



825 Bayside Drive
Greenwood, IN 46143

THE OFFICIAL WORD

Mano to Headline 78th Annual Banquet

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IOA Board of Directors

- Phil Vidito, President
- Jim Disney, Vice President
- Bob Klein, Secretary
- Brad Brooks, Treasurer
- Bob Anderson
- Mark Baltz
- Mike Bohan
- Mike Furnish
- Don Nester
- Jerry Wallace
- John Yantiss
- Terry Magnuson, Web Master

Barry Mano, president of the National Association of Sports Officials and publisher of Referee Magazine, will be the featured speaker at the annual IOA Awards Banquet.

The impetus behind Referee magazine in 1976 was a referee controversy. Mano says a Chicago newspaper took exception with a game-ending call by a referee at a closely contested Bulls game. The paper named the official and accused him of having not only cost the Bulls the game, but completely blowing the call. However, replays proved the official correct, but the paper did little in the following days



to redress the damage done. The official happened to be Mano's brother, Mark.

"He got it right (the call), but the media could have cared less," says Mano. "They had no idea how much trouble they caused Mark. He got death threats

at his home when they published his name and hometown.

"Being an official myself (at the time, Barry worked a NCAA Division I men's basketball schedule), I understood the pressures and it occurred to me that officials needed a voice at times. Obviously, Referee has grown into something much bigger than simply a voice nowadays."

The IOA banquet is scheduled for Monday, March 22 at Primo Banquet Hall. Be sure to clip and return your reservation (page 4 of this newsletter). The banquet is free to IOA members. Guests may attend at \$15.

IOA Membership Renewal Time

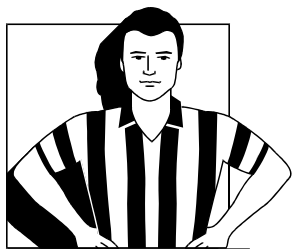
The deadline for renewal of IOA membership is April 15 (easy date to remember, huh?). Individuals renewing after this date will not have their name included in the IOA Roster

and Schedule Handbook. The application card for your 2004-2005 membership is enclosed in this mailing. Return your card with your banquet reservation located on page 4.

The IOA is the largest local officials association in the state, serving over 500 members. Contact IOA Secretary Bob Klein for more information.

How Do You Watch a Game Now?

Re-printed by permission from Referee magazine
For subscription information contact Referee magazine, PO Box 161, Franksville, WI 53216
Phone 262/632-8855; email: referee@referee.com



If you say, "That was a bad call," or, "I wouldn't have called it that way," you're fueling the fire.

After you've become an official, attending games is different from when you were just a fan. Obviously you're much more aware of the officials and what they are doing. With that comes tremendous responsibility. You now must watch the game the right way.

Be invisible.

Maintain that philosophy. You don't want people to know you're an official. If you are identified as an official while attending games, you're opening yourself up for questions, comments and criticism. Every time there's a close call or controversial ruling, fans will look to you for an explanation.

Don't wear your uniform.

Whether you're a first-year official or a grizzled veteran, you're probably proud to be an official. You also might be proud of the officials association you belong to or the league you work in. Attending a game is not the time to display your pride.

Sit alone.

If there's an area away from fans, sit there. That way, even if people know you are an official, they have to go out of their way to talk to you.

Don't criticize the officials.

Sadly, for many officials, that's the most difficult part of attending a game. That's

because some revel in people's mistakes and enjoy pointing them out to others. It makes them feel good. It also ruins their professional reputations.

Don't comment to fans.

Fans criticize officials. Those comments are even more apparent when you're in the stands. Resist the urge to verbally fight back. Realistically, you're not going to change their outlook on officiating and you're surely opening yourself up for problems. If it gets too bad, move to another section or leave.

Be careful answering questions.

If you're a locally known official in attendance, your role is difficult. Many fans will look to you for answers about things occurring in the game. Many of those questions will be about judgment calls. Resist answering them. The fans are often looking for support in their arguments. If you say, "That was a bad call," or, "I wouldn't have called it that way," you're fueling the fire.

Some questions are rules-related. Answer them carefully. If the officials handled a rule correctly, explain what they did. If they didn't, either avoid the question or explain the rule carefully without criticiz-

ing the officials. That's a very difficult thing to do.

Sometimes, your safest move is to say, "I didn't see the entire play," or, "We don't have the same view as they do on the field." That little white lie hurts less than trashing the officials.

Keep emotions in check.

