



# From the desk of the Athletic Director

The question “Why do I have to pay” seems present more and more as spectators come to sporting events at Northern. Some think it’s not fair to charge after they have paid the “pay to participate fee”, team fees, purchased their son or daughter basketball shoes, spirit wear, and other miscellaneous athletic gear. Others think it is unfair that we charge students to attend games to support their own school. Yet others are upset that we do not honor their pass from their school. It may just be the tough financial times that have cause this question to come up more now than in the past, but whatever the reason, I will try to shed some light on how the athletic budget functions in the Portage Public Schools and provide fans with some cost saving tips.

The athletic budget in the Portage Public Schools is unique in that not all of the money used to support athletics comes directly from the general fund. Sure we have budget items like transportation, coaches’ salaries, field maintenance, etc. that do come from the general fund, but we also have several other expenses like officials fees, entry fees, equipment and uniform purchases that do not. Portage operates on a unique system where

the athletic department is asked to function on all the revenue which is generated from the gate receipts. We must pay for uniforms, other equipment, tournament entry fees, officials, and costs associated with MHSAA tournaments (i.e. hotels) from the revenue collected at each of the games. So when someone asks “why do I have to pay”, the simple answer would be to help us keep the ability to maintain our athletic teams.

Without the gate receipts, there would be no money to purchase new uniforms for teams when they become worn out. There would be no money to pay for entry fees for our teams to compete in tournaments. There would be no money to buy even the basic equipment for teams. There would be no money to pay officials to work our home games (some would argue their so bad, they don’t deserve to be paid). Obviously, you get the point. We survive on the funds that we collect at the gate and as much as it may hurt or seem unfair to pay that five dollars at the gate, be assured it goes right back into our teams.

With that being said, there are some great ways to save when attending Portage Northern sporting events. The athletic department

offers a variety of pass options which are great deals.

For our students, we offer the activity pass for \$50. This pass allows students unlimited access to home sporting events. This pass is a great deal and pays for itself in just ten events. The students at Northern have the option to attend over 100 events each year!

For our parents and families, we offer the 20 punch pass for \$80. This pass allows 20 entrances in to our events and can be used by anyone in the family. When the punches are gone, a new pass can be purchased. This option gives fans a 20% savings over at-the-door prices.

The next time you find yourself attending a Northern sporting event, please remember that your money helps to support our teams and provide our kids with the best possible experience in athletics. These are experiences that the kids will remember and talk about for the rest of their lives and as spectators you will have experienced it with them. In my mind, \$5 a game is a small price to provide our kids with the experiences and memories.

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## Requirements for Participation

- A current physical completed on or after April 15, 2011, on file in our office.
- A signed PPS Code of Conduct on file in our office.
- PPS participation fee paid.
- Must be academically eligible and remain eligible throughout the season.

# All-Division Team Awards

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## CROSS COUNTRY

Kayla Gercak - 9th  
Savina Malinverno - 10th  
Danielle Melgar - 12th  
Katie Sorensen - 11th  
Alec Sullivan - 11th  
Evan Williams - 10th

## FOOTBALL

Tyler Cummings - 10th - Honorable Mention Defense  
Josh Dentler - 11th - Honorable Mention Offense  
Cody Fridley - 11th - 2nd Team Offense  
Tyler Holland - 12th - 2nd Team Offense  
Nick Keizer - 11th - Honorable Mention Defense  
Austin Labus - 10th - 2nd Team Defense  
Joe Livingston - 11th - 2nd Team Kickers  
Brennan McDougal - 12th - 2nd Team Defense  
Alex Rogers - 12th - Honorable Mention Defense  
Derrick Sanders - 12th - 1st Team Offense  
Spencer Simon - 12th - Honorable Mention Offense

## MEN'S SOCCER

Brandon Bye - 10th  
Colin Howard - 11th  
Spencer Maroukis - 11th  
Steven Stryker - 11th  
Josh Walker - 11th  
Wondi Anemone - 10th - Honorable Mention  
Jeremy Norman - 11th - Honorable Mention  
Thomas VanderSloot - 12th - Honorable Mention

## WOMEN'S SWIMMING/DIVING

Lexi Ambs - 10th  
Chloe Hurst - 12th  
Colleen Orwin - 11th  
Zoe Vlachos - 9th

## VOLLEYBALL

Kelsey Lewis - 10th - 1st Team  
Kayla Morin - 11th - 1st Team  
Liz Corbus - 11th - 2nd Team

# All - League Team Awards

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## MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Evan Williams - 10th

## WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Savina Malinverno - 10th

## MEN'S TENNIS

Steward Sell - 9th

# All - State Awards

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Volleyball - Academic All-State

## Portage Northern/Central Coaches Vs. Cancer Fundraiser

The Portage Central and Portage Northern High School varsity women's basketball teams will once again join forces in the second annual Coaches vs. Cancer pink-out basketball battle at Portage Central High School on Friday, Jan. 20, at 5:45 p.m to raise funds in the fight against cancer. Game day pink-out T-shirts will be sold for \$10 so parents and students can show their Portage community school spirit and their desire to help find a cure for cancer.

