

Macomb County Coaches

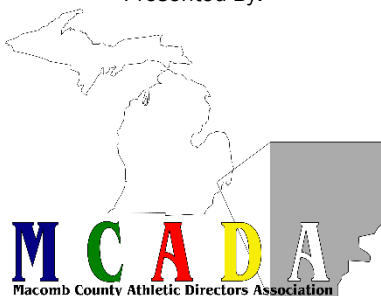
HALL OF FAME

2019



The Best of Macomb County

Presented By:



The
**Macomb
Daily**

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Macomb County Coaches

HALL OF FAME

2019

INDUCTION CEREMONY

Program Agenda

April 25, 2019

Master of Ceremony

Chad Hottle

President

Macomb County Athletic Directors Association

Welcome

Chad Hottle

National Anthem

De La Salle Collegiate Choir

Invocation

Mike Jolly

Athletic Director (Retired)

De La Salle Collegiate High School

DINNER

Special Olympics Fund

Robin Dilday

District Athletic Director

Utica Community Schools

Induction Ceremony

Chad Hottle

- Dave Jackson Distinguished Service Award Inductees
- Jack Francis Award of Merit Inductee
- Coaches Hall of Fame Inductees

Macomb County Coaches

HALL OF FAME

2019

PAST INDUCTEES

1995

Dan Barnabo
Jerry Barr
Maxwell Barry
Dick Black
Ernest Buckholz
Dick Chapman
George Crellin
Jack December
Al Drath
Oscar Franquist
Rudy Hill
Bob James
Walt Koepke
Fred Lee
Howard Lewis
Tom Lusk
Dave McEvers
Pete McMillan
Ron Ruzzin
Paul Smarks
Dick Snyder
Clinton Swinehart
Jerry Thomas
Don Weichert
Maurice Wilson
Ed Wuestenberg

1997

Jim Barker
John Barnett
William Chmelko
Ray Dion
Bill Dyer
David Fredette
Bernie Kennedy
George Koskimaki
Mary K. Knechtges
Howard McNally
Frank Morrow
Steve Nowak
Cosmo Plotts
Jim Porter
Jan Sander
Christine Schneider
Dave Semrau
John Switchulis
Ron Wilson
Dennis Zbozen

1999

Larry Andrewes
Harold Arft
Wayne Brown
Dick Christy
Bob Dilday
Paul Mandziara
Jim Martin
Mel McKenzie
Jim Medlin
Pete Prestininzi
Frank Reed
Fran Scriptor
Don Seiferlein
Tom Simon
Jan Stephan
David Vogel

2001

Al Baumgart
Jim Benefield
Gary Christmann
Larry Clemans
George Gleason
Marcy Jodway
Mike Jolly
Jack Jones
John Lapisch
Ross MacDonald
Russell Marley
Robert Murray
Larry Russell
Dennis Schreiber
Gary Sear
Dan Simeck
Al Snyder

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2019

PAST INDUCTEES

2003

Wilson Barns
Carl Beutel
Mario Borrocci
Daswell Campbell
Andrew Delia
Robert Destefano
Bill Fifer
Ved Green
Dave Jackson
Al Kastl
Jim Meyer
Don Wisswell

2005

Ned Brazelton
Roger H. Bunton
Rick Bye
Cleland Dame
Vito Delia
Greg Ganfield
Ken Hoover
Gerald J. Mrofka
Thaier Mukhtar
Bruce Smith
Larry Walters
Dennis I. Wheeler
Paul Jesswein
Dr. Carol L. Hulett

2007

Dick Brand
Carol Gray Schroeder
Ron Kocan
Ralph LaParl
Don Lutz
Larry Memmer
Lee O'Bryan
Len Perkins
David Prestininzi
Bruce Udvari
Sue Walker
Ralph Wiktor
Pat Walny
Jack Francis

2009

Marge Archibald
Gary Brundirks
George Cutshaw
Joe DeFusco
Kevin Hanson
Bob Lantzy
Brian Lieckfelt
Dave Malinowski
Pete Martin
Craig Morris
Tim Propst
Rick Repicky
Val Schneider
Mike Simon
Bob Winkler

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2019

PAST INDUCTEES

2011

Bill Beach
Alice Benefield
Bob Blunk
Chet Boss
Arnie Brock
Mike Carr
Pete Coll
Ken Fiott
Robert Kalbfleisch
Brian Kelly
Karen Lafata
Diane Laffey
Doug McDougal
Orton "Duke"
Melchoir
Tom Propst
Ernie Scullo

2013

Susan Balow
Edmond Carleton
Joyce Christmann
Robin Dilday
Michael Giannone
Robert Giles
Robert Hill
Matt Joseph
Robert Lefkowitz
Ann Marie Michol
Joe Michol
James Plutschuck
Brad Robinson
Carla Thompson
Steve Vercammen

2015

Ben Ancona
Ray Barr
Duane "Duke" Bryner
Harry "Skip" Crane
Bud Doba
Gregory Garavaglia
Lori Gill
George Hamblin
Dave Kuppe
Jerry LaJeunesse
Mike McInerney
Patrick Mulcahy
Kim Renas
Robert Schroeder
Mark Urquhart
Marshall Wandrei
Terri White
Diane Zatkoff

2017

Mike Banaszewski
Dan Barnabo
Barry Clements
Thomas Dailey
Bob Jolet
Howard Lewis
Kevin Lozon
Rex Luxton
Bob Maus
Doug McKay
Dave Nowinski
Melchoir "Mel" Perrone
Dan Phillips
Mac Sparks
Dale Teller
Pat "Bubba" Threet
Suzanne Trush
Marty VanEenenaam Iwanicki
Steve Zervas

Macomb County Coaches

HALL OF FAME

2019

INDUCTEES WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US

1995

Dan Barnabo
Dick Black
Ernest Buckholz
Jack December
Al Drath
Rudy Hill
Bob James
Walk Koepke
Paul Smarks
Dick Snyder
Clinton Swinehart
Jerry Thomas
Ed Wuestenberg

1997

Bill Chmelko
Raymond Dion
Frank Morrow
Steve Nowak
Jim Porter

1999

Don Seiferlein
Tom Simon

2001

John Lapish

2003

Ved Green
Dave Jackson

2007

Jack Francis
Ron Kocan
Pat Walny

2009

Marguerite Archibald
Dave Malinowski
Pete Martin
Craig Morris

2011

Bill Beach
Duke Melchoir

2013

Bobby Hill

2015

Duane Bryner
Skip Crane

2017

Mel Perrone

2019

Bill Apisa
Leonard Brindley
Larry Cosart
Randy Payne

Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2019

INDUCTEE

BILL
APISA



Members of a team often become like family.

That was something that Bill Apisa stressed during a lengthy career as head football coach at Clintondale.

"He and Mr. Seiferlein (Apisa's predecessor Don Seiferlein) spearheaded that family feeling," said former Clintondale player Bob Walmsley after Apisa lost his battle with cancer in 2017. "Seif and coach Apisa were buddies. They talked about family all the time."

Apisa made it a point to get to know his players' families.

"Mr. and Mrs. Apisa knew my family, my brothers and sisters, our spouses and kids. It was the same for everybody," Walmsley said.

Eisenhower coach Chris Smith, another former Dragons standout, echoed Walmsley's thoughts.

"He was a coach that connected with the players and made everyone feel like family," Smith said.

Apisa once said what made coaching so enjoyable wasn't all about wins and losses.

"Seeing success and maturity of the players, making a positive change in their lives and observing proper etiquette and values of society," he said.

Apisa coached Clintondale from 1980 to 1997 and won four league championships. Longevity has been a trademark of Clintondale football coaches since Seiferlein began a 15-year run in 1965.

Even after he moved to Texas after his retirement, Apisa was a fixture at the school's annual golf outing.

"So many people revered the guy," said Walmsley, who played for Clintondale from 1979-1982. "He wouldn't let us talk about anything less than being tough and being our best. Coach was one of the toughest guys I ever knew."

Apisa was a winner. His record as Clintondale's football coach was 185-88, however he was successful coaching other sports. He compiled a 62-34 mark coaching track at the high school. He coached freshman basketball and won 29 of 34 games. He also had an eight-year stint as a middle school volleyball coach, posting a 54-42 mark.

He won three league championships in both basketball and track, in addition to the football titles in 1984, 1990, 1991 and 1995. His 1990 football squad finished 8-2, earned a state playoff berth and was named Macomb County Team of the Year.

Apisa had a 33-year teaching career and served as Clintondale's athletic director from 1988 to 1993.

"He was a man of integrity and character who always had the student-athlete's best interest as the top priority," says Jim Scarcelli, who succeeded Apisa as the Dragons' football coach after serving as an assistant for five years.

"Bill would not compromise winning at the cost of discipline and developing the character of his players. He was a successful coach on the field, winning 70 percent of the time. Bill worked hard promoting his athletes in the recruiting process, sending several to college on scholarships."

Thirty-nine of his former Clintondale players went on to play football in college. Twelve of his ex-players went into coaching, including several as head coaches.

