



Peter Aurness

Athlete – Class of 1944

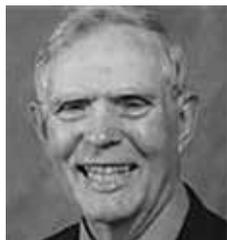
In the late 1930's and for most of the 1940's, Minneapolis high schools dominated the Minnesota State High School track and field meets. During that era a Minneapolis school team won the State Boys Track meet for 12 consecutive years. In the years of 1943 and 1944 an athlete dominated one event, the 120 yard high hurdles at the State track meet, winning two consecutive state titles. That athlete was Peter Aurness. Peter's hurdles win led Southwest to a second place finish in the 1943 State track meet.

Peter was a multitalented young man in the early days of Southwest High. He lettered in track and field plus was the captain his senior year. As a portent to his future career, Peter also was a member of the Radio Club and Speech Club. He also was voted "Most Talented" in his class and "Best Figure" by his classmates. Peter also was a musician, first playing the tuba but later the clarinet. At age 16 he got his first taste of being on-air, as a radio announcer for WMIN in Minneapolis. After two years in the United States Air Force, he attended the University of Minnesota, where he studied drama. At the U of M he also met his soon to be bride, Joan Endress, whose father wouldn't let her get married until Peter had a job. That job was to be an actor, as he followed his older brother James Arness of Gunsmoke fame to Hollywood. When Peter signed his first movie contract he made his stage name Peter Graves, and success followed.

Peter was married to Joan for almost 60 years prior to passing away in March, 2010. He is probably best known for his role as Jim Phelps, leader of the special agents who battled evil each week on television's Mission Impossible. He also had a spectacular acting career that spanned almost six decades and included movies like Stalag 17, Airplane, Fort Yuma, Men in Black II. Additional television credentials include Fury, Whiplash and many other made for TV movies. Peter left behind his lovely wife Joan and three daughters who all reside in California.

For Peter, the high hurdles and success at Southwest High School was definitely Mission Possible.





Bob Hoisington

Coach 1953–1983

Great math teacher who also coached could be the headline for Bob Hoisington but he may be best known as an award-winning coach of track and cross country at Minneapolis Central and Southwest.

Bob was born in Sioux City, Iowa, one of three boys raised by their mother after the early passing of his father. He credits her for his strong work ethic.

While earning his degree in mathematics and education at Macalester College, he lettered in track and cross country and led the Scots to three MIAC Championships. Macalester has honored him with induction into its Hall of Fame. His teaching career began at Windom, MN where he met his wife, Jean. She was teaching kindergarten and he was teaching math and coaching. He was drafted to serve in the U.S. Army teaching Math Applications at Aberdeen Proving Grounds. He returned to college to earn his Masters in Education at the U of MN. Bob and Jean were married in Brooklyn, NY in 1952. Bob began a thirty-year career teaching and coaching at Central and Southwest. Before coming to Southwest, Bob coached Central High track teams to State Championships in 1959, 1960 and 1964.

During that career, he had seven high school teams and 36 individuals win state championships in track and cross country. He has been named coach of the year in Minneapolis seven times and in Minnesota five times.

Since retiring in 1983, Bob has remained active on the State High School League's games committee and as a head rules interpreter. He is sought after as a meet referee and starter.

He and his wife, Jean, have a son and three daughters, 21 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Sadly, Jean passed away in June of 2013. Bob continues to reside in Shoreview, MN.





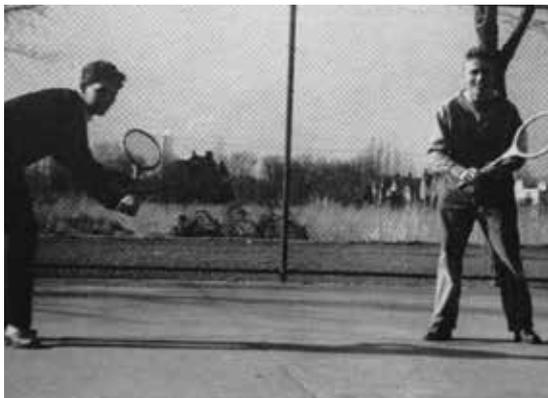
Jack Thommen

Athlete – Class of 1946

When you think of the wonderful long history of Southwest athletics, the sports that comes to mind first are cross country, hockey, track, plus a splash of football and a dash of basketball. However, back in the late forties tennis took center court at Southwest as Jack Thommen, and his partner Edmund Gould, won the 1946 Minnesota State Doubles Tennis Championship. They were the first and only State doubles champions out of Southwest. In that same year, Jack made it to the semifinals in State tennis singles but was beaten. An interesting sidelight, his doubles partner Edmund Gould went on to win Southwest's only State tennis singles championship in 1948. Not that Jack was one sport wonder, as he also ran cross country and track, and played basketball for a total of twelve letters. But, it was tennis that was his first love. Interestingly one of the people that piqued Jack's interest in tennis was none other than the great Bobby Riggs, who spent some time in Minneapolis teaching tennis skills.

