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Joseph Phillips named as Outstanding Official

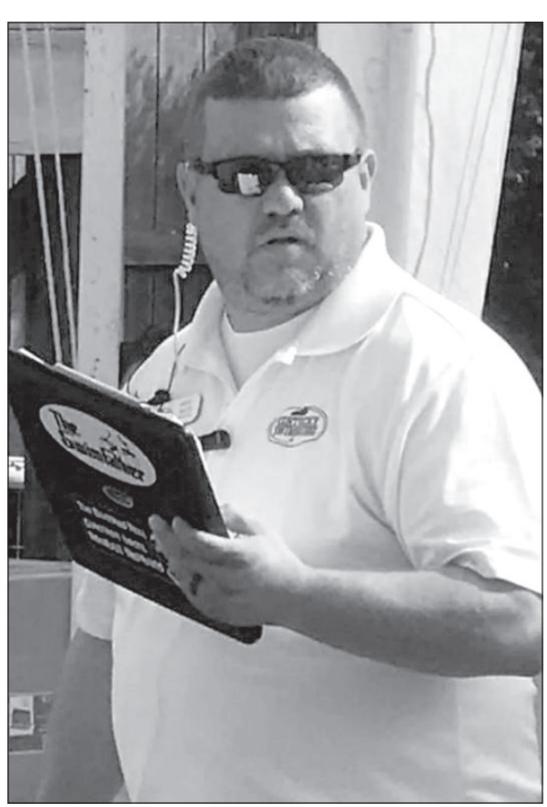
By Lisa Coffey
 Times Journal

A local man has been honored with a state athletic award.

Each year, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) honors the top officials for the 10 sports in which it licenses officials.

Finalists in each sport are selected through a combination of not only on-field performance but local association activity and leadership, training efforts and the mentoring of newer officials.

One official in each sport is named "Outstanding Official of the Year" for their sport in appreciation of their dedication and service to schools and student-athletes across the state.



Joseph Phillips

Winners are selected following consultation with local assigning secretaries, veteran officials' observers, coaches throughout the state and additional staff review.

The Outstanding Officials of the Year for the 2021-22 winter and spring seasons are James Johns for basketball, Joseph Phillips for swimming & diving, Eric Friddle for wrestling, Ron Rawe for baseball, Randy Chapman for softball and Sadie Gambrel for track & field, while Paul Lewis was named the Larry G. Boucher Assigner of the Year. Each finalist will receive a commemorative watch and certificate courtesy of the Officials of the Year receiving an additional recognition award.

With officiating

numbers declining at the national level, the KHSAA is always accepting applications from individuals interested in giving back to their community.

Officiating remains a great avenue to stay active, earn extra spending money and ensure that high school athletics are preserved for the current and future generations.

To get involved as an official, visit KHSAA.org; <https://khsaa.org/officials/officiating-information/>

Joseph Phillips started out running the timing console at high school meets for the Russell County High School Swim Team.

He soon took his test to become a swimming official and became a Level

2 KHSAA Swim Official and has been officiating for many years.

Phillips has been a valuable asset to the RCHS Swim Team, serving as head official, as well as organizing and communicating with teams across the state in hosting the Laker Fall Preview, Region 3 Swim Championships, and KHSAA Semi-State meets.

"He is highly respected by coaches and officials across the commonwealth and Russell County High School is blessed to have him," RCHS Swim Team Coach Glenda Prater said.

Joseph is married to Dianna Toole Phillips and together they have three children, Ashten, EmmaRae, and Jacob, all former or current swim team members.

Super Crossword ALMOST INDIVISIBLE

07-20-22

ACROSS

- 1 Compositions of a classical tradition
- 9 Financial: Abbr.
- 13 Toddler girl, to Scots
- 20 16th-century Spanish explorer
- 21 Wind quintet instrument
- 22 Ancient French region
- 23 Low-value red card
- 25 Dangerous current
- 26 20-ounce Starbucks drink
- 27 Body design, for short
- 28 Transmission repair chain
- 30 Adult fellows
- 31 Witches in "Macbeth"
- 37 Apple choice
- 41 Sculling item
- 42 Suffix with Midwest
- 43 Rose petal oil
- 44 1992 Tony nominee for Best Musical
- 48 Seniors' org.
- 52 Tricky pitch
- 53 Big fad
- 54 Pet allergy source
- 56 From days of yore
- 57 Luggage screeners' org.
- 59 Univ. dorm overseers to Scots
- 62 Listerine competitor
- 63 Oedipus-themed Aeschylus play
- 69 A-E linkup
- 72 Docs' gp.
- 73 Herr's "one"
- 74 Hanks of "Big"
- 75 Raised trains
- 76 Instrument players gifted in a Christmas song
- 83 Log house
- 84 Bullring shout
- 85 Some RNs work in them
- 86 Make ecstatic
- 90 Figure skater Yamaguchi
- 92 "Jack Sprat could — fat"
- 96 Aquarium bed material
- 97 Fabled snow beast
- 98 Virginia and Georgia were part of them
- 103 Pried (around)
- 105 Meal crumb
- 106 Raw metal
- 107 Title for Judi Dench
- 108 Hearst bimonthly with beauty and dating tips
- 114 Former U.K. record co.
- 115 Fake
- 116 Muhammad of the ring
- 117 Feudal lord
- 122 Be averse to
- 124 What the starts of the longest answers in this puzzle are?
- 129 One making modifications
- 130 Helper
- 131 Homer with nobody on
- 132 Straightens up
- 133 Red-ink entry
- 134 Upper layers of fertile earth

