

Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees:

Elise Reid – Elise is a 2006 graduate of Kennedy High School. As a Cougar, Elise was a standout soccer player under two very successful young coaches, Samantha (Hittman) Duwe and Sean McCoy. Kennedy girls' soccer can trace their tremendous success back to teams on which Reid patrolled the midfield and forward positions on the pitch. From 2003 to 2006, Elise was a dominant player at the metro, conference, and state levels, and she was instrumental in building the competitiveness and success of the team each year. As Reid and her teammates developed each season, they moved further and further into state play, culminating in a state runner-up finish in 2006. During her career, she was named Metro Player of the Year twice, All-MVC three times, 2nd team All-State, and was named a finalist for the Iowa Gatorade Player of the Year award. In that 2006 state tournament run, Elise was named the captain of the all-tournament team.

Following her exceptional career at Kennedy, Reid continued her career at Iowa State University, where she was a four-year letter winner, starting all but two games for the Cyclones. Following the 2007 campaign, Elise earned 2nd team All-Big 12 honors for her efforts. In the off-season, she kept active and enjoyed playing intramural hockey and kickball. Following her career at ISU, Reid played one season for the Minnesota Lightning in a semi-pro soccer league.

Reflecting on her time at Kennedy, Reid states, “I think the coolest and most unique part of my athletic experience at Kennedy was the entire team I played with. They were my best friends and we played club together when we were not playing high school soccer. We were together every night practicing and playing tournaments together every weekend. I think that is really rare to have a group of 10 best friends you do everything with. I think being part of a team definitely got me more ready for life after college because I knew how to get along with a team and how to work with different personalities, skills that really help me in my current role.”

Elise now lives in West Des Moines where she works as a research and remediation analyst for Wells Fargo. She has also worked her way into coaching the sport she loves, serving as a 9th grade coach at Johnston High School and three to five year olds in the Des Moines Menace Soccer Club. Reid and her fiancé, Jaryd White, enjoy working out, binge watching Netflix, and reading a good book together. She still plays the game she loves, participating in soccer leagues in the Des Moines area, including the Menace women's soccer team last summer.

Please welcome to the Cougar Athletic Hall of Fame – Elise Reid.

Maria (Zimmerman) Paulsen – Maria is a member of the Class of 2001. As a Cougar, she was a three sport athlete competing in swimming & diving, basketball, and softball, earning 12 varsity letters along the way. On the hardwood for Coach Dennis Roloff, Zimmerman earned three varsity letters as a forward, as was named honorable mention All-MVC her senior season. Her 1998-99 team qualified for the state basketball tournament. In the pool, Maria excelled in the sprint freestyle events for Coach Jay Goodlove and Coach Lori Sherman. She earned four varsity letters for the Cougar tankers, qualifying for the state swimming meet her freshman, sophomore, and senior seasons. She was part of a school record setting 400 yard freestyle relay team in 2000. Maria was most comfortable on the softball diamond where she earned five varsity letters for Coach Steve Johnson and Coach Janette Stecker. She was a workhorse in the circle, pitching nearly every game for the Cougars in her final years. She earned 1st team All-Metro and All-MVC in each year, except for an injury shortened sophomore season. She also earned honorable mention and 4th team All-State honors her freshman through senior campaigns.

Zimmerman continued her softball career at the collegiate level for the Division III powerhouse, Central College. She played softball for two seasons, including being a part of the 2003 National Championship team.

Maria earned her degree in communication studies & Spanish from Central College in 2005 and followed this up with her Master's degree in organizational leadership from St. Ambrose in 2010.

States Zimmerman, "Most of my memories from high school are from the gym, on the field, or in the pool. I always loved the change of pace playing three sports and feel that each one helped me with the others. I still keep in touch with many of my former teammates." Some of her favorite memories include: breaking an 8 year old record in the 400 free relay, the final out regionals, qualifying for state softball, playing basketball with teammates since middle school, and finally beating Jefferson in softball her senior year. Finally, Zimmerman most remembers the countless hours in the winter time with her dad as her catcher, pushing her to be a better pitcher. "My parents were by biggest supporters, pushing me to give it my best."

Paulsen now lives in Cedar Rapids with her husband, Bret, and her two boys, Garrett (4) and Chase (2). She has been employed by Rockwell Collins since 2005, currently working as the senior social media specialist for the company. When not spending time with family, Maria loves to coach. She was an assistant swimming coach for Kennedy under John Ross from 2005-2007 and is a private pitching coach, mentoring several current and upcoming Kennedy pitchers.

