

**Colorado School of Mines
2004 Faculty Senate
Distinguished Lecture**

**Marvin L. Kay
Emeritus Professor of Physical Education and Athletics
February 23, 2005**



Jarvis Hall

Matthews Hall

School of Mines
Circa 1874

Introduction

I would like to thank the faculty senate for the opportunity to speak with you this afternoon. I am humbled as I studied those speakers that preceded me and the topics they chose to discuss. Most of the previous honorees are long time fellow members of the academic faculty who I have respected for many years for their work and dedication not only to Mines but also to their specific disciplines and to the Mines students.

My association with Mines began nearly 66 years ago as I was born in Denver when my father was a junior at the school. My association with Mines athletics is nearly as long, as my father was a member of the previously only unbeaten football team in the last 65 years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my professors and coaches at Mines who without their help, guidance and undying patience, I would not be standing before you today. I speak on behalf of the coaches and players who toiled long before me and with me in the honor of Mines and the Silver and Blue and provided the foundation for what Mines athletics is today.

In as much as some form of athletics has been present throughout the entire history of the Colorado School of Mines it is timely to reflect on the value of the various programs to the mission of the institution. Athletics encompasses not only the intercollegiate programs but also offerings in required physical education, intramurals and club sports, and outdoor recreation.

The purpose of this paper is to present a short historical account of the emergence of the various programs and their contributions to the overall development of the Mines Graduate as outlined in the Future Graduate Profile. It will also examine the programs responsibilities in the Strategic Plan and how each contributes to the mission of the institution.

Athletics strongly compliments the academic mission of Mines and enhances the excellent education that each graduate receives. As today's prospective students evaluate Mines, the quality of education and career opportunities, which it provides, are certainly foremost in their minds. However to many, the quality of life outside of the classroom, in which athletics play a large and important role, is increasingly important to their final decision.

This offering will strive to promote that a healthy mind and body is so important and vital to today's Mines graduate, and that the importance of striving for excellence in athletics will not only enhance their education but the reputation of the institution as well.

My remarks this afternoon will center on a brief pictorial history of athletics, how the program has transitioned to its present status, the importance of athletics to the overall educational mission of the institution and my expectations for the future.

SCHOOL OF MINES – CIRCA 1882





1890 Football Team (*Pioneer Museum*)

The first football game played in the country was in 1869 between Rutgers and Princeton. The game moved quickly West and local historians believe that Mines was playing football on an informal basis in the early 1880's. The first Mines football game of record, which Mines won 6-4, was played against the University of Denver in 1888. By 1890 fairly regular competition was held with other area colleges, high schools and club teams.



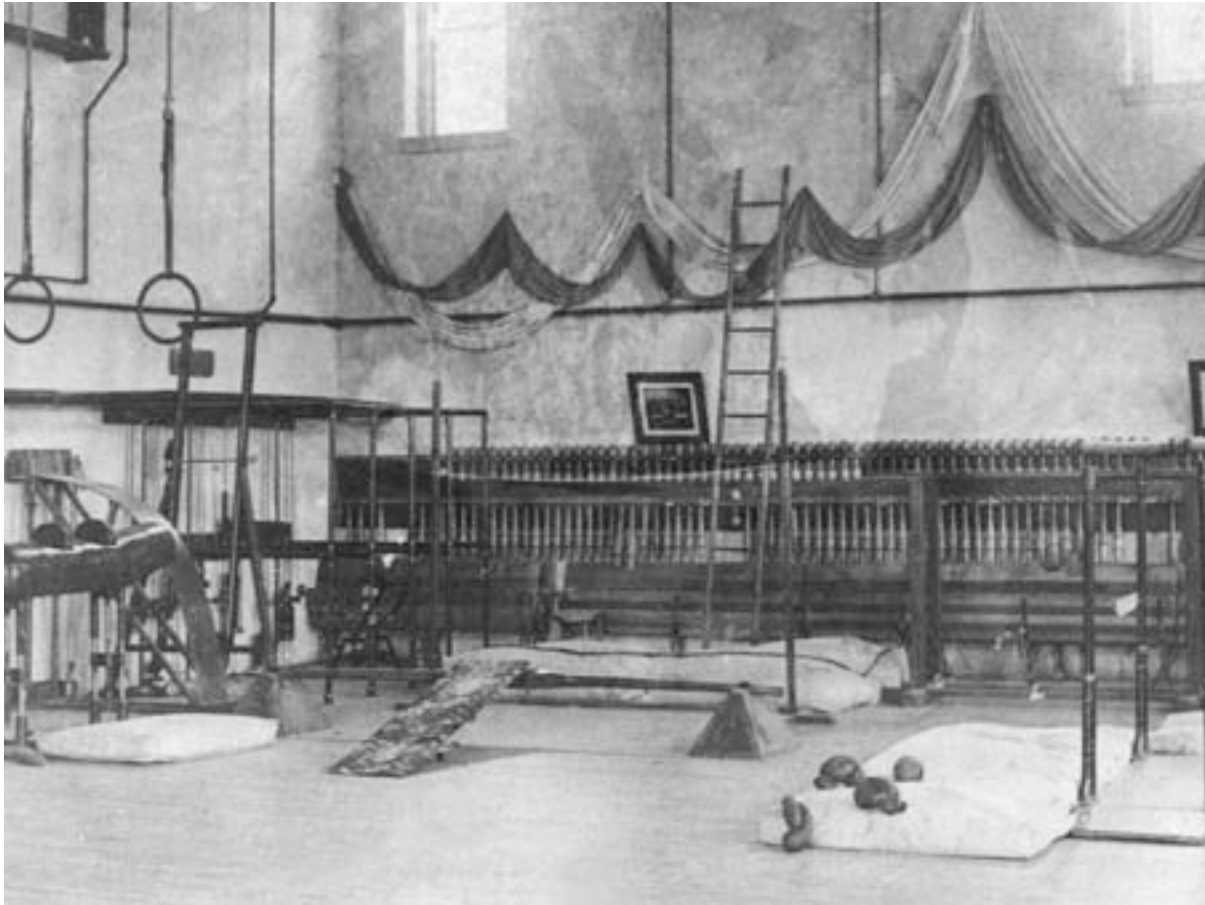
Early Mines Baseball Team (David Coolbaugh collection)

