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# CODE OF ETHICS

## Preamble

One of the distinguishing characteristics of a profession in education may be that its members are cognizant of, and perhaps dedicated to, rendering a service to humanity. As educators who choose to coach football, we must understand that the justification for football is that it provides educational and physical values for those who play the game, and the game essentially belongs to the players who choose to play it. The welfare of the game depends on how coaches live up to the spirit and letter of ethical conduct, and how coaches, as educators, model ethical conduct, and remain mindful of the trust and confidence placed in them by colleagues, players, and the public.

## Purpose

This code of ethics has been developed to protect, promote, and preserve the best interests of the game and the coaching profession. Its primary purpose is to clarify and distinguish ethical and professional practices from those which are detrimental. Its secondary purpose is to emphasize the value of football as an experience that contributes to the overall education of the student-athlete and to stress proper functions in relation to schools, players, and the public.

## Article One – Responsibility to Players

1. Coaches shall be aware of the tremendous influence they have on the education of the student-athlete; therefore, they shall never place the value of winning above the value of instilling the highest ideals of character and integrity.
2. Coaches shall follow or create and enforce a set of training rules for players that reflect the positive values of abstaining from drugs, alcohol, and tobacco.
3. Coaches shall never place the value of winning over the safety and welfare of players.
4. Coaches shall not exert pressure on faculty members to give players special consideration.
5. Coaches shall show respect to all players by treating them with integrity and honesty in both verbal and nonverbal behavior, regardless of their role or contribution to the team.
6. Coaches are responsible for their players' actions on the field and must not permit them to perform with the intent of causing injury to opposing players.
7. Coaches shall not seek unfair advantage by teaching deliberate unsportsmanlike behavior to players; they shall instruct players to play within the written rules and within the spirit of the game at all times.

## Article Two – Professional Behavior

1. Coaches shall exemplify the highest moral character, behavior, and leadership.
2. Coaches shall display modesty in victory and be gracious in defeat.
3. Coaches shall promote ethical relationships among fellow coaches.
4. Prior to, and following contests, coaches for the competing teams should meet and exchange cordial greetings to set the correct tone for the event.

## Article Three – Sportsmanship

1. Coaches shall exhibit, model, and teach good sportsmanship.
2. Coaches shall exert their influence to enhance sportsmanship by spectators, both directly and by working closely with cheerleaders, pep clubs, booster groups, parents, and administrators.

## Article Four – Scouting

It is considered ethical to scout opponents only during games and agreed upon scrimmages, and within the designated rules of the conference or section by-laws. The head coach is responsible for the actions of his scouts.

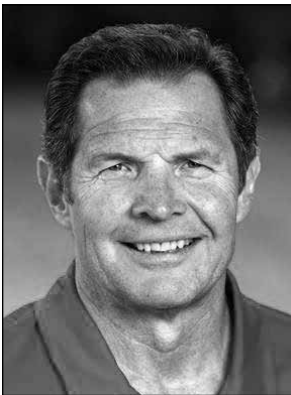
## Article Five – Relationships with Game Officials

Coaches shall respect the integrity and judgment of the game official. Coaches shall not indulge in conduct which would incite players or spectators against officials. Public criticism of officials is considered unethical.



# Tom Mahoney Man of the Year

## Gary Fasching St. John's University



A 1981 SJU graduate, Fasching became the 16th head coach in the 102-year history of Saint John's football following the 2012 season. He replaced John Gagliardi, who announced his retirement following 60 seasons at SJU, after serving 17 seasons as an assistant football coach and recruiting coordinator at SJU. Gary just completed his 12th season as head football coach and is a seven-time (2014, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023) MIAC Coach of the Year. His career record for the Johnnies' is an amazing 172-41 with a 127-23 posting in the MIAC. He was inducted into the Minnesota Football Coaches Association (MFCA) Hall of Fame in April 2022 and St. Cloud Cathedral's Athletic Hall of Fame in February 2022.

A three-year starter for the Johnnies at linebacker (1977-78, 1980-81), Fasching graduated from SJU in 1981 with a degree in social science. He earned his master's degree in sports management from St. Cloud State University in 2000. Prior to joining the Johnnies' coaching staff, Fasching served as the head football coach at St. Cloud Cathedral High School from 1986-95, where he led the Crusaders to the State Class B title in 1992 and 1993. He collected a 57-46 career record over the 10 seasons, the most wins and longest tenure in school history. The 1992 state championship team ended the regular season 4-4 only to win six consecutive games for the title. The momentum turned into a perfect 14-0 record enroute to the 1993 state championship and an eventual 21-game win streak. Fasching has also served as the University's McGlynn Fitness Center director and coached the SJU throwers as an assistant with the track and field team. The Johnnies collected three All-America honors, including one national championship, and 10 conference titles under his guidance.

Coach Fasching and his wife, Cindy, have five children, 12 grandchildren and reside in St. Joseph.

**The MFCA salutes the 2023 Man of the Year – Gary Fasching.**



### Past Tom Mahoney Man of the Year Awards

- 2023 Nolan Desjarlait, Red Lake Schools
- 2022 Darrell "Bozo" Wincek, Gopher State Officials Association
- 2021 Charles Adams, III, Minneapolis North
- 2020 None selected
- 2019 Randy Shaver, KARE-11 Anchor
- 2018 Kevin Merkel, Administrator
- 2017 Jeff Ferguson, Totino Grace High School
- 2016 Gary Sloan, Grand Meadow High School
- 2015 Dwight Lundeen, Becker High School
- 2014 Mike Grant, Eden Prairie High School
- 2013 Dave Nelson, Minnetonka High School
- 2012 Glenn Caruso, University of St. Thomas
- 2011 Steve Johnson, Bethel University
- 2010 Don Swanson (posthumously), Minneapolis Public Schools
- 2009 Bob Nielson, University of MN Duluth  
Kalen DeBoer, University of Sioux Falls, SD
- 2008 Dave Dose, Retired Glencoe-Silver Lake HS
- 2007 Wally Malmstrom, Mahtomedi High School
- 2006 Ron Stolski, Brainerd High School
- 2005 Jack Osberg, Augsburg College
- 2004 John Gagliardi, St. John's University
- 2003 Jim Mader, Albany High School  
Dave Nigon, Totino-Grace High School  
Grady Rostberg, Hutchinson High School
- 2002 Gary Engen, Mounds View High School  
Lyle Anderson, Cook County High School
- 2001 George Thole, Stillwater High School;  
Jim Simser, Fairmont High School
- 2000 Mark Dienhart, University of Minnesota
- 1999 Jesse Ventura, Minnesota Governor;  
Gary Gustafson, North St. Paul High School;  
Buz Rumrill, Glencoe-Silver Lake High School
- 1998 Jim Dotseth, Mpls. Henry High School;  
Ron Gustafson, Grant Park High School;  
Terry McLean, Elk River High School
- 1997 Joe Samuelson, Stillwater High School
- 1996 Dave Skrien, University of Minnesota
- 1995 Cal Stoll, University of Minnesota
- 1994 John Gagliardi, St. John's University
- 1993 Murray Warmath, Minnesota Vikings
- 1992 George Wemeier, University of Minnesota
- 1991 Tom Porter, St. Olaf College
- 1990 Bob Roy, Clinic Founder





## *The Cal Stoll Award*

**Bill Infanger - Osakis High School**

**Dr. Kent Jeffery - Wabasha-Kellogg High School**

**Jon Wessel - Tartan High School**

**Greg Schwaegerl - Montevideo High School**

**Dave Farlinger - Leroy-Ostrander High School**



BILL & AMY INFANGER

**BILL INFANGER - OSAKIS HIGH SCHOOL**, affectionately known by many as Coach I, has always portrayed extraordinary dedication and selflessness, as demonstrated during the 2020 football season when he donated a kidney to his wife, battling a rare form of kidney disease. Despite facing this personal challenge, Coach I remained steadfast in his commitment to his football team. Instead of allowing adversity to overshadow and get in the way of his coaching, he transformed it into a powerful lesson for his players on the significance of sacrifice and standing up for loved ones. Just as he rose to the occasion and went to battle for his wife, he showed his players how to step up and do the same for each other. Coach I's remarkable ability to inspire his athletes is unparalleled, and his resilience serves as a beacon of strength and motivation for all who know him. Through his unwavering leadership, Coach I continues to shape his players on the field and also in life. He does this by instilling compassion, leadership, and perseverance in them.



DR. KENT & KATHY JEFFERY

**DR. KENT JEFFERY - WABASHA-KELLOGG HIGH SCHOOL**, is currently the defensive coordinator for Wabasha-Kellogg Falcons. Last year Kent's wife, Kathy, passed away after a long battle with cancer. Throughout that time, Kent showed impeccable bravery, courage and forbearance. Kent is retired and his whole life was his wife. He went from her bedside to football practice and then back to her side. He never let it slow him down. He remained the dutiful husband throughout his wife's medical journey. He made every football practice and only missed one game. Tim Klingbeil, the Falcons' Head Coach, said the following: "Kent loves our team and the time he gets to spend with us. Kent is a good coach and an even better man."



