Steven M. Linn named Charles Sweeney Hall of Fame Award Winner

Steven M. Linn was welcomed by a standing ovation as he received the 2017 Charles Sweeney Award at the MITCA Track and Field Clinic on Friday, February 3, 2017. The Sweeney Award is named after one of the MITCA Founding fathers, Charles Sweeney, and is the highest honor given at the Track Clinic. Coach Linn has a lengthy list of service to our organization. He has served on MITCA track and field, cross country, and junior high committees; he has also served seven years as a member of Executive Board, as MITCA President in 2010-11, and is currently serving as MITCA’s Political Liaison. Linn coached at both Harbor Beach and Deckerville High Schools. Coach Linn has a combined record 187-31, winning 16 league titles, 7 regional championships, and 6 top ten finishes in State Finals. He was a MITCA Coach of the Year nominee three times. Lukas Linn made the introduction of his father ending his presentation with “This award proves that my father did things the right way. He gives his all to his students, his community, and most of all his family. I’m honored to present the 2017 Sweeney award to my hero, my role model, and best yet my father.”

2017 Scholarship Winners: Patsy Arpino Scholarship (2 x@$500.00)

Brad Anderson / Kalamazoo Valley CC son of Erik Anderson of Grand Ledge
Joshua Keeler / Central Michigan son of Jason Keeler of Marian

Kermit Ambrose Scholarship (1 x@$500.00)

Will Wilson / Johnson University, TN son of Jeff Wilson of Kent City

Nominating forms for Special Awards and Scholarships are available at www.mitca.org
MITCA Track & Field Clinic Highlights

MITCA welcomes Hall of Fame Track & Field Coaches

Bert Kruse and Stephanie Stephenson

**Coach Bert Kruse** is entering his 55th year of coaching at **Chelsea HS**. Bert’s stellar record includes a 2013 State Championship, 2011 Runner-Up and four 3rd place finishes at the State Meet. His boys and girls teams have combined for 14 Regional Championships and 19 League Championships. Kruse has coached 53 Southeastern Conference Champions in the Shot and Discus. 18 of his athletes have represented Michigan in the Mid-West Meet of Champions.

**Coach Stephanie Stephenson** has an outstanding 26 year coaching record at **East Kentwood HS**. Her girls track team has recorded 14 top ten finishes at the State Meet. They have excelled at the Team State Meet and they have finished top two 11 times including championships in 2007 and 2014. The East Kentwood girls track team has won 13 Regional Championships since 2000.

The Milan Girl’s Track team members take a break in the hotel’s “Alice in Wonderland” chairs. MITCA would like to thank the girls for their service at the clinic and for setting up the banquet room.
2016 Boys Coach of the Year Nominees

Winners Underlined

Division 1
Robert Lynch - Oak Park
Andy Martin - Rockford
Dave Emott - East Kentwood
Ken Domerese – Flint Carman-Ainsworth

Division 2
Ralph Neal - Zeeland East
Jason Luke – Grand Rapids Kenowa Hills
Kevin Spotts - Hamilton
Jason Beldyga - Corunna

Division 3
Clay Schiman - Hillsdale
Jerry Drake - Frankenmuth
Josh Powers - Adrian Madison
Jamie Klein – Grand Rapids West Catholic

Division 4
Rick Bauer - Saugatuck
Dennis Peacock - Evart
Jeff Minier – Battle Creek St. Philip
Aaron Wesche - Addison

2016 Girls Coach of the Year Nominees

Winners Underlined

Division 1
Stephanie Stephenson - East Kentwood
Tim Dalton - Northville
Geri Gee - Brighton
Brian Harrod - Okemos
Tamara Kemp - Greenville
Randy VanderVeen - Rockford

Division 2
Rex Wilkes - Lansing Waverly
Leo Foley - Flint Powers Catholic
Wade Cook - Romulus
Eric Grimm – Grand Rapids South Christian

Division 3
Ithaca - Gene LeBron
Josh Powers - Adrian Madison
Julie Duffing – Traverse City St. Francis
Kyle McKown – Clare

Division 4
Jill Feldpausch - Fowler
Tim Krupp - New Lothrop
Angelina Bauer - Saugatuck
Deb Price - Reading
MITCA Special Coaching Awards

