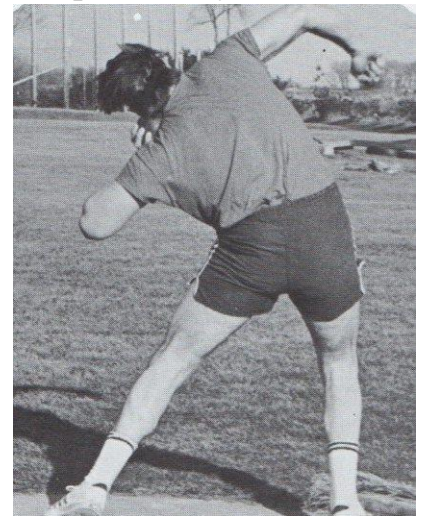


Each fall, Triton high school adds members to the Triton Hall of Fame. This year's induction ceremony, held on October 12th, 2019, was the 8th annual. Each year since 2012, Triton has honored outstanding achievements of athletes, coaches and community supporters of West Concord, Dodge Center, Claremont and Triton high school. This year, West Concord was well represented among the inductees.

Among them was my classmate and good friend Dan Miller (WCHS class of 1971). Dan excelled in football, wrestling and track. In football, he was All-Conference 3 years and was on WCCO's All-State team his senior year. He played on the offensive line for Mankato State where he started all 4 years. He was selected to the All North Central Conference team in 1974 and was selected to the All-American Academic Team that same year.

Dan wrestled heavyweight at West Concord and was a Conference Champion two years. On the track team, he did the discus and shot put. He was a two time Wasioja conference champ in the shot put. I remember in 3rd grade one day we compared hand size. I held my hand up to his and even then his hands were at least an inch longer and a bit wider than mine. I also remember coming home and asking my mom if she thought my hands were big. Not knowing where I was going with this question, she said they were just the right size. Then I told her how big Dan's mitts were. He was always a big strong guy. In fact I was at Mankato State for two of the years he played there. I would hang out with him and his offensive line buddies. Talk about having personal body guards when we went out on the town. I was definitely the small guy in the crowd. One of the tight ends from that Mankato State team, Bob Bruer, played for the 49ers and the Vikings from 1979-1983.



The 1984 WCHS Homecoming king and queen were both inducted into the HOF this year. And it was not just because they wore the crowns well. They were both very athletic. Heather Casey Smith or as we knew her...Doc Casey's girl Heather was all conference in basketball and volleyball. She was a 1000 point scorer for WC. Heather has a Masters in Occupational Therapy from the University of Minnesota and has been working in that field for the last 10 years.

The Homecoming King in 1984 was Barry Hargens. Barry was a 3 sport star for West Concord. From 1980-1984, he was the leader of some pretty good basketball teams. He, like Heather was a 1000 point scorer. In fact, Barry holds the all-time West Concord scoring record with 1242 points scored in his WC career. He beat out another Triton HOF member, Richard Raddatz, who played for West Concord high school from 1950-1954 and scored 1136 points. Barry was nominated twice for Minnesota's Mr. Basketball. Barry was a six year letter winner in track and he was all conference in football two years.

Another West Concord HOF inductee this year is Sharon Gunhus. Sharon now joins her late

husband Lorry and her son Erik in the Hall of Fame. I don't have enough space in this column to tell everything I should about Sharon.

Title IX was passed in 1972 and Sharon was instrumental in organizing girls' sports at West Concord and was a pioneer in the girls' sports programs at West Concord. Sharon began successful programs as the head basketball and track coach for many years along with being involved in various levels of volleyball, gymnastics and softball. As a PE teacher, she brought this same pioneering spirit and taught many different activities. Many in WC and Triton will remember the circus that she put on every year. She organized an elementary track and field meet, took students bowling and taught thousands of children how to swim.

Teaching people to swim was a passion for Sharon. She managed the WC pool for approximately 15 years. She was elected to sit on the board of the Rochester Chapter of the Red Cross serving two 3 year terms. Volunteering and giving back to the communities of West Concord and Triton was very important to Sharon. A saying that she was fond of was, "I am only one, but I am someone. I can't do everything, but I can do something."

She married Lorry in 1962. Sharon passed away in May 1997 from breast cancer at the age of 57. Her spirit lives on though through all the people she touched in those 57 years.

The 1962-1963 West Concord Basketball team coached by Richard Hanson was inducted in to the Triton HOF. I remember watching this team as a 4th grader. This team had a 17-1 regular season record and was Wasioja Conference Champions. They lost in the Sub District Finals to Kenyon finishing with an 18-2 record. Coach Hanson told his team after the game that they did everything they could to try to win that game but when the opponent is shooting 75-90%, it's almost impossible.

