January 2007



# Official Publication

North Dakota High School Coaches Association

# DAKOTA COACH

#### This Issue Available ONLINE Only

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ND Convention Dates Tuesday, July 24 through Friday, July 27 2007

# 2007 NHSACA Hall of Fame

The North Dakota High School Coaches Association Executive Committee selected two coaches for induction into the 2007 National High School Athletic Coaches Associaion National Hall of Fame.

**Dwight Leier,** Esmond/Maddock High School retired football and track and field coach.

Gene Manson, Minot High School boys' basketball coach.

The Awards will be presented at a luncheon on Thursday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2007, at the NHSACA National Annual Meeting at the Hyatt Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This induction is the twelfth induction class.

**Dwight Leier** is a graduate of Esmond High School and Valley City State University. After graduation, he began a 35 year career in high school coaching. Dwight coached football and track and field at Esmond High School, Esmond/Maddock co-op High School program and Maddock High School. Leier accumulated 249 football victories, winning the state 9-man football championship once, finishing runner-up twice and qualifying for the state playoffs 17 times.

**Dwight** has received many coaching awards. He was named Sectional and National 9-man football Coach of the Year by the National Federation of High School Coaches Association. Leier was named NHSACA Regional football Coach of the Year and NHSACA National football Coach of the Year finalists. He was named NDHSCA 9-man football regional Coach of the Year several times and

National Hall of Fame - cont'd on page 12

### NDHSCA Hall of Fame Inductees 2007

NDHSCA Executive Committee announces the inductees to the 2007 NDHSCA Hall of Fame as determined at its recent NDHSCA Executive Committee Meeting. The inductees will be recognized and receive awards during the 2007 NDHSCA Coaches Convention, held on July 24-July 27, 2007 in Mandan.

The Hall of Fame Awards will be presented at the Annual Banquet on Thursday, July 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the Mandan Seven Seas Convention Center. The recipients for the 2007 induction will be the following:

**Rick Anderson,** head Cross-Country Coach and head Track and Field Coach at Griggs County Central High School

Michael Berg, recently retired head Football coach at Grand Forks Central High School

**Rockie Stavn**, retired head Cross-Country and Track and Field coach at Bismarck Century High School

**Tom Suelzle**, Athletic Director and Girls' Basketball coach at Watford City High School.

#### January 2007

#### **Dakota Coach**

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# **President's Message**

Happy New Year!

I hope you were all able to spend time with your families over the holidays and you are ready to resume the winter sports season.

Congratulations to the fall State Champions, Coach of the Year, and Senior Athlete of the Year winners! It was a very successful fall with a lot of outstanding performances. The hard work and competitiveness put forth by the coaches and athletes in this state is truly amazing! I am very proud of the fact that North Dakota possesses some of the finest people in the nation.

I encourage coaches to attend the meetings in your sport held at state contests. This allows you to become involved and also an opportunity to voice concerns in your activity. The advisory committees want input from coaches so they can represent your sport effectively at the state level.

Keep up the great work you provide for

our youth and support one another. We have a strong base and need to continue to grow as a profession.

In closing, I hope that each coach has worked to recruit a new member of the North Dakota High School Coaches Association. Ι believe our Coaches' Association has a lot to offer all coaches at all levels. Make plans to attend our summer convention and bring fellow coaches along with you.

Good Luck in 2007!

Dave



**Dave Michaelson** 

"I an very proud of the fact that North **Dakota possesses** some of the finest people in the nation."

### 2007 NHSACA National Coach of the Year Finalists from North Dakota

The National High School Athletic Coaches Association office has informed NDHSCA of ten Finalists from North Dakota that will be evaluated for National High School Coach of the Year.

The following coaches are Finalists: James Haussler; Bismarck Public Schools Gene Manson; Minot High School **Darrell Anderson; Bismarck High School Bob Zimney; Grand Forks Red River HS** Greg Amundson; Mandan High School **Melvin Fischer; Bismarck High School** Mike Kuhn; Mandan High School Ray Callaghan; Fargo North High School Golf Kent Van Ells; Dickinson High School Marney Shirley; Jamestown High School Swimming & Diving

**Athletic Director Boys' Basketball Boys' Cross-Country Boys' Track & Field Girls' Basketball Girls' Soccer** Girls' Track & Field **Special Sports-Gymnastics** 

The Finalists will be evaluated by the NHSACA National Coach of the Year evaluation committee. Evaluation concentration areas include longevity, win-loss percentages, professional service, championship years, and professional awards.

The Finalists will receive a plaque at the NHSACA Annual Meeting Awards Banquet to be held on Friday, June 29, 2007 at the Hyatt Hotel in downtown Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

All of the 2007 Finalists, except Callaghan, have received the Finalist Award in the past. Nomination for the award is made by the NDHSCA Executive Committee. The last National Coach of the Year recipients were in 2005 when Joe Howell, Lisbon High School Boys' Track and Field Coach, and Dave Dougherty, Watford City High School Wrestling Coach were named recipients.

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January 2007

# From Executive Secretary's Desk

In September, Linda and I took a vehicle trip through Montana. We spent an afternoon visiting with Harold and Gen Pedersen. As I finally mature, I realize how much I enjoy the legends of our state. Harold was excited to talk about the coaches today and the status of present-day teams, as well as to elaborate on the days of old. Harold



was the first President of NDHSCA and always has interest in the operation and administration of the Association. We laughed gleefully about some of the South HS escapades, that at the time, seemed to be The Most Significant Developments on the face of the earth, but in retrospect were just another day in coaching.

Darrell Anderson called me in mid-December to inform me of Dick Karlgaard's fall on a cement sidewalk. When he fell, he hit his head and suffered a concussion. Because of his coumadin medication, he was faced with other complications. He spent eight days in ICU, but has shown slight improvement with time. He is now on the Re-hab floor at MedCenter. He had blood clots-one huge—on the brain. The blood clots, with time, should reabsorb. At this time he is unable to carry on a conversation. The edema in the brain will take weeks to subside; and therefore, the family sees his recovery as a long haul. He is receiving physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. We spoke to Pat and Joe last week, and they confirmed that they hoped that 3-4 weeks of therapy will advance Dick's recovery a long way. We appreciate the prayers for Dick and his family. Our Maker has certainly seen Dick through many hurdles in life and will be his healer now, as well.

Todd Johnson, former football and track and field coach at Hazen High School, died Saturday afternoon of a massive heart attack. He was 63 years old. His funeral was Saturday, January 6 at 9:30 MT in the Hazen High School Gym. Todd retired from teaching and coaching about four years ago. He moved to Texas to be closer to his wife's children. Todd spent his summer at his lake home in Minnesota. He still has family in Hazen. Todd was inducted into the North Dakota High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2000. I just received a note from Patti Aanenson, Larimore High School Athletic Director. She informed NHSACA that Clint Lein will be inducted into the North Dakota Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame. Last October, Clint was presented the NDHSCA Distinguished Service Award for his coaching for more than 40 years. He received the NDHSCA Award at the school's homecoming at Clint Lein Athletic Field. Congratulations again, Clint.

