ELITE SPEED SPORTS PERFORMANCE COMPANY BIOGRAPHY

Elite Speed Sports Performance and its affiliates, founded in 2006, stand as Colorado's premier and largest sports performance training organization. With a legacy of over 17 years, Elite Speed operates from three esteemed locations. Soon, Elite will introduce the state's only Performance Health Club in the streets of Southglenn. The "Elite Performance Center" revolutionizes the traditional gym experience. The Elite Performance Center will offer a one-of-a-kind destination that combines world-class performance training, a fully-equipped gym/health club experience, along with an unparalleled recovery and holistic health experience.

Elite is known for delivering unparalleled service in sports performance and biomechanical movement expertise. Their unique status as one of the nation's leading recipients of the NSCA-endorsed Return to Performance certification further cements their industry prominence.

In 2019, Elite Speed marked a significant milestone by announcing its strategic partnership with UC Health, becoming the exclusive Sports Performance Provider for the UC Health System. This alliance harmoniously blends healthcare, training, and fitness services, offering a comprehensive range of services to Colorado. From elite-level sports performance training to preventive and rehabilitative care, the partnership serves both top-tier athletes and everyday individuals. This growth culminated in the integration of the state-of-the-art UC Health Sports Medicine Center in Inverness, amplifying Elite Speed's influence in the Front Range.

Annually servicing over 22,000 clients and profoundly impacting countless families, Elite Speed's commitment to excellence resonates throughout Colorado. Under the stewardship of Managing Partner Nick Vinson, the organization constantly strives to enhance athletic capabilities while also holistically elevating individuals. As Nick articulates, "Our mission has always been to impact, lead, and mentor. Our partnership with Kent Denver reinforces our vision, enabling us to expand our impact across all facets of the Colorado community."

With its all-encompassing approach and its invigorating new partnership with Kent Denver, Elite Speed is steadfastly committed to elevating athletic performance and promoting holistic well-being. They continue to make significant contributions to both the sports and health sectors of Colorado.
Erich Priest is a born and raised Native of Colorado. He has a Bachelor’s in Human Performance and Sport from Metro State University. He began his career in Athletic Performance training at Colorado School of Mines assisting with their strength and conditioning program. He has been an integral part of the team here since 2018. A few years later he was named Directory of Development at our Inverness location. He has worked with numerous Professional, collegiate and high school athletes. His specialties include sport specific movement development, olympic lifting progressions and return to sport protocols.

QUALIFICATIONS & SPECIALTIES
- BS | CSCS
- Served on the strength and conditioning staff at Valor HS & School of Mines
- 10+ years sports performance training
- Return to Performance Specialist

EPRIEST@ELITESPEEDSP.COM

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, INVERNESS
TAYLOR HEPPNER

Taylor is originally from Chagrin Falls, OH. She is a PhD Candidate at Rocky Mountain University in Health Science, Human & Sport Performance, holds a MS in Sport Management (High Performance Coaching) from the University of Florida and a BS in Exercise Science from Washington State University. She has gained experience working with NFL, MLB, NBA, NHL, US Ski & Snowboard, etc athletes in her previous sports performance roles. She worked in Vail, CO at Howard Head Sports Medicine where she was the Performance Coordinator. Prior to that experience she worked with EXOS in Vail, CO and Phoenix, AZ as a Performance Specialist and, initially, a performance Intern. Her career began at WSU as an intern strength and conditioning coach working with NCAA D1 athletes of all Olympic sports. Her specialty and experience is in working with injured athletes to help return them to elite level athletics effectively and working alongside sports medicine professionals from surgeons to athletic trainers, sport coaches, etc. Her own athletic career included a wide variety of sports, notably many years of fast pitch softball and competitive ski racing at the national level. In college, she rowed crew at WSU.

