

Raise the Bar

Sportsmanship Matters!

UPDATE December 2010 - Volume 24, Number 2



Off the CUFF

Thoughts from UHSAA Executive Director Rob Cuff

Southeastern Utah is Canyon Country

Southeastern Utah is known for its sweeping views, stunning red rock formations, desert mystery, mountain grandeur and intimate canyons.

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

In the height of the beautiful autumn weather of September, I had the amazing opportunity to visit all seven Southeastern high schools and attend a region meeting in the span of three days.

Green River High School

The first stop was in Emery County and the city of Green River. A 1A school in Region 19, the Pirates participate in most UHSAA activities. Although the school has a football field and participated in football several years ago, the field and track are used today for PE classes and the sport of track and field. When we visited the gymnasium, the volleyball nets were

continued on page 10

Alignment Approved for 2011-13

On November 18, 2010, the Board of Trustees (BOT) which is the policy making body of the Utah High School Activities Association, passed the final consideration of regions under the new alignment for 2011-13. The decision came the day after a public hearing was held to provide the BOT with feedback from districts, schools and communities on the placement of member schools into regions. In addition to the hearings, the UHSAA Board of Trustees received numerous emails over the past few months regarding the new procedure for the realignment of member schools.

The following are the number of schools and regions in each classification for the 2011-2013 alignment period:

5A: 24 schools (four regions of six schools)

4A: 26 schools (three regions of six, one region of eight schools)

3A: 26 schools (two regions of seven schools, two regions of six schools)

2A: 20 schools (four regions of five schools)

1A: 36 schools (three regions of six schools, two regions of nine schools)

Earlier this year, the BOT adopted a new procedure intended to make the process more objective, efficient, timely and equitable for post-season bracketing. The new procedure provides for the realignment of schools 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.

The UHSAA Board of Trustees retains the responsibility for alignment of all member schools.

The final placement of member schools can be found on the UHSAA home page at www.uhsaa.org



Photo Credit: Mike Terry

IN THIS ISSUE

- Distinguished Service Awards (page 2)
- Coaches and Officials of the Year (page 3)
- Utah's Outstanding Music Educator (page 3)
- UHSAA Chalk Talk (page 4)
- A Message from the UIAAA (page 5)

- Dugway Honors Fallen Soldier, Jordan Byrd (page 5)
- Coach Darrell Gardner Continues to Inspire (page 6)
- Fall Sports 2010 Results (pages 7-9)
- Upcoming Calendar of Events (page 9)
- Off the Cuff continued (page 10-13)

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. Award recipients will be recognized at **Willow Creek Country Club during a luncheon held in their honor January 12, 2011.**

Corbin Talley, 5A Coach of the Year from Davis High School
Laurel Peterson, 4A Coach of the Year from Dixie High School
Darrell Gardner, 3A Coach of the Year from Emery High School
Monty Lee, 2A Coach of the Year from San Juan High School
Javier Chavez, 1A Coach of the Year from St. Joseph Catholic High School
Jan Hall, Athletic Director of the Year from Sky View High School
Nancy Smith, Female Official of the Year
Kirk Skyles, Male Official of the Year
Neil Hendriksen, Music Educator of the Year from Woods Cross High School
Dennis Ferrin, Drama Educator of the Year from Layton High School
Collin Allan, UHSAA Board of Trustees, Distinguished Contributor
John Watson, Distinguished Contributor
Chris Baum, Distinguished Media from KJZZ
Jeremy Castro, Distinguished Media from KJZZ



THANK YOU
FOR
SUPPORTING
OUR STUDENTS!

NFHS Awards

NFHS Coaches Association: UTAH COACHES OF THE YEAR

Monty Lee, San Juan High School, Football
Glenn Smith, Rich High School, Boys Track & Field
Eric Jessen, Bryce Valley High School, Boys Basketball
Willy Child, Springville High School, Baseball
Bob Capener, Waterford High School, Boys Soccer
Josh Wright, Delta High School, Wrestling
Steve Hoagland, Piute High School, Boys Cross Country
Mark Foote, Highland High School, Boys Tennis
Bud Barnes, Milford High School, Boys Golf
Todd Etherington, Brighton High School, Boys Swimming
Melissa Stuart, Sky View High School, Girls Track & Field
Lexa Larsen, North Sevier High School, Girls Basketball
Joy Nakaishi, Layton Christian High School, Volleyball
Amanda Koford, Roy High School, Softball
Natalyn Lewis, Timpanogos High School, Girls Soccer
Mike Hunter, Mountain View High School, Girls Cross Country
Lori Sherbeck-McMahon, Park City High School, Girls Tennis
Jerry Hodgkinson, Logan High School, Girls Swimming
Lou Eddy, St. Joseph Catholic High School, Girls Golf
Morgan Meredith, Bingham High School, Drill