# The Cal Stoll Award (continued)



RANDY TAYLOR & JON WESSEL

**JON WESSEL - TARTAN HIGH SCHOOL**, has been a high school football coach in Minnesota for 26 seasons. He coached at North St. Paul and Richfield high schools before joining Matt Diediker's staff at Tartan in 2018. Last February one of the assistant coaches at Tartan, Randy Taylor, went into kidney failure. All of the staff went to get tested and Jon was the only one who had O Negative blood which is what Coach Taylor needed. They continued on with the testing and right before the first summer practice in June it was determined they were a match. The transplant took place on January 15th at Abbott Northwestern Hospital. Jon and Coach Taylor and are both doing great! Coach Wessel went back to his teaching job at Tartan just 4 weeks after the surgery. Jon and his wife, Angie, have three sons, Robert, Anthony and Vincent.



GREG SCHWAEGERL

**GREG SCHWAEGERL - MONTEVIDEO HIGH SCHOL**, has been a longtime coach for the Thunder Hawks. He has battled through kidney cancer, brain cancer and most recently has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Throughout this whole time "Schwaegs" has continued to be so positive and supportive with the athletes. Head Coach, Dave Vik, describes him as "a true difference maker in the lives of kids." Greg is retiring from coaching but plans on continuing his attendance at the MFCA Clinic and also contributing at Sunday evening Thunder Hawks football coaches' meetings. Greg graduated from Southwest State in 1977. He and his wife, Robin, have three sons: Nick, Jon and Tom.



DAVE FARLINGER

**DAVE FARLINGER - LEROY-OSTRANDER HIGH SCHOOL**, is a volunteer coach with the Cardinal football program. Dave has been through a difficult last 12 months. In July of 2023, Dave lost his mother, Kathy (68), and two weeks later his wife, Stacy (46) died unexpectedly. Throughout these enormous life-changing tragedies, Dave didn't miss a practice or even a workout. Head Coach, Trevor Carrier, describes Dave "as bleeding Cardinal red and absolutely instrumental in preparing our boys not only for games but more importantly for life." Dave and his two sons, Xander and Tyler, continue to push on and deal with whatever life throws at them.

## The Cal Stoll Award

- 2023 Brad Wendland, Waseca
- 2022 Trevor Solem, Minnewashta
- 2021 Larry Herm, Foley HS and Bethel University
- 2020 None selected
- 2019 None selected
- 2018 None selected
- 2017 Conley "Con" Natwig, Browerville-Eagle Valley
- 2016 Roger French, Brigham Young University and Minnetonka High School
- 2015 Dan O'Brien, Senior Associate Athletic Director, U of MN
- 2014 Jerry Kill, U of MN Gophers
- 2013 Brad Engen, White Bear Lake High School
- 2012 Jeff Moritko, Totino Grace High School
- 2011 Roger Lipelt, Providence Academy
- 2010 Jim Reinhardt, Rushford-Peterson High School
- 2009 Dave Thielman, Richfield High School
- 2008 Joel Maturi, University of Minnesota
- 2007 Richard Robinson, Minneapolis High Schools
- 2006 Bruce Nelson, Burnsville & Eagan High Schools
- 2005 Gary Wilson, Minneapolis Park Board
- 2004 Mark Johnson, Rocori High School
- 2003 Wally Johnson, University of Minnesota
- 2002 Frank White, Richfield Park & Recreation
- 2001 Pat Gallagher, Ironwood High School, Michigan



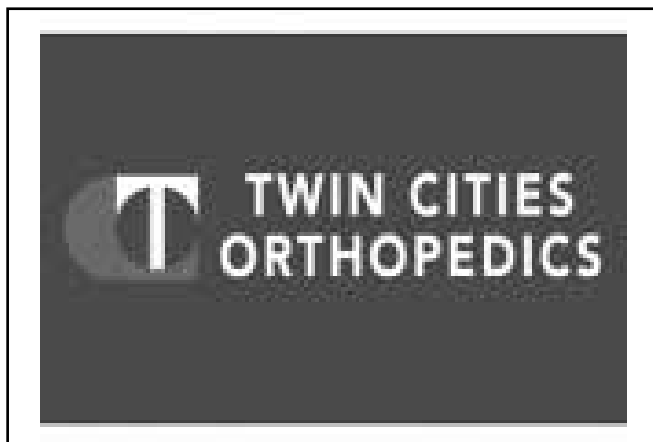


## *Ron Stolski Partnership Award*

# **Adam Buchalski, Director of Sports Medicine Twin Cities Orthopedic**

Adam Buchalski, Director of Sports Medicine will be accepting the award on behalf of TCO.

Twin Cities Orthopedics (TCO) is committed to providing world-class service. TCO's dedicated teams of independent physicians, specialty providers, and care coordinators serve patients in clinic locations, walk-in orthopedic urgent care locations, and numerous other therapy and specialty care settings across Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Regardless of the location, TCO delivers an exceptional patient experience, backed by decades of trusted orthopedic and sports medicine care. TCO has a long history of supporting the communities that trust us with their orthopedic healthcare needs. From charitable giving to supporting local athletic teams and events, TCO's staff is passionate about giving back and staying active in communities. Since 2018, TCO has been a proud sponsor of the MFCA. From high school athletes and associations to professional teams, TCO cares for athletes at every level, and every athlete receives the same level of care.



## *The Ron Stolski Partnership Award*

- 2023 Minnesota Vikings
- 2022 Brian Kramer, Field Turf
- 2021 Mike Kottke, Doubletree by Hilton—Park Place
- 2020 None selected
- 2019 Charlie Peterson, Champion Products
- 2018 Torin Otis, HUDL
- 2017 Tom Horne, Rogers Athletic Gear
- 2016 Dave Marrinan, Wilson Sporting Goods
- 2014 John Reglein, The Graphic Edge



## 2023 MFC A Coaches Awards

### 9 MAN COACH OF THE YEAR

Shawn Klimek, Nevis

### CLASS 1A COACH OF THE YEAR

Chris Moscho, Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa

### CLASS 2A COACH OF THE YEAR

Adam Tri, Eden Valley-Watkins

### CLASS 3A COACH OF THE YEAR

Garrett Mueller, Stewartville

### CLASS 4A COACH OF THE YEAR

Andy Rostberg, Hutchinson

### CLASS 5A COACH OF THE YEAR

Cullen Nelson, Chanhassen

### CLASS 6A COACH OF THE YEAR

Mike Diggins, Centennial

### STATE COACH OF THE YEAR

To be announced at the  
MFC A Awards Banquet

### BUTCH NASH AWARD

Travis Armstrong, Blue Earth Area

Mike DeWulf, Nevis

Tom Fritze, Hastings

Mark Griffin, Eden Prairie

Timothy Hernandez, St. Thomas  
Academy

Matt Kittelson, Blooming Prairie

Adam Langer, Eden Valley-Watkins

Shane Minske, Lakeville South

Chad Olson, Farmington

Chris Otterness, Kasson-Mantorville

Matt Skala, Owatonna

Matthew Smude, Blaine

Adam Spurrell, Maple Grove

Eric Teders, Waseca

Andy Zigan, Monticello

Tim Zupke, Mayer Lutheran

### ASSISTANT COACH OF THE YEAR

Michael Johnson, Edina

### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Roseann Giovanatto-Shaver - The Randy  
Shaver Cancer Research & Community Fund

### JERRY KILL POWER OF INFLUENCE

Beau LaBore, Stillwater Area

### DON SWANSON AWARD

Clay Anderson, Kimball Area

### SERVICE AWARDS

#### 40 Years

Terry Bahlmann, Marshall

#### 35 Years

Neil Tesdahl, Crosby-Ironton

#### 30 Years

Paul Lemke, Glencoe-Silver Lake

Jeff Moore, Verndale

Brian Schoneck, Maple River

#### 200 Wins

Chad Gimbel, Blooming Prairie

Randy Kuechenmeister, Blue Earth Area

Jeff Williams, Owatonna

### 2023 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

#### HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION

- Dan Essler - New London Spicer
- Carl Fruechte - Caledonia
- Mike Kleinschmidt - Albany Area
- Wayne "Ribsy" Petermeier  
- Browerville
- Jeff Williams - Owatonna

#### CITATION DIVISION

- Stuart Groskreutz - Stillwater Gazette  
Sportswriter



The MFCAs congratulates Mike Johnson from Edina as Minnesota's 2024 recipient of the Broyles Award. Coach Johnson will be honored in February, 2025 at a ceremony in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

HIGH SCHOOL  
**BROYLES**  
AWARD

PRESENTED BY  
**FieldTurf**  
A Tarkett Sports Company

*Honoring Top High School Assistant Coaches Since 2018*

AFFILIATE GUIDELINES  
REVISED 6/2021

**BROYLES**  
AWARD

**BROYLES**  
AWARD

THE HIGH SCHOOL BROYLES AWARD

The Broyles Award has 25+ years experience selecting the top collegiate assistant coaches. To apply this experience to the high school level, we are creating a network of state football associations that will work together to select and recognize top assistant coaches in every state.

