

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 27, 2020

Hoosier Plains Conference  
Gerianne Druyos, President



Re: Creation of a New IHSAA Athletic Conference, The Hoosier Plains Conference

### **Hoosier Plains Conference**

Argos Community Jr./Sr. High School: Athletic Director, Jon Alcorn and Principal, Nick Medich; Bethany Christian Schools: Athletic Director, Gary Chupp and Head of School, Tim Lehman; Career Academy South Bend: Athletic Director, Gerianne Druyos and Principal Jeremy Lugbill, Elkhart Christian: Athletic Director, Richelle Viront and Principal, Sean Bevier; Lakeland Christian Academy: Athletic Director, Tim Yocum and Principal, Joe Elrod; Trinity School at Greenlawn: Athletic Director, Mike Gionfriddo and Head of School, John Lee

### **Conference Play Begins Fall of 2020-21** **Conference Sports**

The HPC will include the following sports:

Boys and girls soccer, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys baseball, girls softball and boys and girls track & field.

### **Conference Benefits**

The HPC believes establishing this conference brings consistency to scheduling and provides greater opportunity for the student-athlete to be recognized for their accomplishments on the court/field. The HPC believes conference competition will add gravity to games, help foster healthy rivalries, and boost attendance. The HPC brings together IHSAA schools with common interests. All are small, non-football schools that desire to expand sport opportunities within their programs.

### **Conference Origins**

Three HPC schools were a part of a smaller conference that included only three sports. In 2017, Mike Gionfriddo, Athletic Director at Trinity Schools at Greenlawn, desired to expand the conference and the sport offerings. He began the process of reaching out to and screening potential candidates that would meet the criteria of being an IHSAA member school that offered additional sport opportunities for their student-athletes. In 2018, work began, under the vision of Gionfriddo combined with the leadership of Argos' Athletic Director, Jon Alcorn, to create the HPC. To date, the leadership of all schools have met together many times to create the by-laws, schedules, logos and banners for the conference.



## **Conference Leadership**

Start-up: Mike Gionfriddo, Trinity School at Greenlawn

By-law creator: Jon Alcorn, Argos Community Jr./Sr. High School

2020-2021 HPC President: Geriann Druyos, Career Academy South Bend

2020-2021 HPC Vice President: Tim Yocum, Lakeland Christian Academy

2020 - 2021 HPC Secretary: Gary Chupp, Bethany Christian Academy



## **Conference School Accomplishments:**

The HPC Conference brings together schools that compete well within their IHSAA section, region and state tournaments.

All HPC boys soccer teams finished their 2019-20 campaigns ranked in the State's top 20.

Argos' boys soccer team is the 2019 Class A State Champion, giving Argos their 4th State Championship in school history.

Combined, HPC schools have the following Sectional Championships in the following sports:

Boys Soccer - 21 Girls Soccer - 12 Volleyball - 5 Boys Basketball - 14 Girls Basketball - 4 Baseball - 1 Softball - 1

Combined, HPC schools have the following Regional Championships in the following sports:

Volleyball - 1 Boys Soccer - 6 Boys Basketball - 2 Girls Basketball - 1

## **Combined, HPC schools have had individual Regional and State Qualifiers in the following:**

Cross Country:

Regional Qualifiers - 14

State Qualifiers - 2

Track & Field:

Regional Qualifiers - 8

State Qualifiers - 4

In addition, several schools have found success within former conferences, winning several championships in multiple sports.

## **Conference Facility Expansions:**

The following HPC schools have expansion projects underway or future expansions on the way:

Bethany Christian will begin renovating their outdoor athletic facilities within the next year. Plans are in place with the City of Goshen to add a track, a new soccer field and a new softball diamond.

Career Academy SB has seen a large increase to their student population. This increase has made CASB a 2A participant in some of their sport offerings.

Elkhart Christian has opened Phase 2 of a 3 phase gymnasium project. The facility is open now for physical education classes as well as athletic practices. Once Phase 3 is complete, the gymnasium will replace Raudenbush Gymnasium as the main competition facility. The new fieldhouse boasts 2 basketball courts, 2 volleyball courts, a 1/10th mile running track and will triple current seating capacity. Lakeland Christian has recently absorbed Warsaw Christian Schools, making the Academy a PK-12th grade. This will go into effect starting July 1, 2020.

Trinity School at Greenlawn has recently renovated their 20,000 sq./ft. field house. They now have three basketball courts, three volleyball courts, a futsal court and a 1/10th of a mile indoor track.