THEPPNER@ELITESPEEDSP.COM

QUALIFICATIONS & SPECIALTIES

- CSCS | RPS | XPS | FRCms | USAW-1 | DBC 1 & 2 | FMS
- PhD(s) - Human & Sports Performance
- MS Sport Management & High Performance Coaching
- License Massage Therapist - Sports
- Return to Performance Director

#WEAREELITE
DUSTIN GREENWOOD

Dustin Greenwood was born in Charlottesville, Virginia. The native of Palmyra, Virginia has a Bachelor of Science in Sport Management from Concord University and a Master of Science in Health Promotions with an emphasis in Sports Performance, from Virginia Tech University. Dustin competed on the track and field team in the hurdles, javelin, long jump, 4x100 meters, and decathlon, where he was nominated for Conference Athlete of the Year, and won multiple conference titles. Dustin also played wide receiver and quarterback at Concord University, earning multiple All-Conference awards. In 2018 he was inducted into the Concord University Athletics Hall of Fame. Dustin joined the Elite Speed team in 2012. During his time at Elite Speed, Dustin was recruited and named to the US Men's National Bobsled Team and competed on the international world cup circuit. Upon cessation of his bobsledding career, Dustin was named the Director of Performance for Elite Speed in 2018, where he has worked with numerous professional, collegiate, and high school athletes. His specialties include biomechanical sprint analysis, neurological re-patterning, sport-specific movement development, and high-level plyometric development.

DGREENWOOD@ELITESPEEDSP.COM

QUALIFICATIONS & SPECIALTIES

- BS | MS | CSCS
- Served on the Strength & Conditioning staff at Virginia Tech Athletics from 2009-2011
- Conference athlete of the year nomination Concord Track & Field
- Named team captain on the football team
- World Cup Bobsled Athlete
- 10+ years sprint development | strength and conditioning experience
- Return to Performance Specialist
Derrick Middleton was born in Chicago Heights, Illinois. Derrick has a Bachelor's of Science in Human Performance at Midland University (NE). Derrick was a 4 year starter at Midland university where he played Running back, Wide Receiver, Quarterback, Kickoff Return and Punt Return. After College, Derrick also had the opportunity to play in Indoor football League for Council Bluff Express, Sioux City Bandits and Omaha Beef. Derrick Joined The Elite Speed Sports Performance staff in 2019, he also Coaches High school football at Regis Jesuit High School since 2013, where he serves as the varsity Running Back coach. His specialties include Sports Specific movement, sprinting mechanics, plyometric development, and return to performance from injuries.

DMIDDLETON@ELITESPEEDSP.COM

QUALIFICATIONS & SPECIALTIES

- BS | USA-W weightlifting | Return to Performance
- Indoor football League - Council Bluff Express | Omaha Beef | Sioux City Bandits
- Midland University 2012 Assistant Coach (Defensive Lineman)
- 4 Year Started at Midland university
- 1st All Conference Team
- Regis Jesuit Football Coach
- Return to Performance Specialist
JAKOB MONROE

Jakob was born in Bradenton, Florida. After spending most of his childhood in Florida, Jakob moved westward to complete his high school and collegiate studies in Colorado, earning a B.A. in Integrative Physiology and a Certificate in Public Health from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2021. Through the years, Jakob has participated and competed in a variety of sports including basketball, football, wrestling, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, and powerlifting. In his time since graduating from CU, Jakob has spent time working in both rehabilitative and sports performance settings, joining the Elite Speed team in July 2022. During his time with Elite Speed, he has trained high-school and collegiate athletes in a private and semi-private capacity and has organized team training at the high-school level for sports such as baseball, soccer, and poms. As his career continues to develop, Jakob is hopeful to continue his education through various certification courses - and potentially a return to school for physical therapy - with the goal of being a well-rounded and versatile coach who can impact athletes of any ability.

QUALIFICATIONS & SPECIALTIES

- CSCS
- Bachelor’s in Integrative Physiology
- USA Weightlifting - Level 1 Sport Coach
- Blue Belt in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, with 4+ years of competition experience
- Return to Performance Specialist
Jack Gonzales was born in Lafayette, Louisiana. With his dad being in the military, Jack moved to various states in his youth such as Mississippi, California and Colorado. Once his dad retired in 2004, they moved to Colorado and he’s been here ever since. Jack went to high school in Aurora, CO at Eaglecrest high school where he played soccer. He helped them achieve their first ever playoff berth and received multiple all-conference awards. Jack was a product of the Colorado Rush academy team where he played for 3 years. Jack went on to play at Colorado State University-Pueblo where he received multiple all-conference awards and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in Exercise Science in 2016. Jack has been in the fitness industry ever since and has primarily worked as a personal trainer. He joined the Elite Speed team in 2022. His specialties include sport-specific movement development, team-training, injury-prevention and youth training.