Dave Tengwall was a sophomore on this team but was a force on the inside. Blaine Charlton had the quickest and evasive first two steps of anyone on the court and always had an open jump shot. Dave and Blaine went on to play college ball. Coach Hanson thought that Tom Wilson and Gary Trelstad were the best guard duo in the state. The coach called Gary the leader of the pack. He was always the fastest down the court with or without the ball. Other team members included Dan Zeller, Nick Wilson, Dwight Hvitved, Don Braatz, Kerry Frederick, Pat Smith and Steve Bjerke. Gary Golden was team manager.

Other inductees this year included Greg Lussier from Claremont (1983). Greg was Wasioja All-Conference in 3 sports for 4 years. He was one of the finest athletes in Claremont history. Shari Keck Neuharth was in the same class as Greg. Like Greg, Shari was a 4 year letter winner in 3 sports, volleyball, basketball and softball. Both Shari and Greg were 1000 point scorers in basketball.

Matt Hanson, Triton class of 2004 was a 5 time letter winner in cross country and wrestling. He qualified for State 3 times in wrestling and twice in cross country. Matt was also a 6 time letter

winner in track. He has the school record in the 800m, 1600m, 3200m and the 5k. Matt went on to earn a Doctorate of Education from the University of South Dakota and today he is a professional triathlete and coach.

Tyler Head, Triton class of 2011 was inducted to the Hall of Fame in the Supporter/Fan category. During his high school years, he was very active in managing football, basketball and wrestling. Tyler lettered twice in track running the 100- and 200-meter dash, along with 10 other varsity letters during his high school career. He played an active role as team manager in two state tournament teams in basketball and football.

****NOTE**** You can scroll down to see what was in the HOF program in October 2019 and all the way down you will see a complete list of Triton HOF members.



SCHOOLING

**NORTHERN STATE
&
UC DAVIS**

BARRETT S. HARGENS

BARRETT IS CURRENTLY A UNIT LEADER RESPONSIBLE FOR 260 EMPLOYEES AT DAIKIN APPLIED IN FARIBAUT WHERE THEY MAKE HVAC SYSTEMS. BARRETT IS ALSO CURRENTLY LIVING IN THE NORTH WEST SIDE OF ROCHESTER WITH HIS WIFE EVELYN AND HIS TWO BOYS PARKER AND HEATH. PARKER IS CURRENTLY GOING TO DEPAUL UNIVERSITY IN CHICAGO IN WHICH HE'S A SENIOR DOUBLE MAJORING IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING. HEATH, THE YOUNGEST SON, IS CURRENTLY A 10TH GRADER AT JOHN MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL, AND HE THOROUGHLY LOVES BASKETBALL.

BASKETBALL

80-84

**WEST CONCORD
ALL-TIME LEADING
SCORE (1,242 POINTS)**

**PREVIOUS RECORD
DICK RADDATZ
(1950-54) 1,136 POINT
TEAM CAPTAIN JR &
SR YEARS**

**NOMINATED FOR MINNESOTA
MR. BASKETBALL (TWICE)**

**VARSITY BASKETBALL
FOR 4 YEARS**

**CONFERENCE SCORING
CHAMPION AS A JUNIOR
(1983)**

**TRACK &
FIELD**

79-84

SIX YEAR LETTERMAN

**EVENTS:
100 M, 200M, 400M,
400M RELAY. SHOT PUT.**

**FAVORITE EVENT:
ANCHOR LEG
OF 400M RELAY**

**WENT TO STATE IN THE
SPRINT MEDLEY RELAY
WITH MIKE,
CHAD AND GARY**

FOOTBALL

80-84

4 YEAR STARTER

**CONFERENCE
CHAMPIONS 83-84**

**POSITIONS:
RUNNING BACK,
OUTSIDE LINEBACKER,
PUNTER AND KICKER.**

**FAVORITE POSITION:
RUNNING BACK**

**ALL CONFERENCE
83-84**

Thinking back to the early 80's in West Concord, there were many athletes and especially one female athlete that stood above the rest. Not just because of her 6' frame but because of her versatility on the court and track that made Heather one of the best.

