

SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL COACHES ASSOCIATION



53rd Annual Awards Banquet

Sunday, July 14, 2024

1:00 p.m.

Mitchell Highland Conference Center

Special Feature: Special Olympics Awards



*Special Olympics
South Dakota*

**MAKE
CHANGE,**



**NOT
EXCUSES.**



**FIND YOUR
LOCAL RECRUITER**

In Memory

KATHERINE A. LARSON



Kathie graduated from Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD in 1974. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Augustana College in 1978 with a major in physical education along with her coaching certificate. Kathie began her teaching career with the Sioux Falls Public Schools as an elementary physical education teacher, as well as being the assistant gymnastics coach for Lincoln High School from 1975-79.

In 1980, Kathie was the head gymnastics coach for the University of North Dakota while completing her graduate work in physical education with an emphasis on counseling and guidance. During her time at UND, her team placed first at the Division II Regional Tournament and qualified two in the all-around competition for Nationals. This was the first time in history a UND gymnastics team qualified for nationals.

Kathie moved back to Sioux Falls after one year at UND to begin a long and successful career as an educational assistant in biology and gymnastic coach. As the assistant gymnastics coach for Lincoln High School from 1980-1991, along with head coach Lolly Forseth, Lincoln won nine regional championships, three runner-up state titles, and four state championships. Kathie won the "Assistant Gymnastics Coach of the Year" award by the South Dakota Gymnastics Coaches Association three times; 1988, 1989 and 1990. Kathie took over as the head gymnastics coach at Lincoln High School from 1991-1996.

Kathie believed strongly in professional growth and involvement in the state and national sports associations. Some of Kathie's professional affiliations were:

- South Dakota High School Coaches Association - 20 years
- South Dakota High School Coaches Association Board of Directors - 8 years
- South Dakota Gymnastics Judges Association - 20 years
- South Dakota Gymnastics Coaches Association - 20 years
- National High School Athletic Coaches Association - 16 years

Kathie attended eleven National High School Athletic Coaches Association clinics. The SDHSCA held a special place in Kathie's heart. She cherished the friendships that she developed amongst her peers throughout the state and nation.

"Kathie will be remembered for her sincerity and loyalty toward the people that she inspired throughout her lifetime and her spirit will live in our hearts forever." - Lolly Forseth (Lincoln Gymnastic Coach)

In 2010 Kathie Larson's sister, Linda Larson, started the Kathie Larson Coaches' Grant Program. The purpose of this grant is to provide financial assistance to members of the South Dakota High School Coaches Association to attend national coaching/athletic clinics, conferences or seminars. One grant must be awarded to a female, one awarded to a gymnastics coach and the remainder can be head or assistant athletic coaches or athletic directors. If no female or gymnastics coaches apply those grants may be awarded to other applicants. An individual must be a member of the SDHSCA and can only receive this grant once every five years. For further information go to the association website.

SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL COACHES ASSOCIATION 2023-2024 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS



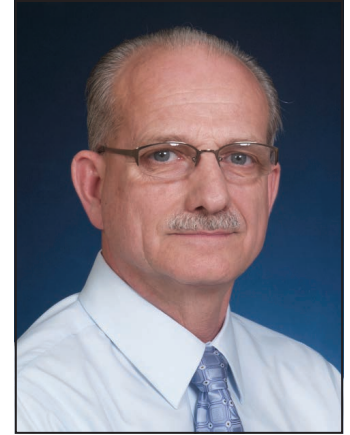
Linda DeBoer
Miller
President



Larry Aaker
Dell Rapids
President Elect



Sherri Knippling
Chamberlain
Past President



Jim Dorman
Sioux Falls
Executive Director

2024 Directors

Nathan Lamb, Deubrook Area
Cole Knippling, Mitchell
Riley Smith, Yankton
Brad DeBeer, Deubrook Area
Larry Aaker, Winner
Royce Wuertzer, St. Thomas More
Angela Grupe, Britton-Hecla
Mike Beardt, Todd County
Jason Olson, Rapid City Stevens
Rob Wilson, Beresford
Arionne Reiter, Aberdeen Central
Merle Aske, Aberdeen Central
Justin Clercx, Elk Point-Jefferson

2025 Directors

Russ Bailey, Custer
Shawn Lewis, Pierre
Paul Hendry, Rapid City Stevens
Bill Hansen, Viborg/Hurley
Tim Koisti, Hamlin
Kari Jung, Warner
Kendall Velgersdyk, Sioux Falls Christian
Amber Thomas, Watertown
Stephanie Ornelas, Spearfish

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Blake Gardner, Hill City
Clay Leonard, Red Cloud
Jim Jarovski, Sioux Falls Lincoln
Mark Senftner, Sully Buttes
Stephanie McCord, Kimball
Audra Rew, Mitchell
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Pat Moller, Mitchell
Shelbie Budmayr, Spearfish
Jenna Schroeder, Rapid City Central
Michael Ricke, Madison

Assistant Coach Directors

Chase Hirt, Harrisburg
Matt Mueller, Brandon Valley
Scott Embry, Sioux Falls Lincoln
Christy Wittstruck, Mitchell
Billie Jo Indahl, Burke
Terry Jastram, Sioux Falls Roosevelt
Steph Daly, Aberdeen Central
Toby Bryant, Harrisburg

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Lance Witte, Lower Brule
Eldon Marshall, White River
Steve DeNoyer, Todd County
Bob Kornely, Todd County
Russ Cournoyer, Red Cloud
Peri Strain, White River
Tayler Morgan, Red Cloud

Sport Secretary Directors

Kent Van Overschelde, Football
Lynn Frederick, Basketball
Chris Saylor, Wrestling
Blake Savey, Cross Country and Track & Field
Skye Bork, Gymnastics
Joey Liesinger, Golf
Jason Olson, Tennis
Nancy Hoeke, Volleyball
Bruce Kleinsasser, Cheer
Ryan Beier, Soccer
Amanda Stoesser, Dance
Paul Kuhlman, Softball
Jim Dorman, Athletic Directors

Active Past Presidents: Jerry Miller, Wayne Carney, Virg Polak, Georgia Adolph, John Nyhaug, Jim Dorman, Marc Murren, Carmen Robinson, Connie Nyhaug, Ken Bruckner, Deb Thill, Bill Weber, David Dolan, Bob Billotto, Arlin Likness, Bill Clements, Sheri Keck, Dan Mitchell, Bruce Kleinsasser, Mike Flakus, Jason Olson, Kent VanOverschelde

SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL COACHES ASSOCIATION

53RD ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET PROGRAM

Masters of Ceremonies Brittney Eide & Bruce Kleinsasser
Welcome.....Linda DeBoer, President
Introduction of Special Guests.....Linda DeBoer, President
Invocation Georgia Adolph, Past President

Luncheon

Awards:

2023 Spring Coach of the Year
Girls' Cross Country Coach of the Year
Boys' Cross Country Coach of the Year
Cheer Coach of the Year
Dance Coach of the Year
Girls' Soccer Coach of the Year
Boys' Soccer Coach of the Year
Football Coach of the Year
Volleyball Coach of the Year
Girls' Wrestling Coach of the Year
Boys' Wrestling Coach of the Year
Gymnastics Coach of the Year
Girls' Basketball Coach of the Year
Boys' Basketball Coach of the Year
Girls' Track & Field Coach of the Year
Boys' Track & Field Coach of the Year
Tennis Coach of the Year
Softball Coach of the Year
Girls' Golf Coach of the Year
Boys' Golf Coach of the Year
Assistant Coach of the Year in Middle School/Junior High
Assistant Coach of the Year in Boys' Sports
Assistant Coach of the Year in Girls' Sports
Athletic Director of the Year
Official of the Year
"Jerry P. Miller" Distinguished Service Award
Max Hawk Award
"Bryan Brewer" Power of Influence Award

Special Olympics South Dakota Awards.....Daryl Nordquist, Director

SDHSCA Hall of Fame

Closing Remarks & Passing of the Gavel.....Linda DeBoer, President
"Wayne Carney" Past President Award Larry Aaker, President Elect



2023 Girls' Cross Country Coach of the Year

Jessica Larson

Potter County

Coach Larson began her coaching career in 1999 as the head cross country and assistant track & field coach at Gettysburg High School, which later joined Hoven and eventually became Potter County. Over her 24-year tenure as head cross country coach, her girls' teams have won 64 championships, including 19 conference championships, four region championships, and nine top-eight finishes at state meets. Notably, the team was the Class B Girls Runner-up in 2021 and the Class B Girls State Champions in 2022 and 2023. The boys' team has also secured four championships under her leadership. Larson has served as the South Dakota Cross Country and Track & Field Coaches Association (SDCCTFCA) Area Director for nine years and as the association president. She has been named SDCCTFCA Area Head Cross Country Coach of the Year seven times and SDCCTFCA Area Assistant Track & Field Coach of the Year seven times. Additionally, she coached high school volleyball in the 2002 state tournament, coached middle school basketball, and continues to referee and line-judge volleyball games. Larson stated, "I am truly honored to receive this award, which is voted on by the South Dakota High School Coaches. It has been a privilege to coach student-athletes in the community where I grew up. The tremendous support I receive from my community, athletes, and parents is phenomenal and reflected in my runners. Watching young athletes succeed and perform at their best makes coaching incredibly rewarding." Larson has been married to Doug for 27 years, and they have three grown daughters: Delanie, Emilie, and Abbie.

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Other Nominees: Holly Evans - Chamberlain, Tony Thoreson - Brandon Valley, Andy Vandeest - Spearfish, Luke VanderLeest - Sioux Falls Christian

Previous Winners

1977-78	Gene Breemes - Rapid City
1978-79	Lowell Gilbertson - Arlington
1979-80	Jim Gemar - Lennox
1980-81	Fran Esser - Redfield
1981-82	Dave Scott - Hot Springs
1982-83	Russ Strande - Brookings
1983-84	Don Greenfield - Hoven
1984-85	Dick Wherry - Milbank
1985-86	Roger Loecker - Huron
1986-87	Dennis Ortman - Lennox
1987-88	Michael Oltmanns - Lennox
1988-89	Allan Weier - Platte
1989-90	Terry Ulmer - Hecla
1990-91	Michael Oltmanns - Lennox
1991-92	Tom Freece - Spearfish
1992-93	Chuck Seurer - Hoven
1993-94	Vic Godfrey - Watertown
1994-95	Don Lhotak - Bonesteel/Fairfax
1995-96	Marlene Lorenz - Arlington
1996-97	Rod Neuman - Faulkton
1997-98	Jeff Sylliaasen - Garretson
1998-99	Terry Vincent - Elkton
1999-2000	Jeff Sylliaasen - Garretson
2000-01	Todd Thorson - Ipswich
2001-02	Randy Fischer - McCook Central
2002-03	Forrest Flaagen - RC Stevens
2003-04	Dan Fitzsimmons - Yankton
2004-05	Dan Fitzsimmons - Yankton
2005-06	Don Sutera - Sioux Valley
2006-07	Dan Fitzsimmons - Yankton
2007-08	Gary Pepper - Scotland
2008-09	Bill Martens - Aberdeen Central
2009-10	Jason Bohl - Garretson
2010-11	Scott Peterson - Sturgis
2011-12	Todd Thorson - Ipswich
2012-13	Larry Buffington - Gayville-Volin
2013-14	Todd Thorson - Ipswich
2014-15	Robert Cordts - Madison
2015-16	Ralph Kroetch - Phillip
2016-17	Karen Karim - Custer
2017-18	Joe Noyes - Hill City
2018-19	Don Ray - Deubrook Area
2019-20	Karol Patterson - Wall
2020-21	Stephanie McCord - Kimball/White Lake
2021-22	Holly Evans - Chamberlain
2022-23	Jesse Coy - Rapid City Stevens



2023 Boys' Cross Country Coach of the Year

Ralph Kroetch

Philip

Coach Kroetch's high school cross-country coaching journey began out of necessity in the mid-1980s when his daughter wanted to switch to cross-country, but the school had no coach, he applied just seven days before the season started. Initially, more girls joined cross-country, but the boys' team achieved a third-place state podium finish in 2011 and 2013 and won their first State Cross Country Championship in 2014. The girls' team was runner-up at state in 2015, fourth in 2016, and sixth in 2018. The current boys' team placed fourth in 2021, followed by back-to-back state championships in 2022 and 2023. Over the past 20 years, the Scotties have stood on the state Class B Cross Country podium eight times, with 41 individual medal winners and 72 varsity wins. This success earned Coach Kroetch numerous Coach of the Year (COTY) awards including two-time WGP Conference Cross Country, two-time WGP Conference Track & Field, five-time SDCCTFCA Cross Country, two-time SDCCTFCA Assistant Track & Field, SDCCTFCA Head Track & Field, SDHSCA Girls Cross Country (2016), UTFCCCA Head Boys Cross Country (2023), and SDHSCA Boys Head Cross Country (2023). This team approach has brought honor to the team, families, school, and the community of Philip. Coach Anderson from Rapid City Christian once declared Philip the "Cross Country Capital of South Dakota." "None of this would have been possible without my year-round assistant coach and wife, Carol," stated Brad Kroetch. "Being chosen by my peers is the greatest honor of all."

