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Darwitz, Sanneh, Stead among 2019 MSHSL Hall of Fame class

Induction ceremony set for Oct. 20 at the InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront Hotel



Former Eagan High School girls' hockey standout Natalie Darwitz and St. Paul Academy soccer sensation Tony Sanneh, both of whom rose to international stardom, along with longtime League administrator Dave Stead, are among 11 individuals and the Grand Meadow girls basketball dynasty that will be inducted into the Minnesota State High School League's Hall of Fame.

The others selected for induction are: Minneapolis North basketball standout **Khalid El-Amin**; the **Grand Meadow** basketball program, which from 1929-39 won 94 consecutive games; **Dave Harris**, a former Alexandria coach, educator, media representative and the longtime Region 8AA Secretary; **Cliff Janke**, a longtime Fairmont speech and debate coach and leader; **Faith Johnson Patterson**, who led Minneapolis North and DeLaSalle to three consecutive championships each in girls basketball; **Bill Kronschnabel**, a longtime St. Paul hockey official, rules clinician and state tournament administrator; **Byron Olson**, former Lakeville/Lakeville North activities administrator, wrestling official and state tournament manager; **Gary Smith of Minneapolis**, who is the first athletic trainer to be inducted, and **Bill Webb**, an Edina teaching icon, who spent nearly 30 years as a music educator and leader in the development of music education.

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, October 20 at 1 p.m. at the InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront Hotel. The induction ceremony is open to the public.

For event tickets, go to <https://mshslhof.eventbrite.com>.

The League's Hall of Fame, sponsored by Wells Fargo, started in 1991. The 2019 class is the 23rd group to be inducted. With this class, there now are 232 members in the hall. Here is a look at the 2019 inductees of the Minnesota State High School League's Hall of Fame:

Natalie Darwitz, Athlete

- From her seventh-grade season at Eagan High School through her sophomore year, the scoring sensation compiled 487 points in 102 games before departing for the U.S. National Team. Darwitz and 2017 inductee Krissy Wendell own or share more than a dozen scoring records in the National Federation High School Sports Record Book. As a 15-year-old, Darwitz began her international career with Team USA and won silver medals in the 2002 and 2010 Olympic Games, and a bronze medal in the 2006 Olympics. At the University of Minnesota, Darwitz led the Gophers to back-to-back NCAA championships in 2004 and 2005, respectively. She was a three-time All-American and ranks third in all-time scoring. Last year, she was inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame. Darwitz also coached Lakeville South to the state tournament in 2015, and currently, is the women's hockey coach at Hamline University, a squad that finished runner-up in NCAA Division III last season and third the year prior.

Khalid El-Amin, Athlete

- In three state tournament appearances with Minneapolis North, the charismatic playmaker was virtually unstoppable in leading the Polars to three championships. El-Amin became a varsity starter as a 14-year-old freshman and led North to two championships in the Sweet Sixteen format and the first big-school crown in the four-class format. He is particularly remembered for his rainbow three-pointer at the horn that gave North a 67-65 victory over St. Thomas Academy in the 1996 quarterfinals. He finished with 41 points, including 27 on nine three-pointers. After being selected Minnesota's Mr. Basketball following his senior season, he went on to be selected the Big East Conference Rookie of the Year. After helping lead UConn to a national title in 1999, he later entered the NBA Draft and was selected by the Chicago Bulls. El-Amin retired from professional basketball in 2017 following a successful overseas basketball career.

Grand Meadow Girls Basketball Teams

- In an era of 6-on-6 in girls' basketball, the Meadowlarks compiled a 94-game winning streak from 1929-39. In that format, three players were on the offensive end of the court and three on the defensive end. Players were not allowed to cross midcourt. Grand Meadow was dominant in posting lopsided victories. The team averaged more than 38 points a game and held opponents to an average of just more than 12 points per game. During the first season of the winning streak, the Meadowlarks outscored the opposition 591-153 during their 14-game schedule. They practiced and played their games in the town Opera House which was also used for dances, movies and other public events. Sadly, the Meadowlarks winning streak came to a halt as girls' sport programs were banned in 1940.

There are three players from that dynasty that are still alive: Beulah Ankeny, Hazel Peterson Blanchard and June Wright Kramer.

Dave Harris, Administrator

- Harris, a 1961 graduate of Montevideo High School, has worn many hats during his more than four decades of service to the League. He was a longtime boys and girls golf coach in the Alexandria School District, leading the Cardinals to numerous successful seasons. He was selected the state girls' coach of the year in 2001 and 2008, respectively, and was a three-time section coach of the year. From 1966-76, he was a sports reporter for the Alexandria newspaper and then added radio play-by-play duties in 1968 with KXRA. That career spanned nearly 50 years. Harris was the inaugural recipient of the League's Outstanding Media Service Award in 2015. From 1978 through his retirement in 2018, he was the Region 8AA secretary.

Cliff Janke, Fine Arts

- Janke, a 1973 graduate of Lead (SD) High School, has demonstrated excellence throughout his career of more than three decades as a coach and professional leader in the areas of speech and theater. For 29 years, he served as either co-head coach or head coach of the speech team at Fairmont High School. He coached 14 Class A champions, including a four-time gold medalist. Janke has been actively involved and has had an impact on every professional organization in Minnesota related to speech and debate. During his career, he served as the artistic director of more than 100 high school and community theater productions. Janke served as a member of the League's Board of Directors from 1996-2000 and was the longtime member of the Communication and Theatre Association.