Bruce Whiting announces a Lynx-Hy-Tek training school will be held in Bismarck on the 17th of February. That is a Saturday prior to the start of the ND track &field Season and ties into the University of Mary clinic on Sunday. It will be an opportunity for users to get new ideas, and operators to renew their thoughts on Lynx operation. Most of all this is a great chance to get ready for the season, and a great opportunity for new operators to exchange with "old" workers.

Bruce and Casey will finish up with a question and answer session, designed to help everybody make better use of their software and Lynx systems and a chance to test the new Hy-Tek 2.0 and if we recommend the move to 2.0 in the 2007-2008 school year.

Plan now and register early; contact Bruce Whiting at BW T&F Enterprises; 5434 Saxony Court; White Bear Township, MN 55110 (cell phone is 651-261-6329).

Plans are being made for the -2007 NDHSCA Coaches Conven-

2007 NDHSCA Coaches Convention. Some speakers have been contacted already. Scott King, Malta (MT) HS has agreed to be a football clinician. King is an 18year veteran coach and has guided Malta into the state playoffs 15 times and reached the semifinals on 11 occasions. They have played in the Class B title game five times with three State Championships

"I need to share the pride I have that North Dakota has such great people to represent our state, our athletes and our coaches."

with three State Championships.

Coach Biesiot reminded me of King's success and his clinician quality. I have known King since his high school and college days at Fargo South High School and Valley City State University.

Mike McCall, Wahpeton HS activities director and football coach will speak; Larry Sandy, Velva HS and Fred Fridley, Watford City HS will also be football speakers.

### NDHSCA Adds to Executive Staff

This summer the North Dakota High School Coaches Association decided to add an additional Assistant Executive Secretary to help Gelaine with duties of administering our state Association. Since he accepted a position as the Executive Director of the National High School Athletic Coaches Association, the NDHSCA Executive Committee wanted to provide him with assistance at the state level. I feel honored to be the person asked to fill this spot on the Executive Committee. Gelaine will do an outstanding job with his added duties. I know the North Dakota coaches will support him and assist in any way they can. I am going to handle the Assistant Coach of the Year, Junior High Coach of the Year, Longevity Awards, Victory Milestones, and write the biographies for all Coach of the Year Awards. I will also have responsibility to assist with administration duties of the NDHSCA Coaches Convention. Please feel free to contact me, or any of the Executive Board members, if you have questions concerning our state association. This organization will continue to be one of the strongest in the country.



**Randy Johnson** 

# Deadline for Winter Sports Recognition January 31, 2007

#### From Executive Secretary's Desk - continued from page 4

Craig Bohl, coach of the 10-1 NDSU Bison and Dale Lennon, of the Division II quarterfinalist UND Sioux will join our high school coaches. Our nine-man coaches will open their sessions with Keith Sundquist of Turtle Lake-Mercer HS.

A runner who is among the best in the nation will address the state's cross-country coaches. NDHSCA has also contacted State Championship coaches from other states as well as State Championship coaches from North Dakota.

I just returned from a meeting of State Coaches Association Executives. We discussed many common problems---and we all seem to have many of the same problems. After much discussion, we have new ideas to share with North Dakota Coaches. We will probably have some of these topics on the agenda for the seminar sessions this summer. I need to share the pride I have that North Dakota has such great people to represent the state, our athletes and our coaches. Randy Johnson has undertaken some big tasks and has already proven to be sensational in his dealing with production. Randy, Ralph Manley, Mel Fischer and Dave Dougherty are NHSACA Sports Chairs on the NHSACA Board of Directors. They have already established themselves as leaders because of performance that other Sports Chairs can emulate. Thanks gentlemen!

We are in the midst of a great juggling act! I hope to have a more complete report in the April *Dakota Coach*. Please remind all of our coaching cohorts that this issue of the *Dakota Coach* will not be mailed; the publication will only be on the Web!

Gelaine



### North Dakota High School Coaches Association

# Membership Registration 2006-2007

Membership:					
High School					
Junior High					
College					
Life					
Associate					
Cheerleading					

Name		
School	Email Address	
Home Phone	Work Phone	
Home Address		

#### City/State/Zip Code

In the A column, write H (head coach) or A (assistant coach) for the appropriate sport(s). In the second column, write your 2005-2006 record; in the last column, your lifetime record.

	Α	05-06 record	lifetime record		Α	05-06 record	lifetime record
Athletic Director				Soccer			
Baseball				Softball			
Boys Basketball			<sup>_</sup>	Boys Swimming			
Girls Basketball				Girls Swimming			
Boys Cross Country				Boys Tennis			
Girls Cross Country				Girls Tennis			
Boys Golf				Boys Track Girls Track			
Girls Golf				Volleyball			
Gymnastics				Wrestling			
Hockey				Strength			
				Year Spo	ort		
List Year(s) and Sport(s)	) of s	state champi	onships coached.				
Have you filed a Victory	Mile	stones Form	?				
,							
Number of years coachir	na c	ompleted (as	of June '07)	<del></del>			
Signature	ng o		<u>ouno or</u> )	Fee:	¢50	00	
				Fee.	φ <b>50</b> .	00	
Have you fille	d ou	it a Victory I	Milestones form?				
Coaches are urged	to n	hotocopy a	dditional member	shin forms and	solid	t members	hin of all

head and assistant coaches throughout each school district. - Thank you.

Proud to b Membership in the NDHSCA f Subscription to our Dakota Access to coaching openings Reduced admission to NDHS Free or reduced admission to UND/NDSU football tickets f Eligibility for the full awards p Eligibility to serve on All-Star Contacts that will allow opini An organized group that kee An organization that is conce An organization that is attem The NDHSCA is here to serve. with a problem, suggestion, or the NDHSCA to serve you bette Membership deadlines: F	Coach newsletter s in North Dakota SCA/NDHSAA Clinic during o many high school and col or (except Hockey) \$1.00 a program of the NDHSCA orts Advisory Committee r Coaching Staff ons to be heard in the gove ps everyone in touch with o erned with offering program opting to maintain and impro- Always feel free to conta complaint. Knowing the er.	ts: the year lege contests lotted in reserved section terning of each sport by levelopments across the s that will help improve sove athletic programs for act any officer or the	the NDHSCA e state and nation coaches or North Dakota's youth. Executive Director
Return form to: Karen Hardie 741 Royal Oa Fargo, ND 58	e, NDHSCA Membership ks Drive	•	
		U	odated 8/21/2006

### **NDHSCA Victory Milestones**



Please help the NDHSCA keep your records current. Each coach must send their record at the completion of each season. If coaching more than one sport, complete each sport on a separate form. If you are completing the victory milestone for the first time, make sure to give your record for each year. Report only the highest level of coaching each season. Don't add coaching seasons together (ex. if a coach is coaching both jr. high boys basketball and varsity basketball, count only the varsity basketball



record for that season). If coaching both varsity girls' and varsity boys' basketball, count each season on separate forms and don't add together as one record. Under the new format for counting victories in certain sports such as track and field, cross country, tennis, golf, swimming, and gymnastics; the old records will need to be updated. Remember to keep each sport season separate and always report the highest level of coaching in each sport.

