



Greeley-Evans | Weld County School District 6

OFFICE OF SCHOOL / COMMUNITY RELATIONS

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NEWS RELEASE

January 29, 2010

Greeley West to host second Hall of Fame ceremony

Greeley West High School will host its second annual Distinguished Alumni and Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony on Saturday, February 6. This year's induction ceremonies for the second class to enter the hall of fame will continue the tradition that began with last year's inaugural dinner and ceremony, in which 12 people and one organization were inducted. The event is open to the public.

The 2009 and 2010 hall of fame inductees will be honored at halftime of the boys basketball game versus Broomfield on Friday, Feb. 5. The game tips off at 7 p.m. The next evening's events begin at 6:30 p.m. with a semi-formal dinner in the school commons area. The cost is \$35 per person, and reservations are required for the dinner.

The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Greeley West High School auditorium. A silent auction will run from 6-8 p.m. in the commons area, with various items available for bid. All proceeds will support the Greeley West Hall of Fame. Among the items up for bid are autographed memorabilia from several pro athletes – including inductee Mike Higgins – a four-pack of VIP Colorado Rockies tickets, a golf outing at Pelican Lakes, golf lessons at the Greeley Country Club, jewelry, restaurant certificates, and more.

Call Bob Billings, assistant principal/athletic director, at 348-5411, with any questions, or call Terri Lindschmidt at 348-5402 for reservation information.

The 2010 Greeley West High School Hall of Fame honorees are:

Meritorious Service

Mike Morgan, in conjunction with the Morgan Family Foundation, has been a strong supporter of GWHS for nearly 10 years. He is widely known for boosting athletics at West, but his support of academic programs, specifically AVID, have been the most significant and far-reaching for the school. The Morgan Family Foundation also supports numerous entities in the Greeley-Evans community.

Distinguished Alumni

Marie Bogart was a Greeley West employee for 13 years and served as the principal's secretary for eight of those years. She was regarded as a huge asset to the GWHS front office, with supervisors referring to her as "invaluable" as a front-office manager. Bogart worked in District 6 from 1978 through 1996 and continues today as a classified substitute in the district.

Merle “Dutch” Carwin was a fixture in the Greeley West vocational agriculture program from 1973 through 2002. He was a highly regarded teacher on the local, state, and national levels and taught a total of 37 years, affecting more than 4,000 students during this time. He received numerous recognitions during his career including being named Colorado Vocational Teacher of the year. He believed that *every* student could achieve. Mr. Carwin is deceased.

Jonna Christensen was a business education teacher at Greeley West from 1973 through 1998. Her commitment to GWHS reached beyond the classroom as she was deeply involved in FBLA and the Greeley West POMS. She was a highly respected staff member and was recognized as the first recipient of the Greeley West “teacher of the year” award. Christensen is retired and still resides in Greeley.

Jana Frieler is a 1980 graduate of Greeley West High School. She has established herself as one of the most highly respected school principals in the state and the nation. She is the president-elect (2010-2011) for the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the 30,000-member organization promoting excellence and innovation in secondary education. She served Greeley West as an assistant principal from 1995-2001, and became principal in the fall of 2001, guiding the Spartans to great success through the 2004-2005 school year. She is currently the principal of Overland High School in Aurora.

Bob Harr has a large legacy at GWHS. He is a 1978 graduate; was a math teacher from 1983-1998; and during this same period he served 15 years as girls basketball coach, 11 years as assistant baseball coach, three years as head softball coach, and two years as assistant golf coach. He was also a sponsor for STUCO for nine years. Following his teaching and coaching career, he was an assistant principal for seven years and was named Colorado Assistant Principal of the Year in 2003. He became building principal in 2005 and led the school for three years. He is currently the principal of Valley High School in Gilcrest.

Athletic Hall of Fame

Mike Higgins is a 1985 graduate of Greeley West. He was an outstanding performer in the classroom, on the court, and the field. He was known more for his prowess on the basketball court, but was also an all-state soccer goalie for the Spartans. He took his basketball skills to UNC where he excelled and was named a Division II All American. For the past 19 years, he has made his living as a professional basketball player, spending two years in the NBA with the Los Angeles Lakers, Denver Nuggets and Sacramento Kings before moving on to the European leagues, where he has played on a variety of teams and been able to see the world. He currently plays for Xacobeo-Blusens in Santiago, Spain, and often returns to Greeley in the summer.

Tom Runnells is a 1973 graduate of Greeley West, where he was an outstanding student and athlete in tennis, basketball, and most notably baseball. He was an honor student and very involved in Key Club before taking his baseball skills to UNC. His hard work and commitment paid off as he earned his way into professional baseball. He played in the minor leagues for several years in the San Francisco Giants organization and earned his “big league” shot with the Cincinnati Reds in 1985 under manager Pete Rose. Runnells quickly transformed from player to coach. Initially coaching in the Reds organization, he joined the Montreal Expos system and became their manager in 1991. After a stint in the Detroit Tigers system, he joined the Colorado Rockies organization and was promoted to bench coach last season after Jim Tracy was named manager. He resides in Ohio in the offseason.