

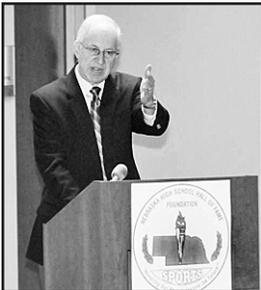


# Honoring the Past to Inspire the Future

Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Foundation  
Newsletter — Winter 2008-09

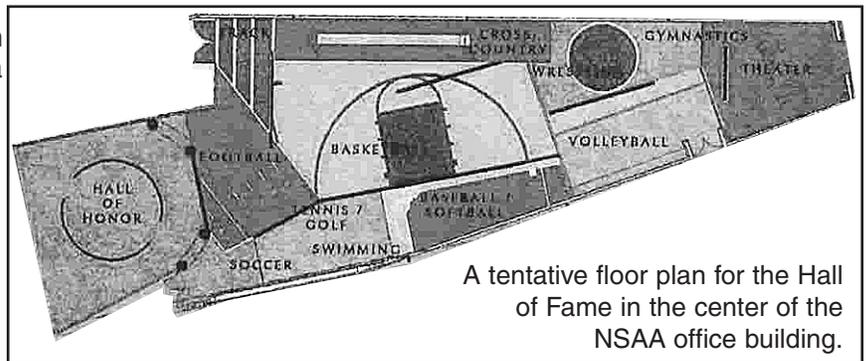
## Honoring one of our own

### *Hall's theatre bears McNaught's name*



Hall of Fame Board of Directors President Bob Whitehouse welcomes the media and guests to the press conference kicking off the Hall's fund drive.

With a special announcement with an eye to the future and a respect for the past, the Nebraska High School Hall of Fame Foundation kicked off its \$1.5-million capital campaign with a press conference Nov. 21 at the Nebraska School Activities Association office building.



A tentative floor plan for the Hall of Fame in the center of the NSAA office building.



The unveiling.

More than 80 people, including several Hall of Fame Board of Directors, attended the press conference and the unveiling of the Wally McNaught Theatre.

"Our purpose is to honor outstanding athletes, coaches, officials, administrators and community members who have made significant contributions to high school athletics during their remarkable careers," Board of Directors President Bob Whitehouse said. "Our goal has always been to establish a facility that will preserve the rich heritage of Nebraska high school athletics and serve as a repository for all memorabilia acquired."

The Hall of Fame is renting 7,000 square feet of space in the NSAA office building to house the displays and memorabilia associated with the Hall of Fame.

However, a goal of \$1.5 million has been established to develop and create the displays and presentations "bringing a first-class Hall of Fame to completion," Whitehouse said.

The press conference coincided with the Hall of Fame reaching a milestone of \$500,000 in its fund-raising efforts, and to dedicate the Hall's theater to former Hall president and inductee Wally McNaught.

McNaught's name was attached to the theater at the request of an anonymous donor who often encountered McNaught's name in favorable circumstances, even though the two had never met.

McNaught said he was very humbled when he learned the theater would bear his name.

"I feel honored by it. At the same time I think there

are a lot of other people whose name could be up there in my place. I had no control over that, so I'll accept the honor," he said.

He didn't learn of the honor until the naming ceremony.

"I was very surprised. ... I was really excited and focused on the fact we had raised \$500,000 to lead off the campaign and that would lead farther into the news conference. When the film started and theatre name, I was really taken aback," McNaught said.

The capital campaign is being directed by Steve Johnsen, president of the Nebraska Coaches Association and coordinator of the Hall's fund drive.

Many individuals, organizations and schools have contributed so far.



The McNaught family, from left, son Pat, Wally, wife JoAnn, son Tom and daughter Linda (Major).



McNaught is congratulated by board of directors members Roger Barry and Aldie Johnson.

# Web site gets update, new look

*Nomination forms, biographies, news available online*

The Hall of Fame's Web site at [www.nebhalloffame.org](http://www.nebhalloffame.org), has undergone a facelift.

Ann Gaffigan, CEO of Gazelle, Incorporated, has redesigned and modernized the Hall of Fame's Web site.

The site includes news about the Hall of Fame's activities as well as biographies of all the Hall of Fame's inductees.

Nomination forms for induction and other awards are available at the Web site, along with donation forms.

The Web site will be updated often and we are working on finding the best way to make online donations an option.

Please visit the Hall of Fame's Web site to keep up to date on all the Hall's activities.

**NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS HALL OF FAME FOUNDATION**  
*"Honoring our past to inspire the future"*

HOME INDUCTEES AWARDS GREAT MOMENTS NOMINATIONS DONATIONS ABOUT

Welcome to the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Foundation Website!  
 The Hall of Fame Foundation is a non-profit organization operating for more than 20 years with the idea of reserving the history of high school sports. It makes several awards annually honoring individuals and teams and as inducted more than 240 athletes, coaches and/or contributors, including some of the great names in Nebraska sports such as Gale Sayers, Johnny Rodgers, Carol Frost, the Fischer family, Tom Kropp, Nancy Kindig-Malone, Bob Ibson, Bob Boozer, Amy Stephens and Tom Osborne.

**We Have a Good Cause: Please Help Us Out**

The Hall of Fame officially kicked off its capital fund drive on 11/23/08, with a press conference and a tour of our exhibition hall in the Nebraska School Activities Association building at 500 Charleston Street in Lincoln.

Thanks to a sizeable donation by a person preferring anonymity, the drive has reached \$500,000.

The goal is \$1.5 million, which has been determined as a minimum requirement to provide an entertaining, modern presentation of Nebraska high school sports' past in the 7,000 square foot area.

"We anticipate we will begin to furnish the hall as soon as we get to the halfway point," said Bob Whitehouse, president of the foundation board of directors. "We're paying rent now and we've started working on schematics."

Fund drive chairman is Steve Johnsen, director of the the Nebraska Coaches Association, also officed in the NSAA complex. For more information or to make a

**Announcements:**

**Lyle Nannen**  
 Services will be in Odell NE on 1/10/09 for Lyle Nannen, longtime coach and an inductee into the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame.

Nannen, 73, died Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009, in Odell.  
 He was inducted into 2003.

**Perhaps you missed it:**  
 Jay Novacek, Gothenburg product, was commemorated for his 2008 induction into the College Football Hall of Fame at half-time of the Wyoming Cowboys football game on 9/13/08. Novacek was inducted into the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1996. [See his profile.](#)

**NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

- **Steve Borer - Seward**  
 31 years in education...Presently Assistant Principal & Activities Director at Seward High School...Nine years at Madison Public Schools as Principal/Activities Director, 17 years at Brady as Teacher-Coach-Administrator, three years at Wheeler Central as Teacher-Coach-Activities Director. ...Elgin High, Wayne State graduate.
- **Kathi Wieskamp - Lincoln**  
 20 years in education - Lincoln Public Schools. Presently

## Board elects officers, adds new members

The Hall of Fame Foundation Board of Directors held its annual election of officers at its September meeting. The slate of officers includes:

—Bob Whitehouse, president.

—Jack Guggenmos, vice president

—Jerry Stine, secretary

—Dennis Smith, treasurer.

At its December meeting

the Hall added two new board members: Steve Borer of Seward and Kathi Wieskamp of Lincoln.

Borer has been working in education for 31 years and is the assistant principal and activities director at Seward High School. Prior to coming to Seward, he worked at Wheeler Central, Brady and Madison high schools. He is a graduate of Elgin High

School and Wayne State College.

Wieskamp has spent 20 years in education and is presently the assistant activities director at Lincoln North Star. A former University of Nebraska All-American volleyball player who graduated from Norris High School, she taught and coached at Lincoln Southeast before moving to North Star.

Let us know if you've moved

Moving? To keep up with the Hall of Fame's newsletter, please remember to send us a change of address form to: Dick Beechner, 3214 20th Ave., Kearney, NE, 68845.

Come to the Nebraska High School Hall of Fame Foundation's Induction ceremony

**Sept. 27, 2009**

at the Lied Center in Lincoln

# Hall welcomes 15th induction class

The Hall of Fame inducted its 15th class at the annual induction ceremony Sept. 28 at the Lied Center in Lincoln.

More than 600 people attended the gathering to honor the greats of Nebraska high school athletics.

Inductees included: Athletes Charles Bryant, Omaha South; Cory Schlesinger, Columbus, Dave Lebsack, Lincoln Northeast; Joe Scarpello, Omaha Central; Kurt Lauer, Gibbon; Larry Vlasin, Madrid; Nikki (Stricker) Best, Lincoln East; Paul Mohr, Scottsbluff; Russ

**Preserve the memory with a DVD**

To purchase a DVD of the 2008 induction ceremony, send \$20 and \$3 for shipping and handling to Dick Beechner, 3214 20th Ave., Kearney, NE, 68845.

