

**AHS ATHLETIC PROGRAM
NAMED A TOP 5 PROGRAM STATE-WIDE**

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AMES—The Ames High School athletic program was recently recognized as one of the top in the state, athletically and academically, by the Traveling Challenge Cup, a state-wide and yearlong competition among all member high schools of the IHSAA and IGHSAA.

The AHS program, under the direction of Athletic Director Judge Johnston, finished fifth overall, among a total of 48 teams from across Iowa. Points are awarded to the schools for participation in post-season tournament play *and* individual team's academic accomplishments, regardless of whether they participate in post-season play.

“The Traveling Challenge Cup award is a program designed to recognize Iowa High School students for academic excellence in the classroom and outstanding achievement during athletic competition,” according to a news release issued by the organization.

In addition, the AHS athletic program was recently recognized by the *Des Moines Register* as a 4th place finisher in an athletics only ranking by the newspaper. The *Register's* All-Sports Awards ranked Iowa high schools in three categories, with Ames High School falling into the “Large Schools” category, defined as Iowa high schools with an enrollment of more than 800 students in grades 9 through 12.

Athletic Director Johnston commented on both top five finishes, saying, “It was an outstanding year across the board for our athletic teams. Our coaches, parents and booster club, along with our student-athletes, should be congratulated for their efforts. We are fortunate to have a great support system in place for our athletic teams, allowing them to achieve their goals from improved facilities to great financial backing from our Ames High Booster Club. Our coaches pour their hearts and souls into making AHS athletics a great experience for our student-athletes. It goes to show that academic success and athletic success do go hand in hand at a great school like Ames High.”

