

*Minnewaska Area Schools*  
**ATHLETIC**  
♦ **HALL OF FAME** ♦  
**BANQUET & INDUCTION CEREMONY**

---

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

**MINNEWASKA HOUSE, GLENWOOD**



Presented by:



**MINNEWASKA**  
LAKER FOUNDATION



# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE INDUCTEES

## *A letter from the Minnewaska Laker Foundation President*

Congratulations to the 2023 Minnewaska Area Schools Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees. Your achievements are impressive and you represent the strong athletic organizations within our collective communities and schools. We are honored to bring you all together for recognition at this event.

We know participation in extra-curricular activities creates opportunities for valuable lessons in teamwork, sportsmanship, self-discipline and leadership. This is what sparked the development of the Minnewaska Laker Foundation, to ensure students have these opportunities for years to come.

We invite you to support our Foundation and also to continue to support the Hall of Fame by nominating athletes in the future. More information can be found at [www.minnewaska.k12.mn.us/foundation/](http://www.minnewaska.k12.mn.us/foundation/)

Again, congratulations to our 2023 Minnewaska Area Schools Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees, and thank you to everyone working so diligently to create a memorable experience for our exceptional alumni athletes through our Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,  
Board of Directors  
*Minnewaska Laker Foundation*



**Bill Mills**  
*Minnewaska Laker  
Foundation President*



## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**5:00 p.m.**  
**Social Hour**

**6:00 p.m.**  
**Dinner**

**6:30 p.m.**  
**Welcome**

**Bill Mills,**  
*MLF President*

**Phil Johnsrud,**  
*MAHS Activities Director*

**6:45 p.m.**  
**Induction Ceremony,**  
**Dave "D-Mac" McClurg,**  
*KXRA Radio,*  
*Master of Ceremonies*  
*Hall of Fame Committee*

## THE INDUCTEES ARE...

Minnewaska Area Schools and the Minnewaska Laker Foundation would like to congratulate the 2023 inductees of the Athletic Hall of Fame. They are outstanding "Keepers of the Game." Minnewaska Area Schools and the Minnewaska Laker Foundation are excited about this Athletic Hall of Fame class of inductees. The hall of fame recognizes athletic excellence from those who participated at the current Minnewaska Area High School (MAHS), as well as the former individual high schools in Glenwood, Starbuck and Villard that currently make up MAHS. The Minnewaska Area Schools Athletic Hall of Fame 2023 inductees are:

**Frank Noyes**  
**Mark Hopkins**  
**1985 Glenwood High School Boys Basketball Team**  
**Mark Kerfeld**  
**Craig Pederson**  
**Alan Hoeper**  
**Jacob Bryce**  
**Laura Tvrdik Notch**

## THANK YOU!

A special thank you to the Minnewaska Laker Foundation Hall of Fame Committee.  
Members: Dave McClurg, Bill Mills, Neil Nelson, Matt Pederson



# FRANK NOYES

STARBUCK HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1932

Starbuck High School won their first district basketball championship in 1932 behind the all-around play of Frank Noyes. He stood nearly 6'4" tall and had the speed of a sprinter. His skills allowed him to compete at the highest level in college when he enrolled at the University of Minnesota. He remains the only boys' basketball player from Starbuck to have played at the Division One level.

Starbuck hadn't fielded a high school basketball team for several years until restarting in the 1928-1929 school term. The school leased the DuGlada Theatre building for practices and games. The floor was slanted and the baskets were about eight feet high. Peculiar playing conditions were common for the era. Another oddity of the season had the Starbuck team getting stormed in at Barrett but at least they had their 9-7 win to celebrate. Later in the season they rode the train from Glenwood to Hoffman for a game. Noyes was a freshman and posted the second most points scored on the year.

Practice sessions for the 1929-1930 season didn't begin until the Christmas break because a new gymnasium with a floor 80 feet long was being completed. The team had a record of 7-4 and finished in fourth place in the district.

The 1930-1931 team had a more robust schedule than previous teams – both in the number of games and in the level of competition as they competed against Benson, Glenwood, Morris, and Wadena. Noyes was the leading scorer as the Bucks reached 15 wins in 22 outings and played for the sub-district championship. During the tournament they lost one of their players due to a broken wrist that was sustained while crank-starting his car.

As a senior, Frank scored in double figures in multiple games including a season high of 25 points against Melrose. Starbuck had just one loss during the regular season, that being a 15-13 setback to the school across the lake. The return game at Starbuck featured an overflow crowd and a 22-14 win for the Bucks. To open the playoffs, Noyes scored 17 points to top Benson 29-3. Wins over Hancock and

Herman secured a berth in the District 22 finals. Starbuck trailed most of the title game against Campbell. Reuben Olmeim scored at the buzzer to send the game to overtime and an eventual 24-20 win for Starbuck's first-ever district championship.

Besides Starbuck, the Region Six combatants included Moorhead who was making their ninth consecutive region tournament appearance, Crosby-Ironton who had won district titles in four of six seasons, and Glenwood who had five district titles in the six seasons from 1927-1932. The Pope County teams were in opposite brackets and both fell to Crosby-Ironton by double digits.

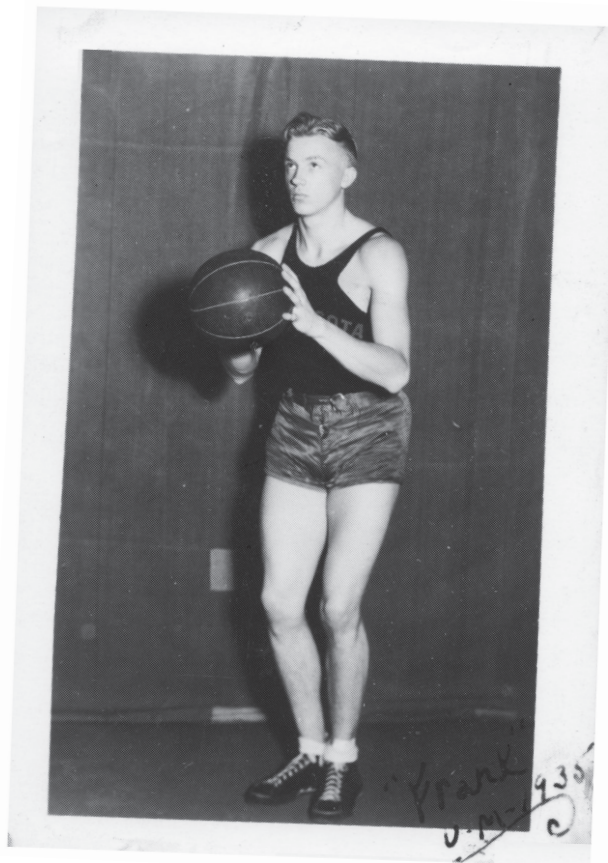
Enrolling at the University of Minnesota after graduation from SHS, Noyes was allowed to practice but freshmen couldn't play in basketball games. Although there weren't scholarships, one benefit of being an athlete was being given the opportunity to work to earn money. During the summer he

was part of a crew that replaced the sod on the football field. As a sophomore, Noyes was touted as a potential starter as either a guard or forward. He played in some early

season games including making one start before an injury to his achilles tendon interrupted his college experience.

