

South Dakota Track and Field's Dan Lennon Award

2010 - Bob Winter, Yankton, S.D.
2009 – All Track and Field Volunteers
2008 – Dave Lorenz, Vermillion, S.D.
2007 – Derek Miles, Tea, S.D.
2006 – Rich Hansen, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Glen Nelson, Elk Point, S.D.
2005 – Ruth Marske, Brookings, S.D.
2004 – Mark Ovenden, Sioux Falls, S.D.
2003 – Gene Danielsen, Salem, S.D.
2002 – Jim Minor, Yankton, S.D.
2001 – Greg Merrigan, Vermillion, S.D.
2000 – Bob Prince, Sioux City, Iowa
1999 – Rich Greeno, Sioux Falls, S.D.
1998 – Jack Doyle, Vermillion, S.D.
1997 – William G. Hillenbrand, Tucson, Ariz.
1996 – Dave Adam, Sioux Falls, S.D.
1995 – Dean Mann, Sioux Falls, S.D.
1994 – Hod Nielsen, Yankton, S.D.
1993 – Dwight Hauff, Sioux City, Iowa
1992 – Howard Connors, Vermillion, S.D.
1991 – Dan Lennon, Vermillion, S.D.

2010 - Bob Winter

The University of South Dakota track and field program will present Yankton's Bob Winter with the Dan Lennon Award at the 2010 Dan Lennon Track and Field Invitational on March 29 in the DakotaDome. Winter is the 21st recipient of the prestigious award. Established in 1991, the Dan Lennon Award is bestowed annually in honor of the former Coyote track and field coach. Lennon organized the first USD Invitational track meet on April 13, 1949 and coached USD to four North Central Conference titles from 1961-66. He was inducted into the South Dakota Coyote Sports Hall of Fame in 1974. A member of the Yankton School District since 1963, Winter taught science and coached various sports including football, basketball, baseball, swimming, cross country and track and field. As Yankton's cross country coach from 1966-69 he led the school to three conference championships and two runner-up finishes at the state meet. He was also an assistant track and field coach for 26 years, guiding nine student-athletes to top six finishes in the hurdles at the state meet and breaking one school record. On the hardwood, he guided the Bucks to one state title and three runner-up finishes, before taking over the Gazelles' program and turning it into a perennial powerhouse. He won eight state titles and three runner-up finishes with them from 1975-1991. In 1989, Winter accepted the school district's activities director position and the school has flourished under his guidance. Under his watch, Yankton has won 29 state championships across all sports in Class AA. Cross country has earned 12 team championships and the last six combined championships while claiming five rankings in the top 20 in the nation. The track squads have claimed five team championships and 13 conference titles, as Winter spearheaded the construction of the impressive Williams Field outdoor track facility in Yankton.

2009 – All Track and Field Volunteers

USD's track and field program honored all the volunteer workers who have dedicated many hours and time to the track and field program over the years. All the volunteers received the award which marked the 20th Dan Lennon Award recipient. Since the DakotaDome opened in 1979, it has been the home to numerous track and field events. The volunteer workers have been part of the success of these track meets. The volunteers have worked 16 North Central Conference Championships, five Division II National Championships, and the first Division I Great West Conference Championship, which was held in early March, 2009. Along with those meets they have also been there when USD has hosted over 100 invitationals and over 80 high school meets. The impressive list of meets is a lot of work for these people who have volunteered their time over the past 30 years. There have been over 150 different individuals that have volunteered over the years.

2008 – Dave Lorenz

USD's Dave Lorenz was named the Dan Lennon recipient for outstanding contributions to track and field. A longtime Dean of Students, Lorenz has given a lifetime commitment to The University of South Dakota and is the 19th recipient of the award. He served as Dean of Students for eight years and his line of service at The U extends beyond 30 years. During his time at USD, he has had a great impact on students. In terms of his contributions to the USD Athletics Department, he helped create USD's Coyote Crazies and the U-Dance, one of the popular performers at Coyote games. After leaving the Dean of Students job, he did not go quietly into retirement. Instead, he took on the role of the athletic academic advisor at USD, where he has provided academic and emotional support to student-athletes. Beyond his work as an advisor, Lorenz freely gives his time by volunteering as a public address announcer, which he has done for better

than a decade. He also has been a regular volunteer at the USD home track events, serving as a timer, among other duties. Lorenz has an M.P.A. (public administration) degree from USD and he earned his B.S. in history from the University of South Dakota-Springfield. A native of Avon, he has served as the athletic academic advisor since 2005. At USD he was the Dean of Students from 1998 to 2005.

