

Criteria for Induction

Candidates for membership in the Mankato East High School Athletic Hall of Fame shall be former Mankato East High School students, coaches, or other individuals who have made significant contributions either to East High School athletics or to their community. Candidates must have been out of high school for at least 5 years. Inductees in any category may be either living or deceased.

Candidates are eligible in three categories:

ATHLETIC - A former Mankato East athlete who competed with excellence and lettered in a varsity sport. Nominees must be, or must have been, a credit to Mankato East High School and the community. Candidates must be a Mankato East High School graduate and out of high school for at least five (5) years.

COACHES - A nominee must be either a former or present coach who has distinguished himself/herself by demonstrating exceptional leadership, character, and athletic achievement during his/her tenure at Mankato East.

COMMUNITY MEMBER - A person who has been an outstanding supporter of Mankato East High School athletics.

We want to extend a special thank you to Harley Olafson from Wells Fargo Bank and Steve Espenson from Cub Foods for their financial contribution to making our Hall of Fame a success.



MANKATO EAST
ATHLETIC
HALL OF FAME
2002-2003

MANKATO EAST ATHLETIC
HALL OF FAME
2002-2003

PROGRAM

10:30am	Alumni & Retiree Social Media Center
11:00am	Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Auditorium
1:30pm	Coronation and Pepfest Gymnasium
7:00pm	Football Game vs. Rochester Century Wolverton Field

AL BLANSHAN

Al is unable to be with us today because of previous family commitments, but sends his thanks and regrets about being unable to attend.

Graduated: 1976

East HS Honors:

Lettered numerous times in four sports - football, basketball, track, baseball
Qualified for the state track meet in the shot put his first year out for track
setting a Region record in that event.

All Big 9 Conference Football Player.

Still holds numerous Mankato East top 10 basketball rebounding records.

College Honors:

Played Football & received a full athletic scholarship at University of MN (4 yrs.)
Captain of the U of M Football team his senior year.
Played professional football or tried out with the following football teams -
Philadelphia Eagles, New York Jets, Denver Broncos, & Ottawa Rough Riders.

Career Information:

Received his B.A. Degree from the University of Minnesota.
Worked in a administrative business position at Consolidated Freightways.
Presently a police officer with the city of Roseville - 13 years of service.

Spouse: wife Erin (McMahon) **3 children** who attend school in Apple Valley

STEVE SMITH

Steve is unable to be with us today because of previous commitments,
but his mother Sandy is with us in his honor

Graduated: 1992

East HS Honors:

Two time High School Diving All-American
Two time State Champion Diving
Undefeated in dual meets 54-0 (9 - 12 grades)

College Honors:

Competed as a diver and scholarship athlete at the University of Virginia
First Team All Conference Diver - Atlantic Coast Conference
Atlantic Coast Conference Student Athlete Honor- 3 years
Senior Co-Captain

Career Information:

Graduated from the University of Virginia in 1996 with a BA in psychology
Masters Degree from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in 1997
Currently finishing his Doctorate Degree at the University of Wisconsin-
Milwaukee.
Presently a practicing psychologist for the Milwaukee Public School system
since 1998.

Spouse: wife Sandy Smith (18 month old daughter Bridget)

City of Residence: Milwaukee, WI

MARK DABY

Career Information:

Service to the District 77 School District 1959-1997
Returned part time 2000-2002
Engineer in Charge of Plant at East HS 1973-1987 when East H.S. first opened.
Director of Building and Grounds and
District Maintenance Supervisor 1987-1997.

Quotes about Mr. Daby:

"Truly a wonderful, conscientious man who took a great deal of pride in his work. As a result of his work we have excellent facilities for our athletes. He was very self motivated and worked well beyond what was expected of him and did many things for our athletes and teams without being asked."

Spouse: Wife Dianne 3 sons and 1 daughter

City of Residence: Mankato, MN

MERV WOLVERTON

Education:

Received his B.A. Degree from Winona Teachers College in 1939

College Honors:

Lettered in boxing, football, and track

Career Information:

First principal at Mankato East High School 1972-1981
Principal at Franklin Elementary
Coached Track and Field at Mankato High School 1946-50
Baseball Field and Stadium named Wolverton Field in his honor

Spouse: Lorraine Wolverton 2 sons- Ward and Mark

City of Residence: Mr. Wolverton passed away in 1981

AMY (SWANSON) HOEHN

Graduated: 1992

East HS Honors:

