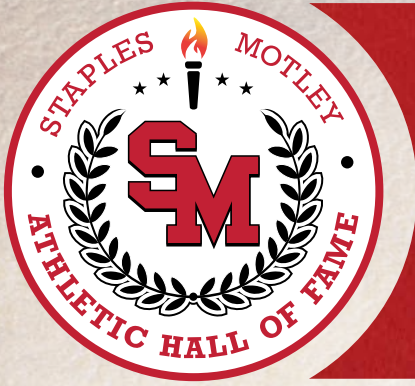




Recognizing the value of our high school legacy in athletics
by honoring our athletes, coaches and competitive spirit
of our athletic teams.

2022



Time fades everything...
except what we collectively value...
and choose to recall

Welcome to the 2022 Staples/Motley Athletic Hall of Fame inductee celebration. Thank you for joining us on a historic journey back in time as we collectively reflect on our athletic legacy. We appreciate your support as we gather to honor our current inductees and look forward to future inductee celebrations.

MISSION

To inspire future athletes, coaches and teams to reach higher levels of athletic achievement.

BELIEF

As a core foundation of the athletic legacy of our school and communities, we reflect on our athletic tradition that is built to last. As the Staples/Motley Athletic Hall of Fame committee, we collectively believe that participating and coaching in high school athletics, has life-long benefits with lessons that become core elements in the development of our personalities and commitments to our families and careers. We believe that athletic training, competition and related experiences, regardless of the level of success or achievement, will never stop transforming our lives and contributing to who we are as individuals.

For coaches and athletes who reach a high level of athletic achievement, there is a level of responsibility to model and set examples for others to follow. As time passes, it gets easier to forget our past success and harder to recall the amazing pathway of our athletic legacy. We believe it is vital to our future success in athletics, to recall, highlight and honor the athletic achievements that we all commonly respect. Understanding the level of commitment that leads to a high level of athletic achievement, will guide our evaluations leading to future inductees. We are committed to the evaluation and selection process that leads to celebrating the athletic achievements and related legacy of our athletes, coaches and teams.

INTENT

The intent of the Staples/Motley Hall of Fame is to honor and reflect the success and achievement surrounding our school's athletic legacy, and to tell the stories that highlight the journey and contribution of our individual athletes, coaches, teams, cheerleaders and community supporters. Our vision is to leverage the story of each Athletic Hall of Fame inductee to inspire others to set a higher level of commitment, leading to a higher level of athletic achievement. The opportunity to pay it forward to those who are inspired by the Staples/Motley Athletic Hall of Fame inductees, is the core intent and purpose of recognizing and honoring individual and team achievements.

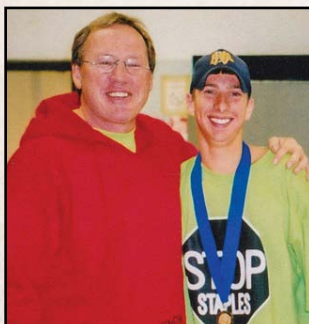
2022 ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



COACH



GENE MATTILA



When Gene Mattila came to Staples-Motley as a teacher and a coach in 1994, his destiny was on track to be uncommon. Gene once stated "It takes courage to deal with someone like me ... we believe in what we're doing... and there is a purpose behind everything we do." Gene's passion clearly made a difference in the lives of students and athletes.

As a Cardinal football coach, Gene earned respect through a firm style of discipline that players embraced and responded to. After the retirement of legendary coach Jerry Riewer in 1991, the Staples Motley cross-country program declined to a total of 11 athletes, boys and girls combined. There were not enough runners to field a full varsity team. With the limited number of talented runners available in a small, rural school district, Gene had a unique way of motivating average athletes to believe in themselves and reach uncommon levels of competition and success. As the head coach in 1995, Gene's encouragement and motivation increased the number of cross-country athletes to over 80 participants at one point.

In 11 seasons as the Staples Motley head coach, Gene led the boys and girls teams to 16 conference titles, 18 subsection titles and 14 section titles. His coaching strategy led the Cardinal teams to state appearances in every year that he coached. The boys teams claimed seven state championship team titles and produced three individual state champions. The girls CC team earned one team state championship and three runner-up finishes.

A high point in the team's success, the 1998 boys team tied the all-time Minnesota State Meet record with 27 team points and then they broke the record in 1999 with 22 points. In 1999, the Cardinal boys were ranked seventh in the nation. In 2003, the girls team tied the Class A Minnesota State Meet record with 45 points.

Gene's strategy and passion for competitive running carried over as a Cardinal distance track coach. He coached 47 distance runners to state appearances, with 41 medalists, including four runners-up and five individual state champions.

