

Hall of Fame Inductees

2024

James Knorr

James has been participating in the track & field events for several years. He has not set any records but he has won dozens of medals. Recently he has entered into the Arts and Crafts events with his stained glass exhibits. Some of his other talents include being a master gardener. With his combined skills of running and artistry he has been inducted into the Quad Cities Senior Olympics Hall of Fame.

Michael Cherry

30 years ago when Michael was participating in the QC Senior Olympics track & field events he did not win many if any medals. This did not discourage him from continuing on with his efforts. Now at age 86 not only is he winning medals he has gone on to set a record in the weight throw. Over the years Michael has been strongly supported by his family. They have made special Team Cherry t-shirts and cheer him on at every event!

Jeffrey Carl

Jeffrey's specialty are the throws. He has continued to participate at a high level. He finally achieved a long time goal of setting a record in the QC Senior Olympics discus. He crushed the former record held by Jim Allen set in 2000 by over 17 feet! Jeffrey still coaches the throwing events at Sauk Valley Community College during their indoor and outdoor track season.

Joseph Johnson

Joseph has participated in track and field events, basketball, horseshoes, shuffleboard, bean bags and disc golf. His main talents have come from the Performing Arts events in the QC Senior Olympics. His dedication to participating year in and year out has earned him into the Hall of fame.

Gerald "Jerry" Beam

30 years ago, Jerry was an average athlete. He would earn a medal in events where 3 or fewer entered the event with him. He has stuck with it. He and his wife Patricia (Hall of Fame honoree) continue to compete in our Quad Cities Senior Olympics. They have specialized in the cycling events. Now at age 91, Jerry is one of the best cyclists in the United States in his category! Congratulations for your dedication to keeping active!

Matt Kopel

Like his father before him, Matt has volunteered on the QC Senior Olympics Board of Directors. When we first noticed Matt, he was walking back and forth counting laps in the swimming pool at one of our swim a thon fund raisers. Matt continues to help Norm Bauer with our swimming events along with helping to secure additional funds to help make our games financially possible. A strong family tradition of volunteering for the QC Senior Olympics!

Scott Reade was recognized for his Delmar Smith Sportsmanship Award. During the competition in the 400 meter race one of the competitors that had built a sizable lead over Scott stumbled and fell to the ground. Rather than race on by, Scott ran over to check on his fellow competitor and helped him back to his feet and to the finish line. That is the type of behavior that Delmar Smith exhibited before his passing since his induction into the Hall of Fame. Thanks you Scott!

2023

Janice Kuehl

Janice has been selected as the volunteer of the year. She has been volunteering since 1999 in a number of roles. Janice has served as a Board Member, event manager, hospitality manager and a participant! Janice has also given her expertise to helping at the Heritage and Literary Arts reception. Most of her medals have come from the competition in swimming. From 2001 to 2011 she participated in the Senior Olympics Swim-a-thon fundraiser helping to raise needed funds to support our games. Janice is very deserving of this honor for dedication and hard work to support the Quad Cities Senior Olympics for over two decades!

Billy Potter

Billy is a marathon man when it comes to the Quad Cities Senior Olympics. Known to compete in over 30 events during the week long competition on an annual basis. Not only does he enter multiple events he goes home with several medals each year and also sets records in both the Triple Jump and Pole Vault. Billy is proud to sponsor the Cross Man Athletics tent to help promote good sportsmanship!

Rod Speidel

Rod is another marathon man! He continues to compete each year in our games. His specialty is in the track and field competition. He has set records in the throws and the jumps! As he competes in our games he has been able to achieve the All-American standard in multiple events where he then goes on to compete in the Decathlon. Rod has won well over 200 gold medals in the Quad Cities Senior Olympics since turning 50 years old.

