

GPSA News



Promoting prominent athletes, sports teams and recreational activities in Pueblo County

VOL. IIII, ISSUE VI

08.17.2026

Mark Your Calendar!

Come Join the GPSA in 2026 (Membership Fee: \$25)

GPSA Meeting Dates for 2026!

Aug. 17 | Sept. 28 | Oct. 19

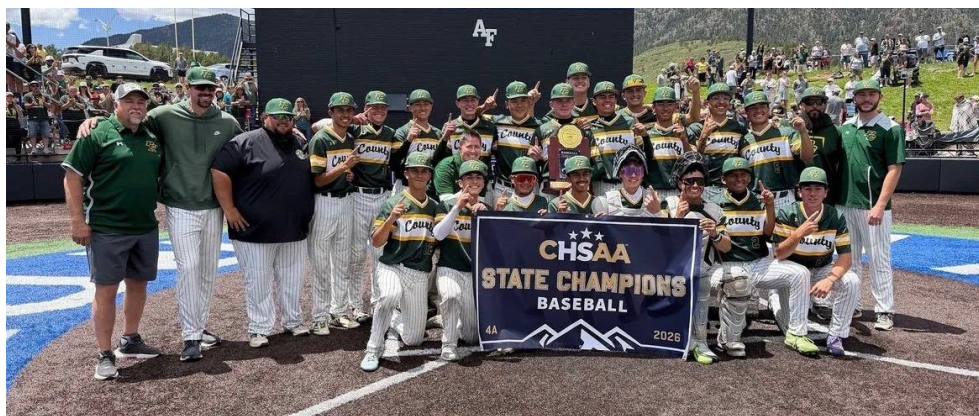
The Greater Pueblo Sports Association

54th Annual Celebration

Wed., Nov., 18, 2026 (6 p.m.)

CSU Pueblo Occhiato Student Center Ballroom

PCHS Baseball Captures 4A State Title, Earns GPSA President's Award



The Greater Pueblo Sports Association (GPSA) would like to congratulate the Pueblo County High School (PCHS) Baseball team for capturing the 4A State Championship on Sat., May 30. The Hornets defeated Falcon, 9-4, at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO. The team was coached by Matt Eades and finished their winning season with a record of 24-6! For their winning effort, the Hornets received the GPSA President's Award that is given to teams who win a state championship in the Pueblo County area. Congratulations!

GPSA Attends John Neuman Banquet June 12

The Greater Pueblo Sports Association (GPSA) had several inductees present at the "Spirit of a Champion" Benefit for John Neuman Catholic School. It featured an evening with legendary broadcaster and former Denver Bronco Dave Logan. The event was held on June 12, 2026, at the Occhiato Ballroom on the campus of CSU Pueblo with a crowd of approximately 200 in attendance.

GPSA committee member John Barker, Jr., went to the event, along with a handful of GPSA inductees who showed up for the evening to hear Logan talk about his career as both a player and broadcaster.



Dave Logan (second from right) poses for a photo with the GPSA committee member John Barker, Jr. (far left), John Wristen (GPSA Class of 2015), Emcee Mike Salardino (GPSA Class of 2022) and Dan DeRose (GPSA Class of 2002).

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Three GPSA Inductees Pass Away This Summer

The Greater Pueblo Sports Association lost some great inductees in our hall of fame during the months of June and July. Karl Frederick Kottenstette (June 20), Jack Keith Frazier (July 9) and John LeGrand Klomp (July 19) join five others that includes LeRoy Snook, Mike Spence, Jessie Banks, Frank Whalen and Don Archuleta who have passed away since our 53rd Induction Banquet on Nov. 19, 2025. All obituaries below are courtesy of the respective funeral homes in Pueblo along with information from the GPSA website.

Karl Frederick Kottenstette

Karl Frederick Kottenstette, 78, passed away on June 20, 2026, in Pueblo, Colorado. Born on February 16, 1948, Karl dedicated his life to guiding and supporting others as a teacher and counselor.

Kottenstette was a 1967 graduate of Pueblo Central High School, where, as a junior (1966), he was a member of the Wildcats' state football championship team. He also went to state for wrestling, winning the qualifying district championship his senior season, and was awarded the "Marie C. Rivas Award" his senior year for best wrestler at Central.

