



ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER COACHES ASSOCIATION (IHSSCA) 2023 – GIRLS' AWARDS BALLOT

Please review the resumes of the following candidates at and vote for one candidate for each of the IHSSCA's five (5) special awards and Hall-of-Fame nominations. The sectional coordinators narrowed the candidates to three finalists in each category. Vote online from the Google Form sent to you.

BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY **MONDAY, MAY 29, 2023 at 11:55PM.**



ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER COACHES ASSOCIATION (IHSSCA) FINALIST RESUME

COACH OF THE YEAR

J. Guy Callipari (Wheaton-Warrenville South)

I nominated Guy Callipari for Head Coach of the Year for many reasons. As a first-year head coach, I have mostly been observing other head coaches and programs and taking everything in like a sponge. I have asked a lot of questions and have had many conversations with a lot of different head coaches, but there was one name that kept popping up and that was Guy Callipari. As the season progressed and I had finally met Guy, he was kind and welcoming and I could immediately see the passion he had for his program and the sport right from the get-go. Within his program Guy has done wonderful things. You can see the great things he incorporates off the field really connect on the field with his players but also in the entire community. When I asked Guy about this he had said "Success is in the programming within our spring season so that we may have a stronger connection within our team, school, and community. Utilizing our program and the game of soccer as a catalyst to develop school and community leaders and mentors is a significant part of our mission statement." I learned about MANY different programming things that Guy has incorporated into his program that not only focuses on soccer but life skills. A couple of those things are:

The First program: The First Program entails spending a weekend of Bonding and revealing a word that the season is built around: In 2023 that word is "ONE", and it plays on the personal development over the course of the season and the programs trajectory upward as one.

The Reveal: Guy started The Reveal in 1999. Every girl presently in our program was a part of our Little Sisters program. Presently 32 U12 girls in our community are in correspondence with our Varsity program. It begins with an introductory letter mailed, followed by invitations to walk out with our team on senior night, dinner and ice cream one evening, and training opportunities. This season they received a jersey with their Big Sis number and badge.

Teacher appreciation: Teacher Appreciation is there to connect with our mentors in the building. Our senior class picks a teacher that they will honor at half time of the senior game. The teachers wear a designed T with the nameplate of the player that day in school and will provide a small video, which introduces the senior in a personal way during awards night.

The Sportsmanship Pin: The pin started back in our days with the DVC. It is an opportunity for the captains to provide words and a designated pin, which is allocated post-match to a player on the opposing team who demonstrated integrity, passion, sportsmanship, and ability in the match. Along with fundraising for GoForGoal, a program to help support those families battling pediatric cancer, we try to support other high school programs with equipment needs building on community that only the game of soccer can provide.

Not only has Guy been successful in teaching his players that soccer is more than just a game, but he has also been successful with his record. He has an Overall Record on the girl's side of (408-156-60), only the ninth coach in IHSA history to record 400 plus wins on the girl's side. Guy is one of 2 active coaches who have earned 400 wins with the girls and over 300 on the boy's side. The Girls program is two wins away from 500 program victories. The program is two-time Sportsmanship Award winner and Coach Callipari was the 2019 National Intercollegiate Soccer Officials Association Interscholastic Merit Award Winner and IHSSCA Hall of Fame Wheaton Warrenville South is a fantastic program, on the field and off, and it has been built centering around the players, the school, and the community by Guy Callipari. I believe that all these things speak for themselves, and I cannot think of anyone else that is more deserving of Head Coach of the Year.

Seong Ha (Mundelein)

I am nominating Seong Ha, from Mundelein High School, as Coach of the Year. Anybody who knows Seong knows he is the consummate ref, coach, or person. However, he has done some wonderful things that benefit soccer locally, in Mundelein, and raise the bar for the schools around him. He has taken a program that has been traditionally in and out of the lower half of the league for the last several years and made it competitive. They have not done it by just parking the bus and launching long balls at somebody fast, but by playing attractive attacking soccer. He has also done it without a successfully ensconced feeder program or Academy players coming back for a senior swan song. Seong has also had to balance players who have jobs or have family responsibilities. They are not many coaches that would be able to do this, but Seong has. He has raised the level of soccer while still being a positive role model and demonstrating that the relationships you develop with players always surpass the wins and losses. After a 12-13-1 season, this year the Mustangs finished with 16 wins tying for the 2nd highest win total in school history. This is why Seong Ha deserves the Coach of the Year.

