

# DISCOVERERS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

2024



# C-H-S!



On Saturday, September 21, football fans will gather at University of Nebraska Lincoln's Memorial Stadium, for an exhilarating clash between the Fremont High School Tigers and the Columbus High School Discoverers. Kickoff is set for noon.

The CPS Foundation is planning a **PREGAME PREP RALLY** on game day! Be on the lookout for **TIME, LOCATION AND TICKET** information.



Find out first on  
**CPSANCHOR.COM**

## THANK YOU

2024 SPONORS



# GREGG YOUNG

CHEVROLET

GMC

TOYOTA

COLUMBUS





# DISCOVERERS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

2024 INDUCTEES

## MERITORIOUS

**Bill Moore\***

**Steve Anderson**

CLASS OF 1968

## COACH

**Jim Rich\***

**Bob Hopp**

CLASS OF 1968

## ATHLETES

**Kerry Neumann**

CLASS OF 1989

**Marty Sipple**

CLASS OF 1984

**Jena Schwalenberg Birt**

CLASS OF 2009

**Mark Bellum**

CLASS OF 1982

**Jay Sherer**

CLASS OF 2006

**Tim Carpenter**

CLASS OF 1993

**Jason Parolek**

CLASS OF 1990

**Troy Watchorn**

CLASS OF 1996

**Jason Johnson**

CLASS OF 1995

## TEAMS

### 1992 Boys Tennis State Champions

Jason Engdahl, Spencer Helms, Darren Ivy, Paul Jacobs, Sean Lecelius,  
Eric Mazankowski, Todd Moss, Curtis Schwank, Jason Sutton,  
Nathan Trautwein, Marcus Wahl

**Coach:** Gary Duranski

### 2005 Girls Cross Country State Runner Up

Neleigh Allen, Danielle Archuleta Deckard, Kelsey Bonwell Pirnie,  
Tamara Dresch Petsch, Laura Groteluschen Putnam, Kristen Jacobsen,  
Jodi Johnson Johnson, Ashley Kamm Self, Laura Lutjelusche DeBuhr,  
Morgan Mancuso Sheen, Stephanie Powell Ritter, Jena Schwalenberg Birt,  
Kristin Wagner Abarca, Carrie Wiese Phillips, Deanna Bailey Goodwin,

**Coaches:** Dave Licari, Stacy Smith

### 1989 Boys Basketball State Runner Up

Todd Bartee, Scott Kuta, Jeff Merril, Mike Mueller, Chris Rothm,  
Steve Scheidegger, Paul Schlender, Mitch Slusarski, Lee Steinbrook,  
Jay Svehla, Robb Van Fossen, Chad Kozak **Assistant Coaches:**

Tom Nelson, Bob Hopp **Head Coach:** Al Schnabel\*

### 1974 Football Team 9-1 record, Undefeated Regular Season

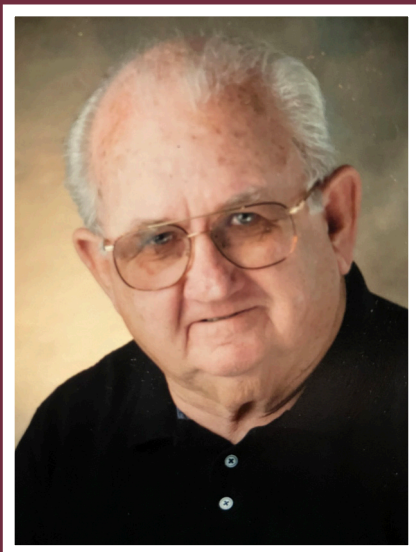
Dave Abegglen, Mike Bartholomew,  
Greg Becher, Bill Beckenhauer, Mike Brandt, John Chistiansen,  
Terry Diederich, George Dostal\*, Kent Franzen, Rob Haden,  
Bob Irby, Rogerlwansky, Mark Klug, Kevin Knopick, Allen Korte,  
Wayne Krueger, Tom Lange, Tim Lemke, Jay Lueke, Larry Nitz,  
Dan Pensick\*, Myron Placek, Dave Porter, John Price, Mike Qwinn,  
George Rambour, Mike Rice\*, Jeff Rongish, Ken Ryba, Gary Sansoni,  
Jim Schwartzter, Steve Schumacher, Dave Struck, Tim Torczon,  
Todd Trofholz, Greg Wiseman\*, Mike Burrows,  
Bryon Longnecker\* Paul Matson **Assistant Coaches:** Mark Ekeland, Jack  
Young, Dick Luebbe, Lanny Neese\*, Steve Porter **Head Coach:** Jed Rood