While teaching at Keating Junior High, Kottenstette started after-school intramurals (softball, flag football, basketball, wrestling) and ran an in-school wrestling championship tournament.

Karl was inducted into the Greater Pueblo Sports Association (GPSA) Hall of Fame in 2019 for his achievements as an official for high school football and college (working in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference). He also refereed Colorado State High School Wrestling Championships (1999, 1992, and 2001).

Kottenstette served on the Pueblo Football Board and was recognized by the Pueblo Football Association (2011) and the National Football Association (2012). Karl was a retired educator and was a member of the National Education Association (NEA), Colorado Education Association (CEA), and the Parents Education Association (PEA).

Karl found joy in building projects, spending time with friends and family, golfing, fishing, watching flowers bloom, enjoying football games, and playing cards. His hobbies reflected his love for connection and the simple pleasures of life.

Karl is survived by his beloved wife, Ann Marie; his children, Kraig (Amanda) and Jacqueline Reardon (Brian); and his cherished grandchildren, Clare and Emil Reardon and Kayla and Katie. He is also remembered fondly by his siblings Donna Verderaime (Tony), Dennis (Donna), Richard (Debbie), Joe (Eileen), Kevin (Janelle), and Mary Davenport (Troy). He was predeceased by Fred and Kurt Kottenstette and Caroline Clementi.

A rosary and eulogy were held on Friday, July 31 at 6 p.m., followed by a funeral mass on Saturday, August 1 at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of the Meadows in Pueblo. Donations may be made to Sangre de Cristo Hospice or the Pueblo Humane Society in Karl's memory.

Jack Keith Frazier

Jack Keith Frazier, known to everyone simply as Keith, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on July 7, 2026, at the age of 78. Born on April 1, 1948, Keith lived a life defined by unwavering faith, service to others, deep love for his family, and an adventurous spirit that embraced every opportunity life had to offer.

For decades, Keith devoted his life to education and coaching, inspiring young people at the youth, high school, and collegiate levels. He believed sports were about far more than winning—they were opportunities to build character, discipline, perseverance, and confidence.

Countless athletes, students, and fellow coaches were blessed by his encouragement, wisdom, and belief in their potential. Karl coached many teams to city, league, and district championships in gymnastics during his seven seasons (1975-82) at Pueblo Central High School. He also coached numerous gymnasts to individual and All-Around championships, including one All-American gymnast and Junior Olympic Competitor.



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Frazier Obituary (Cont'd)

In recognition of his lasting impact, Keith was inducted into the Greater Pueblo Sports Hall of Fame (2019) and the Pueblo South High School Hall of Fame (2021-22).

More than anything, Keith loved Jesus. His faith guided every aspect of his life and inspired his servant's heart. Whether helping a friend fix something, mentoring a young person, supporting a neighbor in need, or simply offering a listening ear, Keith lived to serve others.

An avid outdoorsman, Keith found peace in the mountains and loved riding motorcycles, traveling with Ruth, and spending time wherever adventure called. Music was the soundtrack of his life. Whether he was singing along to a favorite song, dancing with Ruth, or filling a room with laughter and music, he found joy in sharing it with the people he loved. He cherished every moment with his children and grandchildren. He was deeply patriotic and honored to support those who served our country as a member of the American Legion Riders and the Patriot Guard Riders, participating in more than 130 military memorial services to pay tribute to America's heroes.

Keith lived life to the fullest. He worked hard, played hard, laughed often, and loved deeply. He was a stand-out athlete and fierce competitor with a heart of gold—a genuine, loyal, giving man who never met a stranger. He was always the first to lend a hand, could fix just about anything, and earned the affectionate title of his family's own "MacGyver." He loved animals, embraced every challenge with determination, and was just ornery enough to keep everyone smiling. To those who knew him best, he was simply the best—a devoted husband, incredible father and grandfather, faithful friend, teacher, coach, mentor, and a true example of what it means to live a life of purpose.

Keith is survived by the love of his life and devoted wife, Ruth Taravella-Frazier; his children, Tia Herrick and her husband Kris, Chandra Frazier, and Casey Frazier and his wife Rikki. He was a proud and loving grandfather to Zach Herrick, Nick Herrick, Jaida Johnson, Tatum Johnson, Mia Frazier, Nora Frazier, and Miles Frazier, each of whom brought him immeasurable joy. He also leaves behind Corey Cobaugh, who held a very special place in his heart, along with countless extended family members, dear friends, former students, athletes, and colleagues whose lives were forever impacted by his kindness.

