

The Helena Sports Hall of Fame

Proudly Presents

the "2013 Class of Inductees"

Golden Athletes

- Keith Sell
- Bonnie Sheriff
- Elaine (Hoover) Anderson
- Bill Gilbert

Contemporary Athletes

- Tyler Emmert
- Kari (Shepherd) Smith
- Heather Olson
- Jeannie Berthiaume
- J.J. Lamb

Coaches

- Henry Fiske
- Gary Turcott

Officials

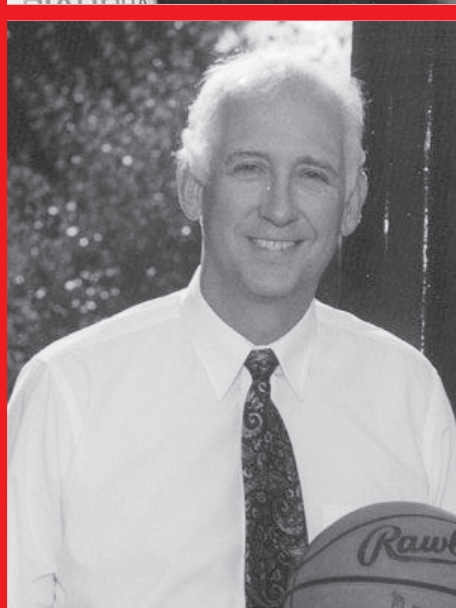
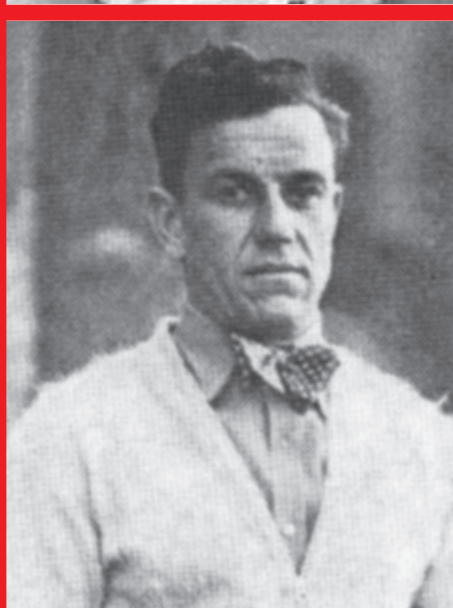
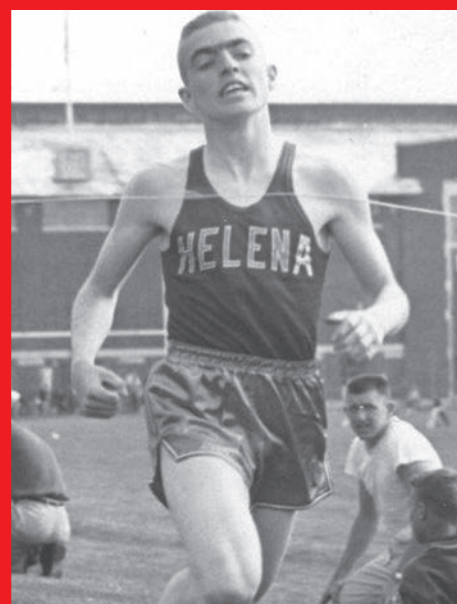
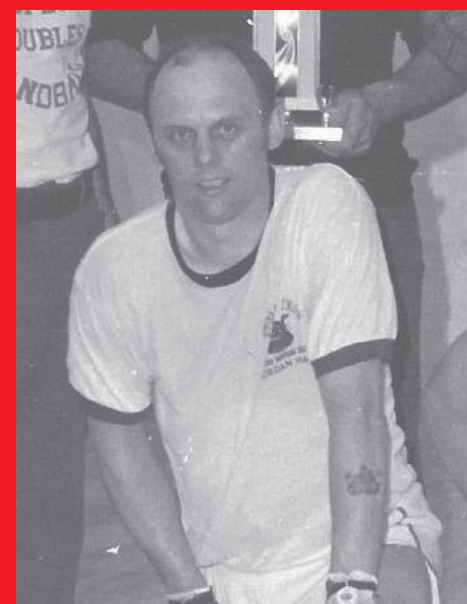
- John Maloney

Golden Teams

- 1945 Helena High basketball
- 1950 Sandy's Texacans womens softball
- 1955 Helena High basketball

Contemporary Teams

- 1973 Helena High girls cross country
- 1974 Capital High girls cross country
- 1974 Capital High boys cross country
- 1976 Capital High boys cross country
- 1977 Capital High boys cross country
- 1980 Capital High boys cross country



The Helena Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2013 includes 12 individuals and nine teams, in six categories. Individuals were selected from a pool of 120 nominations by an anonymous 20-person selection committee. Teams are inducted based on a formula by the year their state championship was achieved.

The Hall of Fame induction ceremony and banquet will take place July 18, at the Best Western Great Northern Hotel.

This is the HSHOF's seventh class of inductees, since its inception in 2003. To purchase tickets to the induction ceremony, call 439-3375 or email helenasportshof2013@gmail.com

KEITH SELL

By CURT SYNNESS

Keith Sell is one of the state's greatest doubles handball players. He won a total of 13 state doubles championships, in three divisions, during a career that spanned four decades.

Sell's final nine doubles titles were achieved with partner Paul Wachholz of Kalispell, which is a state record for all-division team championships.

In 1972, competing in the Open Division, Sell captured his first title, with Helena's Ken Rudio, defeating Helena natives Bill Leaphart and Stu Kellner of Missoula, 21-19, 21-7.

Sell and Rudio successfully retained the championship the next year, besting Clyde Angove (Helena) and Red Janzer (Great Falls) in three sets, 16-21, 21-8, 21-13.

Rudio remembered his former partner as an intense, fiery competitor.

"Keith was so competitive, he hated to lose at anything. He didn't even like to lose the coin toss for the first serve of the match," Rudio, a six-time state champion, recalled. "One time Keith and Mugs Walsh argued for half an hour before the match even started, over the rules of the coin toss."

Rudio first met Sell several years earlier, as the assistant coach for Helena Legion baseball.

"In 1964, we were the first Helena team to beat Billings at Cobb Field in almost 20 years. Their losing pitcher was Dan Scilley, and later whenever we played handball against him, we always reminded him about that Legion loss. And Scilley never did beat us," he laughed.

Rudio told another story about playing in the Dillon Invite at Western Montana College, when Sell banged his hand into the wall on a hard swing.

"His fingers were all swollen, so he stuck them in a glass of ice," recounted Rudio. "We hit every bar on the drive back for more ice, and by the time we got home his fingers were frost bit."

In 1978, Sell moved up to the Masters Division (40-plus), garnering back-to-back titles, with Jack Ritter of Great Falls and Billings' Mel Brown, respectively.

The first win came over the Butte of tandem of Jim Sullivan and Bob McLaughlin, 21-14, 21-10, followed up the next year with a win over Great Falls' Jim Ritter and Chuck Smith.

Beginning in 1982, Sell joined forces with Wachholz, and the partnership would garner nine doubles crowns in 12 years.

They reeled off four straight Masters victories, starting over Tom Pomroy and Ernie Burby of Butte. The next year, they topped the Capital City duo of Angove and Dave Books, 21-7, 21-11.

In 1984, they bested former Helenan Russ Sheriff and Lou Chenske of the Garden City, 21-9, 21-8.

Sell and Wachholz captured a Masters four-peat in 1985, beating Jay Jewett and Gary Williamson of Great Falls in the finals, 21-3, 21-10.

In 1987, the tandem moved into Golden Masters (50-plus), and proceeded to reel off off three straight titles, beating Sheriff and Angove (21-13, 21-12); Skip Dunfee and Bob Kovavich of Butte (21-5, 21-5); and Butte's Hal James and Missoula's Rob Curry (21-13, 21-10).



The duo captured the 1991 championship, and then Sell capped off his career with a triumph in 1993, at home, when he and Wachholz defeated Jewett and Paul Smith, 21-10, 21-10.

Sell's 13 crowns rank second on the state's individual all-division doubles championships, behind Jeff Jamison and Wachholz, at 14 apiece.

He is also tied for eighth-place on the all-time list of combined handball championships.

"Keith was a great partner. I played the left side and he played the right side," said Wachholz, who owns the record of 35 overall state championships. "We trusted each other, and he scored a lot with a thunder right that he liked to use, like a baseball player."

"Keith always played balls-out, and he was so competitive opponents didn't like him until the game was over it."

Sell, who had been a pitcher in the Copper League, captured nine City handball championships, as well.

But Keith Sell was more than just an athlete. He has also been a longtime advocate and supporter of local sports.

He spent 33 years in the Helena Legion baseball program, as a coach, assistant coach, general manager, groundskeeper, bus driver and public relations.

Sell also coached Carroll College baseball; helped organize the local Punt, Pass & Kick contests; was a scorekeeper for Carroll and Class C Tournament basketball; and filmed Carroll and Capital High football games.

When he resigned as the Senators' manager in 1994, IR sports editor Roy Pace wrote, "Sell gives his wife Joan credit for being a big help with the Legion program, but most of all 'for raising our four kids,' while he was busy doing other things."

ELAINE (HOOVER) ANDERSON (1925-2008)

By CURT SYNNESS

The late Elaine (Hoover) Anderson was a 6-foot-1 women's fastpitch softball pitcher and a longtime bowler in the city bowling leagues.

In the 1950s, she was one of the first local pitchers to employ the windmill delivery, and was a member of four State championships. Her title teams included East Helena Kessler Brewery in 1951, and Day's Plasterers in 1953, and 1956-57.

In 1951, Kesslers posted a 9-1 record in the regular season City League. Three of their more important season wins were 9-6 over defending state champion Sandy's Texacans, with Elaine pitching the win and hitting a 3-run homer; 10-7 over the VFW, as Hoover hurled the victory; and a 21-0 triumph in the rematch with Sandy's, with Elaine firing a 3-hit shutout and belting another 3-run homer.

At the 1951 state tournament in Bozeman, Kessler's went undefeated to claim the crown, beating Kalispell 12-11, Helena VFW 11-5 and then Billings 5-4 in the finals. Elaine pitched all three wins. Hoover, who twirled a three-hitter in the title game, wound up with an unblemished overall season record of 10-0 and pounded five homers on the season.



When Day's Plasterers captured the State crown in 1953, Elaine pitched the 11-8 semifinal win over the Missoula Merchants. Day's defeated their hometown rivals, The Freezers, 11-10 for the championship.

