“A Retrospective and Introspective on Sports in Seventh-day Adventist Schools”

Annual National Convention
March 12, 2012
Atlantic Union College
Presidential Room of the Dining Commons
South Lancaster, Massachusetts
SDA-HPERA Convention Schedule  
March 12, 2012

7:30a  Registration  
Alvin Fuentes  
Washington Adventist Univ.

8:00  Welcome  
Lloyd G. Brown  
CFO, Atlantic Union College

8:05  Worship  
Pastor Don Pate  
Senior Pastor, The College Church

8:30  Round Table: Pioneering Athletic Programs in SDA Academies  
- Greg Davies (audio), speaking about Portland Adventist & Gem State  
- Randy Norton (El Dorado), speaking about La Sierra Academy  
- Bob Paulson (Pacific Union College), speaking about Takoma Academy  
- Dean Harris, speaking about South Lancaster Academy  
- and more

9:30a  BREAK

9:45a  Jim Hanson Memorial Lecture  
Round Table: The Beginning of Interschool Sports in Adventist Colleges  
- Tim Windemuth, Walla Walla University  
- Stacy Nelson (Celebration Health), speaking about Atlantic Union College  
- Rick Murray (Burton Adventist Academy), speaking about Columbia Union College

11:00  Tour the W.G. Nelson Field House, Atlantic Union College

12:00p  AWARD LUNCHEON  
Rob Thomas,  
Executive Director SDA-HPERA  
La Sierra University  
Jon’s Pizza and Sub Shop  
(order a grinder or pizza from a local favorite)

2:15  Round Table: Sports Programs in The 90s and Today  
- Athletes and coaches, share your experiences.  
- Features South Lancaster Academy, Atlantic Union College, Shenandoah Valley Academy, Milo Academy, Walla Walla University, Union College, and more.

3:00  BREAK

3:15  Revisiting Our Philosophy:  
Guidelines for Athletics in Seventh-day Adventist Universities

4:30  Business Meeting  
Brian Sather  
SDA-HPERA President  
Eastern Oregon Univ.
2011/2012 SDA-HPERA Executive Committee:

President: Brian Sather, Eastern Oregon Univ.
Past-President: Ron Schafer, Canadian University College
President-Elect: Alvin Fuentes, Washington Adventist Univ.
Secretary: Jeremy Perkins
Executive Director: Robert Thomas, La Sierra University
Convention Manager: Open

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presidents</th>
<th>Secretaries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1981 Association organized</td>
<td>Bob Reynolds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1982 Steering committee chair presided</td>
<td>Bob Reynolds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983 Walt Hamerslough</td>
<td>Debbie Morgan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1984 Walt Hamerslough</td>
<td>Debbie Morgan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985 Bill Napier</td>
<td>Sandy Cavanaugh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986 Bill Napier</td>
<td>Barbara Friesen (completed Cavanaugh’s term)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987 Vernon Scheffel</td>
<td>Barbara Friesen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988 Gary Hamburg</td>
<td>Helen Weismeyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989 Stacy Nelson</td>
<td>Wally Fox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990 John Pangman</td>
<td>Sheri Hall (Bob Reynolds acting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991 Roger McFarland</td>
<td>Barbara Harsany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992 Stan Detweiler</td>
<td>Lydia Chong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993 Phil Garver</td>
<td>Jim Hanson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994 Debbie Morgan</td>
<td>Rob Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995 Bob Kalua</td>
<td>Wally Fox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996 Frank Martinez</td>
<td>Ron Reading (Ric Spalding acting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997 Rob Thomas</td>
<td>Troy Beans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998 Barbara Harsany</td>
<td>Gary Eggers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999 Ric Gatling</td>
<td>Curtis Kuhlman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000 Don Morgan</td>
<td>Heather Neal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001 Tim Willsey</td>
<td>Rick Schwarz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002 Nancy Petta</td>
<td>Brian Sather (Barbara Harsany acting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003 Tim Windemuth</td>
<td>Joe Perrone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 Delmar Lovejoy</td>
<td>Steve Adams (Rob Thomas acting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 Greg Davies</td>
<td>Gregg Morrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Greg Davies</td>
<td>Gregg Morrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 Joe Perrone</td>
<td>Laura Benn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Rod Bussey</td>
<td>Krystal Hauff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 Nestor Osorio</td>
<td>Mike Boyd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 Ric Spaulding</td>
<td>Bob Benge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 Ron Schafer</td>
<td>Doug Zimmerman</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Histories of Schools with Interscholastic Sports

The following is an excerpt from pages 82-105 of:


Atlanta Adventist Academy

In 1986, the teachers at Atlanta Adventist Academy organized and adopted an interschool sports program. The school belonged to the Metro Atlantic Christian Conference when Enrico Marcellino became athletic director in 1992. He pushed the move for the school to become independent and they have maintained that status since.