DOWN

- 1 Shakespeare play ending
- 2 T. — Price
- 3 Disney sci-fi film of 1982
- 4 Not worth debating
- 5 Not qualified
- 6 Feeling blue
- 7 Cruel Amin
- 8 People painting, e.g.
- 9 Shoes and boots
- 10 Arabic for "son of"
- 11 Lay turf on
- 12 Romero of "Batman"
- 13 Grows fond of
- 14 Drew forth
- 15 Wife, to Juan
- 16 Back muscle, for short
- 17 "One Day at —" (sitcom)
- 18 Supply- (certain economist)
- 19 Camille Saint- —
- 24 Alluring West
- 29 Eve's partner
- 32 60 minutes
- 33 Solar beam
- 34 Witty Bombeck
- 35 Don Juan's mother
- 36 Seance state
- 37 "In case that's true ..."
- 38 Place for grist
- 39 Rah-rah
- 40 Surrenders
- 45 Heredity unit
- 93 Proton holder
- 94 Prefix with byte
- 95 Tennis, volleyball and badminton
- 96 Narrow valley
- 99 Dogs closely following their owners
- 100 15th of the month, maybe
- 101 Most snug
- 102 "... — quit!" (threat ender)
- 104 Blazing
- 108 Roomy auto
- 109 Novelist Zola
- 110 Lookout view
- 111 Kathmandu's nation
- 112 Heady drink
- 113 "Tickle Me" dolls
- 118 — facto
- 119 K thru 12
- 120 Earth science subj.
- 121 Guesses on costs: Abbr.
- 123 Allow to
- 125 Grande opening?
- 126 Age-verifying docs.
- 127 Failing tic-tac-toe
- 128 Lofy peak

BASEBALL,

— Continued from Page One

This season's team had nine seniors.

"The most I've ever had," Rexroat said. "But this year, this group of nine seniors not only won the region, but they made a big impact on everybody's life associated with baseball. They've had not only an excellent year, but their whole baseball career (including Babe Ruth play) has been successful. All of these guys are going to go on to be something in their lives. They're all going to be successful."

Rexroat said the team rose to any and every challenge.

"They (seniors) started with COVID as sophomores and didn't get to play," Coach Rexroat said. "We didn't have a whole lot of experience going into the junior year."

"When you really think about it, they missed 22 months of baseball," he said. "We played our last game in 2019...and we didn't come back til their junior year. They put in a lot of work to get where they were."

"There was ups and downs, there was adversity along the way," Rexroat said. "I'm very proud of them."

The Lakers compiled a best-ever season record of 31-7, and fell 11-1 against Saint Xavier, of Louisville, in the state championship game last month.

Coach Rexroat said many elements of the championship pursuit "were awesome."

He fondly remembered a post on social media by the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) showing a huge Russell County fanbase in attendance with the phrase, "When the whole county has your back."

"That picture there... of all those people...was so amazing, so special," he said. "It meant a lot."

Among those fans was former teacher and school superintendent Brooks Bates.

Bates was a member of the 1957 Russell County Baseball team who made it all the way to the state.

"Brooks has been to a lot of our games," Rexroat said. "He is a big Lakers supporter through all the years. It was just special to look up in the stands and see somebody from that team that made the Final Four, and here we are in 2022, and he's up there cheering us on."

Rexroat said it was an honor to have Bates, and teammate Lloyd Coffey attend the banquet.

"We're glad to have them here," Coach Rexroat said. Coffey and Bates were presented baseballs autographed by

members of the Laker Baseball team.

Rexroat said Russell County Baseball, which began over six decades years ago, is steeped in tradition.

"Sixty-five winning seasons in 65 years is really great for our program," he said. "From 1955 to 2022 we have so many memories to be proud of."

The coach praised the Russell County School Board "for their vision," the community "for their support," and parents and guardians for their commitment to raising exceptional student athletes.

"They (students) have to have something established before we get them at the high school level," Rexroat said.

The Laker Baseball Varsity team, Junior Varsity, and Middle School teams were all recognized at the banquet.

In closing, Rexroat reminded players of their legacy.

"The memories you made, the ride you put us on...we'll never forget it," Rexroat said. "This county will remember you guys, the whole team, for many years to come."

Watch The Times Journal Facebook page this week for team and individual photos from the banquet.

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