

1991 Hall of Fame Inductee William "Bill" Fanning – Grand Junction

A legendary coach at Grand Junction High School, William "Bill" Fanning also was a longtime official of football, basketball, baseball and softball on the Western Slope.

Bill came to Grand Junction in 1954 to play for the Grand Junction Eagles semipro team. He was later appointed baseball coach and teacher at Grand Junction High School. In addition to coaching, he spent most of his adult life also refereeing baseball, basketball, football and softball from 1956- 1995.

Bill's coaching record included three state championships and six runner-up finishes.

His honors include being named to the Colorado High School Athletic American Hall of Fame, the Colorado Coaches Sports Hall of Fame and the National High School Sports Hall of Fame and Coach of the Year.

Bill umpired the first National Junior College World Series in Grand Junction along with eight other Grand Junction baseball umpires. He was the only umpire who continued umpiring the JUCO level for fifteen years. Following his umpiring, he was an announcer for 12 years on KREX Radio.

The practice field at GJHS is named in his honor.