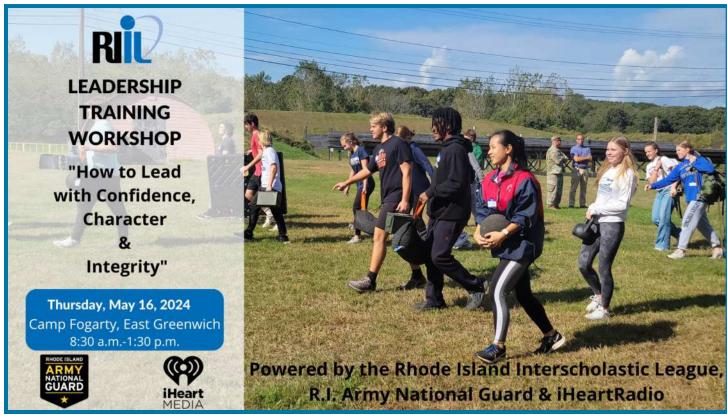


RIIL Leadership Training Workshop slated for May 16 at Camp Fogarty

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League will be hosting FREE RIIL Leadership Training Workshop -"How to Lead with Confidence, Character & Integrity," on Thursday, May 11, 2024 from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Camp Fogarty in East Greenwich. Conducted in collaboration with RIIL partners R.I. Army National Guard and iHeartMedia, the workshop will engage student-athletes in an interactive teambuilding leadership training program that will include activities focused on communication skills, confidence building and problem solving.

Space is limited and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration information has been provided to member schools, who may send up to six (6) student-athletes. Interested students should contact their principal or athletic director. Deadline to register is Thursday, May 2nd.



Beginning in Fall 2024, RIIL to offer middle school sports opportunities for first time ever

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League is pleased to announce that, starting this fall, the RIIL will be offering school-based sports opportunities to middle schools that voluntarily wish to become RIIL member schools. This marks the first time in RIIL history that the league will offer middle school sports.

"I am thrilled to announce a significant development in our organization that will undoubtedly enhance the overall educational experience for middle school students in Rhode Island," said RIIL Executive Director Michael P. Lunney. "This decision stems from discussions over the past few years between the current provider of Middle School sports (RIPCOA) and the RIIL. RIPCOA has made the decision to stop their offerings at the conclusion of the 2023-24 school year. I want to personally thank and commend everyone involved with RIPCOA, especially Executive Director Patti Aull, for her leadership and commitment to providing outstanding middle school sports in Rhode Island for so many years."

Educational school-based athletics provide student-athletes with the opportunity to engage in healthy competition, develop valuable life skills and build camaraderie with their peers. Middle School sports serve as an avenue for physical activity, a platform for personal growth and the reinforcement of essential values such as teamwork, sportsmanship and perseverance.

"We believe that by extending our sports programs to the middle school level, we can contribute to the holistic development of students, both academically and athletically," Lunney said. "The inclusion of middle school sports also aligns with our mission to create a supportive and inclusive environment that encourages participation, diversity and the pursuit of excellence."

The Rhode Island Interscholastic League is a voluntary organization of principals who pledge their schools and participants to follow the Rules and Regulations of the League. The RIIL is governed by the Principals' Committee on Athletics.

At its January meeting, the PCOA unanimously approved the appointment of RIPCOA Executive Director Patricia Aull to the PCOA Board and Ted Quigley to the position of Middle School Sport Director.

Continued . . .



Announcement

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As part of its extensive planning and preparation for the 2024-25 school year, the RIIL invited all Rhode Island middle school administrators to participate in an online survey. This input will be instrumental in shaping the Middle School sports program to meet the unique needs of the middle school community.

In February, the RIIL hosted an Open House informational meeting at the RIIL office to provide middle school administrators with an opportunity to learn more about the RIIL Middle School sports initiative, ask questions, and engage in meaningful discussions with our team.

Rhode Island middle schools have until April 5th to confirm their intent to join the RIIL and declare which sports they intend to participate in for the 2024-25 school year.





For the second year in a row, Lincoln High School was crowned the champion of the RIIL Spirit Challenge, presented by Navigant Credit Union.