2007 – Derek Miles

U.S. Olympic and USD alumnus Derek Miles of Tea, S.D., was named the 18th recipient of the Dan Lennon Award on Monday, March 26, 2007. The Lennon Award is presented annually to an individual who has made a positive and lasting impact on track and field in the Midwest. Originally of Sacramento, Calif., Miles was inducted into the Henry Heider Memorial Coyote Sports Hall of Fame in fall 2006. Miles, who competes for the Bell Athletics/Nike Club and is an assistant track coach at USD, is one of three South Dakota graduates to compete in the Olympic Games. At USD, Miles won the North Central Conference pole vault title in 1996 and finished fifth at the 1996 NCAA Division II indoor meet. He was third at the 1994 NCAA Division II outdoor nationals. Miles earned an undergraduate degree in history and a master's degree in athletic administration at USD in 1996. One of the world's top pole vaulters, Miles finished fourth at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008 and was seventh at the Athens Olympics in 2004. Miles won the U.S. Olympic Trials in the pole vault in 2008. He was ranked fifth in the world at the end of the 2005 season. He had set a DakotaDome record of 19-2.50 in 2005, which was the seventh-best vault in the world that year. Miles was the USA Indoor champion in 2003 and placed fifth at the World Outdoors, also in 2003. Miles was 10th at the USA Outdoor Championships in 2006. He has also set up the Derek Miles and Friends Pole Vault Competition at his alma mater. The competition annually brings some of the world's top vaulters (Jeff Hartwig, Brad Walker, Toby Stevenson, and others) to the DakotaDome. Miles is an inspiration to those in track and field with his dedication to helping young vaulters. One example is some of the advice he provided Sam Pribyl who won the NCAA Division II pole vault title in spring 2006, becoming USD's first ever national pole vault champion.

2006 – Rich Hansen, Glen Nelson

USD presented Rich Hansen of Sioux Falls, S.D., and Glen Nelson of Sioux Falls, S.D., with the Dan Lennon Award on March 27-28, 2006. Hansen and Nelson were the 16th and 17th recipients of the Lennon Award.

Hansen

A long-time track and field official, Hanson began his officiating career in 1959 (football) and started in track and field in 1964. He has served as the starter for numerous regional and conference meets throughout the region at all levels, as well as many South Dakota state track and field meets. Hanson, who officiated the first football game played at the DakotaDome in 1979, was the assistant starter for the NCAA DII Indoor Track and Field Championships held in Vermillion in the 1990s. He has been a starter for the Howard Wood Dakota Relays since 1994 and has served as the S.D. High School Activities Association track rules clinician since 1999. A native of Aberdeen, S.D., he has been a member of the Howard Wood Relays Board of Directors since 1975. He also serves on the Sports and Recreation Committee for the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce. In 1991, he received the National Federation of Officials Association's Active Track and Field Award for South Dakota. Hanson has also received the NFOA National Distinguished Contributor Award and the B'nai B'rith Sioux Falls Sportsman of the Year Award. He earned a Bachelor's degree in 1958 and a Master's degree in 1962 from Northern State.

Nelson

A 1952 graduate of USD, Nelson played football for the Coyotes from 1948-51, including as a starting defensive tackle on the 1950-51 teams. His 33-year coaching and teaching career began at Carthage High School in 1952 where he coached all the sports for three years and won conference titles in football, basketball and track. His track team won the 440, 880, mile and medley relays at the Howard Wood Relays. In 1955, he accepted a teaching and coaching job at Centerville High School where he led his team to the Big "8" Conference basketball title in 1956-57. After leaving Centerville in 1957, he served as an assistant football and track coach at Washington High School in Sioux Falls. While at Washington High, Nelson coached the pole vaulters and jumpers under head coaches Elmer Hansen and Dean Mann. In 1974, he began a 23-year stint in the Elk Point School District. Nelson served as the head football and wrestling coach while assisting Rod Knutson in track. In 1977, Elk Point won the Class B State Track and Field Championship. The following year, Elk Point won its second straight conference title in track and he was the coach of one of the three teams to tie for the league title in football.

