

Special Thanks

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MANKATO EAST ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

September 22-23, 2006
at Mankato East High School

2006 Hall of Fame Inductees

Doug Espenson

Brian Kvebak

Ben Kaus

Tim Johnson

Kristin (Kachelmyer) Krusemark

Connie (Spangrud) Robinson

**Mankato East High School
Athletic Hall of Fame
Program 2006**

Friday, September 22

2:25 P.M. Coronation and Pepfest
located in the Gymnasium

7:00 P.M. Football Game vs. Austin Packers
located at Wolverton Field

8:15 P.M.(approximately) Halftime Introductions

All inductees please gather at scoreboard end
with about 5 minutes remaining in the 2nd quarter.

Saturday, September 23

10:00 A.M. Induction Social
located in the commons

10:30 A.M. Brunch
located in the commons

11:00 A.M. Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
located in the commons

Master of Ceremonies.....Todd Waterbury

Individual Plaque Inductees:

Doug Espenson
Ben Kaus
Kristin (Kachelmyer) Krusemark
Brian Kvebak
Tim Johnson
Connie (Spangrud) Robinson

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 and to their community. Inductees in any category may be either living or deceased.

Candidates are eligible in three categories.

Athletic

A former Mankato East athlete who have 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.

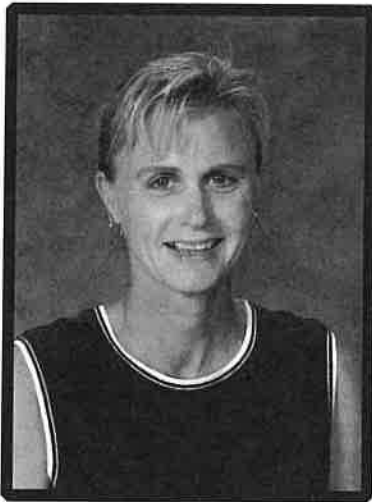
Coaches

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.

Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting the
Activities Office at (507) 387-5655 ext. 232



Connie (Spangrud) Robinson

Athlete

Connie (Spangrud) Robinson can certainly attest to the fact that athletic opportunity for women was much different when she graduated in 1979 than it is today. Although there was some opportunity for women in sports at the college level then, it wasn't nearly as prevalent as it is now.

After graduating from Mankato East High School, Robinson went to St. Olaf College, where they had a swim team, but Robinson said she never even thought to join.

"Thirty years ago, in my opinion, it wasn't as much of a consideration to compete at the college level for women. I really don't even remember

thinking whether or not I should swim - that I even considered it an option."

But in high school, she excelled in athletics, competing all four years in swimming, basketball and track (along with golf and gymnastics in junior high). Her stand-out performances, both individually and on a team, gave her, and the school, some very important firsts.

A four-year letter winner for the swim team, she was an individual Big 9 Champion and individual Region 2AA Champion in the 100 yard breaststroke, named All-City, competed three years at the State swim meet (finishing in the top 16) and was the first ever girl's swimmer to compete at state for Mankato East.

In basketball she was a two-year letter winner and starter, helping take her 1978 team to the school's first State Tournament appearance, earning them a State Consolation Championship.

Robinson was also a four-year letter winner in track and her participation got her a spot in the record books for the 4x400 relay.

Off the playing field, she competed at the State Speech Tournament her junior and senior years and was a National Honor Society member. After graduation, she went on to attend St. Olaf her freshman year and then Mankato State University. At MSU, Robinson put her work ethic to good use when she double majored - and earned B.S. degrees in - Speech Communication and Elementary Education with a minor in Physical Education.

Swimming has remained a crucial part of Robinson's life even after her glory days at Mankato East were over. She became a swim coach at the YMCA and is currently a Minnesota swim official, officiating with her husband at Mankato East, Mankato West, Minnesota State University, and Gustavus Adolphus College men's and women's swim meets.

