

**CLASS OF**

**2023**



SPONSORED BY THE UNITY SPORTS BOOSTER CLUB

**UNITY**

**ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME**



# Unity Athletic Hall of Fame Members

## .....2009.....

Rosemary Brickman	Coach
Dave Grimmer	Athlete
Jerri Anne Miller	Athlete
John Murphy	Athlete
Teri Orr	Athlete
1972-73 Boys Basketball Team	Team

## .....2010.....

Pat Keane	Coach
Bill Kretzer	Supporter
Josh Rabe	Athlete
Curt Sellers	Athlete
Sue Evans Woodworth	Athlete/Coach
1986 Volleyball Team	Team

## .....2011.....

Gary Brickman	Coach
Gary Evans	Athlete
1989-90 Boys Basketball Team	Team

## .....2012.....

Ron Beck	Supporter
Van Wilson	Coach
1986 Girls Track Team	Team
1987 Girls Track Team	Team

## .....2013.....

Bill and Mary Nisbet	Supporters
Ronna Duesterhaus Roberts	Athlete
1965 Football Team	Team

## .....2014.....

Letha Janssen Burrus	Athlete
Merlin Jones	Coach
1989 Football Team	Team

## .....2015.....

Greg Campbell	Athlete
Dawn Elston	Athlete
Bernie Woodworth	Athlete/Supporter

## .....2016.....

Bill and Janet Hilgenbrinck	Supporters
Brent Voth	Athlete
1964 Baseball Team	Team

## .....2017.....

Jerry Ellerman	Athlete
Chuck Shupe	Athlete
Marcia Cornwell	Supporter

## .....2018.....

Dean Woodruff	Athlete/Coach
Ross Schulte	Athlete
1995 Volleyball Team	Team

## .....2019.....

Tim and Connie Bealor	Supporters
Daron Duke	Athlete
Dick Fessler	Athlete
Rhonda Griffin Risley	Athlete

## .....2021.....

1991 Baseball Team	Team
1992 Baseball Team	Team
Gary Frazier	Athlete
Phil Conover	Athlete
Robin Leenerts Ippensen	Athlete

## .....2022.....

Brian and Julie McAllister	Athlete/Supporter
Ken Ellerbrock	Athlete/Supporter
Mike Myers	Athlete

## .....2023.....

1986 800m Medley Relay	Team
Don Peter	Athlete/Supporter
Mark & Kirk Peter	Athletes
Sam Knox	Athlete/Supporter

**On behalf of the Unity Athletic Hall of Fame Committee, we would like to congratulate the 2023 Hall of Fame inductees.** This diverse group's accomplishments have endured the test of time. Please take the time to read about this year's outstanding class of inductees. Do you know someone who is a graduate of Unity High School who deserves to be inducted in to the Athletic Hall of Fame? If so, then take a minute to fill out the form found at: <http://unityathletichalloffame.weebly.com>.

### **Hall of Fame Committee**

Tylere Hustead  
Ken Gray  
Sue Woodworth  
Donna Jansen  
Seth Klusmeyer  
Johanna Voss  
Jerry Ellerman

Thank you, alumni and friends, for your support of Unity High School and our Athletic Hall of Fame.

**Seth Klusmeyer**

*Coordinator of Curriculum*

**Tylere Hustead**

*Athletic Director*

Qualification for the Unity Athletic Hall of Fame

### **STUDENT-ATHLETE**

- Must have competed at the varsity level for at least 2 years at Unity High School and made a major impact on the program.
- Consideration given to outstanding accomplishments in the area of athletics at Unity High School.
- Consideration given to the individual and team performance in the postseason.
- Consideration given to accomplishments beyond and/or after Unity High School.
- Consideration given to the athletes who have been out of school for at least ten years.
- Any individual that wins a state championship is automatically nominated after the ten year anniversary of his/her graduation.

### **TEAM**

- Consideration given to team performance in the conference.
- Consideration given to the team performance in the postseason.
- Consideration given to a team that has been out of school ten years.
- Any team that wins a state championship is automatically nominated after a minimum of ten years.

