



RAPID CITY STEVENS HALL OF FAME

JOHN ALDRIDGE

My family moved into Rapid City after moving all over the world with the military.

I started school in Rapid City as a fifth grader and went on to graduate from Rapid City Central High School in 196. Following graduation, I attended Huron College on a football scholarship with the intention I would return to Rapid City and work for the RCAS district. My goal was achieved in the fall of 1978. My wife, Sheryl and I moved back to Rapid City where I was hired as the Physical Education teacher and Special Olympics coach at Lincoln Elementary and Garfield Elementary Schools.

My experiences coaching the Special Olympians were both rewarding and humbling. I also started a Jump Rope Demo Team while at Lincoln and Garfield, and a second team in the 2000's at Meadowbrook Elementary School that was sponsored by the American Heart Association. These groups practiced before and after school and conducted workshops for students and PE teachers along with performing at several basketball games as halftime entertainment. Both teams were very popular with the crowds and were a regular halftime show at the State Basketball Tournaments.

This was also the beginning of my coaching career for wrestling and football. I was truly blessed to begin my career working with talented coaches at the School of Mines and Technology. Coaches like Sonny Coyle, Ron Estacion, Gary Boner, Jim Thompson and John Sterner. Their guidance really helped me develop my coaching style and philosophy. In 1989 I was also hired to be an assistant football coach and work alongside Hall of Fame coaches, Lemoine Trout and Mick Wysuph.

In 1989 I was also hired as the head wrestling coach at Stevens High School, becoming the second wrestling coach at SHS following the legend, Tom Long, South Dakota's coach with more State Championships than any other at the time. Intimidating, yes, but this opportunity allowed me to cross off another goal. Head coach in my hometown. As a new head coach, I was fortunate to have longtime assistant Daryl Parker to help guide me in my first year.

During my career, I was honored to be recognized as:

- 1976 NAIA District 12 All District Football,
- 1976 Kodak Small College All American,
- Huron College Football Team of the 70's member,
- 1990 SDSU Outstanding Student Achievement Award,
- 2006 South Dakota AHPERD Elementary Teacher of The Year,
- 2012 Rapid City Officials Sports Hall of Fame,
- 2013 Rapid City Area School District Teacher of The Year,
- 2021 South Dakota Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame.

My 37 years at SHS were very memorable and special to me. I was fortunate to work with some remarkable educators, coaches, administrators and especially the students. Stevens High School continues to lead the pack at preparing young people for their future. Throughout my career, I continuously told students that I couldn't wait to see what they did with their future and

where their paths would lead. So many returned to their hometown, became solid citizens and, a positive influence to our community. I can honestly say that I never had a bad day at work. I will always be grateful to my wife Cheryl, who consistently supported me with my goal to teach and coach and help guide young people as they pursue their future. The connections I made with students will always remain a huge part of my fondest memories. Thank you for this amazing award. **Inducted 2023**

BARBARA (RIEMENSHCHNEIDER) BATES

Barbara Riemenschneider was born and raised in Rapid City. She is the youngest of 3 children and the daughter of Lou and Norma Riemenschneider. Barb attended Canyon Lake Elementary School and Dakota Middle School. Growing up, Barb was active in all sports and fine arts. She played softball from age 8 to 18 at Canyon Lake Little League and Senior League. In high school, Barb participated in band, volleyball, basketball and track & field. She played french horn in the SHS Symphonic Band and was a member of the All-State Orchestra. Throughout her athletic career at Stevens, Barb was a contributing member of state 3rd place, runner-up and championship teams in basketball, volleyball and track & field. She earned five 2nd place finishes and six all-class gold medal victories at state track meets in hurdle and sprint relay events (3 Gold Medal Awards for 2 consecutive years). Barb was the first Raider girl to win a state title in the hurdles. She was selected as the Class AA Female Track and Field Athlete of the Year in 1987 by the South Dakota High School Coaches Association who also selected her to the Class A All-Tournament State Volleyball Team in 1988. To cap off her senior year, Barb earned Rapid City Female Athlete of the Year accolades. She was awarded the SHS Gold Letter Award and elected as Top Raider Girl. Post high school, Barb attended South Dakota State University. She played volleyball for 2 years and ran track for 4 – earning varsity letters for all. She qualified for the DII National Indoor Track and Field Championships twice and earned All-America honors. She holds/held Top 10 All-Time positions on the SDSU record boards for numerous events. Barb graduated from SDSU in 1993 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and Secondary Education. She later continued her education at the University of Northern Iowa earning her Masters of Science Education degree in 2008. Education and athletics continue to be a focus for Barb in her professional career. She has enjoyed sharing her learning and experiences with students while teaching science spanning middle through high school grades. Barb continues to be active in sports as a high school athletic coach. She thrives on teaching, guiding and encouraging young athletes to achieve their goals in the sports she enjoyed in her youth. Barb and her husband, Dave, currently live in Waverly, Iowa. They have enjoyed following their three children in their own athletic endeavors throughout their secondary and collegiate careers. Rapid City Stevens High School had a huge impact on Barb's life. She is grateful to have been supported by her family, teammates and friends. She feels fortunate to have been taught, coached and inspired by so many amazing people (including multiple SHS hall of fame recipients).

Inducted 2023

LUNETTE BIRRENKOTT

Lunette Birrenkott was born and raised in Lemmon, SD. While attending high school she participated on the track and field team specializing in the 220 yard dash and relays. She established a new record in the 220 yard dash and went on to place 3rd at the SD State

Championships. Her senior year of high school, thanks to the passage of Title IX, she was able to participate in the inaugural season of girls basketball at Lemmon High School. Lunette attended South Dakota State University earning a bachelor's degree in Health and Physical Education. During her time at SDSU, she competed on the track and field team and the volleyball team. Both of those teams were perennial winners of the SD College Championships and went on to compete in the AIAW (Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women) Regional Championships. After graduation, Lunette moved to Rapid City where she taught elementary PE and coached at St Elizabeth Seton Catholic Grade School. She also began playing fast pitch softball, earning honors as a South Dakota All Star Centerfielder. Lunette began her career at Rapid City Stevens in the fall of 1979, teaching Physical Education classes and coaching. She was the assistant basketball coach from 1979 through 1981. During the 1982-83 school year, Lunette's dream of coaching volleyball came true and she started the volleyball program at Stevens. In that inaugural season, the Raiders won the Regional Championships and went on to place 3rd at the State Tournament (a tournament which at that time was state wide- not divided into classifications). The Raiders missed out on going to the State Tournament a year later but after that they were perennial Regional Champions and State Tournament qualifiers. They also won a State Championship in the 1985-86 school year and were runners-up the following 3 years. Lunette was elected President of the South Dakota Volleyball Coaches Association, where she increased membership from 30 to 80 coaches and instituted an annual fall coaches clinic. She presented coaches clinics throughout the state and prompted the All Star Committee to incorporate volleyball into the All Star Games. She was the coach for the West team for that first ever All Star Volleyball match. Lunette was honored as the South Dakota Volleyball Coach of the Year in 1986-87 and the South Dakota West Region Coach of the Year in 1989. During the 1979-80 school year, Lunette became a member of the Rapid City Stevens Track and Field coaching staff. She began as an assistant coach, moving to coaching the girls sprint team and eventually coaching both the boys and girls sprint teams. She was the first female to coach boys at this level. During her time as coach, the Raiders won 5 state championships, with the highlight being a State Championship for both the boys and girls teams in 1988. Lunette's career at Rapid City Stevens came to an end when she decided to pursue a degree in Physical Therapy at the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA. After completing her PT Masters degree, she again coached volleyball at the high school level, and was named the Pierce County League Coach of the Year in 1998. She continues to live in Tacoma and work as a Physical Therapist in a nearby school district but the Raiders of Rapid City Stevens will always have a place in her heart. **BE TRUE TO THE BLUE! Inducted 2017**

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**

GENE BREEMES

Gene Breemes became Rapid City Stevens' head first track coach (boys and girls) and head cross country coach (boys and girls) in the 1969 – 1970 school year. In the twelve years before his untimely death in the summer of 1982, his Raiders compiled 12 South Dakota State Championships. Gene coached at Hurley, Beresford and Rapid City High School before joining the initial coaching staff at Rapid City Stevens. His amazing record included 34 Regional Championships in addition to his twelve State Championships. In his second season (1971) with Rapid City Stevens, he recorded his first State Championship (Boy's Track & Field). No one would have predicted there were 11 additional championships to follow under his leadership. Gene obtained a total of seven Boy's State Track and Field championships with an impressive six championships in a row from 1977 – 1982. Gene also won 2 Boy's State Cross Country titles in 1980 and 1981 after winning 3 Girl's State Cross Country titles in 1976, 1977 and 1979. Gene was highly recognized for his successes within the State of South Dakota. • 1971 South Dakota HS Coach of the Year (SDHSCA) • 1977 South Dakota HS Coach of the Year (SDHSCA) • 1976 & 1977 South Dakota Girl's XC Coach of the Year. • 1980 & 1981 South Dakota Boy's XC Coach of the Year. • 1984 Inducted into the South Dakota Coaches Association Hall of Fame • 1984 Inducted into the Black Hills State University Hall of Fame When Gene was inducted into the SDHSCA Hall of Fame in 1984, his athletes had won more state and regional gold medals than any other coach. Until his death ended his career in 1982, Gene had coached for thirty-three years – making his successful tenure one of the longest in the state's history. Breemes was a native of Philip, SD and attended Black Hills State University and the University of South Dakota. Gene competed in all college sports and began his high school coaching career in 1950. He and his wife, Ruth had two children, Greg Breemes of Gilbert, AZ and Kristin Allen of Sioux Falls, SD along with seven grandchildren. **Inducted 2018**

DAVE COLLINS

Dave Collins is one of the top athletes to ever come out of South Dakota. Collins, affectionately nicknamed 'The Rapid City Rabbit' graduated from Rapid City Stevens in 1971 as the Raiders' Athlete of the Year. He was also named the Athlete of the Decade (1970-79). At Stevens High, he was a four-sport athlete competing in football, basketball, track and baseball- a rarity in Rapid

