

Joe Rossi HOF Committee

Joe Rossi
Dan Weikle
Mason Smith
Ross Chase
Greg Holstine

CHSBUA Executive Committee

President - Reid Lester
Past-President - Ross Chase
President-Elect - Vacant
Secretary - John Juranek
Treasurer - Terry Angell
Member at Large - Pat Corcoran
Member at Large - Pat Garcia
Member at Large - Mason Smith

CHSBUA Area Directors

Area 1 - Gary Czachowski, Bill Fleming, Dan Light
Area 2 - Don Howard, David Patterson | **Areas 3/5** - Pat Garcia
Areas 4/6 - Jason Dittburner | **Area 7** - Jeremy Weathers
Area 8 - Don Wilson | **Area 9** - Rob Montoya
Area 10 - Dave Dusza | **Area 11** - Derek Kibel
Area 12 - Dave Granzella | **Area 13** - Rodney Winters
Area 14 - Doug Levinson | **Area 15** - Dan Cholas
Area 16 - Bob Richardson

CHSAA Administrators

John Sullivan - Baseball
Mike Book - Officials
Monica Tillman - Officials

The Colorado High School Baseball Umpires Association

Presents:

The 2024 Joe Rossi Hall of Fame Banquet

at

Denver-Lakewood Holiday Inn

Lakewood, CO

February 3, 2024

Noon – 4pm



Special Acknowledgements

Master of Ceremony and CHSBUA Joe Rossi Hall of Famer **Keith Bailey** began umpiring in 1976 and served as a Denver Area Director and CHSBUA State President. Keith was a CCUA leader and involved in the Mile High Advanced Umpire Clinics. He worked



three High School state championships over 10 years. As an AABC umpire, Keith worked many post seasons including five Connie Mack World Series and two Stan Musial World Series. Keith was named the AABC National Umpire of the Year in 1994.

As a player, Keith pitched the University of Northern Colorado to the CWS by defeating #1 Arizona. He played professionally with the San Francisco Giants and served as scout for the Chicago Cubs. Keith served as the umpire coordinator for both the USAFA and UNC as well as the Cherry Creek Diamond Club. He is also a member of the UNC and Cherry Creek Diamond Hall of Fames.

Keith has been married to Marlis for 44 years and has two children and three grandchildren. He spends his time Marshaling at Murphy Creek Golf Course.

Official photographer **Stefan Brodsky** of Thornton is no stranger to baseball umpiring, having worked as a Colorado HS and collegiate umpire from 1985 through 1994. Stefan retired from a career in television production in 2016 and has worked as a sports and event photographer for Colorado Community Media since 2016. His "They Came to Play," a Rocky Mountain PBS documentary history of Colorado baseball, won a Colorado Broadcasters Association award. He has also received several Colorado Press Association awards for news and sports photography. His son Michael and grandson Dominic coach and play respectively in the Longmont Baseball League.



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2024 Hall of Fame Keynote Speaker

Cory Blaser – Arvada, CO



Cory Blaser is a graduate of Pomona High School and attended Colorado State University. He had previously worked in the Arizona League, Northwest League, Midwest League, Carolina League, Eastern League, Florida Instructional League, and Arizona Instructional League.

Cory attended the Harry Wendelstedt Umpire School, and works as an instructor there in the off-season. Cory was officially named to the full-time MLB staff prior to the 2014 season. His uniform number is 89.

Cory worked his first career MLB postseason game in 2015 as the National League Wild Card right field umpire. He has since umpired numerous post season games. Cory umpired the 2017 & 2023 World Baseball Classics and the 2018 All Star Game.



Outstanding New CHSBUA Umpires Recognized



Sean	Bredl	Lochbuie
Jeff	Corson	Littleton
John	Cressler	Delta
David	Feeder	Parker
Taylor	Gantt	Denver
Tate	Okelly	Fruita
Les	Perry	Aurora
Omari	Trimble	Denver
Josh	Trujillo	Thornton
Noah	Trujillo	Greeley
Alan	Whatley	Denver

2024 Hall of Fame Inductee Bert Borgmann – Denver



11/27/55 –
01/09/23



A graduate of Broomfield High School, Bert Borgmann worked for many years in athletic and activity administration, including the sports information offices at Colorado State University and the University of Northern Colorado prior to joining the CHSAA staff. He oversaw nearly every sanctioned sport, as well as music, over the course of his career at CHSAA.

The caretaker of CHSAA's history, Bert was a wealth of knowledge about the Association and was a remarkable storyteller. He was well-respected for his knowledge, experience, and leadership throughout the CHSAA membership as well as the National Federation of State High School Associations, and left a legacy for elevating media relations, corporate partnerships, and legislative relations at CHSAA.

Former CHSAA commissioner Bob Ottewill remarked that Borgmann, "Never hesitated to take on any assignment – from basketball czar to snow shoveling duties – and did so with enthusiasm, a desire to learn and improve, and an uncommon ability to work with athletes, coaches, officials, event managers and even parents."