NFHS Officials Association: UTAH OFFICIALS OF THE YEAR

Mike Andrews, Baseball
Greg Spencer, Boys Basketball
Gerard Collet, Cross Country
Kent Karren, Football
Orley Bills, Boys Soccer
Roger Minert, Track & Field (Outdoor)
Chas DeWitt, Wrestling
David Smith, Girls Basketball
William DeBatty, Girls Soccer
Dell Keys, Softball
Debby Fleisch, Swimming & Diving
Bruce Miller, Volleyball



2010

Utah's Outstanding Music Educator



Norman Lister from Pine View High School was selected as the 2009-2010 NFHS Section 7 Music Award Recipient, representing Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, and Utah. He will be presented with a commemorative plaque during the February UMEA Music Conference in St. George. Mr. Lister has spent

the past 26 years teaching music to the students of St. George, Utah. His choral groups have consistently received superior ratings at both the Region and State Solo and Ensemble Festivals. In 2006, the Pineview High School Chamber Choir was selected to perform at the Music Educators National Conference. His jazz choir has participated in the Northern Arizona University Jazz Festival for the past six years, receiving superior ratings

each year. A parent of one of his students stated "He has shown complete integrity in all of his associations with his students and their families. He is one of the kindest people I have ever known and a teacher who really strives to treat each of his students as a valuable human being. His passion for his craft shows in his choice of music, his rehearsal techniques and the excellence of the final product."

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Mr. Lister has worked diligently for the Utah Music Educators Association, serving on the state choral committee, as choral vice-president and as a key member in the organization and successful hosting of the Utah Music Educators Association Mid-Winter conference which is held each year in his home city of St. George.

Mr. Lister's involvement in music activities is varied, including not only the program at his high school but also a community choir that performed on three different occasions at Carnegie Hall in New York City. For fourteen years he served as an area rehearsal director for the Utah All-State Choir, hosting and assisting students from other schools as they memorized their music before the combined choir rehearsals began. Mr. Lister was selected by the Utah State Office of Education to serve on their curriculum and textbook committee and was instrumental in establishing the curriculum currently used in the State's core classes.

Chalk Talk

2011 Spring Sports Rules Clinics

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

On an annual basis, all head coaches and officials are required to attend a UHSAA Live Rules Clinic or complete a UHSAA Online Clinic and quiz for their designated sport. If you attend a live clinic you are required to sign the roll to receive credit, and if you complete the on-line clinic you are required to submit a quiz for credit.

Listed below are the dates, times and locations for the live clinics and the dates when the online clinics will be available for viewing. Online clinics will be available Wednesday, February 9 through Monday, March 7 (ending at 10:00 p.m. MST). To access the online clinics, go to www.uhsaa.org and click on the "Training" tab. Because of the size of the clinics, it may take several minutes to download a clinic, depending on your computer. The online clinics are Power Point presentations which include a quiz that must be submitted for credit. In order to submit a quiz for the online clinic, you must open and view every slide or the quiz link will not work.

SPORT	LIVE RULES CLINICS	LOCATION	ONLINE CLINIC AVAILABLE
Baseball	Sat., February 5, 9:00 a.m.	West Jordan HS (8136 S. 2700 W.)	Feb. 9 – Mar. 7
	Tue., February 8, 6:00 p.m.	UHSAA Office (199 E. 7200 S.)	
Soccer	Online Only	www.uhsaa.org	Feb. 9 – Mar. 7
Softball	Mon., February 7, 6:00 p.m.	UHSAA Office (199 E 7200 S)	Feb. 9 – Mar. 7
Track & Field	Online Only	www.uhsaa.org	Feb. 9 – Mar. 7

UHSAA School Sportsmanship Award

RAISE THE BAR, EARN YOUR STAR!

