

Macomb County Coaches

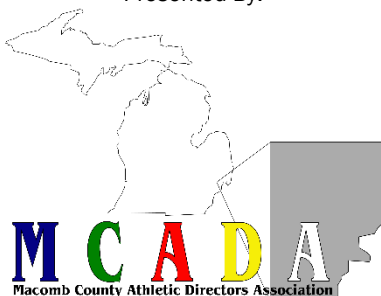
HALL OF FAME

2021



The Best of Macomb County

Presented By:



The
**Macomb
Daily**

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Macomb County Coaches

HALL OF FAME

2021

INDUCTION CEREMONY

Program Agenda

May 25, 2022

Master of Ceremony

Chad Hottle

President

Macomb County Athletic Directors Association

Welcome

Chad Hottle

National Anthem

Samantha Brown

Regina High School Choral Ensemble

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

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2021

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 Kay 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 Lapis
Ross MacDonald
Russell Marley
Robert Murray
Larry Russell
Dennis Schreiber
Gary Sear
Dan Simeck
Al Snyder

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

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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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 Sciuлло

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

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PAST INDUCTEES

2019

William Apisa, Sr.

Leonard Brindley

Joe Cochran

Larry Cosart

Mike Gentry

Robin Gill

Gregg Golden

Mike Jolly

Richard Julien

Greg Mayer

Angela Milanov

Ron Minoletti

Mike Moore

Skipper Mukhtar

Shawn Murray

Charles "Tony" Pankowski

Lynne Perryman

Randy Payne

Howard Stuart

Kevin Voss

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2021

INDUCTEES WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US

1995

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

1997

John Barnett
Bill Chmelko
Raymond Dion
Bernie Kennedy
Frank Morrow
Steve Nowak
Jim Porter
Ron Wilson

1999

Paul Mandziara
Don Seiferlein
Tom Simon

2001

John Lapish

2003

Ved Green
Dave Jackson
Don Wiswell

2005

Cleland Dame

2007

Dick Brand
Jack Francis
Ron Kocan
Bruce Udvari
Pat Walny

2009

Marguerite Archibald
Dave Malinowski
Pete Martin
Craig Morris

2011

Bill Beach
Doug McDougal
Duke Melchoir

2013

Bobby Hill

2015

Duane Bryner
Skip Crane

2017

Thomas Dailey
Mel Perrone

2019

Bill Apisa
Leonard Brindley
Larry Cosart
Randy Payne

2021

Gary Rojeski

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INDUCTEE

KIM
ARGIRI-STONE



Outstanding coaches are always eager to learn more about their sport.

Kim Argiri-Slone is the perfect example of that.

Although she has won two state championships in volleyball and numerous Coach of the Year awards, Argiri-Slone is anxious to take advantage of any opportunities to learn more.

"I have enjoyed attending clinics and workshops to improve my coaching philosophy," she says. "I have the attitude that if you learn one thing from someone, a class or a conference it was worth your time. I am the person I am today due to my experiences as a coach."

There's no doubt that other coaches have learned from Argiri-Slone.

During a career that began coaching the junior varsity at Hudson, Argiri-Slone has guided her teams to six league championships, 12 district titles and nine regional championships. She led Fraser to state championships in 2003 and 2004 and the Ramblers were state runners-up in 2001, 2002 and 2006. Two other times Argiri-Slone's teams advanced to the state final four, including her 1993 Adrian-Madison squad that upset two favored opponents to earn a berth in the Class D semifinals.

Fraser's two state championships top Argiri-Slone's memorable career moments.

"We had the athletes, we were expected to win and we did," she says. "All the extra attention from the school and the community was amazing. Planning the itinerary for the four days we played in the finals made me feel like a college coach. We were treated like a professional team with VIP status."

Argiri-Slone encourages her athletes to play multiple sports. That's why she was instrumental in creating the Michigan Volleyball Inc. club for the multi-sport athlete.

"The vision of this program was to offer the opportunity for athletes to play competitive volleyball in the offseason and still be able to play other sports," she says. "I was a three-sport athlete in high school and believe it is important for athletes to be able to enjoy all sports and not be forced to specialize."

Argiri-Slone won 10 varsity letters at Fraser in volleyball, basketball and softball. She continued her career at Hillsdale where she played volleyball and softball, earning seven varsity letters and a team MVP award. When she left Hillsdale she owned team records for digs and blocks in volleyball and fielding percentage in softball.

Brad Robinson, the former athletic director at Fraser, speaks highly of Argiri-Slone's coaching ability.

"Even with the titles her teams earned, what is more important to me is that she made individuals play as a high-functioning team," Robinson says. "She had high-performing athletes and very involved parents that she needed to manage. Kim managed those egos successfully. Kim was definitely a rock as she coached the kids and the parents."

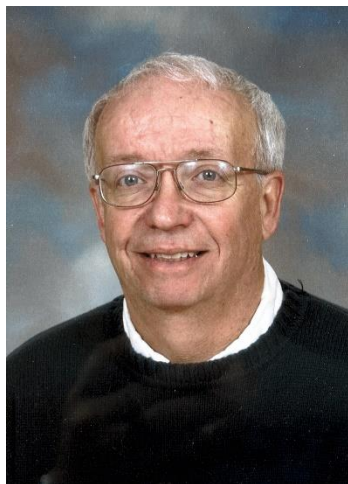
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INDUCTEE

**JOHN
BURKE**



Seven hundred coaching victories mean two things.

That coach has been on the job for many years and has done an outstanding job of teaching the game to the athletes.

John Burke fits both of those descriptions. He started coaching boys tennis at South Lake in 1972 and four years later he took over the Cavaliers' girls team when that became a varsity sport. Among his more than 700 victories are more than 40 league championships and some 30 regional titles.

Burke, however, is known for more than just the huge amount of victories his teams have amassed.

"John was one of those coaches where sports brought about the best in him and his teams," says David Clutts, the longtime tennis coach at St. Clair High School. "When I was coaching against John, he did not always have strong tennis players at the beginning of the season, but by the end of the season his players were always better.

"This is why his teams were always competitive and usually fighting for a MAC title. John was one of those coaches whose players always wanted to perform for him. They always fought hard for their coach and their teammates."

Tennis is a sport without officials so the players make their own line calls. Burke's teams were known for their high character and sportsmanship.

"I know this was a trait that was also in John," Clutts says. "There are some coaches I will no longer play against because of their poor character, however, I always looked forward to playing South Lake and John. He was a popular coach among coaches and you always knew you were going to get a competitive match."

George Cutshaw, a former Warren Woods-Tower tennis coach, values his friendship with Burke.