Heather was a well-rounded athlete and student being involved in basketball, volleyball and track, band, choir, theatre, NHS plus a few other activities. One other fun part of high school is that she was Homecoming Queen, along with fellow HOF inductee, Homecoming King, Barry Hargens. She excelled throughout her years in high school as a Cardinal. She lettered in all 3 sports and was All-Conference in basketball and volleyball. She was a dominant player in all 3 sports, especially in volleyball and basketball. Opponents struggled at the net against her in volleyball and had to work extra hard keeping her off the offensive boards in basketball. Heather had a nice touch around the basket and led her team in rebounds and scoring. She was a 1000-point scorer in her career at WC.

She went onto pursue a degree at UM-Duluth, then transferred to the U of M her sophomore year and finished with her Bachelor of Science degree in Child Psychology with a minor in Counseling and Assessment. Later in 2009, she obtained her Masters in Occupational Therapy (OT) from the U of M and has been working in that field for the last 10 years. She loves to travel, so being a contract OT and traveling throughout 5 states working at a variety of settings has challenged and motivated her. She enjoys working with an inter-disciplinary team and strives to encourage, educate and motivate others in their rehabilitation to regain their independence. Looking back, high school sports taught her a lot about herself and life. She still draws on those experiences today (dedication, determination, working with others, making and achieving goals...) in her professional and personal life.

Heather has run the Twin Cities' Marathon twice. She is a certified massage therapist and loves upcycling old things and selling them for fun. Her motto is "Everything is better with glitter". She has her motorcycle license and had a Harley Davidson custom Springer Softail, having been to Sturgis several times. Her family and friends remember her accomplishments and her fun spirit with fondness.

Congratulations, Heather on your HOF induction.

If you were a football player who played in the Wasioja Conference in the early 70's, there's a good chance you remembered when you played against West Concord's offensive tackle, Dan Miller. Dan was not only tough and fast, but a hard-working player. He used his strength and speed on the football field and also on the wrestling mat and in track and field.

Being a versatile athlete came easy to Dan and he excelled in Football, Wrestling and Track and Field. In Football he was All-Conference 3 years and was on WCCO's All State Team his senior year. He brought his skills to the football team at Mankato State where he started all 4 years (1971-1975). He was selected to the All NCC Team 1974 (North Central Conference) and was selected to the All-American Academic Team 1974. Dan was also the Grad Assistant Coach in 1975.

Dan wrestled in high school and was a Conference Champion two years in his weight class. He was also a member of the track and field team where he used his quickness and speed in various events. The Shot Put was one event he excelled at and he was a two-time Conference champion in shot put.

After college, Dan attended the University of Minnesota Law School in 1976 and then joined IBM in Rochester in 1977. He worked for IBM for 10 years. After IBM he spent 32 years in various electronics and technology manufacturing companies. He retired as COO in 2016 from Ergotron, Inc. in Eagan Mn.

Dan met his wife, Kathy in Rochester and they married in 1982. They have lived in many different cities around the world and now reside in Bloomington, MN. Dan and Kathy have one daughter, Melissa, who is an executive for Nike in Beaverton, OR. They enjoy traveling the Pacific Northwest and south to Florida, Dan is an avid golfer and enjoys hunting and fishing.

Congratulations, Dan!

Sharon (Lang) Gunhus was born on July 18, 1939 in Winona, MN and graduated from Winona State University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education and a minor in English. While at Winona State she participated in many clubs such as The Dolphin Club (Water), Women's Physical Education Club, English Club, and Woman's Recreation Association. She was also selected as Winona State's homecoming queen in 1959.

Sharon's first teaching position was in Owatonna, MN. Sharon went on to be a physical education and adaptive PE teacher at West Concord Elementary and later at Triton Schools. She was involved in the MN Education

Association, the National Education Association and the Triton Education Association.

Title IX was passed in 1972 and Sharon was instrumental in organizing girls' sports at West Concord and was a pioneer in the girls' sports programs at West Concord. Sharon began successful programs as the head basketball and track coach for many years along with being involved in various levels of volleyball, gymnastics and softball. As a PE teacher, she brought this same pioneering spirit and taught many different activities. Many in WC and Triton will remember the circus that she put on every year. She organized an elementary track and field meet, took students bowling and taught thousands of children how to swim.

Teaching people to swim was a passion for Sharon. She managed the WC pool for approximately 15 years. She was elected to sit on the board of the Rochester Chapter of the Red Cross serving two, 3 years terms serving on the Executive, Public Relations Committees and was secretary of the board. She even took a challenge from one of the members, Dr. Charles Restall, who stated that he had never learned to swim. He said that if anyone could teach him how to swim, he would donate \$1,000 to the Chapter. Sharon took on the challenge, and August 18, 1990, he did indeed swim the length of the West Concord

Pool! Volunteering and giving back to the communities of West Concord and Triton was very important to Sharon. A saying that she was fond of was, "I am only one, but I am someone. I can't do everything, but I can do something."

