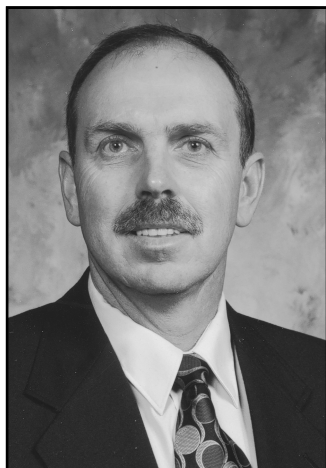


North Dakota Interscholastic Activities
Administrators Association
★ ★ HALL OF FAME ★ ★

Joel Wood



Joel Wood served his entire 31 years of professional life in the Hazen Public Schools. A 1967 graduate of Plaza High School, Joel received his bachelor of science degree from Minot State University in 1971. He then accepted the positions of teacher, coach, and athletic director in Hazen. Continual growth in the athletic program resulted in Wood relinquishing his coaching position and some teaching responsibilities so that he could continue in the capacity of athletic administrator. Joel held this position until retiring in June, 2002.

During Joel's tenure as athletic administrator, he oversaw the expansion of athletic offerings in Hazen High School. The program grew from three sports in 1971 to the present 14 varsity sports which includes 36 coaching positions. The Hazen Bison won 16 state team championships during this time.

Wood also provided the leadership in planning several facility improvements. These projects included a football and track complex (1976), and 18,000 square foot physical education/athletic gymnasium (1979), and in 1995, the replacement of the floor in the 1954 gym.

Joel was a long-time member of the North Dakota Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Association. His service to this organization included being elected to its board. In 1998, he was selected to be the NDIAAA representative on the board of the North Dakota Council of Educational Leaders. In addition, he maintained membership in the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Association.

Many professional awards have been bestowed upon Joel Wood. These include being named District Athletic Administrator of the Year on 10 occasions. A 5-time Region winner of Athletic Administrator of the Year, Joel was selected as North Dakota's Class B Athletic Administrator of the Year in 1991 and again, in 2002. He also received the NIAAA's State Award of Merit for North Dakota in 2002.

Joel managed a number of NDHSAA-sponsored district and regional tournaments in basketball, volleyball, golf, and wrestling. He also managed 2 state golf tournaments. On the local level Wood's responsibilities included hosting 20 invitational volleyball tournaments and more than 50 track meets.

A busy man during his professional career, Wood still found time to contribute to the Hazen community by serving on the advisory board of the Sakakawea Medical Center Hospice and Home Health Care. Joel also was a member of the board of directors of the Hazen Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he was instrumental in organizing the Bison Boosters Club in 1975.

Wood, an avid outdoorsman, operated a fishing charter business for 17 years and also managed the Dakota Waters Resort on Lake Sakakawea for four years. He is a long-time licensed gunsmith.

Joel and his wife, Janice, have two married sons, Jessie and Jamey. The Woods have two grandchildren. They continue to make their home in Hazen.