



# GHSA

## *“Items of Interest”*

February 2008

### **Basketball Playoffs Modified Again This Season**

The GHSA basketball playoffs will undergo another change this year. In an attempt to reduce the number of teams that have to travel and to work around the inability to secure large-enough sites throughout the state, first **and** second round games will be played at the site of the higher seeded team.

Teams that win their second round games will move on to centralized sites for the third round games on either February 29 or March 1. Those sites are as follows:



A North:	(March 1)	4 games at Georgia Highlands College (Rome)
A South:	(Feb. 29)	4 games at Columbus State University
AA North:	(March 1)	4 games at The Forum (Rome)
AA South:	(Feb. 29)	4 games at Savannah State University
AAA North:	(March 1)	4 games at Mt. Zion H.S. (Jonesboro)
AAA South:	(March 1)	4 games at Columbus State University
AAAA North:	(March 1)	4 games at Marietta H.S.
AAAA South:	(March 1)	4 games at Ft. Valley State University
AAAAA North:	(Feb. 29)	2 games at Marietta H.S. and 2 games at Mt. Zion H.S. (Jonesboro)
AAAAA South:	(March 1)	4 games at Savannah State University

Schools in the AAAAA North semifinals will be assigned to their quarterfinal sites (either Marietta or Mt. Zion) after the second round games are completed. More information is available at [www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net).

The semifinals and finals in basketball will be held at the Arena at Gwinnett Center and at the Macon Centreplex, as they have been for the past several years. The American Association of Adapted Sport Programs will hold its state championship wheelchair basketball game on March 7 at 12:30 p.m., in the Arena at Gwinnett.

On another note, questions have arisen about when the regular season ends for each sport. The historic wording specified that the season was over when a school was eliminated from post-season play, but some regions in some sports moved their qualifying event earlier in the season. The GHSA Calendar that was sent to each school and the “General Information” section of the GHSA web site specify the end of a sport season as the date listed as “Last Play Date.” All teams may play up through that date regardless of the timing of the region qualifying event. No regular season contest between two or more schools may be played after this unless it is a make-up game approved by the GHSA. This will often create a “dead period” for competitions between the end of the regular season and the beginning of the playoffs.

– **Ralph Swearngin**, Executive Director

**GEORGIA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION** Newsletter

Issued monthly, September through April, by the Georgia High School Association, P.O. Box 271, Thomaston, GA 30286

Phone: 706-647-7473 Fax: 706-647-2638 Web: [www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net)

OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday

**Vol. 26****February 2008****No. 5**

**- GHSA STAFF -**  
**Areas of Responsibility**

**RALPH SWEARNGIN** (extension 7)

- Executive Director -  
Administration, Interpretation of GHSA Rules,  
Hardship Appeals, Lacrosse, Volleyball

**GARY PHILLIPS** (extension 6)

- Assistant Executive Director -  
Student Eligibility, Community Coach Program,  
Cross Country, Wrestling, Track, Golf

**JOYCE KAY** (extension 5)

- Associate Executive Director -  
Finances, Entry Notification, Agendas,  
Literary, One-Act Play, Debate, Cheerleading, Riflery

**STEVE FIGUEROA** (extension 4)

- Director of Media Relations -  
Press Releases, Media Coordination for State Events, Newsletter,  
Football Schedules, Constitution, Calendar, Tennis

**JIM BULLINGTON** (extension 33)

- Technology Specialist -  
Web Page Supervision, Database Management, Technical Support

**PAM THOMPSON** (extension 30)

- Officials' Registrar -  
Officials' Registration, Test Scoring and Records

**DENNIS PAYNE** (extension 23)

- Associate Director -  
Football, Baseball, Swimming

**ERNIE YARBROUGH** (extension 27)

- Associate Director -  
Basketball, Soccer, Softball

**TANYA ANDERSON** (extension 2)

- Administrative Assistant -  
Sanctioning of Events, School Passes,  
Directory, Coaches' Clinic Attendance

**JULIE JONES** (extension 1)

- Administrative Assistant -  
Dues, Community Coach Program

**SHERI COKER** (extension 0)

- Receptionist -  
Lifetime Passes, School System Passes,  
Ejection Reports, Publication Orders

**GHSA Licensed Products**

Advanced orders for GHSA event T-shirts can be placed with All-Star Outfitters at [www.asoapparel.com](http://www.asoapparel.com) or call 678-569-0134 ... Action photos from select championship events can be found at Photographic Arts [www.schoolpix.biz](http://www.schoolpix.biz) / 678-393-1719 ... DVDs / VHS copies of GHSA televised games can be ordered from [www.gametapes.com](http://www.gametapes.com) / 206-285-8816 ... Visit the GHSA Store and a full list of GHSA sponsors and licensees at [www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net).