Beyond coaching, Gene taught life skills in commitment and sportsmanship, leading athletes to be humble in victory and gracious in defeat. Gene demonstrated a calm but firm way of competitive discipline to motivate athletes. Coach Mattila's passion for bringing the best out in athletes, produced several of the best cross-country teams, long-distance runners and relay teams the state of Minnesota has ever seen. Many athletes are grateful for his guidance and the mentorship that he provided, and the bond between his alumni athletes continues today.

Coach Gene Mattila was named the United States Midwest Regional Coach of the Year in 1999 and received multiple Minnesota State Coach of the Year honors. Gene was inducted into the Minnesota Coaches Hall Of Fame in 2013.

COACH

ROLLIE PENFIELD



In 1969, Rollie Penfield accepted a teaching position at Staples High School and soon after began coaching football, basketball and golf. As the Cardinal golf coach, Penfield's first priority was to instill a love for the game of golf and an appreciation of high school athletics to young athletes. As a foundation to his coaching success, Rollie played a role in creating the summer recreational golf program during the 1970s and later, leading the development of the junior golf program. His dedication to the summer program contributed to the growing interest in golf, giving kids an opportunity to learn the game, and it also gave high school players the opportunity to inspire younger golfers. In 1977, Penfield took a leading role in launching the girls' high school golf program along with assistant coach Glen Hasselberg.

Coach Penfield's passion and commitment to the Cardinal golf program led the boys golf teams to district or section finals 25 times, advancing the boys team to the state tournament four times: 1990, 1993, 1995 and 1998. In addition, 29 Cardinal golfers advanced to the individual state golf tournament. The Staples-Motley boys team earned third place state tournament finishes twice, and captured the Minnesota Boys State Golf Championship title in 1990. The 1990 team had an exceptional year with four players also qualifying for the individual state tournament, Brad Anderson finishing with the second-best Class A score individually. After a third place team finish in the 1995 state tournament, Coach Penfield was named Minnesota High School Golf Coach of the Year.

Success was not always measured in wins or titles during his coaching career. Coach Penfield's impact can be measured by the growing participation and passion for the game of golf demonstrated by the young Cardinal athletes. An ongoing tribute to Penfield's coaching legacy is the embracement of the life skills that the game of golf teaches each player.

Penfield's leadership and influence at the state level impacted how high school tournament golf is played today. He was instrumental in helping expand the state tournament team rosters from four to six players, and allowing each section to qualify an additional three players. This allows more than 30 additional players to participate in the MSHSL golf tournaments each year.

Throughout Coach Penfield's career, his love and commitment to the game of golf was reflected by living it himself. His love of the game was contagious and carried over to his teams, leading his players to consistently compete at a championship level.

Penfield's leadership, coaching and contributions to Minnesota high school golf was honored in 1999 when he was inducted into the Minnesota Golf Coaches Hall of Fame, and he is a lifetime member of the Minnesota High School Coaches Association.

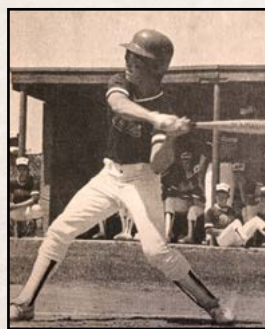
Coach Penfield retired from the Staples-Motley School District in 1998.



TEAM



1983 BASEBALL



Coach Jerry Riewer once said "high school baseball games are played in the spring, but won in the summer". The same could be said about state high school baseball championships. Summer after summer, starting at age 7-8, a group of eager kids gathered at the high school field or jumped in Reeves' van and off to multiple towns throughout central Minnesota. They played baseball, a lot of baseball. They learned the fundamentals of pitching, hitting, fielding, and baserunning from Coach Riewer, Coach Warn, and Babe Ruth/VFW coach Mark Redemske.

This eager group of kids grew into a baseball team that made up the 1983 state champion Cardinals. It was a team where each member contributed in a variety of ways. Sometimes it was pitching that led the way. On the quest for a state title, Dave Hagenson battled pitch for pitch with the highly regarded Montevideo ace in their first-round win at the state tournament. Pitching continued to lead the way, with the confidence of Tom Hollister to throw a 3-2 change-up in a key situation, DJ Anderson tossing his dancing knuckleball, and Tom Hegre's overhand off-speed and sidearm pitches that simply baffled hitters.

The defense never let up. Center fielder Jerry Volesky got an incredible jump on a looping fly ball and made a sliding catch against Perham in the Region 6 finals. Darrell Card, a 9th grader, stepped in to play shortstop in the state semi and final games when Tom Hegre was called on to pitch. Key defensive plays were the hallmark in stranding 15 Windom baserunners to win the '83 state championship.

Offensively, Mike and Mark Lauer had clutch hits all season and continued throughout the tournaments. Opponents underestimated the size and power of Jeff Dravis until he spanked a run scoring double against heavily favored Dassel-Cokato in the state semi-final game. Staples literally stole a win when Dennis Shequen and Randy Card combined to steal seven bases in the state final.

