

Hall of Honor Inductees



William Allen - Official

Bill Allen's remarkable career showcases a deep commitment to both education and athletics, shaping young lives in the classroom and on the court. After graduating from Michigan State University with a degree in criminal justice, Allen changed course to pursue his passion for teaching and sports. This led him to a fulfilling 26-year career as a social studies teacher at Cadillac Area Public Schools. His love for competition didn't stop there; it was paralleled by a nearly 50-year journey as a respected basketball referee and baseball umpire. This dual path allowed him to guide and mentor people in two distinct but equally impactful roles.

As a sports official, Allen is known for his fairness and consistency. Coaches trust that he will manage games in a way that allows players, coaches, and fans to get the most out of the experience. He believes the best officials are the ones you "hardly notice," and his goal has always been to facilitate a smooth, well-played game. Allen understands the demands of officiating, from making quick decisions under pressure to handling criticism with a steady temperament. His love for being part of the action, which began during his high school days at Traverse City High School, fueled his commitment to making a positive difference in the world of sports.

Bill Allen's dedication to officiating is a testament to his character and love for the game. He's part of a group of seasoned officials who have withstood the test of time, earning respect for their consistent and high-quality work. Allen's longevity and unwavering commitment to his craft have earned him the admiration of coaches and peers alike, who hope he will continue to officiate well beyond his upcoming 50th year milestone.

Mike Banaszewski - Friend of Basketball

Michael Banaszewski, a pillar of high school athletics in Macomb County, has dedicated over three decades to supporting local sports. Since 1993, he has been a fixture at Warren Woods Tower High School, primarily as a clock operator for both boys' and girls' basketball, a role he's held for nearly three decades. His commitment to the sport is further demonstrated by his work at numerous state district and regional basketball tournaments and a notable girls' quarterfinal game. Beyond the scoreboard, Mike managed stats for the junior varsity and varsity boys' basketball programs for over a decade and developed and maintained the Macomb Area Conference website, providing essential game results, schedules, and standings to the community since 1993.

Mike's contributions extend beyond high school basketball. He has also been an essential part of the athletic departments at Macomb Community College, where he has served as a clock operator for men's and women's basketball and volleyball games since 2018. His versatility is also evident in his long-term involvement in other sports, including over 20 years as a timer and announcer for track meets, a clock operator for wrestling and football, and a soccer and volleyball announcer. For his tireless efforts and dedication to the Macomb Area Conference, he was inducted into the Macomb County Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame in 2017. Mike would like to thank his wife Karen and children, Dawn and Bryan, for their support, as well as Jan Sander and Nick Evola for his nomination.



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Lars Fredin - Assistant Coach

Lars Fredin is a respected figure in the McBain community, with a long and impactful career coaching basketball at McBain Jr. High School. He dedicated 25 years to coaching the boys' junior high team and another 16 years to the girls' junior high team. Over his career, Fredin compiled an impressive record of over 300 wins. His coaching philosophy was centered on inclusivity and fairness, a principle he demonstrated by always playing every single one of his players and ensuring each kid got into the game at least twice.

Fredin's commitment to creating a positive experience for his players went beyond his win-loss record. He was known for making sure every student had a chance to contribute on the court, which helped to build confidence and a love for the game in his athletes. His dedication to developing every player, regardless of their skill level, left a lasting mark on the McBain basketball program.

Sean Pollion - Assistant Coach

Sean Pollion has had a significant and lasting impact on the Petoskey High School basketball program. For over two decades, from 1995 to 2018, he served as the boys' varsity assistant coach, becoming a key figure and longtime assistant to head coach Dennis Starkey. Known for his unwavering loyalty, Pollion was the ultimate role model for the young athletes he mentored. He was consistently professional, genuine, and a classy presence on and off the court, earning the deep respect and love of the players he coached.

In 2018, Pollion made a transition to the girls' varsity program, serving as an assistant coach until 2023. This move was driven by a desire to coach his daughter, continuing his commitment to the Petoskey basketball community. During his tenure with the girls' team, he continued to be a beloved and respected figure, known for his ability to create a positive experience for everyone involved. He famously wrote personalized, positive notes for the players throughout the season, a small gesture that

underscored his dedication to their personal and athletic growth. Sean Pollion's genuine nature and lasting positive influence have left an indelible mark on both the boys' and girls' basketball programs at Petoskey High School.