Several years later, Frank enrolled at Macalester College in St. Paul. He was a key player on the 1937 Scots team that won their first undisputed basketball championship. He completed his college career as Macalester's captain and was among the leading scorers in the Minnesota College Conference.

Frank lived to be 87 years old. A grandson of his has been an official for 26 years and has worked state tournament games. Two great-granddaughters are playing basketball – one in college at Eau Claire and one in high school at Maple Grove.





# MARK HOPKINS

VILLARD HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1971

Going back over a half century, the late sixties and early seventies are considered by many as the golden age of athletics at Villard High School.

For young athletes involved in Mallard sports in the mid-1960s, a shooting star arrived on the scene in teacher/coach Jim Galvin. Galvin was a real difference maker. He was a great teacher of fundamentals and a tremendous motivator who really cared about the small-town athlete. Galvin's arrival and a wealth of talent would usher in a period of unprecedented athletic success for the Green and White from 1968 through 1971.

During that time, the sports of football, basketball, and baseball won 93 games against only 22 losses for an amazing 81% winning percentage. Of the talented athletes that graced the halls of VHS during the era, perhaps no one was as dominant as Mark Hopkins.

Mark grew up within a block of the school on main street in Villard. Like many youths at the time, he looked up to the older kids, especially those who were successful athletes. Having a strong, husky build would serve Hopkins well as he began his career as a three-sport athlete in football, basketball, and baseball.

Mark made the varsity baseball team as an 8th grader in 1967, signaling the beginning of a stellar athletic career. As the years went by it was clear that Mark would succeed in all three sports as he developed into a quick, strong, explosive athlete by utilizing the strength training of the times: tossing rocks in the spring, hay bales in the summer, and a lot of swimming at Torfin's resort.

It was on the gridiron where he found his greatest success, becoming a starter for three years at linebacker and two years at tailback. At nearly 190 pounds, Hopkins enjoyed delivering contact to opponents on both sides of the ball. During his final two years on offense, Hopkins rushed for 1,758 yards, and 347 receiving yards for a total of 2,105 all-purpose yards. This did not include kickoff or punt returns, two additional duties of Mark's for which statistics were not kept at the time. While carrying the football, he averaged 7.2 yards per rush, and scored 210 points while scoring 32 touchdowns and nine two-point conversions. In the era prior to the state football tournament, Mallard football teams lost only one game, winning the Little 8 Conference title three straight years. As a senior, the 7-0 record would be the last undefeated football season in school history. Following his senior year, he was named Little 8 All-Conference and selected as a member of the 1970 All-State football team.

On the hardwood, Mark was a two-year starter and two-time all-conference selection. He averaged

23.1 points and 10.7 rebounds per game as a senior. The Mallards won the conference title during his junior year and finished runner-up to Evansville during his senior season. Although only 5'10", Mark was a strong jumper who could dunk a basketball.



On the diamond, Mark was the starting catcher his final two seasons. No one else wanted to get behind the plate, so Mark volunteered. It made sense to him to get behind the dish since a catcher's glove was the first mitt his dad bought for him as a boy. The Mallards were Little 8 champions two times during his varsity years and also won the school's only sub-district championship.

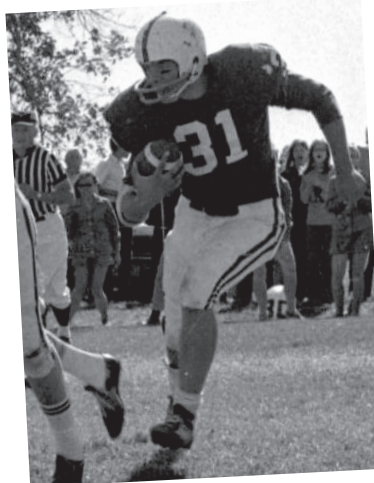
Of those who played with him during those glory years at Villard, Dave Walker, a teammate and one of his closest friends recently said, "Mark was an outstanding leader, however he was not of the 'rah, rah' style. He led by example. In current 'coach-speak' Mark had a 'high motor'. He practiced and competed at a very high level at

every opportunity. He was an elite athlete in the Little Eight Conference at a time when multiple conference schools had strong all-around athletic programs. Mark was very humble and he would be the first to credit his athletic success to those coaching influences, as well as the impact of his teammates during those years. He took great pride in winning for his coaches and teammates at VHS."

For his part, Mark's modesty deflects much credit to coaches Jim Galvin, Bruce Neros, and Gary Gilbert and to all his teammates. He recently noted, "Everything came together at Villard in the late '60s and early '70s. Great coaches, great athletes, great friends and tremendous community support! We were all really blessed to have grown up in the era we did."

Following graduation Mark would go on to Willmar Community College where he played both football and basketball. From there he moved on to Jamestown College in North Dakota to play both sports until a knee injury derailed his career and limited him his final two years. After graduating with a degree in education, Mark moved to Alaska where he worked in the oil fields doing a wide variety of jobs including a great deal of work along the Alaska pipeline. He and his wife Julie would return home to Minnesota in 1999, although he would spend six more years working seasonally in Alaska. Today he lives in Hopkins, Minnesota. He and Julie have one daughter, Jennifer. He has three grandchildren who all inherited Mark's athletic prowess. His granddaughter, Gracie, was a multiple state track and field champion in North Dakota and ran collegiately for NDSU.

Grandson Gavin was an outstanding three-sport athlete and three-time state football champion, while grandson Jake was also an excellent track athlete and state meet entrant.





Mark Kerfeld shined for the Glenwood Lakers on the hardwood during his four varsity seasons. He also suited up to proudly represent the Blue and Gold on the gridiron and on the diamond in an eventful four-year span that culminated with his graduation in 1986.

In Mark's four seasons playing for John Holsten, the Lakers claimed two outright West Central Conference championships in boys' basketball, with one shared league title and a second-place finish. Each of those Laker teams won at least three playoff games, with the 1985 Region 6 Champions gaining the Class A consolation title at State. In the surge to the 1985 State Tournament, Mark averaged more than 16 points per contest, with his per-game average that year topped only by teammate Mike Olson. Though graduation would alter the rotation for the 1985-86 season, Mark captained the Lakers in his senior year. Following a 20-win season, he was honored with a selection to the West Central Tribune's All-Area Team. WCCO Radio also recognized Mark in 1986, selecting him as one of only 28 players to its All-State Team of the Year. His contributions to the golden years of the mid-'80s for Glenwood boys' basketball are appreciated and celebrated! He capped his Laker career by finishing number two in career scoring among boys' basketball players at Glenwood, totaling 1,136 points. During that stretch, the Lakers won 85 percent of their games, which included a 16-4 post-season mark over four seasons.