Ron Stablien

Ron has tremendous skills in the Football and Softball throws along with his talents for the Basketball events. Ron concentrated his effort last year to break records in both the Softball and Football Throws. Both of the records he took were previously held by Quad Cities Senior Olympics Hall of Fame members. Ralph Whiteman in the football throw and Wally Czarny in the Softball throw. To break a record held by those athletes was quite an accomplishment!

Linda Rowe

Linda is another athlete that concentrates her efforts in one area. Hers is in the throwing events of the Track & Field competition. Records in Shot, Discus, Javelin and Weight Throw will see her name in each of those events. The other amazing fact is how she continues to set more records as she gets older showing her commitment to her sport. After a serious health issue than nearly took her life 2 years ago Linda returned this year to set records in both the Shot and the Weight Throw!

Dr. Paul Mullin

Dr. Mullin has been the Chairman of the Board for the Quad Cities Senior Olympics. He came to the board after teaching at Palmer College of Chiropractics for 40 years. His knowledge of working with other volunteers has helped keep our games in sound shape during difficult times of financial funding and dealing with the complications of the COVID 19 virus. His steady leadership helps encourage others to give it their best efforts! He and his wife Pam are incredible individuals!

2022

Kay Glynn

Kay has built her own "she shed" in her back yard so she can practice all year long. She has excelled in the pole vault setting records in the 50-54 age group and now in the 65-69 group. In those years she has only lowered the mark by a foot! Beside pole vaulting Kay has set records in the 50 Meters, Discus, Javlin, and High Jump. Kay is a very special athlete with abilities in many events.

Dave Gilbert

A pole vaulter is what Dave is. This is his only event but he does it well and has done it for a long time setting QC Senior Olympics records in four consecutive age groups over a span of 20 years.. In the 45-49 age group he cleared 13' 2", 50-54 he made 13' 0" for the 55-59 he maintained 12' 6 ½" and now in the 60-64 group an amazing 12' 4" We remember how disappointed Dave was the year our track was flooded by the broken pipe and the pole vault was cancelled.

Ken Beach

Ken brought the bench press to the Quad Cities Senior Olympics. He has been the event director every year and does an amazing job of recruiting lifters and judging the event. He also has set several records in the lifting area. This year he also competed in the pull up and push up competition. Setting records of 115 push ups in two minutes and 24 pull ups His talents also go out the the track and field completion where he has set records in standing long jump for both the 65-69 and 70-74 age groups. He broke the records of hall of famer Pete Stopoulos.

Ida Mae Robinson

Bowling has been directed by Ida Mae for several years. Her continued dedication to the Quad Cities Senior Olympics is recognized. She has organized and recruited bowlers of all abilities. She has been instrumental in getting more athletes from the Martin Luther King Jr. Center to participate in our games. Ida Mae continues to throw a strong game and has won several medals in her sport!

Delmar Smith

A long time competitor in the QC Senior Olympics. Delmar has not set any individual records but he has shown the spirit of competition over more than 30 years. Still working full time as a painter Delmar competes in a variety of sports including track and field, disc golf, basketball, and football and softball throwing.

James McCord

James is also a competitor in the QC Senior Olympics for all 31 years. He hasn't set any records but has become very competitive the older he becomes. He has been known to enter more the 25 events each year ranging from the 5,000 meters, to golf, basketball, shuffleboard, horseshoes, bean bag, football throwing and kicking, soccer, softball throwing and billiards.

2021

After the pandemic of 2020 cancelled our 30th annual QC Senior Olympics games we are pleased to present our class of 2021 honorees:

Jeff Johannsen

Jeff, a retired school principal has been competing in our games since he turned 50. He has competed in as many as 20 events per year and excels in the throwing events. He holds the record in the football throw for the 50-54 age group and had the record in the javelin at one time. One of his chief competitors year in and year out is Willie Seward, a 2019 Hall of Fame honoree. They have battled back and forth between who will win the gold medal!