WILSON MATTHEWS: A MODEL ASSISTANT

When making the decision which of his former assistants would be featured in bronze beside him on the Broyles Award trophy, Frank Broyles had some notable options. Barry Switzer, Joe Gibbs, Jimmy Johnson, Johnny Majors, Haden Fry, Raymond Berry, and Jackie Sherrill were just a few of the 25 former Broyles' assistants that later became head coaches.

Without hesitation, however, Broyles' choice was Wilson Matthews. Matthews, Broyles' first assistant coach hire at Arkansas, was a legend in Arkansas high school football leading the Central Tigers to 10 state titles in 11 years, a 111-14-3 record including a 33-game winning streak and fresh off the mythical national high school championship in 1957.

He remained at Arkansas until 1968, helping the Hogs capture a National Championship in 1964 and make 8 bowl game appearances. Regarded by his high school and collegiate players as fierce-yet-loved, and by Coach Broyles as his most loyal and trusted assistant, Matthews was Broyles' role-model for the perfect assistant coach.

Today, the Broyles Award continues to celebrate the vital relationship between Head and Assistant Coaches; a lineage traced back over sixty years of excellence in coaching. It also celebrates Broyles' legacy off the field by supporting the Broyles Foundation, which provides game plans for Alzheimer's caregivers in crisis.

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HIGH SCHOOL  
**BROYLES**  
AWARD

OUR MISSION

The High School Broyles Award honors a class of coaches that has never before been celebrated at the national level. With this program, nominated coaches will be provided the same level of support and accolade as their collegiate peers.

Nominated coaches will be given a unique opportunity to network and advance their careers in association with the National High School Football Coaches' Alliance. As an associate, your program will gain a visible and vital link that connects these coaches and their high school programs to new opportunities across the country.

SELECTION

- Winners must be selected through a process determined by each state's responsible athletics association. Our organization is not responsible for the selection of assistant coaches.
- For states that currently recognize an assistant coach of the year for each coaching classification, an overall winner will need to be selected as the High School Broyles Award winner.
- Winners are announced in the calendar year following the season in which their performance was recognized.
  - For example, the winner of the 2021 season will be recognized during the following Spring (2022).
- If no assistant coach of the year is currently recognized in your state, but there is a head coach of the year award, we encourage you to add an assistant coach of the year component to that existing selection framework.

CRITERIA

- As an 'on-the-field' performance award, this award is inherently subjective. Affiliates are responsible for following fair and impartial judgment procedures when selecting coaches.
- Criteria for selecting the winner can be the performance of the coach's team unit, their individual players, and/or overall team success. Examples include a state or district championship, playoff run, or a significant statistical improvement from the previous season without the benefit of a title or playoff run.
- The award is not a lifetime achievement, but rather a reflection of the assistant's most recent season performance. In the case of a tie or close vote, however, a coach's body of work can be considered a tie-breaker.
- The High School Broyles Award reserves the right to reject nominations if they do not meet the standards of personal and performance excellence required by our organization.

HIGH SCHOOL  
**BROYLES**  
AWARD

AFFILIATE BENEFITS

- Access to the High School Broyles Award Affiliate communication network.
- National recognition for programs/coaches that receive the High School Broyles Award.

BENEFITS FOR COACHES

- Customized winner plaque 5 lapel pin plus a Broyles Award gift bag.
- Winner announced through Broyles Award social media & featured on the BroylesAward.com website.

SCHEDULING

- Nominee submissions must be submitted on a timely basis.
- Upcoming dates and annual schedules are available on our website.

DIRECTORIES

Our website contains the following directories:

- Information about past winners (starting in 2018) from each state.
- Affiliate members and contact information (updated annually).

BECOME AN AFFILIATE

Affiliate sign-up is free, and there is no obligation to participate.

Click button above, or visit [www.hsbroylesaward.com](http://www.hsbroylesaward.com) for more information.

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## State Winners Announced for Inaugural NFF National High School Academic Excellence Award



IRVING, Texas (Jan. 31, 2024) - The National Football Foundation (NFF) & College Hall of Fame today announced the 56 state winners of the 2023-24 NFF National High School Academic Excellence Awards, Presented by the Rose Bowl Legacy Foundation, which go to the top academic football teams from each level of play within each state. The initiative is designed to inspire and foster a culture of academic excellence in high school football teams throughout the nation.

The 56 teams will now vie as finalists for the NFF Hatchell Cup, Presented by “The Original” Bob's Steak & Chop House. The Hatchell Cup winner will be announced February 6, recognizing the top individual high school football team in the nation for excellence in the classroom, on the field and in the community. The Hatchell Cup, named in honor of NFF President & CEO Steve Hatchell, comes with a \$10,000 donation.

Eligibility requirements for the awards include: a minimum cumulative team GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; superior academic application and performance; and a successful football season. The individual state high school coaches associations select their respective state's winners from a pool of nominees submitted by each school's head coach, netting a total of 56 state winners from the different divisions of play from the participating states this year. A selection committee, assembled and led by the NFF, will be responsible for choosing one school as the recipient of the Hatchell Cup as the best team in the nation.

“Academic and athletic success go hand-in-hand,” said NFF Chairman Archie Manning. “We are proud to recognize these 56 outstanding high school football teams as the top academic performers in their states. These schools, coaches, players and their families should all be incredibly pleased with their accomplishments, and we look forward to announcing the overall winner of the Hatchell Cup on February 6. We hope by inspiring teams to compete in the classroom with the same competitive spirit that it takes to win on the field, we will better prepare high school football players for success later in life.”

“The Minnesota Football Coaches Association is privileged and proud to participate in this visionary initiative to recognize and honor academic excellence by our student-athletes and look forward to years of growth in and for this forward-thinking program. We thank the leaders of high school football in our nation for implementing this important effort. The NFF National High School Academic Award is yet another way to salute the intrinsic lessons and values of our fraternal huddle” stated Ron Stolski, MFCA Executive Director.

### **NFF National High School Academic Excellence Award 2023-2024 State Winners:**

*9-Man - Stephen-Argyle Central High School - Overall State Champion*

1A - Parkers Prairie High School

2A - Barnesville High School

3A - Concordia Academy

4A - Orono High School

5A - Owatonna High School & Waconia High School (*Tie*)

6A - Woodbury High School

# TACKLE CANCER



After one of the biggest games in Simley High School football history, a victory on Nov. 17 that moved the Spartans into the Prep Bowl state championship game this week, head coach Chris Mensen was standing in a quiet hallway inside U.S. Bank Stadium and talking about Kim Madigan.

Kim was 59 years old when she died on January 20, 2020. Her husband Mark is an assistant football coach at Simley and Kim was an administrative assistant in the athletic department at the school in Inver Grove Heights. Her memorial service was held in the school gymnasium.

As Mensen talked about Kim, he touched a rubber wristband he wears in her memory. The Spartans had just defeated Rocori 17-16 in the Class 4A state semifinals; they will face Hutchinson in the Prep Bowl on Friday afternoon. The coach's thoughts were focused on the team and the day, but when asked if his school raises money in support of Tackle Cancer, his focus shifted.

Kim Madigan died after a battle with cancer.

"I still wear her bracelet because she means the world to this program and this community,"

Mensen said. Like at many schools across Minnesota, Simley's Tackle Cancer activities include T-shirt sales and free-will donations during one designated week and home game each fall.

"And we try to honor someone, a part of the Simley family, who's suffering from cancer," he said.

Tackle Cancer began 10 years ago, and by the time all the participating high schools and colleges in Minnesota send in the funds they have collected this fall, the 2022 total will exceed \$400,000. In the decade that Tackle Cancer has existed, nearly \$3 million has been raised to fight cancer.

There may be no other charitable effort like Tackle Cancer in the country. The Minnesota Football Coaches Association (MFCA) leads the efforts, which provide funding for research, prevention, treatment and other programs relating to the needs of the cancer community.

THE BEGINNING WAS SIMPLE, and no one could have imagined 10 years ago what was to come. It started with two friends: a television veteran and a football coaching veteran.

Randy Shaver, news anchor at KARE TV, is a cancer survivor. He and his wife Roseanne started the Randy Shaver Cancer Research & Community Fund after his experience with the disease. Dave Nelson, now retired as a football coach, was the head coach at Minnetonka High School when he was treated for prostate cancer in 2011. Shaver invited Nelson to one of his fund's charity events.

