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## MCA Winter Newsletter - March 2021

Thoughts from the Director...The winter sports season is in the books. To say it was a "trying season, unlike any other", would be an understatement. As with most worthwhile things in life, it took work, adjustments and sacrifice to accomplish. You did just that, and so did your athletes, parents, officials and administrators. MHSAA, in conjunction with NFHS made it possible for parents, grandparents, friends and fans to enjoy your contests. We can whine about what we weren't able to do or be thankful for what we got to do. I trust you chose the latter. Have a great spring sports season!

### WINTER COY NOMINEES

Congratulations to our 2021 Winter COY nominees who coached their team to a top-4 finish. **Well Done!** Ballots are being emailed to active member coaches. **Please take time to vote.** Each first-time COY winner will receive an MCA ring and all COY recipients will be honored with a plaque at the MCA Awards Ceremony on July 29<sup>th</sup> at the CMR High School Auditorium in Great Falls.

**Membership deadline for COY eligibility is May 1st.** Please take time to share the value of MCA membership with your fellow coaches, especially ones who are new in your programs. Despite email reminders to AD's, we still have a few top-4 finishers who are not members and thus cannot be nominated for COY.

### COACH & AD MAGAZINE

Each MCA member, who was an active coach and requested it, received an online subscription to the "Coach and AD" magazine last year. MCA is able to offer this outstanding benefit for \$1.50 per subscription. We recently emailed current members offering the subscription again this year. We will only order it for those who responded. You still may order until April 1st at <https://montanacoaches.powermediallc.org/coach-ad-magazine-survey/>

### 2021 - MCA CLINIC SPEAKERS

**Mike Morgan**, highly recommended motivator from **Proactive Coaching**, will head up the general sessions and also speak to AD's and FB. We will have a chance to listen to **Brent Vigen**, new head football mentor at MSU. **Winning Mindset** will bring motivation to various sports individually. **Ken DeHart**, back by popular demand, will lead with **Tennis**, and Big Sky Conference record setting coach, **Tricia Bader-Binford** will lead the BB venue. **Kristin McWilliams** is one of Florida's premier Cross Country/T&F mentors. New this year, we plan to offer **Trainers BOC Certification**. With a late college season, we are still waiting to hear from a number of speakers. **A digital Clinic Brochure will be out in MAY.**

## THE 54TH MCA MULTI-SPORTS CLINIC

Mark your calendar, July 28, 29 & 30th  
for another outstanding clinic.

Registration opens May 1<sup>ST</sup>  
(At CMR High- Great Falls, MT)

Tuesday night - **Frontier Conference** reception, hosted by Commissioner Kent Paulson at the Hi-Ho.

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday - Complimentary continental breakfast and other snacks and beverages, generously provided by **Meadow Gold, Coca Cola** and **Town Pump Hotel Group**.

Wednesday noon - lunch offered in Cafeteria

Wednesday evening - **Steak Fry** at the Mansfield Center, featuring NY steaks and trimmings and beer donated by local distributors and the Tavern Association.

**Universal Athletics** head up the Horse Races (Calcutta pool) after the **Steak Fry**, adding some fun and excitement to an already great day.

Thursday, 7:00 am - **Fellowship of Christian Athletes- complimentary breakfast** and inspirational **speaker**.

Thursday, 11:30 am - **Awards Ceremony** held in the CMR Auditorium followed by a **complimentary luncheon** for all attendees.

Thursday, 5:30 pm - **9-hole scramble golf tourney**, vying for outstanding prizes, a chance at a \$5000 hole-in-one prize, plus two bonus par 3's and a \$500.00 prize for an ace.

**Exhibit area** is open Wednesday and Thursday, with up to 40 vendors. Drawings for excellent prizes. **MCA** will hold drawings for six \$50 cash prizes, requiring presence to win.

MCA Clinic Registrants may sign-up for **either OPI renewal units (19 possible)**, to satisfy requirements to maintain teaching certificates **or UM Western professional development credits** -\$115/one credit or \$145/two credits. **(You must choose between OPI and College Credits - you may not do both)**

### SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE- MAY 1ST

The scholarship application is now open for graduating high school students. Applications will be accepted until **May 1st**. Use the same application for all 8 scholarships. MCA does not limit scholarships to the daughters or sons of members, but we strongly encourage graduating athletes, with MCA-member parents, to apply by going to <http://montanacoaches.powermediallc.org/scholarship-application/>

## 4 MCA SCHOLARSHIPS

MCA will award four \$750 Scholarships.