Baseball was the national pastime and spread throughout the early western mining camps. Early records indicate that Mines may have played informally in the 1880's but the first game of record was in 1903.



“Old Chemistry” (A History of Mines)

Generally referred to as “Old Chemistry,” this trio of buildings was the academic center of the campus



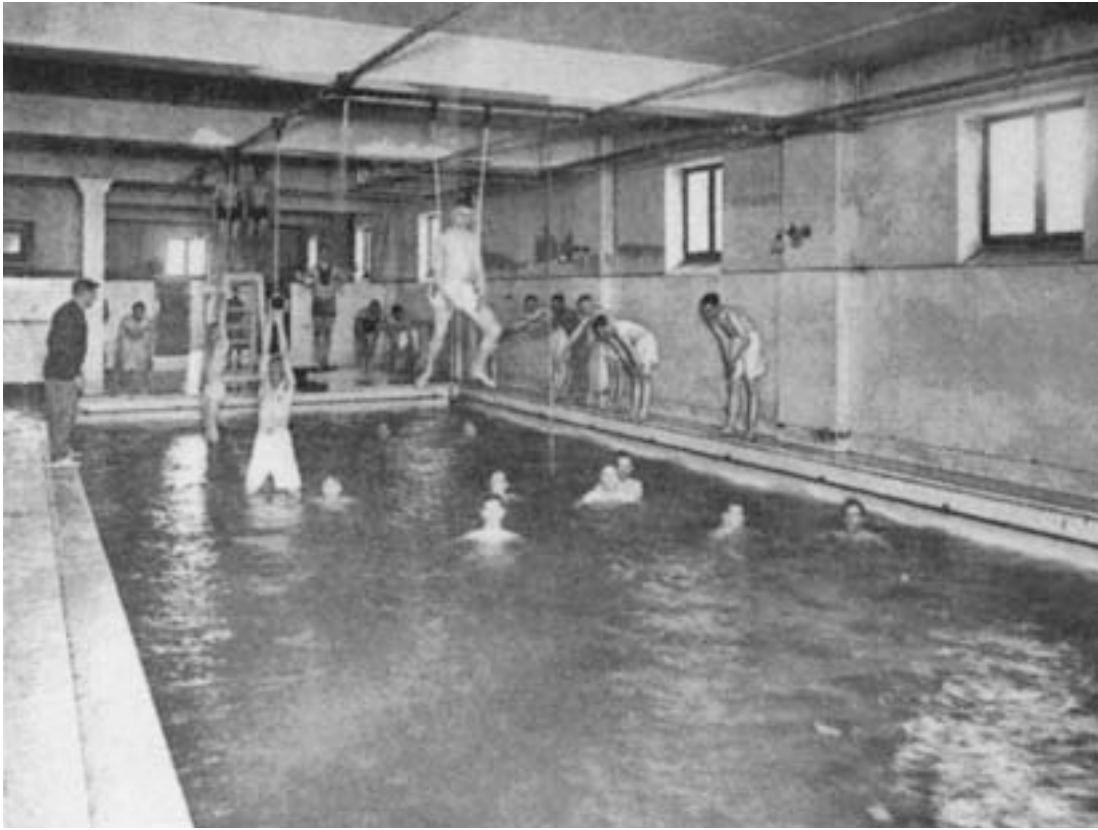
First Gymnasium 1882 (*A History of Mines*)

The gymnasium was located in the basement of the Chemistry building. One of the early recognitions of athletics at Mines was when the Board of Trustees authorized a \$50 expenditure to equip the gym. In the late 1880's the students formed an athletics association and assessed themselves a \$1 per semester fee to support the gym and the athletics program.

