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Rhode Island Interscholastic League

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A TRIBUTE TO AN OUTSTANDING LADY – ALICE SULLIVAN

On Thanksgiving Day morning, November 27, 2003, the Rhode Island Interscholastic League and the State of Rhode Island lost an outstanding educator, administrator, pioneer and person in the passing of Alice Sullivan, former Assistant Executive Director of the RIIL.

Alice made a huge impact on the RIIL in general and in Girls' Athletics in particular, in the entire State of Rhode Island. For 25 years, she served as Coordinator of Girls' Athletics/Assistant Executive Director.

In the early 1950's, Alice organized weekend swim programs. Soon after, she and some of her friends in the State Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation Teachers began sponsoring Intramural Playdays for girls. Those playdays, where girls basketball and volleyball teams from five or six schools, would get together and compete for a day, was the start of what was to become the RIIL girls' sports program. This program now boasts almost 10,000 girls competing annually. It didn't happen all at once, of course. It has been a step-by-step, year-by-year process and Alice was there every step of the way.

In the late 1960's, Alice convinced the then all-male RIIL to put some girls sports competitions on its schedule. To make sure the girls sports gave out the same type of awards as the established boys programs, she sold candy bars and soda to pay the bills.

Alice Sullivan was recognized as a pioneer in girls' athletics and as a promoter, facilitator, and administrator responsible for the implementation, development, and growth of the girls' interscholastic athletic program in the high schools in Rhode Island. Someone once said, "You must stand for something or you may fall for anything." Alice stood tall for girls' athletics in Rhode Island.

In 1970-71, two girls' sports were offered with a total participation of 204 girls; in 1974-75, seven were offered with 3,666 participating; in 1984-85, nine sports were offered with 4,816 girls participating; and, in 1995-96, thirteen sports were offered with 8,256 girls participating. The number of teams competing were 1970-71 – 24; 1974-75 – 151; 1984-85 – 258; and in 1995-96 – 402 teams competed. Last year, 2002-2003 almost 10,000 girls competed on 439 teams. This growth has taken place largely due to the efforts of this outstanding lady. Through her persistence, dedication, hard work, and outstanding leadership, the RIIL has grown not only in members but in the strength of the girls' programs.

Alice served on many boards and committees and held many leadership positions during her professional career. Although they are too numerous to list, it is important to highlight that she was the President of the Council of New England Secondary School Principals Association and the outstanding contribution she made to that organization for many years.

It has been said that "The trouble with being a leader today is that you sometimes can't tell whether people are following you or chasing you." But there is something to be said for every leader in our country, and that something is a common denominator possessed by every leader. Leaders don't work from the sidelines (where it is safe) or from the bleachers

(where it is warm); they work in the midst of the action – in the center of the arena under the close scrutiny of the critics.

Alice spent many years in education and athletics in the ARENA – in the midst of the action. She used, to the limit, the powers that God granted her. She lived her vocation well.

All past female athletes and all present female student-athletes can thank Alice Sullivan for the opportunity they have enjoyed in all of the sports offered by the RIIL.

Everyone owes a debt of gratitude to this wonderful lady who worked so hard for a cause so important to the young people who reap the benefits of her efforts.

May she rest in peace.!

Richard B. Lynch, Executive Director

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"A Child Is A Person Who Is Going To Carry On What You Have Started."

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**RHODE ISLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME**

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League Principals' Committee on Athletics is proud to announce the names of the people who will be inducted into the RIIL Athletic Hall of Fame:

- **BILL BELISLE (Hockey Coach)**
- **JOSEPH CAVANAGH (Competitor)**
- **RALPH CATUOGNO (Service to the RIIL)**
- **LARRY GALLOGLY (Service to the RIIL)**
- **PAMELA HUGHES (Competitor)**
- **RICHARD MAGARIAN (Wrestling Coach)**
- **DONALD PASTINE (Basketball Coach)**
- **RAYMOND PEPIN (Administrator)**
- **GEORGE PULLIAM (Competitor)**

They join the 11 individuals who were inducted in the Inaugural Class of 2003.