Beginning on March 1st, students, fans, alumni, and community members across Rhode Island had the chance to show their school spirit and support their favorite schools through this social media event hosted on the RIIL's X (formerly Twitter) account (@RIIL_sports). The RIIL Spirit Challenge featured a bracket comprising all RIIL member high schools. Each match-up was conducted via X polls, with the school that picked up the most votes advancing to the next round. Early-round match-ups featured two days of voting, and later rounds lasted just one day.

Last year's finalists in each regional bracket received first-round byes. Lincoln, which also went on to be crowned the overall winner of the 2023 RIIL Spirit Challenge, and Johnston each received first-round byes in the North Region. Charibo, which finished second overall to the Lions last year, and Bishop Hendricken received first-round byes in the South Region. St. Raphael Academy and Classical High received the Central Region's first-round byes, and Middletown and Rocky Hill Country Day automatically advanced to the second round of the East Region bracket after finishing as last year's finalists in that pod.

After two weeks of voting through the X polls, Lincoln (North), Achievement 1st Providence (Central), Pilgrim (South) & Rocky Hill Country Day (East) emerged as the regional pod winners. Lincoln and Rocky Hill Country Day then won their "Final Four" matchups and went head-to-head for the championship, where Lincoln prevailed once again, receiving 59.2 percent of the votes in its title match with the Mariners.

Thank you to all who participated! We hope you had fun supporting your favorite school!



RIIL partner Brown University Athletics is hosting the upcoming NCAA Men's Ice Hockey Regional at the Amica Mutual Pavilion on March 29th and 31st!

Get your tickets today at:

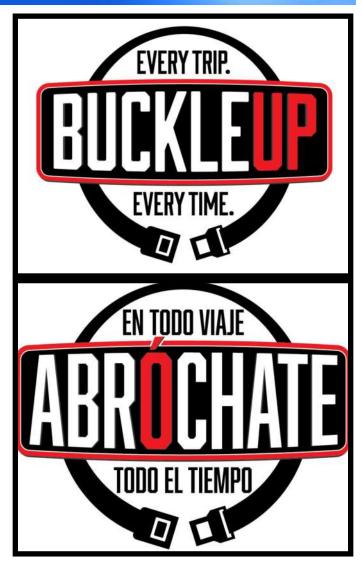
NCAA.com/FrozenFour



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V5 TO NEW MEXICO UNITED	SAT / MAR 16	VS 🖤 INDY ELEVEN
AT T MONTEREY BAY FC	SUN / MAR 24	AT 🐨 MIAMI FC
AT TAMPA BAY ROWDIES	SAT / MAR 30	AT 😴 BIRMINGHAM LEGION FC
APRIL		VS 😺 NORTH CAROLINA FC
VS CHARLESTON BATTERY	SAT / APR 6	AUGUST
VS SPITTSBURGH RIVERHOUND	S SAT / APR 13	AT CETROIT CITY FC
AT IF LAS VEGAS LIGHTS FC	SAT / APR 20	AT 🐺 INDY ELEVEN
VS 😈 PHOENIX RISING FC	SAT / APR 27	VS 🕤 HARTFORD ATHLETIC
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VS 12 SACRAMENTO REPUBLIC F	C SAT/MAYII	VS 😸 BIRMINGHAM LEGION FC
AT 🗧 SWITCHBACKS FC	FRI / MAY 17	SEPTEMBER
VS 🖶 LOUISVILLE CITY FC	SAT / MAY 25	AT I PITTSBURGH RIVERHOUND
JUNE		AT 9 ORANGE COUNTY-SC
AT @ HARTFORD ATHLETIC	SAT / JUNE1	VS O FC TULSA
VS & DETROIT CITY FC	SAT / JUNE 8	AT 📑 SAN ANTONIO FC
AT MEMPHIS 901 FC	WED / JUNE 12	OCTOBER
AT T LOUISVILLE CITY FC	SAT / JUNE 22	VS TAMPA BAY ROWDIES
VS C EL PASO LOCOMOTIVE FC	WED/JUNE 26	VS 😵 LOUDOUN UNITED FC
		AT CHARLESTON BATTERY
*DATES & TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE		VS C MIAMIEC

RHODE ISLAND FC

Best of luck to RIIL partner Rhode Island FC as it embarks upon its inaugural season! RIFC returns home, Saturday, April 6 when it will face Charleston Battery. Purchase your tickets today, starting at just \$15 at: www.rhodeislandfc.com/tickets/





Through a coordinated effort between the RIIL, Amica Mutual Pavilion General Manager Larry Lepore, Rhode Island Convention Center Authority Executive Director Dan McConaghy and their staff, the finals of the RIIL Boys & Girls Divisional Basketball Championships returned to the AMP for the first time in two decades. Seven championships – Boys Divisions I, II and III and Girls Divisions I, II, III and IV – were played at the AMP in Downtown Providence from March 4-6, 2024.