Mark Kerfeld may look back at calendar year 1985 with some bittersweet memories. He was an impact player for the Glenwood Lakers that advanced to the '85 Boys' Basketball State Tournament in March. But injuries sidelined him from playing baseball that spring and football to start his senior year at GHS. Still, Mark earned the honor of being a captain for the Laker football squad in 1985.

After the injury recovery process that winter, he gradually gained court time and led Glenwood to a share of the 1986 West Central Conference title in boys' basketball. That spring, Mark was an All-Conference selection in baseball.

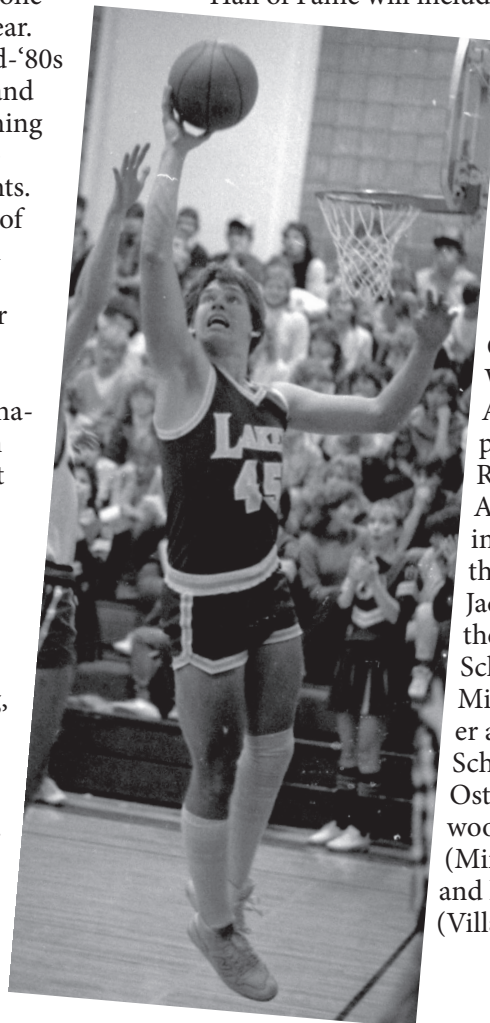
During Mark's years playing baseball, the Lakers won the District in his freshman season. Each of his Laker teams won at least once in the post-season, at a time before the double elimination format was universally in place for baseball and softball.

Following graduation, Mark attended St. Cloud State University, earning a degree with honors in Political Science in 1991. He went on to attend

the William Mitchell School of Law in St. Paul where he attained a law degree in 1995 and began practicing law shortly after passing the bar. In 1991, he opened his own law office, Kerfeld Law Office PA in Hopkins, Minnesota specializing in civil litigation, with an emphasis on personal injury litigation, insurance coverage and claims. He and his wife Karen, also a lawyer, have been married for 25 years and have one daughter, Morgan, currently a professor at the Carlson School at the University of Minnesota. He, Karen, and their Golden Retriever Rascal live in North Oaks. In their spare time they enjoy golfing, and spending time with family and friends at their cabin in Northern, Minnesota,

Mark joins older sister Cheryl as Kerfeld family members to be selected as inductees to the Minnewaska Area Schools Athletic Hall of Fame. Cheryl was honored as part of the third inducted class seven years ago. Including this year's class of honored alumni, the Minnewaska Area Schools Athletic Hall of Fame will include ten pairs of siblings: Cheryl

and Mark Kerfeld (Glenwood), Harry and Erwin Haldorson (Glenwood), Christine Moen Meulebroeck and Jeff Moen (Minnewaska Area), Bob and Mike Nelson (Starbuck), Dick and Tom Stackpool (Glenwood), Bill and Matt Rutledge (Starbuck), Greg and Doug Toivonen (Starbuck), Samantha Mattson Gulon and Jennifer "JJ" Mattson Wegner (Glenwood), Ryan and Andrew Shea (Minnewaska Area), plus Emily Roering and Sarah Roering Iverson (Minnewaska Area). Generations of inductees into this Hall of Fame include the Stackpool's father (the late Jack Stackpool from Glenwood), the Shea's father (Glenwood High School graduate Mike Shea), plus Minnewaska Area's Allie Ostrander and her mother (Starbuck High School graduate Cindy Vathauer Ostrander), William Malyon (Glenwood) and his son Brian Malyon (Minnewaska Area), and Mac Pennie and his daughter Heather Pennie Roy (Villard).





# 1985 GLENWOOD HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

## STATE CLASS A CONSOLATION CHAMPIONS

One may contend that the 1985 Region 6A Champion Glenwood Lakers have stood the test of time as the most successful prep boys' basketball team in the history of Pope County. The Lakers finished with a school-record 26 victories in a season to remember. Glenwood overcame the disappointment of the season's only defeat to start the 1985 Class A State Tournament to earn two victories, along with unwavering adulation from the followers of the Blue and Gold along the way.

As John Holsten was concluding his third year as the Lakers head coach with Don "Red" Torgerson at his side, the 1984-85 season started with a non-conference win against Browerville. The neighborly rivalry with Starbuck included a pair of Glenwood triumphs. Glenwood's 50-47 victory at Starbuck High School in the season's sixth game proved to be the closest win for the Lakers all season. In February's return match, the Lakers overcame a slim Starbuck halftime lead to topple the Bucks by 12.

Glenwood's magic number for winning the 1984-85 West Central Conference title was reduced to zero after the Lakers prevailed against Long Prairie. The Blue and Gold then capped a perfect 19-0 regular season with a victory against Montevideo. Four Lakers were named All-Conference that season: Grant Thompson, Tony Torgerson, Mark Kerfeld, and the league's MVP, Mike Olson.

The Lakers surged through District 22, winning each game by an average margin of 28 points. Glenwood aimed for more success at the Concordia College Fieldhouse in Moorhead. A 28-point win over Breckenridge on March 12th was followed up by a dominant Laker performance against Lake Park three days later on regional television in the Fargo-Moorhead area. Glenwood's defensive pressure and ability to finish at the rim was too much for the Parkers

in an emphatic 74-42 victory to send the Lakers on to State. Despite being outsize by two Lake Park starters, the 6'4" Kerfeld was huge, scoring 28 points and hauling in seven rebounds. Torgerson's nine boards in the guard spot paced the Lakers and helped to fuel the transition game.

