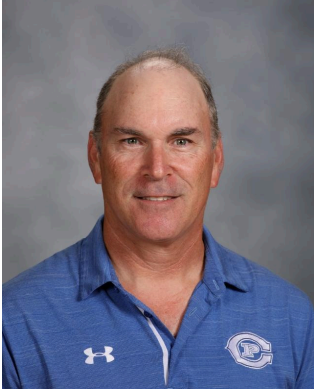




## 2025 NSAA Champions for Coaches



### **Tom Beck, Creighton Preparatory (Boys Swimming & Diving)**

Tom Beck is the Head Boys Swimming and Diving Coach at Creighton Preparatory School.

### **Dave Brabec, Bishop Neumann (Softball)**



Dave Brabec, Head Softball Coach at Bishop Neumann, has been leading the program for 16 seasons. Under his leadership, Bishop Neumann has won three state championships (2024, 2021, and 2017) and finished as state runner-up three times. His teams have earned 8 district championships and qualified for the state tournament in 10 of his 16 seasons, amassing an impressive 381-143 coaching record. A graduate of Bishop Neumann (Class of 2004), he also spent 15 years teaching at the grade school before focusing on farming and ranching. He and his wife Katie have three sons and are expecting another child in August 2025.

### **Kaitlyn Clark, Gothenburg (Speech)**



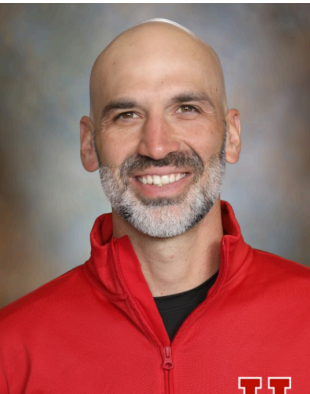
Kaitlyn Clark, the Head Speech Coach at Gothenburg High School, has dedicated her career to shaping young communicators. With 11 years of teaching experience, she has served as a leader in speech and play production across the state, earning recognition as the CNFL Director of the Year in 2020 and 2024. She is an advocate for the power of speech in developing confidence and leadership in students.

### **Steve Conner, Seward (Boys Bowling)**



Steve Conner is the head Boys Bowling coach at Seward High School.

### **Josh Dean, Hemingford (Football)**



Josh Dean, a technology teacher and football coach at Hemingford Public Schools, has built a career dedicated to education and athletics. His journey from a biological sciences graduate to a highly respected coach was inspired by his own mentors. He has contributed to multiple athletic programs, helping young athletes grow on and off the field.

### **Gene Felise, Omaha South (Baseball)**



Gene Felise, the Head Baseball Coach at Omaha South High School, has dedicated 11 years to coaching at the high school level. With 25 years of continuous involvement in baseball as either a player or coach, he has experience at both the collegiate and legion levels, having served as an assistant coach at York University and as the head coach for York Legion Baseball. Originally from California, he found adapting to Nebraska's cold early-season games a challenge but has since embraced his role in shaping young athletes.



**Tiffany Gochenour, Nebraska City (Unified Bowling)**

Tiffany Gochenour, a special education and life skills teacher at Nebraska City High School, has been deeply involved in coaching and mentoring students for over a decade. She coaches Unified Bowling and Unified Track, fostering inclusion and teamwork. A lifelong Nebraska City Pioneer, she is passionate about building a culture of family and support within her school, which was recognized in 2019 by Nebraska Public School Advantage.

**Kristen Harris, Southwest (Journalism)**



Kristen Harris, a Business and Journalism teacher at Southwest Jr/Sr High, has been in education for 19 years, with 14 of those spent advising student publications. She previously taught English and speech at Arapahoe Public Schools and journalism at McCook Public Schools. Over the years, she has guided three students to state journalism championships and served 10 years on the Nebraska High School Press Association board. She is currently a member of the NSAA Journalism Committee.