\*DECEASED

COLUMBUS  
DISCOVERERS  
ATHLETIC HALL  
OF FAME BANQUET  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER  
5TH, 2024  
COLUMBUS, NE



MERITORIOUS



**Bill Moore\***

Bill (and his wife Barb) started attending CHS events in the late 60's. Bill was a 3-sport athlete in high school, toured the country as a softball player for the Army and played semi-pro baseball after his service, so he was always interested in sports. When his children got involved in activities, he and Barb followed them everywhere. Bill enjoyed being a referee in his younger years and when this became a bit much for him, he volunteered to be on the chain gang at CHS football games.

He was "very passionate" about his duties which led to some interesting conversations and maybe an early retirement from the position. Bill was also passionate about his job as a crossing guard for Columbus Public Schools. He loved getting to know the school children as he was the ultimate grandpa to everyone. He also liked waving to the traffic to encourage people to have a great day.

MERITORIOUS

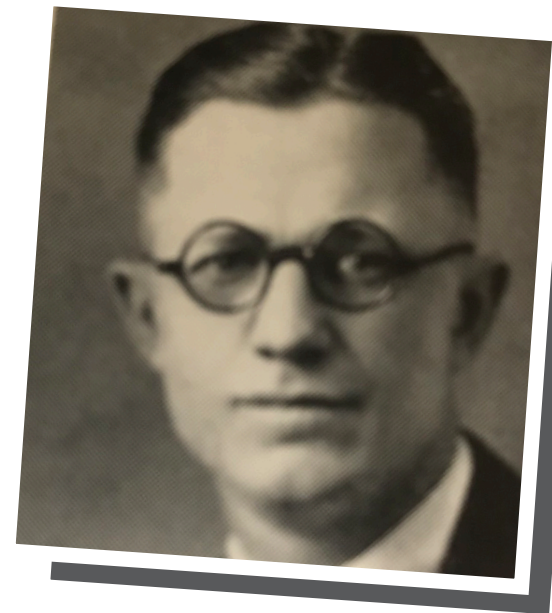


**Steve Anderson**

1968

Steve was one of the originators of the Discoverers Athletic Hall of Fame. He was an original member of the CHS Alumni board and has served on the Columbus Public Schools Foundation Board for 19 years. At CHS Steve was a cross country runner and played on the varsity basketball team for three years and started on the team that went to state in 1968.

He served as a youth coach for his children's club teams. Steve has served on the Columbus Planning and Zoning Commission for 28 years. He helped organize the Columbus Rescue Mission Golf Fundraisers and is a Teammates mentor. Steve has been on the United Way board, serving as Drive Chairman, and was on the Columbus Park Board for 15 years. He helped organize several CHS Alumni Basketball Tournaments and helped organize the Jack Johnson Reunion in 2021.



**Jim Rich\***

COACH

Jim coached football, basketball, and track for Kramer High School (predecessor to Columbus High School). He was a coach from 1919 to 1930. World War I and the worldwide flu epidemic caused the cancellation of sports in many towns in Nebraska. In 1919 Jim restarted the athletic teams for Kramer High. There is no information about Jim's track teams.

