



## WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, April 9, 2010**

### WIAA WINTER TEAM TOURNAMENT SPORTSMANSHIP AWARDS ANNOUNCED

**STEVENS POINT, Wis.**--The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, in cooperation with Rural Mutual Insurance, has selected the team Sportsmanship Awards for the 2010 winter State Tournaments.

The winners of the prestigious award are Royall in boys basketball, Black Hawk in girls basketball, Wausau West in boys ice hockey, River Falls Co-op in girls ice hockey, Ellsworth in wrestling and Platteville/Belmont/Lancaster in gymnastics.

Royall edged out a number of contenders for the award at the Boys State Basketball Tournament. The Panthers displayed outstanding sportsmanship, enthusiasm and community support in their 63-35 semifinal loss to eventual champion Randolph. It is the school's first Sportsmanship Award in basketball and the second overall. Royall was bestowed the honor in spring baseball in 1998. Receiving honorable mention include Antigo, Arrowhead, Blair-Taylor, Green Bay N.E.W. Lutheran, Northwestern, Randolph, Sauk Prairie and Verona.

Black Hawk was selected as the sportsmanship award winner in girls basketball. The district and South Wayne community came out in full force to support the team at the Kohl Center. The Warriors defeated Northwood 42-31 in the semifinals but were defeated by Newman Catholic 64-30 in the Division 4 final. It's the first WIAA/Rural Mutual Insurance Sportsmanship Award presented to Black Hawk. Altoona, Beaver Dam, Brillion, Cuba City, Osseo-Fairchild and Weston received honorable mention.

Wausau West was chosen as the winner of the boys hockey Sportsmanship Award for its exemplary sportsmanship at the State Hockey Tournament. It is the third sportsmanship honor presented to the Warriors and their first in boys hockey. They received the honor in boys soccer twice, in 1996 and 2000. This year, they edged Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln 2-1 in the quarterfinals, topped Eau Claire Memorial 4-3 in two overtimes in the semifinals and fell to University School 5-3 in the championship final. Honorable mention went to University School and Wisconsin Rapids Lincoln.

The River Falls co-op, which includes Baldwin-Woodville, Glenwood City, St. Croix Central and Spring Valley won the State title for the second straight season, minus Elmwood as part of the co-op program, and its second consecutive Sportsmanship Award in girls hockey. The Fusion defeated the University School co-op 2-0 in the semifinals and the Green Bay East co-op 5-2 in the championship final. The Mosinee co-op and the University School co-op received honorable mention recognition.

Ellsworth receives its third Sportsmanship Award in wrestling following its display of sportsmanship at the State Team Wrestling Tournament. The Panthers also received the honor in 1999 and 2008. They were ousted from title contention with a 33-26 loss to Oconto Falls in the Division 2 semifinals. Mineral Point and Oconto Falls received honorable mention for the award.

Platteville/Belmont/Lancaster receives the sportsmanship award for the first time in any sport. The co-op program placed third in Division 2 at the WIAA State Gymnastics Championships in March. The schools and communities receiving honorable mention include Arrowhead, Onalaska, Oshkosh West/North, River Falls, Sheboygan South/North, Viroqua/Cashton/De Soto/North Crawford, West Salem/Aquinas.

The WIAA/Rural Mutual Insurance Sportsmanship Award is presented to one school and community in each of the State team tournaments. The award winners are determined by the conduct and sportsmanship displayed by athletes, coaches, cheer and support groups, mascots, bands and spectators. Additional consideration is given for the effort of school administrators and chaperones to insure support for their teams are positive and that the highest ideals of sportsmanship are upheld. Award winners receive a plaque and banner in recognition of the honor. Schools receiving honorable mention are acknowledged with a certificate of recognition.

The selection process includes contributions and evaluations from contest officials, tournament management, police and security personnel, crowd control and ushers, WIAA staff members, area hotels and restaurants.

**# WIAA #**

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