

Nikki Peterson

Nikki is a 2001 graduate of Rock Falls High School. She earned 12 varsity letters in the sports of Cross Country, Basketball and Softball. Nikki was the first female athlete in RFHS history to earn 12 varsity letters.

During her career at RFHS, Nikki was a three year starter in basketball and a four year starter in softball. She earned All-NCIC and All-Area honors in both sports. In her senior year Nikki received the Paulette Chattic Award as RFHS Most Outstanding Female Athlete.

Nikki continued her athletic career at Aurora University where she earned three varsity letters as a three year starter on the Spartan softball team.

Todd Moroney

A 1994 graduate of RFHS, Todd earned eight varsity letters in the sports of Cross Country and Track and Field.

Regarded as one of the finest distance runners to ever come from Rock Falls High School, Todd won numerous individual dual meet and invitational races, including NCIC Championships in Cross Country and the 3200 Meter Run in Track. During his senior year, Todd also qualified for State in both sports.

Todd continued his running career at Eastern Illinois University where he was a member of both the cross country and track teams. At EIU, Todd was a national qualifier in both Cross Country and Track, and earned All Ohio Valley Conference awards. Todd won five individual titles at OVC Championship meets winning titles in track in the 1500 meter run, 3000 meter run, 5000 meter run and two titles in the 3000 meter Steeplechase. For his efforts in his senior year of 1998, Todd was named the OVC Track Athlete of the Year.

Bob Callighan

A 1961 graduate of RFHS, Bob earned 10 varsity letters in the sports of Cross Country, Basketball, Track and Baseball.

While known as one of the best all-around athletes at RFHS during his four years. During his senior year Bob was co-captain on the Track and Baseball squads. Bob was a standout baseball player. During his senior season, Bob led the Rockets and the conference with a .596 batting average. He also led the team and conference with 41 stolen bases. The .596 batting average and 41 stolen bases are still Rocket single season records.

Bob continued his athletic career at Northern Illinois University and then at Murray State University participating in track. After college Bob joined the work force as an educator, teaching at the grade school and junior college levels for over 43 years. He has continued to be involved in athletics by coaching, broadcasting, refereeing and working behind the scenes of numerous athletic teams and organizations, notably, Bob coached basketball on the youth, AAU, and semi-pro levels for some 30 years, winning 30 League championships and 52 tournament championships. His semi-pro team, the Armstrong Racers, over a 10 year period won over 500 games and only lost 17 times. Bob has refereed on the grade school, high school and college levels for 46 years. Bob joins his father Robert Callighan as the second father-son members of the RFHS Hall of Fame

Jerry Bellini

A 1961 graduate of Rock Falls High, Jerry earned eight varsity letters in the sports of tennis and baseball. He was the Rockets number one singles player for three years and also advanced to the District finals in doubles his senior season.

Baseball was Jerry's sport. As a hard throwing right hander Jerry has a career pitching record of 22 wins against only 2 defeats. After going a combined 6-0 during his freshman and sophomore seasons, Jerry finished his Rocket career with two spectacular years. As a junior he was 6-0 with 95 strikeouts in just 80 innings pitched. His earned run average was an unbelievable 1.06. Jerry followed that up with a 10-2 mark his senior year, where he struck out 121 batters in just 93 innings. He had a season high 14 strikeouts versus St. Mary's of Clinton. His ERA was just 1.47

Jerry earned All-Conference honors his junior and senior seasons and his 10 wins, 121 strikeouts, and 93 innings pitched are still Rocket single season records.

1964 Football

The 1964 Rock Falls football team will go down in RFHS history as one of the most talented if not best teams ever.

The 64' squad went 8-1 on the season with a heartbreaking 26-21 loss to a Rochelle squad, who was in the middle of a 40 plus game winning streak, as their only blemish on a spectacular season. Along the way the Rockets shut out four opponents, three in NCIC play, and were the last team at RFHS to defeat area rivals Sterling, Dixon, and Newman in the same season.

A remarkable eight players from this team went on to play college football and by season's end five Rockets had achieved All-State mention. Halfback John Pecaro, fullback Al Quick, guard Gary Spencer, end Jim Welti, and tackle Bob Zigler. Five of the players, Jim Welti, Mike Berentes, Terry McCombs, Don Knapp and Larry Helgason became high school coaches.