

## ITCCCA ANOUNCES NEW HALL-OF-FAME CLASS

Seven coaches were voted into ITCCCA's Coaches Hall-of-Fame at the recent Hall-of-Fame meeting. They will be inducted at the annual ITCCCA Hall-of-Fame Banquet, following the Clinic on January 8, 2011. The selection meeting takes place the Sunday before Columbus Day annually. ITCCCA by-laws allow the committee to select up to seven members each year. This year there were nearly 60 coaches nominated.

The committee consists of 16 Hall-of-Fame coaches through Illinois. Each region of the State is represented. Fourteen of those coaches attended the meeting this year. Each of the candidates was discussed at length with concern focusing on the three C's – coaching record, contribution to the sports outside of coaching, and character. The committee was faced with a tough task of only selecting seven inductees. Each of the fourteen members present placed a secret ballot where they were allowed to vote for seven coaches. The following coaches have been selected for this year:

**Jim Acklin (Urbana 1986 - 1989 and St. Joseph-Ogden 1980 - 2002):** The ITCCCA Hall-of-Fame Committee excitedly welcomes Jim Acklin. Jim, currently of St. Joseph-Ogden School District, was a St. Joe cross country and track coach for 23 years. During this time he served as boys and girls head cross country coach and as assistant in the track field program. His teams won three State Championships in cross country, two in boys and one in girls. Jim's cross country teams compiled a 114-6 dual meet record in boys and a 72-10 in girls. Between 1990-1999, the boys team won 82 straight duals, which is second all-time in Illinois. His CC teams won 20 conference, 16 regional, and 8 sectional titles. In track and field, Jim was part of a staff that won boys State Titles in 1993 and 2000 and a girls title in 2000. Jim coached five athletes to individual State Championships and his athletes earned 55 IHSA State medals. As a coach, Jim created an atmosphere that drew athletes to the sports of cross country and track. He developed his athletes to be not only good runners and jumpers, but also to be people of good character. Coach Acklin is a tremendous addition to ITCCCA's Hall of Fame.

**Gene Borup (Zion-Benton 1967 - 1994 and Warren 1995 - 2005):** ITCCCA is deeply honored to induct Gene Borup into its Coaches Hall-of-Fame. Gene, who passed away recently, was an outstanding coach for nearly forty years. At Zion-Benton he served as assistant for three years and head track and field coach for 25 years. After retiring from teaching, he continued to assist at Warren. Gene coached athletes to 39 IHSA State medals in track and field. Included in this were two first places. Six of his athletes went on to earn All-American status in college. His Zee-Bees won five Sectional titles and six conference titles. They placed in the top 10 at State on two occasions. He had a reputation as one of Illinois' best triple jump coaches. Gene's athletes were fierce competitors and very sound in their event techniques. Gene was a very dedicated coach and a class act who really cared for his students. Gene Borup had an illustrious career and is a long-overdue inductee into ITCCCA's Hall of Fame.

**Clark "Skip" Leden (Rockford Guilford 1967 - 1983 and Rockford Auburn 1984 - 1993):** ITCCCA is thrilled to induct Skip Leden into the Coaches' Hall-of-Fame. Skip coached the Rockford Guilford girls cross country team to the 1981 IHSA State Championship. They are the only girls team outside of the Chicago suburbs to win a state title in CC. His 1980 team was 3rd at State and the 1982 team placed 5th. Coach Leden also coached the boys cross country team to 5th in 1972 and 7th in 1974. He was named Rockford Register Coach-of-the-Year on four occasions. Five times his athletes earned All-State honors. The top runner on Leden's 1980 team was Jenny Spangler, who went on to win the 1996 US Olympic Trials in the marathon. Coach Leden was known not only as a coach, but also as a friend. He guided his athletes through high school milestones. Every one mattered and all were important. Coach Leden is very deserving of recognition and entry into the Coaches' Hall-of-Fame.

**Jim Lonergan (Maine South 1983 - present):** The Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches Association is quite honored to be inducting Jim Lonergan, one of the most outstanding pole vault coaches in the country. Also, the coach of the jumps, Jim has had over 30 State qualifiers in the four events and numerous State medals. He has raised the quality of pole vaulting in Illinois by organizing the Air-Time summer program, founding the Illinois Pole vault Coaches Association, and bringing Sky Jumpers to Maine South for nearly twenty years. He was very instrumental in the IHSA approving girls pole vault. Each year, he organizes the pole vault sessions at the ITCCCA Clinic. Jim has an unbelievable passion and dedication for the sport of track field. Jim's enthusiasm is boundless. He has had a very positive influence not only on his athlete's track accomplishments, but also on their lives. Jim Lonergan is an outstanding addition to the ITCCCA Coaches' Hall-of-Fame.

**Doug Malinsky (Lockport 1972 - 1986 and North Central 1987 - 2009):** ITCCCA is thrilled to induct Doug Malinsky into the Coaches Hall-of-Fame. While at Lockport Doug served in head track, assistant track, and assistant cross country positions. He coached three athletes to State Championships. While at North Central, Doug coached the jumps. He coached two athletes to NCAA titles in the long jump. Doug coached 44 CCIW Conference Champions in the jumps and had twenty-six jumpers earn All-American honors. He was a part of a staff that won five NCAA Division III Nationals titles. Doug has also served as treasurer of ITCCCA. A history of dedication has produced great success on the track and cross courses for Doug's athletes. What is most important is that the lessons he has taught have led to great success in the lives of the same athletes. Doug Malinsky is an outstanding inductee into ITCCCA's Hall of Fame.

**Don Merrick (Pekin):** ITCCCA is excited to induct Don Merrick into its Coaches Hall-of-Fame. Don served as head of both boys and girls cross country at Pekin High School for nearly thirty years. His teams won 12 conference championships, 10 regionals, and 4 sectionals. Eleven teams advanced to the IHSA State finals. He coached three All-State runners. As track & field coach, Don coached Mike Hintz to the State Championship in the discus and Jack Park to 2nd in the 3200 meters. Don won the ITCCCA South Coach-of-the-Year award on four occasions. Don has worked with ITCCCA-South for thirty years. He has held every office in the organization, including president. He also has served as an official at the state meet for over twenty years. A tireless worker, he has helped so many track and field and cross country athletes in central Illinois not only through coaching, but by organizing meets, working at meets, and being highly involved in ITCCCA and the IHSA. The Hall-of-Fame Committee is excited to include Don Merrick in the Class of 2011.

**Andy Preuss (Glenbard South 1980- present):** ITCCCA is deeply honored to induct Andy Preuss into its Coaches Hall-of-Fame. Andy has served as head of both boys cross country and track & field at Glenbard South. On nine occasions his cross country teams have qualified for the IHSA State Meet. In 2001, Glenbard South won the State Championship. They placed 3rd in 2002 and in the Top 6 a total of six times. His runners have won thirteen State medals in CC. Micah VanDenend won the State title in 2001. Andy's teams have won two regional, two sectional, and seven conference championships. In track and field, Andy has coached 39 IHSA State place winners including two State Champions. His teams have placed in the top10 three times. Glenbard South's 3200 meter relay was national champion in 2007 with a time of 7:40.57. Andy has also been very active in ITCCCA and serves as the current president. Andy has earned great respect and the admiration of the athletes, parents, media, officials, and coaches. Every member of his running family will tell of the profound and positive effect Andy's coaching has had on their lives. Andy Preuss has had an illustrious career and is a great addition to ITCCCA's Hall of Fame.