and community, having a clean gym and stadium is a must for me as it is with all AD's I'm sure. With a major shortage of Engineer staff in MPS, this initial year has been full of cleaning garbage cans and transporting trash to dumpsters, cleaning gym floors and bleachers, vacuuming foyer rugs and assisting with the dismantling of old weight room equipment. Moreover, I do make frequent visits to our lunch room to assist with various duties such as serving food, helping with garbage and general supervision.

10. What is your favorite Minnesota sports venue whether high school, college, or pro? Why?

I must admit being a tad bit biased here however, I must say my favorite sports venue in Minnesota is Minneapolis Roosevelt's very own, Al Gowan Stadium. Set in the heart of the vibrant Southeast Minneapolis Nokomis neighborhood with close proximity to our adjacent neighbors' homes on three out of four sides, Al Gowan Stadium offers a character, setting and overall "vibe" that is hard to match.

11. What are some of your spare time interests?

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with my family and being outdoors as much as possible - Hiking, biking, kayaking, fishing and of course golfing are all outdoor activities I enjoy on a regular basis. Cannot lie, when possible, I do enjoy lounging on the couch watching live sports or Netflix.

12. Married? Children? If so, how are they involved because of your role as an administrator?

I have been married to my wonderful wife Jana for 17 years this summer. We are blessed to have two daughters - our oldest daughter Nola (15) is a freshman gymnast at Jefferson High school and our youngest daughter Veya, is a 7th grader who plays LAX and hockey. My family supports me and my AD position in many ways including, showing MUCH patience, being flexible and willing to support all our Teddy Nation athletic programs in many different ways.



GET TO KNOW...

DARIN KEIZER

Southwest Christian Stars



1. What is your educational background?

I have a Bachelor's degree from Dordt University in K-12 Education and Exercise Science, Masters degree from Dordt University in K-12 administration, C.M.A.A. from the NIAAA, PHD in progress (All but dissertation complete) from Liberty University.

2. In what sports or activities were you active in high school and/or college?

I was involved in Cross Country, Basketball, Soccer, and Track in high school and I was in Basketball for 1 year in college and soccer 4 years in college (no I didn't go to college for 5 years, just overlapped 1 year of basketball and soccer)

3. What sports/activities have you coached/directed and at what levels?

Varsity Boys Basketball Head Coach, Girls Varsity Head Coach, C Basketball and currently Head boys varsity soccer coach.

4. What schools have you served as a teacher, coach, director, or administrator? How many years at each?

1 Year in Saipan as a K-8 PE teacher (Micronesian Islands) Grad Assistant girls basketball coach at Dordt University (1 Year), Athletic Director, PE Teacher and Boys Basketball coach at Essex High School (1 year), Athletic Director and Coach at Southwest Christian (8 Years)

5. Who were some of the role models who have influenced your career as a coach, director, or athletic administrator?

I have continued to look up to previous coaches that I had in high school as models for me Mr. Jim Eekhoff and Mr. Bill Harmsen, both had great impacts on my life, helped me develop my love for basketball and my love for the Lord. My brother has always impacted me and my career, he too is an athletic director, teacher, and coach, he is a person I can continue to seek advice from in all avenues. I have other great influences in my life who have continued to influence me in my career including (current ADs in the field), former teammates, and mentors.

6. Who are current colleagues who have made a positive impact on your work?

I am very blessed to have an incredible coaching staff here at Southwest Christian, they continue to influence and inspire me to do the work that I do. I am also incredibly blessed to have a supportive administrative staff here, both Dan Beckering and Rob Wassenaar have made a great impact on my life both professionally and spiritually.

7. What has been your most memorable moment in interscholastic activities, whether participating, coaching, or as an administrator? What made it memorable?

I think having the ability to celebrate any small victory with a kid or a coach is quite memorable! Of course, winning state as a soccer coach or seeing other kids / teams qualify for or win state is definitely up there. However, I think the most memorable comes from a team who was undefeated throughout the season, they lost in the section tournament. The next day I asked a kid how he was doing. He said the team accomplished their goal....somewhat taken back, I asked, what was that? He said, Mr. Keizer, we were able to get every team to pray with us this year, and we did exactly that! As an A.D. at a Christian school, I get to see lives changed and this moment showed me great maturity in our student athletes. If they won a championship, it would have been great. But they were in it to influence and make an impact on others.

8. How would you describe the athletic climate in your community?

We have over 80% of our student body involved in a sport here at Southwest Christian. We have a very involved community which makes the athletic experience great here. We have a supportive student body that continues to back other sports when they are not playing sports on their own.

9. What part of your job might be unique compared to other ADs around the state? (i.e. Community Ed, Transportation director, lining fields, lunch duty...)