She is also the current director of the 5C's preschool (Covenant Christian Child Care Center) in Mankato and has held that position since 2000.

Connie and her husband, Terry, have three children, Samarah, Terah and Toby and reside in Mankato.

"It is with great pride that I am counted among this prestigious group of athletes and coaches. My high school athletic career is one I remember vividly and with honor and respect towards my fellow athletes and coaches. Thank you for this recognition."

- Connie Robinson

Doug Espenson

Athlete



Growing up, Doug Espenson wanted to play every sport he possibly could. Loving both team and individual sports, it was the fast-paced nature of athletics that led him to become a successful collegiate athlete. In the end, basketball was his passion.

"Basketball had the most potential for me to succeed at the next level," Espenson said. And succeed he did.

A three sport athlete at Mankato East High School, Espenson played football, basketball and baseball, earning honors and making his presence known in all arenas.

The two-year letter winner in football made Big 9 Honorable Mention in 1999, All-Big 9 in 2000, was on the Big 9 Scholar Honor Roll in 2000 and was tabbed as a Team Captain his senior year.

In basketball, Espenson was a three-year letter winner, two-time All-City choice, Big 9 Honorable Mention in 2000 and All-Big 9 in 2001. He also helped the team to earn a Section 2AAA Championship in 2000 and a Big 9 Championship in 2001. As a senior, he played in the Minnesota All-Star Event and was named Team Captain.

Espenson was a three-year letter winner in baseball at East, helping the team earn a Section 2AAA Championship in 2000, was Big 9 Honorable Mention in 1999, a Big 9 First Team Selection in 2000 and again was a Team Captain his senior year.

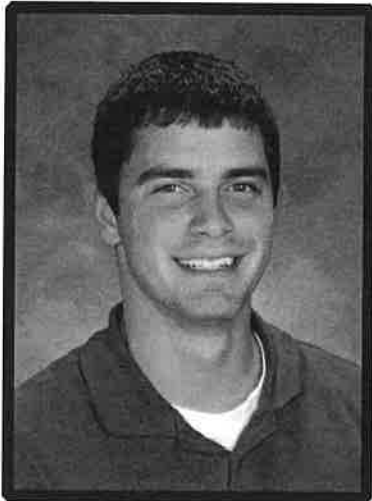
After high school, Espenson chose Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota playing basketball for the Gusties and continuing his pursuit of athletics and academics.

On the court at GAC, Espenson was named to the Conference All Rookie Team in 2002, the NCAA Final Four All Tournament Team in 2003, was designated the Conference Sixth Man of the Year in 2004, made the All-Conference and All-Defensive Team in 2004 and 2005 and was a Scholar Athlete in 2003, 2004 and 2005. Once again being named Team Captain his senior year, Espenson was tagged the 2005 MIAC Most Valuable Player. Adding to his list of accomplishments, he was the first player in the Conference and school history to record 1,000 points, 500 rebounds, 100 3-point baskets made and 100 blocked shots in a career. He appeared in four National Tournaments and holds the school record for games played with 118 (94 wins and 24 losses).

Espenson graduated cum laude in 2005 from GAC with a degree in Financial Economics and is currently single and is employed with Guy Carpenter in Edina, Minnesota.

"The People I need to thank the most are the coaches. Mankato East and myself were both very fortunate to have some of the best coaches around in their respective sports. Having the opportunity to play in the State Tournament in all three of my sports at East is a testament to that. As an individual being inducted into the Mankato East Hall of Fame is probably the biggest honor I could receive. I was very fortunate to have played on some great teams with some great athletes and without those great teams this individual honor would not exist."

- Doug Espenson



Ben Kaus

Athlete

From Wolverton Field at Mankato East, to the MSU baseball complex, to Franklin Roger's Park, Ben Kaus has been making his presence known on baseball fields all over Mankato and southern Minnesota. Whether donning the colors of the Cougars, Mavericks, or the Mankato Twins, Kaus has been a familiar face on the local diamonds and no stranger to honors and accolades.

