

January 17, 2023

Rob Brown to receive Distinguished Media Service Award

Rob Brown, whose “profound, positive contribution” to his school as the leader of the Roncalli Media Network, will be presented the 2022-23 Distinguished Media Service Award for District 2.

Brown’s contributions to education-based athletics will be recognized on Friday night in Indianapolis when the Roncalli Royals host New Palestine in boys basketball. IHSAA Commissioner Paul Neidig, Assistant Commissioner Kerrie (Schludecker) Rosati, and Sports Information Director Jason Wille will make the presentation.

Brown hung up his headset last summer after 15 years to chase new adventures but left an indelible mark on Indiana high school sports and Roncalli High School in particular.

Known as a consummate professional for his broadcasts as the “Voice of the Royals” and as one of the state’s few high school sports information directors, Brown earned respect and gratitude from the school administration, coaches, players and Roncalli fans everywhere.

In 2007, at the request of a friend with the school, he agreed to broadcast 30 boys and girls basketball games for the school. A decade and a half later he had totaled nearly 900 broadcasts while adding duties for football, baseball and softball games in ensuing years. All games were streamed to Roncalli’s YouTube channel where his voice kept the Roncalli community across the country and around the world in touch with their school.

In 2011, former Roncalli president Joe Hollowell asked if he would manage the school’s sports information duties. And within a couple of years, Brown had compiled an annual media guide for football, boys basketball and girls basketball and was issuing game notes and preview stories for media on a regular basis.

He also shared his expertise by mentoring several Roncalli students who expressed an interest in broadcasting and journalism.

The 1988 Southport High School graduate earned a bachelor’s degree at Miami (Ohio) and his master’s in broadcasting from Syracuse, where he also worked in the sports information office. Following graduation, Brown went to work for the CBA’s Fort Wayne Fury from 1993-2000. He then went out west to work for the NBA’s Los Angeles Clippers from 2000-2003 in a Media



Relations role. In 2003, Rob returned to his Indiana roots to join his father's company before the Roncalli opportunity presented itself.

Brown now heads his own financial services company and has been married to his wife Rachel for 25 years. They have two adult children, Sam and Lillian.

This is the 36th 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.

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 407 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-eds (unified flag football, unified track and field). A 19-person board of directors, elected by member school principals, governs the organization.