At the national level, Bert served on various committees, including serving as chair of the Selection Committee for the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame. He also served as chair of the National Records Committee and has been a member of the National High School Hall of Fame Screening and Sportsmanship Committee and NFHS Baseball Rules Committee. He was a member of the NFHS Softball Rules Committee and NFHS Annual Summer Meeting Advisory Committee.

Bert helped to start a gathering of sports information directors at the annual NFHS summer meeting. It grew from an unofficial meeting of a handful of attendees to one that became part of the official schedule, and was attended by dozens – many of whom became Borgmann's good friends.

In helping CHSAA grow into a modern organization, Bert received many awards over the course of his career. He received the Jim Saccomano Award (National Football Federation – Colorado Chapter), the Ray Lutz Award (Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference), is a member of the Colorado Dugout Club Hall of Fame (Colorado Baseball Coaches Association), received the NFHS Section 6 "Citation Award" for outstanding contribution to the mission of the NFHS, served as chair and acting member of the NFHS Press Committee, and is a Lifetime Honorary Member of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials Board 4, as well as many other honors.

"His heart was so big. Bert was everyone's biggest cheerleader and he helped make CHSAA what it is today. He loved the CHSAA membership and the many great people within it. He was an incredible advocate for high school athletics and activities, as well as media. His legacy will live on for many years to come."

04/25/43 –
12/11/23



2024 Hall of Fame Inductee Jim Paronto – Grand Junction

Jim Paronto built a solid reputation as a football player and coach before he became known as one of Colorado's premiere umpires. Paronto played quarterback at Adams State University, graduating in 1966 after serving as team captain in 1965. He earned accolades of Academic All-Conference, Academic All-American, and All-Conference. While at Adams State, he also



played on the school's baseball team. He later served as the head coach for both football and baseball at Adams State.

Jim began a coaching and officiating career at Central Union High School in California and later moved back to Alamosa where he began teaching and coaching at Monte Vista High School. Soon there was a move into the college ranks beginning at Adams State College, then to Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, where he earned a doctorate of education in athletic administration in 1983 and helped coach the Cougars to a Division I National Championship. His final stop before returning to Colorado was at Oregon State in Corvallis, Oregon. Eventually, Jim landed back in Grand Junction at Colorado Mesa University and took the Mavericks to the NAIA football championship game in his first year at the helm.

Besides enjoying a reputation as a successful educator and coach from the Western slope, he established also himself as a premiere umpire eventually leading to his election as the CHSBUA President from 1999-2001. After his tenure as part of the Executive Committee, he helped establish the CHSBUA Umpire Training, Evaluation, and Promotion (UTEP) serving as its co-director. Jim was also involved in the creation of the Mile High Advanced Umpire Clinic where he served as a senior clinician training over 200 high school umpires during the ten years of the UTEP umpire training initiative.

Jim enjoyed a storied career as a CHSBUA umpire working numerous league, regional and state finals for years. Jim was a fixture at the AABC Connie Mack World Series in Farmington, New Mexico where he also umpired and supervised the national championship staff.

He was also a college umpire of note representing CHSBUA in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference both as a staff umpire and coordinator, and on the Scenic West staff where he was also the umpire supervisor. Nationally, he worked in the Western Athletic Conference, the Mountain West Athletic Conference, and the West Coast Conference. He later supervised umpires in the MWC and was named NCAA Secretary Rules Editor where he served for 12 years – the only CHSBUA umpire to serve in a national NCAA capacity.

Jim is survived by his wife Rita Garcia-Paronto, daughter Jami, sons Kristian and Michael along with 5 grandchildren.



2024 Hall of Fame Inductee Tom Robinson – Denver

12/15/45 – 04/04/22

"Beyond the impact Tom Robinson has made in this Association, our state and nationally over the course of his 30-plus year career as a coach, teacher, administrator, white hat referee, Hall of Famer, Big 12 replay expert, husband, father and grandfather, we are all better people for having had Tom in our lives," CHSAA commissioner Rhonda Blanford-Green said.



Hired by former commissioner Bob Ottewill, Tom was the first African-American administrator in the history of CHSAA.

For 20 years at CHSAA, Robinson oversaw officials – the first administrator in CHSAA history to assign a female official to a boys' basketball Final Four – and the sportsmanship program, as well as boys and girl's golf. He was an institution and a role model at the Association, and was widely respected throughout the entire membership for his exceptional passion and integrity.

"Tom was an inspiration in so many ways," CHSAA assistant commissioner Bethany Brookens said. "He taught me how to play golf, he and Cleo taught us all how to have a wonderful and successful marriage, he taught me the officials mechanics for basketball and he gave me loyal friendship and a respect for all people. An incredible, ethical, good man and mentor; I miss Tom greatly already."

Tom was a graduate of Regis Jesuit High School. He attended Colorado State University, where he competed in football, basketball and track and field. After graduating in 1969, he began officiating that summer and started his first full teaching contract at Regis Jesuit in 1969. Tom taught math and coached multiple sports – head basketball coach from 1983-93 – at the same school for 31 years before becoming a CHSAA assistant commissioner in 2001.