**Dooley Award Deadline Extended**

The Georgia High School Association has had a partnership with "Athletes for a Better World" for several years. This organization has a nationwide program promoting good sportsmanship and good citizenship among young people. A number of member schools follow the "Code of ABW" on their campuses. ABW has unveiled an awards and scholarship program recently that bears the name of Vince Dooley, a legendary personality in sports in the state of Georgia and throughout the nation.

The Dooley Awards are presented to one male and one female senior in a GHSA school who best display character, teamwork, and citizenship, attributes that Athletes for a Better World deem central to transforming individuals, sports, and society. Information about these awards and nomination forms are found on the GHSA web site ([www.ghsa.net](http://www.ghsa.net)).

Each GHSA school is invited to nominate a male and a female student for this award. **The deadline for nominations has been extended to February 28, 2008.**

The awards will be given at the Atlanta Braves baseball game on April 6, 2008. All nominees will be recognized at the game. There will be a luncheon at Turner Field for all semifinalists, and the presentation by Coach Dooley to the award winners will be made on the field prior to the game.

**2008-09 National Debate Topic**

The National Federation of State High School Associations has announced the voting on the National Debate Topic for school year 2008-09.

The winning topic is "Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase alternative energy incentives in the United States."

**STATE CHAMPIONS****TEAM DUAL WRESTLING**

Congratulations to the following State Champions in Team Dual Wrestling:

**AAAAA** - Collins Hill High School

**AAAA** - Ringgold High School

**AAA** - Henry County High School  
(tie) Cass High School

**AA** - LaFayette High School

**A** - Jefferson High School

Winning a State Championship is an outstanding achievement for the GHSA member schools, their athletes and coaches, and a distinction that should create a great deal of pride in the school community.

## GHSA Reminders:

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ITEMS:** Anyone wishing to have an item included on the agenda for the March State Executive Committee meeting must submit the item to the GHSA office by February 15, 2008. The State Executive Committee meeting will be held March 17, 2008 at the Holiday Inn in Forsyth.

**FOOTBALL SCHEDULES:** Coaches and/or Athletic Directors are reminded that 2008 varsity Football Schedules are due in the GHSA office no later than March 1, 2008. If your school has hired a new coach for the 2008 season, please make sure he is made aware of this deadline.

**OPEN MEET DEADLINE:** Member schools are reminded that April 1, 2008 is the deadline to notify the GHSA of entry in Open Meet State Events such as Volleyball, Slow Pitch Softball, Lacrosse, AA/A Soccer, Wrestling, Riflery and Gymnastics for the school year 2008-2009. The form for notification can be found in the GHSA Forms Book.

**SPRING CHEERLEADING TRYOUTS:** Cheerleading practice/tryouts are limited to a maximum of 10 consecutive days per school between February 1 and the last day students are in school. Once tryouts are complete, no further practices may be held until school is out.

## GHSA Seeks Host Sites

Each year, there are many schools that contribute to the success of the GHSA programs by hosting a region/area or state event as a service to all member schools. The GHSA office soon will be determining sites for events for the 2008-09 year. Sites are needed for the following events:

- Region Cheerleading
- Area Wrestling (Traditional and/or Team Duals)
- State Golf

If your school would like to host one of the above events, please notify the GHSA office.

## GHSA on TV

**Feb. 14:** Prep Sports +, one of the nation's longest running scholastic sport shows, will return to the air waves with its 363<sup>rd</sup> program on Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m. on Georgia Public Broadcasting. Prep Sports + is supported by Georgia Electric Membership Corporations, Georgia Student Finance Commission and Wachovia.