We want 100% of our member schools to "Raise the Bar, and Earn a Star" for their UHSAA Sportsmanship Banner. There are 10 criteria schools must complete to earn this award.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS TO SEE IF YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE FOLLOWING, IF SO YOU ARE HALF WAY THERE!

1. UHSAA Sportsmanship Banner has been hung.
2. Sportsmanship Policy has been posted in a prominent position in the school.
3. Student-athletes and parents have signed the Sportsmanship Pledge on the back of the UHSAA Tryout Checklist.
4. Zero coach ejections. If a coach has been ejected he/she must complete the NFHS Course: *Teaching and Modeling Behavior*. To complete the course, *Teaching and Modeling Behavior*, coaches go to www.nfhslearn.com and create an account before registering for the 4-6 hour course. Coaches can print a certificate upon completion of the course.
5. Presented the "Raise the Bar" Sportsmanship Program, the "We Will" Sportsmanship Pledge, and the "Do Rowdy Right" Sportsmanship Initiative to staff and student body (i.e. assembly, evening program, newsletter).



Football Coaches:
New Approved Spalding Football for 2011:
Spalding TF-SB1

Directors' Cup Celebrates Sportsmanship

By Marc Hunter, Jordan High AD, UIAAA Executive Director, UHSAA Sportsmanship Committee Member



This year the Utah Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association is excited to implement the inaugural "Directors' Cup." The "CUP" will be awarded to one school in each classification achieving the highest cumulative point total based on state tournament results in all sports (boys and girls) and the successful implementation of the "Raise The Bar"

sportsmanship initiative. The top 16 teams in each sport and classification will receive points based on how the school's teams finish in the UHSAA State Championship events. 32 points for 1st place, 30 points for 2nd place,

on down to 2 points for 16th. As previously mentioned, the "Raise the Bar" sportsmanship initiative is also a major component of this award. Every school regardless of how it placed in any state tournament will receive from 0 to 60 points for successful implementation of this program. School cumulative point totals are divided by the number of sports (10 minimum) participated in during the school year for a total. The sportsmanship initiative counts as two sports and each school is considered to have participated in the "Raise The Bar" program. The following are the top three schools by classification as the fall sports season comes to a close.

The UIAAA congratulates all schools and in particular, the student/athletes of Utah for their dedication and hard work.

5A:	1. Bingham (25.17)	2. Davis (24.17)	3. Lone Peak (22.33)
4A:	1. Mt. Crest (22.33)	2. East (20.67)	3. Bountiful (20.00)
3A:	1. Park City (25.57)	2. Juan Diego (24.00)	3. Desert Hills (22.57)
2A:	1. San Juan (27.83)	2. Enterprise (24.25)	3. So. Summit (23.83)
1A:	1. Rich (23.60)	2. Panguitch (22.40)	3. Wayne (19.50)



Dugway Honors Fallen Hero

By Robin Nielson, Dugway High School Principal

Jordan Byrd, 2009 graduate of Dugway High School, senior class president and captain of the baseball team was killed in Yahya Keheyl, Afghanistan when insurgents attacked his patrol. Byrd was fatally wounded while rendering medical attention to a wounded comrade.

Jordan's life accelerated quickly after his early graduation from Dugway High School. He attended the University of Utah, before enlisting in the army. His goal was to become a doctor so joining the army as a medic was a step toward achieving this goal. He was especially honored to serve with the 506th Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division.

Jordan's life and death touched many lives in the Dugway community and Dugway High School. The

students at DHS remember Jordan for his smile, sense of fun and his daily comment to his sister and her friends of "stay away from boys, don't do drugs, and I love you". In honor of Jordan's athletic and academic accomplishments, his baseball jersey was retired at a memorial service held at DHS.



Coach Gardner Continues to Inspire

By Larry W. Davis, Principal, Emery High School



On the last day of school, 2010, Darrell Gardner told the Emery High School faculty how much he had appreciated working with each of them during the school year. "Thank you for all that you have done to help me and for the camaraderie that we share," he said. Hearing that from Coach Gardner was paradoxical. On the one hand, getting a compliment from this man always meant something because he complimented so infrequently. On the other hand, when Darrell was given the floor, you had to

hold your breath, and hope you weren't about to be taken to the woodshed. After Coach Gardner heaped his accolades on the faculty that afternoon in May, he spent the rest of that school improvement meeting sending crank text messages to those same colleagues. Throughout the room, teachers were pulling out their cell phones, checking the message and then looking perplexed. That was Darrell, a complex man who even now, nearly four months after his death on Memorial Day 2010, defies simple characterization.