"John is a person who not only deserves to be recognized as one who has distinguished himself as a tennis coach but also as a friend to everyone with whom he has come into contact," Cutshaw says. "His sense of humor came across early in our conversations and I knew right away that this was an individual I wanted to know better and hear what he had to say about coaching and being a teacher."

Burke never took coaching for granted.

"I considered coaching a privilege and I considered it to be one of my best experiences in my 39-year educational career," Burke says. "I attempted to build character and the tennis skills were a secondary benefit. I had a 'no cut' policy for my teams. This gave a lot of kids their only opportunity to be involved with a sports team."

Burke was elected to the Michigan Tennis Coaches Hall of Fame in 1993 and the Macomb Tennis Coaches Hall of Fame in 2016.

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INDUCTEE

JACK
DAILEY



It isn't just the head coach that is instrumental in a program's success.

Assistant coaches are also important.

Longtime Regina softball assistant coach Jack Dailey is the perfect example.

"He was the best assistant any coach could have," says Diane Laffey who has guided the Saddlelites to seven state softball championships. "Jack was a calming influence with the girls and was able to highly motivate them."

Dailey coached Regina's outfielders and pitchers. He joined the staff after his daughter, Mary Jane, graduated and was a valued aide for 28 years.

"He was very instrumental in Regina winning 10 Catholic League championships and six of our seven state titles," Laffey says. "Jack will tell you that he wasn't a part of the 2015 title but he was. When our top assistant was injured late in the season, Jack stepped in and helped at practice and in the championship game. Even in his retirement he has helped us whenever we asked."

"He has, and always will be, a major part of Regina softball. He was respected and liked by all of our opponents. When Jack decided to retire from Regina, he told me that if he didn't feel he could give 100 percent all the time, that it would not be fair to the girls who were asked to give that much."

Although he's no longer on the Regina staff, Dailey will work with the pitchers when asked. He also helps with a clinic for the Warren Recreation Department.

It all began when Dailey wanted to share an interest with his daughter. She and her friends were looking for someone to coach the fourth through sixth grade softball team in the Belleview Dads Club in East Detroit.

"My big high school moments began when Diane Laffey asked me in 1985 to be one of her assistants," Dailey says. "That was pretty surreal for a guy who only a few years earlier was coaching fourth-graders. I got to coach first base in the 1989 Class A championship game and watch our number nine batter drive a double in the gap to score our runner from first to win the championship in the 17th inning."

"Then to be part of that four-year state championship run from 2003 to 2006 and having the opportunity to meet so many great young women and their families. I will always appreciate the opportunity Diane gave me to be an assistant at Regina and allow me to share in the success of Diane's program."

Dailey was inducted into the Catholic League Hall of Fame in 2006. He was honored as the MHSAA Assistant Coach of the Year and the AFLAC Regional Assistant Coach of the Year.

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INDUCTEE

LISA
DOWNEY



It was inevitable that sports would be a big part of Lisa Downey's life.

"Sports was always the focal point in my family, along with school," she says. "My dad was a sports fanatic and my family was either playing or watching sports every minute of every day. My brother, sister and I would spend countless hours with him playing mostly baseball, but other sports also. I loved to compete and loved being part of a team."

Downey was only 17 when she started coaching at Our Lady Queen of Peace, the Harper Woods school she attended from fourth through eighth grade.

"I knew immediately that coaching was my passion," she says. "I love how coaching constantly challenges me, allows me opportunities to compete and be a part of the sports I loved playing growing up. I love teaching and watching my players improve

and grow. I enjoy the unity of the team and the lifelong bonds that are formed with the players and their families.

"Sports is such a positive activity and I feel it helps young people be more prepared for the challenges that life will bring them. I love helping them gain confidence and enjoy seeing the joy on their faces when they finally master a skill they have spent hours practicing. I love the challenge of getting individuals to work together to achieve common goals. I love seeing my former players graduate and pursue their dreams. Hearing from them and having them tell me their favorite stories from when they played for me is priceless. It is what makes coaching so enjoyable and rewarding."

Downey has more than 400 victories coaching softball at L'Anse Creuse and her basketball wins at Chippewa Valley and L'Anse Creuse number more than 200. Her softball teams have won eight division championships and five district titles. She was Macomb County Coach of the Year in softball in 2019.

Mary Knechtges, who guided the L'Anse Creuse girls basketball team to a state championship in 1978, was an assistant softball coach for Downey for nine years.

"Lisa's teams are always fundamentally sound and well-prepared," Knechtges says. "She is excellent at conveying this knowledge to her players. I have seen her develop an average player into a member of the first Macomb Area Conference team. She is very passionate about coaching and is dedicated to her players."

Jane Werner, a teacher and coach at L'Anse Creuse, provides an example of Downey's dedication to her athletes.

"She took one of her players on a recruiting trip because her parents wouldn't take her," Werner says. "On the trip a parent of another recruit commented to Lisa, 'I have never heard of a coach bringing a player on a visit.'"

The trip paid off because the player was offered a full scholarship to play basketball.

Downey has had many memorable moments in a 39-year coaching career but she says "some of my proudest moments were when my players signed letters of intent to play in college. Seeing how happy they are and how happy their parents are is so exciting. And knowing how hard they worked virtually their whole life to get to that moment is so rewarding."

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INDUCTEE

CHARLENE GARIEPY



Charlene Gariepy remembers the exact moment when she realized just how big an impact her years of teaching and coaching had on her students.

"It happened at the 2019 varsity volleyball banquet," says Gariepy, who has coached volleyball, basketball and track in the Fraser schools for more than 20 years. "I had one of those athletes that you know should be giving so much more on the court and in the classroom. I coached this athlete initially when she was a seventh-grader on my basketball team. The harder I pushed her, the harder she pushed back. By the end of our season, it felt like I had not made the impact that I had hoped. It felt more like I had upset her than helped her. I felt like I failed her."

Two years later, to Gariepy's surprise, that same girl tried out for Gariepy's freshman volleyball team.

"I kept thinking she must not have known I was coaching, or she would have never tried out," Gariepy says. "She came in knowing what I expected of her and knew what she had to do to play for me. It ended up being a wonderful season. We had a new understanding and respect for one another. I truly enjoyed having her on my team and loved watching how much she matured as an athlete and as a young woman."

Fast forward three years later to the varsity volleyball banquet.

"While giving her senior speech, she honored me by saying I was the one who believed in her and pushed her to be the person she is today," Gariepy says. "Later that night, her parents came up to me with tears in their eyes telling me how I had saved their daughter's life. They told me how she had written her college essay on me and how I had pushed her to change her life in a positive direction."