2005 – Ruth Marske

The late Ruth Joanne Marske was named the 2005 (15th) recipient of the Dan Lennon Award and was honored during the opening day (March 28-29) of the Dan Lennon Invitational at the DakotaDome in Vermillion, S.D. Her nephew, Dean, and other family members accepted the honor on behalf of the family. Marske, who was born on Oct. 14, 1933 at Andover, S.D., to Ernest and Louise (Hayenga) Marske. She graduated from Andover High School, and then earned a Bachelor's degree in physical education from Northern State in 1955. In 1960, she received her Master's degree in

physical education from Colorado State College. She received post-master's degree credits at Pepperdine College, Chapman College and Northern Arizona. She did doctoral work at Utah. Marske was employed as a teacher at Wheaton, Minn., from 1955 to 1959, and as an assistant instructor at Northern State from 1957 to 1959. She received a graduate teaching assistantship from Colorado State College (1960-61) and the Garden Grove Unified Schools (1960-69). She was later employed as an instructor and teacher in the Jefferson County Schools from 1969 to 1970 when she became an assistant professor at South Dakota State University. Marske began coaching highly successful teams in the old Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women. Her state-title basketball teams during the 1970-71 and 1971-72 seasons had a combined 32-4 record at SDSU. In 1972, she coached SDSU to a South Dakota title in softball. From 1974-81, SDSU was state champion six times and runner-up twice in volleyball with Marske's leadership. She also was an outstanding track and field mentor. Seven times in the AIAW, SDSU was state champions. In the NCC, she led SDSU to three outdoor championships and added two indoor titles. She was named NCC Coach of the Year four times. Marske led SDSU to a third-place finish at the national outdoor meet in 1982 and her team was third indoors in 1985. An award, the Ruth Marske Award, is named in memory of Marske, who passed away in 1990. Called the "guru of women's sports in South Dakota", Marske was a lifetime advocate for equal opportunities for women in intercollegiate athletics.

2004 – Mark Ovenden

Mark Ovenden of Sioux Falls, S.D., was named the 2004 Dan Lennon Award recipient. Ovenden is the sports director at KDLT-TV and the 14th recipient of the Lennon Award. USD recognized Ovenden for his contributions to the promotion of track and field in the four state-area. He was just the second member of the media to receive the award (Hod Nielsen, Yankton Press and Dakotan, 1994). At KDLT, Ovenden started the Athlete of the Week feature, which features area athletes, and he was also responsible for the Sports Wrap show that ran two years. It was the first half hour sports show of its kind in the area. Ovenden and his staff dedicated the show's content to local sports and commentary from local media, coaches and others. A native of Boston, Mass., Ovenden has been working in television in South Dakota since 1978. Since 1996, Ovenden has served as sports director for KDLT-TV. Prior to that he worked at KELOTV for eight years and spent nine years at KSFY -TV as its sports director. He also worked in television in Richmond, Va., and Rockford, Ill. While in South Dakota, Ovenden has worked radio sports broadcasts for both South Dakota football (1982-86) and Augustana football and basketball (1978-82). He also did TV broadcasts of the state football and basketball championships from 1981-85. Ovenden also worked on the Howard Wood Dakota Relays Committee for 15 years. His three sons all attend area colleges. Ryan, a former state track meet MVP, played football at Augustana as did another son Nick. His other son Nate played at the University of Sioux Falls.