JGONZALES@ELITESPEEDSP.COM

QUALIFICATIONS & SPECIALTIES

- BS | ISSA
- 4 Year Division II NCAA Soccer Player
- 2x All-RMAC at CSU-Pueblo
- Real Colorado youth soccer coach
- Return to Performance Specialist
Mikey played soccer from five years old all the way through college and within those years was awarded multiple accolades, coached a little league soccer team, and had unmeasurable fun along the way. He began to study for a career in nursing at Mary Hardin-Baylor University in Belton, TX, however, made a decision to pursue and ultimately graduate with a degree in Clinical Psychology and minor in Exercise Science. While working as a Teacher Assistant for Anatomy and Physiology during nursing school, he began to realize that his true passion was educating and helping people better themselves. Upon graduation, he worked as a personal trainer at 24 Hour Fitness for five years, then got promoted to Fitness Manager for another two years. He has been with Elite Speed Sports Performance since October 2020. His background and experience covers youth athletes wanting to better their sport to the adult population wanting to get rid of pain and everything in-between. His certifications include Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist through NSCA and Corrective Exercise through NASM. He loves meeting people at their current fitness level and challenging them accordingly to get to their fitness goal. Health is both mental and physical and he hopes he can help make a positive impact with both in your life.

MBRIGGS@ELITESPEEDSP.COM

QUALIFICATIONS & SPECIALTIES

- NSCA Strength and Conditioning Certification
- NASM Corrective Exercise Specialist
- 8+ years training experience
- 4 Year Division III NCAA Soccer Player
- Return to Performance Specialist

#WEAREELITE
Jimmy Lawler

Jimmy was born in the Southwest suburbs. During his youth and high school years he competed in both Football and Track and Field. After high school, Jimmy joined the Air Force for 4 years and was stationed in Okinawa, Japan and Newmarket, UK. Once out of the military, Jimmy pursued his education at Arizona State University, acquiring his Bachelor’s degree in Health Sciences (Pre-Professional). Jimmy moved to Colorado in 2019 and started working at Elite Speed in early 2020 while simultaneously earning his Master’s Degree at the University of Denver. In 2021, he graduated from DU and earned his Master of Arts in Sport Coaching. Jimmy works with athletes of all ages and disciplines from professional level, weekend warriors, down to grade school helping prepare them for success in their respective sports.

JLAWLER@ELITESPEEDSP.COM

QUALIFICATIONS & SPECIALTIES

- MA from University of Denver’s Graduate School of Professional Psychology in Sport Coaching
- BS from Arizona State in Health Sciences (Pre-Prof) with Minor in Human Nutrition
- NASM certification in Corrective Exercise
- Crossfit Games Athlete/ 2x Regional Competitor between 2010-2015
- Return to Performance Specialist

#WEAREELITE
BRIAN MODZELESKY

Brian Modzelesky was born in Agawam, Massachusetts on January 19th, 1999. Brian graduated from the University of South Florida in 2021, with a bachelor’s of science in Finance and a minor in Nutrition. Brian has been playing indoor volleyball since being sophomore in high school. His senior year, his team was number 5 in Massachusetts and competed for the regional title. At the University of South Florida, he was an outside hitter on the indoor volleyball team and competed on the beach volleyball team. Brian has been a personal trainer and a mens and women’s volleyball coach since graduating college. At the same time, he is pursuing professional volleyball. Brian has traveled the country playing in different high level tournaments and he is currently a part of semi-professional volleyball team in the United States. Brian joined Elite Speed in October of 2022. His specialties include high level jump training, working with volleyball athletes, hypertrophy training, and strength training.