In football, he had some very good teams including the following rated teams: 1919, 7th with an 8-1 record; 1920, 6th with an 8-1 record; 1921, 5th with a 7-2 record; 1922, 4th with an 8-1 record; and in 1927, 5th with a 6-2 record. In basketball, he had the following rated teams: 1920, 4th in Class B; 1922, 10th in Class B; 1926, 1st in Class B beating Indianola in the championship game 26-20; 1927, 10th in Class A; 1928, 7th in Class A; 1930, 6th in Class A. He was named the Coach of the Year in 1926 for the State of Nebraska.

\*DECEASED





## Bob Hopp

1968 | COACH

Bob was a good athlete at CHS while participating in Cross Country, Basketball and Track. Bob got into coaching in 1978 and didn't stop until he retired in 2015. He was a Junior Varsity assistant football coach as well as a girls' cross country and girls track coach. Bob had five cross country teams that qualified for the state meet. He coached track for 34 years.

Bob coached basketball and over the years, amassed a record of 305-209. As a head basketball coach, Bob had two teams that were Class A State Runner's up. The 1996 team started out strong with a 10-0 record and were 18-2 heading into the state tournament. They eventually lost in the finals to Lincoln Northeast and ended the season with a 20-3 record. Bob's 2001 team won the District tournament and won two state tournament games before losing to Lincoln East in the finals. They ended 17-6.



## Marty Sipple

1984

Marty was a four-year letterman in tennis and lettered during his senior year in basketball. Marty averaged 10 points per game during his senior basketball season and his team was the Big Ten Conference champions. Marty lettered all four years on the varsity tennis team.

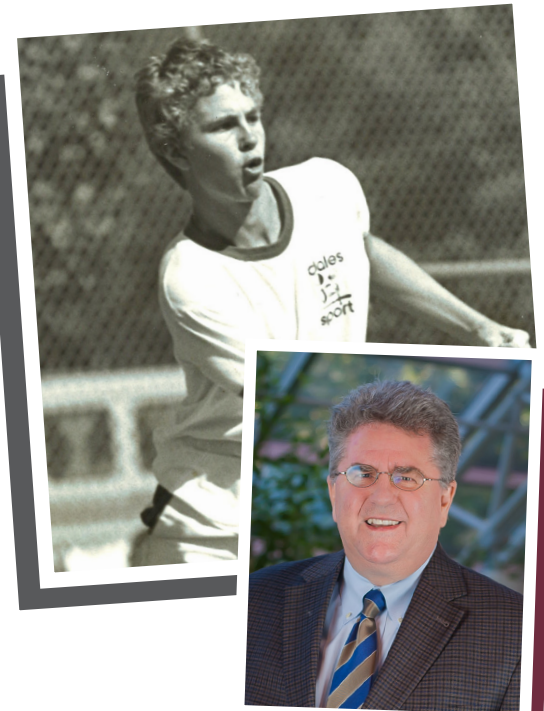
As a junior (1982), the team won the Class B state tournament title after posting a 7-0 dual record and won the Trans-Nebraska and Big Ten Conference tournament titles. Marty played #2 singles on that team and posted a 24-3 record and was runner-up in #2 singles at the state tournament that year. As a senior (1983), the tennis team was runner up at the Class B state tournament after posting a 6-1 dual record. Marty again played #2 singles on that team and posted a 23-4 record and won first place in #2 singles at the Class B state tournament.

## Kerry Neumann

1989

Kerry was an outstanding athlete and a three-year letter winner in both track and football. In track, he was a pole vaulter and ran on the 4x400 relay team. He placed 4th, 5th and 4th in the three years he competed in the pole vault in the state track championships. His personal best was 13 feet 10 inches. In football, Kerry was part of three winning seasons for CHS. He played running back and cornerback.

His senior year he was the fourth leading rusher in the state with 196 carries / 1,016 yards / 11 touchdowns. Kerry was an All-Conference running back who received the Bob Murray award and played in the Shrine game. Kerry was named as an All-Class 1st team defensive back his senior year. He received a scholarship to play football as a defensive back at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.