After high school, Jack played tennis for Gustavus Adolphus and the University of Minnesota where he served as the Gopher captain. He completed his bachelors degree and masters degree in education at the U of M. Jack was one of the founders of the Urban Inner City Tennis Program and continued to play competitive tennis in the Midwest during the 1950's and 1960's. He was a 30 year Minneapolis school employee as both a teacher and administrator.

Jack has been inducted into the U.S. Tennis Hall of Fame Northern Section and the Gustavus Adolphus Athletic Hall of Fame. Jack passed away in October, 2008. He is represented at the Hall of Fame induction by his son Wade and his daughter Becky Nye.





Clint Andrus

Athlete – Class of 1951

As Southwest High School became more prominent on both the Minneapolis and Minnesota sports scene in the late forties and early fifties, a number of key athletes stepped up. With a student population of less than 100 per class, each athlete was asked to play multiple roles across multiple sports. One of those great all-around athletes was Clint Andrus. Clint played three sports at Southwest but showed his true versatility on the track and field team, as he was a high jumper plus threw the discus and shot put. An unusual combination. As a junior, Clint paced second in the shot put in the State Track and Field meet and the Indians finished second in the State. His senior year Clint finished fourth in the shot put as the team finished third.

Clint is probably most remembered for his football success. As captain of the 1950 Southwest team under Coach Jerry Sullivan, Clint was selected as the Minneapolis Conference MVP as well as being an All-City tackle. He was on the field for the entire game as he played offense, defense, called all the signals plus handled the kicking duties. Clint went on to play for the University of Minnesota Gopher football teams in 1952, 1953, and 1954. He felt his biggest victory was a 22-0 shutout of Michigan to recapture the Little Brown Jug.

Basketball was Clint's winter sport. He was a stalwart center who made the All City team his senior year and was one of four team members in the "Six Foot Two and Over Club".

After playing one year of professional football for the Philadelphia Eagles, he turned down an offer to play rugby in Winnipeg and married his high school sweetheart, Margaret. Clint served in the US Army but eventually made his way back to the Twin Cities where he was the owner of Skyway News and Finance and Commerce. Clint passed away in 2009 but is survived by Margaret and his four children Cindy, Teri, Lori, and Clint.



Southwest State Cross Country Champions



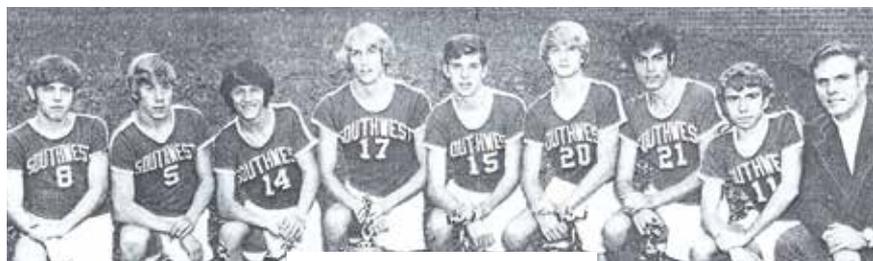
1969 Team



1970 Team



1971 Team



1972 Team



1973 Team



State Cross Country Champions 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972 and 1973

In a sports world obsessed with dynasties, a “three-peat” is such a big deal that the term has been copyrighted. At Southwest High School in Cross Country during the early '70's a three-peat meant they were just getting started.

This program, which won the State Championship 14 of the first 28 times the meet was held and which could nearly be given the Swain Invitational trophy before the race was run, set a standard which may never be equaled.

Coming off a second place finish at State in 1968, the returning runners dedicated themselves to settling for nothing less than the Championship the next year. Coach Al Halley, Captains Jon Drew and Brad Richards set their sights high. Hard work, determinations and loads of training miles paid off as the teams first five finishers crossed the line within 15 seconds of each other.

The 1970 team again coached by Al Halley and captained by Brad Richards set the tone for their run at a second State Championship by posting a perfect score in the City Meet. The team, featuring many veterans, accomplished their goal and earned the school the title of “cross country capital of Minnesota” At the end of the year Coach Halley announced that he would not be back for another season, but an experienced coach, Bob Hoisington, who had patiently awaited his chance was ready.