Kaus graduated from Mankato East High School in 2001 as a decorated three sport athlete. He chose football, basketball, and baseball in high school and later went on to play basketball and baseball for Minnesota State University.

Recruited for both sports, he originally chose basketball, playing for two seasons with the Mavericks before opting

to take a year off. He was asked to play for the Mankato Twins that summer, and he was dealt a good hand when the MSU pitching coach saw his work on the mound.

Kaus recalled that "After the game I spoke with him, and he convinced me to give baseball a try again."

After that night, Kaus went on to play for the Mavericks, and helped the team to a 2006 NCC Championship, to become the 2006 NCAA Central Regional Runners up, and had a season record of 43-13, all in his senior year. His childhood passion to play baseball, and the hours he spent playing small ball with the neighbors has come full circle and paid off for Kaus.

Before his college career took off, he was making headlines and breaking records at Mankato East. He currently holds the school record in basketball for free throw percentage with 83% and most points in a career with 1,288. A three-year letter winner, Kaus was a team captain in 2001, made the McDonald's All-American Team and All-State Tournament Team in 2000, and was named All-Big 9 and All-City in 2000 and 2001.

Still holding the team record for most interceptions in a season with seven and in his career with 19, Kaus and his East football team saw State Tournament action in 1998 and 2000. The MVP in 2001 and three-year letter winner made All-City in 1998, 1999, and 2000 along with All-Big 9 in 1999 and 2000, was team captain in 1999 and 2000, and earned First Team All-State defensive back in 2000.

In baseball, he owns the record for ERA with 0.67, was the top newcomer in 1999, proved his skills by earning a Gold Glove in 2000 and being team MVP in 2001. The three-year letter winner was on the All-Section team in 1999, 2000, and 2001 and helped bring the team to their first ever state appearance in 2000.

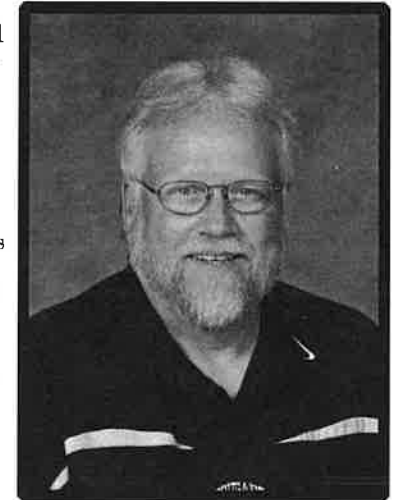
Kaus went on to earn his B.S. degree from Minnesota State University, Mankato in Finance and is currently an ABW Specialist at Carlson Craft in North Mankato. He is currently single and resides in Mankato.

"I am honored to be inducted into such a great group of individuals. I would like to thank my coaches for all the advice they gave me in the process of achieving this. I also would like to thank my parents for supporting me at every game I participated in."

- Ben Kaus

Tim Johnson

Coach



Just because Tim Johnson will not be found in the classrooms at Mankato East anymore does not mean he cannot be found at the high school.

Even after retiring from teaching in June 2006, Johnson has remained the head coach for both the boy's and girl's swimming and diving teams, as well as a junior high softball coach.

Before starting his career at Mankato East, Johnson graduated from Minneapolis Roosevelt High School in 1965. Out of the classroom, he lettered one year in football and helped the team to City and Twin City Championships in 1964 and lettered two years in swimming, earning City and Twin City Championships in 1963, 1964, and 1965.

Johnson attended Bemidji State College from 1965-1967, helping the swimming team win the Northern Intercollegiate Conference Championship in 1967 and at one time held the record for the 400 Individual Medley.

From November of 1967 to September of 1970, Johnson served in the United States Army, and from 1968-1969 served in Viet Nam.