Snyder, Nelson; Teri (Steer) Cantwell, Crete; Tom Haase, Aurora.  
Coaches Gail Peterson, Crofton; Harold Maciejewski, Wayne; Jim Morrison, Howells; John Reta, Lincoln Southeast; Larry Ribble, Millard South; Official: Rudy Stoehr, Lincoln  
Contributors: Con Marshall of Chadron; and Wally McNaught, Lincoln

Southeast.  
Also given special recognition were:  
—Great Moment in High School Sports: The Alliance girls basketball team and Papillion-LaVista's Randal Carter.  
—Ron Gustafson Inspiration Award: Former Omaha Northwest swimmer Staci Perrigo-Venneman.  
—Golden Anniversary Teams: Lincoln High boys

basketball 1958-59; McCook Red Willow football, basketball and track of 1958-59.  
—Silver Anniversary Teams: Crofton boys and girls cross country, 1983-84; Henderson football and boys basketball, 1983-84; Silver Anniversary Team: Omaha Central girls basketball, 1983-84.  
—Fischer Family Award: Victor and Ann Borer family of Albion.  
The 2010 induction class is being selected at this time and will be announced in April. The 2010 induction ceremony is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 27.

## 'Dominant Dynasties' added to Hall's list of awards

The Hall of Fame has added a new award to its list of honorees: Dominant Dynasty.  
The award, which will be presented at the annual

induction ceremony beginning this year, will honor teams that have sustained success over a period of years.  
The Hall of Fame's selec-

tion committee felt the award was needed to remove ambiguities that existed between the Great Moments in Nebraska High School History award and

the Golden/Silver Anniversary teams.  
Nomination forms for the Dominant Dynasty Award are available at the Hall's Web site: [www.nebhalloffame.org](http://www.nebhalloffame.org).

## News of our inductees:

- Funeral services were held Jan. 10 in Odell for **Lyle Nannen**, longtime coach and an inductee into the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame.  
Nannen, 73, died Wednesday, Jan. 7, 2009, in Odell. He was inducted into the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2003.  
He was a high school standout in football, basketball and track and was even more successful as a coach, logging a 468-223 record as a basketball coach and a 171-96-5 record as a football coach.  
His basketball teams earned one state championship, eight district titles and five district championships.  
■ **Tom Kropp** was inducted into National High School Hall of Fame in July — the first Nebraskan to be inducted.  
Kropp, an Aurora High School graduate, was inducted into the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1995. A four-sport standout in high school, he at Aurora and was drafted by teams in the NFL, NBA and ABA at the end of his collegiate career at Kearney State College. He played for the Washington Bullets and Chicago Bulls of the NBA before playing professionally in Europe.  
■ Former Wyoming Cowboy and Dallas Cowboy **Jay Novacek**, a Gothenburg product, was commemorated for his 2008 induction into the College Football Hall of Fame at halftime of the Wyoming football game on Sept. 13. Novacek was inducted into the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1996.

**Hall of Fame a benefactor of state Cheer and Dance Championships**

The Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Foundation is one of the benefactors of the State High School Cheer and Dance Championships Feb. 21 in Grand Island.  
The event, sponsored by the Nebraska Coaches Association and the Nebraska State Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, is expected to draw more than 1,600 competitors. The competition was first held last year and was considered an overwhelming success. This year's competition promises to be bigger and better.  
To do its part and to show its appreciation for the support of the event, the Hall of Fame's board of directors, as well as volunteers from the NSIAAA, will provide a working staff to assist in the competition's success.  
Like all high school activities, the Cheer and Dance Championships is an entertaining and exciting event worth attending.

**Donation Form**

The Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame is a non-profit, tax-exempt (IRC Section 501(c)(3)) organization that relies on contributions from individuals, organizations, foundations, etc. Please consider making a contribution. You can copy this form or simply send your donation to:

Sports Hall of Fame  
1123 Delmar Street  
Papillion, NE 68046

Make checks payable to the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Foundation

Contribution enclosed for \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**Our mission:**

The purpose of the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Foundation is to honor:

- Athletes for outstanding high school careers.
- Administrators, coaches, officials and community members who have made significant contributions to high school athletics.
- Athletes who have had a significant impact on their chosen field or in our society following completion of their high school careers.

**Our Goals:**

1. Establish a Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame facility that will preserve the rich heritage of Nebraska high school athletics and serve as a repository for all memorabilia acquired.
2. Develop and implement programs and services consistent with the intent and purpose of the Hall of Fame.

Please share this newsletter with as many high school sports fans as possible by placing it in an accessible area.

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