The 2004 inductees will be honored at a ceremony on Wednesday, April 28, 2004 at the Quiddnesset Country Club at 7:00 P.M.

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AND WE QUOTE:

"Your opponent, in the end, is never really the player on the other side of the net, or the swimmer in the next lane, or the team on the other side of the field, or even the bar you must high-jump. Your opponent is yourself, your negative internal voices, your level of determination.

- Grace Lichtenstein American Writer & Editor

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EDUCATIONAL SPORTS

Hazing: The Unseen High School Epidemic

from Character Counts Sports Newsletter

Hazing is growing worse nationwide and most parents are oblivious to it, according to a recent USA Today article. Hence the brutality of recent incidents has shocked communities. For instance, this year a “powder puff” football game between senior and junior girls at Glenbrook North High School in suburban Chicago turned into a brawl that sent five to the hospital. After the Mephram High School football team of Bellmore, New York, held a training camp last summer, police arrested older players for sodomizing younger ones with broomsticks, golf balls and pine cones. Charges of similar abuses surfaced all across the country last year.

Hazing is remarkably prevalent. A groundbreaking study at Alfred (NY) University found that 1.5 million high school students suffer it every year, and some 50 percent are athletes. About half of college athletes say they’d been hazed in high school.

The consequences are disturbing. Some 71 percent of all hazed students report problems such as fighting more often and trouble sleeping, eating or concentrating. “Many of them talked about being depressed and suicidal,” says Norman Pollard, Alfred University’s director of counseling/student development. “Thirteen percent said they thought about revenge, and whenever I hear that I think about Columbine.”

According to Ellen deLara, an assistant professor of social work at Syracuse University who has interviewed about 1,000 hazing sufferers, the damage can last. Victims “are carrying around an extreme amount of rage, and that plays out in their relationships. They get triggered by things that seem the slightest bit disrespectful.”

Hazing also affects others in the student body. “They have to witness it, hear about it, wonder if it’s going to happen to them,” Dr. deLara says. “People quit sports teams. It’s because they know they’re next on the list.”

Former victims are the most likely offenders. “The teammates who perpetrate the hazing are the ones who suffered it the year before,” says Dr. Pollard. “They want to make it that much more dangerous, to validate their experience.”

Why is it growing worse? One reason may be the insufficient time youngsters spend with adults. “Kids are relying more on teams for stability than they ever have,” Dr. Pollard notes. “Kids feel it’s a privilege to be associated with that team and there needs to be some sort of rite of passage, that you have to earn your right to belong.”

To prevent hazing, students suggest adult intervention. In one survey, they rated the best tactics as sever punishment for hazers (61 percent) and police investigation and prosecution (50 percent). They also stated that positive bonding (43 percent), educational activities (37 percent) and challenging experiences (30 percent) would help.

But to intervene successfully, educators should understand the problem. Very few districts have addressed hazing so far, and training in prevention is rare. With funding tight, such programs will likely remain scarce in the near future. Hence the National Federation of State High School Associations plans to distribute a hazing prevention handbook to 17,000 schools by next fall and place it online at www.nfhs.org.

Teachers can also learn more at www.stophazing.org. [USA Today, 12/9; www.alfred.edu/news/html/hazing_study_99.html]

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Champions aren’t made in gyms. Champions are made from something they have deep inside them – a desire, a dream a vision. They have to have last-minute stamina, they have to be a little faster, they have to have the skill and the will. But the will must be stronger than the skill.”

- Muhammad Ali

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The following is a summary of the December 15, 2003 meeting of the Principals’ Committee on Athletics:

The December meeting of the Principals’ Committee on Athletics was called to order at 1:45 P.M.

John Gray, Chairperson of the RIIL Principals’ Committee on Athletics, opened the meeting by paying tribute to Alice Sullivan followed by a moment of silence. He also announced that contributions can be made to the RIIL in the name of Alice Sullivan. A committee will be set up to establish a scholarship in her name and to develop criteria for the awarding of any scholarships(s).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The Executive Director’s Report from the November 17, 2003 meeting was approved.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer’s Report was approved.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Lynch referred to several letters, memoranda and publications that were placed in each member’s folder or filed in the League office.

FALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

– Football

Division Champions

Division I	East Providence High School
Division II	Cumberland High School
Division III	Burrillville High School
Division IV	Narragansett High School

State Champions

Division I	East Providence High School
Division II	Barrington High School
Division III	Burrillville High School
Division IV	Narragansett High School

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2003-2004 Football Championships.

– **Boys Volleyball**
Division Champions

Division I Coventry High School
Division II North Tolman High School
Division II South Westerly High School

State Champions

Division I Bishop Hendricken High School
Division II Tolman High School

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the 2003-2004 Boys Volleyball Championships.

REPORT OF THE RIIL HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE

Mr. Lynch reported that the Hall of Fame Committee met on November 11, 2003 to review the 25 nominations submitted for induction into the 2004 Class. After much discussion, the Committee voted to induct nine (9) people into the Class of 2004; three of whom will be done so posthumously. In as much as the by-laws specifies six (6) to be inducted and only two (2) of whom can be posthumously, the Committee is recommending that nine (9) be inducted, three (3) of whom will be posthumously.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the recommendation that nine people be inducted; three of whom will be posthumously into the Class of 2004.

Based on the Hall of Fame's recommendations, Mr. Lynch submitted the following nine (9) names for consideration as inductees into the 2004 Class of the RIIL High School Athletic Hall of Fame: Bill Belisle; Joseph Cavanagh; Ralph Catuogno; Larry Gallogly [posthumously]; Pamela Hughes; Richard Magarian; Donald Pastine; Raymond Pepin [posthumously]; George Pulliam [posthumously].

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the recommended names for Hall of Fame induction.

COOPERATIVE TEAMS

Mr. Lynch discussed the option of allowing member schools who do not have enough athletes to form a team within their school, to form cooperative teams with other member schools. Mr. Lynch will develop a proposal for future consideration by the Committee.

A motion was made by the Committee to move ahead with language for cooperative teams.

Mr. Silva stated cooperative teams may cause a problem with wrestling. The staff will develop more appropriate language for the Committee to review in a future meeting.

ARTICLE 6, SECTION 5 – USE OF INELIGIBLE ATHLETES

Mr. Lynch presented the Committee with a language change to Article 3, Section 5c, Use of Ineligible Athlete of the RIIL

Rules and Regulations. The following is the suggested change: In the first sentence, "an error on the part of school authorities" to replace "lack of care on the part of school authorities".

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously approved the change of language.

REPORT – ALIGNMENT COMMITTEE

No report was made because the Alignment Committee meeting scheduled for December 6, 2003 was rescheduled due to a snowstorm. The rescheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, December 18, 2003 at which time a presentation on how the proposal will work will be made.

FALL SPORTS ISSUES

Mr. Silva, Committee member, expressed concern about the Football playoffs. He suggested that the League pick playoff sites that have lights before the playoffs which would be available for teams who do not have lights. It was also suggested that all Superbowls be played on the same day. The Football Committee will review the Football Playoff structure.

WINTER SPORTS ISSUES

Mr. Lynch proposed a \$5.00 increase be paid to auditors and supervisors for RIIL Hockey games. The proposal will increase supervisors from \$40.00 to \$45.00 and auditors from \$30.00 to \$35.00.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted to approve the \$5.00 increase for Hockey supervisors and auditors.

Mr. Lynch also informed the Committee that the League office has received a letter from Middletown High School notifying the League they are withdrawing from Girls' Indoor Track.

In another matter, Mr. Ken Reall, Director of Swim, on behalf of the Swim Coaches Association, presented a proposal that all swimmers swim a minimum of 50 percent of the League meets in order to qualify in the event they plan to swim at the Rhode Island State Swim Championship. It was suggested that the League delay decision on the matter in order to determine what effect the change in Article 7, Section 7 has on the program.

After much discussion, on a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted to deny the request.