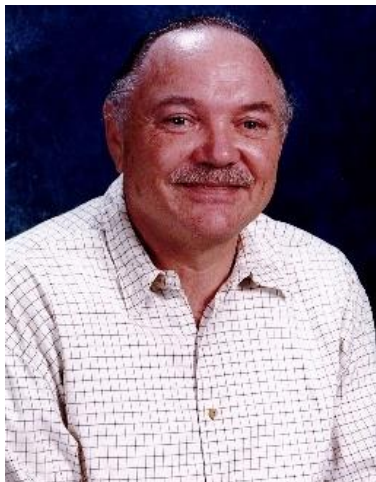
Apisa, who was born in American Samoa, is a member of the Michigan High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame and the Clintondale High School Hall of Fame.

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INDUCTEE

LARRY
COSART



There are heroes that don't stand out from the rest of the crowd. They often labor out of the spotlight, however their contributions can't be overlooked. Larry Cosart was one of those people.

He was the head varsity basketball coach at Chippewa Valley for only seven seasons, but he was an assistant for seven years prior and after stepping down as the Big Reds' head coach, he spent 22 seasons coaching the eighth-grade basketball team at Algonquin Middle School. In addition to coaching basketball, Cosart was the varsity football assistant for nine years.

Craig Murray was a student trainer at Chippewa Valley from 1967 to 1971. He realizes every day the impact that Cosart had on his life.

"Sometimes you don't recognize your heroes at first glance," Murray says. "Sometimes it takes years, decades even, to realize the extraordinary impact they've had on you."

"Larry Cosart was that type of hero — humble, devoted, a mostly career assistant coach, who seldom got his name in the papers but whose many quiet accomplishments extended far beyond the middle and high school courts, fields and classrooms where he worked, volunteered and taught for 39 years.

"He was an ever-present champion for the average student, for the athlete who wasn't a superstar, for fellow coaches feeling the heat and, of course, for his many friends and family members. He was incredibly generous and fair, but take it from me, Larry would also give you a good, swift kick in the rear if that was what you deserved. He was definitely a man you didn't want to disappoint."

During the later years of Cosart's life, Murray, who lives in California, reconnected by phone on several occasions.

"I was able to thank him for being such a positive and enduring influence on me," Murray says. "Typical Larry, he spent most of the calls honoring me by relating shared moments from our past that I had long forgotten."

"Larry's numerous everyday lessons have not only stayed with me, they've grown in importance as the years went by. I recall him cleaning up messy locker rooms, helping line the football field, providing rides for kids who didn't have a way to get home, treating my parents as if they were part of his family and being unfailingly polite to referees — even as he lobbied them to overturn a horrible call."

Humility was one of Cosart's traits.

Dan Phillips, who coached and taught with Cosart for more than 30 years, said that Cosart was nominated several times for Teacher of the Year in the Chippewa Valley Schools and for the school's Hall of Fame.

"He turned these nominations down because he didn't feel that he should be singled out," Phillips says. "I told him that when he turned down the nomination for the Chippewa Valley Hall of Fame that he should have accepted. He felt it was only for head coaches, but he had as much, if not more, influence on the athletes as the head coaches. He prepared middle school and JV athletes for success at the varsity level. If you got an athlete who had been coached by Larry, you were getting one who had excellent skills, work ethic and attitude."

Mike Jolly was a friend and long-time coaching and teaching colleague of Cosart's. They met in 1959, graduated from Mount Clemens High School together and remained close friends until Cosart's death in 2014.

"No one I know filled the role of servanthood better," Jolly says. "Humility should never be confused with lack of self-esteem. Larry's healthy self-image was what allowed him to give so generously to others."

After he was no longer coaching at Chippewa Valley, Cosart supported the athletic programs as a member of the football chain crew and worked at basketball games in hospitality, security and floor sweeping.

"His indelible and positive influence on young lives both in the classroom and athletic courts and fields was monumental," Jolly says.

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INDUCTEE

GREGG
GOLDEN



Coaches hold a special place in the hearts of their athletes. A little over a year ago, Regina track and cross country coach Gregg Golden found out first-hand just how special he was. In November 2017, Golden was diagnosed with cancer. A group of his former athletes organized and participated in a 5K run in his honor.

"The course was designed so that the halfway point was at my house," Golden says. "Over 150 showed up on a 15-degree day to show their support. It was uplifting and humbling. Seeing so many former and current athletes at different points in their lives stop and say hello was priceless. It was a day I will never forget."

During 22 years of coaching the Saddlelites, Golden helped provide many of his athletes with days they will never forget. Regina's cross country teams won six regional championships and were runners-up on four other occasions. Golden guided the Saddlelites to five Detroit Catholic League titles and three runner-up finishes. Regina has also been a powerhouse in Macomb County. The Saddlelites won the overall Macomb County championship in 2010 and took top honors in Division 2 in 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2018. Six years Regina was runner-up in the county meet, usually waging a tight battle with the girls from Lutheran North. The Saddlelites have been Macomb County Team of the Year in cross country seven times and Golden has been voted Coach of the Year seven times. Those trips to the state finals at Michigan International Speedway have provided Golden

with some of the fondest memories of his coaching career — but not for any personal gratification. "I have truly loved seeing the looks of surprise and wonder when they first enter the facility and see the starting line," Golden says.

Golden's Regina teams have been just as dominant in track and field. They've won six regional championships and finished second in the region six more times. The Saddlelites also won the Catholic League crown in 2014. Winning that CSHL championship was another highlight of Golden's career because the Saddlelites beat Dearborn Divine Child, which had won the state Division 2 championship in 2013. Regina athletic director Diane Laffey speaks of Golden in glowing terms.

"I have never met or worked with someone as dedicated and hard-working as Gregg," she says. "He goes above and beyond what I, as athletic director, ask of coaches. Our girls love him and give their very best effort for him and his assistants. His teams are disciplined, dedicated to their sport, supportive of athletes on other Regina teams and respectful of their teammates. "Gregg's teams always display the highest degree of sportsmanship and this is a reflection of him. He instills this level of sportsmanship in the girls on his team." That rubs off on the Regina athletes. The Saddlelites have been a recipient of the CHSL Mark Carpenter Good Sportsmanship Award in 19 of the 20 years it has been presented in cross country. CSHL director Vic Michaels has high words of praise for Golden.

"I work with coaches from 28 schools on a regular basis and I can say that Gregg is one of the best I have been around," Michaels says. "His success stems from balancing extremely high expectations with a genuine care for his school, the students and the community he coaches in. He demands maximum effort from his student-athletes, both in the classroom and on the field.

"Consequently, Gregg's student-athletes are not only very well respected but very successful both in the classroom and in their respective sports. Gregg has continued to improve the program and how it serves the young women who attend Regina High School. Gregg's philosophy and practice preparation separates him from most coaches. Not only is he an excellent cross country and track coach, he is also a mentor and role model for all of his athletes. He treats everyone with dignity and respect."

His many years coaching in the Catholic League has made Golden a sage among the track and cross country coaches. His opinion is often sought regarding issues within the league in the two sports.

"I have truly enjoyed spending time with the student-athletes as well as my fellow coaches," Golden says. "Coaching track and cross country has allowed me to stay involved with sports I love. These activities have given me so much. I have been privileged to meet so many tremendous student-athletes and their families. Many of my life-long friends have come from coaching and running. I hope that I have been able to help my student-athletes the way I was helped in the past."

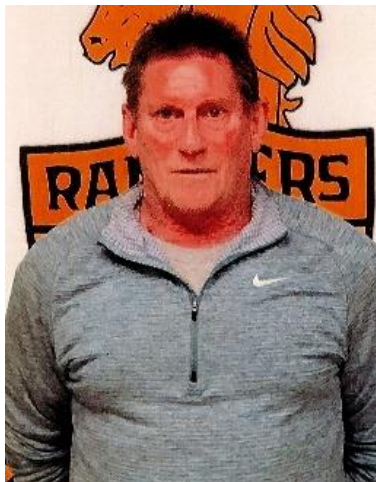
Golden, who began his coaching career in 1989 at his alma mater, Dearborn Heights Annapolis, was inducted into the Catholic League Hall of Fame in 2012.

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INDUCTEE

RICHARD
JULIEN



Once the wrestling bug bit Rick Julien a budding basketball career was over.

"I was a basketball player," says Julien, who has been the Fraser High School wrestling coach for the last 20 years. "My dad coached basketball. I played basketball until the eighth grade. We had a couple of (wrestling) mats downstairs and my older brother wanted me to work out with him. I picked it up from there and I just enjoyed it. It probably broke my dad's heart at the time but after a while he enjoyed it, too."

Julien had an outstanding wrestling career at Clintondale, went on to wrestle in college and for the last 36 years has coached the sport. After six seasons as a volunteer coach at Mount Clemens and East Detroit he became head coach at Clintondale for 11 seasons, compiling a 141-100-4 record. Since moving to Fraser his teams have gone 400-271 with six Macomb Area Conference division championships. Julien has guided his Clintondale and Fraser teams to nine MHSAA district titles and a regional championship in 1992. Julien has seen the sport change since he first broke into coaching.

"With club wrestling, you're getting depth," he said in an interview at the Macomb County Invitational a few years ago. "It's not just the juniors and seniors who are good, but the freshmen walking in that no one knows

about. They're getting high seeds or they're not getting seeds and they are bracket busters because they're really good wrestlers. They've been wrestling six or seven years by the time they come to high school and they're placing in the state as freshmen."