## Jena Schwalenberg Birt

2009

Jena was an outstanding athlete excelling in both Cross Country and Track. She lettered all four years in both sports. In track, her specialty was the 3200-meter run where she set the school record with a time of 1:28:28.

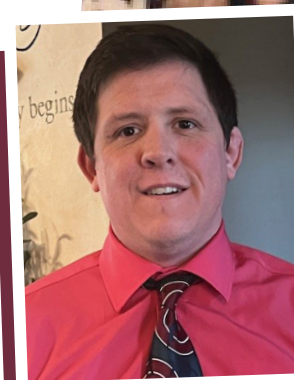
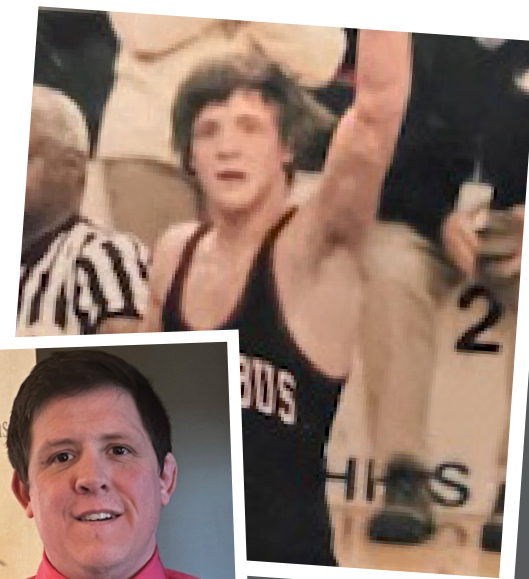
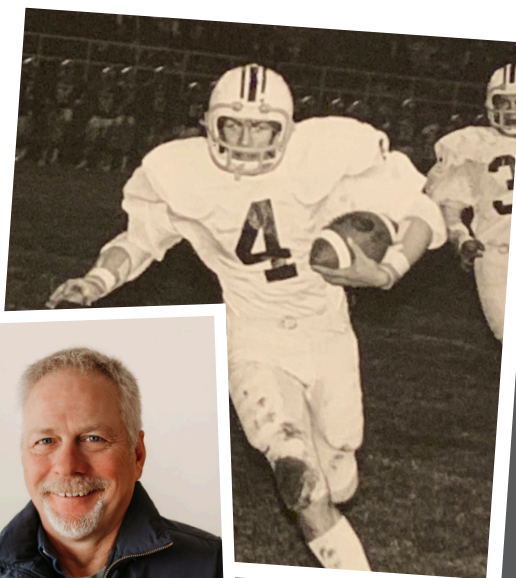
In Cross Country, she was the Runner of the Year in 2006, 2007 and 2008. During her Cross Country high school career, she set the CHS course records at the Lutjelusche, Boone Central, Norfolk, Fremont, Grand Island and Kearney meets. Jena was on the CHS Cross Country team that placed second at the State meet in 2005. Jena placed second at the 2008 State Cross Country meet in Kearney with a time of 15:08. She was awarded an athletic scholarship to Concordia University where she was a four-time national qualifier in Cross Country, Indoor Track and Outdoor Track.

## Mark Bellum

1982

Mark was a multi-sport athlete who had success in both football and track. In track, Mark was a three-year letter winner and a two-year state qualifier in the sprints. He got third place in the 100-meter dash in 1982 and was a member of the CHS school record 4x100 relay. He was a three-year letterman and two-year starter in football.

Mark played cornerback, running back and receiver during his career. Mark's senior year, his team went 8-2, were East Big Ten and Trans-Nebraska champions as well as a state semifinalist. Individually he was named to the All-Big 10 East and Trans-Nebraska teams. Mark was named to the Shrine Bowl team and the All State second team. He earned a scholarship to play for the University of South Dakota.