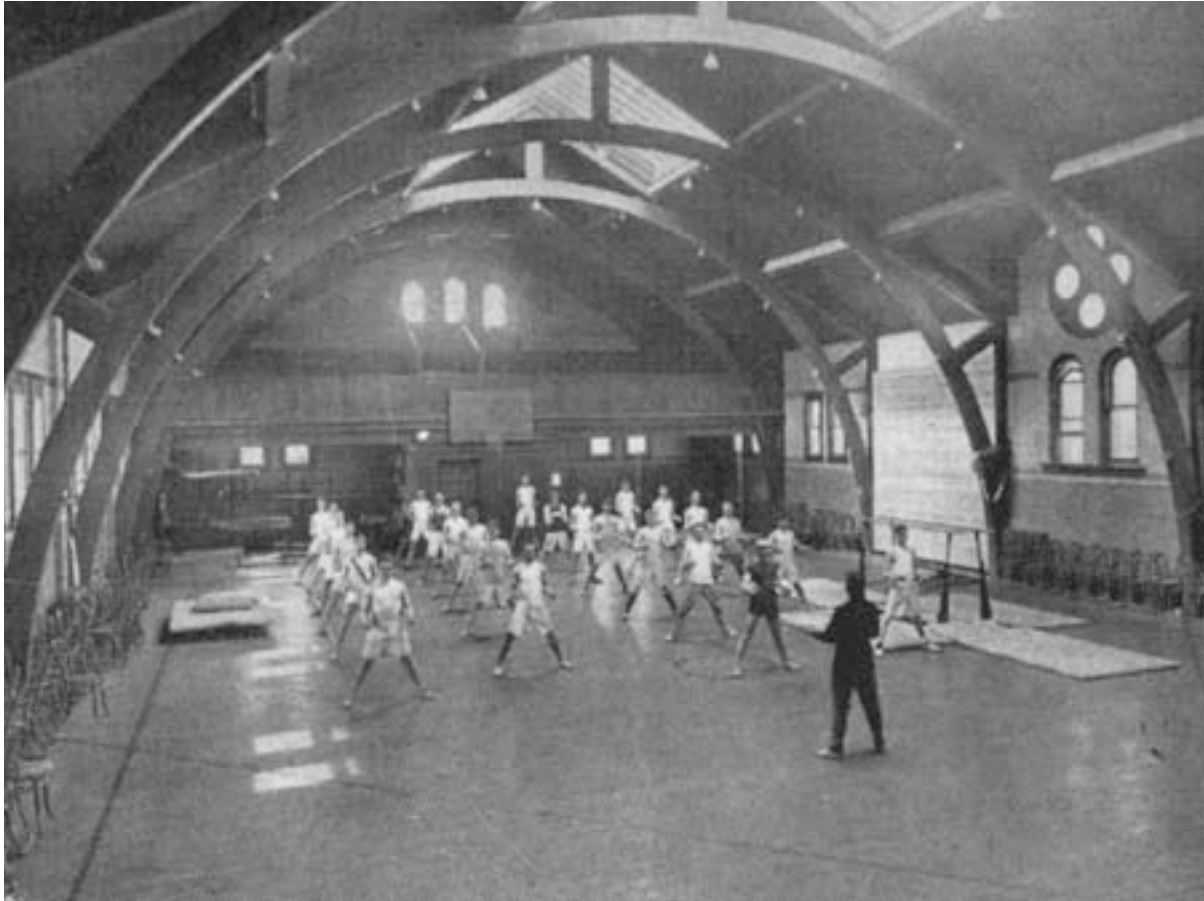


First Gymnasium Building 1908 (*A History of Mines*)

The building was personally designed by President Alderson and featured one of the first indoor basketball courts in the state.



Swimming Pool in first gymnasium 1908 (*A History of Mines*)



Basketball Court in first gymnasium 1908 (*A History of Mines*)



Brooks Field 1922 (A History of Mines)

The field was named in honor of Ralph Brooks, a Board of Trustee member. The original site included a baseball field and track.

Students/staff/faculty

The strength and foundation of any athletics endeavor is the quality, commitment and character of the athletes in the program. The Mines student-athlete is a perfect example of what one would expect of a university athlete. They are motivated toward and expect excellence in the classroom and on the playing field. They are solid citizens and fit in and blend well with the general student population.

The athletics department over the last 60 years has been fortunate to have a small, dedicated, caring, hardworking and professional staff. In most cases these individuals spent the majority of their teaching and coaching careers at Mines and retired from the department. Without their lifetime of dedication and loyalty to Mines, the department would not be the same today. Athletics today can boast of an excellent professional staff, comparable to any university athletic staff in the country of like size. To a woman and man, they are extremely hardworking, dedicated and professionally competent.