The school currently competes against Christian schools in boys' and girls' basketball and volleyball and boys' golf. In the future soccer, tennis, girls' volleyball, and boys' baseball may be added. Marcellino raises most of the money to support his sports program with a golf tournament each year that raises $5,000-10,000 for the sports teams.

Approximately 65% of the student body at AAA participates in the sports program. There are no intramural activities because many of the students commute from long distances.

Atlantic Union College

Stacy Nelson influenced AUC’s decision to begin competing against non-SDA schools because of his specific research about interscholastic sports. In 1986, AUC played exhibition games which proved to be a positive experience and led to their joining the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). The program currently plays in the Mayflower League in basketball and women’s volleyball. Nelson has resigned from the director of athletics position at AUC and will be replaced by Robert Thomas.

Auburn Adventist Academy

Bob Kilgore has been athletic director at Auburn for 12 years. In 1993, he assisted the effort to join the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) to more evenly match the competition level to that of the students. Due to the limited ability to schedule games as an independent, Auburn has joined the Nisqually League for the 1996-1997 year. Before joining the league, Auburn was concerned about potential rivalry but Kilgore concluded that rivalry is based on what you allow to happen. Auburn may add soccer and girls' volleyball in the future.

Bakersfield Adventist Academy

Athletics at Bakersfield are run primarily by a booster group. The school plays other SDA schools but includes a few Christian schools in their schedule. Dr. Robert Hill is the current athletic director who indicates Bakersfield may possibly join the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) as an independent. Approximately 70% of the students at Bakersfield participate in the athletics.

Burton Adventist Academy

In February of 1995, Burton Adventist Academy established an athletic committee headed by athletic director Monroe Solomon. The committee investigated sports programs at several SDA schools and public schools for advice in starting interscholastic competition. Key figures in the development of the program were board chair Connie Perryman, principal John Hopps, and Dr. Bill Perryman.

The following school year Burton joined the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) as an independent member in boys' basketball and girls' volleyball. The boys' basketball team got the opportunity to play a game in Reunion Arena, home of the Dallas Mavericks. Later that year, Burton was assigned to the district for boys' baseball and girls' softball. Future plans include developing athletic facilities and expanding the athletic program so more students can participate.

Solomon emphasizes the positive response the league has given to Burton Academy for sportsmanship and administration of their program. The baseball team forfeited a tournament championship game because it was scheduled for Friday night. The response for this action was positive from the students and other teams and served as a witness opportunity for the SDA religion.
Campion Academy

Troy Beans attributes his success for the last 6 years of interscholastic competition to the following explicit goals: (a) reaching heaven, (b) excellence in the classroom, and (c) playing to the best of their abilities. Beans has coached girls' and boys' basketball and volleyball since 1990 with the help of assistant coach Nadia Issa. In 1995, Campion added boys' and girls' soccer.

Campion mostly plays local Christian schools and a few public schools. They are considering joining the association for the State of Colorado to schedule more evenly matched competition. Beans indicates the sportsmanship playing Christian schools has been superb but also notes incidents playing SDA schools and some public schools have not been so positive.

College View Academy

The State of Nebraska offers a unique situation in high school athletics that benefits College View Academy’s participation in interschool competition. All schools operate as independents making their own schedules. This gives College View the freedom to schedule games that are not on Friday nights or Saturdays.

Three factors contributed to College View’s decision to compete against non-SDA schools. Ryan Rienke’s influences as an exceptional basketball player and his involvement as a student leader was one factor. Second, a survey by the school indicated that constituents desired a sports program. The combination of these two factors and an athletic director, Larry Aldred, who saw a need for this program led to its inception in 1991.

The first sports were cross country followed by boys’ basketball in the fall. In the second year girls’ volleyball was added followed by tennis in 1996. In the 1995-96 year one student played football at a local high school as a cooperative agreement between the two schools.