The 1971 team with only two returning letterman was not expected to make much noise. Coach Hoisington and Captain Tom Pearson had other plans. Plans which could only become reality through hard work and the development of the “new guys” who come off a talented JV squad. Captain Pearson showed his leadership by setting a new school record of 14:58.8. His teammates responded by winning the City meet again with a perfect score, the Swain Invitational and the State Championship.

Coach Hoisington was taking nothing for granted in 1972. He knew the path to another State Championship was paved with untold 440's, two-a-day practices and 1000 mile club memberships. Captain John Zahr , who broke the city record, provided the leadership for juniors Dick Nelson, Bob Mayo, Scott, Johnson and Jim Lieb. The team had nearly perfect scores against every other city team and won three Invitational meets, including the Swain.

The 1973 team with its returning veterans was arguably the finest high school team in the nation. Captain Bob Mayo lead a team that was known for winning and humility. As in the previous year, no city team was a threat and they won the three big Invitational meets decisively. They went on to win the State Championship with a score of only 48 points.

Never before and probably never again will there be a program that will claim

5 IN A ROW!



1951 Southwest Football Team

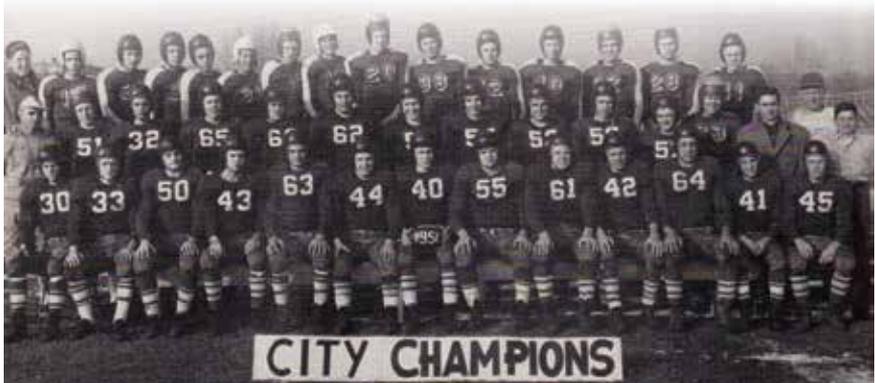
With a combination of returning veterans from the previous 5-3 season and some talented newcomers, the 1951 Football team finished the season 7 and 1 overall, and 6 and 0 in the Minneapolis Conference to win the City Championship. The team went on to the U of M's Memorial Stadium to whip St. Paul Murray 40-8 to secure the Twin City Championship trophy. This was as far as a Minnesota high school football team could go at a time before there was a State Championship game.

Awards included Coach of the Year to Jerry Sullivan, Most Valuable Player to Paul Eddy, and Best Lineman in the City to Dave Mills. Paul Eddy, Bob Meredith, Dave Mills, Tom Kent, and Don Dennison were named to the All-City team. Clark Ewald, Carl Bredt, and Tom Kassmir received All-City Honorable Mention. Nine members of the 1951 team went on to play College Football.

The one loss of the 1951 season was to Austin in the first game of the year. Coach Sullivan had a fiery message for the team on the bus back to Minneapolis, which became a defining moment for the season..

Bob Meredith, Mel Young, Denny Sullivan, Bob Lockrem, Clark Ewald, and Skeets Berg were also members of the Southwest Hockey team which defeated St. Paul Murray 5-3 in the 1951 Twin City Championship Hockey game.

Les Barnard, the legendary South High coach, who coached five championship teams beginning in 1934, was quoted by the Minneapolis paper as saying, "That's one of the best teams Minneapolis has ever had in the Twin Cities Championship game. And I'm not so sure it isn't the best."





The Rotsch Family

Classes of 1961, '65, '68, '74, '76



Jim



Rick



Jeff



Debbie



Sue

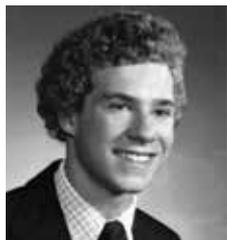
Southwest athletics has a long and storied history made up of outstanding individual performances and great teams. The glue that held a number of these athletic efforts together over the years was a string of memorable families. Count the Rotsch family as one of them with all five children Jim '61, Rick '65, Jeff '68, Deb '74, and Sue '76 helping lead Southwest to victories.

