

OADA HoF Bio: Del LaRue

Del LaRue's long teaching and coaching career began at Lostine High School where he taught and coached from 1960-1964. He spent the next two years at Wallowa High School and then the next four years at Wheeler High School in Fossil, Oregon. He and his family moved to Lone in the summer of 1971 where they found their forever home. Del spent the next 26 years in the classroom, the gym, the football field and track of Lone High School until he retired in 1997. Del took on the Athletic Director responsibilities for the last thirteen years of his career. After retiring, Del continued his passion of coaching track and field until 2009. In retirement, Del enjoyed traveling with his wife Linda, their children (Robin, Shawn and Michelle) and numerous grandchildren, golfing, driving his 1934 Ford Coupe and spending time with friends. Del passed away in 2016.

Del was very involved in the Big Sky Conference. He held a variety of positions within the league and was well respected by his peers. He helped organize Big Sky District Basketball Tournaments as well as organizing basketball tournaments and events at Lone High School. He assisted in organizing and running numerous track meets, including the district championships over the years he coached track. Del was instrumental in the formation of the 1A Senior All-Star Series for Basketball from 1993-1995 and coached the East All Star Team for two years.

Del attended the OADA conference from 1984-1997 when he served as Athletic Director at Lone High School. He served as League Representative representing 1A schools throughout the state.

Del received several awards for teaching and coaching throughout the years but was most proud of the recognition he received for coaching track and field. He was recognized as the Oregon Coaches Association 1A Track and Field Coach of the Year in 1992-1993 and in 1997-1998. In 1997 Del was recognized as the Coach of the Year for the Who's Who in Oregon Track and Field. One of his proudest moments was in 2003 when he was honored as the NFHS Coaches Association Sectional Coach of the Year for Girls Track beating out coaches from much larger schools across the United States. This was quite a feat

considering lone did not even have a track facility but practiced on a “track” that Del mowed into the football field.

Del went above and beyond the duties of a coach and Athletic Director at Lone High School. One noteworthy activity is that he single handedly repaired and reseeded the football field after it was wiped out by a flood. He was able to borrow equipment from the farm he worked on during the summer in order to level and prepare the field for seeding. He then seeded and cared for the football field from then until his retirement. This was something that took a lot of his personal time and was something he was very proud of.

Congratulations to Del and his family

