

ROCK FALLS

HALL OF FAME

CLASS OF 2006

Jeff Fiorini

Jeff is a 1980 graduate of RFHS and joins his brothers Dan and Tim in the Hall of Fame. At RFHS Jeff earned varsity letters in wrestling and golf.

Wrestling is where Jeff made his mark. He was a 3-time District champion, 2-time NCIC champ and a 2-time Sectional champion. He capped off his stellar RFHS career by placing 5th at 155 lbs. at the State championships his senior year. His career mark was an outstanding 93-13.

Jeff continued his wrestling at the college level by attending Illinois State University. At ISU he lettered in both baseball and wrestling and in his senior year qualified for the NCAA Division I wrestling championships. Jeff came within one victory of being an All-American.

Jeff has continued to be successful in the sports world, in his professional life. He has headed up both baseball and golf divisions of such companies as Wilson, Mizuno and Golf Pride.

Roger "Bud" Sayers

Bud is a 1954 graduate of RFHS where he earned seven varsity letters in track, football and basketball. He was an All-NCIC performer in track as well as football. In track Bud was a sprint champion and qualified for the State meet his senior year in the 100. He also received Honorable Mention All-State honors in football his senior year.

After graduating Bud took the academic route heading to the University of Illinois and then on to Cornell University in New York where he completed his Doctorate. After teaching at Cornell, Bud headed to the University of Alabama, where after being involved in the Biology and Academic departments he was named President of the University in 1988.

Leo Traister

A 1938 graduate of RFHS, Leo earned varsity letters three times each in the sports of football and track. He also was an All-Conference selection during those years as a halfback in football and middle distance runner in track.

After graduating from RFHS, Leo entered Eureka College where he earned varsity letters in both football and baseball during his freshman and sophomore years.

World War II came calling and Leo spent almost five years in the military before re-entering Eureka College in 1946. He then lettered in both football and baseball again before graduating in 1948.

After college Leo taught and coached football, basketball and track at Viola High School and the Consolidated Winola Unit district. He won numerous conference titles in both football and track before leaving in 1956, to return to Eureka College.

It was on his return to his Alma Mater that Leo had a major impact on Eureka. He served as a coach and athletic director for 28 years, retiring in 1984. During that time Leo was instrumental in opening the Ronald Reagan Field House which still serves the college and bringing Women's intercollegiate athletics to Eureka, starting with basketball in 1973.

Charles "Skip" Lee

Skip, as the athletic community calls him, came to RFHS in 1972 after graduating from Eastern Illinois University.

As biology teacher and football Coach Skip was always a favorite among students and athletes. As he continued to teach, Skip got away from coaching and brought a program to RFHS that was a front runner to some programs that you see today, that program was Student Athletic Trainers.

In the late 1970's, Skip gave RFHS a program that no other school had. Using his knowledge of medical situations, Skip was able to supervise students in the care of injuries and other aspects of athletic training.

His vision of what athletics has become proved very valuable to the Rocket athletic teams and their successes. While Skip spent over 20 years being at nearly every RFHS athletic event so did his trainers. A point that every Rocket coach never failed to miss, they all knew Skip's value to their programs.

Trisha (Gale) Hippen

A 1984 graduate of RFHS, Trisha earned varsity letters in basketball, volleyball and softball. She was an All-NCIC performer in basketball her senior year and a 2-time All-Conference pick in volleyball during her junior and senior seasons.

Trisha set and still holds the school record for service points in a career with 556. She was also an important member of the 1982 Lady Rockets "Sweet 16" volleyball squad.

Trisha continued her volleyball career at both Sauk Valley College and Marycrest College in Davenport IA. While at Sauk Valley she earned All-Conference recognition.

Louis Wolber

Louis is a 1956 graduate of RFHS where he earned 10 varsity letters, three in football and basketball and four in track.

Louis earned All-Conference honors in both football and track, but it was track where he really excelled. Louis won conference championships in both the low and high hurdles and in 1956 finished second at the state track meet in the high hurdles, running a then school record of 14.08.

After graduation Louis attended Northern Illinois University where he lettered in both track and football.

Barb Wolf

Barb is a 1982 graduate of RFHS where she earned a total of eight varsity letters in the sports of basketball, volleyball and softball.

She was a two-time first team All-NCIC selection in basketball. Barb was also the Lady Rocket's MVP during her junior and senior years as well as being named to the All-Area squad. During her senior year Barb set the basketball record for points in a season at RFHS with 405.

After graduation Barb continued her athletic career playing basketball and volleyball at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge Iowa, and then playing basketball while earning her degree at Monmouth College.

Barb has remained close to the athletic scene by teaching and coaching in the Unit 5-school system.

1993-94 Girls Basketball

One of the finest girl's basketball teams in school history, this edition of the Lady Rockets won 25 games versus only three losses to amass the best winning percentage for one season in school history.

Along the way the Lady Rockets won the NCIC title with a perfect 10-0 record, captured the New-Mor-Roc-Ster tournament, finished 3rd in the power-laden Dixon Holiday Tournament and won a Regional title.

Three wins over Sterling, victories over strong Geneseo and Dixon teams and a road win over Freeport (who finished 3rd in state) were some of the biggest victories of the 25 this season.

Individually all five starters earned All-NCIC recognition. Erika Nailor and Angie Bontz were named to the first team, while Jessica Steagall, Nicole Nailor and Jessica Nailor earned second team honors.

1997-98 Boys Basketball

This group of Rocket players should get the credit for putting RFHS basketball back on the map. This squad was the beginning of the current run that Rocket fans are enjoying on the hardwood.

After an up and down start of the season, the Rockets stood at 8-5 on the first of the year. Things then really came together the first weekend of January when on consecutive nights, the Rockets defeated 3rd ranked Kewanee and then powerful Chicago Marshall to jump-start the rest of the season.

In fact, RFHS went 15-3 after January 1 with their only losses being to Sherrard, #1 ranked Spring Valley Hall and the Super-sectional game to Farmington.

This squad won the schools first regional title since 1986 and the schools first sectional title since 1958. The sectional championship gave RFHS only it's 2nd "Sweet 16" team in school history.