

## CAAD 26th ANNUAL CONFERENCE REVIEW

By Fred Balsamo, CMAA, CAAD Executive Director

This year's conference was once again an outstanding opportunity for athletic directors across the state to get together for some meaningful professional development. We are extremely pleased with the turnout, with over 60 exhibitors on site, 205 athletic directors registered and 230 attendees at the annual banquet.

On the Wednesday night before the conference, thirty athletic directors took part in the NIAAA Leadership Training Courses. The conference was kicked off by CIAC Executive Director Mike Savage and his staff who detailed some important updates and rule changes. Mike was also presented a gift donation from CAAD toward the building of a school in Haiti in honor of his retirement.

The first general session speaker was Rulon Gardner, Olympic gold medalist, who delivered an inspiring presentation about never giving up. Friday morning we welcomed Dr. Carl Nissen who got our attention quickly with a presentation on concussions and the importance of coaches knowing their signs and symptoms as well as proven return to play procedures.

### Conference Evaluations

The rating numbers on the evaluations were outstanding overall and speak for themselves (see below). Once again we had a program for middle school AD's and we welcomed 17 this year. By their comments, they want to be more involved. It was clear we need to add more topics specific to that group next year.

The rating numbers below are based on a 1-4 scale (with 4 being the best).

1. Conference Registration - 3.9 (+.0)
2. Conference Format - 3.9 (+.1)
3. Conference Organization & Details - 3.9 (+.0)
4. Hotel Service - 3.8 (+.1)
5. Hotel Accommodations -3.8 (+.0)
6. Hotel Meals
  - Thursday Lunch - 3.9 (+.1)
  - Thursday Banquet - 3.9(+.3)
  - Friday Breakfast - 3.9 (+.3)
  - Friday Lunch - 3.7 (+.2)

7. CIAC Workshop - 3.7 (+.1)
  - Middle School Workshop - 3.8 (+.0)
8. CAAD Annual Meeting - 3.4 (-.1)
9. General Session (Rulon) - 3.9 (+1.6)
10. Workshop
  - 1. Purchasing - 3.5
  - 2. Change at top - 3.6
  - 3. Paperless - 3.9
11. Awards Banquet- 3.9 (+.1)
12. Breakfast Meeting (Nissen) - 3.8 (-.1)
13. Statewide Faculty - 3.4 (-.4)
14. Closing Meeting - 3.6 (-.2)

### CAAD RECOGNIZES 2010 AWARD RECIPIENTS

At the 26th annual conference and awards banquet held on the evening of March 25th, four individuals were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments and support for high school sports in Connecticut.

**Brian Fell** of Woodland High School was given the *Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors Distinguished Service Award* which is our organization's highest award. Brian has been an AD since 1993 and has served on the CAAD board and has served the CIAC in various capacities.

The *Distinguished Service Award* for someone outside the field of athletic administration went to CHSCA Executive Director **John Fontana**. An icon among coaches John has provided leadership and support to the thousand of coaches and athletes in Connecticut.

Annually CAAD identifies an athletic director who is given a merit award from our national association. **Trish Witkin** from Glastonbury High School was honored at the Banquet with the *NIAAA Award of Merit* for the stellar career she has amassed and for the many things she does for high school students.

**Mike Gamari** from the Gilbert School, Winsted, was recognized with the *Robert Duncanson Meritorious Service Award* for his diligence and endless contributions to his school, community and to the students of Connecticut.

Dave Johnson, CAAD Awards Committee Chair, and Ray DeAngelis, CAAD President, present awards to, from top to bottom, Trish Witkin, Mike Gamari and Brian Fell.

