



Cross Country Update

Important State Meet Information

As we get ready for the district and State meets, I have some very important information regarding the state meet, the Washington State Cross Country Coaches Association Awards, and the future. Before I go any farther, I want to welcome Karen Kuykendall to the board. Karen is filling the remainder of Patty Ley's term as secretary as Patty stepped down to pursue other opportunities. Now, the WSCCCA awards.

We have had to scramble this year to host the awards. In the past, we were able to piggy-back with the WIAA and their coaches meetings. However, the WIAA coaches' meeting the night before is a thing of the past. It's not just our sport, but appears to be a general rule involving meetings the day before the actual competition in any sport. Unfortunately, by the time it was confirmed that there would be no coaches meeting, all banquet rooms at the Red Lion and Best Western by the meet site were booked. The WSCCCA board felt it was extremely important to continue the tradition of honoring coaches, and so we made numerous calls around the tri-cities before deciding to host our awards at the Hilton Garden Inn Tri-Cities/Kennewick. The address is 701 North Young Street, Kennewick WA 99336. We choose this location as it is very close to the Columbia Center, which has several options for athletes and coaches. It certainly isn't perfect, but hopefully the location will make it work for this year. We have already reserved a meeting room at the meet site for next year. In the meantime, we will meet here. The meeting is scheduled for 6:30-7:30. We really hope that you can attend.

As far as the awards goes, we will be honoring coaches in several categories. They include our four Hall of Fame members, our National Coach of the Year nominees, and our winners of the Coach of the Year for 2008.

The WSCCCA board made some decisions a few years ago regarding the Coach of the Year awards. The first was to expand the awards from two to an award for every race held at the state meet. We also made a philosophical decision to try to share the wealth, and avoid repeat winners. We want to look a little deeper, and try to recognize not just the winners but those making big jumps, overcoming adversity, etc. This is not to say that we won't award the Coach of the Year in back to back situations. However, in a state so rich with coaching talent, there are many more of you who really deserve recognition. Along the same lines, we try not to tip our hand before the awards, so that the honorees may be surprised. It does make it tough, as we really don't want a situation where we have an awards show and nobody comes. Therefore, we really hope you do us and your fellow coaches the honor of attending this year.

If you read Steve Bertrand's article in The Northwest Runner this year, you already know who our Hall of Fame Coaches are. This year we will be inducting Bob

Barbero, Steve Lewellyn, Michelle Mathay, and John Payne. A side note this year is how their careers really intertwined as well. Special thanks go to our Hall of Fame Committee of Tom Campbell, Steve Bertrand, and Mark Cullen. Also, we will have more Hall of Fame plaques on display at the meeting and the meet itself. We are now well into the process of placing a plaque for each inductee at the WIAA headquarters. All of these awards do add up, so it's one more reason for you to join the association.

Once again, we will be racing at the hallowed fairways of the Sun Willows golf course. Although he has stepped aside from the complete meet management, John Crawford continues to do an exceptional job running the results and meet mechanics. He has been continually pushing to make our sport a big time event and we certainly appreciate it. Everything you need to know is in the syllabus, and you can also get any questions answered when you pick up your race packet. One point of emphasis though. You must have your WIAA coaches pass to get into the coaching area at the start line. Your WSCA pass will not work; please do not attempt to use it. You wouldn't expect to have your WSCA card be good to get on the sideline of a state basketball or football game and this is really no different. If you need to be in the starting area to coach your athletes, you need to have your pass.

After the state meet is completed, the WSCCCA will be compiling our All Star team for the WSCCCA All Star race next July. We encourage your qualifying seniors to participate. We will also have scholarship information available after the first of the year. All information will be posted at WWW.WATFXC.com. The WSCCCA will also be partnering with the Track Coaches Association in their convention this winter. They will be offering distance related sessions during almost all blocks at their convention this winter in Everett. We hope you can attend.

Finally, after much discussion, the Tacoma Sports Commission has decided to shelve plans to pursue a state meet bid for now, and Pasco is planning on another bid. We will keep you posted, but it doesn't appear that the meet will be changing locations anytime soon.

Good luck at your district and state meets. This is a great sport, we have great kids, and you are making a great difference.