

# Unity Athletic Hall of Fame

**Class of 2012**



**Ron Beck •**

**Van Wilson •**

**1986 Girls Track •**

**1987 Girls Track •**

Sponsored by the Unity Sports Booster Club



## **Ron Beck**

Ron Beck has been a supporter of Unity Athletics since 1964 when his wife, Jane, was hired as a high school English teacher. Ron was active in the early years of the Mississippi Valley Invitational Tournament (MVIT), where his main duty was securing advertising for the MVIT tournament booklet. Beck Insurance has always supported Unity Athletics by advertising on calendars, schedules, and programs.

Ron graduated from Moweaqua High School in 1960 and attended Devry Technical Institute in Chicago, graduating in 1962. He met his future wife through a mutual friend and they were married in 1964. Ron worked for Harris Broadcast when they first moved to the district and later purchased the Brumback Insurance Agency in 1968. He renamed it Beck Insurance Agency and has worked there ever since. Both of his children, Kevin and Cathy, graduated from Unity. Kevin taught agriculture in Iowa for several years and joined his dad at Beck Insurance Agency in 1993. Cathy is a physical therapist and Director of Therapy at Culbertson Hospital in Rushville.

After their kids finished college, Jane entered Blessing-Rieman School of Nursing at the age of 50, earning a B.S. in Nursing. She has worked in various medical facilities. Ron is still involved in the insurance business and looks forward to going to work every day. With Kevin at the agency, he is able to sneak away on occasions. Jane and Ron try to keep up with their grandchildren at Unity and Rushville, and continue to be strong supporters of the Unity school system and the Unit 4 Foundation.

As an athletic supporter, some of his favorite memories include working with Pat Keane on the MVIT and watching his children participate in Unity athletics. Ron also followed the 1972-73 and the 1989-90 boys basketball teams on their journey to the super-sectional and remembers how the community came together in support. In addition he spent many years watching Coach Brickman work with the football teams.





## Van Wilson

Van Wilson came to Unity as a teacher and head basketball coach during the 1979-80 school year. He was the head basketball coach for 14 years achieving a record of 211-159 and has the longest tenure of any coach in Unity basketball history. His teams won the West Central Conference in 1980-81, 1988-89, and 1989-90. After winning 21 games in 1988-89, the 1989-90 team won its first 30 games including championships in the Southeastern and Highland tournaments. That team also won the regional, sectional, and gained only the second Sweet Sixteen berth in school history. In addition they also set a school record for wins and winning percentage in a single season. Van was named the Quincy Herald-Whig Coach of the Year in 1990.

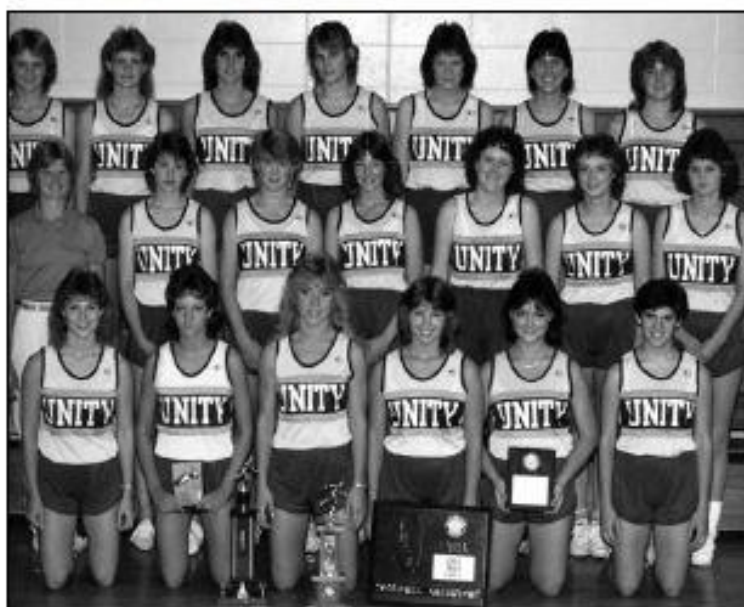
Van also served as the head baseball coach for 9 years, earning a record of 100-78. His teams won West Central Conference baseball titles in 1982 and 1983. Van also coached the middle school baseball teams for a number of years, starting the program in 1989. He worked with many fine athletes at Unity and always stressed the "team" concept.