Please join me in welcoming to the Cougar Athletic Hall of Fame – Maria (Zimmerman) Paulsen.

Kyle Bassett – Kyle is a 1998 graduate of Kennedy High School and was a three-sport athlete for the Green and Gold. Bassett played football for Hall of Fame Coach Don Knock, baseball for Coach Bret Hoyer, and basketball for Hall of Fame Coach Arnie Zediker and Coach Bob Fontana, earning seven varsity letters along the way. On the basketball court, Bassett played the one, two, and three spots, earning two varsity letters, All-Metro honors, and was a member of the 1997 state semifinal team. He was a quarterback and strong safety on the gridiron, earning two varsity letters. In 1998, Bassett set the school record for yards passing in a game against the Washington Warriors on his way to earning All-Metro, All-MVC, and All-State honors. Kyle excelled as a utility infielder and a pitcher for the Kennedy baseball team. In his three seasons of varsity play, he earned All-Metro and All-MVC honors twice and All-State honors in his senior year, after which he was selected to play in the State All-Star baseball game. In 2008, he was selected for the Kennedy Baseball Hall of Fame.

Bassett first attended Iowa State University out of high school, playing quarterback and then linebacker for Dan McCarney and the Cyclones from 1998-2000. Following the 2000 season, he had a change of heart and wanted to pursue playing college baseball. He fulfilled this passion at Coe College, playing three seasons for his hometown college and earning All-Conference and All-Central Region twice, and All-American honors once. Bassett held school records at Coe for hits, doubles, and saves by the end of his career.

Reflecting on this athletic career at Kennedy, Bassett states, "I recall all of the daily hard work that went into playing sports year around. I recall my great friends, the smell of the gym, the field, the diamond, and the adrenaline of game day. I learned a lot about hard work, discipline, sacrifice, and being a part of a team. I owe a lot to Coach Hoyer and Coach Knock, whom I will never forget, as well as all of my other coaches."

Since 2003, Bassett has been working for a government law enforcement agency. He serves as a co-chair for a state wide law enforcement outreach program geared towards mentoring young minorities and women in need. The program has expanded to 10 cities in Iowa, focusing on education and providing the resources needed to the underprivileged he serves.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome to the Cougar Athletic Hall of Fame – Kyle Bassett.

Teddy Shonka – Teddy graduated from Kennedy High School in 2007 after completing a very successful athletic career that included participating in five different sports; football, baseball, and basketball for all four years, along with track and soccer for two seasons each. Playing soccer for the sophomore team his first two years, Teddy scored 11 goals in one season, tying a team record at that time. He moved on to track & field his junior and senior seasons in the spring, where he earned two varsity letters, qualified for both the Drake Relays and State Meet and was on a conference championship team for Coach Dennis Roloff. Playing basketball for Coach Bob Fontana, Teddy was a team co-captain as a senior, receiving the Coaches Award and helping to lead the team to a 3rd place finish in the State Tournament. Teddy was a standout wide receiver on the gridiron for Coach Tim Lewis, earning two varsity letters. The team compiled 8-3 and 7-3 records his junior and senior seasons, respectively, qualifying for the playoffs in each of those seasons. In his senior campaign, Shonka set a school and MVC record of 57 receptions in a single season, and amassed 81 receptions for 1010 yards in his career, both of which were school records at the time. Teddy was named 1st team All-Metro, All-MVC, and INA All-State in his senior year. Shonka also shined as one of the boys of summer, playing in the Kennedy Baseball program all five summers, the last three at the varsity level. He patrolled center field and manned the mound for Coach Bret Hoyer for most of his stellar career, earning numerous 1st team All-Metro and 1st team All-MVC honors. He also earned 1st team All-State honors and was selected for the Iowa HS Baseball Coaches All-Star team following his senior campaign. The baseball team made it to the State Tournament final four in both his junior and senior seasons. Teddy was undefeated as a pitcher during this time in the state tournament series games. His name is scattered all over the baseball record board, ranking in the top 10 all time in 13 different statistical categories. In the summer of 2014 he was selected for the Kennedy Baseball Hall of Fame. Teddy was part of a special group of athletes that qualified for the state tournament in three sports their senior year, football, basketball, and baseball. His leadership and success earned him the distinction of 2007 Male Athlete of the Year.