Mail completed form/s to: Gelaine Orvik; 3457 - 26th Avenue South; Fargo, ND 58103. Awards will be sent upon request after records are updated.

#### Procedure For Determining Won/Loss Records In An Invitational Meet:

- A. In an invitational meet, the teams that finish below you will count as victories, those that finish above you are losses. Any teams that you tie will count as a win.
- B. Figure out the total number of teams you have competed against and what percentage of those teams were wins and losses.
- C. Take the percentage of wins/losses from above and multiply it against the number of meets you participated in to arrive at your won/loss record for the season.
- D. If this is not a whole number, victories will always be rounded down and losses will be rounded up. (Obviously, if your team has participated in ten meets during the year, your wins plus losses should equal ten.)

Sport	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	Cat. 3	Cat. 4	Cat. 5	Sport	Cat. 1	Cat. 2	Cat. 3	Cat. 4	Cat. 5
Baseball	75	150	225	300	375	Soccer	100	200	300	400	500
Basketball	100	200	300	400	500	Softball	75	150	225	300	375
Cross Country	50	100	150	200	250	Swimming	50	100	150	200	250
Football	50	100	150	200	250	Tennis	50	100	150	200	250
Golf	45	90	135	180	225	Track/Field	50	100	150	200	250
Gymnastics	45	90	135	180	225	Volleyball	150	300	450	600	750
Hockey	100	200	300	400	500	Wrestling	75	150	225	300	375
						· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Example:	Meet 1	11 teams	7 wins 4	losses

- Only meets in which three or more schools participate will count as an invitational.
- Schools can still have a dual meet record that would remain the same along with a record for the invitationals they attend.
- It will be up to the individual coaches to determine their records from past years and update wins or revise their victory milestone forms.

# NDHSCA Victory Milestone Record Sheet

Name			Date		E	-Mail	
High School	l			Coachir	ng Position		
				City/Sta	te/Zip Code		
Membership	: High School	Associa	ate	_ Junior	High	Life	_
Year	School	Sport	Varsity	JV	JH	Won/Loss	Overall Record
1 2.							
3.			:				
4							
<u>^</u>							
8							
J							
0 1							
2.							
3							
4							
15							TT 1 + 10/20/05

Winning % equals 22/33 = 67% 5 meets x .67=3.35 Losing % equals 11/33 = 33% 5 meets x .33 = 1.65 Your record for the season would be 3 wins and 2 losses for invitationals.

4 teams

6 teams

5 teams

7 teams

5 meets 33 teams 22 wins 11 losses

0 wins

6 wins

4 wins

4 losses

0 losses

1 loss

5 wins 2 losses

Meet 2

Meet 3

Meet 4

Meet 5

**Totals** 

#### . Updated 8/30/05



North Dakota High School Coaches Association Lifetime Membership Application

> To purchase a Lifetime Membership the prospective coach must have been: A. an NDHSCA Member for 20 years.

B. an active high school coach for at least 25 years either in ND or another state.

Lifetime Membership may be purchased for a one-time fee of \$250. Such Lifetime Membership will carry all Active Membership benefits. A Lifetime Member relinquishes voting and office holding privileges if a member is no longer an active coach.

Name					
School	E-Mail Address				
Home Phone	Work Phone				
Home Address					
City/State/Zip code					
Number of years coaching completed (as of <u>June 2007</u> )   Number of years NDHSCA Member (as of <u>June 2007</u> )					

Fee: \$250 Include the fee with this application. Mail fee and application to: Gelaine Orvik, Executive Secretary NDHSCA 3457 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue South Fargo, ND 58103

### **Purchased Lifetime Memberships**

Aardahl, Vern: Milnor HS Anderson, Darryl: Mandan HS Burckhard, Richard; Parshall HS Callahan, Mike; Minnewaukan HS Carlson, Ron; Minnewaukan HS Carlsrud, Dave; NDHSAA Cornell, Rick; Grand Forks Schroeder JHS Dew, Jim; Valley City State College Disher, Ken; Minot HS Dixon, Derrick; Turtle Mountain Community HS Fjeld, Greg; Minot HS Folstad, Collette; West Fargo HS Gabrielsen, Thomas; Grand Forks Red River HS Gadberry, Ron; Hillsboro HS Hanson, David; St. Thomas HS Hanson, Donald C.; Mandan HS Hardie, Rodney: Fargo South HS Hertel, Dale; Fargo South HS Horner, Dennis; Midway HS Hutchison, Donna; Grand Forks Red River HS Hutchison, John; Northwood HS Hutchison, Lonny; Northwood HS Jaeger, Kerry; Grand Forks Red River HS Kerlin, Don; Mayville/Portland-C/G HS

Kjelgaard, Harold; Fargo Discoverv JHS Kleveland, David; Central Valley HS Larson, Nancy; DesLacs-Burlington HS Loberg, Myron; Devils Lake HS Lockwood, Ed; Fargo Public Schools Lyon, Jerry; Minot HS Marsh, John; Fargo South HS Mailloux, Gary; Fargo North HS Omdahl, Chad; Hatton-Northwood HS Overby, Dennis; Northwood HS Schauer, Gary; Langdon, HS Schmitt, Dan; Dakota Prairie HS Schreiner, Vernon; Minto HS Sluke, David; Grafton HS Snortland, Keith; Warwick HS Solberg, Sheryl; NDHSAA Stanley, Len; Bismarck State College Strand, Fred P.; Hatton-Northwood HS Trieglaff, Robert; Fargo North HS Walker, Larry; Killdeer HS Wheeling, Bob; Killdeer HS Wilson, Jerry; Bismarck Century HS Zimney, Bob; Grand Forks Red River HS

## **Coaching Longevity Notice**

I am presently working on the Coaching Longevity Awards for the 2007 Summer Convention. Please contact me via e-mail at, <u>randy.wa.johnson@sendit.nodak.edu</u> or phone (748-5634) if the information is not correct. Please contact me as well if you *should be* on the list for 20 years, 25 years, 30 years, 35 years, 40 years and your name is *not included*.

