2027 Indiana Track & Field and Cross Country

Hall of Fame Inductees

Coaches:



Mike Prow – Ben Davis High School & Valparaiso High School & Butler University

Coach Prow coached track and cross country in Indiana for 33 years. Starting at Belzer Junior High, then to Portage Willowcreek Middle School and then to his "Dream Job" at Valparaiso High School for 24 years, retiring in 2014. His Valparaiso cross country teams won the IHSAA State meet in 1997 and 2000 and was runner-up in 2005. Mike's teams advanced to the state meet 21 of 24 years and during those years, he was nominated 20 times for the Indiana coach of the year.

He prepped at Ben Davis High School, setting their mile run record and ran at Butler University.



Eugene Johnson – Gary West Side High School

Coach Eugene Johnson has been a stabilizing teacher, mentor and coach at Gary West Side High School since 1968, over 50 years. He started the football program in 1968, coached basketball and wrestling, and coached the 2014 IHSAA State Boys Championship Track team and was selected as the Indiana Track and Cross-Country Coach Association Coach of the Year.

Gene was the assistant coach for Gary West Side's five other championship teams under Hall of Fame Head Coach Willie Williams in 1974, 1975, 1978. 1979. and 1980.

Females:



Symone (Black) McGee – Fort Wayne Concordia Lutheran High School & Purdue University

Symone was named Indiana Miss Track & Field and the Indiana Gatorade Player of the Year during her senior year at Concordia Lutheran High School. She won three IHSAA State Meet hurdle championships, winning 300-meter hurdles in her junior and senior years and setting the state meet record at 41.36 which still stands, and in her senior year won the 100 hurdles. Her hurdling endeavors produced six High School All-American Awards.

At Purdue University, she earned 10 All-American, 7 Big Ten Championships, and 14 Big Ten Championship medals. Symone was a five-time school record holder, setting a Big Ten record.



Elizabeth Evans – North Knox High School & Rose Hulman Institute of Technology

Evans prepped at North Knox High School in Bicknell, Indiana and participated in three IHSAA State Meets with a 5th place finish in 2009 and a 6th place finish in 2008.

Taking her talents, academic and athletic to Rose Hulman Institute of Technology, she excelled at both. She participated in all 8 of her NCAA Division III National Championships, with 5 championships and 2x runner-up and an all-time NCAA Division national record of 6’1.25”. Evans was also, three-time NCAA Division III Academic All-American.

She participated in eleven USATF National Championships 8 times as a top 10 finisher. In 2015 she was 3rd indoors and 5th in the 2021 Olympic Trials with a P.R. of 6’2.75”.



Kathy Klump – South Dearborn High School & University of Cincinnati

Kathy Klump started her athletic career with great success, lettering in track and soccer each of her four years at South Dearborn. She placed in the IHSAA State Meet as a sophomore 1st 2:11.15, junior 2nd 2:12.58 and senior 1st 2:10.20.

Taking her talents to University of Cincinnati, Kathy again found immediate success setting the school record in the indoor 500m 1:10.08, 800m 2:05.47 4x400 relay 3:44.30 and outdoor 800m 2:05.46 and 4x400 meter relay 3:37.93. In 2012, she won the 500m and 800m and was named Most Outstanding Track Performer at the Big East Indoor Championships.

Males:



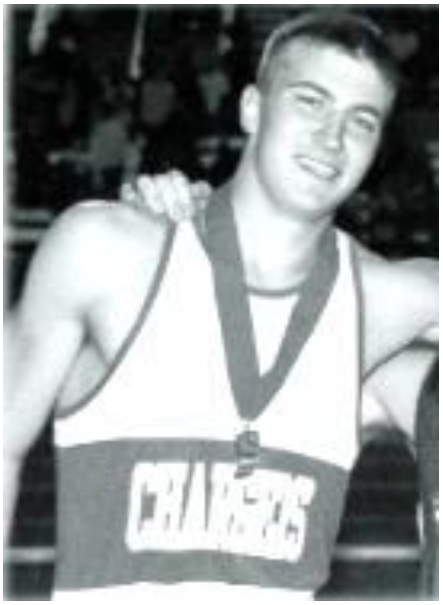
Patrick Feeney – New Palestine High School & Notre Dame University

Patrick prepped at New Palestine placing 2nd in both the 2009 and 2010 IHSAA State Championships with a PR of 47.54.

He took his talents to Notre Dame University and became a 10x NCAA All-American and lowering his 400-meter dash PR to 45.56 and finishing 4th in the 2013 NCAA D1 Indoor Championships.

After graduating from Notre Dame in 2014, he competed professionally and represented the USA at the Penn Relays by anchoring the winning 4x400 meter relay team to 3:01.89 in 2015. In 2016, he was a part of the USA indoor World Championship team that won the gold medal.

Patrick retired after the 2016 Olympic Trials and returned to medical school. He is currently a Sports Medicine Physician in the Indianapolis area.



Paul Gensic – Carroll of Ft. Wayne High School & Air Force Academy

Paul Gensic is a member of one of the four Indiana vaulting families (Johnstons, Volzs, Shippers and Gensics) that had multiple IHSAA State Meet performances. Paul's IHSAA State Meet performances were very unusual as he vaulted against White River Valley High School's Matt Campbell, placing runner-up to him in their sophomore, junior and senior years. As seniors they tied with an IHSAA State Meet Record at 16'9". However, he lost in a jump off. He and Campbell held the record for 6 years.

