Springing into Action

By: Kenny Henderson, Executive Director

As winter’s icy grip on Louisiana will soon loosen, we are once again treated to the thrills that accompany spring high school sports.

The action hasn’t stopped after the fall championships. LHSAA’s winter sports—basketball, soccer, wrestling and indoor track and field—all have rich traditions. Soccer and wrestling seasons conclude this week, followed closely by track and field, with all three sports’ championships held in February. Basketball championships will be decided on the hardwood in early March. The girls will play at Southeastern University in Hammond, and the boys will play at the Lafayette Cajundome.

Meanwhile, the sound of baseballs clanging off bats indicates that practice for spring sports has arrived. Baseball begins with jamborees and regular season games in February, and the state championships close the LHSAA season May 11-12. This year, Tulane University hosts the division 5A championship in New Orleans, while Louisiana Tech University in Ruston hosts 4A and 3A. Fair Grounds Field in Shreveport hosts the 2A and 1A championships, and Brinthurst Park in Alexandria hosts divisions B and C.

While many associate the return of spring with America’s pastime, we at the LHSAA are incredibly enthusiastic about the entirety of the spring lineup. Softball is every bit as exciting as baseball, and its participants work just as hard. Softball championships will be held at the end of April at Sulphur’s Frash Park. Golf action has also begun, and the championships will be held throughout April and May. Courses in Zachary and Woodworth will host the girls’ championships, while boys’ championships will be held in Zachary, Alexandria and Patterson.

Bowling is a sport that has enjoyed steadily increasing popularity nationwide and continues to move further into the mainstream. Its season began with the spring semester and ends with the state championships on April 13 at Lafayette Lanes. As focus on professional tennis centers on the Australian Open, LHSAA tennis also swings into high gear. Tennis championships will be held May 2-7 at a location to be determined.

Gymnastics and outdoor track and field are two of the most popular Olympic sports, and the LHSAA versions are just as thrilling. Both sports will hold their championships in Baton Rouge, with gymnastics culminating at the end of April at Baton Rouge High and track and field closing in early May at LSU.

Many people associate the LHSAA with major sports but do not realize how many sports it sanctions. Currently, the LHSAA sanctions 25 sports and is also engaged in a pilot program for powerlifting. Each sport is unique and entertaining in its own right, and we are proud of the thousands of student-athletes who work hard to grow, play and excel in each one of them.