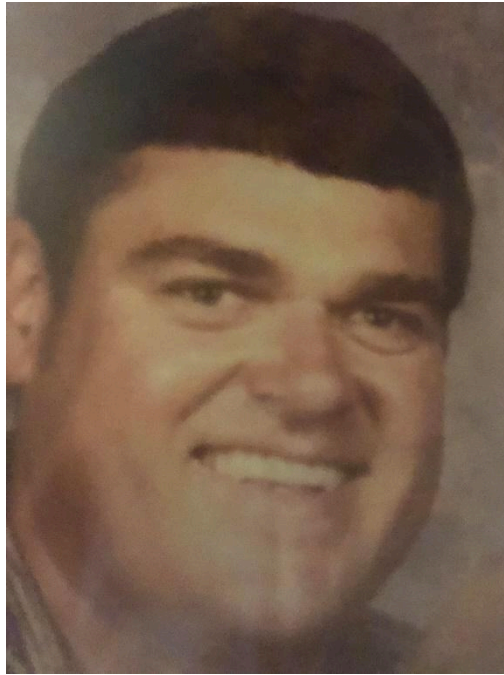




Tom Felber - Booster

For over 21 years, Mr./Coach Felber passionately bled “black and gold” as he intensely coached basketball and track as well as taught art. Mr. Felber excitedly led the BHS Booster Club since he loved making signs with students to spread “Bear Spirit” throughout the student bodies for all the schools’ activities and proudly displayed their artwork. Mr. Felber’s skilled artwork decorated BHS hallways plus the community for holiday programs and student events. In and out of the classroom, lunchroom, gymnasium, Mr. Felber consistently spread the Byron Bears’ enthusiasm, wishing all athletes the best of luck when competing and encouraging students to attend/support as fans! Mr. Felber chaperoned the student bus to away games, dances, and multiple activities so more could support their “Bear” friends and classmates. While Tom enjoyed attending games himself, he thoroughly loved letting others know to attend when “the Bears” were playing home, away, or at tournaments. Nancy, Tom’s very thoughtful, supportive wife for 49 years and excellent Byron educator herself for 30 years, said, “Whether late nights, early mornings, all day or weekends of coaching, scouting basketball, track, and completing school art projects, Tom never complained but instead happily commented about any teams’ successes!” Tom would say, “Nanc, thanks for making my job easier by buying me Jolly Ranchers and licorice.” Tom loved the “Do it! Do it! Do it!” that Gordy Vail, another Byron HOF inductee, used to support all the Byron Bear teams/individuals! Over the years, Tom proudly spoke of a number of individuals and families who shared his enthusiasm and pride for the students and community of Byron as a whole.



Jade Milde – Athlete (1979)

Jade was a talented, 3-sport athlete for the Byron Bears. He participated in cross country for 3 years, earning a letter each year and was the captain his senior year. In his career, he ran in at least 29 races and finished as Byron's top runner in a meet 5 times. His best 3-mile time was 16.03. His senior year, Jade finished 10th in the district and 18th at the regions. The team finished 3rd and 4th, respectively.

Jade's favorite sport was basketball. He played varsity basketball his sophomore, junior, and senior years, earning a letter each year. He was co-captain his senior year. During his sophomore and senior years, Jade was voted Bear Power Defensive Player of the Year. He was All Conference each of his 3 varsity years. He received the 1979 BHS Outstanding Senior Male Athlete Award. His senior year, the Bears were co-champions of the Wasioja Conference and went on to the District 3 semi-final game where the Bears lost to Randy Breuer's Lake City team. Jade received state recognition with WCCO All State Team of the Week his senior year. Over his 3 years, he played in 57 games, scored 899 points (before the establishment of the 3-point line), and had 547 rebounds. Jade finished his BHS career as #2 in total points scored. Jade also held the BHS rebound record for 25 years. He received a basketball scholarship to Glendive Community College in Montana where he played for 2 years.

Jade participated in track and field his junior and senior years where he competed in the long jump, 1500 meters (mile), and shot put. He set a school record in shot put his senior year at 47' 10.25". He was also co-captain his senior year.

Jade graduated from Mankato State University with a Business Management degree. It was there he met his wife Marie. The couple lived in Prior Lake for 26 years where they raised their 2 children, Jamie and Wesley. The Maverick legacy continued as both Jamie and her husband Chad graduated from Mankato as did Wesley's fiancé Emilee. Jade and Marie are blessed with 1 granddaughter Lois and another on the way. While living in Prior Lake, Jade had a successful real estate career, selling new construction throughout the Twin City suburbs. The couple now lives on Cedar Lake in Faribault and enjoys lake life and gardening at the farm.