Overcoming a stunning 0-5 season start, the Cardinals put together an incredible streak of wins and an unprecedented tournament season. In the final six games, starting with avenging an early season loss, The Cardinals defeated New York Mills in the District 24 final. Cardinal grit and pride were on the field throughout the Region 6 games and the entirety of the state tournament. Every time the team took the field, they met the challenge to beat highly talented opponents with better records. Combining quiet confidence and incredible mental toughness, the 1983 Staples Cardinal Baseball Team stood up against the odds and became the underdog, State High School Class A Baseball Champions.

TEAM

1990 BOYS GOLF



Persistence, determination and Cardinal pride is the best way to describe the championship journey of the 1990 Staples-Motley Cardinal boys golf team. Throughout the season, each time the Cardinal boys stepped on the golf course, there was no doubt they were ready to compete at the highest level, regardless of the competition.

The Cardinal team won 12 of their 13 meets, with bad weather canceling three. Many meets were multi-team events with a mix of large and medium sized schools. Six of the tournaments had 18 to 22 teams in each. The boys won each of the tournaments but one, placing 4th in the largest tournament. In route to these wins, several new records were established as a team.

The Cardinal golfers demonstrated their statewide dominance by beating Class AA State Champions Bemidji four times out of five tournaments.

The Cardinal golf team competed in the Mid-Minnesota and the Mid-State Conferences. In dominant fashion, the boys won both conferences championships, with the top four Cardinals all making All Conference honors.

The top two teams from subsection advanced to the Section 6A tournament, where the Cardinals earned a win over local rival Long Prairie to advance to the state tournament. The team was led by medalist Jeremy Rohr's 76 in the subsection and Brad Anderson led the Cardinals in the section tournament with a second place finish at 75.

While competing at the 1990 State Golf Tournament at the St. Cloud Country Club, the Cardinals fell behind by seven shots on day one with Jeremy Rohr charting a 78, Brad Anderson 81, Chad Etzler 83 and Darin Gronewold 86 for a team total of 328. On the second day, the Cards bounced back, led by Anderson with a 72. His 152 for the tournament was good for second place individually behind two medalists who tied for first. Anderson was followed by Rohr, Etzler, Gronewold, Brian Caquien and Derek Hasselberg. In championship style, the Cardinal golf team dominated the course on day two, claiming the 1990 Class A State Boys Golf Championship title by seven strokes over Warren.

The 1990 championship boys golf team was coached by Rollie Penfield. As a parallel to the championship, the commitment of this team showed with a second place finish in State Academic Honors with team grade point average of 3.52. The year before, Staples Motley was the Academic State Champion with most of the same players at 3.54 GPA.



ATHLETE



JEFF BREVER



Jeff Brever was a 2001 graduate from Staples-Motley High School.

As a three sport Cardinal athlete, Jeff participated in 15 state tournament competitions, both as team member and as an individual competitor. Throughout his athletic career, Jeff excelled against state level competition in cross country, track and field, and basketball, earning an amazing 27 total state level medals. Individually, Jeff was a six-time Minnesota State Cross Country Meet qualifier and two-time Class A state champion. Jeff led the Staples Motley teams to four Minnesota Class A State team championships, including the 1999 Cardinal team that was ranked seventh in the nation.

Jeff was a four year starting guard on the Cardinal basketball teams including two state tournament teams that earned fourth place in 2000 and third place in 2001. Jeff was selected to the All-Tournament team in 2000 and 2001 State Basketball tournaments and currently holds several Cardinal school records in steals and assists. Jeff scored 1,243 points during his high school basketball career and was selected to play in the Minnesota All-Star Game in 2001.

In track and field, Jeff earned 16 state level medals throughout his career. This level of competition was highlighted as a member of the Cardinal two-time Class A state championship 4 X 800 relay team. This team set the state record for both classes at 7:58. Jeff was also a Class A state runner-up in the 3200 in 2001, finishing a close second behind teammate Eric Klingaman.

Jeff carried his competitive edge and long distance running to the college level, earning multiple college level honors in both cross country and track.

Jeff continued his commitment to high school athletics and his competitive edge and running strategy as a high school coach. Jeff is the currently the head coach at Pequot Lakes High School for both boys and girls track & field and cross-country teams. Jeff's effectiveness as a coach has twice earned him Section Cross Country Coach of the Year. Jeff's experience and coaching strategy have led his athletes to 15 individual state championships and 66 state level medals, highlighted by one state championship title, his 2018 boys track and field team. Jeff's priority as a coach is to lead young athletes to believe in themselves and commit to a level of training that will serve as a foundation to reach their full athletic potential.

The life skills that Jeff developed throughout his competitive athletic career have led him to balance his passion and commitment for community, professional career and coaching. Professionally, Jeff is a mathematics teacher for Pequot Lakes High School.

