



**Maxine Fender**  
**Coach**  
Inducted 2017

Maxine (Mackie) Fender was born and raised in Caldwell, Idaho, graduating from Caldwell High School in 1941. She was a self-proclaimed tomboy and knew early on that she wanted to teach girls PE. She spent two years at the College of Idaho before transferring to Utah State where she received her teaching degree. After graduation, she taught five years in Brigham City, Utah. During a summer break from college, she met Gerrie Halbert while working for the City of Denver Recreation Department as a life guard and playground activities supervisor.

Gerrie began teaching at Grants Pass High School in 1948 and, through her urging, Mackie moved to Grants Pass and began teaching at GPHS the following year. The only opportunity for girls to participate in athletics was through the Girls Athletic Association (GAA), which offered organized intramurals and a few opportunities to compete with other schools in the area. Gerrie and Mackie were instrumental in building GAA into a very strong intramural program. Their motto was, "Girls are not second class citizens." That philosophy, along with the introduction of Title IX and the help of fellow teacher, Stella VanCleave, was the beginning of a very successful competitive athletic program for girls at GPHS.

Mackie, a field hockey player in college, was the first Head Volleyball Coach at GPHS, leading her teams to several State Tournament appearances, including in 1975 where they brought home the Consolation title. She was also an assistant basketball coach during the 1970's when the team won 3 Southern Oregon Conference basketball titles (1974-77), reached the state tournament 8 years, and won 2 State Consolation titles. Mackie also coached track along with being the Pep Club Advisor at GPHS.

She retired after 35 years at Grants Pass High School. She was a generous financial supporter of the Mel Ingram Field renovation and although she is unable to attend the games, she still has season tickets to all home football games. Mackie does water aerobics three times a week and entertains family, friends and former students in her home on an almost daily basis. She is known for her great sense of humor and quick wit.