

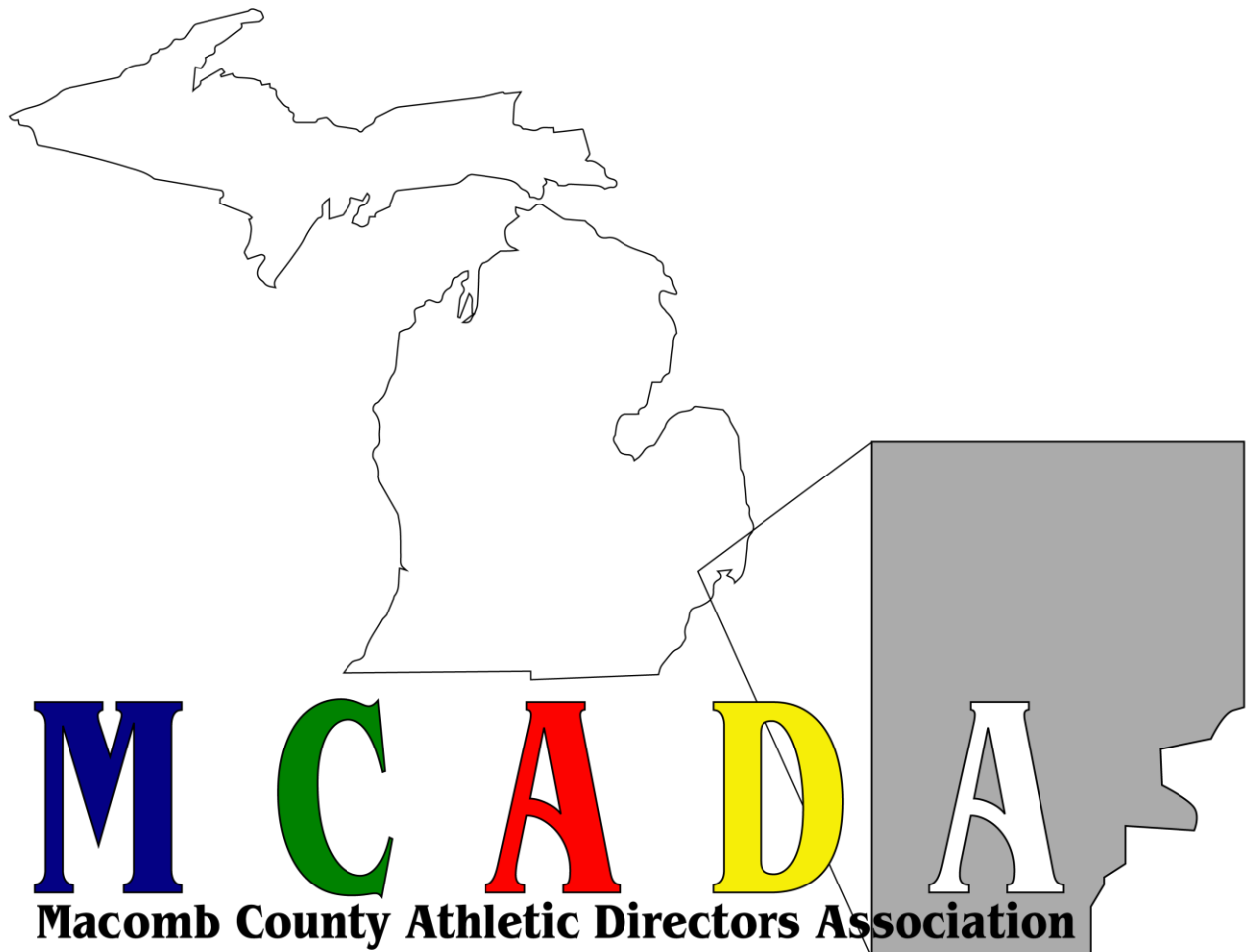
*Macomb County Coaches*

# HALL OF FAME

# 2025

*The Best of Macomb County*

*Presented By*



# *Macomb County Coaches* **HALL OF FAME**

# **2025**

## *HISTORY & MISSION STATEMENT OF MCADA*

### History

Prior to the creation of the Macomb Area Conference in 1986, Macomb County high schools competed in Leagues across the Metro-Detroit Area, including the Bi-County League, Eastern Michigan League, Macomb Athletic Conference, Macomb-Oakland Athletic Conference, Oakland Activities Association, Southern Thumb Association, and the St. Clair Area League. During this time, athletic directors from Macomb County would meet monthly to discuss current issues and develop professional relationships with local schools. After the consolidation of leagues to form the MAC, these county-wide meetings soon became unnecessary because most Macomb County high schools were now in the same conference. A few athletic directors continued to meet regularly but felt their small group needed a purpose, and their focus quickly turned to recognizing coaches throughout the county.

In 1993, a selection committee was formed to honor the first Class of Hall of Fame Coaches and the Special Olympics was selected as its charity. In 1994, the Macomb County Athletic Directors Association was chosen as the name of the organization. Soon after, MCADA approached Joe Dumars Fieldhouse and The Macomb Daily to be a part of its new Hall of Fame and both graciously agreed. On April 27, 1995, 26 members were inducted into the first class of the County Coaches Hall of Fame at Fern Hill Golf Club. In addition to the induction ceremony, a \$1,000 donation was made to the Macomb County Special Olympics as MCADA's designated charity.

Through 15 Hall of Fame Ceremonies, MCADA has 261 Inductees and donated \$14,500 to the Macomb County Special Olympics for its summer camps.

### Mission Statement

The purpose of the association shall be to advance the standards of coaching and leadership in the program of interscholastic athletics; to recognize those who provide quality leadership skills; cooperate with the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) implementing projects designed to advance the interscholastic programs of the County; cooperate with the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) in implementing projects designed to advance the interscholastic programs of the County; improve membership representation; advance professional leadership and competence through mutual problem solving; and give support, leadership and service to county, state and national educational organizations.

*Macomb County Coaches*

**HALL OF FAME**

**2025**

*INDUCTION CEREMONY*

**Program Agenda**

*May 1, 2025*

**Master of Ceremony**

**Chad Hottle**

President

Macomb County Athletic Directors Association

**Welcome**

**Chad Hottle**

**National Anthem**

**Marissa Jolet**

**Regina High School Choral Ensemble**

**Invocation**

**Bob Maus**

Athletic Director (Retired)

Sterling Heights High School

**DINNER**

**Induction Ceremony**

**Chad Hottle**

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

*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 Lapish  
Ross MacDonald  
Russell Marley  
Robert Murray  
Larry Russell  
Dennis Schreiber  
Gary Sear  
Dan Simeck  
Al Snyder

*Macomb County Coaches*

# HALL OF FAME

# 2025

## *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

*Macomb County Coaches*

# HALL OF FAME

# 2025

## *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

*Macomb County Coaches*

# HALL OF FAME

# 2025

## *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

### 2021

Kim Argiri-Slone

John Burke

Jack Dailey

Lisa Downey

Charlene Gariepy

Larry Griffin

Rhody Hornovich

Tom Lerch

Tom McDonald

George Pohly

Jay Ritchie

Gary Rojeski

Jan Sander

Marty Shearer

Tom Stockton

Dean Tremonti

Frank Tymrak

Gary Wagenschutz

Butch Wagner

# *Macomb County Coaches*

# HALL OF FAME

# 2025

*INDUCTEES WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US*

## 1995

Dan Barnabo  
Jerry Barr  
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  
Dave Semrau  
John Switchulis  
Ron Wilson

## 1999

Dick Christy  
Bob Dilday  
Paul Mandziara  
Frank Reed  
Don Seiferlein  
Tom Simon

## 2001

Al Baumgart  
James Benefield  
John Lapish

## 2003

Mario Borrocci  
Ved Green  
Al Kastl  
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