He left a lasting impression on those he came in contact with, including the many students and student/athletes he taught and coached during his nearly 30 years in public education. One group of students organized a 5K run with a course designed to follow the same training route used by Coach Gardner and his cross country teams. The race, called the "Last Run for Coach Gardner," was held a few days after the funeral and included hundreds of supporters who came to Emery High to run, walk, and just be part of this impromptu tribute. The event generated nearly \$5,000 for Darrell's wife Natalie and their children Jake, D'Lee and Jax. Before the event ended, the family, including Darrell's parents, made one final lap around the track, arm-in-arm, in a touching expression of the love they shared for their husband, father, brother, and son.

And that was just the beginning. Throughout the summer, every local community and county celebration included a Darrell Gardner Fun Run or Road Race of some kind with proceeds going to the family, but more importantly, in tribute to this amazing coach and teacher. Former members of his track, cross country, and wrestling teams came to participate and share stories about their coach and mentor. It was a coming together of the collective muse.

One of these former Emery High student/athletes was Daniel Farr. He was so inspired by all that coach Gardner had done for him that he nominated him for the Zions Bank Outstanding Teacher Award. Bank executives were reluctant to accept the nomination because the award was established to honor living teachers. "It had never been done before," one executive said, "but the board was so moved by the nomination that we had to do this." On September 24, bank officials came to Emery High where Natalie and the

kids accepted the honor posthumously for Coach Gardner in front of the entire Emery High student body.

Coach Gardner was the boys' cross-country and track coach, public address announcer for the wrestling team, junior prom chairman and promenade choreographer, bus driver, physical education teacher, social science teacher, and social dance teacher. But perhaps the greatest void left behind is the loss of Coach Gardner's day-to-day interaction with others and the nuances of life that he brought to those around him. Every day since school has started this year, little things have surfaced that connect us with his life and all that he meant to our school and our humanity.

Coach Gardner had a way of getting the most out of his athletes, and his teams often included those who had never before participated in high school athletics. He was gifted in getting average athletes to achieve beyond anything they thought they were capable of. He would tell his athletes, "Pain is temporary, Pride is forever, So shut up and run." Those words have continued to inspire our students and those of us who knew Darrell. "Shut up and run" has become the metaphor for all those things we don't like to do that need to be done. Making a commitment, sticking to it, and doing your very best—that's the legacy that Darrell Gardner has given us.



Emery High hosts one cross country meet each year. This year's event came early in the school year and included teams coached by those Darrell had fostered friendships with over the years and those who share the camaraderie of the coaching fraternity. As the runners assembled at the base of the mountains just below Millsite Reservoir, Kristy Guymon, a former runner for Coach Gardner who is now the Emery girls' cross-country coach, handed out yellow and black balloons. Many of the runners had written on their legs in black marker, "For Gardner." Coach Guymon spoke of the legacy that her mentor had given to so many and of the wonderful example he had set as a coach and teacher. As the runners took to their marks, the balloons were released and rose above the beautiful little valley, each carrying the thoughts of those who had released them. And for the first time in many years, the starting gun was fired by someone other than Coach Gardner. After that, it was "Pain is temporary, Pride is forever, So shut up and run."

Fall Sports 2010 Results



Photo Credit: Tom Smart

5A

1st Place	American Fork
2nd Place	Davis
3rd Place	Bingham
4th Place	Pleasant Grove
5th Place	Lone Peak
6th Place	Weber