ATHLETE

MARK CARLSON



Mark Carlson was a three-sport athlete at Staples Motley High School, graduating in 1999. Mark excelled in football, wrestling and track and field throughout his high school athletic career.

Mark was a 5-time entrant to the Minnesota State Wrestling Tournament. He captured three individual wrestling state championship titles from 1997-1999. Mark was a team leader on three Cardinal state tournament wrestling teams and was the team captain his senior year. He accumulated an overall career record of 170-19. As a senior on his way to his third state championship, Mark was undefeated and led the team by setting school records with the number of pins, wins, take downs and team points. He held many of those Cardinal school wrestling records for several years. Mark was honored nationally by being selected as a USA Wrestling All-American by the USA Wrestling Magazine for his career academics and wrestling achievements.

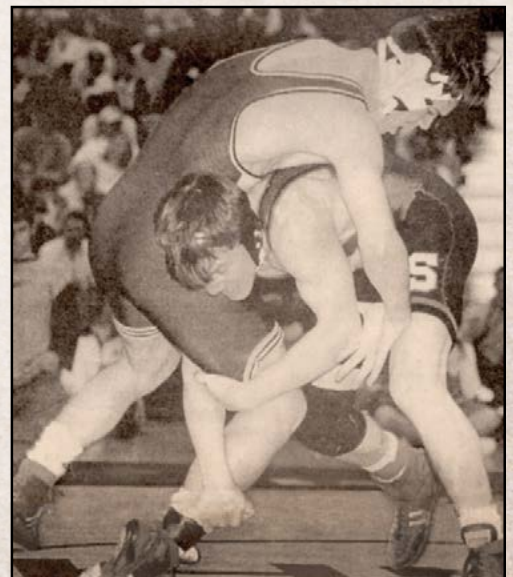
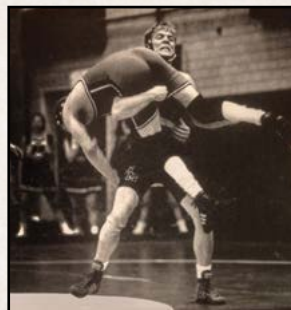
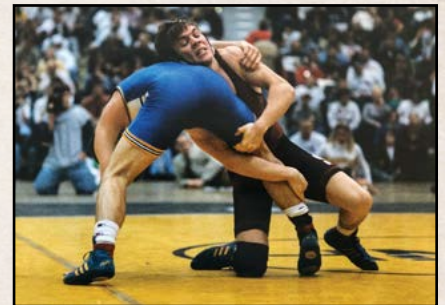
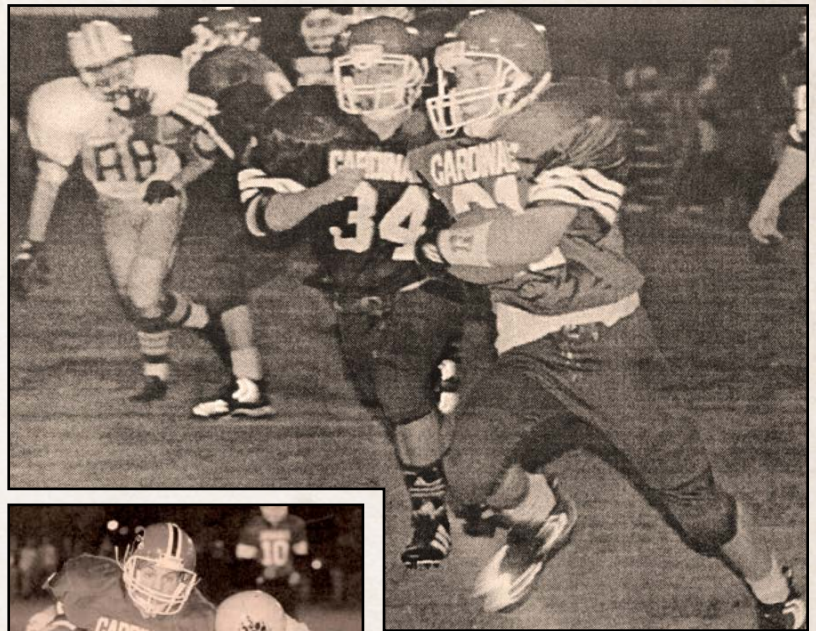
As a senior team captain on the Cardinal football team, Mark was a key offensive player as a running back, and specialized in returning punts and kick-offs. Mark rushed for 1,752 yards throughout his high school career averaging 6 yards per carry, with an additional 430 yards in receiving. A highlight of Mark's gridiron career, he was selected to the exclusive Brainerd Dispatch All Area Team in 1998.

Mark competed in a variety of running events in track and field and was a member of several competitive Cardinal relay teams that achieved high-level success.