Ryan Ghere (Mattoon)

Ryan Ghere's name has been synonymous with Mattoon High School for decades. He completed his 25th season as the boys' varsity soccer coach this past fall and will finish his 23rd and final season as the girls' varsity coach this spring. Coach Ghere was selected as the Section 5 Coach of the Year this season after posting a 22-2-1 record in his final season before he moves on to take an Administrative Job in the Mattoon School District. During this current season, the Lady Greenwave have posted their best record in program history. They also won their first ever Conference Championship by going 10-0 in the Apollo Conference in 2023. The Greenwave started off the season with a St. Teresa Tournament Championship as well.

Ryan Ghere has been the only coach in program history. He has continually improved both the program and the facility at which they play. He has been a staple in the soccer community for 25 years. He has been the Apollo Conference Soccer Representative in both boys' and girls' soccer for the past 8 years. He has served as the Section 5 Coordinator for the past several years as well. Ryan has also been a mentor to young coaches in the area each year of his career. He works well with opposing coaches and is well respected by all of his colleagues.

Coach Ghere is respected by his players and soccer community. His program is created around a culture of love and respect for the game. His players are technically sound and always play with passion. Coach Ghere is constantly changing formations and player lineups to maximize the success of his team. He cares about each of his players at a personal level, and it shows in how hard they play for him. He has created a winning environment at Mattoon High School. In the past three seasons, the Lady Greenwave have had a 55-14-1 record.



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ASSISTANT COACH OF THE YEAR

Bruce Rasmussen (St. Charles East)

Bruce Rasmussen has been involved with St Charles Soccer since 1987. Bruce was on the first ever boys' soccer team formed for St Charles High School. Since then, Bruce has had his kids go to St Charles East and has been coaching at East since 2012. Bruce has been on the varsity staff at east since 2018 and since then the Saints have posted a record of 94-21-9. Bruce is someone who bleeds the orange and black and loves everything about the school and community. Bruce is often seen hosting pick up soccer games and continues to surround himself with the game of soccer.

Bruce does a lot for our program and our team. Bruce handles referee ratings, supports the design of session plans, manages players equipment, organizes our team managers, and most importantly coaches our players on and off the field. Bruce has 3 teenage daughters and is well equipped to offer advice, support, and guidance to our young female athletes. Bruce offers a different perspective on situations and often finds a way to solve difficult situations. Bruce is a resource for our players, and they often lean on him for advice.

Bruce has a high level of knowledge regarding the game of soccer. Bruce has his USSF D License and is always reading about leadership styles, mindset, and or any book/magazine that supports his growth as a coach. Bruce understands team shapes and ways to counter opposing tea shapes in different situations. He is someone who challenges me and has supported my growth as a coach and leader.

Mike Dayton (Mundelein)

I'd be the first one to tell you that Mike Dayton would not be a fan of me doing this, whether for notoriety, attention, or recognition. According to long-time former Mundelein coach Ernie Billittier, Mike has been assistant coach at Mundelein since 1994, being Ernie's coach back when he played. Ernie mentioned that Mike was one of his greatest role models and the mainstay of the Boys' and Girls' program for the last 29 years since. Six different head coaches (Ekstrom, Sell, Billittier, Crawford, Bargar, and Ha) have led the sideline of the Girls' Mustang Soccer program but yet, Mike has always been the constant.

Mike behind the scenes deserves a lot of credit for the success of the program. Whether checking grades, service hours from detentions or suspensions, Mike gives these girls hope using soccer as a vehicle to be a part of a school or community activity that they can be a proud member of while providing motivation and accountability for doing the right thing.

Head Boys' coach Sebastian Falinski added Dayton has gone out of his way to provide opportunities to get showcased from college coaches. In fact, this past summer Mike reached out to numerous coaches and created a booklet of player profiles. Furthermore, these same coaches have held seminars to talk about the college soccer experience and expectations because of Mike's facilitation and networking abilities.

To the naked eye, many things he does go unnoticed unfortunately. I just feel he deserves recognition for all the good he does for Mundelein Mustang soccer and the North Suburban Conference overall.

Simply, in today's era of coaching, it is difficult to find someone like Mike Dayton, let alone an assistant coach, that has sacrificed that many years to the profession in the classy fashion that he has done it.

It is those stated reasons above that I give my full endorsement for Mike to be nominated as the Section 4 Assistant Coach of the Year.