Glenwood's Class A quarterfinal game at State featured accuracy by the opponent early. Greenway of Coleraine shot an amazing 65 percent from the floor in the opening half to overcome Glenwood's seven-point lead after one quarter. The middle quarters proved detrimental to the Lakers, as a rally from a double-digit second half deficit came up three points short. Greenway held on to claim a 62-59 win.



*Front row (left to right) – David Iverson; Jon Mortenson*  
*Middle row (left to right) – Mike Olson, Pat Morris, Tony Torgerson, Mike Thorfinnson, Arnold Gerdes, Tom Dorn, Grant Thompson*  
*Back row (left to right) – Stacy Gerdes, Paul Amundson, Karl Terhaar, Kyle Thompson, Mark Kerfeld, Troy Wagner, Craig Tostenson, Mike Hegg*



*Back row (left to right) – Sheri Paulson, Lesli Bailey*  
*Front row (left to right) – Lisa Endres, Jodi Blair, Kirsten Martinson*





Arnold Gerdes



Craig Tostenson



Dave Hausmann



David Iverson



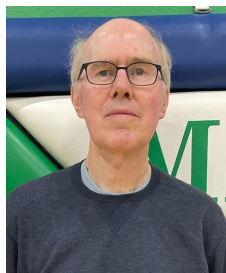
Don Torgerson



Grant Thompson



Jerry Wigdahl



John Holsten



Karl Terhaar



Mark Kerfeld



Mike Olson



Mike Thorfinnson



Mike Hegg



Patrick Morris



Paul Amundson



Stacy Gerdes



Tom Dorn



Tony Torgerson

Coach Holsten was extremely proud of the way his Lakers dealt with adversity following the loss to Greenway. The way the players responded on each and every possession during the final two games at State revealed their high levels of concentration and mental toughness. Victories against LeSueur and Cedar Mountain resulted in Glenwood taking home the Class A Consolation title. Holsten remarked that the tremendous support by the community, parents, students, and schools throughout the year was visibly on display at State. The Lakers also earned the Class A Sportsmanship trophy, to pair with the Consolation title trophy.

Boys' basketball cheerleaders included Lesli Bailey, Jodi Blair, Lisa Endres, Kirsten Martinson, Sheri Paulson and advisor/coach Terri Elsey.



David Iverson and Jon Mortenson assisted as student managers. The Laker team that advanced to State as noted in the tournament program featured Tom Dorn, Mike Thorfinnson, Arnold Gerdes, Mike Olson, Pat Morris, Grant Thompson, Tony Torgerson, Troy Wagner, Paul Amundson, Mike Hegg, Kyle Thompson, Mark Kerfeld, Stacy Gerdes, Craig Tostenson, and Karl Terhaar. The entire boys' basketball coaching staff at GHS during the 84-85 season was made up of head coach John Holsten, and assistant coaches Don "Red" Torgerson, Jerry Wigdahl and Dave Hausmann.



Troy Wagner



Terri Elsey



Sheri Paulson Hartman



Lesli Bailey Anderson



Lisa Endres Thomas



Jodi Blair Meade



Kirsten Martinson Nelson



Small schools offer many opportunities for involvement. There were just 31 students in Starbuck's graduating class of 1986. Craig Pederson seized the opportunity to not only be involved in, but to excel in multiple sports along with band, choir, and other activities.

It didn't happen very often that a Starbuck athlete would participate in three varsity sports as a freshman. For Craig, that began in a backup role on the 1982 football squad. Coaches Bill Bailey and Earl Stottler led that team to a perfect regular season mark of 8-0 along with winning their half of the Pheasant Conference. The first playoff game was against Verdi. Prior to that game, Verdi was highlighted (and Starbuck mentioned) in an article in Sports Illustrated. The Bucks won 56-14 but lost the following week to finish just shy of the state tournament.

Football success continued over the next three seasons. The 1983 team claimed another conference title. Silver Lake proved to be a strong foe in the opening round of the state tournament as they defeated Starbuck 31-14 en route to becoming the Nine-Man State Champions. Playoff rounds were added in 1984. Starbuck won three section games to qualify for state. That game was played on the road against Norman County West in miserable weather. NCW prevailed 19-15 on their way to a state championship.

In 1985, Pederson's football role had expanded to the point that he rarely left the field, at least not in any game in which the outcome was in doubt. He was a receiver on offense, played defensive back, and on special teams he was the punter and the place kicker. Three wins in the section tournament included a 35-27 win over Hancock-Cyrus to qualify for state. That win avenged the only blemish from the slate of regular season games. There was a familiar opponent to open the state tournament, Norman County West, and a first-round exit by the Bucks by a score of 39-26.

Recapping Craig's football experience, the team won 38 of 44 games during his four seasons. This included a record of 19-2 in conference games and three state tournament appearances. He was a captain, an All-Conference performer, and set school records with 63 Points After Touchdown and for his 67 career receptions. His 15 career touchdown

receptions place him 4th on the school records list.

Craig still plays basketball so it shouldn't be a surprise that it was his favorite sport in high school. He played in a handful of games as a ninth grader, then averaged dou-

ble figures in scoring over the next three seasons. The Bucks finished first or second in the conference with a record of 36-3 and Pederson earned All-Conference honors three times. Starbuck reached the District 22 semifinals each season and added a pair of runner-up trophies and two third-place trophies to the display case.

The 905 points he scored during his varsity career are the fourth most in school history. However, he no longer holds the record in his household as his daughter Nora enters her senior season at Mounds Park Academy with over 1,000 points.

Success followed in baseball. Craig made a significant contribution as a freshman with a .441 batting average. Coach Greg Starns' teams won two conference championships and a pair of seconds. Pederson was All-Conference as a junior and senior. His junior campaign ranks with the best in school history. He batted .514 and hit six homeruns (likely the school record) while driving in 25 runs in just 15 games. His nine RBI game in district play is still on the state records list. Starbuck won the District 22 title then came from behind in the seventh inning to beat Hancock-Cyrus 6-5 to open Region Six play. The Bucks

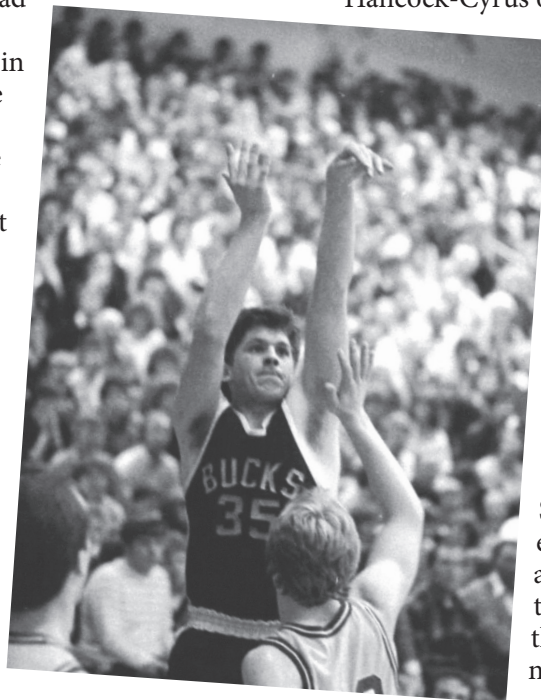
lost to Frazee to fall one game short of the state tourney. For his career, Pederson posted a lofty .439 batting average.