*Macomb County Coaches*

# HALL OF FAME

# 2025

*INDUCTEES WHO ARE NO LONGER WITH US*

## 2011

Bill Beach  
Doug McDougal  
Duke Melchoir

## 2013

Bobby Hill  
James Plutschuck

## 2015

Duane Bryner  
Skip Crane  
Bud Doba

## 2017

Dan Barnabo  
Thomas Dailey  
Mel Perrone

## 2019

Bill Apisa  
Leonard Brindley  
Larry Cosart

## 2021

Lisa Downey  
Gary Rojeski

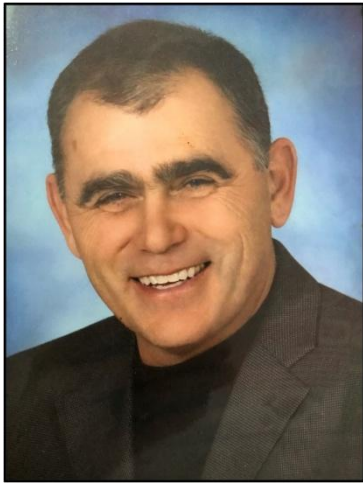
*Macomb County Coaches*

**HALL OF FAME**

**2025**

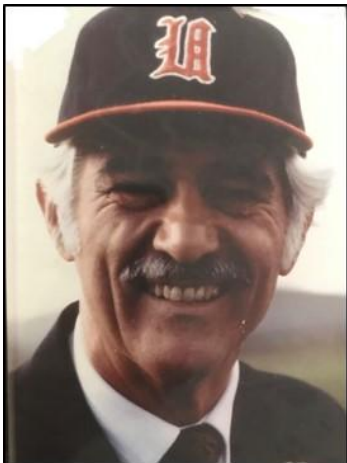
*MCADA'S AWARDS & CRITERIA*

## **DAVE JACKSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**



This award is named in honor of Dave Jackson, a long-time serving athletic director and school administrator in the Macomb Area Conference. This recognition honors those individuals who have given their time and expertise in support of interscholastic athletics for at least fifteen years. Examples of these individuals include administrative support staff, announcers, scorekeepers, ticket sellers, ticket takers, officials, members of the media, or any other important individuals who have been long-time supporters of a high school athletic program.

## **JACK FRANCIS AWARD OF MERIT**



Jack Francis was the long-time serving Executive Director and one of the original architects of the Macomb Area Conference. This award is presented to an athletic administrator who has had long term contributions, leadership, and meritorious service to MCADA, as well as to interscholastic athletics at the County, State, and/or National level. Recipients must be in good standing with MCADA have been an athletic administrator for at least ten years.

## **HALL OF FAME COACHES**

Inductees have proudly served education in Macomb County for a minimum of twenty years, at least fifteen of which have been as a coach in the county.

Macomb County Coaches  
HALL OF FAME

2025

INDUCTEE

★ DAVE JACKSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD ★

# THOMAS DELIA



The name Delia means wrestling in Macomb County.

Vito and Andy Delia are members of the Macomb County Athletic Directors Coaches Hall of Fame for their careers as coaches.

Now there's a third Delia in the Hall of Fame as their brother Tom received the Dave Jackson Distinguished Service Award for more than 50 years as a wrestling official.

"Wrestling is in my blood," Tom says. "I had three older brothers who wrestled."

Tom Delia's officiating career began shortly after he hung up his singlet.

"I worked my first varsity dual at Anchor Bay when I was 19," he says. "I worked the prestigious Oakland County Tournament when I was 20. I worked my first regional

at New Lothrop High School when I was 20."

He has worked six state championships. He has officiated wrestling districts for more than 40 years and regionals for 30.

Joseph Bidinger first met Tom Delia when Delia was coaching against Bidinger. His later encounters with him was when Bidinger was coaching and Delia was refereeing.

"Thomas was always highly professional and very knowledgeable," Bidinger says. "He always carried himself with class and dignity."

Wayne Tomala had Delia officiate his meets while he competed in high school and later when he was coaching at Ford.

"Even as a competitor, it was clear that Tom possessed the key components of a superior official — knowledge of the rules and a desire to officiate at the highest level without the desire to be part of the show and take any focus off the athletes competing," Tomala says.

"In his younger days he was also renowned for his athleticism. Few people moved around the mat with the effectiveness that he did. When I became a coach after returning from college, I gained a new appreciation for officials and for the job Tom did, both on and off the mat. When I had young wrestlers looking to become officials, I would direct them to Tom as I knew he would mentor them properly."

For more than 30 years, Delia has participated in a clinic for new officials.

One of Delia's most memorable matches came during the 1990-91 season when he worked a match in the Macomb County championships that had his brothers opposing each other — Vito at Lincoln and Andy at East Detroit.

*Macomb County Coaches*

**HALL OF FAME**

**2025**

*INDUCTEE*

★ *DAVE JACKSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD* ★

**FUSAKO  
HINES**

Fusako Hines has been officiating and coaching volleyball for so long that many coaches and players see her in their dreams.

They're good dreams, too.

Hines is receiving the Dave Jackson Distinguished Service Award for her commitment to volleyball as an official and coach for 48 years.

Players might have seen her officiate their high school games. Then, if they moved on to play in college, there was a good chance she'd be officiating one of those contests, too.

Hines was the catalyst for starting the East Side Volleyball Officials Association. At the time there were only eight members of the group. Today there are more than 100 officials in the association.

Each year, Hines hosts a clinic for volleyball officials.

She's the perfect mentor for young officials because Hines was the first female to receive a Double National Rating and she has held it for 44 years.

That lofty honor explains why she has been selected to officiate in eight state final matches.

She has coached CYO volleyball for 20 years and has been involved with Special Olympics for more than 40 years.

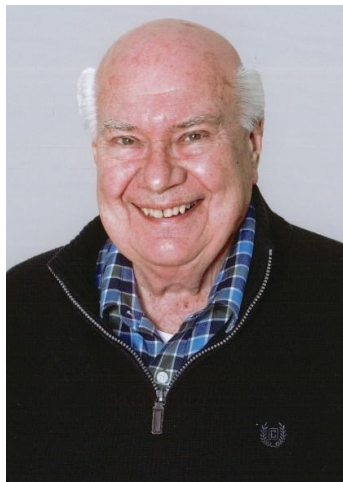
Macomb County Coaches  
HALL OF FAME

2025

INDUCTEE

★ DAVE JACKSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD ★

CHUCK  
KLONKE



Chuck Klonke has always been at home living and working in Macomb County. A Utica High grad who grew up on a dairy farm, Klonke started covering high school sports for The Macomb Daily after graduating from Michigan State in 1968. Nowadays, after he and his wife, Barb, raised their two children in the county, Klonke continues to write about the fortunes of county teams, athletes and coaches for the Daily as a freelance writer who has received many honors during an illustrious career. His latest is a Distinguished Service award from the Macomb County Athletic Directors Association and induction into the Macomb County Coaches Hall of Fame.

"I owe a lot to Barb and the kids for putting up with a sports writer's life," said Klonke, a former Fraser resident who now lives in Macomb Township. "I'm sure she didn't think she was signing up for a life that revolves around sports schedules. It certainly helped Dave and Beth to have her help them with their homework instead of me," he quipped.

Klonke was part of a staff at the Daily that included sports editor Jim Porter and Bernie Kennedy, who both have been inducted into the hall of fame.

"There are a lot of folks who helped me along the way, starting with my high school journalism teacher, Jerry Sosnowski, who encouraged me to be a sports writer and helped get my first stories published in the old Utica Sentinel," Klonke said. "Bud Sloan, the night editor at the Daily when I worked as an intern ... sent back nearly

all of my stories to be rewritten, but it definitely helped me. Jim Porter and Bernie Kennedy taught me more about covering sports than I learned in four years of college."

He also thanked sports editors past and present George Pohly and Brady McAtamney "for letting me continue to cover the high school events when most people my age are retired, dead or running for president."