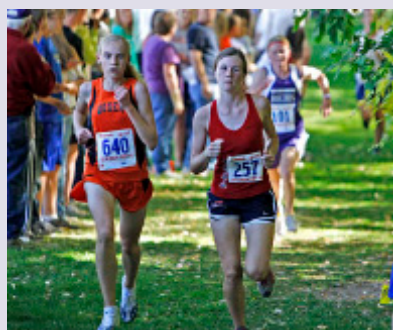


Photo Credit: Tom Smart

5A

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

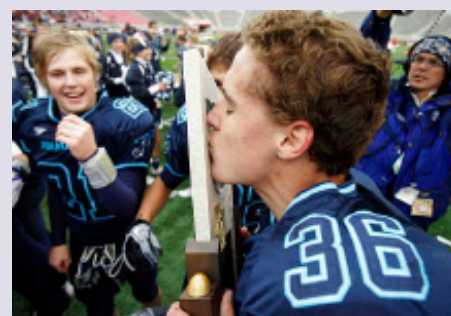


Photo Credit: Scott Winterton

BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

1A

1st Place	St. Joseph
2nd Place	Rich
3rd Place	Whitehorse
4th Place	Piute
5th Place	Panguitch
6th Place	Duchesne / Valley

2A

1st Place	Rowland Hall
2nd Place	San Juan
3rd Place	Millard
4th Place	North Sevier
5th Place	North Summit
6th Place	Enterprise

3A

1st Place	Bear River
2nd Place	Canyon View
3rd Place	Park City
4th Place	Cedar City
5th Place	Desert Hills
6th Place	Richfield

4A

1st Place	Pine View
2nd Place	Mountain View
3rd Place	Sky View
4th Place	Orem
5th Place	Mountain Crest
6th Place	Springville

GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

1A

1st Place	St. Joseph
2nd Place	Rich
3rd Place	Wayne
4th Place	Panguitch
5th Place	Monticello
6th Place	Christian Heritage

2A

1st Place	Parowan
2nd Place	San Juan
3rd Place	North Summit
4th Place	South Summit
5th Place	Enterprise
6th Place	North Sevier

3A

1st Place	Park City
2nd Place	Cedar City
3rd Place	Canyon View
4th Place	Judge Memorial
5th Place	North Sanpete
6th Place	Bear River

4A

1st Place	Ogden
2nd Place	Mountain Crest
3rd Place	Mountain View
4th Place	Timpanogos
5th Place	Timpview
6th Place	Lehi

FOOTBALL

1A

1st Place	Duchesne
2nd Place	Rich

2A

1st Place	San Juan
2nd Place	South Summit

3A

1st Place	Juan Diego
2nd Place	Hurricane

4A

1st Place	Highland
2nd Place	Mountain Crest

5A

1st Place	Bingham
2nd Place	Fremont

BOYS GOLF

2A

1st Place	Beaver
2nd Place	South Sevier
3rd Place	Rowland Hall
4th Place	Grand
5th Place	Layton Christian
6th Place	Waterford

Fall Sports 2010 Results continued

(Boys Golf Results Continued)

3A

1st Place	Park City
2nd Place	Desert Hills
3rd Place	Judge Memorial
4th Place	Juan Diego
5th Place	Wasatch
6th Place	Union

4A

1st Place	Bonneville
2nd Place	East
3rd Place	Highland
4th Place	Timpanogos
5th Place	Mountain Crest
6th Place	Woods Cross

5A

1st Place	Lone Peak
2nd Place	Syracuse
3rd Place	Layton
4th Place	Brighton
5th Place	Bingham
6th Place	Davis



Photo Credit: Michael Brandy

BASEBALL

1A

1st Place	Wayne
2nd Place	Panguitch
3rd Place	Piute
3rd Place	Tintic



Photo Credit: Ravell Call

GIRLS SOCCER

1A/2A

1st Place	St. Joseph
2nd Place	Waterford

3A

1st Place	Juan Diego
2nd Place	Park City

4A

1st Place	Bonneville
2nd Place	Timpanogos

5A

1st Place	Brighton
2nd Place	Viewmont



Photo Credit: Laura Seitz

GIRLS TENNIS

1A/2A

1st Place	Rowland Hall
2nd Place	Waterford
3rd Place	St. Joseph
4th Place	San Juan
4th Place	Wasatch Academy
6th Place	Grand

3A

1st Place	Desert Hills
2nd Place	Park City
3rd Place	Judge Memorial
4th Place	Grantsville
5th Place	Juan Diego
6th Place	Bear River
6th Place	Manti

4A

1st Place	Bountiful
2nd Place	Orem
3rd Place	East
4th Place	Ogden
5th Place	Woods Cross
6th Place	Box Elder

5A

1st Place	Skyline
2nd Place	Alta
3rd Place	Cottonwood
4th Place	Brighton
4th Place	Davis
6th Place	Bingham