Faith Johnson Patterson, Coach

- Johnson Patterson is the first girls' basketball coach in League history to lead two different schools to three consecutive state championships. In her eight total state crowns, she led Minneapolis North to a trifecta of championships from 2003-05, and then guided DeLaSalle to three in a row from 2011-13. She has the highest state tournament winning percentage (.857, 36-6) of any girls' basketball coach. During her high school career at Marshall University High School in Minneapolis, she scored 2,119 points, and then had 1,120 points during her collegiate career at the University of Wisconsin. Johnson Patterson had a 491-175 record in her 24-year coaching career. Her entrance into this hall is the third to bear her name.

Bill Kronschnabel, Official

- The 1967 Cretin High School graduate had a 39-year career as a League hockey official from 1975-2014. He officiated in four consecutive boys' hockey state tournaments, including the 1987 and 1989 championship games. The highly sought-after referee also officiated 11 consecutive Section 7AA championship games and eight consecutive Section 7A title games in Hibbing and Duluth. Kronschnabel has held the role of state coordinator of hockey officials since 1986 and has been the supervisor of state tournament officials since 1991. He was instrumental in the pioneering of instant replay in the state hockey tournament as well as the use of the two referee/two linesman system. A Division III hockey official for 24 years, Kronschnabel has served 12 years as a member of the National Federation High School Ice Hockey Rules Committee.

Byron Olson, Administrator/Official

- The 1970 graduate of Canby High School had an impactful career as an educator, coach, administrator and contest official. After graduating from University of Minnesota, Morris, Olson spent 13 years in Benson, MN where he was a teacher, wrestling coach, assistant football coach and an athletic director for nine years. He moved on to serve as activities director at Monticello and Farmington high schools, and in 2002, he became Lakeville's activities director guiding one of the state's largest activity programs. Olson's love of sports led him to officiating. He has officiated wrestling at the high school and collegiate levels since 1972 and spent 27 years working high school football. He's the League's head wrestling rules clinician and has represented Minnesota on the National Federation High School Wrestling Rules Committee. Since 2000, Olson has served as the tournament manager for the wrestling state tournament.

Tony Sanneh, Athlete

- Sanneh, a crafty playmaker and gifted scorer, was an integral part of powering the St. Paul Academy and Summit School boys soccer program to national recognition in the late 1980s. From the 1986 state tournament through 1989, the Spartans won two championships during the single-class era and finished runner-up. Sanneh was a two-time all-state selection. He played collegiately for Wisconsin-Milwaukee where he became the school's all-time leading scoring and an All-American in 1993. He played professionally in top-level Major League Soccer and in the German Bundesliga. As a member of the U.S. National Team, Sanneh played in 43 international games, and during the 2002 FIFA World Cup, was one of Team USA's top players. He established The Sanneh Foundation in 2003 to empower youth by supporting and promoting educational attainment through in-school and after-school support.

Gary Smith, Trainer

- Smith is the first athletic trainer to be inducted into the League's Hall of Fame. He has provided service to many member schools and has worked League state tournaments for more than 40 years. Smith is one of the pioneers of the athletic training staff, and early in his tenure, was often covering tournaments as the sole medical staff representative. A longtime leader with the National Athletic Trainers' Association, Smith is one of the first trainers to provide service to the League's hockey state tournaments. For the past 25 years, Smith has served as the head trainer at Osseo High School, and most recently, for Eden Prairie High School. In addition to serving as head athletic trainer for the University of Minnesota men's hockey team, the Minnesota Kicks and Minnesota Strikers professional soccer teams, Smith was also the head trainer for the 1980 U.S. Olympic men's hockey team.

Dave Stead, Administrator

- Stead, a native of Monticello, Iowa, was the longest-serving executive director in the 103-year history of the League. During his tenure with the League that began in 1988, Stead guided the League in becoming a national leader among state high school associations in enhancing education-based activities. Under his leadership, the League was the first state association to provide opportunities for student-participants in girls hockey, adapted athletics, visual arts, Robotics and Clay Target. Minnesota was also the first state association to implement instant replay during state tournament hockey and basketball games. More participation opportunities came with the League sanctioning of lacrosse, dance team and badminton. Stead was instrumental in the creation of the League Foundation and for the long-term television contract with 45TV. He served on the National Federation High School Board of Directors, including a one-year term as president. Stead remains with the League in a senior staff role.

Bill Webb, Music

- Webb was the band director at Edina High School for 24 of his nearly 30 years in the district before retiring in 2015. A former member of the League's Board of Directors, Webb has had a long and esteemed career as a teacher, conductor and musician. In late 2018, he was selected to receive a state award for Minnesota for a National Federation of High School Associations Outstanding Music Educator Award. From 1987-2010, an estimated 4,200 Edina students participated in League Solo and Ensemble contests under Webb's leadership. In that same time span, 53 of his 54 groups that performance in the Large Band Group Contest received superior ratings. During his tenure at Edina High School, he has led and directed performances across the globe. Prior to his tenure in the Edina School District, he taught for eight years in the Spring Lake Park School District.