### **COACH**

- Consideration given to outstanding contributions in the area of athletics as related to Unity High School.
- Must have coached a sport(s) for at least three years at Unity High School.
- Consideration given to the coach and team performance in the conference.
- Consideration given to the coach and team performance in the postseason.
- Must be in good standing with Unity High School.

### **SUPPORTER**

- Must have made significant contributions to Unity High School Athletics.
- Consideration given to length of time of support or service to the Unity Athletic Program.
- Consideration given to involvement with all sports at Unity High School.
- Consideration given to fundraising and financial support for Unity High School Athletics.

# Unity Athletic Hall of Fame

## 1986 800m Medley Relay Team

### Team

The first IHSA girls track and field championships were held in May of 1973 at Eastern Illinois University. It was a 1 class system until 1977 when it became an A and AA. In 2009 it was changed to 3 classes. In 1986, the 800 Medley Relay team of (Freshman) Lois Emery Myers, (Junior) Erin Janssen Lummer, (Junior) Dayna Fryrear Conry, and (Sophomore) Ronna Duesterhaus Roberts placed 8th in the state in a 2 class system.

A medley relay means runners run different distances. The order of running was Lois 100 meters, Erin 100 meters, Dayna 200 meters, and running the 400 anchor was Ronna. They qualified for the state meet by placing 1st in the sectional meet and setting a school record of 1:53.0. This school record was still intact when the IHSA eliminated the 800 Medley Relay in 2007.

The 1986 Unity Mustang team of 19 girls were the Sectional Champions beating out 20 other teams in total points scored. They each had four years of track and field participation and these were some of the best years that Unity girls track experienced with individual and team championships. They participated in the IHSA State Track and Field meet in a multitude of field, running, and relay events during each of their four years.



**Lois Emery Myers:** After graduating in 1989, Lois married Robyn Myers in 1990. Growing up on a farm it was a natural transition to help on the family farm operation. They raised two kids, Beau and Malarie and now have 5 adorable grandchildren. She loves playing ball with the grandkids as well as hiking and bicycling. Lois and Robyn love to go on adventures and continue to spend time at the farm.

**Erin Janssen Lummer:** Erin has been with her husband Jay for 26 years. They have a son Jayden who is 20 years old and lives in Quincy. Last December, Erin and Jay moved and bought a house in Pinellas Park, Florida for warmer weather. She has been working in the healthcare setting for the last 20 years and enjoys being able to help people. Erin still reads a lot of books and now enjoys them while sitting on the beach!

**Dayna Fryrear Conry:** After graduating from Unity in 1987, she married Kevin Conry. They have three daughters, Kindi, Katie, and Kami. Dayna continued to support Unity track and athletics as all three girls graduated from Unity. Dayna and her husband own and operate their own business, Sleep Tight, since 2008. She enjoys time with her family and friends.

**Ronna Duesterhaus Roberts:** After high school, Ronna attended Graceland University where she played Volleyball and competed in Indoor and Outdoor Track. Ronna graduated in 1993 with a Bachelor's in Medical Technology and from Maryville's MBA program in 2020 with an emphasis in Project Management. She married Daniel Roberts in 1993 and they have two daughters, Lacey and Lauren. Ronna works at Hannibal Regional Healthcare System as the Group Director of Information Systems.

Some great memories from the state meet were standing on the podium and having the medals placed around their necks and then looking up to see their teammates, coach, and families smiling and waving at them. During our years in track and field, we competed in the cold, rain, and snow as well as the hot and windy weather. Through it all, we had a lot of fun! Congratulations to the 1986 800 Medley Relay team that placed 8th in the state.

# Unity Athletic Hall of Fame

## Don Peter

*Supporter & Athlete*

Don Peter's interest in and support of Unity athletics teams predates the formation of Unit 4. He graduated from Mendon Township High School in its final year of existence in 1948. He played baseball, basketball, and track during his high school days and was talented enough to receive a scholarship offer from Western Illinois University in baseball. He was also voted to the Quincy Herald Whig 5-member All Area Basketball team by local coaches following the 1948 season. When Unity High School was formed, he attended games to watch his former teammates play.

