

# HCAA Recognition Awards Summary 2020

The following individuals were recognized by the Horizon Central Athletic Association for their outstanding contributions to school athletics programs. Due to COVID-19, all recipients were presented with their awards on an individual basis.



(L-R): Terry Anderson (George Gordon Education Center); Debbie Fedak (Foam Lake Composite School); Rob Kurbis (Schell School in Holdfast); Marvin Renneberg (Muenster School); Tom Schwinghamer (Humboldt Collegiate Institute). Missing from pictures: Brian Fleischhacker (Anaheim School); Rick Hamel (Rose Valley School); Troy Koepke (Punnichy Community High School)

## Marvin Renneberg (Muenster School, retired)

Marvin Renneberg and Muenster School were synonymous in the world of school athletics for many, many years. Marvin successfully and enthusiastically coached a number of programs in the school including soccer, cross country, basketball, badminton, and track. Not only was Marvin a most capable coach (a number of his teams and athletes attained Provincial Champion status), but he was also incredibly dedicated and would spend countless hours behind the scenes planning and preparing his teams or preparing for hosting events such as cross country and track. His attention to detail was always appreciated by all the other coaches.

Marvin's contributions went well beyond his own school. He was a key contributor to the Humboldt Schools Athletic Association, including a term as President. He was the first President of the HCAA and remained HCAA President until his retirement. As HCAA President, he wrote the Constitution and Bylaws. Marvin was also key on the provincial high school sports scene, having sat on the SHSAA Executive for 4 years.

Even in his retirement, Marvin has continued to serve the HCAA as the soccer referee-in-chief and as an outstanding and dedicated soccer official.

## **Brian Fleischhacker** (Annaheim School, retired)

Brian Fleischhacker was a long-serving, well-respected, and dedicated teacher and coach, having spent all but one year of his teaching career at Annaheim School.

Brian was a key player in the Humboldt Schools Athletic Association representing Annaheim School, but he also served as the association president for seven years.

Brian coached boys and girls volleyball at both the junior and senior level. His senior boys teams were of note as being highly competitive on the provincial scene, collecting a number of medals at the provincial level, including gold.

Brian also coached for many years as both the senior and junior badminton coach. His junior teams had won the Humboldt Rural SD team pennant and trophy 12 years in a row and his senior teams 17 years in a row. They also captured many District Championships, as well as medals at the senior regionals and provincial level.

Under Brian, the cross country and track programs grew under his encouragement, guidance, and training. The overall successes and strong participation in these and other activities were large due to Brian's leadership and guidance.

## **Tom Schwinghamer** (Humboldt Collegiate Institute, retired)

Tom spent the majority of his career teaching in Bruno and Humboldt, and was involved in the schools' athletic programs throughout his career.

Tom coached 9-man football at HCI the past 12 seasons. His roles included coaching the defensive line and defensive backs, assisting with game film prep, and coordinating off-season training. Tom coached in the Ed Henick Senior Bowl and had been the coordinator of the high profile Kelly Bates Football Camp for the last decade.

Tom had also coached track and field at HCI over the past 12 years. During this time his roles included head coach, as well as the sprints, hurdles, long distance, and relays coach. He was the commissioner of the HCAA pre-district track and field meet several times. This included coordinating entries, arranging volunteers, running the track meet, and submitting the entries to the district among other things. He was also commissioner for the HCAA District Championship in the past, doing a fantastic job of it.

Tom's contributions were greatly felt by the staff and students of HCI. He has left big shoes to fill in the school's athletics program.

## **Debbie Fedak** (Foam Lake Composite School)

Debbie has contributed to many sports activities in FLCS as a parent and as a staff member. Debbie's largest contribution to FLCS athletics is in the sport of curling where she has been a curling coach for 12 years. In that time, she has coached all types and levels of curling. Her curling teams have contributed more district champion banners to the school than any other sport. Under her guidance, the FLCS curling teams are perennial favourites to win district championships. Debbie has also coached senior curling teams to numerous SHSAA provincial medals, the high point being in 2020 where she guided the boys team to an SHSAA gold medal. As the curling coach for FLCS she has hosted numerous HCAA Pre-District and District Championship events. All of these events are done with excellence and wonderfully showcase the school, the curling club, and the town.

Debbie is also a very active staff member in helping with many of the other school sports programs. In the fall, Debbie plans, coordinates, and creates the football program which is a huge fundraiser for the team. She regularly volunteers as a parent to help in the football canteen, as a gate worker, or selling 50/50 tickets. She will set up schedules and canvas for donations for some of the programs. When FLCS hosted the SHSAA 2A Girls Volleyball Provincials in 2019, she volunteered numerous hours coordinating our team ambassadors, creating the program, and decorating the two facilities. Throughout the rest of the year, Debbie will often take the lead in organizing canteens for teams her children play on.

When she is finally done volunteering for all of her kids' sports, Debbie is always seen in the gym or on the sidelines cheering on any team that is competing that day. She is a loud and proud FLCS Panther supporter.

