

Sam Gomer Recognized for Track Officiating Job

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Local official Sam Gomer was honored by the Ohio Track and Field and Cross Country Officials Association on January 29, 2000. Gomer was honored by the association at an awards breakfast during their annual meeting in Columbus.

Gomer received the award in recognition of his significant contributions to interscholastic track and field and cross country in the state of Ohio.

Gomer has been an OHSAA track and cross country official for 20 years. He has been a referee at district meets in northwest Ohio since the three-division system was initiated, plus he has been a referee or head field judge at many regional meets. He has been a discus official at the state track meet since 1985 and has been an official at the state cross country meet since 1982.

He is a USA Track and Field Official having officiated at state, national and international meets since 1984. He also has officiated the pole vault at 12 major championship meets in the United States since the Atlanta Olympics.

Sam is a 1958 graduate of Napoleon High School where he earned nine varsity letters in the sports of baseball (4), football (three) and basketball (two). He was the quarterback of the 1957 Napoleon team that finished the season undefeated.

He then earned a BS from Bowling Green State University and a master's degree from the University of Dayton.

He was the head track coach at Antwerp High School winning two league titles in 1965 and 1966 and was the head coach at Ottawa-Glandorf from 1969 through 1979 winning six Western Buckeye League titles as the league's smallest school.

His 1971 team was the state runners-up by two points as he had an athlete win the 880-yard run and an athlete place in three events. His 1972 team won the state title as Jeff Huggins won the 220, 400, was fourth in the long jump and fifth in the 100.

In 1978, he coached the fastest 880-yard relay in the state for Division AA schools. He coached over 26 individuals in several different events to the state meet.

Sam Gomer is retired from teaching and presently owns Cruising Driving School in Ottawa. He lives with his wife, Linda, in Ottawa and they operate a Bed and Breakfast at the Championship Track Meet on weekends.