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Peru State Unveils 2026 Hall of Fame Selections

The 2026 Peru State College Athletic Hall of Fame class has been announced, with five individuals and one team slated for induction.

Former three-sport athlete Bev Harris and football standouts Alex Malcom, Cornelius Riley, and Jim Rosenquist (posthumously), along with former football player and extraordinarily successful coach Del Stoltenberg (posthumously), will all be inducted during ceremonies on Friday and Saturday, Sept. 18-19.

The Bobcat 2000-2001 women's basketball team will also join the Hall of Fame that weekend.

The Peru State Hall of Fame was established 40 years ago in 1986. Selection is made by a volunteer committee of alumni and former student-athletes, coaches, and athletics administrators, noted Ted L. Harshbarger, coordinator of the PSC Foundation.

Harshbarger stated, "The Hall of Fame serves to honor individuals and teams who have made significant and lasting contributions to Peru State College while preserving their legacies and inspiring future generations."

"The current members represent the pinnacle of excellence and dedication, while new inductees reflect the ongoing evolution and achievement within the Bobcat athletic community," he said.

Bev Harris, Class of 1987 Softball/Track and Field/Basketball

Bev Harris stood out in all three sports in which she participated. She was a big part of leading the Bobcat softball team with the then-record for most wins in a season with 20.

Harris earned All-District honors in three of her four seasons, and the year she was not selected for an All-District team, she batted .412 from the plate.

Harris, from Table Rock, NE, broke or tied multiple school records for softball. At the time, she broke the record for single season at bats (119) and career assists (216). She also held the record for the longest hitting streak with ten games in a row.

In track, Bev broke the record for the longest shotput throw in an indoor meet at 40'2 1/2". She went on to win the indoor NAIA district shotput competition in her sophomore year.

Harris also participated on the basketball team that broke the record for most team wins in a single season in Bobcat history, a record which has since been eclipsed.

Alex Malcom, Class of 1994

Football

Alex Malcom earned many recognitions for his record-setting play on the football team. In 1993, Alex was named as a NAIA Division II All-American and in 1994, Malcom was named as a NAIA Division II Second-Team All-American and to the All-NAIA Nebraska Team. He twice was named NAIA National Defensive Player of the Week.

Currently a native and current resident of Tabor, IA, Malcom was selected to play in the Coaches' National All-Star Football Classic. He had a remarkable season finishing with five interceptions, 13 pass breakups, 60 solo tackles, and six blocked kicks.

Malcom was named the MVP of the Apple Jack Bowl in 1994. After the season, he was also named the Most Valuable Defensive Player to the Bobcat football team.

He is the Peru State, and NAIA national career leader for total blocked kicks with 21 swats.

Malcom is currently serving as a Fire Captain with the Omaha Fire Department, bringing 27 years of dedicated service to the Omaha community.

Cornelius Riley, Class of 1991

Football

A tough, hard-nosed safety on some of Peru State's greatest teams, Cornelius Riley was recognized multiple times for his play.

In 1989, Deerfield Beach, FL, native Riley earned Tri-State Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Week accolades, and after the season was named to the Omaha World Herald All-Nebraska NAIA football team and as a Tri-State Athletic Conference Honorable Mention.

In 1990, the newly elected Homecoming King Riley earned Tri-State Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Week two times. He also earned Tri-State Athletic All Conference First Team and NAIA Division II All-American Honorable Mention as the Bobcats won the NAIA Division II national championship.

Riley finished his career as the second all-time leading tackler at Peru State with 418.

He then went on to serve 25 years on the Boca Raton, Fla., Police Department, receiving numerous awards including life-saving awards, Office of the Month, and the most prestigious Officer of the Year. He is a resident of Coconut Creek, Fla.

Jim Rosenquist, Class of 1959
(Posthumously)
Football

A three-year starting guard for the Bobcat football team in 1956-1958, the late Jim Rosenquist proved to be one of the most rugged reliable blockers in Peru State history.

Rosenquist, who hailed from Essex, IA, was a three-time football letter winner. He was on the 1957 team that won the Nebraska College Conference. He was also an All-State guard during the 1956 and 1957 seasons.

In 1958, he was selected to the NAIA All-American Third Team where he was just one of the six guards selected for this recognition. He was also named to the Omaha World Herald All-Nebraska Conference Team.

He was invited to try out for the NFL by the Baltimore Colts but ultimately decided to go a different direction to provide for his family. He was a resident of Ambler, Penn., when he passed away in 2025.

While attending Peru State, Jim was the vice president of the Student Education Association, member of the Blue Devils, and of the P Club. Two of his older brothers, Darrell and Darwin, were standout Bobcat football players as well.

Del Stoltenberg, Class of 1957
(Posthumously)
Football/Meritorious Service

Nebraska City native Del Stoltenberg was both the quarterback and the punter for the Bobcats for several outstanding seasons in the 1950s.

He received the Swenson Award as the top PSC Male Athlete in 1957 and was inducted into the PSC Hall of Fame as a member of the unbeaten 1953 football team. He was named All-Conference first team and played in an all-state game in 1957. In his junior season, he was listed as the second-best punter in the state.

After his football playing days, he was a highly decorated coach for Scribner High, Grand Island High, Wayne State College, Tarkio College, and Rock Port High School.

Stoltenberg won five Cornhusker Conference titles in seven seasons at Scribner. He won 62 games at Wayne State which was the record at the time, and he won two conference championships. He was named coach of the year twice at Wayne State and was inducted into the Wayne State Hall of Fame in 2004.

At Rock Port High School, he won seven conference championships, had nine playoff appearances, and eleven winning seasons in his 15 years of head coaching. He also won seven state championships, three state runner-up finishes, and two third-place trophies at state as the track and field coach at Rock Port.

Stoltenberg was inducted into the Missouri Track and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame and into the KMA Sports Hall of Fame. He passed away in 2017.

2000-2001 Women's Basketball Team

The 2000-2001 season was the Bobcats' first season in the Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference, and they boasted a 20-10 overall record while going 9-1 in conference play. With this record, they were able to win the conference in their inaugural season.

The team made it to the NAIA Division II Women's Basketball Tournament for the third time in school history. They won their first game against Evangel 62-54 but dropped a tough game vs Northwestern Iowa, 76-61.

There were many Bobcats recognized for this tremendous season. Tab Jefferson was recognized as the Co-Coach of the year, Tiffany and Tonya Volk earned MCAC first Team All-Conference, Lexi Ehlers earned MCAC All-Conference Honorable Mention, and there were four NAIA Academic All-Americans.

Tonya Volk was also named the MCAC Player of the Year.

The Women's team set the record for total blocks in a season with 144. There were multiple players that made it into individual record books as well. Tonya Volk had a record 81 blocks and finished second in career blocks with 135. Tiffany Taylor (43 percent), Lexie Ehlers (39.2 percent), and Tiffany Volk (38.1 percent) were all top five in career three-point field goal percentage.

Open to Public

The Hall of Fame Banquet will be held on Friday evening, September 18. It is open to the public. Registration can be completed at <https://bit.ly/PSCHOF> and is due Tuesday, September 8.

The individuals and teams will also be recognized at halftime of Peru State's football game on Saturday, September 19, against Westgate Christian University. Game time is scheduled for 1 p.m.

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