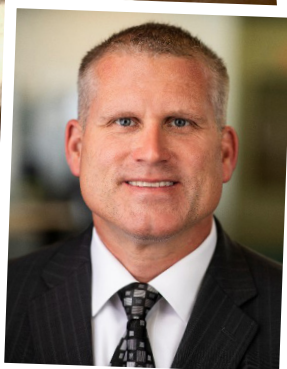
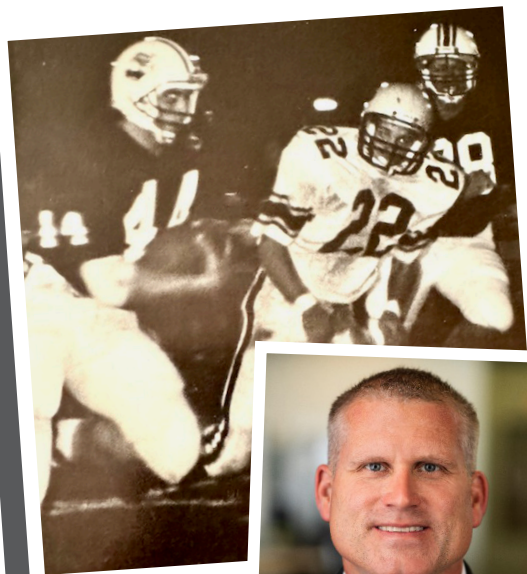
## Jay Sherer

2006

Jay was one of the most outstanding wrestlers in Columbus High School history. In 2003, Jay completed his freshman year with a 35-3 record. He was the GNAC Conference Champion, District Champion, and finished 2nd in Class A at 112 lbs. in the State Wrestling Championships. In 2004, Jay went undefeated with a 39-0 record in his sophomore year.

He won all the high school tournaments he entered, to include repeating as the GNAC Conference and District Champion and winning the State title at 125 lbs. In 2005, Jay completed his junior year with a 40-1 record and won his 3rd consecutive GNAC Conference and District titles and captured a 2nd straight State Championship at 135 lbs. His senior year he was a GNAC and District champion and finished 3rd at State with a record of 38-3. Jay was ranked nationally by USA Wrestling Magazine.





## Tim Carpenter

1993

Tim was a multi-sport athlete in high school having played football, wrestling, soccer, and basketball. He lettered once as a defender in soccer, once as a forward in basketball and three times in football.

Tim played running back, fullback, defensive end and linebacker in football. His senior year the team went 9-2 and was a Class A state semi-finalist. Tim rushed for 1,224 yards and scored 12 touchdowns. Tim was named to the Greater Nebraska Conference team his junior and senior seasons. He played in the Shrine Bowl, was named Super State and Class A offensive player of the year. Tim was awarded a scholarship and went on to play for Tom Osborne at Nebraska where he won three National Championships, and four conference championships, lettered four times, and started 22 games in his career.

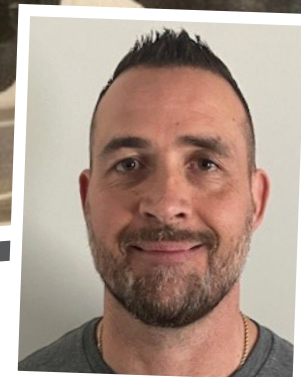
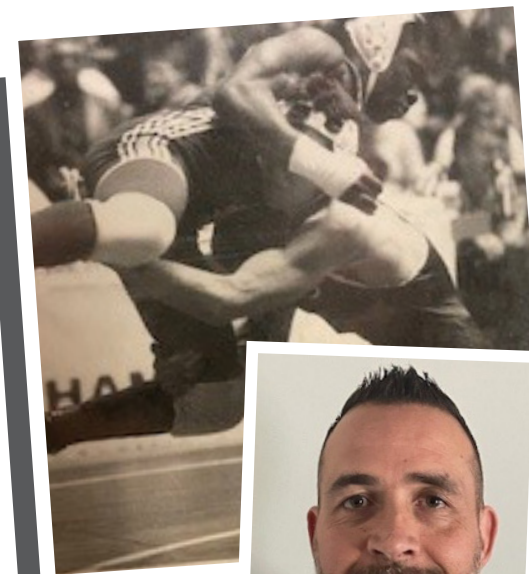


