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## MCA Winter Newsletter - March 2023

This summer will mark the 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ralph Halverson Scholarship. Ralph has been gone 10 years and it has been our honor to help 20 student-athletes continue their education at the collegiate level, awarding \$23,000 over the past 10 years. We are grateful to Mark Reed and to each of you who have continued to donate to this worthy cause in memory of the "Father of the MCA".

It has also been 10 years, and this will be the 11<sup>th</sup> clinic since Marian and I stepped in for Ralph. It has been challenging and at times a little more stressful than we would like to admit, but it has been an honor to be a part of such a great organization.

Winter season is over and spring season is underway. Whatever your sport, I hope that you recognize that coaching is about far more than X's and O's. The following quote speaks volumes:

"When coaches/teachers influence their student-athletes in developing core values, the end results invariably will be the emergence of positive character traits. When one possesses a foundation of values and accountability, respect will follow. An understanding will develop regarding so-called free lunches, and players will begin to realize that their only entitlement is opportunity. Finally, they will be more likely to establish a loving home and become fathers, husbands, mothers, wives and role models. Values are the fertile earth from which strength of character grows. Once character blooms in an individual, it will endure."

GRANT TEAFF - BEYOND THE GAME *Don*

**SPRING 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 and REMIND THEM TO JOIN. 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.

### SUICIDE – THE SILENT EPIDEMIC

IT IS PREVENTABLE. GREAT RESOURCES FROM THE JASON FOUNDATION

Youth Suicide | [www.JasonFoundation.com](http://www.JasonFoundation.com)

### 2023 - MCA CLINIC SPEAKERS

The speaker rosters are coming in and looking great as always. We are pleased to have **Danny Desin, Montana's own sports psychologist** and **Mark Albert, longtime Hamilton coach**, as our keynote/motivational speakers. The clinic brochure along with 2023-24 membership information will be out in early May.

### IN MEMORIAM

MCA expresses sympathy to the families of these long-time members of the Montana athletic community: Charlie Merrifield, Sonny Holland, George Marinkovich, Don Wetzel Sr., and Terry Sather. We are grateful for their service. If we have missed others, please let us know.

## THE 56TH MCA MULTI-SPORTS CLINIC

Mark your calendar, **July 26, 27 & 28.**

Plan to attend!

(At CMR High- Great Falls, MT)

Online Registration opens 5/1

**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, Pepsi, and Town Pump Hotel Group.**

**Wednesday** noon - lunch generously provided for coaches by **BSN Sports** in Cafeteria

**Wednesday** evening - **Steak Fry** at the Mansfield Center, featuring NY steaks and trimmings.

**Thursday, 7:00 am** - **FCA Mick Delaney Coaches Breakfast**

**Thursday, 11:30** - **Awards Ceremony** held in the CMR Auditorium followed by a **complimentary luncheon** for all attendees. Fellow coaches, friends and family of award recipients are invited.

**Thursday, 5:30 pm** - **9-hole scramble golf tourney**, vying for outstanding prizes.

The exhibit **area** is open Wednesday and Thursday till noon, 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** -\$130/one credit or \$165/two credits. **(You must choose between OPI and College Credits – you may not do both)**

## DIGITAL MCA HALL OF FAME

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 today at [www.montanacoaches.com](http://www.montanacoaches.com)

## SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE- MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>

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 MCA members, but we especially encourage graduating athletes, with MCA-member parents, to apply by going to <http://montanacoaches.powermediallc.org/scholarship-application/>

## 4 MCA SCHOLARSHIPS

MCA awards four \$750 Scholarships.

## 2 FRONTIER CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

**Frontier Conference** generously donates 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, Montana State University-Northern, Montana Tech, Montana Western, Rocky Mountain College, Southern Oregon University, University of Providence

## 2 RALPH HALVERSON SCHOLARSHIPS

The RH Scholarship will award two \$1300 scholarships  
(in memory of Ralph's 13' pole vault).

