

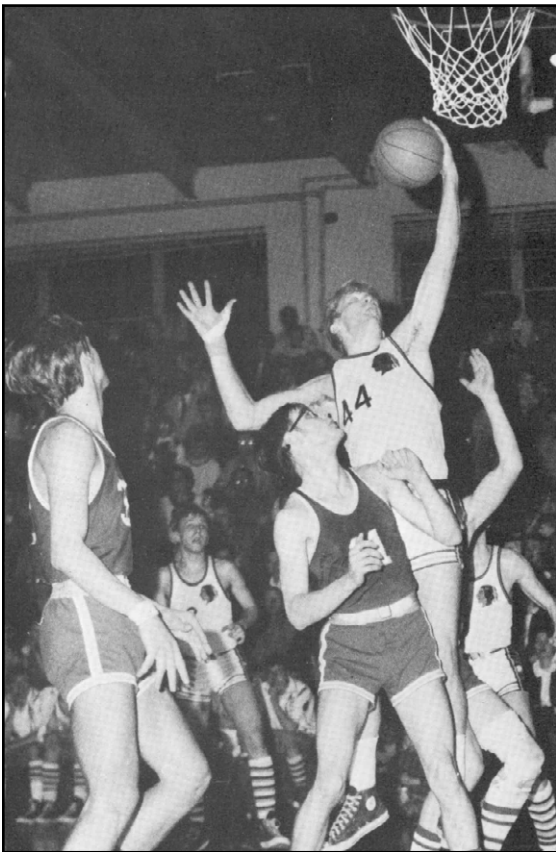


# Honoring the Past to Inspire the Future

Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Foundation  
Newsletter — April 2003

## 10th inductee class named

Induction ceremony scheduled for Sept. 28 in Lincoln



Courtesy photo

Gene Harmon of Schuyler pulls down a rebound during his high school career. Harmon is one of 22 pioneers, athletes, coaches, officials and contributors who will be inducted in the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame in September.

### Want to nominate someone?

Nomination forms are available by contacting the Hall via e-mail at [golopers@aol.com](mailto:golopers@aol.com) or by checking our Web site at [www.nebhalloffame.org](http://www.nebhalloffame.org).

LINCOLN — The Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Foundation will induct 22 athletes, coaches, pioneers and an official during its 10th annual induction ceremony Sept. 28 at the Lied Center in Lincoln.

This year's inductees include:

— Glenn Presnell, DeWitt (1924): A three-year letterman at halfback for the Nebraska Cornhuskers he led the nation in total yards as a senior, and was All-Missouri Valley twice. He played semi-pro and pro football from 1928 to 1936, leading Detroit to the 1935 NFL title. His 54-yard field goal in 1932 (which beat Green Bay 3-0) stood as an NFL record for 19 years. A two-time All-Pro choice, he was NU's head coach in 1942.

— Bernie Masterson, Lincoln High (1930): An All-Big Six back at Nebraska in 1933, he played football and basketball for Lincoln High. A quarterback for the Chicago Bears from 1934 to 1940, he played in three NFL championship games. He returned to Nebraska as head football coach in 1946 and 1947.

— Les "Beanie" Witte, Lincoln High (1930): A three-time All-America basketball player at Wyoming, he was the first collegian to score more than 1,000 points in a career (1,069). At Lincoln High, where he was a teammate of Masterson, the Links went 23-0-2 in football from 1927 to 1929.

— Bob Decker, Omaha Holy Name (1950): A three-time Class B all-stater in football and two-time all-stater in basketball, he went on to become a college football and basketball standout. He went to Nebraska on a football scholarship, then transferred to Santa Clara to join his younger brother, Jim. He played minor-league baseball.

— James "Jim" Decker, Omaha Holy

### Tickets on sale now

Tickets for the induction ceremony are available by contacting Lincoln Public Schools care of Karen Hand, 5901 O St. Lincoln, NE., 68510.

The cost of tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students. Preschoolers will be admitted free. Visa or MasterCard accepted.

For more ticket information, call Hand at (402) 436-1811.

Name (1952): A standout on UCLA's 1954 co-national championship football team, he had a three-sport career at Holy Name. In football, he was twice all-state and made the 1949 all-class team as he scored 92 points as a junior and 136 as a senior. Ramblers' basketball record with him was 60-3 with a state title in 1950 and a runner-up finish in 1952. He was All-Nebraska as a senior and played baseball on the 1952 state championship team. He went to UCLA after Santa Clara dropped football and was All-America as a senior. He played shortstop for the Bruins for two years.