City. In his senior year of high school, he was all state in football and basketball, set the state 100-yard dash record of 9.6 seconds and was the state's Legion baseball player of the year. He went to Mesa Community College in Arizona in part because he had a chance to both play baseball and run track. After one year at Mesa the California Angels took him as the sixth overall pick of the 1972 draft. Three years later, Collins debuted in the majors at age 22, the first player from Post 22 to reach the highest level of baseball. Dave Collins had the longest big-league career of any South Dakotan. Perhaps the fastest player in all of baseball during his bigleague career, the outfielder played for eight teams over 16 years (1975-90): California, Seattle, Cincinnati (twice), the New York Yankees, Toronto, Oakland, Detroit and St. Louis. It was in 1979 and '80 with the Reds that he emerged as a top-notch bigleaguer, hitting a career-best .318 in '79 and hitting .303 with 94 runs scored and a career-high 79 stolen bases (third best in the league) in 1980. Collins hit .308 for Toronto with a career-high and league-leading 15 triples and he had 60 stolen bases (second best in the league). A 5-foot-10, 170-pound switch-hitter, Collins finished his career with a .272 average and among the top 35 career leaders in stolen bases (395). He played in the postseason once, hitting .357 (5-for-14) for the Reds in the league championship series in 1979. After his playing days, he was a first-base coach with St. Louis (1991-92), Cincinnati (1999-2000), Milwaukee (2002), Colorado (2003-06) and Florida (2010). Collins heaps lavish praise on his family, teachers, coaches and the community of Rapid City as playing a major role in his success as a major-league player, coach and person. **Inducted 2017**

ROSE (WARNE) DUBOIS

Rose (Warne) DuBois was born and raised in Rapid City, SD. She was very active in extracurricular activities while attending Stevens High School. She was a class officer, danced with the Blues, was a master of ceremonies and participant in Raider Rarities, and also participated in school plays. She was Stevens High School's Most Improved Gymnast in 1974, Most Valuable Track Athlete in 1974 and 1975, held the school record in the 400 meters for over ten years, and became the first Top Raider Female Athlete in 1975. She helped lead the Raiders to their first runner-up trophy in Track and Field in 1975, placing in all four of her events. Rose attended SDSU in Brookings for her undergraduate and graduate studies. While there she competed in track, gymnastics, field hockey, and danced with the Dakota Debs. She returned to Rapid City to teach at Central High School in 1979 and retired in 2012 after 33 years of teaching Physical Education and Biology. She received the SD High School PE Teacher of the Year Award in 2010 for her commitment to physical education. She coached numerous sports at both the middle school and high school levels and served as an adviser for Pep Club, Cobbler Coeds, and Agents of Change. She received the Good Apple Award from the School Board in 1996 for running Pep Assemblies and improving school spirit. Her greatest athletic coaching achievement was leading the Cobbler gymnasts to their first ever girls' Class AA state gymnastics championship in 1991, along with coaching numerous individual state champions. The Rapid City Journal referred to Rose DuBois as "running the table when it comes to athletics". She participated in high school and college athletics, coached middle school, high school, and club athletics, officiated middle school, high school, and club athletics, and was a parent of two talented athletes. Her daughter, Melissa, was the first gymnast to ever receive a perfect ten in SD high school gymnastics and won five state titles. She was also a six-time All-American collegiate gymnast and won three collegiate national championships. Rose's son, Austin, won the PGA Junior Championships in golf at age thirteen, and also participated in numerous sports at the high

school level. Rose became a gymnastics official while in college and continued judging for a total of 26 years. She judged many state tournaments and was the State Meet Referee for two years. She received the National Federation Officials Association award in 2000 and the Judges Leadership Award in 2009. DuBois also received the Distinguished Service Award from the SDHSAA in 2009 and was inducted into the Rapid City Sports Hall of Fame in 2010 for her years of dedication to coaching and officiating athletics. After retiring from coaching and officiating, Rose turned her attention to teaching graduate courses on achieving excellence, both in the classroom and on the playing field. She co-authored a book with Randy Hagen, titled "Success Perfect", which consists of sixteen ingredients for achieving success in life. She promoted character education and encouraged all teachers to take a few minutes during each class to encourage wholesome, positive, and healthy lifestyles. Her hobbies now consist of playing golf, hiking, gardening, and traveling. **Inducted 2018**

EGON DZINTARS

My family moved to Rapid City when I was five, so I consider myself a native. I started school at Meadowbrook when it was a new school, and my first PE teacher was Jim Brandt; I imagine it was his first teaching job. He was a big "wrestling" fan, made it a part of his PE classes, and also ran a wrestling program after school. He taught me very important lessons in sportsmanship. My lack of talent for basketball was apparent when I failed to make the 8th grade basketball team at West Junior High. The wrestling coach at West, Gene VanAlstyne, asked me "Why don't you quit bouncing that bubble around, and try out for a real sport?" So, I did. "I have to recognize my high school coaches: Ethan Hanks, Tom Long, Gene Breemes, Doug Cogan. I was not a gifted athlete, but I was stubborn, and I never gave up. John Sterner, the assistant wrestling coach, saw something in me, and pushed me constantly, even arranging for me to work out at the School of Mines. Egon was a three-sport athlete competing in football, wrestling and track. "My biggest wrestling challenge was in the state tournament as a senior, when my opponent in the finals outweighed me by 100 lbs." Egon overcame that challenge and became the State heavyweight Wrestling champion his senior year at Stevens High School. He was the 1973 SHS Top Raider football player as well as the Defensive player of the year. The lessons I learned in sports carried over to life. I went through difficult times in medical school, analogous to wrestling: what am I going to do to get through this, to be successful, to come out on top? I couldn't depend on others to do it for me. I'm proud to be a Rapid Citian, a Stevens High School alumnus, and proud to have been a physician in Rapid City for the past 30 years. Egon, thank you for your leadership and contributions to Stevens High School. **Inducted 2018**

MARK ELLIS

Mark Ellis was born (1977) and raised in Rapid City. Ellis graduated from Stevens High School in Rapid City in 1995, one of three players to have made it to the major leagues who played for the Rapid City Post 22.

As a 16-year-old, Ellis was the starting shortstop for the Rapid City Post 22 varsity "Hardhat" baseball team. He is a proud member of Dave Ploof's 1993 Post 22 National Championship team which had a 70-5 record and won the national title in Roseburg, Oregon.

He went on to earn South Dakota American Legion Player of the Year honors in back-to-back years, 1994 and 1995. He is the only two-time recipient of the Legion Player of the Year Award for South Dakota.

Ellis attended the University of Florida and enjoyed two trips to the College World Series in 1996 and 1998. The second baseman started in the big leagues on April 9, 2002, with the Oakland Athletics. He went on to play 13 seasons of Major League Baseball. During his 10 years with the Oakland Athletics (2002-2011), he set the all-time record for a second baseman with a 0.997 fielding percentage. He had three postseason visits, received two Catfish Hunter Awards and the Roberto Clemente Award for his and his wife's dedication to diabetes.

After a brief stop with the Colorado Rockies (2011), Ellis continued his career with the Los Angeles Dodgers (2012-2013) where he enjoyed his fourth trip to the playoffs. He finished his career with the St. Louis Cardinals (2014), where he made his fifth trip to the playoffs, and was honored with the Darryl Kile Award for being a good teammate, team leader, and family man. During his 13 years, he broke the record for homeruns hit by any player born in South Dakota. Ellis was honored with the 2012 American Legion Baseball Graduate of the Year Award and most recently, was named as one of the 50 Greatest Oakland Athletics of All-Time.

Mark currently resides in Washington with his wife and three kids. **Inducted 2022**

AMY FENSTER

I was born in Rapid City in 1969. My youngest memories of performing in front of people are my early days, age 3 to 4, dancing on stage at Shakeys Pizza. Later on, at age 6, I pursued dance, at Academy of Dance, like my sister Tanya. I didn't become interested in gymnastics until age 9, when Pat Sheppard invited me to give his gym a try, Black Hills Gymnastics. I was hooked day one. I had found my true passion. I competed in gymnastics through elementary and middle school. In high school I was practicing about five hours a day doing both high school and club gymnastics. In 1984, I was a freshman at West Jr. High, I got invited to practice and compete for the Stevens High School team. It was exciting being at the high school as a ninth grader. I was comfortable because I had practiced with all the girls at Black Hills Gymnastics for years and knew them well.

In 1984 the Stevens High School gymnastics team won the state title. In 1985, I won the State All Around title, as well as, Vault, Bars, and Floor individual event state titles. In 1986 I took a year off from high school competition and competed for Just Jymnastics, the club I was practicing at. In 1987, the Stevens High School gymnastics team were state champions again. In 1987, I also won the All-Around State Title as well as Vault, Bars, and Beam individual events.

I found out I could run fast at Pinedale Elementary School on Field Day and later on running track at West Jr. High. Practicing for gymnastics was always year around but when I was a sophomore I decided to go out for Track and Field. I did well in the sprint events, mostly the 100m and got to be on the sprint relays, which was always exciting. That's when Mr. Trout, one of my favorite coaches, encouraged me to try Long Jump. In 1985, I won the State Long Jump title, 17'11.5". I didn't look like a typical long jumper, being petite and rounding my height up to 5'2".

After High School, I went to the University of Nebraska, in Lincoln. I was offered a position to walk on the gymnastics team. After practicing with the team for several months, I humbly realized I wouldn't be able to compete at the Division I, collegiate level. It was then, I decided to try cheerleading. In 1989, I made the Nebraska cheerleading team and cheered through 1991.

Cheerleading was a blast and became my new passion. I am honored to be added to this incredible list of Hall of Fame athletes. I have always been proud to be able to call myself a Stevens High School Raider.. **Inducted 2022**

FORRY “4E” FLAAGAN

Forry Flaagan grew up in Mayville, North Dakota. After graduation from Mayville-ND HS in 1968, he attended Mayville State College for two years and is a proud '77 University of North Dakota Fighting Sioux alumni. Forry was always involved in the woodworking industry; as a carpenter, as a teacher in Vocational and Technical Education and currently as a lumber broker with Forest Products Distributors in Rapid City.

Playing sports with family and friends was Forry's first exposure to competition, which led to competing in Football, Basketball and Track & Field in high school. As a youngster, Forry rode along with his Dad, James, to the sporting events his Dad coached and refereed.

His first teaching stint in Spearfish, SD, led to coaching Jr High Boys Track & Field for two years before becoming the Head Cross Country Coach at Spearfish High. Forry's first Cross-Country meet was the first one he coached. It was quite amusing to his athletes to lead him around and explain to him what his duties were and where to be to holler encouragement.

Later, after a few years back in the carpentry trades, Kenny Linstrom, then coach at Stevens HS in Rapid City, found Forry on a scaffold installing siding. Over lunch and with a little further cajoling, Kenny encouraged Forry to get back into coaching with the promise of the Head Cross Country job and Track & Field distance coach at Stevens High School upon his retirement. From that time until retiring, Forry had the good fortune of making many more friends and continuing his love of working with young distance runners.