"I asked Dave to just come see it, as a friend," Shaver said. "I told him, 'Come see what we do, meet some people, have some fun.' He took that moment and turned it into something that was totally unexpected on my part. It was his initiative to try and do something with the MFCA to benefit something we all deal with in one way or another."

Nelson and his wife Maureen found the evening to be life-changing, hearing inspirational stories of what people were doing to support Shaver's foundation. As the Nelsons drove home, Dave began pondering ways to help. "I was thinking, there's got to be something we can do," he said.

At a construction project near Minnetonka High School, rocks needed to be removed from the site. The Skippers football team pitched in, spending three days shoveling rocks into wheelbarrows, with Shaver stopping by to show support and take photos with the kids. They dubbed their effort "Rock Cancer" and were paid several thousand dollars, which they donated to Shaver's cancer fund.

Nelson met with fellow officers from the Minnesota Football Coaches Association, asking if such efforts might be something that other teams would be interested in. That's when the partnership between Shaver's foundation and the MFCA began rolling.

"I asked our executive committee, 'How about if a bunch of teams did this?'" Nelson said. "We got Randy's blessing and everybody thought it was great."

The coaches committee met with Randy and Roseanne (she dubbed the project Tackle Cancer) and they decided it would be fantastic if they could raise \$5,000 during the 2012 football season. The total? \$120,000.

Shaver said, "My first concern was I didn't want to inconvenience coaches. I didn't want them to feel obligated. Dave said, 'They're all going to be on board.' They took it and ran with it."

**THEY'VE BEEN RUNNING FASTER AND FARTHER** each year as Tackle Cancer efforts have spread around the state. This year, 182 high schools and 18 colleges, including the University of Minnesota, have taken part. The small community of Randolph, which has a well-deserved reputation for charitable giving, led the way by raising \$49,000 this fall in their Tackle Cancer efforts.

Stillwater High School raised \$26,000 and St. Thomas Academy provided \$25,000 to Shaver's fund.

The St. Thomas Academy head football coach is Dan O'Brien, whose son Casey is a well-known cancer survivor. Casey, who played football at Cretin-Derham Hall and was a holder for kicks at the University of Minnesota, was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a bone cancer, at age 13 and has had multiple cancer fights since. Casey has undergone 25 surgical procedures and has spent 300 nights in hospitals.

"Cancer has touched everybody in our community," Dan O'Brien said. "Everybody knows somebody and you think about it every single day. The coaching community is a tight-knit deal. People go through stuff they shouldn't have to go through. It rips your guts out and you want to support them."

During this year's Tackle Cancer events at St. Thomas Academy, the Cadets had donation buckets at the gates, also selling wristbands, headbands and other items. Students at the school wear uniforms, but if they bought a Tackle Cancer shirt they could wear that instead of the uniform.

"For us it's a week-long deal, not just the day of the game," Dan O'Brien said. "We start preparing for it in the summer. Our community really rallies around it."

After 10 years, students and families at high schools all over Minnesota are familiar with Tackle Cancer efforts. The focus is on football games in the fall, but money also is raised for Tackle Cancer during basketball games, wrestling meets and other sports.

The funds are distributed mainly to support cancer research in Minnesota; the Shaver fund puts nearly 95 cents of every dollar into that support. The organization is lean, with Roseanne Shaver serving as executive director and Heather Austin as assistant executive director. Much of the work is done by volunteers.

"We don't pay (medical) salaries, we don't pay for researchers or their assistants. We pay for the things they need to do their research," Randy Shaver said of where the money goes. "It allows us to really dig down and support incredible research projects with the Mayo Clinic, University of Minnesota, University of Minnesota Duluth, all those great places."

**THIS WAS A GRAND FOOTBALL SEASON** at Wheaton/Herman-Norcross, with the Warriors winning 12 consecutive games before losing to Mountain Iron-Buhl in the Nine-Man state semifinals.

"Everyone's impacted by cancer nowadays somewhere. We've had parents have it, we've had grandmas and grandpas, it's just everywhere," said Warriors coach James Paul.

"Tackle Cancer is a way for us to rally for a cause, and I think the kids enjoy it. We have great support with it, too. We order T-shirts and this year I ordered pink team socks, so now we can keep those and use those every year."

The Warriors also hold an auction with the winners taking possession of the seniors' jerseys, among other fundraisers.

At Becker, everyone knows Dwight Lundeen has completed 53 seasons as the only head football coach in school history. Some also know that his wife Pam is a breast cancer survivor, his sister Marlene has been declared cancer-free and his brother Dave is currently receiving cancer treatment. Cancer indeed touches everyone.

During Becker's 2021 efforts, the players wore pink jerseys during warmups before their designated Tackle Cancer game, with the jerseys being given to players' family members and friends who have been impacted by cancer. This fall, the Bulldogs were given pink footballs, to be gifted to the person of their choosing. Dwight gave his pink football to his brother Dave.

Barnesville and Hawley usually come together on a Tackle Cancer game when they meet in a passionate rivalry with large crowds. If it's during Homecoming week at Barnesville, girls are not allowed to wear the boys' jerseys; instead, a silent auction allows girls to get in bidding wars for the jersey they want to wear. The jersey auction alone raised \$1,000 last year.

"In our community, we lost a teacher this past summer to cancer and I think everybody knows somebody that's affected by it," said Barnesville coach Bryan Strand, whose team will meet Chatfield in the Class 1A Prep Bowl game on Friday.

Simley's Tackle Cancer efforts extend beyond the dollars raised. The football team talks about how cancer impacts their community.

"We speak that week about the importance of thinking about family members and everyone who has come into combat with this awful disease," Mensen said. "I don't think there's a person out there who hasn't been touched by it. I know I have personally, good friends of mine are currently battling cancer. Everything we can do to fight this horrible disease, I'm in and the kids are in and we want to help serve. That's a great thing."

Ron Stolski, who retired at Brainerd following the 2019 season after 58 years as a football coach, is executive director of the Minnesota Football Coaches Association. He and other coaches among MFCA leadership have been the driving force behind Tackle Cancer, but Stolski doesn't hesitate in calling Nelson "The wheelhorse behind this. He has driven it, formed a committee of over a dozen reps responsible for certain sections of the state and did all this great work."

Stolski, who attends the American Football Coaches Association convention each year, said he talks about Tackle Cancer with people from other states and basically sees blank stares from coaches who are so wrapped up in the game that they have a difficult time thinking of devoting so much time and effort to off-the-field charitable efforts.

That's clearly not the story in Minnesota. Tackle Cancer is an incredible tale of selflessness and commitment, with football coaches and football players, joined by their communities, going above and beyond to help conquer cancer.

"It's been so cool to watch it grow," Nelson said. "The coaches of Minnesota have been so awesome and so many good football programs are behind it. This year our goal was \$400,000, which would be a record, and we're going to breeze past that."

What does the future hold for Tackle Cancer?

"I think the sky's the limit, I really do," said Nelson. "Next year our goal might be \$500,000, what the heck? To see what these schools do, it's unbelievable."

Shaver smiles when he thinks back to how Tackle Cancer started, how far it's come and what could happen in the years ahead.

"It's amazing," he said. "It started with one guy who took it to the MFCA, who all said, 'Yes, let's do this thing.' I just kind of stand back in amazement and watch what they've done."

--For more information on the Randy Shaver Cancer Research & Community Fund, click here: <https://randyshavercancerfund.org/>

--MSHSL media specialist John Millea has been the leading voice of Minnesota high school activities for decades. Follow him on Twitter @MSHSLJohn and listen to "Preps Today with John Millea" wherever you get podcasts. Contact John at [jmillea@mshsl.org](mailto:jmillea@mshsl.org)

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## 2024 MFCA RECRUITING DAY: FAIR & COMBINE SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2024

The MFCA Recruiting Fair and Combine will be held at the TCO Gardens in Vadnais Heights.

**MAY 11, 2024 at TCO Gardens in Vadnais Heights  
1490 COUNTY ROAD E EAST, VADNAIS HEIGHTS 55110**

### **The schedule will be as follows:**

10:00am to noon: **Recruiting Fair.** (College coaches meet with HS coaches; each will have a table)  
7:30am to 11:30am: **Combine for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders) (Provided by Bill Welle, Training Haus)**  
Noon to 5:00pm: **Combine for 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> graders (Provided by Bill Welle, Training Haus)**

### **IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING THE RECRUITING FAIR, EMAIL JEFF FERGUSON**

**([Jeffreyferguson94@gmail.com](mailto:Jeffreyferguson94@gmail.com)) BY FRIDAY, APRIL 11th SO WE CAN ACCOMMODATE YOU.** High school coaches will have a table and chair where they can meet with college coaches to discuss their prospects. Wireless Internet will be available so feel free to bring a laptop to review your video. It is also a good idea to bring academic information about your prospects because we cannot include it in the information we distribute.

