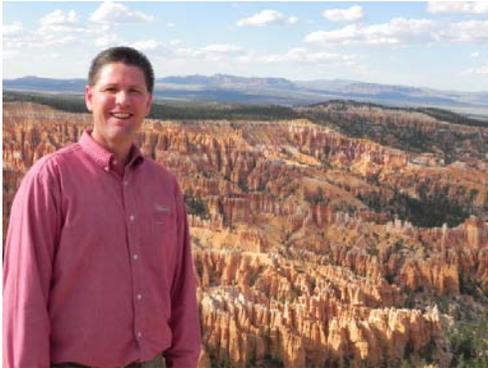


# Raise the Bar

## Sportsmanship Matters!

UPDATE December 2012 - Volume 26, Number 2



## Off the CUFF

Thoughts from UHSAA Executive Director Rob Cuff

### South Central Utah is Color Country

South Central Utah is known for its colorful charm, gasping geology and unique history. The landscape is striking with mountains climbing over 12,000 feet, dramatic timbered plateaus, rugged red rock canyons, turquoise blue lakes and reservoirs and cactus covered deserts. The openness of the western landscape and the peaceful lifestyle add to the Color Country experience.

However, when it comes to the Utah High School Activities Association, South Central Utah is known more for its seven member schools stretched over four districts and counties.

In the height of the beautiful autumn weather of September, I had the amazing opportunity to visit all seven South Central high schools and four districts in the span of three days.

### Piute High School

The first stop was in Piute County and the town of Junction where earth-covered potato cellars remain as evidence of a successful crop in an earlier era. A 1A school in Region 20, Piute has a new school of only a couple

*continued on page 9*

## UHSAA Announces 2013-15 Alignment

The Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA) Board of Trustees recently passed the final consideration of regions for 2013-15.

The final placement of member schools can be found on the UHSAA website at the following link: <http://www.uhsaa.org/realignment/2013-15Regions.pdf>

The UHSAA is governed by the 30-member Board of Trustees made up of elected school board members and superintendents representing all regions and areas throughout Utah, principals from each of the five classifications and a state board of education representative. The UHSAA Board of Trustees retains the responsibility for the alignment of all member schools which occurs every two years. The two year, rather than the four year, alignment period allows for proper adjustments more often as enrollments rise and fall at a number of schools. The enrollment data upon which the alignment is based will be less than one year old when the first contests begin.

On Wednesday, November 28, the Board of Trustees held a public hearing to receive feedback from districts, schools and communities on the placement of member schools into regions. In addition to the hearing, the UHSAA Board of Trustees reviewed numerous emails received over the past few weeks regarding the realignment of member schools.

On Thursday, November 29, the Board of Trustees approved the final consideration of regions under the new alignment for 2013-15 allowing time for schools and regions to organize and schedule for the two-year alignment period. The first contests under the new alignment will take place the fall of 2013.

The following are the number of schools and regions in each classification for the 2013-15 alignment period: 5A: 26 schools (two regions of six and two regions of seven); 4A: 30 schools (two regions of seven, two regions of eight) 3A: 23 schools (one region of eight, three regions of five) 2A: 24 schools (four regions of six) 1A: 34 schools (one region of nine divided into two divisions, two regions of nine, one region of six). A list of the sports and activities that each school currently participates in can be found on the UHSAA website under the 'Schools' tab.

## IN THIS ISSUE

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# UHSAA Distinguished Service Awards

Once a year, the UHSAA takes special pleasure in recognizing outstanding educators, coaches, officials and individuals throughout Utah who have made a significant contribution to high school activities in a number of areas. The UHSAA Distinguished Service Award was initiated in 1987 to honor individuals for their service and contributions to high school activities. Each recipient was chosen because of the standards of excellence they exemplify through their service, professional responsibilities, leadership and sportsmanship. The UHSAA would like to say thank you to these individuals for touching the lives of so many.