Following high school, Shonka continued his football career on scholarship at South Dakota State University as a wide receiver. He was red-shirted his first year, but made significant contributions to the team, earning Scout Team Player of the Week numerous times. Unfortunately a severe back injury while training for what was going to be a successful second season became career ending for Shonka. He stayed on at SDSU and was a student assistant for the Jackrabbits through graduation, earning a degree in Health Education, minoring in business and Spanish.

Reflecting on some favorite memories, Shonka states, “Making the playoffs both my junior and senior year in football as well as our historic run to the state championship game in baseball my junior year are two of my favorites. Beating #1 ranked Lincoln as an 8 seed at State Baseball is also one of the best. My close relationships with coaches and teammates in every sport made the entire experience at Kennedy something I will never forget. The bond that we developed on and off the field was very special as well. I would say my athletic experiences prepared me for business and my career by giving me mental, physical, and moral courage. My participation in five sports at Kennedy helped me become the master of any situation and also become resourceful, which has carried well into my professional career.”

Teddy moved to Phoenix, Arizona following graduation and obtained his real estate license. He has become a very successful agent in the Scottsdale area, thriving in a very competitive real estate market. He also has volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and plans to continue expanding volunteer opportunities in the Phoenix marking in 2016. He enjoys traveling, hiking, golfing, and time with friends in his spare time.

His parents, Dan and Peggy Shonka, were 2010 inductees into the Kennedy Booster Hall of Fame.

Please join us in welcoming to the Cougar Athletic Hall of Fame – Teddy Shonka.

Eric Schultz – Eric is a 2008 graduate of Kennedy High School. Schultz was always in-season for the Green and Gold, competing in four sports during his career; including football, basketball, track & field, and baseball.

He is one of the most competitive athletes in recent memory, and earned 11 varsity letters for the Cougars. Eric was a wide receiver and safety for Coach Tim Lewis his senior year in football, where he set a record for most receiving yards in a season and earned 3rd team All-State honors. As a guard on Coach Bob Fontana's basketball teams, he was a hard-nosed defender and leader as a part of two consecutive semifinal appearances at the State Tournament, finishing in 3rd place his junior season and 4th place his senior campaign. Competing for Dennis Roloff, Schultz was a multi-event athlete in track & field, running the sprint relays, the hurdle events, and the jumps for the Cougars. He was a multiple event qualifier at both the Drake Relays and the State Meet, culminating in a 3rd place finish in the long jump his senior year, leaping 21 feet, 3 ½ inches. Eric was probably most at home on the dirt of the Kennedy infield, playing baseball for Coach Bret Hoyer. He was a four year starter on the left side, playing 3rd base as a freshman and shortstop the remaining three years. The Cougars made three straight trips to the State Baseball Tournament, finishing as runner up during his sophomore campaign. Schultz earned 2nd team All-State honors along with numerous All-Metro and All-MVC honors. He ended his career as the record holder in career hits, stolen bases, and runs scored. Most importantly, Eric holds a record that may never be broken, the dirtiest hat award. His senior year culminated in being recognized as the 2008 Male Athlete of the Year.

Schultz continued his baseball career at Huntington University in Huntington, Indiana. He was a standout player for the Foresters from 2008-2012 in a program that won two conference championships and made two NAIA national championship appearances during his tenure. He left his mark on the Huntington record book as well, setting four single season records and six career records, including categories like most games played, most hits, most runs, most at-bats, most walks, and most hit-by-pitch. Schultz was a three-time all-conference shortstop for the Foresters.

States Schultz, "Kennedy had such a unique atmosphere of school support and successful teams year after year. I remember our run to the State championship game my sophomore year as one of the more memorable, including two come from behind wins to get to the final game. My athletic experience has helped me with my family and career with time management and having a good work ethic. I learned that if you really want something you have to work your butt off to give yourself the best opportunity for good things to happen. It doesn't guarantee good things, but it puts you in the best possible situation."

Eric and his wife, Nicole, now reside in Johnston, Iowa, where he is a high school math teacher and assistant baseball coach at Roosevelt High school in Des Moines. He and Nicole are expecting their first child in June.

Please welcome to the Cougar Athletic Hall of Fame – Eric Schultz.

Booster Hall of Fame Inductees:

Connie Caviness – It is with great pleasure that we induct Connie Caviness into the Kennedy Booster Hall of Fame tonight. In typical Connie fashion, her first response to hearing she was to be inducted was simply that there are certainly other people that deserve to be put in other than me. While there are others that will follow, there are none more deserving of this recognition than Connie.