He and his wife, Cleo Parker Robinson, shared 51 years of marriage, with Tom as a stalwart behind-the-scenes pillar of Cleo's own dream - the creation of what was to become an icon of dance in America - Cleo Parker Robinson Dance (CPRD). Tom was a co-founder, served on the Board of Directors, and was business manager for the organization for many years, addressing every aspect of a non-profit arts entity.

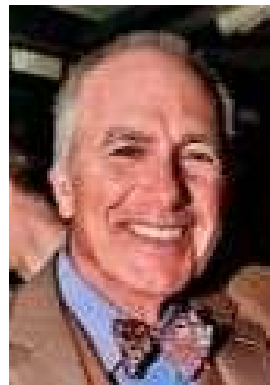
Tom was also the president of the National Association of Sports Officials and the replay coordinator for the Big-12 Conference. He announced on Dec. 15, 2021, that he would be retiring at the end of the school year.

The impact of Tom's death will be felt for many years to come, but his compassion and dedication have left a legacy and he will serve as a shining example for all those in the Association to follow.

"Even from the outside looking in, Tom was definitely a person to aspire to be," said Rashaan Davis, CHSAA's first-ever assistant commissioner overseeing activities. "He always seemed cool, calm, and collected, which is something I know I needed. So, to be a staff member now and understand that Tom laid the foundation for me being a black male working at CHSAA and to be an educator coming into this role, to be patient and recognizing all voices at this level is very powerful. I do not think anybody did it better.

Tom is survived by his wife, Cleo Parker-Robinson, founder and director of Cleo Parker-Robinson Dance, and his son, Malik Robinson, executive director of Cleo Parker-Robinson Dance. He was looking forward to playing golf with Cleo and being there for his two granddaughters and grandson.

2024 Hall of Fame Inductee Dan Weikle – Broomfield



To say that Dan Weikle's ongoing umpiring career, which began in 1975, is saturated with accomplishments would be an understatement. Dan's focus as the CHSBUA President (2000-2003) was to improve CHSBUA umpiring through on-going training and evaluation. His philosophy was simple; give any CHSBUA umpire a path leading to the elevation of their talent; to meet and exceed expected standards of performance.

The creation of the advanced training and professional standards for CHSBUA umpires was taken from the NCAA Umpire Development Program presented almost 40 years ago when Dan and Keith Bailey attended the first NCAA National Umpire Development Meeting in Kansas City, MO in the dead of winter. The next year this duo, with the help of Ray Belfiore, convinced NCAA Umpire Development to come to Denver, knowing it was better to bring the training here rather than have Colorado umpires brave the frozen hazards he and Bailey had endured on I-70 in January.

Dan took this a step further by inviting Jon Bible, the first NCAA Umpire Coordinator, to come to Denver and meet with all interested umpires, some of whom were on the cusp of entering into the college ranks, but most of whom were interested in improving their skills as CHSBUA umpires. Following an open-invitation meet and greet dinner, Bible attended local Connie Mack and Stan Musial summer games to observe some of Colorado's best CHSBUA umpires. Fast forward a few years with Dan, Keith, Ray, and Jim Paronto organizing The Mile High Advanced Umpire Clinic featuring instruction from the finest nationally recognized umpires in America featuring Bob Jones, the first NCAA Umpire Development representative assigned to the Mid-west who functioned much like Bible had done earlier.

The program eventually became a success with over two-thirds of CHSBUA umpires selected for high school post-season games receiving continued professional development through the Mile High Advanced Umpire Clinic.

While Dan's resume never compared to many of the MHAUC graduates, it was evident that his greatest contribution was organizing opportunities for umpires to learn and develop their craft. Toward this end, during the late 1980's, Dan met with the AAA Denver Zephyrs general manager Tom Mahoney and lobbied for the members of the advanced training clinic to be guests of the Zephyrs so they could watch and learn from professional umpires. Dan's request was for a game or two; the Zephyrs G.M. responded with season passes for all umpires in the development program. Later, as a CHSBUA Area Director, Dan successfully organized and scheduled Denver Area Umpire meetings to be held in a suite at Mile High Stadium in conjunction with Zephyrs games.

During a career spanning six decades, Dan was responsible for creating several umpire instructional clinics, both locally and nationally. The Mile High Advanced Umpire Camp was one of his first. After developing the MHAUC and the Umpire Training, Evaluation, and Promotion (UTEP) arm of CHSBUA, Dan went on to develop a national umpire training and evaluation program in his new (2010-16) position as the NCAA Division II National Umpire Coordinator.

Dan's mandate from the NCAA was to ensure the best umpires from around the nation were observed, evaluated, and promoted to the eight Division II post-season tournaments including the national championship. The creation of two separate NCAA clinics, The Palm Beach Challenge in Florida and The Desert Challenge in Phoenix helped meet that mandate. Both clinics featured first-ever Division II Regional Advisors headed by Tim Hatfield, Dennis Whalen, and Kirk Knowles. All former MHAUC instructors and CHSBUA members, who were largely responsible for the selection process leading to the naming of the NCAA Division II National Championship umpire staff.