All State Basketball 1992 All City Basketball 5 years
All Region Basketball 1991, 1992 Miss Basketball finalist 1992
All Big 9 Basketball 90, 91, 92 AP 1st team All State Basketball
All Tournament Team State Basketball Tournament 1991
All Star Basketball Team 1992

Holds many scoring records at East High School including:
Single game scoring record-40 points
Season scoring record 613 points
Tied for most 3 pointers made in game-7
Career 3 pointers 185
Career points 1989
Most field goals in career 708

5 year Varsity Starter
All Region Softball 1990, 91, 92
All Big 9 Softball 90, 91, 92
All State Softball 1991, 1992
All Star Softball 1992
All Big 9 Volleyball 1991

College Honors:

4 year athletic scholarship at Minnesota State University, Mankato
4 year starter on the MSU Basketball Team
NCAA Division 2 North Central All Region 2nd team
All Conference North Central Conference Basketball 1995
Honorable Mention All Conference Basketball NCC 1996
All Academic NCC 1995, 1996
Maverick Achievement Award in Basketball
Co-recipient of the Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year Award - MSU Basketball.
Numerous Career Scoring Records at MSU

Career Information:

East Girls Varsity Basketball Coach
1998 Big 9 Coach of the Year
1998 Section 2 AAA Coach of the Year
1998 Class AAA State Coach of the Year
Graduated from MSU Magna Cum Laude with a teaching degree
Presently teaches 1st at Hoover Elementary in North Mankato

Spouse: husband Jason Hoehn

City of Residence: Mankato, MN

MARISSA (TIESZEN) RUSTAN

Marissa is unable to be with us today because of previous commitments and sends her regrets about being unable to attend

Graduated: 1991

East HS Honors:

First individual State Champion in East history as she won the state 100 meter freestyle championship.

Member of 1991 Basketball State Tournament Team

College Honors:

16 time All American at St. Cloud State in swimming

Spouse: Husband: Bracken Rustan

City of Residence: Champlin, MN

ORA BUCHANON

Education: Graduated from St. James High School in 1945
Received her B.A. Degree from Mankato State Teacher's College in 1950.

College Honors:

Minnesota State University Athletic Hall of Distinction

Career Information:

Taught Physical Education at Owatonna High School from 1950-1954
Taught Physical Education at Mankato High School and Mankato State

University in mid-50's.

Taught Physical Education at DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana from 1965-67.

Served as District 77 Girls Athletic Director for East and West High Schools from 1980-1989.

Teams won 13 Big 9 Championships and 4 State Championship during her tenure:

Region 2AA Athletic Director of the Year

Region 2AA Distinguished Service Award

Minnesota High School Athletic Director's Hall of Fame

Minnesota State High School League Hall of Fame

Spouse: Donald (Buck) Buchanon 2 daughters - Terri and Peggy

City of Residence: Mankato, MN

DON MILLER

Graduated:

Graduated from Waseca HS in 1950 where he was a four sport letterman for three years.

Don competed on a state tournament team in 1948. He was a quarterback in football and led his team to two championships and was named to the All Conference team 3 times.

East HS Honors:

Boys Athletic Director from 1973 until his retirement

Member of the Coaches Association, NIAAA, and MN Athletics Directors Assoc.
Chairman of Region 2AA Athletic Directors Association and football liaison for
the Big 9 Conference.

Region 2AA Athletic Director of the Year in 1984

State Athletic Director of the Year in 1988-89

25 Year Coaches Award

Inducted into the MN Athletic Directors Hall of Fame in 2001

College Honors:

Graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education and Mathematics. He competed in baseball and track as a Gustie and was also a co-captain and all conference football athlete. He was inducted into the Gustavus Adolphus College Hall of Fame in 1990.

Career Information:

Boys Athletic Director from 1973 until his retirement

Spouse: Wife Granis (6 children, 17 grandchildren)

City of Residence: Mankato, MN

MIKE WOLLE

Graduated: 1990

East HS Honors:

Lettered - 3 years in Basketball, 3 years in Baseball and was a
3 year starter in both sports.

All Big 9 Conference Basketball as a junior and senior

Honorable Mention Basketball as a sophomore

All Big 9 Conference Baseball as a junior and senior

Honorable Mention as a sophomore

Voted MVP of Big 9 in Baseball and received the "Dick Seltz" award from the
State Baseball Coach's Association.

Scored 1086 points in his high school basketball career

Captained both the baseball and basketball teams his senior year

Played in both the H.S. Basketball and Baseball All State games as a senior

College Honors:

Played basketball at Minnesota State Mankato - Lettered 4 years.

