



2026 NSAA Champions for Coaches Honorees

Fall Activities



Girls Golf – Whitney Maulsby, Minden High School

Whitney Maulsby is the Girls Golf Coach at Minden High School and an eighth-grade language arts teacher. She returned to her hometown in 2018 and helped rebuild the program from just two athletes to a full varsity and junior varsity roster. Her teams have won a state championship and multiple runner-up trophies.



Boys Tennis – Chase Petersen, Mount Michael Benedictine High School

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Girls Cross Country – Lisa Freeburg, Gering High School

Lisa Freeburg is a Physical Education teacher at Gering High School and an assistant cross country coach. During her time coaching, the Gering teams have consistently qualified for the state meet, including the 2019 girls state championship team. Freeburg has also received several coaching and service awards throughout her career.



Boys Cross Country – Sam Jilka, Lexington High School

Sam Jilka has spent 32 years teaching and coaching in Lexington. As the head cross country and track coach, he has guided his teams to multiple state championships, including boys cross country titles in 2001, 2009, 2021, and 2022. Jilka's programs are also recognized for academic excellence.



Football – Jess Rother, Central Valley High School

Jess Rother is a math teacher and assistant football coach at Central Valley High School with 29 years of coaching experience. He began his career in Wolbach before coaching at St. Paul and eventually returning to Central Valley. He recently helped coach the 2024 state championship football team.



Softball – Kirk Chelewski, Centura High School

Kirk Chelewski is the Head Softball Coach at Centura High School and has been coaching softball since 2008. His team recently set a school record with 25 wins and advanced to the state tournament semifinals. Chelewski has also helped build strong youth softball programs in central Nebraska.



Volleyball – Maddie Gideon, Guardian Angels Central Catholic

Maddie Gideon is the Head Volleyball Coach at Guardian Angels Central Catholic in West Point. In just four seasons as head coach, she has led her team to two state tournament appearances and compiled an impressive 86–33 record. Outside of coaching, Gideon works as a commodity broker in her family's agricultural business.



Unified Bowling – Jane Elam, Elkhorn South High School

Jane Elam is a Physical Education teacher at Elkhorn South High School and has coached Unified Bowling since the program began in Nebraska. Throughout her 20-year career, she has coached numerous sports including volleyball, basketball, soccer, tennis, and Unified athletics. She was named Unified Track and Field Coach of the Year in 2024.



Play Production – Brittany McDaniel, North Platte High School

Brittany McDaniel is a Communication and Theatre teacher at North Platte High School. She directs multiple productions each year, including a traveling children's theatre production that performs for elementary students across the district. McDaniel also coaches speech and serves on the Nebraska State Communication and Theatre Association board.

Winter Activities



Girls Bowling – Holly Fuhr, York High School

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Boys Bowling – Bob Jaster, Columbus High School

Bob Jaster is the Head Bowling Coach at Columbus High School and has helped lead the program to multiple district and state championships. Under his leadership, Columbus has produced several individual state champions and back-to-back boys team state titles in 2024 and 2025.



Girls Wrestling – Lilly and Ben Gossman, Fort Calhoun High School

Lilly and Ben Gossman are a husband-and-wife coaching team leading the girls wrestling program at Fort Calhoun. Together they helped build the Pioneer Wrestling Club and develop the school's girls program. Under their leadership, the team recently won a conference championship and qualified eight wrestlers for the state tournament.



Boys Wrestling – Tyler Legate, Pierce High School

Tyler Legate is a teacher and coach at Pierce Junior-Senior High School where he has spent the last 12 years coaching wrestling and football. Throughout his career he has worked with many talented athletes and helped build strong programs on the field and on the mat.



Girls Swimming & Diving – Kevin Hansen, OPS/Elkhorn/Creighton Prep

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Boys Swimming & Diving – Brett Ruoff, Lincoln Southeast High School

Brett Ruoff is the Head Swim and Dive Coach at Lincoln Southeast High School. A former All-American swimmer at Texas A&M and All-American water polo player at Nebraska, Ruoff has led the Knights program for 11 years. He was named Nebraska Swim Coaches Girls Coach of the Year in 2022.