"Until that speech, I had no idea the impact I had made. As thrilled as it made me to hear that from her and her family, I also felt that is what a good coach is supposed to do. Being an athlete myself and the parent of two athletes, I always knew coaches have the potential to make a huge difference in a player's life. It never really hit home with me how much of an impact they can have until I heard her speech that night. That one night made my whole coaching career worthwhile."

Gariepy has coached at Fraser High School and Richards Middle School and the administration at both schools appreciates her efforts.

"Char stands out in my mind as being one of the most genuine coaches, with a strong desire to learn about her players' strengths and areas of growth on and off the playing fields," says Huston Julian, the principal at Richards. "Char knows the true importance that you find in team sports of being dependable and consistent in your effort as the team works to a collective goal."

Shane Redshaw met Gariepy when he was hired as Fraser's athletic director in 2015 and says "I have gained much appreciation for her professionalism and dedication to all facets of high school and middle school education and athletics."

"Charlene is very confident and has an acute awareness of dealing with the different personalities from the coaches', students' and parents' standpoints. That is beneficial when dealing with athletic and activity programs the size of the Fraser school district."

Gariepy's attitude toward coaching is what has made her successful.

"Coaching is my play time," she says. "When someone asks me what I do for fun, I tell them I coach. It's my time where I can push myself physically and mentally while also trying to instill life lessons to my athletes."

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2021

INDUCTEE

**RHODY
HORNOVICH**



It isn't only the high-profile coaches that make a difference in a youngster's life.

It can be their first recreation league coach, or their middle school coach.

Rhody Hornovich has been that positive influence in the lives of countless students who have passed through the Warren Consolidated Schools for more than 50 years.

He was teaching at Grissom Middle School in 1970 when he started a Friday morning program for boys to play basketball before classes.

"We started at 6 (a.m.) and played until 7:30," Hornovich recalls. "At the beginning a group of 15 boys showed up and we played full-court under my supervision. As the years went by the number increased to as many as 40 at one time. I was always there to make sure no problems arose. Many boys came back even when they were in high school. The older players encouraged their younger brothers to come in.

"It allows many boys a chance to pursue their dream of making the Grissom team or to hone their skills to improve their chances of playing high school ball."

Among the players who came through Hornovich's program were Michigan State standouts Kenny Goins and Kalin Lucas and former Arizona State player Robert Wilson.

Hornovich coached basketball, football and track at Grissom for 46 years. He also coached at Furhmann Middle School and Cousino and Warren high schools.

Tom Fallon has known Hornovich since they were roommates at Middle Tennessee State.

"Rhody has a gift to communicate with all," Fallon says. "He brings out the best in everyone around him. Rhody has dedicated his life to giving back and improving many, many lives."

Doug Fougnyes played on Grissom's first football team that was coached by Hornovich in 1969. The team didn't win a game. It didn't score a point until late in the final game of the season.

"Coach Hornovich had to start from scratch and we were bad," Fougnyes says. "We were a group of seventh graders who got killed every game. Yet our coach always kept teaching us and telling us how proud he was of us and to persevere. In our last game, Fitzgerald was killing us 42-0. We finally got a couple of breaks and as incredible as it seemed we scored a touchdown.

"I could not have been more proud to be a part of that team. Coach Hornovich praised our efforts and perseverance against what was, obviously, a much better team. He taught us character and integrity. He really cared for all the kids — and what a seedy bunch we were. Rhody was a young man back then, but there are certain things a coach has or doesn't have. He had that intangible something, a gift that truly great coaches have."

All these years later, Hornovich still enjoys coaching.

"I enjoy preparing a practice game plan and seeing it work," he says. "Watching the improvement in the athletes and knowing that maybe you had something to do with it makes all the work well worth it. I have a great opportunity to show them how leadership, teamwork, discipline and hard work can help them beyond sports.

"Coaching makes me feel young — and how can you call something you love to do work?"

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2021

INDUCTEE

TOM
McDONALD



Tom McDonald is in a very select group among Macomb County's girls basketball coaches.

When McDonald guided his 1999 Utica team to the Class A state championship he became the third county coach to win a state title in girls basketball, following Mary Knechtges of L'Anse Creuse (1978) and Carol Susalla of Warren Woods (1975). Mike Lee joined the group in 2016 when his Cousino girls won in Class A.

It's more, however, than the more than 300 victories and the state championship that define McDonald's coaching career.

"With over 300 wins and a state championship, it is evident that Tom McDonald is an exceptionally successful coach," says David Riley, assistant superintendent of the Macomb Intermediate School District. "However, what I think sets him apart is the

success that his players had off the court, largely due to the lessons, guidance and support that Tom has provided them over the past 25 years. It is this commitment to his players that I most admire about Tom."

Expectations are high each year at Utica. McDonald expects as much of himself as he does his players.

"Tom expects his players to be the best students, best basketball players and the best people they can be," Riley says. "Most importantly, he supports them in all of these areas. Players on his teams quickly realize they are fortunate to have a coach who wants the best for them and will give 110 percent for them to reach their potential.

"While all coaches measure success with wins and losses, Tom goes beyond that. He wants all his players to be their best and experience all the wonderful things that come from being an athlete, but he also teaches them what it means to be a good teammate, student and person. He regularly keeps in touch with former players and embraces opportunities to assist them with navigating through life after high school."

McDonald began his coaching career in 1989 as the freshman girls basketball coach at Eppler Junior High. Two years later, he became junior varsity coach at Utica. The next year he was co-coach of the Chieftains with Bill Waterhouse. After two years he took over the reins by himself and as has been the coach ever since.

Since taking over the program, McDonald established a summer fundamental camp for third through ninth graders, initiated communication and built an alliance with the three feeder schools, hosted clinics for the local parks and recreation coaches and began an annual Saturday Morning Hoops Clinic to continue to develop basketball skills for the youth of the community.

McDonald has many fond memories of his years at Utica but winning the state championship with a 27-0 record in 1999 is at the top of the list.

"That group of players and their families epitomized what it meant to be selfless and to put team first," he says. "But every practice and game is memorable on some level because of the people involved. It is such a special role we play in getting to lead and share experiences with so many great people — players, staff, etc."

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INDUCTEE

JAY
RITCHIE



It isn't always winning championships that leave the most indelible memory for a coach.

Often it's an unexpected performance from one of the coach's players.

Jay Ritchie, who has won more than 20 championships in a 33-year coaching career, has one of those memories from his days coaching the Lakeview girls basketball team.

"A four-year varsity role player scored the final three baskets of the game to defeat Clintondale's girls team by a point," Ritchie recalls.