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Other Nominees: Luke Jelen - Sioux Falls Lincoln, Joe Noyes - Hill City, Blake Proefrock - Sturgis, Eric Townsend - Milbank

Previous Winners

1977-78	Lyle Claussen - Brandon
1978-79	Jim Gemar - Lennox
1979-80	Rich Greeno - SF Lincoln
1980-81	Dave Archambault - Kyle
1981-82	Gene Breemes - RC Stevens
1982-83	Rick Evans - Marty
1983-84	Keith Christensen - Mitchell
1984-85	Jerry McElroy - Watertown
1985-86	John Houska - RC Central
1986-87	Dan Bohl - Hoven
1987-88	Dan Bohl - Hoven
1988-89	Kurt Schultz - Baltic
1989-90	Connie Nyhaug - Viborg
1990-91	John Houska - RC Central
1991-92	Gene Bormann - Yankton
1992-93	Neil Goter - Marty
1993-94	Gene Danielson - Salem
1994-95	Dave Scott - Hot Springs
1995-96	Forrest Flaagen - RC Stevens
1996-97	Bill Martens - Aberdeen Roncalli
1997-98	Forrest Flaagen - RC Stevens
1998-99	Don Ray - Deubrook
1999-2000	Forrest Flaagen - RC Stevens
2000-01	Kurt Schultz - Baltic
2001-02	Kurt Schultz - Baltic
2002-03	Tom McGough - Miller
2003-04	Bob Salmi - Aberdeen Central
2004-05	Tony Skonhovid - Wakonda
2005-06	Dan Fitzsimmons - Yankton
2006-07	Dan Fitzsimmons - Yankton
2007-08	James Benning - Estelline
2008-09	Shannon Jewett - Cheyenne/Eagle Butte
2009-10	Becky Bell-Krueger - Wess. Springs
2010-11	Tim Franz - Redfield/Doland
2011-12	Phil Bjorneberg - Parker
2012-13	Robert Cordts - Madison
2013-14	Ervin Gebhart - Elkton
2014-15	Jason Bohl - Garretson
2015-16	Tom Brantner - James Valley Christian
2016-17	Eric Pooley - Sioux Falls Lincoln
2017-18	Todd Thorson - Ipswich
2018-19	Jeff Larson - Warner
2019-20	Chris Riley - Belle Fourche
2020-21	Brad Burkhalter - Bison
2021-22	Tom McGough - Miller
2022-23	Jesse Coy - Rapid City Stevens



2023 Cheer Coach of the Year

Eve Langerock

Harrisburg

Coach Langerock has been the head coach of the Harrisburg Competitive Cheer team since the program's inception in 2017. She (along with assistant coach Maddie Miller) led the team to a third-place finish at the AA State Cheer competition. In the program's seven

years, the Tigers have placed in the top three at State four times, winning the AA Title in 2022. In 2023, the Tigers won the Metro Conference and the ESD Conference meets. Harrisburg Cheer has been ESD Champions for the past six seasons. Along with coaching competitive cheer, Langerock has served as the sideline cheer coach since 2015. The Tigers have received Spirit of Six honors in 2017, 2023, and 2024. Langerock and her husband Scott both coach and teach in Harrisburg, and with their teams/students being such a priority in their lives, it's a blessing for their own children (Maddi and Riggins) to be a part of the experiences, team culture, and relationships. "It's humbling to be recognized for this award by other coaches, but as all coaches understand, to build a successful program, a coach must have great athletes with supportive families, a patient athletic director who leads by example, and knowledgeable and dedicated assistant coaches," said Langerock. I am especially grateful for my family, who allowed me to spend so much time away from home following my passion for coaching. I am incredibly honored to receive this award and thankful for all the individuals who are a part of it."

Previous Winners	
1996-97	Rita Berg - Baltic
1997-98	Dawn Williams - Alexandria
1998-99	Patsy Hendricks - Brookings
1999-2000	Michele Koch - Stickney
2000-01	Lynn Senftner - Timber Lake
2001-02	Cindy Kopecky - Faulkton
2002-03	Bruce Kleinsasser - Aberdeen Central
2003-04	Patsy Hendricks - Brookings
2004-05	Brittney Eide - Corsica
2005-06	Deb Esser - Redfield
2006-07	Bruce Kleinsasser - Aberdeen Central
2007-08	Diane Gilbertz - Brandon Valley
2008-09	Cindy Kopecky - Faulkton
2009-10	Dawn Stluka - Pierre
2010-11	Krista Daily - Watertown
2011-12	Marla Tegethoff - Platte-Geddes
2012-13	Cami Bacon - Dell Rapids St. Mary's
2013-14	Sheri Keck - Rapid City Stevens
2014-15	Holly Morgan - Northwestern
2015-16	Kaye VanderVorst - Herreid-Selby
2016-17	Casie King - Sioux Valley
2017-18	Angela Bernard - Dakota Valley
2018-19	Valerie Ewing - Winner
2019-20	Marla Tegethoff - Platte-Geddes
2020-21	Eden White - Wolsley-Wessington
2021-22	Misty Mousseaux Begay - Lakota Tech
2022-23	Cami Bacon - St. Mary's

Other Nominees:

Val Ewing - Winner Area, Casie King - Sioux Valley, Diedra Nissen - Sioux Falls Jefferson, Quiana Pardee - Sioux Falls Roosevelt



2023 Dance Coach of the Year

Amanda Stoesser

Pierre

Coach Stoesser has been involved in the sport of Competitive Dance since its inception as an SDHSAA sport. Stoesser was a cheer and dance official for 11 years, judging numerous State Competitions. In the fall of 2018, she became the head competitive dance coach for T.F. Riggs High School,

growing the program to what it is today. Stoesser is also the current President of the South Dakota Dance Coaches Association and has previously served on the dance advisory board. Stoesser stated: "This award is very special to me because I have worked hard to grow my team technically, emotionally, and mentally. My team is more like a family, and we live each day at practice striving for big goals. Our team motto is 'Be big, be bold, be brave, Be somebody.' I am honored to coach in Pierre. The community, administration, athletes, and their families are a great support system that improves my team and myself daily." Stoesser lives in Fort Pierre with her husband AJ and four children: Aidan, Tucker, Cooper, and Hatta.

Previous Winners	
2016-17	Melissa Strong - Dakota Valley
2017-18	Cyndy Demers - Winner
2018-19	Tracy Kuhn - Brandon Valley
2019-20	Megan Smith - Huron
2020-21	Stacy Ryken - Yankton
2021-22	Ashley Hoffman - Brandon Valley
2022-23	Lynsey Andal - Beresford

Other Nominees:

Carey Baczwaski - Dakota Valley, Ashley Hoffman - Brandon Valley, Tressa Tringle - Sioux Falls Roosevelt



2023 Girls' Soccer Coach of the Year

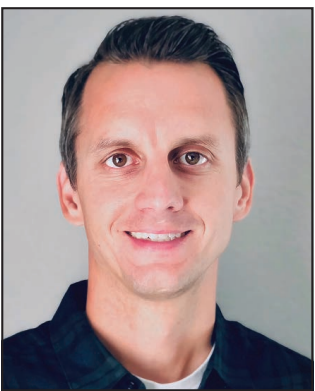
Scott Mullenmeister

Mitchell

Previous Winners	
2016-17	Steve Cogley - Aberdeen Central
2017-18	Zach Jurgens - Tea Area
2018-19	Sidney Zanin - Pierre
2019-20	Tyler Schuring - Yankton
2020-21	Greg Anderson - West Central
2021-22	Cori Bonte - SF Roosevelt
2022-23	Mark Anderson - Tea Area

Scott Mullenmeister joined the Mitchell Kernel Girls' Soccer Program as an assistant coach in 2018. He worked closely with head coach Bob Lemon to develop a solid girls' high school program that started to see some significant success. Most notable were back-to-back record-setting seasons in the 2019 and 2020 seasons and hosting the program's first-ever home playoff game. Coach Mullenmeister took on the head coaching position in 2023, leading the program to a record-setting 16-2 season and a trip to the state championship game, where they finished runner-up. The 2023 season was historic for the Mitchell soccer program, as they recorded numerous records, won their first-ever playoff game, and advanced to their first state championship game. Other notable achievements included being ESD champions, defeating several opponents the program had never beaten before, scoring a record 70 goals during the regular and postseason, record-setting attendance at our home playoff games, and the most all-conference and all-state selections in program history. Mullenmeister expressed his deep gratitude, saying, "It is truly an honor to be voted by my peers for this award with so many experienced and talented high school girls' soccer coaches around the state." He thanked the Mitchell community for their support, his assistant coaches, and the remarkable group of young ladies who made the past season memorable. Mullenmeister began coaching youth soccer with the Mitchell Park and Rec Program and contributed to player development and curriculum. He has led record-setting club teams and continues to coach club teams.

Other Nominees: Mark Anderson - Tea Area, Abby Berke - Sioux Falls Lincoln, Eric Christensen - Harrisburg, Luis Usera - Rapid City Stevens



2023 Boys' Soccer Coach of the Year

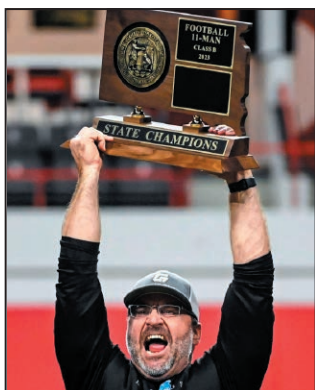
Curt Nelson

Vermillion

Previous Winners	
2016-17	Steve Cogley - Aberdeen Central
2017-18	Zach Jurgens - Tea Area
2018-19	Sidney Zanin - Pierre
2019-20	Tyler Schuring - Yankton
2020-21	Jim Hill - Spearfish
2021-22	Dave Dannenbring - Yankton
2022-23	Jeff Fierro - Rapid City Stevens

Curt Nelson, a dedicated figure in the soccer community, has been the head coach of the Vermillion boys' soccer program for 12 seasons, with a lifetime record of 60-49-8 and one state championship (2012). His commitment is evident in his role as the Class A Representative for the Soccer Advisory Committee and his active involvement in the Coaches Association. He has also shown his dedication in leading the Vermillion Youth Soccer League, serving as the Past President, President, and Director of Coaching. In 2022, Nelson's unwavering commitment was recognized with the Community Leader of the Year award by the Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Corporation for his work with youth soccer. He also serves on the United Way of Vermillion board of directors as Vice President, previously serving as Secretary. "I am honored to receive this award, especially considering my fellow nominees, who have had outstanding seasons and whom I hold in high regard," Nelson said. "I want to thank everyone in the community who volunteers and supports our soccer programs - it takes a village! Our high school administration, boosters, coaches, players, and parents have all helped shape the culture we've worked to develop over the past decade. Lastly, I'd like to thank my wife, Vanessa, and family for their dedicated support." Nelson is a senior engineering manager at Polaris in Vermillion, where he lives with his wife and their three young children.

Other Nominees: Ryan Beier - O'Gorman, Steven Hirsch - Sioux Falls Jefferson, Alex Nelson - Sioux Falls Lincoln



2023 Football Coach of the Year **Ben Kramer** Hot Springs

Coach Ben Kramer took over the Hot Springs football program in the fall of 2006. In his 18 years as head coach for the Bison, he has left a lasting impact and compiled a remarkable 104-66 record. This includes five semi-final appearances, five Black Hills Conference

Championships, and a Class 11B State Championship in 2023. His coaching career demonstrates how dedication and hard work impact achieving remarkable athletic success and excellence. As head football coach, Kramer serves as an assistant track & field coach for three years and middle school basketball coach for one year. He currently serves as middle school track & field coach, a role he has held for the last three years. Coach Kramer was named Region 8 Football Coach of the Year in 2012, Black Hills Conference Coach of the Year five times, and Class 11B Football Coach of the Year in 2023. "First, I would like to thank the South Dakota High School Coaches Association for this incredible honor," Kramer said. "Coaching young student-athletes over the past 23 years has been a pleasure. I would also like to thank the dedicated assistant coaches who have contributed to the success of the Hot Springs football program. Finally, I want to thank my family for their unwavering support over the years. I am honored to be selected as the 2023 South Dakota High School Football Coach of the Year".

Other Nominees: Jared Fredenburg - Sioux Falls Lincoln, Matt Grave - Parkston, Kerwin Hoellein - Warner, Jordan Huska - Dell Rapids

Previous Winners

1971-72	Burdell Coplan - Canton
1972-73	Ron Struck - Colome
1973-74	Dale McElhane - Watertown
1974-75	Harvey Naasz - Winner
1975-76	Max Hawk - Yankton
1976-77	Bill Witte - Onida
1977-78	Russ Morrell - Burke
1978-79	Bob Bozied - Pierre
1979-80	Glenn Sellevold - Brandon Valley
1980-81	Harvey Naasz - Winner
1981-82	Harvey Naasz - Winner
1982-83	Bob Garry - Lennox
1983-84	Rick Swenson - Belle Fourche
1984-85	Dan Thelen - Montrose
1985-86	Steve Entringer - Tripp
1986-87	Burdell Coplan - Canton
1987-88	Harvey Naasz - Winner
1988-89	Steve Kueter - SF O'Gorman
1989-90	Mike Klinedinst - Brandon Valley
1990-91	Clarence Kooistra - Garretson
1991-92	Arlin Likness - Hamlin
1992-93	Frank Podraza/Kim Johnson - Hitchcock/Tulare
1993-94	Keith Huber - Harrisburg
1994-95	Max Hawk - Yankton
1995-96	Russ Morrell - Bon Homme
1996-97	Doug Schooley - Watertown
1997-98	Mark Kool - Spearfish
1998-99	Gary Maffett - Brookings
1999-2000	Arlin Likness - Yankton
2000-01	John Nyhaug - Viborg
2001-02	Doug Schooley - Watertown
2002-03	Arlin Likness - Yankton
2003-04	Gary Hoffman - Spearfish
2004-05	Steve Gilbertson - Arlington
2005-06	Terry Dosch - Aberdeen Roncalli
2006-07	Terry Dosch - Aberdeen Roncalli
2007-08	Jeff VanLeur - Emery/Ethan
2008-09	Aaron Beavers - SF Lincoln
2009-10	Mike Flakus - Aberdeen Central
2010-11	Brian Hermanson - SF Washington
2011-12	Kim Nelson - SF Roosevelt
2012-13	Steve Hansen - Dell Rapids
2013-14	Vern Smith - Gettysburg
2014-15	Arlin Likness - Yankton
2015-16	Dan Aaker - Winner
2016-17	Kent Van Overschelde - Mitchell
2017-18	Brian Allmendinger - Gregory
2018-19	Byron Pudwill - Bon Homme
2019-20	Steve Steele - Pierre
2020-21	Chad Garrow - Brandon Valley
2021-22	Brandon White - Harrisburg
2022-23	Lex Heathershaw - Wall



2023 Volleyball Coach of the Year **Jean O'Hara** Chester Area

Jean O'Hara has been the head volleyball coach at Chester since 2002. During her 23 years as head coach, her teams have compiled a 528-161 record. O'Hara also coaches MS track & field and is the vocal music director for the Chester school district. Through the sport of

volleyball, she has taught young women how to become strong and confident individuals. She is proud to see her players become leaders both on and off the court. Her team's involvement with the youth volleyball program is a testament to the profound impact of her coaching. O'Hara has served as president of the SDVBCA and is currently serving as the Class B representative on the volleyball advisory board. O'Hara has led the Lady Flyers to 13 state tournament appearances, six state championship matches, and two state championship titles in 2015 and 2023. The Lady Flyer volleyball program is deeply grateful to the SDHSCA, the SDVBCA, and the Chester community for their support. "This award is a great honor," replied O'Hara. "I am humbled to receive this award." She accepts this award on behalf of all the young ladies who have contributed to the success of volleyball in Chester and called themselves Lady Flyers. She is proud to be their coach and honored to receive this award in dedication to all of them. Coach O'Hara said, "I want to thank the SDHSCA for their continued support for all coaches in South Dakota."