Julien coached the All-Sport Wrestling Club from 1992 through 2001. The club drew wrestlers from throughout Macomb County and produced seven individual state champions and several more state medal winners. "That encouraged and helped Macomb County wrestlers to continue in high school," Julien says. "I helped younger coaches, promoted sportsmanship and proper ethics of the sport. I have mentored my own wrestlers who became coaches of outstanding teams."

Julien coached a Junior Olympic team to a second-place finish. His teams won one national title and registered three top four finishes for national teams and Michigan Elite. As one might imagine, Julien is a big booster of wrestling. "There's no sport like wrestling," he says. "If you make a tackle in football and don't get the guy down, somebody comes up to help you. You hit a single leg in wrestling and you'd better start working a little harder because you're on your own."

"I don't think anyone realizes how long six minutes (the length of a match) really is. We teach the kids that the strongest survive. You could be losing but if you stay in somebody's face and keep going, you can win. Anything can happen in this sport. That's what makes it exciting."

Anyone who has coached for 36 years must enjoy it. Julien points out the reasons he keeps going. "The sport, children, parents and fans," he says. "Competition. Developing young men on and off the mat to understand hard work in school and in their respective sports. I have made friends from many states and with the parents of wrestlers. The bonds that I have with my former wrestlers. I love watching the light come on when my wrestlers finally understand and do a move properly. I love the camaraderie my boys have with each other and how they stick together."

One of the highlights of Julien's coaching career was watching his son, Kevin, win a state championship in double overtime in 2006. He has many other memorable moments.

"Each of my four state champions — Keith Weiand, Jason Todaro, Jeff Martin and Kevin Julien — was a thrill," Rick Julien says. "Each time one of my wrestlers won a tournament, district title or regional title. When any of my wrestlers won their first match it was a memorable moment. Winning the 2002 MAC Red title, winning five straight league titles. All of my state qualifiers."

"Each time a wrestler meets me anywhere and thanks me for what I did for them, even if I didn't coach them. Coaching all three of my sons in high school and then having the pleasure of having them coach with me as assistants."

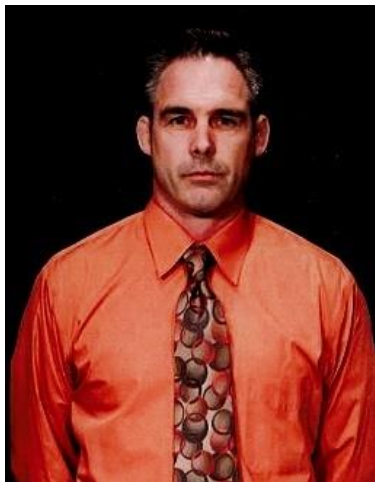
In 2015, Julien received the Outstanding Contribution Toward Wrestling from the All-American Athletic Association. He is a member of the Clintondale Hall of Fame. His teams have been 10-time winners of the league sportsmanship award. He was Macomb County Coach of the Year in 2002. He is a three-time winner of the regional Coach of the Year and was honored as MAC Coach of the Year six times.

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INDUCTEE

GREG
MAYER



It's all about the wrestlers where Greg Mayer is concerned. Ask him about his most memorable moments in an 18-year coaching career and he'll tell you a story of when one of his wrestlers exceeded his own expectations.

"I have so many wonderful experiences, I don't believe I can narrow it to just one," Mayer says. He tells of Julio Milligan, a first-year wrestler who won 13-12 in the last match of a dual meet to clinch Warren Woods-Tower's first district championship. "He had to fight off his back several times while his teammates chanted 'Julio, Julio, Julio,'" Mayer says. "To me that is the epitome of team. It's rarely the stars of the team that are the heroes. It's the role players. This reinforces the importance of inclusion, accountability and belief in the process."

Mayer then tells of another former wrestler whose life was going along smoothly until tragedy struck. By the time he was 21, Mike Walls had started his own business installing hardwood floors, owned his own home and was engaged to be married. Then his fiancée was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor and died. "Needless to say, he was distraught," Mayer says. "He got in his car and started driving. Three days later I got a call from him. I asked where he was. He said 'looking at the ocean. I just drove until I couldn't drive anymore.' He then asked me if it would be OK if he came to the room to work out when he got back. Of course, I said yes." He told Mayer that he needed to get away and wanted a change. He wanted to be a Navy SEAL. After Walls was

admitted into the SEAL training program, Mayer got another call.

"He had failed the drown-proofing portion of his training for the second time, putting his opportunity in jeopardy," Mayer says. "I did what any coach would do. I told him to pick his head up, work hard and learn from his failures. The next time I heard from him he had become a SEAL. He called via satellite phone while Arctic training from the top of Mount Denali. He wanted to share the view and a thank you.

"This embodies what being a coach is all about. As coaches we are there for kids whenever called upon, not solely during a season or while in school. It's when kids are in need. We help kids become who they are meant to be even when they aren't sure themselves. The call I received that day was memorable because it provides justification for the work we do. There is literally no mountain that cannot be climbed."

Mayer recalls another time when one of his wrestlers came to Mayer's rescue. It was in 2017 when Warren Woods-Tower made it to the state semifinals for the first time. "This was a moment we had been working for our entire career," Mayer says. "Over the years I had thought long and hard about what I would say to the team in this moment."

When the moment arrived, the Titans gathered around with their eyes focused anxious to hear the words of motivation from their coach. "For the first time all year, I had their undivided attention," Mayer recalls. "As I began to speak I locked eyes with one of our seniors, Joe Schindler. My carefully crafted inspirational masterpiece began to leave my mind as the tears filled my eyes. I couldn't speak. I couldn't find the words I had been rehearsing for the past 17 years. I began to panic. Then Joe grabbed my shoulder, looked at his teammates and shouted, 'We got you. We got this.' I guess he could see my emotional struggle and let's be honest, it meant a lot more coming from him than it did from me."

It turned out that Schindler was right. The Titans won the dual meet and secured their first appearance in a state final match. Mayer has guided his Warren Woods-Tower wrestlers to nearly 400 victories, seven Macomb Area Conference championships, 12 district titles, five regional titles and three trips to the final four. Mayer has been MAC Coach of the Year five times, Macomb County Coach of the Year four times and regional Coach of the Year on five occasions. He received the United States Wrestling Foundation and United States Marine Corps Excellence in Leadership Award in 2017.

Eighteen of Mayer's wrestlers have achieved All-State recognition, something he achieved himself when he was wrestling at Lincoln.

"Greg has all the qualities you want in a coach," said former Woods-Tower athletic director Jan Sander. "He is firm but fair, fun but disciplined, supportive but demanding. His expectations for his athletes are the same as what he demands of himself. Therefore, he pushes his athletes to be the best that they can be. Greg works hard all year on staying physically fit and staying in tune with the latest developments in the wrestling world.

"Greg is loved and respected by his athletes, their parents, his peers and the administration at Warren Woods-Tower. He is living proof of a competitor and his accomplishments certainly say something about his guidance of young men and his character."

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HALL OF FAME

2019

INDUCTEE

ANGELA
MILANOV



Angela Milanov has been the very successful cheerleading coach at Warren-Mott for more than two decades. What sets Milanov apart from many of her coaching colleagues in other sports is her willingness to share her knowledge of cheerleading. "Angela is a mentor to all coaches, new and experienced," says Mary Frances Milke, the president of North American Spirit. "They often come to her with questions and she is always willing to share her secrets of success. On many occasions, she has taken time to visit other teams' practices. She has been instrumental in helping build the sport of competitive cheer in Macomb County. "When she speaks at conferences, her sessions are always the most crowded. It is no surprise she has been named coach of the year more than once, as this is voted by her own peers."

Shelley Coe McGuire, Anchor Bay's varsity coach, is one who has benefitted from Milanov's knowledge of the sport. "Angela has been a wonderful coaching mentor for me over the eight years I have known her," McGuire says. "She has helped me develop into the coach I've always wanted to be. She is a great example of what a coach should be, one who demonstrates the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics. She is always volunteering her time to help other coaches with their teams by coming to practice to fix motions, stunts, jumps and also help build a strong mental athlete and coach."

Milanov is a director for the North American Spirit camps and has choreographed many of the camp's leadership cheers and chants.

Milke met Milanov nearly 20 years ago when Angela was just getting started in coaching. "As a former state champion cheerleader herself, her determination and love for the sport was evident," Milke says. "She was eager to learn and sought out resources to continually improve her coaching. Although she is now a cheerleading camp director and leader in the community, she still attends conferences to continue her professional development."

Like many coaches, Milanov enjoys watching her athletes become young adults. "When I see the young ladies work through obstacles with dedication, commitment and teamwork, it is very rewarding," she says. "Winning, of course, is a lot of fun, however the most enjoyable part of coaching is seeing the athletes achieve skills they never thought that they could. Seeing an athlete work as hard as they can to achieve a personal goal is by far one of the most rewarding moments in coaching. Not everyone sees what obstacles they had to overcome to complete these goals, but when the child and you know what they did to achieve, it is priceless."

