

Hardwork, commitment and selflessness earn Wauneta native Lynn McBride entry into Hall of Fame

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Thursday, 27 June 2013 16:45 -



Lynn McBride was inducted into the Nebraska Officials Hall of Fame in February during the Frank Sevigne Husker Invitational Track Meet. (Courtesy Photo)

By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

Wauneta native Lynn McBride was recently inducted into the Nebraska Officials Hall of Fame. The ceremony took place in early February during the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's annual Frank Sevigne Husker Invitational.

Though the Husker Track and Field Officials association was formed in 1976 by Frank Sevigne, the Hall of Fame was started in 1985. Since then only 49 names have been added to the

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prestigious list, with McBride's name being one of two added this year.

"As I look at the names on the list, they are highly renowned, much respected, and many of them have been idols of mine. It's a great honor to be listed among them. It's very humbling," said McBride.

With so few on the list McBride said that he believes a willingness to serve sets the Hall of Fame members apart from other volunteers.

"You have to prove yourself as dedicated to the team and cause as an official," he said.

T.J. Pierce, director of Track and Field Operations for the Huskers, agreed, saying, "Out of an outstanding group of officials who are very service oriented, Lynn is absolutely one of the most selfless people I've encountered."

"You can't find a better gentleman," added Pierce. "When you think of good Nebraska people, you first think of Lynn."

Career and volunteer work

McBride was born in Denver and grew up in Wauneta, participating in football, basketball and track before graduating from Wauneta High School in 1958.

After earning a degree in English from Kearney State College, he spent two years teaching at Imperial then 15 years in Iowa teaching at two different schools.

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Moving back to Nebraska to his wife Janie's home town of Shelton, McBride taught for 24 years at Kenesaw and retired.

His retirement didn't last long. It took two years part time at Heartland Lutheran High School before McBride finally retired with 43 years of teaching under his belt.

During his time in Shelton McBride wrote for the Shelton Clipper to help out a friend who wanted to watch his kids participate in high school activities. McBride's skills have stayed sharp as readers of the Breeze have witnessed in two articles McBride has written about former Husker football player and Wauneta-native Taylor Dixon.

Living in Shelton since 1979 McBride has served on the town board since 1985, including more than 20 years as mayor.

Though he trained for middle distances while on the Wauneta track team, McBride now runs 5K and mile races. He has "six to eight" years of t-shirts from the Wauneta Harvest Fest Yucca Run.

He currently keeps busy doing woodworking and photography, and is also involved in a networking business, while officiating at high school and college track meets.

Husker track official

McBride got involved in the Husker track program when Sammie Resh, a close high school friend of his daughters Janine (Mikki) and Lori, was running for the Huskers.

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Resh holds the distinction of being Nebraska's first cross country All-American. She was a five-time All-American in track and tops the all-time list in three events, the indoor 5,000 meter run and the outdoor 5,000 meter and 10,000 meter runs.

After spending four years attending her track meets, McBride decided he wasn't done with the program and in 1990 began volunteering with the Husker Track and Field Officials Association, a non-profit organization which partners with the University.

In 2005, McBride received the Husker Track and Field Officials Association Distinguished Service Award. Seventy-nine Husker track officials have been given the award, usually awarded after 15 years of service.

McBride uses his experience gained announcing events in Shelton to announce awards at the Huskers' indoor meets each year, working hand-in-hand with awards custodian Anne Cech for the past 20 years.

"I have the joy of getting the medal winners to the award stand and introducing them with all the glory we can muster," he said. "If awards are not part of the meet, then I'm called into duty with whatever event needs help. On occasion, that has been to fill in as one of the starters."

With the NCAA stipulation that each meet must have three starters present, it can be handy to have a jack-of-all-trades such a McBride around to fill in where needed. It is a quality he feels has helped earn him entry into the Hall of Fame.

Once again Pierce agreed.

"Whenever we're shorthanded, Lynn is always the first to volunteer," said Pierce. "With any moment of downtime, Lynn is asking where he can help. He's a fantastic person and hard worker."

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Cech keeps records for the Husker Track and Field Officials Association and says that McBride's track record is phenomenal.

"Lynn drives in from Shelton and has to spend the night, but he never misses," she said, adding that she wouldn't do her job without him.

During the outdoor season, McBride has many jobs, including announcing and starting.

"The Nebraska track program is fantastic and like family," he said, adding "It's a joy to be associated with the program."

He said the move to the Big 10 was a good one for the school and he was proud to be a part of the Big 10's first indoor meet.

"It's wonderful to work in such great facilities and get to know the different athletes each year."

McBride maintains certification with the USA Track and Field and takes the yearly tests needed to work track meets for the Nebraska School Activities Association.

Eighty-seven percent of the officials with the Husker Track and Field Officials Association are USATF certified. McBride said it speaks highly of the caliber of how our meets are organized, run and officiated

"We're told that teams wait in line to compete at NU because of the caliber of competition, the facility and the professionalism of the officiating."

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“The Frank Sevigne Invitational is one of the most prestigious indoor meets in the nation. There are always representatives of teams from all over the nation, just about always national-leading results in almost every event, some very high-octane talent and competition. It’s a pure joy of which to be a part.”

High school official

Closer to home, McBride has been a starter for high school meets in the Shelton area for the past eight years

He has traveled to Omaha for 22 years for the Nebraska High School track meet. A clerk at the starting line, McBride says he enjoys interacting with the athletes as they review guidelines before races. He makes sure he has a chance to visit with the Wauneta-Palisade kids running at the meet.

“I aspired to be a starter at the State Track Meet, but am content with the official capacity I have truly enjoyed for the past two decades,” he said. “I like spending time with the kids before the races, putting them at ease and making sure they are prepared for their race.”

Not stopping anytime soon

Even though he is usually the oldest official at most meets, McBride has no plans to quit.

“I want to keep at it as long as I can be productive,” McBride said. “I’ve never worked a day in

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my life, it's all been a labor of love. I've been blessed."