

HALL OF FAME

CONTINUED FROM PG 1B

The third inductee was Shau-na Pupke. Pupke was a "ground-breaking pioneer for Cottage Grove athletics" and attended the school from 1970 to 1974. She participated in track, swimming and basketball. She held the record for the 440-yard dash, the 880-yard dash and the mile. Overall she competed in six different state meets, winning 11 varsity letters as a Lion.

"This was memory lane," Pupke said. She actually found something that she had once written while she was in high school 40 years ago. Her passage commented on her blissful memories as a star athlete.

"Cottage Grove was an incredibly wonderful place for me to grow up," she said. "The network and the community was very whole. I'd like to thank the committee and everyone involved who made this night happen."

After Pupke was her teammate Lynn Wiltse. Wiltse attended CGHS from 1972 to 1975 and was a two-time All American swimmer. With her specialty being the 100-yard backstroke, Wiltse was a two-time district champion and earned second and third-place medals in two different state meets against the highest classification competition.

Her coach, Bud Taylor, sent in a testimony that praised the toughness of Wiltse.

"At one point, she finished a length of the pool a few strokes early and she smacked her head into the wall. It set her back, but she pushed on and eventually won her heat."

Wiltse was honored but stressed her excitement for the current students earning awards throughout the night. Several student-athletes were given awards inbetween inductees.

"It's really cool to see current athletes winning these honors," she said. "All I can say to you guys is to really enjoy this time and work hard. The choices you make right now will make all the difference in the health you have in the future and the quality of life you have."

Up next was David Dawson. Dawson was an elite wrestler from 1981 to 1985. He was exceptionally small as he earned a fourth place medal at state in

1982 and a second place medal in 1983, weighing only 98 pounds. Dawson also competed in football, baseball and golf. He enjoyed the singularity of wrestling and enjoyed managing his own success.

"What made Dawson one of the best wrestlers was just his drive and his commitment. He put in the extra time," Bill Thompson wrote of him. Thompson was Dawson's wrestling coach while he attended CGHS.

"I'm truly honored and humbled to be here," Dawson said in his short but heartfelt speech; he occasionally choked up as he thanked his family, friends and coaches. He went on to thank Thompson, who encouraged him to stay in Cottage Grove after his freshman year. Dawson originally had plans to transfer, but Thompson and the wrestling team pushed him toward creating a strong program.

The last individual inductee was Jason Saunders. Saunders attended CGHS from 1986 to 1989, where he earned first team Midwestern League in both football and basketball. He was a tight end on the football team and led the league in receptions in 1987. Saunders also earned an honorable mention as a first baseman in baseball.

Saunders thanked many CGHS athletic staff including Jerry Braunberger, who coached Saunders in baseball.

"It's great to see that so many are still here contributing," he said. "They showed us how to be winners as small kids from Cottage Grove," he added of his coaches such as Coach Heckman and Coach Donn Pollard.

The final inductees were the entirety of the 1979 football team. In their tribute video, it is stated that no Cottage Grove football team has achieved more against the state's top competition. The Lions were coached by Bill Siler, who took his team to an 8-1 season in league play. The team then beat Canby and an undefeated Grant team. The Lions fell short in the playoffs, losing to would-be state champion Corvallis. The team outscored their opponents 176-83 and used a strong veer-style offense. The team included Rudy Hudson, Pete Payne, Steve Phillips, Mike Pressly, Duane Ramsey, Bill Siler, Brett Siler,

Scott Tobiasson and Ed Wojick.

In between the inductees, the ceremony honored current students and coaches as well. First, Keana Hemenway and Kory Parent received honors for making first-team all state in soccer and basketball. Katie Dennis was honored along side them for winning a state title in wrestling.

Reily Boyce and Josie Mootz were awarded the Amy Reserve Scholar-Athlete Award for excelling in their academics as well as athletics. Brad Geisler and Hannah Arnold were honored with a scholarly athletic award as well.

The Coaches' Award went to Jayden Tucker for hard work and dedication in track and basketball.

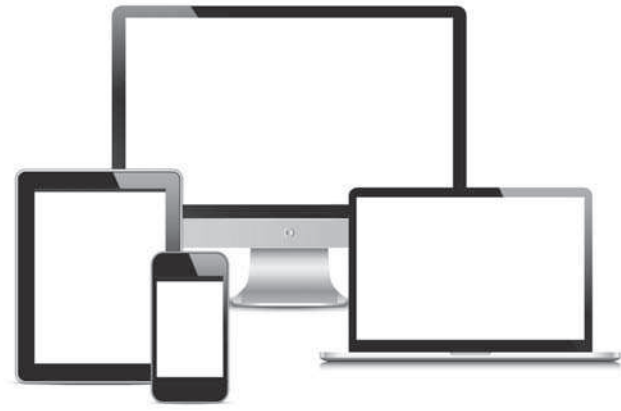
The final student award was the Doyle Higdon award, an honor that Cottage Grove High School and the University of Oregon both present. The winners of these awards share the same honor as names such as Steve Prefontaine. For outstanding GPAs and acquiring three varsity letters in different sports, Hannah Albrecht and Kory Parent were awarded the Doyle Higdon award.

Finally, track coach Ricky Knutson was awarded the Michele Portmann award for his great success with his students in the classroom and athletes on the track and field.

The ceremony did a fine job at displaying the rich history of Cottage Grove sports and the present success that the Lions celebrate each season.



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