Making up the champion's roster were Hoover, Ramona Day, Mary Lauri, Phyllis Carson, Barbara Babcock, Rowena Day, Lora Hartz, Bonnie Fergus, Bessie Mergenthaler, Hazel Mergenthaler, Darlene O'Leary and Shirley Hininger.

They were coached by Lloyd Mergenthaler, while Karyn Wolff was the bat girl.

In 1956, Elaine pitched the first two wins of the State tourney, beating Deer Lodge 18-7 and the Anaconda Merchants 9-2, to advance to the chipper.

Anaconda came back through the loser's bracket to make the championship, where they had to beat Day's twice. After dropping the first contest 11-8, Day's captured the finals, 13-0, with Bonnie Fergus on the rubber and firing a shutout.

Day's again beat Anaconda in the 1957 title game, 11-10, claiming their fourth state championship in six years.

Team members of the 1957 champions included Mary Ann Verbanic, Janice Hamer, Barbara Babcock, Fern Siewert, Jeanne Johnson, Bonnie Fergus, Hazel Mergenthaler, Elaine Siewert, Janice Calder, Ramona Cuplin, Marge Hamer, Betty Liddell and team captain Hoover.

Ramona, Hazel and Elaine Hoover were members of all four title teams.

"Elaine was an awful good pitcher," recalled Norma (Beatty) Ashby recently, who played on the rival Freezer's team, "she was dangerous on the mound."

Elaine went on to bowl in the Womens City Leagues for approximately 35 years, carrying about a 155 average.

She helped Norm's Auto Glass garner the 1957-58 Big 12 Plus 4 league tournament title, along with Pat Schneckloth, Hazel Mergenthaler, Adeline Morrow and Betty Liddell.

In 1967, Elaine Anderson's McPherson Texaco team won the city championship, and in 1974, with Tracy's Bar, she competed in the National Tournament in Portland.

Longtime friends Pat Schneckloth and Erma Polich remember Elaine as a natural athlete, and a great person.

"Elaine was a good bowler, just like everything else," recalled Schneckloth. "We bowled in that Classic League, and she had a good average. I believe she threw a straight ball, she was a natural for anything she did."

Schneckloth recounted how Elaine would not get upset if she had a bad game, but instead just shrugged her shoulders, and always did better the next time.

"Towards the end, Elaine and I walked about three miles together every morning for about five years," Polich said. "We went year around. Sometimes in the winter we'd slip on the ice and fall in a snow bank, and then we'd tease each other about being kinda stupid."

And Elaine would most likely just shrug her shoulders and do better next time.

BONNIE SHERIFF

By CURT SYNNESS

Several years before Title IX, Bonnie Sheriff was one of Montana's first high school track super-stars, and the state's greatest female sprinter.

At Helena High from 1962-63, Sheriff went undefeated for two years in AAU and GAA individual track races. She captured five state championships, while setting state records in three different sprints.

The Lady Bengals were co-coached by Emilee Pasha (later DeKam) and Jude Gleason. Since the sport was not MHSA sanctioned, the girls raised money on their own to fund their activities, primarily with pop bottle drives.

Most of their equipment was "hand-me-downs" from the boys teams, and the lane lines on the cinder track at Vigilante Stadium were hand-chalked by the coaches.

When Sheriff went out for track in 1962, the 5-foot-6 junior served notice that she was no ordinary athlete in her very first meet, in Ennis. Competing in the girls division (15-16 years), she won the 100 yard dash in 12.1 seconds, unofficially shattering the old state record by four-tenths of a second.

Her teammate, Mary Jane "M.J." Williams also broke the state shot put record.

At the Western Division Meet at Vigilante Stadium, Sheriff sprinted to victory in the 50 and 100 dashes, in 6.2 and 12.0. Both times would have easily won the womens' (17-18) championships of 6.8 and 12.8.

Williams captured the girls' shot, while teammate Annette "Bobbie" Garrison was third in the discus.

In the women's division, the Capital City's top placer was Montell "Monty" Cowles, who followed Sheriff to the tape in the 50 for the second-place medal.

The following weekend at the Fifth Annual State AAU Meet in Kalispell, Sheriff led her team to a fifth-place showing, sweeping the 50 and the 100.

She sped to a new girls state record of 6.45 in the 50, which would've also broken the womens' mark, and clocked a 12.6 in the century.

Williams garnered the womens 8-pound shot put, improving her PR to 32-1, while Mary Lou Carmichael captured the girls high jump, clearing 4-3.

Other local scorers were Cowles, Sharon Thrailkill, Garrison, Kathleen Cain and Cordy Grady.

At the 1963 Western Division Meet in Butte, Bonnie led the Lady Bengals to a third-place finish.

Bonnie swept all three sprints in the womens division, capturing the 50 and 100, and winning the 220 in a new state record time 26.9.

Helena's placers included Carmichael, Thrailkill, Loretta O'Brien, Ann Stewart, Vickie Vincent, and M.J. Williams. The medley relay foursome of Sandy Wilson, Thrailkill, Vincent and Francis Murphy finished fourth.

Lady Bengal champions in the girls division were Lucille Salois and Sandy Salisbury, and the relay unit of Dina Wilkins, Stewart, O'Brien and Annette "Bobbie" Garrison.



At the State Meet in Kalispell, Sheriff again turned the Hat Trick, while achieving two more records, and leading HHS to a fourth-place finish.

Her records came in the 50 and 100, in 6.6 and 11.8 seconds, and she won the 220 in 28.4.

Vincent was the only other Lady Bengal earning points in the womens category, with a fourth in the century.

Sheriff attended college at Montana State, where she ran track for the WAA as a freshman, and qualified for the national AAU meet in Los Angeles.

"All I remember about nationals is that I flew down there with two other ladies from Ennis, and the other women in the race were faster than me," Sheriff recalled from her home in Dillon.

Her last two years at MSU she played intramural basketball.

Sheriff attained a teaching position at Western Montana College. She coached the Lady Bulldogs track and field team from 1970-80, and went on to instruct physical education at the school for 35 years, from 1970-2005.

"We always counted on Bonnie, she ran like the wind," said former Helena teammate Monty (Cowles) Carey. "I ran the third leg of the relay and she ran anchor, and after the handoff, I'd take a breath and look up and she'd be gone."

"She was a great sport, always volunteering for everything, and an outstanding coach at Western. Bonnie Sheriff is a wonderful person."

BILL GILBERT

By CURT SYNNESS

Bill Gilbert was part of three State championships at Helena High in 1953-54, with back-to-back basketball titles, and one individual track crown. He went on to participate in numerous city hoops championships.

On the hardcourt, as the Bengals' starting guard, the 5-foot-10 Gilbert's forte was passing and defense, years before assists and steals were part of the game stats.

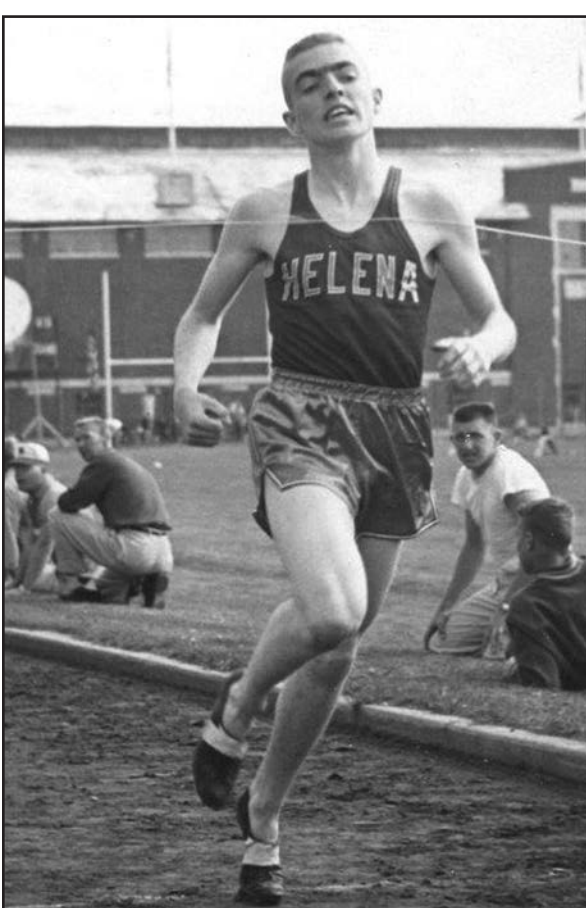
His top scoring game during his senior season came in a close 46-41 win over Flathead, when he netted 14 points.

After winning the Northern Division title, at the State tourney in Kalispell, Helena captured the second of three successive Big 16 titles, defeating Sidney in the finals, 56-51.

"Little Billy Gilbert and Don Smidt pulled the Bengals together after trailing as much as seven points to skim by fighting Sidney," the Independent Record stated. "The expected battle of the two giants – Helena's Russ Sheriff and Sidney's Loren Sax – turned into a defensive contest...and in the long run, it was the shooting of the little fellow Gilbert and (Sidney's John) Paladichuk that kept the teams running neck and neck."

Smidt scored 20 points, followed by Gilbert and Sheriff with 11 apiece. The Eagles were led by Jim Haugen and Paladichuk, at 12 counters each.

The Bengals finished 25-3 for an .893 winning percentage, which ranks third and fourth, respectively, in team history.



Gilbert averaged 13.3 points per game for the State tourney, with a high of 17 in the first round win over Anaconda, and was selected to the All-Tournament second team.

For the year, he averaged 9.5 ppg and made honorable mention All-State. During the regular season, Gilbert made 44 of 49 free throws, setting a school record of 89.8 percent accuracy.

But what former teammate and All-American Ray Howard remembers most about Gilbert is his ball-handling and passing.

"Billy always got the ball to you when you were in the best position to do something with it, and for myself, as a center that was critical," Howard said. "Whenever I'd make a move, Billy made sure the ball was there."

On the track, as a junior Gilbert placed fourth in the 880 yard run at the Interscholastic Meet, just behind teammate Harold Shepherd.

The Bengals missed a team trophy by 5/100ths of a point, finishing behind third-place Great Falls High, 32.7 to 32.75 points.

His senior year, at the Jaycee Relays (now the Skor-DeKam Invitational), Gilbert ran anchor on the meet's record-setting 2-mile relay, with Earl Zuelke, Jerry Anders and Bill Bruce.

Gilbert went undefeated in the half-mile, winning the 1954 State championship in 2:00.7, on a cinder track. He also placed runner-up in the mile, in the first time running the distance all year, with a 4:41, just 1-second behind the winner.

Helena again came in fourth, just two points behind the third-place Bison.

Gilbert's time in the 880 was the third-fastest in the history of the State Meets at the time, behind Bill Rife's (Miles City) state record of 1:58.8, and Don White's (Helena) 1:59.9, both in 1949.

