



# DISCOVERERS ATHLETIC HALL of FAME

2022

AUGUST 25, 2022 | RIVER'S EDGE CONVENTION CENTER | COLUMBUS, NE





#### INVOCATION

Tom Zimmerman

#### MUSIC

Band, Cheerleaders and Dancers

#### DINNER

Past Hall of Fame Inductees Video

#### WELCOME

Roger Brown

#### SPORT CENTER ANCHORS

Dirk Chatelain and Stan Tafoya

#### MERITORIOUS INDUCTEES

##### HALL OF FAME SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

*Recipients: Logan Kapels  
and Blake Thompson*

Nicole Anderson

##### CPS FOUNDATION

Nicole Anderson

##### ATHLETE INDUCTEES

##### CPS SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Troy Loeffelholz

##### COACH INDUCTEE

##### TEAM INDUCTEES

##### CLOSING

Roger Brown

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING  
THE DISCOVERERS  
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



# DISCOVERERS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

## INDUCTEES

### COACH

Betsy Rall

### MERITORIOUS

Verl Wurtz  
Richard "Dick" Luebbe

### ATHLETES

Tom Alt  
Craig Thalken  
Mitch Slusarski  
Bill Bomberger  
Cathy Luebbe Sanchez  
Steve Sliva  
Nick Gragert  
Dave Kincaid

### ATHLETES

#### ALL-STATE FOOTBALL (1921-1944)

Ben Tryba (1921)  
Clarence Miller (1922)  
Paul Insinger (1925)  
Elmer Brock (1926)  
Merle Hasselbalch (1927)  
Harry Hall (1930)

Elmer Hall (1932)  
Richard Davis (1935)  
Charles Brock (1935)  
Kenneth Johnson (1939)  
James E. "Tom" Brock (1939)  
Ted Kenfield (1942)  
Clarence Gates (1944)

### TEAMS

#### 1989 Girls Dbl Tennis State Champions

Marie Srb Kapels and Cindy Srb Tederman

#### 1982 Boys Dbl Tennis State Champions

Brad Scheidegger and Clarey Castner

#### 2004 Girls Volleyball State Runner Up

Erica Soltero, Morgan Pillen Kapels, Lindsey Shannon, Katie Ernst Frank, Sarah Schroeder Gardels, Audra Blatchford Pace, Kelly Hollmann Buckman, Brooke Rambour Cemper, Amanda Gates Sjuts, Amanda Iwansky, Leah Travnicek Obrist, Kristin Micek Weinand, Amber Kobus Robinson, Leigh Cerny Becher, Darcy Rickert Patrick, Caitlin Ludden DeBower, and Heidi Zoucha Wilshusen; **Coach:** Betsy Rall, **Assistant Coach:** Jared Johnson, **Assistant Coach:** Keith Spiehs

#### 1988 Boys Tennis State Champions

Tom Hoffart, Jon Aerni, Mark Massman, Ray Hoffart, Chad Swantz, Cory Hunzeker, Lee Steinbrook, Steve Scheidegger, Chris Roth, Eric Mueller, Chad Hunzeker, and Rob VanFossen; **Coach** Gary Duranski



## Verl Wurtz

===== MERITORIOUS =====

Verl Wurtz graduated with a journalism degree from Kansas State University.

He began his radio career in Kansas and moved to Columbus in 1976. In 1977, Verl started the KJSK Saturday morning coaches show which was broadcast live.

He continued this Saturday morning tradition for 25 years. In 1981, he announced the basketball games for the first ever Columbus Area Chamber Basketball Tournament.

One of the highlights of his career was the creation of the KLIR Prep

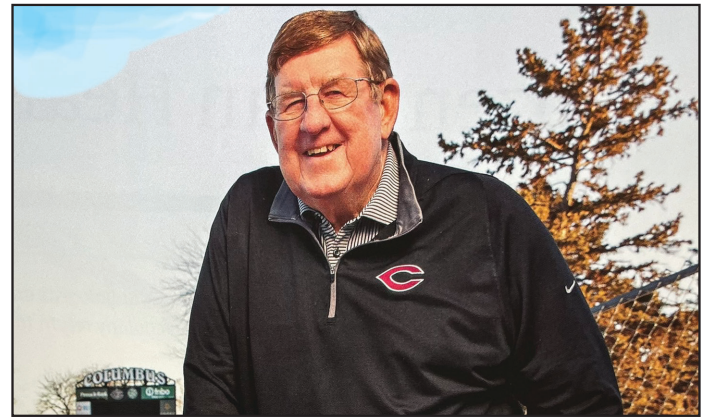
Club in 1985.

