



# 2024

CONNECTICUT HIGH SCHOOL

# BASKETBALL

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

## DEDICATION

CHESHIRE, Conn. – The CIAC will kick off its Basketball State Championship Weekend with the Boys and Girls Basketball State Championships Dedication Ceremony at Mohegan Sun on Friday, March 15. Ten exceptional individuals will be celebrated. The Dedication Ceremony is open to the public and the media. It will begin at 5pm and be held in the Cabaret Theater at Mohegan Sun.

**The 2024 CIAC Boys and Girls Basketball Tournaments will be dedicated to Gregg Simon. The CIAC's Associate Executive Director, Simon serves as the CIAC staff liaison to the Boys and Girls Basketball Committees. He spent 11 successful seasons as Newtown High School's girls basketball coach, and 17 years leading the school as athletic director.**

**The following individuals will receive Merit Awards:**

**VJ Sarullo:** An accomplished 18-year athletic director at Notre Dame-Fairfield, Sheehan, Jonathan Law, and currently at Staples High School, Sarullo's schools have opened their gyms to host 13 neutral site CIAC semifinal games through the years. Most recently, VJ offered Staples High School to be the host site of the annual Girls Basketball Showcase in June, which helps promote the sport of girls basketball.

**Kelly Maher:** Cromwell High School's athletic director spent 15 years as the head girls basketball coach at the school. She led Cromwell to 5 finals appearances, 3 state championships and a remarkable overall record of 315-65.

**Duane Witter:** The head boys basketball coach at Farmington High School since 1998, Witter has over 340 career wins including the 2019 CIAC Division III State Championship. Witter was a 31-year physical education teacher in the Farmington school system before retiring in 2023.

**Shaun Russell:** A 16-year member of the CIAC Girls Basketball Committee and the athletic director at East Hampton High School, Russell gives his time each championship weekend to tirelessly support the successful operation of the state championships at Mohegan Sun. East Hampton's head girls basketball coach for 27 years, he's coached the Bellringers to eight Shoreline Conference championships, and a Class M State Championship in 2023.

**Tim Kohs:** A 24-year member of the CIAC Girls Basketball Committee, Kohs gives his time each championship weekend to tirelessly support the successful operation of the state championships at Mohegan Sun. Kohs has been the head girls basketball coach at Mercy High School for 31-years – amassing 569 victories and three state championships. Kohs is also Mercy's athletic director.

**Joe Zone:** WFSB TV's Sports Director has become synonymous with dedicated coverage of Connecticut high school sports since his arrival in Connecticut in 2006. 2024 marks 50-years in broadcasting for Zone, including major market jobs in Los Angeles and New York City.

**Rick Wilson:** Wilson been working as a Connecticut sportswriter for 43 years, currently as the Senior Writer for Litchfield County Sports. He's also been a 33-year teacher, in Thomaston, and for the last six years at Northwestern Regional High School in Winsted.

**Andy Savo:** A 43-year high school official for IAABO Board 6 (Hartford), Savo officiated over 1,000 high school games, working 34 CIAC tournaments and 12 CIAC state finals. He's also officiated Div. I, II, and III NCAA men's games.

**David Duguay:** A 34-year member of IAABO Board 8 (Eastern), Duguay is in his 12th year as Board Treasurer. A mentor in training countless young officials through the years, he has officiated high school basketball in Connecticut since 1990, including working several CIAC Girls Basketball Tournament games.

**The dedication ceremony will begin a full weekend of tournament championship action – five boys and five girls basketball finals will be played at Mohegan Sun Arena Saturday and Sunday. The ten games will be played in four sessions beginning Saturday morning.**