



# ROCKY MOUNTAIN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

2015 HALL OF FAME RELEASE | DECEMBER 17, 2014

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## RMAC HALL OF FAME CLASS FOR 2015 ANNOUNCED

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. --- Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) Commissioner Chris Graham announced that seven individuals and nine teams will be inducted into the 2015 RMAC Hall of Fame. **Jessie Banks** (CSU-Pueblo), **Kimberly Bosen** (Adams State) **Justin Coleman** (Nebraska-Kearney), **Rusty Crick** (Colorado Mesa), **Glen Frank** (Colorado Mines), **Glenn Morris** (Colorado State) and **Ermelinda Shehaj-Spies** (Western State Colorado) are the individual honorees. In addition, the **1991-1999 Adams State women's cross country teams** will be inducted.

The 13th annual Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Hall of Fame and Awards ceremony is being planned for Friday, July 24, 2015, at the Colorado Springs Marriott hotel. Social hour begins at 5 p.m. (MDT), followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and the banquet at 7 p.m. A table of ten can be purchased for \$550. Individual reservations are \$60 prior to July 1. Each reservation includes a three-course dinner as well as the presentation. In addition to the Hall of Fame, the 2014-15 Coaches of the Year will be recognized, along with the Brechler Award winners for the teams with the top team grade point averages in each RMAC sport, the RMAC Woman of the Year and the conference's top Faculty Athletic Representative will also be honored.

More than 90 candidates were nominated for the 2015 RMAC Hall of Fame. The ballots were divided into three categories by era: 1909-1970, 1971-1991 and 1992-2004. Voters ranked each era one through 10. The RMAC Hall of Fame Committee then selected the final seven from these ballots. The committee was asked to consider the nominees' accomplishments in the RMAC, as well as diversity by sport, era, school and gender.

### RMAC HALL OF FAME, CLASS OF 2015

**Jessie Banks, CSU-Pueblo**  
**Coach/Administrator**  
**1967-1972, 1976-1985**

Banks is recognized as the most influential person in the creation of women's athletics at CSU-Pueblo (then known as the University of Southern Colorado). She arrived at the school in 1966, and became the first ever coach in women's basketball and volleyball at CSU-Pueblo. She was also the softball and track & field coach, and served as an Assistant Athletic Director. In 1979 she was named RMAC Volleyball Coach of the Year in just the second year volleyball was recognized as a conference sport. That year Banks helped Southern Colorado to the East Division championship, a feat they would repeat in 1980. In women's basketball, her 1978-1979 squad won the RMAC East Division with a 7-1 RMAC record. They also won the East in 1980-81. Banks used her influence to help USC land the first ever AIAW (Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women) small college national basketball tournament. That same year USC played in the tournament. Banks earned her Masters degree from Adams State in 1966, and undergraduate degree from Central State (Okla.) in 1962. She was also a professor at USC from 1966-1996. Banks played professional basketball for the "All-American Redheads," between 1954 and 1959. She was at the induction ceremony as the team was enshrined into the Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass. in 2012. She is a member of the Lindsay (Okla.) High School Hall of Fame, the Colorado Coaches of Girls Sports Hall of Fame, the Greater Pueblo Sports Hall of Fame and the CSU-Pueblo Athletics Hall of Fame (charter member in 2008). The school's female athlete of the year award is named in honor of Banks.

**Kimberly Bosen, Adams State**  
**Cross Country, Track Runner**  
**1997-2002**

A three-time individual NCAA DII National Champion and 12-time All-American during her career at Adams State. Bosen won all three of her national titles in 1999, (Indoor 5K, Outdoor 5K and Outdoor 10K). She helped ASU win NCAA team cross country titles in 1998 & 1999, (both teams are being inducted in the RMAC Hall of Fame this year). In 1999, she was the Grizzlies top finisher at the NCAA DII cross country championships, taking second place on a team with the lowest score in championship history. Bosen won 10 total individual RMAC titles and still holds the RMAC Championship record for the outdoor 5K (17:03.9) set in 1999. Also the RMAC cross country champion as a freshman in 1997, Bosen is one of five Adams State women's runners to win the RMAC individual cross country championship twice (fellow RMAC Hall of Famers Julie Jenkins, Amy Giblin, Zoila Gomez, as well as current ASU runner Lauren Martin). Bosen was RMAC Indoor Track Athlete of the Year in 2000 and was inducted in the Adams State Hall of Fame in 2011.