For the past 37 years, the KLIR Prep Club has awarded scholarships every spring to a senior girl and boy from the three Columbus high schools.

A memorable event was the Class A boys basketball final in 1989 against Millard South at the Devaney Center.

Over the years, Verl has broadcast countless athletic events for Columbus High, Lakeview, Scotus and numerous other area teams.

After 42 years of sports broadcasting, Verl hung up his head set after the 2017 fall sports season.



## Richard "Dick" Luebbe

===== MERITORIOUS =====

Richard "Dick" Luebbe began his 50-year coaching career at Columbus High School in 1971.

Throughout that span, Dick coached wrestling, basketball, track, and football. He was an amazing motivator and mentor.

Coach Luebbe proudly led the Discoverers football team for 27 years, including 10 state playoff and 4 semifinal appearances.

Dick was honored to coach over 30 All-State football players and numerous Shrine Bowl participants.

He was honored to be selected the Head Coach

of the Nebraska High School All-Stars in the 1992 Down Under Bowl in Australia, Shrine Bowl Head Coach in 1989 and Assistant in 1986.

Dick's knowledge of football was unsurpassed, with his teams being known for tough defense, veer-option offense, playing with discipline and enthusiasm.

Dick also coached track for 50 years, serving as the head boys track coach for 28, coaching several state champions.

Most importantly, Coach Luebbe cared for each of his players personally and made his athletes better people.



## Betsy Rall

===== COACH =====

Betsy Rall was a very versatile coach in that she helped in volleyball, cross country, and track. In her seven-year stint as head Volleyball coach, she had a 158-89 record. In the Greater Nebraska Athletic Conference Betsy had two champions and one runner-up.

Her teams qualified for the state tournament four times.

At the 2004 state tournament her



team was the state runner-up. As an assistant coach with the Cross Country team, Betsy helped secure top ten finishes in six of the eight years she coached.

Several runners attained top ten finishes at the state meet.

As a track assistant she coached numerous athletes who qualified and/or placed in the State Track Meet.





## Bill Bomberger

Class of 1966

At Columbus High, Bill Bomberger was a multi-sport athlete who excelled in football, basketball and track and field.

Bill lettered three years in football, two years in basketball and three years in track and field.

In football he was named to the Shrine Bowl, All Big 10 Conference team, All-State team and was a Parade Magazine All-American.

His senior year, Bill scored six touchdowns against Norfolk.

In track and field, Bill was a fierce competitor and won many events including low and high

hurdles, long jump, high jump, discus and shot put.

Bill placed in the State track meet in the discus and long jump.

He pitched on the Legion baseball team and was recruited to play professionally.

Following his high school career Bill was awarded a scholarship to play football for the University of Nebraska.

In 1968 he was the leading scorer on the football team due to his field goals and extra points.

A herniated disc ended Bill's college football career.



## Tom Alt

Class of 1981

Tom Alt loved football and earned two letters for Columbus High.

He was a quarterback and defensive back for the Discoverers.

Tom was named All-Conference in the East Big Ten and Trans Nebraska Conferences his senior season.

He was selected to play in the Shrine Bowl game his senior year.

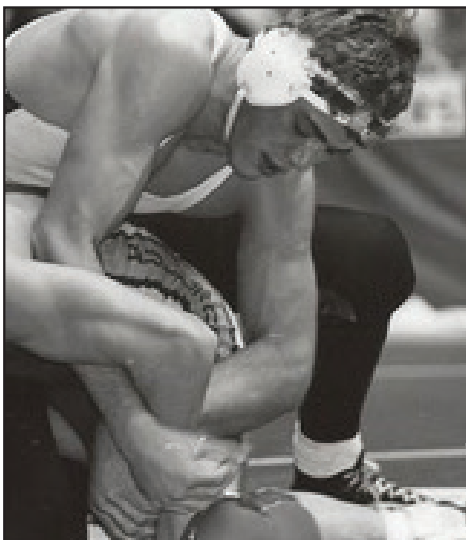
He was named to the First Team All Class All

State football team.