The department has always had a very good professional working relationship with the academic faculty. There were very few times, that when asked, a faculty member would not render help or assistance to a deserving student-athlete. The department has always had the benefit of an interested and supportive Faculty Athletics Representative. The FAR is a member of the academic faculty who is appointed by the Faculty Senate and approved by the President to represent the academic faculty in all matters relating to intercollegiate athletics.

The Faculty Committee on Sports and Athletics is a committee of the faculty senate charged with the oversight of the athletics program, which has been very active since its inception in the mid 1990's. The committee has lobbied and affected academic legislation to the great benefit of the student-athlete. Several examples of that legislation is as follows:

- a. Preserving the daily 4-6 P.M. periods for extra-curricular activities.
- b. Providing priority registration for student-athletes.
- c. The opportunity for athletes to make up missed academic work.
- d. The start of the evening testing period at 7:30 P.M. instead of 7:00 P.M.
- e. Most importantly and requiring a great deal of personal time of the committee members, are the semester ending assessment interviews with individual student-athletes. The information from these interviews is forwarded to the department, administration and Board of Trustees.

Administration

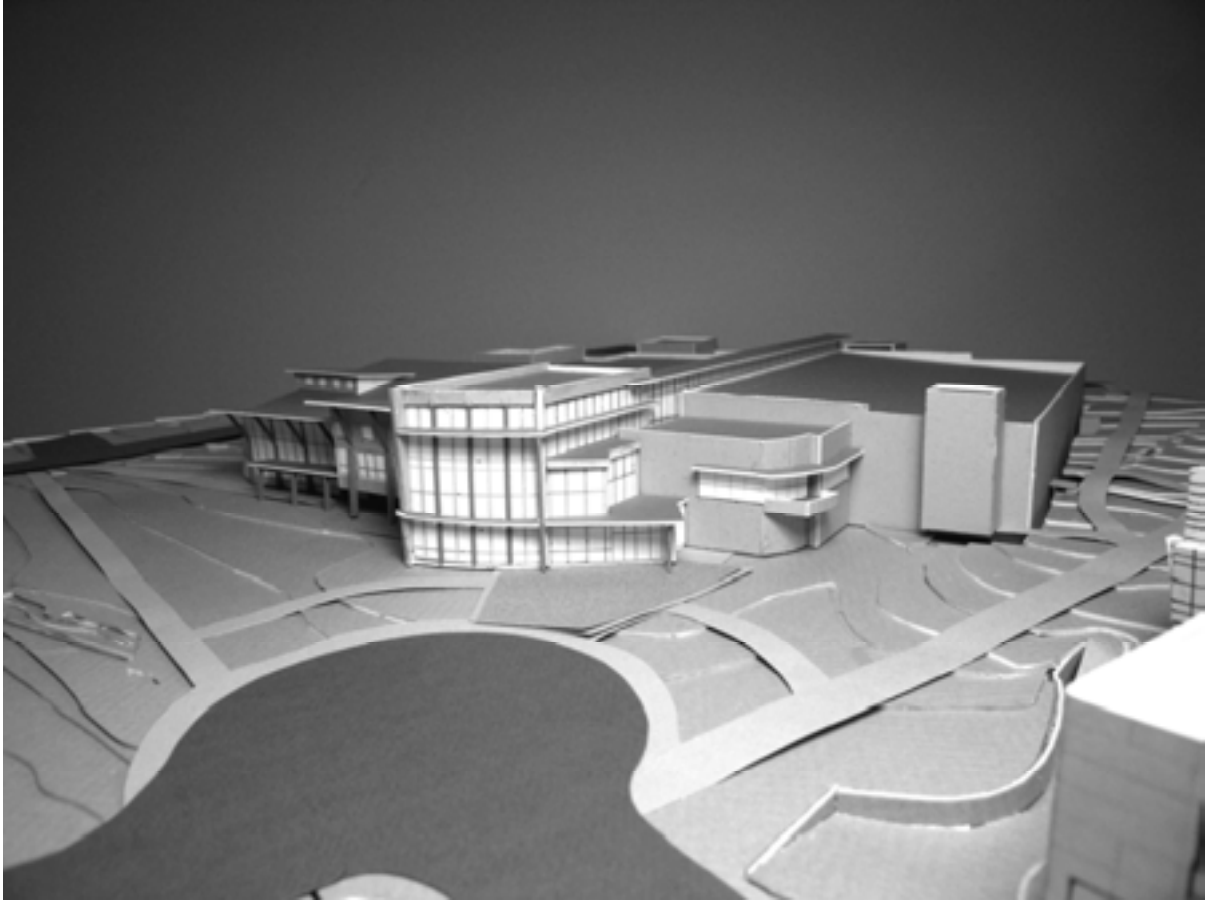
Historically most all Mines Boards of Trustees and Administrators have been very supportive of Mines athletics. Of special significance however, is the support of our current President, Dr. John Trefny. In the fall of 2000 President Trefny appointed an ad hoc committee comprised of campus representatives from athletics, student life, academic affairs, institutional advancement, business affairs and faculty. The charge to the group was "to

comprise a strategic plan for sports and athletics at Mines”. The formal recommendations from this committee and their eventual approval by the President and Board of Trustees, in my estimation, has been the one most significant factor for positive change in the history of Mines athletics.