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

*Ralph Halverson*

*Scholarship Donation Goal*

*This scholarship, in memory of Ralph, has been given for 10 years. On this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ralph's passing, we now have a scholarship balance of \$22,000. Our goal is to bring the balance to \$50,000 over the next 3-5 years. This would allow the scholarship to be self-sustaining. The Ralph Halverson family, Mark Reed and MCA Board thank each one who donated to the Ralph Halverson Scholarship Fund in 2022. Your donations of \$3832 plus another \$2000 gift from Mark Reed have kept the fund strong and growing. We have also been able to invest at better interest rates this year. Donations to the RH Scholarship are tax deductible.*

*Thank you, Mark, and all who generously donated!*

## 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 at a camp this summer and needing liability coverage in June or July, must be an MCA member for the 2022-23 year (Salmon membership card) and comply with **camp insurance requirements**. For details on Camp Insurance, please go to <https://www.loomislapann.com/page/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? Please take the time to nominate him/her for this award. What a great way to honor them!** MCA may 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 and long-standing MCA member,
2. have been an assistant coach for at least 10 years.
3. have been an assistant during this school year or retired for not more than one year.

Email Dennis Murphy at [murphyd1213@gmail.com](mailto:murphyd1213@gmail.com) to request a form. **Submit by May 1st.**

**Please help us recognize these important members of your athletic program**

### LONGEVITY AWARDS (apply by June 15th)

*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, plaques are awarded to recipients at 5-year intervals, compliments of MCA. At this writing we only have a handful of applications in.

**You must apply online to receive this award:**

[www.montanacoaches.com](http://www.montanacoaches.com) under the member tab.

*Application deadline is June 15th.*

## 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 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 the MCA office with questions.**

## MCA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

**Current membership is at 2064** (down 39). Nearly all members used the online option and many schools submitted their roster and paid online. **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 31st. The 2023-24 membership info will be out in early May. **Plan to join early so that you get a full year of benefits!**

## DIGITAL MCA HALL OF FAME

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

## NHSACA HALL OF FAME

Congratulations to long-time Bigfork T&F Coach, **Sue Loeffler**, who will be inducted into the 2023 **NHSACA** (National High School Athletic Coaches Association) **Hall of Fame** on July 25th at 5:00pm in Lincoln, NE. Friends and family are invited.

Susan Loeffler started her coaching career in 1974 in Bigfork as a track coach and continues to do so today, (49 years). During her tenure, she served as the Boys' and Girls' Cross-Country coach for 28 years, Head Boys Track coach for 13 years, Head Girls' Track coach for 49 years, and assisted the Girls' Basketball program for 10 years. Her teams have enjoyed success during her 49-year career, earning 7 state championships (4 Girls' Cross Country and 3 in Girls' Track and Field) along with 7 other top-3 finishes. Susan has been nominated 22 times for MCA (Montana Coaches Association) COY and was selected 7 times as the MCA COY. In 2004, Susan was inducted into the Montana Coaches Hall of Fame, and in 2019, she earned the prestigious honor of NHSACA, (National High School Athletic Coaches Association) Girls Track and Field COY.

Thank you, Sue, **for your lifetime investment in Montana athletes!**

## 11 NHSACA FINALISTS

MCA is pleased to announce that 11 outstanding MCA members are finalists for **National High Schools Coaches Association** awards. National winners will be announced at their Awards Banquet on July 26th in Lincoln, NE. Congratulations, Finalists! You will represent MT well!

<b>Charlie Brown</b>	<b>Boys' Assistant</b>	Fairfield
<b>Terry Thomas</b>	<b>Boys' Basketball</b>	Beaverhead County
<b>Terry Souhrada</b>	<b>Girls' Assistant</b>	Polson
<b>Rob Stanton</b>	<b>Girls' Track &amp; Field</b>	Billings West
<b>Owen Burch</b>	<b>Golf</b>	Hamilton
<b>Erika Cannon</b>	<b>Soccer</b>	Bozeman
<b>Eli Field</b>	<b>Softball</b>	Frenchtown
<b>Julie Shepherd</b>	<b>Special Sports-Cheer</b>	Choteau
<b>Ed McNamee</b>	<b>Swimming &amp; Diving</b>	GFHS & CMR
<b>George Ferguson</b>	<b>Tennis</b>	Havre
<b>Nate Laslovich</b>	<b>Wrestling</b>	Gallatin

### WINTER COY WINNERS

Congratulations to our 2023 Winter COY nominees who coached their team to a top-4 finish. **Well Done!** 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 27th at the CMR High School Auditorium in Great Falls.