Connie's two sons are both graduates of Kennedy High School, Jordan in 2005 and BJ in 2007. Jordan participated in golf, baseball, and was a student government officer as a Cougar. He and his wife, Kiyla, live in Hiawatha and are very active in various local restaurants and business. He is a tremendous financial sponsor of Kennedy Activities. BJ participated in baseball, wrestling, and was also a student government officer. He now lives in Cedar Falls.

Caviness' volunteer efforts at Kennedy started in 2000 when she began to work with the Cougar Baseball support group. She worked closely with Coach Hoyer and his seemingly 'endless' list of to-do's for the parent group as well as managing the baseball concession stand. Once her sons were finished with full time baseball at

Kennedy, Connie began to expand her role beyond the Boys of Summer to include all Kennedy Activities. Starting in 2007, she took on the role of managing the Kennedy Booster Club concession stands and worked side by side with Booster Hall of Fame member, Cathy Thompson, to launch the Kennedy Activities Website. She and Cathy worked hard to be at athletic, fine art, and school functions, taking photos of Kennedy students in action during their daily activities. These photos made their way to the Kennedy website along with important information on each activity, including camp flyers, awards and recognitions of various groups, minutes of Booster Club and other support groups, etc. If it was important information about one of our activities programs, Connie and Cathy got it on the website. The photography became a huge success and was soon housed on the Cougar Clips website. Here, photos of all of our students were posted by activity and event for parents and friends to search and purchase for their personal use at a minimal cost to families. Parents were incredibly appreciative of these photos...the time and energy to attend events, take all of the photos, process and edit the photos, and then post them is staggering. Connie gave this time and effort without hesitation. Her organization and innovation led the concession stands to record annual profits year after year and, most importantly, became a gathering place for Kennedy parents to volunteer together and build relationships with one another. On top of the concessions and Cougar Clips duties, Connie also took on the organization of the Booster Club annual tailgate event and revamped the annual Booster Club golf outing, working hand and hand with the golf committee to create a \$20,000 a year fundraiser for our activities programming. She also produced the annual fall and winter programs for several years, creating one of the most inclusive and innovative programs in the MVC and around the state. Kennedyactivities.com is recognized as one of the best Booster Club websites in the area and Connie has worked with several other Booster groups to get them started over the years. Her list of contributions and positive impact could go on and on for many more pages.

States Caviness, "I was so blessed to do something I loved for so many years. I am a sports fanatic and being around our student-athletes years after my own boys had graduated was so exciting for me. I also learned to love the fine arts and until I started attending events to take photos, I never realized the talent that walks these halls every day at Kennedy. I certainly could not have done any of the many projects I took on without the help of Kennedy parents. I am always amazed and grateful for all of the volunteers we have who work so hard to support the Booster Club."

Connie never considered volunteering for the Booster Club as work; it was fun. The friends she made working together for a common goal and the experiences she had working on behalf of the Kennedy students is very special to her.

She now has a few more evenings free to do other things like play golf, attend Hawkeye football games, attend Cubs games and get away in the winter season. She still works with the Jr. Cougar Baseball program, managing their website. She also manages the website for the Iowa Baseball Coaches Association. Mostly, she enjoys her time with family any time she can.

Connie – we thank you for your past, present, and future service to Kennedy High School and Cougar Athletics and we welcome you to the Cougar Booster Hall of Fame.

Ricki Schulte – It is truly an honor to recognize Ricki Schulte for her many years of service to Kennedy High School. She worked in the Cedar Rapids school system as a para-professional and secretary for 30 years, the final twenty years of her career as the secretary in the Kennedy Activities office.

Ricki and her husband, Jim, had two sons graduate from Kennedy High School; Rod in 1993 and Geoff in 1995. While at Kennedy, Rod played football, basketball, and baseball, while Geoff played football and baseball. Both boys consider baseball their favorite sport, playing under both Coach Bill Herkelman and Coach Bret Hoyer. Rod lives in Cedar Rapids with his wife, Brooke, and their children Bradyn, Sydney, and Cal. Geoff lives in Vinton with his wife, Stephanie, and their children Raeleigh, Kale, and Kierran. Both Rod and Geoff will be seen attending Kennedy baseball games and other events every year.

Besides working in the Activities Office, Schulte also worked hard for the Booster Club while her kids were in school. One of her primary early duties was organizing the 'Red Coats' for Kingston Stadium back when all four entrances were manned and every tunnel was covered by volunteers. She was also part of the original baseball parent support group that worked hard fundraising to get the group up and running during Coach Hoyer's first year at Kennedy. One of her other primary support roles during her time at Kennedy was to operate the stat and foul boards at Kennedy basketball games for 22 years. She was an integral part of what most MVC official crews will tell you is the best bench in the league.

