

2021-2022 Elida Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees



Chris Adams

Chris Adams is a 1976 graduate of Lancaster High School, 1981 graduate of Wittenberg University (BS), and a 1985 graduate of The Ohio State University (MA). He came to Elida High School in 1985 and spent twenty-one years teaching biology, chemistry, and physical science.

Coach Adams was the Elida boys' basketball coach from 1985 through 2006. During his role as the head coach, he had a winning record of 380-189. Coach Adams and his team won the Western Buckeye League in 1987, 1991, 1997, 2003, and 2006. He won fifteen Sectional titles and four District titles during his tenure. He was named the WBL Coach of the Year in 1987, 1991, 1998, 2003, and 2006. Chris was the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 1998 and District 8 Coach of the Year in 1991 and 1998.

Chris served as the President of the District 8 Coaches Association during the 1992-93 season. He also served as the President of the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association from 2002 until 2004.

Chris left Elida to become the athletic director at the University of Northwestern Ohio where he remains to this day. As the athletic director, he has helped to grow the Racer Athletic Department which was revived and rebranded in 2007-2008 with four sports: men's and women's basketball and tennis. The

department has since expanded into a nationally respected crew of fourteen traditional programs along with three motorsports teams.

Along with Chris' role as athletic director, he was also the head men's basketball coach for ten seasons at UNOH. He led the Racers to a Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference co-championship in the 2014-15 season, along with being selected as the WHAC Coach of the Year.

In 2020 Chris was inducted into the Ohio High School Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He is thankful for all his former players, assistants, the community, friends, and his family.

Chris and his wife of 40 years reside in the Elida School District and have two children: Drew (Rachel) and Julie (Tony) Moore. Chris had the pleasure of coaching his son in high school while his daughter was an Elida basketball cheerleader. They also have four grandchildren: Jency, Tilly, Eli, and Isaac.

A former Elida player had some things to say about Chris. "Coach Adams dedicated a majority of his life to Elida basketball, and it has transformed into a very successful program. Coach has done a lot for the community, the players he coached, and Elida High School. Coach is the winningest coach in Elida History."



Gary Evans

Gary Evans was an athlete at Wapakoneta High School and Defiance College. While at Wapak, Gary earned all-league honors in three different positions in football. He may be the only player to ever have won all-league in three different positions in the Western Buckeye League. He received all-league honors as a nose guard, linebacker, and tailback. Gary was also a four-time letterman in football and track in college. He was one of two athletes to start on the two undefeated Defiance football teams while he was in college. Gary also held the Defiance pole vault record from 1968 through 2005 of 4.3 meters. He was inducted into the Defiance College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000.

Gary came to Elida in the early 1970s. He taught business for 35 years in the high school and then continued to substitute teach, thereafter. Gary was an assistant football coach for 25 years. His real passion, though, was track. Gary was a part of the Elida track program in one form or another for forty-eight years. He was the head track coach from 1973 until 2007. The majority of the track records at Elida are held by athletes that were coached by Gary. He had numerous state and regional qualifying athletes during his coaching tenure. He led Elida to four Western Buckeye League titles during his coaching career. He was also a mentor to four of the athletes that are in the Elida Hall of Fame.

Coach Evans spent many hours helping pole vault athletes. The pole vaulters knew the pole vault pits would stay open long after the season and coach would make himself available to help. He sent many on to compete at the collegiate

level. Not only did Elida athletes go to him for tips and advice, at track invitationals, coaches and athletes from other regions would approach Coach Evans to strike up a conversation and learn from him. He had a connection to so many; Gary did not know a stranger.

Gary donated many hours to the track facility through the years. He was instrumental in the development of the new track complex in the early 2000s. When the new facility was being built, Gary spent countless hours and days volunteering his time to complete projects within the facility. He also volunteered his time in doing repairs and general track facility upkeep over the years.

Gary suddenly passed away on February 12, 2020, at his residence. He is greatly missed by his friends and family as they remember last conversations or moments spent together. As a student or athlete, Gary was to be respected. He mentored and supported many student athletes in high school and thereafter. Gary was a model teacher, coach, and human being.