"Coach Skor said Gilbert might have broken the record, but was boxed in on the final stretch and was almost knocked down, causing him to lose his stride and much time," the IR reported.

In college, as a sophomore on the Carroll basketball team in 1955-56, he helped the Saints to a 12-11 overall record, and an 8-2 mark in the Montana College Conference (now Frontier).

His high game for the season was 17 points, which he achieved twice; in a 93-65 loss to Gonzaga, and an 85-51 win over Northern Montana.

He was part of history, when the Hilltoppers set a team scoring record with a 121-66 win over Montana Mines (now Montana Tech). Former Bengal teammate, sophomore post Dick House, tallied 45 counters for another new record.

Coach Ray Hunthausen's Saints placed second in the MCC, behind Western Montana.

Gilbert averaged 9.5 points and was named honorable mention

In 1956-57, he saw limited action, although he did perform a collegiate career high of 18 points in a 75-63 loss to Eastern Washington.

Gilbert went on to play adult basketball for over 15 years in the City and National Guard Leagues, winning multiple championships with the Cloverleaf and Medical Company teams.

As a teacher and coach at Helena High, he also partook in the annual student-faculty games, competing in his final contest at 53 years of age.

"When Bill brought the ball down the court, you knew exactly what he was going to do with it," said Catholic hoops All-American Dick House, who played with Gilbert at all three levels.

"He was never selfish, and he had vision like you can't believe."

TYLER EMMERT

By TOM STUBER

When someone is as successful Tyler Emmert, the numbers seem to just go on and on forever.

Emmert lost just three games in high school and college. He was 24-0 at Capital High and 56-3 at Carroll College for an 80-3 mark. No other quarterback in the nation is known to have won 56 college games, or 80 games over his last two years in high school and four years at college.

Emmert quarterbacked the last six teams of his career to championships with two state titles at Capital and four national crowns at Carroll College.

He started nearly all of his freshman year at Carroll before an injury in the playoffs sidelined him for the the school's first national title. He is likely the only college quarterback to lead his team to four straight college football titles. Only one other team, NCAA Division III Augustana (Ill.), has won four straight since 1905.

He also played centerfield for the 2001 Helena Senators, which captured the team's first State Legion baseball crown in 33 years.

Throw in two state titles in track and field – Emmert earned nine letters in three sports – and that's an astonishing nine championships in eight years from 1998 to 2005.

Inside all the winning his throwing accuracy on the gridiron was unheard of. He finished his prep career with a 67 percent completion mark, which still stands as the school record. In college he wrapped up his career at 70.4 percent.

No quarterback at any level in college football history has ever had a completion percentage that high.

"He could've easily played at the next level in college," says Mark Samson, who coached Emmert in high school and coached against him in college.

"He was such a good student of the game and he would make plays that would just leave you shaking your head. He and Tyler Peterson had a play at Carroll that was a read by the receiver. The thing was Emmert had to read the same thing, which is extremely difficult to do."

Emmert was even better in the big games.

Against Billings West for the 1999 state title, he went 12 of 16 for 223 yards and two TDs, with no interceptions, which equates to a 233.3 rating.

Samson points out that it was Emmert's calm demeanor in that game that set him and the Bruins up for such a big day.

"We got behind right off the bat, but Tyler's, who was just a junior, presence was one that said it didn't matter to him. He was so steady," he said.

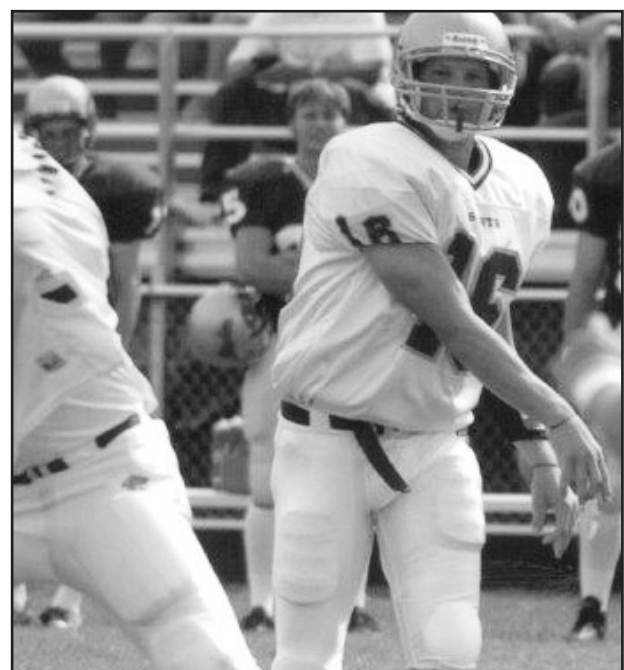
Among his many accolades are the AA Offensive MVP award in 2000, the East-West Shrine Game, the Mon-Dak All Star Game, and the Great Falls Tribune Super-State team.

In college he was a two-time NAIA national player of year, national title game MVP three times, NAIA player of the decade and the national Little Sullivan Award winner.

In 2002, Emmert's replacement for the national championship, Robb LaTrielle, guided the Saints to a 28-7 win over Georgetown.

As the clock wound down, Emmert was inserted under center to take a knee on the last snap of the game.

As a sophomore, he led Saints' successful defense



of the title, in a 41-28 win over Northwest Oklahoma. The Hilltop's QB completed 26 of 37 passes, for 344 yards, throwing for two touchdowns and rushing for another.

When Emmert earned his first national POY honor, in 2003, Nick Howlett, Carroll's offensive coordinator said, "I think the defining thing about Tyler is he makes his teammates better."

In 2004, the Saints beat the University of St. Francis (Ind.) 15-13 in the national chipper, with Emmert going 24-35 for 214 yards with one touchdown toss. And then they achieved the four-peat his senior year, with a 27-10 victory over St. Francis. Emmert went 20-36 for 278 yards and a trio of TD strikes.

When he was awarded his second NAIA player of the year award, Emmert was quick to praise his teammates for his success on the field.

"It is a representation of coach Howlett and our offensive line, not just the quarterback," he said.

Emmert's prep records at Capital included career passing yards (4,386), pass completions (249), touchdown passes (47), completion percentage (67%) and total yards (5,270); and season passing yards (2,033).

His Carroll records consisted of career passing yards (12,770), total yards (13,979), completion percentage (70.4), pass completions (1,037) and touchdown passes (110); season passing yards (4,139), completions (315), completion percentage (76%) and touchdown passes (38); and touchdown passes in a game (5).

The marks for career passing yards, total yards and completion percentages are NAIA records, as well.

Although Tyler Emmert's illustrious career was composed of records, championships and awards, behind the scenes were countless hours of hard work. And it was that work ethic that helped him not only win games, but endear him to his teammates, all of whom had the confidence that he would lead them to victory.

"Tyler keeps his composure," Carroll head coach Mike Van Diest told the IR in 2005. "It's not cockiness or arrogance; it's just a confidence in his own ability. That instills confidence and trust in the other players as well."

KARI (SHEPHERD) SMITH

By CURT SYNNESS

In 1983, almost everyone laughed at three-time state champion Kari Shepherd when she named Dorothy Hamill, Olympic figure skater, as her sports idol.

Apparently because Shepherd had set – and still holds – all of the girl's high jump records from the East Helena fourth grade to the All-Class state record, her teammates thought she should have picked a track athlete.

"But I chose Dorothy Hamill, because she taught herself how to skate on a pond near her home, not at rink with a professional coach," Kari (Shepherd) Smith told this reporter in 2004.

As a young girl, Kari started high jumping in a home-made pit at the family property near Lakeside.

"My brother set down some old tires, covered them with a piece of plywood, and then laid down a few mattresses on top," Smith explained.

Kari came from an athletic background. Her dad, Harold Shepherd, earned four letters running distance for HHS, while mom Doris was a member of the very first Bengalettes in 1953.

And she also possessed the intangible ingredients of most great athletes: an extreme desire to excel, an intense competitive will and the heart of a lion.

She spent her youth either competing (with brothers Kent and Kirk, and her cousin, Marni Bentley) in makeshift baseball games, where you had to make a high jump in order to score; or perfecting her technique with thousands of practice jumps.

"When I was 9 years old, I started in the AAU track meets that Tom Mulvaney drove all of the East Helena kids to," Smith says.

By the time she reached eighth grade, she could already high jump 5-foot-3.

Her freshman year at Divisionals, Kari and teammate Randi Rognlie tied for second, but Smith failed to place at the State Meet.

In the first meet of 1981, Shepherd leaped 5-4 and broke the school record of 5-3, set by Michelle Petrie, in 1977.

The Lady Bengals then finished third at the Helena Girl's Invitational (now the Skor-Dekam), with Kari winning both the high jump and the 100 meter high hurdles.

At Divisionals, Shepherd tied for second, behind Great Falls' Jamie Dickerson's 5-4.

She then claimed her first AA title by out-jumping Dickerson, with a clearance of 5-6.

Her junior year, Kari was again a double winner at the Girl's Invite, and also ran a strong leg on the second-place 1,600 relay squad.

Shepherd captured Divisionals at 5-7, prevailing over Dickerson in a jump-off, and qualified for State in the 100 hurdles as well, placing third.

At State, the lanky 5-foot-9½ junior successfully defended her crown, clearing 5-6 and beating runner-up Holly Maloney of Butte. Plus she took fifth in the high



hurdles.

The IR's Roy Pace wrote, "For a young woman with flat feet, shin splints and a bad back, Kari Shepherd did a pretty good job in the cold, damp conditions."

Shepherd was also a standout post on the Lady Bengals basketball team, earning three hoops letters and leading the team in rebounding her senior year.

Her final track season, Kari was the Girl's Invitational only triple-winner, garnering the long jump (16-4½), and setting new meet records in the high jump (5-7½) and 100 hurdles (15.5 seconds).

At Divisionals in Helena, she raised her Vigilante Stadium record to 5-8, which stood unchallenged until being tied by Glacier's Lexi Boschee in 2012.

She also qualified for State in the long jump, but false-started and was DQed in the high hurdles, an event she had a good chance of winning.

Before the 1983 State Meet in Billings, the intense Shepherd had three goals – her third State crown, breaking (Great Falls standout and future U.S. Olympian) Pam Spencer's state record of 5-9, and clearing 5-10.

Well, two out of three wasn't bad.

After Maloney and Lisa Bonneau (BW) went out at 5-7, Kari raised the bar to 5-9½.

She missed on her first attempt, but then sailed so far over, "When I looked over at coach (Joe) Anderson, he jumped up and held his hands about 6 inches apart," signaling how much she cleared the bar by.