Van graduated from Brown County High School in 1975 where he played basketball, football, and baseball. He graduated from Eureka College in 1979 and received his Masters in Education Administration from WIU. Van taught health, first aid and safety, ACT preparation, study skills, and physical education while at Unity. He met his future wife, Ann, who began her teaching career at Unity across the hall from his classroom, in 1980. They have three children: Drew, Kristen, and Jacob. Drew passed away in 2005.

Van enjoyed his 16 years at Unity and made many life-long friends. After leaving Unity in 1995, he was athletic director, teacher, basketball coach, and administrator at Brown County High School. He is currently in his 10th year as principal and plans to retire from education at the end of this school year.

# 1986 Unity Mustangs Girls Track and Field

- Sectional Champions
- West Central Conference
- Unity Invitational
- Pittsfield Invitational
- Adams County Relays



**Row 1:** Dayna Fryrear, Kim Caley, Michele Agard, Deanna Fryrear, Shelly Gordy, Trudi Butler  
**Row 2:** Coach Sue Woodworth, Carla McClelland, Lois Emery, Anais Shriver, Melynie Ruffcorn, Lisa Adair, Karen Myers  
**Row 3:** Jennifer Koehler, Erin Janssen, Ronna Duesterhaus, Michelle Hendrickson, Rachel Seals, Holly Duke, Cindy Wietholder

The 1986 girls track and field team coached by Sue Woodworth was one of the most successful teams in Unity track history. With 19 girls participating, all the points scored contributed to their team success. There were 14 meets during the season, with 4 field events, 5 relays, and 8 running events. Highlights were winning the West Central Conference as well as beating 20 other teams for the sectional title.

## IHSA state qualifiers in Class A were:

|                  |   |           |
|------------------|---|-----------|
| 800 Medley Relay | Lois Emery, Erin Janssen,<br>Dayna Fryrear, Ronna Duesterhaus | 8th Place |
| 800 Run          | Ronna Duesterhaus   | 3rd Place |
| 300 Hurdles      | Ronna Duesterhaus   | 4th Place |
| 100 Hurdles      | Erin Janssen  |           |
| 1600 Relay       | Deanna Fryrear, Michele Agard, Kim Caley, Dayna Fryrear       |           |



## 1987 Unity Mustangs Girls Track and Field

- Sectional Champions
- West Central Conference
- Unity Invitational
- Pittsfield Invitational
- Payson Relays
- Adams County Relays



**Row 1:** Dayna Fryrear, Erin Janssen, Michelle Hendrickson, Rachel Seals, Lisa Adair, Karen Myers, Trudi Butler  
**Row 2:** Ronna Duesterhaus, Jennifer Koehler, Cindy Wietholder, Rhonda Adair, Carla McClelland, Shelly Gordy, Angie Castle, Coach Sue Woodworth  
**Row 3:** Lori Cornwell, Lois Emery, Anais Shriver, Holly Duke, Tonya Kendrick, Carmen Lubbert, Krista Lentz

The 1987 girls track team coached by Sue Woodworth had 21 girls participating, probably the most of any Unity team in its history of track and field. A talented group of athletes gave the track and field season another year of continued success. There were 16 varsity meets and 2 fresh-soph meets. This team topped its year with a second consecutive West Central Conference Championship and beating 21 other teams for the sectional championship.

### IHSA state qualifiers in Class A were:

|                  |  |           |
|------------------|--|-----------|
| 300 Hurdles      | Ronna Duesterhaus  | 2nd Place |
| 100 Hurdles      | Erin Janssen   |           |
| 800 Medley Relay | Lois Emery, Erin Janssen, Dayna Fryrear, Ronna Duesterhaus |           |
| 400 Relay        | Lois Emery, Carla McClelland, Lori Cornwell, Erin Janssen  |           |
| 800 Relay        | Dayna Fryrear, Erin Janssen, Lisa Adair, Ronna Duesterhaus |           |
| 1600 Relay       | Lisa Adair, Lori Cornwell, Carla McClelland, Dayna Fryrear |           |