**Feb. 23:** The GHSA Traditional Wrestling State Championships will stream live online and on demand at [www.GHSA.net](http://www.GHSA.net) on Feb. 23 starting at 7:00 p.m. The live broadcast will feature key matches in all five classifications. The first-time Web event will be hosted by Score Atlanta and Turner's PlayOn Sports, who produced this past season's GHSA Volleyball State Championships. The presenting sponsors are Verizon Wireless and US Marine Corps.

**On Demand:** Check out Georgia Public Broadcasting's digital library of 180 past GHSA football, basketball and cheerleading championships dating back to 2002. Prep Sports archives are also available to view stretching from 2003. Go to [www.GPB.org](http://www.GPB.org) or the GHSA TV / Web / Radio page to click on "GPB On Demand." Copies of broadcast events since 2006 can be ordered at [www.Gametapes.com](http://www.Gametapes.com).

## Attention Basketball Coaches!

**BASKETBALL ROSTERS NOW DUE:** Coaches and/or Athletic Directors are reminded that the deadline for typing in Basketball Rosters on the GaSports web site is February 1.

If you have not already entered in your roster, please do so IMMEDIATELY to avoid a fine and the possibility that your team's roster will not be included in the state tournament program.

Rosters are NOT to be faxed or mailed to the GHSA office this year, as announced in your Forms Notebook.

Here are the **instructions** for entering rosters online:

(The website is: [www.gasports.com](http://www.gasports.com))

The coach must be registered as a **coach** on the web site. E-mail Steve Copeland at [scopeland@sportsiq.com](mailto:scopeland@sportsiq.com) if they are not sure or do not know their password.

They will log in with their email address and password. Once they login, at the top left of the page, next to the Welcome Back message, click the Coach's Control Panel link. (If the link says "Edit My Info" instead, log off and back on again.) For coaches that coach multiple sports, make sure Boys Basketball or Girls Basketball is shown as the sport at the top.

On the control panel, move the mouse pointer over the words "Team Functions" and a menu will drop down. Click the "Team Roster" function.

There are five blank rows. Fill in the rows and click Save. The names will be saved and five more blank rows will be added. Continue until the entire roster is entered.

Steve Copeland's phone number is 404-259-3838 if you have any problems or questions.

**SHIRTS ARE MANDATORY FOR FANS:** Please remember that shirts must be worn at all times at GHSA basketball games.

It has come to our attention that some fans are coming in with painted chests and no shirts. This will NOT be allowed for the upcoming tournaments and should not be allowed for regular-season games either.

In accordance with GHSA By-Laws, Basketball - Section H - 7 "All spectators must wear shirts during the games."

## GHSA SPORTSMANSHIP STATEMENT

Please insure that the following statement is read as a public address announcement prior to the start of **every GHSA sanctioned contest**:

"The GHSA and its member schools have made a commitment to promote good sportsmanship by student/athletes, coaches, and spectators at all GHSA sanctioned events. Profanity, degrading remarks, and intimidating actions directed at officials or competitors will not be tolerated, and are grounds for removal from the event site. Spectators are not allowed to enter the competition area during warm-ups or while the contest is being conducted. Thank you for your cooperation in the promotion of good sportsmanship at today's event."

## Winter Sports Championships - 2008



**Class AAAAA: Collins Hill**



**Class AAAA: Ringgold**



**Class AA: LaFayette**

**Class A: Jefferson**



Photos of these Dual Team Wrestling state championship teams were provided by Toby Murphy.