Some of that enjoyment came from watching that player develop under his guidance. That's what has made coaching a big part of Ritchie's life.

"Working with kids and being able to mold a team into a cohesive and competitive group (has made coaching enjoyable)," Ritchie says. "Also just being part of the coaching staff."

Before he began his coaching career, Ritchie was an outstanding basketball player at Lakeview and at Macomb Community College. He has had several coaching stops at Macomb County high schools, including Lakeview, Center Line and South Lake, coaching both boys and girls teams. He also coached the men's team at Orchard Lake St. Mary's College and the boys team at Grosse Pointe South.

For more than a decade, Ritchie has run a very successful women's basketball program at MCC. He has led the Monarchs to seven league championships and two state titles. His 2020 team went 32-0 before COVID-19 ended its run.

"Jay has helped many players develop their skills both on the court and in the classroom so they could move on to four-year schools to continue their athletic and academic careers," says Bryan Rizzo, director of athletics at MCC.

"Jay is a professional who runs a program with the students at the center of the focus. He has consistently won whether at the high school or college level, whether coaching boys or girls, men or women. That is a true indicator of coaching ability."

Lake Shore athletic director John Hartley has coached against Ritchie and says it "was always a challenge.

"His teams were always prepared for your team and he was quick to make adjustments on the fly. The games against Jay Ritchie-coached teams left me and my teams exhausted. We knew it would always be a tough game to win. At no point has he ever taken a short cut to success. Jay has always stressed the hard work and discipline it takes to be a winner — on and off the court."

In addition to his high school and college coaching, Ritchie ran the Lakeview "Little Huskies" youth program and has been a coach and director in the Macomb/Metro D Basketball Camp since 1982.

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INDUCTEE

**GARY
ROJESKI**



Gary Rojeski's memorial service in 2017 became two hours of tributes to a beloved coach and mentor.

Susan Meyer, a former teacher and associate principal at Ford, remembers the day well.

"Gary's former players and their parents; fellow coaches, teachers and colleagues; and business and community members spoke of him with reverence and love, the likes of which one does not experience very often," she says. "Of course, the laudable attributes of passionate, honorable, great sense of humor, honest, wonderful husband, father and mentor were mentioned many times but the attribute mentioned most often was character."

Rojeski, who was a three-sport athlete at Utica, became the first football coach at Ford when it began play in 1973. In his nine years as head coach, Rojeski led the Falcons to seven winning seasons, including Oakland A division championships in 1973 and 1978. In 17 years as a varsity and junior varsity coach at Ford, Rojeski's teams had a 101-55-1 record.

He later coached at Utica where the Chieftains compiled a 48-41 record. In three years at Eppler Junior High, Rojeski's teams were 23-4.

"A tremendous leader of young men is how I always thought of Gary Rojeski," says Hall of Fame coach Jim Barker. "He always set a positive example for his teams as he exhibited hard work, enthusiasm, organized preparation and a winning attitude. He coached and motivated his players to be tough football players, but more important, to be respected young men."

"I was always impressed with his relationship with his players and his staff. I learned a lot from Coach Rojeski. He was a big influence on me."

Patrick Teaney, an assistant on Rojeski's staffs, also learned a lot from him.

"Gary was a true student of the game of football," Teaney says. "He constantly looked for better ways for him and his staff to coach their players. Not only was Gary a master technician, he had the uncanny ability to place his players in the best possible position for their success."

Rojeski developed his passion for football while playing at Utica for Bob Dilday. Dilday continued to be his mentor when he joined Utica's staff after graduation from college. He was on the staff that led the Chieftains to a 9-0 record in 1970.

Rojeski's three sons, Chad, Kyle and Adam, knew from an early age that their dad was someone special.

"It was rare for us to go anywhere around town without Dad running into someone he knew," they say. "It was inevitable that there would be someone there who knew him. The conversation didn't always start with football, as Dad usually inquired about their lives, but it almost always ended there. We were just young kids, but we weren't around any other adult that was like that. In our eyes, it was as if he was kind of famous — at least around the Utica area."

The Rojeski boys were impressed that Gary was friends with so many other coaches.

"Our dad was very close friends with a lot of these gentlemen, even though he would do anything to beat them on fall Friday nights," they say. "It was odd to us, knowing the passion our dad had for winning, yet he truly loved these guys. He didn't consider them fellow coaches. He considered them friends."

"They were friends he ran football camps with, talked with for hours on the phone about football or asked for advice and guidance when he needed it. He knew they would be there for him because he probably returned the favor numerous times."

The boys were stunned by the outpouring of tributes at their father's funeral.

"The amount of former players that showed up was shocking," they say. "Men of all ages were there to pay their respects. Some of the things said to us about our dad gave us a sense of pride that we've never felt before — proud to have Coach Rojeski as our dad."

Macomb County Coaches

HALL OF FAME

2021

INDUCTEE

**MARTY
SHEARER**



It isn't an easy task to build a sports program from the ground up.

That's what makes Marty Shearer's success as the girls soccer coach at South Lake so remarkable.

He started the Cavaliers' girls program in 1990 and led his first team to a district championship. In a 27-year coaching career, Shearer led the South Lake girls to 10 league titles and seven district championships. His girls teams were 324-146-48 and six times finished in the top 10 in the state coaches poll.

His 2000 team won its regional and advanced to the state final four. Shearer earned state Coach of the Year honors in 1999.

Shearer's 324 wins rank among the top 10 in the state among girls soccer coaches.

When asked what made coaching enjoyable, Shearer replied, "teaching the game of soccer to many of the students that never played; watching them work hard and develop into great players."

Shearer's devotion to the sport didn't end with his coaching the boys and girls high school teams. From 1999 through 2014 he ran a Spring Break Soccer Camp that was free to students in St. Clair Shores.

Jason Kasperian was the athletic director at South Lake from 2001 to 2010 and got to observe Shearer first hand.

"I enjoyed working with Marty and came to know him as a truly valuable asset to our school community," Kasperian says. "He is honest and dependable and his best quality is his ability to relate and connect with student athletes.

"Marty had a sheer desire to help his student-athletes. Marty was more than just a coach to his soccer team. Marty understood the big picture and became a fixture within our school community. He's not a teacher but he understood the need to be around the school, to contribute to it and share in the successes of the students at South Lake. Marty would recognize students whether or not they were part of his program."

Jay Ritchie was coaching basketball at South Lake during many of the years Shearer coached the school's soccer teams. He was impressed with his coaching colleague.

"His teams were always well-conditioned and well-prepared for competition," Ritchie says. "He was always extremely skillful in scouting the opponents' tendencies and set plays, putting his team in position to win against the best teams Michigan had to offer.