- Joel Sato**, 5A Coach/Advisor of the Year from Bingham High School
- Kim Nelson**, 4A Coach/Advisor of the Year from Timpanogos High School
- Dan Lunt**, 3A Coach/Advisor of the Year from Payson High School
- Jared Anderson**, 2A Coach/Advisor of the Year from Gunnison High School
- Ashley Brown**, 1A Coach/Advisor of the Year from Rich High School
- Kim Peterson**, Athletic Director of the Year from Box Elder High School
- Teresa Turner**, Female Official of the Year
- Mark Sackett**, Male Official of the Year
- Lois Johnson**, Music Educator of the Year from Lone Peak High School
- Lois Faber**, Music Educator of the Year from Eskdale High School
- Gail Scoville**, Speech Educator of the Year from Carbon High School
- Joshua Long**, Theatre Educator of the Year from Hillcrest High School
- Rick Bojak**, UHSAA Distinguished Contributor
- Randy Brown**, UHSAA Distinguished Contributor
- Gary McKee**, Distinguished Media Contributor from Rich County



Athletic Director of the Year Kim Peterson (far left)

*"I am inspired year after year by watching young people rise to meet challenges. I find much fulfillment in being a part of the short, but critical years that can help shape my student's destinies.*



*It is worth the ups and downs, highs and lows, successes and failures to see at least one student succeed." - Lois Faber*

*"The opportunities for young people to grow and develop through participation in high school activities is immeasurable. Through participation in all the various activities students can learn how to form relationships with their peers, learn how to work with people for a common goal, and learn leadership skills." - Joey Sato*



# The UHSAA Selects Candidates for NFHS Awards

The National Federation of State High School Association has recognized outstanding coaches and officials through an awards program since 1982. Each state has the opportunity to nominate deserving individuals who exemplify the highest standards of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and moral character. The selection is based on the 2011-12 school year. Congratulations to the following individuals who were selected by the UHSAA as their candidate for this prestigious award for their designated sport.

## NFHS Coaches Association: UTAH COACHES OF THE YEAR

### Clint Barney

Baseball, Panguitch

### Scott Briggs

Boys Basketball, West Jordan

### Wade Jensen

Girls Basketball, Snow Canyon

### Mike Hunter

Boys Cross Country, Mountain View

### Don Hall

Girls Cross Country, Ogden

### Lisa Blackett

Drill Team, Juab

### Chris Homer

Football, Hurricane

### George Murphy

Boys Golf, Park City

### Marilee Eyre

Girls Golf, Beaver

### Burt Myers

Boys Soccer, Dixie

### Tim Dolbin

Girls Soccer, Waterford

### Don Andrews

Softball, Spanish Fork

### Chris Horne

Boys Swimming, Kearns

### John Moran

Girls Swimming, Juan Diego

### Janine Petersen

Boys Tennis, Alta

### Dezi Stuart

Girls Tennis, Bountiful

### Telly Esplin

Boys Track, Pine View

### Corbin Talley

Girls Track, Davis

### Jamie Ingersoll

Volleyball, Lehi

### Chris Loveless

Wrestling, Payson

## NFHS Officials Association: UTAH OFFICIALS OF THE YEAR

### John Voss

Baseball

### Scott Debo

Boys Basketball

### Paul Spencer

Girls Basketball

### Helene Johnson

Cross Country

### Diana Hunt

Drill Team

### Chris Swank

Football

### Bruce Lawhun

Boys Soccer

### Alex Krelo

Girls Soccer

### Scott Peisley

Softball

### Janet Chevalier

Swimming

### Dave Cherrington

Track

### Lisa Peshell

Volleyball

### Rick Dittman

Wrestling



Drill Coach Lisa Blackett



Official Scott Debo

*"Using my past positive experiences and influences from great teachers, coaches and colleagues, I felt indebted to 'give back' in the spirit of what sustained me in my youth and professional path."*

- Randall Brown  
former principal and coach

# Pursuing Thoughtful Decision-Making

By Kevin Dustin  
Assistant Director, Utah High School Activities Association



I am inspired by an observation by Voltaire, “Don’t let the perfect be the enemy of the good.” This is a fundamental shift of philosophy that occurred to me once while working tirelessly to come up with the perfect answer to a particular problem. I realized that there is no perfect realignment or transfer rule. There is no UHSAA or region policy that will work “perfectly” in every situation, because almost every situation is unique.