## Fall Sports Championships - 2007

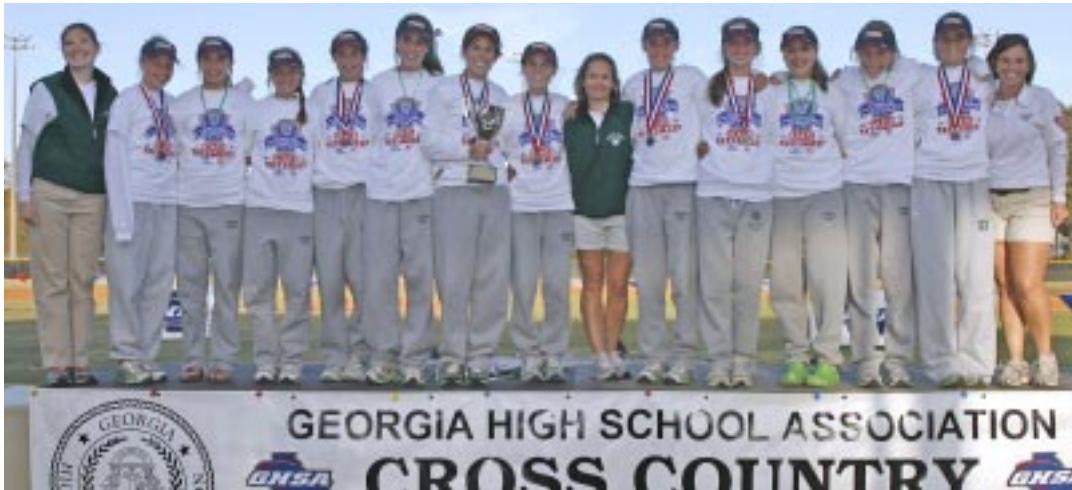


**Class AAAAA Girls: Collins Hill**



**CORRECTION:** Photographs of the 2007 Cross Country State Championship teams published in the December/January GHSA Newsletter were incorrect for the Collins Hill and Westminster girls teams. These are the correct photos. The GHSA regrets the error.

Photos of these championship teams were provided by **Photographic Arts**. Other photos from the various GHSA state events can be found at [www.schoolpix.biz](http://www.schoolpix.biz).



**Class AAA Girls: Westminster**

## 2008 STATE GOLF SITES

The sites for the 2008 State Golf Tournaments have been finalized and are as follows:

### **BOYS**

AAAAA	Jekyll Island - Oleander Host: Glynn County Schools
AAAA	Bartram Trail, Augusta Host: Augusta Sports Council
AAA	Hawks' Ridge Golf Course, Ballground Host: Blessed Trinity School
AA	Coosa Country Club, Rome Host: Darlington School
A	Sandy Creek Golf Club, Commerce Host: Commerce High School

### **GIRLS**

AAAAA	Jekyll Island - Indian Mounds Host: Glynn County Schools
AAAA	Forest Hills Golf Club, Augusta Host: Augusta Sports Council
AAA	Trophy Club of Atlanta, Alpharetta Host: Blessed Trinity School
AA	Gold Creek Resort, Dawsonville Host: Dawson County High School
A	The Lakes at Laura Walker, Waycross Host: Ware County Magnet School



## Sponsor Spotlight: DODGE



Dodge has been the official vehicle of the Georgia High School Association, since the 2002-03 season. The Georgia Southeastern Dodge Dealer Advertising DAA formed this extensive partnership that includes presenting company of the football semifinals at the Georgia Dome with promotional rights, signage, media and hospitality at all state championships.

Dodge also is the title partner of the Georgia Athletic Directors Association's Dodge Directors Cup, which recognizes the top high school athletic programs throughout the state. The "Grab Life" message is carried on a wide range of Georgia high school sports media including live television football and basketball championship games on Georgia Public Broadcasting, Comcast Sports Southeast football playoffs and presenting sponsor of the Georgia High School Scoreboard Radio Show.

The GHSA greatly appreciates the outstanding support of Dodge dealers throughout the state and encourages everyone to "Grab Life." For a full list of Dodge products go to [www.dodge.com](http://www.dodge.com).



An overhead view of the Georgia Dome shows the Dodge logo at midfield.

## GHSA Officials / Coaches Clinics

By-Law #2.54, page 37 of the 2007-08 GHSA Constitution and By-Laws states: Every coach at a GHSA member school must attend a **GHSA-sponsored rules clinic** if he/she coaches the following sports: football, softball, volleyball, riflery, cheerleading (spirit and/or competitive), basketball, lacrosse, wrestling, swimming and diving, track, baseball, soccer and gymnastics.

- (a) A \$50.00 fine per coach who does not attend a clinic will be assessed to the school.
- (b) All Community Coaches are reminded that clinic attendance is mandatory for them, also.

Following is a listing of the remaining 2007-08 GHSA Rules Clinics for coaches and officials.