As an Athletic Director at a Christian school, I have a couple of extra duties that might not typically fall on other AD's from around the state including: Line painting, transportation coordinator, camp coordinator, and discipleship group leader.

10. What is your favorite Minnesota sports venue whether high school, college, or pro? Why?

I have been a Minnesota Vikings fan all my life. I think NFL games are a blast here in Minnesota! I grew up watching Randy Moss, Chris Carter, John Randle. The excitement around Vikings football has always been a passion for me. However, not being from Minnesota, I have learned to love the hockey community here as well! The passion of hockey in this state is hard to match. It has been an incredible experience for me to learn and understand the rich tradition of high school and professional hockey here in Minnesota.

11. What are some of your spare time interests?

I enjoy golfing, paddle boarding, and spending time with my wife and son.

12. Married? Children? If so, how are they involved because of your role as an administrator?

I am married to my wife Jenna (4 years), one son Landon (year and a half). Jenna has been incredibly supportive in my career. Family dinners look different for ADs, we do a lot of dinners in my office or at the field together. Allowing us to spend that time in our sports community and still getting the ability to be around each other as a family.



GET TO KNOW...

MAT MAHONEY

Fairmont Cardinals



1. What is your educational background?

I am a graduate of Fairmont high school in 1999. I continued my education at Minnesota State University, Mankato and graduated in 2004 with a physical education and health degree. I am just completing my Master of Education degree at Morehead State University.

2. In what sports or activities were you active in high school and/or college?

I was a three-sport athlete in high school playing Football, Basketball and running Track, I also played 2 years of college football. After my 2 years of playing, I was a student assistant football coach at MSU.

3. What sports/activities have you coached/directed and at what levels?

Head Football coach at Fairmont for 15 years, Track Assistant coach for 18 years, Assistant Girls Basketball coach 5 years, Assistant Boys Basketball coach 1 year

4. What schools have you served as a teacher, coach, director, or administrator? How many years at each?

Fairmont High School for the past 17 years. AD for the past 11 years

5. Who were some of the role models who have influenced your career as a coach, director, or athletic administrator?

Tom Mahoney (Grandfather) was a mentor for me growing up. He was the head football coach and AD at Fairmont for a long time. Coach Bob Bonk, I ran under coach Bonk in the late 90's and won a true team state title for him. I then came back and have been working with him for the past 18 years. Randy Soma was the athletic director when I took over at Fairmont and to this day we still stay in touch and I can bounce ideas off of him.

6. Who are current colleagues who have made a positive impact on your work?

Joe Brown, previous Superintendent at Fairmont, Andy Traetow current Superintendent at Fairmont, Scott Geerdes Guidance Counselor at Fairmont, Sara Junkermeier teacher/coach in the Fairmont School district.

7. What has been your most memorable moment in interscholastic activities, whether participating, coaching, or as an administrator? What made it memorable?

Taking our football team to the state prep bowl finals in 2011. It really brought the community together and it was an experience I will never forget. In 2013, our Football, Basketball and Baseball teams all

qualified for the state tournament. As an AD, I have also had the privilege of having our teams play/compete in the following venues: Metrodome, US Bank Stadium, Target Field, Target Center, Excel Energy Center, Williams Arena

8. How would you describe the athletic climate in your community?

Our community is very "Supportive" of Fairmont athletics. We travel very well to section/state games and the community really supports the school as a whole.

9. What part of your job might be unique compared to other ADs around the state? (i.e. Community Ed, Transportation director, lining fields, lunch duty...)

For the past 11 years, I have always taught at least 2 PE classes while being a full time activities director.

10. What is your favorite Minnesota sports venue whether high school, college, or pro? Why?

I really enjoy going to Williams Arena to watch the Gophers basketball games. I think the raised court makes that place special. I also like Target Field and watching baseball games there.

11. What are some of your spare time interests?

In my spare time, I am currently on the chain gang and work all of the home games for the Minnesota Gopher Football team. I am a huge fan of all sports and like to watch/attend as many events as possible. I also like to play golf when I have the time. I also enjoying riding my bike.

12. Married? Children? If so, how are they involved because of your role as an administrator?

I am married to Leanna Mahoney (7 years) and have 3 girls: Nevaeh (5) Amaya (3) and Jada (17 months)



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GET TO KNOW...

PAUL REISS

Cloquet Lumberjacks



1. What is your educational background?

Graduated from Cloquet High School in 1998. Graduated from the University of Minnesota-Duluth with a teaching mathematics degree. Received a Masters in Education degree from the College of St Scholastica.

2. In what sports or activities were you active in high school and/or college?

Played, baseball, basketball, and football during high school. I also participated in mock trial and math team.

3. What sports/activities have you coached/directed and at what levels?

Varsity baseball coach at Carlton High School. JV baseball coach at Cloquet High School, JV basketball coach at Cloquet High School. JV football coach at Cloquet High School as well as varsity assistant for several years.