"Coach Shearer was also the boys coach at South Lake for 10 seasons and they too were always a threat to win a league and district title."

In 10 seasons as boys coach, Shearer's Cavaliers compiled a 104-68-25 record that included district championships in 1998 and 1999 and league titles in three seasons.

One of the highlights of his decade at the helm of the boys team was upsetting Lakeview in 1995 when the Huskies were ranked fifth in the state.

Macomb County Coaches

HALL OF FAME

2021

INDUCTEE

**TOM
STOCKTON**



Tom Stockton is definitely “Mr. High School Bowling” in Macomb County.

It’s also a state-wide title that would fit the longtime Stevenson bowling coach.

Stockton’s contributions to high school bowling are never-ending. He began building the Titans’ successful boys and girls programs in 1997. He is a driving force in the Michigan High School Interscholastic Bowling Association and has been on the board of directors since the organization was formed in 2002. Stockton has been a regional and state final manager for the Michigan High School Athletic Association since it began hosting sanctioned tournaments in 2004.

Stockton’s contributions are appreciated by his fellow coaches.

“Tom always goes that extra mile to ensure that everything is correct and runs as smooth as it can when completing any event,” says Dennis Crescenti, the bowling coach at L’Anse Creuse

North. “He is an excellent leader during any event or project and he makes sure all the people involved stay on task and complete whatever job is needed in order for everything to be a success.

“Tom is a very intelligent individual, who is always willing to take the lead in any situation that is required. He has always provided guidance and loyal support to me as I grow in the sport that he has always cherished — high school bowling. With Tom being part of committees and executive boards, people appreciate his time and efforts so that bowling could grow and become what it is today, a very instrumental high school sport.”

Before stepping away from the day-to-day aspect of running the Stevenson program, Stockton’s girls teams won six conference and regional championships and two state titles. His boys teams won three conference championships, four regionals and two state championships.

One of Stockton’s favorite moments as the Titans’ coach was watching his teams win the boys and girls state championships on the same day in the same place in 2009.

Stockton says that “being able to work with the athletes and watching them improve throughout their high school years; watching them develop into amazing men and women academically and socially; make friends with the athletes’ parents and family; and getting invited to graduation parties, wedding and receiving birth announcements,” are the most rewarding parts of coaching.

He has organized the Detroit Free Press bowling Dream Team and the Mr. and Ms. Bowling awards since 2003. He’s director of the Michigan Junior Varsity and the Macomb County High School Bowling Championships.

Stockton is an avid bowler with several 300 games and 800 series on his resume. He’s president of the San Marino Mens Bowling League which has featured 38 teams for the last decade.

Stockton’s list of honors are a lengthy one. He was Detroit Free Press Coach of the Year in 2004 and 2009 and the MHSIBCA Coach of the Year for boys and girls in 2009. He was the National Federation High School Coaches Association Michigan Coach of the Year in 2011, the same year he was Michigan High School Coaches Association Boys Bowling Coach of the Year.

He was inducted into the MHSIBCA Hall of Fame in 2008 and later this year will go into the MHSCA Hall of Fame, becoming the first bowling coach to receive the honor.

Macomb County Coaches

HALL OF FAME

2021

INDUCTEE

DEAN
TREMONTI



Mike Jolly could see something special in Dean Tremonti when he was one of his students at Chippewa Valley more than 50 years ago.

“Even then he stood out from his classmates as a special kid — a leader and outstanding role model who was liked and highly respected by everyone I knew,” Jolly says. “He was a standout in football, basketball and baseball. When his calling turned out to be teaching and coaching, we teachers and coaches were genuinely thrilled.”

Tremonti coached basketball at Clinton Valley Middle School in 1969, then took over the Chippewa Valley freshman basketball team when Jolly was called to active duty in the armed services in 1970. His freshman basketball team posted a 14-3 record and his junior varsity football team went 6-3.

“He did a superb job and we all hoped that he would stay in his home school system,” Jolly says. “However, Utica Schools spirited him away from us and it was there where he

positively impacted the lives of so many youngsters. We were crushed when he left because, even as a young coach, he demonstrated the touch that those who understand the art of coaching display.”

Tremonti moved to Shelby Junior High where he coached for 33 years. He coached football, posting a 91-50 record over 23 seasons. His 32 boys basketball teams went 309-219 and his 11 girls basketball teams had a 73-54 mark. In 24 seasons coaching softball, his teams were 171-115. He also coached ninth grade track at Shelby for three years.

“Dean’s success in the classroom and on the fields and courts have not garnered the attention that varsity coaches and players gain, however as we all know, the success of high school teams very often rests on the foundation laid by lower-level coaches,” Jolly says.

When Jolly became athletic director at De La Salle he began seeing a lot of Tremonti.

“Dean was a regular at our Favorite Teachers Breakfast — an annual event where the guests were chosen by their middle school students who were now Pilot freshmen,” Jolly says. “One could easily see the mutual respect and affection shared by coach and former players.”

Coaching was enjoyable for Tremonti because it gave him the opportunity to “be around the kids in a different atmosphere than teaching in the classroom; also watching them gain confidence as the years went on.

“I followed all of my kids through their high school careers in all sports.”

Tremonti’s basketball teams provided him with some memorable moments from the annual Barney Swinehart Tournament for the middle schools in the Utica district.

“Winning several Barney Swinehart tournaments was memorable — and some we were the underdog,” Tremonti says. “But especially winning the tournament when both of my boys were on the team.”

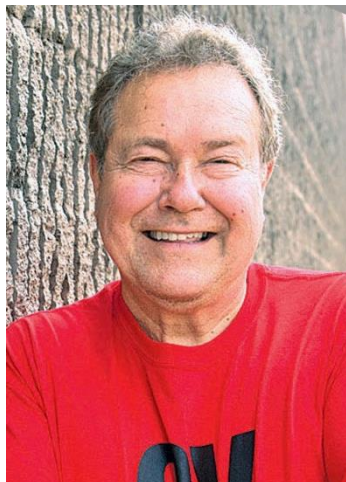
Tremonti also coached YMCA basketball and Little League Baseball. He umpired and refereed for several years.

Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2021

INDUCTEE

**FRANK
TYMRAK**



Several years ago, when he was coaching Chippewa Valley's girls cross country team and Grosse Pointe North's boys track team, Frank Tymrak was asked what gift he would give his athletes for Christmas.

Tymrak replied, "a positive attitude, sustained effort and effective citizenship throughout their lives."

That's exactly what Tymrak always tried to give his athletes during a coaching career that began in 1973 and continued through 2018.

