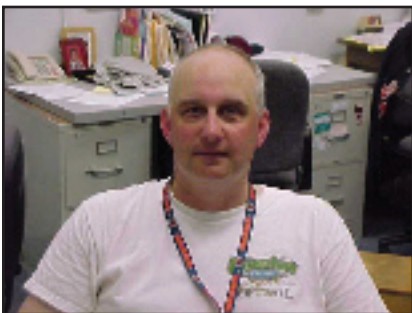


# Ramseyer selected as state tourney ref

**w** Martha Scheler  
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**Ramseyer**

Those following the girls high school basketball state tournament on March 10-11 might have seen a familiar face on the television screen. Physical education teacher Steve Ramseyer was downstate as well, as one of 24 officials selected to referee the girls basketball state tournament.

Being chosen to officiate in the state tournament is a prestigious accomplishment that often takes years of hard and flawless work. Ramseyer has pursued this goal since he became an Illinois High School Association referee in 1980. He started refereeing playoffs in 1990 after his introduction to girls varsity basketball games in 1988. This includes Regional, Sectional and Supersectional games that are all prerequisites for going downstate.

According to Ramseyer, it is a lengthy process through which a referee must go in order to officiate downstate. It includes a variety of evaluations by both coaches and fellow referees who each must put together a list of the top 15 referees in his or her opinion. Referees then receive points for each list on which their names appear. Once downstate, officials conduct a meeting in which they review and update rules, regulations and expectations for the tournament.

Ramseyer, being a first-year state tournament referee, was assigned to a quarterfinal game. It was the largest crowd for which Ramseyer had ever officiated, and he said he was “a little bit intimidated,” and feared making a mistake in front of the over 1,500 jam-packed spectators of the Whitney Young and Kankakee game. Upon first stepping out on the court, Ramseyer said he felt “out of the element,” but by his second game he felt that he was back to his normal game. Ramseyer said he was “at ease” for the semifinal game that he officiated, which was a close duel between Maine South and Alkhorn.

It was the first time Ramseyer, who TiVoed the games, performed on live television. It was weird to see himself on television, he said, but after going back and watching the games, he feels he did “a good job.”