He took his talents to the Air Force Academy and became a three-time NCAA All-American placing 3rd in 2005 NCAA Indoors, breaking both the indoor and outdoor Academy's record at 18'0.5". Entering the World Class Athletic Program, he assisted the Academy's track and field team with a P.R. of 18'4.5".

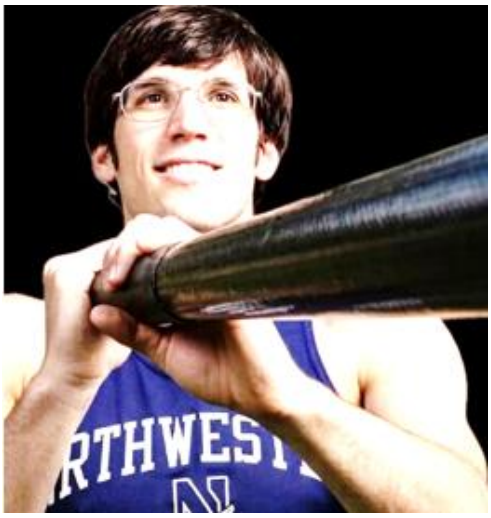


Charlie Koeppen – Carmel High School & Northern Arizona and Indiana Universities

Charlie prepped at Carmel High School running in 5 IHSAA State Championships. In his junior year he won the 3200 meter run by 6 seconds which clinched Carmel High School's first ever IHSAA Track Team Championship. Coming back as a senior, Charlie lost in a tight photo finish by 1/100 of a second.

He took his talents to Northern Arizona University and then to Indiana University. Charlie ran in four NCAA Cross Country Championships. One at Northern Arizona and three at Indiana University.

Pioneers:



Bob Crites – Northwestern High School & Indiana University

Bob had a legendary beginning as a pole vaulter by shattering the 14-year-old age group World Record at 13’10.5” which stood for 30 years. His Northwestern High School record of 15’10.5” stood for 54 years. Bob set national records as a 12-year-old 10’11.5” and at age 15 (14’10”0. He became a high school All-American pole vaulter in 1968 (junior) and 1969 (senior). He continued at Indiana University by setting its outdoor record at 17’2” and indoor record at 16’11” and competed at the 1976 U.S. Olympic Trials with a personal best of 17’10.5”.

He returned to Masters competition in 1998, winning the 2022 National Championship and finishing 2nd at the Pan American Master Games.



James “Jim” Zickmund – Westville High School

James is recognized as one of Westville’s greatest athletes, Indiana’s premier long jumpers and a national-caliber competitor.

As a junior in 1975, Jim placed third at both the sectional and regional, and finished IHSAA State runner-up and earning All-State honors.

In 1976, he swept the Sectionals, Regional and set the IHSAA State Meet record at 24’4” that lasted for 7 years. Shortly afterward, he raised his PR by winning the Golden West Classic with a jump of 24’7.5”.

James entered the electrical trade and became a union electrician.

Relay:



2011 Lawrence Central - 4x800 Meter Relay

Adam Turner, Connor Claflin, Michael Steele,

Matt Dorsey

The Larence Central 2011 4x800 meter relay team broke Indianapolis Bishop Chatard's former record of 7:41.56 set in 2006 and held it for 10 years. Only two other teams have bettered Central's record in the IHSAA State Meet: Columbus North's 7:37.90 set in 2022 and Bloomington North's 7:37.24 set in 2023. Later, at the 2011 New Balance National Meet LC ran an incredible 7:34.45 and Bloomington North ran 7:35.37 in the 2025 New Balance Meet to be the top two all -time marks in Indiana history, with LC holding the all-time 4x800 relay record for 16 years (present).

The relay members were not only great athletes, but fine scholars: Adam Turner attended Notre Dame University, Connor Claflin – Columbia University, Michael Steele – Indiana State University and Matt Dorsey – The US Air Force Academy.

Note: Head Coach Mike Holman and Distance Coach Tyler McCreary coached them.

Olympian:



George Thompson – Covington High School & Indiana University

In the early years of athletics, it was exceedingly difficult for a Black person to become an athlete in the public high school. However, George Thompson was an example or better "The Example."

Growing up in Kentucky, his father brought the family to Covington to live with an aunt. He entered Covington High School, becoming an excellent student and an even better athlete. Records show that in April of 1902 he won the 100, 220, 440, 880, mile and pole vault against Danville, Illinois.

Thompson took his talents to Indiana University, specializing in the 400 (setting a record of 51.8) and mile relay, during his years at IU he led the Hoosiers to a victory at St Louis Western Conference (Big Ten Conference). It is reported that he returned to St. Louis for the 1904 Olympic Games.

Contributor:



Bill Farney – Indianapolis – Official



Bill was a passionate and dedicated USATF, IHSAA, and CYO track & field and cross country official for over 35 years. While Bill had the opportunity to officiate the 1987 Pan Am Games and the 1988 Olympic Trials and at the collegiate level at Indiana University, he absolutely loved officiating CYO and high school meets, especially at Bishop Chatard. For Bill, getting to know the athletes and following their athletic careers brought immense joy.

He continued running after lettering in both track and cross county at Kansas University, graduating in 1949. Bill ran in 37 straight 500 Mini Marathons. He won his age group at the age of 70 and retired at the age of 83. The Hoosier State Relays named Bill Farney their Official of the Year.