Mike Jolly has known Tymrak since both were teaching Social Studies at Chippewa Valley.

"Frank was a perfect fit; an outstanding classroom teacher and a superb running coach," Jolly recalls. "Frank was an outstanding athlete in high school and college and he brought his expertise and enthusiasm to an incredible track coaching staff comprised of Diane

Zatkoff, Mike Carr and Dan Phillips. More importantly, he brought his enthusiasm to our kids who loved running for him.

"Frank's classroom always had students hanging out there — during his class periods and prep time. Those were golden years for our (athletes) both on the track and on the cross country courses."

Among those who prospered under Tymrak's guidance was future Big Ten champion Rick Gledhill.

Brian Eovaldi met Tymrak when he was hired to coach the Chippewa Valley boys cross country team. He immediately became an admirer of Tymrak, who was coaching the Big Reds girls team.

"He possesses all the traits of a good coach — knowledgeable, professional and competitive — but at the same time is cognizant that he can always learn more, knows when to be a bit loose and is noble in defeat," Eovaldi says.

"He possesses a love and respect for self-improvement. Getting the most out of his athletes and helping them become successful runners and people animate Mr. Tymrak's soul. His passion has fueled his drive to get the most out of his athletes and mold them into better people. I believe that his coaching record and number of athletes who have gone on to play sports in college speaks to his coaching ability and work ethic, but he is a really good man."

Tymrak, who ran track and cross country at South Lake and qualified for the state meets, began coaching the two sports at East Detroit in 1973. In six seasons with the Shamrocks he had a 29-16 record. He coached both sports at Chippewa Valley for 23 years, compiling a 59-23 record in track and a 67-51 mark in cross country.

He has guided teams at East Detroit, Chippewa Valley and Grosse Pointe North to several league and regional championships.

He has given back to the sports he loves in many ways. He hosted league meets when other schools declined. He has been a member of the Macomb Daily's committee for planning the county track and field meet. He posted the top track performances for boys and girls in the Daily, hosted the first Macomb Area Conference league meet on cable television and ran a middle school meet for the Chippewa Valley Schools.

Tymrak also ran a parks and recreation running program for adults.

Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2021

INDUCTEE

**DONALD
“BUTCH”
WAGNER**



Kids are often a parent's harshest critic.

However, when Brad Wagner talks about his father, Butch Wagner, there are only words of praise.

Butch Wagner had a successful 25-year coaching career at Ford, but that's not the main thing Brad Wagner remembers.

“My dad treated individuals more important than the game itself,” he says. “Like any great teacher, the tactics and fundamentals of the game were secondary to the purpose of easing the journey of becoming a great human being.

“I remember when it was time for me to make a college decision, all of the colleges sounded very familiar. They sounded familiar because the guys that grew up in Henry Ford athletics went there. They went there as an athlete or a student and Coach Wagner was part of that

process. He helped those guys make those choices and facilitated their success. It's the individual that gets there but it happens with support and Butch was part of that support crew.”

Brad Wagner said he might not have realized the things he learned from his dad while he was growing up.

“The athletes and myself were witnessing what it is to be a good human and a great leaders,” he says. “He showed us all how it should and can be done.”

Butch Wagner coached high school sports for 27 years, beginning in 1970 as the varsity baseball and junior varsity football coach at Avondale. Two years later, he moved to Ford where he coached several sports, including baseball, soccer and football.

He was the head varsity football coach for 20 years, posting a record of 105-73. He guided his teams to four division championships and four trips to the state playoffs.

Wagner's best season as coach of the Falcons was 1994, when they went 9-0 and won the Macomb Area Conference Red Division championship. He was selected as Macomb County Coach of the Year in 1994.

Wagner also spent eight years as Ford's athletic director.

When asked what made coaching enjoyable, Wagner replied, “teaching athletes how to prepare themselves for competition — physically, emotionally and intellectually. Then helping them respond properly and accept successes and failures.

“Creating a positive environment for players and making football safe, fun and meaningful. Showing young athletes that football is a game that should be played and enjoyed.”

He says his most memorable moments are seeing his former athletes succeed in their careers and as a husband and father. Also helping players continue their education and sometimes their football careers at the college level.

Rick Bye remembers Wagner as a friend and coaching rival.

“I have always had great respect for Butch,” Bye says. “We competed against each other for many years and no one is more competitive than Butch. Butch was always willing to lend a helping hand and he always put his team first. He never did anything halfway. He put his heart and soul into coaching and was loved and respected by both players and parents.”

Macomb County Coaches

HALL OF FAME

2021

INDUCTEE

★ DAVE JACKSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD ★

LARRY
GRIFFIN



Many parents volunteer to help out at school events when their children are in school.

A few of them enjoy it so much they stay on after their sons or daughters graduate. De La Salle's Larry Griffin is in that small group that continues to help the athletic program long after they no longer have a child in school.

Griffin's association with De La Salle began in 2002 when his son David became a Pilot. Twenty years later, he's still at the microphone for De La Salle's home football and basketball games.

"As our announcer at athletic contests his voice, enthusiasm and positive commentary have been heard by literally thousands of students, parents and staff," says former principal Stephen S. Stewart. "He always brings excitement and professionalism in his endeavors. His warm, inviting personality makes his presence impossible to miss. Sun, wind or rain, Larry is there always with his beaming smile."

Former DLS athletic director Mike Jolly says "the announcer is the 'face' of our school at sporting events and the impression that the spectators take away has much to do with how the game is announced for both sides. I often received appreciative comments from both our De La Salle family and our guests."

Griffin has been very supportive of the De La Salle Dads Club and has held several offices in the club. He was also the co-chairman of the DLS Christmas CYO basketball tournament.

Griffin feels that he is just giving back part of what he has received from De La Salle.

"De La Salle has given so much to my son and my family," he says. "I'm just giving back a pittance of what they give each and every day to the kids."

Griffin says that one of the things he enjoys most about his job is "watching a boy in CYO and middle school go on to become a young man in high school, then continue on to college and succeed. It's a wonderful thing to watch."

He has announced several DLS games at Ford Field and has been a spotter when the Pilots have been in the Division 2 championship football game. He also works with the DLS Broadcast Club.

Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2021

INDUCTEE

★ *DAVE JACKSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD* ★

**TOM
LERCH**



Anyone who has attended athletic events at Utica or Eisenhower over the last two decades has recognized a familiar voice coming through the public address system.

It's the voice of Tom Lerch, who has been behind the microphone for Eisenhower basketball and football since 2001 and for Utica's basketball, football, soccer, track and cheerleading events beginning in 2004.