Forry spent 32 years as a Head Cross country coach and assistant track and field coach. He coached 9 Girls Teams to State Titles, 10 Boys Teams to State Titles and 12 Combined State Titles at Stevens High School. He also won 2 girls Cross Country Team Titles at Spearfish HS. He had 13 Individual State Champs and 137 All-State Top 25 performers.

Forry followed several sayings he contrived while coaching. His favorites include:

- ☐ “If you're running with your ego, you're running with a fool!”
- ☐ “Lead – follow – or get the hell out of the way!” Thanks Doc!!
- ☐ “The most important person on this team is standing next to you!”
- ☐ “The last one to the finish line should be the coach!”
- ☐ “Faith in You – Faith in Me – Faith in What Will Be!”

Forry has received several State and National awards. He was inducted into the NHSACA Hall of Fame, South Dakota Sports HOF, SDHSCA HOF, Rapid City Officials HOF, and SDTFCCA HOF. Forry was voted the NHSACA Girls Cross Country Coach of the year in 1999 and was a NHSACA COY Finalist in Boys Cross Country in 2000 & 2003.

Now days Forry splits time between homes in Rapid City and Mesa, AZ, with Marilyn. The rest of the time he's visiting his family in New Jersey; Ali, Bosko, Sofia and Mila in Somerville, and Jolene, Greg, Sonya and Kat in Garwood. **Inducted 2019**

CHAS FOX

Chas attended Stevens High School from 1979-1981. He is a 3- year letter winner in football and track and also lettered in basketball.

In track, he was a part of three of Head Coach Gene Breemes' boys high school state championships. Chas ran the 100m, 200m, 4x200m, and 4x400m. He also was the final leg on the 400x100m relay that set the South Dakota high school state record.

In football, Chas was the starting tailback (10-12) and linebacker and captain of the football team his senior year. Chas had over 1000 yards rushing his senior year and was an all-state running back that year. Chas received a scholarship for football at Furman University in South Carolina. At Furman, Chas moved football positions to wide receiver and was the only two-time captain in Furman history. He broke the school records for number of catches, yards per catch, and number of receiving touchdowns for a season and career. He also broke all punt return records for the school. Fox broke the Southern Conference record for career receiving touchdowns. Fox was All-Southern Conference and South Carolina All-State in 1984 and 1985. While Fox was at Furman, they won four conference championships and lost in the division I-AA national championship game in the last seconds in 1985. The team was known as the "giant killers" beating South Carolina, Georgia Tech, and NC State twice.

Fox lettered four years in track at Furman. He ran the 100m, 200m, 400m and related relays. His team broke the school record for the sprint medley relay, which still stands today. Fox was the MVP of the track team in 1984.

Chas was drafted by the Kansas City Chiefs in the 1985 NFL draft in the 4th round. Fox played three years in the NFL for the Chiefs, the St. Louis Cardinals, and the Buffalo Bills. He played wide receiver and returned kickoffs. Fox was inducted into Furman's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1994 and into the Rapid City Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018.

Professionally, Chas has led the turnaround of financially stressed companies including national brands Park Seed and Jackson & Perkins. He is currently the CEO of Micro-Mark in New Jersey. Fox is also an adjunct professor at the Stillman School of Business at Seton Hall University. He wrote the book "You Can't Be Too Fast" (1989) and "How to Turn Your Idea into a Successful Product" (2021).

Chas is married to Anna, they have two adult children and live in Chester, New Jersey.

Inducted 2023

JANET GUNDERSON-POWERS

Janet Gunderson-Powers was born in 1954 and grew up in Rapid City with four sisters. In 1970 as sophomore at Stevens High School Gunderson-Powers won the YMCA National Title for the 50 yard free-style and took 4th in the 100 yard butterfly in York, Pennsylvania. She was also voted the SD Swimmer of the Decade by a panel of sportswriters in 1970.

In 1972 Janet Gunderson-Powers won the SD gymnastics All-Around title. She also took 1st in the Uneven bars and 2nd on the vault. Her father died in 1972 in the flood.

After High School Gunderson-Power continued her athletic career at the University of Iowa. She qualified for the National Intercollegiate Gymnastics Tournament in vaulting in 1974 and took 2nd place in the 100 yard Butterfly and 50 yard Freestyle at the Big Ten Championships. She also qualified for the National Intercollegiate Tournament.

After college Janet Gunderson-Powers became an avid tennis player. Gunderson-Powers works as a CPA and also the Finance/Human Resources Director for Youth and Family Services, Inc. She is married to Randy Powers and the mother of Kinsley Powers Groote who won a State Championship team and singles title in tennis for the Raiders in 2002 and was part of the runner-up volleyball team that same year. Janet and her husband live in Rapid City. **Inducted 2016**

BECHY HAMMON

Rebecca Lynn Hammon was born and raised in Rapid City, South Dakota. Hammon learned to dribble a basketball at a very young age, playing Nerf ball with her older brother and father, and continued to hone her skills on her home court. Hammon played basketball at Rapid City Stevens High School. As a junior, she was named South Dakota Miss Basketball. As a senior, she was voted the South Dakota Player of the Year after averaging 26 points, 4 rebounds and 5 steals per game. She graduated in 1995, and also was voted female class athlete by her graduating class. Despite the accolades, she drew little attention from college basketball recruiters, who considered her too small and too slow. She eventually grabbed the attention of a Colorado State assistant coach, and she committed to the Rams.

Becky Hammon remains as the most decorated CSU women's basketball player in school history. Her career was one of excellence, winning 14 conference player of the week awards, four first-team All-Conference awards and an Associated Press first-team All-American award in 1999. Hammon also won WAC Mountain Division player of the year in 1998 and 1999, WAC Pacific Division player of the year in 1997 and WAC freshman of the year in 1996. Hammon held the school career record for points, points per game, field goals, field goal attempts, free throws made, free throw attempts, 3-pointers, 3-point attempts, steals and assists upon graduation. She also posted nine single-season records including points, free throws and assists. She led her teams to NCAA tournament appearances in 1996, 1998, and in 1999 when the Rams made it to the Sweet 16. She led the Rams to WAC Mountain Division Championships in 1998 and 1999 along with a WAC Championship in 1996.

After graduation, Hammon went on to play in the Women's National Basketball Association with the New York Liberty and the San Antonio Silver Stars of the WNBA. She played on the Russian national team winning a bronze medal in the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. She amassed more than 3,000 career points in the WNBA and 800 assists, earning the nickname "Big Shot Becky" and has also been named to WNBA All-Star teams six times. She played in Spain during the off-season of the WNBA, helping her team win the Queen's Cup and remained as a member of the San Antonio Silver Stars through 2014. Becky's uniform number "25" has been retired at Colorado State.

Following her retirement from the WNBA in 2014, Hammon was hired by the San Antonio Spurs as an assistant coach, becoming the first woman to work as a coach in the NBA. While Hammon called her groundbreaking hire "a tremendous honor," she also said of head coach Gregg Popovich: "Honestly, I don't think he gives two cents that I'm a woman. And I don't want to be hired because I'm a woman." What matters, she said, was that "I'm getting hired because I'm capable." **Inducted 2022**

PAUL HENDRY

Paul is a 1987 graduate of Stevens High School where he was a 3-time State Champion triple jumper and a multiple varsity letter-winner in football and basketball. He still holds the school record in the triple jump (46-10) and he was named the Stevens High School Top Raider and the Rapid City Male High School Athlete of the Year in 1987.

A 1992 graduate of the University of South Dakota, he played football for the Coyotes for two years and competed in the long jump and triple jump for 5 years where he was an NCAA

Division II All-American triple jumper in 1989, the first-ever male Indoor All-American for the Coyotes. He was also a team captain for the USD Track & Field team that won the 1992 NCC Indoor Conference Championship.

This year is also his 23rd year of teaching at Stevens High School where he teaches physical education after 9 years of teaching physical education at North Middle School. In 2005 he was awarded the Stevens High School Teacher of Distinction Award and Rapid City Public School Foundation Golden Apple Award.

Paul is in his 26th year of coaching track and field at Stevens High School (23rd as head coach). With the help of some great assistant coaches, many hardworking and talented student-athletes and lots of support from parents and the community.

Paul has been fortunate to lead the Raider Track & Field team to 16 State Championships (Girls - 11 and Boys - 5). During that time the Raiders have won 64 individual events and 39 relay events at the South Dakota State Meet (including 14 State Records, 46 School Records, 13 All-Americans and 4 Gatorade Track & Field Athletes of the Year). They also have one national champion relay team (Medley Relay at Nike Outdoor Nationals) and one Brooks PR Invite event winner in the boys' mile run.

Paul was named the South Dakota High School Girls Track & Field Coach of the Year in 2004 and 2010. He has been named Conference Track & Field Coach of The Year six times and the Area 9 / AA West Area Head Track & Field Coach of The Year 11 times. In 2008 the South Dakota Sportswriters named him their Girls Prep Coach of The Year. In 2010, 2014 and 2022 he was named as a National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Coach of the Year Finalists for girls track & field, winning the Girls National Track & Field Coach of the Year award in 2022. In February 2015 he was awarded the Hall of Honor Award from the University of South Dakota for his involvement in the sport of track & field and he was awarded the 2015 South Dakota Girls High School Track & Field Coach of the Year from the U.S. Track & Field and Cross -Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA).

In his spare time, Paul likes to travel, run, hike, bike, kayak, listen to music and watch movies. He has a wonderful daughter, Mya who is 22 years old and a Class of 2022 graduate of Briar Cliff University. She was just recently accepted into med school at Creighton University. He also has two fabulous sons; DeAndre who is 17 years old and Tyree who is 13 years old. **Inducted 2023**

GREG JIMMERSON

Greg Jimmerson was born and raised in Rapid City, and from an early age discovered a passion for running. His parents, Ken and Suzanne, were very influential in his athletic development, getting him involved in youth soccer and running the bike paths with him around the Canyon Lake Park area. Inspired by a viewing of "Running Brave" – the story of South Dakota native and Olympic 10k Champion Billy Mills – Greg signed up for cross country as a 7th grader at Dakota Junior High, and began to chase his own running dreams under the guidance of coaches Sheri Keck and Kim Richardson.

While at Stevens High School, Greg was fortunate to train under Hall of Fame coaches Forry Flaagan, Doc Michel, and Loren Kambestad, and quickly became one of South Dakota's top runners. He won three consecutive state cross country titles (1990-1992) and claimed state 3200m titles in 1991 and 1993. In his senior campaign, Greg finished 2nd at the 1992 Kinney National Cross-Country Championships, and also set a South Dakota state record for 3200m.