#### <u>20 years</u>

Dan Carlson, Grand Forks Central HS Nancy Deutsch, Watford City HS Cameron Dockter, Fargo South HS Orville Drosdahl, New Town NS Dick Fisher, Fargo North HS Joe Harder, Lakota HS Scott Hoffman, Dickinson Hagen JHS Randy Johnson, Hazen HS Todd Kosel, Edgeley HS David Laber, Napoleon HS Brent Lauf, New Salem HS Todd Lee, Tioga HS Mark McLean, Hillsboro HS Bob Moller, Enderlin HS Carolyn Olson, Grand Forks Red River HS Leland Opp, Hazen HS Jeff Ralph, Wahpeton HS Mark Sand, Steele-Dawson HS Greg Unruh, Fargo North HS Tim Wallstrum, Kenmare HS Laurel Weigelt, Minot HS

#### 25 Years

Darrell Anderson, Bismarck HS Ron Benson, Mott-Regent HS Randy Bilden, Enderlin HS Dwight Dockter, MPCG HS Janet Erhardt, Center-Stanton HS Arnie Falk, Jamestown HS Jeff Feichtner, Fargo North HS Mark Frost, Hope-Page HS Cindy Hanson, Killdeer HS

#### **Randy Johnson**

25 Years – continued Pat Healey, Fargo Discovery MS Rich Hovland, Bismarck Century HS Julie Jensen, Kindred HS Harvey Kruckenberg, Fargo South HS Terri Krueger, Fargo Oak Grove HS Joel Marshall, Hazen HS Dave Michaelson, Dickinson HS Pat O'Brien, Mandan HS Keith Sundquist, Turtle Lake-Mercer HS William J. Uscensky, Minot HS Larry Walker, Killdeer HS

#### 30 Years

Virgil Babinski, Finley-Sharon HS Frank Conlon, Jamestown HS Dennis Flynn, Devils Lake HS Janel Gaugler, Wishek HS Randy Gordon, Dickinson Trinity HS Randy Klusmann, Edgeley-Kulm HS Pete Moe, Washburn HS Bruce Stein, Hankinson HS Chuck Wagner, Killdeer HS Greg White, Jamestown HS

#### 35 Years

Greg Amundson, Mandan HS Bruce Anderson, Minot HS Steve Carnal, Fargo Oak Grove HS Dale Hertel, Fargo South HS David Kleveland, Central Valley HS Gary Walhaug, Surrey HS

#### 40 Years

Neil Dardis, Lakota HS Fred Fridley, Watford City HS John Hutchison, Hatton-Northwood HS

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#### NDHSCA Hall of Fame - continued from page 1

Rick Anderson is a graduate of Crookston High School and Mayville State University. He is a veteran coach of 33 years at Griggs County Central High School. He has coached boys' track and field and boys' and girls' cross-country since he began his profession at the only school he has ever called home. He has also coached boys' and girls' basketball at his school located in Cooperstown.

#### Anderson

coached his track and field teams at Griggs County High School to nineteen Red River Valley Conference Championship Titles; two Region Runner-up

Titles; and thirteen Regional Championship Titles. Rick also coached the 1978 Girls' Basketball Team to a Conference Championship, a Regional Championship and a State Runner-up title (1978). Coach Anderson has mentored the Cougar's Girls' Cross-Country Teams to five Regional Runner-up Titles and two Regional Championships. His 2006 Team also won the State Championship Title.

Rick's Boys' Cross-Country squads have won four Regional Runnerup Titles and eight Regional Championships. His Boys' harriers have also won four State Championships. Rick guided his track and field teams to 197 victories in multi-team meets. His boys' Cross-Country Teams won 123 multi-team meets and his girls' Cross-Country teams won 85 multi-team meets. In addition, Rick's boys' basketball teams won 103 games and his girls' basketball teams won 60 games.

Coach Anderson has been a model for coaches to emulate in his professional high school athletic and coaching services. He has been a member of the NDHSCA Girls' Basketball Advisory Committee to NDHSAA and a member of the NDHSCA Cross Country Advisory Committee to NDHSAA.

Anderson has been named Girls' Cross-Country Regional Coach of the Year twice (2004 & 2005). He has also been named Bovs' Cross-Country Regional Coach of the Year seven times and Boys' Track and Field Regional Coach of the Year ten times. Coach Anderson was named NDHSCA Class B Boys' Track and Field State Coach of the Year in 1996. He has received the NDHSCA Class B Boys' Cross Country State Coach of the Year Award six times (1994, 1997, 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2003).

Coach Anderson was nominated for the NDHSCA Hall of Fame by his superintendent, Kirk Ham.

Mike Berg is a graduate of

Pasadena (CA) High School and Black Hills State College. He earned his Masters Degree from the University of

North Dakota. Coach Berg began his coaching career at St. Regis (MT) High School before he moved to Baker (MT) High School. In 1976 Mike moved to North Dakota and began a three year stint at Mandan High School before moving to Grand Forks Central High School where he has coached football and track and field since 1979. He has coached for 35 years with 31 years in North Dakota.

Coach Berg's Central Knights Football teams have been Eastern Dakota Conference Football Champions twice (1996 and 2005). Grand Forks Central has been in three Football State Championship contests and was crowned State Champions in 2005. Mike has coached his football teams to 141 victories.

Mike has served his profession as Football Chairman to the North Dakota Shrine since 1989. He was also on the NDHSCA Football Advisory Committee to the NDHSAA. Coach Berg has been a member of the American Football Coaches Association and has been a member of the High School Committee for the past six years.

Coach Berg has received numerous coaching honors and awards. He was selected NDHSCA Class A (AAA) Football State Coach of the Year in 1988, 1996 and 2004. He received the NDHSCA Special Recognition Award in 1993 and 1997. He was a nominee to receive the NFL High School Coach of the Year in 2002 and 2006. Berg received the North Dakota High School Champions Award in 2005 from the National Sportswriters and Sportscasters' Association. Mike also received the Walt Sherman Man of the Year Award from the North Dakota Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Berg and the Knights Football Team were named recipients of the Male High School Team of the Year by the North Dakota Sportswriters and Sportscasters' Association. Coach Berg received the NDHSCA Award of Merit in 2005. He received a Special Recognition Award from the

(continued on page 11)



#### NDHSCA Hall of Fame - continued from page 10

Kem and El Zagal Shrine Temples in 1996. Mike has been a Shrine Football All Star Coach in 1989, 1990, 1991, 1994 and 1997.

**Coach Berg** was nominated for the NDHSCA Hall of Fame by Gelaine Orvik.

Mike Berg and his wife, Lorna have two children: Christopher and Nikki.

**Rockie Stavn** is a graduate of Watford City High School and Minot State University. He has coached football, wrestling, track and field, swimming and diving, cross-country and gymnastics. He began his coaching profession at Minot Jim Hill Junior High School. Coach Stavn spent a year and a half at Brainerd (MN) High School before settling in Bismarck where he has coached at Bismarck High School and Bismarck Junior College. He spent the last 17 years of his coaching profession at Bismarck

Century High School where he completed his 26-year coaching career.

**Rockie's** C e n t u r y C r o s s -Country team won the Western Dakota



Association Title in 1978 and was State Cross-Country Runner-up the same year. His 1979 and 1983 crosscountry teams were Region Runnerup finishers, and his 1982 team also finished Runner-up at the State Meet. **Stavn's** boys' track and field teams were likewise successful with conference titlists in 1970, when the team also won a District Title and Region Runner-up Title. His boys' track and field teams also won Region Runnerup Titles in 1978 and 1980.

**Coach Stavn** guided his crosscountry teams to 94 victories with a .628 winning percentage against other teams. His swimming and diving teams won 14 dual meets and one multi-team meet. Stavn's track and field teams won 105 victories and had a .668 winning percentage against other teams.

**Rockie** coached 24 individual state champions and nine state record holders. As a high school coach, he coached two All-Americans and seven honorable mention All-Americans. He coached one state champion in cross-country and one state champion in swimming.