Keith was preceded in death by his parents, Mary and Fay Frazier; his brother, Don (Florence) Frazier; his sister, Mary Jane Sloan; and his sister, Barb (Jess) Wantland.

A Celebration of Keith's Life was held at 11:00 a.m. on July 23, 2026, at Praise Assembly of God, 2000 Troy Avenue, Pueblo, Colorado 81001. A reception was held immediately following the service.

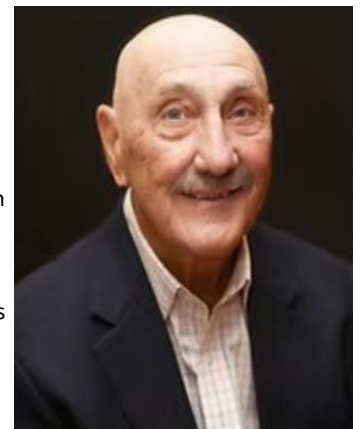
Memorial contributions may be made to the Pueblo South High School Alumni Foundation, where he was a Board Member, honoring Keith's lifelong commitment to education, mentorship, and the students whose lives he so passionately invested in.

John LeGrande Klomp

John LeGrand Klomp was born November 10, 1938, to John and Mable Klomp in Erie, Pennsylvania. On July 19, 2026, he was welcomed into Heaven by Pat, the love of his life and wife of 64 years. His parents also joined him, along with many family members and close friends.

John worked his way through college by playing football and driving a gas truck for Sonoco Gas Company during the summer. He graduated from Edinboro University in 1960 and earned his master's degree from Western State College in 1972. His first job was teaching and coaching football at Chatsworth High School in California. After returning to Colorado in 1966, he began his career with Pueblo School District #70 as a science teacher and football coach at Pueblo County High School.

Klomp became Assistant Principal in 1972 and Principal in 1973. He gave his heart and soul to PCHS and was a Hornet his entire life. He finished his career with District 70 in 1994 as associate superintendent. In 1995, he announced his candidacy and was elected in 1996 as Pueblo County Commissioner in District 1. He proudly served his community in this role for 8 years. One of his proudest accomplishments was serving on the HARP Authority Board and helping dedicate the Riverwalk in 2000.



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Klomp Obituary (Cont'd)

John absolutely loved Pueblo and this community. He served on several boards, including the Latino Chamber of Commerce, Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Runyon Field, Junior Achievement, American Cancer Society, Sangre de Cristo Arts and Conference Center, and several others. Klomp was inducted into the Greater Pueblo Sports Hall of Fame (2019) and was selected to the first class of the Pueblo County High Hall of Fame (2018).

John's accolades and service to the people and community of Pueblo are endless. His Catholic faith was always at his center, and he was a proud parishioner of St. Joseph's Church, where he was active in the Knights of Columbus and Men of Joseph. John was an avid hunter and fisherman. He served on the board for the Pueblo chapter of Ducks Unlimited and the Southern Colorado Hunting Retriever Club. Klomp truly enjoyed training his 5 Labrador retrievers (Thunder, Storm, Dutch, Rio and Rocky) over the years, winning the National Hunting Retriever Championship from the UKC with Thunder in 1992 and Dutch in 2007. He ran his final field trial with Rocky in April of this year.

John enjoyed many other outdoor activities throughout his life, including boating, camping, ATV riding, hiking, skiing, running, and golf. His special place was the family cabin in South Fork where so many memories were made and where he and Pat left a piece of their hearts and souls. His legacy of hard work, strength, love, compassion, and faith will live on forever in his family, friends, and the community of Pueblo.

He will be forever loved and missed by his children, son, Michael (Darryl); daughters, Michele and Kim (Carlos); 6 grandchildren, Mitchell (Ashley), Sarah (Eamon), Karly, Josh, Kelsi and Mark; 2 great-grandchildren, Eloise and Maeve. He also leaves behind his brother, Tom (Martha); sister, Nancy (Charles); several nieces, nephews and many close friends. John is truly loved and terribly missed by his pups Trooper and Rocky.

