

Special Thanks

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MANKATO EAST ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

September 26, 2008
at Mankato East High School

2008 Hall of Fame Inductees

Corey Dahline	Patti Maes
Barb Kaus	Margaret Schoettler
Joe Madson	Cletus Zitzmann
Beth (Johnson) Benzkofer	

**Mankato East High School
Athletic Hall of Fame
Program 2008**

Friday, September 26

- 11:30 A.M. Alumni Get-Together
located in the Media Center
- 1:30 P.M. Coronation and Pepfest
located in the Gymnasium
- 3:05 P.M. Social Hour
located in the auditorium
- 4:00 P.M. Induction Ceremony
located in the auditorium
- 5:30 P.M. Dinner
located in the commons
- 7:00 P.M. Football Game vs. Rochester Mayo
located at Wolverton Field
- 8:15 P.M.(approximately) Halftime Introductions

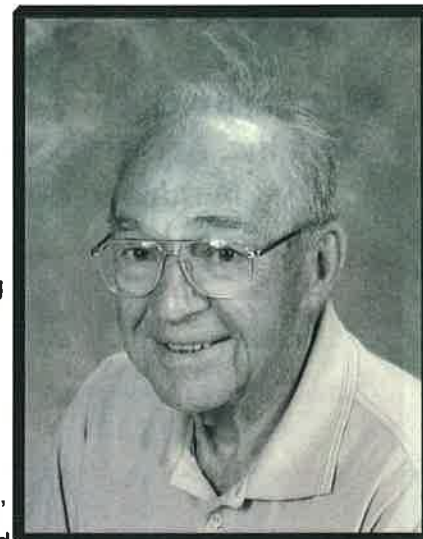
All inductees please gather at scoreboard end
with about 5 minutes remaining in the 2nd quarter.

Individual Plaque Inductees:

Corey Dahline
Beth (Johnson) Benzkofer
Barb Kaus
Joe Madson
Patti Maes
Margaret Schoettler
Cletus Zitzmann

Cletus Zitzmann

Coach



Cletus Zitzmann graduated from Redwood Falls, Mn. High School in 1943. He participated in football and basketball lettering all four years. He was co-captain of both the football and basketball teams his senior year. The day after graduation, Cletus was drafted into the United States Army.

Cletus trained and served in the field artillery division. The army recognized Cletus' ability as a teacher and coach. They assigned him to train hundreds of soldiers in artillery battalions in California and Alabama. He was sent with his last group overseas in 1945. He served in France, Belgium, and Germany. They were briefly assigned to General George Patton's Third Army during the Battle of the Bulge.

After the war, Cletus held several jobs which allowed him to play baseball in the Western and Southern Minnie baseball leagues. At this time in his career, he realized that what he really wanted to do was teach and coach high school sports.

Cletus started his career at Mankato State in 1948, which at the time was Mankato Teacher's College. He lettered all three years in football and baseball, and was co-captain in football and captain in baseball his final year. He participated one year in basketball but decided to take more classes in order to finish school in three years. Incidentally, that basketball team was National Champions for two years.

In 1951, Cletus started his teaching and coaching career in Olivia, Minnesota. He was the head football coach for four years. Cletus moved to Mankato in 1959, and was hired by the legendary Mankato football coach, Louis Todnem. He coached the sophomore football team and scouted for the varsity until 1973. Clete spent several years refereeing high school basketball until he began coaching at Mankato High in 1963. He also spent twelve summers umpiring baseball in Mankato including for the New York Mets farm team during their tenure in Mankato.

Clete continued to coach football while teaching woodshop at Mankato East High School when the schools split in 1973. He played an integral role in the North Division football championship in 1977. Clete was married for 58 years to Florence Bielen who passed away in 2005. He has two children: Tom and Mary along with four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



Margaret Schoettler

Athlete

Margaret Schoettler played tennis and softball while at Mankato East High School, but basketball was her main sport. She was part of the first team boys or girls to go to the state tournament in 1978. They finished as the consolation champions that year. It was the start of the very

successful run that the girls' basketball team accomplished in the 80' and 90's, and a dream and goal of hers to accomplish before she graduated. Margaret held the school record for points in one game at one point, and was nominated to the All-State Tournament team in 1978. Margaret was also a member of the National Honor Society.

After Margaret graduated from Mankato East, she went to college at Mankato State University where she graduated with a BS degree in teaching PE (K-12), coaching, and driver's-ed certifications. In September of 1981 she donated a kidney to her oldest brother Larry. Everything went well, and he is still doing great 27 years later! Margaret participated in summer volleyball and softball leagues after college. Her softball team, Eldorado Tires, went to the national tournament two years.

She moved to the Twin Cities in 1989 and is currently working for United Parcel Service as a package car driver/delivery person. She has been with the company for 14 plus years now.

Margaret has worked with various groups and organizations doing fund raisers to help raise money for people living with HIV and AIDS and groups that help with housing and care giving.