She married Lorry Gunhus from Kenyon, MN, in 1962. They raised three children, Erik, Leif, and Kaia, who grew up and graduated from West Concord High School. Sharon passed away in May 1997 from breast cancer at the age of 57.

2012 Inductees—September 22, 2012

- Coach—Wally Hitt (Dodge Center Football Team)
- Supporter/Fan—Lenny Schmoll (Triton)
- Gary Leeper (1960 Claremont)
- Craig Busch (1969 Claremont)
- Everett “Moe” Gerths (1955 Dodge Center)
- Mark Hanson (1978 Dodge Center)
- Dwayne Matti (1958 West Concord)
- Erik Gunhus (1982 West Concord)
- Traci Rasmussen-Cook (1994 Triton)
- Kirk Midthun (1996 Triton)

Also Recognized in 2012:

- 1952 Dodge Center Football Team
- 1965-66 Claremont Boys Basketball Team
- 1984 West Concord Football Team

2013 Inductees—September 28, 2013

- Coach—Lorry Gunhus (West Concord/Triton Football & Basketball)
- Supporter/Fan—Bob Rundquist (West Concord/Triton)
- Jerry Behne (1959 Claremont)
- Tracy Petersohn (1988 Claremont)
- Dave Myers (1953 Dodge Center)
- Greg Head (1985 Dodge Center)
- Dick Raddatz (1954 West Concord)
- Scott Streiff (1985 West Concord)
- Jodi Callister (1992 Triton)
- Tim Busch (1995 Triton)

Also Recognized in 2013:

- 1973-74 Claremont Boys Basketball Team
- 1965-66 West Concord Football Team
- 1959-60 Dodge Center Boys Basketball Team

2014 Inductees—September 20, 2014

- Supporter/Fan—Dr. David Agerter (West Concord/Triton)
- Deb “Thompson” Heacox (1973 Claremont)
- Dr. Doug Stangl (1973 Claremont)
- Richard “Dick” Osborn (1952 Dodge Center)
- Gerald Head (1959 Dodge Center)
- Dave Vrieze (1956 West Concord)
- Dr. J. Patrick Smith (1966 West Concord)
- Gunar Gossard (1991 Triton)
- Anne “Hutton” Lehmkühl (1991 Triton)

Also Recognized in 2014:

- 1955 West Concord Football Team
- 1958-59 Claremont Boys Basketball Team
- 1970 Dodge Center Football Team

2015 Inductees—September 12, 2015

- Travis Petersohn (1990 Claremont)
- Philip J. Schuster (1958 Dodge Center)
- Guy Finne (1985 West Concord)
- Chad Gossard (1985 West Concord)
- Kris “Wright” Dambach (1992 Triton)
- Scott Pitzemberger (1996 Triton)

Also Recognized in 2015:

- 1976-77 Dodge Center Boys Basketball
- 1994 Triton Football

2016 Inductees—September 17, 2016

- Coach—Dennis Midthun—Dodge Center/Triton
- Supporter/Fan—Harold Long—West Concord/Triton
- Mike Justice (1971 Dodge Center)
- Wendy “Olson” Myer (1989 Dodge Center)
- Mike Doty (1970 West Concord)
- Holly Berg (1994 Triton)
- Corey Mergen (1997 Triton)

Also Recognized in 2016:

- 1976 West Concord Volleyball
- 1993 Triton Volleyball

2017 Inductees—September 23, 2017

- Coach—Ed Pitzemberger—Dodge Center/Triton
- Supporter/Fan—Pat McNeilus—Triton Support
- Mike Ackerman (1986 West Concord)
- Glenda (Paulson) Andrews (1978 West Concord)
- Bob Bowman (1974 Dodge Center)
- Arin Andrews (2002 Triton)
- Brian Garness (2001 Triton)

Also Recognized in 2017:

- 1984-85 West Concord Boys Basketball
- 2000 Triton Football Team

2018 Inductees—October 6th, 2018

- Coach - Gordon Zimmermann
- Supporter/Fan- Dave and Ruth Hanson
- Dan Hutton (1967 West Concord)
- Tracy “Berge” Head (1985 Dodge Center)
- Kayce “Busch” Munnikhuisen (1999 Triton)
- Tom Hutton (2000 Triton)

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Also recognized in 2018

- 1997-1999 Triton Wrestling Team