QUALIFICATIONS & SPECIALTIES

- NASM certified personal trainer
- USF minor in Nutrition
- Strength and conditioning coach at Front Range Volleyball Club
- Named team caption for USF’s men’s indoor volleyball team
- Named 1st team in Western Massachusetts his senior year of highschool
- Currently a part of the Colorado Kingsmens, a semi-professional volleyball team in the Volleyball League of America
- 2022 1st place in Steamboat’s Annual Doubles grass volleyball tournament
- 2022 2nd place in Fraser, Colorado’s Annual Doubles grass volleyball tournament
PERFORMANCE SPECIALIST

ALEC WIAETER

Alec was born in Detroit, Michigan. He is 27 and has a Bachelor’s of Science for Kinesiology from Michigan State University with focuses in exercise physiology and a minor in coaching. Alec ran sprints and hurdles on the track and field team at MSU. He has had personal success running with an MSU school record in the indoor 600m. Alec, after graduating in 2019 joined a training facility in Michigan called 2SP where he started to use his knowledge of running and movement training to train a predominantly baseball and hockey athlete population. Alec joined Elite Speed in 2022 after moving out to Colorado and has worked with professional athletes, to elementary kids, to post surgery and PT elderly clients. His specialties include linear speed training, change of direction and power movements, basketball, soccer, track and field, volleyball, bodybuilding, longevity training, and post/coincide physical therapy work. All of Alec’s training connects to an elevated mindset and pushing through barriers of one’s abilities to increase self confidence in and out of the gym/athletics.

AWIATER@ELITESPEEDSP.COM

QUALIFICATIONS & SPECIALTIES

- Track and Field personal records:
  - 400 (first leg 4x4 split) - 47:0
  - 400H - 52.5
  - 600 - 1:18.8
- Atlis: Coaching Short Sprints Certification
- 4+ years personal training
- 4 Year Divison I NCAA Track and Field
- Return to Performance Specialist

#WEAREELITE
Jay was born in Fort Worth, Texas. Jay chose to stay close to home, and attended SMU (Southern Methodist University) where he played collegiate soccer. Jay went on to become a consensus 1st team All-American, Conference USA player of the year, and MAC Hermann Trophy (National Player of the Year) Finalist. Jay was selected 32nd overall in the 2007 MLS Draft by DC United and went on to play 8 seasons professionally before retiring from playing. Jay’s playing career took him all over the world with stints in Europe, USA, Caribbean and even a brief stint in Asia. He has experience playing in the CONCACAF Champions League and was inducted into the SMU Sports Hall of Fame as part of the 2020 class.

Jay joined Elite Speed in the fall of 2022, as he has a burning desire to help athletes reach their highest potential and goals. Jay is the Sports Performance Coach for the Colorado Rapids ECNL program, and also works with other high school, collegiate, and professional athletes. Jay loves working with athletes not only with their sports specific movement but also with their mentality/mindset to help them ensure they’re both physically and mentally prepared.

JNEEDHAM@ELITESPEEDSP.COM

QUALIFICATIONS & SPECIALTIES

- CPT
- 2023 Mental Performance Training Diploma Recipient
- Class of 2020 SMU Hall of Fame
- 2007 USL Rookie of the Year
- 2006 MAC Hermann Trophy Finalist
- 2006 Conference USA Player of the Year
- 2005-2006 All American
- 8 years of playing professional soccer (USA, Norway, Puerto Rico)
- 4 Year Division I NCAA Soccer Player
- Return to Performance Specialist
NOELLE KNUTSEN

Noelle Knutsen was born in Colorado Springs, Colorado. This Colorado Native achieved a Bachelor of Science in clinical psychology and a minor in marketing from Anderson University in South Carolina. Noelle pursued her passion of playing collegiate volleyball at a high level becoming a student athlete at Anderson University. She started and played in four out of her five seasons while earning a number of awards and recognitions.

She went to Chaparral High school in Parker, CO and was the captain of the volleyball team. Her club career started at Team Colorado Volleyball, switched to Colorado Volleyball Association, joined camps, and took lessons at Colorado Juniors and finally finished her 17 and 18s career at Momentum. Noelle is passionate about helping young athletes find and reach their potential while building her knowledge of Sports Psychology and mental health within athletes.