Milanov's teams won Macomb Area Conference Blue Division championships in 2007 and 2010. That first win was especially gratifying for the coach because it was the first year for the Marauders in MHSAA competitive cheer and it earned her one of her three Coach of the Year honors. "This team thrived on hard work, they knew where they wanted to go throughout the year and how to reach their goals," Milanov said "The group was amazing to coach because whatever I threw at them, they would achieve. The challenging aspect was to keep increasing their skill and not to plateau. The year before I had taken them to nationals and they saw first-hand the best of the best throughout the country. This was eye-opening for them and they knew where they wanted to go. All they needed was guidance on how to get there. "We won every MAC competition and placed high in many invitationals. At regionals, we were only one team away from qualifying to the state finals. This team was truly a dream to coach and I loved every moment of it."

Milanov has helped her team deal with some difficult real-life situations, like when the boyfriend of one of the cheerleaders committed suicide. "He was a close friend of the team and often came to practices to support us," Milanov says. "We had a competition the next day and many girls struggled with whether they should compete or be with friends to mourn. I was really impressed with our conversation on working through what would be best.

"We all came to the conclusion that we should compete. It was a hard day emotionally because that was the first competition he was not at. It was amazing to see these young athletes push through a difficult time and come through with amazing scores. In life, we all have to push ourselves beyond what we feel our body and mind can handle. I was so proud to see these young ladies push through a huge life lesson. Being part of a team better prepares for adulthood and life's true obstacles."

Milke recalls the time that Milanov had to discipline some of her more-talented athletes on the day of a competition by not letting them compete. "Not only did the team do better without them but the athletes who remained still thank her for making a decision in favor of the kids who wanted to be there and wanted to work hard," Milke says. "These are the type of tough decisions that Angela loses sleep over but have made a lasting impact on her athletes well beyond high school.

"Her teams do very well competitively but her main focus is on skill development and life-long lessons."

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INDUCTEE

MIKE
MOORE



Graduation doesn't have to mean the end of a relationship between a coach and his players.

Mike Moore, who has been coaching basketball at L'Anse Creuse North since 1971, knows better.

"I have former players who invite me to their 40th birthday parties," says Moore. "You make life-long friends each and every year."

That's the part of coaching that Moore has enjoyed the most.

"It's the experiences with the players and the friendships that were created from coaching," Moore says. "Seeing the joy on the kids' faces after a great game."

Thomas Denewith, a former principal at LCN, knows why Moore's players still remember him fondly long after they have graduated.

"What makes Coach Moore a special teacher-coach is the fact that he cared about his student-athletes," Denewith says. "He wanted each of them to become the best person they could be. Mike wanted to make sure he presented them every opportunity to grow and mature into young adults ready to make the transition from high school into the next phase of their lives."

Moore taught language arts in the L'Anse Creuse Public Schools for more than 35 years. During that time he became interested in coaching. He started coaching girls basketball in 1971 as junior varsity coach and was the girls varsity head coach for eight seasons, compiling a 95-65 record. Since 2009, he has been the junior varsity coach and varsity assistant for the Crusaders' girls program.

He won a league championship in 1992 and a district title in 1996. In 1992, Moore was Macomb County Coach of the Year.

The district title was one that Moore will never forget.

"We moved from the MAC Blue to the Red and went 5-15 during the regular season," he recalls. "But we defeated Port Huron, which was a powerhouse, by 18 points to win the district title."

Another memorable contest came against Warren Woods-Tower in the early 1990s when the teams played for the league championship.

"We used to always finish second to them every year," Moore says. "Our gym was packed and we headed into overtime. We ended up winning and the gym went nuts."

Moore has also coached seventh and eighth grade boys basketball and he was the boys junior varsity coach for five seasons.

"He has always done a fantastic job of balancing multiple roles with the demanding schedule that comes with being the JV coach and varsity assistant coach in our girls basketball program," says LCN athletic director Cody Smith. "Mike is not only a naturally gifted basketball coach but is also a tireless worker who puts in countless hours to be the best coach he can be. Beyond putting in hard work in practice and the games, Mike is always eager to help the head coach with any paperwork, scheduling, coordinating and talking with parents when needed.

"in addition to his dedication to coaching, Mike has been a tremendous mentor to the girls in his program. He is always the first one to greet the girls with a smile and a joke to make their day a little bit better. Mike is not only someone with an extraordinary work ethic and intelligence but also someone who is willing to do whatever it takes to ensure the people around him succeed, but have a great time while getting there."

Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2019

INDUCTEE

**SKIPPER
MUKHTAR**



One can't say the name Mukhtar without thinking about soccer in the Macomb Area Conference. That's certainly true at Warren Woods-Tower where Skipper Mukhtar has been the girls coach for the last 34 years. During that time, his teams have posted a 302-216-89 record.

There have been some memorable moments.

"In 1998 we won the school's first district championship," Mukhtar recalls. "Another memorable moment was in 2003 when my team played against my younger brother Thaier's Fraser team for the first time and we finished as MAC co-champions.

"The year I enjoyed the best was 2010 when the Mukhtar family won three MAC divisions. I won it in the Gold Division, my son Skip Jr. won the Blue Division for Lamphere and Thaier — a current Macomb County Hall of Famer -- won the White Division for Fraser."

Skipper Mukhtar's coaching resume doesn't end with Warren Woods-Tower. He has coached recreational soccer in the Warren Youth Soccer League and the United Soccer League. He has coached travel soccer for Team United, Michigan Burns and Vardar.

He was a United States Soccer Federation and Michigan High School Athletic Association referee for 21 years. Mukhtar worked as a volunteer for the Special Olympics Michigan championships as a referee and tournament coordinator. He also served as a volunteer on the board of the Warren Youth Soccer League and the United Soccer League.

Coaching, however, is his first love.

"I love being able to teach soccer to kids," Mukhtar says. "What has kept me coaching for the past 34 years is my relationship with my players and the excitement you see on their faces when they accomplish their goals."

Mike Jolly, the former athletic director at De La Salle, met Skipper in the early 1980s when Thaier Mukhtar became the Pilots' soccer coach.

"The Mukhtar family is incredibly supportive of one another and it was at the De La Salle socials and games that I came to know Skip and his brothers, sisters and parents. His son, Skip Jr., also attended and later coached at De La Salle, so I also knew his dad as a parent," Jolly says. "Skip Jr. is an excellent testimonial to the positive influence of his father and mother.

"I have only seen Skip Mukhtar on the field coaching a relatively few times, but those times have been memorably positive. Had our school been coed, I'm sure we would have scheduled home-and-home regularly with Warren Woods-Tower. Skip is enthusiastic, energetic and knowledgeable. He seems to have solid, positive relationships with his players."

Jolly feels that Mukhtar's refereeing experience helps when he's coaching.

"I'm sure that his extensive experience as a soccer referee facilitates good relationships with the officials during his games," Jolly says. "His 34-year tenure at one school also speaks well of his loyalty and their appreciation of him."

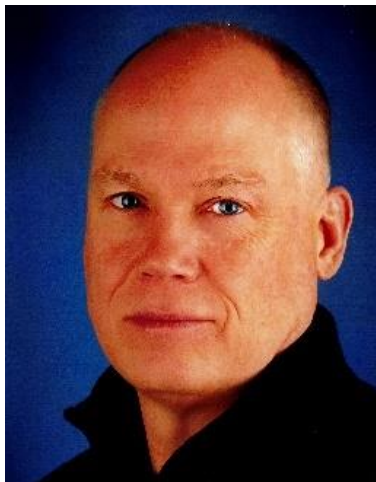
Mukhtar's Titan teams won MAC division championships in 1999, 2000, 2004, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2016. He is also a seven-time MAC Coach of the Year and was district Coach of the Year in 1998.

Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2019

INDUCTEE

**SHAWN
MURRAY**



A sign of a good coach is seeing improvement in the athletes he guides and instructs.

Sterling Heights wrestling coach Shawn Murray passes that test with flying colors.

Ernie Sciallo, the Macomb Area Conference executive director, has known Murray for 30 years, both as a coaching colleague and as his athletic director.

"During this time I have been able to witness his skills both as a leader and as a cheerleader for his athletes," Sciallo says, pointing out the championships and honors that Murray and his teams have won.

"Shawn's achievements are more impressive when you see the improvements his young men make when they enter as freshmen and leave as a senior. They start out with little skills but develop into very talented athletes in the end. These results are from the many hours Shawn

spends with his men outside of the coaching day. Shawn is a proven coach and leader of young men."

Murray, who wrestled at Clintondale, was a varsity assistant for the Dragons for three years before taking over as head wrestling coach at Sterling Heights in 1987. He was part of three Bi-County League championships at Clintondale and the string of success has continued with the Stallions.

Under Murray's guidance, Sterling Heights has won seven Macomb Area Conference dual-meet titles. The Stallions have also taken first place in the MAC tournament seven times. Eight times Sterling Heights has won district championships and in 1999, the Stallions captured a regional crown.

That regional title ranks at the top of the list for Murray.

"Celebrating a regional team championship with my wrestlers, coaches and parents was a memorable moment," Murray says. Murray's teams don't just excel on the mat. They received Michigan Wrestling Association Academic All-State honors eight years in a row.