## **Rick Hamel** (Rose Valley School)

Rick Hamel has played an integral part of athletics in Horizon School division for the past 23 years. For the last four years he has been at Rose Valley School as principal and coach, playing a key role in the success of athletics in Rose Valley and especially in volleyball. As an assistant coach for the sr. girls volleyball team the past five years, Rick was an essential part of a program that attained a silver medal in 2015 and the provincial gold medal in 2016, 2017, and 2019. Rick has put in countless hours for practices and games for the program, ensuring each athlete was given a positive experience.

Rick also puts in time as a coach for other sports as well. He has coached jr. badminton, jr. curling, and track and field. Outside of school, Rick also coaches club volleyball, having coached age groups from 13U to 18U with success at all levels. When Rick coaches, he is "all in", giving his time, effort, and dedication to the sport and to his athletes.

During his time at Archerwill School, Rick was also heavily involved in coaching, having coached jr. girls volleyball, jr. curling, jr. badminton, and track and field. The students from Archerwill always had a positive experience when Rick was coaching.

Rick is a great leader for the school as well as for athletics, and he is involved in stressing integrity, positivity, and sportsmanship.

## **Rob Kurbis** (Schell School in Holdfast, retired)

Rob taught in Holdfast the past 20 years. Although he was very effective as a classroom teacher, the gym is where he especially shone.

Rob was in his own element when he was working with students, teaching them a new skill, or incorporating a new system in a team sport. To say he went above and beyond is an understatement. Over the years, Rob has coached each and every sport the school had to offer at both the junior and senior levels, and in the community as well.

Rob has coached cross country, football, volleyball, basketball, badminton, track and field, and club volleyball at Schell School. He also ran a very successful intramural program at noon hours. He is an accomplished volleyball referee as well. His expertise is second to none, as he always strived to give the best instruction or coaching he can to each student or team.

Rob always went to the extreme to make sure each student was able to participate in whatever activity they were interested in. He worked tirelessly to help and to encourage athletes achieve to their potential, and the results can be seen in the many trophies, plaques, pennants, and banners visible in the school from his tenure at Schell.

Athletes over the years have been extremely grateful for the time and effort that Rob Kurbis has given to each of them, the knowledge he has bestowed upon them, and the success that they have been able to enjoy as a Schell School athlete. Rob has been a passionate, loyal, self-driven, hard-working volunteer, putting in countless hours and driving many miles on Saskatchewan roads all for the sake of helping all students, athletic or otherwise, become contributing citizens in our society.

## **Troy Koepke** (Punnichy Community High School)

Troy Koepke has been at PCHS for over 15 years. During his first years at the school, he immediately volunteered to coach, with badminton and track and field the most notable activities. When the phys ed teacher left PCHS, Troy eagerly stepped up to the plate to teach phys ed and to be the PCHS athletic director, a role he has held for seven years. As the school athletic director, he has been very active in representing the school in the HCAA, has been very efficient in administrative duties associated with the role, and has ensured the school staff is aware of any opportunities that are available to them.

Troy can be counted on to ensure that the students have opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities, as he is the one who spearheads and organizes the coaches for the teams each fall and throughout the school year. Troy has always willingly introduced the students to opportunity in many activities. Even if the interest has waned, he has met the challenges of the dynamics and parameters with positivity and grace.

Troy has worked hard behind the scenes. He has worked diligently at getting sports grants in the school so the school can purchase equipment for the students that many schools would assume the students

have from home, such as ball gloves, badminton rackets, track shoes, and runners. Without his efforts, PCHS would not have the amount of equipment available for phys ed classes or teams.

With transportation sometimes being an issue, Troy often gives up his noon hours to work with students for track and field to ensure they have an opportunity to learn techniques to compete effectively. He has even done “school campouts”, with meals, with students the night before important competitions in order to alleviate transportation issues that may make early morning departures difficult.

Troy is also very community-minded. He works with the town to promote their recreating grant and attends meetings for funding to provide equipment in the school the community can access on gym nights. Troy encourages all PCHS students by attending community sporting and other events that the students participate in.

## **Terry Anderson** (George Gordon Education Center)

Terry Anderson has been teaching at GGEC for over 20 years and has been the phys ed teacher for the last 13 years.

Terry has been the GGEC athletic director for many years. In that time, he has taken care of all the athletics administrative duties for GGEC, has been active in attending athletics meetings, and effectively communicates information from the District to the school and vice versa.

Terry’s dedication to participation and physical activity for the GGEC students has been outstanding as he has prepared and trained many of the young students who later have gone on to win medals at the district and provincial levels. Terry’s focus on sportsmanship and fair play resonates in his teachings and discipline with the students, and has been apparent in how the student-athletes have come to carry themselves in competition.

GGEC students and teams have been winning district titles in cross country, volleyball, and track and field for many years with the training and support that Terry puts into developing them. The interaction that Terry has with the students shows how much he cares for them in and out of the school. His extra training, support, and encouragement to the students who have earned spots on provincial teams or who have competed in NAIG have demonstrated his commitment not only to sport, but to the students.