

MANHATO EAST HIGH SCHOOL



COUGAR

HALL OF FAME

JEFF BRUDWICK

MIKE HALDORSON

HEATHER (BASSETT) DAHL

NEIL PAARMANN

BRIAN FOWLER

HOLLY SCHLINGMANN



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2013

JEFF BRUDWICK - ATHLETE



Jeff Brudwick had a tremendous career as an athlete at Mankato East and as one of three seniors to be named Male Athlete of the Year, he will go down as one of the better athletes to compete as a Cougar.

Had Jeff not suffered a horrible shattering of his elbow in 8th grade, he would have been an excellent football player. The doctors prohibited him from playing football after the injury, so he never got the opportunity to showcase his skills at the high school level.

Basketball was Jeff's first love and he was the consummate team player who felt it was more important to get someone else the ball in position to score than it was for himself. Jeff was co-captain his senior year, a two year letter winner, and was a major part of the first Mankato East basketball team (1984) to play at the state tournament. He averaged 11.0 ppg, tallied 286 pts, and certainly led the team in assists although they were never officially kept at that time. He was a Big 9 All-Conference selection his senior year.

During the spring Jeff patrolled the right side of the infield at second base, with an immense range that allowed him to cover a ton of ground. He was a co-captain in baseball, hit .392 to lead the team (at the time the 4th highest single season batting average), was named Big 9 All-Conference, and played in the Lion's All-Star game which at the time only had two teams choosing the best 24 players in the state.

Upon graduation from East, Jeff attended Bethany Lutheran College and played basketball for two seasons and was a part of the start-up baseball program at the school in the spring of 1985. Playing basketball during Ron Younge's last two seasons, Jeff was a key performer during his freshman and sophomore years. He led the team in assists both seasons and was a co-captain his sophomore year. He also led the team in FT%, shooting 89% from the stripe.

Although the Vikings struggled in their first season after not having baseball for 20 years, they completely turned it around the following year with a 20 win season and a playoff game. Jeff was a key part of it. He finished his sophomore year leading the team in several categories including hits (42), runs (40), stolen bases (25), batting average (.313) and multi-hit games (11).

Jeff currently works for the Occasions Group as a Graphic Designer. He is married to his wife Becky and they have three children, Macey (a freshman at NDSU), Kellen (14) and Errin (13).

HEATHER (BASSETT) DAHL - ATHLETE



Heather (Bassett) Dahl was a standout track performer at Mankato East, who also competed in gymnastics and cross-country, while excelling academically and in the fine arts before graduating in 1992.

Heather qualified for the MSHSL State Meet twice in track and field and was a four-year letter earner with her best event being the 330M hurdles. She was the top point scorer on the track team her junior and senior years and was All-Big 9 in '90, '91, & '92. As a two year captain, Heather cites her sophomore year's True Team State Championship and the fact that she was inspired by Gary Dierks and Neil Paarmann as top highlights of her track career.

Ms. (Bassett) Dahl also earned letters in cross-country and was a captain for the gymnastics team as well. Along with her athletic success, Heather graduated with a 4.0 GPA, qualified for state in speech and debate, finishing fourth in (Discussion) at the state competition.

Upon graduation from East High, Heather enrolled at Luther College where she competed in cross country and track and was All-Conference in the 400M Hurdles for three straight years and competed in sprints and the heptathlon. She earned her BA degree in 1996 and later earned her MA in Secondary Education and History from the University of New Mexico.

Heather, a career educator (taught middle school for 16 years as a teacher and librarian) is married to Terry Dahl, also an educator who is currently the principal at Hoover Middle School in Albuquerque, NM. She coached track for several seasons and has currently changed gears in her career and is a sales rep for library and classroom digital resources in the Southwest.

Her "cool family" is also represented by her children, Hannah (13), Jackson (11), and Linsey (9). Heather enjoys sprint triathlons, running, and riding her road bike, is active with her own children's athletics and is proud of her nephews Desmond (9th grader at East), TJ (7th grader at East), and Aiden.

