

Eight new members to Warriors Hall of Fame

Written by Metro Sports Report

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Rick McConnell, Greg Bjornsen, Brad White, Rusty Graff, Allyn Secor, LaNeisha Waller, Dave Coates and Dr. Mark Hogenson will be inducted into the Cedar Rapids Washington Hall of Fame during ceremonies at the school Friday night.

They will be introduced between games of Washington's boy-girl doubleheader against Kennedy.

McConnell (Class of '72) was a state gymnastics champion in the long vault and helped Washington win two state team titles. He also excelled in the shot put and high jump in track. He competed at Indiana State and Northern Iowa.

Bjornsen (Class of '81) was an all-state football player who set six school records, several of which stood for more than 20 years. He helped Washington finish third in the state playoffs for three straight years and played at Coe.

White (Class of '82) was a second team all-state selection who also set six school records, two of which stood for 25 years. He was the quarterback for two of the best teams in school history and a member of the first team in school history to go undefeated during the regular season.

Graff (Class of '88) played No.1 singles and No.1 doubles for Washington when the Warriors won the state title in 1987. He competed at Iowa State and Coe, and was a champion or runnerup in numerous state and regional events.

Secor (Class of '97) helped Washington win four state swimming championships. He was a three-time state champion in the 200 free relay, a five-time All-American and a seven-time all-state selection.

Waller (Class of '04) won 10 outdoor state titles in track out of a possible 16 events. She also won four titles at the Drake Relays and was the 2004 Drake Relays Female High School Athlete of the Year. She ran track at the University of Illinois and qualified for the 2008 U.S. Olympic

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Trials.

Coates has served as the women's cross country coach at Washington since 1980 and also worked as the assistant women's track coach for 24 years (1983-2006). His cross country teams have qualified for the state meet nine times in the last 11 years.

Dr. Hogenson has been Washington's team doctor in football for 29 years and was president of the Washington Athletic Club in 1993-94. He also has worked at countless basketball games, wrestling meets and other events in the community.