— Lyle Nannen, Syracuse (1954): The Lincoln Journal-Star Athlete of the Year in 1954, Nannen ended his 41-year coaching career at Randolph with the 2002 Class C-2 boys basketball championship. His career coaching records are 468-223 for boys basketball and 171-96-5 for football. He played on Syracuse's 27-0 Class C championship basketball team of 1954 and was an all-stater in football and basketball. He was the 1953 Class C hurdles champion. He played

See ♦ INDUCTEES page 3

## Hall to honor Olsons of Millard South, Bailey family of Schuyler

LINCOLN — The Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Foundation will honor Millard South girls basketball coach Rich Olson and his wife, Olinda, with the Ron Gustafson Inspiration Award at the Hall of Fame's induction ceremonies Sept. 28 at the Lied Center in Lincoln.

The family of Ruth and the late Chester Bailey of Schuyler will be presented with the Fischer Family Award.

Since Olinda Olson was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease more than 20 years ago, the Olsons and their devotion to each other and to the players have been an inspiration to all who have learned more than basketball under the tutelage of Coach Olson.

Now, unable speak and confined to a wheelchair, Olinda remains a strong supporter of her husband and his players. She attends their games, communicating through her eyes or by mouthing words to an interpreter. She also writes letters of encouragement and instruction to the players.

While her determination and courage offer inspiration to all who know her, Rich's devotion to her is also an inspiration. He makes sure her health services are always in place and, if not, takes care of her needs himself.

For two generations, the Bailey family of Schuyler has had an immeasurable influence on high school athletics in Nebraska and Iowa. Sons Keith, Gary, Don and Steve — all graduates of Schuyler High School - have made their mark as successful athletes and coaches, while their children have succeeded at athletics and life.

In 1978, Gary and Don became the first brother combination to coach football at the Class A level, Gary at Omaha Central and Don at Millard High School. Keith joined them at the large school level when he became the head football coach at Ames Central High School in Ames, Iowa, in 1979.

Keith earned eight letters at Schuyler, and went on to play football at Wayne State. He was head coach at Ashland and a graduate assistant at UNO before becoming head football and wrestling coach at Osceola (Iowa) and Clarion.

Gary earned nine letters at Schuyler and went on to play football at Wayne State. His coaching and teaching career took him to Falls City, Weeping Water, Omaha Central, Omaha South and Omaha Bryan. One of his sons, Mike, was a four-year letterman in football and soccer at Omaha Burke and he is currently the head boys soccer and football coach at Burke.

Don won eight letters at Schuyler and went on to coach football at Millard High School. He also served as athletic director at York High School, where his sons Ty and Bret earned 11 letters in football and basketball.

Steve graduated from Schuyler in 1970, having earned nine letters. He played basketball at Platte Community College and football at Midland Lutheran. He coached football at Fremont Bergan, football and track at St. Edward and football at Arlington. His St. Edward team won the 1967 state championship.



### Executive Director's update

This is the second of our biennial newsletters of the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Foundation. It has been a good sports year thus far in the state of Nebraska. The Hall of Fame has been in attendance at the state cross country meet in Kearney, and at the state volleyball tournament, state swimming, state wrestling, state girls and boys basketball all held in Lincoln. I am sure that there were some future Hall of Famers who competed in these events. I am of the opinion that the visibility of the Hall of Fame at these events was worth the effort of myself and those who helped. There seemed to be considerable interest from the fans and athletes. I would like to thank the NSAA Board of Control for this window of opportunity to be present at the mentioned events. We are looking forward to the championships this spring.



Dick Beechner

We are still continuing our efforts to secure a facility in Lincoln, but as of press time, we do not have a positive announcement to make in regard to the progress of this project.

I believe that the selection committee has come up with another well-documented class of inductees to be brought into the Hall of Fame at the induction ceremony to be held at the Lied Center on the University of Nebraska campus on Sunday, Sept. 28. Make sure to mark your calendar for this outstanding event marking the 10th year of induction ceremonies.

The Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame Foundation continues its effort to raise money for the building project and our duplication awards project. All donations are welcome.

Please, if you change your address, let us know so we can make changes. Thank you. Until next time, be a good sport.