NKNUTSEN@ELITESPEEDSP.COM

QUALIFICATIONS & SPECIALTIES

• BS | ISSA
• Interned with the Strength & Conditioning staff at Anderson University 2020-2021
• Earned Volleyball All-American Honors
• Captain of the volleyball team
• 11+ years of volleyball experience
• 2022 AVCA All-Region Honors
• 2022 D2CCA All-American Recognition
• 2022 AVCA All-Region Honors
• 2022 D2CCA All-Southeast Region First Team
• 2022 SAC Volleyball All-Conference First Team
• 2021 AVCA All-Southeast Region First Team
• 2021 SAC volleyball All-Conference Second Team
• 2019-2020 Named Honorable Mention All-South Atlantic Conference
• 2018 Named First Team All-League Honors as a Senior
• 4 Year Division II NCAA Volleyball Player
• Return to Performance Specialist

#WEAREELITE
KATELYN MARTIN

Katelyn Martin was born in El Paso, Texas but moved to Parker, Colorado, in 2002. She is a graduate of Regis Jesuit High School, where she played varsity soccer. She then continued her soccer career at Regis University in northwest Denver. During her career at Regis University, Katelyn won multiple accolades, including Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Goalkeeper of the Week, Rocky Mountain Athletic All-Tournament Team, All-Academic Honor Roll, and was a 2-year team captain. Katelyn was a long-time Elite Speed athlete since 2014 and continued to train with Elite until the end of her college career in November 2022. Upon cessation of her college soccer career, Katelyn joined the Elite Speed team as a Performance Specialist. Katelyn holds a Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science, and a Certificate in Health Care Business Management, both from Regis University, and she is a Return to Performance Specialist and is actively pursuing further certifications through the NSCA. Katelyn enjoys working with athletes of all ages and sports and strives to help them gain confidence in themselves both on and off the field.

KMARTIN@ELITESPEEDSP.COM

QUALIFICATIONS & SPECIALTIES

- B.S. Health and Exercise Science
- Graduate Certificate in Health Care Business Management
- USA Weightlifting - Level 1 Sport Coach
- 5 Year Division II NCAA Soccer Player
- Return to Performance Specialist
RORY LEEDS

Rory Leeds was born in Manhattan, New York. The native of Manhattan, New York has a Bachelor's of Health and Exercise Science from Syracuse University and a Master's of Science in Exercise Science from Syracuse University. Rory competed on the track and field team in the 800 meter and mile where he qualified for New York states championship in both events.

Rory also ran cross country. Rory joined the Elite Speed Team in 2023. Prior to joining the Elite speed team Rory spent two year working with the Syracuse football strength staff and 6 months with Resilience Code.

RLEEDS@ELITESPEEDSP.COM

QUALIFICATIONS & SPECIALTIES

- BS|MS|AC
- Served on the Strength & Conditioning Staff at Syracuse University from 2016-2018
- Captain of the track and cross team from 2013-2014
- 2013-2014 IMG track athlete
- 2013 top 100 finisher at Dash to the finish NYC
- 2013 New York State cross country Championship
- Return to Performance Specialist
Virginia Gautier was born in Fort Riley, Kansas. Virginia received a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Science with a focus on Health and Wellness Promotion from the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. At UCCS, Virginia competed at the NCAA Division 2 level in soccer for some time, and competed at the Division 3 level at Johnson and Wales University in both soccer and as a member of the track team, competing in the open 200 meter, 300 meter, 400 meter, sprint medley relay, and 4x400 meter relay. She has extensive experience training as an athlete and experience as an intern of Elite Speed Sports Performance where she observed the training of high level athletes for several months, where she learned numerous training methods that she is now able to implement herself as a trainer. As a daughter of a Green Beret, Virginia was raised with a great sense of discipline, determination, and hard-work, which she now exemplifies each day in everything she does. Due to being in a military family, Virginia has lived in seven different states, which has given her the opportunity to see and experience many different ways of life and customs. These experiences have helped Virginia become an open minded young woman who loves meeting and working with athletes of all kinds.

