

LHSAA Annual Principals Luncheon Presented by Coca-Cola Honors Outstanding Contributors to High School Athletics

BATON ROUGE, LA – The Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) hosted its annual Principals Luncheon, presented by Coca-Cola, celebrating excellence in high school athletics and recognizing individuals who have made significant contributions to student-athletes and sports journalism. The event, held at The Crowne Plaza in Baton Rouge, brought together administrators, coaches, and community leaders for an afternoon of recognition and celebration.

Steve Schneider of the LHSAA Network served as the Master of Ceremonies, guiding attendees through the program. John LeBlanc of Loyola College Prep delivered the invocation and Steve Caruso from Coca-Cola welcomed the guests and honorees.

Golden Torch Award – Meredith Duncan

The prestigious Golden Torch Award, which honors a former LHSAA student-athlete who excelled at the collegiate level and continues to serve as a role model, was awarded to Meredith Duncan. A standout athlete at C.E. Byrd High School, Duncan went on to achieve greatness at LSU, earning multiple SEC and national honors in golf. She later spent 10 years on the LPGA Tour before dedicating herself to mentoring young athletes, coaching at her alma mater, and giving back to the community.

LHSAA Prep Journalism Award – Jake Martin

This year's LHSAA Prep Journalism Award was presented to Jake Martin of The Ouachita Citizen. A second-generation sports journalist, Martin has been a pillar of Louisiana high school sports coverage, adapting to the evolving media landscape while continuing to provide in-depth reporting on student-athletes and coaches. His dedication and storytelling have made a lasting impact on prep sports journalism in Louisiana.

LHSAA Super Sport Award – Robert Boudreaux

The LHSAA Super Sport Award, given to an individual who has gone above and beyond to support and grow a specific sport, was posthumously awarded to Robert Boudreaux. Over a 20-year career, Boudreaux was instrumental in elevating high school golf in Louisiana, coaching at Teurlings Catholic and leading the successful consolidation of the LHSAA State Golf Championships in Lafayette. Accepting the award on his behalf was his wife Liz and two children.

Distinguished Service Award – John Talley

The Distinguished Service Award, which honors individuals for their exceptional service to interscholastic athletics, was presented posthumously to John Talley. A beloved coach

LHSAA... Beyond the Game



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and mentor, Talley dedicated more than three decades to coaching track & field, football, and powerlifting. His contributions to Louisiana athletics extended beyond coaching, as he also served as an official and advocate for sport’s growth. His wife, Lydia, and son, Trey, accepted the award in his memory.

National High School Athletic Coaches’ Association Hall of Fame – Charles Baglio

The late Coach Charles Baglio was honored for his induction into the National High School Athletic Coaches’ Association Hall of Fame. As a legendary football coach at Independence High School, he led his teams to numerous district titles and state championship appearances. His influence extended to the Louisiana High School Coaches Association and LSU, where he worked as a high school relations coordinator. Accepting this honor on his behalf was his brother, Freddie Baglio, and family.

Executive Committee Recognition of Service

The LHSAA also recognized former Executive Committee members for their dedication and service to the association:

Chrissa Hailey

Carynn Wiggins

Yvonne Hrapmann

Jimmy Witherwax

Dwain Jenkins

Danielle Yunusah

Tamela Phillips

Congratulations to all the 2024 honorees for their outstanding achievements and contributions to high school athletics in Louisiana!

About the LHSAA

The Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) is the governing body for high school sports in Louisiana. Established to promote, regulate, and develop interscholastic athletic programs, the LHSAA provides student-athletes with opportunities to compete at the highest levels while emphasizing academic excellence, sportsmanship, and fair play. For more information, visit www.lhsaa.org.

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