

2014 IHSADA AWARD

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Gary Ross

Gary Ross graduated from Fredericksburg High School in 1975. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Education/Physical Education/Business Administration from Wartburg College, Waverly, IA in 1979; and a Master's Degree in Educational Administration and Supervision-Secondary Principalship from the University of Northern Iowa in 1991.

Gary began his educational career teaching and coaching at Maquoketa Valley Schools in Delhi, IA from 1979-1985 where he served as a Business Education teacher, head football coach, head baseball coach, and assistant boy's basketball coach. He was then hired by Marion Independent Schools in Marion as a Business Education teacher, head boy's basketball coach, head track and field coach, and assistant football coach from 1985-1991. In 1991 Gary began his administration career serving as Assistant High School Principal/Athletic Director at New Hampton Schools from 1991-1995. While at New Hampton, Gary also served as Head Baseball Coach for 2 years. In 1995 Gary was hired as Activities/Athletic Director at Johnston Schools where he has served for the past 19 years.

During Gary's coaching career, he received many accolades including state qualifiers in boys basketball, football, and track and field. In addition, he coached several conference championship teams in baseball, boy's basketball, and football. As an administrator, Gary has had the privilege of being part of 7 state championship teams at New Hampton and Johnston and 8 state runner up teams.

During Gary's administration career, he has been very active in the Iowa High School Athletic Director's Association. He served as Newsletter Editor from 2000-2004, was a Central District officer for 4 years, and was elected 2nd Vice-President of the IHSADA in 2004-2005, was 1st Vice-President in 2005-2006, and President of the IHSADA in 2006-2007. During his year as President, Gary began the Student-Athlete Scholarship Program that has been successfully continued. In 2009 Gary received the NIAAA State Award of Merit. In 2007 Gary was elected to serve as the Athletic Director representative on the IHSAA Board of Control currently serving in that capacity for the second term having served as Chair during the 2011-21 school year. Gary has also served as the Chairperson of the Tennis Advisory for 5 years of the IGHSAU and is also Co-Chair of the Joint Committee of the IGHSAU/IHSAA.

IGHSAU/IHSAA State Tennis and Co-Ed State Tennis as well as many district tournaments and regional tournaments have been hosted successfully by Gary Ross and Johnston High School during his tenure as Athletic Director. Under his direction Johnston High School has hosted IHSAA/IGHSAU sponsored rules meetings, officials clinics, and coaching clinics. Gary has worked diligently upgrading and maintaining Johnston's outstanding facilities and is excited about the work being done on the new Johnston High School and Johnston Stadium that is in the process of being built following the successful passing of a district bond referendum.

Gary is married to Diane and they have four children, Holly, Kory, Kayla, and Kari.