**Weeknight clinics begin at 7:30 p.m. Saturday clinics begin at 10 a.m., unless otherwise noted.  
ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED.**

**NOTE: All BASKETBALL, CHEERLEADING, FOOTBALL, GYMNASTICS, RIFLERY, SOFTBALL, SWIMMING, VOLLEYBALL and WRESTLING clinics have been completed.**

### **SOCCER**

**Code:** C = Coaches, R = Returning Officials, N = New Officials  
Coaches may attend any clinic listed  
February 2, 2008 ..... Peachtree Ridge HS - Commons (C/R/N)  
February 2, 2008 ..... Tift County High School - Auditorium (C/R/N)

### **BASEBALL**

February 4, 2008 ..... Columbus High School - Cafeteria  
February 4, 2008 ..... Dalton High School - Auditorium  
February 6, 2008 ..... Statesboro High School - Media Center  
February 6, 2008 ..... Wheeler High School - Auditorium  
February 7, 2008 ..... Evans High School - Auditorium  
February 7, 2008 ..... Norcross High School - Auditorium  
February 11, 2008 .... Vidalia High School - Cafeteria  
February 11, 2008 .... Savannah Country Day - Auditorium  
February 13, 2008 .... Oconee County High School - Cafeteria

February 13, 2008 .... Northside High School, WR - Auditorium  
February 14, 2008 .... Lowndes High School - Cafeteria  
February 14, 2008 .... Woodward Academy  
February 18, 2008 .... Habersham Central High School - Cafeteria  
February 18, 2008 .... Westover High School - Auditorium  
February 20, 2008 .... Whitewater High School - Auditorium  
February 20, 2008 .... Rome High School - Commons  
February 21, 2008 .... Ware County High School - Cafeteria  
February 21, 2008 .... GHSA Office, Thomaston

### **LACROSSE**

February 2, 2008 ..... Westminster School - Gym (B/G)

### **TRACK & FIELD**

February 2, 2008 ..... Dublin High School - Cafeteria  
February 2, 2008 ..... Savannah Country Day School - Auditorium  
February 4, 2008 ..... Carrollton High School - Media Center  
February 6, 2008 ..... Calhoun High School - Auditorium  
February 7, 2008 ..... Lovejoy High School - Commons  
February 9, 2008 ..... Thomson High School - Cafeteria  
February 9, 2008 ..... Ware County High School - Cafeteria

## State Swimming and Diving Meets

The 2008 **State Diving Championship** will be held Wednesday and Thursday, February 6-7, at The Westminster School at 1424 West Paces Ferry Road in Atlanta.

The 2008 **State Swimming Championships** will be at Westminster on February 7-9.

Admission is \$7 per day, two days for \$10, 3 days for \$15, or all four days for \$20.

Free admission will be allowed for the following: 1. Swimmers and divers qualified and entered in the State Meet; 2. Coaches that are listed on the Swimming and Diving Coaches list; 3. Four girls and four boys designated as substitutes by the coach on the team list; 4. Two team attendants or trainers as listed on the team roster; 5. Those normally allowed free admission, such as GHSA passes, will continue to be admitted by signing the pass list.

### Schedule of Events:

February 6	1 p.m.	Diving - AAAA/AAA/AA/A
February 7	10 a.m.	Diving - AAAAA
February 7	5 p.m.	Swim Prelims for AAAAA
February 8	5 p.m.	Prelims for AAAA/AAA/AA/A
February 9	1 p.m.	Finals - AAAAA
February 9	6 p.m.	Finals - AAAA/AAA/AA/A

### Order of Events: (boys events precede girls events)

200-yard Medley Relay  
 200-yard Freestyle  
 200-yard Individual Medley  
 50-yard Freestyle  
 100-yard Butterfly  
 100-yard Freestyle  
 500-yard Freestyle  
 200-yard Freestyle Relay  
 100-yard Backstroke  
 100-yard Breaststroke  
 400-yard Freestyle Relay

### Qualifying Standards - Swimming

BOYS	EVENTS	GIRLS
1:52.00	200-yard Medley Relay	2:08.00
1:56.00	200-yard Freestyle	2:08.00
2:12.00	200-yard Individual Medley	2:24.00
:23.50	50-yard Freestyle	:26.50
:58.00	100-yard Butterfly	1:05.00
:52.00	100-yard Freestyle	:58.50
5:20.00	500-yard Freestyle	5:40.00
1:41.50	200-yard Freestyle Relay	1:54.00
1:00.00	100-yard Backstroke	1:06.00
1:08.50	100-yard Breaststroke	1:16.00
3:46.00	400-yard Freestyle Relay	4:14.00

### Qualifying Standards - Diving

A diver may become eligible for the State Meet using a 6-dive sheet or an 11-dive sheet.