Prep sports, Klonke has discovered, impact participants long after the games end. "I realized how important it was to cover high school sports a few years ago when a new family moved in across the street," he said. "I introduced myself to the wife and a couple days later the husband came over with some old clippings from the Daily of my stories on his games. A couple years later, I featured their daughter in a story when she got the winning hit in a quarterfinal softball game."

Klonke had two stints as a full-time member of the Daily staff before his role as a freelance writer. "I've covered every sport sanctioned by the MHSAA," he noted. "I've been privileged to cover several state championship teams and individuals during that time. One of the things I've enjoyed the most is witnessing the growth of girls sports, which were just club activities when I first started writing for the Daily."

Klonke covered the girls Class B state championship basketball game won by L'Anse Creuse in 1978 and the Class B state football championship won by Warren Woods that same year. "Those were two of the highlights of my career," he said.

Klonke also worked for the Daily Tribune in Royal Oak and the Grosse Pointe News. He was the Michigan sports editor for United Press International and worked part time for Sports Ticker and the Detroit Lions. He has been an official scorer for Detroit Tigers games since 1983, serving in that capacity on a regular basis since 1990. He was an official scorer during two World Series and the 2005 All-Star Game. Klonke also has been a game day datacaster for Major League Baseball since 2000. An avid sports fan while growing up, who continues to collect sports memorabilia, Klonke has covered multiple World Series; MLB, NBA and NHL All-Star Games; Stanley Cup and NBA finals, and both of the Super Bowls played in Detroit – one for The Macomb Daily and the other for NFL.com.

He has taken on a variety of other tasks, including compiling football scores to help the MHSAA tabulate state playoff points; serving on panels that selected all-state basketball and football teams for The Associated Press and UPI, and writing content for the backs of sports trading cards. He is a voter for the baseball Hall of Fame.

"I've enjoyed my job," Klonke said. "I feel the last time I really worked was the last morning I had to get up at 5:30 to help with the milking. I appreciate the high school coaches and players making me feel like they're glad to see me cover one of their games. You don't get that covering pro sports. I value the friendships I've made with coaches over the years."

Klonke has covered high school teams that have won state championships in football, volleyball, bowling, basketball, baseball, softball and soccer.

"I've always enjoyed covering the county meets in wrestling, golf, track, cross country and swimming," he said.

Klonke has received writing awards for best sports story from The Associated Press. He also has been honored by the Michigan High School Basketball Coaches Association, the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association and the Michigan Metro Hockey League.

Macomb County Coaches

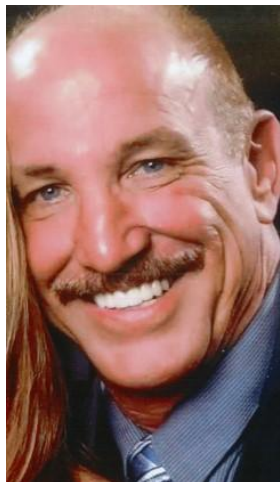
HALL OF FAME

2025

INDUCTEE

★ DAVE JACKSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD ★

RON  
NAGY



The statement left no doubt about Ron Nagy's contributions to high school wrestling in the state.

"Ron Nagy is the Face of Wrestling Officiating in Michigan," said the release when Nagy received the Lifetime Service to Wrestling award from the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2016.

That's only one of many honors - including tonight's Dave Jackson Distinguished Service Award - Nagy has received for a career in officiating that began in 1977 and continues to this day.

He got his first taste of wrestling as a 9-year-old growing up in Hazel Park. The Davids family, which was legendary in Hazel Park wrestling, invited him and his twin brother to come out for the sport.

"I was excited as we were always watching big-time wrestling with Dick the Bruiser and Leaping Larry Chene," Nagy recalls. "The first time my twin brother and I got on the mat we were hooked.

From that moment on, we loved wrestling. I've been in the sport for 65 years!"

The sport Nagy fell in love with was much different than the one he was watched on television as a youngster but it still became a big part of his life.

He wrestled in high school for Hazel Park, was captain of the wrestling team at Wayne State and coached at Troy High School for two years. He then moved into officiating and has been on the mats ever since.

Nagy has been assigned to 40 state wrestling finals but he still remembers his first.

"I had a wrestler who had won every major award possible and was from Comstock Park," Nagy says. "I was assigned his match — my first final match! I was nervous but he was so good and made my job so easy that when he pinned his opponent, a major relief came over me.

"I wanted to do justice as a finals official and that match got me over the hump."

Nagy has tried to improve wrestling officiating. In 1991, he and Ron Minoletti formed the All-American Athletic Association.

"This was created to help younger officials get matches," Nagy says. "We had known it was tough for officials to get assignments and because of that, officials would quit. We felt that if we got the schools on board we could help them by allowing us to put the younger officials in positions where they wouldn't get an assignment they couldn't handle and would walk away from the sport.

"We knew this was work and we needed the support of the athletic directors. We received that. Now we have over 85 officials and fill more than 1,400 wrestling spots per year."

Nagy and MHSAA director Bill Bupp designed the state individual wrestling finals in 1998. Nagy has been the tournament director for 27 years.

Another love of Nagy's is softball and he was inducted into the USSSA Hall of Fame as a director. He received the prestigious Vern Norris Award from the MHSAA in 2005.



Macomb County Coaches  
HALL OF FAME

2025

KATHRYN  
PATTERSON

INDUCTEE

★ DAVE JACKSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD ★



Anyone who has attended an athletic event at either Utica or Eisenhower has probably met Kathy Patterson.

And it's a good guess that they've been greeted with a smile from the "Northend Gate Boss" at Swinehart Field.

Patterson started working ticket sales and the gate at Utica High School in 2003. Eight years later she began scheduling those positions.

In 2013, Patterson added Eisenhower home events to her busy schedule.

"Eisenhower accepted my 'Team Patterson' offer of assistance for their home events and in 2014 I started scheduling ticket sellers and gate staff for the Eagles," she says.

Patterson leaves nothing to chance with her scheduling duties.

"I begin each sports season assigning all games," she says. "Getting games on everyone's calendar early seems to work. From there they get weekly emails or texts of their workdays. On their workdays they get an inspiring reminder text and any event information like senior/parent night, dance or cheer clinics, Boy Scout presentations etc. and arrival time for that night."

The athletic directors Patterson has worked with appreciate her dedication.

"Kathy is an outstanding Individual," says John Bertich, the former athletic director at Eisenhower. "She is a committed colleague who puts the needs of the athletes and their parents first. Kathy has always been a great team player with the ability to creatively problem solve while addressing the adversity faced in the daily responsibilities of hostess."

Former Utica athletic director Jim Vigus says that Patterson made his job easier. "I can't stress enough Kathy's efficiency," he says. "She always had enough workers and I never had to worry about this portion of hosting an event. Kathy was an AD's dream. She got to events early to set up. "Working with the public and students can be trying at times. In those trying times Kathy was always professional and pleasant."

It's a job Patterson has enjoyed. "High school athletics are a family that I enjoy being a part of," she says. "Just a word of encouragement or acknowledgment to an athlete is important. An athlete's four-year journey of achievement, efforts, maturity and triumphs are a job to watch." There have been some humorous moments. Especially from students and parents from Utica when she was working an Eisenhower game.

"Their expression of disbelief when they saw me in blue was heartfelt," Patterson says. "I have resorted to wearing orange under my Eagles apparel. When I get that look I tell them I am a double agent and working undercover."

The greetings she receives are also memorable.

"You still here?" from a returning alumnus.

"Do you live here?" from a parent or grandparent.

"The nickname 'Northend Gate Boss' keeps me smiling," Patterson says.

Macomb County Coaches

HALL OF FAME

2025

INDUCTEE

★ DAVE JACKSON DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD ★

RAY  
SKOWRONEK



A good photographer isn't always a good sports photographer.

Ray Skowronek was both.