When Karyn Holmes, the athletic director at Utica, needed an announcer and clock operator for boys soccer she turned to Lerch.

"Being the great volunteer parent we are always looking for, he stepped right up," she says. "Who would have thought over 15 years later he would still be the voice of the Chieftains on so many levels. He doesn't just come in and announce. He

also runs the clock and scoring systems when necessary.

"He takes his job to the next level by running stat systems on all the home and opposing teams so his announcing can be very specific and current. Tom is an outstanding individual. He is committed to his craft and thoroughly enjoys all that high school athletics has to offer. Alumni athletes come back to his familiar voice and it feels like they are at home. Tom Lerch is an asset to both Utica's and Eisenhower's athletic staffs. His positive attitude and zest for youth athletics makes him great at his job."

In addition to his announcing duties, Lerch is involved in Utica's annual euchre fundraiser. He's the computer genius who runs the entire event.

"I enjoy my involvement in the sports programs," Lerch says. "I believe the student athletes, as well as the parents, appreciate their efforts being recognized through my announcing."

Lerch has had many memorable moments in the booth, but none can top watching his son play and announcing the events.

He got to work with former Lions and current Pistons announcer Mark Champion at one of the high school games and had the opportunity to announce a game at Ford Field.

Jim Vigus, the former football coach and current athletic director at Utica, appreciates Lerch's professionalism.

"He's never been a 'homer,'" Vigus says. "In the few instances where Eisenhower and Utica both had a home event, Tom would alternate between the two schools, never favoring one school over the other.

"Many schools worry and scramble to get an announcer. Utica and Eisenhower haven't had that worry in many years."

Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2021

INDUCTEE

★ *DAVE JACKSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD* ★

**GEORGE
POHLY**



George Pohly has been highlighting teams, coaches and athletes from Macomb County high schools for nearly four decades and his articles have found their way to hundreds of bulletin boards, scrapbooks and refrigerators around the county.

The coverage of high school sports is one of the most important jobs of a local newspaper and something that neither Pohly nor his predecessor, Jim Porter, ever took for granted. They also always remembered that they were covering high school athletes, not professional players and coaches.

Pohly joined the Macomb Daily Sports Staff in 1984 and became sports editor four years later when Porter retired. Except for a brief stint as sports editor of the Daily Tribune in Royal Oak, he has held that position ever since. Few people have the organizational skills that Pohly possesses. That's the reason the football and basketball dinners and track and field meets ran so smoothly.

"A great thing about seeing the years add up is the opportunity to gain some perspective on the history of high school sports in the county," Pohly says. "Great athletes come and go, programs rise and fall and rise again and they all piece together to form a collective image. There's a shared experience among the more than 30 high schools, and it has been gratifying to tell those stories."

Pohly appreciates watching the athletes, but over the years his appreciation for the adults who help the athletes succeed has grown.

"A lot of people think high school sports are for teenagers, and to a large extent that's true, but my enjoyment in covering the teams here heightened when I understood how much the games mean to the adults involved, including the coaches, administrators and support staff," he says. "Prep sports would not exist if coaches and others were paid what they're 'worth.' The time they devote to planning and crisis management is remarkable and under-appreciated.

"The day-to-day unfolding of each season and the relationships that build over time are what I appreciate most about being involved with county prep sports."

At the top of Pohly's memorable moments at The Macomb Daily is watching Lake Shore defeat East Grand Rapids for the Class B boys basketball championship in 1993.

"The game was played in the morning at the Breslin Center," Pohly recalls. "Lake Shore was undefeated and trying to become the first county boys team to win a state title. The score was close throughout and Lake Shore prevailed 38-37. I felt fortunate to be witness to a significant moment in county prep sports history."

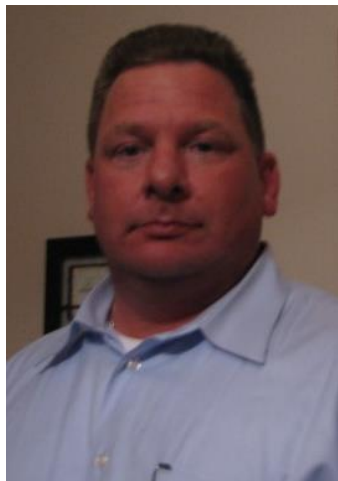
Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2021

INDUCTEE

★ DAVE JACKSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD ★

GARY
WAGENSCHUTZ



Gary Wagenschutz got his first taste of officiating when he was in high school.

It later became a passion with him and that passion continues to this day.

"After high school and college I didn't pursue officiating again until I was asked by a friend if I would be interested in umpiring summer baseball games in St. Clair Shores," Wagenschutz says. "Once I started working those games I found the passion and consistent challenge to be exactly what I needed in addition to my office job."

"The camaraderie with other officials became lifelong friendships with officials, coaches and administrators of all types. All this while serving and working with the athletes as they grow and become young men and women."

Wagenschutz has worked football games from middle school through high school and has umpired baseball games from middle school through college for more than 20 years. He has also been an assignor for officials for football, basketball, softball and baseball in the Macomb Area Conference for more than a decade.

While admitting that assigning officials has its challenges, Wagenschutz finds the job rewarding.

"It's most rewarding when I see a new official work from being a rookie with minimal knowledge to being one of the most respected officials," he says.

Wagenschutz is proud that he was one of the original directors of the Southeast Michigan Umpire Camp.

"The camp was created and still serves today to bring baseball and softball umpires the training they deserve," he says. "From the 11-year-old just starting to the veteran umpire looking to hone his or her craft, we have assisted more than 1,000 umpires."

Cousino athletic director Aron Setlak has known Wagenschutz since Setlak was a high school and college athlete.

"I found Gary has great respect for the game and the players on field," Setlak says. "He controlled and managed the game effectively and was beyond knowledgeable about the game of baseball. It was my pleasure to work with him as the MAC assignor for football and basketball, while also having him assign baseball and softball for Cousino."

"His professionalism, ability to work with people and his communication has made him top notch as an umpire, official and assignor in Macomb County."

Wagenschutz has worked many memorable games, but one that stands out is a state semifinal football game that was played in a driving snowstorm.

"Six to eight inches of snow fell before the game and another six to eight inches during the game," he recalls. "There were people shoveling, scraping and snow-blowing the lines on the field before and during the game. The next week, I worked with the same crew and a team drove the length of the field with under a minute left and scored on the final pass play."

He remembers the first high school baseball game he umpired.

"I still remember how nervous I was," he says. "I remember the mentor who taught me to treat every game, no matter what level, as a championship game because the players deserve our best effort every game."