Jeremy Dellavalle (Peoria Notre Dame)

Jeremy Dellavalle has been an assistant coach for Peoria Notre Dame since 2000. He started with Matt Blackford as the coach, and I am the third coach he has been under in his 22 years. He is a graduate of PND so he understands the culture and can relate very well to the players. He does a great job of keeping the tradition PND holds and has a high standard for how players should act both on and off the field while making it fun for them to be there. When I took over as head coach in 2017, it was a no brainer to ask Jeremy to stay on the staff and continue to help. He has been our Junior Varsity coach since 2017 until 2022 with a remarkable record and has done a great job preparing girls for the varsity. This year he has been my varsity assistant and has been a key part to the success of the program.

Jeremy has been my defensive coordinator this year. He has a keen eye for defensive shaping and defensive fundamentals. He was a defender when he played and that is something he loves to do. Our defense gave up a total of 28 goals in 2022 and this year through 20 regular season games, we gave up 8 goals with 15 shutouts with virtually the same goalie and defenders. I believe that is in large part because of the work he has done with our back line. Some practices, we will split up and offense will go with one coach and defense will go with Jeremy and they will work on all sorts of defensive things from positioning as a unit to individual defensive work. He loves to coach not because of any accolades but because he loves the game and wants to help young people succeed. He is beloved by every player that has come through the program in his 22 years of coaching, and I believe Jeremy is deserving of state honors as Assistant Coach of the Year



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SOCCER PERSON OF THE YEAR

Brian Papa (Downers Grove North)

Brian Papa is synonymous with Illinois High School soccer and the IHSSCA. His illustrious career spans over 40 years with over 400 victories. He's had great success at various high schools throughout his career, always making a positive impact on those programs. The manner in which he coaches his players, his demeanor, his rapport with coaches and officials - everything he does - is first class, and because of that, he is one of the most well respected coaches in the state. Brian has served many roles in the IHSSCA and as an ambassador for high school soccer in Illinois. As he retires this year, he leaves a tremendous legacy. Congratulations Papa!

Kent Overbey (Glenbard East/IHSSCA)

Kent has been a valued member of the IHSA & the IHSSCA for several years. As the head girls coach of Glenbard East, he approached the role of coach with passion and respect. He continually found a way to get his girls to buy into the program philosophy, and this led to several successful seasons.

He was an advocate for players & coaches while he was the Section 3 representative for the IHSSCA, and he eventually moved up to the higher ranks of that administration. Even now that he no longer coaches the girl's program, he still serves as the Vice President for the IHSSCA. This is a role that he thrives in. He is organized, excellent at communication, and makes sure that everybody has what they need to succeed. On more than one occasion, I have seen him advocate for coaches to make sure that they get the credit that they deserve. He approaches this leadership role with integrity, respect, and class. He is truly a value to the IHSSCA and all its members.

Patrick Phillips (Springfield)

I am very honored to be named soccer person of the year for Section 7. It is especially humbling that the coaches of our section recognize and appreciate the work I have put in developing soccer in Central Illinois. I am glad that I have been able to give back a little to the game and community that has given me so much. I have coach competitive, high school and college during the past 35 years. After playing on the 1988 NAIA National Championship team for Sangamon State University (UIS) I began my coaching career at SASA and Rochester High School. I am very fortunate to have met so many great people because of this wonderful sport of ours.

Accomplishments:

1997	National Indoor Champions.	Sangamon Stars
2007	USCAA Women's National Champions	Robert Morris College
2014	3 rd Place IHSA Boys	Springfield High
2021	National Final 4 Region 2 Champions USASA	Springfield FC
2022	IYSA State Cup Finalist 2008 girls	CIU

- Assistant Coach Rochester High School boy's and girls's
- Severed as IHSSCA Coordinator for boy's and girl's
- Head Coach Lanphier High School boy's and girl's
- Head Coach Robert Morris College men and women
- Head Coach Springfield High School boy's and girl's
- Coach and DoC at SASA
- Coach CIU
- Coach Springfield FC UPSL



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SPORTSMANSHIP CUP

Lake Forest

At our April 22nd match, the Lake Forest team presented each Highland Park player and coach with a white rose wrapped in blue and orange ribbon to symbolize friendship, strength, resilience and to support in the help to end gun violence, an effort near and dear to our hearts at HP.

What Lake Forest artfully reminded us all on that day was that this thing we do, this game we play, it is so much more than the X's and O's, then the Ws and the shutouts- it's about connecting to each other, celebrating our humanity and standing up for what is right.

We left the field that day with our hearts full, and with the reminder that sportsmanship is at the core of what we all do, both on and off the field.



Southeast

Southeast sends used soccer equipment to under privileged kids around the World. We have sent over 5,000 pieces of equipment from shoes to uniforms and balls to four countries. Belize, India, Honduras and Ethiopia. We are collecting now for our fifth country which will be chosen and researched by the team.