BRIAN FOWLER - COMMUNITY MEMBER



Brian Fowler is a generous and wonderful community member who has helped transform Mankato East into the desirable, warm community that it is today. His cutting edge "touch" is evident throughout the campus. Brian and his staff at Sports PiX have made several schools in the area envious of what a first class operation can do to help transform a school and its community members. He has donated a wealth of time and talent to help many of the local schools maintain their beauty and keep wonderful moments alive.

It all started in high school for Brian when he purchased his first camera for, at the time, a whopping \$269, which began his love for photography. Brian continued to perfect his skills and after graduation, he attended to Rochester Community College and started working part time as a photographer for the Rochester newspaper, while studying to be a DNR conservation officer. Not long after, Brian decided to go all in and moved to Fairmont to manage a six hour lab. After wedding bells rang and before they knew it, Eagle Lake became Brian and Karen's home and in 1982, Quality 1 Hr. Foto was born and they have never looked back.

In 2001, Brian moved forward with an idea called Sport PiX (SPX). Again on the cutting edge, Brian carved a niche in the business that has gone unmatched and one which has grown leaps and bounds far beyond just pictures. Mankato East has served as a proving ground for SPX, providing a showcase for a variety of new projects and ideas. Sport PiX has literally become nationwide, providing graphics from Florida to Alaska and installs throughout the Midwest and Colorado. Brian has never stopped expanding his craft and is constantly exploring new, never been done before ideas.

Brian is also involved in various activities in the Greater Mankato area. He is on the Greater Mankato Growth Board, the Greater Mankato CVB, Photographers of America, Photo Marketing Association, and is a business member of the Blue Earth County Historical Society. He has also been awarded as a 5x Kodak Best in Class Photo Image recipient, an MSU Philanthropic Award winner, a Greater Mankato Club Hospitality Award winner, a United Way Unsung Hero, and a Greater Mankato Tourist Advocate.

With wonderful people behind the scenes like Brian, East has continued to flourish as a great environment for athletics, fine arts, and academics. Alumni return with great pride to find their images still alive.

Brian and his wife Karen have been married 31 years and along with their daughters Bridget, a 2003 East graduate and photography manager, Beth, a 2005 East graduate and operations manager/project coordinator and Jessie, a 2008 East graduate and graphic designer/installer. The Fowlers have become the "first family" of photography at Mankato East and we absolutely cherish them for all that they give to the Cougar Community.

MIKE HALDORSON - ATHLETE



A well-rounded student athlete, Mike Haldorson, class of 1985, was one of the better baseball and basketball players in the Big 9 during his two years of varsity competition. Mike had a knack for scoring around the basket and used his smooth outside stroke in deadly fashion.

During Mike's junior year in basketball he was the lone junior starter helping propel the Cougars to their first state tournament appearance in school history, which at the time broke the school record in wins. This was during the two-class system where they had to get by the larger southern metro schools to advance. Mike was Honorable Mention All-Conference as a junior and All-Conference his senior year when he scored 354 points and averaged 17 PPG. He is still 19th all time as a scorer but his career two-year average would rank him 8th all time in that category. Mike has the fourth best single season FT% (80-99) for 81% and was picked as a top 100 players in the state for his senior year.

During the spring Mike was a two-time All-Conference player who was selected to play in the Minnesota Lion's All-Star series when only two teams were picked. Mike led the Cougars in extra-base hits and RBI's his senior year while playing shortstop and first base. He played for his dad, Nordeen, which he sites as one of the highlights of his athletic career.

Mike pursued his basketball passion at Gustavus Adolphus College, where he earned several accolades during his four years. He started for three years at Gustavus and won All-Tournament honors three different times at various holiday tournaments. He was named All-Conference during his junior and senior seasons and was third in the country in FT% his senior year shooting at a 93% clip while averaging in double figures during his last two seasons.

Mike has been an educator since his graduation from college in 1989 and has taught as a science teacher in California, Bolivia (for three years), and North St. Paul where he is currently employed. He is married to Julie Haldorson and they have a three-year old daughter Eleanor as well.