Tom currently holds the Columbus High School record for the most passes intercepted in a season with 9. He was named the recipient of the Dave McNair Award.

Tom played for two seasons in basketball and earned one letter while playing varsity.

He was an all-around player especially on the defensive end of the court.



## Craig Thalken

Class of 1984

Craig Thalken loved wrestling and focused on that his entire high school career.

As a freshman he was third on the depth chart on the Freshman team. He worked extremely hard and was motivated by the talks coach Charlie Sherertz gave to the team.

He was ranked third in the state his junior year but got beat out in the District meet.

Even though he was sidelined with a

dislocated knee injury at the start of his senior season, Craig compiled a 28-1-1 record.

Craig had over 20 pins his senior season.

He was the 167 lb. champion at the Belleview West Invite, Millard Invite, Tran Nebraska Conference, Big Ten Conference and District meets.

Craig ended his wrestling career as a 167lbs State Champion at the Nebraska State Wrestling Tournament.





## Cathy Luebbe Sanchez

Class of 1995

While attending Columbus High, Cathy was a three-sport letter winner.

She ran cross country, played basketball and soccer, all while maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA and graduating first in her class.

In soccer, Cathy was voted by her CHS teammates as "All-Around Player of the Year" in 1993, 1994, and 1995.

Her senior year, Cathy was selected as Sertoma Athlete of the Year and KLIR Student-Athlete of the Year. In basketball, Cathy was selected to the Greater Nebraska Athletic Conference

All-Academic Team and led the team to Conference Champions.



As Captain of the Discoverer soccer team, Cathy was selected Nebraska Soccer Coaches Association First Team All-State and the Omaha World Herald All-Nebraska Soccer First Team her senior year.

She was Second Team All-State her junior year, and Honorable Mention All-State her sophomore year.

Cathy was chosen to play in the Nebraska Shrine Soccer Bowl in the summer of 1995.



## Mitch Slusarski

Class of 1990

Mitch Slusarski was a three-sport athlete for Columbus High. He was named captain in football and basketball his senior year.

In football, he was a two-year letter winner. He was the starting quarterback and kicker both years, holding several school and state records at the time. He played in the Shrine Game and was the All-State kicker his senior season.

In basketball, Mitch was on the varsity for three years and lettered two years.

Columbus made it to State Basketball Tour-

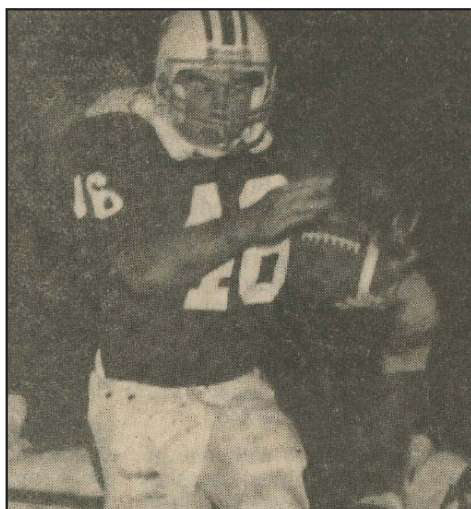


ament during the three years Mitch was on varsity.

In track, Mitch lettered three years excelling in hurdles, sprints and jumps. He was a state track qualifier in the 300 hurdles both his junior and senior year.

After high school, Mitch excelled in basketball for the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and was inducted into their Hall of Fame. He started all four years and holds numerous school records.

He played professionally for Poland for one year.



## Steve Sliva

Class of 1984

Steve was a three-year letter winner in football and track.