# 2015 RMAC HALL OF FAME

## **Justin Coleman, Nebraska-Kearney**

### **Football Player**

**1997-2000**

Coleman was four-time All-RMAC as a quarterback (first-team in '97 & '99; second-team in '98 & '00). He left UNK with 11 NCAA Division II national career passing records. Among those were yards passing (11,213), yards per attempt (9.4), yards per completion (15.8), games of 200 yards or more (32), games of 300 yards or more (16) and TD passes by a freshman (29). In 2009, Coleman was selected to the RMAC Centennial Celebration all-time football team. He was RMAC Offensive Player of the Year in 2000 and runner up for the Harlon Hill Trophy as the top football player in NCAA Division II. A 1999 finalist for the Harlon Hill Trophy, Coleman was RMAC Freshman of the Year in 1997. An All-American by Don Hansen's Gazette and D2football.com, Coleman still holds the majority of UNK season and passing records as he finished 706 of 1,193 for 11,213 yards, 99 TD's & 42 INT's. A tremendous athlete and student, Coleman was also briefly was a member of the Loper basketball and golf teams and was four-time Academic All-RMAC

## **Rusty Crick, Colorado Mesa**

### **Volleyball Coach**

**1979-2004**

In more than 20 years as head volleyball coach at Mesa, Crick posted a 563-291 (.659) overall record. At the time of his retirement, he had the most wins of any volleyball coach in RMAC history. Crick had 17 winning seasons, including eight seasons with 30 or more wins. The Mavericks won eight RMAC championships under Crick, two West Division titles and four undefeated seasons in the conference. He had three post season appearances including the 1994 National Invitational Tournament and the 1986 NAIA National Championship where the team finished seventh in the nation and posted the most wins (42) in school history. Five-times Crick was named District Coach of the Year by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA). He coached six All-Americans, two Academic All-Americans, 76 All-RMAC players, 36 All-Region players, 35 All-RMAC Academic players, six RMAC Players of the Year, three RMAC Scholar Athletes of the Year, two Freshman of the Year and one RMAC Defensive Player of the Year.

## **Glen Frank, Colorado Mines**

### **Wrestler**

**1989-1993**

An NCAA Division II national champion in 1993, Frank is one of just two student-athletes to capture four All-American awards for the Colorado School of Mines wrestling program. He posted a 121-20 (.858) career record during his time as an Oredigger. A valuable starter from the time he set foot on campus, Frank ended his freshman campaign with a 14-5 overall record, including a Western Regional Championship at 126 pounds and the first of four All-American honors after finishing sixth at the NCAA Division II National Championships. As a sophomore, Frank finished with one of the highest single-season win totals in CSM history after recording a 40-8 overall record (.833 win percentage) en route to his second-straight Western Regional Championship (134 pounds) and All-American laurel after finishing seventh at the NCAA Division II National Championships. Frank continued to improve over his career, and as a junior in 1990-91 he posted a 41-5 overall record (.891 win percentage), including a third-straight Western Regional Championship (134 pounds) and a runner-up finish at the NCAA Division II National Championships earning his third All-American honor in as many seasons. As a senior during the 1992-93 season, Frank finished 26-2 overall on the way to a fourth-straight Western Regional Championship (134 pounds), a fourth-straight All-American honor and his first career NCAA Division II National Championship. He also won the Most Falls in the Least Time Trophy at the National Tournament that season.