Dr. Marjorie Franklin

Dr. Franklin practiced in the Quad Cities taking care of young children, including the Whiteside boys. After her career slowed down a bit Marjorie started participating in the QC Senior Olympics. She has demonstrated her versatility in both the arts and swimming. Her schedule remains quite busy as she will be traveling to Texas the week of our games to watch her grandchildren compete in their swimming meets!

David Thompson

David has been the event manager for cycling for many years. The fact that his events take place far from any other venue prevents most of us from seeing what a splendid job he does of organizing and officiating those athletes. His 10K time trial race in Preemption, IL and the 25K road race in Hampton, IL always go off smoothly because of his dedication to his sport!

Doug Sell

If there is a sporting event in the Quad Cities that requires volunteers you will see Doug. He has volunteered each year with our 5K race hosted on the Augustana campus. He also helped every year with the Susan Komen Race for the Cure. The East Moline Firecracker Run, The TKB Quad Cities Marathon and The Freedom Run are also events Doug has worked. You can also see him helping with the Food Bank at his church!

Rosanne Lewis

Rosie is another tireless volunteer with the Quad City Senior Olympics. Her connection to the games came through her brother Dr. Paul Mullin, the chairman of the board for the QC Senior Olympics. Rosie joined the board and has been the office manager for the past 5 years. Her willingness to ensure the success of our annual games has been an inspiration!

Barbara Pickleball Shinbori

A retired board member and participant in the games! Barbara is a team player in more ways than one. Together with Roseanne Lewis they pretty much organized the games in 2017-2019. Now she has teamed up with David Langrock to win gold medals in the Pickle Ball. Barb continues to organize Pickle Ball tournaments through out the Midwest.

Dick and Mary Fislar

Going back to the early days of the QC Senior Olympics Dick was a Board Member of the QC Senior Olympics. His wife Mary was right there with him organizing and participating. While on the Board Dick was the event manager for the 5K run and walk that was held in Sunset Marina in Rock Island. Dick and Mary own Picture Perfect Travel and also continue to support local running with the organization of running groups and road races.

Dan Hansman

Dan is one of those athletes that had the ability to sprint at a high level for a very long time. He is at the same level of some of our Hall of Fame members, Pete Stopoulos, Lee Stopoulos, Mike Murphy, Howard Byers, Don Amery and Bill Melville. Dan has the record in the 50 meters for the 65-69 age group. He has been slowed since the pandemic and the replacement of both of his knees. He plans to train to get back to competing again!

Terry Kramer

Terry was a Board Member of the QC Senior Olympics for many years. He was instrumental in leading our games to some of our most successful years. He and his wife Roxanne were heavily involved in many events in the Quad Cities including Komen Quad Cities Race for the Cure and Runway for the Cure.

Whiteside Family

31 years ago Fred Whiteside began his volunteering with the Quad Cities Senior Olympics as the event manager for track and field. At that time he never thought he would ever be old enough to compete in the games. When he signed up to help with the games his first assignment was to recruit volunteers to officiate the games. That is when his family came into play. Cathie, his wife, their two sons, Michael and Jay were quickly added. A phone call to his mom Flora and two brothers Russell and Richard added them to the list. His sister Mary and brother in law Terry have also helped through the years. Later, our granddaughter Riley Whiteside LeVan and her mom Missy joined in helping. Nephew Wade Whiteside and niece Margo Whiteside Taylor, along with her two children Eli and Colette, have also volunteered, which has led to 4 generations of Whiteside volunteers to the QCSO. It is a family joke to not answer the phone when Fred is calling because you know that a volunteer request is in the making.

Floyd “Bud” Smith

Bud has been an ambassador to track and field for over 65 years! He is a fierce competitor but a friend to all. Before the QC Senior Olympics were started, Bud competed in the Athlete’s Foot Masters track meet that was organized by Pete Stopoulos at Augustana. Bud was still able to jump in those meets. Bud continues to be a family man as he takes care of his lovely wife. The story below written by Don Doxie does a great job of show casing Bud’s accomplishments!