College View has competed in post season play in most sports. The first year David Wade qualified for state in cross country. Sheree Schwartz went to state in tennis in 1996. Their success in basketball has also led to media coverage.

Future plans include adoption of golf and forming a conference with four other schools. Joining a conference would allow them to participate in tournament play and give athletes a better opportunity to excel.

Collegedale Academy

Collegedale chose to join the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) in 1995 because students were interested in running and golf. In the past, some students chose to attend public schools because Collegedale did not offer competitive programs in these areas. Collegedale chose to join the association in only two sports, cross country and boys’ golf, because they felt these sports avoided the competitive nature of team sports. Because of this philosophy, the program has no plans for expansion to more traditional sports.

Ron Reading, the athletic director, indicates a positive experience came from the Collegedale’s withdrawal from the regional cross country meet. If Collegedale’s athletes qualified for state they would have to forfeit because the state meet was on Saturday. Instead of taking the opportunity qualify for state, Collegedale decided to allow other teams to go to state. This action brought recognition from the league for standing up for their beliefs and the league has now implemented action to change the provisions of the regional meet to allow Collegedale to compete.

Columbia Adventist Academy

In 1994, CAA joined the Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) as an independent member. Previously they competed in a local Koinonia league comprised of small Christian schools. Athletic Director Lance Judd and Principal Kelly Bok pushed to join WIAA in order to play teams on their competitive level and add structure to the program.

For their first year in WIAA, Columbia participated in boys’ and girls’ basketball. The following year boys’ golf was added. They have also maintained involvement in the annual Portland Adventist Academy Friendship Tournament. Judd sees possible additions of boys’ soccer, girls’ golf, and cross country teams to round out the program so it includes a boys’ and girls’ sport for each season.

Columbia Union College

Rick Murray started as dean of men at CUC and ran the men’s basketball team. He eventually moved to full time director of athletics for a school that is currently entering into the full National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II status and offers scholarships in 6 men’s and 6 women’s sports.

The program first started with basketball as a club status in 1984 when they played 10 other colleges. According to Murray, CUC’s attempt to join the National Christian Collegiate Athletic Association (NCCAA) in 1985 was denied because the league thought Seventh-day Adventists were a cult. In 1986, CUC joined the National Association for Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Division II.
In their first year (1991-1992) of NAIA Division I play the men’s basketball team won the district championship and was given the opportunity to compete in the NAIA national tournament consisting of the top 32 teams.

In 1994 CUC moved to NCAA Division II but still included NAIA teams on their schedule. CUC competes in basketball, volleyball, cross country, track, men’s baseball, men’s soccer, and women’s softball. The program at CUC is the most developed interscholastic program in SDA colleges.

Enterprise Academy

In the 1995-1996 season Enterprise played a Christian school in Wichita, Kansas in boys’ and girls’ basketball but mainly competes against Adventist schools in friendship tournaments in the midwest. Athletic Director Tim Bragaw says Enterprise is currently interested in joining the Kansas State High School Activities Association to play other high schools.

Escondido Adventist Academy

Principal Jerry Gilkeson lead the movement at Escondido to join the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) because local SDA schools they previously played were rapidly joining the league. Robert Bewley was appointed athletic director of the new sports program which was overwhelmingly accepted by the school board. A steering committee was formed to lead the transition into competitive sports that included coaches, athletes, administrators, and one outside member.

Boys’ and girls’ volleyball and basketball completed winning season in their first year of competition. Girls’ fastpitch softball was also included in the sports program. The school competed as an independent during their first year of competition but has been approved to join the league for the 1996-1997 school year. The league has offered to change the playoff schedule to meet Sabbath observance.

Recently a school paper reported what students felt was positive about their school. The overriding theme was the sports program that has God at its center.

Fresno Adventist Academy

After 2 years of league competition in CIF, Fresno has moved to associate membership based on policy enacted by the Central California Conference against league participation. Keith Perrin laid the groundwork for developing the interscholastic program. Rico Balugo took over in 1994 for the first year of CIF competition. Hugh Winn was the principal involved in developing the athletic program.

Gem State Academy

Traditionally Gem State competed against other SDA schools and alumni teams. The experience was not positive because the limited amount of games increased the intensity of each game and the distance to other SDA schools increased travel expenses.

Because of these factors, Greg Davies presented a proposal to the Idaho High School Activities Association (IHSAA) to be admitted as associate members in girls’ and boys’ basketball. They joined the association to play during the 1994-1995 season. Gem State has applied for full membership for the 1996-1997 year. This move will allow other schools to realize that Gem State is a fully accredited school whereas before, others perceived they were not because of their associate status.