Gerald Bliznik / Hartland MS Coach of the Year nominated by head coach Marcus French
Rob Hayes / Frenkenmuth HS Assistant Coach of the Year nominated by head coach Mike Snyder
Art Vlahon / New Lorthrop HS Assistant Coach of the Year nominated by head coach Tim Krupp
Wyatt LeClear / Shepherd HS Assistant Coach of the Year nominated by head coach Rick Cahoon

Michigan High School Coaches Association 2016 Coach of the Year

Men’s Track and Field: Mitch Lutzke / Williamston High School
Women’s Track and Field: Jill Feldpausch / Fowler High School
Men’s Cross Country: Cliff Somers / Fremont High School
Cliff is a NHSACA National Finalist
Women’s Cross Country: Emily Kloss / Harbor Springs High School
Emily is a NHSACA National Finalist and a NHSF Regional Coach of the Year.

U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association

2016 Michigan Coach of the Year Congratulations to :
Bryan Heid / Corunna Boys Cross Country Coach of the Year
Steven Long / Otsego Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year
Rick Bauer / Saugatuck Boys Track Coach of the Year
Gene LeBron / Ithaca Girls Track Coach of the Year

Michigan High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame

Last Fall two MITCA Hall of Fame Coaches were inducted into the MHSCA Coaches Hall of Fame.
Kevin Behmer / Ann Arbor Huron HS and Rob Lutz / White Pigeon HS
Visit http://www.mhsca.org for information and forms for the all sports coaches association, MHSCA.
Visit www.MITCA.org for all your Track & Field and Cross Country coaches information.
Mr. Track and Field

Connor Bandel ...

Oxford High School

now throwing for

The University of Florida

Connor started as a freshman throwing 35’ in the shot and 80’ in the disc and improved to 48’ & 130’ by the end of the season, winning the conference in both events. He set goals to improve by 10’ in the shot and 15-20’ in the disc each year. He went from 48’ to 55’ to 61’ to 67’-5.75” and a new state record in the shot put. In the discus he went from 130’ to 167’ to 193’ to 204’2”.

Some of his accomplishments include:

8 time OAA Red League Champion

4 time Track & Field MHSAA Regional Champion

4 time Oakland County Champion

4 time Division One MHSAA State Champion in the Discus and Shot-Put (First Male MHSAA D1 Athlete to repeat as the state champion in the Shot-put)

Oxford High School record holder in the Shot Put 68’ 10.75” and Discus 204’ 2”

All-time Michigan Shot Put & State Meet record holder -67’ 5.75”

2016 New Balance Nationals Outdoor gold medalist (discus throw)

2016 USATF Outdoor Junior Championships gold medalist (discus throw)

2016 IAAF World Junior Championships qualifier (discus throw) Representing Team USA
Ms. Track and Field

Chloe Abbott ...

Northville High School

now running for

Purdue University

Some of Chloe’s Accomplishments include:

- Four-year letter-winner in track
- 400m state record holder, and won the state championship in the 200m, 400m, and 4x400m as a senior
- National Athlete of the Week during her senior year
- Nominated for Gatorade Player of the Year
- Personal record in 400m is 53.10 seconds
- Personal record in 200m is 24.03 seconds
- Named Detroit Athlete of the Year in track & field
- New Balance National Outdoor Championships qualifier as a junior and senior in the 100m, 200m and 400m dashes
- Helped track team finish runner-up in the state as a sophomore
- Placed third at the Junior Olympics in the 400m as a junior
- Placed fifth in the 200m dash at the New Balance National Championships in the 200m dash as a junior
- Placed third in the 400m dash at the New Balance National Championships as a senior (All American)

Coached by Jack Dalton, Tim Dalton and Brandon Langston
2017 MITCA Track and Field Clinic by the numbers

5,872 . . . dollars (56 members) donated to the Kermit Ambrose 101 Club funds. Funds will be used for Team Michigan and the Ambrose Scholarship. It’s not too late to donate.