Bud Smith, who outjumped Wilt, profiled in Iowa paper

Don Doxie of the Quad City Times in Iowa has written a **marvelous story** on **Bud Smith**, a pioneering barefoot high jumper who became a masters record holder and world star. Bud was one of the first in history to clear 7 feet — but never got the credit he deserved. The story tells why Bud, now 72, is no longer jumping: “Two years ago, plagued by arthritis, he had both hips replaced. He still goes to the Senior Olympics at Augustana College every year, but now he just does the shot put.”

Here’s the whole story, in case the link goes down:

High standards

By Don Doxie | Thursday, April 17, 2008

You have to wonder what Wilt Chamberlain thought on that day back in 1957. Here he was, one of the most incredible athletes in the world — the 7-foot star of the University of Kansas basketball team that finished as national runner-up and the star of the Kansas track team. He was in his best event (the high jump) in the biggest invitational of the year (the Kansas Relays) on his home track. And this unimposing guy from a place called Clinton, Iowa, was showing him up. Floyd “Bud” Smith remembers the moment fondly. It’s the day he beat Wilt the Stilt by 3 full inches and etched his name in the Kansas Relays record book.

The memories will come drifting back even stronger today when Smith and his son, Tim, attend this year's Kansas Relays and hand out the awards to this year's high jump winners.

"I felt great about being able to outjump the great Wilt Chamberlain," said Smith, 72, who lives in Clinton. "My intention when I went down there was to beat everybody there. I didn't care if their name was Wilt Chamberlain or what."

Barefoot success

It was one of the high points of a track and field career that began back on his parents' farm near Mount Carroll, Ill. Smith spent much of his adolescence shoeing chickens out of the barnyard so he had room to dive into a homemade high jump pit.

He had gone over to Savanna and picked up a bunch of sawdust. He usually used a bamboo fishing pole as a crossbar, occasionally switching to a 2×4 when he wanted to work on his trail leg kick.

When Smith began high jumping at Mount Carroll High School, the school did not have track shoes, and his parents didn't have any money to buy him a pair. So he high jumped in his bare feet. He tied for the Illinois state title that way in 1953. It's one of only two state track championships in the history of the now-defunct school, and the other was 102 years ago.

"The school had a grass track. We didn't even have cinders, so I just decided to totally jump barefoot," Smith said. "It gave me a good feel on the takeoff. When you take off, you want that lead leg to be as light as possible, and there's nothing lighter than a bare foot."

When he began jumping at Northern Illinois State Teachers College (now Northern Illinois University), the wooden take-off boards they used at the college level bruised his feet. So he began using a shoe on his left foot only. He continued high jumping well into his 60s and never once did it with a shoe on his right foot.

His stay at Northern Illinois didn't last long. In his first meet, he set a national record for college freshmen — 6-foot-8 5/8 — but college wasn't for him.

"I was born and raised on a farm," he said. "I didn't have the mindset that I was going to go to college. I really wasn't prepared to go to school."

He momentarily thought about transferring to Western Illinois, which would have afforded him a chance to train in South Africa the following summer.

Plenty of other schools wanted him to transfer, too.

"But I chickened out," he said. "I thought it was more important to get married. So, I got married and raised a family instead."

Life after college

He went to work for Clinton Corn Processing — now ADM Corn Sweeteners — and after 12 years switched over to work in a polyethylene plant in Clinton. He stayed there until retiring in 1997.

But he didn't stop jumping. He got in touch with Ted Haydon, the coach of the University of Chicago Track Club, and began competing for one of the premier amateur track clubs in the country.