NEIL PAARMANN - COACH



Neil Paarmann has left an indelible mark on Mankato East High School during his 27 years of teaching and coaching and continues to be a role model for all.

Neil's story began at Dewitt Central High School where he was a three sport athlete in football, basketball, which won the state title his junior year and track, a sport in which he competed in two Iowa State meets and in the Drake Relays. After graduation, Neil continued his education at the University of Dubuque with a BA in Physical Education/Health, a BS in Computer Science, and a minor in Biology and Coaching. Neil played football for one year capturing special teams' player of the week on two occasions as the Spartans' punter as well as playing defensive back.

After graduating from college in 1987, Neil began his teaching career and as any young teachers do, he also began his coaching career, coaching a multitude of sports for the Cougars. He has been part of the track and field program every one of his 27 years at East, the last 10 years as the girls' head coach. Under Neil's tutelage the Cougars have amassed six appearances at the True Team State Meet, highlighted with a True Team State Championship in 2007. His teams also captured a Big 9 Conference title in 2005 and Section 2AA titles in 2004 and 2007. Neil has also coached numerous individual state qualifiers and a State Champion 4x400M relay team in 2005, the same year he recieved one of his two section coach of the year awards. Neil is proud to say that it has been a privilege to have had the opportunity to coach at least one athlete in the state meet for the last 26 years.

In the fall, Neil started out coaching football at various levels for ten years and is currently is his eleventh year as a head cross country coach where individuals have qualified in six different state meets during that tenure. In the winter, Neil just recently finished his last of 9 seasons as an assistant coach for the boys and girls alpine ski teams and early in his career he coached basketball for 3 years. When you add it all up, this is a staggering total of 61 coaching seasons and counting for Mr. Paarmann.

Neil has been a class act at Mankato East from day one and he continues to motivate all that he comes in contact with to be just a little bit better today than they were the day before. "Let's Go" can be heard clearly throughout the course at any given cross country meet, during his phy-ed teachings and throughout the stadium at each track and field competition the Cougars are involved in.

Neil has been married to his wonderful wife Kerry for 27 years and they have enjoyed raising two terrific sons, Colin (21) and Caleb (19).

HOLLY SCHLINGMANN - ATHLETE



Holly Schlingmann's storied diving career is simply amazing. She made an impact at the varsity level as an 8th grader and catapulted that into an incredible career in the pool.

She is a five time all-city member and was a four time all conference award winner, a four time NISCA state top 16 award recipient, and a four time All-State member who improved each year in diving.

As a freshman, Holly finished fourth in state, as a sophomore and junior, she was the state runner-up and as a senior, she reached the pinnacle as the first female diver in school history to be a State Champion in the Minnesota State Swimming and Diving Meet.

As a sophomore Holly was an Honorable Mention All-American and earned All-American status her junior and senior years, and holds numerous school and pool diving records making her the most decorated diver to ever graduate from Mankato East.

Outside of the swimming pool, Holly lettered three times in gymnastics and four times in track and field while at Mankato East. She was All-State Honorable Mention, two-time All-cNference, and two-time All Coaches Award winner in gymnastics as well as being part of a State Championship Team in 2002. In track she was All-Conference and was part of the True Team State Champions in 2003.

Upon graduation from Mankato East in 2004, she accepted a diving scholarship to Minnesota State University - Mankato, and for two years she dove for the Mavericks. In that time, she set the school and pool One Meter Dive record, was an All-Conference performer, a two-time National Qualifier, a two-time 12th place finisher in the NCAA DII Nationals, and a two-time NCC Diver of the Week. She was on the Dean's List four times and earned a B.S. in Communication Studies.

Ms. Schlingmann currently is in sales, marketing, and promotions. She has done some professional vocal work with bands such as: The Platters, The Bachelors, and the Legendary Drifters. She is currently a featured singer in the upcoming motion picture Patsy and is performing with her own band simply called "Holly".

Holly is grateful for all of her opportunities and support throughout her school and career and especially thanks her parents Randy and Deb along with her sisters Brittany and Kali.