

KFAA to induct David Meyer to Hall of Fame

David Meyer knows what it means to give back to his community. In the 30+ years since Meyer graduated from Kiel High School he shown active support for the community sporting scene and the Kiel Raider football program as a volunteer, coach and alumni organizer.

Meyer continues to reflect all the values of Raider Pride in his service to his community and its youth. Those endless contributions have earned Meyer the respect of his peers, and the honor of becoming the 2016 inductee into the Kiel Football Alumni Association Hall of Fame.

In many ways, it is fitting for Meyer to join the Hall, as he was one of the key organizers in the organization to begin with back in 2001. Along with other board members Meyer worked diligently to bring an alumni football game to Kiel, an idea that was spawned in the fall of 1999. "We had the burning desire to organize a game so we could enjoy the feeling of playing real football one more time. We did that and more," Meyer said. "We never envisioned the charitable efforts and the number of people we would positively impact."

Never mind the broken arm Meyer suffered playing in one of those alumni games. He is still grateful for the organization and the lasting impact the KFAA has made, thanks to his cohorts—Bill, Jay, Dean, Randy, Mike and John.

The Glory Days football game was just the start of the KFAA's positive impression on Kiel football. Seven football games and eight golf outings later, the KFAA has ushered in the donation of \$75,000+ to Kiel football program and other community organizations. Meyer served as the Glory Days coordinator for the games held from 2001-2007. When the venue switched to safer turf as a golf outing, he continued to lead the way, organizing the events from 2008 to the present. Meyer has also served as the KFAA treasurer since its inception.

Just as it is with so many of his other positions, Meyer serves as a volunteer. "My reward is the joy of seeing others competing with friends and having a good time. I have gained so much from lifelong friendships and an opportunity to help others, especially the youth of the Kiel area," he said.

For Meyer, the volunteer service is an extension of his upbringing and the influence of his parents, Wally and Beatsy Meyer who taught him early to value volunteerism and giving back for the betterment of others.

It's also the result of how he learned things as a young kid in a middle class family in School Hill. "We didn't have much but our friends and family. We all looked out for and respected each other. We organized our own pickup games—just dialing each other on the phone or knocking on doors," he said. After a bike ride to the field, teams were picked, and the game was on.

Meyer has also offered his support to the School Hill Athletic Club, where he has been a member for over 30 years. He has coordinated the annual softball tournament for a quarter century. When the need arose for a new concession stand and upgrading of the playing fields. Meyer was one of the ring leaders.

A coach in the Kiel youth tackle football league from 2002 to 2010, Meyer has also been the program director for Kiel Youth football for the past 11 years. Under his tenure, the program has expanded to include a sixth grade program in 2002, the year the KFAA assumed responsibility for the program from the Kiel Optimist Club.

Meyer also has eight years of little league baseball and six years of youth basketball coaching to his credit.

He served as a WIAA varsity basketball official for 17 years.

An avid softball player, Meyer participated on many championship teams for Bud Dry, Meiselwitz Furniture and Brost Foods.

His interest in softball and basketball spurred him to coordinate the Kiel Rec Softball and Basketball leagues for more than 20 years.

Meyer's love for football, in particular, dates back to a successful high school playing career.

A starting offensive guard and middle linebacker, he was a member of the 1984 Eastern Wisconsin Conference championship football team that ended a 44-year title drought for the Kiel Raiders—a team that was Kiel's first undefeated and most wins in Raider history to that point.

Meyer led the team in tackles and added a pair of interceptions and fumble recoveries, including a returned fumble for a touchdown.

He was a unanimous selection as a first-team all-conference linebacker and was named to the second team all-Manitowoc Herald Times area team.

Meyer graduated from KHS in 1985 and added an associate degree in accounting from Lakeshore Technical College in 1987, graduating with honors. He again graduated with honors from Silver Lake College with a Bachelor's Degree in Management.

After 17 years of working at Tecumseh as manager of production control and materials, he took on a position with Rockline Industries, where he has served as manager of product data management for the past 12 years.

Meyer and his wife Julie have been married 28 years, and they have two sons, Derek and Jordan, along with a daughter, Rachel.

"I feel very fortunate and privileged to be recognized and appreciated by my peers," Meyer said. "It is a honor to follow the list of great individuals who have previously been inducted into the KFAA Hall of Fame, many of them who were my teachers, coaches and mentors."

Meyer will be inducted into the KFAA Hall of Fame in ceremonies to be held following the annual KFAA Golf Scramble at Autumn Ridge on Sat., August 6.



David Meyer
2016 KFAA Hall of Fame Inductee