Stavn was a model professional he was a presenter at the as NDHSCA Coaches Convention on numerous occasions. He was a "Spokesperson for High School Athletics and Physical Education for the Governor" in 1979. He was also a member of the NDHSCA Cross-Country and Track and Field Advisory Committee. Rockie was NHSACA State Representative for Track and Field and Cross-Country. He was a Vice President candidate for NDHSCA. He was All-Conference Chairman for Cross-Country for the WDA for ten years.

**Rockie** served as NDHSCA Chairman for State Convention in 1991 and on the NHSACA National Convention National Committee in 1991. He was chairman of the Bismarck Tournament Committee for 15 years.

**Stavn** received the NDHSCA Class A Boys' Cross-Country Regional Coach of the Year Award, as well as the NDHSCA Class A Boys' Cross-Country State Coach of the Year in 1978. In 1979 he was nominated for the NHSACA National Cross-Country Coach of the Year Award. Rockie also received NDHSCA Class A Boys' Track and Field State Coach of the Year in 1980 and in 1982. He was nominated for NDHSCA Hall of Fame in 1993 by Gelaine Orvik.

**Coach Stavn** and his wife Julie have three children: Thad, Rockie II and Tanner.

**Tom Suelzle** is a graduate of Watford City High School, UND Williston, and Dickinson State University. He has coached track and field, boys' basketball and girls' basketball, as well serving as athletic director at Watford City High School.

**Tom's** girls' basketball teams have been the center of his coaching success. Under Tom's leadership, the girls' basketball teams have earned 15 Conference Titles, 13 District Titles, five Region Runner-up Titles, 10 Region Championship Titles and one



State Runnerup Title. His girls' basketball teams have won 487 games.

**Coach Suelzle** has been a member of the NDHSCA

Girls' Basketball Advisory Committee to NDHSAA. He has also served as a representative to the North Dakota Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Association. Suelzle has managed the Regional Track and Field Meet for 12 years; the Regional Golf Tournament for eight years; and the Regional Wrestling Tournament for

(continued on page 12)

#### NDHSCA Hall of Fame - cont'd from page 11

one year. He has also managed the district volleyball tournament for two years and the district boys' and girls' basketball tournaments for six years.

**Suelzle** has been on the Lions' All Star Basketball Selection Committee for ten years and was Lions' All Star Basketball coach in 1999. He received a 400 Victory Milestone Award and 25 Year Longevity Award. He was named NDHSCA Athletic Director of the Year in 1995. Tom was named NDHSCA Class B Girls' Basketball State Coach of the Year in 1998. He was NDHSCA Class B Girls' Basketball Regional Coach of the Year five times and District Coach of the Year six times.

**Tom** was nominated for NDHSCA Hall of Fame by Dave Dougherty. Tom and his wife Pam have two children: Chris and Ben. ◆

# 2007 NDHSCA Coaches Convention July 24, 25, 26, & 27 Seven Seas Conference Center Mandan, N.D.

#### National Hall of Fame - continued from page 1

NDHSCA State 9-man football Coach of the Year. The North Dakota Associated Press Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association recognized Dwight with their Special Achievement Award.

**Coach Leier** served on the North Dakota High School Coaches Association Executive Committee and was President of the Association during the 1986-1987 fiscal year. During his presidency the NDHSCA initiated the All State Football selections in every division in North Dakota and thus recognized all of the state's outstanding high school football players.

Leier has coached the North Dakota Shrine Bowl and the Badlands Bowl All Star Football games during his coaching career. In 1995, he was inducted into the North Dakota High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

**Dwight** and his wife Penny live in Esmond, North Dakota have six children: Michelle, Ranelle, Bryan, Davin, Tim and Erin. They also have four grandchildren. Gene Manson graduated from Langdon High School and North Dakota State University. He is a 36 year veteran coach from four high schools in North Dakota: Adams High School, St. Thomas High School, Devils Lake High School, and Minot High School.

Gene's coaching accomplishments include his teams' earning 12 conference championships, seven regional runner-up titles, seven regional championships, 16 straight state tournament appearances between 1985-2000 (a North Dakota state record), four Class A State Runner-up Titles and four Class A State Championship Titles.

**Manson** has a 594-257 won-loss record, which is an impressive 70% winning percentage. He has been a Lions' All Star Basketball coach eight times.

**Coach Manson** has been named West Region Coach of the Year nine times. He has been named NDHSCA Class A boys' basketball Coach of the Year three times. Gene has been nominated for NHSACA National Coach of the Year five times and has been NHSACA boys' basketball National Coach of the Year Finalist in 1999, 2003 and 2007.

Gene was a member of the NDHSCA Executive Committee and was President in 1991 when the North Dakota High School Coaches Association hosted the NHSACA National Coaches Convention in Bismarck, North Dakota. He was inducted into the NDHSCA Hall of Fame in 1996.

Gene and his wife, Merry, have three sons: Ross (wife, Rochelle), Bart (wife, Nicole) and Brian. They also have five grandchildren.

National Annual Meeting NHSACA June 27, 28 & 29, 2007 Hyatt Hotel Milwaukee, Wisconsin

# Mike Berg Resigns

As Mike Berg visited with NDHSCA, the following notes were retained. "It is my intention to become more active in the Association than coaching football has allowed me to do, and I would very much like to continue my role as the football rep and Shrine Bowl Director. If it works for the Association, I hope to continue to present a convention seminar session on professionalism in coaching.

"My phone call to you yesterday was not an easy one to make, and I sincerely apologize if there was any thought that I had "backdoored" you or been less than forthright. Last week I evaded you as I had not 100% decided on exactly what I would do, and yet I knew that if I was going to step aside, that I should announce it to the players at the awards night on Sunday. As to why the decision itself, I just have that indefinable feeling that it's the right time in my life. There are things that I want to do that

have been precluded by the time spent on football both in season and out of season, so I took what I felt was the best route for my family and myself.

By the way, when my answer to Jay Gibson that this stuff is "my passion" - I knew that you knew I was speaking the truth! I have plenty that interests me - NDHSCA, the Shrine, and FCA, so I certainly plan to "keep on keeping on" as a wise man often says. "I have that indefinable feeling that it's the right time in my life . . for my family and myself."

# 2007 Student Drug Testing Summit

The White House Office of National Drug Control Policy will be hosting four regional Student Drug Testing Summits in 2007.

According to the 2005 Monitoring the Future Report over half of all high school students have tried an illegal drug. Random student drug testing is a valuable prevention strategy that can help deter children from initiating drug use. It can also identify children who have just started using drugs as well as children who have a dependency so that they may be referred to treatment. Student drug testing programs are developed by the schools in which they are implemented so that the program is specifically tailored to the needs of the community. All student drug testing programs are designed to act as a deterrent and are not by format or nature punitive. To date, over 912 schools nationwide have implemented programs. "According to the 2005 Monitoring the Future Report over half of all high school students have tried an illegal drug." The Student Drug Testing Summits will address relevant legal and program development issues and serve as an introduction for schools that would like to learn more about student drug testing. Participants will also be provided with information on Department of Education grants for the program.For schools that already have a program in place, new information will be available.