I have witnessed firsthand as staff, principals, Executive Committee members and Trustees have tried to wrestle with how to deal with a complex set of circumstances. Naysayers have been quick to point out what seems to be a quick, easy, and to them, obvious answer. This also reminds me of the adage to “be careful about easy answers to complex questions.” They almost never work and sometimes there are unintended consequences.

Perhaps the greatest leader I have ever studied was Abraham Lincoln. In Doris Kearns Goodwin’s critically acclaimed work entitled *Team of Rivals*, we learn of a man who did all he could to find consensus without compromising principles. He brought many of those who competed against him for his party nomination and the presidency into his inner circle. These men became his greatest allies because they were willing to see “around the bend” and work for the good of all.

The UHSAA and its member schools bear the responsibility of looking after *all* the kids. Like a referee in a game, whenever a decision is made, a portion of the populous will find reason to criticize. They will often remark “it’s not fair to the kids.” What they are really saying is they don’t think it is fair to their kids or the kids from their school. Sadly, not everyone takes the time to really study the issues, trying to objectively decide what is right for all.

So how do we help ourselves better understand? First, is by trying to learn all the facts. The UHSAA has made tremendous strides these past few years in educating anyone interested in learning the process and the rules. All of our policies and guidelines can be found on our website at [www.uhsaa.org](http://www.uhsaa.org). I would encourage interested parties to read the handbook and seek to understand why policies and procedures are in place. Second, become familiar with the governance structure of the UHSAA. Every school is represented on the region and state level by principals who are part of their respective Region Board of Managers. From that body, they elect a peer to be a member of the Executive Committee. This cadre of principals is responsible for assisting the UHSAA staff in administering the day to day work of the association. The policy making board (Board of Trustees) is made

up of school board members and schools administrators from each region. Mostly, these are men and women who have been duly elected and serve voluntarily to oversee budgets and develop policies. They are dedicated to the cause of activities in Utah and serve as arbiters when resolving conflict. Every two years, it is this group that makes the final decision on the alignment of clas-

*“Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.”*

*~ Ralph Waldo Emerson*

sification and the assignment of regions. Third, remember that no one will always agree with final decisions made by staff and these two governing boards. What you can be assured of is that decisions were made deliberately and with the best interest of all kids in mind.

Sports and activities, when supported by students, parents, and fans alike, can have a tremendous, positive effect on young people. The vast majority of kids who participate in high school sports and activities will conclude their competitive days upon graduation. Data shows that their chances for academic success and their overall contribution to society will be enhanced by this experience. It is incumbent on all of us to remember the life lessons learned on the fields and courts of competition. Finally, as Benjamin Franklin once remarked, “let the refining and improving of your own life keep us so busy that we have little time to criticize others.”





## 2013 Spring Sports Rules Clinics

**ATTENTION: Baseball, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field Coaches and Officials**

On an annual basis, all head coaches and officials are required to attend a live UHSAA Rules Clinic or complete an online UHSAA Rules Clinic and quiz for their designated sport. Schools will be fined if the head coach does not complete the requirement by the deadline listed below. Dates for the 2013 UHSAA Spring Rules Clinics are listed below. There is only an online clinic for Boys/ Soccer, Tennis, and Track & Field.

Listed below are the dates, times and locations for the live clinics and the dates when the online clinics will be available. To access online clinics, go to [uhsaa.org](http://uhsaa.org) and click on the Training tab. Because of the file size of the clinics, it may take several minutes to download. The online clinics are PowerPoint presentations which include a quiz that must be submitted for credit. In order to submit a quiz for the online clinic, every slide must be viewed or the quiz link will not work.