Currently umpiring high school baseball and softball games.

Also officiating high school and college basketball games.

Career Information:

Occupation: Career agent for American United Life Insurance Company

Spouse: wife Becky Schaltz

City of Residence: Shakopee, MN

KARI (MITCHELL) ECKHEART

Graduated: 1990

East HS Honors:

Volleyball - 3 year starter and kill leader each year

- All Conference - 3 years

- Academic All-State

- Minnesota All - Star Game Selection

Basketball - All Conference 2 years

- School record for points single game at time - 39 points

College Honors:

4 year starter and scholarship volleyball athlete at Iowa State which competes at the Division 1 level.

Team Captain senior year

Academic All Big 8 Conference Team

Career Information:

Currently Head Volleyball Coach at Gustavus and has been in that position for the past 7 years.

Received Masters Degree from Minnesota State University - Community Heath Coach and direct Summer Volleyball Camps at numerous and various sites

Coached Summer AAU Elite Volleyball Teams

Spouse: husband Chris Eckheart

City of Residence: North Mankato, MN

ROBERT GAARDER

East HS Honors:

Mankato East's first boys basketball coach and first boys golf coach when East opened in 1973. Coached both sports from 1973 until his retirement in 1992

Coached two boys basketball teams to State Tournaments 1983-84 and 1985-86.

Coached one Big 9 Championship Team and had 4 other team finish

2nd in the Big 9.

7 teams qualified from the Sub-Region to Region Tournament.

Coached over 30 players who qualified for the state individual golf tournament and many other outstanding, successful golfers.

Spouse: Wife, Gertrude

City of Residence: Mankato, MN

CLIFF WOODFORD

East HS Honors:

Coached Varsity Girls Basketball from 1975-1987

His teams competed at a very high level and those teams achieved the following:

State Champions...1987
State 2nd Place...1985
State Consolation Champions...1978 & 1980
Big Nine Champions....1980, 1984, 1987.
Region - Section 2AA Champions - 1978, 1980, 1985 &
1987
Number One Ranked Team ...1980 & 1987
Overall record...183-81
Big 9 record.....110-48

College Honors:

Career Information:

Taught and coached for 38 years.

29 of those years in Dist. #77....1970-1999

Retired in 1999 from teaching

Taught at Washington Elementary from 1980-1986

Taught at Kennedy Elementary from 1986-1992

Spouse: wife Sandy

City of Residence: North Mankato

SARAH MASCHKA

Graduated: 1989

East HS Honors:

3 year starter in softball

Pitching record 57-4

Earned run average 0.25

No-Hit games -7

Shutouts 36

All Conference, All Region, and All City 3 years

All State 1988, 1989

State Championships 1988, 1989

Most games pitched - 9

Most no-hit games -2-1989

Fewest walks for 3 games -0-1988

Fewest earned runs for 3 games -0-1988

Inducted Minnesota State High School League Softball Hall of Fame 1997

Basketball Varsity starter 1988, 1989

College Honors:

4 year pitcher for University of Minnesota

41 career wins, 20 shutouts, 226 strikeouts, 1 perfect game

Most Valuable Player - University of Minnesota 1993

Inducted University of Minnesota Softball Hall of Fame 1996

Career Information:

B.S. Univ. of Minnesota - Human Ecology 1994

B.S. College of St. Catherine - Nursing 1999

Currently Nurse at Fairview Ridges Hospital in Pediatrics.

Son Jack Born in December, 2000

Spouse: Husband, Brian Hansen

City of Residence: St. Louis Park, MN

TAMMY SHAIN

Tammy is unable to be with us today because of previous commitments, but her parents, Mike and Marilyn are with us in her honor.

Graduated: 1988

East HS Honors:

Tammy's playing career spanned the 1984-1988 school years

Basketball:

Freshman Starter on the State Runner Up Basketball Team

Sophomore Starter on the Region Final Team

Junior Starter on the State Championship and Big 9 Conference Championship Teams

All Conference and All City Teams

Senior Starter on the Region Semi-final Team

All State

All Star Game Player - MVP of the All Star Game

All Conference and All City Teams

Softball:

Freshman Starter on the State Runner Up Team

Sophomore Starter on the State Championship and Big 9 Conference Championship Teams

Junior Starter on the 4th Place State Tournament and Big 9 Conference Championship Teams

All Conference and All City Teams

Senior Starter on the State Championship and Big 9 Conference Championship Teams

All State

All Conference and All City

College Honors:

4 year starter and scholarship basketball athlete at Marquette University which competes at the Division 1 level.

