The University Interscholastic League (UIL) has grown into the largest interscholastic organization of its kind in the world. The voluntary membership organization exists to provide educational extracurricular academic, athletic, and music contests. The League continues to operate as part of the University of Texas, under the auspices of the Office of the Vice President for Diversity and Community Engagement. For more than a century the UIL has helped mold the leaders of tomorrow, and it will continue to do so for the next 100 years.

**PURPOSE:**

To organize and properly supervise contests that assist in preparing students for citizenship. It aims to provide healthy, character building, educational activities and contests in 70 activities for approximately 2.2 million participants across the state each year.

**GOVERNANCE**

The UIL is governed by state law established by the state legislature, the policies of the University of Texas at Austin and the Constitution & Contest Rules, developed by UIL member schools. The Constitution & Contest Rules contains rules for UIL activities and standards of eligibility to be met by students to earn the privilege of representing their schools in interschool contests. These rules apply to participating schools and students, and are in compliance with all state laws. From the beginning, school administrators from across Texas have served on UIL committees and helped write and establish rules and administrative guidelines. By voluntary adoption of rules, school people govern their own interscholastic activities.

**CLASSIFICATION OF SCHOOLS**

UIL member schools are divided into five conferences according to enrollment. Conferences, in order of enrollment, are 5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A.

**FUNCTION**

The UIL provides information and service to schools, and administers contests in 70 activities for approximately 2.2 million participants across the state each year.

**EDUCATIONAL AND ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE THROUGH COMPETITION**

**A+ ACADEMICS ADDS CHESS PUZZLE PILOT PROGRAM**

BY STEPHANIE RAMIREZ

The UIL Legislative Council approved a new program for pilot status in October of 2010. Chess puzzle is the newest addition to the A+ Academics program for grades 2-8.

Chess puzzle competition is very different from tournament chess play. Contestants in a chess puzzle contest receive a paper-and-pencil test that includes a series of chess boards with pieces in particular positions. The contestant must then determine the fewest moves to checkmate given that particular board layout. Time is also a factor – contestants are scored based on the most puzzles solved in the least amount of time.

“Feedback from the invitational contests has been positive so far,” said David Trussell, UIL Assistant Academic Director and A+ Academics Director. “There seems to be a great deal of interest among schools that have established chess programs already. What I’ll be looking at as we go forward with the pilot is how the interest may develop, not only among schools that have chess programs, but also among those that don’t.”

How long the program is classified as pilot status is dependent upon the interest among A+ schools, as well as how smoothly the contests fun. The benefit of the program being in pilot status is that it allows evaluations of the contest and the ability to revise contest rules in order to improve the event.

Districts with meets were contacted about possible participation in the pilot in the spring. All A+ districts will have the option to participate in 2011-12 by indicating their choice on the District Meet form.

The last competition that was introduced as a pilot program and became an official UIL event was A+ Social Studies, which spent three academic years as a pilot before becoming an official UIL event in 2006.
Shepherd coach Nathan Potts wins 2011 NFHS Spirit of Sport Award

BY CHRIS SCHMIDT

Shepherd football coach Nathan Potts has been chosen as the Section Six recipient of the 2011 National High School Spirit of Sport Award.

Potts, who currently serves as an assistant football coach at Shepherd High School and the head coach of the Shepherd Middle School football team, received the award for exemplifying a positive spirit while overcoming adversity. In 2001 after the terrorist attacks of September 11, Potts took a hiatus from his coaching career while at Fort Worth Dunbar High School to join the U.S. Army and serve his country as his father and grandfather had before him.

During a mission in 2005, Potts and his group were patrolling one of the deadliest highways in Baghdad when their vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED). He was injured, but they had to search the area on foot after the explosion. Potts, a sergeant, was leading a line of troops when a secondary explosion went off near him. He suffered a traumatic brain injury, lost flesh from his right leg, broke his left hip, lost skin from his right arm, broke the middle finger on his right hand and lost a tooth. His fellow soldiers rushed him to the U.S. Military hospital in Baghdad where he was put into a medically induced coma and doctors performed several surgeries on him. His finger was amputated and, later, so was his right leg. Doctors did everything they could to save it, but there were only two working arteries in his leg. After one of them failed, doctors left it up to Potts to come take over the middle school program at Shepherd and assist with the high school program, received the award for exemplifying a positive spirit and citizenship. Potts is not just a teacher and coach, but a teacher and coach, but also a police officer, a mentor and a friend to his students.

Through his experiences Potts is able to connect with his students in a way that most coaches cannot. Potts embodies the values of citizenship and perseverance that represent the core mission of education-based athletics.

The Waiver Review Board, composed of nine members representing each of the five conferences and appointed by the chair of the Legislative Council, serves as the appellate board of the UIL. The Waiver Review Board reviews the decision of the UIL Waiver Officer when an appeal is filed.

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Scholarships

Texas Interscholastic League Foundation

Since its inception in 1959, the Texas Interscholastic League Foundation (TILF) has given over $24 million in scholarships to more than 16,000 Texas high school students who have competed in the UIL Academic State Meet.

During a typical academic year, TILF will give more than $1 million to more than 600 students attending colleges and universities throughout Texas. The TILF has almost $9 million in endowed funds and receives direct scholarship grants each year of more than $800,000 from foundations, individuals and corporate sponsors throughout the state.

Showcasing the Talents of Texas

New Opportunities for Urban Schools and School Music Programs with Limited Resources

by Chris Schmidt

In cooperation with fine arts directors in urban and inner city school districts, the UIL Music Division has expanded opportunities for emerging school music programs to participate in UIL music contests.

