



January 8, 2019

New Castle's Steve Auten to receive IHSAA Media Service Award

The long-time "Voice of the Trojans" of WMDH/WLTI Radio in New Castle, Steve Auten is this year's recipient of the IHSAA's Distinguished Media Service Award in District 2.

Auten's contributions to education-based athletics will be recognized this week when Commissioner Bobby Cox and Sports Information Director Jason Wille make the presentation.

While known primarily for broadcasting New Castle boys and girls basketball and football games, Auten also broadcast the school's baseball and softball games in spring as well. In the event Trojan teams were eliminated from state tournament competition, Auten would often call games for nearby schools Shenandoah, Tri, Knightstown and Blue River Valley if their teams were making runs in the tournament.

For 20 years, he also hosted a Saturday morning show "Sport Corner" featuring all Henry County coaches during football and basketball seasons and "Sports Beat", a Monday night program spotlighting student-athletes from area schools in other sports.

With more than 1,500 broadcasts to his credit between 1988 and 2016, Auten was behind the microphone for more broadcasts than any announcer in Henry County sports history.

Auten's career actually began in nearby Knightstown where he served as a teacher and coach for high school and junior high baseball and a varsity assistant football coach under Hall of Fame coach Don Willard.



After a stint as a teacher and coach at Westmer High School in Joy, Illinois, Auten eventually returned home to New Castle and continued to support youth sports by coaching in the community's Babe Ruth League for 19 years including managing the league's 1980 13-year-old state championship team. In 1988, the local radio station approached him about doing color commentary for New Castle games launching his journey in radio.

Auten is the second New Castle resident to receive this award joining the late John Hodge, former sports editor of the New Castle *Courier-Times*, who was honored in 2000-01. Auten and Hodge were good friends for many years.

This is the 34th year the IHSAA has recognized outstanding members of the Indiana news media from each of its three legislative districts for excellence in the coverage of high school sports. District 2 covers 28 counties across northern and central Indiana. Award recipients are selected by members of the IHSAA Executive Committee from nominations received from member school administrators.

[Previous Award Winners](#)

About the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. (IHSAA)

The IHSAA is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization that is self-supporting without the use of tax monies. Since its founding in 1903, the Association's mission has been to provide wholesome, educational athletics for the secondary schools of Indiana. Its member high schools - public, institutional, parochial and private - pay no annual membership fee or incur entry fees to play in the Association's tournaments. A state tournament series is conducted annually in 22 sports, 10 for girls, 10 for boys and two co-ed (unified flag football and track and field). A 19-person board of directors, elected by member school principals, governs the organization.