

Honorary Referees

2015 State Finals



THE FUTURE PLAYS HERE!

ILLINOIS HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Crenden Keller took a roundabout way to becoming a track & field coach and 30-plus year veteran of the IHSA Boys Track & Field State Finals. He was a golfer while attending Galena High School, a sport he continued to play at Aurora University, where he also joined the wrestling team.



CRENDEN KELLER

He was hired by Jacobs High School in Algonquin shortly after graduating from Aurora University, beginning a 34-year tenure at the school that included time as a Business teacher, Dean of Students, Assistant Athletic Director and Athletic Director before his retirement in 2011.

Much of that time also coincided with Crenden serving as a track & field coach, including 21 years as the head coach of the Golden Eagle girl's program, and six coaching weights for the boys'. He also served as an assistant coach in both cross country and wrestling during his time at Jacobs.

Crenden is approaching 25 years of experience as a certified IHSA track & field and cross country official. He remains active officiating middle school and high school meets, including several IHSA Sectionals.



CHARLES ROD SHURTZ

His work at the Spring Spectacular spans over three decades, starting as a picker on the line during his first year. He was also a triple jump judge for a year, discus judge for two years, and has worked in the ring or judged the shot put ever since, ascending to his current role as Shot Put Ring Judge. Crenden has attended every IHSA Boys Track & Field State Final meet since 1979 as a coach or volunteer.

As a life-long track & field and sports enthusiast, **Charles Rod Shurtz** began working at the IHSA Boys Track & Field State Finals in 1985. He started in the pole vault event and ascended to work in several different roles, including working as an Assistant Starter, Starter and Referee. Rod is currently serving as a Finish Line Marshall, working in tandem with his wife, Marjorie.

The Waltonville native is still an active IHSA track & field official, currently in his 30th year of service to the sport. He has served as a Starter and Referee at numerous Sectionals throughout Southern Illinois, and was honored in 2001 by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) as the Boys Track & Field Official of the Year.

In addition to working track meets, Rod has volunteered his services at the IHSA Cross Country Finals, while also working two National Junior College Cross Country Finals at Rend Lake College. He has served on the chain gang at Benton High School home football games since 1975 and has attended the IHSA Basketball State Finals nearly every season since 1948, with the exception of four years while serving his country in the United States Navy.

Reflecting on his career, he says "it's been a blessing to watch my sons, grandsons, and granddaughter participate in the IHSA State Finals. I am 82 years young and still have enthusiasm for all the things mentioned above. The journey continues!"

Honor Roll of Boys Track and Field Honorary Referees

1960 Robert S. Woodruff, Oak Park	1981 Jack D. May, Urbana	2002 John Craft, Charleston	2008 Mark Jostes, East Peoria
1961 Shelby Himes, Urbana	1982 Richard K. Welty, Palatine	2003 Glenn Cothorn, Gibson City	2009 James Lewis, Northwoods
1962 Harry Hill, Gridley	1983 Gene Masters, Normal	Renny Garshelis, Charleston	Doug Chapman, Belvidere
1963 C.L. Harriss, Carlyle	1984 Russ Deason, LaGrange	Ralph Krupke, Roselle	2010 Larry Cleair, Gordonville, MO
1964 Clarence East, Elmhurst	1985 Bill Brandvold, Mattoon	Jerry McGuire, Oak Park	Art Sievers, Monticello
1965 Milt F. Sprunger, Washington	1986 Gail Borton, West Frankfort	2004 Joyce Carlson, Lemont	2011 John Cheney, Oak Park
1966 Ross Anderson, Oak Park	1987 Taylor Thomas, Urbana	Bob Hout, Effingham	Carl Magsamen, Schaumburg
1967 Emil G. "Heinie" Schultz, Evanston	1988 Charles Feutz, Hoffman Estates	Dr. Ken Kite, Hoffman Estates	Tom Miller, Dundee
1968 W. W. Downing, East St. Louis	1989 Leonard Wilson, Urbana	Warren McGhee, Canton	2012 Harry Fletcher, Oregon
1969 Roy S. Anderson, Lincoln	1990 Glen Hamilton, Pinckneyville	Joe Newton, Elmhurst	Darrell Prince, Dyer, IN
1970 Jim Evers, Centralia	1991 Tony Sacco, River Forest	John Polka, Oak Park	Chris Perry, Peoria
1971 A. G. "Frenchie" Haussler, Peoria	1992 Chic Anderson, Palatine	2005 Bill Bulat, Rock Island	2013 David Axelrod, Highland Park
1972 Leo L. Singer, Waukegan	1993 Walter Elmore, Charleston	Larry Miller, Ottawa	David Daugherty, Carlinville
1973 Harry E. Gaines, Mattoon	1994 100th Celebration	Ben Ward, Chicago	2014 Dwayne Foote, Libertyville
1974 Harold G. Monilaw, LaGrange	1995 Harold "Tuffy" Bowen, Farmington	2006 Floyd Rogers, Crystal Lake	Paul Neakrase, Washington
1975 Clarence B. "Babe" Pierce, Sparta	1996 Phil Salzer, Peoria	Loyd Grafford, Wood River	Jerzy Marszalek, Sheridan
1976 John S. Gill, Elmhurst	1997 Carlin Nalley, Lisle	Ron Campbell, Skokie	2015 Crenden Keller, Crystal Lake
1977 Eugene (Gene) Armer, Urbana	1998 Willie May, Chicago	Angelo Rinchiuso, Decatur	Charles Rod Shurtz, Waltonville
1978 Roy Gummerson, Oak Park	1999 Dick Hamann, Carrollton	2007 John Mills, Sullivan	
1979 Ira Scott, Naperville	2000 Ron Helberg, Huntley	Dan Moy, Jacksonville	
1980 George Dekan, Carol Stream	2001 Ray Collier, Aurora	Jerry Parsons, Normal	