The recommendations from the ad hoc planning committee are in the final planning process or have been finalized and instituted. The recommendations are as follows:

1. Change the administration and funding oversight from Academic Affairs to Student Life.
2. Develop a new philosophy and mission statement.
3. Develop a plan to replace, improve or construct new athletic facilities that are consistent to the needs of today’s varied campus constituencies.
4. Prioritize or “tier” the intercollegiate sports programs to meet the demands of supporting the large number of sports within the budgetary constraints of the institution.
5. Include the financial needs of athletics within the overall campaign solicitations for institutional funding.

In the spring of 2001 President Trefny initiated a series of planning workshops, which included the entire campus community. During the four-day workshops, the campus constituencies clearly concluded the need for athletics on campus and strongly supported efforts to improve their quality and availability on campus.



**Conceptual Drawing : Student Recreation Center
Ground Breaking – Summer 2005**

Importance of Athletics to CSM

The impact of athletics at Mines reaches far into the entire campus, alumni and community constituencies. What better example of a “connected learning community” could there be than at a Mines football game this past fall? Where else on the Mines campus will 6000 Mines athletes, students, band members, parents, friends, faculty, administrators, board of trustee members, community members and media all gather to support a Mines function? . The positive publicity that the success of the football team brought to the school this past year is impossible to duplicate even if it were financially possible. National attention was directed toward the school in the extensive coverage in a USA Today feature article and two live telecasts of football competition.

A comprehensive student life program, which today’s college applicants screen carefully during their college search process, includes a strong athletics component. Mines strong and vibrant program boasts participation from 85% of the undergraduate body. The balanced overall program of athletics provides an opportunity for students to achieve a balance between the vigorous academic demands and life outside of the classroom.

The intercollegiate student-athletes are asked and expected, to not only excel and succeed academically but at the same time to compete at the highest competitive level of NCAA Division II. Most students feel that athletics has enhanced their academics as opposed to being a detriment. The student-athletes academic performances reflect that philosophy, as their grades are consistently at or above the all-school average and they graduate at a higher rate than their non-athlete peer group. The athletes relate that the lessons they are learning in athletics will be life long and that their ability to participate is a big part of the reason that they are enjoying Mines, are successful academically and will graduate.