**Dennis Hershberger, Lincoln Southwest (Girls Tennis)**

With 33 years of experience coaching varsity girls' and boys' tennis, Dennis Hershberger has dedicated his career to fostering both athletic and personal growth in young athletes. As the Girls Tennis Coach at Lincoln Southwest, Dennis has led teams through 65 state events, coaching 138 players to earn state tournament medals. His passion for the sport and commitment to mentorship have left a lasting impact on countless student-athletes, helping them excel on and off the court.



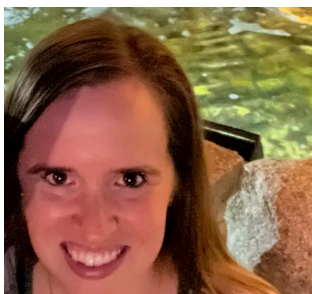
**Sheila Hoelsing, Wausa (Play Production)**

Sheila Hoelsing, a veteran Play Production coach at Wausa Public Schools, has led her teams to the State Play Production contest for 19 consecutive years—earning an impressive 16 state championships across multiple classes. In addition to coaching, she serves as a Family Consumer Science Teacher, Library Media Specialist, and sponsor for multiple school activities. Under her leadership, Wausa has produced numerous Best Actress/Actor award winners and outstanding technical crews.



**Chace Hutchison, Gretna East (Girls Soccer)**

Chace Hutchison, Head Girls Soccer Coach at Gretna East, has built an incredible record of success in Nebraska high school soccer. Since taking the helm in 2022, his teams have won three state championships and compiled a remarkable 62-1 record. A former club and college assistant coach, he has been recognized as Nebraska's Girls Soccer Coach of the Year multiple times and has played a pivotal role in growing the sport in the Gretna community.



**Kari Meister, Gretna (Girls Swimming & Diving)**

Kari Meister is in her sixth year as the Head Swim Coach for Gretna Public Schools and has played a key role in developing the district's swimming program. She previously coached at Columbus High and has been instrumental in increasing participation and achieving competitive success. Since the opening of Gretna's own pool, her team has continued to set new school records and send athletes to the state competition.

### **Torri Merten, Millard North (Girls Bowling)**



Torri R. Merten, a teacher and registered nurse at Millard Public Schools, has combined her background in health sciences with her passion for bowling. She coaches both Unified and Varsity Bowling while also teaching in the Health Science Academy. She was named Millard Public Schools Employee of the Month in January 2025 and is a United States Bowling Congress Silver Level Coach. She founded the Nebraska Youth Bowling Partnership (NEYBP), which has awarded over \$225,000 in youth bowling scholarships. Having bowled since fourth grade, she is dedicated to growing the sport and ensuring young athletes have scholarship opportunities through bowling.

### **Jim McLaughlin, Freeman (Boys Basketball)**



Jim McLaughlin, the Head Boys Basketball Coach at Freeman High School, has led the team to 10 state tournament appearances, securing two state championships (2010, 2023) and two runner-up finishes (2009, 2015). Beyond the accolades, his commitment to instilling life lessons—work ethic, preparation, and an elite mindset—has shaped countless athletes.



### **Justin McGill, Norris (Unified Track & Field)**

Justin McGill, a Business Education teacher at Norris High School, has been coaching for 17 years and played a crucial role in launching the school's Unified Track and Field program in 2022. He also serves as the Head Cross Country Coach and has led his teams to multiple state championships. His commitment to inclusive athletics has given more students the opportunity to compete and succeed at a high level.



### **Maggie Moon, Crofton (Girls Basketball)**

Maggie Moon, Head Girls Basketball Coach at Crofton High School, has led her team to three consecutive state tournament appearances, securing a fourth-place and a runner-up finish. Named the Mid-States Conference Coach of the Year in 2023, she attributes the program's success to the support of the school, community, and her dedicated team.