Jimmerson went on to enjoy a standout collegiate career at Stanford University. He competed in the 1994 World Junior Cross-Country Championships, and in 1995 he won Junior National titles in the 5k and 10k on the track. In 1996, he led the Cardinal cross-country team to the first NCAA title in program history, finishing as the top American runner with a fourth-place showing. As a senior, Greg was awarded the Stanford Athletic Department's "Most Competitive Athlete" title. Greg graduated from Stanford with a degree in Product Design in 1998, and trained for six years with the Nike Farm Team in Palo Alto, CA. He placed 11th in the 3,000-meter steeplechase at the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials. In 2001 and 2002, Jimmerson represented the United States at the World Cross Country Championships, helping the American men to take home the Bronze medal in the 2001 event. Jimmerson also competed at the 2004 Olympic Trials, running the marathon and the 10,000 meters (12th place). Jimmerson owns personal bests of 7:55 (3K), 8:31 (steeplechase), 13:38 (5K), 28:40 (10K) and 2:16:27 (marathon).

After hanging up his spikes, Jimmerson joined Athletes in Action as a campus minister at Stanford and founded the Altitude Project in Mammoth Lakes, CA. The High-Altitude running camp exists to develop collegiate distance runners to excel in competitive running and Christian living. In 2005, Jimmerson served as a volunteer coach at Northwestern University, and from 2006-2008 he was the men's and women's distance coach at Liberty University, where he helped guide Josh McDougal to the 2007 NCAA Cross Country title.

Greg now resides in Kirkland, WA with his wife, Melanie, and their two children, Cody (8) and Heidi Sue (1), who are his greatest joy and delight. For the past 8 years he has worked in the space industry developing new robotic technologies for use on the International Space Station (ISS) and for future In-Space Manufacturing, Assembly, and Satellite Servicing missions.

Jimmerson still enjoys regular running, though much slower, shorter, and less frequent. Greg would like to whole-heartedly thank all those who have encouraged, coached, and run alongside him throughout the journey – no man is an island, and success comes from the contributions of many individuals. Finally, Greg would like to thank his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for creating, redeeming, and blessing him in so many ways in this race called life – to Him be the glory and praise! **Inducted 2019**

SHERI HAIGHT KECK

Sheri is a native of Rapid City. Her father, Bud, a successful coach, encouraged her to become an athlete when sports for girls were unheard of. Her mother, Arlys, was her biggest cheerleader and fan. "Their love and support made me the coach I am today." Sheri attended Stevens High School, where she competed in the first sanctioned State Gymnastics meet in 1974, was on the first Girls Cross Country Team and ran for a runner-up state championship team in Track. She was the Team captain in all three sports and was selected the Stevens' Girls Athlete of the Year in 1976.

After graduation in 1976, Sheri attended South Dakota State University and competed in Gymnastics and Track, getting one of the first scholarships available for women athletes. Keck graduated in 1979 with a degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation and a minor in Athletic Training. Keck's first coaching and teaching position landed her in Sturgis for two years before moving on to Spearfish to become the head gymnastics coach for the next six seasons (1983-88). She was also an assistant cross country and track coach in Spearfish as well.

After moving back to Rapid City in 1988, Sheri became one of the most successful high school gymnastics coaches in state history. The Stevens High School grad guided Rapid City Stevens to

six state titles and two-runner up finishes in 13 seasons. Keck coached the Raiders from 1991-2001 and 2005-06. The Raiders won state titles in 1994, '95, '97, '98, '99 and '01 and had runner-up finishes in 1996 and 2000. Keck was an assistant at Stevens for another four seasons (1990; 2007-09). She has been an assistant middle school track coach in Rapid City since 1995 and was selected SDHSCA Middle School COTY in 2017.

Keck started the Competitive Cheer program at SHS in 2010. In 2011 and 2012 her teams became the Class AA State Cheer Small Group Stunting/Tumbling State Champions. Sheri has received several awards including the following Hall of Fame inductions: National High School Athletic Coaches Association, South Dakota Sports, South Dakota High School Coaches Association, Rapid City Officials, and South Dakota Gymnastics Coaches Association. Sheri was voted the NHSACA Special Sports Coach of the Year in 2006. Keck was South Dakota High School Coaches Association Gymnastics Coach of the Year 1995. In 2006, she received the National Association for Girls and Women in Sports' Pathfinder Award and in 2007, she was named SDSU's Ralph Ginn Award winner.

Keck is a past president of the S.D. High School Gymnastics Coaches Association and the S.D. High School Coaches Association. She has been a National High School Coaches Association board member representing special sports. After 40 years of coaching, Keck is retiring from teaching and coaching to pursue her passion - Grandchildren! Keck and her husband, Jim, live in Rapid City. They have three children: Jamie (Husband Charles DeGeest, Ivy and Natalie); Lindsey (Husband Nick Mayer, Kinley, Camden and Hazel) and Bryan (Wife Kelly and baby?) Said Keck: "I was blessed - to be coached by a strong woman (Jo Ann Sterner) who gave me the courage to keep on doing what she started; to have talented assistants (Les Fredrick, LeAnn Vette, Matt Town, Donna Bader and Virginia Humke) who backed me and pushed me to be the best coach I could be; to have athletes and their parents who trusted and believed in me; to have a husband who always supported my dreams and kids (Jamie, Lindsey and Bryan); and to be able to coach and share this wonderful time with each of my kids. I thank them all and this award belongs to them as well." This quote pushed me to be the best coach I could be: "Excellence is... caring more than others think is wise, risking more than others think is safe, dreaming more than others think is practical, expecting more than others think is possible." **Inducted 2019**

ROBIN LEWIS KERBER

Robin Lewis Kerber was born in Rapid City, South Dakota, and attended Stevens High School from 1978 - 1981. Robin was a gymnast and competed on the Raider's gymnastics team while at Stevens High. She was a 2 time All-Around State Champion, a 3 time State Champion on the Vault, and a State Champion on the Uneven Bars. Robin also had 2nd and 3rd place finishes at State on the Floor Exercise, and the Balance Beam. She was unable to compete in the State Meet when it was in Rapid City her sophomore year, due to a dislocated elbow. Robin set 4 state records in gymnastics during her high school career. Robin continued her education at the University of Iowa, where she competed as a college Division 1 athlete for a year before wrapping up her career in gymnastics. She graduated from U. of Iowa with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education. Robin was the Gymnastics Director at a YMCA, until she married Jeff Kerber and started a family. While raising their children, Robin was a stay-at-home mom, and served as a youth leader at their church. She also served on the Foster Care Review Board, and has enjoyed mentoring young moms over the years. Robin and Jeff have a son Justin, daughter Jordan, daughter Jaimee, son in law DJ, and one grandchild.... so far! They live outside

of Dallas, Texas, near their kids, and grandson, Luke. Robin Lewis Kerber's Honors and Awards include: South Dakota Athlete of the Year in 1981, awarded by the SD Sportswriters Association. Outstanding High School Female Athlete of the Year in 1981, awarded by the Rapid City Chamber of Commerce. Prep All-American Female Athlete in 1981, awarded by the National High School Athletics Association. **Inducted 2017**

LINDA (GRAVES) KUSHMAN

Linda (Graves) Kushman was born and raised in Rapid City, SD and considered herself very fortunate to have been a female when sports activities were beginning to be offered to women. At Stevens High School she participated in many activities including gymnastics, dance, drill team, Concert Choir, Singers, and pep club. Her junior year competing at the State Gymnastic Meet she finished first in the floor exercise, and fifth all-around. She was also the co-captain of 36 Blues Drill Team during her junior year. Her first day of gymnastics practice her senior year she broke her arm! She recalls that “it was a most depressing season”, but she was able to compete again at the end of the gymnastic season and actually took 2nd on beam and 3rd on floor at the 1973 State Meet. Her senior year she was also the Captain of 36 Blues, a member of the All State Choir, Member of the Student Council, a member of the Stevens Singers and was a South Dakota American Legion Girls State Delegate. After graduating from Stevens in 1973 Linda attended SDSU in Brookings, SD where she competed on the gymnastics team and was a choreographer for the SDSU Dance Club. She captained the gymnastics team her sophomore year. But after a year of multiple injuries she gave up competing in gymnastics and starting her new most enjoyable role as a coach. She was also employed by SDSU in the HPER department from 1975-78 teaching ballet and jazz dance classes. She began her coaching career in 1976-77 as an Assistant Coach to the Brookings High School Gymnastics Team. The following year SDSU hired her as Assistant Coach to the Women’s 1978-79 Gymnastics Team. Linda’s first job after graduating from SDSU was Head Coach and Physical Education teacher at Sturgis High School. She coached for 6 years, taking the Black Hills Conference Gymnastics Title all six years, and qualifying her team to the state meet 5 of the 6 years she coached. Interested in the health of this sport Linda was the Vice President of the South Dakota Coaches Association in 1982 and the President in 1983. During her short time as a coach Linda was nominated as Gymnastic coach of the year in 1982. She was also a nominee for the North Central Region High School Coach of the year in 1984. During her wonderful years at Sturgis she also ran a summer community gymnastics program for the local youth, and ballroom dancing for adults! Moving with her husband to Seattle Washington she was the Wellness Director and faculty member of the Lutheran Bible Institute for two years. Upon returning to Rapid City she taught PE and Health for grades K-8 at a private school for four years. With a growing family, three boys by this time, Linda gave up full time teaching and moved into part time instructor at local health clubs. Linda says she “loves teaching all ages how to move, eat and take care of themselves better”. And so, taking her passion into the private club world she spent the next 12 years teaching numerous classes, including kinder gym, social dancing, aerobics, step classes, weight classes, PACE classes, Spinning classes, personal training, and nutrition classes. For the last 16 years she has studied under and worked for a Naturopathic Doctor and now is running her own Wellness Consulting Business with her husband Tom in Rapid City. **Inducted 2018**

RANDY LEWIS

The 1977 Rapid City Stevens grad won the gold medal at 136.5 pounds in freestyle wrestling at the 1984 Olympics, outscoring his first four opponents 52-4 to advance to the final, where he crushed Japan's Kosei Akaishi 24-11 in 4:52. He was the youngest member of 1980 Olympic wrestling team but President Jimmy Carter's boycott prevented the U.S. team from traveling to the Games in Moscow.

He was second in the '88 Olympic trials to John Smith, who wound up winning a gold medal. He was the 1990 Pan Am champion. In the biggest match ever held in South Dakota, Lewis pinned two-time world champion Viktor Alexeev as the USA earned its first ever dual team win over Russia before more than 7,000 fans in Rapid City in a pre-1980 Olympics dual.