Other Nominees: Ronette Costain - Harrisburg, Kari Jung - Warner, Darci Wassenaar - Sioux Falls Christian, Krystal Weber - Rapid City Christian

Previous Winners

1982-83	Galen Busch - Mission
1983-84	Kim Weed - DeSmet
1984-85	Galen Busch - Mission
1985-86	Jim Mitchell - St. Francis
1986-87	Lunette Birrenkott - RC Stevens
1987-88	Cindy Nelson - Webster
1988-89	Kathy Hunt - SF O'Gorman
1989-90	Jill Christensen - Parker/Marion
1990-91	Spencer Brende - Elk Point
1991-92	Jonel Smith - RC Stevens
1992-93	Chris Schultz - Hurley
1993-94	Connie Nyhaug - Viborg
1994-95	Joyce Farrell - Madison
1995-96	Mike West - Philip
1996-97	Beth Schutt - Watertown
1997-98	Jeff Skatrud - Vermillion
1998-99	Shelly Buddenhagen - Huron
1999-2000	Kathy Graves - Northwestern
2000-01	Kelly Northrup - Hot Springs
2001-02	Carol Snyder - Harding County
2002-03	Greg Murley - Aberdeen Central
2003-04	Deb Thill - Mitchell
2004-05	Nancy Hoeke - Milbank
2005-06	Leasa Woodward - Yankton
2006-07	Nora Groft - Northwestern
2007-08	Kacy Kienholz - Pierre
2008-09	Amy Tyler - Wagner
2009-10	Dennis Northrup - Aberdeen Central
2010-11	Anita Boeck - Arlington
2011-12	Erika Paladino-Hazlett - SF Lincoln
2012-13	Kari Jung - Warner
2013-14	Julie Kolbeck - O'Gorman
2014-15	Darci Wassenaar - SF Christian
2015-16	Jean Benson - Chester Area
2016-17	Ronette Costain - Harrisburg
2017-18	Nora Groft - Northwestern
2018-19	Linda DeBoer - Miller
2019-20	Rosemary Bellum - Watertown
2020-21	Shelly Buddenhagen - Huron
2021-22	Dennis Northrup - Garretson
2022-23	Kari Jung - Warner



2024 Girls' Wrestling Coach of the Year **David Michaud** Lakota Tech

Previous Winners	
2022-23	Matt Thorson - Pierre

Coach Michaud recently completed his 35th year as a head wrestling coach in South Dakota, including 32½ years at Pine Ridge High School. During his tenure at Pine Ridge, he coached six state finalists, three of whom won titles, and served as the head coach of the AAU program. After retiring from Pine Ridge on December 31, 2021, Coach Michaud was asked to start a new wrestling program at Lakota

Tech High School, which had just opened on the reservation. His first practice was on January 21, 2022, with six boys and six girls. Remarkably, five weeks later, he had four girls qualify for the state tournament, with two becoming the school's first state place winners. In the 2022-23 season, Michaud's team grew to include 12 girls and 17 boys. Two boys and nine girls qualified for the state tournament, with five girls placing and the team achieving a fourth-place finish. In his second full year at Lakota Tech, the program expanded to 53 wrestlers, including 18 girls. The girls' team won nine tournaments and placed third at the unofficial state dual tournament. Eleven girls and three boys qualified for the state tournament, resulting in the school's first male state place winner and four female place winners. Notably, one girl became the school's first state champion in any sport, earning the title of Outstanding Wrestler, and the team placed fifth overall. Michaud's remarkable coaching career continues to inspire and develop young athletes, leaving a lasting impact on the wrestling community in South Dakota.

Other Nominees: Jeremy Ask - Canton; Dexter Galkowski - Watertown; Matt Thorson - Pierre



2024 Boys' Wrestling Coach of the Year **Mike Abell** Sturgis

Previous Winners	
1971-72	Dick Bleth - Faulkton
1972-73	Marv Sherrill - Watertown
1973-74	Chuck Scheppy - Webster
1974-75	Al Bowar - Garretson
1975-76	Tom Long - Rapid City
1976-77	Rich Strande - Redfield
1977-78	Jerry Opbroek - Mitchell
1978-79	Gerald Schlekeway - Vermillion
1979-80	Rod Moon - Mobridge
1980-81	Fran Esser - Redfield
1981-82	Bill Boggess - Mitchell
1982-83	Willie Seibel - Vermillion
1983-84	Fran Esser - Redfield
1984-85	Bob Dolezal - Phillip
1985-86	Bob Johnson - Kimball
1986-87	Mike Kadera - Spearfish
1987-88	Gary Wallman - Freeman
1988-89	Rich Strande - Brookings
1989-90	Bob Hirsch - Milbank
1990-91	Andy Tate - Mitchell
1991-92	Wayne Scherr - Wagner
1992-93	Bob Hirsch - Milbank
1993-94	Ken Cihak - Huron
1994-95	Rick Jensen - Pierre
1995-96	Ken Ruml - Howard
1996-97	Andy Tate - Mitchell
1997-98	Brad Kelvington - Harrisburg
1998-99	Marv Sherrill - Watertown
1999-2000	John Donovan - Harding County
2000-01	Tim Wishard - RC Stevens
2001-02	Mark Stoebner - Bon Homme
2002-03	Marv Sherrill - Watertown
2003-04	Bill Kaiser - Winner
2004-05	Steve Keszler - Sturgis
2005-06	Joe Meyer - Parker
2006-07	Wade Rausch - Ipswich
2007-08	Ernie Valentine - Wagner
2008-09	Fran Esser - Redfield
2009-10	Steve Keszler - Sturgis
2010-11	Wade Rausch - Webster Area
2011-12	Ryan Noyes - Pierre
2012-13	Jared Digmann - Parkston
2013-14	Rocky Burkett - Aberdeen Central
2014-15	Mark Stoebner - Bon Homme
2015-16	Shawn Lewis - Pierre Riggs
2016-17	Matt Donnelly - Kadoka Area/Phillip/Wall
2017-18	Jeremy Swenson - Canton
2018-19	Spencer Novotny - Winner
2019-20	John Donovan - Chamberlain
2020-21	Thomas Konechne - Kimball/White Lake/Platte/Geddes
2021-22	Derek Outland - Brandon Valley
2022-23	Matt Thorson - Pierre

Mike Abell has dedicated 20 years to coaching wrestling, with 19 years spent as a head coach. His coaching journey began in Lead, where he refined his skills for four years before transitioning to Spearfish, where he made a significant impact over eight years. Coach Abell

has been an integral part of Sturgis High School's wrestling program for the past eight years. Coach Abell has emphasized teamwork and perseverance throughout his coaching career, achieving a notable dual record of 177-43 and guiding 106 wrestlers to state tournament placements. His teams have consistently excelled, earning team trophies at the state tournament on 12 occasions. Notably, during the 2023-24 season, he led his team to both a State A Dual Championship and a State A Individual Team Championship, with all 14 wrestlers qualifying and 12 placing in the top six. Under Coach Abell's leadership, the Scoopers have secured seven conference titles in the Black Hills Conference and added three region titles. His coaching prowess has been recognized with three Region 4A Coach of the Year awards. Coach Abell reflected on his achievements, saying, "I am incredibly proud of this year's team and grateful for this award. None of this would be possible without my athletes' dedication, my coaching staff's backing, and my family's unwavering support." He is a South Dakota Wrestling Coaches Association board member, contributing to the sport's development and success.

Other Nominees: Donnie Bowden - Aberdeen Central; Luke Weber - Phillip/Kadoka Area/Wall Badlands; Jared Webster - Custer



2024 Gymnastics Coach of the Year

Les Coin

Sioux Falls Lincoln

Les Coin finished his 31st year of coaching high school gymnastics. He spent seven years coaching the Rapid City Stevens team under head coach Sheri Keck. He moved to Sioux Falls in 2000 and started coaching the Lincoln gymnastics team. This will be his 25th season

coaching Lincoln's gymnastics team. His teams have won five State Championships, four Runners-up, and several top-five team finishes at State. He has consistently had an individual athlete competing at the State Meet for 31 years. He has coached many individual state champions, including Taylor Baker, who had 13 individual state titles. Coin is the President of the SD Gymnastics Coaches Association for the 2nd time and was vice president of the SDHSGCA twice. Coach Coin played a significant role in enhancing the gymnastics experience in South Dakota. His efforts led to the introduction of spring floors and wider bars for taller gymnasts. His impact is recognized with two Assistant Coach of the Year awards and two Coaches Leadership Awards. He is proud to be a high school gymnastics coach in South Dakota and is honored to be part of the fantastic community of gymnastics coaches and judges. In his own words, "I accept this award on behalf of all the coaches, gymnasts, judges, athletic directors, and parents that I have had the honor of meeting over my 32 years of coaching."

Other Nominees: Callie Aylward - Harrisburg; Vicky Fisher - Watertown; Angela Grupe - Britton-Hecia; Sherri Johnson - Estelline/Hendricks

Previous Winners

- 1976-77 Dawn Wilber - Doland
- 1977-78 Charlene Johnson - Mitchell
- 1978-79 Jackie Hanson - Groton
- 1979-80 Dawn Wilber - Miller
- 1980-81 Bill Beesley - Wagner
- 1981-82 Lolly Forseth - SF Lincoln
- 1982-83 Mark Upward - Vermillion
- 1983-84 Mark Upward - Vermillion
- 1984-85 Lolly Forseth - SF Lincoln
- 1985-86 Lolly Forseth - SF Lincoln
- 1986-87 Sandy Greenough - Miller/Wessington
- 1987-88 Patty Jorgenson - Brookings
- 1988-89 Mark Upward - Vermillion
- 1989-90 Le Anne Vette - Spearfish
- 1990-91 Lolly Forseth - SF Lincoln
- 1991-92 Cliff Jorgenson - Stanley County
- 1992-93 Mark Bellum - Watertown
- 1993-94 Sherri Olson - Mitchell
- 1994-95 Linda Collignon - Madison
- 1995-96 Randy Hagen - RC Central
- 1996-97 Dan Fitzsimmons - Yankton
- 1997-98 Susan Heitmann - Britton
- 1998-99 Sheri Keck - RC Stevens
- 1999-2000 Linda Collignon - Madison
- 2000-01 Linda Collignon - Madison
- 2001-02 Barb Bauder - Mitchell
- 2002-03 Lana Bauer - SF O'Gorman
- 2003-04 Maridee Wiese - Madison
- 2004-05 Shawn Bauer - SF O'Gorman
- 2005-06 Mark Bellum - Watertown
- 2006-07 Audra Rew - Mitchell
- 2007-08 Jeanne Sinclair - Milbank
- 2008-09 Melissa Van Gilder - Watertown
- 2009-10 Lynn Gudmundson - Deuel
- 2010-11 Lynn Gudmundson - Deuel
- 2011-12 Vicky Fisher - Watertown
- 2012-13 Mark Upward - Vermillion
- 2013-14 Sherri Knippling - Chamberlain
- 2014-15 Angela Grupe - Britton-Hecia
- 2015-16 Maridee Dossett - Madison
- 2016-17 Justin Olson - Yankton
- 2017-18 Caitlin Steffensen - Deuel
- 2018-19 Sherri Johnson - Estelline/Hendricks
- 2019-20 Rachelle Engbrecht - Brookings
- 2020-21 Audra Rew - Mitchell
- 2021-22 Maridee Dossett - Madison
- 2022-23 Sherri Johnson - Estelline/Hendricks



2024 Girls' Basketball Coach of the Year

Tucker Tornberg

Centerville

Tucker Tornberg just completed his seventh season as the head girls' basketball coach of the Centerville Tornados. He has been a science teacher, assistant football coach, and assistant boys' basketball coach as well during his tenure. He recently accepted a new

position as assistant principal for the district. In his first year as the head girls' basketball coach, the team was coming off a season where the school did not have a varsity team. In the 2023-24 season, the team secured their first conference championship since 2013, set a school record for points allowed per game for the third consecutive year, and advanced to the SODAK 16 for the third straight season. The Tornados made their first state tournament appearance since 2011 and won the first state championship in school history. They finished the year with a 24-2 record, the best in school history. Coach Tornberg is a member of the South Dakota High School Coaches Association and the South Dakota Basketball Coaches Association and has served as a mentor for the Women's Basketball Coaches Association. He and his wife Brittany recently welcomed their first child, Harrison, into the world. Coach Tornberg said, "I am honored to win this award and accept it for the entire Centerville Tornado school and community. This award is a sign of the passion and commitment of our assistant coaches, managers, players, parents, and fans. It also shows the value of past and present players' dedication, hard work, and devotion to something bigger than themselves."