That's especially true when you're a parent watching your son or daughter play. Someone once said, "Officials watch games with their eyes; players, coaches and fans watch games with their hearts." Even though your offspring is involved, you must avoid emotional displays created by watching a game with your heart. Many officiating reputations have been damaged when officials lost control and acted like fans. If you can't watch your son or daughter play without showing emotion against the officials, you have only two real options: Don't attend the games or quit officiating.

There's more responsibility and accountability when watching a game after you've become an official. Look at it as a great opportunity to learn from others while avoiding controversy and your attendance will help, not hurt, your career.

IOA NEWS AND NOTES

◆ **BOWEN AND MAXWELL HONORED**

IOA members John Bowen and Larry Maxwell recently received the state high school Referee of the Year awards in their respective sports. John received his award in a ceremony during soccer championship games and Larry his during the cross country finals.

They were nominated for the awards by the IOA Board of Directors. Once approved by the IHSAA, the Referee of the Year is selected by a vote of all local officials associations across the state.

◆ **SPORTSMANSHIP CARDS**

Each year at the banquet the IOA recognizes the Indiana high school with the best sportsmanship rating, as voted by IOA officials throughout the year. Be sure to get your cards to Bob Klein soon.

◆ **FOOTBALL FINALS FEATURE IOA CREWS**

The IHSAA State Football Finals held in the RCA Dome on November 28-29 had a definite IOA flavor. The 2A championship game was worked by the Steve Swartz crew (including Mark Gilpin, Steve Woods, Chris Kleifgen, and Andy Hayden).

The 3A game was officiated by the Larry Maxwell crew (including Brad Maxwell, Rex Nichols, Dave Ehrett, and Larry Steimel).

Also, the 3A game's chain crew was composed of IOA football committee members Joe Stafford, Paul Mills, Dave Westol, Joe Jennings, and Scott Furnish.

◆ **YANTISS WORKS STATE CROSS COUNTRY FINALS**

IOA member John Yantiss was assigned to be the Head Starter for the 2004 state Cross County finals.

◆ **GOLF OUTING SET**

The 2004 IOA Charity Golf Outing has been scheduled for **Thursday, July 29** at Twin Bridges Golf Course in Danville. The event is organized for officials, coaches, athletic directors, and friends. Proceeds support the IOA Scholarship Program and selected local charities. See the insert for registration information, and start organizing your team today!

◆ **REMEMBER TO UPDATE YOUR SCHEDULE**

The IOA Website is being used more frequently by athletic directors and other officials to see who's available to work. Please keep your schedule up-to-date and make their job easier. Go to...

ioaofficials.com

IOA 2004-2005 Election Preview

One feature of the IOA Awards Banquet is the annual election of board members and officers. If you are not able to attend the banquet, you may request an absentee ballot from Bob Klein at 889-9681 (phone) or bk31@sbeglobal.net (email). Absentee ballots must be received by Jerry Wallace; 7655 Justin Lane; Indianapolis, IN 46219 no later than March 19 to be counted. (See sample ballot below.)



2004-05 IOA Election Ballot

Place an **X** next to the person's name to indicate your vote.
A space has been provided for a write-in vote.

Sample Only

President Elect (vote for one only)

- Jim Disney
- Steve Wyrick
- _____

Vice President (vote for one only)

- Jason Ferguson
- Tim Maguire
- _____

Secretary (vote for one only)

- Bob Klein
- Don Nester
- _____

Treasurer (vote for one only)

- Brad Brooks
- _____

Board Member (vote for two only)

- Mike Furnish
- Ed Roush
- Rex Wallace
- _____

RESERVATION FOR IOA AWARDS BANQUET

Detach and return by March 15 to: Bob Klein; 825 Bayside Drive; Greenwood, IN 46143

*Date: Monday, March 22, 2004
Primo Banquet Hall (2615 E. National)
5:30 p.m.—Social Time
6:30 p.m.—Dinner*

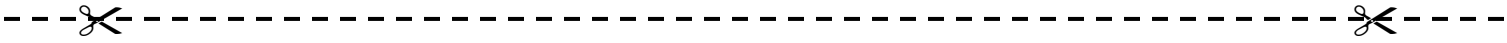
NAME: _____

- I plan to attend (the cost of attending the banquet is included in your annual association dues).
- I will bring a guest. Please print guest's name: _____
I am enclosing a \$15 check for my guest's dinner, payable to the IOA.
- I cannot attend the 2004 IOA Awards Banquet.