Together the family won over 25 letters while at Southwest earning numerous All Conference awards plus All State honors in hockey for Rick and Jeff. Jim and Jeff earned their letters in football and hockey, while Rick set the bar high earning ten letters in cross country, hockey, track, and golf. Deb and Sue were exceptional gymnasts, but with no high school gymnastics program, they had to demonstrate their multiple back flipping abilities as three year cheerleaders, both captaining the squads their Senior year.

Southwest sports leadership sought out the family as the Rotsch's were captains across five different sports. Rick helped lead the harriers to three cross country championships, while Jeff and Rick both captained their respective hockey teams to City Championships and State tournament berths. Deb and Sue were leading the varsity cheerleaders for the state cross county and state hockey championship teams during their respective years at the school. In addition, Sue was on the SW girls badminton team as they won the City Championship in 1976.

Following high school, Jim and Rick both played hockey for St. Cloud and lead their team to the National Senior Men's Championship in 1967. Rick captained a Duffs hockey team to the 1968 National Junior Championship. Jeff played hockey for the University of Wisconsin and captained the team his senior year. He participated in three Frozen Fours winning the 1973 NCAA Championship. Jeff was both the University of Wisconsin and Southwest's second ever College All American hockey player. Plus, Jeff was the first UW and first Southwest High School player to be drafted by the NHL. He went on to play with three US National teams captaining two of them. He is a member of the UW Hall of Fame for hockey.

All five children in the family said they wouldn't have accomplished nearly as much without the incredible support of their parents, Bud and Harriet Rotsch. Bud Rotsch passed away last month knowing his family was being Inducted tonight.



Herb Schoening

Athlete – Class of 1975

The most decorated male swimmer Minneapolis Southwest has ever produced, Herb Schoening ('75) was a natural-born talent with a special gift for freestyle. In his four years as a letter winner Herb built up an impressive collection of records that stood the test of time, the last one falling the year after the pool walls themselves came crumbling down during the 2011 reconstruction. His 200 and 500 freestyle times eluded swimmers at the Southwest pool for 37 years – talk about chasing the white whale! During his junior year, Herb reached the pinnacle of his high school career, clinching the individual state title in the 500 free while setting the state record. He placed 7th in state in the 200 free, and with the Schoening brothers at the helm, Southwest achieved its highest ever team State Tournament finish, placing 9th overall. As the Southwest captain his senior year, he went on to State again, this time placing second in the 500 free and third in the 200 free. His dynamic presence at the pool and in the hallways won him the coveted title of 'Friendliest' in the highly contested '75 senior superlative voting. Forty years later, he remains the most recent Southwest Boys Swimming State Champion.

In 1975 Schoening joined the University of Minnesota team as a scholarship athlete, immediately making his mark as he set freshman records in the 100 freestyle, 200 freestyle, 500 freestyle, 1650 freestyle and the 200 individual medley (IM). His talents as an all-around swimmer earned him recognition as U of M Athlete of the Year in swimming his freshman year. An academic as well as an athlete, Herb was a two-time Williams Scholar ('77 and '78) while pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Interior Design.

Since graduating in 1980, Herb has led a fulfilling and successful career as an interior designer and currently lives in Austin, Texas with his partner Bryan and their two beagles, Mercury and Mars.





Al Crary Booster

There are a number of people in the Southwest community who come to mind when you think about dedication to kid's sports. However, at the top of the list was a tireless, selfless Al Crary. Al not only sponsored teams across a spectrum of sports, but sold equipment out of his basement, sharpened skates in his garage, and made sure every team had jerseys, most adorned with a prominent AC.

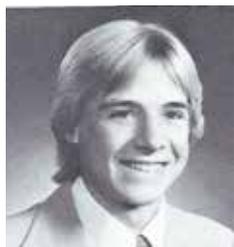
Al was a Minneapolis native who attended West High School where he played hockey. As a sixteen year old, he helped form the first team in the Southwest area that not only played but won the Minneapolis Park Boards City Championship. In 1945 he helped organize the Linden Hills Athletic Club. Later this club merged with a similar organization at Pershing park to form the Southwest Activities Council (SWAC). When Al moved from Linden Hills area to the Armatage neighborhood, he helped organize the Armatage community sports organization. Many of the players he developed went on to play high school, college, and US National/Olympic hockey. Al is a founding member of the US Amateur Hockey Association.

Not only was Al a wonderful sports team organizer and supporter, but he also spent a tremendous number of hours coaching baseball, football, and hockey. Al was a positive role model who preached good sportsmanship, fair play, and always 100% effort. In 1965 the Southwest High School Hockey team recognized his contributions by annually giving out the Al Crary Award to the teams Most Valuable Player.