Among his teammates were Ted Wheeler, who later became the head track coach at Iowa, and two men who represented the U.S. in the 1956 Olympics in

Melbourne, Australia — sprinter Ira Murchison and miler Phil Coleman. Smith also took a shot at the Olympics in '56. The townspeople of Clinton and Mount Carroll took up collections to pay his way to the AAU meet in Bakersfield, Calif., but Smith didn't place in the top six and never got to the Olympic trials. The gold medal ended up being won by fellow American Charles Dumas, who became the first man to top 7 feet and who went 6-11¼ in Melbourne. Smith matched that height only a few months later at a meet in Rockne Stadium in Chicago — the best jump in the world in 1957 — and topped 7 feet although he didn't get credit for it. The take-off area at Rockne was uneven and the jump was measured from the highest point. Haydon measured it at the spot where Smith actually took off and found the height was 7-0½ from that spot. That would have tied Dumas' world record.

It was only a few weeks later that Smith went to Kansas and topped Chamberlain. The two men had tied in the event the year before, but this time Smith jumped 6-9 to Wilt's 6-6. His record stood for 18 years.

Still competing

Smith never did anything that spectacular again, but he continued to compete as the years passed.

"I always told my wife that if I ever got down to 6 feet, I'd quit," he said. "But then they developed the masters programs for jumpers over 40. I was going to be jumping against guys my own age so I kept on competing. Then they developed the seniors program for athletes over 50, so I kept going."

As recently as 1993, at the age of 58, Smith set a record for his age group by clearing 5-2 at the Nike Illinois Relays.

Two years ago, plagued by arthritis, he had both hips replaced. He still goes to the Senior Olympics at Augustana College every year, but now he just does the shot put.

His jumping has taken him all over the world. He has competed in Senior Olympics in Italy, Great Britain and Puerto Rico. He went to Russia three times to help get seniors programs started there.

"It would never have happened if not for athletics," he said. "I feel very fortunate, very blessed for the opportunity I've had. God was good to me. He gave me the talent."

Another highlight will be this weekend when he returns to the scene of one of his triumphs.

Tim Smith wrote to Kansas last year to get some sort of certification of his father's record. Officials there went a step further, extending an invitation for Bud to come back. They also sent him eight minutes of videotape from the 1957 high jump competition that Smith treasures.

"I'm excited about going back down there," he said. "I'm really hoping they have some kind of museum or hall of fame that I can walk through. I'm sure there will be things in there about Wilt Chamberlain and Al Oerter and people like that."

And maybe — just maybe — there will be something about a guy from Clinton who out-jumped them all one day in 1957.

I spoke by phone to Bud several months ago, and his favorite stories are about the friendships he's made in masters track. Once he gave a little present to a Russian lady at a world meet, and the gesture led to hosted trips to the Soviet Union and meeting with the legendary **Valeri Brumel**. Here's Bud jumping with lead foot barefoot not many years ago:



1 votes

278 total views, 1 view today



 May 7, 2008

9 Responses

1.  Mary Woo - May 7, 2008
-

Ken- thank you for posting this wonderful story. This is the type of positive reporting that brings me back to your site.
Mary



2. Paul Edens - May 13, 2008

Ken,

Thank you for re-printing the article on Bud Smith. I had the pleasure of meeting Bud around 1958 when he would train at Clinton High School in Clinton, IA where I ran track as a student. He would sometimes have about 6 of us kids line up under the bar and then jump over our heads with ease and with room to spare. We were in awe.

In 1983 I competed in the World Championships in Puerto Rico and was sitting in the stands reading the meet program and looking through the list of athletes when I came across the name Floyd Smith in the high jump. I thought, could it be the same "Flyin' Floyd" (he was known simply as Flyin' Floyd in those days) that I knew from Clinton? So I immediately went down to the high jump pit and got re-acquainted with Flyin' Floyd. Recently I was in Clinton and got together with Bud to "talk track" and he showed me his trophy room in his basement. The "trophy room" is the whole basement. It's amazing! He even has a huge track painted on the floor and he can tell you how many laps to the mile. Bud is a great representative for Masters Track and has inspired people to get involved in athletics, not only in the Clinton area where he lives, but around the world, as the above story depicts. I'm very pleased that he has been invited back to the Kansas Relays where he made his great claim to fame and will be recognized for his achievement.