SPORT	LIVE RULES CLINICS	LOCATION	ONLINE CLINIC AVAILABLE
Baseball	February 2	Rocky Mtn Baseball Academy (389 W 10000 S)	Feb. 6 – Mar. 9
B. Soccer	Online Only	<a href="http://www.uhsaa.org">www.uhsaa.org</a>	Ongoing – Mar. 9
Softball	February 12	UHSAA Office (199 E 7200 S)	Feb. 18 – Mar. 21
B. Tennis	Online Only	<a href="http://www.uhsaa.org">www.uhsaa.org</a>	Feb. 11 – Mar. 9
Track & Field	Online Only	<a href="http://www.uhsaa.org">www.uhsaa.org</a>	Feb. 25 – Mar. 25

## Basketball Media Guides Now Online



- Basketball Media Guides are NOW AVAILABLE at [www.uhsaa.org](http://www.uhsaa.org) under the Publications tab.
- Recent Basketball Scores are available through the UHSAA's mobile app or through the boys and girls basketball pages.
- Scores are only shown for schools who enter their results through MaxPreps.
- Coming Soon: MaxPreps Basketball Leader Board.

**Get the UHSAA Mobile App**

## Dare2LEAD Student Leadership Conference

On Thursday, June 20, 2013, the Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA) will sponsor their second statewide leadership conference in partnership with the Utah Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (UIAAA). The UHSAA is asking member schools to select two students, one boy and one girl, to participate in the full day conference that will include speakers, breakout sessions, and a bowl-a-thon to benefit a worthy cause.

In March, principals will be asked to submit the names and contact information for their two students attending the conference. The UHSAA hopes that all schools will participate in the conference, which will be held at Murray High School. Contact Becky Anderson at the UHSAA if you have any questions.



# A Message from the UIAAA

By Renn Hoopes, CAA, President of the UIAAA

This year the UIAAA has adopted the motto of "Integrity first, service before self and excellence in all you do" If this sounds familiar to you it is from the core values of the United States Air force. What an exciting and challenging time to lead such a great group of athletic leaders. We have some great opportunities for growth in front of us as the year progresses. With realignment upon us, influences of club programs and maintaining the level academia in our schools it can all be a challenging time. I look at it as a stepping stone and opportunity. The organization we belong to is one of service. As we work with UHSAA staff we fully believe in the phrase "that they are us we are you". We need to help each other and lead our communities' with the vision of athletic excellence.

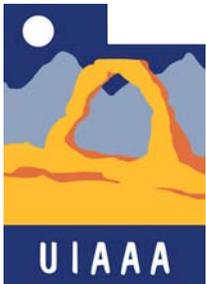
The UIAAA in conjunction with UHSAA are striving to emphasize education based athletics throughout the state by adding an academic segment to our director's cup award. Each of our member school's athletic directors is submitting a combined team GPA with all of their eligibility rosters electronically. In addition, we hope that each of our 21 regions will continue to recognize the individual student athletes that were not picked in the top 10 athletes recognized at the state tournaments. These students deserve recognition for individual academic work. It is my belief that we all should strive to be life-long learners to help improve those around us, recognizing the work these students may

have accomplished is worthwhile.

We are encouraging all of our Athletic Directors to become certified AD's at the CAA or CMAA level. As UIAAA president we presented our national certification program to the state superintendents association, the UHSAA Executive Committee, and also the Board of Trustees to get feedback and explain that our certification program is now nationally accredited. We are hoping to raise the bar among our colleagues and help our coaches, administrators and fans to earn the star of recognition in meeting these requirements. This awareness needs to extend to our classrooms, our courts, our playing fields, and our practice areas to better our communities.

I have been blessed in my educational journey to have earned two master's degrees, and I still felt the need to expand my education in leadership within the field of athletics. I was able to attend the national NIAAA conference in Indianapolis last year and gained a tremendous amount of use information. I am planning to attend this year's conference in San Antonio, Texas. It is my goal as the UIAAA president to get a representative from all 137 member schools to attend the UIAAA April conference in St. George, to learn from each other and to help our students. Conference dates are April 17-20. Our web site is: [www.UIAAA.org](http://www.UIAAA.org).