## Jason Parolek

1990

Jason loved the sport of wrestling and focused on it his entire high school career. He lettered his junior and senior year. His junior year, he and his team were the Greater Nebraska Conference and District Champions. Jason helped the team to finish the State Wrestling tournament in second place in 1989. Jason was 28-9 that year and finished in fourth place in the state in the 135-pound bracket.

His senior year he and the team repeated as Conference and District champions. With Jason's help, the team finished third in the state tournament. With a senior year record of 31-3, Jason won the 135-pound State championship in 1990. He was named the most inspirational wrestler his senior year and had a 60-12 record while wrestling for Columbus High School.



## Troy Watchorn

1996

Troy played basketball and football for Columbus High School. He lettered his junior and senior year in basketball playing point guard. Those teams had records of 12-7 and 20-3 respectively. Troy lettered three years in football having played quarterback and running back. In football, CHS was 8-3 and 10-1 in his junior and senior year respectively. His senior year he set a record for quarterbacks at CHS having rushed for 1,004 yards. He also had four touchdown passes.

Troy was named to the Greater Nebraska Conference team and played in the Shrine Bowl. Troy was named to the Super State squad his senior year. He played free safety for the Nebraska Cornhuskers (Blackshirts) and was on the 1997 National Champion football team.



## Jason Johnson

1995

Jason concentrated his high school athletic career solely on basketball. It paid off as he lettered all three years. As a junior he was the leading scorer (16-point average) and rebounder (11 rebound average).

The Columbus High record that year (1994) was 10-7. In Jason's senior year he averaged 18.9 points per game and 10.1 rebounds per game. In the Columbus Holiday Tournament championship game against Norfolk, Jason set an all-tournament record by hitting 22 of 25 free throws. In that same game he set a career high scoring 38 points. Columbus High finished the season with a 12-7 record. Jason was named to the 1995 Greater Nebraska Conference team, and he was selected to numerous All-State Teams his senior year. Jason received a basketball scholarship to attend the University of San Francisco.

## 1992 Boys Tennis

State Runner Up



Jason Engdahl,  
Spencer Helms,  
Darren Ivy, Paul  
Jacobs, Sean  
Lecelius, Eric  
Mazankowski,  
Todd Moss, Curtis  
Schwank, Jason  
Sutton, Nathan  
Trautwein, Mar-  
cus Wahl **Head  
Coach:** Gary  
Duranski