Macomb County Coaches
HALL OF FAME

2021

INDUCTEE

★ JACK FRANCIS AWARD OF MERIT ★

JAN
SANDER



Few folks have made a bigger impact on the Macomb County prep sports scene than Jan Sander.

Her first coaching job was cheerleading because when she graduated from Bowling Green University there were no competitive sports teams for girls in Michigan. That has changed drastically in the last 50 years and Sander was instrumental in the development of high school sports for girls. She has been a driving force in lobbying for better opportunities for female athletes, greater media exposure and more venues for participation.

“A coach’s life can be lonely, stressful and even overwhelming at times, but the rewards, pleasures and memories cannot be measured,” Sander says. “Coaching young people is a tremendous high. Not only is it a challenge to develop an individual’s skill, but to be a factor in the shaping and influencing of their minds, both mentally and spiritually, is most rewarding.

“To watch young people achieve academic success, to overcome hurdles and obstacles, to achieve beyond their expectations and to become successful and productive citizens is the greatest joy a coach can have. I am so proud and thankful for the young ladies who have touched my life with their love and friendship.”

Sander came to the Warren Woods school district in 1970 after beginning her teaching career in Livonia. She taught physical education and coached basketball and cheerleading at Warren Woods before moving to Tower when it opened in 1973.

Sander started the girls basketball program at Tower and over the next 27 years compiled a remarkable record of 427-159. That includes her record after the schools merged to become Warren Woods Tower.

In 1976, Jan established the volleyball program at Tower and posted a 20-year record of 532-171-41, including Warren Woods Tower.

Sander led her teams to 12 league championships, 12 district titles and one regional crown. She has been named Macomb Area Conference Coach of the Year multiple times in both volleyball and basketball. She is a three-time Macomb County Coach of the Year in volleyball.

She ranks high on Michigan’s career lists in girls basketball victories and in volleyball wins. She has earned a place in the Macomb County Coaches Hall of Fame, the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan Hall of Fame, the Michigan Interscholastic Volleyball Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Among her other awards are the prestigious Women In Sports Leadership Award presented by the MHSAA, the regional Athletic Director of the Year Award and Teacher of the Year at Warren Woods Tower.

Sander earned her Master’s degree in Special Education from Oakland University. She taught special education from 1982 to 1984 and served as a teacher consultant from 1984 to 1990. With endorsements from Wayne State University, Jan worked with students in the Physical and Other Health Impairments program until 1996 when she was named athletic director at Warren Woods Tower.

Sander will be remembered by anyone who enters the WWT gym area. When she retired as AD, it was named the Jan Sander Sports Facility.

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Mandel Greenhouses

Samantha Brown, Regina Choral Ensemble

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Macomb Area Conference

Mary Anne Santarossa & Jennifer Burke

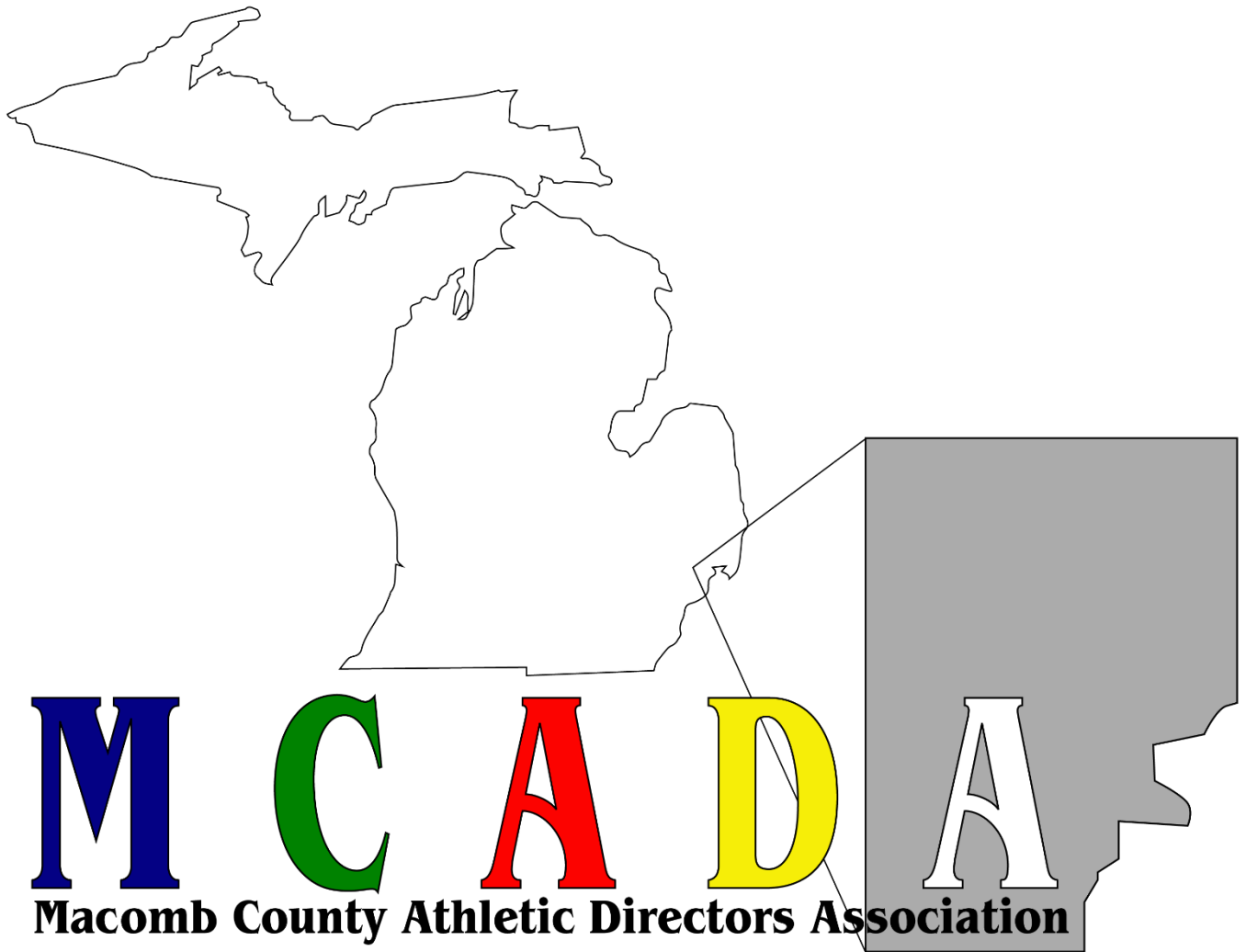
Suzanne Murray & Warren Woods Tower's Titan Terrace

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

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