After his stint in the US Army, Johnson then attended Southwest Minnesota State College, graduating in 1973 with a BA in Health, Physical Education and Coaching. He swam there for one season (1970-1971) and coached the sprinters from 1972-1973.

In the Fall of 1973, Johnson began his teaching and coaching career at Mankato East. He coached boys tennis from 1982-1984 and boys cross country from 1973-1977, coaching East's first ever State Meet entrant (Tim Sandry - 1973).

Johnson has been a staple around the East pool from 1973 to present. Coaching boys' swimming and diving, he has seen his share of accolades over the years. Johnson coached East's first ever State Champion (Steve Smith - 1991-92) and was honored with Section Swimming Coach of the Year in 1990, 1991, 1992 and 2002.

Picking up both girls' Swimming and Diving head coaching duties in 1978 (to present), the awards and champions kept coming. Johnson coached East's first ever girl's State Champion (Marissa Teizen - 1991) along with coaching another State Champion in 2003 (Holly Schlingmann). He was given Section Diving Coach of the Year Honors in 1992, 1993, 2001, 2002 and 2003.

Johnson was also the President of the Minnesota Swim Coach Association from 1984-1987.

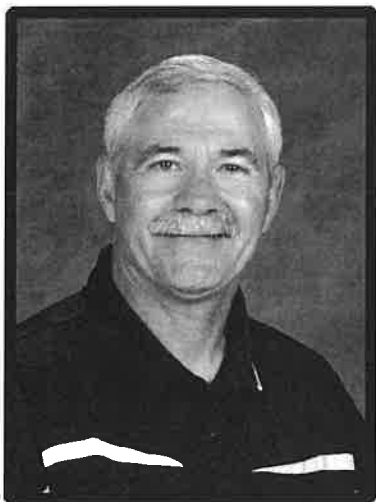
In the Minnesota State High School Coaches Association, Johnson has been a representative from 1981-present, received the 25 Year Coaches Award in 1998, has been an Executive Committee member from 1998-present, was the President of MSHSCA from 1999-2000, and was given the George Haun Award in 2003.

In the Minnesota State High School League, Johnson was on the Swimming Advisory Committee from 1984-1989, the Athletic Council from 1992-1994, and was on the Girl's Coaches Representative Region 2AA Committee from 2004-2006.

Tim and his wife, Barbara, reside in Eagle Lake and have three children, Kim, Adam and Dave, as well as three grandchildren, Brandi, Katlyn and Michelle.

"I am the luckiest guy ever to have coached at Mankato East all this time. Thank you to the important people in my life. First to my Bride, Barb, who has let me commit to my passion for coaching. Second to my children, Kim, Adam and Dave - they have allowed and put up with me spending a lot of time with other people's kids. Thirdly to my Mom and Aunt who raised me and let me participate in athletics even though I should have worked to help out our financial situation at home. To Mr. Jarnbeck, my high school swim coach, who taught me that goal setting and hard work are the cornerstones to a successful life. To my college coach, Don Palm, who got me into college the first time and invited me back the second time to finish my degree and coach with him. To Mr. Wolverton, who gave me a chance to teach here even though I was fresh out of college. And finally to all the athletes I have coached and their parents. You gave me a chance to become part of your lives and you became part of mine."

- Tim Johnson



Brian Kvebak

Coach

If you total all of Brian Kvebak's total seasons of coaching it reaches the outstanding number of 90.

But before his coaching days, he too, was an athlete. Graduating from Fargo North High School in Fargo, N.D. in 1968, Kvebak was a three-sport athlete and letter winner in football, wrestling, and track and field. He helped his track and field team to a state championship in 1967 and finished third individually in the shot put at State in 1968.

After high school, he attended Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., graduating in 1972 with a BS degree in Social Studies and Physical Education and Health. There, he was a three-time letter winner in football, MIAC All-Conference in 1971, participated in the NAIA National Championship game in 1969, and competed in the Concordia All-Star Clinic Football Games in 1972 and 1973.

