

March 28, 2025

## **2025 MCA Hall of Fame Inductees**

The Montana Coaches Association (MCA) is pleased to announce that 5 Montana coaches will be inducted into the MCA Hall of Fame. The induction ceremony will be part of the 2025 MCA Awards Ceremony (with the MCA Coaches Clinic), on Thursday, July 31st, at 11:30 am in Great Falls at the CM Russell High School Auxiliary Gym. Family and friends are invited to attend the ceremony and a complimentary luncheon in the CMR cafeteria immediately following the ceremony. Congratulations to these 5 long-serving, outstanding coaches, and their families!

### **RICKNOLD THOMPSON – HELENA CAPITAL**

Ricknold began his coaching career at Capital High School in 1992. He has spent 23 years as the head girls' soccer coach, along with 5 years as the assistant (4 girls, 1 boy). He has also served as the assistant boys' track and field coach for 34 years.

As the head coach of the girls' soccer teams, Ricknold has earned 12 state trophies winning 8 state championships along with two second place finishes and two third place finishes. He was also on the staff of the boys' track teams that had won another 4 state championships.

Ricknold earned the title of MCA coach of the year in Girls Soccer in 1996 and 2000. He was a National High School Athletic Coaches Association finalist in 2000 and 2004. As an all-star coach he has been the head coach of the Shodair All-Stars three times.

### **WAYNE BEDDOW-MISSOULA HELLGATE**

A 30+ year member of the Montana Coaches Association began his coaching career in Wibaux (1972-75), where he was the head football, boys track and field, and assistant boys' basketball coach. He spent one year at Custer County High School (Miles City) before moving to Missoula Hellgate where he coached for 35 years, coaching football and boys' basketball as an assistant and the head coach of the girls' basketball team

Wayne's girls' basketball team at Hellgate earned a state championship in 1994, along with three runner-up finishes in 1992, 1995 and 2003.



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Wayne was nominated as MCA coach of the year 4 times, being selected as the Coach of the Year for AA Girls' Basketball in 1994. He has coached in the Treasure State Girls' Basketball tournament 7 times and twice in the Raddison Classic tournament for boys.

#### **BRIAN KAVANAGH – CUT BANK**

Coach Kavanagh spent his 24 years coaching basketball all at Cut Bank. Twenty-one of those years he was the head coach, collecting 386 wins to only 150 losses. He has been a member of the Montana Coaches Association for 37 years.

Brian's teams achieved a tremendous amount of success, winning four state championships (1993, 2005, and 2006) along with three runner-up finishes (1989, 1998, and 2000).

Brian was nominated for the MCA coach of the year 8 times and being selected 4 times (1993, 2003, 2005 and 2006). He was also nominated four times for the National High School Coach of the Year in 2007, 2010, 2011, and 2012. He coached 19 years at the Radisson Classic All-Star Tournament and another 4 years coaching the Billings Hotel Senior Classic All-Star games.

#### **CARY FINBERG – COLUMBIA FALLS**

Coach Cary Finberg is a 33-year veteran in the Montana coaching ranks. He started his coaching career in Dillon as a freshman basketball coach (1991-1993) before moving back home to Columbia Falls (1993-2024) where he was the head boys' basketball coach for 19 years and the girls' head basketball coach for 13. His teams garnered 533 wins compared to only 204 losses at Columbia Falls.

Cary's teams have earned an astonishing 17 top 3 finishes at the state tournament. Winning 6 state championships (5 in boys' 2003, 2005, 2006, 2001, and 2014 and 1 in girls' 2017) to go along with 4 runner-up finishes (3 boys' and 1 girls') and 7 third place trophies.

He was nominated 17 times for the Montana Coach of the Year (11 times for boys and 6 times for girls). In 2014 and 2015 he was nominated for both boys and girls in the same year. He held the title of MCA Boys' Basketball Coach of the Year (5 times) in 2003, 2005, 2006, 2011 and 2014 along with his 2017 Girls MCA Coach of the Year honor.

Coach Finberg has been a member of the Montana Coaches Association for 33 years.

#### **ROB LOTT – TWIN BRIDGES**

Coach Lott has spent 38 years in the coaching ranks in Montana, all in Madison County. Ennis (1981-1982), Sheridan (1982-1993) and Twin Bridges (1993-2016 and 2018-2021) were all stops for Rob's coaching career.



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Rob spent 22 years as a head football coach winning 125 games (49 losses), 20 years as a girls' basketball head coach winning 384 times (112 losses), 14 years as a head boys' basketball coach with a 143-134 winning record. He also spent 11 years as a head boys' track coach and 4 years mentoring junior high football players.

As a track coach Rob's teams earned 4 state trophies with championships in 1984, 1985 and 1986. His football team reached the state semi-finals 4 times along with winning the state championship in 2011. Rob's girls' basketball teams garnered 4 state trophies (3 – third place trophies and one runner-up in 2012).

Coach Lott, a 20-year member of the Montana Coaches Association, was selected as the MCA Coach of the Year in Boys Track and Field twice, 1985 and 1986.