At Iowa, wrestling for Coach Dan Gable, he was a four-time All-American and two-time NCAA champion with a record of 127-11-1 with 64 pins. He was the national runner-up at 126 as a freshman, then won NCAA titles the next two years while winning 74 matches in a row. As a senior, he suffered a dislocated elbow during a match, and finished the season using virtually one arm and still made All-American.

At Stevens, Lewis was 89-0 with 83 pins in three years ('75-77), and he set a national prep mark with 45 straight pins. As an 18-year-old high school grad, he became the youngest wrestler ever to win the Junior World Championships (for the world's best 20-and-under wrestlers).

Lewis began his wrestling career as a fifth-grader at Meadowbrook Grade School in Rapid City, winning his first state AAU title that season. He entered the state meet in awe of his competition. "My dad said, 'They might look tough but I'll bet none of them can do 18 chin-ups like you can.' He also told me not to think of them as the best kids in the state. He said what if they were from Rapid City, and they went to Meadowbrook Grade School, and what if they lived right next door to us? If you couldn't beat them, then you wouldn't be Meadowbrook school champion, and you wouldn't be the toughest kid on your own block. He said, 'You are the toughest kid on the block, aren't you?' I smiled and said, "I sure am!"

He used that "toughest kid on the block" mentality the rest of his career, taking him from grade school champion to Olympic champion. **Inducted 2016**

KEN LINSTROM

Ken Linstrom was born in Whitewood, South Dakota and attended Sturgis Brown High School where he was a four-year letterman in Track & Field, Football and Basketball. After a stint in the Navy, he attended South Dakota State University majoring in Wildlife Studies. As a Track & Field letterman at South Dakota State University, Ken won North Central Conference titles in the long jump and low hurdles in 1950 and low and high hurdles 1952. He held the All-Time South Dakota Collegiate long jump record of 23' 5-1/2" from 1950 to 1966.

Ken worked for the South Dakota State Game and Fish Department for a year after graduating from SDSU, before taking teaching and coaching positions in Gregory and Winner, South Dakota. He received his Masters degree in Science Education at the University of North Dakota and then accepted a position as a science teacher at Rapid City High School in 1961. When Stevens High School was established in 1969 he moved there to teach Science and became an Assistant Track & Field Coach focusing on the hurdlers and jumpers. He coached Rapid City Stevens athletes to nine (9) gold medals in the high and low hurdles. In 1982 he became the Head Track & Field and Cross Country Coach. His Boys and Girls teams won nine (9) state

championships between 1982 and his retirement in 1988; Boys Tr&F '84-'87- '88, Girls Tr&F '85-'86-'88, BXC '83, GXC '84-'85.

Coach Linstrom received the South Dakota High School Coaches Association Coach of the Year award for Boys Track & Field in 1988. He was inducted into the Sturgis Brown High School Hall of Fame in 2013.

In his spare time, Ken ran twelve (12) marathons between age 50 and 61 with a best time of 3:07. Upon their retirement, Ken and Martha have spent most of their time traveling to visit their children and grandkids. Steve, Jim, Karen and Sue are all Stevens High School alumni. **Inducted 2016**

STEVE LINSTROM

Steve Linstrom believes that a person should not be afraid to pursue a diversity of interests. Steve grew up in Rapid City and had a successful three sport athletic career at Rapid City Stevens High School. He was a running back in 1974 on the Raider's first State Champion Football Team. In 1975 he was a member of the school's first State Champion Wrestling Team, winning the individual 138 lbs. Championship. As a Junior in Track, he anchored the 4x400 relay team to a State Championship in 1974 and was also the Individual State Champion in the 400 and 200. He repeated as 400 and 200 Individual Champion as a Senior in 1975. In all, over a two-year period, he was part of eight team and individual State Championships spread across three sports. Linstrom attended South Dakota State University on a Track scholarship and graduated with a degree in Economics in 1979. He started his professional career in South Dakota State Government serving as a Fiscal Analyst for the State Legislature, then was the Director of Research and Legislative Liaison for the Board of Regents of Higher Education and, finally, was the State Director of Information Services. In 1996, he entered the private sector serving in a number of different roles for The Schwan Food Company including Vice President of Corporate Relations and Company Spokesperson. He left the corporate world in 2009 to pursue a dream of becoming a fiction writer. He received his Masters Degree in English Studies from Minnesota State University Mankato in 2011, found a publisher and produced two historical fiction novels, *The Last Ram* and *The Murder Trial of the Last Lakota Warrior*. He is currently working on his third novel and is teaching writing at Southwest Minnesota State University. The diversity in Linstrom's professional career in government, corporate and academic / literary settings mirrors the diversity of his successful high school athletic career in football, wrestling and track. Steve and his wife Steph live in Marshall, MN. His father Ken was inducted to the Rapid City Stevens High School Hall of Fame as a coach in 2016. **Inducted 2018**

TOM LONG

Perhaps the state's greatest prep wrestling coach, the 1944 Forestburg High and 1951 Dakota Wesleyan grad coached in Rapid City for 33 years – the first 13 at Rapid City High School and the last 20 at Stevens High School. Long is perhaps best known for winning eight state titles (1963-65, '75-76, '80-81, '88) during his tenure and coaching Randy Lewis to several national high school records. Lewis went on to win an Olympic gold medal in 1984. Long's teams won almost 300 matches (246 duals, 20 invitationals and 23 postseason), and they also finished as state runners-up seven times. He retired in 1989 with more state titles than any wrestling coach in state history. He also coached AAU cultural exchange teams against West Germany in 1981

and Venezuela in 1982. Long started his coaching career in 1952 at Bridgeport, Neb., coaching football, basketball and track, before coming to Rapid City in 1956. Long was chosen national high school wrestling coach of the year in 1983. He was named to the National High School Athletic Coaches Association's Hall of Fame in 2001. He was inducted into the Rapid City Sports Hall of Fame in 1981. At DWU, he competed in football, basketball and track. **Inducted 2017**

ELDON MCNABB

Eldon was born in Rapid City in 1949. He attended Garfield Elementary, North Junior High, and Rapid City High School. Eldon began his football journey playing football at North Junior High and was a starter for three years at Rapid City High School. At RC High he was voted Top Cobbler in 1966 and the Sioux Falls Argus Leader named him one of the top forty-five football players in South Dakota. Eldon went to Black Hills State where he played football for 4 years. At BHSC the team was Conference Co-Champions in 1970 and he was selected All Conference his senior year.

After graduation from Black Hills State in the summer of 1971, his high school football coach, Howard Naasz, hired him to teach and coach football and basketball at West Junior High School. In 1972, Eldon moved with the ninth-grade class to Stevens High School. At Stevens, Carol Heier, the Athletic Director hired Eldon to be a football coach. The football field wasn't finished so the team worked out at Fitzgerald Stadium. He went on to assist as a SHS football coach for the next thirty-seven years. He coached under seven different head coaches during these 37 years. There were many great coaches he had the privilege of working with. These are a few of the coaches: Rick Heard, Darryl Parker, Jim Heinitz, Joel Hybertson, Ron Estacion, Tony Smith, Paul Ferdinand, Doc Michel, John Sterner, Paul Miller, Dick James, Doug Cogan, Mick Wysuph, Ethan Hanks, and Curt Voight. In 1974, one of his fondest coaching memories was working with his 1974 interior lineman. They graduated and 4 linemen became doctors and one an EE. Two of these played for the Nebraska Cornhuskers and 1 was a co-captain and 1st team Kodak All American (Randy Schleusener). This same line was a part of the mythical State Championship Team - the reason being South Dakota didn't have a playoff system yet. They were rated number 1, so they were deemed State Champions. In 1987, the Raiders again became South Dakota's State Football Champions. In 1994, the Raiders lost in double overtime in the championship game. Eldon's son Monty was a part of that Raider team.

Eldon also coached wrestling from 1973-1983. During this time Eldon coached with Tom Long, winning 3 State Team Championships, 4 Runners Up and a few more 3rd place teams while working with several individual state champions. Four of his wrestlers went on to greater success: Randy Lewis Olympic gold medalist, Jay Swanson All American SDSU, Greg Herman All American, and Steve Ensor Big Ten Wisconsin.

During all his years of coaching, it was his great honor to work with some of the best athletes and coaches in the history of South Dakota. Three of them were his sons Monty, Jason and Kyle. His son Monty was born early while Eldon was coaching a football game in Sioux Falls. Fortunately Barb decided not to go, which was unusual because she was his biggest fan. They got married on Saturday in Buffalo SD and Eldon was at practice on Sunday. Eldon and Barb have been married for 51 years and have a daughter Kayla along with the 3 boys.

I really appreciate this honor and want to thank all of you for being here today. **Inducted 2023**

DOC MICHEL

Richard J. Michel graduated from Northwestern Lutheran High School, Mobridge, South Dakota, in 1957. On January 2, 1958, he joined the U.S. Navy and spent the next four years and four months serving Uncle Sam. In April 1959, he married Darlene Olson. Their three children (Richard, Jr., and twins, Brenda and Brian) were born during Doc's time in the service. After Doc's discharge in May 1962, he returned to Rapid City with family in tow. Doc graduated with his B.S. Degree in Business/Secondary Education from Black Hills State University in 1970 and completed his M.S. Degree in Secondary School Administration from South Dakota State University in 1975.

In the fall of 1970, Doc was hired by the Rapid City School District as a business education instructor. At the time he was hired, Carold Heier, the first activities director at Stevens High School, talked him into being the "sports trainer" where he acquired the distinguished nickname "Doc." Doc walked into Stevens High School and down the hall to Room 108 in the fall of 1970; 29 years later he walked out of Room 108 at Stevens High School into semi-retirement. Doc says "semi" because he continued to be the trainer until Black Hills Orthopedic took over the training duties. Doc continued as an assistant coach in cross country and track. Our cross country teams, both girls and boys, were very successful. The girls won eight state titles in a row, and the boys won ten straight titles. Several state track championships were also accumulated during this time period.

After giving up the track position, Doc continued as the assistant cross country coach until June 2017. After 47 years at Stevens, he decided it was time to cut back and play more golf, do some fishing and travel with his wife and biggest supporter Darlene.

"I have had the privilege and honor of being the trainer and/or assistant coach on fifty-one state high school championship teams during my Stevens High School career, including Stevens High School's very first state title in 1971.