"When you hire a high school coach you want someone with character," says Bob Walmsley, who has coached baseball at L'Anse Creuse and football at Clintondale for several years. "Schools, athletic departments and parents trust their children with these coaches every day. Shawn Murray is someone who defines this trait.

"I have known Shawn for many, many years. He is always someone who can be counted on and trusted."

That is shown by the fact that Murray has been president of the Macomb County Wrestling Coaches Association since 1992. Murray, who is a member of the Clintondale Hall of Fame, has been Michigan Wrestling Association Coach of the Year seven times.

He was Macomb County Coach of the Year in 1999 and has been a Macomb Area Conference Coach of the Year seven times. What makes coaching so enjoyable for Murray?

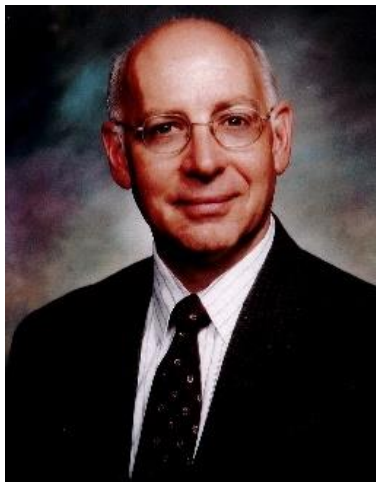
"Watching the young men and women grow and excel at the sport I love," he says.

Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2019

INDUCTEE

**CHARLES
“TONY”
PANKOWSKI**



Good high school officials aren't always easy to find.

That's why Tony Pankowski has long been in demand when there's a track or cross country meet on the schedule.

Hall of Famer Harold Arft, who was the boys cross country coach at Sterling Heights when Pankowski coached the girls team, appreciates Pankowski's work as an official.

"Tony is big in the track officials group," Arft says. "He is very well-known and respected throughout the area. He has clerked and still does at many of the big meets in the county."

Pankowski has officiated approximately 50 state regional track meets in Macomb County and some 25 Macomb County Meet of Champions. He has worked numerous Macomb Area Conference division meets and many high school and middle school dual meets.

Pankowski was an official at Macomb Community College when the Monarchs hosted the National Junior College Athletic Association national championships for two years. He also officiates the indoor meets at MCC.

Pankowski got his start in coaching in 1974 when he began a six-year stint as a middle school football coach in the Warren Consolidated Schools at Hartsig and Carleton middle schools. He coached girls basketball at Hartsig and track and field at Carleton.

He moved to Sterling Heights where he was the head girls cross country coach and was Arft's assistant on the Stallions' boys and girls track teams.

"We worked together for several years in the cross country program and Tony did an outstanding job," Arft says. "He also joined us in the track program as an assistant coach for both the boys and girls programs and was instrumental in the success of both teams." Hall of Famer Ernie Sciallo coached track with Pankowski and was his athletic director when he headed the girls cross country team. "I have also had the pleasure of officiating many track meets with Tony for the past seven years," Sciallo says. "I have had nothing but good experiences with him and in his handling of his duties. Even though his years as a head coach are limited, his involvement with athletics for more than 35 years and his ability to work with student-athletes as a head coach, an assistant coach or as an official makes him truly worthy to be recognized in the Macomb County Coaches Hall of Fame."

Pankowski has been involved in athletics since he was a 6-year-old.

"As my playing career transitioned into coaching and officiating, I have relished my interaction with current and former athletes," he says. "I embrace my experience and desire to pass on my love of the sport, especially mentoring younger officials."

"I continue to revel in the athletic involvement and success of my three grandchildren."

Pankowski's officiating duties often bring back memories of his coaching days.

"It is a feeling of deep pride when a former athlete approaches me at an athletic event, usually a track meet, and introduces me to their son or daughter who is now a participating athlete," Pankowski says. "I love being their 'old' coach."

Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2019

INDUCTEE

**RANDY
PAYNE**



One can only wonder what would have happened to the L'Anse Creuse North boys tennis program without Randy Payne.

Payne was the president of North's Athletic Booster Club in 1989 when he learned from athletic director Steve Schleicher that the school might have to drop boys tennis because it couldn't find a coach.

"Randy said he would take over the team even though he had never coached tennis before," says Thomas Denewith, who was the LCN principal at the time. "He did not want the sport to be dropped.

"And like they say, the rest is history. Coach Payne was the boys' tennis coach at North for 24 years with 10 championships and three trips to the state tennis tournament. His total record was 189-45-29. All this from a man who stepped up with no experience and saved a sports program from going under."

Payne guided the Crusaders to Macomb Area Conference Blue Division championships in 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2002 and 2004 and when LCN moved up to the MAC White it finished first four straight

years from 2005 to 2008.

"Over the years, Randy's teams would evolve and change but one thing remained constant from 1989," says Cody Smith, the athletic director at North. "He could get the best from his student-athletes each and every year as shown by his 10 division titles in the span of 15 years from 1994 to 2008.

"Randy's players had tremendous respect for him and they always returned to help. One of his former players, Jed Jones, took over the team for Randy when he retired. Randy had all the attributes to make him a Hall of Fame coach. He was relatable, he was a great listener to his student-athletes, he cared about their academics, he showed a great interest in the student-athlete as a person and he always made his student-athletes feel welcomed."

Payne, who died in 2015, enjoyed his years as a coach.

"Randy always used to come home telling stories about what this kid or that kid did today," says his widow, Cathy. "He used to get a huge smile on his face any time he talked about LCN tennis. He loved seeing how the kids grew up."

Payne had a sense of pride in his Crusader teams.

"Randy had a string of conference titles that he was very proud of," says Cathy Payne. "He used to always be so proud of when a stranger would see an LCN tennis shirt or hat and acknowledge the LCN tennis program. Even in his final year he had athletes move on to the finals."

Randy Payne got involved in LCN athletics when his sons Jeffrey and Mark were students at North and excellent athletes as well. "He got involved to help not only his own sons but many hundreds of other student-athletes," Denewith says. "He has assisted numerous young people to be not only good athletes but better human beings and good citizens."

"He will always be remembered at L'Anse Creuse North and by the countless athletes he helped mold into great men," Smith adds.

Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2019

INDUCTEE

HOWARD
STUART



Howard Stuart admits he was “without a clue” when he started the Richmond softball program in 1978.

More than 1,000 victories and a 2016 Division 2 state championship later, it’s obvious that Stuart has learned the sport quite well, although he remains modest about his success.

“I have been very lucky to have outstanding athletes, assistant coaches, parents, summer program and school administration,” he says. “The student-athletes, for sure, have been a highlight, but beyond that, I have been blessed with so many volunteer assistant coaches that have transformed the Richmond softball program. It is because of that help that Richmond softball has been able to stay an elite program year in and year out.”

Jim Benoit, who has been a volunteer on Stuart’s staff, insists that the head coach deserves much of the credit. Benoit says a lot of has to do with Stuart’s style of coaching.

“There are many different coaching styles,” Benoit says. “Some coaches feel the need to raise their voice to get their point across. Not Coach Stuart. He is very calm at all times. He treats his players with respect and dignity and he does it all the time.

“Some coaches feel the need to become more vocal with the game on the line. Not Coach Stuart. His demeanor remains the same regardless of the situation. Personally, I feel that is why his teams handle pressure situations on the big stage. Some coaches feel the need to work players 12 months of the year. Not Coach Stuart. Don’t get me wrong, he has the highest expectations for his players but he lives by the philosophy that ‘it is a game.’ He truly wants his players to have fun.”

A lot of that fun comes with winning and the Blue Devils have done a lot of that in Stuart’s 40 years at the helm. Richmond has won or shared a league championship 28 times. The Blue Devils have won their district 21 times and followed that with 10 regional titles. Richmond has gone to the state final four nine times with four runner-up finishes and the 2016 state crown.

“A highlight of my career came in 2016 when our team won the Division 2 state title,” Stuart says. “I appreciated it so much because Richmond had been so close so many times. It truly takes a lot of breaks and a special group of people.”

He also counts winning his 1,000th game in 2018 as a career highlight.

“My biggest joy is watching a ragged team learn to perform at a high level after great time and effort,” Stuart says. “Watching a polished pre-game drill or seeing players execute a certain play makes my day.

“It is also rewarding to see my former players on the softball fields years later, coaching their small daughters in our local fastpitch league. I have also valued the friendships along the way. My fellow coaches from high schools near and far are a tight-knit group and that is special.”

Stuart has given back to the game of softball with involvement in the Michigan High School Softball Coaches Association. He has been president of the organization for four years and also had a four-year stint as vice-president. He has been chairperson of the Senior All-Star Game for 18 years, has been an all-district, all-regional and all-state representative for more than 30 years. Stuart has 20 years as the ethics chairperson and 15 years as All-State chairperson. He has also created, produced and mailed newsletters for the group.

Athletic director Chris Rinehart has worked with Stuart for two years and has been impressed.

“I have been able to see all the positive attributes that he contributes to his team and to the community,” Rinehart says. “He is committed to student success, athletically and academically. He contributes a deep passion for coaching that is visible within practices and contests. He maintains a great rapport with the student-athletes and with the school community.”

Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2019

INDUCTEE

**KEVIN
VOSS**



Kevin Voss is in a class by himself as a basketball coach at Chippewa Valley.

Voss has more league championships, more district titles and more victories than any other coach in the school's history.

A few weeks ago he guided his Big Reds to their 13th district championship in his 37 years as coach.

The year was especially challenging for Voss because some of his players were members of Chippewa Valley's state championship football team and weren't available until after Thanksgiving weekend.

To make matters worse, this was the year that the boys season started a week earlier because of the switch with girls basketball.

The Big Reds got off to a slow start, going 2-5 in December, but they recovered to go 12-4 before losing to Anchor Bay in a regional semifinal.

Hall of Famer Jim Barker faced Voss the player and Voss the coach during his years as Ford's basketball coach.

"He has a great passion for the game," Barker said. "He loves the game. He really does. That's his legacy, I think, his passion for the game. He gets kids to want to get into the gym and play all summer."

Voss was instant offense when he played at Stevenson for another Hall of Fame coach, the late Craig Morris.

"When I would run a camp, he would come in and teach shooting," Barker said. "He would knock down all his shots. He was a great shooter."

Earlier this season, Voss became one of only 26 coaches in Michigan to record 500 victories. He has retired from teaching, but hasn't decided yet whether he wants to continue coaching.

Voss' contributions to the Chippewa Valley program didn't end with coaching his teams.

"Early in his career, Kevin created an elementary basketball league for students of Chippewa Valley Schools," says athletic director Chad Hottle. "It has been used as a blueprint for similar leagues in neighboring school districts. Players in Kevin's program have coached and officiated in this league for over three decades, serving as mentors and role models while positively impacting thousands of children in our community."

Lynne Perryman, the athletic department secretary at Chippewa Valley has worked with Voss for nearly 20 years.

"Kevin is one of the most dedicated coaches I have ever met and he forms a unique bond with all of the players on each and every team he coaches," she says. "Kevin's commitment is not limited to just his teams. He has run a district-wide elementary basketball league for 30 years, using both male and female players as referees and role models the younger kids look up to."

"Kevin is also visible at many of our athletic events and can often be heard on CVTV doing play-by-play commentary for our home football games."

Voss has guided his boys basketball teams to nine division championships and 13 district titles. He coached the Big Reds to a regional championship in 1987. He has received Coach of the Year honors 12 times.

More than 30 of his former players have earned the opportunity to play college basketball.

Voss coached the girls basketball team at Chippewa Valley in 2006 and won a district championship. He also won a league title during his eight seasons coaching the girls golf team.

Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2019

INDUCTEE

★ DAVE JACKSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD ★

LEONARD
BRINDLEY



A good official is in the right place at the right time.

Leonard Brindley showed a knack for that as a youngster. He continued to possess that trait during a 30-year career as a high school official.

The 3-year-old Brindley and his family were booked on the Titanic's final voyage when they emigrated from England in 1912, however they switched to a vessel sailing one week later because of family illness. Several years later he was around when a friend was drowning and Brindley jumped into the water and saved him.

Brindley began officiating high school sports in 1938, working in the Eastern Michigan League, the Bi-County League and the Detroit Catholic High School League. When he retired in 1968 he had officiated in the 1961 and 1962 state Class B basketball finals, he was a recipient of the Vern Norris Award of Appreciation from the Michigan High School Athletic Association and received the Award of Appreciation for Outstanding Officiating from the Macomb County Officials Association — an organization he founded. Brindley was also the first Eagle Scout from Macomb County.

Brindley began officiating basketball for the Mount Clemens Recreation Department in 1938. Two years later, he added baseball and football to his duties. Longtime Mount Clemens coach and athletic director Ernie Buckholz was instrumental in getting Brindley involved in high school sports.

"I was too small to play most sports in high school. I only weighed 97 pounds when I graduated (from Mount Clemens High School)," Brindley said. "Afterward I began filling out and played baseball in the (Mount Clemens) recreation leagues."

Brindley always took his job seriously. However, there were some lighter moments along the way. He told of a student manager who begged Brindley to let him dust home plate after every half inning. "I explained to him that it was my job, but he pleaded with me so I agreed," Brindley said. "After the sixth inning I told him that he was one of the most cooperative boys I'd ever seen. He replied, 'You know why I'm cleaning off the plate? I don't think you can see it.'"

Then there was a time when the gun sounded to end the quarter in a basketball game and some clown in the stands threw a dead pigeon on to the court.

Brindley reflected on the changes in officiating in his 30 years. Teams used to hire only one official back in the late 1930s. Brindley said he would arrive at 6 p.m. and would seldom leave the gym before midnight. "First there would be the junior varsity game," he said. "Then the school's girls team would need an official. Next the varsity team would play and after that I would have to stay around and referee a game between teams made up of the local townspeople." For that he got paid \$6, \$5 for the three school games and \$1 for the city game.

An official's job can be a thankless one at times. They can't please everyone. That point was made clear to Brindley after he refereed a basketball game between Romeo and Rochester. "Rochester lost and feelings were running high after the game," Brindley said. "A distressed mother of one of the Rochester players confronted me and declared, 'If I wasn't a lady, I'd knock you flat.'"

Another time Clawson fans threw rocks at Brindley's car after the Trojans lost an 18-inning baseball game. "I didn't even take time to change," Brindley said. "I drove out of town as fast as I could."

Brindley saw some outstanding prep athletes during his career. "Ron Kramer (East Detroit) was probably the greatest all-around athlete I ever saw," Brindley said. He also mentioned Miki Schwarzkoff (Utica) and Bonner Upshaw (Mount Clemens).

Brindley's biggest thrill was working the state basketball finals. "The guy I was working with was so nervous he couldn't lace his shoes," Brindley said. "I was too, but didn't show it. The officiating itself was the easiest I ever had. The kids were well-coached and well-disciplined."

Brindley died in 1988.

Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2019

INDUCTEE

★ DAVE JACKSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD ★

JOE
COCHRAN



Some jobs become a labor of love.

That's what covering high school sports has been for Joe Cochran.

He explains what makes the prep scene so intriguing.

"To see and witness the kids playing as if every time they competed it was a championship game," says Cochran, who spent 18 years following the Warren area teams for TV Warren and now writes a blog that features all Macomb County teams.

"The looks on their faces during post-game interviews. Watching the coaches and fans getting into the action. The energy level was contagious to our broadcasts."

Long time Lincoln coach Vito Delia has known Cochran since he was a student at Wolcott Junior High.

"We all know Joe to be a passionate advocate for high school sports and those in Macomb County in particular," Delia says. "Joe's infectious enthusiasm has been a shining light for all of those who love high school sports. He has always added a positive note to his broadcasts, filling his broadcasts with only supportive comments, praising the efforts of all concerned."

Delia says that Cochran's interviews make a lasting impression on the athletes.

"His interviews with our kids have always been a highlight of their careers," Delia says. "Watching their eyes light up at his questions is pure joy for me."

Pete Coll, who was Center Line's football coach for 25 years, echoes many of Delia's thoughts.

"Joe's work with the young athletes and the many teams he featured was greatly appreciated by everyone," Coll says. "He started this recognition. His TV programs, his games of the week, his featuring players, coaches and programs were watched by everyone in Warren athletics."

"Joe started all this on his own. He was as well-known as the mayor of Warren."

When Pat Threet coached at Warren Woods-Tower he came to appreciate Cochran's efforts. "The professionalism Joe has in his coverage is second to none," Threet says. "It was very cool to see how passionate he was for every sport he covered."

"I remember seeing the first shows that Joe hosted on Warren TV and thought to myself, 'Who is this guy?' As time went on I was able to see how he treated equally all of the teams in the city of Warren. Each week he made the teams feel supported and he always promoted high school athletics."

Long time coach and administrator Mike Jolly also became a fan of Cochran.

"Joe Cochran epitomizes the excitement and enthusiasm that is high school sports," Jolly says. "I have always admired a sports broadcaster's ability to do play-by-play but with Joe I also saw his leadership being applied to his broadcast crew. Like good officials, they were doing their job but never in the way. The kids and the event always remained number one."

Cochran recalls some of his top thrills in covering the prep scene — a last-second shot for Fitzgerald to win a basketball regional, a triple-overtime win for Cousino's boys, De La Salle's regional title at Calihan Hall, the bus ride with De La Salle's football team to the state championship game at Ford Field and Regina's state championship in softball.

"Also all of the last-second or overtime games," Cochran says. "What a thrill!"

Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2019

INDUCTEE

★ DAVE JACKSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD ★

MIKE
GENTRY



Mike Gentry is preparing quite a legacy for when he decides his days as an official are over. Not only is he one of the best high school officials in Michigan, working state finals in several sports, but he has mentored many young officials who hoped to follow in his footsteps.

One of those is Shane Smith, a teacher at Eisenhower and a member of Gentry's football officiating crew. Smith met Gentry for the first time when he was a student at Chippewa Valley and had the job of hosting the game officials in the various sports. He enjoyed the job because he officiated elementary school basketball and Babe Ruth baseball and got to pick up pointers from the officials who worked the Big Reds' contests.