Presently holds or is 2nd with the following freshman records:

points scored, scoring average, free throws made, steals.

Holds numerous top 10 career records at Marquette:

scoring, rebounding, scoring average, field goals made, steals.

Recipient of Marquette's Most Improved Player Award in 1989, the Hustle Award in 1990, and the Hank Raymonds Sportsmanship Award in 1992.

Career Information:

Assistant Women's Basketball Coach at Kent State University from 1992-94

Assistant Women's Basketball Coach at Bowling Green State University from 1994-98.

Currently an assistant women's basketball coach at the University of Dayton.

JERRY MASCHKA

East HS Honors:

Member of first Board of Directors, Mankato East Booster Club

Member of committee formed to add lights to East High School football field

One of two founders of Mankato Peppers

One of founders of Mankato East Girls Traveling Basketball

One of founders of Mankato YMCA 3 on 3 program

Past Member Board of Directors Mankato Basketball Association

Board of Directors Mankato Area Girls Fastpitch Association

Volunteer Assistant Girls Tennis Coach 1977

Girls 9th Grade Basketball Coach at East in 1983

B Squad Basketball Coach for the Cougars in 1984, 1985, 1986

Little League Coach 1978-82

MAYA Football Coach 1981

Mankato Peppers Coach 1982 - present

Mankato East Girls Traveling Basketball Coach 1981-1995

Developed and coached outstanding traveling teams in basketball and softball for years and years and prepared those athletes for future success with the Cougars.

He is still coaching the Mankato Peppers summer softball teams.

The great success that many of our softball and girls basketball teams have had is due to the coaching and motivating that Jerry has given them.

Solid supporter of all of East High School's athletic teams

Career Information:

Lawyer, Maschka, Riedy and Ries, in Mankato, MN

Spouse: Wife Kathleen **Daughters:** Kristin, Sarah, Jane

City of Residence: Mankato, MN

City of Residence: Centerville, Ohio

JACK BROOKS

Graduated: 1974

East HS Honors:

Lettered in Football, Wrestling, and Track
Co-captain on Wrestling and Track teams
Qualified and completed in state tournaments for Wrestling and Track
1974 Athlete of the Year Award Recipient
Scored 1st touchdown ever for Mankato East
Recorded 1st pin in wrestling for the Cougars
Placed 5th in the Big Nine Conference Track Meet

College Honors:

Competed 4 years on Minnesota State University - Mankato Track team
NCAA National qualifier / participant 3 of 4 years at MSU
Co-captain senior year
Recipient of the Henry Hill Outstanding Track Athlete Award 1978
Voted Outstanding / MVP Track Athlete 1978
Post-collegiate track member of Athletes in Action and Lay Witness for Christ

Member Track Clubs in Eugene, Oregon and Mankato

Career Information:

Graduated Minnesota State University - Mankato in 1978
Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, Minors in Math and Psychology.
Assistant Track Coach, 5 years at Minnesota State University - Mankato
MBA degree from Minnesota State University-Mankato completed in 1988
Currently working in the Sales / Marketing Department of a Market Research

Firm in Stillwater, MN

Active with the Boys Scouts of America

Member of National Youth Sports Coaches Association (NYSCA)

Spouse: wife Nancy (2 sons)

City of Residence: Roseville, MN

KRISTIN MASCHKA

Graduated: 1987

East HS Honors:

4 year starter in Basketball
All time leading scorer for East - 1509 points
Team finished as Runnerup in the 1985 State Tournament
Team won the State Championship 1987
AP All State Team, 1986, 1987
Coach's All State Team 1986, 1987
All City 1984, 85, 86, 87
All Big Nine Conference 1985, 86, 87
Career average 17 pts./ game, 4 assists per game
Pitched and played 1st base on softball team for 3 years
G.P.A. was 4.0
Member of the National Honor Society and Band
Ranked #1 in her high school graduating class
Commencement Speaker 1987 East HS Graduation

College Honors:

Attended University of Chicago on 4 year academic scholarship
University of Chicago - 4 year starter in Basketball
Freshman All American - 1987 / 1988
All Conference Basketball Player in the University Athletic Association Conference 1987 - 1991
Player of the Year 1989-90
Second leading All-Time Scorer at University of Chicago
Graduated 1991 Summa Cum Laude - Phi Beta Kappa
NCAA Female Scholar Athlete of the Year 1991
National Science Foundation Fellowship 1991
Rhodes Scholar National Finalist 1991

Career Information:

Taught English in Japan 1991-1992
Master of Arts Degree from the University of Chicago 1993
Taught English & coached girls basketball at Bullis High School, Washington D.C.
Training manager at Earthlink in Pasadena, California
Currently President of national non-profit, Mothers and More - a membership organization of 7500 mothers nationwide dedicated to improving the lives of mothers through support, education, and advocacy.

