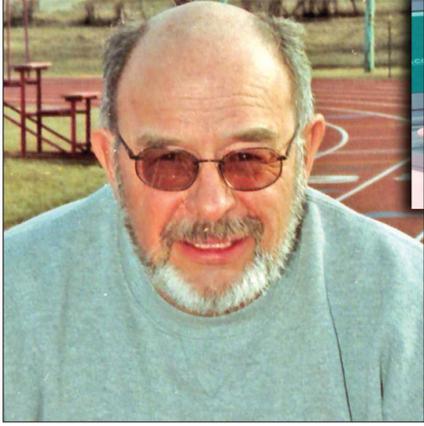




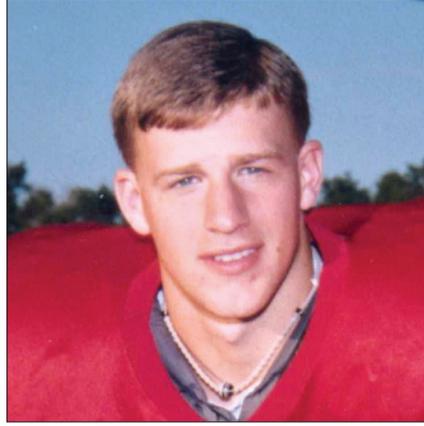
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Gene Bormann



Emil Cwach



Scott Nedved



Gayle (Hiemstra) Vail

Football players from two different eras, a girls' basketball star and a coach comprise the 2013 class of the Yankton High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

Emil Cwach, an offensive lineman from the 1950s; Scott Nedved, Yankton's all-time leader in rushing yards; Gayle (Hiemstra) Vail, who led the Gazelles to three straight title appearances in the early 1980s; and Gene Bormann, who made his name as an outstanding track and cross country coach, will be inducted into the hall during the YHS All-Sports Recognition on Thursday, May 9. The event will begin with a reception for the Hall of Famers at 5:30 p.m. in the YHS Commons, followed by the All-Sports Recognition in the theater at 6:30 p.m.

Here is a look at the four individuals, listed in alphabetical order:

Gene Bormann

THOUGH GENE BORMANN was not an athlete in his days at Canistota High School, he went on to help countless Yankton High School athletes fulfill their dreams in a number of sports.

While Bormann did play baseball in his sophomore year of high school, his career in athletics didn't start in earnest until his days at Yankton College, beginning with an athletic career that started almost by accident.

"I had an intestinal problem, mostly nerves, but I felt better when I worked out," he said. "(YC coach) Carl Youngworth invited me to run track, and the next fall I also ran cross country."

While at YC, Bormann met the man who would one day become his boss, former YHS activities director Bob Winter.

"I knew he had a tough go of it just to get to college," Winter said of Bormann, who was a student manager for all Greyhounds sports, even after he started competing. "He worked his hind end off to get to where he's at."

After graduating from YC, Bormann began his coaching career in Lennox, where he served as head cross country coach for 12 years and head track coach for 10 years. He also spent three years as an assistant coach for boys' basketball and track, as well as five years as athletic director.

Then an opening came up in Yankton, one that Bormann could not pass up.

"A lot of the people I had started teaching with in Lennox had left, and Yankton had a job opening that appealed to me," he said. "My first year was in the middle school. Then a lady whose husband got transferred left the high school, opening up a biology position."

Bormann's coaching career at YHS began as an assistant, serving as an assistant track coach, as well as coaching sophomore girls' basketball and freshman boys' basketball. He would go on to coach track for 23 years, two as a head coach, and cross country for 22 years, 18 as head coach.

"He was the swing coach on our staff," said Jim Miner, who was the head track and field coach for much of Bormann's time at YHS. "He was the distance coach for the longest time, but he would coach hurdles, sprints — it didn't matter. He would come in and do it well."

While Bormann spent much of his career working with distance runners, he fill whatever position was needed.

"When I became the hurdles coach, we were blessed with some outstanding hurdlers. For

4 Stars

Bormann, Cwach, Nedved And (Hiemstra) Vail To Be Inducted Into YHS's Athletic Hall Of Fame

Story By James D. Cimburek • Photos Courtesy Photography By Jerry

six years in a row, our girls won the high hurdles at (Eastern South Dakota Conference)," he said. "When I started to coach sprinters, we were lucky enough to do pretty well with those. We were able to compete in a couple of different areas."

Bormann's coaching style was not as much to push athletes but to teach them how to push themselves.

"I tried to instill the desire to work hard. Once you get that going, it's pretty infectious," he said. "If the only reason they're out is to be a champion, they might be very disappointed."

Bormann's calm demeanor was also an asset, Miner said. "Gene has an even personality," he said. "He doesn't get too down when things aren't going well. He doesn't get overly excited when things are going your way. That's a plus."

Beside filling in where needed on the coaching staff, Bormann also filled in where needed with other events.