The RIIL extends its gratitude and appreciation to everyone at the AMP for their help and support in making the experience both memorable and special for our student-athletes and fans. We saw some outstanding individual performances and closely contested games that certainly added to the excitement of being in a great basketball venue!

GIRLS RESULTS DIVISION I Barrington 50, North Kingstown 40 DIVISION II Shea/Tolman Co-op 61, Moses Brown 57, OT

DIVISION III Toll Gate 44, Exeter/West Greenwich 39

DIVISION IV Hope 45, Johnston 42 BOYS RESULTS DIVISION I Classical 60, La Salle Academy 57

> **DIVISION II** Lincoln 75, Tolman 68

DIVISION III North Providence 56, Juanita Sanchez Complex 50





TION

CREDIT UNION BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

RIIL GIRLS STATE BASKETBALL FINAL Moses Brown 48, Barrington 32

RIIL BOYS STATE BASKETBALL FINAL Classical 67, La Salle Academy 66

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Welcome to The Ryan Center!

THANK YOU to Credit Unions of Rhode Island for 34 years of supporting our state's high school student-athletes as presenting sponsor of the RIIL Credit Union Basketball Championships!





Fantastic Unified Basketball Exhibition between Shea and Tolman High Schools, held in between the Girls and Boys State Basketball Finals at this year's Credit Union Basketball Championships at The Ryan Center!









Since the January 2024 RIIL KyleCares Teen Mental Health Summit, <u>7</u> new schools have started Active Minds chapters since attending the event:

- Times2
- Bishop Hendricken
- · North Smithfield
- St. Raphael Academy
- Lincoln HS
- Moses Brown
- Middletown

Click **HERE** to watch highlights from the 2024 RIIL KyleCares Teen Mental Health Summit

(C) KYLECARES	
KYLECARES The Kyle Johnson Foundation	
KyleCares is a is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting open and honest conversations about the mental health challenges experienced by teens and young adults in today's society. Ultimately, we aim to eliminate student	340
self-harm and suicide.	
In support of our mission, we encourage you to take the KyleCares - I Care Pledge. Anyone can take this pledge students, parents, educators, and more. By signing the pledge, you are proudly sharing your commitment to erasing stigma and promoting mental health awareness.	
THE KTURCHER	
KyleCares – I Care Pledge	
I will confidently ask for help, without shame. Everyone is deserving of support - including me.	
I will care for and advocate for the mental health needs of my friends and family.	
I will work to change the culture around mental health in my community, normalizing this topic and promoting help-seeking behaviors.	
I will contribute to making our world less judgmental and more caring and supportive.	
I do this because I care.	
signature	
If you're thinking about suicide, are worried about a friend or loved	
orie, or would like emotional support, the 988 Lifeline network is available 24/7 to provide free and confidential assistance if you are in a suicidal crisis or emotional distress.	
To TALK live with a crisis counselor 24x7x365: Dial 988 To TEXT with a crisis counselor, send a text to 988 on your phone. To CHAT with a crisis counselor online 24x7x365, go here: https://988lifeline.org/chat/	



What can the KyleCares Foundation do for YOUR school?

- Connect schools with mental health resources and service providers
- Facilitate long-term, comprehensive strategies to address student mental health
- Fund school-based mental health education, awareness, and suicide prevention programs

If you'd like to schedule a KyleCares overview at your school or have any questions, please reach out to KyleCares President Jim Johnson at: jjohnson@kylecaresinc.org.



The Rhode Island Interscholastic League (RIIL) is pleased to continue its partnership with UA Local 51, the trade union for plumbers, pipefitters and refrigeration technicians in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts. This partnership will once again include a <u>\$500 scholarship</u> that will be presented to a graduating senior interested in pursuing a career in the trades industry.

Interested students may apply for the Local 51 Trades Scholarship at: <u>www.riil.org/page/6717</u> Deadline to apply: Monday, April 8, 2024

In addition, the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 51 Apprenticeship Training Program is accepting applications for Plumber, Pipefitter and Refrigeration Technician Apprentices for the 2024-25 School Year from March 4-15, 2024. Local 51 Apprenticeship Applications can be accessed at <u>www.ualocal51.com</u>.