In track he excelled in the sprints and long jump. In his senior football season, he was on a team dubbed the "Cardiac Kids" winning both the East Big 10 and Trans Nebraska Conferences plus a berth in Class A football playoffs. Steve earned first team All-Conference and first team All-State.



Steve was also presented the Bob Murry award and selected for the Shrine bowl.

He ended his senior football season second in Class A with 1402 total yards.

Steve was awarded a football scholarship to the University Nebraska at Omaha and was presented with the Outstanding Back award in 1985.





## Nick Gragert

==== Class of 1997 =====

Nick Gragert was an outstanding all-around athlete earning nine letters in football, wrestling and track. In track he earned numerous medals excelling in the hurdles, shot put and discus. In wrestling,

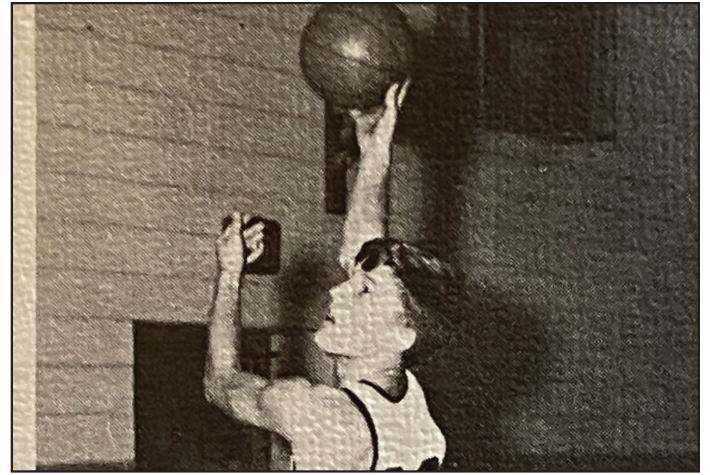


Nick placed fifth at 189 lbs in the State Wrestling Tournament his sophomore season.

During his senior year, Nick was a State Champion at 215lbs., while wrestling the last minute of the championship match

with a torn tendon. In football, Nick was an outstanding fullback and linebacker. He was named to the All-State Second Team his senior season. Nick was named one of the top fifty high school linebackers in the country by Street and Smith's Magazine.

Nick walked-on at the University of Nebraska and was part of two Big Twelve Titles and one National Championship Team.



## Dave Kincaid

==== Class of 1970 =====

Dave Kincaid was a multi-sport athlete having participated in track, tennis and basketball all three years.

Dave lettered all three years in tennis. He and his partner Brad Nelson won the Class B doubles Championship in 1969. Dave lettered three years in basketball.

He was named to the All-Big Ten Conference first team his junior and senior year. His senior year, Dave averaged 17 points and 14 rebounds per game. Dave was

named to the All-State basketball team his senior year.

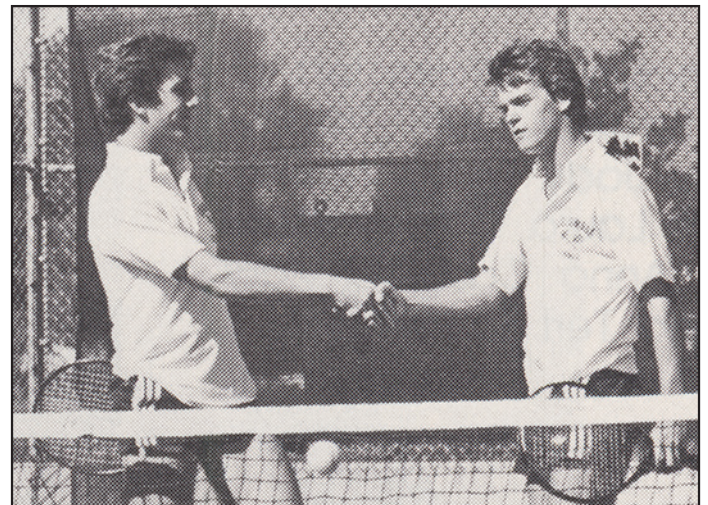
At Platte College, Dave continued to excel in basketball by being named twice to the Nebraska Jr. College All-State Team; twice to the All Region Team and was the starting point guard for two years on the University of Missouri-St. Louis basketball Team.