## Make Plans to Attend the 2012 UIAAA Conference



The Utah Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (UIAAA) State Conference will be held at the Lexington, 850 South Bluff St, in St. George April 17-20, 2013. The 33rd annual conference will host over 290 athletic administrators, spouses, guests and exhibitors. All Athletic Directors, Principals, Assistant Principals, and Athletic Administrators with responsibilities for athletics and activities are invited and encouraged to attend. The UIAAA is offering LTC 502, LTC 504, LTC 506, LTC 709, and LTC 724. The UIAAA and its Athletic Directors Executive Committee are pleased to present an

outstanding cast of featured speakers this year, along with a wide variety of workshop topics. Lee Green, J. D., Baker University, world renowned specialist in Sports law will be the keynote speaker on Friday evening. The UIAAA will host a golf tournament at 7:00 a. m., Friday, April 19, 2013. Jostens is once again generously sponsoring the tournament, which will be held at Coral Canyons Golf Course. The 7:00 am time is earlier than in previous conferences. See the registration form for cost. Conference registration forms can be found and downloaded at the UIAAA website ([uiaaa.org](http://uiaaa.org)). The registration fee is the same as last year. The fee is \$210 prior to January 31, 2013. From February 1 until March 15, 2013 the fee is \$235, and after that date and in person the fee will be \$260.

## Upcoming UHSAA State Events

Go to [www.uhsaa.org](http://www.uhsaa.org) for the latest updates.

Feb. 1-2	State Drill (UVU)	Feb. 16	3A Girls' Basketball 1st Round
Feb. 7	Diving Meet	Feb. 16	2A Boys' Basketball 1st Round (Snow)
Feb. 7-8	5A Swimming Meet (BYU)	Feb. 18-23	4A & 5A Girls' Basketball (SLCC)
Feb. 8-9	3A & 4A Swimming Meet (BYU)	Feb. 21-23	2A Boys' & Girls' Basketball (SUU)
Feb. 13-14	4A & 5A Wrestling (UVU)	Feb. 21-23	3A Boys' & Girls' Basketball (Weber State)
Feb. 13-16	1A Girls' Basketball (SVC)	Feb. 25-Mar. 2	4A & 5A Boys' Basketball (Weber State)
Feb. 15	2A Girls' Basketball 1st Round (Snow)	Feb. 27-Mar. 2	1A Boys' Basketball (SVC)
Feb. 15	3A Boys' Basketball 1st Round	Mar. 8-9	3A, 4A, 5A Speech/Debate
Feb. 15-16	1A, 2A, 3A Wrestling (UVU)	Mar. 15-16	1A, 2A Speech/Debate

# Fall Sports 2012 Results

## BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

### 1A

1st Place	Monticello
2nd Place	Panguitch
3rd Place	Bryce Valley
4th Place	St. Joseph
5th Place	Piute
6th Place	Valley

### 2A

1st Place	Richfield
2nd Place	Rowland Hall
3rd Place	North Summit
4th Place	San Juan
5th Place	Wasatch Academy
6th Place	Millard



### 3A

1st Place	Ogden
2nd Place	Wasatch
3rd Place	Desert Hills
4th Place	Park City
5th Place	Pine View
6th Place	Cedar

### 4A

1st Place	Herriman
2nd Place	Bonneville
3rd Place	Mtn View
4th Place	Timpanogos
5th Place	Orem
6th Place	Westlake

### 5A

1st Place	American Fork
2nd Place	Davis
3rd Place	Riverton
4th Place	Bingham
5th Place	Alta
6th Place	Lone Peak

## GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

### 1A

1st Place	Panguitch
2nd Place	Wayne
3rd Place	St. Joseph
4th Place	Monticello
5th Place	Valley
6th Place	Altamont

### 2A

1st Place	Rowland Hall
2nd Place	Enterprise
3rd Place	North Summit
4th Place	Richfield
5th Place	Parowan
6th Place	Manti



### 3A

1st Place	Park City
2nd Place	Ogden
3rd Place	Cedar
4th Place	Canyon View
5th Place	Wasatch
6th Place	Pine View