On December 5, 2003, a snow storm which started earlier without warning caused two schools not to show up to play their Hockey games. Administrators felt compelled along with the bus company to make a decision not to allow the teams to travel to the Arena due to the poor driving conditions. North Kingstown and East Greenwich High School sent letters to the League requesting the games be rescheduled rather than impose a forfeit on the two schools. Mr. Lynch expressed concern that by doing so could cause schools to make decisions not to play on any night in which the weather is inclement. He further stated that he was not able to cancel the

games because of the lateness and quickness of the storm arriving.

After much discussion, on a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted to reschedule the games.

SPRING SPORTS ISSUES

George Finn, Director of Lacrosse, was unable to attend the meeting, therefore, Chairperson Gary presented a Lacrosse proposal in his absence. The proposal submitted included two Divisions in A [A1 and A2]. Teams would play each other twice in their division and crossover with the other divisions, one game with each school. All nine teams would make the playoffs. It was brought up at the meeting that Middletown High School did not want to join the League this year. Rather they would play as a club team and schedule games with the RIIL teams. Because of the need for clarification on that issue, the Committee voted to table the matter until the next meeting.

REVISIT LETTER RECEIVED FROM THE RIIAAA

Mr. Lynch referred to a letter the League received from the Rhode Island Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (RIIAAA) to revisit the Girls Volleyball season change. The Principals' Committee on Athletics at its meeting on March 17, 2003 voted to move the Boys Volleyball season from the Fall to the Spring season, beginning with the 2005 season. The decision was made after a review of a survey sent to schools and after much discussion.

Much discussion took place on the issue to revisit the season changes by the members of the Principals' Committee on Athletics as well as three parents of Girls Volleyball players and one former RIIL Girls Volleyball player. Pros and cons of switching the seasons were presented along with the effect changing back to the original season would have on student-athletes who have made certain decisions based on the fact that the seasons have been switched.

On a motion made and seconded to revisit the issue of switching the girls volleyball season for purposes of further investigation of whether the changes need to be made, the Principals' Committee on Athletics voted 3-10 to further revisit the issue. The motion failed. The change of seasons that was previously approved will remain.

REQUEST EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Lynch requested a buy back for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Rhode Island be provided to any current employee who does not opt to take Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Rhode Island because they are covered by a spouse. The buy back would be 50% of the single coverage for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Rhode Island and Delta Dental.

On a motion made and seconded, the Principals' Committee on Athletics unanimously voted to approve a Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Rhode Island buy back to any current employee of the RIIL.

The Committee then adopted the following Closing Motion:
THAT ANY AND ALL MOTIONS, AMENDMENTS AND ACTIONS BY THE

PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS AND THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE ON ATHLETICS TO THIS DATE BE REAFFIRMED AND RATIFIED.

The December meeting of the Principals' Committee on Athletics was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

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"The Nature Of Achievement Is Never Being Satisfied With What You Did Yesterday. Even While Building On And Respecting The Past, We Always Strive To Be Better Tomorrow Than We Are Today."

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League
Is to provide educational opportunities
For students through interscholastic athletics
And to provide governance and leadership
For its member schools
In the implementation of athletic programs.

NATIONAL AFFILIATION

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League is a member of the National Federation of State High School Associations, which consists of the state high school associations of all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Guam, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and all provinces of Canada are affiliate members.

The objectives of the National Federation of State High School Associations are to:

- serve, protect, and enhance the interstate activity interests of the high schools belonging to the state associations;
- assist in those activities of the state associations which can best be operated on a nationwide scale;
- sponsor meetings, publications, and activities which will permit each state association to profit by the experience of all other member associations;
- coordinate the work so duplication will be minimized;
- formulate, copyright, and publish rules of play or event conduct pertaining to interscholastic activities;
- preserve interscholastic athletic records, and the tradition and heritage of interscholastic sports;
- provide programs, services, material and assistance to state associations, high schools and individual professionals involved in the conduct and administration of interscholastic activities;
- study in general all phases of interscholastic activities and serve as a national resource for information pertaining thereto;
- identify needs and problems related to interscholastic activities and where practical provide solutions thereto; and
- promote the educational values of interscholastic activities to the nation's public.



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