"You have to have so many individuals behind the scenes — timing, scoring, inspecting — and we had a great group in the years I was there," he said. "For one reason or another, I ended up as the announcer for gymnastics and volleyball, and kept score at every girls' basketball and half of the boys' basketball games."

"I was around athletics all the time."

Bormann retired from YHS in 2001, but didn't stay on the sidelines for long. He crossed the river to Newcastle, Neb., where he taught for six years. He also served as an assistant track coach and as athletic director during part of his time at Newcastle.

"When I went there, I went with every intent of not being involved with coaching," he said.

Bormann worked with the throwers — a first for the track and field veteran — helping one young thrower improve by 12 feet during his career. He also worked with hurdler Paige Pollard, who went on to have an All-American career at NCAA Division II Wayne State.

"The thing in a small school, some of the kids have to work out without many people around. I think the fact that someone showed an interest in him was exactly what he needed," Bormann said. "We were also lucky to have Paige Pollard move in to Newcastle."

Bormann has since retired from Newcastle, but not from coaching. He currently helps out with a talented young track and cross country program at Gayville-Volin.

"Gayville-Volin is a totally different system. Instead of having 100-some kids to work with, it's 50 to 55 kids in grades 6 up to 12," he said. "But there are some talented individuals and a great coaching staff."

Throughout his career, Bormann has done his best to treat his students, student-athletes and others with respect.

"I student-taught with George Bauer, and on my last evaluation, he wrote a little note wishing me well in my career," he said. "It said that students will remember me, not for what I taught, but how I treated them. Hopefully most of the time I treated my students with the same respect that a parent would treat their own children."

Bormann and his wife, Kitty, continue to live in Yankton, and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this past August.

They have five grown children, one foster son and nine grandchildren.

Emil Cwach

THE CAREER PATH OF another Yankton Hall of Famer opened Emil Cwach's eyes to how high his talents could take him. Little did he know it would take him to the Air Force and into aerospace engineering.

Cwach was a starting lineman for the Bucks' 1953 and 1954 undefeated football teams, breaking on to varsity as a freshman and starting as a sophomore.

"I was fast and strong," he said. "In high school, I got to be on some great teams." One of the players he blocked for, YHS Hall of Famer Bob Stransky, opened Cwach's eyes to the potential to continue his playing career.

"Up until Stransky was recruited, I did not realize that I could go to school on an athletic scholarship," Cwach said. "When Bob Stransky went to Colorado, that motivated me to work

harder for my senior year."

Cwach's football path also took him to Colorado, but down the road at the Air Force Academy. He played all four years at Air Force, including on the 1958 team that went undefeated and played in the Cotton Bowl. He earned honorable mention All-American honors in that, his senior season.

"I wanted to go to a good school," he said. "That's why I chose Air Force."

After graduating from the Air Force Academy, Cwach went in to flight training, then served as a fighter pilot stationed in Okinawa, Japan, for three years. He left the Air Force for graduate school, earning his MS and PhD in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas. He spent 13 years at General Dynamics in Fort Worth, Texas, working on F-111 and F-16 planes, then returned to Colorado to work for Martin Marietta, working on ICBM missiles and space launch systems.

He retired in 1998, and continues to live in Colorado with his

wife of more than 50 years. They have three children and 10 grandchildren.

Cwach credits his time at YHS for giving him the foundation to have a great career.

"YHS provided me with the academic background so that I could go to Air Force, so that I could graduate from there," he said. "It also taught me discipline, the ability to get things done."

Scott Nedved

IN HIS FIRST YEAR AS HEAD coach of the Bucks' football team, Miner wasn't sure that he wanted to bring then-sophomore Scott Nedved up to varsity.

Nedved rewarded him by destroying Yankton's career rushing chart.

Nedved started on offense for three years, rushing for 4,301 yards and earning Gatorade Player of the Year for South Dakota as a senior.

"His numbers speak for themselves," Miner said. "They're out of sight compared to anyone else."

Nedved's career totals rank 2,044 yards ahead of the No. 2 back on Yankton's list, Jeff Sathe. Counting Sathe, only three other Bucks rushed for more than 2,000 yards in their careers.

"We didn't use him as much his sophomore year, because we were more balanced," Miner said. "But when we weren't as balanced, he ran more."

That sophomore year, Nedved helped the Bucks repeat as Class 11AA champions.

"I just tried to fit in and help the team as much as possible," Nedved said. "They had won the previous year, and a lot of those players were back."

That 1995 season was the second straight unbeaten season for the Bucks. That streak ended in 1996, when Watertown clipped Yankton's school-record win streak at 28 and eventually beat the Bucks in the state final.

But Nedved helped the Bucks set a number of team records that still stand: points scored (360), fewest first downs against (66) and total yards (3,637).

As a senior, Nedved helped lead the Bucks to the semifinals, where they lost to eventual cham-

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