



Marty Bauer **1964**

Marty Bauer held the GPHS shot put record for 61 years, from 1962 to 2023. At 182 pounds, he was light for a competitive shot putter but he prevailed because of Coach Russ Werner's emphasis on technique and hard work. Marty regularly worked out with the sprinters and he also threw the javelin and discus.

He received a number of conference and All State awards in basketball and football, he was a member of the 1962 state champion basketball team, and he was the Southern Oregon Conference shot put champion four years in a row.

As a Fruitdale eighth grader, Marty won the county schools decathlon championship, and won a statewide AAU championship. He went to that meet planning to put the shot, but on arrival found the shot put wasn't offered in his age group and the softball throw was the substitute. He entered that event, took first place and broke the existing record by 28 feet. He later learned that his throw of 266'6" was the second best effort in his age group in the U.S. that year.

Marty was known for his leadership skills. He was elected student body president at South Junior High, student body president at GPHS and co-captain of the football, basketball, and track teams at GPHS. As an adult, he has chaired the boards of numerous community organizations.

Marty graduated third in his GPHS class of 400 and he went on to Princeton and Stanford. At Princeton Marty competed in football and track. Arriving as a complete unknown, he had to show his stuff quickly in order to rise above the almost 70 other former high school football captains who were competing for a spot on the freshman team. By the third game, he was starting at offensive end. In his sophomore year and injury ended his football career but he was still able to put the shot and throw the javelin and discus. He was grateful to be able to contribute points to the Princeton track team until he graduated. Princeton athletes have the same academic loads as everyone else, so keeping up while being in a sport year round was a real challenge.

After graduation, Marty worked for the Princeton admissions office and then went on to Stanford for some graduate work and then back to the East Coast. As an admissions officer, he visited much of the U.S. always wondering where he would settle. He credits Princeton with giving him the introspection to realize that he missed the woods, the mountains, the rivers and the people of the West. He returned to Grants Pass to see if he could build a life here and he has never regretted coming back. He enjoys being part of such a giving community. He has been a Rotarian for 48 years, and he has served on the boards of at least a half dozen community organizations from the Three Rivers School District to the Women's Crisis Support Team. And he says that being able to spend time with friends he's known since the third grade makes being here extra special.