There is no cost to attend the summits. If you are interested in attending, please register at <u>http://www.cmpinc.net/dts</u> or contact

<u>bspencer@ondcp.eop.gov</u> with any additional questions.

•

Summit dates are as follows:January 24, 2007Charleston, South CarolinaFebruary 27, 2007Newark, New JerseyMarch 27, 2007Honolulu, HawaiiApril 24, 2007Las Vegas, Nevada

# 2006 NDHSCA Class AAA Football All State Team

# FIRST TEAM OFFENSE:

#### QUARTERBACK:

Brandon Larson Rob Gibson Zac Elgie

#### **RUNNING BACKS:**

Tyson Schatz Catlin Solum

#### **RECEIVERS**:

Carson Carr Justin Lake

#### **OFFENSIVE LINE:**

Jerad Wald Jim Green Austin Richard Ryan Kamrowski Brent Qvale

#### Fargo South HS West Fargo HS Minot HS

Minot HS Fargo South HS

Minot HS Fargo North HS

Fargo South HS Wahpeton HS Fargo South HS Minot HS Williston HS

# SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

#### **RUNNING BACKS:**

Kyle Wetzel Jared Gowan Rocky Bullinger Wahpeton HS Grand Forks Central HS Mandan HS

**RECIEVERS**:

Justin Belohlavek Paul Hoplin

#### OFFENSIVE LINE:

Tyler Schmidkunz Jerome Hoffman Josh Johnson Andrew Kennedy Austin Ellenson Ian McGurran

TIGHT END:

Justin Sheets

Mandan HS Grand Forks Red River HS

> Bismarck Century HS Bismarck HS Mandan HS Grand Forks Central HS Fargo South HS Fargo North HS

> > Fargo North HS

# FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

#### DEFENSIVE LINE:

Sam HelleksonGrand Forks Red River HSBroc BellmoreWest Fargo HSBrian QvaleWilliston HS

#### LINEBACKERS:

Steve Williams Joey Dawson Luke Senger Alex Mock Pay Coyne

#### DEFENSIVE BACKS:

Billy Sholl Tyler Johnson Mitch Kudrna

**RETURN SPECIALIST:** 

#### Josh Horner

Fargo South HS

**Bismarck HS** 

Jamestown HS

West Fargo HS

Wahpeton HS

**Dickinson HS** 

Wahpeton HS

West Fargo HS

**Bismarck Century HS** 

# SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

#### DEFENSIVE LINE:

Jordan Schoefer Trevor Fladeland Shawn Becker

#### LINEBACKERS:

Sean Spiker Jon Kramer Ridgeley Kraft Michael Mack

#### DEFENSIVE BACKS:

Brad Just Richard Fuller Justin Pratt Tyler Swanson Devils Lake HS Grand Forks Red River HS Minot HS

Williston HS Wahpeton HS

Fargo South HS

**Bismarck HS** 

Fargo South HS Bismarck HS Dickinson HS

Minot HS

Dickinson HS

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# 2006 NDHSCA Class AA Football All State Team

# FIRST TEAM OFFENSE:

#### QUARTERBACK:

Mike Zwingel (11)

Rugby HS

Hazen HS

Beulah

Watford City HS

Fargo Oak Grove HS

**RUNNING BACKS:** Scott Samuelson (12)

Brian Sorenson (11) Luke Hvidston (12)

**RECEIVERS**:

Casey Hausauer (12)

TIGHT END:

Jamall Wold (12)

**OFFENSIVE LINE** 

Travis Fritel (12) Greg Larson (12) Grant Galvin (12) Erik Stenehiem (12) Tyler Olson (12)

SPECIALIST:

Jacoby Duff (12)

Rugby HS Lisbon HS Hazen HS Watford City HS Hazen HS

Rugby HS

Beulah HS

Lisbon HS

Rugby HS

Grafton HS

Valley City HS

Hatton/Northwood HS

Watford City HS

# FIRST TEAM DEFENSE:

#### **DEFENSIVE LINE:**

Nathan Duchscher (12) Aaron Freije (11) Dan Carr (12) Nick Eckroth (12)

#### LINEBACKERS:

Nathan Svihovec (12) Kevin Leier (12) Brian Marsh (12) Ben Kaspari (12)

#### **DEFENSIVE BACKS:**

Mike Schmaltz (12) Scott Murphy (12) Jacob Erhardt (11)

1st TEAM PUNTER/KICKER:

Nate Nygard (12)

**Dickinson Trinity HS** Hazen HS

Fargo Oak Grove HS

Rugby HS

Watford City HS Rugby HS **Dickinson Trinity HS** Lisbon HS

#### Rugby HS **Dickinson Trinity HS** Hazen HS

Fargo Oak Grove HS

## SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

#### **DEFENSIVE LINE:**

Tom McCann (12) Logan Carlblom (11) Nick Smith (12) KC Knudtson (12) Ethan Filipek (12)

#### LINEBACKERS:

Issac Michaelson (12) Kyle Schmaltz (12) Caleb Loi (12)

#### DEFENSIVE BACKS.

Cody Strand (12) James Knoll (11) Patrick Dougherty (12) SPECIALIST: Arren St. Vincent (12)

Grafton HS Lisbon HS Carrington HS Watford City HS Minot Bishop Ryan HS

Beulah HS Hazen HS Hatton/Northwood HS

> Rugby HS Central Cass HS Lisbon HS

Turtle Mountain HS

#### **OUARTERBACK:** Minot Bishop Ryan HS

SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

Clay Kalias (12)

**RUNNING BACKS:** 

Tyler Zacher (12) Ryan Moellenkamp (12) Zach Wold (12)

**RECIEVERS**:

Reed Duchshcer (11) Anthony Klinski (11) Joseph Bruenjes (11)

#### **OFFENSIVE LINE:**

Hatton/Northwood HS Jon Nelson (11) Rvan Hillesland (12)Hatton/Northwood HS Brandon Christianson (12) Central Cass HS Marshall Krebs (11) Beulah HS Ryan Kasper (12) Minot Bishop Ryan HS

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# 2006 NDHSCA Class A Football All State Team

Harvey HS

Hankinson HS

Stanley/Powers Lake HS

Langdon/Munich HS

MayPort/C-G HS

Hankinson/FCT HS

Velva HS

Velva HS

Harvey HS

# FIRST TEAM OFFENSE:

#### QUARTERBACK:

Brock Sandy (12) Josh Asp (12)

#### RUNNING BACKS:

Brandon Roehrich (12) Riley Beck (11) Jordan Flaten (12)

#### **RECEIVERS**:

Eric Henke (12) Bryan Sandy (11) Jamie Mauch (11)

#### OFFENSIVE LINE:

Ryan Bosch (12)Linton-MHB HSZach Gaugler (12)Killdeer/Halliday HSPaul Meyer (12)North Border HSAdam Yoney (12)Northern Cass HSSECOND TEAM OFFENSE:

