



Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc.

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**November 7, 2022**

## **Justin Sokeland to receive Distinguished Media Service Award**

A mainstay on the southern Indiana high school sports scene for more than three decades, Justin Sokeland of WBIW.com and BNLathletics.com in Bedford will be presented the 2022-23 Distinguished Media Service Award for District 3.

Sokeland's contributions to education-based athletics will be recognized in Bedford on Tuesday night when the second-ranked Bedford North Lawrence Stars host Bloomington North in girls basketball. IHSAA Commissioner Paul Neidig and Sports Information Director Jason Wille will make the presentation.

Justin has more than 35 years of experience covering Indiana high school sports and IHSAA state championship events.

Sokeland is the high school sports editor and publisher for WBIW.com and BNLathletics.com covering nearly every Bedford North Lawrence High School sporting event. He also produces a daily morning sports report for their on-air show.

Previously, Sokeland worked as the Indiana high school basketball reporter for the Louisville *Courier-Journal* from 2004-16. He was also a writer and Sports Editor for the Bedford *Times-Mail* from 1986-2004.

Justin has been the recipient of numerous awards over the years for his reporting, feature writing and column writing from the Associated Press Media Editors, the Society of Professional Journalists, and the Indiana Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association.

And earlier this year, Sokeland was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Indiana Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (IIAAA) for his significant contributions to interscholastic athletics.

Sokeland, 60, is a 1980 graduate of Orleans High School and went on to attend Purdue University and Vincennes University.

He and his wife Susan have five adult children – Kyle, Kamden, Kolter, Kollin and McKenna – and four grandchildren. His oldest son, Kyle, is a high school sports reporter for the Evansville *Courier & Press*.



This is the 36<sup>th</sup> 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 3 covers 43 counties across southern Indiana.

### **Previous Award Winners**

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#### ***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.*