To Nominate a Team, visit: www.riil.org/page/3163

SHOWCASE Cinemas is once again proud to recognize the achievements and community dedication of RIIL athletic teams occurring on and off the field/court/ track/mat and pools! Storylines have touched many topics, such as food insecurity, breast cancer awareness, anti-bullying, good sportsmanship, epilepsy awareness, mental disabilities, homelessness and many more.

Help us shine a light on the many creative ways that our teams and student-athletes are staying connected to each other and to their communities!



ALICE SULLIVAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

THE ALICE SULLIVAN MEMORIAL FUND

Purpose: The purpose of the fund is to sustain in perpetuity Alice Sullivan's life, character and enthusiasm for girls athletics.

Qualifications: The monies generated can be used but not limited to: Scholarship(s) to female high school and/or female collegiate studentathletes who express interest in coaching and/or officiating female sports; sponsoring speakers for female high school or collegiate events; sponsoring female high school workshops or conferences.

Award - 2024: Minimum \$800.00

ABOUT ALICE SULLIVAN: Alice Sullivan's time as a teacher and administrator at East Providence High School spanned four decades. Her contributions to Rhode Island's student-athletes, especially girls, extended much, much further than that. The driving force behind girls sports being added to the Rhode Island Interscholastic League in the late 1960s, Sullivan became the league's director of girls sports and then its first assistant executive director. By the time she stepped down from her position at the RIIL in 1996, the league was offering 14 sports for girls. Even after her retirement, Sullivan continued to work tirelessly to ensure that girls received the best athletic opportunities possible until her death in November 2003 at the age of 78. Shortly after her passing, a foundation and scholarship was created in Sullivan's name "to sustain in perpetuity Alice Sullivan's life, character and enthusiasm for girls athletics."

Applications are now being accepted for the Alice Sullivan Memorial Scholarship.

For more information and access to the online scholarship application, go to:

https://www.riil.org/page/4632



Look around. Whether you can tell or not, everyone you see is going through something. So, when you're struggling, remember that. It'll remind you that you aren't alone. #WeSeeYou

February 2024

What continues to give me Oaker Pride is to watch my athletes reach their full potential from my influence in their lives. I currently have 6 former cheerleaders who have followed me in cheering for the NFL, 8 cheerleaders and gymnasts who have opened their own cheer and gymnastics gyms, and countless athletes who have continued in college athletics. The ripple effect is exciting to see and experience and hopefully will continue for many generations.

RIL

EDUCATOR

SPOTLIGHT

Presented by

BANKRHODEISLAND.C

LOLITA LIPA ROBERTS

COVENTRY HIGH SCHOOL

TEACHING: Physical Education and Health Teacher at Coventry H.S. for 27 years. Also now the Department Head & Curriculum Coordinator since 2022.

COACHING: The Coventry High School Hall of Famer has 35 years of coaching experience ... Currently the Oakers' head Gymnastics coach, as well as coach of the Competitive & Football Cheerleading Teams, guiding them to multiple state titles ... Also previously coached Girls Track & Field at Coventry H.S. and North Kingstown H.S.

Educator Role: Physical Education and Health Teacher and Department Head

More on Lolita's Background as an Educator: In 1997, I was hired in the Physical Education and Health Department, coaching competition cheerleading and bringing gymnastics back to CHS after two decades of its absence, which allowed CHS to comply with the Title IX law. I also became a member of the Girls and Women in Sports Association, the RIHPERD Association for PE teachers and the RI Interscholastic League as a coach and official for both gymnastics and track and field. In 2002 after coaching the gymnastics team to a State championship, RIIL and Girls and Women in Sports Association named me the \hat{a} CeFemale Coach of the Year \hat{a} . I continued to coach both sports for 10 more years and added Girls Track and Field as well.