The MFCA Recruiting Fair has been very well received. Each year over 40 colleges from the upper-Midwest and over 40 Minnesota high school coaches attend. We provide recruiting information from nearly 150 high schools, including information for nearly 800 prospects, to colleges. **There is no cost for high school coaches to participate.**

Attending the fair is a great way to promote your players, especially "under the radar" D2/D3 players. College coaches appreciate the ability to speak to so many high school coaches in one setting instead of driving to each school.

***Athletes who wish to participate in the combine should use this LINK  
(COST OF \$99 includes a T shirt***

***For More Information – [TrainingHaus.com/HS-Combine-2024](http://TrainingHaus.com/HS-Combine-2024)***

Sincerely,  
Jeff Ferguson, MFCA Recruiting Day Chair  
612-877-0479  
[jeffreyferguson94@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreyferguson94@gmail.com).

### **COLLEGE COACHES PLEASE NOTE:**

*Pre-register by making a \$250 payment via PayPal at [www.mnfootballcoaches.com/recruit](http://www.mnfootballcoaches.com/recruit) • Or, on the day of the event at the check-in table by providing a \$300 check (payable to MFCA) We hope you take time to be involved with these events/processes, so the recruiting process is as efficient and effective as possible for your staff, college prospects and high school coaches.*





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Wednesday, June 26 (2:00-5:00 PM)

### **2 Day Quarterback Camps - \$269 (Grades 7-12)**

Two Camps will be offered:

Camp #1 - Wednesday, June 12 (9:00 AM-1:00 PM) and Thursday, June 13 (8:00 AM-Noon)

Camp #2 - Thursday, June 27 (9:00 AM-1:00 PM) and Friday, June 28 (8:00 AM-Noon)

### **3 Day Quarterback & Receiver Advanced Camp - \$459 (Grades 10-12)**

\*With discounts for multiple teammates from same school.

Sunday, July 21 (2:00-5:00 PM)

Monday, July 22 (9:00 AM-4:00 PM)

Tuesday, July 23 (9:00 AM-Noon)

Go to [www.jefftrickeyqbcamps.com](http://www.jefftrickeyqbcamps.com) for more information on camp discounts and registration. As Coach Trickey always says – “Make it a GREAT DAY!”

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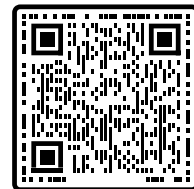
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## Thursday, April 4— Afternoon Clinic Speakers

### Pete Haugen – Gustavus Adolphus

A native of Minneapolis and a 1991 graduate of Bethel University, Coach Haugen has just completed his 15th season leading the Gusties. Prior to Gustavus, Haugen was the head football coach at Washburn High School, winning 11 league championships and posting an 111-44 record. While at Washburn, he increased player participation from 35 athletes his first year to 110 players in his final year with the Millers. At Bethel, Haugen excelled in football, hockey and baseball – selected to the all-conference team in football and being awarded the MVP in his senior season of hockey.



PETE HAUGEN

### Grady Rowe – Bellville HS, TX

Coach Rowe, a graduate of Sam Houston State University, has been the head football coach/athletic director at Bellville HS in Texas since the 2010 season. During that span he has notched a 130-37 record and led the Brahmas this past season to their first state tournament appearance in 46 years. He is the winningest coach in Bellville HS history and been the district champion or runner-up for all 13 seasons. His overall coaching record stands at 181-66. A past member of the Texas HS Coaches Association Board of Directors, Grady and his wife, Jennifer have two children, Stone and Tatum.



GRADY ROWE

### Chase Vogler – Minnesota - Duluth

In the fall of 2019, Coach Vogler returned to his alma mater (UMD) to take over as the Bulldogs' offensive coordinator. He had previously spent five seasons at UW-Stout – the last 3 as offensive coordinator. During his playing career with the Dogs, Vogler quarterbacked UMD to a combined 46-6 record, four NSIC titles, four NCAA Division II playoff appearances and the 2010 national championship. He was All-NSIC in 3 of his 4 seasons. This past fall UMD posted a 9-2 record and averaged over 40 points per game under Vogler's guidance. Chase and his wife, Kelli, have three children: Zurich, Scotlyn and Lawson.



CHASE VOGLER

### Trey Dill – Minnesota - Duluth

Coach Dill recently completed his 13th season with the Bulldogs and his 5th as defensive coordinator. In 2023, UMD led the NSIC Conference for the 5th straight season in total defense, allowing 296.8 YPG. Minnesota-Duluth also paced the NSIC with 35 sacks in their 11 games this past fall. Prior to Duluth, Dill coached at his alma mater, St. Cloud State, where he coached the Huskies linebackers. He has a Master's degree from St. Cloud State in Sports Administration.



TREY DILL

### Matt Tschetter – Wartburg College

Coach Tschetter is in his sixth season on Wartburg's staff coaching linebackers. For the last three seasons he's also served as the Knight's defensive coordinator. In the last two seasons, the Knights have compiled a 26-2 record while winning two American Rivers Conference Championships. In both seasons they reached the NCAA D3 Semi-Finals. In 2022 and 2023, they were the top rushing defense in all NCAA divisions surrendering an average of only 45.1 YPG in 2022 and 49.1 YPG in 2023. Prior to Wartburg, Matt had a three-year stint at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland, VA. His coaching career started at Wisconsin-Platteville where he served two seasons as a graduate assistant.



MATT TSCHETTER

### Terry Bahlmann – Marshall HS

Terry Bahlmann, a 2023 selection to the MFCA Hall of Fame, will be starting his 41st season as a head football coach in 2024. Coach Bahlmann has been the head football coach of the Marshall Tigers for the past 20 seasons. He has a career record of 276-110. His 276 career victories currently rank him 4th among Minnesota Active Football Coaches in wins. In his twenty seasons in Marshall, his teams have compiled a 152-48 record. His Marshall teams have qualified for the State Tournament 4 times. He has had 21 conference/district championship teams, winning a state championship and state runner up in Iowa. He has been named conference/district Coach of the Year 20 times. He is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa. Coach Bahlmann is past president of the Minnesota Football Coaches Association during the 2017-2018 year.



TERRY BAHLMANN

### Kirk Ferentz – University of Iowa

Coach Ferentz has led the Hawkeyes for 25 seasons with a record of 196-119. He is the winningest coach in Iowa football history and ranks third all-time in Big Ten conference wins (122) and overall wins (196). The Hawkeyes have played in 21 bowl games during his 25 seasons. He and his wife, Mary, have been married for 44 years and have five children and 11 grandchildren. They are enthusiastic supporters of the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital. Early in coaching career he joined Hayden Fry's Iowa staff as the offensive line coach in 1981, which became Iowa's first winning season in 19 years! That team went on to capture the Big Ten title and earned a berth in the Rose Bowl – both which had not occurred in 20 years.



KIRK FERENTZ

### Grady Guess – Wakula HS, FL

A twenty year veteran of high school coaching in Florida, Coach Guess teaches Social Studies and is the Defensive Coordinator and Assistant Head Coach at Wakulla High School in Crawfordville, Florida. He's coached in 38 playoff games throughout his career. Under Coach Guess, the War Eagles have been state runners up twice, they've won three regional championships and 9 district championships.



GRADY GUESS

## Thursday, April 4— Evening Clinic Speakers

### Jason Jones – Westlake HS, TX

Coach Jason Jones just completed his 16th year of coaching and 12th year at Westlake High School. Prior to Westlake, Coach Jones was the Defensive Coordinator at Magnolia HS. He played football at Hardin-Simmons University four years before earning a degree in Behavioral Science/History. Jones was named the defensive coordinator for Westlake Athletics in January 2022. Coach Jones served as the Special Teams Coordinator for Westlake Football and cornerbacks as they secured three State Championships titles in 2019, 2020 and 2021. He and his wife Holly have a two-year-old daughter named Josey. Jones also serves as Strength and Conditioning Coordinator for Westlake High School and trains the athletes in all UIL sports.



JASON JONES

### Tom Journell – Carleton College

In four seasons as the head coach at Carleton, Journal has led the Knights to a 28-22 ledger, including 3 consecutive 7-win seasons, the best 3 year record in the 140 years of Carleton football. In the prior four seasons to his arrival, Carleton had gone 4-36. Prior to his arrival in Northfield, Tom had head coaching stints at Elmhurst College and UW-Stevens Point. Coach Journal is a graduate of Wittenberg University (Ohio) and spent two seasons as a GA at Miami University (Ohio). He was well known in the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference as a defensive innovator and in 2008 was honored as the Wisconsin Football Coaches Association's coach-of-the-year.