## 2 FRONTIER CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

**Frontier Conference** generously gives two \$1000 scholarships. Recipients must attend Frontier Conference Schools (selected by MCA Scholarship criteria). **Frontier Conference** schools include Carroll College, College of Idaho, Eastern Oregon University, Lewis-Clark State College, Montana State University-Northern, Montana Tech, Rocky Mountain College, Southern Oregon University, University of Providence and University of Montana-Western.

## 2 RALPH HALVERSON SCHOLARSHIPS

**The RH Scholarship** will award two \$1300 scholarships, thanks to generous donors.

Applicants, please apply on-line (same application for all scholarships), by May 1st at [www.montanacoaches.com](http://www.montanacoaches.com)

*In a year when everything seemed to be in reverse,  
the Ralph Halverson Scholarship  
donations were stronger...*

*The Ralph Halverson family and MCA Board thank each one who donated to the Ralph Halverson Scholarship Fund in 2020. Your donations of \$2327 plus another \$1500 gift from Mark Reed have kept the fund strong. Thank you, Mark, and all who donated!*

## WINTER COY

**Congratulations to soon to be announced Winter COY winners!** Coach of the Year rings are awarded to each first-time COY recipient. Winter Coaches of the Year will be announced on the news page of the MCA website and via Media Release. When you receive your COY ballot, please take time to vote. It is quick and easy.

## CAMP LIABILITY INSURANCE

**One of the many benefits of MCA membership is our \$1,000,000 liability insurance for K-12 actively coaching members!** The liability coverage year runs August 1st-July 31st, so anyone working a camp this summer and needing liability coverage in June or July, must be an MCA member for the 2020-21 year (**Turquoise** membership card) and comply with **new camp insurance requirements**. For details on Camp Insurance, please go to [www.loomislapann.com/page/sports-camps-2.html](http://www.loomislapann.com/page/sports-camps-2.html)

If you have questions, please call Greg Joly or Karen at Loomis & LaPann (800) 566-6479.

**ASSISTANT COY AWARD- MAY 1ST  
DEADLINE**

**Do you have a long-serving assistant coach? Take the time to nominate him/her for this award. What a great way to honor them!** MCA will recognize one assistant coach in each classification: AA, A, B and C. Recipients will receive a plaque and MCA Ring. To qualify, they must:

1. Be a current long-standing MCA member.
2. Have been an assistant coach for at least 10 years, without serving as head coach in another sport during those same 10 years.
3. Have been an assistant during this school year or retired for not more than one year.

Email Shirley Chesterfield-Stanton, at [MCAaward@gmail.com](mailto:MCAaward@gmail.com) to request a form. Submit by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Please help us recognize these important members of our athletic programs.**

**LONGEVITY AWARDS** *(apply by June 15<sup>th</sup>)*

***Longevity awards are NOT automatically given. If you want one you must apply!!!***

Active coaches, beginning at 15 years of experience, are eligible for an MCA Longevity award. 15-year recipients receive a certificate and may upgrade to a plaque for \$15. Beginning at 20 years of service, complimentary plaques are awarded to recipients at 5-year intervals.

**You must apply online to receive this award:**  
[www.montanacoaches.com](http://www.montanacoaches.com) under the member tab.  
***Application deadline is June 15th.***

**DIGITAL MCA HALL OF FAME IS  
COMPLETE**

The digital MCA Hall of Fame is active on the MCA website. What a great history of many of Montana's finest coaches. Check it out at [www.montanacoaches.com](http://www.montanacoaches.com).

**MCA MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

**Current membership is at 1859** (2143 last year--no Clinic and COVID hurt). Nearly all members used the online option and many schools paid online using the spreadsheet. **Marian says, "Thank you!!" These methods save tons of time!** We appreciate your membership and thank you for promoting MCA among your fellow coaches. This membership year ends May 31<sup>st</sup>. The 2021-22 membership info will be out in early May. **Plan to join early and get a full year of benefits!**

**CERTIFICATES**

Digital templates for All-State, All-Conference and Academic All-State are emailed each season to ADs and Principals. They are NOT available on the website, so please save them and share with appropriate personnel. **We ask that you carefully guard and honor our integrity and yours as you print and present these awards.** Contact Shirley Chesterfield Stanton with certificate questions:

[MCAaward@gmail.com](mailto:MCAaward@gmail.com)

**NHSACA HALL OF FAME**

Congratulations to Corvallis coach, **Mark Yoakam**, who will be inducted into the 2021 **NHSACA** (National High School Athletic Coaches Association) **Hall of Fame**.