Other Nominees: Jon Brooks - Vermillion; Tara King - Arlington; Kent Kolsrud - O'Gorman

Previous Winners

- 1976-77 Gale Lundberg - Clear Lake
- 1977-78 Bob Winter - Yankton
- 1978-79 Fred Tibbetts - Jefferson
- 1979-80 Gale Lundberg - Clear Lake
- 1980-81 Joe Lockwood - SF Washington
- 1981-82 Joe Lockwood - SF Washington
- 1982-83 Don Shields - Pierre
- 1983-84 Jerry Altenburg - Armour
- 1984-85 Jim Holwerda - Brookings
- 1985-86 Charlie Sizer - Miller
- 1986-87 Bob Hopkins - Bennett County
- 1987-88 Gordon Berquist - Milbank
- 1988-89 Ron Flynn - Wakonda
- 1989-90 Byron Utter - Langford
- 1990-91 Cheryl Jenner - Sisseton
- 1991-92 Wade Rozell - Mellete
- 1992-93 Sheila Huth - Hurley
- 1993-94 Randi Faeth - Newell
- 1994-95 Tim Pflanz - Wakonda
- 1995-96 Bob Sittig - Baltic
- 1996-97 Doug Pesicka - Yankton
- 1997-98 Neil Goter - Wagner
- 1998-99 Fred Tibbetts - SF Roosevelt
- 1999-2000 Doug Groth - Selby
- 2000-01 Todd Jutting - Waverly/South Shore
- 2001-02 Bob Sittig - Baltic
- 2002-03 Dean Leuning - Tri-Valley
- 2003-04 Jason Christenson - Mount Vernon
- 2004-05 Brad Noem - Hamlin
- 2005-06 Jeff Dvorak - Dell Rapids
- 2006-07 Mark Senftner - Sully Buttes
- 2007-08 Nate Malchow - SF Washington
- 2008-09 Pat McClemans - Watertown
- 2009-10 Steve Kruase - Elkton-Lake Benton
- 2010-11 Mark Stadem - Brandon Valley
- 2011-12 Rob Van Laecken - Parkston
- 2012-13 Stewart Bohle - Warner
- 2013-14 Nate Malchow - SF Washington
- 2014-15 Jamie Parish - SF Washington
- 2015-16 Dawn Seiler - Aberdeen Central
- 2016-17 Mark Senftner - Sully Buttes
- 2017-18 Leslie Tvedt - Castlewood
- 2018-19 Larry Aaker - Winner
- 2019-20 Lorisia Broughton - Corsica-Stickney
- 2020-21 Derek Larson - Aberdeen Roncalli
- 2021-22 Molly Mason - Viborg-Hurley
- 2022-23 Tim Koisti - Hamlin



2024 Boys' Basketball Coach of the Year **Nick Koepsell** Howard

Nick Koepsell has been the head coach of the Howard boys' basketball team for six years and compiled a record of 97-39. At his alma mater, Howard High School, his passion for the school and community was evident.

Nick first entered the boys' basketball program as a youth coach, followed by a few years as the junior high coach before taking over as head coach in 2018. The Howard Tigers boys' basketball team had only won 6 games in the 5 years prior to Nick taking rein as head coach. He led the team to a 7-15 season in his first year. He was prepared to change the culture of Howard boys' basketball with a focus on defense, fundamentals, and discipline. Nick is a two-time recipient of the South Dakota Basketball Coaches Association (SDBCA) Region Coach of the Year award. In his six years as head coach, his team has won the Cornbelt Conference title three times, two qualifiers for the SoDak 16, advanced to the state tournament once, and most notably, won a state championship in 2024. He has also had the honor of coaching four all-state players. Nick has been married to Tonya for 22 years and has three children: Kenedy, Luke, and Cooper. "I am honored to have been voted on by my peers to be recognized for this award. I have been fortunate to have had the opportunity to coach great student-athletes, work with outstanding assistant coaches, and have such a supportive family.

Other Nominees: Ryker Kreutzfeldt - Mitchell; Craig Nelson - Brandon Valley; Todd Neuendorf - Hamlin; Mike Schouten - Sioux Falls Christian

Previous Winners

- 1971-72 Bob Dockter - Miller
- 1972-73 John Bruce - Britton
- 1973-74 Gayle Hoover - Parker
- 1974-75 Ron Bennett - Freeman
- 1975-76 Pierre Du Charme - Aberdeen
- 1976-77 Jim Thorson - Webster
- 1977-78 Roger Schaffer - Elk Point
- 1978-79 Roger Pries - Pierre
- 1979-80 Dan Moran - Stickney
- 1980-81 Dan Moran - Stickney
- 1981-82 Bob Judson - Pierre
- 1982-83 Wayne Carney - Hamlin
- 1983-84 Bob White - Wakonda
- 1984-85 Gary Munsen - Mitchell
- 1985-86 Larry Hessing -
New Holland Dakota Christian
- 1986-87 Jesse Mendoza - Pine Ridge
- 1987-88 Terry Small - Aberdeen Central
- 1988-89 Jay Hennies - Vermillion
- 1989-90 Jim Trett - Northwestern
- 1990-91 Tim Hooten - Lennox
- 1991-92 Kraig Ulveling - Watertown
- 1992-93 Chuck Welke - Warner
- 1993-94 Gene Lorenz - Madison
- 1994-95 Marv McCune - DeSmet
- 1995-96 Jim Schlekeway - Mobridge
- 1996-97 Rick Weber - Flandreau
- 1997-98 Brad Thorson - Brandon Valley
- 1998-99 Galen Swenson - Castlewood
- 1999-2000 Dan Sabers - Tripp/Delmont
- 2000-01 Galen Swenson - Castlewood
- 2001-02 Dan Martin - Spearfish
- 2002-03 Jeff Larson - Lennox
- 2003-04 Tim Buddenhagen - Huron
- 2004-05 Ervin Gebhart - Elkton
- 2005-06 Mike Parry - Arlington
- 2006-07 Derek Robey - SF O'Gorman
- 2007-08 Frank Cutler - Platte/Geddies
- 2008-09 Robin Burgard - SF Lincoln
- 2009-10 Eldon Marshall - White River
- 2010-11 Mike Tuschen - Corsica/Stickney
- 2011-12 Derek Robey - SF O'Gorman
- 2012-13 Terry Becker - Pierre
- 2013-14 Michael Ricke - Madison
- 2014-15 Paul Raasch - Langford Area
- 2015-16 Mike Schouten - SF Christian
- 2016-17 Scott Schultz - Bridgewater-Emery
- 2017-18 Chris Haynes - Yankton
- 2018-19 Brent Decker - Brandon Valley
- 2019-20 Galen Schoenefeld - Viborg-Hurley
- 2020-21 Jeff Gruenhagen - DeSmet
- 2021-22 Mitch Begeman - SF Roosevelt
- 2022-23 Jason Kleis - Dakota Valley



2024 Girls' Track & Field Coach of the Year **Tyler Uecker** Burke

Tyler Uecker has been coaching and teaching since he was a teenager, starting with little league baseball and swimming lessons. After graduating from Freeman Public School, he earned his teaching degree from Black Hills State University. He began his career in McLaughlin, SD,

coaching football and track & field from 2011-2014. He then taught at the South Central School District in Bonesteel, coaching football, basketball, and track & field. When South Central's middle and high school closed, he moved to Burke, continuing to coach the Burke Cougars from 2014 to 2020. In 2020, he taught at Mickelson Middle School in Brookings, coaching junior high football, before returning to Burke in 2021. Uecker thanks the South Dakota High School Coaches Association for this honor. He finds peace and adventure in working with students in the classroom and during practice and games. He cannot thank the student-athletes enough for all they have taught him. They truly have made him a better version of himself. He has had a lot of help from mentors such as Mike Sebern, Erik Person, and Ron Determan, who showed him the ropes. "I want to thank my family, especially my wife Hilary, for their support and enabling me to pursue my passion even when it requires being away from home," Uecker states. "Awards like this don't happen without outstanding student-athletes and assistant coaches. This is certainly a testament to them."

Other Nominees: Samantha Hicks - Bennett County; Aaron Nida - Spearfish; Troy Sturgeon - Brandon Valley; Luke Vander Leest - Sioux Falls Christian

Previous Winners

- 1974-75 Merline Doyle - Wall
- 1975-76 Laverne Diede - Freeman
- 1976-77 Marv Sherrill - Watertown
- 1977-78 Russ Strande - Brookings
- 1978-79 Jim Miner - Yankton
- 1979-80 Jack Rasmussen - Salem
- 1980-81 Cal Corey - Sturgis
- 1981-82 Larry Lundeen - Pierre
- 1982-83 Randy Hermansen - Eureka
- 1983-84 Eldon Knudson - Custer
- 1984-85 John Huth - Aberdeen Central
- 1985-86 John Huth - Aberdeen Central
- 1986-87 Judy Busch - Sioux Falls Lincoln
- 1987-88 John Nyhaug - Viborg
- 1988-89 Larry Guischer - Bridgewater
- 1989-90 Klark Thompsen - Lake Preston
- 1990-91 Klark Thompsen - Lake Preston
- 1991-92 John Houska - Rapid City Central
- 1992-93 Duane Tordoff - Spearfish
- 1993-94 Norm Stethem - Hoven
- 1994-95 Gene Brownell - Aberdeen Central
- 1995-96 Gene Brownell - Aberdeen Central
- 1996-97 Dave Scott - Hot Springs
- 1997-98 Norb Reuer - Faulkton
- 1998-99 Richard Luther - Lennox
- 1999-2000 Curtis Sage - Marion
- 2000-01 Lemoine Trout - Rapid City Stevens
- 2001-02 Ken Bruckner - Menno
- 2002-03 Ray Slaba - Bonesteel/Fairfax
- 2003-04 Paul Hendry - Rapid City Stevens
- 2004-05 Kristi Rieger - Sioux Falls Roosevelt
- 2005-06 Jim McGuire - Vermillion
- 2006-07 Allyson Hiedeman - Colman/Egan
- 2007-08 Kim DeRouche - Hanson
- 2008-09 David Dolan - Rapid City Central
- 2009-10 Paul Hendry - Rapid City Stevens
- 2010-11 Joan Peters - West Central
- 2011-12 Todd Thorson - Ipswich
- 2012-13 Jim Appl - Aberdeen Central
- 2013-14 Bob Garry - Sioux Falls Christian
- 2014-15 Troy Sturgeon - Brandon Valley
- 2015-16 Misty Larson - Chester Area
- 2016-17 Rachelle DeBeer - Deubrook Area
- 2017-18 Bill Abell - Belle Fourche
- 2018-19 Rachelle DeBeer - Deubrook Area
- 2020-21 Julie Preheim - Colman-Egan
- 2021-22 Karen Karim - Custer
- 2022-23 Julie Preheim - Colman-Egan



2024 Boys' Track & Field Coach of the Year **Brad DeBeer** Deubrook Area

Soon after high school, Coach DeBeer began coaching with the summer recreation program in Volga, SD. His passion for athletics deepened, leading him to coach junior high basketball at Sioux Valley while attending SDSU. After transferring to Dakota State University, DeBeer graduated in 1997 with an elementary and middle school education degree and multiple coaching endorsements. DeBeer was a special education para at Sioux Valley, coaching junior high boys' basketball. In 1998, he transitioned to a sales rep at Depot Radio. In 2000, he got a middle school teaching and coaching position at Hamlin for two seasons. DeBeer returned to Depot Radio in 2002 as a morning show host and became the head girls' basketball coach at Sioux Valley. He led the team to a 22-4 record and third place in the Class A State Tournament in 2007-2008. In 2008, he took on the head girls' basketball coach role at Deubrook Area Schools while continuing his morning show duties until 2022. DeBeer began working with South Dakota Public Broadcasting during state volleyball tournaments in 2011 and later started calling state basketball tournaments. He has coached basketball for 25 years, 20 as a head girl's coach, and track & field for 15 years, the last 7 as the head boy's coach at Deubrook. His wife, Rachele, will start her 15th year as the head volleyball and girl's track & field coach at Deubrook after 13 years at Sioux Valley. They have a daughter, Shaylee Schultz, a 2019 Deubrook and 2023 Dakota State University graduate who teaches and coaches in Menno.

Other Nominees: Jim Jarovski - Sioux Falls Lincoln; Karen Karim - Custer; Kurt Stukel - Gregory; Luke Vander Leest - Sioux Falls Christian

Previous Winners

1971-72 David Vogelgesang - Willow Lake
1972-73 Rich Greeno - Sioux Falls Lincoln
1973-74 Jake Schlicht - Yankton
1974-75 Eldon Barnes - Flandreau
1975-76 Ron Lounsbury - Centerville
1976-77 Rod Knutson - Elk Point
1977-78 Buzz Stevenson - Huron
1978-79 Don Diede - Freeman
1979-80 Dick Brook - SF Washington
1980-81 Jerry McElroy - Watertown
1981-82 Jim Cordts - Madison
1982-83 Jim Egeberg - Groton
1983-84 Bryan Brace - Volga
1984-85 Lyle Claussen - Brandon Valley
1985-86 Vern Miller - Pierre
1986-87 Tom Main - Chester
1987-88 Ken Linstrom - Rapid City Stevens
1988-89 Ed Evenson - Beresford
1989-90 Jim Sattler - Menno
1990-91 Jerry Kippes - Marion
1991-92 Jim Miner - Yankton
1992-93 Jerome Garry - Madison
1993-94 Jerome Garry - Madison
1994-95 Jim Sattler - Menno
1995-96 Jim Miner - Yankton
1996-97 John Houska - Rapid City Central
1997-98 Vic Godfrey - Watertown
1998-99 Duane Tordoff - Spearfish
1999-2000 Scott Muckey - Corsica
2000-01 Phil Moore - White Lake
2001-02 Allen Weier - Platte
2002-03 Richard Luther - Lennox
2003-04 Bob Billotto - Eureka
2004-05 Brad Olson - Milbank
2005-06 Geoff Gross - Pierre
2006-07 Gary Pepper - Scotland
2007-08 Brock Rops - SF Christian
2008-09 Larry Buffington - Gayville-Volin
2009-10 Jerry Rhodes - Philip
2010-11 Everett Gebhart - SF Washington
2011-12 John Nyhaug - Viborg/Hurley
2012-13 Craig Black - Custer
2013-14 Jim Jarovski - Sioux Falls Lincoln
2014-15 Scott Benson - St. Thomas More
2015-16 Chad Rohde - Watertown
2016-17 Jeff Larsen - Colman-Egan
2017-18 Rory Hermesen - Freeman Public
2018-19 Bill Hansen - Viborg-Hurley
2020-21 Tyler Payor - Hanson
2021-22 Misty Larson - Chester Area
2022-23 Kurt Stukel - Gregory



2024 Tennis Coach of the Year **John Williams** Sioux Falls Christian

Coach Williams began coaching the Sioux Falls Christian tennis team in 2021. Prior to becoming head coach, he had worked with the team as a volunteer for several years. The team won the State A title in his first season as head coach. In 2022, the team placed 4th; in 2023, they placed 3rd; and in 2024, they again won the State A championship. Besides head coaching the boys' team, he has also been the assistant coach for the Chargers girls' tennis team for three seasons, helping them win their own State A title in the fall of 2023. Williams humbly and gratefully accepts this award and wishes to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of his assistant coaches, Rollie Woodward and Matt Westenberg. Williams thanks God for giving him the opportunity to coach and mentor these young men and women. He would also like to thank his family: his wife of 15 years, Laura, and two daughters, Ericka and Kennedy, who come and cheer on the team at many events. Williams looks forward to the opportunity and privilege of continuing to coach high school tennis for many years.