He says he especially enjoyed it when Gentry was assigned to a Chippewa Valley game.

"He always acted with professionalism," Smith says. "He treated me with respect and appreciated how we hosted officials. We still talk about a playoff football game in 2004 that was played in low 40-degree temperatures with a driving rain and 25 mph wind. Even though he was on the field and I was off of it, we still have that shared experience and it began a relationship that I cherish as much as any other I have developed both in and out of officiating."

After Smith graduated from college and began officiating baseball and football, he attended a basketball clinic at Detroit Mercy and Gentry was one of the instructors. Smith said he didn't know the passion Gentry has for developing young officials and mentoring them.

"I was now able to experience this first hand," Smith says. "Mike, or G as we call him, was willing to mentor me in three different sports and provided unending opportunities for growth. He provided me credibility as a young official in situations where I was unknown. He gave criticism where it was warranted and praise when it was earned, especially for using proper mechanics and positioning to get the call right. Most people would not see those minute details."

Eventually, Gentry felt comfortable enough with Smith's work to offer him a full-time job on his football crew. "Being a member of Mike Gentry's football crew is an achievement that other people recognize," Smith says. "This is because of the leadership and professionalism that G has developed and earned over his decades of work. Most other officials do not understand the amount of work and preparation Mike expects of the crew throughout the season."

Gentry leaves nothing to chance in game preparation with his crew. There are preseason meetings, in-depth pre-game meetings, film breakdown and discussion and a constant focus on improvement.

Gentry is also supportive of his crew. "When we fail, he takes total responsibility and ownership, believing the failure was in large part his," Smith says.

Gentry not only offers advice to young officials, but he helps them get started by giving them shoes, shirts and other equipment. Blake Mico, a counselor based in Utica, recognizes how Gentry has mentored young people who showed a love for officiating. "One would be hard-pressed to come across an individual with the level of influence and integrity that Mike Gentry has provided the officiating community since he started," Mico says. "He is rightfully regarded as a leader and legend in the fraternity."

Gentry began officiating high school sports in 1978 and has officiated multiple state finals in football, basketball and baseball. He has some fond memories of more than 40 years on the high school fields and courts.

"Definitely, my first state final and receiving the Vern Norris Award from the Michigan High School Athletic Association," Gentry says. "The award recognizes both the mentoring of new officials and personal achievements as an official."

Summing up what he has tried to do in his officiating career, Gentry says, "Maintaining the integrity of the games and setting an example for the student-athlete."

That's a goal Mike Gentry has achieved many times over.

Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2019

INDUCTEE

★ DAVE JACKSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD ★

ROBIN
GILL



Athletes and coaches are front and center when it comes to high school sports. While they are certainly important to a program's success, so are the folks who work behind the scenes. Robin Gill, the athletic department secretary at Lake Shore, is one of those vital contributors.

In a recent newspaper article, Shorians athletic director John Hartley said, "Without Robin and the time and effort she puts forth our programs do not have the success they do."

Along with handling the daily operations of the athletic office at Lake Shore — and before that at Kennedy Middle School — Gill is at every home game selling tickets and cheering on the student-athletes she interacts with on a daily basis. That can add up to many 16-hour workdays.

Sherri Taormina, a math teacher and the head cheerleading coach at Lake Shore, says Gill "is one of the faces of Lake Shore athletics. There isn't an event you will attend without first meeting her friendly face."

"Whether it is our own athletes and coaches, the officials, or visiting community members, everyone appreciates her warm smile and genuine welcome to Lake Shore. Robin is a shining example of someone who

truly cares about her work and the community atmosphere she helps build."

Gill's job entails much more than just answering the phone. "I appreciate the many tasks that Robin deals with for me, my coaching staff and our athletes," Taormina says. "She takes care of the physicals, the emergency cards, transportation requests, officials, schedules, the deposits and check requests and everything else that is thrown her way. I know it is not just for our (cheer) program, but for all of the programs in the school."

"She never truly gets credit for all that she does to make this place run like a well-oiled machine. When anyone needs help, Robin is there to help get the job done."

With all of that, Gill is a caring wife, mother and grandmother.

It's easy to see that Gill enjoys her job. "There's not enough space to write what I love about working with high school athletics," Gill says. "The kids, the coaches, the parents, the atmosphere, the sports themselves are all personal to me. I love interacting with different individuals who bring so many diverse backgrounds and experiences in front of me."

"I hope that I convey to each person that I see or talk with how passionate I am about sports and the individuals and teams that participate in them. Whether we enjoy good or bad seasons record-wise, the point is the process and the people who make the process happen."

Gill's four sons played baseball, football and soccer in St. Clair Shores when they were young and she and her husband were avid supporters of the teams they played on.

Gill encourages the student-athletes at Lake Shore to become well-rounded individuals. "My very best moments are those where a student-athlete is in front of me and I can tell them how important academics are and to not waste any moments of learning," she says. "I tell them to enjoy the time they have in school because it's fleeting and will be over before they know it. To enjoy relationships and try to hold on to them as long as possible."

"Then, athletics is the icing on the cake. To be able to compete athletically for their high school is a special privilege to work hard at and enjoy and become part of something that's bigger than themselves. I also love when an athlete tries a new sport, whether through a friend's invitation or to tide him or her over to the season when their main sport takes place, and they find they love the new sport. That joy on their faces is enough to make my day."

Gill has been active in many church and school organizations through the years and is currently a lay reader and council secretary at St. Mark Lutheran Church.

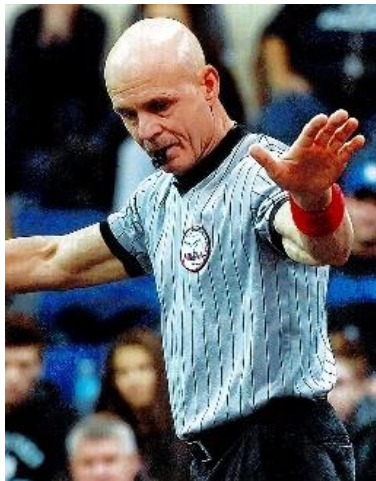
Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2019

INDUCTEE

★ DAVE JACKSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD ★

RON
MINOLETTI



Wrestling has a hold on Ron Minoletti and it won't let go. Because of that, the high school wrestling community is that much richer. Minoletti recently finished his 45th year as a wrestling official and is still going strong. "It keeps me young," Minoletti said in an interview a few years ago. "And it gets in your blood."

Officiating is something Minoletti enjoys. "The friendships created within the officiating community are special," he says. "We are a unique breed of individual and our job is not for everyone."

The wrestling bug bit Minoletti when he was a freshman at Warren Woods High School in the early 1970s. He developed into one of the best wrestlers in the state and by the time he was a senior, he lost only one match and took third place in the state meet. Minoletti is recognized as one of the best wrestling officials in the state and is a registered trainer for new officials within the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

Mark Uyl, assistant director of the MHSAA, has worked closely with Minoletti for the last 15 years and is one of his biggest boosters. "Ron has been one of the very best wrestling officials in the state," Uyl says. "He has worked more than 20 final tournament assignments over the years. He has also served as an assigner, trainer and mentor in helping officials learn and grow."

Minoletti and Ron Nagy were the two founders of the All-American Athletic Association, the largest association for wrestling officials in Michigan. The association was founded in 1990 and Minoletti has been its vice-president since the beginning.

"Simply put, Ron has given much of his own time to help other officials in the noble avocation of serving young people," Uyl says. "Because of Ron's outstanding work and leadership, many student-athletes have benefitted from his service."

Minoletti is part of a small group which has worked for more than 35 years to assign referees to high school and middle school meets. That includes providing assigning services to most southeastern Michigan area schools, including those in the Macomb Area Conference and the Oakland Activities Association.

Ron Wilson, the former athletic director at Warren Woods-Tower, has known Minoletti since he was a student in high school. Wilson is impressed with Minoletti's work on the mat.

"His ability to officiate young wrestlers and teach them at the same time speaks to his love of the sport," Wilson says. "He has handled himself well and with class in many highly competitive situations."

"As a past athletic director, I can speak first-hand of the good job he and Ron Nagy have done assigning referees to the schools in Macomb County. In addition, he has been a mentor and teacher to many young officials in our area."

Minoletti says working the many state finals has provided his most memorable moments in the sport.

"Every state finals assignment is memorable," he says. "It is enjoyable to work at the highest level and, at season's end, see the young athletes accomplish their goals, whether it's just to walk in the finals parade and participate or to be a state champ."

Minoletti has seen the quality of wrestling in Michigan improve during his five decades in the sport. "The kids are bigger, stronger and faster," he says. "Some of the kids, when they get to high school, have wrestled eight to 10 years. I never wrestled until ninth grade."

Minoletti travels to several out-of-state events, including Florida, Tennessee, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

"It's the camaraderie of the officials, seeing long-time friends, meeting new ones and of course, still learning the trade and getting new tips from others," he says.

That willingness to learn will continue to keep Minoletti at the top of his profession.

Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2019

INDUCTEE

★ DAVE JACKSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD ★

LYNNE
PERRYMAN



Lynne Perryman knows when she'll retire as athletic department secretary for Chippewa Valley High School. "When it isn't fun anymore!" says Perryman, who has been a vital member of the Big Reds' athletic program since 1998. That day doesn't seem to be anytime soon because it's obvious that Perryman enjoys her job.

