

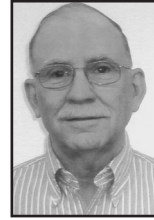
Girls Track & Field

Honorary Referees

2018 STATE FINALS



Keith Jacobi



Don Korte

Keith Jacobi started his track career as a runner for Fenger High School in Chicago by winning several individual city championships in the 880 and mile. As a senior he qualified for the IHSAA State Finals at the University of Illinois in Champaign in cross country and the 880. He continued his education and running career at Eastern Illinois University, where he was a member of the 1974 NCAA College Division National Track & Field Championship winning team, finishing 7th individually in the mile finals. That NCAA meet was held right here at EIU on what was an eight-lane pink tartan track at the time. The stadium's namesake, Maynard "Pat" O'Brien, was Keith's coach during his time running for the Panthers.

Keith first got interested in officiating while a student at EIU, as he worked several major indoor invitationals they hosted. He worked the 1972 IHSAA State Finals and still has the 'officials badge' from that momentous meet. Later, after graduation, he was asked to start a track meet at North Central College by Al Carius and that was the start of his officiating career. He went on to work with Larry Roland, who taught him about being an IHSAA official, and under Larry's guidance obtained his IHSAA license, which he has now held for over 30 years.

Keith has worked the state meet for over 12 years, first at the finish line as a timer and picker, then as a clerk in the tent. Twice he was The Conflicts Referee. He has also been assigned to various duties for the last 15 years at the Cross Country Finals in Peoria, including Class 3A starter. He twice was a starter for the NCAA Division III National Indoor Track Finals held at North Central and has officiated at various local colleges, the Big 10 Cross Country Finals and recently worked at the University of Notre Dame for a large indoor invitational. Last year he was honored with the IHSAA Boys Official of the Year accolade.

Keith's most satisfying accomplishment has been the mentoring of many new officials, at least two of whom have been State Finals Referees and Starters. He looks forward to continuing officiating and his annual return to EIU each year for the IHSAA Spring Spectacular.

Don Korte is a 1959 graduate of Bloomington Central Catholic High School. He qualified for the IHSAA State Track Meet in the sprints his senior year. He is a 1963 graduate of Illinois State University, where he earned three varsity letters in football and four varsity letters in track & field.

After graduating from Illinois State University, he taught math and physical education at Parkside Junior High School in Roselle, where he started a track program. He then taught for 30 years at Rich Township High School District #227. Don taught math, coached track & field and football for eight years at Rich East High School. When Rich South High School opened in 1972, he was employed as the Dean of Students for 22 years. Don, who also coached football at Rich South High School for 12 years, retired from education in 1994.

Don has been involved with high school track & field for 62 years as a student-athlete, high school coach and for the last 46 years as an IHSAA Track & Field Official. During these years he served as the Head Starter for both the Girls and Boys State Finals and the State Cross Country Finals. He also served as the Head Field Referee at the Girls State Track Meet. For the last 25 years he has been a member of the clerks' staff for both the boys and girls state

meets. In addition, he has been a starter, assistant starter and meet referee at numerous track & field sectionals.

As a competitor during his track & field career, he was the track & field MVP at Illinois State University as a junior and senior. In 2013, the Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches Association recognized him for his Outstanding Service and Dedication to Officiating Track and Cross Country. In 2009, the NFHS Officials Association selected him as the Boys Track and Field Official of the Year in Illinois. In 2012, he was inducted into the Illinois Track and Cross Country Officials Association Hall of Fame.

Don and his wife Judy reside in Park Forest and will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in July.

All-Time Girls State Meet Honorary Referees

1978—Helen Riley, Charleston
 2000—Ola Bundy, Bloomington
 2001—Paula Coker, Mattoon
 2001—Jane Davis, Chicago
 2001—Dorothy Dawson, Chicago
 2001—Mabel Holle, Lake Forest
 2002—Pat McBride, Rockford
 2002—Mary O'Brien, Elgin
 2002—Barbara Richardson, Lansing
 2002—Joan Schmidt, Niles, MI
 2003—Leona Covert, Aurora
 2003—Jill Ferree, Woodridge
 2003—Madelyn Martino, Lansing
 2003—Helen Marie Wallace, Chicago

2004—John Bailey, Jr., Shiloh
 2004—David Daugherty, Mason City
 2004—Genelle Samuelson, Rockford
 2004—Mary Wersells, Chicago
 2004—Stephen Weckstein, Scottsdale, AZ
 2005—Phil Salzer, Peoria
 2005—Louis V. Hencken, Charleston
 2005—David Kidwell, Charleston
 2006—Joyce Carlson, Lemont
 2006—Gail Borton, West Frankfort
 2006—Eugenia Krzyzanski, Chicago
 2007—Geza Ehrentreu, Rockford
 2007—Nancy Grant, Eastern Illinois University
 2007—Tony Thorsen, Dwight

2008—Jim Effinger, Wheaton
 2008—Paul Neakrase, Washington
 2009—Lillian Spivey, Maywood
 2009—Win Eggers, Chicago
 2010—Jack Herschback, Chester
 2010—Ernest Adkins, East St. Louis
 2011—R. Bruce Weiman, Bowen
 2011—Matthys Bax, Carmi
 2012—Rose Effinger, Wheaton
 2012—Owen Fuller, Marseilles
 2013—Matt Piescinski, Charleston
 2014—Keith Kittell, Chester
 2014—Barb Kittell, Chester
 2014—Kate Kittell, Paris

2015—Sandy Jenkins, Chicago
 2015—Donna Campbell, Skokie
 2015—Tom Gavin, Frankfort
 2016—Michael Fontant, North Aurora
 2016—Larry Foster, Jerseyville
 2016—John Polka, River Forest
 2016—Tony Rainey, Chicago
 2017—Glenn Cothern, Gibson City
 2017—Bill Derks, Rochester
 2017—Bob James, Mattoon
 2017—Clarence Nolden, East St. Louis
 2018—Keith Jacobi, Batavia
 2018—Don Korte, Park Forest