Last year's event was a huge success, raising more than \$4,000 for the American Cancer Society. This year's event is sure to be a success once again. This bas-

ketball battle extravaganza between two Portage rival high schools is about more than the win, it is about ONE community joining forces in the fight against cancer. This year's Portage Public Schools Coaches vs. Cancer women's basketball game proceeds will be donated to the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge. The Hope Lodge is a completely free lodging facility for cancer patients and their caregivers as they travel to the Grand Rapids area for lifesaving cancer treatments. The Grand Rapids Hope Lodge is one of 31 American Cancer Society Hope Lodges in the United States and the only one in Michigan. Since its opening in 2008, Hope Lodge has hosted

more than 1,600 cancer patients and caregivers and provided more than 11,000 nights of free lodging, saving cancer patients and their caregivers over \$1 million in hotel expenses. Please join us on Friday, Jan. 20, at 5:45 p.m. as ONE COMMUNITY and ONE TEAM make a difference in creating a world with less cancer and more birthdays.



## District State Champs



*Congratulations to Portage Northern's Men's Soccer team, the 2011 District Champions.*

## Spring Sports

It's hard to believe we are almost half way through our winter sports season and looking forward to spring sports. Many teams have already had player/parent meetings and have begun conditioning.

It's not too late for students to sign up for a team. The official start date for all spring sports is Monday, March 12. Students interested in joining or trying out for a team should contact the coach directly.

Baseball - Chris Andrews - [CAndrews@portageps.org](mailto:CAndrews@portageps.org)

Softball - Steve Lorenz—[Slorenz11@yahoo.com](mailto:Slorenz11@yahoo.com)

Women's Soccer - Andy Fuehr - [Fuehr11@yahoo.com](mailto:Fuehr11@yahoo.com)

Women's Water Polo - Nate Dale - [NDale@portageps.org](mailto:NDale@portageps.org)

Track (M/W) - Ahren Kaylor - [AKaylor@portageps.org](mailto:AKaylor@portageps.org)

Men's Golf - Ed Culp—[coacheculp@hotmail.com](mailto:coacheculp@hotmail.com)

Men's Lacrosse - Bob Kirk—[Kirkr804@charter.net](mailto:Kirkr804@charter.net)

Women's Lacrosse - Chris Parise - [Chris.parise@mann-hummel](mailto:Chris.parise@mann-hummel)



**We're on the Web!**  
[portageps.org/Schools/High/nhs/athletics](http://portageps.org/Schools/High/nhs/athletics)

#### **PORTAGE NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOL**

Athletic Office  
1000 Idaho  
Portage, MI 49024

Athletic Director - Chris Riker  
Phone: 269-323-5456  
E-mail: [Criker@portageps.org](mailto:Criker@portageps.org)

Athletic Secretary - Kelli Schermerhorn  
Phone: 269-323-5561  
E-mail: [Kschermerhorn@portageps.org](mailto:Kschermerhorn@portageps.org)

*Our website is full of valuable information including team schedules, varsity scores, coaches contact info, etc. Many of the teams have their own webpages which you can access directly from our site. This is where they post pictures from contests, practice schedules, booster information and much more.*

*All required athletic forms are also available on our website, including pay to participate forms & information & applications for scholarships. If you can't find what you're looking for, please contact us at 323-5561.*

## Portage Athletic Foundation

Established in 1981, The Portage Athletic Foundation (PAF) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization guided by a united team of board members, comprised equally of women and men, with a balanced representation from Portage Central and Portage Northern High Schools. The PAF board works cooperatively with an Advisory Committee, which includes past PAF board members, the High School Athletic Directors and liaisons from the Portage Public Schools Administration and the Board of Education.

The Portage Athletic Foundation firmly believes in the importance of teamwork and the valuable life-long qualities that develop through participation in athletics. With the goal of enhancing athletics district wide, PAF works collaboratively on fundraising efforts within the community to provide significant financial support for our high school and middle school athletic programs. PAF strives to

ensure equity as we allocate grants that benefit the maximum number of student-athletes and recognize their athletic accomplishments. Through generous community support, The Portage Athletic Foundation has donated over \$550,000 since 1981 and helped to supply our athletes with much needed equipment in addition to, defibrillators, the Impact test and two Community signs that honor

our Varsity State Championship Teams.

#### **Recent Annual Contributions:**

\$20,000 to each High School  
\$9,000 for three Middle Schools  
\$5,000 for High School Athletic Awards  
\$1,000 for the Community HS Athletics.

### Portage Athletic Foundation's **Steppin' Out at the State**

Please join us on **JAN. 28<sup>th</sup>**  
Kalamazoo State Theatre  
7:30pm- 12:30am

**Live Entertainment from:**  
Al's Basement Band  
2nd Shift

- Live Auction
- Silent Auction
- Free Appetizers
- Cash Bar

**\$25 advance/\$30 door**

Email [paf@portageps.org](mailto:paf@portageps.org) or call 269- 823- 4214 for tickets

Superbowl Pre- Game Warm- Up



Portage Athletic  
Foundation

**PAF**

**good music - good times - great cause**