

For Immediate Release:

McMullen to serve as grand marshal of Midwest Meet of Champions

Paul McMullen, the top-ranked miler in the United States in 1996 and 2001, will serve as grand marshal of the Midwest Meet of Champions at Jackson High School's Withington Stadium on June 13, 2009.

McMullen, a 1990 graduate of Cadillac High School, placed 10th in the men's 1,500 meters in the 1995 and 2001 World championships and was also a member of the U.S. Olympic team in 1996. An eight-time All-American at Eastern Michigan University, McMullen capped his college career with a runner-up finish in the 1,500 in the 1995 NCAA championships.

As grand marshal, McMullen will deliver the keynote speech at the pre-meet banquet at Spring Arbor University on June 12 and present awards at the meet.

The Midwest Meet of Champions, which began in 1974, is one of the oldest post-season high school track and field meets in the nation. It has showcased some of the finest senior performers from Michigan, Indiana and Ohio since its inception, and from Illinois from 1977-96.

Field events start at noon with the men's pole vault. Track events begin at 1 p.m. with the women's 3,200-meter relay. Admission is \$5.

Each state will have three entries in the 13 individual men's and women's events and one entry in the four relay races. The top six finishers in individual events will score points on a 10-8-6-4-2-1 basis. The scoring system for the relays will award 10 points for first place, six for second and two for third.

This year's meet will conclude a four-year run in Jackson. The meet will be held in Indiana from 2010-2013 with Fort Wayne Northrup High School hosting the event next year and in 2011. The meet is scheduled to be held in Ohio from 2014-17 before returning to Michigan in 2018 for the start of a another four-year cycle.

Earl Jones, Brian Diemer, Jim Spivey and Maicel Malone are some of the athletes who competed in the meet as high school seniors and later won medals in the Olympic Games or World championships.

Jones and Diemer won bronze medals in the men's 800 and 3,000 steeplechase, respectively, in the 1984 Olympics. Spivey was the bronze medalist in the 1,500 in the 1987 World championships.

Malone won gold medals as a member of the United States' women's 1,600 relay team in the 1993 World championships and 1996 Olympics. She also ran a leg on silver-medal winning foursomes in the 1997 and 1999 World championships.

Ohio is the defending men's champion and has won eight of the last 10 titles. Michigan has won three consecutive women's championships and won or shared 11 of the previous 13 titles.

For more information, go to www.midwestmeetteamich.com.