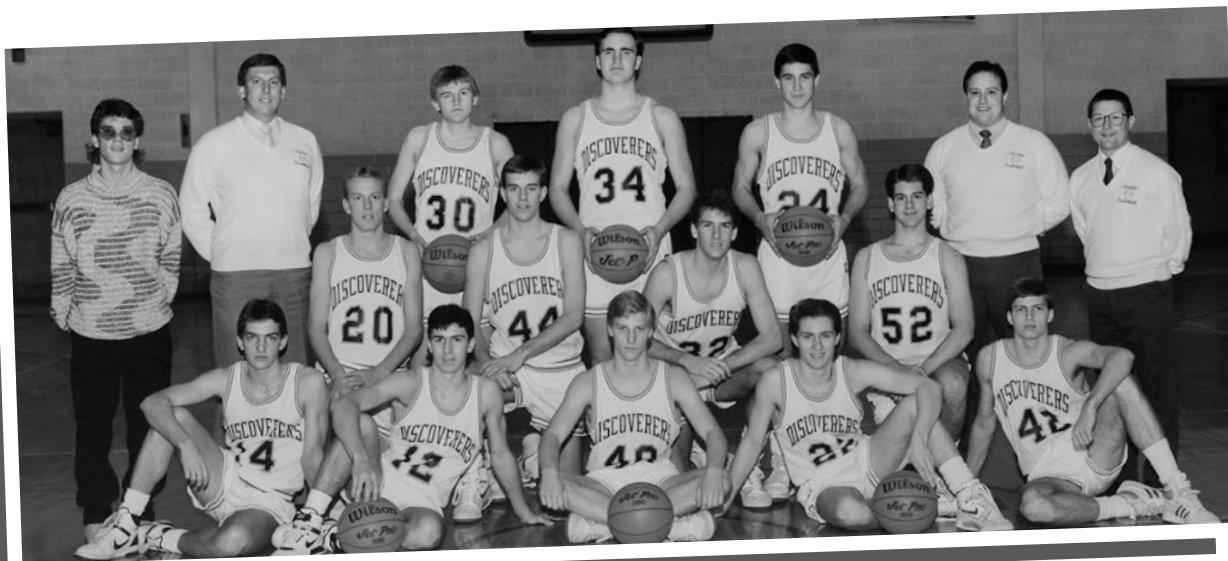
## 2005 Girls Cross Country

State Runner Up



Neleigh Allen, Danielle  
Archuleta Deckard,  
Kelsey Bonwell Pirnie,  
Tamara Dresch Petsch,  
Laura Groteluschen  
Putnam, Kristen  
Jacobsen, Jodi Johnson,  
Ashley Kamm Self, Laura  
Lutjelusche DeBuhr,  
Morgan Mancuso Sheen,  
Stephanie Powell Ritter,  
Jena Schwalenberg Birt,  
Kristin Wagner Abarca,  
Carrie Wiese Phillips,  
Deanna Bailey Goodwin  
**Coaches:** Dave Licari,  
Stacy Smith