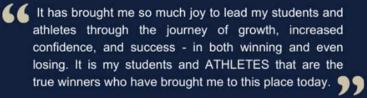
In 2003 I received my Masters Degree in Physical Education and Sports Psychology from URI. While I continued to teach, my experiences coaching and competing for Rhode Island College gymnastics along with cheering three seasons for the New England Patriots, led me to start a business in Coventry in 2002. KC Cats All Star Cheerleaders was one of the very first competitive All-Star cheerleading gyms in RI and the longest running for 17 years. In those years, KC Cats served over two thousand athletes and their families from two years old to adult and also created RI's first Special Needs Unified Cheer Team. Regional and National competitions led to six US Finals championships

In 2018 I retired from KC Cats and continued to lead and shape young lives at CHS by coaching the gymnastics, competition/football cheerleaders, and creating the first CHS Unified Cheerleading squad. The return to interscholastic athletics brought me joy and allowed the Gymnastics team to earn the state runner-up title and qualify athletes to the New Englands every year. The Competition Cheer squad equally was successful with 4 years of back to back State titles for competitive cheer from 2000-2023.

In 2022, I began serving in a leadership role as the Curriculum Coordinator of the CHS Physical Education and Health Department. Over the years, I have taken part in many extracurricular activities at CHS. The choreography of a flash mob including the 325 graduates of the graduating class of 2021 was one of my favorites. I enjoy sharing these skills with faculty dances for our annual athletic pep rallies as well.

Continued on Next Page

February 2024



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Coaching Role(s): Gymnastics, Competitive and Football Cheerleading, and Girls Track and Field

More on Lolita's Coaching Background: I have been coaching gymnastics for the past 35 years. I started coaching interscholastic sports 28 years ago.

Coventry High School Gymnastics 1997-2007, 2018-present. Coventry High School Cheerleading 1997-2007, 2018-present Coventry and North Kingstown Girls Track and Field 1996-2002

Gymnastics Awards—2002 State Title, and 3 Runner-Up Titles, 3 Division 1 Titles, 2 Division 2 Titles. 10+ Years of New England Qualifiers.

Competitive Cheerleading- 4 Back to Back State Titles from 2020-2023. State Titles in 1997-1998

What does being a teacher-coach in your community mean to you?

What continues to give me Oaker Pride is to watch my athletes reach their full potential from my influence in their lives. I currently have 6 former cheerleaders who have followed me in cheering for the NFL, 8 cheerleaders and gymnasts who have opened their own cheer and gymnastics gyms, and countless athletes who have continued in college athletics. The ripple effect is exciting to see and experience and hopefully will continue for many generations.



Continued on Next Page

February 2024

It was the pioneer women I met in the Girls and Women in Sports Association that told me to continue to promote these opportunities for girls. People like Alice Sullivan, Ann Morris, Elaine Lyden, Jane Headley and Jackie Court all inspired me to keep the ball rolling for the equality and promotion of girls sports . . . I hope I have made them proud as I continue to coach and inspire young athletes to enjoy the opportunities these women gave to them.

RIL

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Please describe one of the greatest highlights of your career as an educator and/or coach?

There is not one specific highlight but many that attribute to my career. It has brought me so much joy to lead my students and athletes through the journey of growth, increased confidence, and success-in both winning and even losing. It is my students and ATHLETES that are the true winners who have brought me to this place today. With a humble and grateful heart I continue to enjoy and appreciate the role I can play in impacting one life at a time for the better. I am ready to believe in the next student, the next athlete, and ready to give them an opportunity to discover , grow and succeed.

Who inspired you and why do you feel it is important to continue promoting athletic opportunities for girls?

Every Coach I have had from 10 years old and on has inspired me to be the coach I am today. My first gymnastics coach and business mentor Rita Santilli, my high school track and field coaches, my college gymnastics coach Dick Stapleton and the late long time Patriots Cheer coach Tracy Sormanti, have taught me how to enjoy coaching and allow athletes to enjoy their sports. However, it was the pioneer women I met in the Girls and Women in Sports Association that told me to continue to promote these opportunities for girls. People like Alice Sullivan, Ann Morris, Elaine Lyden, Jane Headley and Jackie



Court all inspired me to keep the ball rolling for the equality and promotion of girls sports. Their

work was vital in the movement for this to happen. I will always remember them telling me, "We may have not gotten the chance to compete in athletics, but we will make it happen for all of the girls and women in the future". They called me the "young blood", and it was my job to keep the ball rolling for girls sports in this state. I hope I have made them proud as I continue to coach and inspire young athletes to enjoy the opportunities these women gave to them.

March 2024



66 [Being a teacher and being involved in high school athletics] is very rewarding. I have the opportunity to work with swimmers, coaches, officials, parents & administrators. I like to see swimmers improve and programs develop.