Mark's overall three sport athletics and academic success earned him the distinguished Regional Achievement Award, honored as the regional "Male Athlete of the Year" in 1999.

At the college level, Mark was a member of the wrestling and football teams at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. Mark's commitment to his values of wrestling and high school athletic competition has brought him back to the Cardinal wrestling room as the Staples-Motley Head Wrestling Coach. As a coach, Mark's priority is to lead young wrestlers to believe in themselves and commit to a level of training that will lead them to reach their full potential.

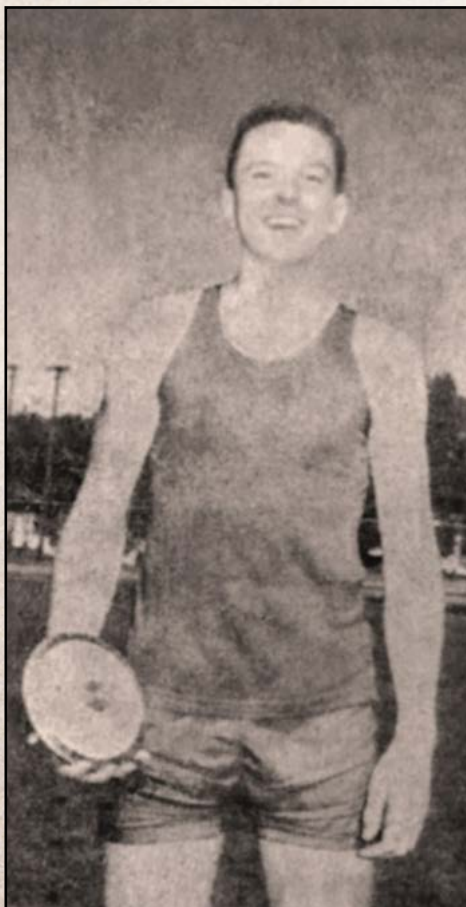
The life skills that Mark developed throughout his competitive high school athletic career have led him to balance his passion and commitment for family life and professional career. Mark is the Director of Pharmacy at Astera Health in Wadena.



ATHLETE



AL HAUGEN



Al Haugen was a four-sport athlete, graduating from Staples in 1957. He was a dominant athlete excelling in football, basketball, baseball and track.

Al was an All-Conference tackle and leader on the gridiron. He played on the defensive line next to teammate Ron Beachy and Al would firmly claim, "nobody got by him and ol' Beach." They were a pair to be reckoned with in every game. As a senior, Al was named as an All-State tackle and was selected to play for the All-State North team in the exclusive North-South All Star Football Game.

In basketball, Al was a member of the Staples' 1955 District 24 championship team and was named All Conference after his junior and senior years.

In baseball, Al was a two-year starter as a pitcher and outfielder.

In track, Al set the Staples High School and Mid State Conference records for shot put and discus. He set the regional record with the discus and represented Staples at the Minnesota State High School Track and Field Meet. In 1957, Al was honored by his classmates and named the Staples High School Athlete of the Year, earning 11 athletic letters during his high school career.

Al carried his passion for football to the college level, competing for the Concordia Cobbers in Moorhead until he broke his wrist and had a few teeth knocked out.

Al was brought up to believe that as an athlete, "always do your best and be a good team player."

Al recently passed away before he could be a part of the AHOF ceremony and personally accept the SM Athletic Hall of Fame honor. He left an imprint of his athletic legacy on many who were inspired by his commitment to Cardinal athletics. Al was an uncle to the Heier family and inspired their Cardinal athletic achievements in many ways.

ATHLETE

MARK LELWICA



Mark Lelwica was a two-sport Cardinal athlete, excelling in swimming and track and field. He graduated from Staples-Motley 1989.