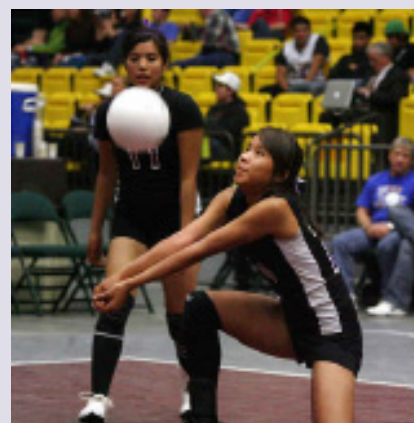


Photo Credit: Mike Terry

VOLLEYBALL

1A

1st Place	Panguitch
2nd Place	Piute
3rd Place	Rich
4th Place	St. Joseph
5th Place	Monticello
6th Place	Christian Heritage
7th Place	Monument Valley
8th Place	Wayne

Fall Sports 2010 Results continued

(Volleyball Results Continued)

2A

1st Place	San Juan
2nd Place	Enterprise
3rd Place	South Sevier
4th Place	South Summit
5th Place	Grand
6th Place	North Sevier
7th Place	North Summit
8th Place	Millard

3A

1st Place	Morgan
2nd Place	Juan Diego
3rd Place	Desert Hills
4th Place	Hurricane
5th Place	Delta
6th Place	Carbon
7th Place	Richfield
8th Place	Park City

4A

1st Place	Snow Canyon
2nd Place	Dixie
3rd Place	Orem
4th Place	Olympus
5th Place	Lehi
6th Place	Bountiful
7th Place	Box Elder
8th Place	Mountain View

5A

1st Place	Lone Peak
2nd Place	Pleasant Grove
3rd Place	Davis
4th Place	Bingham
5th Place	Cottonwood
6th Place	Brighton
7th Place	Taylorsville
8th Place	Alta



Photo Credit: Jason Olson

Upcoming UHSAA Calendar Events

Go to www.uhsaa.org for the latest updates.

UPCOMING STATE TOURNAMENTS

Feb. 4-5	3A & 4A Swimming Meets (BYU)
Feb. 4-5	Drill Team Competitions (4A/5A Fri.; 1A, 2A, 3A Sat. UVU)
Feb. 9-10	4A & 5A Wrestling Tournaments (UVU)
Feb. 10	Diving Meet (BYU)
Feb. 11-12	1A, 2A, 3A Wrestling Tournaments (UVU)
Feb. 11-12	5A Swimming Meet (BYU)
Feb. 16-19	1A Girls' Basketball Tournament (SVC)
Feb. 21-26	Girls' Basketball Tournaments (5A M,W,F,S; 4A Tu,Th,F,S; SLCC)
Feb. 24-26	2A Boys' & Girls' Basketball Tournaments (SVC)
Feb. 24-26	3A Boys' & Girls' Basketball Tournaments (U of U)
Feb. 28-Mar. 5	4A & 5A Boys' Basketball Tournaments (5A M,W,F,S; 4A Tu,Th,F,S; Weber State)
Mar. 2-5	1A Boys' Basketball Tournament (SVC)

START DATES FOR SPRING SPORTS

Feb. 21	Beginning practice & team selection for 2A&3A and Region 9 4A Boys' Soccer
Feb. 28	First 2A-3A and Region 9 4A Boys' Soccer matches may be held
Feb. 28	Beginning practice & team selection Softball, Baseball, 1A B-Golf, G-Golf, 4A-5A B-Soccer, B-Tennis
Mar. 7	First competition in Track, Softball, Baseball, 1A B-Golf, G-Golf, 4A-5A B-Soccer, B-Tennis may be held



set up ready for practice later that day. Principal Nolan Johnson, the father of 10 children and a resident of Green River for the past 25 years, reminisced about the time the school hosted the 1A volleyball state tournament and how the town could barely offer enough motel rooms.



With the addition of many more motels that wouldn't be a problem today. The new auxiliary gym, which was built last year, was a highlight. Having the second gym, even in a small school, allows the boys and the girls to practice at the same time, which helps to free up evenings for other activities or homework. Green River is as well known for its tradition in music and drama as it is for the annual melon days. Hallways are lined with tributes to individuals for their hours of service and their support of the fine arts and other activities.

