

2024 Hall of Fame Inductee Steve Heuer – Arvada

Steve Heuer has done it all, literally. After coming to Denver in 1967, he registered with the Colorado High School Activities Association and embarked on a career spanning seven decades. His resume includes arguably the most extensive involvement of any high school official beginning with football, basketball, and baseball and later softball, soccer, lacrosse, and ice hockey when they became CHSAA-certified sports. His career can be described in a single word - **AMAZING**.

Steve began his umpiring journey as a little league umpire at age 16, and later formally registering with the National Federation as a freshman at the University of Illinois in 1962. While there, he officiated intramural sports instead of handing out towels in the locker rooms to satisfy costly scholarship requirements. Pay back then was meager and like all officials of his generation, his pay reflected the cost of living. "High school official's sports fees were \$11.00 for varsity games and \$7.00 for JV, but gas was \$0.30 per gallon at that time," Steve remembers. Despite a very busy officiating schedule, he also was able to fit in a remarkable career as a student/athlete. Steve attended the University of Illinois on a football and track scholarship graduating with a five-year degree in chemical engineering. In football, he was a defensive back and flanker. In track, Steve ran the 100, 200, and 400-meter dashes. He earned three letters in each sport, and Steve played in the January 1, 1964 Rose Bowl against Washington won by Illinois.

Steve's introduction to high school and summer baseball in Colorado came by way of the Aurora Sports Officials run by Dave and Mert Letofsky. Working games for Jefferson County Baseball Umpires' Association exposed him to CHSBUA Hall of Fame legends Julius Carabello, Ed Steven, Lou Nolin, Bud Schoepflin, Bill Vincent, and Joe Rossi. "Looking back at the Hall of Fame pictures on the CHSBUA web site brings back so many great memories of umpiring partners. It also reminds me of the days when new umpires were simply thrown onto the field with minimal, if any, on-field training compared to the extensive training started some years ago and continued up to this day by the CHSBUA," Steve states.

Despite the lack of training, Steve rose through the ranks and was selected to officiate multiple district, regional, and state finals in all his sports; specifically, three state championships in baseball including one very memorable assignment. "I was extremely proud of being named the plate umpire for a state championship game in 2023 when I was 79+ years old." he recalls.

By his own count, Steve estimates that he has umpired close to 10,000 baseball games during his career, and perhaps close to 30,000 games in all sports combined. He is the senior member of CHSBUA in his 62nd year of officiating, but has retired from several sports and now limits himself to umpiring baseball and softball.

Off the field, Steve was a high-value asset in his professional endeavors. While stationed at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal in 1967, He was given a direct commission to captain so that he could assume command for special Arsenal projects. Steve retired from Amoco Oil Company's hazardous waste treatment division in 2012 but not before he developed several processes and equipment patents for treating and recovering viable oil from hazardous refinery waste.

Lucky for CHSBUA umpires, Steve has not completely retired and continues to be a valuable asset to the membership. He combines an encyclopedic knowledge of the rules of baseball with almost instant recall. He is often called on to settle disagreements over rules sometimes arising during meetings. One area director stated, "It is far easier just to ask Steve what the rule is instead of taking time searching for it in the book. He is always correct and nobody to my knowledge has ever disagreed with him. He really has the final word."