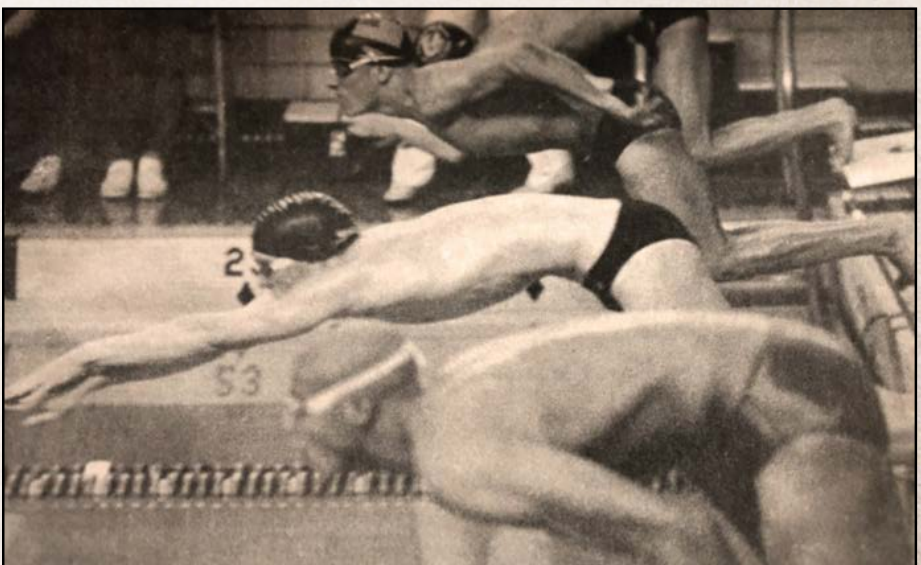
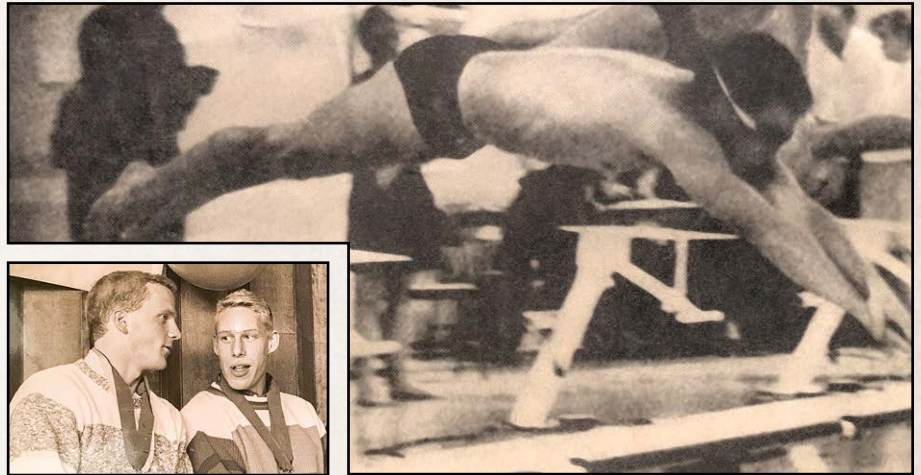
Mark was a dominant force in the swimming pool and was a two-time champion in the 100 meter freestyle at the 1988 and 1989 Minnesota State Swim Meet. At the 1989 state meet, Mark also placed second in the 50 meter freestyle. A unique situation in Mark's career and achievement was that his state level competition was competed in a one class system with all schools, large and small, competing against each other. With this intense level of competition, Mark was undefeated in every race he competed in during his senior year. In 1989 Mark was selected as the Minnesota Swimmer of the Year by statewide swim coaches.

Mark was viewed as a team player by his teammates and was constantly offering encouragement and positive reinforcement. Mark always looked towards the best interests of his teammates and made others around him better, in and out of the pool.

Mark was a member of the Staples-Motley track and field team. His contribution was highlighted by the Cardinal team claiming the 1989 Minnesota True Team State Championship. Mark was one of the leading sprinters and a member of a variety of relay teams.

Mark carried his competitive edge to the college level, competing as a member of the University of Minnesota swim team where he had a very successful collegiate career, competing against Division I competitors in the Big Ten conference and nationally.

The life skills that Mark developed throughout his competitive high school athletic career have led him to balance his passion and commitment for family life, local business owner and community person.



ATHLETE

MARK REDEMSKE



Mark Redemske was a three-sport Cardinal athlete, graduating from Staples High School in 1978. He excelled in football, basketball and baseball throughout his career.

On the football field, Mark was the Cardinal team captain and was twice named All-Conference as the team's leader and quarterback.

On the basketball court, Mark was team captain and was the team's leading scorer. He achieved state wide recognition by being named to the WCCO Prep All-State Team his senior year. Mark was a two-time All-Conference selection and the first 1,000 point scorer for the Staples Cardinals, without the advantage of the 3 point shot during his career.

As a Cardinal baseball player, Mark was a team leader and captain. He was starting shortstop and was the team's leading hitter. He batted cleanup on the Staples 1977 Minnesota State Tournament runner-up team. Mark's competitive play and conference leading achievements led him to All-Conference selection two times. He capped off his senior baseball season by being selected to play in the exclusive state-wide Lions Club High School All-Star game. Mark was selected as the 1978 Staples High School Male Athlete of the Year.

Mark went on to play football and baseball at the college level for Concordia College in Moorhead. He earned a starting position on football teams that won multiple conference titles. Mark was a dominant contributor on the Cobber gridiron, where the team's success was highlighted when they won the NAIA National Football Championship title his senior year. In baseball, Mark was named the Concordia Team Rookie of the Year as the starting shortstop his freshman season. Mark was a four-year starter and was All-Conference and a team captain his senior year.