### **Jeff Nielsen, Duchesne (Girls Golf)**

Jeff Nielsen is the head Girls Golf Coach at Omaha Duchesne.



### **Lori Peters, Wood River (Girls Track & Field)**

Lori Peters, a dedicated educator at Wood River Rural Schools, has been coaching high school athletics for 13 years. She currently serves as the Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball Coach and Girls Track Throwers Coach. Her coaching experience spans multiple sports and levels, from youth leagues to varsity athletics. A former college basketball player, she is passionate about empowering young female athletes to succeed both on and off the field.

### **Holly Rieschick, Auburn (Girls Cross Country)**



Holly Rieschick, a PE and Health Teacher at Auburn Public Schools, has been an educator for over 20 years, with 12 years spent at Auburn. While she has coached multiple sports throughout her career, she has found her greatest passion in coaching track and cross country. Rather than focusing on accolades, she takes pride in fostering a love for running in young athletes and helping them set and achieve goals they never thought possible. Her greatest achievement is witnessing her athletes grow into strong, kind individuals. She is a proud mother of three daughters and grandmother to four grandchildren.

### **Julie Ratka, Minden (Volleyball)**



Julie Ratka is the head volleyball coach at Minden High School.

### **Brad Ronne, Scottsbluff (Music)**



Brad Ronne, the Vocal Music Instructor at Scottsbluff High School, is in his 32nd year of teaching vocal music. Over 19 years at Scottsbluff, he has directed three curricular choirs, a show choir, and an annual musical theatre production. He also pioneered a music technology program that includes studio recording and songwriting. His choirs and soloists have consistently earned top ratings at NSAA District Music Contests, and he was named the 2019-2020 NFHS Outstanding Music Educator.

### **Cole Sittig, Crawford (Boys Wrestling)**



Cole Sittig is the Boys Wrestling Coach at Crawford High School.

### **Taylor Stech, Chambers (Boys Golf)**



Taylor Stech, the K-12 Music Instructor at Chambers Public Schools, has also been a dedicated golf coach throughout her career. Under her leadership, Chambers-Wheeler Central has sent players to the state tournament three years in a row. In 2025, she was honored with the Jack R. Snider Young Band Director Award, recognizing her contributions to both music and athletics.





### **Scott Steinbrook, Kearney (Boys Soccer)**

Scott Steinbrook has been the Head Boys Soccer Coach at Kearney High School for 26 seasons, amassing over 300 career wins and leading his team to a state championship in 2018. A Finance teacher and department chair, he has built a program that excels both athletically and academically, earning nine consecutive Team Academic Awards from the United Soccer Coaches Association.

### **Andrew Stowe, Norfolk (Girls Wrestling)**



Andrew Stowe is the Head Girls Wrestling Coach at Norfolk Senior High School. After returning to his hometown, he quickly made an impact, leading his team to the 2025 Class A Girls Wrestling State Championship in just his second year as head coach. A former collegiate wrestler and chiropractor, he brings a unique approach to coaching and has already earned recognition as a District Coach of the Year.

### **Tammy Tegler, Waverly (Boys Tennis)**



Tammy Tegler is the Head Boys & Girls Tennis Coach at Waverly High School, with 10 years of coaching experience. After coaching from 2011 to 2016, she stepped away for a few years before returning in 2019 due to her love for coaching and working with student-athletes. She has been recognized for her contributions to youth tennis by the Lincoln Tennis Association, Nebraska Tennis Association, and Missouri Valley Tennis Association, receiving multiple service awards, including High School Coach of the Year.



### **Chris Wiseman, Plattsmouth (Boys Cross Country)**

Chris Wiseman, a veteran educator at Plattsmouth Community Schools, has spent 33 years coaching multiple sports, including cross country, track and field, and basketball. He led the boys track team to a Class B State Championship in 2008 and a runner-up finish in 2007. His experience and leadership continue to inspire student-athletes to push their limits.