1) 6-DIVE: The degree of difficulty of dives 2-6 when totaled shall be equal to or more than 10.4 for both boys and girls. The score to be achieved must be 200 points or more.

2) 11-DIVE: The minimum degree of difficulty for optional dives shall be 11.5 for girls and 12.0 for boys. The score to be achieved for both boys and girls is 270 points or more.

## Area, State Wrestling Tournaments

Area Traditional Wrestling Tournaments may be held on either Saturday, February 16, 2008, or Friday and Saturday, February 15-16, 2007.

The Traditional State Tournament for all five classifications will be held on Wednesday through Saturday, February 20-23, 2008 at the Arena at Gwinnett Center.

Admission prices for the State Tournament are \$7 on Wednesday and \$10 on Thursday, Friday and Saturday (all day), or a total tournament ticket will be sold for \$30.

**Area Tournaments** will be held at the following sites:

**AAAAA:** Areas - Tift County, Union Grove, Groves, Hiram, McEachern, Kell, North Gwinnett, Central Gwinnett

**AAAA:** Areas - Lee County, McIntosh, Brunswick Jonesboro, Cherokee, Tucker, Dalton, Winder-Barrow

**AAA:** Areas - Cairo, LaGrange, South Effingham, Henry County, Blessed Trinity, Cass, Gilmer, Elbert County

**AA:** Areas - Cook, Toombs County, Morgan County, Darlington

**A:** Areas - Bowdon (West), Jefferson (East)

The Schedule for the **State Tournament** at the Arena at Gwinnett Center is as follows:

Date/Time	Event	Class
<b>Wednesday/Feb. 20</b>		
4:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Weigh-Ins	3A, 4A & 5A
7 - 9:30 p.m.	Round of 32	3A

### Thursday, Feb. 21

8 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Round of 32	4A & 5A
1 - 2:15 p.m.	1st Round WBs	3A
2:15 - 6:15 p.m.	Round of 16	3A, 4A & 5A
6:15 - 10 p.m.	2nd Round WBs	3A
6:15 - 10 p.m.	1st Round WBs	4A & 5A
6 - 8 p.m.	Weigh-Ins	2A

### Friday, Feb. 22

8 - 11:45 a.m.	Round of 16	2A
8 - 11:45 a.m.	2nd Round WBs	4A & 5A
10 - 11 a.m.	Weigh-Ins	1A
11:45 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Quarters	All Classes
3:15 - 6 p.m.	1st Round WBs	2A
3:15 - 6 p.m.	3rd Round WBs	3A, 4A & 5A
7 - 9 p.m.	Semifinals	All Classes

### Saturday, Feb. 23

8 - 10:45 a.m.	2nd Round WBs	2A
8 - 10:45 a.m.	4th Round WBs	3A, 4A & 5A
10:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Con. Quarters	All Classes
12:30 - 2:30 p.m.	Con. Semifinals	All Classes
2:30 - 4:15 p.m.	Con. Finals	All Classes
7 - 10 p.m.	FINALS	All Classes

## GHSA - February Calendar - 2008

### February

- 1 Deadline for notification of entry in Literary
- 4 Earliest date for Baseball, Golf and Lacrosse practice
- 5 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 6-9 State Swimming & Diving Meets
- 8, 9 State Debate Finals
- 11 Earliest contest date for Soccer, Tennis, Gymnastics and Girls Track
- 15, 16 Traditional Wrestling Area Tournaments
- 16 Complete Region Basketball
- 18 File reports of Region Basketball winners by noon
- 18 Earliest contest date for Golf, Lacrosse and Boys Track
- 19 Hardship/Appeal Committee Meeting
- 20-23 Traditional Wrestling State Tournaments
- 22, 23 First Round State Basketball Tournaments
- 25 Earliest date for Baseball game
- 26, 27 Second Round State Basketball Tournaments
- 29 Quarterfinal Round State Basketball Tournaments

### March

- 1 Quarterfinal Round State Basketball Tournaments

## GHSA Sponsors

