



January 24, 2022

I want to take a moment to say thank you. I have been fortunate to have served as the WSCCCA President for 16 years, and now, as I hand it off to Jeff Hashimoto, I want to thank the executive board and membership for allowing me to serve in this role.

I never planned on even becoming president, let alone serving this long. But alongside me all the way was the executive board. Phil English, Bruce McDowell, and Doug Fulton were there from day one. Jeff Hashimoto & Ed Santos joined later. Along the way I also had the support of Patty Ley, Robin Driver, and Denis Villeneuve. Along with that was the tremendous assistance in communication from our advisory board, which was put in place by our previous president Mark Cullen. With the support and mentorship I got from all of these coaches, it is pretty hard to fail. I owe them a lot.

Over these past several years, I think we have been able to do a lot for our sport. For sure, there were some bumps along the way, some of which make for some pretty good stories. We have been able to work with the WIAA and others to increase viewing at the state meet, adjust the qualifying, which ensures that no potential podium qualifying individual is left home (it still doesn't catch all teams though), and create more accurate counting of participation for allocations. Our state meet now has video timing, and the board, under Jeff's leadership, is looking to expand and improve it even more.

One thing that I think is so important to mention, is the quality of coaching in our state, and how much all of you help each other. I coach in a school with a lot of athletes coming from other states due to the military. A constant theme is how competitive our state is, and all the things you do that are not common in other states. I would like to think that our coaches association has played a bit of a role in that, I know it did for me.

I also want to thank the Track Coaches Association. Several years ago, they partnered with the WSCCCA on their convention. It has grown, and now, we are able to induct our Hall of Fame Inductees in a proper manner, with a banquet, and ceremony. This past weekend we were able to resume the banquet, and 8 coaches were inducted in front of 200+ guests. It was fantastic. If you have never been to the convention, put it on your "to do" list for next January.

My wife has always said that all of my friends are coaches. It isn't completely accurate, but close. And I don't think that is a bad thing at all. I have learned from all of you, worked with many of you, and to be able to have been involved as your president has been incredibly meaningful and rewarding. I will still stay involved, but as John Payne (Curtis High School Hall of Fame Coach) always said; "don't ever think you are so important that somebody can't take your place." Steve Bertrand took over for Tom Campbell, Mark Cullen took over for Steve, and I succeeded Mark. Jeff Hashimoto is now our President, and he will be fantastic. It has been an honor and a privilege.

Thank you

Joe Clark

**PAST** President

WSCCCA