The longtime Macomb Daily staff photographer had the skills necessary to capture a sports scene that wound up on many bulletin boards and refrigerators around Macomb County.

"Great writing is the work of an artist and great pictures are equally so," says Hall of Famer Mike Jolly, a former coach and administrator. "Youngsters rarely forget the first time he or she sees their name in print and they never forget being featured in a news photo of one of their games — even in the background.

"Ray is both an artist and a memory maker of the highest order."

Skowronek realizes that he wasn't able to provide outstanding photographic coverage of Macomb County sports by himself.

"Capturing great sports moments is a team effort," he says. "Without the support of athletic directors, coaches, officials, referees and the sports staff at the Macomb Daily getting those unforgettable shots would have been far more difficult.

"Their coordination, access and willingness to accommodate photographers made it possible to be in the right place at the right time. Whether it was securing the best vantage points, keeping me informed about key matchups or simply allowing me the freedom to move along the sidelines, their contributions were invaluable."

Longtime Macomb Daily sports editor George Pohly was appreciative of Skowronek's work.

"Ray was a great ambassador for the paper," Pohly says. "Not only was his photography top shelf but he had an outstanding rapport with coaches, administrators and the high school athletes. On assignment, he was professional.

"He interacted perfectly with the kids. For example, when we'd have them come to the office for all-county photos, Ray was cordial and put them at ease. He'd strike up conversations about games he'd seen them play or their post-high school plans or whatever. A lot of coaches got to know him by name and were glad to see him at events. And of course, he turned out great photos. I am sure a lot of his work is in photo frames and scrapbooks and got turned into graduation posters."

One photo, in particular, stands out for Skowronek.

"One of the most unforgettable moments in my career occurred covering a varsity Warren Woods Tower baseball game," he says. "The center fielder leaped into the air to catch a long fly ball, diving toward the fence line. In a split-second he became entangled on the fencing post after leaping for the ball. Capturing that precise moment — the determination in his eyes, the tension of the play and the unexpected outcome — was exhilarating.

"It epitomized the unpredictability and excitement that makes sports photography so rewarding."



Macomb County Coaches

HALL OF FAME

2025

INDUCTEE

★ JACK FRANCIS AWARD OF MERIT ★

BRAD  
ROBINSON



Some of the most rewarding moments for a coach is when one of his athletes exceeds expectations. Brad Robinson is no exception.

When asked to provide memorable moments in his career as a swimming coach, Robinson had a ready reply. "Coaching would be having those swimmers just improve and do the unimaginable," he says. "Whether it means a state cut, scoring at state, making counties, etc. It is doing what they didn't think they could do and they met their goals."

Robinson also cherishes the memory of coaching his son now that he's on the swimming staff at De La Salle.

"Nothing will top the feeling that I was able to have when his relay qualified for the state meet this past season," the proud father says.

Robinson spent several years as the athletic director at Fraser. He filled many positions during that time, including secretary, vice-president and president of the Macomb Area Conference. He was also the regional representative for the Michigan High School Athletic Directors Association.

That provided Robinson with a different set of challenges than he got while coaching.

"As an athletic director it's all about leadership," he says. "Are the coaches showing the leadership that our community is expecting? Am I giving the coaches the necessary tools to lead effectively."

Among Robinson's accomplishments as athletic director was holding leadership conferences for his coaches and student-athletes and for Macomb County.

During Robinson's tenure at Fraser, the Ramblers followed Romeo's lead and had three straight years of 'cancer games.'

"We were able to create an environment of giving and it was a community event," he says. "Over the three years we were able to raise approximately \$200,000 to give out to charities. It was definitely a humbling experience."

Improvement was Robinson's goal as both coach and athletic director.

"Whether it was as a coach or an athletic director, it was seeing the students, coaches and the programs get better as the season went on," he says. "That is what educational athletics is all about — growth. It could be in the classroom, in relationships or in the athletic realm. As far as coaches, how do they support their athletes? Are they instrumental in the leadership of the program? Are they keeping their sport moving forward?"

# Macomb County Coaches HALL OF FAME 2025

INDUCTEE

★ JACK FRANCIS AWARD OF MERIT ★

# AARON SETLAK



The Warren Consolidated Schools have been part of Aaron Setlak's life since he began to read.

In fact, that's probably where he learned to read.

Setlak graduated from Cousino in 1994 after starring in football and baseball for the Patriots. He played baseball for four years and got a degree in Secondary Education followed by a Master's in Educational Leadership from Saginaw Valley State University.

He returned to the Warren Consolidated Schools in 1999 as a math teacher at Sterling Heights High School.

Setlak coached the Stallions baseball team and in 2003 he went back to Cousino as the school's athletic director and worked in that role until returning to the classroom in 2022.

The late Tom Rashid, who worked many years for the Michigan High School Athletic Association as Associate Director, enjoyed his dealings with Setlak.

"Fellow ADs in his league write that Aaron is a 'person of Impeccable character who possesses integrity, honesty, intelligence and common sense,'" Rashid said when Setlak received an Athletic Director of the Year award from the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association 2016. "As one who communicates with ADs all over the state on a daily basis, I concur wholeheartedly.

"Aaron is great to work with, thorough and efficient and a great communicator. And as (former Sterling Heights athletic director) Bob Maus points out, whenever a new AD joins the conference, Aaron is the point person always willing to lend a hand."

While AD at Cousino, Setlak served at Macomb Area Conference Executive Board Secretary, Vice President, President and Past President.

He also took on the difficult job of coordinating the scheduling for the MAC.

"Aaron agreed to become the 'Master Scheduler' after his time as president," say Lakeview athletic director Sean Zaborowski. "This role made the job of the 35 other athletic directors within the MAC much easier."

After 19 years as Cousino's athletic director Setlak returned to the classroom so that he could devote more time to his wife Kristen and their three children Ella, Eli and Emmie.

"I honestly thought the time would come sooner but the team at home and Cousino made it last 19 years," Setlak says. "The night hours are now mine again. I miss the competition. I miss the people. Even days, I miss the chaos, but it was time for the Setlak Family to be Number One.

"I don't love the 5 a.m. wakeup to teach math at 7:15 a.m. but I wouldn't trade for the time back and experiences I would have missed the last three years."

Macomb County Coaches

HALL OF FAME

2025

INDUCTEE

DAN  
CAMPBELL



It's no secret that the Lions' Dan Campbell has a passion for coaching.

The Dan Campbell who is going into the Coaches Hall of Fame tonight has a similar passion and he's had it for more than 40 years.

"Everything about coaching and being a coach I have enjoyed over the years," Campbell says. "Planning, preparing, practices, games (and) meets, team activities, working with parents and the community (and) being a part of special events and activities.

"But the most enjoyable part has been working with the 'kids.' Getting to know them, helping them enjoy the sports of football and track and field. I enjoyed teaching the skills and techniques that helped athletes participate safely and confidently to achieve the level of success they wanted to achieve."

Campbell has brought his passion for coaching to Sterling Heights, Anchor Bay and L'Anse Creuse North high schools and has won division championships at each of them.

His Anchor Bay track teams were Macomb Area Conference Blue Division champions from 2002 through 2004. His LCN football team took first in the MAC Gold in 1995 and he led Sterling Heights to the MAC Gold title in 2015.

It's typical of Campbell that some of his fondest memories involved athletes who overcame adversity to achieve success.

He'll always remember the Anchor Bay football team that ended a 25-game losing streak with a late field goal in the final home game of the season.

"Students and parents swarmed the field to celebrate with the team. Everyone was ecstatic," Campbell recalls. "In the middle of it all I saw a few of our seniors were on their knees together crying in joy. It was their first win ever — including middle school. They stuck together, never quit working, never stopped believing. I'll always remember that. I was pretty happy myself."

He'll always remember his high hurdler who overcame a poor start in the state final to finish second and earn a college scholarship.