Mark continued his commitment to high school athletics as a high school football and basketball coach. The highlight of Mark's coaching career was his impact as a head football coach for the Crosby-Ironton Rangers. Mark led the rebuilding strategy for the Crosby Ironton football program restructuring the team into an area powerhouse. As assistant boys basketball coach at Crosby-Ironton, Mark helped the Rangers earn three state tournament appearances.

The life skills that Mark developed throughout his competitive athletic career have led him to balance his passion and commitment for family life, community and his professional career.

Mark is currently a retired K-12 superintendent and continues to serve the education community as an administrative level consultant.

ATHLETE

CHAD WALTHALL



Chad Walthall excelled as a three sport Cardinal athlete, graduating from Staples High School in 1987. Chad led his teammates as a captain in football, basketball and baseball.

As a three-year starting quarterback in football, Chad was selected twice as All-Conference and was the Mid State Conference scoring champion in touchdowns, field goals and extra points his senior year. He led the Cardinals to back-to-back undefeated conference championship seasons. He was named All-State honorable mention his senior season.

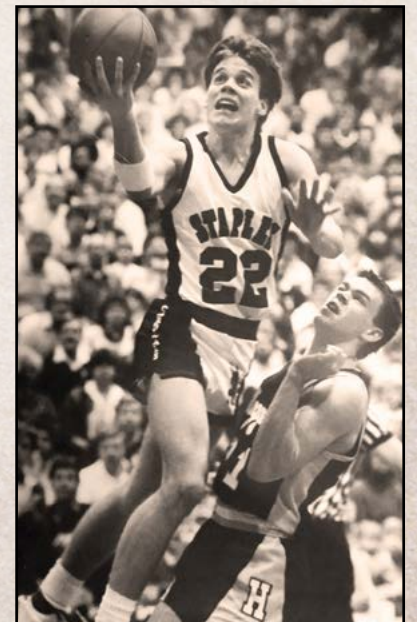
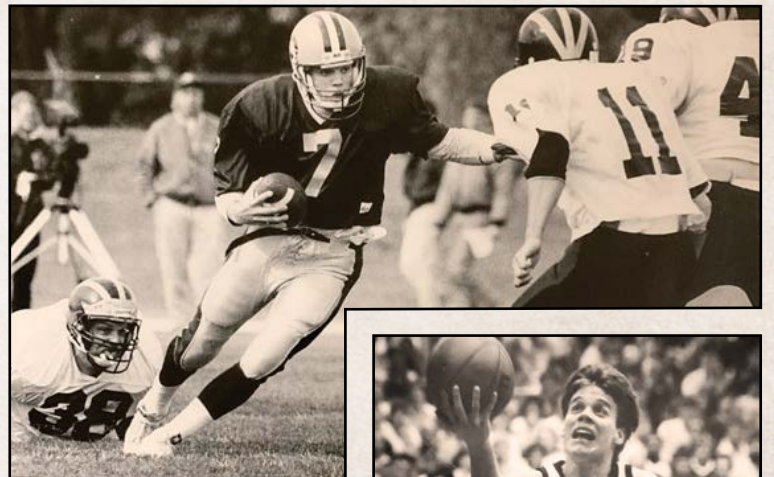
Chad played four years on the Cardinal basketball team that won four Mid State Conference titles. He was a three-year All-Conference selection and was starting point guard for the 1986 Minnesota State Tournament runner-up team. He was selected by the media as MVP for the semifinal game in the state tournament and was selected as a member of the exclusive Minnesota Outstate All-Star Team his senior season.

On the baseball diamond, Chad was a three-year starting pitcher, infielder and outfielder for the Cardinals. Chad was selected All-Conference and All-District and was also named the golden glove winner and team MVP his senior season.

Chad's passion for athletics continued as a quarterback at Concordia College in Moorhead. He twice earned All-Conference honors, leading the Cobbers to the MIAC Championship his senior year. Chad is second on Concordia's career list for his exceptional passing efficiency, third on the all-time in career passing yards per game, and fifth in total offense.

After graduating from Concordia, Chad served as an assistant basketball coach at the university level, leading to the head coaching position at Loras College in Iowa. For the past 12 years Chad has been the head men's basketball coach for Minnesota State University Moorhead and has recently announced his retirement after a very successful coaching career. Chad's coaching strategy led his MSUM Dragons to average 20 wins per season with four conference championships. In just his second season, he led the Dragons to their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1965 and their first 20-win season since 1982. Chad's coaching career is highlighted with the honor of being named "Clarence Gaines Division II National Coach of the Year." His 2015 team advanced to the NCAA D2 Elite Eight, with Staples Motley alum Jordan Riewer as their starting point guard.

The life skills that Chad developed throughout his competitive athletic career have led him to balance his passion and commitment for family, community and a professional career coaching young athletes.



COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR

RITA STONE



Every generation should have a school mom and Rita Stone devoted herself to that role for Staples High School in the 1970s. Rita was a great advocate for students during the day and gave encouragement to athletics and activities after hours.