Davies evaluates his program regularly with student questionnaires, parent surveys, and open forum meetings as well as charting grade point averages of his athletes compared to the other students. From the evaluation he generally finds that sports increase spirit, relieve stress, increases the drive for improvement, and have little effect on grades during the time students participate in sports. In fact, the grades tend to increase during the season.

One struggle to keep the program going, indicates Davies, is the bad publicity that sometimes occurs when situations are blown out of proportion. Seventh-day Adventists tend to jump to conclusions without all the facts and opt to eliminate the whole program rather than deal with the issues.

Glendale Adventist Academy

Matt Stanfield was the athletic director who started interscholastic competition at Glendale 7 years ago. Glendale belongs to CIF in volleyball, basketball, and club soccer. Volleyball has been their strongest sport. Current athletic director Eldridge Ezpeleta states, “Awareness of SDA beliefs is getting more and more well known in CIF.”
Greater Boston Academy
Greater Boston has been competing in girls’ and boys’ basketball since 1991. In 1996 they will join the New England Preparatory School Athletic Conference and belong the Massachusetts Bay Independent League. Bryant Worth is the director of athletics.

Hawaiian Mission Academy
Hawaiian Mission is reluctant to participate in interscholastic sports for the fear of going against General Conference and Pacific Union Conference policy. Because of this stance Hawaiian Mission is the only school in the state that does not participate in interscholastic competition. In October 1995, the board of directors approved a measure that allowed the school to play 8 basketball scrimmages against Division II teams in the Interscholastic League of Honolulu (ILH).
In December, the board denied a proposal for Hawaiian Mission to join ILH. The board has allowed the school to continue the scrimmage games. Coach John D. Rudometkin indicates that the scrimmage games have been successful in many ways but the school is sticking to SDA conference policy.

Indiana Academy
During the 1995-1996 school year Indiana Academy played a few games against small schools in boys’ and girls’ basketball.

La Sierra University
After examining sports programs at other SDA school who had adopted interscholastic competition, La Sierra University decided about eight years ago to break from their traditional stance of no interscholastic sports. For the first few years of the program’s existence, Walt Hamerslough ran the program which competed against small Christian colleges. Vernon Scheffel followed Hamerslough as director of athletics and Jeremy Jordan is the current athletic director.

At one point, LSU belonged to the California Coastal Conference and the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA). They will join NAIA for the 1996-1997 year and may eventually move to NCAA Division III.

LSU competes in men’s basketball and soccer and women’s basketball and volleyball. They give special financial aid to athletes but no athletic scholarships.

Mile High Adventist Academy
Mile High does not belong to a league or association but competes against local schools in boys’ and girls’ basketball. In 1996 they will start girls’ volleyball and have future plans for boys’ and girls’ soccer. They currently have a competitive sports acrobatics team that has won national awards.

Milo Adventist Academy
Milo first competed against public schools in 1990 with a game versus Days Creek High School. Under the leadership of principal Loren Fardulis and coach Roger Morse, Milo joined the Big Fir League completing a full season in boys’ and girls’ basketball, and girls’ volleyball.

The following year (1991-1992), Milo moved to independent status and found scheduling harder. Since then they have maintained independent status under the athletic directorship of Steve Adams in 1993-94 and Gregg Faulk in 1995-96. For the 1996-1997 season, Judy Sloan will take over as director of athletics. She has coached women’s basketball since 1991. In this season they will rejoin the league for scheduling purposes but will not be listed in standings or included in postseason play.

Because Milo does not offer football, 2 students have been allowed to play at Days Creek High School. Students are allowed to also play baseball for the local high school.

Mount Ellis Academy
Although MEA has never joined a league or association they do play Christian and public schools in basketball, girls’ volleyball, and track and field. The school first competed against non-SDA schools under Athletic Director Scott Schafer in 1991 when they played a Bozeman Christian school. The program has continued to develop under the direction of Stacy Hunter.

Mount Vernon Academy
In 1987, Mount Vernon began competing mostly against local Christian schools in tennis, basketball, and volleyball because parents pushed adoption of an interscholastic sports program and Principal Jack Mentges was open to the idea. The school chooses not to play in tournaments to avoid sabbath conflicts. Local papers have printed SDA beliefs because of the school’s athletic program and the 18-1 volleyball team’s declining an invitation.
for postseason tournament. Physical education teacher Bruce Bellchambers indicates the program has no future plans for expansion.