Spouse: Husband David Hitchcock

City of Residence: Pasadena, CA

KENDRA (CARTER) HINZ

Graduated: 1987

East HS Honors:

Starter Basketball State Runner-up Team 1985
Starter Basketball State Championship Team 1987
All State Basketball 1987
Outstate All-Star Basketball Team 1987
Big 9 All Conference Teams 4 years for basketball and softball
Basketball Career Assist Leader
Elks All-City Basketball Team 3 years
Starter Softball State Championship Team 1986

College Honors:

Mankato State University - 4 years athletic scholarship to play women's basketball.
Maverick Achievement Award Recipient 1993
Top Ten Career Assists Record
Graduated with honors in 1993 with a Bachelor of Teaching in Health Science and Human Performance.

Career Information:

1994-1997....Taught High School Health and Physical Education and coached basketball and softball in Stewartville, MN.
1997 to present....Teaching Health and Physical Education and coaching girls basketball at Mankato West H.S. for the past 4 yrs.
2002...earned Master of Science in Health Science at MSU.

Spouse: husband Joe Hinz

City of Residence: North Mankato MN

SCOTT WOLNER

Graduated: 1974

East HS Honors:

Junior starter at Mankato HS (1972-73) prior to the creation of East H.S.
2 year Varsity starter in three sports: Football, Basketball, and Baseball.
All Conference and Honorable Mention in 3 varsity sports: Football, Basketball, Baseball.
All State recognition on WCCO Radio Prep Parade Team of the Week: Football, Basketball.
Captain of the Football, Basketball, and Baseball teams in his senior year.
Voted MVP of the first varsity Football team at East HS.
KYSM Radio Prep Athlete of the Week in Basketball.
Voted Outstanding Athlete of the Year at East HS his senior year.

Interests After High School:

Participated in City League Fastpitch Softball and Basketball for many years.
Is an accomplished long distance runner since graduation from high school.
Has participated in races throughout the years and places respectably in his age group.

Career Information:

23 year employee for the City of Mankato Public Works Department Street Division.
Coached his daughter's youth softball teams for a number of years.
Is a solid supporter of East High School athletics and has been a "fixture" at East High School sporting events since 1973.

Spouse: wife Amy Wolner

City of Residence: Mankato, MN

DENNY RUNCK

Graduated: 1978

East HS Honors:

3 time letter winner in Football and 2 time captain
1 year letter winner in basketball
4 year letter winner in track and a captain his senior year

College Honors:

3 year letter winner in football - Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H.
Signed a free-agent contract with the Chicago Bears in 1982

Career Information:

M.D. from the University of Minnesota in 1986
Radiology Residency at Mayo Clinic from 1986 through 1990
Spent the past 12 years as a Diagnostic Radiologist with St. Paul Radiology

Spouse: Lori (Blomquist) Runck

City of Residence: Mahtomedi, MN

BARB (MEREDITH) WOODFORD

Graduated: 1980

East HS Honors:

All Conference and All State Volleyball - Sophomore, Junior, and Senior
All Conference and All State Basketball - Sophomore, Junior, and Senior
Finalist for Ms. Basketball 1980
Scored 1000 points in 1980 - 1st basketball athlete to do so at East High
School.

Numerous Academic Honors as a Junior and Senior
Girls State 1980

College Honors:

4 years Basketball for University of Minnesota
2 year Registered Nursing Degree-Fairview School of Nursing
Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology at Arizona State University
Graduated from Arizona University as a Registered Nurse

Career Information:

R.N. in the Medical Surgery Depart, Trauma Unit, and ICU - Maricopa County

Hospital in Phoenix - 14 years
Grant / Riverside Hospital ICU - Columbus Ohio - 1 year
Now Barb is full time Mom (2 girls and 1 boy). Her husband will graduate in
2002 with a degree in orthodontics from Ohio State University in
Columbus, Ohio.

Spouse: husband Dr. Brad Woodford

City of Residence: Sedona, Arizona