



# Montana High School Association

1 South Dakota Avenue ♦ Helena, MT 59601 ♦ (406) 442-6010 ♦ Fax: (406) 442-8250 ♦ www.mhsa.org

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**TO: ALL MONTANA MEDIA OUTLETS**

**FROM: MARK BECKMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**RE: 2013 MHSA ATHLETES' HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

**\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*\***

The Montana High School Association is proud to announce its fourteenth list of inductees to the MHSA Athletes' Hall of Fame.

The class of 2013 has five inductees including Harry Clark, Scott Hanser, Joe Kelly, Angie Thill-McDaniel and Ristine Olson.

The MHSA Athletes' Hall of Fame consists of two nomination categories: "Modern Era" and "Old Timer." The Old Timer category is for nominees who have graduated at least fifty years prior to the induction year. All of this year's inductees are from the Modern Era category, except Kelly, who is this year's Old Timer inductee.

Clark excelled in cross country, football, basketball and track and field for Stanford and Cascade High Schools. Track and Field was where Clark shined in high school and in college. During his prep career, Clark set all-class records in the intermediate hurdles and also the triple jump, which stood for over 30 years until the 2013 State Track Meet. He also set Class B records in five events while leading his Cascade Badgers to the Class B State Championships in 1983 and 1984. Arguably one of the best track and field athletes of all time in Montana, he earned a total of 20 state medals, 11 of them were gold. In college, Clark became an All American decathlete and was a three-time qualifier for the NCAA Track and Field Championships. He still holds the record in the decathlon at Montana State University with 7633 points. Clark and his family reside in Helena, where he is the Carroll College Track and Field coach.

Hanser graduated from Billings Central Catholic High School in 1984. He was a standout in football, basketball and track and field for the Rams. During his high school career twice he was named a first team all-state selection in football and basketball, where he also lead his team to the first state basketball championship game in school history. In track and field, Hanser dominated for several years winning the discus crown in both 1983 and 1984. In addition to an outstanding athletic career, Hanser was a member of the band and honors choir which earned a rating of I at the State Music Festival and State Ensemble. Hanser attended the University of Wyoming where he lettered all four years for the Cowboys. He resides in Billings with his wife and three boys.

Kelly was an outstanding basketball player for Butte Central in the 40's. He graduated from Butte Central High School in 1945 and might have been the most dominating basketball player in Montana prior to the 1950's. "Jumpin" Joe Kelly scored 1404 points during his career for the Maroons and went on to set many state and school records. Kelly led his Maroons to the Big 16 title his senior year. Following his prep days, Kelly played briefly for Notre Dame before finishing his college career at Montana State University. Kelly, who passed away in 2008, had a very successful career as a professor at St Louis University.

Thill-McDaniel graduated from Belt High School in 1993. She was an outstanding multi-sport student-athlete leading the Huskies to state championships in 1992 in basketball and in track and field in 1993. During her stellar high school career, Thill-McDaniel was named first team all-state in basketball and volleyball in 1992 and 1993 and was a team member of the state champion 400 meter and 1600 meter relay teams in 1993. Her senior year in basketball she was named to the USA Today's All USA Girls Basketball Team, was a Gamen-Hunt All American and was the Montana Girls' Basketball Gatorade Player of the Year. In addition she was the Valedictorian of her Class in 1993. She went on to earn her degree from the University of Utah, where she started for the Utes basketball team. Thill-McDaniel resides in Great Falls with her family and is an elementary teacher in Belt.

Olson played basketball and tennis at Missoula Sentinel High School graduating in 2003. Olson earned four high school letters in basketball, where she was also named a team captain her senior year, in addition to being one of the best tennis players ever in the state of Montana. During her high school tennis career she amassed four state singles titles and was unbeaten during her high school career. In fact, she was 96-0 in singles competition and she only lost one set in her entire high school career, that being in the state championship match her freshman year. Olson was ranked as high as 23<sup>rd</sup> nationally at one point in her high school career. Olson went on to play four years of tennis at the University of Texas, where she had an outstanding career. Olson lives in Austin, TX and continues to share her outstanding talent as a tennis instructor.

The MHSA Executive Board adopted a change in the way inductees are recognized for this prestigious honor. Previously the MHSA Hall of Fame Banquet was held in conjunction with the MHSA Annual Meeting. To allow for more friends and family to attend a function to honor the inductees the Annual Meeting banquet was discontinued. Now, friends and family can organize a recognition function in the inductee's local community at a time and place more convenient for this function to maximize attendance and support for each new inductee. Also, there is a page on the MHSA website ([mhsa.org](http://mhsa.org)) dedicated to all of the inductees.

If you have any questions regarding the MHSA Hall of Fame please contact Brian Michelotti, Assistant Director at the MHSA office.