### 4A

1st Place	Mtn Crest
2nd Place	Orem
3rd Place	Skyline
4th Place	Maple Mtn
5th Place	Herriman
6th Place	Timpanogos

### 5A

1st Place	Davis
2nd Place	American Fork
3rd Place	Bingham
4th Place	Lehi
5th Place	Jordan
6th Place	Riverton

## FOOTBALL

### 1A

1st Place	Duchesne
2nd Place	Rich

### 2A

1st Place	Manti
2nd Place	San Juan

### 3A

1st Place	Dixie
2nd Place	Spanish Fork



### 4A

1st Place	Timpview
2nd Place	Mtn Crest

### 5A

1st Place	Jordan
2nd Place	Syracuse

## BOYS GOLF

### 2A

1st Place	Beaver
2nd Place	Rowland Hall
3rd Place	Grand
4th Place	Manti
5th Place	Millard

### 3A

1st Place	Park City
2nd Place	Union
3rd Place	Pine View
T-4th Place	Spanish Fork
T-4th Place	Wasatch

### 4A

1st Place	Maple Mtn
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# Fall Sports 2012 Results continued

2nd Place	Bonneville
3rd Place	Orem
4th Place	Timpview
5th Place	Timpanogos



## 5A

1st Place	Brighton
2nd Place	Lone Peak
3rd Place	Davis
4th Place	Fremont
5th Place	Syracuse

## GIRLS SOCCER

### 1A/2A

1st Place	Waterford
2nd Place	St. Joseph

### 3A

1st Place	Snow Canyon
2nd Place	Park City



## 4A

1st Place	Bonneville
2nd Place	Bountiful

## 5A

1st Place	Viewmont
2nd Place	Alta

## BASEBALL

### 1A

1st Place	Panguitch
2nd Place	Piute

## GIRLS TENNIS

### 1A/2A

1st Place	Rowland Hall
2nd Place	Manti
3rd Place	Waterford
T-4th Place	Richfield
T-4th Place	San Juan
6th Place	St. Joseph



## 3A

1st Place	Judge Memorial
2nd Place	Park City
T-3rd Place	Pine View
T-3rd Place	Snow Canyon
T-5th Place	Wasatch
T-5th Place	Juan Diego

## 4A

1st Place	Bountiful
2nd Place	Orem
T-3rd Place	East
T-3rd Place	Skyline
5th Place	Highland
6th Place	Timpview

## 5A

1st Place	Lone Peak
1st Place	Davis
3rd Place	Bingham
4th Place	Alta
5th Place	Cottonwood
5th Place	Pleasant Grove

## VOLLEYBALL

### 1A

1st Place	Monticello
2nd Place	St. Joseph
3rd Place	Rich
4th Place	Piute
5th Place	Panguitch
6th Place	Milford



## 2A

1st Place	Richfield
2nd Place	Enterprise
3rd Place	Beaver
4th Place	North Summit
5th Place	San Juan
6th Place	Kanab

## 3A

1st Place	Desert Hills
2nd Place	Snow Canyon
3rd Place	Morgan
4th Place	Delta
5th Place	Dixie
6th Place	Hurricane

## 4A

1st Place	Sky View
2nd Place	Timpview
3rd Place	Salem Hills
4th Place	Westlake
5th Place	Woods Cross
6th Place	Provo

## 5A

1st Place	Pleasant Grove
2nd Place	Lone Peak
3rd Place	Davis
4th Place	Lehi
5th Place	Bingham
6th Place	Brighton



of years that sits along historic Highway 89. The high school is built on the same property as the school built in the 1960s after schools in nearby Marysville and Circleville consolidated into one high school. Principal Kennedy Sylvester, a graduate of Piute High School, welcomed us to the beautiful campus. The Thunderbirds are currently home to grades 7-12 with approximately 165 students attending school in the six grades. Over the years Piute has been competitive in all sports. Principal



Sylvester is also the current baseball coach and was the boys' basketball coach in 1996 when the Thunderbirds won their first and only boys' state basketball championship. In 2010, the girls' basketball team won their first and only girls' state basketball



championship. The school still has the original "old gym" and a "new gym" built in 1990. Piute High School is the only high school in Piute School District.