Campbell was one of the organizers of a freshman/sophomore invitational that gave athletes who had been in the background all season a chance to have a moment of glory for themselves.

When Campbell coached freshman football at Anchor Bay, he tried to make sure all 50 of his players got into every game. He also persuaded his athletic director to host a "B" game to give players who hadn't played a lot during the season a chance to shine.

Jeff Payne, the long time cross country and boys track and field coach at Anchor Bay, competed on Campbell's teams with the Tars.

"Dan's impact on my performance as an athlete and coach is something I will always appreciate," Payne says. "His impact on thousands of young Macomb County men and women is undeniable."

Campbell is quick to point out that he couldn't have achieved his success without the support of his wife and family.

"It made every game memorable having them here regardless of the outcome," he says.

Macomb County Coaches

HALL OF FAME

2025

INDUCTEE

HEATHER  
CARRIGAN



Heather Carrigan's contributions to gymnastics go far beyond her 26 years coaching at Fraser High School. She has served on the executive board of the Michigan High School Gymnastics Coaches and Judges Association and was a member of the MHSAA gymnastics committee for several years.

"Within the Great Lakes Gymnastics League and Region 4 MHSAA gymnastics, Heather has frequently mentored new coaches because of her willingness to help and her understanding of what it takes to make a successful program," says Ashley Ahearn, a former athlete of Carrigan's who followed her into coaching at Fraser.

Carrigan has left a legacy at Fraser. "Over the 26 years she has created a family of Fraser gymnasts," Ahearn says. "So many of her former gymnasts have come back to coach with her and immerse themselves back into Fraser gymnastics because of the unity she has created. I have a strong belief that having people return to your program is the ultimate compliment as people will only come back to things they love."

That is shown at the annual banquet at the end of the season when the seniors give their speeches. "Year after year from every kid we hear 'this team is my family forever,'" Ahearn says. "That is the legacy Heather has created."

Carrigan's years at Fraser were filled with success — two league championships and 10 runner-up finishes. Just as impressive is the number of Great Lakes League Team Sportsmanship awards. She pushed for the Sportsmanship award and not surprisingly, Fraser has won it in 14 of the 19 years it has been presented.

Carrigan has been involved in gymnastics for most of her life and competed for Fraser in the 1990s. "I fell in love with sports at 6 years old when I started gymnastics and being able to share my passion with others has been rewarding in ways I never thought imaginable," Carrigan says. "Being able to help an athlete achieve more than what they thought was possible, building confidence in a sport and then carrying that into other aspects of their life, providing a safe place and encouraging environment where high school athletes can find themselves is part of what I love about coaching."

Carrigan's coaching career has provided many memorable moments. The 1997-98 season was the second coaching at Fraser and her focus was on changing the team's mindset from individual goals to team goals. "At the end of the (league) meet they found out they had reached their team-score goal," Carrigan recalls. "They were on their feet cheering, hugging and crying because they had done it. They finished third but they were the most excited team in the gym that night. From the team's reaction, people thought they had won. This was the beginning of what I wanted Fraser gymnastics to be."

In 2002-03 the Ramblers won the league championship and took first place in each individual event. "What made this special was the way we swept the titles," Carrigan says. "A different Fraser gymnast won every event. Again, it was about the team, not the individual. To top it off, the team was also voted the league sportsmanship award for the fourth consecutive year. It was an amazing moment."

Carrigan's 2019-20 team was one of her most talented so she talked to them about leaving a legacy. "They decided the season motto should be 'Everything Counts,'" Carrigan says. "How you practice, your attitude, working and having fun, the type of teammate you are, every hundredth of a (point) in the team score — it all makes a difference for the team."

"They were a team on a mission. At the last regular season meet of the year they broke a 30-year-old team score record. They created their HOF (Hall of Fame) Fraser gymnastics legacy."

After leaving Fraser, Carrigan was asked to help coach the competitive cheer team at Armada. She had never coached cheer before, but her gymnastics background was helpful. It turned out to be another memorable moment in her coaching career. The Tigers had just missed qualifying for the state meet in 2023 and set a goal of qualifying for the state meet in '24.

"I still get chills recalling a number of events from the season," Carrigan says. "Hearing our name called for first place at the first regular conference meet beating the defending state champs, having the home stands packed with students and the community to win our first BWAC (Blue Water Area Conference) championship since '97, the invitational where we beat all the top-ranked teams in the state and qualifying for the state championship. "The season was filled with so many hugs and tears of joy. It's something every coach wishes their team could experience. I could not imagine a better final coaching season."

After finishing third in the district and regional tournaments, Armada took fourth place in the Division 3 state finals.



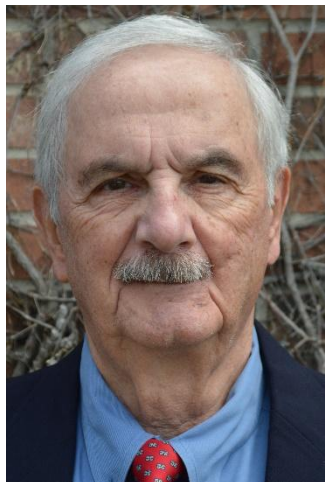
Macomb County Coaches

HALL OF FAME

2025

INDUCTEE

JIM  
CLEVERLEY



Track and cross country have been a big part of Jim Cleverley's life for more than 50 years.

It started in 1968 when he was hired to coach track and cross country at Anchor Bay and it continues to this day with his work as an MHSAA official for both sports.

During his 20 years coaching at Anchor Bay he had some of the most successful teams and individuals in the school's history. His 1977 boys team finished sixth in the state in Class B - the highest finish for an Anchor Bay team.

He coached several All-State runners, including 1982 state champion Jeff Mundt and two-time state runner-up Neal Toward.

An exceptional runner himself, Cleverley knew how to bring out the best in his athletes.

"He knew what it took to make it to the top," Toward says. "Running for Clev could be brutal. Throughout my four years in high school I can say that our workouts were equal to anything I experienced while running in college.

"These would make us both physically and mentally tough. He also taught us how to strategically win a race. 'Get out fast' was something I heard a million times. While Clev had a good understanding of how to coach his runners, he was a good role model for us. Clev always competed honestly and treated everyone with respect."

Cleverley started the girls track and cross country programs at Anchor Bay in 1978 when organized sports for high school girls was in its infancy.

In 2020, Cleverley was recognized for serving 50 years as a meet official.

Cleverley guided his Anchor Bay track teams to St. Clair Area League championships in 1976 and 1977 and his cross country squads to SCAL titles in 1972, 1976 and 1977.

One of the highlights of Cleverley's coaching career was starting the cross country team at Anchor Bay in 1969.

"Working with students, helping them grow and prepare for their future," says Cleverley when asked what made coaching enjoyable. "I enjoyed this aspect as a coach and as an official. I had the pleasure to work with Macomb County greats, including Dave McEvers, Bill Dyer and Harold Arft."

*Macomb County Coaches*

**HALL OF FAME**

**2025**

*INDUCTEE*

**SHELLEY  
COE**



Shelley Coe has made a career of building cheerleading programs.

During her 17 years at Warren Woods Tower, Coe won Macomb Area Conference championships in 2010 and 2012 and MHSAA district titles in 2014 and 2015.

When she moved on to Anchor Bay, she won another MAC championship.

"When I needed a new cheer coach at Anchor Bay, Shelley was head and shoulders above her peers throughout the interview process with her knowledge and approach to guiding kids," says Jordan Ackerman, a former athletic director at Warren Woods Tower and Anchor Bay. "In only three years, Shelley took a team in complete disarray and won a Macomb Area Championship."

Emily Briskey was one of Coe's cheerleaders at WWT and later became her junior varsity coach at Anchor Bay.

"I was a member of her 2006 MCCA (Michigan Cheerleading Coaches Association) state qualifying team where she taught us that even against the most difficult odds, if you have belief in yourself and love for your team your dreams can come true. I will never forget our trip to state finals. I owe these memories to Shelley."