Shepherd missed all three attempts at 5-10½, but on one jump was well over, "brushing the bar with my heel."

The next day, she added a fifth-place medal in the long jump to her collection.

Kari (Shepherd) Smith was selected an honorable mention High School All-American, and stands as one of an elite trio of HHS girls to win at least three state titles in the same event, with Lauri Adams in the mile run (1974-76), Shannon Agee in the pole vault (1995-98), and Anna Brooks in the javelin (2004-06).

HEATHER OLSON

By CURT SYNNESS

Heather Olson was Montana's first female soccer super-star.

As a member of the Capital Lady Bruins from 1993-96, Olson established state scoring records for a game, season and career, while helping CHS to the first of its eight state championships.

At the University of Montana, she helped the Lady Griz to the NCAA finals, while setting the Big Sky's scoring mark in the process.

As a freshman for Capital, Olson netted 17 goals. She had two games with six goals, in leading the Lady Bruins to a 6-4-1 mark.

Olson and teammate Nikki Grossberg were named to the 1993 All-State team.

Her sophomore year, CHS went undefeated (8-0-2) during the regular season. They then placed runner-up at state, losing 2-1 to Missoula Big Sky in the finals.

Capital produced seven shutouts on the year, while holding a 48-8 scoring advantage over its opponents.

Olson finished the season with 12 goals, and along with CHS's Erica Eckerson was tabbed a 1994 All-Stater.

In 1995, Olson upped her season total to 25 goals. Her best game was a seven-goal performance in a 15-0 blanking versus Butte.

Capital (12-2) again faced Big Sky in the state chipper, but was again shaded by the Lady Eagles, 1-0. The brown-and-gold outscored its opposition 70-5 on the year, with nine shutouts.

Olson was selected to the All-State team for the third time, with Eckerson, Aleida Alvarez and Gretchen Howard.

But Olson was just getting warmed up. Her senior year, the 5-foot-5 striker amassed a phenomenal 37 goals, with a high of eight tallies in one game.

"Heather Olson scored a whopping six goals in the 15 minutes she played in the first half," reported the IR after the Lady Bruins' 17-0 win over Billings Skyview.

Also scoring in the first half were Anna McMahon (three times), Maire Brennan (twice) and Casey Berry, giving the Bru-crew a 12-0 halftime lead.

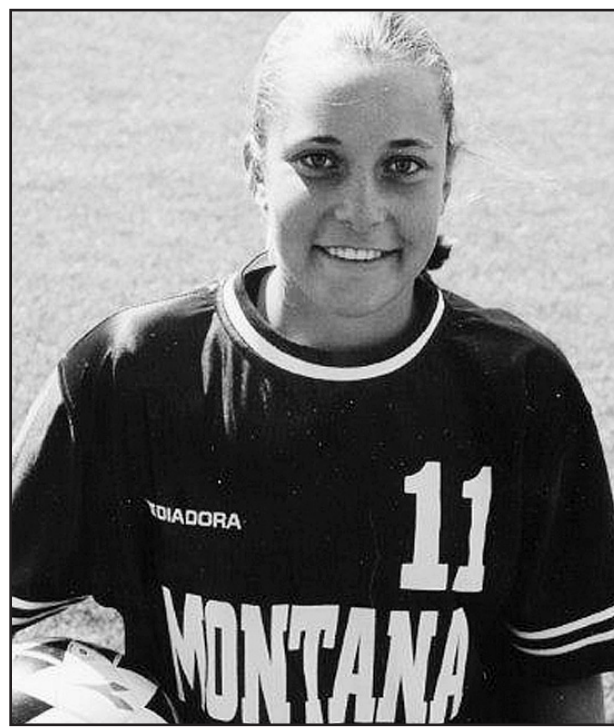
"Olson played only five minutes in the second half, and on the day she sent the ball into the net eight times," according to the paper.

Capital got revenge on Big Sky in the first round of the State tournament, 11-2, behind the seven-goal effort of Olson.

In the 3-0 semi-final win over Helena High, the two teams were embroiled in a scoreless tie after the first half, until "Heather Olson scored her 37th goal of the season to break the deadlock six minutes into the second half," the IR stated.

The Lady Bruins then beat Bozeman for the state title, 2-1, on a pair of counters by Liz Roberts, capping off a sparkling 15-1-0 season.

Capital scored 107 points on the year, while giving up just nine goals. Eleven of their victories were shutouts.



Individually, Olson posted seven games with three or more goals, including four hat-tricks, and games of four, seven and eight counters. She finished her career with a total of 91 lifetime goals.

And despite one of the most incredible seasons in Montana history, Olson was shockingly left off of the all-state team. In fact, only one of champions' players – Anna McMahon – was named All-State.

But Olson, who is currently involved in several fitness web sites out of Hawaii, has only fond recollections of her career.

"My favorite memory at Capital was winning the state championship," Olson said in a phone interview in 2011. "We worked a long time to get there, I had a great coach and some great teammates, and we laid the foundation for those future championships."

At Montana, Olson went on to become a two-time all-conference kicker for the UM, and the Big Sky's all-time goals leader.

Local area players joining her on the Lady Griz were Nikki Grossberg, Liz Roberts, Nikki Bolstad Katie Roberts and Wendy Stuker.

After red-shirting her freshman year with a knee injury, in 1998 she scored seven goals, five of which were game-winners.

As a sophomore, Olson led the team with eight goals, and was named second team All-Conference.

In 2000, she helped the Big Sky champion Griz to 16 wins and an appearance in the second round of the NCAA tournament. Olson netted 14 goals to gather another All-Conference selection, while earning the Golden Boot Award as the league's leading scorer.

Her senior year, she piped seven counters, bringing her career total to 36 goals, which still stands as the Big Sky's all-time record.

"Heather Olson could score at will," said longtime CHS coach Rick Thompson, "and her knowledge of the game and playing abilities far surpassed any player I've ever coached, or seen play since she graduated."

J. J. LAMB

By TOM STUBER

Running back JJ Lamb is another of many cases of local-boy-makes-good in the Capital City. Lamb, like many others, used his high school exploits to earn a scholarship at Carroll College and he definitely proved to be worthy.

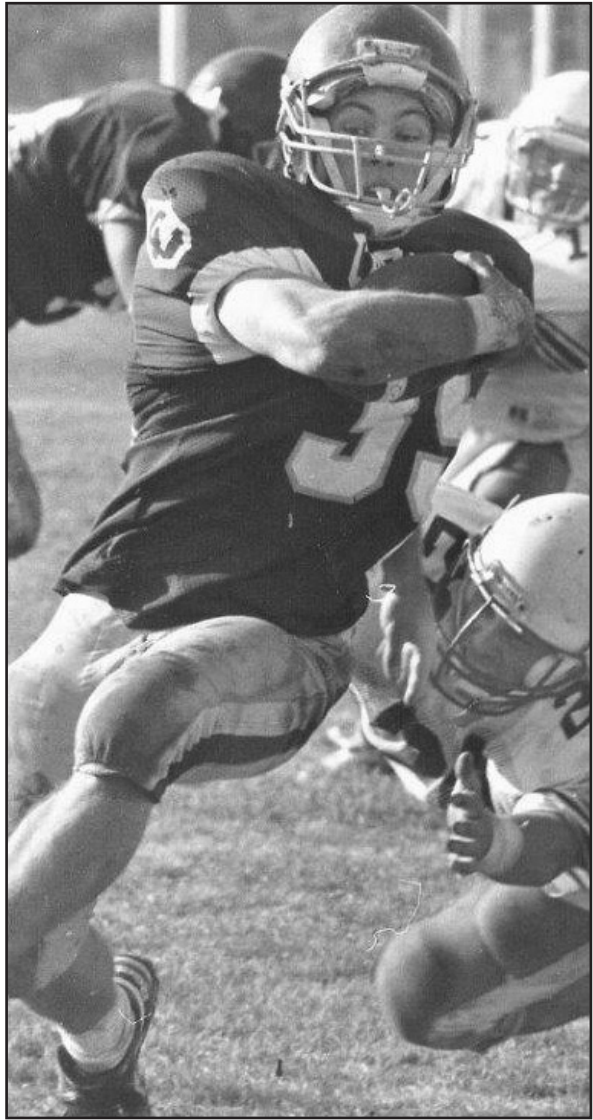
Lamb played for legendary Capital High coach Jim Tuss helping the Bruins to consecutive appearances in the AA playoffs as a junior and senior, but the timing wasn't on Capital's side those years as C.M. Russell was being led by superstar quarterback Dave Dickenson.

"I got to know Dave well after our high school careers. We came close to being the one team to beat those guys," related Lamb, referring to Russell's back-to-back undefeated seasons.

The Bruins led 14-0 at halftime in a regular season game and were still ahead 20-14 in the waning moments, before losing on a last-second TD by the Rustlers.

"Both Great Falls teams were stacked back then," Lamb recalls. "We didn't get another shot at CMR after that, because we ran into the Bison in the playoffs both years and we couldn't get past them."

Lamb and his teammates kept the Bruins consecutive playoff streak intact as it reached 13 straight years while he was there. He is back in brown and gold these days after taking an assistant coaching (running backs) job there six years ago.



"It's really a special school with its great football tradition," he said. "It's great to be able to give something back."

After his prep career, Lamb moved on to Carroll College and another legendary coach in Bob Petrino, Sr., but the atmosphere looked daunting when he arrived on campus.

"There were something like 40 new freshmen recruited that year and eight to 12 of them were running backs, but it was a good fit for me because I knew the offense," Lamb remembered. "They gave me a chance, but to look at all the other talented backs it was like, 'Wow!'"

After a shaky start his red-shirt freshman year – he fumbled the first time he carried the ball – the 5-foot-8, 180-pound Lamb began to find his niche.

He would set the freshman rushing record that year with 841 yards. He would go on to rush for 1,187 yards as a sophomore and 980 his junior year.

Lamb capped off his career with a school record 1,284 yards as a senior. He led the nation in yards per carry (7.81) and yards per game (147) and also finished tied for scoring per game (11.25 points).

All told he would rush for 4,292 yards, which was another school record for the Fighting Saints. His 6.37 career yards per carry mark is still Carroll's standard and his single-season and career rushing totals stand as the second best marks for the Hilltoppers.

He also ranks fourth, with 41 career TDs.

The Saints qualified for the playoffs once during Lamb's career as they took on Glenville State in 1993. Glenville was directed by current University of Arizona head coach Rich Rodriguez, and beat Carroll 48-28.

Lamb was selected an All-Frontier Conference running back all four years, and was a two-time NAIA All-American, making honorable mention in 1993, and first team All-American in 1995.