Girls Basketball – Paul Dwyer, Elmwood-Murdock High School

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Boys Basketball – Nick Broz, Cozad Community Schools

Nick Broz is a Physical Education and Health teacher and Head Boys Basketball Coach at Cozad. With previous coaching stops at McCook Community College, Hastings College, and Bridgeport High School, Broz has led three teams to the state tournament. He was named the 2025 Southwest Conference Coach of the Year and selected to coach in the Nebraska Coaches Association All-Star Game.



Speech – Mackenzie Ivie, Sidney High School

Mackenzie Ivie is a high school English teacher and speech coach at Sidney High School. She teaches dual-enrollment English and Public Speaking while advising the National Honor Society. Ivie is also a former Miss Rodeo America, using her experiences to inspire students and help them grow as communicators.

Spring Activities



Journalism – Jeremy Borer, Sandy Creek

Jeremy Borer has spent 23 years at Sandy Creek as the Technology Director, Digital Media Instructor, and Journalism sponsor. He founded the student-led business 74 Creative, which gives students real-world experience in graphic design, video production, and broadcasting. His programs have helped many students pursue careers in media and communications.



Music – Ashley Brock, Holdrege High School

Ashley Brock is the 9–12 Vocal and Instrumental Music Director at Holdrege High School and has been teaching music in Nebraska for 18 years. In addition to directing choirs, bands, and school productions, she has served on the Nebraska Music Education Association Board of Directors and regularly works as a clinician and adjudicator across the state. Brock is also active in her community as a member of the Holdrege Volunteer Fire Department.



Girls Soccer – Thomas Nettleton, Lincoln Southwest High School

Thomas Nettleton is the Head Girls Soccer Coach at Lincoln Southwest High School and is entering his 15th season. His teams have captured back-to-back Class A state championships in 2024 and 2025 and have made three straight state finals appearances. Nettleton has also been named the United Soccer Coaches State Coach of the Year.



Boys Soccer – Fred Doscher, Elkhorn North High School

Fred Doscher is a Physical Education teacher and the Head Boys Soccer and Girls Bowling Coach at Elkhorn North High School. Over his 29-year career, he has coached football, soccer, and bowling while leading teams to multiple state playoff appearances. Doscher has also been recognized as PE Teacher of the Year twice.



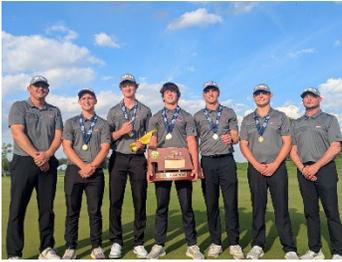
Baseball – Bob Hlavac, Millard North High School

Bob Hlavac is the Head Baseball Coach at Millard North High School. Prior to becoming head coach, he served as an assistant at Bellevue West and Millard North. Teams he has coached have appeared in the state championship game five times in the last six years.



Girls Tennis – Matt Wiemers, McCook Public Schools

Matt Wiemers has spent 27 years teaching and coaching in the McCook Public School District. As the boys and girls tennis coach, he has led teams to three state championships and coached athletes to more than 60 state tournament medals. Wiemers has also earned multiple Nebraska Girls Tennis Coach of the Year honors.



Boys Golf – Daryl LaDeaux, Creighton Community Schools

Daryl LaDeaux is the Head Golf Coach at Creighton Community Schools. In his first season as head coach, his team won the Class D state championship by 17 strokes and produced the individual state champion. LaDeaux also has many years of experience coaching football and wrestling.



Girls Track & Field – Sara Domeier, Lincoln North Star High School

Sara Domeier teaches Family and Consumer Sciences at Lincoln North Star High School and serves as the head boys and girls track and field coach. With over 24 years of coaching experience, she has guided numerous athletes to state medals and championships. Domeier was also honored with the Star City Sports Ambassador Award for her leadership and community impact.



Boys Track & Field – Stephanie Rodenbaugh, Loomis Public Schools

Stephanie Rodenbaugh has spent 35 years teaching art and coaching at Loomis Public Schools. Over three decades of coaching track and field, her teams have won four state championships and produced numerous state champions and record holders. She was named Coach of the Year in 2007.



Unified Track & Field – Bailey Swanson, Hemingford Public Schools

Bailey Swanson is a Special Education teacher at Hemingford Elementary. She launched the school's first Unified Track and Field program, helping create opportunities for students of all abilities to participate in athletics. Her work focuses on building confidence, inclusion, and friendships through sport.