

SAUK RAPIDS-RICE



ATHLETIC
HALL *of* FAME

September 16, 2023

Sauk Rapids-Rice High School

Athletic Hall of Fame Committee Message

Welcome to the Sauk Rapids-Rice High School Athletic Hall of Fame Induction. The Hall of Fame provides the opportunity to revisit many accomplishments and memories. The gathering today is a special event to honor Sauk Rapids-Rice Schools' outstanding athletic alumni, coaches, and devoted community members. We welcome the Sauk Rapids-Rice community, friends, and families who join us in this tradition. Thank you for sharing the pride in honoring the accomplishments of these individuals.

Sauk Rapids-Rice High School & Mascot

The High School that serves the area was referred to as Sauk Rapids Senior High School (SRHS) from 1908 to 1969. Rice was added to the School District in 1969, and was added to the name of the High (SRRHS) and Middle Schools (SRRMS).

When Sauk Rapids-Rice High School was originally founded, the athletic teams became known as the Sauk Rapids Indians. In 1995 the district engaged in the process of selecting a mascot that would maintain the rich traditions and be respectful to Native American people and heritage. The 1995-1996 school year was the first year of the Sauk Rapids-Rice STORM.

SRR Athletic Hall of Fame Members

PAST INDUCTEES (IN ORDER OF INDUCTION)

Eldon "Rip" Repulski	1946
Dave Pflipsen.....	1956
Dana O'Brien	1963
Bob Hegman	1976
Sue Thelen (Kohl Fiarri).....	1981
Marge Ackerman	1985
Laura & Clarence Koep (Special Rec.)	
Ken Hill (Athlete & Coach).....	1954,1970-2000
Don Wichmann.....	1946
Jerry Strating	1972
Sharon Sauer	1982
Scott Schulte.....	1989
Jenny Brenden.....	2000
Pat Burski (Special Rec.)	
Donald Hill.....	1950
Dennis Dushaw.....	1961
John Waseka.....	1973
Tonya (Toni) Neils.....	1989
Greg Bemboom.....	1990
Jim Worden (Activities Director & Coach)	1955-1984
Mike Rinke	1981
Nona Saldana-Ewell	1990
Jeremy Christie	1995

Greta Bauer	2000
Bob Borgert (Coach).....	1959-1995
Walt Seiler.....	1956
Sheila (Gadway) Grambart.....	1989
Jason Timmer.....	2004
Pam (Raetz) Benoit	1990
Heidi (Mohs) Landwehr.....	1989
Don Reedstrom.....	1950
Ben Miller (Coach).....	1973-2010
Pete Bergeson.....	1979
Pam Brennan.....	1976
Jared Lazer.....	2002
Leon Thelen.....	1960
Bill Nielsen (Activities Director).....	1984-2004
Melissa Rajkowski.....	1996
Pete Robinet (Athlete & Coach).....	1979 & 1983-2010
Ken Bemboom.....	1974
Kristen Hille Heckendorf.....	2005
August Machula, Jr.....	1929
Tom Regouski.....	1972
Ronald Eickhoff (Coach).....	1966-1992
Thomas Wainright.....	1965
Jean Borth Heffron (Coach)	1977-1993
Lisa Carlson.....	1984

2023 Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony

Welcome*Phillip Klaphake, Activities Director*
Brunch *Sauk Rapids-Rice Culinary, Mary Levinski, Advisor*
Introductions.....*Phillip Klaphake*
Past Hall of Fame Inductees*John Rasmussen, Committee Member*

Induction Ceremony

Robert Neils, 1965 *presented by Wayne Visneski*
Craig Muir, 1972-1982, 1973-1996*presented by Cory Muir*
Gymnastics Team, 1997 State Champion..... *presented by Tyler Fries*
Kayla Deters, 2007 *presented by Ashley Krueger*
Closing Remarks.....*Phillip Klaphake*

Hall of Fame Committee

A special thank you to all of the committee members.

Pat Burski, 1958
Becky Christie, 1975
Loren Finlayson
Phillip Klaphake
Sandy Lawrence
Sandy Logrono
Ben Miller

Doug Moilanen
Bill Nielsen
John Rasmussen
Stephanie Schlangen, 2005
Tammy Weis
Nicole Wilke, 1993



SRR

Gymnastics

Team

*State Champion,
1997*

The Storm won the Minnesota State High School League Class A championship at Roy Wilkins Auditorium in St. Paul. It was the first, and remains the only, MSHSL-sanctioned girls state team championship in school history in any sport. The Storm scored a 146.65 to win the title by more than three points over Mound-Westonka, setting a state record in the process.

Team Members: Greta Bauer, Rae Bauer, Courtney Bettendorf, Theresa Brand, Ashley Deters, Amy Heilig, Sara Jenkins, Andrea Kelash, Amanda Kerestes, Sarah Larson, Nicole Maiers, Trista McClintock, Mandy Pine, Erin Ranta, Shannon Spiczka, Michelle Theisen, manager Megan Wilcox, Bitsy Winter, Marilyn Voitalla and Anna Wojtanowicz.