Gustavus Adolphus College was the next stop. Craig built on his Starbuck experiences and stayed involved in sports and in music (both band and choir). The choir had a fabulous 23-day tour of the Soviet Union, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Sweden. He was the starting centerfielder as a freshman and finished among the batting leaders in the MIAC.

After working several years in the Social Security Administration, Craig entered the Luther Seminary in 1994 and was ordained as a Lutheran Minister in 1998. Since 2015 he has served as the Assistant to the Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod of the ELCA.

Craig and his wife Lisa live in Northeast Minneapolis with their children

Evan, a sophomore at the University of Minnesota, and Nora, a senior at Mounds Park Academy in St. Paul.





Alan Hoeper made his mark as one of the most talented Minnewaska basketball players when he took the floor for the Lakers from 1997-2001. Although Alan played one sport, without a doubt, basketball was his sport. During Alan's tenure as a starter, the Lakers won 68 games which included three consecutive West Central Conference titles in 1999, 2000, and 2001. Alan began his varsity career as a freshman with then rookie head coach Phil Johnsrud. Having recently stepped away from the head coaching duties to take on the MAHS Activities Director role, the former head coach recalls Alan's first varsity game as he stated, "I'm positive Alan was much more at ease as a varsity starter as a freshman than I was as a head coach at that time." Alan's cool demeanor and focus were unlike most athletes.

During four years as a Laker starter, Alan was All-West Central Conference four times which included being the conference MVP in his junior and senior years. Alan was also recognized outside the WCC with additional honors as he was named to the Associated Press All-State Honorable Mention Team in 1999, 2000, and 2001 and the West Central Tribune All-Area 1st Team in 2000 and 2001. Furthermore, during Alan's senior year, he was selected to the Minnesota All-Star Outstate Team and was a McDonald's All-American Nominee. Alan also holds numerous individual records, however two records that are of elite status are his being Minnewaska's all-time leading scorer with 1609 points and the career record holder with 805 rebounds.

All statistics aside, Alan would tell you that the highlight of his basketball career was playing with many great teammates and his team's successes. During his senior year, the Lakers were crowned Section 3AA Champions while playing in front of a packed house at Southwest State University in Marshall vs. the Redwood Valley Cardinals. The 2001 Section 3AA championship earned the Lakers a trip to the Minnesota State High School Basketball Tournament where the Lakers

lost their first-round game in a battle with the Kenyon-Wanamingo Knights who went on to be the 2001 Minnesota Class AA State Champions.

Alan was Minnewaska's version of Jimmy Chitwood in the movie *Hoosiers*. He was long and lean with incredible athleticism. Alan carried the versatility that very few possessed as he was a silky-smooth perimeter shooter and could also dominate in the post. Alan had many spectacular dunks. Laker fans became accustomed to anticipating a Hoeper throw-down after a perfect alley-oop pass from Robbie Hyland. Most importantly, Alan never took himself too seriously, but rather focused his attention on being a good teammate and being coachable. Coach Johnsrud stated, "I will never forget how Alan never took his eyes off me during every timeout and practice

discussion. His focus was like no other that I coached, as he would do anything to win."

In addition to Alan's individual success as a basketball player, he was dedicated to his team and family. Alan grew up the youngest of ten children on a family farm in Grove

Lake where he makes his home today. It's fair to say he had his own cheering section at all Laker basketball games as this area was home to many siblings, in-laws, nephews, and nieces. The leader of the cheering section was notably his mom Bertie, who to this day lives on the same farm alongside Alan, his wife Jessica, and their five children Hannah, Henry, Harris, Hayes, and Hogan. Alan went on to play basketball at Minnesota State Moorhead and graduated with a degree in nursing. He is currently a nurse anesthetist at St. Cloud Hospital.





# JACOB BRYCE

MINNEWASKA AREA HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 2004

The name Bryce has become synonymous with Minnewaska wrestling. Jacob Bryce, following the lead of his father and two older brothers, became one of the best wrestlers to ever compete at Minnewaska Area High School.

What many don't know is that Jacob was also a solid football player in the fall for the Lakers. As a senior he was named a team captain and had a solid year as he became an All-West Central Conference player. The success of his fall sport, was just a warm-up to his first love of wrestling.

It did not take Jacob long to make his impact on the Minnewaska varsity wrestling team. In only his 8th grade year Bryce was wrestling varsity at 160 pounds. As a freshman, and again wrestling at 160 pounds, he was a state tournament entrant and was named "Most Improved" on his team.

Jacob entered his sophomore season with a national ranking; something that would continue through the rest of his high school career. Bryce's sophomore campaign also resulted in him being named team MVP, All West Central Conference, and Conference Champion. By the time he finished his sophomore season, Jacob had won the section tournament and finished runner-up in the state tournament.

Jacob's junior season was filled with some of his most renowned accomplishments. He picked up his 100th career victory, was named All Conference, Conference Champion, Team Captain, Team MVP, and most notably, he became the state champion at 171 pounds. Bryce was also succeeding in the classroom as he was named Academic All State with a 3.95 GPA.

Entering Jacob's senior season, he was ranked #1 in the state of Minnesota at 171 pounds and was named all state. He was again a team captain, team MVP, all conference, and conference champion. He was undefeated during the season and again earned the opportunity to compete at the state tournament, despite an injury to his ACL suffered in a late regular season match. During his senior campaign, Jacob wrestled in one of the toughest weight classes in the entire state tournament.

Among four of the wrestlers in his bracket, they had won a combined 5 state championships. Jacob capped off his fourth straight state tournament appearance with a fourth-place finish and finished the season with a 43-2 record.

Jacob's wrestling style was one where he was constantly on the attack. He liked to wrestle from the neutral position and takedowns were his specialty. In many of his matches, you would see Bryce take down his opponent on numerous occasions which would wear down his opponent both mentally and physically. Jacob would then be in a prime position to pursue a pin, which he accomplished on most occasions.

Wes Tessman, Laker wrestling coach at the time, noted recently that Jacob was one of the very best wrestlers he had the opportunity to coach during his tenure. "He was intelligent, highly skilled, and technically outstanding." In a recent conversation he also mentioned, "If not for the knee injury he suffered late in his senior year, I believe he would've repeated as state champion. That being said, his fourth-place finish with the injury he wrestled through at the state tournament showed just how tough a wrestler he really was."