**Women’s Volleyball Team and
Steinhauer Field House**

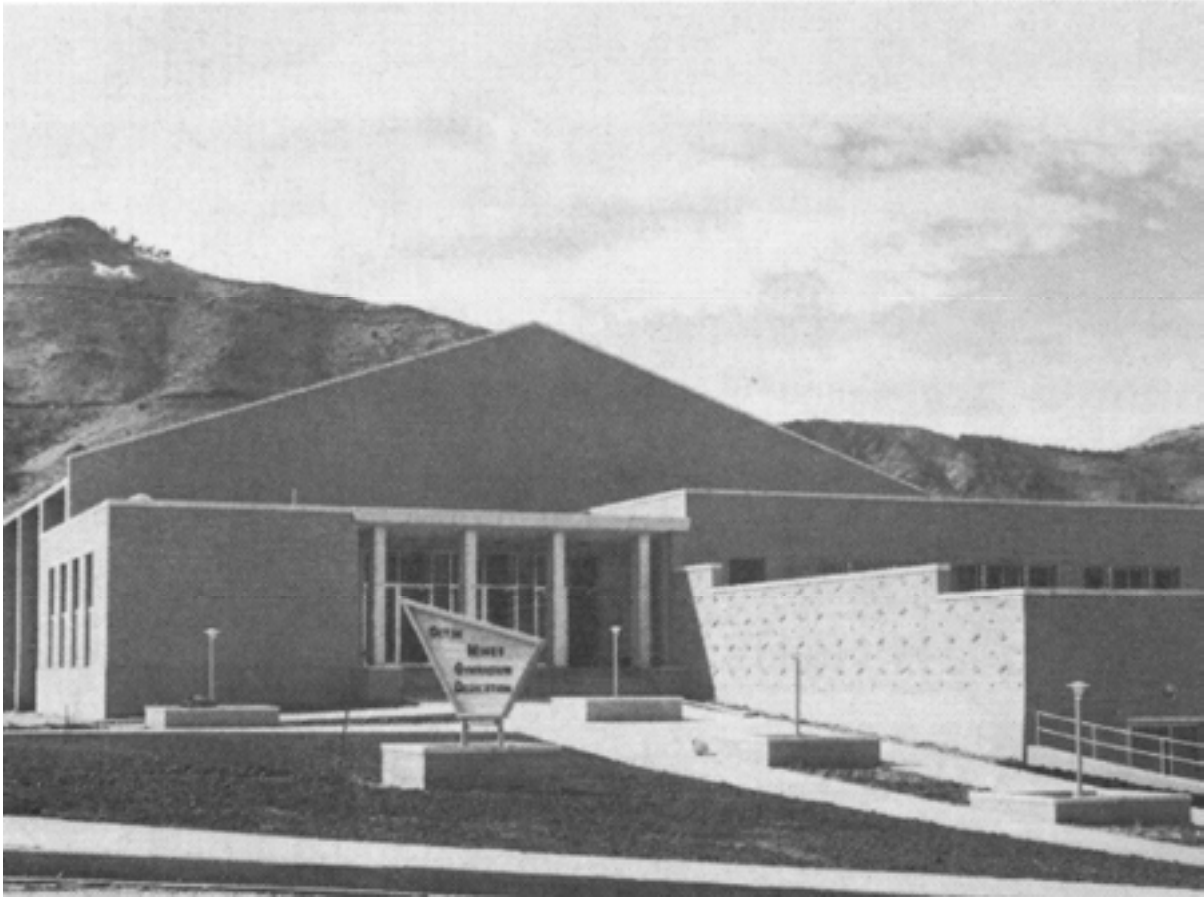


**Coach John Mason
and
1939 Football
Lineup**



Lloyd Madden

1939 All-American



Volk Gymnasium 1958 (A History of Mines)

The field was named in honor of Russell "Rutt" Volk, a great Mines athlete and Board of Trustees member.