Other achievements are as follows:

- * 25-Year Coaching Award from the South Dakota High School Activities Association, 1995
- * Distinguished Service Award from the South Dakota High School Coaches' Association, 1997-1998
- * Distinguished Service Award from the South Dakota High School Activities Association, 1998
- * Assistant Coach of the Year in High School Girls' Sports from the South Dakota Coaches' Association for the 2000-2001 school year
- * Inducted into the Rapid City Sports Hall of Fame, 2003
- * Girls' Assistant Coach of the Year from the National High School Athletic Coaches Association, 2017

"Stevens High School is the only school where I have taught and coached. It has been very rewarding for me to watch so many young ladies and gentlemen grow and develop into such very fine young adults. During my years at Stevens High School, I have had the privilege and high honor of working with many fine students, parents, athletes, and coaches. The Lord has truly blessed me in all my endeavors." **Inducted 2018**

LYLE PAGEL

Lyle Pagel grew up on the family farm in Wessington Springs, South Dakota. He found a way into town to play baseball, starting at 8 years old, a sport he played until graduating from college. Lyle played football, basketball and ran track while in high school (earning 11 varsity letters) along with Legion baseball in the summer. He graduated from high school in 1970.

Lyle attended SDSU, graduating with a degree in Health, Physical Education and recreation in 1974. He was a four year letterman in baseball and was selected to the NCAA All American 2nd team (D2) in 1973.

He began his teaching career in Colman, South Dakota in 1974. Lyle taught Jr High science and elementary physical education for 5 years. During his stay in Colman, he was head football coach, assistant boys basketball coach and head track coach. Lyle was also head girls basketball coach for 1 year.

Lyle spent 1 year in Flandreau teaching biology, assisting in football and freshman boys basketball.

Lyle moved to Rapid City in 1980 to begin his 39 year teaching and coaching at Stevens High School. He was an assistant coach in football, boys and girls basketball and track and field.

Lyle was the head boys basketball coach at Stevens for 11 years, winning the state title in 1989 and was runner up in 1995.

He was also the boys and girls hurdle coach for 19 seasons. Stevens High hurdlers were on the podium 103 times. During that stretch, Lyle coached 24 state champions and 22 runners up. Lyle retired from coaching 3 years ago, after 45 years in the profession.

Lyle and his wife, Jo, have been married for 39 years. They have 2 daughters – Ramsee (husband Nick) and Samee (husband Steve) and 6 grandchildren. Lyle and Jo spend their free time chasing grandchildren, hiking, biking and playing golf.

It has truly been an honor to have taught and coached at Stevens High School. I've been so blessed to be surrounded by such an awesome family and to have been able to work with talented coaches and athletes. **Inducted 2022**

ERIC PIATKOWSKI

Eric was born in 1970 and grew up in Scottsbluff, Neb. He moved to Rapid City before his sophomore year. At Stevens, he was a three-time first-team Class AA all-stater and scored 1,517 points (No. 2 all-time in "AA"). As a senior, he averaged 25.6 points and 10.3 rebounds, set a state Class AA single-game record with 51 points, led the Raiders to the state Class AA title and was named Mr. Basketball.

Piatkowski's height and bloodlines made him a natural for basketball – he stood 6-foot-7 and his father, Walt, played in the ABA – but his skill and coordination made him a star. He wasn't in the post and under the basket at Stevens: Rather, Piatkowski had the ballhandling skills and coordination to break presses and run the floor for the team.

Piatkowski took his career from Stevens to the University of Nebraska, where he played for four years and was named first team all-Big Eight in his junior and senior seasons. He finished his career with the Huskers having scored the second-most points in school history and had a 42-point game against Oklahoma to his credit. Piatkowski was a two-time first-team all-Big Eight pick. He averaged 21.5 points as a senior and finished as the No. 2 all-time scorer in Nebraska history (1,934 points). He left Nebraska as the only player in school history to collect 1,000 points, 600 rebounds and 300 assists. In 2006, he became just the third player in Cornhuskers history to have his jersey (No. 52) retired.

Nicknamed the "Polish Rifle" for his deadly long-range shooting, Piatkowski was the first South Dakotan to be an NBA No. 1 draft pick. He was the 15th pick overall in the 1994 draft. The next day the Indiana Pacers traded him to the L.A. Clippers, where the 6-foot-7, 215-pounder played nine seasons. He also played for Houston, Chicago and Phoenix.

Piatkowski made 865 3-pointers and shot 39.9 percent from beyond the arc in his career while averaging 7.5 points a game. He played in 789 games, starting 250. Twice he was among the league leaders in 3-point accuracy - third in 2001-02 (a career-best .466) and ninth in 2004-05 (.425). He also was in the top 10 in free-throw percentage twice - 10th in 1998-99 (.863) and ninth in 2000-01 (.873) - while shooting 83.9 percent for his career. His best season was 1997-98, when he had career highs in points (11.3) and rebounds (3.5). He also scored in double figures in 1998-99 (10.5) and 2000-01 (10.6). He scored a single-game high of 36 points on Feb. 16, 2002, against Dallas. He ended his Clippers career as the franchise leader in games played (616), 3-pointers made (738) and 3-pointers attempted (1,835).

Piatkowski is the 13th-leading scorer in Clippers history and is still one of the most recognized and renowned names around the Nebraska basketball program, serving on the TV broadcast crew for Huskers game broadcasts in the years after his retirement.

Piatkowski currently lives with his family in Omaha, Nebraska. Eric now does color commentary on Husker games for Fox Sports Midwest. **Inducted 2022**

RON RIHERD

Ron Riherd grew up on a farm near Beresford, SD. He was active in basketball, football and track and served as State Treasurer in FFA. He graduated from USD/S in Springfield, SD and received his Masters Degree in Mathematics from USD. His first teaching position in 1970 was at Yankton, SD. There he taught mathematics and coached boys and girls basketball, track, cross country and tennis.

In the fall of 1980, Ron and his wife Gloria along with daughters Jill and Jody moved to Rapid City. Ron was the head Girls basketball coach from 1980 to 2001. Being blessed with great assistant coaches and great players, his teams won 15 district championships and placed from 3rd through 7th in the various state tournaments. During this time, Ron also assisted with the boys program as well. After 38 years, Ron retired from teaching in 2008.

Ron received numerous area coach of the year awards for both girls and boys basketball. Other awards Ron has received include SD Basketball Coaches Hall of Shrine, SD Coaches Hall of Fame, the Rapid City Officials Hall of Fame and the Activities Association Max Hawk Award. After retiring from the girls program he continued to assist the boys as a Sophomore coach until 2012. In the fall of 2014 the head boys position opened and Ron was given the opportunity to become the head boys coach.

Ron has served as President of the SD Basketball Coaches Association and the President of the SD Coaches Association. He is also involved with the SD Retired School Personnel, serving as State Treasurer and now as Past President.

In 2016 Ron was elected to the Rapid City Area Schools Board of Education where he served as President in 2019. He is a member of the Board of Trustees for Western Dakota Technical College. He also serves on the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame committee. For the past 5 years Ron has been an assistant coach for the SD Mines Mens basketball team.

Ron and Gloria now enjoy watching all 5 of their grandchildren play basketball. Jill and Brent have 3 children playing for Brandon Valley and Jody and Dennis have 2 upcoming stars developing their skills in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. **Inducted 2022**

TAYLOR BAKER ROMBOUGH

Taylor Baker was born August 29, 1979 in Des Moines, Iowa. She lived in Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska before moving to Rapid City in the summer of 1989. Taylor graduated from Stevens High School in 1998, having excelled in track and field and gymnastics. Taylor rose to Stevens Varsity teams as an eighth-grader and competed in both sports at State Meets for five straight years.

Taylor won the long jump as a sophomore and senior and was second as a freshman and junior. She captured the State AA triple jump crowns as a sophomore and senior and was fifth as a junior. She was on three Raider State Championship teams in track and field. Hall of Fame Stevens track coach Lemoine Trout once said: "Her history was - the bigger the meet - the better she did. She was a furious competitor."

Taylor, however, is best known for her superior skills in gymnastics. She captured a state record 13 individual titles in the balance beam (1994, 1996, 1997), floor exercise (1994, 1995, 1998), uneven bars (1995), vault (1995, 1998), and all-around (1994, 1995, 1996, 1998). An ankle injury in 1997 prevented her from any competition, except in the balance beam, at the State Meet. The painful injury did not prevent Taylor from winning the State Title on the beam that year.

Taylor's gymnastics career started at age four in Minneapolis, MN, and continued in North Platte, Nebraska at age 8, before moving to Rapid City at age 10. She became a club member at Just Jymnastics in the fall of 1989. Much credit must be given to Bill and Cheryl Allen, as they worked with her for a number of years at Just Jymnastics, developing her skills and mindset towards high level gymnastics competition. She placed in the top 25 in the nation in the National Club Gymnastics competition in 1992 and 1993.

Her high school coach Sheri Keck had a huge impact on Taylor's success in gymnastics. In her Stevens varsity years Taylor led the Raiders to four State Championships. She was named MVP on her team four times. She held many school records in vault, uneven bars, floor exercise and all-around at the time. Hall of Fame gymnastics coach Sheri Keck said: "She always excelled at the right time. Taylor's dedication, mental toughness and never quit attitude made her a great athlete, but more importantly, a great teammate. She helped others improve and together they did great things."

Other accolades include all-academic and all-tournament in gymnastics four times. Taylor received the 1998 Gymnast of the Year by the South Dakota Sports Magazine. She was an All-Star player on district and regional softball teams. In 1998 she was named the Rapid City Female High School Athlete of the Year. As a senior, Taylor received the coveted Sarah Nitz Memorial Award - which exemplifies aspects of life Nitz strived for; sports, academics, character and gymnastics ability. Her college years were spent at Montana State and Kansas State. She received a bachelor's degree in 2004 from Kansas State in Dietary Science and Exercise Science. She moved back to Rapid City in 2004 where she and her husband Rob live today. Since 2006 she has been at the Medical Center assisting Dr. Wittenberg with skin cancer surgeries. Her perseverance, determination, and positive attitude give her the boost to have a Good Day – Every Day! **Inducted 2019**

RAND SCHLEUSENER

Born October 23, 1957 in Rapid City, Rand Schleusener graduated from Stevens High School in 1976. He led Stevens to the mythical state title in 1974. He was an all-state defensive selection in 1975 after being honored in 1974 as an offensive lineman. At Stevens, he was a high school All-American in 1975.

The 6-foot-6, 250-pounder attended the University of Nebraska (A Cornhusker). He was an Academic All-American in 1979 and '80 and won the NCAA's coveted Top Eight Award (for best student athlete). Rand also was an all-Big Eight Conference performer in 1979 and '80 and All-American in '80 as well. Nebraska led the nation in total offense in 1978 with 501 yards a game, was best in the Big Eight in 1979 with 464 and again in 1980 with 506. In 1981, the All-American offensive guard helped the Cornhuskers go 29-7 with trips to the Orange, Cotton and Sun bowls from 1978-80.

