



**Don Olsen, Executive Director**  
 Marian Olsen, Executive Assistant  
 375 Ramble Inn Road  
 Fort Shaw, MT 59443  
 PH/FAX: 406-264-5435  
[donomca@gmail.com](mailto:donomca@gmail.com)

January 22, 2014

## Montana Coaches Association MEDIA RELEASE

**Don Olsen, MCA Executive Director, announces the following:**

Montana Coaches Association is pleased to announce that **John Cheek** will be inducted into the National High School Athletic Association (NHSACA) **HALL OF FAME** at their annual convention HOF Banquet on June 17<sup>th</sup> at the Snow King Lodge and Resort in Jackson Hole, WY. (See [article on page 2 re: John Cheek.](#))

14 other Montana coaches have been selected as “Finalists” for NHSACA Awards.

Last	First	Sport	Award	School
Anderson	Michael	Tennis	Coach of the Year	Bozeman HS
Filius	Scott	Wrestling	Coach of the Year	Havre HS
Karst	Rod	Girls' Cross Country	Coach of the Year	Glasgow HS
King	Scott	Football	Coach of the Year	Malta HS
McNamee	Ed	Swimming	Coach of the Year	Great Falls High & CMR
O'Dell	Julie	Special Sports	Coach of the Year	Hardin HS
Robison	Doug	Boys' Basketball	Coach of the Year	Billings West HS
Schulz	Derek L.	Boys' Track and Field	Coach of the Year	Whitefish HS
Schye	Tadd	Girls' Track and Field	Coach of the Year	Malta HS
Smith	Larry L.	Softball	Coach of the Year	Polson HS
Stergar	Laurie	Soccer	Coach of the Year	Billings Central HS
Stookey	Iona	Volleyball	Coach of the Year	Huntley Project HS
Rosin	Terry	Assistant Boys' Sport	Assistant COTY	Stevensville HS
Walker	Duane D	Athletic Director	AD of the Year	Hardin HS

8 Finalists are selected nation-wide in each category. This is a tremendous honor for Montana and each of these well-deserved nominees.

COTY winners will be announced at the June 18<sup>th</sup> NHSACA COTY Awards Banquet at the Snow King Lodge and Resort in Jackson Hole, WY.

Friends, family and fellow coaches are encouraged to attend the convention and award ceremonies.

More information at [www.nhsaca.org](http://www.nhsaca.org)



**Don Olsen, Executive Director**  
Marian Olsen, Executive Assistant  
375 Ramble Inn Road  
Fort Shaw, MT 59443  
PH/FAX: 406-264-5435  
[donomca@gmail.com](mailto:donomca@gmail.com)

### **COACH JOHN CHEEK HONORED**

One of Montana's most successful and well known track and field coaches, John Cheek, will be inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association's Hall of Fame on June 17, 2014 in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Coach Cheek is only the fourth track and field coach in Montana history to receive this prestigious award and he is the first one to represent smaller Class B and C schools.

John has been coaching athletes from around the state for 43 years, with the majority of those years being spent in central Montana where his athletes excelled as both state and national champions. His track teams won 6 state championships with him as head coach, and 2 as an assistant coach. He also had 6 additional top 4 finishes as head coach. His teams won 13 divisional championships and 14 district titles with him at the helm and 6 as an assistant. He was chosen Montana Track and Field Coach of the Year several times and was inducted into the Montana Coaches Hall of Fame in 1994 as the youngest coach to ever receive that honor. He has also coached USATF teams in foreign competition, coached AAU and TAC summer track for decades and has received numerous awards while serving on various boards and committees throughout his coaching career. His many years of unselfish dedication and commitment to the athletes of Montana is unparalleled and has now been recognized nationally.

During Coach Cheek's impressive career he became a part of the lives of his athletes and was instrumental in shaping their futures. He taught them how to achieve excellence; how to overcome adversity; how to set goals, and how to be a part of a team and help others. He was a role model they could look up to and learn from. He is one of the most respected and admired coaches in Montana.

John was raised in Anaconda, Montana and graduated from Anaconda High School in 1966. He earned his BS degree from the University of Montana and his ME in school administration from Montana State University. He spent 33 years in education as both a teacher and administrator before retiring in 2005. He continues to coach track and field and is currently an assistant coach at Butte High School and is also the record keeper for the Montana High School Association.

John and his wife, Debbie, have three children: Cynde, Wynde and Harry and their spouses Mike, Nick and Lori. They are also the proud grandparents of five grandsons; Hayden, Carsen, Clement, Dexter and Cole, all of whom reside in Montana.

\*\*\*\*\*