2003 -- Gene Danielsen

Gene Danielsen, former head track and field coach at McCook Central (former Salem HS), was the 2003 Dan Lennon Award recipient. He was the 13th recipient of the award. Danielsen attended rural school, ran track and played football and basketball at Viborg High School, where he received his diploma in 1964. One of his high school teachers, Gene Iverson, inspired him to be a math teacher and coach of track and field, so he enrolled at General Beadle State College in the fall of 1964 to become a teacher/coach. He participated in track and cross-country at General Beadle State. He received a teaching degree in mathematics and physical education in 1968. In January of 1968, Gene began teaching math and physical education at Salem Public School. He continued to teach math there until 2004. He received his Master's degree in mathematics from USD in 1973. Gene coached track and field from 1968 through 2000. He coached cross-country from 1971 through 1999. His teams won 38 conference championships with another 20 second place finishes. The Salem Booster Club track meet was re-named the Danielsen Relays in 1989. He was the SDHSCA coach of the year in cross country in 1993. Named the honorary referee for the Howard Wood Relays in 2002, Gene was inducted into the South Dakota Coaches Hall of Fame as well as honored as one of the outstanding alumni of Dakota State. Gene coached grade basketball from 1969 through 1985. He umpired baseball from 1975 to 2006, having umpired in various state tournaments. He officiated basketball from 1975 to 1984. He also taught mathematics as an adjunct instructor at University Center in Sioux Falls, where he continues to enjoy working with students. The school athletic complex was named the "Gene Danielsen Field" in 2004. In 1966 Gene married his high school and college classmate Karen Gors. Karen was a teacher at Salem until 2004. Karen and Gene have two children Jeff and Julie.

2002 – Jim Minor

Jim Miner, the head track and field coach at Yankton High School from 1979-99, was named the 12th Dan Lennon Award recipient at the Lennon Relays March 25 at the DakotaDome in Vermillion, S.D. The award is presented to an individual who has been instrumental in the development of track and field throughout the area. Miner directed Yankton High School track and field teams to seven state titles and was instrumental in the start of the girl's pole vault event in South Dakota. "We started the pole vault long before it was recognized nationally," Miner said. "Because South Dakota got such an early start, our pole vaulters are among the best in the nation." Miner graduated from Huron College in 1963, and received a Master's degree from Cornell in 1964. Miner taught math at Yankton High School, and was an assistant track and field coach from 1966 to 1979 before taking the head coaching position.

2001 – Greg Merrigan

Often hailed as the voice of track and field in South Dakota, Greg Merrigan of Vermillion, S.D., was named the 11th recipient of the Dan Lennon Award in March 2001. A 1974 Vermillion High School graduate, Merrigan started his announcing career at Inman Stadium (now location of the Allen Neuharth Center/School of Law) doing PA for junior varsity football games at USD. He was also a spotter for the legendary PA announcer Monk Johnson at Coyote games. In 1978-79, Merrigan served as color commentator for Vermillion High School football and basketball games on the Vermillion radio station. He began doing PA for Coyote track and field in 1979 when the DakotaDome was opened. Eventually he took over Coyote announcing duties from Monk Johnson (retired) in basketball and football. He is the voice of the Dan Lennon Relays, the Howard Wood Dakota Relays, the Sioux City Relays and the South Dakota State Track and Field Meets. He also handles PA for the South Dakota High School Football Championships at the DakotaDome. The manager of the Clay Rural Water System, Greg has two children and is married to Janet.

2000 – Bob Prince

Bob Prince was named the 10th recipient of the Dan Lennon Award on March 27-28, 2000 at the DakotaDome. Prince has been a success on and off the track. Since 2000, he has assisted the Siouxland Youth Association's Track and Field Program while serving as the director of the Sioux City Relays. He has developed a computerized timing system for track and field meets that he handles at area high school and college track and field and cross country meets. As a competitor, Prince was one of the best. He has competed at the USATF Master's level for several years. He has competed at the Drake Relays (800 meters), placing third in the master's race in 1999. He was the USATF 800 American indoor champion (2:02) in 1999. Prince has participated and won five Gold Medals in the U.S. Corporate Athletic Association National meet. He first hit the spotlight at Sioux City East High School where he won a state title in the 880 run at the state indoor meet. His career at East was highlighted by four Drake Relays titles and several state championships. At the National Junior Olympic meet in 1972, Prince broke the national and state meet record in the 880 with a clocking of 1:52.5. His best time was eventually lowered to 1:52.1 at a national All-American meet as a senior. He set the school record in the 880 run at East High. After high school, Prince attended Kansas State where he won three Big-8 indoor 880 titles, two 600 crowns and three mile relays championships. As a junior in 1976, he was named the Outstanding Athlete at the Big-8 indoor meet. He pulled off the difficult 880/600-meter double win and contributed a carry on the winning mile relay team as Kansas State won a conference championship. Two weeks later, Prince won the NCAA DI national 880 indoor title in Detroit, Mich. The following year Prince recorded a personal-best in the 880 with a clocking of 1:47.1 at the Drake Relays. After leaving college, Prince continued to stay active in road and track racing. In 1979, he achieved a personal record of 31:27 in the 10,000 meter run and a ninth-place finish of 2:40.30 at the Chicago Marathon. He raced competitively at 5K and 10K races for many years while also competing at the Sioux City Relays master's race and the Iowa State games. He was inducted into the Iowa Association of Track Coaches Hall of Fame in 1989 and the Kansas State Track Hall of Honor in 1995. In 1999, Prince was inducted into the Sioux City Relays Hall of Fame.