Briskey was also a member of the first Warren Woods Tower MHSAA competitive team.

"We paved the way for the athletes to come that she built and mentored into back-to-back district champions," Briskey says. "She is the kind of coach that inspires her athletes to love their sport long after their career has ended and to believe in one's ability for greatness. She inspires her athletes to work hard, have fun and live for every moment in their sport."

Ackerman was able to see firsthand how Coe was able to inspire her athletes to succeed by doing the right things.

"On numerous occasions I have heard her speak to her team about the importance of integrity and doing what is right even if nobody is watching," Ackerman says. "Due to this mentality and focus, Shelley has produced successful results on the cheer mats."

Coe enjoyed watching her athletes improve in their sport and grow as young adults.

"I love teaching my athletes to find their passion in something bigger than themselves," she says. "To watch them work together for a common goal. To be a part of pushing them outside their comfort zone and realize they can be great. That talent is not everything but work ethic is."

It wasn't one of her several championships that provided Coe with her fondest memory as a coach.

In 2010, WWT missed qualifying for the regional by a point. While the girls were in the locker room gathering their belongings, Coe waited in the gym with the parents.

"All of a sudden I heard this huge applause erupt," Coe says. "I turned around and saw my team heading to the bus hand in hand. They were showing themselves and the crowd that they were proud of what they did and who they were. That was a defining moment to realize that I had truly built a team."

Macomb County Coaches

HALL OF FAME

2025

INDUCTEE

JOE  
EMANUELE



There's no shortage of highlights from Joe Emanuele's career as baseball coach at Stevenson.

His teams have won more than 600 games since he coached his first game for the Titans in 1993. Among those victories is a state championship in 2005.

"The 2005 state championship was the most memorable moment for me," he says. "It happened so fast and I really didn't have the time to enjoy the moment. As I look back I understand how hard it is to win one. Pretty amazing!"

He has a long list of league championships, district titles and five regional titles. Emanuele has taken the Titans to the state Division 1 semifinals in three seasons.

Emanuele was an outstanding athlete at Stevenson. He played on the Titans' 1986 football team that went undefeated during the regular season. He also played baseball and played

baseball at the college level.

"Joe was convinced he wanted to be a teacher and coach," says Hall of Famer Rick Bye, who was his football coach at Stevenson.

"We were fortunate to have Joe come to Stevenson as head baseball coach and a quality assistant football coach. He loved baseball coaching and worked tirelessly to develop his outstanding baseball program. He built a year-round baseball program to complement our year-round football program."

During his time as athletic director at Stevenson, Tim Brandon appreciated Emanuele's rapport with the parents of his players.

"I have yet to find a parent who did not comment on the positive experience their child has had with him," Brandon says. "Their descriptions included their appreciation for his passion, commitment, expertise and caring, but most important, his character."

"As a coach (Joe) has earned the respect of the athletes under his tutelage and his view of athletics as an extension of the classroom is evident in the professionalism with which he performs his duties. He clearly has the gift for working with students and athletes."

Emanuele has been involved with the Michigan High School Baseball Coaches Association for more than 15 years and is the district and regional representative for the association.

Emanuele enjoys the relationships formed from his coaching.

"I love it when a former player comes back to see us at a game," he says. "Some of my best friends are on my coaching staff and coaches we compete against."

Some of Emanuele's fondest memories are the years his sons were on the team.

"Not only was it a great time with them, but the relationships with all of their friends that were on the team," he says.

*Macomb County Coaches*  
**HALL OF FAME**

**2025**

*INDUCTEE*

**ROGER (AL)  
GULICK**



High school coaches often become well-known for their achievements.

Not so much middle school coaches and athletic directors.

However, their contributions to the development of young athletes is just as important.

Al Gulick is one of those folks who often toil under the radar. Gulick has coached football and track at the varsity level at Warren Woods Tower, but most of his years in the district have been at Warren Woods Middle School.

He spent 18 years as the athletic director at Warren Woods Middle School but also coached football, wrestling, basketball and track.

Jan Sander worked closely with Gulick during her years as the Warren Woods Tower athletic director.

“Al is an exceptional individual for many reasons,” Sander says. “He loves his wife and two daughters and is not afraid to openly display his love and affection for them. I think this is an extraordinarily strong quality because it demonstrates how he respects and treats his players.

“His passion for sports and young people can be witnessed by all he does. Al is a doer and promoter. He was involved in the evolution of the Macomb Area Middle School Athletic Association. His strong leadership skills, warm inviting personality and great sense of humor have made him a role model and mentor not only for his students but other coaches and teachers.”

One of Gulick’s proudest accomplishments is the work spent on advancing middle school athletics in Macomb County and Michigan.

“I was fortunate to be elected president of the Macomb Area Middle School Athletic Association,” he says. “We were able to bring 36 middle schools together under one umbrella with like philosophies and rules that focused on athletic development and middle level concepts.”

During that time, Gulick worked closely with the Michigan Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association and the Michigan High School Athletic Association to promote and further the efforts of middle level athletics throughout the state.

“Rules changes and updates to in-service training for middle school coaches and athletic directors was our main focus,” he says.

Sander speaks about the respect folks have for Gulick.

“He is compassionate, open-minded and authentic,” she says. “He works hard, is demanding but his teams have fun. This is witnessed by how many young men stay in contact with him after they leave high school. They leave the program better men than when they started because of his influence.”



Macomb County Coaches

HALL OF FAME

2025

INDUCTEE

TONY  
MISURACA



This was the first time in nearly 40 seasons that Tony Misuraca hasn't been at the helm of a Stevenson softball team.

He still stays close to the sport, following many of his former players who have gone on the play in college.

"Sports have always been a huge part of my life, especially softball," Misuraca says. "From coaching my daughters' parks and recreation and travel teams to being able to coach at Stevenson for 25 years has been so rewarding and enjoyable.

"As a coach, I get to witness players put in so much time, work and effort into growing and improving. To see their happiness when they succeed is amazing. Another enjoyable aspect of coaching is being able to meet a player as a freshman on the first day of tryout and watching her grow until she completes her last game as a senior. Watching them build confidence and strength through the years is a full-circle moment that makes it all come

together."

It has all come together many times for Misuraca's teams.

The Titans have won two Macomb Area Conference Red Division titles, nine district championships and twice won regionals.

Stevenson has been Macomb County Team of the Year twice with Misuraca at the helm and he has been named county Coach of the Year two times.

Misuraca takes special pride in his players who have graduated to the next level in softball.

"Being able to go and watch more than 30 of my former players play softball at the college level always fills me with pride," he says. "It is so awesome to see them doing so well. What an honor it is to be a part of their softball careers."

Misuraca has always cared about his players.

"For his players that play other sports in the offseason, whether it's volleyball, basketball, bowling or cheer, you will see him in the stands supporting their accomplishments," says Thomas Falotico, who has worked with "Coach Miz" for more than 30 years.

"He spends weekends during the summer watching and supporting his players in their travel seasons."

Misuraca hosts softball camps throughout the year.

Tom Stockton, a Hall of Fame coach himself from Stevenson, has known Misuraca for nearly 50 years and appreciates his dedication to the Stevenson community.

"He is a big supporter of the booster club, other activities and fundraising effort around Stevenson," Stockton says. "The booster club always contacts Tony first and he is the first to volunteer."

*Macomb County Coaches*

**HALL OF FAME**

**2025**

*INDUCTEE*

**DON  
RODA**



Don Roda's enjoyment in coaching must have been apparent around the dinner table at home. His two sons both followed him into the profession.

"There are a lot of things that have made coaching enjoyable," says Roda, who started coaching in 1984 and continues to coach the boys lacrosse team at L'Anse Creuse. "Every team I have coached has worked hard and persevered through the good and the bad.