Grand County High School

It took about an hour to travel on I-70 from Green River to the Crescent Junction, past the Canyonlands National Park and Arches National Park turnoffs, over the magnificent Colorado River and into the city of Moab. A 2A school in Region 15,



Grand County High School was built 14 years ago. Principal Steve Wren, Athletic Director Ron Dolphin and Board of Trustees member Bryon Walston provided me a tour of the facilities and classrooms. As we walked into the gymnasium, the UHSAA Sportsmanship banner was already hung at one end of the court. The banner is part of the Raise the Bar, Earn Your Star, UHSAA Sportsmanship program introduced to all member schools and regions this fall. An impressive part of the visit was the Red Devil football stadium located on the west side of the school. Nestled



against a spectacular view of red rock on one side and an incredible view of the La Sal Mountains on the other, the captivating football stadium is a carry-over from the old high school, which is located north of the football stadium and is now the middle school. The baseball field is unique because the base paths are all grass and the visitor's dugout has a clubhouse directly behind the visitor's bench. You just don't see that every day in high school baseball. Grand County High School is the only high school in Grand County and the Grand County School District.

Grand School District and San Juan School District

Superintendent Margaret Hopkins of the Grand School District was unable to meet with us due to it being the second day of school and the opening of a newly remodeled elementary school. We had communicated by phone and email, and I drove by the district offices after leaving the high school. After leaving Moab and passing by the incredible Wilson Arch, it took over an hour to reach Blanding. I met with Superintendent Doug Wright of the San Juan School District in his office prior to the Region 19 meeting that was held in the same building. The district offices are in the former San Juan High School of many years ago, and



are located west of the current high school. The Region meeting provided the opportunity to discuss the new transfer rule, realignment, 1A football and the new statewide UHSAA Sportsmanship program. I was excited to attend the Region 19 meeting since it was the only region meeting out of 20 that I didn't attend last year during my first year as UHSAA Executive Director.

Monticello High School

The second day started in San Juan County with a visit to Buckaroo country and the city on the hill. Monticello is home to an incredible mountain golf course and one traffic light. Located at an elevation of over 7,000 feet, the Buckaroos have the highest high school gymnasium and football stadium in Utah.



The football stadium has the astonishing backdrop of the Abajo Mountains or the Blue Mountains as the locals call them. While

visiting with Board of Trustees member Bill Boyle who lives and works in Monticello, he indicated that the temperature at football games drops on the average of 10 degrees per week during the course of the season. Despite staring directly into the sun, the home stands face west to give the home fans a little more warmth before the sun sets. It gets bitter cold by November and the snow stays until May most winters. Principal Scott Shakespeare talked about the history of the school, which was built in the 1950s during the uranium boom. The orange and black



painted gymnasium is part of the original building; however, the district added to the south part of the school during the 1980s. A 1A school in Region 19, Monticello has always been known for its outstanding music program, and a new beautiful building west of the school houses the Monticello school of music.

San Juan High School

A 2A school in Region 15, San Juan High School was built in the 1950s during the uranium boom and additional classrooms and a computer lab were added in the 1990s. Two Broncos are screen-printed on the mats at the north end of the gymnasium. The



gym has a wooden ceiling and the floor had just been re-finished for the new school year. Principal Bob Peterson showed me the school's two impressive weight rooms. One weight room has free weights for the students and a separate weight room serves as a fitness center for both the students and for the community. The school actually sells community memberships and members can come and go as they wish. The money is used for the up-keep of the weight rooms and for buying new equipment. It has provided a way for the school to give back to the community for their support of the Bronco programs. San Juan has established an outstanding athletic tradition and some of that tradition is

written on the steps that lead to the football stadium. While I was visiting, the San Juan sophomore team played host to the Grand



County sophomores in a battle of the blue and red. Sportsmanship was impressive as the two teams collided during the rivalry game. The baseball and softball facilities are located away from



the school, but are state of the art. The Broncos participate in all sports except soccer and swimming and travel great distances to play their games, since it is the only 2A school in a district of five high schools.

