

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **New SCC will increase teams by 50% in 2009**

*Suburban Catholic Conference to expand to thirteen high schools;  
becomes Suburban Christian Conference*

**Aurora, IL – 30 January 2008** – Citing a win-win situation for student athletes, the Suburban Catholic Conference (SCC) today announced a thirteen-school expansion to form the **Suburban Christian Conference (SCC)** that will begin competition during the school year 2009-2010.

Guerin Prep (River Grove) will leave the Girls Catholic Athletic Conference (GCAC) and the Chicago Catholic League (CCL); and Aurora Christian (Aurora), Chicago Christian (Palos Heights) and Wheaton Academy (West Chicago) will leave the Private School League (PSL) to join the new league.

The competitive merger includes all nine high schools currently in the **Suburban Catholic Conference (SCC)**: Aurora Central Catholic (Aurora), Driscoll Catholic (Addison), Immaculate Conception (Elmhurst), Marian Central Catholic (Woodstock), Marmion Academy (all boys – Aurora), Montini Catholic (Lombard), Rosary (all girls – Aurora), St. Edward Central Catholic (Elgin) and St. Francis (Wheaton).

The newly formed SCC will provide opportunities for greater competition for student athletes in member schools, especially those with smaller enrollments affected by IHSA-adjusted figures. SCC school populations range from 245 to 757 students.

The new league will utilize an innovative approach to re-set divisional groupings by sport every two years. This will ensure greater competition at all levels on a perpetual basis and a healthy environment for success for students. The expanded high school pool will also encourage natural local rivalries among school competitors.

“This partnership exemplifies faith-based institutions working together to benefit students,” commented **Jon Keith, Chief Operating Officer of Wheaton Academy**. “It respects faith traditions while acknowledging differences.”

“The name Suburban Christian Conference was deliberately chosen to represent the broader faith umbrella that encompasses both traditional Catholic and Protestant institutions,” said **Paul Linden, Athletic Director of St. Francis High School**. “School representatives collaborated to find a conference name that represented the new partnership while maintaining existing traditions and the excellence associated with the brand name SCC.”

Keith and Linden cited commonalities of member high schools: all are faith-based; all have a holistic approach to education; all are dedicated to excellence. The high school initiative models common ground cooperation for young people.

Negotiations for the expansion have occurred for 1-1/2 years. The **Suburban Christian Conference (SCC)** will be a system of faith-based schools organized to compete against each other athletically. The expansion of the SCC addresses the population size diversity of member schools to provide greater competition at all levels. The purpose of the SCC will be to provide a governing body for the member schools, a code of principles and a set of operational procedures.

The SCC will continue to be affiliated with the **Illinois High School Association (IHSA)**. The IHSA is designed to regulate competition in interscholastic events at the high school level. The

IHSA regulates 14 sports for boys, 14 sports for girls, and eight co-educational non-athletic activities. More than 760 public and private high schools in the state of Illinois are members of the IHSA.

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