Other Nominees: Tim Hedblom - Huron; Tom Krueger - Sioux Falls Lincoln; Pat Moller - Mitchell; Kevin Plank - Lennox

Previous Winners

1983-84 Phil Trautner - Pierre
1984-85 Sherwood Hatch - Brookings
1985-86 Phil Trautner - Pierre
1986-87 Hank Hulst - Huron
1987-88 Gregg Talcott - SF O'Gorman
1988-89 Chris Dummermuth - SF Lincoln
1989-90 Phil Trautner - Pierre
1990-91 Chris Dummermuth - SF Lincoln
1991-92 Craig Ulveling - Watertown
1992-93 Mike Begeman - SF O'Gorman
1993-94 Mike Begeman - SF O'Gorman
1994-95 Gayle Klein - Mitchell
1995-96 Chris Dummermuth - SF Lincoln
1996-97 Chris Dummermuth - SF Lincoln
1997-98 Chris Dummermuth - SF Lincoln
1998-99 Lana Bauer - SF O'Gorman
1999-2000 Matt Johnson - SF Washington
2000-01 Matt Johnson - SF Washington
2001-02 Tim Mulhair - Yankton
2002-03 Don Barnes - SF O'Gorman
2003-04 Chris Dummermuth - SF Lincoln
2004-05 Don Barnes - SF O'Gorman
2005-06 Doug Sims - Madison
2005-07 Colette Qualm - Aberdeen Roncalli
2006-07 Judy Rezzatto - Aberdeen Roncalli
2006-07 Scott Ewald - Watertown
2007-08 Jeff Schlekeway - Pierre
2007-08 Lisa Link - Aberdeen Central
2008-09 Mark Schlekeway - Brandon Valley
2008-09 Jim Dahl - Milbank
2009-10 Jason Olson - RC Stevens
2009-10 Don Barnes - SF O'Gorman
2010-11 Jason Olson - RC Stevens
2010-11 Jeff Schlekeway - Pierre
2011-12 Braden Bradfield - SF Washington
2012-13 Scott Ewald - Watertown
2013-14 Pat Moller - Mitchell
2014-15 Tom Krueger - SF Lincoln
2015-16 Keiz Schultz - St. Thomas More
2016-17 Matt Termansen - Harrisburg
2017-18 Kerry Dilley - T.F. Riggs, Pierre
2018-19 Mike Zerr - Brandon Valley
2019-20 John Vogel - Aberdeen Central
2020-21 Kevin Plank - Lennox
2021-22 Ryan Hage - Yankton
2022-23 Tim Hedblom - Huron



**2024 Softball
Coach of the Year
Laura Biagi
Chester Area**

Previous Winners	
2022-23	Heather Harden - West Central

After Laura Biagi graduated from college, she became an assistant coach at Dakota State. In her second year of teaching, she moved to Chester. Over the last decade, she has coached youth volleyball, youth softball, travel softball, and T-ball. In 2023, life presented a new and exciting opportunity for Biagi when Chester became the latest school to make softball a school-sanctioned sport. It wasn't necessarily a matter of if but when she would throw her hat in the ring to become the first head softball coach in Chester's history. The 2024 softball season will be one to remember. Coach Biagi and assistant coach Jami Wolf led the Chester Flyers to a State Championship victory in their first season. With a 20-1 record, the Flyers produced two All-Tournament players from the State Tournament, two All-State players, and the latest Head Softball Coach of the Year. Biagi is married to her husband Greg of 12 years, whom she met while attending DSU. They reside in Madison, SD, where they have four children, Grace, Quinn, Giovanni, & Rocco, along with their dog, Milo. "It is with great support and love from my family that I can coach. The Chester community is one of a kind, and I am proud and appreciative to be a part of it. Finally, I am extremely thankful to coach with Coach Wolf and work with these student-athletes," said Biagi. "They show up every day, work hard, and have a lot of fun doing it!"

Other Nominees: Cali Christianson - Elkton-Lake Benton; Trent Dlugosh - Sioux Falls Lincoln; Heather Harden - West Central; Emmie Uitts - Tea Area



**2024 Girls' Golf
Coach of the Year
Adam Anderson
Chester Area**

Previous Winners	
2005-06	John Brown - Clark
2006-07	Joan Rachetto - Lead/Deadwood
2007-08	Todd Schlimgen - Colman-Egan
2008-09	Eric Norden - Parkston
2009-10	Rod Garrison - SF O'Gorman
2010-11	Dave Fuller - Parker
2011-12	John Knox - Pierre
2012-13	Tyler Hockett - Parkston
2013-14	Billie Jo Indahl - Burke
2014-15	Mike Buseth - Deubrook Area
2015-16	Brett Sime - Yankton
2016-17	Kim Zimmerman - Aberdeen Central
2017-18	Clark Gusso - Belle Fourche
2018-19	Billie Jo Indahl - Burke
2020-21	Jeffrey Johnson - Bison
2021-22	Billie Jo Indahl - Burke
2022-23	Jeff Meyerink - Mitchell

Coach Adam Anderson started coaching golf in Flandreau in the fall of 2019. He stayed for two years before leaving for Harrisburg South Middle School. There, he taught and directed middle school theater for two more years. During the 2023-2024 school year, Anderson left teaching to manage his restaurant, Lakes Bar & Grill, and to coach at Chester Area School, his alma mater. His girls' team finished first in the state, and his boys' team finished fifth. Anderson responded when asked about the award, "It is a great honor to have so much support from my community and those who voted for me. I owe this award to my incredible boys' and girls' teams and coaching assistants who are so dedicated to the sport of golf and who make my job so enjoyable. I want to thank everyone in education and coaching who has supported me throughout my journey. I owe a huge shoutout to the parents, teachers, and administrators for believing in me and generously sharing their time with their children. Chester is a special place with incredible athletes and amazing coaches." Coach Anderson's boys' and girls' golf teams both had successful years. Girls Flyer Golf went undefeated as a team this spring. All his athletes continue to work hard, and Coach Anderson sees them enjoying the summer on the Lakes Golf Course with their friends and family.

Other Nominees: Kirk Hogen - Vermillion; Corey Neale - Watertown; Karren Rogers - Miller; Steve Vant Hul - Sioux Falls Christian; Kim Zimmerman - Aberdeen Central



2024 Boys' Golf Coach of the Year **Corey Neale** Watertown

Corey Neale assumed leadership of the Watertown Arrow boys' golf program in the fall of 2019, kicking off a new era of achievement. Over his five-year tenure as head coach, the team has reached remarkable heights, including two individual state champions and clinching

the State AA Championship since 1971. The Arrows have also consistently demonstrated their talent, with two third-place finishes, a state runner-up title, and three consecutive Eastern South Dakota Conference Championships in 2021, 2022, and 2023. In 2024, Coach Neale expanded his influence by becoming head coach for the Arrow Girls' Golf program. Under his guidance, the Arrow girls finished second at the ESD Tournament and secured their first State AA Championship since 1979. This success is a testament to Coach Neale's coaching abilities and the team's dedication. Coach Neale expressed gratitude for his accomplishments, saying, "I am honored to receive this award. Our state has so many great coaches, and being voted Coach of the Year by my peers is truly special. My success is impossible without our student athletes' hard work and dedication and the unwavering support from my brother and Assistant Coach, Ryan, who plays a pivotal role in our program. I also extend my heartfelt thanks to all the parents and the Watertown community for their enduring support of our athletes."

Other Nominees: Kirk Hogen - Vermillion; Tom Jansa - O'Gorman; Matt Pollock - Ipswich; Tate Schoenfelder - Hanson; Andy Shaw - St. Thomas More

Previous Winners

1978-79	Jim Sorensen - Beresford
1979-80	Jim Sorensen - Beresford
1980-81	Joyce Farrell - Madison
1981-82	Bruce Olson - Webster
1982-83	Clarence Zacher - Custer
1983-84	Jim McGlone - Flandreau
1984-85	Norman West - Yankton
1985-86	Daryl Fletcher - Elk Point
1986-87	Rich Halverson - Clear Lake
1987-88	Bill Scholten - Brookings
1988-89	Daryl Fletcher - Elk Point
1989-90	Daryl Fletcher - Elk Point
1990-91	Marv Bohnet - Hamlin
1991-92	Jim McGlone - Flandreau
1992-93	Susan Heitmann - Britton
1993-94	Phil Hunt - Rapid City Stevens
1994-95	Jim Sorensen - Beresford
1995-96	Joe Schlimgen - Plankinton
1996-97	Joe Schlimgen - Plankinton
1997-98	Jim McGlone - Flandreau
1998-99	Bill Scholten - Brookings
1999-2000	Rod Garrison - SF O'Gorman
2000-01	Mick Hoglund - Dell Rapids
2001-02	Jim Sorensen - Beresford
2002-03	Bill Scholten - Brookings
2003-04	Phil Hunt - Rapid City Stevens
2004-05	John Brown - Clark

Boys

2005-06	Mike Schouten - SF Christian
2006-07	Tim DeJong - Dell Rapids St. Mary's
2007-08	Jay Weber - Avon
2008-09	Ryan Mors - Freeman
2009-10	Brett Sime - Yankton
2010-11	Gale Lundberg - Deuel
2011-12	Mick Hoglund - Dell Rapids
2012-13	Kari Stoltenberg - Dell Rapids
2013-14	Mick Hoglund - Dell Rapids
2014-15	Frank Cutler - Platte-Geddes
2015-16	Tim Koisti - Hamlin
2016-17	Matt Pollock - Ipswich
2017-18	Frank Cutler - Platte-Geddes
2018-19	Joey Liesinger - Madison
2019-20	Rob Mendoza - Little Wound
2020-21	Frank Cutler - Platte-Geddes
2021-22	Brett Sime - Yankton
2022-23	Tate Schoenfelder - Hanson



2024 Assistant Coach of the Year Middle School/Junior High **Kris McCafferty** Aberdeen Central

Coach McCafferty has taught and coached for the Aberdeen School District for 30 years. She has been at Simmons Middle School as the 8th-grade Special

Education teacher for her entire career. She has coached 8th-grade volleyball for 29 years. She was the head 8th-grade middle school coach under several outstanding varsity head coaches. The Aberdeen Central volleyball program has done well over the decades because of the strong leadership at the varsity level, which always includes the middle school-level coaches. McCafferty has also coached middle school track & field for 27 years. She was the long/triple jump coach for the middle school. She has been privileged to work for great head coaches and athletic directors who understand that building a great program starts at the middle school level. She was named the Middle School Coach of the Year in 2015 by the SDHSCA. McCafferty also won the Connie Deibert Award of Excellence in Middle School Coaching in 2017. McCafferty stated, "I am very honored to receive this Middle School Coach of the Year award. The middle level has been a crazy place to coach and teach for three decades, but I have greatly enjoyed my coaching career. I have made many coaching friends across the ESD at the middle level. I am grateful to have been called "Coach" by many great Aberdeen Central athletes. Awarding a Middle School Coach at the SDHSCA level is rewarding, and I am thankful for the recognition."

Previous Winners

1988-89	Jim Miner - Yankton
1989-90	Virg Polak - Watertown
1990-91	Vern Miller - Pierre
1991-92	Ken Knapp - Rapid City Central
1992-93	Gary Satter - Yankton
1993-94	Tim Raabe - Lennox
1994-95	Mary Ellen Luikens - Scotland
1995-96	Terry Enggeland - SF Lincoln
1996-97	Doug Schooley - Watertown
1997-98	Cheryl Huddleston - Hot Springs
1998-99	Roger Loecker - Huron
1999-2000	Diane Braskamp - Madison
2000-01	Doc Michel - Rapid City
2001-02	Bob DeBoer - Huron
2002-03	Carmen Robinson - Yankton
2003-04	Georgia Adolph - Flandreau
2004-05	Ken Bruckner - Menno
2005-06	Dave Scott - Lennox
2006-07	Tricia Neugebauer - Mitchell
2007-08	Todd Jorgenson - Brookings
2008-09	Brett Schlekeway - SF Washington
2009-10	Carmen Robinson - Yankton
2010-11	Larry Toft - SF Washington
2011-12	Jeff Walder - Andes Central
2012-13	Bob Tiff - Redfield
2013-14	Craig Connell - Eureka-bowdle
2014-15	Keith Scott - Potter County
2015-16	Kris McCafferty - Aberdeen
2016-17	Sheri Keck - Rapid City
2017-18	Bob Boehler - Rapid City
2018-19	Doug Haar - Yankton
2019-20	Glenda Bohlmann - Menno
2020-21	Frank Cutler - Platte-Geddes
2021-22	Doug Duncan - Ipswich
2022-23	Kyle Seibel - Vermillion



2024 Assistant Coach of the Year Boys' Sports **Jayd Schuyler** Winner

Jayd Schuyler is a three-sport coach in his hometown of Winner. Schuyler has served as Winner's assistant wrestling coach for 14 years. During this time, the

Warriors achieved nine top-five finishes in the individual state tournament, with five runner-up finishes. The team also had two runner-up finishes and a state championship in the 2022 Class B State Dual Tournament, with 84 state placers and 16 state champions. As an assistant track & field coach for the past seven years, Schuyler has worked with distance runners. He was named SDCCTFCA 3A Assistant Coach of the Year in 2017, contributing to the Warriors' fifth-place finish at the Class A State Track & Field Meet. Coach Schuyler has led the cross-country team for 11 years. His boys' teams won conference championships in 2019, 2020, and 2021 and region titles in 2019 and 2020. The girls' teams were conference champions in 2016, 2017, and 2019 and region champions in 2016 and 2017, placing sixth in 2016 and fifth in 2017 at the state meet. Schuyler was named SDCCTFCA 3A Coach of the Year in 2016, 2017, and 2020. Schuyler expressed his gratitude, saying, "It is an honor to receive this award. All the credit goes to our great coaches, administration, athletes, and community in Winner. A huge thank you goes out to my wife and family for their support and understanding for all the time spent away coaching three sports throughout the year." Schuyler and his wife, Kristyn, have five children: Coleton, Sidda, Tatum, Raye, and Sibyl.