Coaches: Christie Fries (Head Coach), Joel Stark-Haws and Colleen Stark-Haws (Assistants).



Kayla Deters

Athlete, Class of 2007

Occupations: Realtor, Edina Realty; Diving coach, St. Cloud State University.

High School Achievements: Deters had a storied career at SRRHS while excelling in swimming and diving, gymnastics, and track and field. She was a six-year team member in swimming and diving, helping the Storm to an undefeated dual meet season in 2004, when they also won the Central Lakes Conference and Section Championships. Deters won the state title in the 200 yard free-style relay along with Chloe (Paulsen) Kier, Steph (Thayer) Schlangen, and Alyssa (Baltes) Kienitz. She was a two-time state runner-up in diving in 2005 and 2006, while also placing fifth in 2004 and eighth in 2003. Deters still is SRR's six-dive school record holder.

Deters also was a state meet all-around participant in gymnastics in 2006 and 2007 while being coached by her sister, Ashley (Deters) Krueger. Deters placed third in pole vault at state in 2006 and 2007 and remains the school-record holder in the event at 11 feet, 3 inches. Deters also competed in the state track meet in the 100-meter hurdles in 2006 and 2007.

College Achievements: Deters was a four-year member of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay swimming and diving team, graduating in 2011. She helped the team have an undefeated season in the Horizon League while qualifying for the NCAA Championships in 2010 and 2011.

Community Involvement: Deters also works with the Rocori Senior Center, Project Connect, the Tri-County Humane Society and is involved with local horse rescues.



Robert Neils

Athlete, Class of 1965

Family: Wife, Vickie Neils, daughter, Tonya Schulte and son, Ryan Neils.

Occupation: Retired. Worked for Bauerly Brothers for 25 years before retiring in 2021. Also worked as a medical technician, farmer, truck driver, and salesman.

High School Achievements: In football, Neils was a three-year Varsity player, earning All-Conference as a senior and All-Conference honorable mention as a junior. In basketball, was a three-year Varsity player, earning All-Conference and All-District as a junior and All-Conference Honorable Mention as a sophomore. Neils was a three-year member of the Sauk Rapids baseball and track and field teams. In addition, Neils was involved in band, the school's camera club, and was Class Secretary as a senior.

College Achievements: Neils attended Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter and St. Cloud State University. He played basketball as a freshman at Gustavus and graduated from St. Cloud State in 1970.

Community Involvement: Neils is a life-long resident of the Sauk Rapids area. He is a longtime member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Sauk Rapids. He also has been a longtime member of the Sauk Rapids Sportsmen's Club, Minnesota Trail Hound Association and the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association.



Craig Muir

Coach, 1972-1996

Class of 1965, Jackson, Minnesota, High School

Family: Wife, Elizabeth Muir, son, Cody Muir and daughters, Erin Caveve and Laura Seldon.

Occupation: Teacher and coach in the Sauk Rapids District from 1972-2004.

High School Achievements: Muir was a three-year starter in football and All-Conference selection as a senior. Muir was a two-time state tournament wrestling participant and was a member of the National Honor Society.

College Achievements: Muir graduated in 1969 from Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where he was a member on the football and wrestling teams. With the Augustana football program, Muir started on defense his junior and senior year and did not miss a down. He also did not miss a down when inserted into the offensive lineup. He achieved All Lutheran Conference Honorable Mention. In wrestling, Muir was named two-time outstanding wrestler for Augustana.

Coaching Achievements: Muir coached wrestling in the Sauk Rapids district for 15 years – from 1972-81 then again from 1986-1990. Muir also was an assistant football coach for 22 years, starting in 1974. He also coached the Powder Puff girls team for homecoming for two years in an era when they played tackle football with no equipment.

2023 Athletic Hall of Fame Sponsors

Hall of Fame Sponsorship Level

Sally Borgert
Gilleland Chevrolet

Green Sponsorship Level

Lyon's Sheet Metal and Heating
Manea's Meats
O'Brien's Pub

Gold Sponsorship Level

Haller Realty-Dave Anderson
Jimmy's Pour House
North Benton Dental Care
River Cities Systems
Sauk Rapids Dairy Queen
Gerald and Gretchen Voigt
Williams Dingmann Funeral Home

CONTRIBUTORS

Author of Inductee Biographies: Tom Fenton, Sauk Rapids Herald

Brunch: SRRHS Culinary, Mary Levinski, Advisor

Brunch Decorations: Coborn's Floral

Table Linens: Lincoln Event Rentals

*Plaques: Ron's Cabinets, John Packert, 1975**

Friday Social: Jimmy's Pour House

*Plaques, Lettering: Benton Trophy & Awards, Ron Edelbrock, 1986**

*Programs: Crown Press, Mike Miller, 1978**

Publicity: Sauk Rapids Herald

**denotes SRR graduation year*

*If you would like to become a Hall of Fame sponsor or contributor,
please contact the High School Activities Office.*