Ricki first moved to Kennedy in January of 1992 when she became the attendance secretary, a position she held until the fall of 1995. It was then that Ricki moved over into the Activities Office, becoming only the 2nd secretary in this office in Kennedy history. She remained in this position until her retirement in 2015. To begin to describe the positive impact and integrated role that Ricki has served over the past 20 years is a difficult task. When one starts to ponder the number of coaches, athletes, parents, and supporters she has come in contact with and worked to assist and organize over the years, it becomes staggering. Kennedy has been a school of 1600 to 1800 students, running 23 athletic teams and 4 major fine arts programs, year in and year out for all of those years. Ricki's primary duties were managing rosters, transportation, officials, primary eligibility, and many other responsibilities. However, both former activities director, Mark Stewart, and current activities director, Aaron Stecker, would agree that her primary duty was keeping the office moving forward, managing whatever came our way, day to day, so that our student-athletes had all of the necessary items to participate and thrive in our activities programs. The activities programs of any high school serve as the 'curb appeal' of that school. The daily grind of making sure everything is in order and organized for all of the events sponsored in a high school like Kennedy is demanding. Ricki handled this high energy, high stress role beautifully for each of her 20 years. She will tell you stories of a missed bus here and there, or a game that lacked an official from time to time, but these were few and far between. The busses were always ordered, the officials arrived, the workers and equipment needed to run the events were in place, and the whistle blew, starting each and every event. Our student-athletes got to compete, to challenge themselves, to grow together as teammates, and realize dreams as a direct result of all of these events. Ricki Schulte has been the behind the scenes organizer and manager of each and every one of those events for the past 20 years.

She now has more time to watch her grandkids play their sports and participate in their activities. She still comes to many Kennedy events in her early retirement days – she will always support the Green and Gold. She enjoys college football and basketball and is a big Notre Dame Football fan. She likes to read, do the puzzles on the back of the Gazette every day, and find a casino every once in a while.

Ricki – your service to the Kennedy Boosters and to Kennedy Athletics have been remarkable. We say thank you for all you have done and we welcome you to the Cougar Booster Hall of Fame.

Ken Terukina – Ken was actually selected for the Booster Hall of Fame in 2014, however, his daughter has been an active track & field athlete in college and she has had meets for him to attend the past few years. We are excited to finally get the opportunity to officially welcome Ken to the Hall of Fame tonight.

Ken and his wife, Cathy, have had three children walk the hallways in the Kennedy Green and Gold. Christopher Keneke graduated in 2004, participating in basketball, football, soccer, track & field, and choir. He is now married to his wife, Sally, living in Cedar Rapids. They are both University of Iowa graduates. Michael Kekoa is a member of the class of 2007. He participated in football, track & field, and student government at Kennedy and then attended the University of Iowa. He and his wife, Polly (JFK Class of 2006), live in Phoenix, Arizona. Daughter, Megan Ku'ulei, graduated in 2012, participating in cross country and track & field. She is now attending St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota, running cross country and track & field, and majoring in health promotions and psychology.

Ken's journey with the Booster Club began in the 2000-2001 school year as the parent representative for the boys' basketball team when Jon Fisher introduced him to this important role as a parent. He became more involved over time with the encouragement of Booster Hall of Fame member and former president, Robin Roberts, as well as Hall of Fame AD, Mark Stewart. Ken's role expanded over the years until he took over as president of the Booster Club, a position he served in for seven years.

One of the primary accomplishments of the Booster Club under Ken's leadership was the re-establishment of the mission of the Kennedy Booster Club. The initial challenge was to get the mission sold across all sports programs. The parent support groups were growing and expanding at this time and it became important to break down these "perceived walls" so that all of the parent volunteers could buy into the importance of the overarching Booster Club to benefit all students and all sports. Ken's leadership in this process was instrumental as he worked with many to help clearly define and communicate the role of the Booster Club and the role of the Parent Support Group. His patience and persistence brought unity back between all of the various support groups and created the very successful and unified structure our students and parents benefit from today. Terukina and finance chair Gary Landhauser worked hard to establish a more consistent and transparent budget structure for the Booster Club, looking forward and forecasting budget needs for the upcoming three years. This was crucial in financial and fundraising efforts, to become a group fundraising for the future, rather than trying to cover what has already been spent. Ken's vision and effort in this area led to unprecedented growth in fundraising efforts of the Booster Club, providing more and more to enhance the athletic experience of the Kennedy students.