"Having been on both sides of the highs and lows of sports, what I love most is the camaraderie. At the end of the day, win or lose, the relationship with players and coaches are really what it's about. I have had the pleasure of coaching with me a generation ahead and a generation behind me. I have coached young men and later, their sons. I was able to coach my own sons and now they both coach with me. The relationships and camaraderie are what I hold very dear."

Roda is in his 35th year coaching lacrosse at L'Anse Creuse and he has guided the Lancers to more than 300 victories.

L'Anse Creuse won six MAC White championships and one MAC Red title under Roda's guidance. His 1991 team won the Tier 2 state championships and was AA runner-up in 1994, the same year the Lancers were Eastern Conference champions.

He is a member of the Michigan High School Lacrosse Coaches Hall of Fame and he has been named Coach of the Year in boys lacrosse. He has given back to the sport by serving on the Michigan High School Athletic Association lacrosse committee. He also resurrected the Macomb All-County lacrosse teams.

"Every spring he organizes and hosts the county coaches so our kids can experience one more avenue of appreciation," says Mike Jolly, also a member of the MHSAA lacrosse committee. "Don has advanced the game of lacrosse for the benefit of youngsters across the state and especially in Macomb County."

One of Roda's favorite moments is beating Dakota for the 2018 Macomb Area Conference lacrosse championship.

"We had no business beating them," he says. "Our best scorer was out and we brought up a JV player to fill in. We sold the kids on the idea we had a scheme to win the game, all they had to do was play. We won and the JV player scored three goals. What a great memory!"

Don Lutz, who began the lacrosse program at L'Anse Creuse during the 1970s, knew that Roda had the intangibles for a successful coaching career when he was playing lacrosse for the Lancers in the early '80s.

"As an educator and coach, Don has shown a high level of integrity and professionalism," Lutz says. "His players know this from the high, consistent standards he sets for them. He is firm in the application of these standards, and most important, fair.

"His players respond positively in this environment created by someone who cares about them. In short, coach Roda has exhibited the best qualities shown by all the great coaches."

In addition to his lacrosse duties, Roda has been the head varsity football coach at L'Anse Creuse and South Lake and was varsity assistant at Richmond.

Macomb County Coaches

HALL OF FAME

2025

INDUCTEE

DENISE  
SARGENT



Denise Sargent has compiled some impressive won-lost records in more than 20 years of coaching high school volleyball.

She'll be remembered just as much, however, for the caring and compassion she has shown toward her teams.

"She builds a program around a family atmosphere and this is a big part of why she is so successful," says fellow Hall of Fame coach Mary Knechtges. "She is very generous with her time and is willing to help any player. Sarge loves her players and they love her."

Knechtges tells the story of a L'Anse Creuse North player who was scheduled for major surgery during the COVID crisis.

"Sarge, the other coaches and teammates organized a drive-by the night before her surgery," Knechtges says. "There were over 30 cars. The father said 'we can't thank you enough Denise (Sarge) Sargent. We are forever grateful. The rest of our volleyball family — you guys are awesome.'"

"I have always felt if you develop a family atmosphere you will have a winning program. This story tells when Denise has been so successful."

Sargent, who has also coached softball and soccer, won six league championships in volleyball. Her 2019 LCN team also won district and regional titles.

The caring and compassion Sargent has shown extends beyond her teams.

"Being an active member of the community is important to me and a great lesson to provide for my teams," Sargent says. "My teams have always given back to the community that supports them and they love doing it. My players have helped in many ways from fundraisers for hurricane victims, mentoring incoming freshmen, making blankets for cancer patients to Christmas caroling to raise money to help the homeless."

Sargent started the Crank It Volleyball Club after a conversation with the late Dave Jackson when he was athletic director at LCN.

"Dave said, 'wouldn't it be great if there was a travel team that would work with high school coaches so kids could play two sports,'" Sargent says. "Crank It Volleyball works with local coaches to provide an affordable experience for girls playing travel volleyball to have minimal conflicts between the high school sport they are playing."

Among Sargent's most memorable moments are seeing the team respond to its teammate before her surgery and working with players to develop their volleyball skills.

"Of course, I would be lying if I did not talk about memorable wins in my career," Sargent says. "Winning respect as a program with the first conference championship after years of building my program. Being the Cinderella team and winning the Northwood tournament and having people ask where L'Anse Creuse is. Being the MAC White Division champion and beating the first-place MAC Red team to win districts, beating long-time rival Fraser to win the first regional championship in school history and being named (Macomb County) Team of the Year."

Macomb County Coaches

HALL OF FAME

2025

INDUCTEE

MARC  
SONNENFELD



It takes a special individual to become a successful wrestler.

It tests an athlete physically and mentally. It takes the ability to persevere and overcome obstacles that seem impossible.

It takes a special coach to help the athletes learn about success and failure and how to deal with the outcomes.

One of those special coaches is Marc Sonnenfeld, who coached wrestling at Fitzgerald for 28 years and has more than 300 victories to his credit.

"Marc Sonnenfeld is a model example of the teacher, leader and coach that it takes to help our student athletes be successful in the sport of wrestling and life," says Jamie Nowakowski, who wrestled for Sonnenfeld and went on to be one of his assistant coaches.

"His love and passion for the sport is second to none. His time, dedication and desire to see his athletes succeed is extraordinary. The everlasting impact that Marc has had on the thousands of students that he has taught and the hundreds of students that he has coached is unmatched."

Steven Dahl, who coached with Sonnenfeld for several years, also talks about the impact Sonnenfeld has had on his wrestlers.

"The measurement on Marc's success can not only be measured with awards, accolades or his record," Dahl says. "The reach of his impact goes far beyond the wrestling mat. Many of Marc's former wrestlers consider him to be a father figure. He helped them through difficult times in their lives.

"He helped them get jobs, shared advice and provided the 'tough' love they needed to become men."

Sonnenfeld not only was involved with the Fitzgerald team but he built the middle school wrestling program and instituted a "Myway" program for beginning wrestlers in the community.

In addition to coaching wrestling, Sonnenfeld coached football and track in the Fitzgerald district. He was also the high school's athletic director for several years, beginning in 2010.

"I really enjoyed the relationships that I built with my athletes and fellow coaches," Sonnenfeld says. "Wrestlers, wrestling coach and officials are like being in a fraternity. We always help and look out for each other."

Sonnenfeld has had some memorable moments in his coaching career.

"When we beat Anchor Bay to win the (division) championship (in 2004)," he says. "Watching all the Fitz athletes wrestle at team and individual state meets. Watching Taye (Ghadiali) win the state wrestling championship from the stands as athletic director."

Sonnenfeld's Spartan teams won conference championships five times. They won district crowns in seven seasons and were regional team champions in 2004. That 2004 team finished in the top eight in the state in Division 2.



Macomb County Coaches

HALL OF FAME

2025

INDUCTEE

JOY  
SPRANG



Coaches don't always measure success in wins and losses.

Joy Sprang, who has coached softball at Parkway Christian and its predecessor, Zoe Christian, for more than 25 years and is currently the school's athletic director, is one of those coaches that believes there is something more important than the record.

Not that Sprang hasn't experienced her share of wins.

Her volleyball teams have won three Michigan Independent Athletic Conference championships and four district crowns. In softball, Sprang has guided the Eagles to three MIAC titles, four district championships and a regional championship in 2009.

"I love working with my teams, teaching them new things, learning with them, helping them explore new opportunities and watching them as they find success," she says.

"Success isn't always found in wins but in the small moments when an athlete accomplishes something they've been working on all season. Celebrating those moments is what I enjoy most. As a coach, it's important to find the good moments in each practice or game.'

To illustrate that, Sprang recalls a district championship game that Parkway lost to University Liggett School.

"Our team had not been very successful that season but we were in the championship game against Liggett, one of our great rivals in softball," Sprang says. "Talent-wise they were the better team, but my young team decided that day they were going to enjoy every moment of that game. They cheered non-stop. Every moment was a celebration. They congratulated each other for every little thing they did.