During his impressive 45-year career, Mark has been an integral part of an amazing 60 state trophies, as either head or assistant coach, including 28 State Championships. Mark's induction ceremony will be in Lincoln, NE, on July 28th. The MCA is honored to recognize outstanding coach and long-time MCA member, Mark Yoakam, with this prestigious award. Friends and family are invited to attend. **Thank you, Mark, for your lifetime investment in Montana athletes and athletics!**

**14 NHSACA FINALISTS**

MCA is pleased to announce that 14 outstanding MCA members are finalists for **National High Schools Coaches Association** awards. National winners will be announced at their Awards Banquet on the evening of July 29th, in Lincoln, NE. Congratulations, Finalists! You will represent MT well!

<b>Asst COY Boys'</b>	<b>James Epperly</b>	Bigfork
<b>Asst COY Girls'</b>	<b>Jim Kola</b>	Glacier
<b>Athletic Director</b>	<b>Scott King</b>	Malta
<b>BB Boys'</b>	<b>Paul Barta</b>	Laurel
<b>BB Girls'</b>	<b>Eric Peterson</b>	Helena
<b>CC Boys'</b>	<b>Mark Albert</b>	Hamilton
<b>CC Girls'</b>	<b>Cindy Farmer</b>	Hardin
<b>Football</b>	<b>Les Meyer</b>	Fairfield
<b>Golf</b>	<b>Gregg Wasson</b>	Harlowton
<b>Special Sports</b>	<b>Julie O'Dell</b>	Hardin
<b>T&amp;F Girls'</b>	<b>Spencer Huls</b>	Corvallis
<b>Volleyball</b>	<b>Iona Stookey</b>	Huntley Project
<b>Softball</b>	<b>Larry Smith</b>	Polson
<b>T&amp;F Boys'</b>	<b>Bret Thompson</b>	Charlo
<b>Wrestling</b>	<b>Bob Owen</b>	Polson

## 2021 MCA HALL OF FAME

The Montana Coaches Association is proud to announce that 5 Montana coaches will be inducted into the MCA Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will be a part of the 11:30 MCA Awards Ceremony (in conjunction with the MCA Coaches Clinic), on Thursday, July 29th, in the CMR High Auditorium. Family and friends are invited. All attendees are invited to a complimentary luncheon in the cafeteria immediately following the ceremony. Congratulations to these long-serving, outstanding coaches and their families!

### **2021 MCA Hall of Fame Inductees**

#### **Cindy Farmer**

- Coach Farmer has served in the Montana coaching ranks for 35 years, including assignments in Poplar for 3 years, Belfry for 9 years, and the last 23 years in Hardin.
- Cindy has displayed an amazing coaching versatility at all 3 schools coaching middle school and high school boys' and girls' basketball, track & field, volleyball, and cross country.
- At Hardin High School she has continued as head cross country coach for the past 15 years and head basketball coach for 12 years.
- At the competitive Eastern A Division Cross Country meet the Hardin, her teams have won 8 division championships, 4 each for the girls and boys.
- Coach Farmer's boys' cross country teams have trophied at the state meet 4 times including 1 third place finish and 3 runners-up. The Lady Bulldogs cross country teams have captured 5 state trophies including 4 state championships in 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019.
- Her girls' basketball teams have earned 6 state trophies including 5 trips to the State Class A Championship game, winning the championship in 2020.
- Cindy has twice coached in the Radisson Senior Basketball Classic.
- Coach Farmer has been nominated for MCA Coach of the Year honors on 16 occasions. She has been named Class A Girls Cross Country COY 4 times and was recognized as Class A Girls Basketball COY in 2020.
- Coach Farmer contributes to the MHSA as a member of the basketball rules committee.
- A 35-year member of the MCA, Cindy currently serves on the MCA Executive Board as the Class A Director.