Previous Winners	
1988-89	Jim Miner - Yankton
1989-90	Virg Polak - Watertown
1990-91	Vern Miller - Pierre
1991-92	Ken Knapp - Rapid City Central
1992-93	Gary Satter - Yankton
1993-94	Jerry Miller - Sioux Falls Roosevelt
1994-95	Ray Kooistra - Yankton
1995-96	Ray Boetel - Rapid City Stevens
1996-97	Harry Himmerich Edmunds Central
1997-98	Bob Judson - Pierre
1998-99	Allen Weier - Platte
1999-2000	Larry Holland - Howard
2000-01	Roger Heirigs - Vermillion
2001-02	Don Campbell - Yankton
2002-03	Ken Bruckner - Menno
2003-04	Mel Fathke - Avon
2004-05	Dick Tschetter - Spearfish
2005-06	Allen Weier - Platte
2006-07	Tom Osterberg - Madison
2007-08	Andrew TerWee - Garretson
2008-09	Ken Schaefer - Yankton
2009-10	Tom Starr - Mitchell
2010-11	John Gilman - Parkston
2011-12	Randy Gross - Yankton
2012-13	Scott Embry - Sioux Falls Lincoln
2013-14	Dan Mitchell - Yankton
2014-15	Vince Spease - Rapid City Central
2015-16	Dan DeVries - Lennox
2016-17	Tom Rice - Gayville-Volin
2017-18	Jason Olson - Rapid City Stevens
2018-19	Lyle Pagel - Rapid City Stevens
2019-20	Bill Weber - Watertown
2020-21	Jody Grubb - Rapid City Central
2021-22	Jeff Schlekeway - Pierre
2022-23	Glenn Carlson - Winner

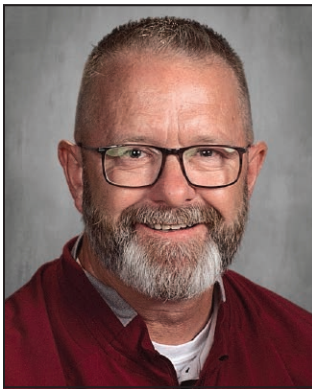


2024 Assistant Coach of the Year Girls' Sports **Matt Mueller** Brandon Valley

Matt Mueller started teaching and coaching at O'Gorman High School in the winter and spring of 2007. That spring, he volunteered as a baseball coach and assisted

with the track & field program. In 2007, he spent his first year at Brandon Valley, volunteering to coach the baseball team. Since then, he has continued coaching baseball, track & field, and football. In 2009, he was hired as a high school track & field assistant coach and has held the football and track & field assistant coach titles until now. In 2022, he became the head freshman football coach for Brandon Valley. He has been a part of the South Dakota High School Coaches Association for 12 years. He has been a track & field representative for the Board of Directors for the SDHSCA for the past 10 years. He has been recognized as assistant coach of the year for track & field three times. "I am honored and humbled to receive such an award," Mueller expressed. "I thank the SDHSCA for this recognition. I would also like to express my gratitude to my family for their unwavering support during all the hours I am away from home." Coach Mueller feels teaching and coaching in the Brandon Valley community is more than just a job; it's an opportunity to learn and build relationships with students and parents who are among the best. He appreciates the chance to learn from his student-athletes every day. Mueller has been married to his wife, Amy, for 18 years, and they have three children: Maddox, 16; Ryder, 15; and Finley, 13.

Previous Winners	
1993-94	Nick Kranz - Watertown
1994-95	Kenn Anderson - Sioux Falls
1995-96	Lucy Lindskov - Sioux Falls
1996-97	Duane Donat - Aberdeen
1997-98	Pamela Jo Hoiland - Sioux Falls
1998-99	Mike Merkwon - Yankton
1999-2000	Annette Johnson - Spearfish
2000-01	Virg Polak - Watertown
2001-02	Bruce Maxwell - Parkston
2002-03	Ron VanLaecken - Watertown
2003-04	Bob Billotto - Eureka/Bowdle
2004-05	Alan Hamre - Willow Lake
2005-06	Kevin DeCurtins - Madison
2006-07	Tom Oster - Avon
2007-08	Connie Deibert - Aberdeen
2008-09	Ron Wackel - Dakota Middle School
2009-10	Sue Gapp - Aberdeen
2010-11	Tim Boeck - Arlington
2011-12	Becky Jensen - Chamberlain
2012-13	Skip Kurth - Pierre
2013-14	Cindee Evenson - Menno
2014-15	Nancy Paulson - Milbank
2015-16	Kerry Beyer - Rapid City
2016-17	Tony Thoreson - Brandon Valley
2017-18	Scott Embry - Sioux Falls Lincoln
2018-19	Thad Caldwell - Rapid City Central
2019-20	Stacey Knebel - Wagner
2020-21	Russ Bailey - Custer
2021-22	Darcy Deinert - Mount Vernon/ Plankinton
2022-23	Stephanie Daly - Aberdeen Central



2024 Athletic Director of the Year

Paul Nepodal

Lead-Deadwood

Paul Nepodal has been an athletic director for the past 20 years. While his tenure started in Franklin, Nebraska, he has proudly served the state of South Dakota for the past 13 years, both at Deubrook Area Schools (10 years) and at Lead-Deadwood Schools (3 years). During his 26

years in education, Nepodal has coached basketball, cross country, football, and golf. The highlight of his coaching career was the relationships and time spent with his players and fellow coaches. In 2011, the Nebraska State Athletic Association named him the Nebraska Golf Coach of the Year. He has earned numerous awards, including Regional Athletic Director of the Year, NIAAA State Award of Merit, Steve Berseth Professional Development Award, Assistant Coach of the Year, and Principal of the Year. Nepodal has been on the SDHSAA Golf, Track & Field Cross Country, and Sports Official's Advisory Committees and currently serves on the SDIAAA Leadership Coordinator's team as the SDIAAA Certification Coordinator. While at Deubrook he served as the region chair for volleyball, cross country, basketball, and golf and was the Dakota Valley Conference executive secretary for eight years. He served as president of the Black Hills Conference. "I feel that my job as an Athletic Director, whether at my school, in the state of South Dakota, or at the national level, is to serve others and lead them to a level of success," Nepodal said. "This award reflects the tremendous family of Athletic Directors we are fortunate to have in South Dakota."

Other Nominees: Cory Aadland - Mitchell; Jordan Bauer - Rapid City Central

Previous Winners

1979-80	Pete Baker - Scotland
1980-81	Jack Richardson - Yankton
1981-82	Don Reshetar - Aberdeen
1982-83	Harvey Hammrich - Watertown
1983-84	Jim Holwerda - Brookings
1984-85	Lloyd Dobratz - Sioux Falls
1985-86	Barry Huitema - Huron
1986-87	Wayne Carney - Hamlin
1987-88	Howard Naasz - RC Central
1988-89	Jim Haar - Aberdeen Central
1989-90	Jerry Hunter - Miller
1990-91	Ken Keck - Clark
1991-92	Jerry McPartland - Castlewood
1992-93	Wayne Carney - Hamlin
1993-94	Robert Lowery - Vermillion
1994-95	Lowell Gilbertson - Arlington
1995-96	Bob Peterson - Sturgis
1996-97	Rob VanLaecken - Parkston
1997-98	Jim Haar - Rapid City Central
1998-99	Jerry Miller - Sioux Falls Roosevelt
1999-2000	Butch Bachman - Tri-Valley
2000-01	Dusty Kracht - Pierre
2001-02	Harvey Hammrich - Watertown
2002-03	Jim Dorman - Madison
2003-04	Gene Brownell - Aberdeen Central
2004-05	Terry Stulken - Colman/Egan
2005-06	Rick Weber - Flandreau
2006-07	Mark Wendelgass - Huron
2007-08	Doug Schooley - Watertown
2008-09	Steve Berseth - Brookings
2009-10	Darren Paulson - Rapid City Central
2010-11	Gene Brownell - Aberdeen Central
2011-12	Jim Dorman - SF Lincoln
2012-13	Tom Murphy - Aberdeen Roncalli
2013-14	Mark Meile - SF School District
2014-15	Dan Whalen - Pierre
2015-16	Bill Sawinsky - Webster Area
2016-17	Clay Anderson - Belle Fourche
2017-18	Bud Postma - Madison
2018-19	Randy Marso - Brandon Valley
2019-20	Terry Rotert - Huron
2020-21	Bill Clements - Dakota Valley
2021-22	Julie Eppard - Chester Area
2022-23	Joey Struwe - SF Lincoln



2024 Official of the Year

Bob DeBoer

Huron

Bob DeBoer began his career in education in Elkton in 1981, teaching and coaching boys' and girls' basketball and track & field for ten years. He then moved to Huron High School, where he taught science and continued coaching. DeBoer started refereeing basketball in 1991 and became a track meet starter in 1992 under Steve Charron's guidance. He continued officiating basketball games and

working track & field and cross country meets throughout his coaching assignments. After retiring from teaching in 2015, DeBoer increased his officiating duties. He now serves as a starter, meet referee, or field referee at several track & field meets yearly and officiates varsity boys' and girls' basketball games. DeBoer feels blessed to continue being part of high school athletics. He values his relationships with fellow officials, coaches, and athletes. He is grateful to his mentors, Steve Charron and Mark Wendelgass in track & field and Terry Nebelsick in basketball officiating, as well as the many officials he has worked with for their support and camaraderie. He appreciates the SDHSAA and SDHSCA for their efforts in ensuring the youth of South Dakota can learn through competition. DeBoer sincerely thanks his family for their support and sacrifices throughout his coaching and officiating years. He is grateful to his wife, Kathy, of 39 years, and his children, Scott (Heather) and Heidi (Hunter Anshutz). "I am deeply honored to receive this award from the SDHSCA membership. I thank them for their dedication to student-athletes and look forward to continuing to work with them for many years to come" said DeBoer.

Other Nominees: Taylor Hageman - Dance & Cheer; Shawn Hansen - Volleyball; Kelli Hanson - Gymnastics; Scott Jacobson - Football; Josh Kemp - Boys Basketball; Jeff Pederson - Soccer; Mark Stoebner - Wrestling; Brian Whetham - Girls Basketball

Previous Winners

1992-93	Colin Kapitan - Yankton
	Marge Evjen - Sturgis
1993-94	Gary Reed - Sioux Falls
1994-95	Al Sime - Britton
1995-96	Richard Rockafellow - Geddes
1996-97	Jim Johnson - Mitchell
1997-98	Buck Timmins - Mitchell
1998-99	Dan Barker - Madison
1999-2000	Keith Kusler - Aberdeen
2000-01	Curt Ehresmann - Watertown
2001-02	Kelley Devine - Sioux Falls
2002-03	Jeff Sylliaasen - Garretson
2003-04	Dave Tate - Fort Pierre
2004-05	Keith McVay - Marion
2005-06	Dana Nelson - Yankton
2006-07	Jim Ricketts, Sr. - Sioux Falls
2007-08	Gene Bjorklund - Volga
2008-09	Keith Kusler - Aberdeen
2009-10	Lee Johnson - Wessington Springs
2010-11	Terry Nebelsick - Huron
2011-12	Dan Sudbeck - Dimock
2012-13	Jerry Beers - Brookings
2013-14	Don Kayser - Alexandria
2014-15	Moe Ruesink - Volga
2015-16	Mike Mudder - Tyndall
2016-17	Mark Wendelgass - Huron
2017-18	Andy Deinert - Mitchell
2018-19	Chad Gordon - Yankton
2019-20	Matt Clark - Huron
2020-21	Jerry Beers - Brookings
2021-22	Marc Murren - Sioux Falls
2022-23	Larry Stevens - Rapid City

SOUTH DAKOTA COACHES FOUNDATION

The South Dakota Coaches Foundation was chartered December 22, 1993. The purposes for which the foundation was organized are exclusively charitable and educational. The general purpose and plan of operation of the foundation is to receive and accept gifts and contributions from any source and to use its assets in furtherance of its charitable purposes. These gifts and contributions may take the form of cash, real or personal property, wills, insurance policies, annuities, grants, memorials, or any other form designated by the person giving. Any and all gifts received by the foundation will be treated as tax deductible. Some of the planned projects of the foundation are: educational seminars and clinics, scholarships, awards, support of coaches' sports groups, support of Special Olympics, support of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and support of Make-A-Wish. You may make your tax deductible contribution to the foundation by sending the same to its Executive Director at 801 W Eagle Ridge St, Sioux Falls, SD 57108.

South Dakota High School Coaches Association Scholarships

Tevan Erickson, Elkton
Brianna Lindeman, Dell Rapids

Lucas Flemmer, Dell Rapid
Trey Murray, Gregory
Jillian Hansen, Pierre

Allie Kohn, Lemmon
Hudsyn Ruesink, Volga

Dave Prohl Scholarship

Candence Hand, Midland

Jack Rentschler Scholarship

Chloe Zens, Tulare

Coaches Against Cancer Scholarships

Alaina Bechen, Wagner
Maggie Miller, Menno
Skyler Vig, Faith

Gracelyn Bowman, Pierre
Elizabeth Pavlis, Flandreau
Abigail Wagner, Salem

Paige Guthmiller, Mitchell
Jazzlyn Rombough, Pierre

2024 SD Coaches Foundation Scholarships

Ella Hunter, Castlewood
Piper Hanson, Burke

Larissa Lyle, Beresford
Lanie Mousel, Colman

Easten Muddler, Tyndall

PAST PRESIDENTS

This is dedicated to those coaches who have served the South Dakota High School Coaches Association as President. May it inspire other coaches to serve their organization in some way.