RIL

Presented by

CINDY BOWDEN

WYMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHING: Grade 5 teacher at Wyman Elementary for 34 years COACHING: Inducted into the R.I. Aquatics Hall of Fame in 2023, Bowden served as an assistant swim coach at North Providence H.S. from 1991-93, then head coach at Pilgrim H.S. from 1993-2005. Presented with an RIIL Distinguished Service Award in 2019, she has been a swim official since 2005 and has served as the RIIL's Director of Swim for the last 17 years.

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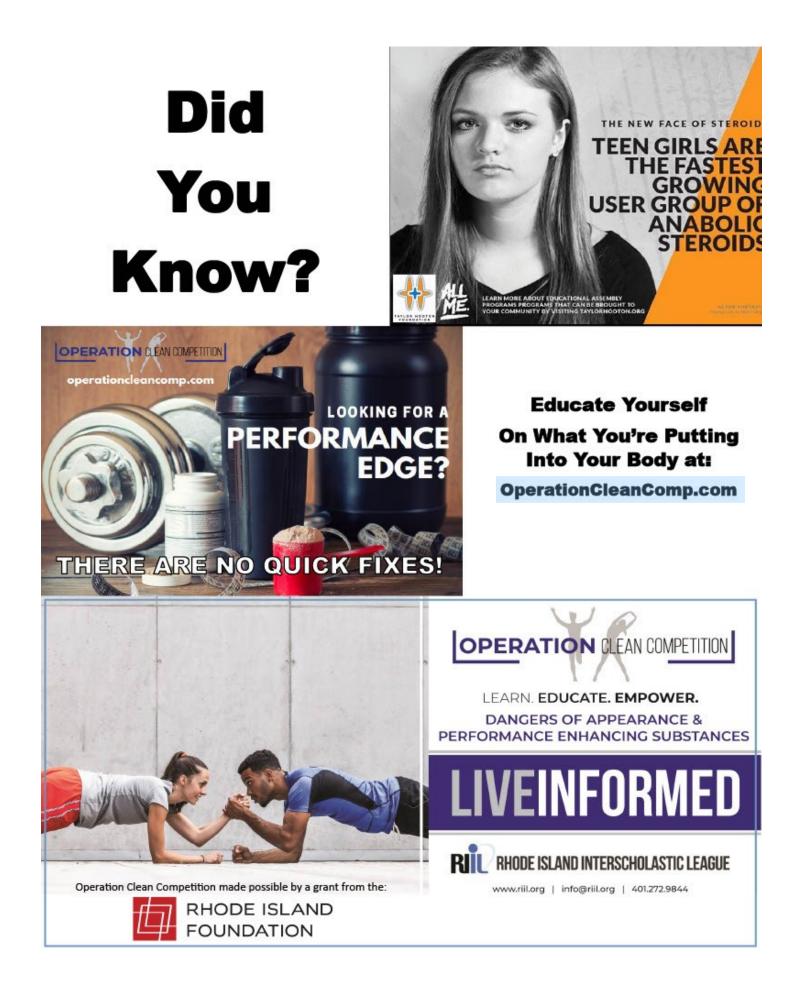
Please describe one of the greatest highlights of your career as an educator and/or coach?

Last year, we added the first Unified Swim Relay to the State Championships. It was an amazing and emotional event that was made possible by so many incredible athletes, coaches, officials, parents, administrators & community members.

Interscholastic League hosts first unified relay at State Championship swim meet

by TAYLOR ROCHA, NBC 10 NEWS | Fri, March 10th 2023 at 6:02 PM Updated Fri, March 10th 2023 at 11:29 PM

ers with intellectual disabilities. (WIAR le Island Interscholastic League held its first 200 meter freestyle relay fe





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Download the GameChanger App and create your account.

For Coaches: How to Create Your Team



Tap the + button in the top right of the **home** tab.



Select Create New Team.



Choose your sport and enter your team information.

How to Join a Team



Tap the search icon in the top left of the **home** tab.



Begin typing your team's name. You can use the **sport**, **season**, and **location** filters to narrow your search.



Select the correct version of the team.



Tap the **Join Team** button and specify if you are a **parent**, **player**, or **fan**.



Choose the correct player profile from the roster if joining as a family member or as a player.



Until your request is approved, your status will be listed as pending, and you will have fan level access to the team.