A Memorial Mass was held at 10:00 am, Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at St Joseph Catholic Church, followed by inurnment at Roselawn Cemetery and a luncheon at the parish hall. Instead of food and flowers, donations can be made to the Knights of Columbus (St. Joseph Church) or the Southern Colorado Hunting Retriever Club. Online condolences can be made at roselawnpueblo.org

Tim Simmons Helps With Greatest Moments Feature Stories

1986 Greater Pueblo Sports Association Hall of Fame inductee Tim Simmons continues his efforts to research facts and figures about past sporting activities in the City and County of Pueblo. A Pueblo native, Simmons graduated from Pueblo Central High School in 1965, where he was a senior reserve on the Wildcats' state runner-up boys basketball team coached by the legendary Jim Ranson.

He was introduced to the world of sports information as a freshman at then-Southern Colorado State College, where he graduated in 1969 with a degree in mass communications. In addition to working at five summer and two winter Olympic Games, Simmons has served in publicity and public relations roles at the University of Iowa, SCSC, Colorado State University, the Denver Nuggets, the Big Sky Conference, the University of Colorado, and the Coors Brewing Company.

Simmons and his wife of 52 years (Lynn) have worked globally for four decades for the International Volleyball Federation in Switzerland, covering events in over 30 countries and territories. Simmons' late father (Harry) was a member of the inaugural GPSA Hall of Fame class in 1973, where the younger Simmons served in an informational role for the group led by the late Sollie Raso. Tim Simmons will be inducted this fall into the CSU Pueblo Athletics Hall of Fame on October 16, following his father and the late Jessie Banks, who were the first two inductees in 2008.





Eddie Lewis' Greatest Moments in Pueblo Sports History

Over the next three months, the Greater Pueblo Sports Association (GPSA) will do a feature story on the selected 2026 Greatest Moment's in Pueblo Sports History leading up to our GPSA Banquet on Nov. 18. This month's feature is Eddie Lewis, a three-time state champion in swimming for Pueblo Central (1977-78). He was coached by Dave Knapp (1977) and Keith Townsend (1978). Information for this story was provided by Tim Simmons (GPSA Class of 1986). During the mid-1970s, the Colorado high school swimming landscape was dominated by a powerhouse from Pueblo, and at the absolute center of that success was Eddie Lewis.

Representing Pueblo Central High School, Lewis put together one of the most remarkable four-year careers in the history of the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) boys swimming championships. Spanning from 1975 to 1978, Lewis established himself among the state's prep swimming elite, racking up 13 top-5 finishes across individual and relay events while leading the Wildcats to unprecedented team success under the direction of David Knapp and Keith Townsend.



Ed Lewis The Pueblo Chieftain

Building a Dynasty: Year-by-Year Breakdown

1975: The Foundation (USAFA) - As a freshman on March 1, 1975, at the United States Air Force Academy (USAFA), Lewis announced his arrival on the state stage, placing 5th in the 100 Backstroke.

1976: Breaking Through (Boulder) - Entering his sophomore year on February 28, 1976, in Boulder, Lewis became a multi-event threat, helping propel Pueblo Central to a second-place team finish.

- * **100 Backstroke:** 2nd (:56.9)
- * **200 Individual Medley:** 4th (2:06.0)
- * **200 Medley Relay:** 2nd
- * **400 Freestyle Relay:** 4th

1977: Reaching the Summit (USAFA) - By February 26, 1977, back at the USAFA, Lewis captured his first state gold and powered the Wildcats to their first state team championship.

- * **100 Freestyle:** 4th (:48.9)
- * **200 Individual Medley:** 4th (2:04.0)
- * **400 Freestyle Relay:** 2nd

1978: A Masterclass Finale (USAFA) - In his senior swan song on February 25, 1978, at the USAFA, Lewis delivered a legendary performance, claiming two individual state titles and securing back-to-back team championships for Pueblo Central.

- * **100 Backstroke,** :54.48 - State Champion
- * **200 Individual Medley,** 1:59.3 - State Champion
- * **200 Medley Relay:** 2nd
- * **400 Freestyle Relay:** 4th

Legacy of a Champion - Lewis' individual log speaks for itself: two individual state titles and three podium finishes, complemented by a relay championship. But his impact extended far beyond his own races. Thanks to Lewis' leadership and elite versatility, the Pueblo Central Wildcats progressed dramatically as a team over the four seasons:

1975: 17th place

1976: 2nd place

1977: State Champions

1978: State Champions