Rita Nelson graduated from Staples High School and was an active school enthusiast throughout her high school years. Rita and Phil Stone married and raised five children, all graduates of Staples High School. Prior to working for the school district, Rita was an avid volunteer for all school activities, from chaperoning marching band trips to event planning and coordinating many cheerleading squads. Rita often drove the school car to transport the Cardinal cheer teams to wrestling tournaments and other events. Rita had a natural, trusting way of providing positive critical supervision, with firm redirection when necessary. Rita was known and looked upon to provide caring parental guidance for both cheerleaders and athletes.

Rita embraced the responsibility as an in-school parent. She understood a student's daily behavior, but also understood their needs and was always willing to listen and offer valued advice to sensitive lunch time or hallway discussions. She inserted herself as a listening parent with a firm voice, expressed with kind motherly instincts.

Working as a teacher's aide for the school during the day, Rita was a great sports and fine arts enthusiast and advocate for kids after hours, attending all the local games and events. She was an athlete's biggest supporter on the mat or on the field, providing an encouraging smile and mom hug when needed most.

Rita was also very generous as she opened her home to many students, athletes and cheerleaders. When the wrestling bus had a late night from an out-of-town tournament, it was not uncommon for Rita to call a parent who lived in the country, and say "don't worry, I'll get them to school the next day." Generous, direct and a Cardinal cheerleader for life, Rita will forever be remembered as the Staples "school mom" and a positive part of the Staples High School experience.

I was honored to be inducted as a coach into the SM Athletic Hall of Fame. The honor highlighted my appreciation for the commitment to the time and effort put forth by the athletes and the success that I enjoyed as a coach as well as the success of the athletes and teams.

Tom Wolhowe
Cardinal Head Coach
2021 Inductee

Being inducted into the Staples-Motley Athletic Hall of Fame was a great honor for me. I've been to several Hall of Fame celebrations, and ours is one of the best, if not THE BEST! As their coach, I know 1983 Cardinal Baseball team and the 1982 and 1983 State Championship Cross-Country teams were very excited and proud to be selected. I am very proud and thankful to be an inductee.

Jerry Riewer
Staples Head Coach
2019 Inductee

As I reflect on my memories of being inducted into the Staples-Motley Hall of Fame, I consider several emotions: humbling, pride, respectful. It was incredible to be included in this event and an honor. I was nervous but excited about the opportunity to be acknowledged as worthy of such an honor on a personal basis.

Ron Beachy
Cardinal Head Coach
Inductee 2021

The SMHS HOF truly instills a sense of 'CARDINAL PRIDE' not only for the inductee(s), but for the entire community as a whole! It is a perfect blend of remembering and honoring the past athletes, coaches, & teams for their success while providing inspiration for the next generation to match and/or exceed those who have been enshrined in the HALL of Fame. So proud to have been associated with all of what the small town of Staples has accomplished over the years.

John Rengel Family for John Rengel
Staples Head Coach
2021 Inductee

As a former wrestler and coach, I was overwhelmed with the Staples-Motley AHOF induction and could not be prouder or more grateful for even being considered. Wrestling under Don Dravis was a life lesson that has never diminished throughout my life. I was, and remain so very thankful and appreciative of the honor.

Jerry Cleveland
Staples Athlete Class of 1967
2019 Inductee

The SM Athletic Hall of Fame program is a great source of community and school pride. It's a time to gather and connect as a community.

Del Cerney
Staples Athlete Class of 1988
2019 Inductee

The SM Athletic Hall of Fame is a real plus for our communities. It's great to see our former athletes and coaches recognized. I am really proud to be a part of this honor.

Tom Honek,
Cardinal Head Football Coach
2019 Inductee

It was an amazing honor to become a member of the Hall of Fame.

It's a continuation of the community support my teammates and I received during our high school years, something that I've always appreciated.

Warren Mertens
Staples Athlete Class of 1973
2019 Inductee

The SM Hall of Fame has given me and fellow athletes, coaches and fans the only opportunity to be together and reminisce about one of the greatest times of our lives. Although we have never forgotten those times and stories, this event allows us to all be present at one time to share and enjoy stories of the past.

Randy Frisk
Motley Athlete Class of 1973
2019 Inductee

Let me start by saying being inducted into the Hall of Fame is a tremendous honor! It exemplifies the strong tradition of winning, not only in athletics but in the classroom as well!

Tony Spandl
Staples Athlete Class of 1978
2021 Inductee



HELP US TELL THE STORY OF OUR ATHLETIC LEGACY

Send donations using Venmo @SMAthleticHallofFame or by scanning QR Code
 or mail check to: SM Athletic Hall of Fame, P.O. Box 192, Staples, MN 56479
 (Make checks payable to: LEAP C/O SM Athletic Hall of Fame)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