### Recent contributors:

The Hall of Fame would like to thank the following people for their financial gifts from October 2002 to

February 2003:

- Hoppy McCue
- Roger Higgins
- Bus Whitehead
- Homer & Kathryn Smith
- Bob Gates
- Cambridge C Club
- Bob Murray

- Tom Frette
- Burke High School
- Jim & Bonnie Glover
- Bill & Phyllis James
- Neil & Carol Nannen
- Ron & Nancy Lamberty
- Robert & Jane Wahlstrom
- Ken & Alice Ritzdorf

- Eugene Littler
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- Alan & Kristine Garey
- NSIAAA
- North High School
- Mr. & Mrs. W.H. Debus
- Creighton Prep
- Buck & Shirley Edwards

- Gene Haynes
- Donald Erway
- Al & Patricia Bahe
- Jerry & Pat Stine
- Gene & Anne Suhr
- Jane & Jerry Neely
- John & Marilyn Petersen
- Russ & Annette Eisenhart

# INDUCTEES

basketball at Nebraska.

— Francis Allen, Longtime University of Nebraska men's gymnastics coach: A 1961 graduate of Lincoln High, Allen led the Husker gymnastics team to eight NCAA national titles, including five in a row from 1979 to 1983. He was the U.S. Olympic coach in 1980 and 1992 and the NCAA Coach of the Year in 1979, 1980 and 1981. He was inducted into USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame.

— Roy Katskee, Omaha Northwest: He coached the Huskies to one state championship in boys gymnastics and five in girls gymnastics, with eight combined Metro Conference titles. He had a dual record of 301-78 and coached boys track and girls softball.

— Larry Jacobsen, Omaha Burke: He coached the Bulldogs in football from 1968 to 1995, posting a career record of 167-83-2. Burke won the Metro championship in 1974, reached the state football playoffs 10 years out of 20 and twice made it to the Class A finals. A 1957 graduate of Homer High School, he was an NAIA All-American in 1961 at Kearney State College.

— Jim Kane, Elkhorn Mount Michael: The 1983 World-Herald coach of the year, he had seven state-championship teams in four sports: cross country, track, football and basketball. His career coaching records are 547-236 in boys basketball and 177-97 in football. The 1957 Wisner graduate was the All-Big Seven catcher at Nebraska in 1957 and 1958.

— Larry Wachholtz, North Platte (1963): An all-state football player on North Platte's 1962 state-champion team, he also stood out in basketball for the Bulldogs. At Nebraska, he was second-team All-America as a defensive back as a junior and first team as a senior.

— Gene Harmon, Schuyler (1970): A Creighton University standout, he was one of Schuyler's 'Jolly Green Giants,' along with Chuck Jura, on the 1968 Class B championship team. He was all-state the next two seasons, averaging 23.0 and 24.3

points. His marks of 53 points against York in 1969 and 1,466 points in a career stand as school records.

— Bob Martin, David City (1972): The 1972 Omaha World-Herald Athlete of the Year, he was a Class C all-state selection in football in 1970 and 1971 and in basketball in 1971 and 1972. He started three years at Nebraska, making All-Big 8 twice and All-America as a senior. He played linebacker with the New York Jets and San Francisco 49ers.

— Jeff Hayes, Lyons (1979): The leading scorer and rebounder for the 26-0 Lyons basketball team that won the 1979 Class C title and finished third in the all-class ratings. He averaged 27.0 points in 1979 and 20.3 in 1978. He started at Hastings College for four years and played professional basketball in Australia.

— Zane Smith, North Platte (1979): He earned All-Big Ten honors in basketball and football and North Platte, then went on to a major league baseball career, pitching for the Atlanta Braves and Pittsburgh Pirates. In 13 years, the left-hander posed a 100-115 record with a 3.74 ERA. His best years were when he was 15-10 for Atlanta in 1987 and 16-10 with Pittsburgh in 1991.

— Angie (Miller) Schnacker, Wilber-Clatonia (1983): She earned Class C and all-class all-state honors in volleyball and basketball as a junior and senior. The Wolverines were 27-0 and Class C basketball champions her senior year. She scored 1,581 points in a four-year career at Nebraska.

— Darcy (Cudaback) White, Exeter (1986): The state's consensus athlete of the year in 1986, she was all-class all-state in volleyball and basketball. She averaged 19.6 points in basketball for a 24-1 club that won Class D-1. At Wyoming, she was All-Western Athletic Conference in volleyball in 1988 and 1989.