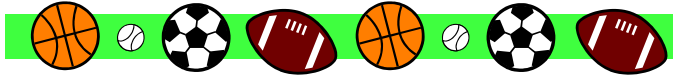
**Recreational Sports
Presents:**



Intramural Sports

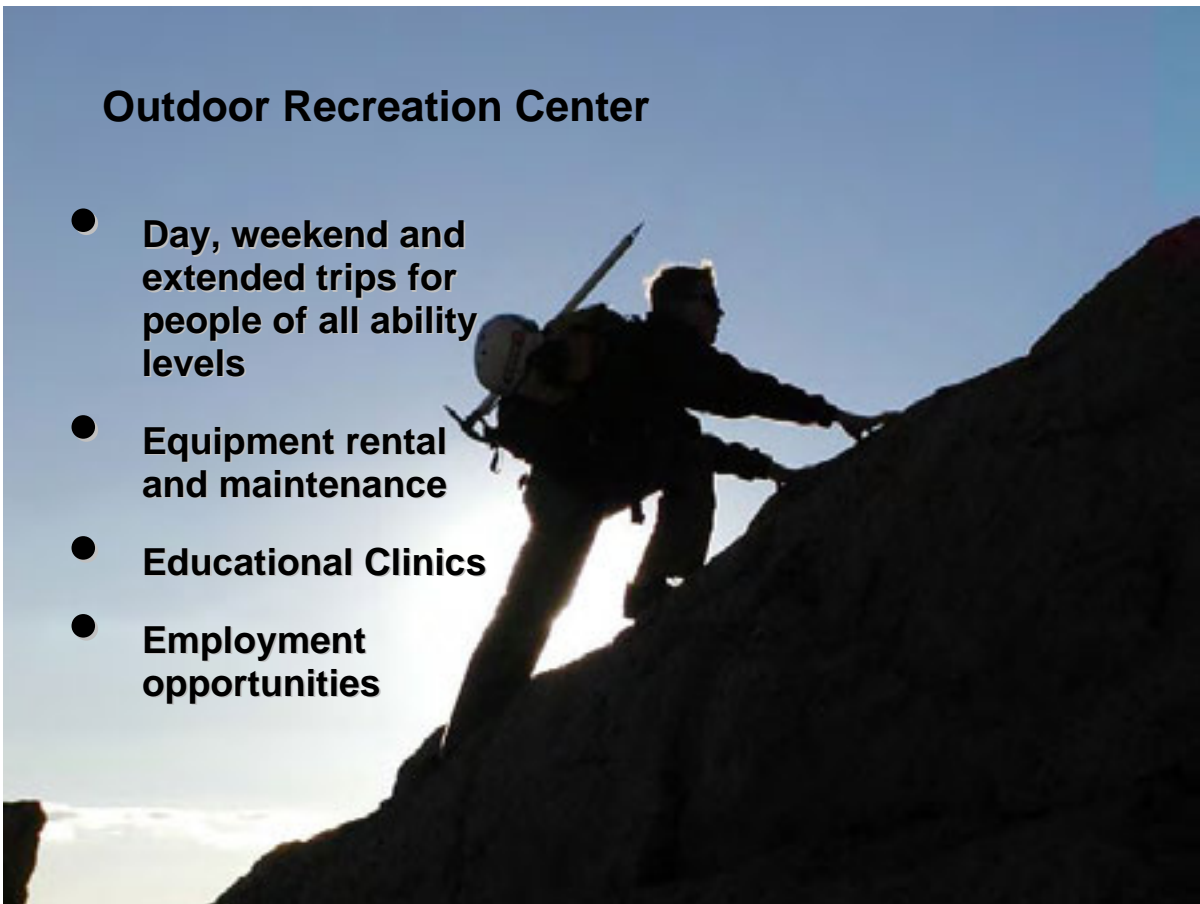
Club Sports

Outdoor Recreation



Outdoor Recreation Center

- **Day, weekend and extended trips for people of all ability levels**
- **Equipment rental and maintenance**
- **Educational Clinics**
- **Employment opportunities**





Excellent Adventures!

Mountain Biking

Skiing

Snow Boarding

Camping

Hiking

Backpacking

Snowshoeing

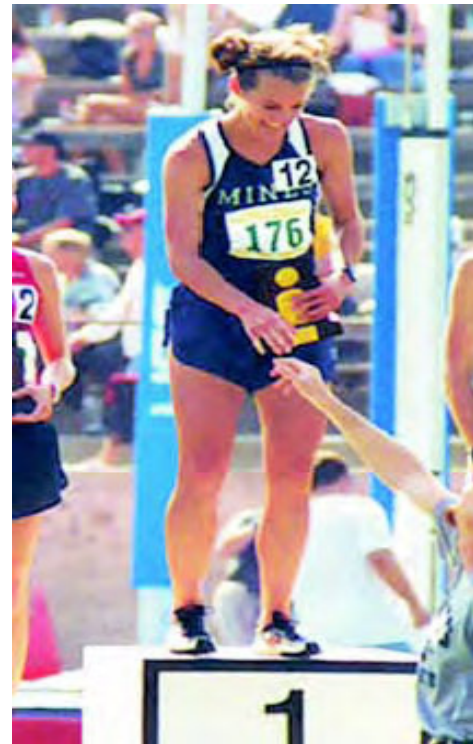
Mountaineering

Winter Camping

Rock Climbing



Chad Frieauf
19th Annual Harlan Hill Trophy
Recipient



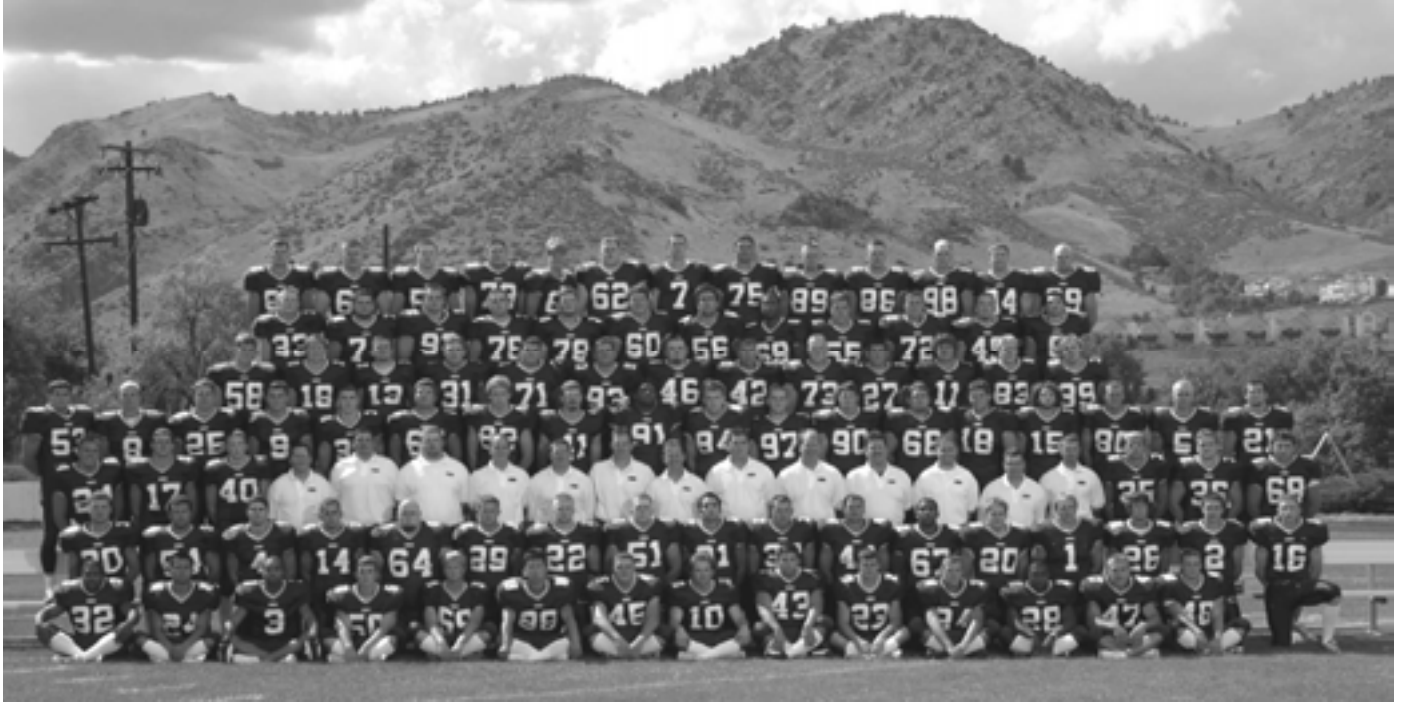
Hannah Davey
National Champion –
3000m Steeplechase