Jessie Banks (in middle)



Justin Coleman



Kim Bosen with Damon Martin

# 2015 RMAC HALL OF FAME

**Glenn Morris, Colorado State**  
**Track & Field Athlete, Football Player**  
**1930-1935**

Known as the "World's Greatest Athlete" after winning the 1936 Olympic Gold Medal in the Decathlon at the games in Berlin, Germany. His World Record in that event stood for 14 years (the longest retention of that record in history). Just a few years earlier, Morris was the 1932 RMAC champion in the 220 hurdles (26.5), leading Colorado State (then known as Colorado Agricultural College) to a conference team championship. Morris repeated as RMAC champ in 1933 (23.6) and 1934 (24.7) under head coach Harry Hughes (RMAC Hall of Fame, Class of 2014). On the football field, Morris was All-RMAC as an end in 1933 and selected to play in the East-West Shrine game. During his time at CSU, Morris competed in the hurdles, high jump, long jump and javelin. Decathlon was not an RMAC event at the time. He was also assistant coach at CSU in football (1934, 1935) and track (1936). In 1935 he won the Nye Award as the best athlete at CSU. In 1936 he was the Sullivan Award winner for best amateur athlete in the world. Morris was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 1969, and the CSU Sports Hall of Fame in 1988. At the RMAC Centennial Celebration in 2009 Morris was recognized as the best male track & field athlete in conference history. After returning home from the Olympics to a parade in New York City, Morris starred in the 1938 movie "Tarzan's Revenge" as Tarzan and he went on to play four games for the Detroit Lions. Morris was stationed in the Pacific as a member of the U.S. Navy during World War II. The Simla, Colo. native passed away in 1974.

**Ermelinda Shehaj-Spies, Western State Colorado**  
**Track & Field Athlete**  
**1995-1999**

A four-time NCAA Division II National Champion in the triple jump, (Indoors and Outdoors in 1996 and 1997). Shehaj was a 10-time All-American (seven times in the triple jump and three times in the long jump). She was an RMAC individual champion a total of 19 times (seven times in the triple jump, seven times in the long jump, twice in the 55 meters, twice in the 100 meters and once in the 200 meters). Shehaj was named RMAC Outdoor Track and Field Athlete of the Year in three of the four years she competed, including in 1998 when her three first place finishes helped Western State win the RMAC team championship. Shehaj set the RMAC Indoor record in the triple jump with a leap of 39-04.25 as a freshman in 1996, then broke her own record with a leap of 40-03.75 in 1997. She also set school records for the indoor long jump, indoor 60-meters, outdoor 100-meters and the outdoor 200-meters. Shehaj represented Albania for five years in the European and World championships and is currently the assistant track and field coach at McPherson College in Kansas.



Ermelinda Shehaj-Spies



Glenn Morris

# 2015 RMAC HALL OF FAME

## **1991-1999 Adams State Women's Cross Country Teams**

The 1991 Adams State women's cross country team started a run of nine straight national championships for ASC, that morphed into 19 straight titles for RMAC schools (Western State 2000-2002, Adams State 2003-2009) perhaps the longest dynasty for any conference in any division in any sport in NCAA history.

**1991** - Adams State gets their second national team title in three years with 66 team points at the NAIA championships in Kenosha, Wisc. RMAC Hall of Famer Amy Giblin is the national champion and Damon Martin is named national coach of the year for the second time. ASC is the RMAC champion for the fifth year in a row with 29 points led by Giblin (1st), Kristen Shern (2nd) Ronda Leyba (3rd) and Audrey Romer (9th). Martin is the RMAC Coach of the Year in the meet at Colorado Mines.

**1992** - Competing for the first time in NCAA Division II, Adams State goes back to back winning with a score of 64. Led by top 20 performances from: Leyba (7), Laura Romero (13), Kristen Schwartz (14) and Giblin (18). Stacey Beacham rounded out the scoring at the meet in Slippery Rock, Pa. ASC is the RMAC champion for sixth year in a row with 19 team points. Beacham is RMAC champ in conference record time of 17:20. Leyba (3), Amy Cooper (4), Romero (5), Giblin (6), Schwartz (8) also finish in the top 10. Martin named RMAC Coach of the Year.

**1993** - It's three national titles in a row for the ASC women with 75 team points. Schwartz takes second to future Olympian and RMAC Hall of Famer Elva Dryer. Karen Talamantes is fifth, Leyba 14th, Heather Gilbert 30th and Norma Gonzales 33rd at the meet in Riverside, Calif. ASC wins the RMAC championship for the seventh year in a row with 29 points. Leyba (2), Schwartz (3), Talamantes (7), Gilbert (8), White (9) finish in the top 10. Martin is RMAC Coach of the Year. Adams State is also NCAA DII South Central Regional champions.