TOM JOURNELL

### Charles Adams – Minneapolis North HS

In 13 seasons as the head football coach at Minneapolis North, Coach Adams has built a culture of success and comradery with the Polars that led them to a 2016 Prep Bowl Title – the first Minneapolis public school to win a state championship since 1976. Adams is the 2021 Positive Coaching Alliance's Coach of the Year – an award given annually to a coach who strives to win while also pursuing the more important goal of teaching life lessons through sports. A twenty year veteran of the Minneapolis Police Department, Charles is currently the Director of Security for the Minnesota Twins.



CHARLES ADAMS

### Blake Dunham – Westlake HS, TX

A graduate of the University of North Texas, Coach Dunham has been the Special Teams Coordinator and Defensive Line Coach at Austin Westlake for 3 years. The last three seasons the Chaps are a combined 44-2 with dominate special teams play – breaking 16 special teams records and winning a state title in 2023. In the past four seasons, Coach Dunham's teams have blocked 30 punts and scored 22 touchdowns! He is a special education teacher and he and his wife, Maddy, have three children: Beckett, Birdie and Hayes.



BLAKE DUNHAM

### Tom Holcomb – Bellville HS, TX

Coach Holcomb is a graduate of Texas A&M University, graduating with a bachelors of science degree in Kinesiology. His primary coaching/teaching positions have been at Sweeny ISD in Sweeny, Texas, where he spend 13 seasons – the last five as special teams and line coach. Currently Tom is the offensive coordinator at Bellville High School where in the past four seasons his offense has broken more than 15 school records, including the three highest scoring averages in school history! Last fall the Brahmas led Texas Class AAAA in scoring average with 55 points per game. Tom and his wife, Stacy, have three adult children – Keeton, Harrison and Jolie.



TOM HOLCOMB

### Grant Norland – Quarterback Institute

Dr. Grant Norland, DPT, CSCS, founder of The Quarterback Institute, is a Doctor of Physical Therapy and Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist. He specializes in evaluating and developing quarterbacks, including technical and performance training, 3-D motion analysis, and corrective exercise. Grant played quarterback at the college level at Truman State University (MO) and has coached and instructed quarterbacks for the last 16 years. His background, knowledge of biomechanics, and experience as both a player and a coach uniquely qualify him as a quarterback instructor. Grant provides quarterback skill and mechanical development, while implementing physical training to address the unique physical requirements of quarterbacks.



GRANT NORLAND

## Friday, April 5—Morning Clinic Speakers

### Greg Harbaugh Jr. – Univ. of Minnesota

A 16 year veteran of college coaching, Greg just completed his 5th season on the Gopher staff and his 2nd as co-offensive coordinator. He is in his third stint with the Gophers, as he previously served in a quality control role twice on Coach Fleck's Minnesota staff (2017 and 2019). Harbaugh is a graduate of Averett University (VA), where he played quarterback and wide receiver for the Cougars. Prior to Minnesota, Greg coached at Western Michigan, Chattanooga, Marietta College and Methodist University. He and his wife, Emily, have one son, Rory, and one daughter, Lucy.



GREG HARBAUGH JR.

### Brian Callahan – Univ. of Minnesota

Brian Callahan joined the University of Minnesota staff in January 2017. He coached the tight ends during the 2017 season, but was named Offensive Line Coach prior to spring practice in 2018. In March 2019, he added the title Run Game Coordinator to his resume. Prior to coaching tight ends at Minnesota, Callahan had coached offensive line since 2001. Callahan came to Minnesota from Western Michigan, where he coached the offensive line from 2013-17. Callahan and his wife Jennifer have three children, Lauren, Grace and Kevin.



BRIAN CALLAHAN

## Friday, April 5— Morning Clinic Speakers

### **Nic McKissic-Luke – Univ. of Minnesota**

Nic McKissic-Luke was named running backs coach at the University of Minnesota in January 2023. Prior to Minnesota, McKissic-Luke spent three seasons at Northern Illinois, first as running backs / fullbacks coach in 2020, adding run game coordinator and co-special teams coordinator titles in 2021 and then being run game coordinator, running backs coach and the sole special teams coordinator in 2022. A graduate of Alabama A&M, McKissic-Luke finished second in career rushing yards with more than 2,000 yards in three seasons (2004-06) for the Bulldogs. During his senior year, he helped Alabama A&M to the 2006 Southwestern Athletic Conference crown. McKissic-Luke is engaged to Emily Wollet and has a son Nicolas and daughters Georgia and Rylenn.



NIC MCKISSIC-LUKE

### **Danny Collins – Univ. of Minnesota**

A 2014 graduate of Western Michigan University, Collins began his coaching career as a defensive graduate assistant for his alma mater. He came to Minnesota in 2017 and worked in Quality Control and later was promoted in 2022 to coaching safeties for the Gophers. Last season he was named as the Defensive Pass Game Coordinator. He earned his master's degree in sports management in 2016 from Western Michigan.



DANNY COLLINS

### **Nick Monroe – Univ. of Minnesota**

A native of Mahtomedi, Minn., and a graduate of St Cloud State, Monroe is known for his elite recruiting ability. He joined the University of Minnesota football staff in January 2023 as cornerbacks coach and co-defensive coordinator. He has had coaching stops at Allegheny College, Colgate, Bowling Green and Syracuse. Monroe was a four-year letterwinner at cornerback for St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. He earned his undergraduate degree in marketing from the school in 2001. Nick and his wife, Nicole, have a son, Wyatt.



NICK MONROE

### **John Schaeckel – Univ. of Minnesota**

Coach Schaeckel just completed his 14th season on the Minnesota staff and currently serves as the Director of Recruiting / Minnesota High School Liaison. He assisted player personnel efforts during his first year on staff and then served as an assistant coordinator of recruiting operations for six seasons before being promoted to recruiting coordinator after the 2017 season. Schaeckel grew up in St. Paul, Minn., and attended Concordia Academy in Roseville before moving to Texas and finishing high school outside of the Houston area at Concordia Lutheran. Schaeckel and his wife Sarah were married in 2014. They have three sons, Nolan, Liam and Benjamin.



JOHN SCHAECKEL

### **Bob Ligashesky – Univ. of Minnesota**

Coach Ligashesky was named University of Minnesota Special Teams Coordinator in January 2024. Ligashesky comes to Minnesota with nearly 40 years of coaching experience, most recently serving as Special Teams Coordinator at Syracuse. He spent 12 years of his career in the NFL, mostly coaching special teams. He has led special team units for the Houston Texans, Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Pittsburgh Steelers (2008 Super Bowl champion) and the St. Louis Rams. He has also coached special teams with the Oakland Raiders and Jacksonville Jaguars and coached tight ends with the Denver Broncos.



BOB LIGASHESKY

### **Darrin Lamker – Augsburg University**

Derrin just completed his fourth season as the Augsburg University head coach, and after back-to-back 6-4 seasons, has compiled a 17-14 record as the Auggie's mentor. Lamker and his staff in four short years, have the highest winning percentage of any head coach in the history of Augsburg University Football. He is an Augsburg Hall of Fame member and has had previous coaching stops at Robbinsdale Armstrong, Osseo and Edina high schools. He led Edina to only their 3rd state tournament appearance in school history in 2017. He was named the Minnesota Class 6A Coach of the Year in 2015 when he led the Osseo Orioles to the 6A title. He compiled a 74-39 record at Osseo, part of his 94-50 high school career coaching record. He and his wife, Amy have two daughters, Shea and Jordyn.



DARRIN LAMKER

### **Matt LeZotte – Richmond Hills HS, GA**

Matt LeZotte has 17 years of coaching experience, 14 of which are as a head football coach, in the State of Georgia. He recently completed his 9th season as the HC at Richmond Hill High School, where he has totaled over 30% of the team's total wins in its program since arriving in 2015. The Richmond Hill Wildcats compete in 6A, the state's highest classification in what MaxPreps classifies as a top 5 toughest region in the country. Coach LeZotte has been named Region Coach of the Year, 912Sports Coach of the Year and the Savannah Coach of the Year during his tenure. He is a 2004 National Champion and a graduate from James Madison University where he played quarterback and served as a 3-year captain of the football team.



MATT LEZOTTE

### **Todd Johnson – Mahnomen-Waubun HS**

Coach Johnson has been a very successful high school football coach in Minnesota for 25 seasons. A native of Cottonwood, Minnesota, Todd went on to earn his bachelor's degree in social studies from Bemidji State University, graduating in 1995. In 25 seasons as a Mahnomen and Mahomen-Waubun (23 as defensive coordinator), Coach Johnson's teams have recorded a staggering 216-46 record earning 15 section titles, 1 state runner-up finish and 3 Prep Bowl Titles.