1999 – Rich Greeno

Synonymous with track and field for more than four decades, Rich Greeno was the 1999 Dan Lennon Award recipient. He was the ninth award honoree since the Lennon Award was established in 1991. Green coached at the University of Sioux Falls since 1991. A 1946 graduate of Langford High School and a 1950 graduate of Northern State, his first coaching stint was with Philip High School from 1950-54. He taught and coached at Yankton High from 1954-68 and later coached at Sioux Falls Lincoln from 1968-90. Greeno's resume is filled with many honors. During his outstanding coaching tenure, his teams won 36 conference championships in the Badlands Conference, the Eastern S.D. Conference and the Sioux Interstate Conference. He led his teams to 31 regional track and field titles. Since the formation of the SIC, Greeno directed his teams to 28-of-the-33 SIC championships in cross-country and track. He coached 19 team championships at the state level in cross country and track as well as 76 individual and relay state champions and 13 individual cross country state champions. In 1969 and 1974, he was named the National High School Athletic Coaches Association District 7 Track Coach of the Year and the S.D. High School Coaches Association Track Coach of the Year. Greene was tabbed the Coach of the Year in 1970 by the S.D. Sportswriters Association. He became the first South Dakotan to be named the National H.S. Athletic Coaches Association Track Coach of the Year. In 1998, Greene was the recipient of the Gary W. McQuaid Hershey Track and Field Meet Volunteer Award which is annually awarded to a person who has contributed to furthering the ideals and goals of the Hershey Track and Field Program. Some of Greeno's other honors include serving as the assistant team manager for the USA Track and Field team tour to Europe and Durham, N.C., in 1976. He was selected for the Sports Illustrated Faces in the Crowd in 1976. Other honors included induction to the Northern State University Hall of Fame in 1976 and the South Dakota Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1979. He was named to the Runner's World Magazine High School Coaches All Star team in 1984. In 1990, he became the first coach selected to the Yankton High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He was named National High School Athletic Coaches Association District 6 Coach of the Year in 1990; National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Coach of the Year for cross-country in 1990; District 12 NAIA College Cross Country Coach of the Year in 1993; South Dakota Sportswriters Hall of Fame in 1995; South Dakota Iowa Conference Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year from 1995-

98; South Dakota-Iowa Conference Women's Indoor Track Coach of the Year in 1998; South Dakota-Iowa Conference Men's Outdoor Track Coach of the Year in 1998; and the South Dakota-Iowa Conference Men's Indoor Track Coach of the Year in 1999.