Jason Athlete



Garvens – (2006)

During his years running cross country for BHS, Jason was a 5-time letter winner, a 4-time All Conference selection, team captain his junior and senior years, a 4-time state qualifier (school record), and twice earned All State honors with his placement finishes at State. Jason finished third in the state meet his senior year, which is still the best finish in school history. Jason led the 2005-06 boys CC team to a 2nd place finish at the conference meet and a 3rd place sectional team finish, the best BHS sectional team finish at that time. Jason earned Academic All-State his junior and senior seasons.

In track and field, Jason was a 5-time letter winner, a co-captain his senior year, a 3-time All Conference selection, and All State his junior year with his 4th place finish in the 3200 M. Jason also earned Academic All-State 3 times.

Jason was the 2005-06 Outstanding Senior Letter Winner and, a member of the National Honor Society, band, and spring musical.

Jason continued his athletic running career at the Division 3 level at University of Wisconsin-Platteville (WIAC), again running on the cross country and track and field teams. In cross country, he was All Conference 3 times and the individual champion in 2010. He was a 2-time individual All Regions winner as well as 2-time All American. Jason led his team to back-to-back 2nd place conference meet team finishes in 2009 and 2010 and to 4th and 2nd place regional meet finishes those same years as well as 9th and 4th place national finishes. These 2 years were the best national team place finishes in school history. He was co-captain his senior year. Jason won the WIAC CC Athlete of the Year Award in 2009 and was the Conference Meet Male Scholar-Athlete Award Winner in 2010. Jason was also Platteville's Male Scholar Athlete Award winner for 2010. In track and field, Jason was an All American, placing 7th in the in the national meet in the 10,000 M run. Jason graduated in the spring of 2011 with a Bachelors of Science degree in Electrical Engineering.

Jason currently lives, works, and plays in Madison, and is employed full-time as a HVAC Controls Engineer/Specialist for the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Jason is also a licensed Professional Engineer. He is married to his wife Carley, and they have a 4-year old rescue dog Ziggy. Jason enjoys traveling both domestically and abroad, having visited 35 US states and 10 different countries. He also enjoys the outdoors by regularly partaking in camping and canoe trips with his family. Jason has also kept running in his post-collegiate years, most notably having completed 9 marathons (2:34 marathon best) and is a 2018 Wisconsin Ironman Triathlon finisher. As part-time weekend work and to stay involved in the sport of running, Jason has assisted with timing road races since 2016. Most notably, he's been honored to be involved with race timing teams for world renowned races such as the Boston, Chicago, and Houston marathons.



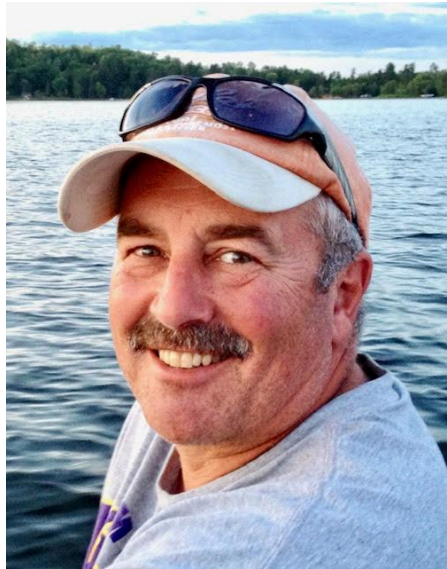
Greta Raaen – Athlete (2000)

During her years at BHS, Greta was a highly-skilled soccer and softball player! She was a 4-year starter forward on the soccer team and tri-captain her senior year. Greta scored 49 goals in 60 games, a school record at that time and currently holds 5th place. Greta scored 64 career points, a school record at that time and currently is in 5th place. BHS girls soccer began in 1997, and the team ended their 1st year with a 3-9-2 record. In 1999, the team finished 14-2-3, a current school record for fewest losses. The girls were seeded #1 but lost in the sub-section finals. Greta's senior year, the team ended 16-3-3, another current school record for wins. Again, the team was seeded #1 but lost in the sub-section finals. Greta earned the Team Offensive MVP both her junior and senior years; All Conference her sophomore, junior, and senior years; All State Honorable Mention her sophomore year, a first for BHS girls soccer; and All State her junior and senior years, again a first for BHS girls soccer.

On her softball team, she was a 3-year starter as catcher. During her sophomore year, the team won the West Sub-Section championship. Her junior year, Greta batted .397 and was All Conference. The team won the HVL Conference, was the West Sub-Section Champion, and placed 2nd in the section. Her senior year, Greta was a co-captain.

While attending Lawrence College, a Division 3 school, Greta again played the forward position for the soccer team and played in 63 of the 68 games over those 4 years. Overall, she scored 30 goals, was ranked #4 all-time as of 2004, and currently is ranked #6. She had 18 assists, tied for #2 all-time as of 2004, and currently is tied for #3. She scored 78 points, was ranked #4 all-time as of 2004, and currently is ranked #36. Greta was All Conference 2nd Team her sophomore year and All Conference 1st Team her senior year, scoring 14 goals. She missed her junior year due to concussions. Greta was elected tri-captain her senior year. She also played softball her senior year and started at third base.