"The energy in the dugout was uncontainable. We ended up losing in the seventh inning and was heartbreaking to lose but every single girl on that team felt like a winner that day."

Sarah Iacoboni is one of Sprang's former players who became one of her assistants in softball and volleyball.

"Coach Sprang shaped me into the best student athlete I could be, on and off the field," Iacoboni says. "She has a great way of elevating her players' ability with skill discipline and positive reinforcement. She expects perfection but guides you to reach that goal instead of shaming you for mistakes made as you learn.

"She has impacted so many student athletes in such a positive way. Many of us have applied the values she teaches through sports to our everyday lives."

*Macomb County Coaches*

**HALL OF FAME**

**2025**

*INDUCTEE*

**PAT  
THREET**



Pat Threet found out early how important a coach can be in a young athlete's life. Threet was only 18 when he started coaching the 7th and 8th grade football team at Warren Woods Middle School. That was the same time he started making an impact on the athletes he coached.

"At the time I had no idea how this opportunity to be a positive role model would impact me as a coach," Threet says.

One of his players was undersized for football but Threet could see beyond that.

"I was able to see the muscle that was the most important in life and sports - his heart," Threet says. "He was fearless. He was pound for pound one of the toughest kids I ever coached. He was a little bit of a rebel and we had to work on some attitude at times but each day I saw growth."

At the end of the season Threet was approached by the boy's father. It was Threet's first parent-coach conversation and the young coach wondered what the father had on his mind.

"He said to me, 'I wanted to see the guy who my son can't stop talking about,'" Threet recalls. "He went on to thank me for working with his son and how he has improved in school and in his behavior. His dad's words of encouragement make me proud of what I was doing as a coach. It made me want to impact so many more in the future.

"It's why I coach to this day. People matter and as a coach we have the power to straighten kids out when they are walking the line that can turn from good or bad."

That undersized football player turned to wrestling and was one of the captains on Threet's first league championship wrestling team at Warren Woods Tower. Threet holds his program to high standards. Lakeview athletic director Sean Zaborowski offers an example of that.

"His impact on this program was not only visible on the field but within the character the members of the Lakeview football program displayed," Zaborowski says. "As I was walking the officials to their vehicles after a game, one of them said, 'It's fun to come to Lakeview now.'" I asked why and the response was 'we didn't spend the entire game getting sworn at by the coaches and players like in the past.'"

Success has followed Threet throughout his coaching career. He has led Lakeview to its only appearances in the state high school playoffs and his 2014 Fraser football team was the first Ramblers squad to make the playoffs in 16 years.

Threet is one of the branches of the sprawling Jim Plecas coaching tree. It was a suggestion from Plecas that provided Threet with one of his most memorable moments in coaching. Lakeview was scheduled to play a strong Port Huron Northern team in the playoffs and Plecas offered a play that might catch PHN by surprise. "Each day that week we practiced the play and I shared with the team that my old coach made the recommendation for it," Threet says.

Lakeview took a 7-0 lead in the game and used up nine minutes of the first quarter in the process. As the game went on, Lakeview made a defensive stop. "I called a play to my QB and he said, 'Coach, what about the play coach Plecas gave you?'" Threet recalls. "I said, 'great idea. Let's do it.'"

The play resulted in a long gain to the one-yard line. On the next play, Lakeview scored to lead 14-0 at halftime. The Huskies won the game 14-7.

After the game, longtime Marysville coach Jim Venia congratulated Threet.

"He wanted to congratulate me for putting my kids in a position to win a football game we had no business winning," Threet says.

That's something Threet has done throughout his coaching career.

# Special thanks to:

Chuck Klonke & Kevin Lozon

Visual Sports Network of Michigan

Wesner Tuxedo

BSN Sports

Marissa Jolet - Regina Choral Ensemble

Macomb Area Conference

Mary Anne Santarossa

Quick Made Trophy Sales

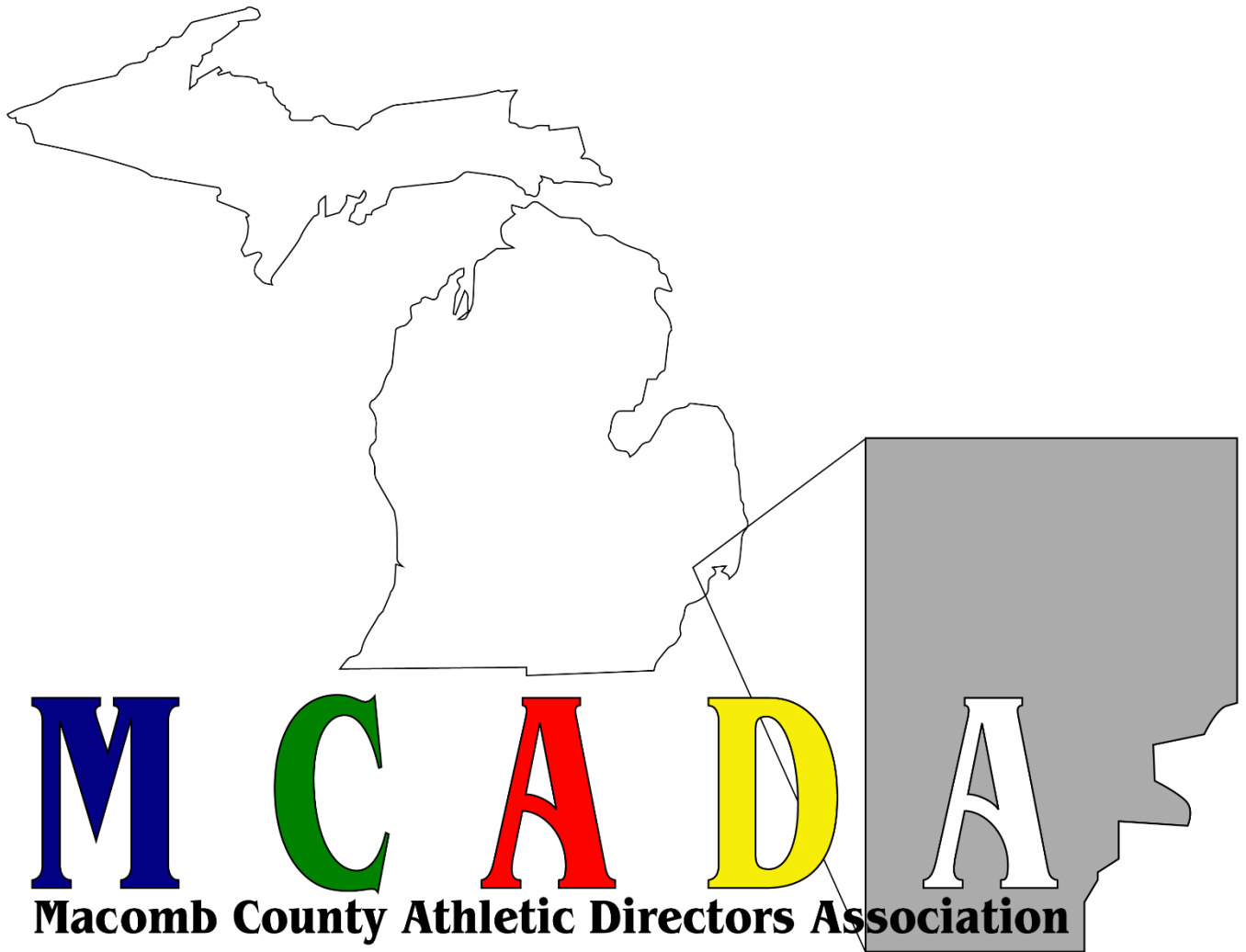
The Mirage Staff

MCADA Committee - Robin Dilday, Chad Hottle, Mike Jolly,  
Bob Maus, Brad Robinson, Jan Sander & Aaron Setlak

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