*Ambrose 101 Club Information and forms available at www.mitca.org*

691 . . . Number of members in attendance at the clinic.
516 . . . Members that pre-registered for this year’s clinic.
430 . . . Number of pages in the clinic notes.
175 . . . Members the registered at the door.
125 . . . new MITCA members at the clinic.
100 . . . percent of the coaches that enjoyed the clinic.
59 . . . clinic number (59th annual)
21 . . . vendors in attendance
16 . . . new Coach of the Year award winners.
3 . . . $500 scholarships given to MITCA members college students.
2 . . . members receiving awards this summer at the NHSACA National Coaches Convention in Peoria, IL
  Cliff Somers / Fremont High School NHSACA National Finalist
  Emily Kloss / Harbor Springs High School NHSACA National Finalist and a NHSF Regional Coach of the Year.
2 . . . new members inducted into the MITCA Hall of Fame.
  Congratulations Bert Kruse / Chelsea and
  Stephanie Stephenson / East Kentwood
1 . . . new Sweeney Award winner: Steven M. Linn
  Harbor Beach/Deckerville
Prediction Run 2/4/17 3.8 mi.  
Causeway Bay Hotel, Lansing, MI
Sponsored by Kevin Behmer and Ann Arbor Race Timing

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MITCA Track and Field Clinic Election Results (330 voting)
President...Dave Lustig  
Secretary . . Stephanie Stephenson  
1st Vice President . .Jeff Erickson  
2nd Vice President . . Kyle McKnown

Business Meeting Survey Questions
1. Are you in favor of updating the MITCA By-Laws to vote on future Track and Cross Country proposals through an “On-Line Voting process? Passed 264 to 60 (81%)

2. Are you in favor of changing the “Middle School Order of Running Events” to the proposed order to better align with the “High School Order of Running Events”? Passed 251 to 79 (76%)
### 2017 Kermit Ambrose 101 Club Members

as of 2/7/17

| KEVIN BEHMER  | TOM MICALLEF  | TAMARA BENJAMIN  | TONY MIFSUD  | JIM BILSBORROW  | CHAD MILLETICS  | DEAN BLACKLEDGE  | LOU MIRAMONTI  | BRIAN BOZE  | LOU MIRAMONTI  | CHARLES CHILDRESS  | JOHN R MORRISON  | PAUL CHRISTIANSEN  | BARB MUNCH-KOHN  | MARTIN CRANE  | JERRY MYSZKOWSKI  | DONALD DICKMANN  | PAUL NILSSON  | GREGORY FLASKA  | JAMES OKLER  | RICHARD FRANK  | JOHN OSLER  | KERNIE GILLIAM  | KENT D OVERBEY  | ROBERT GLOVER  | PATRICK PASTULA  | DEREK GONZALES  | STEVEN PORTER  | DOUGLAS JAGER  | MICHAEL RAFFIN  | CHARLES JANKE  | ROBERT L RITSEMA  | ROB & JUDY JOHNSON  | DAN ROGGENBAUM  | BRIAN JONES  | DALE SAGE  | ROBERT KENT  | BRIAN SALYERS  | Lynn Ketelhut  | KATHLEEN SCHOLLAR  | JERRY LASCESKI  | PAIGE SMOLARZ  | ALLAN LESLIE  | KIM SPALSIBURY  | STEVEN M LINN  | ROBERT STARK  | MARTHA LINN  | ROBERT STEWARD  | ANDY LYTLE  | JON STRITE  | TONY MAGNI  | MIKE UNGER  | DON MARSH  | BRIAN WILSON  | MICHELLE MCKINNON  | LARRY WILTSE |

Thanks to the above members for their generous contributions. The Ambrose 101 funds will help support the Ambrose Scholarship, the Mid West and Mid East Meet of Champions.

Additional donations are still welcome. Please go to www.mitca.org for more information.
New MITCA Hall of Fame Ring

MITCA Hall of Fame rings are available through Graduate Service Detroit, a Herff Jones company. They are available in men’s and women’s sizes. Any MITCA Hall of Fame (this includes Ambrose, Sweeney, Hall of Fame Track and Cross Country inductees) member interested in purchasing a ring, or a school group wishing to purchase a ring for an inductee or Hall of Fame member should contact:

Bonnie Lancaster
Graduate Service Detroit
4938 Dewitt  Suite 200
Canton, MI 48188
734-725-5743
highschool.herffjones.com or bonnie@hjdetroit.com