#### QUARTERBACK:

Alex Schmaltz (12) RUNNING BACKS:

Bryan Moch (12) Chris McKay (11) Karl Hager (10) Mitch Ford (11)

#### **RECEIVER:**

Matt Achtenberg (12) Danny Ferdon (12)

OFFENSIVE LINE:

Gerard Gustafson (12) Brock Haase (12) David Olson (12) Ryan Thornberg (12) Jesse Wahl (12)

Linton/MHB HS Wyndmere/Lidgerwood HS Larimore HS Cavalier HS

> Grant County HS Larimore HS

Stanley Powers Lake HS Wyndmere/Lidgerwood HS Langdon/Munich HS Williams County HS Hankinson HS

# FIRST TEAM DEFENSE:

#### DEFENSIVE LINE:

Aaron Esquibel (12) Cole Duncan (12) Tim Schempp (12) Mike Schild (11) Velva HS Wyndmere-Lidgwerwood Larimore HS Harvey HS

Killdeer/Halliday HS

Velva HS

Cavalier HS

Maple Valley/Enderlin HS

#### LINEBACKERS:

Amos Buehner (11) AJ Pfeifer (12) Ben Duchsherer (12) Blaine Kemp (12)

#### **DEFENSIVE BACKS**:

Bryce Weber (12) Eric Burgad (12) Justin Mack (12) Sam Hager (12) Linton/MHB HS Northern Cass HS Velva HS Larimore HS

# SECOND TEAM DEFENSE:

#### DEFENSIVE LINE:

Ben Nordloef (12) Craig Schatz (11) James Sletten (12) Stanley/Powers Lake HS Linton/MHB HS Larimore HS

Stanley/Powers Lake HS

Harvey HS

Velva HS

Linton/MHB HS

MayPort/C-G HS

Langdon/Munich HS

#### LINEBACKERS:

Kenny Keller (11) Mike Heying (12) Josh Jarmin (12) Troy Dale (11) Drew Wold (12) Preston Bauer (12)

DEFENSIVE BACKS:

Levi Weber (12) Tyler Lalim (10) Jake Hoffert (12) New Rockford/Sheyenne HS Williams County HS Wyndmere/Lidgerwood HS

# 2006 NDHSCA Nine-Man Football All State Team

## FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

#### QUARTERBACK:

Dustin Brend (12)

Michael Mack (12) (Honorary)

#### **RUNNINGBACK:**

**RECEIVER**:

Eddie Cullum (12) Jordan Dewald (12) Jordan Backstrom (12) Tyler Grosz (12)

Landon Schneider (12)

Taylor Gruenfelder (12)

Turtle Lake-Mercer HS Napoleon-Gackle-Streeter HS Maddock HS Mott-Regent HS

Central Valley HS

Tri County HS

#### Washburn HS Napoleon-Gackle-Streeter Central Valley HS

#### OFFENSIVE LINE:

Aaron Delvo (12)

James Leier (12) Kyler Harder (12) Zack Gjovig (12) Scott Ereth (12) Napoleon-Gackle-Streeter HS Lakota HS Divide County HS New Salem HS

# SECOND TEAM OFFENSE

#### QUARTERBACK:

Michael Cooper (12) Chad Reimer (12)

**RUNNINGBACK:** 

Keith Bowman (12) Ian Placek (12) Lance Johanson (11) Wade Woodbury (12)

#### **RECEIVER:**

Ross Severson (11) Jon Johnson (11) Michael Good (11)

#### **OFFENSIVE LINE:**

Cole Laber (10) Shawn Carnahan (11) Mark Wack (12) Devon Laufer (11) Westhope-Newburg HS Washburn HS

North Central Benson HS Divide County HS Lakota HS Richland HS

> Dakota Prairie HS Richland HS Rolla-Rock Lake HS

Napoleon-Gackle-Streeter HS Rolla-Rock Lake HS Maddock HS Mott-Regent HS

# FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

#### DEFENSIVE LINE:

Todd Singer (12) Brandon Lunde (12) Clint Urvand (11)

#### LINEBACKERS:

Kris McCleary (11) Mitch Lang (11) Austin Jamdtgaaed (12) Andrew Grothmann (10) Michael McAtee (11)

#### **DEFENSIVE BACKS:**

RJ Darling (12) Josh Thomas (12) Cory Wall (12) Louden Kruger (12) Turtle Lake-Mercer HS Maddock HS Divide County HS

Napoleon-Gackle-Streeter HS Turtle Lake-Mercer HS Divide County HS Hillsboro HS Rolla-Rock Lake HS

North Central Benson HS Turtle Lake-Mercer HS Lakota HS New Salem HS

# SECOND TEAM DEFENSE

#### DEFENSIVE LINE:

Cody Rupp (12) Taylor Rittermann (12) Trent Schatz (12) Jake Olsen (11)

#### LINEBACKERS:

Jason Novacek (12) Lee Jahner (12) John Besette (11) Jason Huber (12) Chris Hoerth (11) Nick Bye (12)

#### **DEFENSIVE BACKS:**

Taylor Walach (11) Josh Wutzke (12) Kacey Keysor (12) Edgeley-Kulm HS North Central Benson HS Tri County HS Hillsboro HS

Central Valley HS Mott-Regent HS Richland HS Westhope-Newburg HS Lakota HS Dakota Prairie HS

Milnor-North Sargent HS Mott-Regent HS Kenmare HS

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# 2006 Boys Soccer All-STATE Selections

First Team

NAME	GR	SCHOOL	POSITION
Alex Dahl	Sr.	Fargo South	Midfielder
Miko Elias	Sr.	Fargo Shanley	Forward/Midfielder
Jordan Kramer	Sr.	Grand Forks Central	Sweeper
Seth Dallman	Sr.	Grand Forks Red River	Forward/Midfielder
Alex Benson	Sr.	Grand Forks Red River	Goal Keeper
Bashir Mohamud	Sr.	West Fargo	Forward/Midfielder
Jeremy Gunderson	Sr.	Bismarck HS	Defender
Alex Paulson	Jr.	Bismarck Century	Forward
Chris Keller	Sr.	Bismarck St. Mary's	Midfielder
Phil Boerger	Jr.	Jamestown	Goal Keeper/Defender
Isak Tengesdal	Sr.	Minot	Midfielder
Sam Lee	Sr.	Minot	Forward
		<u>Second Team</u>	
Dan Peterson	Sr.	Fargo South	Defender/Midfielder
Drew Glogoza	Jr.	Fargo Shanley	Defender
Phil Bruckbauer	Sr.	Fargo Shanley	Midfielder
Marco Campoverde	Sr.	Grand Forks Red River	Forward
Zach Wehri	Jr.	Fargo North	Forward
Grant Horntvedt	Jr.	Bismarck HS	Defender
Cole Kroshus	Jr.	Bismarck Century	Midfielder
Josh Pape	Jr.	Bismarck St. Mary's	Forward
Ryan Kuhry	Sr.	Jamestown	Forward/Midfielder
Sam Love	Sr.	Minot	Goal Keeper