An unassuming man of small stature, Al was most proud of his "billionaire's room", which was located in the downstairs area of his southwest Minneapolis home. The walls were completely covered with team photos of smiling kids in hockey uniforms, all kids who had benefited from Al's commitment, dedication, and hard work over his 58+years of coaching. He called this room his "billionaires room" because when he looked at all the pictures it made him feel like the richest man in the world.

Al passed away in November, 2003 but his legacy will forever be etched in the Southwest communities rich sports history.





Tim Wahl

Athlete – Class of 1977

Tim was a 3 year letter winner and 2 time All-City in both basketball and baseball at Southwest. He was a captain in both sports his senior year. His 1976 baseball team won the city conference title.

Tim is considered by many to be among the very best boys basketball players ever to lace up their sneakers for the Purple and White. His performance on the basketball court for SW approaches legendary status. Tim was a high-flying 6'4 guard who could drive and shoot with the best! In addition to his all conference awards, Tim was named to both the WCCO and Mpls Tribune All-State teams. He was also one of five finalists for the 1977 Mr. Basketball Award. He ranks in the top ten all time leading scorers for boys basketball at SW, and his 467 points in the 1977 season (in only 17 games, for a 27 ppg average), still ranks among the top season scoring performances at Southwest in boys basketball. Tim wasn't just a scorer - he was known as a great teammate, and his athletic tenacity on the defensive end gave opposing stars fits.

After high school, Tim was a star basketball player at Mankato State University (now Minnesota State, Mankato). There, he was a 4 year letter winner, was a member of the NIC Conference champs in 1979, was the team's leading scorer in the 79-80 and 80-81. He led the conference in scoring his senior year and still ranks seventh all-time in scoring for Mankato. He was both team MVP and Captain his senior year. Tim was named NIC All-Conference twice and was named NAIA District 13 First Team All-American.

He went on to play basketball internationally in Germany and Holland. Tim currently lives in Lakeville. He is married to Kaye and has four children, Lindsey, Nicole, Alexis and Tyler. Tim is a Senior Marketing Representative for Enterprise Products, having been with the company since 1991. He has coached many youth baseball and basketball teams in the Lakeville area over the last 28 years.





Jamie Cheever

Athlete – Class of 2005

Jamie Cheever is one of the most accomplished athletes ever to walk the halls of Southwest High. She earned 11 letters in five sports as a Laker: Soccer, Hockey, Track, Cross Country and Nordic Skiing. She was a part of 9 conference champions in four sports as well as two section championship teams. In track, where she has become a national presence, she was part of seven conference and four section champion relay teams, as well as a seven time conference and five time individual section champ. She was the state runner up in the 1600, and as of her graduation, had the 4th fastest time in state history. She earned All State honors in Track (3 times), Cross Country (twice) and Nordic Skiing and was nominated for the All-State team in Soccer. She currently holds two individual SW track records (800 and 1600) and well as being part of the 4 x 800 relay record team. She was SW's Athena Award winner in 2005.

Jamie earned a scholarship to the University of Minnesota where she earned nine varsity letters in three sports - track, soccer and cross country. She was part of 6 Big Ten team champions as a Gopher. She started as a freshman on the soccer team and was a captain and All American in Cross Country (and as of 2007 had the 2nd fastest ever time), but achieved her greatest accomplishments with the Gopher Track Team. She is a four time letter winner in track and a two time All-American. Jamie's relay teams are current Gopher record holders in both the distance medley relay and 4 x 800 relay. She has the 2nd fastest U of M times in both the 800 and the 300 Steeplechase. She was Academic All-Big Ten seven times in her various sports and made several Academic All Region and All American Teams. Jamie earned a Bachelor's degree in Sociology in 2009.

After college, Jamie has continued to thrive in national and international track competitions in the steeplechase. Just weeks ago, SW fans had a chance to watch her compete on NBC in the U.S. National Outdoor Track Championships where she qualified for finals. She is the fifth all time fastest American in the 300 steeplechase, was an alternate on Team USA for the 2013 World Outdoor Championships and has her sights set on making the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team.

Jamie currently lives in the State of Washington, where she focuses her training for the world stage. After her running career, Jamie wants to work with the prevention of sexual violence, with a focus on prevention strategies with sports teams. Jamie's parents, Michael and Tammi, live in Minneapolis, along with her grandparents, Synda and Herb. Her brother Dylan was also an athlete at Southwest.