



February 9, 2015

## 2015 KSHSAA OSCAR STAUFFER AWARDS

**TOPEKA, Kan.** - The KSHSAA is pleased to announce the selection of John Kurtz and Charles Redfield as the 2015 Oscar Stauffer Award recipients. Kurtz, Manhattan, has been dubbed the Sportscaster of the Year and Redfield, Leawood, as the Sportswriter of the Year.

KMAN's John Kurtz is the 4<sup>th</sup> sportscaster to be selected back-to-back years, making it his 2<sup>nd</sup> selection overall. Kurtz grew up in Overland Park, Kansas and graduated from Blue Valley West High School in 2007. While attending Kansas State University, Kurtz served as the sports director of the student radio station and began his career at KMAN radio as an intern during his sophomore year. Kurtz provided play-by-play for K-State football, basketball and baseball games, as well as Junction City Generals baseball games in the summer while at the student station. Kurtz graduated from Kansas State in 2011 with a degree in Electronic Journalism from the A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Immediately after graduation, Kurtz joined the staff of KMAN full-time and was promoted to Sports Director in the summer of 2013. He co-hosts the afternoon drive show "The Game" Monday through Friday, in addition to the K-State pregame show "Powercat Gameday" before K-State football and basketball games. Kurtz is the play-by-play voice of Manhattan High School boys basketball and a high school football game of the week.

**Sportswriter of the Year Award** winner, Redfield, freelance writer for *The Kansas City Star*, et al., grew up on Long Island in New York, before coming to the University of Kansas where he earned a degree in education in 1964. After graduation, Redfield began his career as a teacher and coach at Kansas City-Wyandotte High School. During this time, he also started to freelance with different publications in the Kansas City area.

In 1983, Redfield began his journalism career with *Sun Publications* in Kansas City and worked his way from reporter to Associate Sports Editor, before becoming the Sports Editor. He remained with the publication until it closed in 2010. During his career, Redfield has been honored with numerous awards, including several from the Suburban Newspapers of America and the Kansas Press Association. In 2007, he was the recipient of the Gordon Docking Media Award. In 2014 he was named the Kansas Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association sportswriter of the year. Currently, Redfield is a freelance reporter for the *Kansas City Star*, in addition to several other Kansas City area publications. After 50 years working with high school sports in the state of Kansas, Redfield notes, "It is easier to work with young people. They are happy to get noticed by a publication and are a lot more honest with their answers."

Presented annually by the Kansas State High School Activities Association, the **Oscar Stauffer Awards** recognize excellence in the fields of sports broadcasting and sports writing, and acknowledge meritorious service through coverage of interscholastic sports programs in Kansas. Sportscaster award applicants submit play-by-play tapes for evaluation. The Kansas Association of Broadcasters selects the honoree. Sportswriter nominations are submitted by the high schools of Kansas and the selection is made by a committee of the Kansas Coaches Association.