After college, Kvebak coached football (head coach), basketball (assistant varsity), and track and field (head coach) at Echo High School in Echo, MN. from 1972-1975.

In 1975, Kvebak began his long and decorated career as a coach at Mankato East High School. From 1975-1983 and 1986-2005, he held the position of assistant varsity football coach, taking over briefly as head coach in 1984 and 1985. In 2002 he was the recipient of the Butch Nash Assistant Coach of the Year award and was an AFLAC National Nominee for Assistant Coach of the Year. In 2004, Kvebak coached the outstate team in the Minnesota All-Star Game.

Every spring from 1976-2005 Kvebak could be found on the Mankato East track where he was the assistant throws coach. Over the years he helped numerous state qualifiers in both the shot and discus for the boys and girls of East. In 2004 Kvebak was tabbed the Region 2AA Assistant Coach of the Year.

From 1976-1995, Kvebak could be found at the helm of the Mankato East wrestling squad. He was awarded the 15 Year Service Award from the Minnesota Wrestling Coaches Association and led his mat men to a second-place finish in the Conference in 1990, the best conference standing in school history. Kvebak was also awarded the Wal-Mart teacher of the year in the State.

Brian and his wife, Sally, reside in North Mankato and have two children, Bill and Alissa, and four grandchildren, Elizabeth, Kendra, Morgan and Parker.

"I would like to thank my mom and dad for encouraging me to participate in high school and college athletics, along with a number of high school and college coaches who I've learned an awful lot from about the meaning of athletics. I would also like to thank my wife, Sally, and my children for having patience with me through 34 years in athletics and 90 seasons of coaching. Thanks to the school administration who gave me the opportunity to coach along with Mr. Wolverton who had faith in me for 31 years at Mankato East, along with all my colleagues and coaches currently in the system for their support over the years.

-Brian Kvebak

Kristin (Kachelmyer) Krusemark

Athlete



Age doesn't matter on the basketball court. That's the attitude that Kristin (Kachelmyer) Krusemark has about being the only 8th grader on the varsity basketball team and being a five-year starter and letterwinner for Mankato East High School.

The three-sport athlete made it a priority to focus not only on activities on the court but also in the classroom. Her academic work paid off when she graduated 4th in her class in 2001, was a senior class officer, and a National Honor Society Member.

On the court, Krusemark had just as strong of an impression. In volleyball she was a three-year letter winner, Team Captain, two-time All-Conference, All-Conference Honorable Mention, and Z99 Athlete of the Week. As a team member she helped the squad to earn the State Team Academic Championship in 2000 and a fourth-place finish in the State Tournament the same year.

A five-year letter winner in softball, Krusemark earned All-Conference honors, All-Conference Honorable Mention honors, was tabbed as the Z99 Athlete of the Week, helped propel her team to four State Tournament appearances, and two Section Academic Titles.

Krusemark truly excelled on the basketball court, starting every game from her 8th grade year to her senior year. Along the way, she was a five-year letter winner, four-time All-Conference, All-Conference Honorable Mention, Class AAA First Team All-State, MN All-Star Game selection, All-State Honorable Mention, five-time All-City, Z99 Athlete of the Week, KEYC Athlete of the week, three-year captain and Schoolsports.com Student Athlete of the Week. She helped her team to earn the Team Section Academic Championship in 2000 and 2001 and place third in state in 1998. Also a current record holder, she holds the title for most rebounds and is second for career points.

Choosing to attend Gustavus Adolphus College, she excelled on the court and classroom again, playing basketball for four years and volleyball for one while continuing her academic success by graduating magna cum laude in 2005 with a BA degree in Elementary Education.

In basketball she earned honors as: First Team All-MIAC (2004-5), MIAC All-Defensive Team (2004-05), MIAC Sixth Player of the Year (2003-04), Honorable Mention All-MIAC (2003-04), ESPN The Magazine/CoSIDA Academic All-District Team (2004-05), College Sporting News Spotlight on Scholarship (Jan. 2005) and was named as the team captain (2004-05).