### Panguitch High School

After leaving Junction, we travelled south into Garfield County and to Panguitch, the largest and most historic town in the Bryce Canyon area. Panguitch was named by the Paiute Indians



after the "Big Fish" they caught in nearby Panguitch Lake. We met with Principal Rod Quarnberg, who gave us a tour of the school and athletic facilities. A 1A school in Region 20, the Bobcats house students in grades 9-12. A middle school for 7th and 8th grade students is located across the road to the east of the high school. A newly remodeled auditorium has been re-carpeted and a new surface has been put under the seats



and painted blue. As we walked into the gymnasium, Principal Quarnberg explained the changes the school is making to the 56 championship banners that will replace the current banners



OFF THE CUFF continued from page 9

hanging in the gym. Panguitch plays 1A baseball in the fall; however, they did play football at one time. The former football field and current track is located west of the school and next to the "old gym." The Bobcats highly successful athletic tradition is evident throughout the school.

### Bryce Valley High School

The drive from Panguitch to Tropic through Red Canyon and past the mouth of Bryce Canyon National Park is breath taking to say the least. Set on a high plateau, the pine-covered rim of Bryce Canyon catches the clean cool breezes of a mountain setting. The red, pink and orange colors of the intricately



eroded limestone "hoodoos" constantly change with the sun, making the magical landscape come alive. As we drove into Tropic, the "BV" on the hillside announces Bryce Valley country. Nestled at the base of the east side of Bryce Canyon, the school has a spectacular view. Principal Jeff Brinkerhoff met us at the entrance where a large sculptured Mustang raises to greet all who come through the front doors. A 1A school in Region



20, the Mustangs draw students from Tropic, Cannonville, Henrieville and Bryce Canyon City. A beautiful green and white gymnasium is one of the highlights of the school along with a track on the south side of the school and a gorgeous baseball field southwest of the school. Recently, the Mustangs have had tremendous success in both boys' and girls' basketball. In 2010, the boys' basketball team won their first and only boys' state basketball championship.

### Escalante vs. Piute Volleyball

We left Tropic for Escalante to watch Escalante and Piute square off in a varsity volleyball match. The excitement was high and each game was intense. After Piute took a 2 games to 1 lead,



Escalante won game four to force a game five. The Thunderbirds easily won game five to win the match 3 games to 2 games. Both teams showed tremendous skill and hard work. I



was impressed with the sportsmanship and teamwork of both schools during the intense region rivalry match.

### Escalante High School

The second day started where we left off the first day in the community of Escalante. In addition to Panguitch and Bryce Valley, Escalante is the third high school in Garfield County and the Garfield School District. A 1A school in Region 20, the Moquis have 84 students in grades 7-12. Principal Eugene King



and Athletic Director Greg Allen greeted us in the main office of the school. I was impressed with the colors of red, white and black decorated on signs and murals throughout the halls of the school and in the gymnasium. An auditorium for school and community events was added 10 years after the



original school was built in 1988. Escalante has established great basketball tradition throughout the school's history. Most recently, the Moquis were crowned boys' state basketball champions in 2006, 2008 and 2009. Athletic Director Allen is the boys' basketball coach and Principal King is the baseball coach. The baseball field has a beautiful backdrop of the Escalante Mountains and the canyons and colors are stunning. We drove downtown and saw the "old gym" with the backboards still attached to the walls and an old scoreboard still hangs at one end of the gymnasium.

### Wayne High School

Leaving Escalante and travelling over "hog's backbone" to Boulder for lunch, we eventually reached Bicknell in Wayne County. A 1A school in Region 20, the Wayne Badgers have had athletic tradition year in and year out in nearly every sport.