TODD JOHNSON

## Friday, April 5— Morning Clinic Speakers

### Matt Wheeler – Wartburg College

Matt Wheeler has been the offensive coordinator at Wartburg for 13 seasons. During his tenure, Wartburg has won 82% of its games, and captured 8 conference championships. Including a recent 26-2 run with back-to-back National Semi-Final appearances in 2022 & 2023. Prior to Wartburg, he served as assistant head coach and offensive coordinator during a six-year stint at North Carolina Wesleyan College. Wheeler also coached three years at St. Cloud State University and was part of a North Central Conference championship in 2002. A former quarterback at Wartburg, he was the Iowa Conference's Most Valuable Player in 1999, helping the Knights to a conference title and NCAA Division III playoff appearance.



MATT WHEELER

### Jason Nickleby – MSHSL

Jason is a graduate of Woodbury High School. He lettered in football, basketball, baseball, and track and field and was fortunate enough to play on a football state championship team in 1998. He attended the U of M graduating with a degree in Kinesiology. A masters with the "U" in 2008 and a principal licensure program from Concordia-St. Paul followed. He began his teaching career as a physical education and DAPE teacher in South Washington County Schools for four years and coached tenth grade football. He was eventually hired by the MSHSL in March of 2015. Throughout his career, Jason has been involved in athletics - mainly officiating. His role at the League is the development and training of 6,000 contest officials as well as the leadership of the high school golf program.



JASON NICKLEBY

### Scott Sahli – Lakeville South HS

Scott is currently the Strength and Conditioning Coordinator for Lakeville South HS. Prior to Lakeville, Scott had coaching runs at Burnsville HS and Northfield HS. He was the state director for the National Strength and Conditioning Association from 2004-2011. Football teams he has trained have participated in 17 state tournaments with 13 semi-finals, and 6 state finals with 3 Prep Bowl Titles. He is a member of the National High School Strength Coaches Association Hall of Fame and has co-authored a number of publications and DVD's on strength training. He is a two-time recipient of the Minnesota Strength Coach of the Year.



SCOTT SAHLI

### Chris Rousemiller – Lakeville South HS

Coach Rousemiller is currently the varsity offensive line coach at Lakeville South HS. As a coach he has been a part of three Prep Bowl Championship teams. A graduate of Minnesota State-Mankato, Chris has a bachelors degree in physical education and a masters degree in learning technology. Additionally, he has been a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist since 1996. He is currently the State Director for the Minnesota chapter of the National Strength Coaches Association. Chris and his wife, Katie, have five children and reside in Lakeville.



CHRIS ROUSEMILLER

## Friday, April 5— Afternoon Clinic Speakers

### Mike Diggins – Centennial HS

Coach Diggins has been the Head Football Coach at Centennial High School for 14 years and has coached 36 years of football at CHS. In his time at Centennial, the Cougars have won 4 District Championships. They have made it to the Class 6A State Tournament 4 of the last 5 years and captured the school's 1st State Championship in 2023 finishing with a 12-1 record. Before coaching at Centennial, Mike spent two years at Mora High School and two years as the Head Football Coach at St. Anthony Village High School. Mike is in his 33rd year teaching Physical Education at Centennial Middle School & he also has coached multiple sports including his former position of Head Girls Hockey Coach for 15 years. Mike was named the 2023 Minnesota Vikings Coach of the Year.



MIKE DIGGINS

### Michael Diggins – Centennial HS

Coach Diggins Jr. has been at Centennial for 6 years where he has served as the Defensive Coordinator for the last 4 seasons. During his tenure as Defensive Coordinator, Centennial has been in the Top-5 in Rush Defense & Points Against 3 of the 4 seasons. Centennial has also made it to the State Tournament 3 of those 4 seasons and captured the school's 1st State Championship in 2023 finishing with a 12-1 record. Michael Before entering coaching, Michael played football at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Michael is also a teacher in the district and the Director of Cougar Strength.



MICHAEL DIGGINS

### Jason Potts – Edina HS

Jason Potts brings an impressive coaching pedigree, culminating in his recent successful tenure as the Head Football Coach at Edina High School. With four years under his belt at Edina, Coach Potts guided the Hornets to their first prep bowl appearance since 1978 during the 2023 season, ultimately securing a state runner-up finish. Prior to his time at Edina, Coach Potts served as the Offensive Coordinator at Robbinsdale Armstrong High School, where he helped lead the team's first undefeated season in school history over a span of six seasons. His coaching journey also includes pivotal roles such as Wide Receivers Coach at Augsburg University, Running Backs Coach at Osseo Senior High, and as a 10th-grade Assistant Coach at Robbinsdale Cooper High School.



JASON POTTS

### Cullen Nelson – Chanhassen HS

Coach Nelson has been the head coach at Chanhassen High School for five years. The three years prior, he served as defensive coordinator for the Storm. He has taught social studies for 22 years for Eastern Carver County Schools. Other assistant coaching stops include Minnetonka High School for nine seasons and Chaska High School for five seasons. Cullen graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College, where he served as a student coach for four years. He was a member of the Northfield High School's State Championship team in 1997. He and his wife Brie live in Carver with their two sons, Rigg and Clay Nelson.



CULLEN NELSON

## Friday, April 5— Afternoon Clinic Speakers

### Garrett Mueller – Stewartville HS

A native of Menomonie, Wisconsin, where he played for the legendary, Joe LaBuda, Coach Mueller has logged a 48-11 record in six seasons as the Tigers' head football coach. Stewartville has been district champions in 4 of those 6 seasons and last fall earned the 3A state title defeating Annandale 43-13. Mueller was named Section Coach of the Year in both 2022 and 2023. Garrett played football at UW-Lacrosse has been teaching and coaching at Stewartville for 16 years. He and his wife, Erin, reside in Stewartville and have three children: Drew, Brody and Isla.



GARRETT MUELLER

### Shawn Klimek – Nevis HS

Coach Klimek is a 1999 Bemidji State graduate. He has spent the last 21 years coaching Nevis football. He's been the head coach for the last 18 years. During that time Nevis have won 7 District/Conference Championships. The Tigers have been in the State Tournament 3 times: 2012, 2017 Runner-Up, and the 2023 Prep Bowl Champions. During that run, Shawn has had the privilege of coaching 14 All-State Players during that time.



SHAWN KLIMEK

### Mike DeWulf – Nevis HS

Coach DeWulf had a collegiate career at Eastern Washington University where he played linebacker and defensive end. After college he joined the staff at Connell Washington High School, coaching ten seasons and winning a state championship in 2002. In 2007 he moved to Nevis and became the head coach for Youth Football in Nevis. In 2012 he joined the Nevis staff as their defensive coordinator. Nevis was the state runner-up in 2012 and won the state championship this past season, defeating Kingsland 14-12 in the 9-Man finals.



MIKE DE WULF

### Dan Lowe – Kingsland HS

Coach Lowe is currently in his third year serving as the Defensive Coordinator and S&C coach for the Kingsland Knights out of Spring Valley MN. The Knights are coming off a runner up finish in the MN 9-Man state tournament. Coach Lowe has been serving small school athletes in southern MN for over a decade both on and off the field. Coach Lowe is certified through USA Weightlifting and is a Member of the MN Strength Coaches Association. He is also pursuing his degree in Exercise Science and Kinesiology. Coach Lowe is a Graduate of LeCenter HS and resides in LeRoy MN with his wife and four children.



DAN LOWE

### Travis Walch & Tom Menke – St. Thomas Academy

Fastbreak Football was formed in the spring of 2021 after Travis Walch (University of St. Thomas and Winona State) spoke at the MFCA youth clinic about incorporating multi-sport drills into football programming. A longtime high school and college football coach, Tom Menke (Minnetonka, Prior Lake and St. Olaf), pitched Coach Walch the idea of joining forces to create a football curriculum featuring gamified, small-sided football drills with the goal to regrow our sport and retain athletes. The formula was simple: increase football touches, reps and fun with drills that optimally challenge, score and have game-like tasks. Fastbreak Football is currently working on a format to help youth football associations train their coaches through the combination of clinics, camps and an online drill catalog organized by skill acquisition (throwing, blocking, pursuit, coverage, etc.). This mind, body and skill-based program focuses on producing football-ready body awareness, explosive agility, ball mastery and championship decision making. In less than two years, Fastbreak Football has worked with over 2,000 football participants, youth through HS, in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. This past football season, they intertwined Fastbreak Football at Saint Thomas Academy where they were part of a staff that led The Cadets to a 5A state championship game berth, losing to Chanhassen in Overtime.