President	Year	President	Year	President	Year
Paul Marschalk	1939-1942	Dale McElhany	1972-1973	Daryl Fletcher.....	1998-1999
(No meetings - WWII) ...	1942-1946	Mike Stadem	1973-1974	Jim Dorman.....	1999-2000
Joe Dunmire.....	1946-1947	Bob Dubs	1974-1975	Jim Drake	2000-2001
Rube Waltman	1947-1949	Harvey Naasz.....	1975-1976	Marv McCune.....	2001-2002
Bill Hauge.....	1949-1950	Jerry Miller.....	1976-1977	Marc Murren	2002-2003
Bob Burns	1950-1951	Lyle Claussen	1977-1978	Carmen Robinson	2003-2004
Duane Clodfelter	1951-1953	Roberta Morin	1978-1979	Marv Bohnet.....	2004-2005
Floyd Mitchell	1953-1954	Roger Schaffer	1979-1980	Jerome Garry.....	2005-2006
Jim Marking.....	1954-1955	Steve Swisher	1980-1981	Connie Nyhaug	2006-2007
Mylo Jackson.....	1955-1956	Fred Tibbetts.....	1981-1982	Ken Bruckner	2007-2008
Bill Mitchell	1956-1957	Rich Donovan	1982-1983	Rod Garrison.....	2008-2009
H.W. Hadorn	1957-1958	Marv Sherrill.....	1983-1984	Deb Thill.....	2009-2010
Don Allen.....	1958-1959	Dave Scott	1984-1985	Bill Weber.....	2010-2011
Tom Prendergast.....	1959-1960	Annette Johnson.....	1985-1986	David Dolan.....	2011-2012
Bob Schroeder.....	1960-1961	Wayne Carney	1986-1987	Bob Billotto	2012-2013
Clar Lilevjen.....	1961-1962	Cal Corey.....	1987-1988	Arlin Likness.....	2013-2014
Howard Naasz	1962-1963	Lolly Forseth.....	1988-1989	Bill Clements	2014-2015
Burdell Coplan.....	1963-1964	Galen Busch	1989-1990	Sheri Keck	2015-2016
Rich Greeno.....	1964-1965	Virg Polak.....	1990-1991	Travis Carpenter	2016-2017
Wendell Handley	1965-1966	Ron Riherd.....	1991-1992	Dan Mitchell.....	2017-2018
Bob Brooks.....	1966-1967	Judy Busch.....	1992-1993	Bruce Kleinsasser	2018-2019
Marlyn Goldhammer	1967-1968	Jim McGlone	1993-1994	Mike Flakus	2019-2020
Max Hawk.....	1968-1969	John Huth	1994-1995	Jason Olson.....	2020-2021
Jerry Applebee	1969-1970	Mick Wysuph	1995-1996	Kent VanOverschelde.....	2021-2022
Jack Doyle	1970-1971	Georgia Adolph	1996-1997	Sherri Knippling	2022-2023
Jack Schuver.....	1971-1972	John Nyhaug.....	1997-1998		

ROLL OF CHAMPIONS

State Championship Coaches 2023-2024

CHEER

AA Diedra Nissen, Sioux Falls Jefferson
 A Casie King, Sioux Valley

DANCE

AA Ashley Hoffman, Brandon Valley
 A Carey Baczwaski, Dakota Valley

SOCCER

Girls AA Eric Christensen, Harrisburg
 Boys AA Alex Nelson, Sioux Falls Lincoln
 Girls A Mark Anderson, Tea Area
 Boys A Ephron Poyer, Sioux Falls Christian

CROSS COUNTRY

Girls AA Tony Thoreson, Brandon Valley
 Boys AA Luke Jelen, Sioux Falls Lincoln
 Girls A Luke Vander Leest, Sioux Falls Christian
 Boys A Joe Noyes, Hill City
 Girls B Jessica Larson, Potter County
 Boys B Ralph Kroetch, Philip

FOOTBALL

11AAA Jared Fredenburg, Sioux Falls Lincoln
 11AA Steve Steele, Pierre TF Riggs
 11A Jordan Huska, Dells Rapids
 11B Ben Kramer, Hot Springs
 9AA Matt Grave, Parkston
 9A Kerwin Hoellein, Warner
 9B Justin Lukkes, Avon

VOLLEYBALL

AA Ronette Costain, Harrisburg
 A Darci Wassenaar, Sioux Falls Christian
 B Jean O'Hara, Chester Area

GYMNASTICS

AA Audra Rew, Mitchell
 A Sherri Johnson, Estelline/Hendricks

WRESTLING

Girls Matt Thorson, Pierre TF Riggs
 Boys A Derek Outland, Brandon Valley
 Boys B Jeremy Swenson, Canton
 Parker Swenson, Canton
 Dual Mike Abell, Sturgis Brown

BASKETBALL

Girls AA Kent Kolsrud, Sioux Falls O'Gorman
 Boys AA Ryker Kreutzfeldt, Mitchell
 Girls A Jon Brooks, Vermillion
 Boys A Todd Neuendorf, Hamlin
 Girls B Tucker Tornberg, Centerville
 Boys B Nick Koepsell, Howard

TENNIS

Girls AA Tom Krueger, Sioux Falls Lincoln
 Girls A Matt Westenberg, Sioux Falls Christian
 Boys AA Tom Krueger, Sioux Falls Lincoln
 Boys A John Williams, Sioux Falls Christian

GOLF

Girls AA Corey Neale, Watertown
 Boys AA Corey Neale, Watertown
 Girls A Steve Van't Hul, Sioux Falls Christian
 Boys A Kirk Hogen, Vermillion
 Girls B Adam Anderson, Chester
 Boys B Regina Teveldal, Wessington Springs

TRACK & FIELD

Girls AA Troy Sturgeon, Brandon Valley
 Boys AA Jim Jarovski, Sioux Falls Lincoln
 Girls A Luke Vander Leest, Sioux Falls Christian
 Boys A Luke Vander Leest, Sioux Falls Christian
 Girls B Tyler Uecker, Burke
 Boys B Kurt Stukel, Gregory

SOFTBALL

AA Trent Dlugosh, Sioux Falls Lincoln
 A Emmie Uitts, Tea Area
 B Laura Biagi, Chester Area

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

2023	Tammy Neale, Watertown Jack Rentschler, Sr., Sioux Falls William "Bill" Schoenfish, Menno Clarence Simmons, White Herb Sundall, Sioux Falls	2011	Charlie Childerston, Sioux Falls Bob Denny, Sioux Falls Duane Whalen, Rapid City	1995	Ron Babb, Wakonda
2022	Barb Haberling, Miller Roger Merriam, Watertown	2010	Greg Kendall, Sioux Falls Nick Kranz, Watertown Terry Tople, Fort Pierre	1994	Bernie Stocking, Pierre
2021	Joyce Farrell, Hot Springs Kay Heck, Belle Fourche Pearl Paulson, Florence	2009	Jerry Bussler, Rapid City Roger Nelson, Brookings Jim Robinson, Yankton	1993	Harve Johnston, Mitchell
2020	George Kiner, Volga Toni Meile, Hartford	2008	Vern Uhlir, Kadoka	1992	Ken Kessinger, Sioux Falls Jack Dorman, Castlewood
2019	Linda Hengeveld, Valley Springs Linda Weber, Sioux Falls	2007	Judy Busch, Sioux Falls Lolly Forseth, Sioux Falls	1991	Don Ahrend, Sioux Falls Dodie Bemis, Watertown
2018	Scott Ewald, Watertown David Raysby, Platte-Geddes Mickey Metcalf, Brandon Valley	2006	Tom Allen, Spearfish Ruth Rehn, Pierre Gene Struck, Montrose	1990	Dale McElhany, Watertown
2017	Brian Hansen, Sioux Falls Ken Martens, Omaha Ray Rylance, Watertown	2005	John Cornette, Yankton Bob Tiff, Redfield	1989	Sarah Trish, Sioux Falls
2016	Rich Hinseth, Rapid City Steve Kjellsen, Watertown Paul Richter, Rapid City	2004	Virg Polak, Watertown	1988	Howard Connors, Vermillion
2015	Larry Peterson, Watertown SD Army National Guard	2003	Dick Hunhoff, Yankton Marlyn Goldhammer, Pierre	1987	Max Hawk, Yankton
2014	Linda Larson, Sioux Falls	2002	William (Bill) Jones, Spearfish	1986	William Timmins, Mitchell
2013	Tom Boltjes, Platte Mark Stanforth, Colorado Springs, CO Mona Smith, Aberdeen	2001	Dennis Kokesh (deceased) Virgil Wolthoff, Canton	1985	Tom Walsh, Sioux Falls
2012	Dana Dykhouse, Sioux Falls Joel Harris, Carroll, Iowa Bob Lowery, Pierre	2000	Charles Schad, Spearfish	1984	Jim Prosser, Vermillion
		1999	Wayne Carney, Sioux Falls	1983	Charles Hoover, Onida
		1998	Richard Michel, Rapid City Judean Schwinger, Watertown	1982	Warren Williamson, Brookings
		1997	Jerry Miller, Sioux Falls Vernon Bechen, Flandreau	1981	Forrest Lothrop, Strandburg
		1996	Gale Rohr, Watertown	1979	Fred Claudon, Sioux Falls
				1978	Keith Fitzpatrick, Mitchell
				1977	Howard Nielsen, Yankton
				1976	Dr. C.C. Pascale, Centerville
				1975	Foster Green, Hot Springs
				1974	Bill Treadway, Huron
				1973	Elmer Hansen, Sioux Falls Philip McKeoun, Webster
				1972	Dr. Merritt Auld, Yankton



2024 “JERRY P. MILLER” DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

*Given for outstanding contributions to high school athletics
and dedication to the highest and best in high school athletics.*

Georgia Adolph Flandreau



Coach Adolph was the head volleyball coach at Flandreau Public High School for 18 years, was a founding member of the South Dakota Volleyball Coaches Association, and was a head coach for the first South Dakota Volleyball All-Stars match. She has served on the South Dakota High School Coaches Association Board of Directors since 1981, was President of the organization in 1996, and is currently chairman of their scholarship committee. Adolph was the Executive Secretary of the South Dakota Cross Country and Track & Field Coaches Association for many years and is a member of the SDCCTFCA and the SDHSCA Hall of Fame committees. After retiring in 2011, Coach Adolph returned to coaching in 2014. At Flandreau High School, she officiates lower-level volleyball matches and serves as a line judge for varsity volleyball. She runs the shot clock for girls' and boys' basketball games and travels with the girls' basketball team to keep the scorebook. She has been an assistant track & field coach for over 35 years. Additionally, she is the advisor for the National Honor Society. Adolph is a member of the Second Presbyterian Church in Flandreau, where she is an elder and serves as moderator of the Presbyterian Women's Group. She is also the secretary of the Flandreau Athletic Hall of Fame. She has received numerous awards from the SDHSCA. In 2011, Adolph received the SDHSAA Girls and Women in Sports Leadership Award and in 2023, South Dakota State University selected her as the winner of the Ralph Ginn Award, which is given for coaching excellence.

Lou Eggebraaten Brookings



Mary Lou Eggebraaten began her career at Brookings High School in 1970. In 1975, Jim Holwerda was hired as the Bobcats' first full-time Activities Director, and Eggebraaten became the Administrative Assistant to the Activities Department. Her employment coincided with the SDHSAA's sanctioning of girls' athletics. Brookings High School hosted many of the initial girls' tournaments, and Eggebraaten facilitated the management of state events in tennis, golf, cross country, gymnastics, and basketball, as well as the formation of the Alpha V Conference, South Dakota's first girls' athletic conference. Eggebraaten's significant contributions were recognized with the South Dakota Interscholastic Athletics Administrators Friends of Athletics Award, the Bobcat Backers and Eastern South Dakota Athletics Conference Awards of Merit, and the BHS and South Dakota High School Activities Association Distinguished Service Awards. She served as the sideline cheer advisor for 17 years. After a 36-year career, she retired in 2006 and now lives in Brookings with her husband, Ted. They have a son, Kip Eggebraaten, who is married to Jo Anne, and a daughter, Robyn Costello, who is married to Jim. Both families reside in Sioux Falls. Eggebraaten and Ted delight in spending time with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They enjoy fishing and watching Bobcat and Jackrabbit sports, especially soccer. Their granddaughter is an assistant soccer coach at SDSU, and they love following the Jacks.

Fred Obermeier

Clark

Fred Obermeier has been involved in high school athletics since his sophomore year at Clark High School. His journey began when the basketball staff needed someone to operate the clock for the boys' JV basketball games. This role evolved into all positions at the scorer's table, including announcing, scoring, and even occasionally serving as the shot-clock operator and keeping the book for road games. Today, Obermeier is the official scorer for boys' and girls' home basketball games at Clark and Willow Lake and keeps their scorebooks on the road. He also assisted with the school's wrestling and volleyball programs in past years. In 1977, he recruited a football crew and got certified with the SDHSAA as a football official, later adding basketball and volleyball to his officiating credentials. He officiated football for 44 years, including three state championship games, retiring after the 2020 season. Additionally, he has been registered with the SD Umpires Association since 1972, primarily umpiring at the American Legion and VFW teener levels. He managed the Clark amateur baseball team for 40 years and remains involved with the team. Obermeier is also an active member of Crocker Lutheran Church in Crocker and the owner/operator of Obermeier Ranch LLP, alongside his brother Ted, Ted's wife Jody, and nephews Wilkes and Zed.



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MAX HAWK AWARD

This award, in honor of Max Hawk, is to recognize and honor outstanding leadership, contributions and dedication of service to the South Dakota High School Coaches Association.