Lamb's best single-game effort came on a miserable day in Billings against Rocky Mountain. He ran for 285 yards before breaking off a 30-yarder to go over 300, but the play was called back due to a penalty.

"The best part of that was eight years later I ran into the player called for the penalty," recounted Lamb. "He was our center and he began to go on about how sorry he was and said he'd thought about every day for the past eight years."

"I never realized how much it meant for every kid on that team. From the offensive line to the wide receivers everyone had a part in me getting free."

But that assessment did not surprise Walt Chancy, who was an assistant coach when Lamb played for Capital.

"JJ's presence always lifted the level of play of everyone around him," Chancy said. "He was a coach's dream – very coachable, and he led by example, on and off the field. He ran with speed and power. And most importantly, JJ Lamb made playing the game of football fun...everyday."

JEANNIE BERTHIAUME

By CURT SYNNESS

All distance runners experience their share of injury and pain.

But few have been able to accomplish what Jeannie Berthiaume achieved during a high school career with limited training time due to injury.

As a member of Helena High cross country and track from 1985-89, Berthiaume garnered a combined total of 12 top-five placings at State meets, with three AA championships.

"The thing I remember most about Jeannie was her extraordinary talent," said Berthiaume's coach, Gigi Moy. "Yes, she worked hard. But she had the kind of raw talent that you rarely see as a coach."

Berthiaume did not go out for cross country her freshman year until after classes started. In only her second varsity appearance, she led the Lady Bengals to the Missoula Invitational title, with a third-place finish.

After winning crosstown, Berthiaume placed third at the State Meet at Bill Roberts Golf Course, working her way up during the race from the middle of the crowded field.

She lowered her PR by 48 seconds, clocking an 11:49.5, in the 2 mile race just 13 seconds behind 4-time state champion Kathy Jarvis of Havre.

Helena garnered the third-place trophy, with its next four scorers being Dina Brookie, Kelly Redfield, Lori Lanning and Carrie Davis.

Her sophomore year, Berthiaume missed the first five weeks of the season, bothered first by a pulled hip muscle from the previous track season, and then an ankle injury.

But she was able to win both of the races she competed in, one of which just happened to be the state championship.

Another intra-city victory – now at the increased distance of 3-miles and in her first competition in six months – was followed up by the 1986 title. Her 18:01 clocking at Bill Roberts was 18 seconds faster than runner-up Jennifer Parsons of Flathead.

She was running third earlier in the race, took the lead at the half-mile mark, and then gradually pulled away from the field.

"I wasn't feeling good at the beginning, but I usually start out like that," she told the IR. "When I'm running, I don't like the longer (3-mile) distance, but when I get to thinking about it, it does give me more time to get in the lead."

In 1987, Berthiaume again had to contend with a bad hip, and was unable to compete until the final three meets of the season.

She garnered a pair of dual victories, including the intra-city crown, before a painful fifth-place finish at state, in 18:54.

As a senior, Jeannie stayed healthy and was able to run the table, capped off by her second state crown.

After twice beating defending state champion Heidi Ackerly of Flathead, at the Helena and Missoula Invites, she won crosstown with a BR course record of 17:48.

Next, Berthiaume performed a new State Meet mark, in 17:51, despite a 30-mile per hour head wind on certain stretches of the course.



She took the lead at the half-mile mark, and then gradually pulled away to win by over a minute, ahead of Flathead's Yvonne Efraimson.

"The wind didn't bother me until I got on the backside. Then it got bad," Berthiaume explained afterwards. "I blocked it out of my mind and told myself I can't quit. I had to keep pushing."

Chris Colberg, who was a member of the 1988 Helena boys state championship, looked back on Berthiaume's career in wonderment.

"In almost every race, Jeannie ran by herself the whole way, and I've always wondered how fast she would've run if she had a rival to push her," Colberg said recently.

On the track for HHS, after missing her freshman year, Berthiaume went on to garner eight top-four medals at state meets, highlighted by a pair of championships in 1989.

She achieved an undefeated senior season in capturing the 3,200 meter run, and was part of the winning 1,600 relay, with Sarah Dudley, Shawn Jackson and Tina Zinnecker.

She also earned three runners-up, the in the 1,600 run, and 1,600 relay; two thirds in the 800; and a fourth in the 1,600.

"Jeannie was a role model of consistency and hard work," wrote Sarah Dudley-Baus. "As a young Bengal, I could only hope to achieve the same degree of respect that she had earned."

Berthiaume graduated Helena High holding school records for all four grades in cross country.

She is one of four local female two-time AA harrier titlists, with Lauri Adams (HHS, 1974-75), Emily Nay (CHS, 1991, 1993) and Katie Gilboy (CHS, 2005-06).

And she is one of only three locals, with Nay (1991-95) and Staci Anderson (CHS, 1998-2001), to finish in the top-5 at state cross country all four years.

Former track teammate and multiple state champion Julie (Brown) Petrie related that Jeannie's tireless work ethic and dedication helped to shape Julie's own career.

"Jeannie taught me that humility and concern for others are essential life skills," Petrie said. "She was a fierce competitor and expected only the best of herself, so every day we pushed each other to do our best."

JOHN MALONEY

By *TIM KELLY*

When talking about great sports figures from Montana's past, we all have a certain football or basketball star who we will never forget. There is one person, however, who has probably had as much influence on sports in Montana as any individual athlete.

His name is John Maloney.

During a career that spanned nearly 35 years of high school and college athletics, Maloney was at the forefront of some of the state's biggest games, as well as numerous NCAA Division I playoffs and two national championships.

"John had the foundation of a good football official, starting out as a player and coach at both the high school and college levels, at Butte Central and Carroll College," said former MHSA and Frontier Conference official Gene McMahon. "On the field, he was always in position, he knew the rules, and he had great judgment. And there probably wasn't anyone in better shape, he ran every day.

"When John was working a game, he made your crew stronger. I honestly feel that had John been in a metropolitan area, he could've made the big time."

In 24 years as a football official for the MHSA from 1973-97, Maloney officiated eight Class AA championship games, three AA playoff games, one Class B title contest, and three B playoff games.

He was also selected to officiate three East-West Shrine games and one class C All-star game.



On the basketball court during the same period, Maloney worked two State A hoops tournaments and one State B tourney, as well as 16 District and eight Divisional tournaments.

At the collegiate level, Maloney served as a Frontier football and basketball official from 1978-1984, and as a Big Sky Conference football official from 1976-2006.

In the Big Sky, he worked six Bobcat-Grizzly games, 14 1-AA playoff contests and two 1-AA National Championship games. Maloney was also a member of the Big Sky Officials Association Board of Directors, and President of Big Sky Officials Association Board.

Being an official for as long as Maloney was doesn't happen without at least some controversy.

"During one Cat-Griz game in Bozeman, I was the field judge and was in charge of the 25-second clock," Maloney recounted. "One of the cheerleaders got in front of the clock and blocked my line of sight. When the clock ran out, Grizzly coach Don Reed saw it, so he came running towards me yelling that time had expired, but when he ran past the linesman, (the official) threw the flag on him for being out of the coach's box.

"Reed had a few choice words for me as you can imagine, but towards the end of his career we got to be friends."

Maloney's two Division 1-AA championship games took place in 1985-86, with Georgia Southern winning both times, over Furman and Arkansas State.

During his 14 Division 1-AA playoff games, Maloney worked with some big names, including Grambling coach Eddie Robinson, Youngston coach Jim Trussel before he went to Ohio State, and future NFL quarterbacks Steve McNair of Alcorn State and Northern Iowa's Kurt Warner.

He said his favorite Big Sky coach was Helena native Cliff Hysell of Montana State.

"Cliff was the easiest guy to work for, because he never showed you up or tried to embarrass an official in front of everyone," explained Maloney. "And not that he didn't get what he thought he had coming when he had to. But instead of screaming at you, he'd just ease up behind you and say something like, 'Kinda picky, aren't you, Maloney?'"

Maloney is a member of both the MOA and Big Sky Officials Association Hall of Fames and is currently working as an observer of football officials for the Big Sky, in addition to serving as a working scout for the NFL officiating program.

"John Maloney is a very worthwhile recipient of (the Helena Sports Hall of Fame) award," said longtime official Terry Cosgrove, who worked with Maloney at all three levels. "The people that worked with him trusted him completely, because they knew in a tough situation he'd always make the right call."

Cosgrove said that Maloney had the courage to make the correct decision and kept his composure under the most difficult circumstances.

"He had such great judgment. Whenever I needed someone to make the right call, I always wanted it to be John Maloney," Cosgrove said.

HENRY FISKE (1900-1967)

By *CURT SYNNESS*

Before Henry Fiske arrived at Helena High in the fall of 1928, the Bengals football team was considered mediocre at best. But during his 12 seasons as the head coach of Helena's gridders, the smallish taskmaster brought such respectability to the program that those who remember that era still speak in glowing terms of the success of his program.

The benchmark of his career occurred with the winning of the school's only official state football championship.

Fiske, who was born in Linn, Kansas, served in the US Army in World War I. He went on to graduate from Pacific University (Forest Grove, Ore.), during which time he attended summer sessions at Oregon State, and the Universities of Oregon and Montana.

At Helena High, Fiske's gridders' seven best seasons were 1928-30, 1932-34 and 1938, when HHS went 41-10-1 with 19 shutout victories.

During those seven years, the Bengals outscored their opposition an average of 22-8. Their seasonal records were: 7-1 in 1928, 4-1-1 in 1929, 5-1 in 1930, 7-2 in 1932, 6-1 in 1933, 6-1 in 1934, and 6-3 in 1938.

In 1932, Fiske guided the Bengals to their only contested State football championship. Helena defeated previously unbeaten and three-time defending champion Butte High in the semifinals, 13-6, before besting the much-bigger and highly favored Billings Broncs, 12-6, for the title.

The 1902 Helena Tigers were declared co-state champions with the Fort Shaw Indians, when both teams went 4-0, before title games were actually played to determine the crown.

In 1933, Helena completed an undefeated regular season prior to dropping a 12-7 decision to Missoula County High in the play-off semis. The red-and-white was handicapped by a severe ankle injury to star running back Finky Strong, which had the Bengal great limping throughout the contest.