Don married his high school sweetheart, Lenora, in 1950 and enlisted in the Air Force. They had twin sons, Kirk and Mark, while in the service, and their daughter, Tricia, was born in 1956 after they moved back to Lima. Don served two terms on the Unit 4 school board in the 1950s and 1960s and resumed attending many Unity athletic events.

In 1968, the Peters moved to Mendon, purchasing a farm south of town. Their sons participated in sports at Unity from 1966 through 1970 and Don and Lenora seldom missed a game during those years. They continued to follow Unity teams through the early 70s when their daughter Trish was a cheerleader.

They also followed some very successful Unity teams during the rest of the 1970s, 1980s, and into the early 1990s when granddaughter, Tori, played for the Lady Mustangs. Grandsons Tad, Wes, and Karl were on various boy's teams from the late 1990s through the mid 2000s as they participated in football, baseball, track, and golf at Unity.

In more recent years, Don has followed Mustang football and been a fixture at Lady Mustang volleyball and basketball games. Great-granddaughters Kaylee and Taylor Nichols were strong contributors to a group of great players in both sports that made Lady Mustang sports very successful over the last few years. Don has followed these girls even after the Nichols girls graduated. At 93, he is usually the senior statesman of Mustang Nation at Unity's games today. He has watched Unity's sports history unfold before his eyes since its beginning in 1949.

Don lives north of Quincy. His beloved wife, Lenora, passed away in 2021. He attends most games with son Mark or granddaughter Tori. He attends Faith Presbyterian Church in Quincy and comes out to the farm daily to help Mark with farming and caring for their Hampshire hogs.





# Unity Athletic Hall of Fame

## Mark and Kirk Peter

### *Athletes*

Twin brothers Kirk and Mark Peter attended Unity from 1966 until 1970. They played football, basketball, and baseball, and Kirk also ran track and cross country. Between them they earned 15 varsity letters, four West Central All Conference awards, and two MVIT All Tournament team awards. Kirk lettered in track and field as a Freshman and was a member of the record setting 440 yard relay team that held the school record for that event until distances were converted to meters during the 1980s. He lettered in cross country as a Sophomore and played football as a Freshman and lettered as a Senior. Kirk played basketball all four years. He dressed on the varsity at the end of his Freshman season. He started on the varsity the second half of his Sophomore season and full time his Junior and Senior years. He led the team in free throw percent twice and was chosen team captain by his teammates his senior season. Mark lettered in baseball three years, was the starting catcher both his Junior and Senior seasons. He was second in batting average as a Senior and was selected to the West Central All Conference Team that year. In basketball, Mark lettered as a varsity player 3 years, starting every game his Junior and Senior seasons. He was the teams top rebounder both years, averaging more than 10 rebounds per game. As a Senior he was the teams second leading scorer and was named to the West Central All Conference Team. Mark played football all four years, lettering and starting as a Sophomore, Junior and Senior. He played defensive end, and tackle and end on offense. He also punted and held the record for longest punt in the conference for over 20 years. He was selected to the West Central All Conference Team both his Junior and Senior years and received honorable mention on the Chicago Tribune Small School All State Team as a Senior.

The three varsity basketball teams the Peter twins played on had an 8 win 1 loss record in MVIT during their careers, Winning two championships and a third place trophy, the most successful MVIT record in school history. Both were MVIT All Tournament team selections when Unity won the championship their Senior year.

Following high school, Kirk attended WIU and Quincy College and Mark studied Ag/Animal Science at Western. Both farmed and operated a swine breeding stock business in partnership with their dad, Don.

Kirk served two terms on the Unit 4 school board and was Mendon Township Trustee and Supervisor for many years. He died unexpectedly in 2014 and is survived by his wife, Pam, son Karl, daughter Tori and granddaughters Kaylee and Taylor Nichols. His sons, Andrew and Matt, are also deceased.

Mark and his wife, Jill, live near Mendon and have two sons, Tad and Wes. They have 5 grandchildren, Maisie, Scarlett, Theo, Violet, and a baby girl. They are long-time members of Mendon Congregational Church. Mark served the Unit 4 area on the Adams County Board for 20 years.