Virginia Gautier

VGAUTIER@ELITESPEEDSP.COM

QUALIFICATIONS & SPECIALTIES

- B.S. in Healthcare Science with a focus on Health and Wellness Promotion
- CPR/First-Aid/AED certifications in Ellis & Associates, American Red Cross, and StarGuard
- Assisted with the coaching and training the 2022 UCCS men’s club soccer team
- NCAA Division 2 and 3 soccer player at UCCS and JWU
- Division 3 track athlete at Johnson and Wales University
- 2 years experience as a swim instructor
- Return to Performance Specialist

#WEAREELITE
Cristian Pelayo was born in Mountain View, California. Cristian stayed in the bay area to get a Bachelor’s degree in Kinesiology with a minor in Psychology from Notre Dame de Namur University and then got his certificate in Sport Psychology at Holy Names University. Cristian played soccer at Notre Dame de Namur University for 4 years and continued to play at Holy Names University while he was getting his certificate. Cristian had the opportunity to play soccer in Germany where he trained with MSV Pampow in the Fall of 2022. Cristian joined the Elite Speed team in January of 2023 where he specialties in speed, movement and plyometric development.
CAZEB
HERNANDEZ

Caleb was born and raised in the South Pole (McAllen) of Texas. The native of the Rio Grande Valley moved to Central Texas where he met his wife while pursuing his Bachelor’s of Science in Kinesiology from Sam Houston State University. Caleb just graduated and is currently a combat sports athlete and competes in Brazilian jiu jitsu. He just received his blue belt from his professor, Bubba Bush. Caleb’s oldest competitive passion is chess: ever since the first grade, Caleb would compete in local tournaments. Although he wouldn’t win every tournament, he stuck with it and was able to win a state championship for two consecutive years and be invited to compete in National tournaments, too. He has worked with some scholarship athletes, walk-ons, and many high school and youth athletes who have hopes to either make it to the next level or are competing for a starting spot. His specialties include rotational movement training, landmine training, speed and performance, and group training.

CHERNANDEZ@ELITESPEEDSP.COM

QUALIFICATIONS & SPECIALTIES

- BS Kinesiology with a minor in General Business
- 5 + years personal training | Group training | Certified via ACE
- Served as a voluntary youth and adult Self-Defense coach at Brazos Valley MMA and Fitness
- Hosted an Inaugural Speed and Skills Combine for the American Heart Association while under CAP Elite
- 2018- Started Coaching career with Gold’s Gym Towerpoint (Texas)
- 2019- Guest on The Active Texan Podcast
- 2020- Founded House Of Gains (HOG) Fitness
- 2021- Coached Speed and Performance with CAP Elite
- 2022- Coached Adult Fitness and Youth MMA with BVMAA
- Return to Performance Specialist

#WEAREELITE
EVAN MATEO

Evan was born in Rockland County, NY. He attended Nanuet Highschool where he played four years of lacrosse as a face-off middle. Evan received a BA in Sociology at the University of Oneonta, where he pursued his passion of helping people from various walks of life. Shortly after, he explored the idea of pursuing a master’s degree in mental health counseling. During this time of discernment, he began diving deeper into his own fitness journey and gained a more profound understanding of all mental/physical health benefits that fitness provides to the human person. He continued his education through the National Academy of Sports Medicine where he obtained his NASM-CPT and Corrective Exercise Specialist certification. Evan encountered Mike Boyle’s Strength and Conditioning and got accepted to do a 3-month summer internship with the organization while completing his certification in Functional Strength Coach Levels 1 and 2. This is was a critical turning point in Evan’s career as a sports performance and functional trainer. Evan moved to Denver, Colorado where he joined a small mission that works directly with the young adult population and was challenged in mind, body and spirit.

EMATEO@ELITESPEEDSP.COM

QUALIFICATIONS & SPECIALTIES

- BA in Sociology at University of Oneonta
- Pursuing MA in Mental Health Counseling
- NASM-CPT, NASM-CSE
- Certified Functional Strength Coach Level 1 and 2
- Return to Performance Specialist