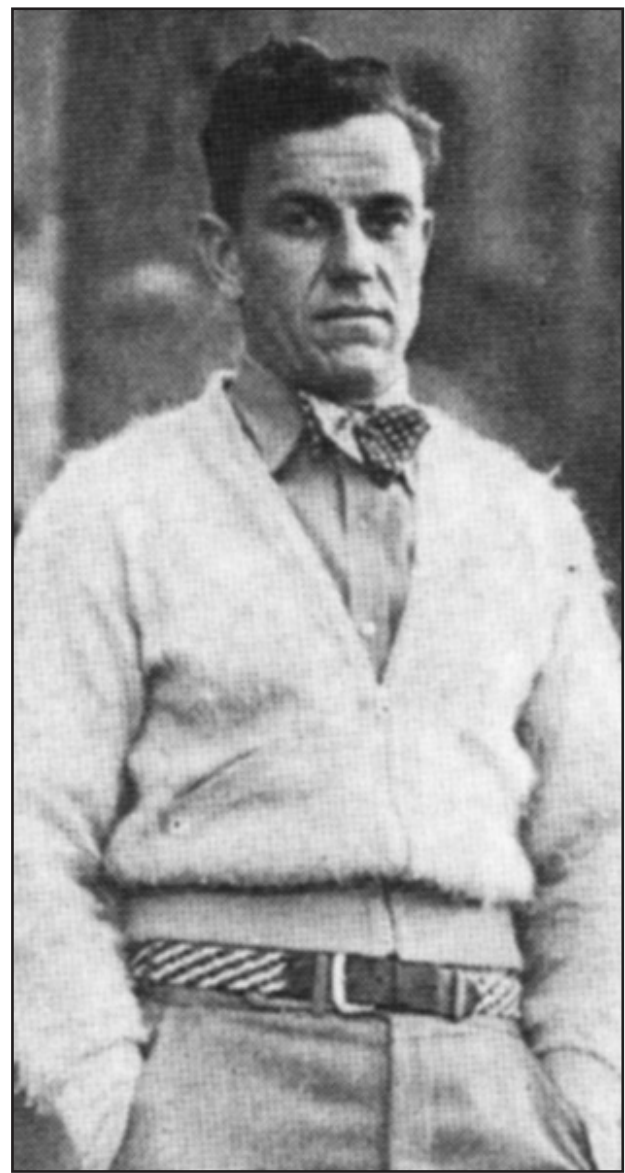
From mid-'32 to the end of 1933, Fiske's boys won 11 straight games – a school record that still stands, 80 years later.

Helena again qualified for the state playoffs in 1934, but again fell to the Spartans in the semifinals, 21-19, on a last-ditch TD pass to the great Greg Rice in the waning seconds.

Fiske retired as HHS's head grid coach after the 1939 season, compiling a 53-27-3 career mark. His lifetime wins lasted as a Bengal record for 78 years, until being surpassed by Tony Arntson in 2006; while his .662 winning percentage still ranks No. 1, ahead of Arntson's .593 (121-84).

During his tenure at Helena High, Fiske also coached track for four seasons, and basketball for six years.

As an athlete, he played semi-pro baseball in the local independent leagues, and once captured a City golf title.



He was a charter member of the Montana Officials Association, and served as a local official in basketball, football, track and baseball, off and on, for 30 years.

In 1945, Fiske helped Lloyd Skor organize the Jaycee Relays (now the Skor-DeKam) track and field meets.

When the 1932 state champions were inducted into the Helena Sports Hall of Fame in 2005, former Bengal Joe Geier said, "The reason we won that game was because we had the best coach in the state...Henry Fiske."

And former Bengal (1937-39) Earle "Pruney" Parsons – who appeared in the Rose Bowl with USC before playing for the NFL San Francisco 49ers – once told this reporter, "Henry Fiske was the best coach I ever had, at any level."

GARY TURCOTT

By *TIM KELLY*

In 1990, Gary Turcott became Carroll College's 30th head mens' basketball coach. From that point on, all coach Turcott did was proceed to rewrite the Saints' record books.

During 20 seasons of leading the mens' hoops program, his teams won 376 games and eight Frontier Conference championships, both of which are school records. In his final decade at the helm of the Saints' program, Turcott's squads amassed a 228-88 mark for an impressive 72% winning percentage.

Turcott was named the Frontier's Coach of the Year five times, and posted 10 seasons with 20 or more wins. A familiar face in Kansas City during the March Madness, his nationally ranked Saints qualified to the NAIA National Tournament seven times.

"Gary was one of the most humble, hard working coaches I have ever been around," said Capital High Lady Bruins coach Bill Pilgeram, who spearheaded Turcott's first Frontier title club. "He was a great teacher of the game who loved competition and loved his players. Mostly I learned how to treat players correctly and also how to break down and teach the fundamentals of the game.

"It has been a blessing to have him as a friend and coaching colleague as my coaching career has advanced."

Carroll athletic director Bruce Parker wrote, "In 2004-05, Gary directed the Frontier champion Fighting Saints into uncharted water as Carroll advanced to the NAIA's Fab Four."

This marked the first time that a Carroll College team had advanced beyond the first round of the national tournament since 1966, and was the first time in the history of the Frontier Conference that a team made it past the Sweet 16.

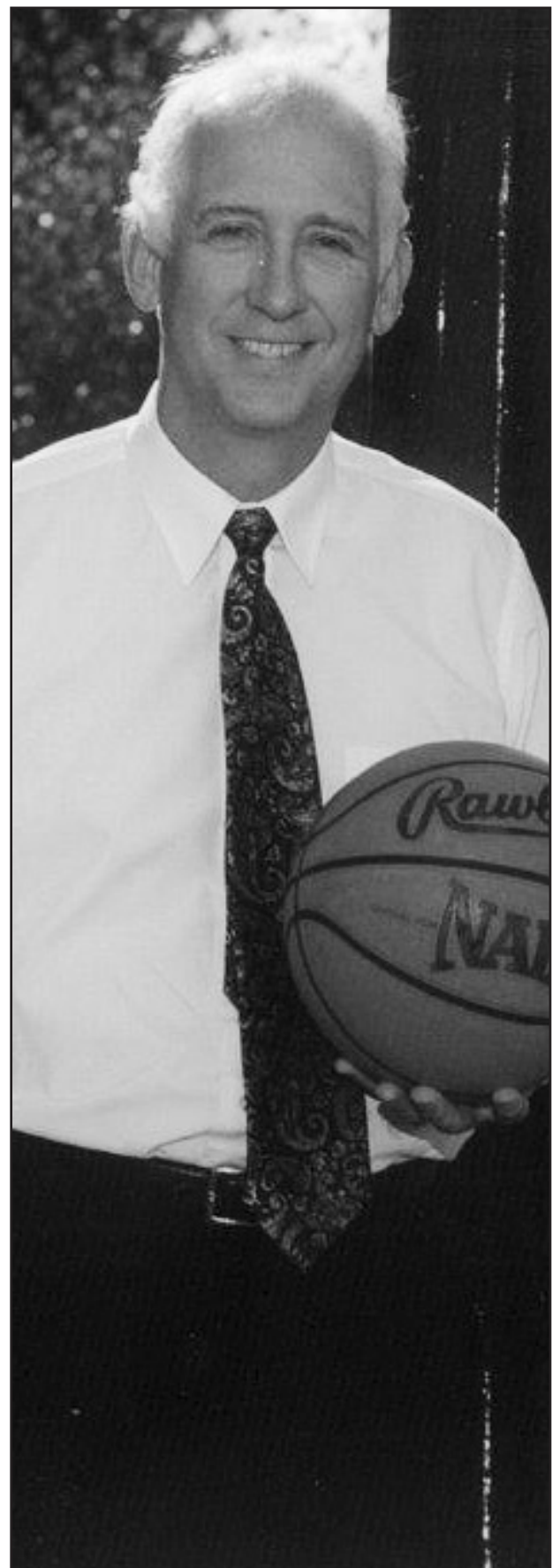
"The Saints were ranked in the NAIA Top-10 for the duration of the 2005-06 campaign and won both the conference regular season title, and the Frontier Conference Tournament crown," Parker wrote. "To cap off a landmark season, they advanced to the Elite Eight at the NAIA National Tournament for the second straight season. Turcott's squad ended the season at 30-4, a mark that remains the best in school history."

The Hilltop's skipper helped develop and coach 11 NAIA All-Americans, including Pilgeram (1990-92), Drew Peterson (1994), Guy Almquist (1997), Kevin Van Nice (1999), J.D. Solomon (2001), Shane Gamradt (2001-02), Andy Brown (2005), Travis Williams (2005-06), Jeff Hays (2006), Sinan Gular (2006) and Andy Garland (2009-12).

The Saints produced 32 All-Frontier Conference selections during Turcott's tenure, highlighted by five league MVPs – Pilgeram (1991-92), Almquist (1997), Brown (2005) and Garland (2009).

Adding to Turcott's successes on the court are the accolades he receives from those who played for him.

As J.D. Solomon, current Carroll Lady Saints' assistant coach states, "Coach Gary Turcott is a great teacher of the fundamentals of basketball. He has spent countless hours, dedicating himself to the development of players. But perhaps what I respect most about coach Turcott is his dedication to seeing his players flourish after they have moved on."



Capital boys coach Guy Almquits noted that besides his parents, Turcott has had the biggest influence on his life.

"Coach gave me the unreal opportunity to play college basketball and graduate from Carroll College," Almquist said. "His concern for his players went far beyond the hardwood. I will forever be indebted and consider him a great friend and mentor."

1945 HELENA HIGH BASKETBALL

By CURT SYNNESS

The 1944-45 Helena High basketball team is generally regarded as one of the school's greatest ever.

Under new coach Lloyd Skor, the Bengals won the 1945 Big 16 Class A championship, defeating Columbus in the finals, 43-33.

Two weeks before State, Helena won the Northern Division title, beating Great Falls High, 46 to 32. Center Dick Carstensen, a 6-foot-5 junior, poured in 33 points, despite the fact that three Bison were "ordered to hold him down at all costs," according to the Independent Record.

The paper's State preview reported that "Helena will base its hopes on a well-balanced club. Center Dick Carstensen is one of the best rebound shots in the state, and junior guard Walt Lloyd makes certain the other team doesn't make them.

"The senior forwards, captain Bill Callaghan and Bob Chenkovich, use effective shots which pull guards off Carstensen."

The Bengals' fifth man was brawny junior guard Joe Brennan, whose strengths were assisting the scorers, and tenacious defense.

Helena opened the State tourney in Billings with a first-round 39-20 pounding of Plentywood, Skor's former team, before trouncing Dillon in the semifinals, 53-23.

In the chipper, "The crowd-favored Cougars failed to cope with the tantalizingly-tight Helena defense."

Helena jumped out to a quick start, leading 15-2 after the first quarter, behind Carstensen's 12 counters. The Bengals led 23-8 at halftime, but were outscored 25-20 in the second half, mainly because Carstensen, who pitched in 25 points, fouled out with seven minutes to go.