# 1989 Boys Basketball

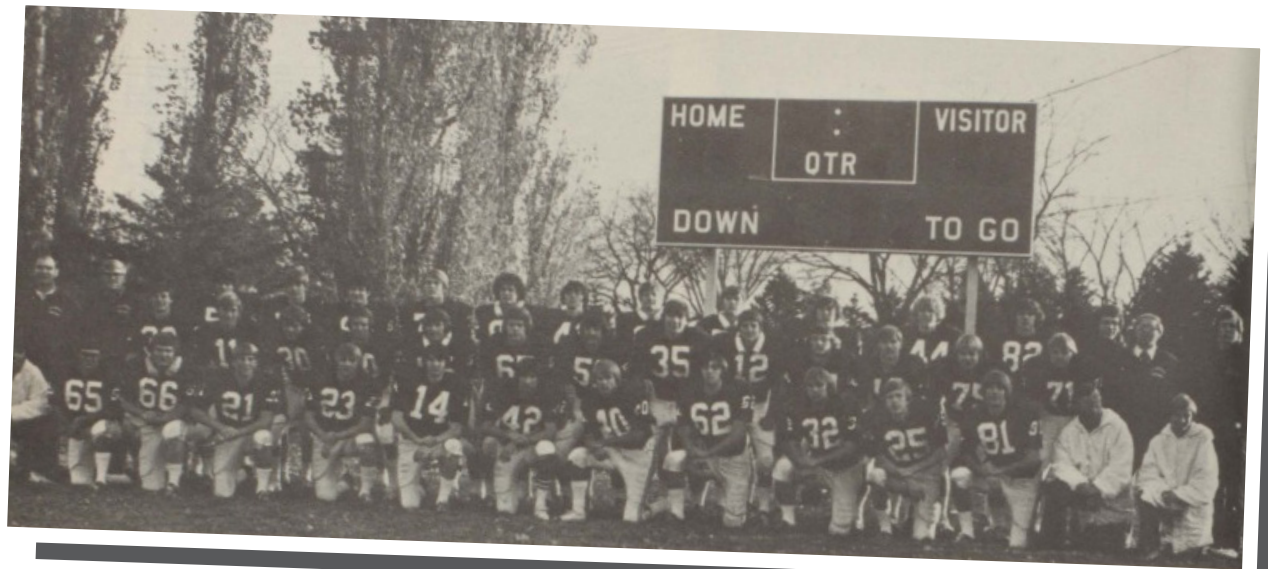
State Runner Up

Todd Bartee, Scott Kuta, Jeff Merrill,  
Mike Mueller, Chris Rothm,  
Steve Scheidegger, Paul Schlender,  
Mitch Slusarski, Lee Steinbrook,  
Jay Svehla, Robb Van Fossen, Chad Kozak  
**Assistant Coaches:** Tom Nelson, Bob Hopp  
**Head Coach:** Al Schnabel\*

# 1974 Football Team

Undefeated Regular Season

Dave Abegglen, Mike Bartholomew, Greg Becher,  
Bill Beckenhauer, Mike Brandt, John Chistiansen,  
Terry Diederich, George Dostal\*, Kent Franzen,  
Rob Haden, Bob Irby, Roger Iwansky, Mark Klug,  
Kevin Knopick, Allen Korte, Wayne Krueger,  
Tom Lange, Tim Lemke, Jay Lueke, Larry Nitz,  
Dan Pensick\*, Myron Placek, Dave Porter, John Price,  
Mike Qwinn, George Rambour, Mike Rice\*,  
Jeff Rongish, Ken Ryba, Gary Sansoni,  
Jim Schwartz, Steve Schumacher, Dave Struck,  
Tim Torczon, Todd Trofholz, Greg Wiseman\*,  
Mike Burrows, Bryon Longnecker\* Paul Matson  
**Assistant Coaches:** Mark Ekeland, Jack Young,  
Dick Luebbe, Lanny Neese\*, Steve Porter  
**Head Coach:** Jed Rood



\*DECEASED

# Previous Inductees

2022

## MERITORIOUS

Verl Wurtz  
Richard "Dick" Luebbe

## COACH

Betsy Rall

## ATHLETES

Tom Alt, Class of 1982  
Craig Thalken, Class of 1984  
Mitch Slusarski, Class of 1990  
Bill Bomberger, Class of 1996  
Cathy Luebbe Sanchez, Class of 1995  
Steve Sliva, Class of 1984  
Nick Gragert, Class of 1967  
Dave Kincaid, Class of 1970

## 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  
1982 Boys Dbl Tennis State Champions  
2004 Girls Volleyball State Runner Up  
1988 Boys Tennis State Champions

2019

## MERITORIOUS

Roger Iwansky, Class of 1975

## COACH

Al Schnabel\*

## ATHLETES

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  
1969 Boys Tennis Doubles Champions

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

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

2013

## 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  
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

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\*

2009

## 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





## BE A PART OF THE

Funds will be used to recognize these student-athletes, coaches, and distinguished supporters who made a significant impact on the athletic accomplishments at Kramer/Columbus High School.

businesses and community to provide financial support for innovative programs not covered by the school district's funding sources.

teachers and staff; after school programs; and alternative educational opportunities including online learning for students.

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**PLEASE SEND ME INFORMATION ON BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION!**

☐ Yes, please!

☐ No, thanks.

☐ I'm A Member!

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( ) Email:

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to be recognized on the Hall of Fame Wall?

Limit of two (2) lines of 28 characters, including spaces. Use '#' for spaces.

[illegible]

Discoverer Division	\$5000 plus
Maroon Division	\$2500 to \$4999
Gold Division	\$1000 to \$2499
Silver Division	\$500 to \$999

Select your payment option

Lump sum \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ years  
*Five (5) years maximum*

Please remove form and return to  
P.O. 947, Columbus NE. 68602

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Make checks payable to  
the CPS Foundation.



DISCOVERERS ATHLETIC  
**HALL OF FAME**

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2024