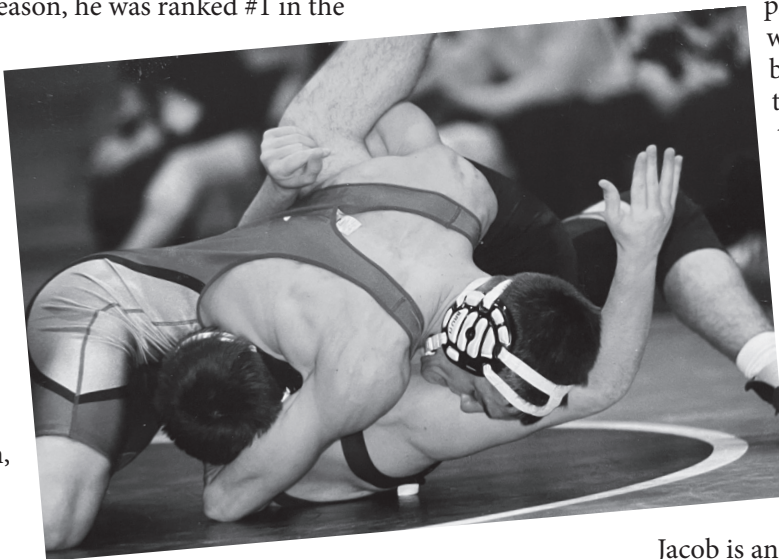
After high school, Bryce would follow in his brother's footsteps and take his talents to North Dakota State University. After redshirting his first year on campus, Jacob would wrestle in NDSU's starting lineup as a redshirt freshman where he wrestled at 197 pounds. Bryce's redshirt sophomore year saw him become an NCAA Qualifier and he was named Most Valuable Upper Weight Wrestler for the Bison. As a redshirt junior, Bryce was an NCAA qualifier, team captain, Most Valuable Upper Weight Wrestler and was named the team's hardest worker. Bryce finished his college career with a record of 51-31.

When Jacob looks back on his wrestling career, he is most

proud of how hard the Laker wrestling team worked. He believes that there was not a team in the state of Minnesota that worked harder than they did. Jacob is also proud to have been a part of the group that pushed to create the Mat Pack wrestling club. This was a club designed to help the team reach its goal of making it to the state tournament.

Jacob now lives in Alexandria with his wife Jenna, and their children Jackson, Amele, Clara, and Thomas.

Jacob is an owner of Machinery Scope which is a financing and warranty company for Agricultural and Construction equipment. He gives back to the local wrestling community as the Alexandria Youth Wrestling coach and the Peak Wrestling Club coordinator.





# LAURA TVRDIK NOTCH

MINNEWASKA AREA HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 2007

When looking back at top student-athletes at Minnewaska Area High School during the first decade of the 2000s, near the top of the list you'll find the name of Laura Tvrdik. The youngest of Doug and Theresa Tvrdik's three daughters, she was one of the most gifted athletes in Laker sports history.

Having the luxury of growing up behind her two older sisters, Melissa and Stacy, she was able to learn much about her two favorite sports of volleyball and fastpitch softball by watching them excel on the court and diamond as high school athletes for the Lakers in the late '90s and early 2000s.

In the fall Laura would star for the Lakers for four seasons as a member of the volleyball team from 2003 through 2006. At six-feet tall, she was quick, rangy, and had amazing leaping ability which allowed her to cover the court exceptionally well as she developed into one of the best attacking hitters in Minnesota. When she left the court for the last time in the autumn of 2006, she was the most decorated volleyball player in Laker history. She was a four-time selection to the West Central All-Conference team, and a member of the West Central Tribune All-Area Team as a senior. She was also named All-State and Academic All-State as a senior. She held team records for ace blocks, ace serves, kills in a career, digs in a career, most ace serves in a match, most ace blocks in a match, and most good hits in a match. Even now, sixteen years after graduating from MAHS, she still holds school records in five different categories for blocks, kills, and ace serves. The Lakers head volleyball coach during the era, Linda Mills, recently commented, "Laura was one of the most gifted athletes I had the opportunity to coach in volleyball. As a four-year varsity starter, not only was she a supremely talented player who understood the nuances of the game extremely well, but she was an outstanding leader. She was always positive and encouraging to her teammates and regarded each of them as a friend and equal. She was also very respectful of the coaching staff. Additionally, as great an athlete as she was, she was also one of the top students in the Class of 2007. Her drive to excel in the classroom was as important to her, if not more so, than anything she accomplished on the court. She is, without a doubt, one of the top student-athletes that Minnewaska Area High School has produced. Even today, when I run into Laura, she's as nice and friendly as she was in high school. Just a wonderful person in every way!"

In the spring of the year, Laura's sport was fastpitch softball. Playing for the legendary Steve Hoffmann, she excelled on the diamond as much as she did on the volleyball court. During her four-year varsity career as a strong-armed second basemen and shortstop, she had perhaps the greatest range of an infielder in Laker history. With her height and speed, she could not only get to

ground balls with ease, but could make great plays with her leaping ability in catching screaming line drives that were destined to be base hits. She was also a tremendous hitter and a very difficult out at the plate as she could hit for power as well as average. In a recent conversation regarding Laura, Steve Hoffmann said, "Laura made everybody a better player, and changed the dynamics of the game

whether at the plate or in the field. I was recently talking to my assistant coach at the time, Bill Mills, about a game against arch-rival Morris that was going to determine the WCC Championship. Laura was playing second base late in a very tight game in which we were leading. Morris had the go-ahead runs on base and the batter hit a laser line drive headed for an extra base hit when Laura jumped up as high as she could and made an outstanding catch that ended the threat and catapulted us to the win and a conference title. She was a game changer for sure, and

one of the top infielders and hitters

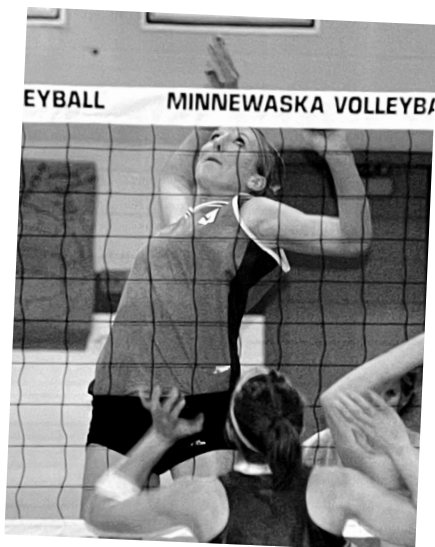
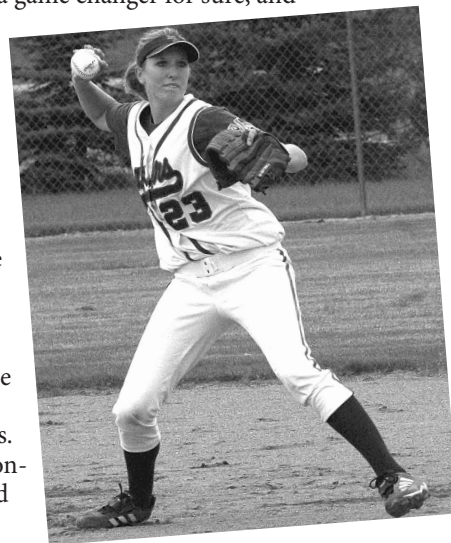
I had the opportunity to coach. The way she played the game gave everyone more confidence. She was also a great leader, whether in the dugout or on the field. She kept everyone positive."