Beezie Jones had the honor of making Helena's final point of the season, dropping in a free throw in



the waning moments.

The Bengals finished with a 25-3 record, for the third most wins and fourth best winning percentage in school history.

Columbus wound up at 32-2, its only two losses coming at the hands of Helena.

All five Bengal starters were 1945 All-State selections.

Coach Skor, whose HHS hoopsters would eventually win three more championships, stoically commented afterwards, "I've very little to say."

In 2000, Billings Gazette basketball historian Ed West listed the 1944-45 Bengals as the 23rd best team in state history.

1945 HELENA HIGH BASKETBALL

front row, from left; Dick Carstensen, Bob Chenkovich, Bill Callaghan, Walt Lloyd, Joe Brennan.

Middle row; manager Fuzz Winfield, Jim Hensely, Bob Callaghan, Beezie Jones, Bud Morris, manager Frank Crosby.

Back row; Jed Steffensen, Tom Holm, Ron Keim, coach Lloyd Skor.

SANDY'S TEXACANS WOMENS' SOFTBALL

By CURT SYNNESS

In 1950, Sandy's Texacans won the first of six womens State championships by local fastpitch softball teams.

The Helena City League was comprised of six teams that year; Sandy's, VFW, East Helena CIO, Eagles, East Helena Recreation, and GVS.

During the first half of the season, Sandy's beat VFW 28-3 at the Fort Harrison field, powered by homers by Norma Beatty, Jewel Stanley, Marion Moran and Gladys Rohnke.

In the first game of the second half, against the Eagles, the Independent Record headline read "Sandy's Texacans Keep Pulling Old Alamo On Softball Rivals." They pounded the Eagles 40-1, as Stanley, AnneMarie Beatty, Patsy Rude, Norma "Stubby" Wittmayer and Rohnke all went yard.

Sandy's won the regular season championship with a 9-1 record, their lone loss coming to E.H. CIO, 8-6. CIO's Elaine Hoover outpitched Stanley for the Texacan ace's only defeat of the year.

In the 1950 city playoffs, Sandy's went undefeated and captured the title at the Carroll College field, with a 14-4 victory over VFW.

At the State Tournament in Havre, they annexed the crown by first beating East Helena CIO 8-2 in the semis, and then Helena's VFW 3-1 in the finals. In the championship game, Sandy's jumped on VFW hurler Lora Hartzog for all three of their runs in the first inning.

The champs, and Jewel Stanley (who pitched every game), each finished with a sparkling 15-1 record.

Stanley was presented with a trophy as the tourney's outstanding pitcher. For her storied career, Jewel Hurley won almost 100 games, while losing only about 15.



Pat Rude became a catcher for the Arizona Ramblers in the Pacific Coast Fastpitch League for 13 years. In 1958, the Ramblers won the Women's World Softball Championship in Toronto, Ontario.

And Norma (Beatty) Ashby - after stints with Helena's Independent Record and Life Magazine in New York - went into a career in television, writing and documentaries.

1950 SANDY'S TEXACANS SOFTBALL

front row, from left; Carol Mertz, Louise Gregor, Jewel Stanley, Dorie Darfler, Norma Wittmayer, Alice Rohnke.

Back row; Norma Beatty, Annemarie Beatty, Gladys Rohnke, Marion Moran, Pat Rude, Lilah Hartzog.

Standing; Assistant coach Bill Wittmayer, head coach Buck Finley.

1955 HELENA HIGH BASKETBALL



By CURT SYNNESS

The 1954-55 Helena High basketball team entered the Class A Big 16 championship game against Missoula County as significant underdogs.

The Spartans sported a sparkling 22-1 record, compared the Bengals mark of 16-8. Plus Helena was coming off a convincing 61-41 loss to Missoula for the Northern Division title.

But behind Jim Kelly's 22 points, Norm Gray's tough defense against standout Jim Powell, and a complete team effort, coach Lloyd Skor's hoopsters upset the Spartans in an intense contest for the crown, 59-52.

At the State Tournament in Butte, the Bengals edged Glendive in the opening round, 66-63.

The two teams battled evenly the entire contest, until a basket by Ken Bailey, the game's high scorer with 22 points, put the Bengals in front to stay with about two minutes remaining.

In the semi-finals, HHS overcame Anaconda 80-71, with Kelly, Condon and Gray scoring 17 points apiece.

The Bengals then captured their third successive championship, overcoming a 13-11 first quarter deficit to lead Missoula 27-26 at halftime, and 45-36 after three periods.

The Spartans closed the gap to 51-47 with 3:29 left to play. But after the red-and-white went into a stall, forcing Missoula to foul, it was the charity-stripe accuracy of Bruce Casebolt and Jeff Condon that put the game on ice.

Kelly, a 6-foot-5 senior center, was fouled repeatedly during attempted put-backs, and tallied 12 points from the free throw line.

Condon and Gray followed Kelly in the champ's scoring column, with 12 and 11 markers.

Missoula's Powell, who came into the game averaging 23 points, was held to 18 by Gray's tenacious defense.

"The Bengal victory was in large part due to the rebounding of 6-5 Jim Kelly and 6-4 Ken Bailey," according to the I.R.

It was coach Skor's seventh appearance in the finals in 11 years, while HHS became the second team in state history to 3-peat - the other club also being the Bengals, from 1914-16.

1955 HELENA HIGH BASKETBALL

front row, from left; Bob Rudio, Bruce Casebolt, Ken Bailey, Jim Kelly, Gary Fellbaum, Norman Gray, Jeff Condon, Bob Willis.

Back row; Coach Lloyd Skor, Terry Screnar, Lanny Fred, Otto Klein, Jack Watson, Bob Ogren, Dick Wiklund, Bob Clark.

1973 HELENA HIGH GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY

By CURT SYNNESS

The Helena High girls cross country team went undefeated during the regular season, although a tie with Crosstown Capital in a 4-team meet the week before State set up a dramatic battle between the local schools for the AA title in Billings.

"In addition to their bid for team honors, the Bengals' Lauri Adams will be a strong contender for individual honors," the Independent Record reported. "The slender sophomore has had a remarkable season, winning seven of nine races and just missing in the other two. Both losses were to Holly Grayson of Kalispell, by one second both times."

At the meet in Billings, Adams pulled off the individual victory, in leading Helena to its only girls harrier title with 59 points, and cementing the unbeaten season.

Capital, in its first year of existence, finished an unexpected second at 63 markers, just four points behind HHS.

Helena High placed five runners in the top 26, out of 198 runners that started the 1.5-mile race.

Adams broke the course record in 8:50.9, while CHS' Val Kokoruda, who had been chasing her intra-city rival all fall, was the closest she had been all year, finishing in 8:53.

Ann Kamlowsky, a freshman, grabbed fifth for Helena, followed by Marilou Blandy in 11th, Debbie Kenney at 16th, and senior Reene Hamer in 26th.

Ann Lehmann and Theresa Starke placed 42 nd and 44 th, respectively.

Bill Gilbert, who coached both the guys and gals, told the paper, "This was by far Lauri's strongest race of the year, she did everything right today."



Gilbert also lauded the efforts of Kamlowsky, who "ran her heart out," and Blandy, who "did an outstanding job" after coming back from an illness that had hampered her for a couple weeks.

"I can't say enough about the girls; we accomplished everything we set out to accomplish," the Bengal skipper said.

1973 HELENA HIGH GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

from left; Lauri Adams, Ann Kamlowsky, Theresa Starke, Ann Lehmann, Marilou Blandy, Debbie Kenney and Reene Hamer. Not pictured; head coach Bill Gilbert, and assistant coach Emilee DeKam

1974 CAPITAL HIGH BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY

By CURT SYNNESS

Before Capital High was a football powerhouse, the school's first dynasty was its boys cross country team. In 1974, the Bruins captured the first of their four State championships in eight years.

In only its second year of existence, Capital handily captured the AA title, scoring only 38 points compared to 77 for runner-up Missoula Sentinel.

Prior to the meet, Capital and Billings West were rated two of the top contenders for the title, with Missoula Sentinel and Great Falls High figuring for high finishes.

Bruin seniors Dan Pelletier and Dave Brandon were CHS's top returning State placers.

Capital had won its last eight successive meets heading into the finale in Billings, but was not at full strength, considering the recent illness of senior Tom Faulkner.

But the Bru-crew pulled off one of the biggest surprises of the meet with the ease of which they claimed the title. West had been considered a top contender, but the Bears slipped all the way to seventh.

Capital won with a good grouping, placing all five scorers in the top 12.

Dan Pelletier led the Bruins with a fourth place showing, while Brandon was fifth and sophomore John Sodja finished seventh. Faulkner recovered from his recent illness to place a gutsy 10th, while Brad Somers was 12th.

Ray Pelletier placed 20th, and Steve Nickel came in 38th.

What pleased coach Joe Spieker the most was the close grouping, with only 27 seconds separating the team's first and fifth runners.

The CHS skipper said they "Got that job done



(one or two in the top five) and placed four in the top 10."

He referred to it as "A real compliment to the senior leadership we had on the team," with Sodja the only top five not a senior.

Faulkner drew praise from his coach for "A very commendable job," since he had been sick for two days just before the meet.

1974 CAPITAL HIGH BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

from left, kneeling; Steve Nickel, John Sodja, Ray Pelletier. Standing; Brad Somers, Dave Brandon, Tom Faulkner, Dan Pelletier, coach Joe Spieker.

1974 CAPITAL HIGH GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY

By CURT SYNNESS

When Capital High swept the 1974 cross country State championships, becoming the first AA school to win the boys and girls titles in the same year, the Lady Bruins waged a fierce battle with Great Falls High for the title.

Coach Jude Gleason's harriers edged the Lady Bison by a mere four points, 62-67. Defending champion Helen High placed third with 95 points.