1998 – Jack Doyle

Jack Doyle was the eighth recipient of the Dan Lennon Award when he was honored on March 30-31, 1998. Doyle served as Director of Athletics at USD from 1983-1998 and was head basketball coach for the Coyotes. During his tenure as A.D., Doyle made major improvements in the DakotaDome, including a new eight-lane 200-meter track, a new artificial football surface, addition of a Bose public address system and the installation of the Daktronics Scoreboard. In addition, the west side of the DakotaDome was upgraded, including expansion of the weight room along with a regulation basketball and volleyball court. While A.D., the Coyotes won 18 NCC championships, seven region titles and participated in various NCAA playoffs. USD advanced to the 1986 NCAA DII Football Championship game and made consecutive appearances in the NCAA DII Elite Eight Basketball Tournament in 1993 and 1994. In addition, USD won its second national championship when the men's cross-country team claimed the 1997 NCAA DII title. A native of New York, N.Y., Doyle was named athletic director at USD in April 1983 after serving as the acting athletic director in 1982. A high school graduate of Power Memorial (N.Y.), Doyle was a three-year letter winner in track at the University of Wyoming before graduating in 1957. He earned his Master's degree from Wyoming in 1966 and joined the USD staff after a successful 14-year coaching career in South Dakota high schools, including stops at Lead and Faith. He joined USD in 1971 as an assistant basketball coach. He was named the school's 13th head coach in 1973. He assumed the dual position of executive assistant athletic director in charge of fundraising in 1981. He led the Coyotes basketball team for nine years before resigning in March 1982. He departed the basketball program with the third most victories by a coach in school history. Doyle served as chairman of the NCAA DII national basketball committee from 1995-97. The chair of the North Central Region advisory committee in basketball, he also served on the NCAA President's Commission Liaison Committee. He is a former member of the Executive Committee of the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics. After leaving USD as A.D., he took a position with the USD Foundation Office. He and his wife, Lois, had seven children.

1997 – William G. Hillenbrand

William G. Hillenbrand of Tucson, Ariz., was selected as the seventh recipient of the Dan Lennon Award. He was presented the award on March 24, 1997. Through a generous gift by Hillenbrand, an eight-lane 200-meter track was installed in the DakotaDome during the summer of 1996 and officially named the Mildred J. Hillenbrand Memorial Track. Hillenbrand began his personal history in Batesville, Ind., where Hillenbrand Industries was located. Hillenbrand Industries was a Fortune 500 company. His career included positions with Hillenbrand Industries as well as entrepreneurial ventures in Indiana and Arizona. He served as chairman of the Board of Advisors, Inc., of Tucson and Scottsdale, Ariz., and Chicago, Ill. In addition to scholarship gifts, Hillenbrand was particularly generous in the development of recreation, fitness, physical education and sports programs. He received an honorary degree from USD in December 1996. He also supported the University of Arizona and Indiana University.

1996 – Dave Adam

Dave Adam was named the sixth recipient of the Dan Lennon Award during the Lennon Relays at the DakotaDome on March 25-26, 1996. Adam is certainly no stranger when it comes to track and field meets. He has proven to be a vital asset to the sport – volunteering his services whenever possible, dating back to his first track meet in 1965. In 1986 he took over as co-chairman and co-meet director of the Sioux City Relays. In 1994, Adam was inducted into the Sioux City Relays Hall of Fame. A track and field computer specialist, Adams' technical knowledge has been extraordinary. He has taken it upon himself to develop and operate the most up-to-date track and field computer programs. From 1991 to 1993, he served as computer manager at the NCAA DII Indoor Track and Field Championships at the DakotaDome. Adam, who was the meet computer manager at the NCAA National Cross Country Meet in 1992, worked numerous NAIA and NCC Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field Championships. Adam, who was the Sioux City Relays Honorary Referee in 1986, has volunteered his services to various functions. His work with the youth in the area has been genuine and sincere – ranging from track to other interests. From 1969 to 1975, Adam was a charter member and coach of Siouxland Youth Hockey. From 1980 to 1982, he was a charter member and director of the Iowa High School Hockey League. In 1975, Adam received the Ducks Unlimited Distinguished Service Award. Seven years later, he was named the Eagle's Youth Athletic Volunteer of the Year. In 1988, Adam was given the B'nai B'rith Siouxland Sportsman of the Year Award. Three times (1987, 1989 and 1990), Adam received the Governor's Volunteer Award.

1995 – Dean Mann

Dean Mann, an important track and field figure in South Dakota for more than four decades, was named the fifth recipient of the Dan Lennon Award during the Lennon Relays on March 27-28, 1995. Mann, a 1950 graduate of Sioux Falls Washington High School, earned an undergraduate degree from Augustana College in 1957 and a Master's degree from USD in 1964. For 38 years, he has worked as an official at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays, including eight years

as meet director. A high school and college track starter for 30 years, he also served as the official starter at the NCC Indoor and Outdoor Championship for many years. For five years, he was the starter at the NCAA DII National Indoor Championships and also a long-time referee at South Dakota State High School Track and Field Meet. A business teacher at Sioux Falls Washington for 28 years (1957-85) and Coordinator of Athletics for the Sioux Falls Public Schools for eight years (1985-93), Mann was also an outstanding coach. As head track and cross country coach at Washington High, he was the S.D. Cross Country Coach of the Year in 1978 and was nominated on two other occasions. Awarded the title of Certified Athletic Administrator and the State Award of Merit by the National Athletic Directors Association in 1989, Mann was the 1994 recipient of the S.D. High School Activities Association Distinguished Service Award.