<b>Wrestling</b>	AA	<b>Jeremy Hernandez</b>	Billings West
	A	<b>Jessie Schaeffer</b>	Columbia Falls
	B	<b>Tim Kaczmarek</b>	Huntley Project
	C	<b>Charlie Crabb</b>	Superior
	Girls AA	<b>Jeffrey Thompson</b>	Flathead
	Girls ABC	<b>Darrick Gorder &amp; Will Bagley</b>	Baker
<b>Boys' Basketball</b>	AA	<b>Jeff Hays</b>	Missoula Hellgate
	A	<b>Scott Sparks</b>	Fergus
	B	<b>David Costin</b>	Malta
	C	<b>Layne Glaus</b>	Manhattan Christian
<b>Girls' Basketball</b>	AA	<b>Charlie Johnson</b>	Billings West
	A	<b>Dustin Kraske</b>	Havre
	B	<b>Cortnee Gunlock</b>	Bigfork
	C	<b>Amber Erickson</b>	Saco-Whitewater-Hinsdale
<b>Boys' Swimming</b>	AA	<b>Brady Baughman</b>	Missoula Sentinel
	A	<b>Robyn O'Nan</b>	Billings Central
<b>Girls' Swimming</b>	AA	<b>Ed McNamee</b>	Great Falls
	A	<b>Robyn O'Nan</b>	Billings Central

### 2023 MCA Hall of Fame Inductees

The Montana Coaches Association (MCA) is pleased to announce that 4 Montana coaches will be inducted into the MCA Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will be a part of the 2023 MCA Awards Ceremony (in conjunction with the MCA Coaches Clinic), on Thursday, July 27, 2023, at 11:30 am in Great Falls at the CM Russell High School Auxiliary Gym. Family and friends are invited. All attendees are invited to a complimentary luncheon in the CMR cafeteria immediately following the ceremony. Congratulations to these 4 long-serving, outstanding coaches and their families!

#### Lon Carter

- With a coaching career that has spanned 62 years, Coach Lon Carter has served the student athletes of the Helena Public Schools for 54 years, 50 of those years at Capital High School, where he had his greatest coaching impact. Lon's 62 years in coaching is a remarkable achievement.
- In 1974, Coach Carter was named head boys basketball coach at Helena's new Capital High, holding this position for 5 years. For 50 years Lon has directed the Capital High S&C program. This program was recognized by both Sports Illustrated and Bigger Faster Stronger magazines as one of the premier high school conditioning programs in MT.
- A long-time football and boys track & field assistant coach at Capital High, Coach Carter aided in one state football championship and 6 top 3 state finishes in track & field including 2 Class AA State Championships in 1998 and 1999.

- Coach Carter has served Capital High as Head Boys Track & Field coach for the past 21 years. At the competitive Western AA Division Track & Field meets, his Bruins have captured 10 trophies including 2 division championships. Also, during this time, the Bruins have 5 top 4 finishes including a State AA Championship in 2004.
- Lon is considered one of the top hurdle coaches in Montana. He has coached 10 hurdlers who have run times under 15 second in the 110-meter hurdles and 19 athletes who have run under 40 seconds in the 300 hurdles.
- Nominated 5 times for the MCA Class AA Boys' T&F COY, Coach Carter was honored by his peers in 2004 as Class AA Boys' Track & Field Coach of the Year.
- Lon has presented at the MCA Clinic as a track & field speaker 5 times and has been published in the Bigger Faster Stronger magazine.