Many of these schools are attempting to rebuild or establish new music programs but do not currently have the depth or resources to enter the traditional varsity level of competition.

“‘This program is ‘opening the door’ for many schools to seek a positive, educational experience in UIL music contests when they would have had little or no possibility for success in the past,’” said Richard Floyd, UIL Director of Music. “We are excited about the prospect of providing these kinds of educational opportunities for this spectrum of our school population.”

Special non-varsity status is now available to these music programs thus making it possible for them to receive the educational benefits of the UIL contest program at a level that is commensurate with their current level of musical achievement. As the programs grow and mature they will be elevated to varsity level competition when the programs are ready to benefit from the higher level of competition.

Programs like these offer new beginnings for students and schools alike. Where there are more opportunities to learn, there are more opportunities to succeed and build a solid foundation for the future.

Financial Information

Funding

The League’s primary sources of income are: membership dues from member schools; the admission price for individual sports state competitions; an annually determined percentage of admission prices for state level contests; 15 percent of football and 16 percent of basketball post district gate receipts; proceeds from radio and television broadcasting and telecasting contracts; as well as proceeds from corporate sponsorships.

The University of Texas at Austin provides land for the building and administrative support for the UIL. UIL funds pay all other expenses. The UIL is subject to all University of Texas financial policies, including required audits. The UIL receives no state appropriations.

Financial Information

2009-10 Revenue:

Total Revenue: $10,306,276

Entry Fees, Program Sales, Gate Receipts: 43%

Broadcast, Photo and Video Rights, Corporate Sponsors, Grants and Other Donations: 28%

Membership Fees: 18%

Other: 11%

2009-10 Expenses:

Total Expenses: $9,708,181

Salaries and Wages: 38%

Rentals, Facility Usage and Printing: 12%

Professional Fees and Services: 11%

Payroll Related Costs: 9%

Grant - Steroid Testing Services: 9%

Operating Expenditures: 5%

Rebates to Schools: 4%

Travel: 2%

Other: 10%
UIL Congratulates the 2010-11 State Champions

ACADEMICS:
State Meet
Academic Champs
1A - Martin's Mill
2A - Tuscola Jim Ned
3A - Argyle
4A - Friendswood
5A - Fort Bend Clements

MUSIC:
Marching Band
3A - Argyle
5A - Lewisville Marcus

ATHLETICS:
Baseball
1A - Johnson City Johnson
2A - Cameron Yoe
3A - Kennedale
4A - Wichita Falls Rider
5A - Clute Brazoswood

Girls Basketball
1A Div. I - Smyer
1A Div. II - Neches
2A - Brock
3A - Abilene Wylie
4A - Canyon
5A - Irving MacArthur

Boys Basketball
1A Div. I - Clyde Eula
1A Div. II - Paducah
2A - Idalou
3A - Corpus Christi West Oso
4A - Dallas Kimball
5A - Lewisville Marcus

Girls Cross Country
1A - Gruver
2A - Spearman
3A - Lucas Lovejoy
4A - Dallas Highland Park
5A - Humble Kingwood

Boys Cross Country
1A - Sundown
2A - Luling
3A - Lucas Lovejoy
4A - Cedar Park
5A - Conroe The Woodlands

Football
1A-6 Man Div. I - Garden City
1A-6 Man Div. II - Richland Springs
1A-11 Man Div. I - Mart
1A-11 Man Div. II - Falls City
2A Div. I - Daingerfield
2A Div. II - Idalou
3A Div. I - Henderson
3A Div. II - Carthage
4A Div. I - Austin Lake Travis
4A Div. II - Aledo
5A Div. I - Pearland
5A Div. II - Cibolo Steele

Girls Golf
1A - Baird
2A - Tuscola Jim Ned
3A - Andrews
4A - Montgomery
5A - Austin Westlake

Boys Golf
1A - Robert Lee
2A - Wall
3A - Prosper
4A - Austin Lake Travis
5A - Mansfield

Girls Soccer
4A - Frisco Wakeland
5A - McKinney Boyd

Boys Soccer
4A - Boerne Champion
5A - Southlake Carroll

Softball
1A - Shiner
2A - Danbury
3A - Celina
4A - Santa Fe
5A - Conroe The Woodlands

Girls Swimming & Diving
4A - Frisco
5A - Humble Kingwood

Boys Swimming & Diving
4A - Humble Kingwood Park
5A - Southlake Carroll

Team Tennis
4A - Dallas Highland Park
5A - New Braunfels

Girls Track & Field
1A - Snook
2A - Cameron Yoe
3A - Texarkana Liberty-Eylau
4A - Beaumont Ozen
5A - DeSoto

Boys Track & Field
1A - Munday
2A - Corrigan-Camden
3A - West Orange-Stark
4A - Lancaster
5A - Galena Park North Shore

Volleyball
1A - Round Top-Carmine
2A - White Oak
3A - Lucas Lovejoy
4A - Austin Lake Travis
5A - Lewisville Hebron

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1A - Round Top-Carmine
2A - White Oak
3A - Lucas Lovejoy
4A - Austin Lake Travis
5A - Lewisville Hebron

Boys Track & Field
1A - Munday
2A - Corrigan-Camden
3A - West Orange-Stark
4A - Lancaster
5A - Galena Park North Shore

Wrestling
Girls - Amarillo Caprock
Boys - Allen