Dave was inducted into the Central Community College (Platte College) Hall of Fame in 2014.

## Clarey Castner Brad Scheidegger

==== 1982 Boys Dbl Tennis State Champions =====

Brad and Clarey avenged their only loss of the season to Fremont. They won the Papillion Invitational, the Pius X Invitational, the Trans Nebraska Conference, the Big Ten Conference and the State Championship. Brad and Clarey were 27-1 that season.



Clarey Castner and Brad Scheidegger (1982)



# Marie Srb Kapels Cindy Srb Tederman

== 1989 Girls Dbl Tennis State Champions ==

Marie and Cindy were not matched together in doubles until later in the year. They were concerned that they would get into too many arguments. Coach Terry finally convinced them to play together and it worked out perfectly. They were 10-2 going into the State Tournament and seeded number one. The ladies won all four matches at State and were crowned Doubles Champions with a 14-2 record.



Marie Srb Kapels and Cindy Srb Tederman (1989)

## 2004 Girls Volleyball State Runner Up

Coach: Betsy Rall Assistants: Jared Johnson, Keith Spiehs



**Accomplishments:** Record 38 - 3; Columbus Invitational Champion; Bellevue West Invitational Champion; Greater Nebraska Athletic Conference Champion; Westside Tournament Champions; District Champion; Class A State Runner-up.

**Back row (from left):** Amber Kobus, Brooke Rambour, Heidi Zoucha, Amanda Gates, Kelly Hollman, Morgan Pillen, Kirstin Micek, Amanda Iwansky. **Middle row:** Head coach Betsy Rall, Leah Travnicek, Leigh Cerny, Darcy Rickert, Caitlin Ludden, Erica Soltero, Assistant coach Keith Speighs. **Front row:** Sarah Schroeder, Katie Ernst, Audra Blatchford, Lindsey Shannon, Assistant coach Jared Johnson.

# 1988 Boys Tennis State Champions

Coach: Gary Duranski

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**Back row (from left):** Coach Gary Duranski, Eric Mueller, Steve Scheidegger, Chris Roth, Lee Steinbrook, Chad Hunzeker, Rob VanFossen. **Kneeling:** Ray Hoffart, Tom Hoffart, Cory Hunzeker, Mark Massman, Jon Aerni, Chad Swantz.

**Accomplishments:** Papillion Invitational Champions; Lincoln Pius X Invitational Champions; Norfolk Quadrangle Champions; Greater Nebraska Conference Champions; Dual Record 7-0.



## DISCOVERERS ATHLETIC HALL of FAME

PREVIOUS INDUCTEES

*\*deceased*

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### 2009

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#### Meritorious

Carl Kramer\*  
Mike Zastera\*  
Edsel Wibbels\*  
Dr. Warren Miller\*  
Dr. Erv Heiser\*  
Jim Ball\*  
Dr. Harold "Harry" Lange\*

#### Coaches

Gary Duranski  
Lanny Neese\*

#### Athletes

Charles Brock, Class of 1935\*  
Bill Thimgan, Class of 1948\*  
Lee Hulsebus, Class of 1957  
Tom Ernst, Class of 1959\*  
Tom Saunders, Class of 1960  
Les Hellbusch, Class of 1964  
Steve Eymann, Class of 1970  
Tom Heiser, Class of 1972  
Cathy Curry, Class of 1977  
Rudy Glur, Class of 1977

Lisa Bonk Polcovich, Class of 1986  
Sandy Schaefer Voss, Class of 1988  
Laura Pilakowski, Class of 1999

#### Teams

1926 Boys Basketball  
1964 Football  
1967 Boys Tennis  
1980 Wrestling  
1989 Girls Tennis





# DISCOVERERS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

PREVIOUS INDUCTEES

## 2011

### Meritorious

Paul "Dutch" Ernst\*  
Ed "Scoop" Ridenour\*  
Dr. Fred Bellum  
Rich Gaver  
Dorothy Courtier\*