When her softball career came to a close in the spring of 2007, Laura had earned numerous accolades. Included in those were 3 conference championships, and four straight years of being named WCC All-Conference. This included being named the conference MVP in 2006. She was also named All-State and participated in the State All-Star softball game after her senior year. Today she is still in the top ten in ten statistical career categories and holds the top spot for extra-base hits and RBIs.

From Laura's perspective, she recently noted, "Watching my two older sisters sparked the competitive spirit in me at a young age to do my best to excel. My parents were also very supportive and drove many miles over the years to cheer on me and my teammates. Being a student-athlete at MAHS helped shape and grow me for the future. I was always looking for ways to better my skills both athletically and academically. The coaches and teachers I had showed wonderful support and dedication, and helped me develop not only skills needed on the court and field, but skills needed for life."

Following graduation, Laura went on to earn a degree in Exercise Science from Minnesota State University-Moorhead. While at MSUM she also participated in volleyball where she had an outstanding career earning all-conference honors in the NSIC as a sophomore, junior, and senior. She furthered her studies attaining a Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of North Dakota.

Today, Laura, her husband Tyler, and children Ellie - 7, Adelyn - 5 and Brooks 1½ live in the Alexandria area where Laura works for Evolent as an Initial Clinical Reviewer.





# GLENWOOD BASKETBALL HISTORY

It was nearly 100 years ago that Glenwood claimed their first district championship in basketball. The coach was E. N. Nordgaard and the Lakers won three consecutive titles from 1927 thru 1929 in what was then District 9. Glenwood made it five championships in six seasons when A. W. Evenson's teams won District 23 in 1931 and 1932.

Not surprisingly, Alexandria was the biggest obstacle in the district and they won the most district championships thru the end of the single-class era in 1970. Glenwood's nine titles was the second most, followed closely by Melrose with eight and Sauk Centre with seven.

Region Six also offered rigorous competition. In just about every season the region included at least one of the following large schools or traditional powers – Brainerd, Crosby-Ironton, Fergus Falls, or Moorhead. Glenwood's 1956 team became the first Laker squad to break thru to the state tournament. Leading the way was coach Jim Gremmels and star player "Jeke" Olson.

## DISTRICT 22 FINALISTS 1976-1991

Season	Champion	Runner-up	Score
1976	Glenwood	Villard	45-40
1977	Eagle Bend	Glenwood	43-31
1978	Starbuck	Browerville	61-44
1979	Villard	Evansville	50-48
1980	Starbuck	Glenwood	48-46
1981	Starbuck	Parkers Prairie	61-56
1982	Starbuck	Browerville	61-45
1983	Glenwood	Starbuck	60-44
1984	Glenwood	Sauk Centre	54-52
1985	Glenwood	Starbuck	65-40
1986	Glenwood	Sauk Centre	63-60
1987	Glenwood	Browerville	71-54
1988	Long Prairie	Starbuck	47-36
1989	Long Prairie	Osakis	55-43
1990	Long Prairie	Melrose	50-49
1991	Long Prairie	Starbuck	48-45

## GLENWOOD BASKETBALL COACHES SINCE 1925

# Years	Seasons	Coach	District Titles
5	1925-1929	E. N. Nordgaard	27, 28, 29
3	1930-1932	A. W. Evenson	31, 32
3	1933-1935	Reuben Frost	
3	1936-1938	Edward Behmler	
2	1939-1940	Bob Carlson	
2	1941-1942	Lyle Graves	41
1	1943	Eldon Anderson	
1	1944	J. Donald Lanners	
6	1945-1950	Cliff Hansen	46
5	1951-1955	Lyle Graves	
5	1956-1960	Jim Gremmels	56
7	1961-1967	David Hegna	64
15	1968-1982	Jack Stackpool	76
9	1983-1991	John Holsten	83, 84, 85, 86, 87

In the two-class era, Jack Stackpool's 1976 squad won District 22. John Holsten's teams hoisted district championship hardware in five consecutive seasons from 1983 thru 1987. The 1985 team became the second from GHS to reach the state tournament and their accomplishment is being celebrated as 2023 inductees to the Minnewaska Area Schools Athletic Hall of Fame.

Starbuck was moved from District 21 to District 22 in 1976. In the remaining 16 seasons before Minnewaska Area High School became a reality, either Glenwood, Starbuck, or Villard appeared in the district championship game in all but two of those seasons. In those two seasons absent from the title game, Starbuck won third place in 1989 and Glenwood won third place (over Starbuck) in 1990.

### Top 5 teams in the terms of winning percentage:

1985	96.30%	26-1	Coach John Holsten
1927	90.48%	19-2	Coach E. N. Nordgaard
1928	86.96%	20-3	Coach E. N. Nordgaard
1986	86.96%	20-3	Coach John Holsten
1956	82.14%	23-5	Coach Jim Gremmels



*“World-class everything here at Minnewaska  
(the locals call it Waska). The stadium, the baseball  
field, **THE PEOPLE**. Absolutely spectacular!”*

-John Millea, Media Specialist, Minnesota State High School League,  
August 31, 2023





# PAST HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Richard Lybeck - Glenwood  
Erwin Haldorson - Glenwood  
Art Olson - Glenwood  
Clifford Hansen - Glenwood  
Paul R. Hoplin - Glenwood  
Edward Grove - Glenwood  
Harry Haldorson - Glenwood  
David Hagen - Glenwood  
Richard "Gus" Munding - Glenwood  
Jerry "Jeke" Olson - Glenwood  
Donald Branby - Glenwood  
Walter "Bud" Hausken - Glenwood  
John Benson - Glenwood  
Norris Stenson - Starbuck  
David Tank - Villard  
Bill Gilman - Glenwood  
Robert Nelson - Starbuck  
Todd Brenden - Starbuck  
1973 GHS Boys State Track Team  
John Gloege - Glenwood  
Melrene Nygaard Millerbernd - Starbuck  
Carol Skurat Baumann - Villard  
Tom Stackpool - Glenwood  
Samantha Mattson Gulon - Glenwood  
Jennifer Mattson Wegner - Glenwood  
Brian Malyon - Minnewaska Area  
Carrie Cooley - Minnewaska Area  
Norm Opheim - Starbuck  
Robert Blaine - Villard  
Bill Malyon - Glenwood  
Doug MacIver - Glenwood  
Mike E. Shea - Glenwood  
Rick Anderson - Starbuck  
Bill D. Bailey - Starbuck  
Bill Rutledge - Starbuck  
Greg Toivonen - Starbuck  
Doug Toivonen - Starbuck  
Heather Pennie-Roy - Villard