Corey Dahline

Athlete



Corey was a three sport athlete from the graduating class of 1985 who could only be described as passionate. He was a two year letter winner in football, basketball and track. His football heroics include honorable mention all conference in 1983. In 1984, he was co-captain, All City and an All Conference Big Nine defensive back. In basketball, he was a member of the 1984 state tournament qualifying team that was the first in Mankato East history to make the state tournament. He was a member of the 1985 Big 9, sub district, and district 4x400 relay team in track, and was a participant in 1985 at the state track meet. Corey was a member of the 4x400 relay team that set a new school record, and was voted for the M.L. Wolverton Award for 1984-1985 which is the Outstanding Male Athlete of the Year.

Corey started his college career at Bemidji State University where he played football for two years. He transferred to Mankato State and played football for another year and a half. Although his college sporting days were over, he switched gears and began running. In 2003, he completed the Napa Valley Marathon.

Corey's professional career has followed right along with his athletic endeavors. In 1991, he earned his masters degree of business administration from American Graduate School of International Business. He is currently the senior Vice President Commercial Bank Officer, specializing in the wine industry. He is a two time President's Club Award winner at Silicon Valley Bank.

Along with his professional career, Corey has been an active community member in St. Helena, California. He is a board member and treasurer of the Montessori Family Center in St. Helena. Corey has also been an active volunteer for the Land Trust of Napa County.

Corey is married to his wife Heather, and they have two daughters: Carter and Clarice.



Beth (Johnson) Benzkofer

Athlete

Beth(Johnson) Benzkofer was a Mankato East H.S. graduate of 1984 with outstanding athletic accomplishments. She participated in three sports: volleyball, basketball and softball. She was an eleven time varsity letter winner in those combined sports, and was voted captain in all three sports during her junior and senior years. Beth was an All Conference athlete in all three sports during her junior and senior

years. As a younger athlete, she received Honorable Mention status three times in basketball and softball. She was voted All City one time in basketball during the infancy of women's All City athletic awards, and was awarded Female Athlete of the Year for 1984. Her outstanding credentials allowed her to become involved in other areas. She was Vice President of the student body during her junior year. As a student athlete, she was selected as a guest speaker at the annual FCA banquet where Scott Studwell of the Vikings also spoke.

After graduating from Mankato East, Beth continued her athletic career at Bethany Junior College. She participated two years in volleyball and one year in basketball. She was nominated captain of both the volleyball and basketball teams. As a sophomore, Beth received multiple awards for her efforts in volleyball. She was an All Conference selection along with All Region and First Team Junior College All American. In 1985, Beth was invited to the Olympic volleyball camp in Colorado Spings. During her freshman year, she led the Bethany basketball team in scoring.

Since her college days, Beth has spent most of her time dedicated to her husband and children. She is married to Al Benzkofer Jr., who is a 1982 graduate of Mankato East High School. They have five children: Jake(21), Grace(16), Lincoln(14), Charlie(7) and Ethan(4). Both Benzkofers are proud of the foster care they provide and have had over fifteen children in the past three years. Beth also works at Haugbeck Homes where women with special needs are attended to. On Wednesday nights, Beth teaches confirmation class at Hosanna Lutheran Church.

Beth enjoys spending time with her family and in particular fishing, boating, and enjoying the outdoors. She loves to read, garden, spend time at church, and attend activities her children are involved with.

Patti Maes

Athlete



Patti had the pleasure and honor to play three high school sports all four years at Mankato East. She played varsity tennis from her sophomore through senior year. She also played basketball on the varsity her junior and senior years. She was an all conference selection her senior year and team captain. Patti had her most unique experience playing softball for her dad, Bob, and was an inductee into the Mankato East Hall of Fame in 2003. She started on the varsity as a pitcher during her eighth grade year, and was an all conference selection her freshman, sophomore and senior years. During her junior year she was honorable mention, and was voted most athletic by her senior class. Patti credits all of her coaches for developing the discipline, dedication and determination necessary for her future goals.

After graduating from Mankato East, Patti attended Gustavus Adolphus College. She played softball and finished her pitching career with an undefeated record. She placed second in the MIAC with honors as a freshman pitcher. Patti transferred to Mankato State and played tennis. While there, she won the number 3 singles flight her first year. During her second season she was runner up in the number 1 singles and doubles competition, and during her last season, she captured the conference title at both number 1 singles and doubles leading her team to the conference championship. She was honored as a Maverick Achievement Recipient for academics and athletic accomplishments.

Patti is currently in her seventeenth year of teaching elementary school P.E. She was the Health and Physical Education Coordinator for eight years. She is a 3- time recipient of the District 833 Foundation Grant that provides opportunities for young children along with dance education. Patti has coached varsity tennis, basketball, and softball. She has also been active in the Mankato community. Her interest has been in tennis, where she started the Mankato Aces program. She has done numerous pitching clinics and is currently the director of the 10Kato Race for a Cause on Memorial Day.



Joe Madson

Athlete/Coach

Joe Madson, a 1984 graduate of Mankato East, not only had an incredible athletic career at East, but has continued to pile up impressive statistics as a coach at his alma mater.

