Acadia board rejects ban on Sunday events

Steve Bandy
Acadia Bureau Editor

CROWLEY — A proposal to ban school-related activities on Sundays was defeated by the Acadia Parish School Board here this week.

Calling weekend tournaments the "financial lifeline" of some athletic programs at many schools, Scott Speyer, coach at Church Point High spoke on behalf of the Acadia Parish Coaches Association.

"We at the APCA do not feel that there is a major conflict presented by holding an athletic activity on Sunday," Speyer said. "Granted, a few incidents may occur over the course of a season, but these are minimal when put into proportion with the number of participants taking part in these events.

"It is the stance of the APCA that no student-athlete ever be made to choose between personal beliefs and sports."

Rayne-area board member Rodney Trahan said he had no problem with weekend activities.

"I have more of a problem with pulling students out of class on Tuesdays and Fridays for most spring activities than with students participating on weekends," Trahan said.

And that scenario would be more commonplace if the ban were enacted, according to Speyer.

"At most schools, for baseball and softball, these Friday, Saturday and Sunday tournaments are our financial lifeline," Speyer said. "If we can't play on Sunday, the tournaments will have to start on Wednesday or Thursday, and that means pulling kids out of class."

Speyer added that such a ban also could have more far-reaching effects.

"Athletics are termed to be extracurricular activities and, therefore, should not be singled out from other extracurricular activities. If the board were to pass this motion, it would have to be worded to include all extracurricular activities associated with schools in Acadia Parish," the coach said.

This would mean that no band could march in a parade on Sunday, no student would be allowed to attend a convention that was held on Sunday — in short, no extracurricular events on Sunday of any kind. Would this be in the best interest of the students in our parish? Would this allow our students to compete with the surrounding parishes?"

The measure was defeated by a unanimous voice vote.