

1956 State Championship Caveman Cross Country Team Inducted 2021



Back Row: Coach Russ Werner, Steve Anderson, Glen Wilson, Paul Cogle
Front row: Walt Morrison, Terry Boatman, Joe Turley
Insets: Harry Cogle (left) Curt Morgan (right)

The 1956 Caveman Cross Country Team was an exceptional group of athletes. Several of the team members grew up together in Williams and in 1954, when Grants Pass High School started its Cross Country program, they were the core of the team. Led by this core of runners, the team went undefeated in dual meets 1955 placing 3rd at the State Meet and went undefeated in dual meets again in 1956. In the third year of the program's existence -1956 - the team won the State Championship! To win the State meet, the Cavemen upset the returning champions from Lincoln. Placers for the Caveman included seniors Terry Boatman (4th) and Paul Cogle (8th), juniors Walt Morrison (15th) and Steve Anderson (17th) and sophomore Glen Wilson, with an exciting finish passing 7 runners in the final 330 yards, finishing 18th.

Not only did they win, but the Cavemen's score of 62 points also set a new meet record!

Some team members continued to run and compete after high school. Steve Anderson ran for Biola University in 1960 and 1961. Curt Morgan ran for the US Navy in 1958 and 1959. Harry Cogle ran for the US Navy in 1960 and then for SOC in 1961 and 1962 where he qualified for nationals in 1961. Paul Cogle ran for the United States Air Force and later, in 1972 and 1973, ran for SOC. Terry Boatman ran for the University of Oregon one year and then transferred to SOC where he was a regional and conference champion as well as the school record holder in the 1,2 and 3 mile distances.

The 1956 team members continued to have an impact on the running community as they branched out to coach at the high school and collegiate levels and compete in road runs throughout the country.