

## **2010 Hall of Fame Inductees**

***Judy Chadima  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa***

***Mel Larson  
Ames, Iowa***

***Dan Teran  
West Des Moines, Iowa***

Induction Ceremony and Social:  
Saturday, June 19 – 5:30 pm  
Valley Southwoods School  
Tickets: \$10

### **Judy Chadima:**

Judy's swimming career started nearly 80 years ago when her father thought the 1 ½ years old was the right time to start swimming so he threw her into Lake Michigan. Judy said that her mother nearly had a heart attack but it started a life long love affair with the water. She has won medals in pools from Iowa and Wisconsin to Bermuda. Was taught by one of the earliest innovators in coaching and has set world records.

Judy has spent most of her life in Cedar Rapids, Iowa but went to high school in suburban Chicago. Here high school did not have swimming competition for girls but her parents had a place on Lake Michigan where she spent the summer's swimming. She did compete in AAU summer competition and gives a lot of credit for her success to how she got started. Her father encouraged her to compete and she received lessons from Walter Caty who also coached Olympic Coach Jim Counsilman. Judy didn't get to test her skills at the highest level during the height of her talents. When she went to Coe College, like most schools, they didn't have women's athletics and internationally the 1940 and 44 Olympics were not held because of the War. Judy and her husband raised a family in Cedar Rapids and for 23 years she didn't swim at all.

In 1981 she got back into the pool and joined into competitions and has been a force ever since. One of the highlights of her career came in 1983 at the National Championships in Milwaukee where she set the National Record while winning the 100 Backstroke. In the Iowa Senior Olympics she has entered 76 races and had the Gold medal placed around her neck 75 times. When asked how many medals she has won in all her competitions she responded, "I don't know. I went back to count them but the box was too heavy to lift." Fortunately for the sport her father was strong enough to lift and throw her into that lake many years ago.

### **Dan Teran:**

Dan is the perfect person Hall of Famer to represent the people who found the Iowa Senior Olympics while finding a way to stay active, then immersed themselves in the Games and had a big impact. Dan moved to Des Moines in 1995 and signed up for a 50+ softball league. The first person he met at the diamond was I.S.O. Hall of Famer Ken Clark. Dan was obviously a skilled player and enthusiastic about all sports and Ken invited him to come along to a Senior Games in North Dakota. Dan entered 6 events and came home with 1 Gold and 5 Silver medals. That trip cemented Dan's commitment to being part of the Senior Olympics.

Dan has competed in nearly every event offered at the Games. He has won 110 total medals with 27 Gold's, 56 Silver's and 27 Bronze Medals taken home. In addition to the Iowa and North Dakota State Games he has travelled to Nebraska, Illinois and Missouri. He also competed at the National Senior Games in 1999 when they were held in Orlando. Dan also competed with softball teams which have gone to Nationals twice. He lists Iowa as his favorite site. He considers the people running the events as first rate and the competition friendly and at a high level.

One of Dan's favorite memories of the Games is also one of his most painful. He had just completed his favorite event in track & field, the 100 meter dash, and was sitting with fellow competitor Ron Peterson. They announced the start of the 800 meter run and Ron said, "Come on lets do this, you will be good in it." Dan was dubious but agreed to go to the line. Dan quickly went to the back of the pack and the two trips around the track seemed to take forever. As he came down the home straightaway the people at the finish line were clapping and waiving him on.

"I was really surprised and pleased that people would cheer me despite being so far behind," said Teran. "Then I realized they were waiving for me to hurry up so they could start the next race." Obviously Dan's sense of humor is also Hall of Fame quality.

Dan is also well known for volunteering his time and efforts to helping others. He was the Humana Starlight Award winner in 2009. An award given to people who volunteer and make a big impact on their communities. Dan credits the Iowa Senior Olympics with getting him started in this area as well. Long time Executive Director of the Iowa Sr. Olympics Dan Lake suggested that Dan meet with the West Des Moines Human Services department. As a result of starting working with them Dan has become a resource for Mercy Hospital and social services and the police department as a translator and councilor. He certainly represents the Senior Olympic motto of, "Play. Compete. Live."

### **Mel Larson:**

Mel has had a major impact on Senior Track & Field in Iowa but his influence has stretched far beyond our borders. He has represented Iowa at the National Championships all over the country and then represented the U.S. in every World Championships since 1989. His fast legs have taken him to Finland, Japan, Australia, England, Spain and Italy. In 11 years of competing in the Iowa Senior Olympics Mel has stepped to the starting line 27 times and won 27 Gold Medals. He isn't sure how many medals he has won at the Nationals Championships but is comfortable saying that he has taken home 15 - 20 medals at World Championships. 13 - 15 World Records have had his name next to them over the years.

Mel was an outstanding track athlete while in college. He earned All-American Honors in the Long Jump at the NCAA Championships in 1945. After graduation he started work as an Engineer and didn't compete again for nearly 40 years. When he was living in Springfield, Illinois in 1987 he competed in a State competition and went to the National Championships in St. Louis. Later that year he set his first World Record, leaping 16-5 in the long jump indoors. The record for the 65+ age group has stood for many years.

With all the high level competitions there are many memories to celebrate. It is interesting that one of the first memories is not a completely positive one. His first World Championships was in Eugene, Oregon and Mel was in top form. There were 4 rounds of competition for the 100 meter dash and Mel had the fastest time in each of the first three rounds. In the finals his starting blocks weren't adjusted correctly but he didn't want to hold up the race and went with them the way they were. Despite closing on the other runners at the finish he came up on the short end of one of the closest races in the Championships, finishing 0.02 seconds out of first but taking 4<sup>th</sup>. He said, "I learned a lesson to make sure I have everything right before the race starts."

One of the very positive memories happened at the World Championships in Japan in 1993. The Long Jump was the first event of the meet and had the undivided attention of the crowd and other competitors. With one jump remaining, Mel had the event won with a leap of 16-11. On his final attempt everyone was clapping for him and he landed well past the 17 foot mark, which would have been a World Record. Alas he barely fouled the jump but the support he had from people who didn't even know him really stuck as a great memory.

Mel has spread the word for Senior competition since he moved back to Ames, Iowa in 1997. He convinced the Iowa State track coach to have a race in every home meet for Senior athletes. Often the largest cheers of the competitions came for the "old guys" racing around the track, proud to show that competition and quality performances don't end when you leave college. Anyone who has watched or competed against Mel over the years remember him as the one breaking the tape and setting records. But they also know him as the guy who has a smile on his face a quick shake of the hand and a good word of encouragement for the people he is running against.