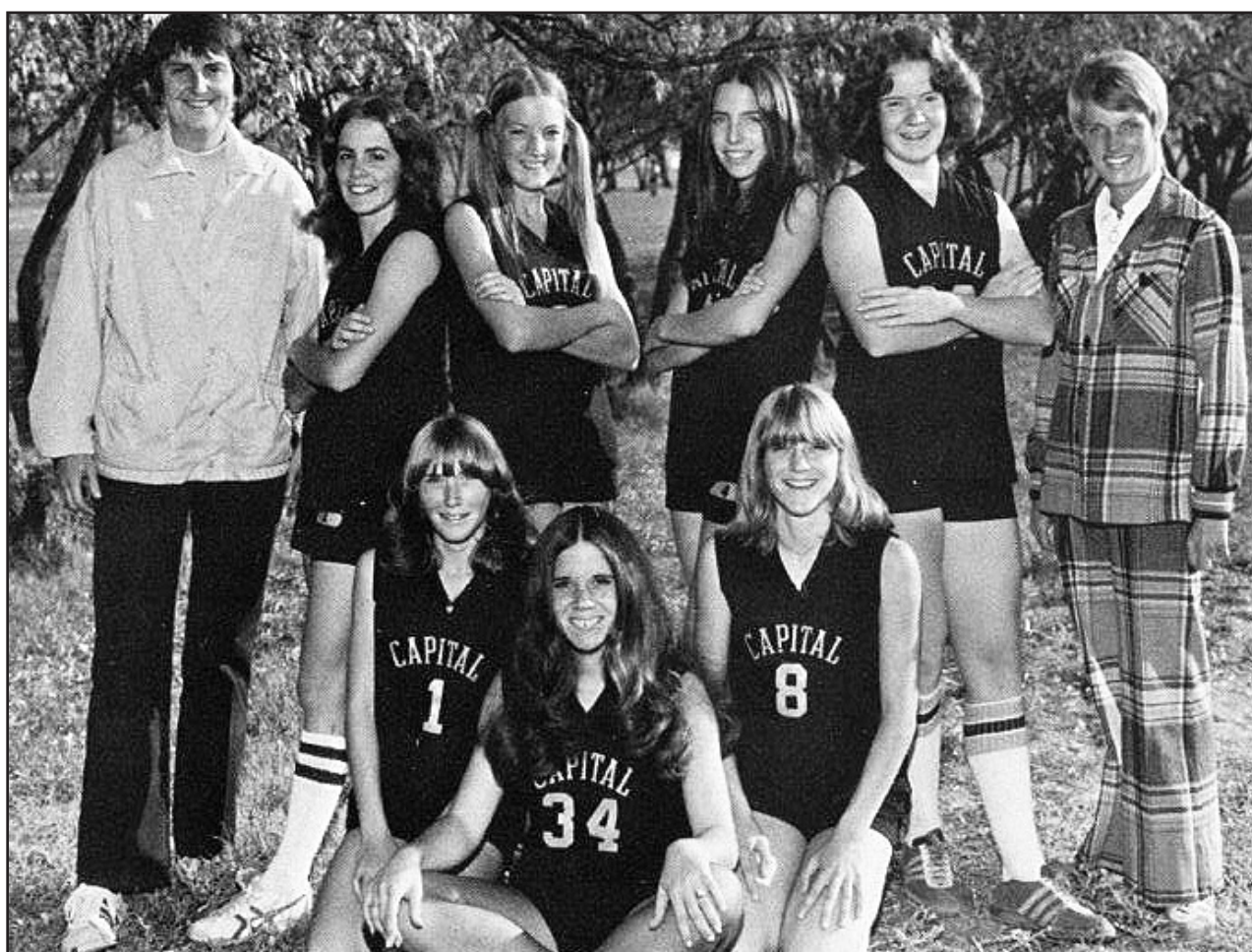
Capital had finished second to Helena the year before, by just four points. The individual race also promised to be a barn-burner, with nine of 1973's top 11 finishers back to try again, including the Lady Bengals defending champion, Lauri Adams, and CHS's Val Kokoruda, who had placed runner-up.

But Kokoruda entered the 1974 meet hampered by a painful back injury she suffered four weeks before State.

"But even with last year's state runner-up runner at less than full strength, the Lady Bruins will have a couple of girls who are expected to finish high in the individual standings," the I.R. stated. "Jamie Ries and Vicki Fred were ninth and 10th, respectively, at state a year ago as freshmen."

The lone senior running for CHS was Marilou Blandy, who was 11th in 1973, competing for Helena High.

At the meet, Ries led the Lady Bruins with a fourth place showing, traversing the 1.5-mile course in 8 minutes, 26 seconds. And CHS had by far the race's best grouping, putting their five scorers in the top-22. Vicki Fred came in seventh, freshman Val Clark finished 14th, ailing Val Kokoruda was 15th and Jolene Petrino took 22nd.



Helena's Lauri Adams successfully retained her individual title, edging Gayle Humphrey (GFH) by 5/100ths of a second, 8:16.40 to 8:16.45.

Remarkably, Jude Gleason's Lady Bruins placed all seven runners in the top-26, with Marilou Blandy taking 23rd, followed by Jill Krott in 26th.

1974 CAPITAL HIGH GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY seated in front; Marilou Blandy. Kneeling, from left; Jamie Ries, Jill Krott. Standing; coach Jude Gleason, Val Kokoruda, Val Clark, Vicki Fred, Jolene Petrino, assist. coach Dianne Cromer (Hoffman).

1976 CAPITAL HIGH BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY

By CURT SYNNESS

In 1976, Capital High cross country coach Joe Spieker predicted his team would win the state championship, stating "I have confidence that we have the best team in the state."

And then his guys went out proved him a prophet, edging Billings West for the title, 84-93.

Although the Bruins were not expected to have a runner seriously challenge for the first place, Capital's mentor said beforehand, "I think we'll have the group necessary to win the meet, but we can't afford to be in the low teens and twenties."

"I think you're going to need five guys in the top 17 or 18. John Sodja, Doug Burner and Chuck Fred are going to run a pretty tight pack for us. After that it'll be just which one of my runners has the best day."

At the conclusion of the incredibly close team race at Bill Roberts Golf Course, anxious groups of Capital and West people swarmed around the reader board waiting to hear the winner.

When the race's results came over the loudspeaker 30 minutes later, the large Bruin contingent erupted in celebration.

Senior John Sodja and sophomore Chuck Fred paced the Bruins attack.

Sodja used a strong finish to hold off a hard charging Fred as they finished 13-14, respectively. Fred vaulted three places in the last half-mile.

The other scorers for the champs were Jeff Capps (16th), Ray Pelletier (18th) and Jimmer Sullivan (23rd). Rounding out the club's runners were Mark Johnke (29th) and Burner (30th).

"There's no experience like being a state champion," the CHS skipper said afterwards. "I told



this group of kids, champions aren't made out of easy things, and they pretty well showed that in their work...All of our seniors, as well as the JV, have made the program what it is today."

Spieker summed up his team's finish with, "Winning isn't everything, but it sure as hell beats whatever is in second place."

1976 CAPITAL HIGH BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

Front from left; Mark Johnke, Jimmer Sullivan, Jeff Capps, John Sodja.
Standing; Doug Burner, coach Joe Spieker, Ray Pelletier, Mike Keilly, Chuck Fred

1977 CAPITAL HIGH BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY

By CURT SYNNESS

The 1977 Capital boys were the defending state champions and had won the title two of the last three years, but were not favored to repeat.

Coach Joe Spieker told the IR beforehand, "There's no question about it, how we finish depends on our 2-3-4-5 runners - how closely they can group behind Chuck Fred. If they don't group we're in trouble. We know it can be done. Last year we didn't place anyone in the top 10 and still won."

As it turned out, the gritty Bruins successfully retained their title, 68-85 over runner-up Missoula Hellgate, a larger winning margin than the year before.

Capital's third championship was attained despite No. 2 runner Doug Burner missing from the action with a pulled hamstring, and two other guys hampered by injuries.

Fred spearheaded CHS with a runner-up placing, clocking a 16:15, behind champion Kelly Tuck's (GFH) 16-flat.

Three Bruins finished in the top 10, as Keith Capps and Jeff Thomas came in ninth and 10th, respectively. Completing the team scoring were Jimmer Sullivan in 22nd, and Brian Wohlberg in 25th.

The other two runners were Jerry McGuire, Burner's replacement, in 46th, and Mike Keiley at 70th. Coach Spieker believed his boys team had a good shot at the title, but admitted he was skeptical going into the



race without Burner.

"There's no question, Chuck ran a fantastic race," the Bruin skipper stated. "He ran a very smart race and did those things which we had talked about. There's no question Jeff, Keith and Brian ran the best races of their careers. It was a real compliment to those seniors, as well as Jerry, Mike and Jimmer."

He noted that Sullivan turned in "an outstanding effort" because he was running with an arch problem so severe he had to visit the doctor after the race.

"Jimmer was living with pain throughout the race and he did a fantastic job," Spieker said.

1977 CAPITAL HIGH BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

from left; Chuck Fred, Jeff Thomas, Kieth Capps, Brian Wohlberg, Jerry McGuire, Jimmer Sullivan, Mike Keiley, coach Joe Spieker.
Not pictured; Doug Burner, Assist. coaches Ken Harvey and Ed Darfler

1980 CAPITAL HIGH BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY

By CURT SYNNESS

In 1980, once again a Joe Spieker-led team that was not among the favorites captured the Class AA boys cross country championship, having won just two dual meets out of five during the year.

But behind junior Shawn Campbell's second place finish at Bill Roberts Golf Course, the Bruins amassed 96 points - six better than runner-up and pre-meet favorite CM Russell's 102 - giving Capital its fourth state championship in eight years.

Prior to the meet, coach Spieker told the paper that his guys were "Thinking and believing are twins, and if we can think positive about ourselves, we'll be right in the thick of things," he said.

Obviously Spieker's crew utilized the "twins" concept successfully, as they collected the program's eighth consecutive State harrier trophy.

Campbell clocked a 15:34 for runner-up medal, followed by teammates Bart Brazier in 11th, Bruce Dunham at 14th, Gene McMurtrey placed 28th and Tom Byrd took 42nd.

The rest of the squad was Tal Williams (59th) and Jeff Larson (90th).

"As far as today's race was concerned, there were two things that were very important," Spieker told the I.R. afterwards. "First would be the amount of desire and the amount of leadership expressed in our seniors."

"Second, is the ability of our underclassmen to listen to and communicate with our seniors with respect to honest dedication to fulfill the wishes of our seniors who have had more experience."

"In addition," he continued, "I certainly have to say that Tom Byrd, who has just run his third varsity race, Jeff Larson and Tal Williams made tremendous contributions."

Referring to Byrd, the CHS skipper related how "the young man was running with tears running down his cheeks at the ¾-mile mark, and because of the



influence of fellow runners on the sidelines he was able to give just a little bit more."

Spieker added that although Byrd ran 42nd, his 'just a little bit more' made the difference for the championship.

taking 23rd, followed by Jill Krott in 26th.

1980 CAPITAL HIGH BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

from left; Bruce Dunham, alternate Larry Davis, Gene McMurtrey, Back; Tom Byrd, Shawn Campbell, Bart Brazier, Jeff Larson, Tal Williams, coach Joe Spieker.
Not pictured; assist. coaches Jeff Thomas and Ed Darfler



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