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Oklahoma AG shuts down OSSAA talks of public, private school playoffs

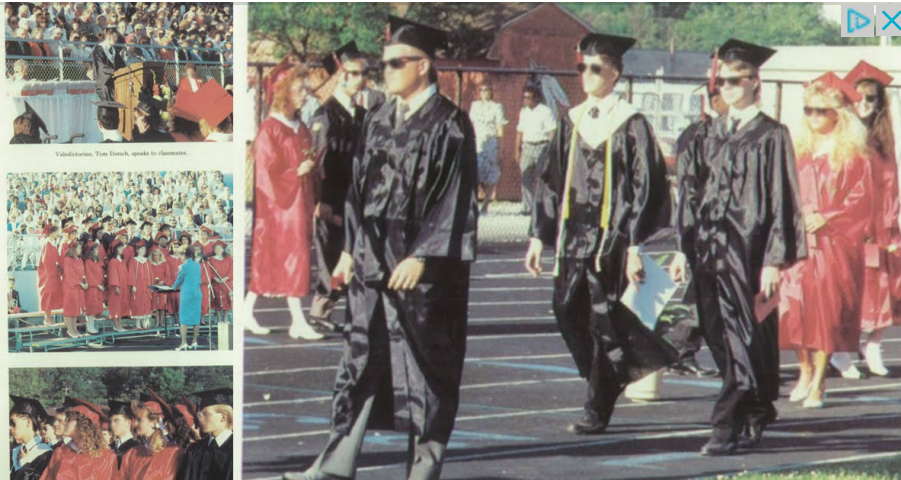
News Staff
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Oklahoma's attorney general shut down talks of separating public and private school sports playoffs, which was being considered for months.

The Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association (OSSAA) was considering separating the two entities, saying it would level the playing field when it comes to competitive equity. Now, Attorney General Gentner Drummond said the proposal only discriminates.

On March 10, Drummond sent a cease-and-desist letter, demanding the OSSAA stop furthering the proposal or face legal actions.

"OSSAA's proposed action violates the equal protection clause," said Drummond because it would treat private school students differently than those in public schools.



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Drummond said schools like Bishop McGuiness High School and Bishop Kelly High School, the only two private schools in Class A, would be forced to play each other in a championship game each year or face a smaller private school.

"OSSAA's goal is not really about 'preserving equitable competitive opportunities,'" said Drummond. "Instead, the OSSAA's plan appears to relate to a more invidious interest—its explicit historical dislike towards nonpublic schools."

The letter sent by Drummond prompted a lengthy executive session this week, where the OSSAA board ultimately decided to pause the discussions and explore more options.

The next board of directors meeting is scheduled for April 19 at 9 a.m.

News Staff