Ken is most proud of giving back to the Kennedy activities programs, keeping in mind it is for our young adults, daughters, and sons. He believes in the importance of providing examples of what it is like to "pay it forward", to be philanthropic, and to provide guidance for our young people through leading by example.

In his spare time, Ken enjoys playing racquetball, the guitar, gardening, grilling, and family time. As a native Hawaiian, surfing is on the list as well...weather, location, and time permitting. Even Ken will admit it is tough to surf the "Five-In-One" on the Cedar River October through April! He and his wife, Cathy, work hard to be involved in the community in organizations such as United Way, Waypoint, Gems of Hope, and Big Brothers & Big Sisters.

Ken – we thank you for your past, present, and future service to Kennedy High School and Cougar Athletics and we welcome you to the Cougar Booster Hall of Fame.

Coaching Hall of Fame Inductee:

Mark Wilden – Mark Wilden has been an educator at Kennedy High School since 1987, serving as a coach for the Green and Gold for 27 years. He has been in education for 34 years at Kennedy, Waterloo East, and Roosevelt Middle School, teaching special education and driver education.

Mark grew up in Clinton, Iowa, and attended St. Mary's High School where he participated in football, track & field, and baseball. Following high school, he attended Cornell College in Mt. Vernon. He was a three-sport athlete in college, competing in football, track & field, and golf. He earned his Master's degree from the University of Iowa.

His coaching career began across town at Washington, coaching sophomore football in 1981. From 1984 to 1987 he coached football, basketball, softball, track & field, and golf at Linn-Mar, Vinton, and Waterloo East. In 1987 he landed at Kennedy High School, a place he has become very comfortable and has been remarkably successful. While at Kennedy, Mark served as a freshman and sophomore football coach for 11 seasons, an assistant track & field coach, specializing in the throws, for 16 seasons, and served as the head boys' golf coach for 17 seasons.

Coach Wilden's golf teams have enjoyed a level of success and consistency that is second to none in a school of outstanding tradition. In his 17 seasons at the helm, the Kennedy boys' golf team won 11 MVC championships, 11 CRANDIC championships, 9 IHSAA District championships, and made 12 IHSAA State Tournament appearances, finishing in the top 4 nine times and boasting 4 runner up performances. He helped to develop 16 All-State players over his career. He was named the Metro Coach of the Year by his peers 11 times and the MVC Coach of the Year 12 times. Coach Wilden served on the IHSAA golf advisory committee from 2002-2008, overseeing changes in the state qualifying procedures, rule changes, and equipment allowances that have made the game better for high school players over the years. He is a 2016 inductee into the Iowa Golf Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

His greatest coaching endeavor was leading his team through the tough loss of a teammate in Drew Wall. He led the "Just Drew It" campaign which galvanized our school community in support of Drew's family and established an annual scholarship in Drew's name. This award is given to a senior JFK golfer that represents what Drew stood for as a person and a student-athlete.

States Wilden, "I have been very blessed to coach at Kennedy High School. My first coaching experience was with Hall of Famer Al Stiers, coaching sophomore football. Coach Stiers taught me patience.

I was also fortunate to work with another Hall of Famer, Harold Wilkinson, coaching girls' track and field. Coach Wilkinson trusted me with his shot putters and discus throwers. Coach Wilkinson taught me that if you made it fun, the athletes would respond and perform. I had many state qualifiers, and conference place winners. There are many that still rank in the top 10 of all time for Cougar track.

Kennedy has provided many talented golfers that I was fortunate to coach on highly competitive teams. Highlights include many conference, district, CRANDIC, and other tournament titles the JFK golf team earned over the past 16 years...it was great watching them perform and having the privilege of working with great parents.

I hope that my players developed honesty, integrity, and good character as a result of being a member of the JFK golf team as well as pride in their accomplishments as individuals and as a team. I know that they all had a terrific work ethic and will be very successful in their personal lives because of it."

Mark and his wife, Kathy, have two children and three grandchildren. Matthew and his wife, Janda, live in Vinton with their three children, Brynn, Luke, and Reid. He works as a physician's assistant. Jeffrey lives in Gilbert, Arizona, working for GoDaddy.com. Not surprisingly, his favorite hobby is golfing, when Kathy will allow. When they retire, they hope to move to a warmer climate, probably Arizona, where he can golf year around.

Please join me in welcoming Mark Wilden to the Cougar Coaching Hall of Fame.