



Well Crafted. Well Played.

PRESENTS
the
22nd INDUCTION CEREMONY



Monday, May 13th, 2024 6pm

Highland Recreation Center - 1451 8th St. Dr. NE

Hickory, NC 28601

Tonight's Program



Welcome **Mark Seaman**
Hickory Metro Sports Commission

Invocation **Rev. Eddie Andrews**
Senior Pastor First Baptist Church of Maiden

Dinner **Box Car Grille of Claremont**

Opening Remarks **JuJu Phillips**
Master of Ceremonies

Recognition of Scholar Athletes of Excellence
Scholarship Presentation **Cody Law Firm PLLC**
A Plus Roofing

Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Closing Remarks **Frank Snider**
Hall of Fame Chair

2024 Scholar Athletes of Excellence

- Bandy High School** Gabby Vatrano, Joshua Ramirez
- Bunker Hill High School** .. Alanis Sanchez Rodriguez, Xavier McCleave
- Fred T. Foard High School** Riley Vogel, Tristan Freeman
- Hickory Christian Academy** Mary Alice Bowman, Jamaryon Jones
- Hickory High School**Mebane White, John Holbrook
- Maiden High School**Macy Michael, Cooper Houser
- Newton-Conover High School**Celeste Little, Luke Wilkinson
- St. Stephens High School** Molli Harris, Jacob Osborne
- Tabernacle Christian School**Mattie Roark, Micah Schon
- University Christian** Ava Blair, Jack Ryan Richardson



2024 Inductee - Edward “Eddy” Clark



Eddy Clark served as head wrestling coach at Newton-Conover High School from 1999 until 2023.

During his tenure, he led the Red Devils to four NCHSAA dual-team state championships in 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2023, as well as three consecutive runner-up finishes from 2007 to 2009.

Including his time at West Rowan High and Mitchell High, Clark had a dual team record of 868-127. He coached 17 state individual champions among 79 state placers at the NCHSAA state individual tournament. His teams won 11 West Region championships.

Eddy was selected as the North Carolina 2A state coach of the year five times and was the National Wrestling Coaches Association coach of the year in 2023.



2024 Inductee - William “Bill” Cline



Bill Cline had a stellar career as a baseball umpire from 1967 to 2010, earning top assignments from youth baseball through the collegiate level.

He umpired for the North Carolina Little League State Championship, officiated five North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) championships, 21 American Legion State Championships, five South Atlantic Conference tournaments and 15 NC Junior College regionals.

Cline was also a high school football official from 1969 to 2002, which included five state semifinal assignments.



2024 Inductee - Ryan Hill



A Hickory native, Ryan Hill was a dominant high school long-distance runner with Hickory High School. He won NCHSAA 3A state championships in boys' cross country in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

In track and field, Ryan won the 3200 meter run in 2006, 2007 and 2008, and the 1600 meter run in 2007. He received 10 All-American honors in indoor and outdoor track while competing at North Carolina State University.

He currently holds the school record in the mile, 1500 meters, 3000 meters and 5000 meters. He was the South Regional Track Athlete of the year in 2012 and 2013 and the Athletic Coast Conference Indoor Track Athlete of the Year in 2013. Hill has won 7 ACC titles, and in 2012 he was a U.S. Olympic Trial qualifier.

2024 Inductee - Frank Pait



An architect in building community college baseball programs, Frank Pait had a career record of 562-346-1 over 19 seasons with three programs.

He left Lenoir-Rhyne as the winningest coach in program history at 291-239-1 with South Atlantic Conference tournament titles in 2000 and 2001.

Pait began the program at Catawba Valley Community College in 2009 and brought immediate success to the program, winning conference championships in 2012, 2013 and 2014.

He led the Red Hawks to the NJCAA World Series in 2012, finishing fifth in the nation.

In 2019, Pait started the program at Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute and led the Cobras to the 2022 NJCAA World Series.



2024 Inductee - Dr. Jerry Punch



A three-sport athlete at Newton-Conover High School, Dr. Jerry Punch graduated with honors before pursuing his medical degree at Wake Forest University.

He is best known for his work in the field of auto racing, which began at local tracks, including Hickory Motor Speedway, where he worked as the Public Address announcer.

Dr. Punch went on to national recognition as a pit reporter for ABC and ESPN. His 27 Indianapolis 500 live telecasts are the most in that race's history.

He served as lead reporter for ESPN at NASCAR Sprint Cup events and was the host of the Nationwide (Busch) Series telecasts and as sideline reporter for ESPN football telecasts.

Dr. Punch won an Emmy for the Indy 500 broadcasts, the ACE award for ESPN's NASCAR SpeedWorld and the Lindsey Nelson Broadcasting award. In 2023, the NC Motor Sports Association and NASCAR honored Punch with the Jim Hunter Memorial Media Award.



2024 Team of Distinction

1978 Maiden Blue Devils Football Team

The 1978 Maiden Blue Devils football team won Catawba County's first NCHSAA state championship in football with a record of 12-1-1.

Led by head coach Tom Brown, who was named the 2A state coach of the year, the team won the 2A title with a 38-14 win over Tabor City.

David Ikard led defensively and received all-state honors. Assistant coaches were Kermit Whisnant and Jim Hickman.

Coach Tom Brown, Kevin Wilson and Bruce Ikard, members of the championship team, were previously inducted into the Catawba County Sports Hall of Fame.



Congratulations

TO THE 2024
CATAWBA COUNTY
HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEES

WWW.HICKORYNC.GOV
WWW.MYHKY.COM

HICKORY
North Carolina
Life. Well Crafted.