Greta is now living in Connecticut with her husband Rob and two children, Madelyn (3) and Thomas (5 months). She received her doctorate in Psychology, specializing in Sport Psychology. Currently, she is a Senior Director in Human Resources for a biotech pharmaceutical company, responsible for identifying/accelerating the development of top talent and for creating future company leaders.



Paul Fischenich – Coach

Paul started his teaching career in Miller, South Dakota, in 1980, teaching physical education and coaching wrestling. His wrestling team was the Class B State runner-up in 1984 and the Class B champion in 1985. In 1987, Paul and his wife Karla moved to Byron, and stayed here 33 years. While in Byron, Paul was twice named the Byron Teacher of the Year and was selected as the Minnesota Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the Year. Throughout his teaching career, Paul coached football, soccer, wrestling, softball, and track/field.

Paul coached wrestling for 7 years. His overall wrestling record was 56-52-0 for a winning percentage of .519. Five BHS wrestlers were state participants over those 7 years. He retired as head wrestling coach when he felt the rebuilding had been complete. Paul wanted the next coach “to start with a lot of success”; and the next 3 years were some of the winningest teams in wrestling.

Paul started coaching the girls soccer team in 1997. As the first coach, Paul said the team “started out slow as a new sport against big school competition”. In 1999, the team went 14-2-3 to achieve the second-best winning percentage (.816) in BHS girls soccer history. Currently, the 2 losses during this season is a BHS school record for Fewest Losses in a Season. This team also has the second-best winning percentage in a season (.816). The next year, the team went 16-3-3 (.795 winning percentage) and still holds the school record for Most Wins in a Season. The 1999 and 2000 teams were #1 seeds in the East Sub-District of Section 1A both years but lost in the sub-section championship games. Paul earned an overall 46-20-8 record for a .678 winning percentage, the second-best winning percentage in BHS girls soccer history. He was selected as the Section Soccer Coach of the Year in 1998 and again in 2000.

Paul coached the girls softball team from 1988-2003. His overall record was 150-141 (.515 winning percentage). Paul holds the BHS records for Most Coached Games, Wins, and Losses. He has the 4th best winning percentage out of the 6 coaches BHS has had. In 1995, the team was the HVL runner-up. In 1999, the team was the HVL co-champion and also won the Subsection 4 championship. In 2000, the team again won the HVL championship, was the Section 1AA West Sub-Section champion, and went on to be the Section 1AA runner-up. The record for Most Games Played in a Season (23) was earned by the 1997 and 1999 teams. They were records at that time, but now are tied for 2nd place. In 2000, the team earned records for Most Wins in a Season (18) and Highest Winning Percentage (.818), but those records are now ranked #2. The 2000 team also earned the school record for Most Conference Wins in a Season (10) and Highest Winning Percentage (.909), but those records are now ranked #2.

Paul and Karla have 2 adult children---Emily, who is a first grade teacher and head softball coach at Triton, and Zach, who works as an EDI Financial Specialist at Mayo. Paul/Karla have a dog kennel that they have run for 25 years---MN French Spaniels. They are the only breeder of this dog in the USA. Paul also volunteers at Triton in the spring as an assistant softball coach under his daughter’s leadership and enjoys hunting grouse and pheasants in the fall.

Byron Cross Country Team 2007

A Magical Season in the Making

Front: Aaron Nepstad, Ali Khalili, Henry Hartzler

Back: Thomas Thornton, Eric Anderson, Coach Coleman, Kyle Johnson, Alex Thornton

The reason the 2007 season was “a magical season in the making” is because the drive to reach the state tournament as a team started 2 years prior under the leadership of Jason Garvens. Jason had already qualified for state twice as a freshman and sophomore, and the thing he wanted to do more than anything was lead a team to state. The team came up a little short Jason’s senior season, but the seed was planted.

The 2007 Team was led by 3 seniors who referred to themselves as “the Three Amigos” (Ali Khalili, Thomas Thornton, Alex Thornton). These 3 seniors embodied the team aspect of the sport and did an amazing job leading the team to the school’s first section title and state birth. The team ran well at state and finished 13th. “The Three Amigos” were joined by “the Fabulous Freshmen” (Eric Anderson, Kyle Johnson), “the Workhorse Junior” (Aaron Nepstad) and “the Spirited Seventh Grader” (Henry Hartzler). These 7 individuals along with all the other members of team put the work in, held each other accountable, truly cared about each other, plus had a ton of fun. This team also won the HVL conference championship for the first time since 1993.