"Once my boys graduated, working in athletics helped a lot with 'empty-nest syndrome' since I just adopted the kids I interact with on a daily basis," Perryman says. "The kids at school call me Miss P. but I've had several over the years who continue to call me Momma P. "I love those bonds that were built and enjoy being out and about and running into kids who have gone on to lead very successful and productive lives. The relationship with the kids not only keeps me young but is also why I look forward to coming to work every day."

Both of Perryman's sons graduated from Chippewa Valley and were very involved in sports their whole lives. Her oldest boy was a freshman when she began working in the athletic department.

"I was a volunteer parent at the elementary school and, to a lesser extent, middle school so knew a lot of the kids who came through the program those first eight or nine years," Perryman says. "It was fun to watch them grow as students and athletes from the little kids I knew since elementary school."

The athletic directors Perryman has worked for appreciate her efforts in helping the programs at one of the largest high schools in the state run smoothly. "Whether it's handling the day-to-day tasks in the office or helping at an event, Lynne's smile and warm welcome has made her one of the most-beloved employees at Chippewa Valley," says Chad Hottle, the current AD at the school.

"Lynne truly loves our students and can often be found cheering on her 'kids' during their competitions. She never hesitates to lend a helping hand at any athletic-related event because she enjoys being part of our student-athletes' lives. Lynne has had many opportunities to accept other positions within our district but has turned down those offers because her heart is in athletics."

Kari Drogosh, the AD before Hottle and now an assistant principal at Chippewa Valley, also has high praise for Perryman. "As an athletic department made up of two individuals — an athletic director and athletic secretary — the work is plentiful and Lynne was able to juggle it all," Drogosh says. "From creating rosters, checking in pay-to-participate, collecting physicals, paying officials and handling community members, she did it with ease. "Her vast knowledge from spending years in the athletic arena was invaluable to me as a new athletic director and to every new coach who was added to our staff. She is a steadfast employee who puts her heart into everything she does."

Perryman is a fixture at many of the Big Reds' athletic events. "You'll see Lynne with popcorn in hand, always in her Big Reds gear, cheering on our student-athletes and supporting them," Drogosh says. It's because she wants to be there.

"People ask me all the time if I 'have to' go to the games as part of my job," Perryman says. "I go to as many as I can, both home and away, to support the kids who work so hard every day. Just as they love seeing their parents in the stands, they are also happy to see me and other staff members in attendance."

Perryman lives and dies with the Chippewa Valley teams. "After a big win or a crushing defeat, Lynne is often more affected by the outcome than our athletes and coaches," Hottle says. "Lynne is a firm believer in the positive role interscholastic athletics plays in our students' lives."

It's difficult for Perryman to pick out a single highlight during her 20 years at Chippewa Valley. "I am lucky enough to have several memorable moments," she says. "I worked in athletics during the school's two football state championships in 2001 and 2018. There are no words to describe the pride and excitement I felt sitting in the stands week after week watching 'my kids' succeed at such a high level.

"Not so much a moment, but something else I will never forget is the support and encouragement I received from coaches, parents, students and other Chippewa Valley staff members while I was battling lung cancer. We always talk about the Big Red Family here at Chippewa and that family certainly came together for me, as they have for others since. That is something I will never forget."

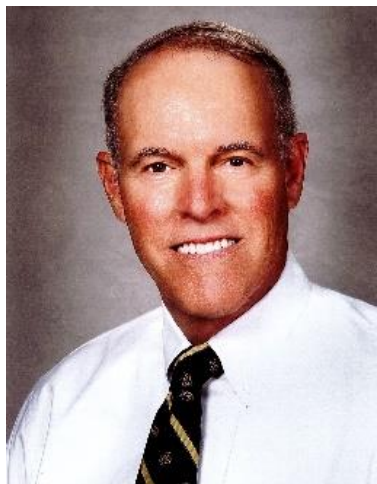
Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2019

INDUCTEE

★ JACK FRANCIS AWARD OF MERIT ★

MIKE
JOLLY



Mike Jolly's middle name could be Service. The long-time teacher, coach and administrator has spent his entire adult life serving school, church and the athletic community. Jolly began his coaching career in basketball and football at Mount Clemens shortly after his graduation from the school in 1960. His 59 years in coaching and administration continues to this day. He was a member of the De La Salle football staff that guided the Pilots to its first Division 2 state championships in 2014.

He has served several Macomb County high schools in various capacities. In addition to four years at Mount Clemens, he coached football, basketball and baseball at Chippewa Valley from 1965 to 1979; football, basketball and lacrosse from 1974 and from 1982 until the present at De La Salle. He also was athletic director at De La Salle and since 2006 has been the Pilots' clay target shooting team head coach.

Jolly had some excellent mentors along the way, including Macomb County Athletic Directors Association Hall of Famers Ernest Buckholz, Don Weichert, Steve Nowak, Dick Chapman, Walt Koepke, Ron Kocan, Larry Clemans and Larry Cosart. "Good coaches are good teachers," Jolly said in a recent interview with Michigan High School Lacrosse Coaches Association secretary Greg Normand. "Many of my best teachers happened to be coaches. They could translate from the court and the field into the classroom and vice versa."

Jolly graduated from Michigan State with a bachelor's degree in social science and master's degrees in physiology/anatomy/coaching and outdoor education. During his time there, he was on the track team and the freshman football team, was a member of the school's original lacrosse team and was a graduate assistant in football. While in high school, Jolly never dreamed that he could be a college athlete. "I've told kids many times when they leave high school that college teams need depth," Jolly says. "You don't have to be a great athlete. If you're a good worker and a good teammate, there will be a place for you."

Jolly's first experience in guiding a team of his own was when Chippewa Valley's freshman coach came down with mononucleosis. The Big Reds were caught in a bind and asked Jolly to take over. He called MSU coach Duffy Daugherty and informed him that he had a job and wouldn't be returning as a grad assistant. "We went undefeated and that was the start of my coaching career," Jolly says. "I discovered I loved coaching kids and seemed to have a knack for it."

Jolly and then DLS A.D. Gary Buslepp were the co-founders of the De La Salle lacrosse program and he and Catholic High School League director Tom Rashid co-founded the league's lacrosse program. Jolly coached the Pilots' lacrosse team to the 1994 Division AAA state championship.

Jolly has received many honors and awards, including national awards from the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and United States Lacrosse. In 2017, he received the Peter Kohn Award from FCA for service above and beyond the call of duty. He won the Gerry Carroll Award from US Lacrosse in 2012 for exemplary coaching and he was also the organization's National Man of the Year in 2000. He was the National High School Athletic Coaches Association's boys assistant Coach of the Year in 2011. Jolly received the Michigan High School Coaches Association Distinguished Service Award in 2017. He was the CHSL Athletic Director of the Year in 2014 and the league's Lacrosse Scholar-Athlete-Leader award is named the Mike Jolly Award.

De La Salle named him Lasallian Educator of the Year. He is a member of several coaches halls of fame, including the Catholic High School League, Macomb County Athletic Directors Association, Michigan High School Lacrosse Coaches Association, the Michigan Chapter of US Lacrosse and the Michigan High School Coaches Association.

Jolly has been a volunteer in several organizations. He is on the Hall of Fame committee for the Macomb County Athletic Directors Association. He has served the Michigan High School Coaches Association in several capacities, including president. Jolly is past-president of the Michigan High School Lacrosse Coaches Association and is currently treasurer and the Coach of the Year selection coordinator. He is a permanent advisor on the MHSAA boys lacrosse committee. He is the boys lacrosse coordinator and Scholar-Athlete-Leader committee member for the CHSL.

He has been a Fellowship of Christian Athletes member since 1996 and has served as Huddle Leader, Camp Coach and Instructor, trip leader and fundraiser. Jolly has been on the editorial board, the High School Coaches Council, the director of the national North-South All-Star Games, the vice-president of the High School Coaches Council and is currently a national presenting clinician for US Lacrosse.

He has served his church as Lay Minister of the Word, Lay Minister of the Eucharist and Lay Minister of Hospitality. Jolly was a captain in the U.S. Army and served in the Republic of Korea (air defense artillery) during the Vietnam war. He and his wife, Mary Gay (the daughter of Leonard Brindley) have been married for 45 years. They are the parents of seven boys, grandparents of 16 and they have six great-grandchildren.

Special Thanks to:

Robin Dilday

Kevin Lozon, George Pohly, & Chuck Klonke

Kevin Coppa – Utica Community Schools Audio Visual Department

The Macomb Daily

Visual Sports Network of Michigan

Wesner Tuxedo

BSN Sports

Eckert's Greenhouse

De La Salle Men's Chorus

Anchor Bay ROTC

Macomb Area Conference

Debbie Checkle & Mary Anne Santarossa

Joe Dumars Fieldhouse

MCADA Committee – Jason Battle, Robin Dilday, Karyn Holmes, Chad Hottle, Mike Jolly, Bob Maus, Brad Robinson, Jan Sander, Aaron Setlak, Bill Szlaga, & Mike Watson

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