

WIAA Executive Director A No-Show At State Boys Basketball Tournament **By Mark Belling, WISN-AM**

For the first time in memory, the head of the state high school sports association chose not to attend the organization's highest profile event, the boys state basketball tournament.

Stephanie Hauser, the executive director of the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association, was nowhere to be found at the Kohl Center for any of the three days of the tournament. But that doesn't mean Hauser wasn't watching a lot of basketball. Instead of overseeing the five-division state championship program, Hauser was instead in Columbus, Ohio, watching her son Joey play in the first round of the NCAA basketball tournament for Michigan State.

A WIAA source tells me he can't recall an executive director skipping the boys tournament. The tournament is televised statewide and draws large crowds for all three days. The executive director is normally seen presenting trophies and ribbons to teams in the tournament but Hauser wasn't there at all.

Hauser was, however, seen in the stands in Columbus as Michigan State won its two games including yesterday's win over Marquette. Joey Hauser, who started his career at Marquette, is a star player on Michigan State's team. His brother, Sam, is a player with the NBA Boston Celtics.

Stephanie Hauser makes well over \$200,000 as head of the Stevens Point-based WIAA. There has been persistent confusion and misinformation about Hauser's relationship with her two basketball playing sons. That's probably because former WIAA executive director Deb Hauser, also from Stevens Point, is not related to Sam and Joey. Stephanie Hauser and Deb Hauser, even though they have held the exact same job, are not related.

Stephanie Hauser succeeded Dave Anderson as head of the WIAA two years ago. Anderson succeeded Deb Hauser who followed in the footsteps of legendary WIAA chief John Roberts. All attended the boys basketball tournament and made frequent appearances on the TV broadcast.

The head of the WIAA Board of Control, Florence Schools Superintendent Karl Morrin, tells me the board approved Stephanie Hauser's absence and bizarrely stated "her work was done" before the tournament began.

Michigan State will be in the NCAA Regional tournament in New York this weekend. There are no WIAA state championships this weekend so if Stephanie Hauser wants to attend, she won't be ducking any of her duties.

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