## **Larry Henderson**

- A 40-year veteran of Montana high school coaching including coaching stints at Billings Senior, Peerless, Scobey, Plentywood, and back to Scobey. All totaled, Larry has served 6 years as a head boys' basketball coach, 9 years as head girls' basketball coach, 23 years as a head football coach, and 26 years as a head girls' and boys' track & field coach.
- Scobey High School is where Coach Henderson made his mark. His track & field teams captured 26 district championships, 13 each for the girls and boys: 14 division championships, 5 with the girls and 9 for the boys. The Spartan boys earned 4 state trophies including state championships in 1996 and 2019.
- As a head football mentor Larry tallied an overall record of 153 wins against 62 losses. His football teams captured 12 district or division championships. 6 of Coach Henderson's teams advanced to the Class C 8-man semifinals with 4 of those teams playing for the state championship. His teams won back-to-back state championships in 1995 and 1996.
- Five times Coach Henderson has been named the MCA's Coach of the Year. Twice in football and 3 times for boys' track & field.
- He has had the good fortune to coach in 5 different all-star football games. 10 Eight-Man games, 2 Class B games, 1 Shrine game, 1 Montana/North Dakota All-star game and once in the Australia Down Under All-star game.
- Larry has served both Scobey and Plentywood High Schools as Activities Director. He was honored by the Northeast MIAAA as AD of the Year in 1996 and 2006.
- Coach Henderson has served the MHSAA as Class C Representative, served on the Track & Field Committee and managed 9 MHSAA district and divisional track and field meets.

## **Dell Meuchel**

- 37 years of Coach Dell Meuchel's 39 years in Montana high school coaching were spent coaching student athletes Cut Bank High School.
- As a valued assistant coach, Dell played a major role in the success of the Wolves football and wrestling programs. As assistant wrestling coach for 11 years, he was a part of 6 division championships and 2 state championships. For 28 years he served as defensive coordinator for the Wolves football team, winning 12 conference championships and 3 state championships.
- For Cut Bank High School the success continued as Coach Meuchel coached 34 years with the Cut Bank track & field program. For 15 years Dell was an assistant boys' coach as they captured 3 district or divisional championships and 1 state championship. As a girls' assistant his Wolves won 11 district or division championships and 2 state championships.
- Coach Meuchel was the head girls track & field coach from 1991 until he retired in 2013. In 2002 he added head boys' track & field coach to his resume.
- As head girls' track & field coach Dell's teams tallied 10 district or division championships. 4 times they earned a trophy at the state track meet and in 2010 the Wolves won the Class B Girls State Championship.
- A 44-year member of the MCA, Dell has been honored with nominations for the Class B Girls Track & Field COY 5 times and was selected Coach of the Year by his peers in 1995 and 2010.
- Coach Meuchel served 6 years as the Class B Representative on the MHSAA Track Rules Committee.

### **Les Meyer**

- Coach Les Meyer's high school coaching was spent at Fairfield High School. During that time, he served as head track & field coach 4 years, activities director 4 years and head football coach for 23 years.
- As head football coach for the Eagles, his teams recorded 181 victories and 58 losses, for a 76% winning percentage.
- Coach Meyer's head football coaching tenure with Fairfield High School accounted for 11 district or division championships in the always rugged Northern B Division.
- Under Coach Meyer's direction Fairfield played in 12 semi-final play-off games, advancing to the state championship 8 times. 3 times the Eagles were crowned state champions, in 2011, 2015, and 2018.
- Nominated 12 times for the MCA Class B Football Coach of the Year, Coach Meyer was honored in 2011, 2015, and 2018 as Class B Football Coach of the Year.
- Les was twice nominated for NHSACA national Football Coach of the Year.
- In 2004 Les was chosen as the Montana delegate to the annual NFL Youth Leadership Summit in Canton, Ohio.
- As a member of the MCA, Les has been a speaker 4 times at the MCA Summer Coaches Clinic. He also presented at the 2017 NHSACA Annual Convention.
- Les held the position as Class B Representative on the MHSAA Resolution Committee for 16 years and has also managed 21 district or divisional track meets for the MHSAA.

### **George Nelson**

- 40 years marks the coaching tenure for Coach George Nelson, all of those years at Roberts High School. All totaled, he served Roberts Junior High and High School in all seasons, coaching all levels of football, cross country, boys' and girls' basketball, track & field, and serving 8 years as activities director.
- As the head boys' basketball coach for 8 years, Coach Nelson led the Rockets to 2 district championships and 2 divisional championships. They advanced to the Class C State Basketball Tournament in 2002 and 2003, seizing a state championship in 2003.
- In 10 years as the Roberts High School cross country coach his teams brought home hardware from the State Class C Cross Country Meet 7 times; the boys 3 times, including a state championship in 1989 and the girls 4 times, resulting in state championships in 1992 and 1996.
- Coach Nelson was nominated for MCA Coach of the Year honors 9 times. George was selected Coach of the Year 4 times in 3 different categories: once as the 1989 Class C Boys Cross Country COY, twice as the Class C Girls Cross Country COY in 1992 and 1996, and as the 2002 Class C Boys Basketball COY.
- Coach Nelson has had opportunity to coach 5 times in the Girls' Basketball Treasure State Classic and 3 times in the Radisson Boys' Basketball Tournament.