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Chad Frieauf and Hannah Davey 2004

Chad and Hannah represent the very best in Mines Athletics. They achieved excellence in academics and athletics at the very highest levels. Their achievements illustrate the goals and aspirations of each Mines athlete and coach.



2004 CSM FOOTBALL TEAM

Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Champions

12-1 Overall, 8-0 RMAC

NCAA Division II Playoff Qualifier

Ranked 8 in Division II

Rocky Mountain Football Conference Champions 2004

Completed the season at 12-1. Lost in the second round of the NCAA playoffs. This team set the standard for all future Mines athletic teams.

Expectations

I believe that the department is stronger today than at any other time in its 120-year history. The remodeling and replacement of the aging facilities, the construction of the student recreation center and the completion of the new fields near Clear Creek are ongoing and will vastly improve the students opportunities to compete and recreate.

The strong financial and administrative support resulting from the administrative transfer of athletics to student life will continue to be important to the department's vitality. The ability to fully fund each athletic team with the necessary scholarships, staffing and operating budgets is important to the continuing and future successes of the intercollegiate athletic programs. The financial resources needed to fund athletics into the next century are being addressed. Presently athletics is allowed and expected to raise much of its needed funding. Fundraising is an expectation of all department staff members. Allowances have been made, through the office of Institutional Advancement, to solicit Mines alumni and other friends of the school. The department has initiated opportunities to raise funds through a yearly dinner/auction, cultivation of local and national businesses and expanded advertising opportunities. Importantly, athletics needs are being addressed in the current capital campaign.

I expect the department to continue to grow and prosper into the foreseeable future. The athletes will continue to achieve excellence in the classroom and in competition. The athletic teams will compete for conference championships and will achieve national recognition. Mines Athletics will continue to make us all very proud.

I could list page after page of the positive attributes that students learn in athletic competition. The list of course would include leadership, teamwork, perseverance – where else could you learn the life long lesson of perseverance better than to get back to your feet after an opposing lineman completely dominated you and you are looking up at him from the grass at Brooks Field? If you stay down you'll stay down the rest of your life, if you get up you may get knocked down again but you will never stay down. Where better can you learn to handle temporary failure or defeat, than when you lose that 400M race in the conference championship that you have been training for all year? Or how can you duplicate the exhilaration of an undefeated football season that you have been training and preparing for all of your life.

I know that in discussions with the athletes I have had the privilege of teaching and coaching over the many years, who are now prominent and contributing members of society, they all revert to the enjoyment, importance and value of the lessons learned in Mines athletics.

I would like to refer to the winter 2005 edition of the Mines Magazine. This edition features two articles on Mines alumni who were athletes at Mines. The first article featured Steve Chesebro' -PE 64, who is completing a distinguished career as a business leader in the petroleum industry where he retired as CEO of Tenneco Energy Company. His family just finalized a \$2.5M chair in Petroleum Engineering.

He participated in baseball and football and noted in the article that an important characteristic he learned from his athletic experience at Mines was being able to work in a team environment.

The next article features Dave Zanetell-87-Eng. Dave was a football linebacker from Gunnison, Colorado. He is presently supervising the construction of the \$234M Hoover Dam by-pass project. When completed this project will feature the largest concrete bridge arch in the western hemisphere.

He credits his experience as an Oredigger linebacker with cultivating the team spirit he fosters to oversee 400 engineering and construction specialists. "The bottom line is that to compete well at any level takes a huge amount of commitment and personal sacrifice. It creates the 'we' spirit." "On the greatest teams, every individual takes personal accountability for the success of the team." The article goes on to say that like his Oredigger football team this diverse group of experts has become a cohesive team with one goal: to complete a vital and majestic project safely, on time and on budget.

And of his former Oredigger teammates, Zanetell says, "We will all be bonded for the rest of our lives".

I hope and trust that this presentation has provided an insight into the importance sports and athletics is to the overall educational mission of the Colorado School of Mines.

It has been an honor and pleasure for me to have this very prestigious opportunity and honor. I would like to close with the alumni verse of the school song, which I believe represents all that is good about Mines:

"Where ever in this paydirt world, Orediggers choose to roam, that Mines spirit travels with them and the M still stands for home".

"Give 'em hell Mines"!