2024 Max Hawk Award **Bruce Kleinsasser** Aberdeen

Kleinsasser has been an SDHSCA member since 1996 and has tirelessly promoted athletics at Aberdeen Central and throughout the state. He has served as the secretary of the SD Cheer Coaches Association since 1996 and is now the executive secretary. He played a vital role in making Cheer and Dance a sanctioned sport in the SDHSCA, and continues to advise and advocate for Cheer and Dance. Kleinsasser has earned several accolades, including three Spirit of Six awards, four State Championships in the stunting non-tumbling category in cheer, ESD Conference Championships, and two Spirit Coach of the Year awards. He was nominated for National Cheer Coach of the Year in 2015. Additionally, he has received the Distinguished Award from the SDHSAA and the Todd Kramp Award from the annual Lee Wolf Wrestling Tournament for his extensive contributions. He has dedicated countless hours to organizing and working at state events for Aberdeen Central and other locations. He has emceed the SDHSCA Awards Banquet on several occasions. He has promoted and organized convention presenters for the SDHSCA summer clinics. A past president of the SDHSCA, he remains an active member, assisting with various tasks. He also oversees the SDHSCA's 25-year coaching award. In addition to his work with the SDHSCA, Kleinsasser works full-time at Avera Therapy Center in Aberdeen, SD. He volunteers at his local church, handling the media for services, and has been teaching safety training and water exercise classes at the Aberdeen Family YMCA for over 40 years.

2023-2024

25 YEAR COACHING AWARD WINNERS

Jeremy Ask - Canton, Wrestling
Stacy Finkbeiner - New Underwood,
Basketball
Jody Gittings - Takini, Basketball
Sherri Johnson - Estelline/Hendricks,
Gymnastics
Rich Lundstrom - Canton, Track & Field

Brooke McDonald - Chester, Girls Golf
Trent Osbourne - Ipswich, Volleyball
Ray Ringstmeyer - Hot Springs, Wrestling
Carol Rogers - White River, Volleyball
Scott Winse - Newell, Basketball
Jory Wipf - James Valley Christian, Track
& Field



SPIRIT OF INFLUENCE AWARD

This award, in honor of Bryan Brewer, is to recognize and honor the positive influence, vision, leadership and dedication to promoting athletics, academics, and the arts among South Dakota students of all races. It represents the innovation, belief, and expectation that all are created equal.



2024 Spirit of Influence Award

Kevin Bad Wound

Rapid City

Kevin Bad Wound officiated basketball for 25 years. He credits his mentor, Steve Withorne, for the encouragement and support that helped him succeed in basketball officiating. He worked district, region, and numerous state tournaments, including three consecutive State “A” boys’ championship games. He also officiated at the high school world championship games in Colorado Springs, Colorado, as part of the Big XII officiating camp. His experience extended to the college level, where he officiated in several conferences and the Professional IBA Basketball League. Bad Wound’s 34-year career with Montana Dakota Utilities, from which he is now retired, was a significant part of his life. He is deeply grateful for their understanding and generosity in allowing him to pursue his passion for officiating. Years of officiating and attending numerous camps across Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska brought him to the attention of notable clinicians such as Dave Hall, a Division 1 and NCAA Tournament Official, who recommended him to the Men’s Big XII assignor. Additionally, Violet Palmer, a female NBA official who was present at the Big XII camp in Colorado Springs, encouraged him to pursue NBA summer leagues and offered to assist him with that goal. Although he did not reach the Division I or NBA levels, he reflects on his career with pride and satisfaction, cherishing every moment of the journey. In addition to officiating, he enjoyed coaching Little League Baseball, Pony League Baseball, and a Middle School Traveling Basketball team. He also wants to thank his wife, Reva, for her unwavering support throughout his officiating career and his children.



2024 Spirit of Influence Award

Robert “Bob” Brave Heart, Sr.

Pine Ridge

Robert “Bob” Brave Heart, Sr. is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe. He and his wife, Evaleen, have been married for 46 years and share 5 children and 20 grandchildren. He received his B.S. in Education at Eastern Montana College and holds a master’s in educational administration from Arizona State University. Brave Heart has served Mahpiya Luta/Red Cloud in several capacities for over thirty-eight years. He is currently serving as Senior Vice President for Community Relations and Major Gifts. He also served as a physical education teacher, middle school principal, high school principal, director of the spiritual formation department, superintendent, and executive vice president. Brave Heart’s favorite hobbies include hunting, cooking, and Lakota singing and drumming. He has been a member of the Lakota Nation Invitational Board of Directors since 1993, having had the privilege of being part of the tremendous growth of the LNI, which encompasses athletic, academic, and Lakota cultural activities. He received an SDHSAA Distinguished Service Award in 2022 and is honored to receive this “Power of Influence” award from the SDHSCA—Wopila Thanka - many thanks.

2024 SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH DAKOTA OUTSTANDING AWARDS

Volunteers do everything there is to do for Special Olympics and more. You are fundraisers, cheerleaders, administrators, chauffeurs, chaperones, trainers, coaches, policymakers, trash collectors, referees, food servers, scorekeepers, and everything in between. You serve without salary, with-



**Special
Olympics**
South Dakota

out recognition, honors or awards. Special Olympics would not exist without you - your dedication, your work, or your love.

Thank you, volunteers. You represent the highest values of the human spirit and we are grateful for your service!

Don Baker Award

This is the highest honor presented by Special Olympics South Dakota. It is given in honor of Don Baker who was a volunteer and official starter for Special Olympics events.

This award is given annually to an individual, organization, business, or agency that has given outstanding support to Special Olympics South Dakota.

NOMINEES:

- Patti Berg-Poppe, Sioux Falls
- Denny Thompson, Mitchell

Becky Brennan
Sioux Falls



Spirit of a Champion Award



Presented to the Special Olympics South Dakota athlete who has demonstrated the true spirit, courage, sharing, and joy of Special Olympics.

Colton Miles
Pierre Wildcats

NOMINEES:

- Shana Bieber, Sturgis-BHSSC
- Cayden Binger, Clark NESC
- Jamie Budmayr, Pierre Wildcats
- Emily Deiterman, Brookings All-Stars
- Trevor Hayes, Aberdeen Hub City Express
- Chris Hilla, Sioux Falls Fireworks
- Chris Keiser, Sioux Falls Lancers
- Noah Kinzly, Sioux Falls Lancers
- Jeffrey Klock, Sioux Falls Lancers
- Mattie Miller, Vermillion SESDAC
- Cynthia Olson, Sioux Falls Fireworks
- Jordan Olson, Sioux Falls Fireworks
- Skylar Pagel, Aberdeen Hub City Express
- Emily Quanbeck, Sioux Falls Jefferson
- Josh Walker, Rapid City Storm
- Makenzie Wittrock, Milbank

*“Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt.”
-Special Olympics athlete oath*

Lyle Farrand Award

Volunteer of the Year

This award is given in honor of Lyle Farrand of Sioux Falls. In 1968, Farrand was instrumental in starting Special Olympics South Dakota. This award is given to an individual who has had a positive impact on Special Olympics South Dakota.



Nancy Lehner
Jefferson

NOMINEE:

- Kelly Johnson, Spearfish
- Cassidy Jones, Rapid City
- Kelly Swenson, Madison
- Tracy Tian, Vermillion

Unity Award



Special Olympics
**Unified Champion
Schools**

Brandon Valley High School

This award is presented to a Unified partner, individual, or entity that promotes inclusion for people with an intellectual disability. The nominee should actively promote acceptance and understanding for all.

NOMINEES:

- Clayton Kepler, Rapid City Storm
- Kamryn Whiting, Sioux Falls Jefferson

DJ Mertens

"Champion" Award

This award is given in honor of DJ Mertens who was instrumental in establishing and growing SOSD. This award is presented to a business, organization, or media outlet that has made a major contribution to Special Olympics South Dakota.

Lucky's 13 Pub
Spearfish



NOMINEES:

- Kings Lanes, Arlington
- Swine Open Fundraiser, Watertown

Ron Stewart Award

Coach of the Year

This award is given in honor of Ron Stewart of Rapid City who was a Special Olympics Coach for over 25 years. The recipient of this award has given his/her time to encourage Special Olympics athletes to achieve their fullest potential.



Karla Miles
Pierre Wildcats

NOMINEES:

- Don Helberg, Sioux Falls Lancers
- Jason Hill, Aberdeen Hub City Express
- Missy Hill, Aberdeen Hub City Express
- Cassandra Schmith, Elk Point Jefferson

Family Award

This award is presented to a family who demonstrates unique and outstanding support for Special Olympics South Dakota.

NOMINEES:

- Andra Kallhoff & Family, Sioux Falls
- Nate & Miranda Hilbrands, Brookings
- Linda Rauscher & Family, Aberdeen
- Jeff Sheehan & Family, Hamlin

**Kelly Keiser
& Family**
Sioux Falls



2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

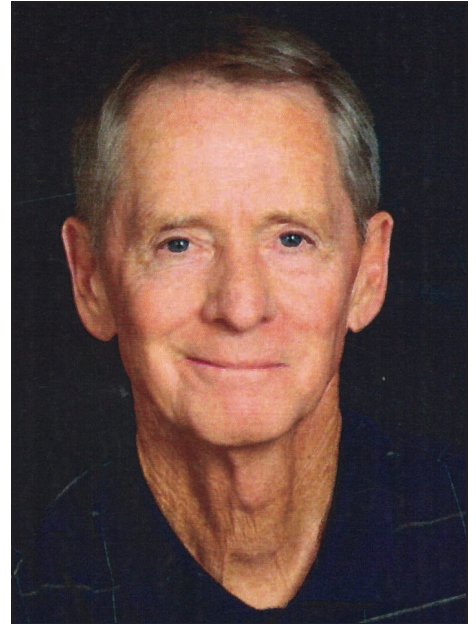
The Hall of Fame is the highest award given by the SDHSCA. This award is designed to recognize SDHSCA members for years of coaching tenure in South Dakota high schools, for dedication to the SDHSCA and for outstanding coaching accomplishments. A coach can be either active or inactive and be eligible for the Hall of Fame.



Ken Bonte
Beresford



Scott Ewald
Watertown



Roger Loecker
Huron



Rich Luther
Lennox



Joan Rchetto
Lead-Deadwood



Charlie Sizer
Miller

HALL OF FAME PAST INDUCTEES

2023	Gary Culver, Lyle "Dusty" LeBeaux, Bill Marquardt, Audra Rew, Joe Schlimgen, Kurt Schultz
2022	Anita Boeck, Laverne Diede, Richard "Doc" Michel, Jerry Rhodes, Sr., Bob Sittig, Mark Wendelgass
2021	Mike Begeman, Kathy Graves, Bob Lowery, Mark Meile
2020	Jason K. Olson, Dawn Seiler, Dave Wolsky, Mick Wysuph
2019	Mary Ellen Luikens, Tom McGough, Dan Thelen, Jim Trett
2018	Jim Aisenbrey, David Dolan, Steve Keszler, Ervin Ptak, Carmen Robinson
2017	Gene Brownell, Bob Garry, Phil Hunt, Arlin Likness, Mark C. Upward
2016	Jill Christiansen, Russell Morrell, Marc Murren, C. Terry Vincent
2015	Mike Klinedinst, Steve Kueter, Lyle Pearson, Steve Peters, Ron Riherd
2014	John Bruce, Daryl Fletcher, Vic Godfrey, Donna Schmitz, Don Shields
2013	Jim Dorman, James Drake, Burnell Glanzer, John Nyhaug, Doug Schooley
2012	Georgia Adolph, Ken Bruckner, Virg Polak, Les Tlustos
2011	Steve Berseth, Fran Esser, Earl Hilton, Connie Nyhaug, Allen Weier
2010	Jim Sorenson, Rob Van Laecken, Chuck Welke, Bill Witte, Don Barnes
2009	Frank Podraza, Russell Strande, Francis Zacher
2008	Cal Corey, Sheri Keck, Roger Pries, Gary Reed, Jim Uttecht
2007	Rod Garrison, Marv McCune, Pam Johnson Murra, Gary Wallman, Tom Walsh, Sr.
2006	Tom Main, Joe Lockwood, Lemoine Trout, Terry Small
2005	Galen Busch, Gene Danielsen, Bill Scholten, Dave Scott
2004	Chris Dummermuth, Jim Holwerda, Jack Theeler
2003	Linda Collignon, Jim Haar, Jerry Opbroek
2002	Forrest Flaagan, Ron Flynn, Ken Ruml, Bill Welsh
2001	Ronnie Brown, Richard Day, Richard Donovan, Jim Heeren
2000	Elwood Dietrich, Bob Judson, Tom Prendergast, Fred Tibbetts
1999	Jim Calhoon, Jim Luce, Gale Lundberg
1998	Gordon Bergquist, Lowell Gilbertson, Clarence Kooistra, John Odney
1997	Eldon Barnes, Joe Dunmire, Norman West
1996	Jim Cordts, John Houska, Dean Mann
1995	Harvey Hammrich, Jim McGlone, Jim Miner, Don Reshetar
1994	Dan Barker, Judy Busch, Gary Munsen, Rich Strande
1993	Wayne Carney, Dale McElhany, Jerry Miller
1992	Lee Dolan, Harry Prendergast, Andy Zephier
1991	Wayne Haensel, Marv Sherrill
1990	Arnie Bauer, Dan Moran, Jack Richardson
1989	George DeKlotz, Lolly Forseth
1988	Larry Luitjens, Jerry McElroy, Harvey Naasz
1987	Gayle Hoover, Phil Trautner
1986	Floyd Farrand, Dave Strain, Bob Winter
1985	Lloyd Dobratz, Glenn Draisey, Laton Greeno, Tom Long
1984	Gene Breemes, Duane Clodfelter, Bob Burns
1983	Burdell Coplan, M.J. "Moe" Shevlin
1982	Rollie Greeno, Howard Naasz, Nusier Salem
1981	Bill Amacher, Bert Dent, Lewis Papendick
1980	Allen "Pete" Baker, Don Diede, Jim Marking, Bob Schroeder
1979	Rich Greeno, Max Hawk, Clar Lilevjen, Howard Taplett
1978	Clyde Cotton, Wally Diehl, Carol Heier, Floyd Mitchell
1977	Elmer Hansen, Paul Marschalk, Mel Minton, Buelle Woodle
1976	Don Baker, Euclid Cobb, Ken Greeno, Joe Quintal, Howard Wood



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