Tessa Sutton Foundation

Tessa Sutton was diagnosed with High Grade Pleomorphic Sarcoma in June of 2021. From the day Tessa was first hospitalized and diagnosed, the support she received from the community – especially the soccer community was beyond anything the family could have imagined. Teams from across the state reached out with gifts and cards and signs and collected money. Tessa started playing soccer when she was four and it quickly became her passion. Throughout most of her treatment, she went to all the games she could and dreamed of playing again for her high school and club teams.

And she got back on the pitch in the summer of 2022 for a couple of club events. But after a recurrence, she was given the horrible news in January of this year that a cure was not to be. At that time, it became more important than ever that she find a way to “pay forward” the support and love she received.

With the help of family and friends, the Tessa Sutton Foundation was born.

Tessa had many ideas. First and foremost was to create a cart for children hospitalized in Peoria, like one she saw in Memphis. The Sunshine Cart will make rounds on all pediatric floors of the OSF Children's Hospital and St. Jude Midwest Affiliate clinic – passing out toys, crafts, books, toiletries and other conveniences for both patients and parents.

She wanted to help other families in the same situation and wanted the foundation to provide financial support to families dealing with catastrophic illness. She was so thankful for what St. Jude paid, but realized family members still miss work and have other responsibilities in addition to medical costs.

And she wanted to create scholarships for area soccer players which is something the foundation has plans for in the near future. The first Team Tessa 3v3 soccer tournament will take place July 22nd and 23rd with all the proceeds going to the Tessa Sutton Foundation.

“Soccer was such an essential part of who she was and truly brought her most joy in her life. It also brought the best people into her life and the life of her family and we are eternally grateful,” said her mom, Michelle.

Tessa passed away in March. We often talk about sportsmanship as keeping losing in perspective. When she was faced with losing everything, this young woman was thinking of others and her love for the game. Because of that, I respectfully submit Tessa Sutton and the Tessa Sutton Foundation as our nominee for this year's Myro Rys Sportsmanship Cup.



**ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER COACHES ASSOCIATION (IHSSCA)
FINALIST RESUME**

REFEREE OF THE YEAR

Christie O'Bryan

Christie O'Bryan has been involved with IHSA girls' soccer since the early 2000s. After playing four years and graduating from Wheaton North High School in 2005 she attended and played soccer at a small school in Iowa. Only a few years after her return from college Christie began to get involved with high school soccer by getting her officiating license. Her experiences staying connected with high school soccer led her to marrying into an officiating family with both her husband and father-in-law, Justin & John O'Bryan, both officials for the IHSA.

Christie brings a strong female presence and confidence in her role as a soccer official. She represents well the leadership that we hope to develop in our female high school athletes and serves as a terrific role model in giving back to the game and her community. I strongly believe that we need to encourage more of our former female players to get involved in the game as officials and coaches so our players can feel represented and respected. Christie's presence and demeanor, as an official on the field, projects a highly positive picture to the young ladies that we hope can be the future of IHSA soccer.

Ninos Alexander

Ninos Alexanders represents the very best of officiating. A communicator, though you might disagree with a call, you will always where you stand with him in fairness. He will come over to you in a game and give you a kind word and use preventative officiating as a tool. There is no second guessing Ninos as he is definitive and understands always that two teams along with two head coaches are giving their very best and will treat the game in kind. I've always appreciated what Ninos has done to give back to the game. As an IHSA official, a current college soccer assignor, and NCAA official, clearly he given back so much to the game and uses his platform to mentor and build a roster of younger generation referees to take on the task of being an arbiter of the game of soccer. Unquestionably, Ninos is a great candidate as the IHSSCA Referee of the Year!

Douglas Huey

Doug, my father, has retired this spring from officiating after over 35 years of officiating High School and College Soccer, with multiple State Final appearances over his career, and a regular during IHSA State Series across all 3 classes. He has been involved in officiating from the St. Louis to Chicago area, and has been a staple official in the IHSA for many years. Most coaches know of him, and he has mentored and brought in and developed a number of officials over the years. He has conducted numerous official clinics, participated in rules committees, and has been involved with various youth clinics over the years, even establishing youth officiating mentorship for many young men and women in the Illinois Valley. Even though as a coach, we don't always see eye to eye officials, most coaches I know would consider Doug a fair and consistent official, regularly receiving high regards from the coaching and officiating community alike. It would be an honor to me and to his service over the years to recognize him as the Official of the Year as a long contributing member of soccer.