They are most notable for wrestling; however, most recently, the Badgers have become a 1A baseball powerhouse during the past 10 years winning five state championships. Principal Mark Elmer showed us the school and athletic facilities. The



attractive gymnasium is colorful with purple and gold and the wrestling room is located in the balcony above the gymnasium. The school's track is located east of the school and the baseball field is on the north side of campus. Wayne High School



is the only high school in Wayne School District. The Badgers sponsored a Cross Country meet held later that day at Fishlake. I was fortunate to attend the meet on a damp autumn day thousands of feet high in elevation. Despite the rain off and on through the afternoon, it was a remarkable setting for a wonderful cross country event. As the runners started the varsity race, a spectacular rainbow was seen over the lake. Nine schools and approximately 150 runners participated in the two cross country races through the mountains and valleys of majestic Fishlake.



### Valley High School

A 1A school in Region 20, Valley High School in Orderville is located on the north side of town against the hills. The rocks overlooking the school have the graduating classes' years written on them, which has been a nice tradition dating back to the 1930s. Principal Jim Wood, a member of the UHSAA Executive Committee representing Region 20, began our tour



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in the music room where students were learning the guitar and singing as they played. The “old gym” built in 1956 is trimmed in black and orange and still looks great after more than 55 years. A stage on the north side of the “old gym” has been filled in and is now used for other purposes. The Buffalo baseball field is astonishing located directly below the hills with a small canyon as the backdrop. The field is also used for track practice, since the school participates in track and field, but does not have a



separate track facility. One of the highlights of the schools was the small auditorium. An open area in front of the stage allows students to set up their own chairs and take them down when the event is over. Having the open area allows the school to set up tables and perform dinner shows for the community. We



visited the “new gym,” which was built in 2000 and is decorated in black and orange. The athletic success of Valley High School is exhibited in the many trophy cases in the new addition.

### Kanab High School

The most South Central county in Utah is Kane County and



home to two Kane School District high schools: Valley on the north and Kanab on the south. Kanab is a town named by the Native Americans after the lush growth of willows along



the stream. A 2A school in Region 13, Kanab High School is the only school in our visits that is not in Region 20. Principal Doug Jacobs met with us and showed us the facilities at the school. We started in the gymnasium where the school colors of red and white were paramount. The gym has excellent floor space and a great seating capacity. The UHSAA Sportsmanship banner is hung proudly on one side of the court with the school’s 2012 star already displayed on the banner. The banner



is part of the Raise the Bar, Earn Your Star, UHSAA Sportsmanship program introduced to all member schools two years ago. While we were walking in the halls, the Cowboy drum line came through on a march creating school spirit in preparation of the football game with Beaver High School later that night. The



impressive auditorium seats approximately 600 people and is also used by the community for events. The baseball field has an incredible red rock backdrop, and the football field

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is west of the school with an impressive backdrop of its own. Kanab is the only community that sends students to Kanab High School.



### Kanab vs. Beaver Football

When I scheduled these visits, I wanted to make certain Kanab High School had a home football game, since it is the only school on our trip that plays football. All the other schools we visited play 1A fall baseball. It was a warm and gorgeous evening, which made for a wonderful setting between two UHSAA member schools. The sun setting on the red rocks was truly amazing and breathtaking. The Kanab vs Beaver rivalry



dates back many years and is one of the richest rivalries in UHSAA football history. A total of 18 state football championships have been won by these two schools over the years. A magnificent choir from Kanab High School sang the national



anthem prior to the game. Kanab jumped out to a quick 12-0 lead after the first quarter. After another touchdown and a two-point conversion, the Cowboys led 20-0 at halftime. However, that would be all the points Kanab would score the rest of the way. Beaver slowly chipped away at the Cowboy lead and turned the game into one of those traditional Kanab vs Beaver classics. The Beavers cut the lead to 20-14 in the fourth quarter after a huge defensive safety gave the team two more points. With only a minute and a half left in the contest, Beaver scored a touchdown to tie the game. The Beaver kicker drilled the extra point through the uprights for the 21-20 come-from-behind road victory over Kanab.



In the height of the beautiful autumn weather of September, I had the amazing opportunity to visit all seven South Central high schools and four districts in the span of three days.



*On the road again!*  
UHSAA Director Rob Cuff is coming to a school near you.