**1994** - The Grizzlies four-peat at the NCAA DII nationals with 47 team points in Kearney, Nebraska. The RMAC championship streak is snapped, as ASC takes second. Top 10 performances by Nikole Sterling (3), Pamela White (5), Talamantes (6), Gonzales (8), Janelle Olson (9), Nara Hawker (10).

**1995** - We are celebrating the 20th anniversary of this NCAA DII championship at South Carolina Upstate. ASC wins with 62 points, a 79-point margin over Abilene Christian. Sterling is 5th, Denise Summers 12th, Olson 15th, Kim Bugg 16th, and Hawker 23rd. ASC regains the RMAC championship with a 20 point team performance at Colorado Mines. Sterling (2), Summers (3), Bugg (4), Olson (5), Esther Tillman (6), Kris Veltri (7) and Hawker (8) all place in the top 10. Martin is RMAC Coach of the Year and the Grizzlies are the South Central Regional Champs.

**1996** - For the first time in NCAA DII, Adams State has the individual national champion as Denise Summers crosses the tape at 17:46.8, leading the way for a sixth straight national team title at Humboldt State in California. A 35-point team performance that included Bugg in seventh, Sterling 12th, Hawker 14th, and Ruby Failing 16th. ASC is RMAC champion for ninth time in 10 years as they host the meet in Alamosa. An impressive 16-point performance led by Summers (1), Bugg (2), Sterling (3), Olson (4), Failing (6) and Stephanie Milam (8). Martin is RMAC Coach of the Year. ASC wins the NCAA DII South Central Regional championship at West Texas A&M.

**1997** - It's lucky number seven in a row as Adams State wins the NCAA DII national title at Wisconsin-Parkside. A very balanced effort lands four runners in the top 10: Olson (4), Bugg (6) Summers (7). Freshman and future RMAC Hall of Famer Sarah Parkey (8) Milam is 13th with Hawker 17th and Failing 27th. They are RMAC champions for the 10th time in 11 years with 18 points. Olson (1), Bugg (2), Summers (4), Parkey (5), Milam (6) and Hawker (7) lead the way at Fort Hays State. Martin is named RMAC Coach of the Year. ASC is once again NCAA DII South Central Regional champs.

**1998** - The race is now a 6K (was a 5K previously) and Bugg is national champion with a time of 21:43.0 in the meet at the University of Kansas. Parkey takes third with Milam 11th and Melissa Bouren 23rd. Freshman Kimberly Bosen (who is being inducted this year as an individual) makes her national debut in 34th. The Grizzlies are the RMAC champs for the fourth year in a row in the meet at Fort Lewis. Bosen (1), Parkey (2), Bugg (3), Stephanie Milam (4), Melissa Bouren (6), Jinny Mortensen (7) and Jenny McQuitty (10) are all-conference.

**1999** - The final national title in this run might be the best team as Adams State scores an NCAA DII record 23 team points en route to winning their ninth straight championship. In the meet at Missouri Southern, Bosen leads the way with a second place finish. Parkey is fourth, Cory Chastain is seventh, Bouren is ninth, Esther Hartsky 13th and Mortensen 16th. Adams State captures their fifth straight RMAC championship with 29 points in the meet at Mesa. Bosen is the individual champion with Bouren (2), Chastain (5) and Mortensen (10) getting all-conference. Adams State is also the NCAA DII South Central regional champion.

The 2015 RMAC Hall of Fame selection committee is comprised of Joe Cervi (Pueblo Chieftain), Eric Danner (RMAC), Elva Dryer (RMAC Hall of Famer), Marv Kay (RMAC Hall of Famer), Joan McDermott (MSU-Denver), Sarah Meier (Fort Lewis) and Larry Mortensen (Adams State). The voters included representatives from 11 RMAC schools, eight current RMAC Hall of Fame members and six other RMAC representatives.