### Coaches

Dell Miller\*

### Athletes

Cindy Aerni, Class of 1979  
James E. (Tom) Brock, Class of 1939\*  
Jami Duranski Edgar, Class of 1987  
Con Keating, Class of 1959  
Marv Mueller Jr., Class 1964\*  
Bob Nickolite, Class of 1950\*  
George Rambour IV, Class of 1976  
Steve Scheidegger, Class of 1989  
Cory Schlesinger, Class of 1990  
Charlie Sherertz Jr., Class of 1984  
Rick Warner, Class of 1967  
Amanda Went, Class of 1997

### Teams

1933 Boys Basketball  
1972 Boys Basketball  
1974 Wrestling  
1982 Boys Tennis  
1993 Girls Tennis

### Brock Family

Myron (Mike) Brock, Class of 1934\*  
Charles Brock, Class of 1935\*  
Robert Brock, Class of 1937\*  
James E. (Tom) Brock, Class of 1939\*  
Bill Brock, Class of 1939\*  
Fred Brock, Class of 1942\*  
John Brock, Class of 1945\*

### Meritorious

Louis Lutjelusche

### Coaches

Bart Bartholomew\*  
Nancy Hegi-Cuba  
Cliff Hopp\*

### Athletes

Lindsay Ball, Class of 1975  
Jeni Steiner Bozarth, Class of 2002  
Jenny Bosak Brunken, Class of 1989  
Amy McPhail Carpenter, Class of 1992  
Jennifer Carson, Class of 1998

## 2013

Randy Griffiths, Class of 1979  
Neil Klutman, Class of 1971  
Mike Mueller, Class of 1990  
Dan Pensick, Class of 1976  
Brad Scheidegger, Class of 1984  
Joel Travnicek, Class of 2000  
Greg Wiseman, Class of 1975\*

### Teams

1960 Boys Track  
1966 Boys Tennis  
1973 Boys Tennis  
1975 Wrestling  
1979 Wrestling  
1987 Girls Tennis Doubles

## 2015

### Meritorious

Calvin Mustard

### Coaches

Ron Callan  
Jack Johnson  
Charlie Sherertz, Sr.\*

### Athletes

Ken Bobert, Class of 1973  
Michael Floyd, Class of 1968  
Susie Heiser, Class of 1974

Frank Higgins, Class of 1968  
Amanda Iwansky, Class of 2005  
Ron Klutman, Class of 1965\*  
Kirk McAndrew, Class of 1978  
Dave Porter, Class of 1977  
Lynnette Cattau Wagner, Class of 1977

### Teams

1960 Boys 880 Relay  
1963 Boys Two-Mile Relay  
1984 Wrestling  
1987-1988 Boys Tennis Doubles  
1993 Girls Tennis Doubles

## 2017

### Meritorious

Coleman Bieber

### Coaches

Doug Terry

### Athletes

John Arlt, Class of 1982  
Nate Blessen, Class of 1996  
Angie Iwansky Boucher, Class of 2001

Bob Hegi, Class of 1965  
Dennis Hoyle, Class of 1967\*  
Mike Rambour, Class of 1980  
Amanda Gates Sjuts, Class of 2005  
Tom Woodward, Class of 1982

### Teams

1990 Girls Tennis Doubles  
1987 Boys Tennis Team  
1982 Wrestling Team

## 2019

### Meritorious

Roger Iwansky, Class of 1975

### Coach

Al Schnabel\*

### Individuals

Bob Wilhelms, Class of 1981  
Todd Thalken, Class of 1982

Frank Brower, Class of 1972\*  
Don Soulliere, Class of 1973  
Kari Krumland Bice, Class of 2003  
Mary Olsufka Bellamy, Class of 1984  
Kathy Gerber Hash, Class of 1975  
Dave Murphy, Class of 1966\*

### Teams

1981 Wrestling State Champions

2005 Girls Soccer State Runner-Ups  
1989 Tennis Girls Doubles Champions  
*Becky Kuncel Andreasen, Class of 1989*  
*Ann Kotrous, Class of 1990*  
1969 Boys Tennis Doubles Champions  
*Brad Nelson, Class of 1972*  
*Dave Kincaid, Class of 1970*



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