2006 ND Boys' Soccer Outstanding Senior Athlete: Isak Tengesdal - Minot

2006 ND Boys' Soccer NDHSCA Coach of the Year: Matt Pfau - Minot

# 2006-2007 NDHSCA Coaches of the Year

#### **CLASS A FALL SPORTS**

Boys' Cross Country Boys' Cross Country Boys' Football A Boys' Football AA Boys' Football AAA Boys' Soccer Boys' Tennis Girls' Cross Country Girls' Golf Girls' Swimming Girls' Volleyball

#### **CLASS B FALL SPORTS**

Boys' Cross Country Boys' Nine-Man Football Girls' Cross Country Girls' Volleyball Darrell Anderson Dave Zittleman Larry Sandy Fred Fridley Mike McCall Matt Pfau Greg Unruh Lisa Svaleson Don Johnson Anne Retzlaff Tonah Safranski

Brian Anderson Keith Sundquist Duane Bowman Brooks Dockter Bismarck High School Bismarck High School Velva-Sawyer High School Watford City High School Wahpeton High School Minot High School Fargo North High School Fargo South High School Fargo Shanley High School Wahpeton High School Fargo South High School

New Town High School Turtle Lake-Mercer High School Bowman High School Tioga High School

## 2006-2007 Senior Athlete of the Year

Fall Sports Season	Athlete	School	Coach
Class A Boys' Cross Country	Sam Larson	Jamestown HS	<b>Russ Schmeichel</b>
Class A Boys' Soccer	Isak Tengesdal	Minot HS	Matt Pfau
Class A Boys' Tennis	Max Piepkorn	Fargo North HS	Greg Unruh
Class A Girls' Cross Country	Danielle Thompson	<b>Grand Forks Central HS</b>	Sean Allan
Class A Girls' Golf	Kate Hardina	Fargo South HS	Lynn Engberg
Class A Girls' Swimming & Diving	Kelsey Schoonhoven	West Fargo HS	Marsha Dahl
Class A Girls' Volleyball	Katelyn Steffen	Dickinson HS	Jay Schobinger
Class B Boys' Cross Country	Andrew Kuch	Washburn HS	Darren Lester
Class B Girls' Cross Country	Bianca Lamb	Bottineau HS	<b>Connie Blatherwick</b>
Class B Girls' Volleyball	Abby Bratlien	Tioga HS	<b>Brooks Dockter</b>
Class A Football	Brock Sandy	Harvey HS	Brad Sandy
Class AA Football	Nathan Svihovec	Watford City HS	Fred Fridley
Class AAA Football	Catlin Solum	Fargo South HS	Kevin Feeney
Class B Nine-Man Football	Eddie Cullum	Turtle Lake-Mercer HS	Keith Sundquist

### Land of 10,000 Stories, The Pride of Willmar By Boyd Huppert, KARE 11 News



The landscape has changed at the state high school cross country meet at Saint Olaf College in Northfield.

A brand new wind turbine spins 350 feet above the course. Yet, it's still not the biggest turnaround in Minnesota high school running.

Three years ago, the Willmar boys cross country team didn't dream of making it to state. The team didn't win a meet all year, finishing ninth out of nine schools in the Central Lakes Conference.

"Our goal was not to get last every meet," says one former runner.

A farming community of 18,000 people, the best Willmar could hope for during cross country season was a record corn crop. But on the Minnesota prairie, seeds of change are sprouting.

"Good job Mohad, Mohamed. Good job Abshire," shouts Willmar cross country co-coach Jerry Popp. He yells again to get the attention of three more runners. "Abdi! Kaafi! Mufu!"

By some estimates Willmar is now home to 1,000 Somalis, coming in waves the past few years for jobs at the Jennie-O turkey plant.

Abdi Awale was the first Somali teen to join Willmar's cross country team. Abdi recruited Kaffi Adeys, who helped recruit Mohamed Bedel, who recruited Mustafa Yustuf, who recruited Ahmed Hussein.

Popp recalls, "They'd come up and say 'Popp, we got some new runners,' and then I'd go 'How do you know they're runners,' and they'd go, 'They're African. They're skinny.'"

Coach Popp extended the welcome and Somali runners kept coming. This year's boys's team roster included ten Somali runners, who mixed freely with Willmar's white runners during a recent post-practice stop for hot chocolate at Popp's home.

"I don't really see it as Somali and white kids," says runner Phil Cleary. "I see it as Abdi, I see it as Zach, I see it as Mufu, I see it as Mo. I don't really see it as we're different. We're just a team."

But not just any team. Three years ago Willmar didn't win a meet. Last year it won the Class AA state championship. This year Willmar arrived at the conference meet ranked fifth in the nation.

The conference meet ended with the top five runners finishing in this order - Willmar, Willmar, Willmar, Willmar, and Willmar.

"It's been an incredible story. The whole community is behind them," says a Willmar parent who came to watch.

Continued on next page

#### Pride of Willmar—continued

An even more meaningful story, when you consider it wasn't that long ago Willmar's Somalis were running for their lives, fleeing a civil war that cost them their homes, and worse. "Our dad died in the war," says Kaffi Adeys.

Mohamed Bedel lost his father in the war too. "He died two weeks before I was born."

For the roughly 40 Somali students at Willmar High School, the transition has not always been easy. Principal Rob Anderson says, "We saw kids come in this summer that had two years of formal education in 18 years."

"I didn't even know if I could finish high school," says Bedel. Now he and the other top Somali runners are weighing college athletic scholarship offers. They've been motivated to improve their grades to meet college entrance standards.

"I plan on studying physical education, being a coach," says Adeys, who hopes one day to coach cross country and track. Anderson says he's seen a tremendous amount of pride in the accomplishments of the cross country team that has, "helped these Somali kids blend in and integrate faster."

There may be no better proof of that than a recent noon meeting of a Willmar Lions Club. Runner Mustafa Yusuf lunched with local business leaders, even joining them in singing 'Home on the Range,' a song he admitted later he had never heard before. "They want to be known as Willmar kids," says Popp.

Which brings us back to the turnaround for Willmar's cross country team. Ten new Somali runners did not hurt. But neither did another new arrival. He's an immigrant from North Dakota who moved to Willmar to be closer to his adult children.

You know him as Coach Jerry Popp. North Dakota remembers him for his 39 boys and girls state team titles, a record unmatched in North Dakota history.

Three years ago Popp joined Willmar's existing coach, Disa Daucsavage. New coach, new Americans, and Willmar had a cross country convergence.

Prior to last year, just two teams had brought state titles home to Willmar, in any sport. So how couldn't Willmar be excited, when its boys cross country team won the Minnesota state team championship for the second consecutive year. "It's a new chapter in the American saga," said Somali native Abdulcadir Gall as he watched the Willmar cross country team accept its championship trophy.

Another banner for Willmar high school, another page turned in the land of 10,000 stories. It often takes time to get to know new neighbors. Willmar's kids said, "why wait?"

By Boyd Huppert, KARE 11 News

#### **Photojournalists:**

Jonathan Malat Nate Anderson Jim Douglas Paul Rovelstad Andy Sugdgen The End