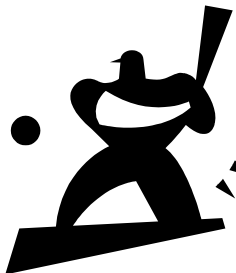
You will be recognized at the banquet if you received your first IHSAA tournament assignment, or advanced one level since last year's banquet. Please list your 2003-2004 achievement:

1st Sectional: _____ (sport) or **Advancement:** _____ (sport) _____ (level)

clip and return to Bob Klein by March 15



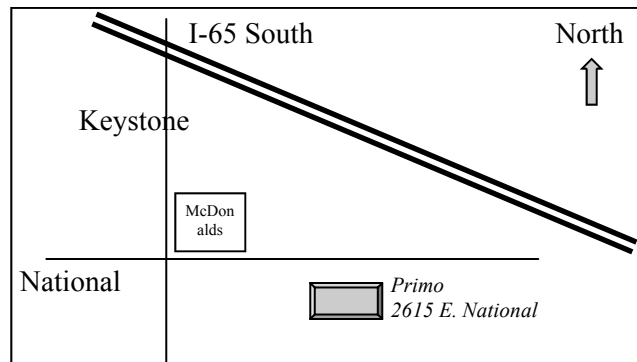
Important Baseball Dates— Check Your Calendar



The IHSAA Rules Interpretation meeting for baseball sponsored by the IOA is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 2004 at Lawrence Central High School at 7:30 p.m. This is different than the date listed in the IOA handbook, so please make sure this date is corrected in your personal calendar.

This is also a certification year in baseball. To become certified by the IHSAA you should plan to attend the certification clinic on March 25 between 5:30—9:30 p.m. at the CYO Center.

Directions to Primo Banquet Hall





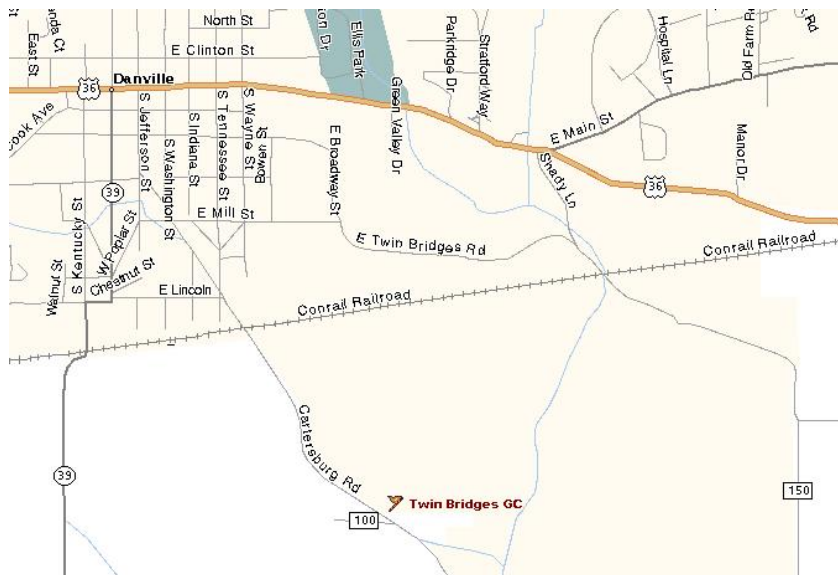
2004 IOA GOLF OUTING



Course: Twin Bridges Golf Course (Danville, IN)
Date: Thursday, July 29, 2004
Time: Shotgun Start: 12:00pm *Registration: 11am*
Format: 4-Man Scramble
Cost: \$240 per team of 4 golfers; \$60 for an individual golfer

Join fellow officials, coaches, athletic directors and administrators for a fun-filled afternoon of golf and camaraderie. Team and individual prizes will be awarded based on play, including: low team score (1st, 2nd, 3rd); longest drive; and closest to the pin. Teams can also enter the "Par 3 Challenge". Individuals can purchase "Mulligans" for use anywhere during play. Prizes will be awarded during the awards banquet. Included in the cost of the outing are greens fees, golf cart, range balls, and dinner. Enter your foursome today, or register as an individual player. Proceeds benefit local charities and the IOA Scholarship Fund.

Map to Twin Bridges:



For more information contact Stu Casper at 317-577-9029 (home) or 317-845-9242 x255 (office) or send an email to sdcasper@comcast.net. Additional information is available on the IOA website at ioaofficials.com

IOA Golf Outing – Thursday, July 29, 2004

Golf Tournament Registration Form

Name _____ Email _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 City, ST Zip _____ Check Enclosed \$ _____

I want to help make the IOA Golf Outing a successful event. Please contact me about: Hole Sponsorship Donating a door prize

Send entry form and check to:

IOA Golf Tournament
 c/o Stu Casper
 7845 Wawasee Drive
 Indianapolis, IN 46250

Individual (handicap) _____ Foursome:

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____
- D. _____