

RAY BOETEL

Ray grew up on a farm in eastern South Dakota near Yale where he attended school through grade 11. With the closure of Yale in 1962 he finished his final year at neighboring Bancroft, graduating in 1963. In all 4 years of high school he competed in fast pitch softball, basketball, & track.

In the spring of 1967 Ray graduated from the University of South Dakota with a degree in Mathematics & in the following fall started his 40-year career of teaching & coaching in South Dakota. The last 27 of those years were at Stevens High School where he worked with the Raiders high jumpers for 11 years & the pole vaulters for all 27 years.

Ray coached the first 7' high jumper in South Dakota (high school or college) with a jump of 7'2". He also coached the first two 16' pole vaulters in South Dakota (high school or college) with vaults of 16' & 16' 1". Then with the girls' pole vault starting in 1997 he coached the first 10' female high school pole vaulter, the first 11' female high school pole vaulter & the first 12' female pole vaulter in South Dakota. The Raiders scored a 1,2,3 sweep in the State Meet that first year followed by a 1,3,4 finish in the boys' pole vault to kick off the 1997 State Track Meet. Ray was chosen as the assistant coach of the year in Area 8 of South Dakota in 1994, 1995, 1997, & in 2003. In 1996 he was chosen as "assistant coach of the year in all Boys Sports" by the South Dakota High School Coaches Association. He was inducted into the Rapid City Sports Hall of Fame in 2009.

Ray retired in 2007 & now enjoys traveling to Washington State, Pennsylvania, & Arizona (especially in the winter) to spend time with his 3 daughters & their families which includes 5 grandchildren. **Inducted 2023**