TRAVIS WALCH



TOM MENKE

### Jay Sawvel – University of Wyoming

Coach Sawvel was introduced as the new head coach of the Wyoming Cowboys in December, 2023. He is the 33rd coach in Wyoming history. He had been the team's defensive coordinator and safeties coach since February of 2020. Sawvel credits much of his success to the quality head coaches he has served under including Lou Holtz, Craig Bohl and Jerry Kill. Minnesota high school coaches will remember Jay as part of Jerry Kill's Gophers from 2011-2015. After Minnesota, he was named the defensive coordinator at Wake Forest before moving on to Laramie to head-up the Cowboys' defense. Sawvel has two daughters, Mackenzie and Miranda.



JAY SAWVEL

### P.J. Fleck – Minnesota Gophers

P.J. Fleck was named head football coach at Minnesota on January 6, 2017. Fleck, 43, is the 30th head coach in the program's history. He has a career record of 80-56 and is 50-34 at Minnesota.

In seven years, Fleck has established himself as one of the most successful coaches ever to lead the Minnesota program. Fleck is fifth in program history for overall wins (50), Big Ten wins (29) and games coached (83). Fleck's .595 win percentage is third best among Minnesota coaches with at least 45 games under their helm behind only Henry L. Williams (.786, 1900-21) and Bernie Bierman (.716, 1932-41, '45-50). P.J. and his wife, Heather, have four children, Gavin, Carter, Paisley (P.J.) and Harper.



P. J. FLECK

# Saturday, April 6— Morning Youth Clinic Speakers

**THESE BIOS ARE LISTED EARLIER –  
Also speaking in the 'regular' clinic**

**TRAVIS WALCH AND TOM MENKE – ST.  
THOMAS ACADEMY**

**MICHAEL DIGGINS – CENTENNIAL HIGH**

**NICK DAVID – MOUND WESTONKA HIGH  
SCHOOL**

Nick David is entering his twelfth year (2013-Present) as the Head Football Coach at Mound Westonka High School. During Nick's tenure as Head Football Coach, the White Hawks have won five Subdistrict Championships. Prior to arriving at Mound Westonka, Nick was the Defensive Coordinator at Tri-City United High School for four years. Nick has been selected as the Subdistrict Coach of the Year five times, was honored with the 2022 MFCA Don Swanson Award, and was also selected to be the Head Coach of the South Team in the 2023 Minnesota High School All-Star Football Game. Nick has served in numerous roles on the MFCA Executive Committee since 2019, including 2nd Vice-President, 1st Vice-President, and now currently as the MFCA President. Nick has also been a Subdistrict Representative since 2015, and has served as the Individual Academic All-State Chair and on the MFCA Clinic Committee since 2019.



NICK DAVID

**DAVE MUETZEL – MAHTOMEDI HIGH  
SCHOOL**

Coach Muetzel has been the head football coach at Mahtomedi High for 28 seasons. He is well known for being an innovator on both sides of the football. During his tenure, Muetzel has led the Zephyrs to 22 conference titles and 12 state tournament appearances, including four state championship appearances and the Prep Bowl title in 2005. Dave teaches math at Mahtomedi and he and his family reside in Mahtomedi.



DAVE MUETZEL

**RAY BETTON – SHAKOPEE HIGH  
SCHOOL**

Coach Betton has been the head football coach at Shakopee High School since 2015. During that time he has led the Sabres to 4 state tournament appearances and has earned Section Coach of the Year four times. Prior to Shakopee Ray was the head coach at The Academy of Holy Angels, East Ridge High School (the school's first head football coach) and Simley High School. He was the 2017 he earned the Bill Walsh Minority Internship, coaching running backs with the Minnesota Vikings. In 2021 He was the head coach for the Minnesota South All-Star Game.



RAY BETTON

**MARC FRANZ – ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL**

The 2023-24 school year marked Coach Franz's 32nd year of coaching high school football and teaching mathematics. He has been the head coach at Rogers High School since the school first opened in 2003. Under Franz's leadership, Rogers football has an overall record of 136 wins and 71 losses with 8 conference/district championships and 7 section championships.



MARC FRANZ

Marc graduated from Falls High School in Int'l Falls in 1987 and enrolled at St. Cloud State University. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in math education and coaching in 1992 and Master's Degree in athletic administration in 1999. Marc is married to his wife, Lorrie, of 28 years and they have two adult children. Collin is teaching and coaching in the Sartell school district and Nathan recently graduated from the University of Northwestern in St. Paul with a degree in accounting.



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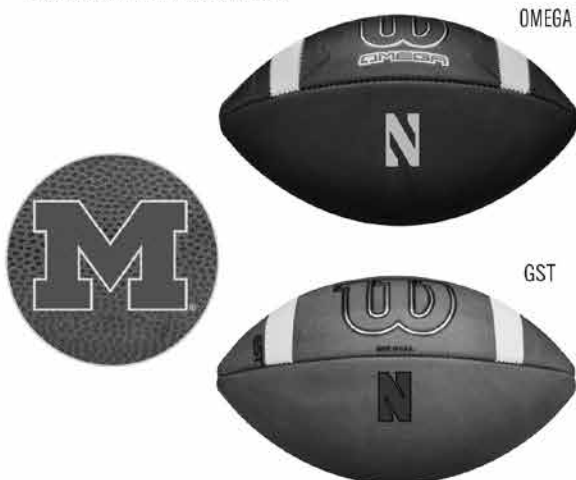


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**Minnesota Football Coaches Association’s Tackle Cancer Initiative**

2012	\$120,661	2016	\$281,784	2020	\$45,872
2013	\$190,073	2017	\$311,475	2021	\$326,297
2014	\$230,170	2018	\$348,423	2022	\$473,024
2015	\$233,269	2019	\$366,990	2023	\$566,626

TOTAL: \$3,496,698

2024 GOAL: \$600,000

**TACKLE CANCER EVENT IDEAS**

Collect donations at the gate before the game and at the concession stand during the game. Have PA Announcer remind fans during pre-game to make their donations.

Two Minute Challenge – during halftime, following half time activities, pass buckets down each row of your home and away stands. Put two minutes on scoreboard clock and have PA Announcer give directions and provide “play by play.”

Give each one of your players 3 Tackle Cancer Wristbands. Players seek a donation for each wristband.

Make up Tackle Cancer T-Shirts and sell to student body during the week.

Get your Student Council, NHS, DECA, and other groups involved.

Make a video with your team and show to student body during the week.

Reach out to the administration of your elementary and middle schools. A Coin Drive the week of your Tackle Cancer Game is easy and fun. Announce the winning classroom(s) at halftime of your Tackle Cancer Game.

Create a competition between your school and your Tackle Cancer Game opponent.

Involve your youth football teams – have parents pledge \$ for each point scored by that youth team during your Tackle Cancer Week.

Order a Tackle Cancer Football – have players sign it – raffle it off!

Reach out to businesses and restaurants in your community for Tackle Cancer partnerships.

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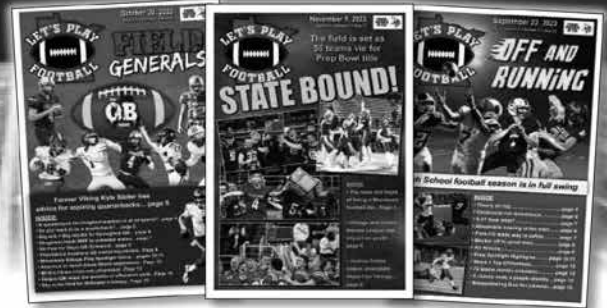
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**Neil Gilman**  
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Gilman, CT 06336  
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## GUARDIAN CAPS

**Tony Plagman**  
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## HAMMER STRENGTH/LIFE FITNESS

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## HEALY AWARDS

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## HUDL

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## InSPORTS FOUNDATION

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## JOSTENS

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## **KIEFER USA**

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## **LEADING EDGE FUNDRAISING**

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## **LEGACY BUILDING SOLUTIONS**

**Shannon Humbert**

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## **LET'S PLAY FOOTBALL**

**Mike Sonntag**

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## **MINNESOTA STRENGTH COACHES ASSOCIATION (MSCA)**

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## **MINNESOTA VIKINGS**

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## **MINNESOTA WEARABLES**

**Roger Maleska**

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## **MY7ON7**

**Ty Thompson**

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## **PUSH PEDAL PULL**

**Britni Kesselring**

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## **RAMPUP SPORTS**

**Ray Roberts**

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## **RIDDELL SPORTING GOODS**

**Trevor Roberts**

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## **SAN MAR**

**Todd Debeer**

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## **SCHUTT SPORTS/VICIS**

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## **SNAP! MOBILE**

**Jake Johnson**

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## **sportsYOU**

**Pasko Skarica**

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## **TAHO SPORTS**

**Mark Aho**

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## **TEAM SPORTING GOODS INC.**

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## **THE TEEHIVE**

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## **TWIN CITIES ORTHOPEDICS**

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## **WILSON SPORTING GOODS**

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## **WSI SPORTSWEAR**

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# NOTES