Mountain View Academy

The situation at MVA shows the influence a board and conference have over interscholastic sports at SDA academies. The school decided to join the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) based on the influence of board chair Richard Schulton. Carey Bell became athletic director for the 1993-1994 school year in which MVA competed in girls’ and boys’ basketball and boys’ volleyball. In 1994, MVA added boys’ soccer. During their second year of competition MVA elevated to full league status in the Christian Private School Athletic League. The girls’ basketball team made league playoffs and lost in the second round and the boys lost in the first round. In 1995-1996 season the boys’ basketball team made league playoffs but lost in the first round.

In the 1995-1996 school year a number of circumstances led to the school board’s decision to drop interscholastic sports competition for the next school year. The Central California Conference, under their new president Jerry Page, decided that no school would maintain league status in CIF. The school board at MVA, under a new chair, decided to take it one step further and not compete against public schools.

The whole school is in a state of transition with the resignation of Carey Bell and 6 other of the 10 full time faculty members leaving. Bell indicates that the students are, “Upset with the whole concept that sports is detrimental to their salvation. They are being penalized and they don’t know what they did wrong.”

Portland Adventist Academy

Portland Adventist Academy has arguably reached a monumental milestone that may serve as a breakthrough in SDA participation in interscholastic sports. The boys’ Cougar basketball team has came off a 27-0 season by winning the Oregon State 2A Tournament. (2A leagues in Oregon match schools with enrollment between 175-250.) What makes this unique is that the tournament schedule was changed to allow PAA to compete in the semifinals on Friday afternoon and the championship game on Saturday night. The Cougar’s achievement has shown that Adventists can succeed in athletics while maintaining standards that the Adventist church has emphasized in education.

PAA first organized a varsity team in 1970 under Bill Judd competing in an adult men’s league. In 1978, they joined a Christian school league called Koinonia. The following year, Greg Davies became athletic director and PAA continued competition in Koinonia until it began to break up in 1986.

Under Davies, PAA applied to join a league in the Oregon State Athletic Association (OSAA). Under this provision, their win/loss record would count in league standings but they would drop out before the postseason tournament. In 1995, under Athletic Director Norm Ballou, PAA applied to participate in the state tournament and not compete on Sabbath. By applying for this change, PAA was gambling that they would win. If they had lost they would have to forfeit their consolation game and possibly lose the respect of the league.

In the state tournament, senior Damian McCarthy was named most valuable player and was listed on the tournament’s all-star first team. Named to the all-star second team were Alan Bingham, Damien Sempio, and Abby Olive. At the regional level, PAA was given the sportsmanship award and Ballou received coach of the year honors.

PAA currently has boys’ soccer and basketball and women’s basketball. They plan to add girls’ soccer next year and possible baseball in the future.

Portland Adventist Academy sponsors a friendship tournament held every year for SDA schools. It has grown to be a well-recognized event in which SDA schools from across the country come to participate.

San Pasqual Academy

San Pasqual competes against non-SDA Christian schools but still plays other California SDA schools in basketball and volleyball for a majority of their games. Principal Berit Von Pohle, Vice-Principal Frank Jones, III, and Athletic Director Lucio Camacho, Jr. came to the school in 1991 and were influential in starting up interscholastic sports. San Pasqual is looking into joining CIF because of the increasing number of SDA schools in southern California who are members.

South Lancaster Academy

The boys varsity competed in the Massachusetts district tournament in 1994-1995 making it to the semifinals and reaching the quarter finals in 1995-1996. Athletic Director Edward Folger indicates Sabbath participation presents conflict issues for South Lancaster. Because they are an independent school and belong to the state association they are qualified for tournament participation. For the most part, this allows them to schedule games that do not conflict or distract from Sabbath observance.
Southwestern Adventist College

Southwestern has belonged to the NAIA Division II since 1994 and is now undergoing a transition from independent membership to joining the Big State Conference which is NAIA Division I. The program offers scholarships to athletes and runs from a budget designated by the college specifically for athletics.

Tom Bunch was the athletic director who started the program in 1986 with the full support of the college president Dr. Marvin Anderson. The first year SAC played men’s basketball. Two years later women’s volleyball started followed by men’s baseball, and women’s basketball. Brent Baldwin is the current director of athletics.