Schleusener became a noted player in Cornhusker lore when he ran 15 yards to score on a "fumblerooskie" in a 1979 game against Oklahoma. On the play, the Husker quarterback took the snap, intentionally placed the ball on the ground under center and carried out a fake while Schleusener scooped up the ball and ran for the score.

Schleusener was named to the Nebraska chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame in 2002.

Schleusener was chosen by the Cleveland Browns in the ninth round of the 1981 NFL draft, though he never played in the NFL. After football, he went on to become a spine surgeon with the Black Hills Orthopedic & Spine Center in Rapid City, South Dakota. Rand retired in 2016 and lives in Rapid City with his wife Karen and their two children Katie and Tom.

Just think, a man so closely tied to a play involving an intentional fumble, went on to work with his hands in an environment requiring precise movements. Football and surgery, diametrically opposed to each other, yet the irony is confidently settled within a man who views his past with equal parts of pride, and - what, humility? **Inducted 2019**

NIKKI STANGARONE-MOSER

Nikki Stangarone-Moser was born and raised in Rapid City, South Dakota. Her dad, Bill, introduced her to the game of golf at a young age. When Nikki was 11, her dad told her he would give her his new set of golf clubs if she beat him on the course. Within 6 months, her dad had to find himself another set of clubs.

When Nikki was in 8th grade, she was invited to play on the Stevens High School Golf Team led by Phil Hunt. She finished 3rd place in State that year. Nikki went on to win 4 consecutive South Dakota State Class A Girls Golf Titles (1994-1997). Nikki's performance helped her Stevens team win 4 consecutive State team Titles. Nikki is the only girl in South Dakota history to have won 4 consecutive Class A state Titles.

Nikki accepted a full athletic scholarship from the University of New Mexico. She transferred to San Diego State University after her freshman year to play on their golf team. Nikki had a lot of success as an Aztec, but injured her wrist her senior year and was forced to have reconstructive surgery. Nikki graduated from San Diego State in 2001 with honors and received a B.S. in

biology and a minor in chemistry. Nikki went on to pursue law. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Law in 2006.

Nikki was inducted into Rapid City's Sports Hall of Fame in 2007

Golf continues to be a large part of Nikki's life. She has won multiple Women's Club Championships, including Belmar CC (Norman, OK), Glenmoore CC (Cherry Hills Village, CO), Pelican Lakes GC (Windsor, CO), and Colorado National (Erie, CO). She is currently the Women's Club Champion at Harmony Golf Club in Tim Nath, CO.

Nikki currently resides in Water Valley in Windsor, CO with her two children, Connor (13) and Alyvia (11). When not golfing, Nikki and her kids can be found skiing, hiking, and traveling.

Inducted 2023

PAUL STERLING

Paul Sterling was a Madison, SD native until his senior year in high school when he moved to Vermillion, SD. He competed in Football, Wrestling, and Track and in his senior year was selected as all conference in football. Paul went on to college at USD and Dakota State University where he competed in Football and Wrestling. He received his Master's degree at Northern State University. Paul began his professional career at Madison, SD, coaching Football and Wrestling for two years before moving on to Mitchell, SD, where, over a 12-year period, he coached football, wrestling, cross country, track, and boys and girls basketball. In 1982 Sterling was named Assistant Wrestling Coach of the Year by the South Dakota Wrestling Coaches Association. In 1990 he was the Assistant Basketball Coach when Mitchell won both the girls and the boys state championships. Paul changed focus in 1992 when he was selected as the Activities Director in Mitchell. Over the 18 years at Mitchell he was involved in 25 "Eastern South Dakota Conference" championships and 15 State Championships. Paul began his career at Rapid City Stevens in the fall of 1998 as the Activities Director. During his ten years at Stevens the athletic teams won 54 "Greater Dakota Conference" championships and 42 State Championships. In 2005 Stevens was named as the #1 program in the state of South Dakota and #38 in the nation. Paul was chosen for the South Dakota Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Hall of Fame in 2012. Sterling is quick to give credit where credit is due stating: "It's not hard to get championships if you have the right people in place and then you let them do their jobs. And personally, getting the opportunity to work with many of the top coaches in the nation, was a rewarding experience." Paul Sterling worked tirelessly in accomplishing and instituting the following projects while acting as the athletic director at Stevens High School: • North Gym Addition, • Weight Room/Multipurpose room addition, • Daktronics Project (new scoreboards) in Carol Heier Gymnasium, • Sioux Park remodel, • Getting Rapid City in the rotation to host the State Tennis Tournament, • SHS Theatre remodel, • O'Hara Stadium remodel (turf and track) with Jim Harr. Paul wrote: The thing that I want understood up front is that I do not see these things as "my accomplishments", all of these things are "OUR" accomplishments! I defined my job as being the best "enabler" that I could be. It was my job to take care of the things around the activity and let the coaches coach. A quote that sums up Paul Sterling's Leadership: "True leaders are not those, who strive to be first but those who are first to strive and who give their all for the success of the team. True leaders are first to see the need, envision the plan and empower the teams for action. By the strength of the leader's commitment, the power of the team is unleashed. Paul Sterling is a True Leader! **Inducted 2018**

JOANN (KRAUSE) STERNER

JoAnn (Krause) graduated from Sisseton High School and earned a BS Degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Northern State in 1963, as well as an MS Degree from South Dakota State in the same field in 1972. Her teaching and coaching career began in the Rapid City School District in 1965, prior to state sanctions and Title IX, which recognized girls' participation in sports. Track and Field, Basketball and Volleyball were offered only as Girls Athletic Association (GAA) activities. During the summer, girls interested in sports started AAU competition until Title IX became a law and girls and women were allowed to participate in organized competitive sports in their schools.

JoAnn stated "My teaching and coaching career began in the early 60's when it was still largely a man's world. Northern State College in Aberdeen opened their doors to me and I joined the PEMM Club (Physical Education Majors and Minors). As president of PEMM, I organized the 1st Volley- ball "Play Day" for high school girls to play in a Round Robin Tournament. It took all day because so many teams showed up and every team played each other. The Play Day could not be called a Tournament because that meant competition. It was certainly obvious these girls were enjoying the 'Tournament'. My advisor at Northern State College encouraged me to join the state and national AAHPERD association as a student member. Well that fired me up and I got more involved in sports. No one would or could stop me now!"

JoAnn continued to attend AAHPERD conferences, clinics and workshops. She felt it was an honor to be asked by the SDHSAA to give clinics to students who wanted to learn new fundamentals. JoAnn said "The sport of gymnastics was the most popular sport for girls in the area at that time and I couldn't learn fast enough to keep up with all the talent. All the girls on my high school teams were great coaching assistants. This was the advent of the sport of Gymnastics in South Dakota".

Before Title IX, she held practice meets with teams from area schools. Space for practice and funds were always limited, but parents were always willing to support their daughters. One of JoAnn's fondest memories was when her team asked her if she would sell her Corvette for a station wagon so they could travel to competitions. She did it for the team and they all enjoyed the new experiences. The initiation of girls' sports in South Dakota was very exciting; every girl tried her hardest and enjoyed the thrill and self-gratification of being on the team. Every morning she would wake up wondering how to empower all girls to become who they wanted to be.

Jo Ann feels very honored to receive the Hall of Fame Award for initiating girls' sports at Rapid City Stevens High School. She is given this honor for coaching the first individual state champions in gymnastics, for putting the Stevens girls' track team in the record books for the first time in 1975, (when they placed second at state), and for being actively involved in Title IX and initiating numerous female sports to become sanctioned by the SDHSAA.

"There is no greater place to live than South Dakota. It's great because we have all taken advantage of various opportunities to make it great. I thank all the parents and their daughters for all the memories they created for me. I was blessed with my opportunities". **Inducted 2016**

JOHN STERNER

John's life has been about beating the odds. The odds that John Sterner and his twin brother, Mike, would succeed in life were stacked against them from the start. Born in 1939 to a mother who didn't know she was having twins, they survived their first weeks in an incubator. Shortly

after their birth, their father abandoned the family. Their mother, who worked nights as a cook, placed them in an orphanage when they were 2. He never met his father, but the Sterner twins kept in close contact with their mother, Katharine. She never relinquished her parental rights and sent money for their support, and took a taxi, to the orphanage every Sunday afternoon to collect the twins for a weekly visit.

The nuns gave John his values and a great education. He graduated in 1957 from the Nebraska Boys Town High School where he competed in football, wrestling and track. Upon graduation from Boys Town at age 17, the brothers did six-month stints in the Army Reserves, before learning that the only thing their father left them was an inherited, progressive hearing loss. Both men have borderline profound deafness. Their diagnosed hearing loss kept John out of an athletic career at the US Naval Academy at Annapolis. "When you grow up in an orphanage like that, there's no excuses," Sterner said. "Nobody's favored over anybody else. Life's tough, but you're responsible for what you do and who you are. When things happened, you didn't sit and sulk. I never thought about doing that."

Instead, John jumped at an offer from the SDSU wrestling coach to attend South Dakota State University. His involvement in sports and experiences at Boy's Town lead to 4 successful wrestling and football seasons at SDSU. John graduated in 1963 and began his career in teaching and coaching. Early in John's career, he taught in North Dakota, where he coached the St. Mary's High School Saints while his twin brother coached the rival Black Devils of Hettinger High School.

Sterner came to Rapid City in 1969 and became the first head football coach of Stevens High School. He also assisted in wrestling and track & field for both the boys' and girls' teams and helped out with the gymnastics team as well. Jo Ann Sterner states, "He was one of the few men who welcomed women coaches like herself in the early days of girls sports programs."

Sterner built a championship program and a wrestling dynasty, at Minnesota State University Moorhead. He ended a long and successful coaching career there in 2003. John states, after concluding his 40 years of coaching, "teaching and coaching student athletes was a privilege and an honor". His motto is, "if you improve yourself, you are a Winner! Life is Good!" John has had many notable accomplishments and awards, too numerous to list.

