History of Les Eisenhart XC Invitational

“The Eisenhart” was established in 1986 in honor of long-time Worthington teacher and distance coach Les Eisenhart.

Les Eisenhart graduated from Columbus North High School and established the state record in the 880-yard run (1:58.8) while winning the state title in that event in 1937. Les continued his education and athletic career at The Ohio State University scoring twice at the NCAA Championship in the 880-yard run and once at the NCAA Cross Country Championship, as well as establishing two indoor Ohio college records and one outdoor record.

During Les Eisenhart’s 33 year tenure at Worthington High School, his teams earned 24 cross country league titles, 18 district cross country titles, and 7 district track championships. Eisenhart also coached five individual state track champions and two individual state cross country champions. In 1967, his boys’ team won the State Cross Country Championship.

Les Eisenhart served as President of the Ohio Association of Track & Cross Country Coaches Association from 1955-1956. In 1970, Coach Les Eisenhart was inducted into the OATCCC (Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches) Hall of Fame. Upon retiring in 1979, Coach Eisenhart continued to serve as an official for cross country and track. In 1987, Les was once again honored by the OATCCC with the Ed Barker Award, which recognizes individuals that have shown exceptional service to the OATCCC and the sports of cross country and track and field.

Each year Les Eisenhart returned to Worthington to serve as the starter for the cross country invitational meet named in his honor until his passing in 1998.