Spring Valley Academy

Athletic director Tim Bair has served as girls’ basketball coach at Spring Valley for 8 years. He became athletic director when his colleague and school chaplin Brennon Francois vacated the athletic director position. Francois, in conjunction with principal John Wheaton, began interschool competition in the 1980s.

Rick Schwarz is the current PE teacher who specializes in acrosports. Spring Valley won a national championship in the early 1990s in this sport. The acro program has faded but SVA supports teams in boys’ and girls’ basketball, boys’ volleyball, and boys’ tennis. In 1996-1997 SVA plans to add girls’ junior varsity volleyball and boys’ soccer. SVA does not belong to a state association but may join in the future.

A situation exists at SVA where grades K-12 operate in the same building. Bair indicates that varsity athletics has produced a more willing attitude in younger students to learn in PE class because they have a reason to use the skills.

Takoma Academy

Former coach at Takoma Academy Bob Paulson states, “John Graham and John Paul Lawrence were the fathers of interscholastic athletics in the Seventh-day Adventist church.” Because of the work by Graham and Lawrence, Takoma Academy has the longest standing sports program that competes against non-SDA schools beginning in the early 1960s when they played basketball against a Marine base high school.

Principal Lawrence and Athletic Director John Graham developed teams in men’s and women’s basketball who played primarily Catholic and private schools. Their philosophy was to not compete against SDA schools to avoid rivalry and maintain a positive competitive experience.

Following Graham, Jerry Knickerson became director of athletics. Richard Osborne followed Lawrence as principal and continued the tradition with help form Athletic Director Laura Benn and boys’ basketball coach Paulson. Bradley L. Durby is the current director of athletics. The coaching staff includes 30 volunteer coaches.

Takoma Academy has maintained independent status with the exception of league play from 1983-1986. They currently play in basketball, soccer, track and field, cross country, and tennis. Takoma also sponsors a cheerleading team.

Paulson began the John Graham Tournament at TA in which many Washington, D. C. area private and public schools participated. The tournament has evolved into an SDA school invitational in the East.

Although their independent status does not facilitate postseason play, Takoma Academy has competed in other tournaments. During Paulson’s stint he played in the St. Anslem’s Tournament, which is the longest running school basketball tournament, and is comprised mostly of Catholic schools.

From 1983 to 1986, TA competed in a league with the basketball team going to the championship game in playoffs. Osborne, who was principal at the time, indicates they dropped their league status because rivalry became too intense.

The boys’ varsity basketball team maintains a 3.16 grade point average. Three athletes received full ride scholarships to the University of Maryland-Baltimore County for math and science.

Union College

Union plays in men’s and women’s basketball in an association of Christian colleges. Ric Spaulding is the director of athletics.

Union Springs Academy

In the early 1980s, Union Springs competed against local churches under the direction of Clyde Newmeyer. The school appointed John Foote as athletic director in 1988. The following year, Union Springs first competed against non-SDA schools.

The school now plays for Friends and Family Conference as an independent member. Their schedule includes games in boys’ and girls’ basketball versus other SDA academies, Baptist schools, and two public schools. They also participate in the John Graham Tournament at Takoma Academy. Foote indicates the program has no future plans of expansion.
Union Springs carefully selects coaches who emphasize the importance of how the game is played over the importance of winning. Games have been eliminated from the schedule when attitudes seemed to get out of control.

**Walla Walla College**

When Tim Windemuth came to WWC in 1983 the school had an Athletes in Action program that played city league teams. Windemuth adopted a Fellowship of Christian Athletes program in flag football and basketball. The following year women’s basketball, flag football, and track and field were added. Currently WWC competes against a variety of opponents in eight sports.

In 1994, WWC joined the Pacific Northwest Christian Conference in men’s basketball. In 1996, the school plans to add women’s volleyball to the league. Before joining the league the college organized an athletic council and a booster club to guide the move. The goal of the program is to promote a Christian image in all aspects of the athletic experience.

**Walla Walla Valley Academy**

Scott Schafer took over at WWVA for their first year of belonging to the Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association. The ground work for joining was laid by girls’ basketball coach Mike Cook.

WWVA competed in golf in the Yakima Valley League sending 3 players to state: Aaron Vixie, Brian Hamburgh, and Doug Botimer. The schools plays other schools as an independent in basketball, girls’ volleyball, and track.