Tom Post - Official

Tom Post is a highly respected and long-serving basketball official from Traverse City, Michigan. With a career spanning over 48 years as a registered official, he has been a prominent figure in high school athletics throughout the area. His dedication and professionalism have been recognized with numerous accolades, including being honored with assignments for Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Finals.

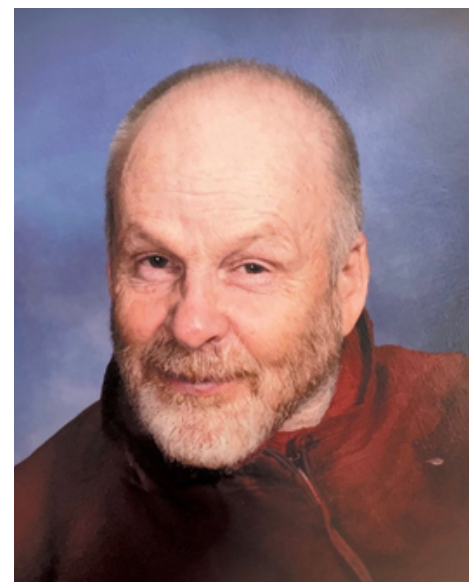
Post is also a founding member and former officer of the Northern Sports Officials Association (NSOA). In the mid-1980s, he helped form the initial group of officials and later served as one of its first officers. Post views his role as a "facilitator" for the game, prioritizing the experience of the student-athletes. He takes pride in making the right call in critical moments and believes that good officiating is just as important as good coaching for the players' development. His commitment to the sport and the athletes he serves has made him a well-known and valued member of the Northern Michigan officiating community. He also works with his son, Ben Post, who is also a basketball official.

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Michael "Skip" Stevenson - Assistant Coach

Michael "Skip" Stevenson was a highly respected coach and educator, with a particular emphasis on basketball. He coached a wide range of sports including football, baseball, softball, golf, cross country, and track and field, but his most significant impact was on the basketball court. Stevenson dedicated a significant portion of his career to developing young athletes, notably coaching throughout the Milford and Walled Lake areas. Beyond his own teams, he was a generous mentor to his peers, making himself available to other coaches and holding many basketball clinics that were always well attended. His coaching philosophy was centered on using the game as a tool to teach valuable life lessons in discipline and teamwork.

Stevenson's influence extended well beyond wins and losses. After retiring from his official coaching and teaching duties, he continued to share his expertise, often coaching his grandchildren in the sport he loved. His lifelong commitment to the game and his athletes, particularly in the Milford and Walled Lake communities, solidified his reputation as a legendary basketball coach. He is remembered for his unwavering dedication to his students and the lasting positive impact he had on their lives.



Wallace Whitfield - Official

Wallace Whitfield has dedicated over three decades to the sport of basketball, leaving a significant mark as both an official and a leader. After graduating from Albion High School in 1978 and McPherson College in 1983, where he played on a basketball scholarship, Wallace began his officiating career with the guidance of Mike Smith and Lenny Memminger. He officiated at multiple levels, including high school and college, and has since transitioned into a leadership role off the court. Since 1995, Wallace has served as the KLAA high school basketball assignor, a position that highlights his commitment to the professionalism and fairness of the game. His reputation was further solidified in 2022 when he was also named the assignor for the Wolverine-Hoosier Athletic Conference (WHAC).

Beyond his official duties, Wallace is a dedicated mentor and community builder. Through his annual officiating camps, he has played a crucial role in recruiting and developing new officials, many of whom have gone on to officiate at high-level collegiate and professional games. He credits his wife, Cassandra, for her unwavering support, noting her presence at his early games and her continued encouragement throughout his career. Wallace is also proud of his children—LaDelle, Wallace Jr., and Caroline—who share a deep love for the game. He acknowledges his son, Wallace Jr., as an "up-and-coming" official, following in his father's footsteps. Wallace's influence extends beyond the court, as he is known for his integrity and has built lasting relationships with officials, coaches, and athletic directors throughout his career. He is a respected figure whose contributions have profoundly impacted the basketball community.