4. What schools have you served as a teacher, coach, director, or administrator? How many years at each?

This is my 20th year at Cloquet High School. I taught math full time or part time for 19 years. This is my 5th year as activities director.

5. Who were some of the role models who have influenced your career as a coach, director, or athletic administrator?

I coached football with Tom Lenarz for 18 years. He was also the activities director before me. Observing how he handled coaching and the activities director position had a big influence on me. Also, former region 7AA secretary Doug Maclver provided a lot of guidance.

6. Who are current colleagues who have made a positive impact on your work?

All the activities directors in the Lake Superior Conference have made a positive impact. We all work so well together and offer each other help and guidance when needed.

7. What has been your most memorable moment in interscholastic activities, whether participating, coaching, or as an administrator? What made it memorable?

Coaching in the 2017 Class AAAA football championship at US Bank Stadium is something I will always remember. I was offensive coordinator at the time. Even though we did not win the game, being part of it was a lot of fun.

8. How would you describe the athletic climate in your community?

We have a great athletic community. We have some of the best coaches around who have been doing it for

several years. We are fortunate that many of our coaches have been doing it for several years. Having that consistency with our coaches has been great.

9. What part of your job might be unique compared to other ADs around the state? (i.e. Community Ed, Transportation director, lining fields, lunch duty...)

For the first 4 years of my job, I also taught 2 hours of math. I feel that is unique for a school our size. This is the first year I have not taught math. I am now the high school testing coordinator, College in the Schools Coordinator, and have cafeteria duty.

10. What is your favorite Minnesota sports venue whether high school, college, or pro? Why?

Williams Arena - I was fortunate to be a basketball assistant in 2013-2014 when we advanced to the class AAA tournament. We lost in the quarterfinals at Williams Arena. The atmosphere at that arena was great.

11. What are some of your spare time interests?

Golf, travel, spending time at the family cabin in the summer.

12. Married? Children? If so, how are they involved because of your role as an administrator?

I have been married for 16+ years to my wife Melissa. We have a 6-year-old boy named Eli. They are great. They understand that being at games at night is part of the job. Melissa has always enjoyed coming to basketball games during the winter. I am fortunate that Eli enjoys basketball and likes to come work on his dribbling before JV basketball games. He also enjoys coming to games with his dad as he knows he will get popcorn and snacks.

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GET TO KNOW...

KEN HAYDEN

Roseau Rams



1. What is your educational background?
Ada-Borup High School Graduate, Mayville State University
2. In what sports or activities were you active in high school and/or college?
Basketball, Baseball, Track & Field, band & choir (baseball @ Mayville State)
3. What sports/activities have you coached/directed and at what levels?
(Head Boys & Girls Track & Field, Head CC, Head Boys Basketball, JV Football JV girls basketball)
4. What schools have you served as a teacher, coach, director, or administrator? How many years at each?
1 Year Hancock, 2 Years STMA, Roseau 11 Years
5. Who were some of the role models who have influenced your career as a coach, director, or athletic administrator?
Mom (Ruth Hayden), Mike Gullingsrud, Mike Kolness, Kent Hamre
6. Who are current colleagues who have made a positive impact on your work?
Many of the coaches that are currently working in Roseau. They have been awesome to work with! My Superintendent Tom Jerome has been very supportive and helpful with my current role as AD!
7. What has been your most memorable moment in interscholastic activities, whether participating, coaching, or as an administrator?
*Being a part of high school activities with my teammates, reffing high school basketball with great people, and coaching many great student athletes along the way!
What made it memorable? The stories that are told years after from numerous athletes/coaches.*
8. How would you describe the athletic climate in your community?
Roseau is a very supportive community that has a strong backing for all of their athletics and an amazing tradition of success!

9. What part of your job might be unique compared to other ADs around the state? (i.e. Community Ed, Transportation director, lining fields, lunch duty...)

I wear many different hats with my job and love them all!

10. What is your favorite Minnesota sports venue whether high school, college, or pro?

Many of the ballparks I have got to play at for amateur baseball tournaments. Delano, Litchfield, Hutchinson, Winsted, Chaska to name a few...also the home parks of Roseau (Gilbertson Field), and my hometown field of Ada (Tony Sipe Field). Why? The pride and commitment that many people take to preserve their parks and the time and effort it takes to make sure they will be around for our next generation is something every town can be proud of!

11. What are some of your spare time interests?

Fishing, Gardening

12. Married? Wife Becky Children? 4 Girls If so, how are they involved because of your role as an administrator?

My wife has been a huge supporter of me during all of my coaching duties and AD commitment and my 4 girls have been my number 1 fan throughout many of my journeys!

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