Joe participated in three sports at Mankato East (football, basketball and baseball.) He was a two-year letter winner in football and was a two way starter playing safety on defense and wide receiver on offense. He

also started on several special teams that included the punt receiving and kick off receiving teams. Joe was a two-year letter winner in basketball and the second leading scorer on the team. He was a captain and all conference selection his senior year. He has the distinction of having played with the first state tournament boys' basketball team from East High school that was coached by Bob Gaarder. (2002 Mankato East Athletic Hall of Fame inductee.) Joe was also a two-year starter and letter winner in baseball as an outfielder. He was a member of the National Honor Society and was voted Male Athlete of the Year for East High in 1984.

Joe's college career brought him to Bethany Lutheran Junior College on a basketball scholarship. His illustrious two years included many awards. As a two-year starter, he was All Conference and Honorable Mention All State. He averaged 16 points per game his sophomore year and was voted defensive player of the year. He was nominated to the first team academic all state. Joe also participated in baseball while attending Bethany. He was a lead off hitter and hit over .300. Joe completed his college career at Mankato State and was a member of the 1986-87 basketball team. He graduated Summa Cum Laude in 1989 with an English degree.

After participating many years in athletics, Joe began his coaching career at Bethany. In 1987-88 he was an assistant in basketball and head women's softball coach in 1988. In 1989-1993, he coached ninth grade football at Wadena High school and assisted on the girls' varsity basketball team. He moved on to Mankato East and became the boys' assistant basketball coach from 1993-2000. In 2001, Joe became the head boys' basketball coach. He was voted Big 9 coach of the year in 2001 and section coach of the year in 2003 and '05. He became the head girls' softball coach in 1994. As of today, Joe's teams have won 9 Big Nine titles, 7 section titles, a third place finish at state in 1996 and 5th in 2000 and 2004. He has been voted Big 9 Coach of the Year 4 times and section coach 5 times with an overall record of 300-80.

Joe's wife is Tiann and they have four children Jordan (11), Jax (6), Tenley (4) and Brogan (2).

Barb Kaus

Community Member



Barb Kaus started working at Carlson Craft in 1978 as a teenager. Today, 30 years later Barb is the General Manager for Carlson Craft, the nation's most trusted partner for serving the personalization needs of today and helping people celebrate life's events.

Barb has stated that working at Carlson Craft over the years has provided a wonderful opportunity for her to learn about the business and participate in the growth and development of its mission, which focuses on the formation of mutually beneficial partnerships. She has made many connections with costumers, Carson Craft team members, as well as our community through the years. She is very passionate about sustaining those relationships into the future both on a personal and professional level.

This attitude, work ethic, and wonderful disposition is why Barb was so effective in her role as a Booster Club parent, parent of a captain, and general supporter of East athletics.

From 1997-2004 while her sons, Ben (Hall of Fame inductee 2006 and 2001 graduate) and Jon (2004 graduate) played at East, Barb worked what seemed like a full time job for East. Both Ben and Jon were captains of all three sports that they played, and Barb stayed extremely active during those years. She was instrumental in raising money for these programs and worked well with the coaches and other parents to take the fundraising efforts to another level.

Whether it was organizing the quality game night program, East Cougar Card, or keeping the players well-fed on game nights, Barb typically had a behind the scenes hand in getting these off the ground and running. As the President of the Mankato East Booster Club, she was the instrumental force behind its transformation into a \$50,000 per year fundraising machine, which fueled ambitious projects like the "One Stop Shop" located on the West end of Wolverton field. Without Barb's ambition and leadership pushing hard to see this wonderful project to completion, it may have never have become a reality.

She helped immensely in creating top-notch athletic programs that were financially supported allowing coaches to spend more of their time on the actual coaching of the players. This passionate attitude is what has made Barb so effective in all aspects of her life.

Longtime coach Gary Dierks states "Barb helped our school programs become first class in all capacities with her hard work and commitment behind the scenes. Support like this made coaching at East even more rewarding than it already was. Thank you Barb."

Barb is married to her husband Neil and they have three sons: Ben, Jon and Nick.

Mankato East High School

Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

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 Kapsner-Hodapp.....	Athlete
Dan Kapsner.....	Community Member
Chrissa Landwehr.....	Athlete
Bob Maes.....	Coach
Newton Moen.....	Community Member
Randy Schulz.....	Athlete

2003 Inductees (continued)

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 Zimmerman.....	Community Member

2005 Inductees

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

2007 Inductees

Gordy Graham.....	Community Member
Chuck Helling.....	Coach
Bob Schweim.....	Athlete
Mark Spangrud.....	Athlete
Jeanne (Tostenson) Scarpello.....	Athlete

2008 Inductees

Corey Dahline.....	Athlete
Beth (Johnson) Benzkofer.....	Athlete
Barb Kaus.....	Community Member
Joe Madson.....	Athlete/Coach
Patti Maes.....	Athlete
Margaret Schoettler.....	Athlete
Cletus Zitzmann.....	Coach

Committee Members

Jeff Dahline	2007-current
Gary Dierks	2001-current
Tim Johnson	2001-current
Steve Kibble	2005-current
Brian Kvebak	2001-current
Joe Madson	2003-current
Newt Moen	2005-current
Neil Paarmann	2006-current
Todd Waterbury	2003-current