John married Jo Ann Krause in 1973 and they have a daughter, Kay Annjanet. Kay competed 6 years as a National USGF gymnast; Kay Annjanet, her husband, Trevor Leffler, and their six-year-old son, Espen John Leffler, reside in Seattle, Washington. **Inducted 2019**

KELVIN TORVE

Kelvin Torve was born in 1960 in Rapid City, SD. Kelvin had a younger brother Kent. He attended Rapid City Stevens and graduated in 1978. At Stevens he lettered in basketball and football two years. He was first team All-State in basketball as a senior and was also named the High School Athlete of the Year for his outstanding foot- ball, basketball, and Post 22 career. Kelvin went on to play college baseball at Oral Roberts Universi- ty. He was a three year letterman and named to the Sporting News 2nd team All-American team as junior. He finished his college ca- reer with a .349 average which ranks 4th all-time at Oral Roberts. In 2009 Torve was elected to the Oral Roberts University Hall of Fame. In 1981 Torve was drafted in the 2nd round of the Major League Baseball draft by the San Francisco Giants. He went on to play thirteen years of profes- sional baseball. Torve played for San Francisco, Baltimore, the New York Mets, and Minnesota Twins organizations. Kelvin made it to the Major League level twice

while playing for the Mets and one year with the Twins. He also played two years in Japan for the Orix Blue Wave. In 1993 Kelvin hung up his spikes and began working in sales in Davidson, NC. In 1995 he was inducted into the Rapid City Officials Sports Hall of Fame.

After working and coaching baseball in North Carolina for twenty-five years Kelvin Torve moved back to Rapid City in 2016 to following his dream of coaching baseball for Post 22.

Inducted 2016

LEMOINE TROUT

Lemoine Trout was born March 24, 1943, in Lincoln, Nebraska. Lemoine graduated from Alliance, Neb., High School in 1961 and received his BS Degree from Black Hills State University in 1966 and his Master of Education from Black Hills State University in 1971. Lemoine began his teaching and coaching career in 1966 in McCook, Nebraska, before moving on to North Platte for two years in 1967. In 1969 the Trout family came to Rapid City, where Lemoine coached and taught at Central High School for twelve years before moving over to Stevens High School in 1982. There he became head track coach in 1989, where his athletes won numerous conference, regional, and state championships, including six consecutive girls AA~ state titles from 1996 through 2001 and the boys AA~ title in 2001. Lemoine received many honors for his coaching, including conference and region Coach of the Year three times each, state girls AA~ Track Coach of the Year in 2001, plus several other regional and national coaching association awards. Hall of Fame inductions include the Black Hills State University Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000 and the Rapid City Sports/Officials Hall of Fame in 2001. He was named Teacher of the Year twice at Central and once at Stevens. Lemoine was always willing to give credit where credit was due, except to himself. He recognized that as a father, teacher, and coach, the most forthright way to instill his cherished values of hard work and personal integrity was to lead by example. For his sons, students and athletes, as long as they put an honest effort into their tasks, no matter their level of aptitude or talent, he was proud of the outcome.

Lemoine's family includes his wife Shirley and sons Greg and Tammy (Megan, Parker, and Tyler), Tim and Karen (Ryan), Jeff and Tina (Sydney, Tucker and Madison). Lemoine Trout, died at his Rapid City residence Thursday, Feb. 7, 2002, at the age of 58, after a long battle with cancer. **Inducted 2017**

DUANE WHALEN

Duane Whalen was born and raised in Rapid City, South Dakota graduating from Rapid City High School in 1954. Activities were very important to him in high school where he was a jack of all trades, master of none, as he was involved in sports, band, debate, and journalism. From 1954 to 1958 he attended Black Hills State University where he pursued a lifelong dream to teach and coach. In college he continued his interest in journalism and thanks to a 4– 5 inch growth spurt from the time he finished high school until he entered college he was able, over the course of four years to play a little college basketball. In the fall of 1958 he began his teaching career in Rapid City. This was the first of 40 years as a teacher, coach and administrator in the Rapid City Schools. He served ten years as a social studies teacher and coach at South Junior High School. Followed by another eight years as a history teacher and coach at Rapid City Central High School. In each setting Whalen had the opportunity to coach football, basketball, and track. He began his career in athletic/activities administration in 1977 when he was

appointed Junior High Activities Director for the Rapid City Area Schools. In 1980, he became the Assistant Principal in charge of Activities at Stevens High. From 1980 until 1998 the Raiders won 49 state championships and was runner-up 28 times.

During his time at Stevens High School Whalen served on numerous professional committees and boards at the local, state, and national levels. Most noteworthy on the state level are two terms on the SDHSAA Gymnastics Advisory Committee, three terms on the AD ad hoc committee that studied and revised the SDHSAA calendar (serving as chairperson of the last two committees). For the most part the calendar is still in place today. A long with the Activities Director from Rapid City Central School Duane co-managed 47 SDHSAA state championship events. Also on the state level he served as president of the South Dakota High School Athletic Directors Association, was the liaison between the Athletic Directors and Coaches Association and was a delegate to the National Athletic Administrators Association National Conference several times. One of his most rewarding professional experiences for Duane was serving on the Awards Committee for National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

Working with Jim Haar, the AD at Central High School, two noteworthy achievements in Whalen's time as AD at Stevens High School were accomplished. First was the formation of the Greater Dakota Conference, which unfortunately did not last and development of the first Rushmore Bowl.

In 1997 Whalen was awarded the South Dakota High School Activities Association Distinguished Service Award. Also in 1997 he was inducted into the Rapid City Sports Hall of Fame and was pre-sented the state award of merit for the State of South Dakota by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. In 2003 he was inducted into the South Dakota Interscholastic Athletic Administrator's Hall of Fame.

During the 1980's there was a saying, "School Activities, the other half of education". Duane Whalen believed this to be true, as he witnessed this in his own life and that of his high school friends, and later in life as a teacher and coach. His only regret in his twenty-one years as an activities/ athletic director was that he couldn't persuade every student in school to get involved in at least one activity and stay with the activity long enough to find out what the activity was about and to enjoy the benefits of the activity. **Inducted 2016**

CINDY SARGENT WILES

Mostly I feel too young to be writing my own biography. Then I remembered that when I was in Junior High School girl distance runners could pick just one event to run – the 880 or the mile – not both. I was a runner when sweatshirts, i.e. hoodies, were actually considered athletic apparel. I also ran in the first 3 South Dakota High School Girls State Cross Country meets. I was born in Sioux City, Iowa in April 1961 and enjoyed the life of an "Air Force brat." We moved frequently but I was never lonely as there were six of us Sargent children born within a ten-year time span. My Dad retired from the Air Force and we moved to Rapid City when I was in the 8th grade. I attended Rapid City Stevens High School for grades 9 -12. I ran Cross Country and Track for all of those 4 years and this was certainly an important and influential part of my life. I absolutely loved everything about running – my teammates, the effort, the fresh air, the wind, the variety, the competition, etc. In all honesty, I was definitely sad when Cross Country practice ended for the season. My coaches will forever have a special place in my memories and my heart. Coach Gene Breemes had the best sense of humor! Coach Ken Lindstrom always had the assignment of driving the station wagon with the girl's cross country team. He was extremely patient and an

excellent and safe driver. Plus, he loved running as well. He set an excellent example. I attended college at South Dakota State University – also running Cross Country and Track. I graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing which explains (I think) why I remember the camaraderie, conversations, and friendships of my high school and college running careers more so than numbers, places, and times. Some running accomplishments: State Cross Country Champion – 1976, 1977, 1978 1st place 880 yards SD State Track and Field Meet – 1977, 1978 and 1979 1976 and 1979 Rapid City Female Athlete of the Year SDSU: Member of 1980 Women's AIAW Division II Cross Country Championship Team Member of 1981 Women's NCAA Division II Cross Country Championship Team 1981 and 1982 All American – Division II Cross Country All American Track and Field 3000 meters 1982 I am honored to be accepting this award due to the enormous impact of my years at Stevens High School – both academically and athletically – and its positive influence in my life. **Inducted 2017**

MICK WYSUPH

Mick Wysuph was raised in Tyndall, SD and earned 15 varsity letters while competing in football, basketball and track at Tyndall Public HS. In the fall of 1965, Mick continued his football career at Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD. He started at quarterback in the fourth game of his freshman year and the Wolves never lost a conference game in the next four years playing in the South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference. Mick ended his playing career by being named to the NAIA Honorable Mention All American team in 1968.

Wysuph's first teaching/coaching position was at Todd Co. HS in Mission, SD from 1973-1977. He was an assistant basketball and track coach for five years and head football coach for three, with his team winning the schools first outright Three Rivers Conference championship in 1976. From there he went to the University of South Dakota in Vermillion as a graduate assistant in football, coaching the offensive backs and eventually earning his Masters degree in Physical Education. After one year he was hired as the offensive line coach and was part of the team that won the North Central Conference title for the first time in 24 years.

Mick then headed to Brown HS in Sturgis, SD as the head football coach and assistant track coach in 1981. In three years at Sturgis his teams were undefeated Black Hills Conference Champions in 1981, 82 and 83. In 1983, the team went 11-1 losing only to Brookings in the State AAA Championship game.

Mick was then hired as an assistant track coach (long and triple jump) and head football coach at Stevens HS in Rapid City, SD. As the football coach for the next sixteen years, the Raiders were 86 and 79. His teams reached the state quarterfinals in 11 of those 16 years, the state semifinals six times and the championship game twice. The Raiders were the 11AA State Champions in 1987 and lost a two-overtime heartbreaker to Yankton in 1994.

During Wysuph's career, he was part of a lot of professional services and has received the following honors and awards:

- SDHSCA Football Coach of the Year nominee three times
- SDFBCA Region 4 Coach of the Year nominee nine times
- Co-founder and first President of the South Dakota Football Coaches Association
- Co-founder and past President of the Black Hills Sports Officials Association
- SDHSCA Regional Football Representative Board Member for 15 years
- 1984 SDHSCA North All-Star Head Coach
- 1992 SDFBCA Coaching Service Award

1994 Northern State University Alumni Coach of the Year
1996 President of the South Dakota High School Coaches Association
1998 Black Hills Sports Officials Association Achievement Award
1998 Down Under Bowl / South Dakota All Stars Head Coach
1998 Northern State University Athletic Hall of Fame
1999 SDHSCA Max Hawk Award
2000 SDHSCA 25 Year Coaching Award
2004 South Dakota Football Coaches Hall of Fame
2005 Rapid City Officials Sports Hall of Fame
2015 Black Hills Sports Officials Hall of Fame
2020 South Dakota High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame

"We were so fortunate to go through a period of time where we had some exceptional and very dedicated student athletes. Every sport was so competitive and at times, so dominant, even at the state level. I am proud of everything the school accomplished at that time. There were great coaches, great administration, great teachers and great student athletes at Stevens High School. It was a fun time to be a Raider! **Inducted 2022**