1994 – Hod Nielsen

Hod Nielsen was named the fourth recipient of the Dan Lennon Award during the Lennon Relays on March 28-29, 1994. Nielsen, a two-year letter winner for the Coyote football team in 1939-40, was the first member of the media to receive the Lennon Award. Nielsen was a sportscaster for 35 years with stops at KOTA Radio in Rapid City and KYNT Radio in Yankton, S.D. Nielsen also served as sports editor, sports columnist and sports writer for the Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan for more than 27 years, dating back to 1967. Nielsen who received the Distinguished Army Flying Cross and Air Medal during World War II, has received several honor for is support and promotion of athletics at all levels. He has been recognized with awards by the National High School Coaches Association, the South Dakota State Activities Association, the NAIA as well as earning induction into the South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference Hall of Fame in 1985. Two years later (1987), Nielsen was inducted into the Coyote Athletic Hall of Fame. In 1993, Nielsen was voted Yankton's Citizen of the Year. He was also named the Sportswriter of the Year by the S.D. Sportswriters Association in 1993.

1993 – Dwight Hauff

Dwight Hauff of Sioux City, Iowa, was named the third recipient of the Dan Lennon Award during the Lennon Relays on March 29-30, 1993. Hauff graduated from Morningside College in 1926 where he lettered in basketball and baseball. After graduation, he returned to his hometown of Merrill, Iowa, as a teacher and coach. From 1929-32, Hauff worked as a salesman for the A.G. Spaulding and Bros., Company. In 1933, he opened the Dwight Hauff Sporting Good Company in Sioux City, Iowa. Hauff grew his company to include five other retail sporting goods stores in the Midwest. In more than 70 years in the sporting good business, he was instrumental in development national standards that improved the safety and playing environment in sports. He has served as president of the National Sporting Goods Association, a member of the Advisory Board National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment, president of the Sports Foundation and a member of the Athletic Institute Sports Foundation Steering Committee. He was an original member of the Tri-State Coaches and Officials Association. He received their highest award. He has received the Greater Sioux City Athletic Award and has been inducted into the Northwest Iowa Coaches and Officials Hall of Fame.

Howard Connors – 1992

Howard Connors of Vermillion, S.D., was the second annual award recipient on March 30-31, 1992. Connors devoted much of his life to service, from the classroom to the competitive field of play. From 1943 until his retirement in 1982, Connors was a mathematics professor at USD. During that time, he was also the Dean of Men and an Associate Dean of the Colleges of Arts and Sciences at USD. From 1947 to 1949, he was the USD varsity track coach and an assistant coach in football and basketball. Twice, he was the USD head baseball coach, including 1966-70. A former Coyote, he played baseball for the Coyotes and later played professionally as a member of the Sioux Falls Canaries of the old Western League. He was the only batting champion Sioux Falls produced during the pro era. He served as a start at the Howard Wood Dakota Relays and served as a starter for the Dan Lennon Invitational from the first year until his retirement. He also worked regional, NCC and state track meets. He listed his biggest thrill when he became the first college coach to have a team win all four relays at the Howard Wood Relays when the Coyotes captured the 440, 880, mile and sprint medley relays in 1949. He has been named to the NCC Hall of Fame, South Dakota Intercollegiate Hall of Fame and Coyote Athletic Sports Hall of Fame.

Dan Lennon – 1991

The Dan Lennon Award was established in 1991 in honor of the former Coyote head track and field coach. Lennon organized the first USD Invitational track meet on April 13, 1949. Lennon is a member of the South Dakota Coyote Sports Hall of Fame. The high school division was added in 1954. The meet, which no longer includes college/university squads, was renamed the Dan Lennon Invitational in 1975. Lennon coached USD from 1949-1975. Lennon was honored during the first day of the meet.