— Cindy Hays, Osceola (1988): She averaged 40.3 points a game in 1988, 30.0 in 1987 and 25.1 in 1986 for a total of 2,077 points. She earned Class C all-state honors three years and all-

class all-state as a junior and senior. She holds the state record with a 65-point game. She also earned all-state honors in volleyball three times and was all-class all-state as a senior. She went on to become Midland Lutheral's all-time leading scorer in basketball with 2,567 points.

— Steph (Thomas) Clark, McCool Junction (1988): A basketball and volleyball all-stater, she set the Class D career scoring record of 1,743 points. She holds the Class D state records in the 300-meter low hurdles and high jump. She played college basketball at Creighton.

— Mallery (Ivy) Higgs, Omaha Central (1988): She holds the all-time Nebraska record with 11 individual all-class gold medals at the state track meet. In addition, she ran on three gold-medal-winning relay teams. She was a three-year starter on Omaha Central basketball team and lettered in track four years at the University of Tennessee.

— Buford Grosscup, Official: A graduate of Dorchester High School, he was the Supervised Officials for the NSAA in football from 1968 to 1989 and in basketball from 1983 to 1989. He officiated football for 37 years (1947-83), encompassing 444 games. He officiated two Class A, one Class B and one Class C state championship games and numerous other playoff. Over the same years, he worked 1,850 basketball games including 15 consecutive state tournaments.

— Harold Scott, Contributor: A 1936 graduate of Lincoln High, he published the Lincoln High newsletter for 45 years, beginning in 1957. A diligent leader in documenting track records and results. He was a three-year track letterman in high school and at the University of Nebraska, where he graduated in 1941. He taught one year at Fairmont before joining the service. Returned to teach at College View for one year before joining the staff at Lincoln High where he was an assistant coach in football, basketball and track. Also a head coach in track and cross country.

## Still remembered

(updated Feb. 1, 2003)

The following is a list of Nebraska High School Hall of Fame members who are deceased:

Vince Aldrich  
 Richie Ashburn  
 Ralph Beechner  
 Wayne Binfield  
 Don Boll  
 Jug Brown  
 W.H. Brown  
 Lloyd Cardwell  
 Guy Chamberlin  
 Grover Cleveland Alexander  
 Ed Colleran  
 Archie Conn  
 Cornie Collin  
 Sam Crawford  
 Joe DiNatale  
 Gil Dodds  
 Ruby Miller  
 Vern Ekfelt  
 Dr. Stephen Epler  
 Cletus Fischer  
 Charlie Foster  
 Bob Gratopp  
 Ed Haenfler  
 Lloyd Hahn  
 Mel Harder  
 Clint John  
 Ed Johnson  
 Willis Jones  
 Nile Kinnick  
 Jerry Lee  
 Fred Letheby  
 Verne Lewellen  
 Roland Locke  
 Bill Madden  
 Ike Mahoney  
 Rita Makovicka  
 Gregg McBride  
 Tom Novak  
 Skip Palrang  
 Scott Poehling  
 Bobby Reynolds  
 Herman Rohrig  
 George Sauer  
 Frank Smagacz  
 Billy Southworth  
 Chuck Stickels  
 Joe Sukovaty  
 E. Lee Todd  
 Dazzy Vance  
 Bill Vincent  
 O.L. Webb  
 Ed Weir  
 Lyle Weyand  
 Dutch White  
 Dutch Zorn

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

**Other special awards:**

**Silver Anniversary Team:**

The unbeaten Lyons basketball team of 1978-79, coached by Greg Kamp, went 26-0 and won the Class C title, averaging 84.4 points per game.

**Golden Anniversary Teams:**

The 27-0 Syracuse basketball team of 1954 which was led by Lyle Nannen, who averaged 18.8 points per game. The 10-0 Grand Island football team.

**Great Moments:**

- Kearney High boys winning nine straight Class A state track championships.
- Closing down "The Old Barn," as the Nebraska Coliseum was affectionately known. The Coliseum played host to the state basketball tournament from 1926-76. In 1926, 339 teams competed in 22 classes. The 1976 Class C semifinal was the last game at "The Old Barn." Walhill defeated Howells 56-54 Howells before a crowd of 3,421. Brian Blum of Howells scored the last basket.
- Vern Plambeck of Kearney, who is approaching 50 years in stripes. A referee who has officiated football since 1954, he missed only the 1957 season while serving in the Army Reserve. He also officiated basketball for many years.
- Four-time state wrestling champions Dirk Desmond of Hebron (136-3), Kasey Kohl of Omaha Skutt (139-1) and Jake Rucker of Louisville (140-5 with 104 pins).

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

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