Whitehorse High School

The rest of my visit would be spent deep in San Juan County. Before heading east to Montezuma Creek, I passed through Whitehorse and the Twin Rocks Trading Post. While approaching Whitehorse High School, a horse wandered across the 2-lane road and began feeding in front of the school. My timing couldn't have been better for that to happen. The only thing that could have been better would have been to have a WHITE horse, rather than a dark horse, hanging out in front of the school. This beautiful community gets its name from the creek that runs north and



OFF THE CUFF continued from page 11

south into the San Juan River, which runs east and west. A 1A school in Region 19, the Raiders are a predominantly Native American high school and includes grades 7-12. More than two-thirds of the students are transported by bus and some students travel over an hour one way to get to school. Principal John Fahey was excited to show us the gorgeous gold and black painted gymnasium. I was impressed with the colors and



the size of the gym. As I visited the music room, the Jazz Band performed an outstanding rendition of "Phantom of the Opera" and a medley of several cowboy songs that was truly special.

Monument Valley High School

Day three included travel through some of the most beautiful scenery and amazing rock formations I have ever seen. Approaching Mexican Hat, it was evident how the town got its name by the spectacular rock formation on the north side of town. The views of Monument Valley are miraculous and



wonderful. Monument Valley High School is located on the Utah side of the Utah/Arizona border and Principal Pat Seltzer had assembled her coaches together in the library for a question and answer session. We spent over 30 minutes discussing UHSAA items before the coaches had to go to class. A 1A school in Region 19, the Cougars have a student body that is made up of 98% Native American students and includes grades 7-12. Nearly 95% of the students are transported by bus, and as a result, the school serves regular breakfast and lunch. One unique program to the school is the "cultural learning through electives." Students can select many different electives including Native American history, farming and gardening. The cultural learning students have a farmers' market each Saturday in the fall selling fruits and



vegetables as a fundraiser for the school. Purple and gold were chosen for the school colors because of the shadows over Monument Valley in the evenings and right at sunset.

Navajo Mountain High School

It took a two-hour drive from Monument Valley High School to Navajo Mountain High School through Kayenta, Arizona. Only a couple years ago, before all the roads were paved, the same trip took nearly four hours. Had I travelled by the way the crow flies, it would have taken less than 30 minutes. Because of the steep terrain and canyons, the only option to travel by car was to make the trip through Kayenta. The highest point on the Navajo Indian reservation is the mountain called Navajo Mountain. To the west of the mountain is Lake Powell and Rainbow Bridge, and to the east of the mountain is the high school. Though the high school is in Utah, it is the only UHSAA



member school with an out of state (Arizona) mailing address. Athletic Director Todd Smallcanyon greeted me and a picture with all 37 members of the Jaguar student body was taken in front of the school. A 1A school in Region 19, the Native American school was built in 1999 and situated in a small community

where all but five or six students walk to school. The library was full of impressive Native American culture and items making Navajo Mountain High School a unique and definitely a one of



a kind experience. The district technology in all the San Juan District high schools is extremely invaluable and impressive, since it allows students to take classes from teachers in the other high schools that would not normally be taught in their own school because of size.

Monument Valley, Utah vs. Navajo Pine, New Mexico

When I had scheduled these visits, I wanted to make certain that Monument Valley had a home football game. The school is situated in the middle of some of the greatest scenery in the world and watching the sun set amongst the stunning red rock formations is something to behold. The fall weather was awesome, and the setting breathtaking, for an incredible



football game between two Native American high schools. Not very often do I have the opportunity to cheer for one particular high school team, but since the opponent was from New Mexico, I took the liberty to cheer on the Cougars from Monument Valley, Utah. It was enjoyable just watching a game in red rock country, but this game was as spectacular as the scenery behind it. Starting off 13-0, the Cougars relied on their special teams and defense most of the first half to maintain the lead. However, the tide quickly changed when Navajo Pine scored 26 unanswered points to pull ahead 26-13 and it looked as though Monument Valley was overmatched. The momentum Monu-

ment Valley needed to get back into the game came from a blocked extra point that would have made the score 27-13 for the team from New Mexico. The Cougars scored 14 points in the fourth quarter to win on a touchdown and an extra point, 27-26, with just a few minutes left on the clock to give Monument Valley the huge come-from-behind victory.

The school is situated in the middle of some of the ***greatest scenery in the world*** and watching the sun set amongst the stunning red rock formations is something to behold.

In the height of the beautiful autumn weather of September, I had the amazing opportunity to visit all seven South-eastern high schools and attend a region meeting in the span of three days.



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