Kirk Peter



First Place—Unity High



Mark Peter

# Unity Athletic Hall of Fame

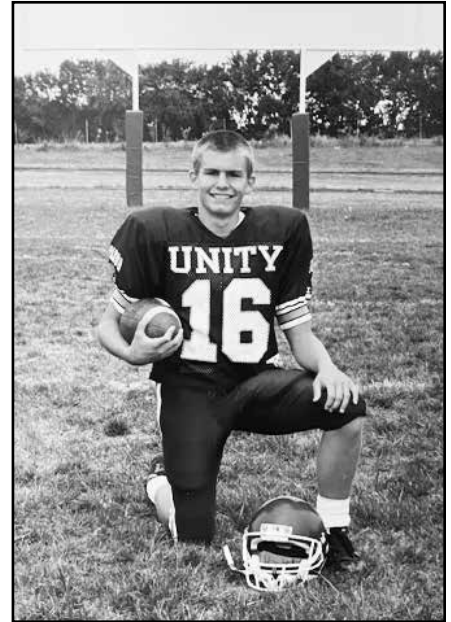
## Sam Knox

*Supporter & Athlete*

Sam Knox enjoyed countless positive experiences at Unity which led him to a career where he cooperates with principals, athletic directors, coaches, and officials around the state to ensure today's students have similar positive experiences at their schools.

Sam grew up in Ursa and was a Mustang fan even before he attended Greenfield Elementary School. His parents, Brad and Cheryl, still live in Ursa and have lived in the same house for nearly 50 years. Some of his best childhood memories involve playing sports with his brother, Seth, along with his best friend, Craig Cramm, and their friends in the yard, driveway, and at the Ursa Park.

Knox was a three-sport athlete in football, basketball, and baseball all four years at Unity. He and his teammates were extremely fortunate to play for legendary Hall of Fame coaches Gary Brickman, Dean Woodruff, and Van Wilson. Their expectations, standards, and leadership paved the way for historic success as the Mustangs reached new heights with the best football, basketball, and baseball teams in school history at that time.



Sam graduated from Unity in 1991 where he was valedictorian and class president. As a senior, he earned West Central Conference first-team all-conference recognition in both football and baseball. Knox received an Elementary Education degree from Illinois College and played football at IC.

In the fall of 1995, Sam returned to Unity and spent the first ten years of his career as a 6th grade teacher at Unity Middle School and as a coach for the Mustangs. He was an assistant football coach on the 1995, 1996, 1998, and 1999 playoff teams and was head football coach from 2000-2004. Knox was also an assistant boys basketball coach for five years and was Unity's Athletic Director for two years. Additionally, he earned a master's degree in Educational Administration from Western Illinois University.

Throughout his time at Unity, he valued being colleagues with teachers and coaches who significantly influenced his life, especially his Aunt Marcia Cornwell. He learned valuable lessons as a young coach and official alongside his former coaches, Brick, Woody, and Van. Sam will be eternally grateful for their guidance and friendship.

The Knox family moved to Lincoln in 2005 where Sam was the Athletic Director at Lincoln Community High School for eleven years. In 2016, Sam became an Assistant Executive Director at the Illinois High School Association in Bloomington. He is the IHSA administrator for football, wrestling, and baseball.

Sam and Marsha have been married since 1999 and will celebrate their 25th anniversary next summer. They live in Downs, where their children, Adam, Emily, and Andy graduated from Tri-Valley High School and participated in a variety of sports and activities. Adam and Emily are sophomores at Illinois State University. Adam is studying biology and nursing. Emily is studying nursing. Andy is a freshman at Heartland Community College, studying criminal justice.

In his free time, Sam enjoys officiating the sports he has loved his entire life. He officiates youth and high school football, middle school and high school baseball, and middle school, high school, and college basketball.

One of his favorite annual traditions is attending the opening night of the MVIT where he has the opportunity to catch up with family, friends, and long-time Mustang fans. He has been involved with the MVIT as an assistant coach, tournament director, or official every year since the tournament restarted in 1997.

Sam meets many people from all areas of the state in his role at the IHSA. When they ask about his background, he's proud to tell them he's from Ursa and graduated from Unity. He firmly believes his experiences as a Unity student, athlete, teacher, and coach allow him to live out his dreams, thanks to all the people who made a tremendous difference in his life.

# MVIT

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