No stranger to setting records, Krusemark is ninth for the Gusties in career points with 938, fourth in free throws with 217, seventh in rebounds with 610, tenth in steals with 151, and second in most games played with 107.

Krusemark and husband, Brady, currently reside in Chaska, Minnesota, where she is an elementary teacher and 9th grade softball coach in New Prague.

"I'd like to thank my coaches for their guidance and support, my teammates for making every experience meaningful, and most of all, my family for their love, dedication, and countless hours of support. I appreciate this award and it is an honor to be inducted into the Hall of Fame of such an outstanding school and athletic program."

- Kristin (Kachelmyer) Krusemark

Mankato East High School Athletic Hall of Fame Members

2002 Inductees (Charter Year)

Al Blanshan.....Athlete
 Jack Brooks.....Athlete
 Ora Buchanan.....Community Member
 Mark Daby.....Community Member
 Kari (Mitchell) Eckhert.....Athlete
 Robert Gaarder.....Coach
 Kendra (Carter) Hinz.....Athlete
 Amy (Swanson) Hoehn.....Athlete
 Jerry Maschka.....Community Member
 Kristin Maschka.....Athlete
 Sara Maschka.....Athlete
 Don Miller.....Community Member
 Denny Runck.....Athlete
 Marissa (Tieszen) Rustad.....Athlete
 Tammy Shain.....Athlete
 Steve Smith.....Athlete
 Mike Wolle.....Athlete
 Scott Wolner.....Athlete
 Merv Wolverton.....Community Member
 Barb (Meredith) Woodford.....Athlete
 Cliff Woodford.....Coach

2003 Inductees

Amy Cazett.....Athlete
 John Coatta.....Athlete
 Angie (Swanson) DeGraff.....Athlete
 Chris Draheim.....Athlete
 Andre Harnitz.....Athlete
 Travis Helling.....Athlete
 Amy Kaspner-Hodapp.....Athlete
 Dan Kaspner.....Community Member
 Chrissa Landwehr.....Athlete
 Bob Maes.....Coach
 Newton Moen.....Community Member
 Randy Schulz.....Athlete
 Tim Stark.....Athlete
 John Stoffel.....Athlete
 Ron Swanson.....Community Member
 Ron Trongard.....Community Member
 Sarah Winslow.....Athlete
 Kris Wittrock.....Athlete

2004 Inductees

Jon Dierks.....Athlete
 Andrew Graham.....Athlete
 Nordeene Haldorson.....Coach
 Todd Hodapp.....Athlete
 Doris Huepenbecker.....Community Member
 Mark Miller.....Community Member
 Jennifer Mitchell.....Athlete
 Jordann Ojanpa.....Athlete
 Chris Vokal.....Athlete
 Kris Wolle.....Athlete
 Leonard Zimmermann.....Community Member

2005 Inductees

Dennis Bloomquist.....Community Member
 Millie Daufenbach.....Community Member
 Gary Dierks.....Coach
 Connie (Fitzloff) Long.....Athlete
 John Huepenbecker.....Athlete
 Jody (Mitchell) Guillemette.....Athlete
 Eric Schmidt.....Athlete

2006 Inductees

Doug Espenson.....Athlete	Kristin (Kachelmyer) Krusemark...Athlete	Tim Johnson.....Coach
Ben Kaus.....Athlete	Brian Kvebak.....Coach	Connie (Spangrud) Robinson.....Athlete

Committee Members

Gary Dierks	2001-current	Joe Madson	2003-current
Tim Johnson	2001-current	Newt Moen	2005-current
Steve Kibble	2005-current	Mark Seiler	2003-current
Brian Kvebak	2001-current	Shelly Weckwerth	2005-current
	Todd Waterbury	2003-current	