### **Steve Komac**

- Steve Komac's 29-year Montana coaching career includes 6 years as head wrestling coach at Browning High School and 19 years at Great Falls High including 16 years as head wrestling coach. Steve currently serves the University of Providence as head wrestling coach, a position he has held for the past 4 years.
- During his tenure as the Bison head wrestling coach his teams amassed a dual meet record of 244 victories against 85 setbacks and a state wrestling tournament record of 167 and 41.
- Coach Komac's teams earned trophies at the Class AA State Wrestling Tournament 9 times including 4 third place finishes, 2 second place finishes and 3 state championships in 2013, 2014, and 2015.
- Steve was nominated 9 times for Class AA Wrestling Coach of the Year. He was honored 3 times with the Class AA Wrestling Coach of the Year following the 2013, 2014, and 2015 seasons.
- All totaled, in Steve's 22 years as a head wrestling coach, he coached 143 individual state tournament placers and 39 state champions.
- In 2001, while an assistant wrestling coach at Great Falls High, Steve was awarded the NHSACA Regional Assistant Coach of the Year. Coach Komac was twice nominated for National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Wrestling Coach of the Year in 2014 and 2016.
- A 29-year member of the MCA, Steve served at the MCA Clinic as the wrestling chairman 19 years. 6 times Coach Komac has been a MCA Clinic speaker.
- Coach Komac's coaching success at Great Falls High School helped him secure a position as a coach for "Team Montana" at the national USA Wrestling Tournament held annually in Fargo, ND.

### **Ed McNamee**

- Versatility marks the 26-year coaching career of Coach Ed McNamee. Coaching middle school football at Holy Spirit in Great Falls to college football at UM-Western in Dillon. Serving as an assistant football, swimming, and track coach at both Great Falls Public high schools. It is swimming where Ed has made his biggest impact on student athletes in Great Falls.

- Named Head Swim Team coach for both CM Russell High School and Great Fall High School in 2003. Ed continues to successfully guide four teams during one season, a rare combination head girls and boys swim team coach for both Great Falls schools.
- Over the 20 years Coach McNamee has coached the Bison and the Rustlers, his teams have earned state trophies 28 times. The GFHS Boys have captured 3 state trophies, the GFHS Girls have taken home 6 state trophies including state championships in 2022 and 2023. The CMR Boys have collected 8 state trophies including a state championship in 2010 and the CMR Girls have garnered 11 state trophies including 5 straight state championships in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012.
- Coach McNamee has been nominated for the Montana Coaches Association Girls Special Sports Coach of the Year 13 times and 9 times for the Montana Coaches Association Boys Special Sports Coach of the Year. From these nominations Ed has been honored by the MCA as the Girls Special Sports Coach of the Year 2 times, once in 2012 and again in 2021.
- Coach McNamee has been named a finalist 3 times for the National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Swimming COY in 2011, 2014, and 2019.
- From 2008 to the present Ed has served on the Montana High Schools Association's Swimming Rules Committee.

### **Derek Schulz**

- Coach Derek Schulz spent his entire 27-year coaching career at Whitefish High School. He served as a boys' basketball assistant for 11 years and as the head boys basketball coach for 3 years. Track & Field is where Coach Schulz had his greatest influence on Bulldog student athletes. Three years as an assistant track & field coach and 24 years as a highly successful head track & field coach.
- Under Derek's direction, the Whitefish girls track & field teams captured 5 Western A Division titles while earning three state trophies including a State A Track & Field championship 2019. The Whitefish boys track & field teams claimed 3 Western A Division Championships and accumulated 10 state trophies including 8 State A Track & Field championships in 1997, 1998, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2013.
- Coach Schulz has been nominated for the Class A Girls Track & Field Coach of the Year 3 times, being honored by his fellow coaches with the 2019 Class A Girls Track & Field Coach of the Year Award. Ten times Derek was nominated for the Montana Coaches Association Class A Boys Track & Field Coach of the Year. From these nominations Coach Schulz was honored by the MCA membership as the Class A Boys Track & Field Coach of the Year 8 times including 1997, 1998, 2003, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2013.
- In 2011, 2014, and 2017 Derek was a finalist for the National High School Athletic Coaches Association's National Boys Track & Field Coach of the Year. In 2017, he was honored as the 2017 NHSACA National Boys Track & Field Coach of the Year.
- A 27-year member of the Montana Coaches Association, Coach Schulz has presented at both the MCA Clinic and the NHSACA Annual Conventions.