Melissa "Missy" Kath - Minnewaska Area  
Christine Moen Meulebroeck - Minnewaska Area  
Jack Stackpool - Glenwood & Minnewaska Area  
Dareld Hirschey - Glenwood  
Wayne Erickson - Starbuck  
Earl Stottler - Starbuck  
Greg Starns - Starbuck & Minnewaska Area  
1975 GHS Boys' Cross Country Team  
Cheryl Kerfeld - Glenwood  
Michael Nelson - Starbuck  
Randy Albers - Villard  
Ryan Shea - Minnewaska Area  
Damien Hoffman - Minnewaska Area  
Allan DeBoer - Glenwood  
Dr. Ted Reichmann - Villard  
David Baukol - Starbuck & Minnewaska Area  
Roger Aaberg - Starbuck  
Lee Braaten - Glenwood & Minnewaska Area  
John Holsten - Glenwood  
Jan Doty - Starbuck  
Jeff Moen - Minnewaska Area  
Maclaren Pennie - Villard  
Dick Stackpool - Glenwood  
Bob Hagert - Starbuck  
Jeff Olson - Glenwood  
Matt Rutledge - Starbuck  
Cindy Vathauer Ostrander - Starbuck  
Aaron Erickson - Minnewaska Area  
Rachel Kuhn McKessock - Minnewaska Area  
Robert "Bob" Fierke - Villard  
Ken Neumann - Glenwood  
Craig Johnshoy - Starbuck  
Stacey Jeitz Guggisberg - Starbuck  
Andrew Shea - Minnewaska Area  
Emily Roering - Minnewaska Area  
Sarah Roering Iverson - Minnewaska Area  
Allie Ostrander - Minnewaska Area  
1981 Starbuck High School Football Team



## The Minnewaska Laker Foundation Mission

The Minnewaska Laker Foundation exists to enhance Minnewaska Area Schools' programs and facilities. The Foundation was formed in 2007 as a non-profit organization to support and improve activities programs at Minnewaska. The mission has since expanded to also support classroom excellence. The Laker Foundation helps promote academic, fine arts, music, and athletic activities by helping fund equipment, supplies, and special projects.

The Foundation seeks to emphasize academics and personal development through excellence in the classroom and quality activities and programs as well as create meaningful ties among the schools, alumni, and greater community.

## Endowment Program

The purpose of the Minnewaska Laker Foundation Endowment Fund is to:

- Raise a significant amount of money.
- Invest and preserve the principal.
- Use the earnings generated by the principal to enhance and support school district programs and facilities.

The Fund earnings would be used for items "above and beyond" the items that are typically funded in the school budget (for example, classroom textbooks, furniture, maintenance expenses, consumable items and staff development are paid for by the School and not through the Fund). The Fund will provide lasting financial support for the Laker Foundation's mission to support student excellence.

## Special Naming Opportunities

Gifts of \$5,000 or more, given according to an Endowment Program schedule adopted by the Minnewaska Area School Board, will entitle the donor to have an area in the Minnewaska schools named as the donor designates. The area will be "named" or "signed" with an official plaque, banner or marquee designating the selected area. Naming rights would be in place for the lifetime of the facility and/or as long as the facility is in use by the Minnewaska Area School District for educational purposes, unless otherwise agreed by the School and the donor. The gift amount, period for payment, area to be named and the language for naming will be set out in a contract between the donor and the Minnewaska Laker Foundation. This is an opportunity for recognition of businesses or individuals (either the donors themselves or in honor of others, such as family, friends, teachers, or administrators).

## Donations

Your donations are greatly appreciated and qualify as tax-deductible charitable donations.

Investing in the health of our schools and community is especially important during times when state and federal funding is scarce and unpredictable. As community members, it is our right and responsibility to ensure that our youth have the tools they need to reach their full potential. We invite you to participate in this special opportunity. Your gift will benefit countless generations of children and make it possible to expand and enhance the academic and activities programs in the Minnewaska Area School District for our children today.

To contribute, and for more information regarding the Minnewaska Laker Foundation, please go to our website at:

<https://www.minnewaska.k12.mn.us/foundation/>

## Hall of Fame Criteria

The primary factors for Hall of Fame consideration are outstanding individual performance or team success at the high school level while at Glenwood, Starbuck, Villard, and/or Minnewaska Area High School. Voters can consider post-high school accomplishments in their evaluation of players. Voters can also consider "character" in their evaluation of candidates.

### Eligibility

- Athletes are eligible after a ten year waiting period. For instance, the earliest a 2023 high school graduate could be inducted to the Hall of Fame would be with the class of 2034.
- Coaches are eligible after a two year waiting period following their retirement as a coach from Glenwood, Starbuck, Villard, or Minnewaska Area High School.
- Teams are eligible after a ten year waiting period.
- At-Large (media, game officials, administrators, community leaders) are eligible after fifteen years of noteworthy involvement with any of the four previously mentioned schools.
- Extenuating circumstances can be considered regarding waiting periods.



The MAHS Hall of Fame inductees are displayed near the varsity gym entrance.

*We are now accepting nominations for 2025. Nomination forms may be found on the Minnewaska Area Schools website. Please go to <https://www.minnewaska.k12.mn.us/foundation/>*



# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

American Solutions for Business  
Carrie Janu  
Eagle Bank  
Fast Global Solutions  
Glacial Ridge Health System  
Magnifi Financial

Minnewaska Area High School  
Minnewaska House  
Minnewaska Laker Foundation  
Pope County Tribune  
Northern Print Company

## THE POPE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES OUR ATHLETES



Explore the history and tradition of sport in our community through our collection of artifacts, photographs, yearbooks, and personal files. From turn of the century baseball uniforms, to ski jump footage, to clippings of last week's game, we track local history.



### The Pope County Museum

809 South Lakeshore Drive  
Glenwood, Minnesota 56334

**320-634-3293**

[popecountymuseum@gmail.com](mailto:popecountymuseum@gmail.com)

[popecountymuseum.com](http://popecountymuseum.com)

Hours: Tuesday-Saturday · 10-5



**POPE COUNTY**  
museum

PROGRAM DESIGNED AND PRINTED BY

**palmer  
creations**

[PALMERCREATIONS.COM](http://PALMERCREATIONS.COM)