

# 2021 Legends Cross Country Meet

Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at Trumbull County Fairgrounds - Cortland, Ohio

Presented By: Maplewood High School Running Rockets

The goals of The Legends Meet are to offer athletes a flat fast course with great awards and to expose these runners to the Legends of the sport of cross country from Ohio's rich history.

For more Legends Meet information visit – [www.gopherarun.com/legendsmeet](http://www.gopherarun.com/legendsmeet) or [www.baumspage.com](http://www.baumspage.com)

## Past Legends:

2007 - Ann Henderson, Mark Croghan

2008 - Patty Metzler, Alan Scharsu

2009 - Rachel Sauder Kinsman, Scott Fry

2010 - Maggie Infeld, Ricky Pittman

2011 - Bob Schul, Harrison Dillard, Briana Shook, Bernice Holland

2012 - Marc Hunter, Harrison Dillard and Bernice Holland

2013 - Bridget Franek, Bob Lunn

2014 - Bob Mau, Julie Dias Taylor, Joanna Dias Ripple

2015 – John Zishka, Katie Sabino Dugan

2016 – Dave Wottle, Kate Radkewich Burkowski

2017 - Clayton Murphy, Kate Radkewich Burkowski

2018 - Michelle Sikes, Sid Sink, Les Nagy, Sam Bair, Paul Talkington

2019 – Connie Jo Robinson Earls and the Caldwell XC Program

2020 – Meet Canceled

## The 2021 Legends



**Sunni Olding Lomnicki** – In less than an hour of post-season racing on the East and West coasts, Sunni (Olding) Lomnicki secured a place in Ohio's distance running history book.

However, what the now chiropractor did in the Buckeye state over the remainder of her remarkable four-year career at Minster High School elevated her into the discussion of Ohio's all-time greats.

Sunni amassed a total of 18 OHSAA individual, relay or team state championships while wearing a Wildcat uniform from the fall of 2000 through the spring of 2004. In winning the state Division III 1,600 meters four consecutive years, she also became just the ninth athlete in Ohio history to sweep an event all four years. Also on the track, Sunni won the 3,200 state title her junior and senior seasons, along with anchoring Minster's 4x800 relay to OHSAA gold en route to four consecutive team titles for the black and orange.

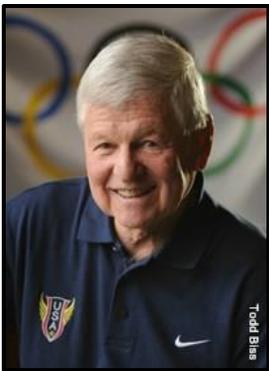
Sunni's success on the track continued after the OHSAA finales as she won two consecutive 2-mile titles at the then Adidas National Championships in North Carolina, with her 10:24.19 win in 2004 still the fastest 3,200/2M time ever in Ohio's Division III.

Sunni was just as outstanding in cross country, leading Minster to the Division III team title in her freshman and sophomore seasons. After having won by the narrowest of margins in her freshman and junior years, Sunni was dominant in her XC finale at Scioto Downs, besting the field by 49 seconds.

She continued her strong performances at the end of 2003, qualifying for the Foot Locker National Final in San Diego for the second consecutive year with a 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Midwest regional. In California, Sunni was 5<sup>th</sup> to become only the second Ohio girl to ever finish in the Foot Locker top 10 two or more times. Fellow Legend Kate Radkewich is the only other runner in that exclusive group with three in a row.

Sunni also was honored as the National Cross Country Runner of the year in 2003, was invited to train at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, California, and was named by JJ Huddle as one of the top five athletes of the 2000s decades.

At Notre Dame, Sunni was an All-American in her freshman and sophomore cross country seasons before injuries hampered her performances in her final two years. She returned to her hometown in western Ohio, joining her father's chiropractic practice along with her husband, Tyler. Sunni was inducted into the Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame in 2017.



**Jack Hazen** - Simply in years served as a cross country coach, Jack Hazen stands apart from just about everyone. Where the longtime college coach really separates himself from the field is when one examines what his teams and athletes have accomplished during his decades at Malone University. Having recently completed his 54<sup>th</sup> season at the Canton school, Coach Hazen has compiled a coaching resume that includes team national championships and dozens of All-Americans, along with his own hall of fame accolades. Add in his coaching assignments for Team USA in both track and cross country, and Coach Hazen is more than worthy of being the first Legends coaching honoree judged solely on his collegiate work.

The record book of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics is literally overflowing with entries from Hazen-coached teams at Malone. Just a year after he started at Malone and resurrected the cross country program in 1967, the Pioneers qualified as a team for the NAIA final. Coach Hazen and the Malone men did not miss a national championships meet over the next 42 years, with the qualifying streak only ending when Malone began the transition to NCAA Division II in 2011.

His 1972 men's squad was the first Malone team to win an NAIA national title, while his 1999 women's team was the second in school history. The following decade, the Malone men claimed the NAIA crown in 2007, 2008 and 2009, with the '07 squad winning every meet that year.

Now Coach Emeritus at Malone, Coach Hazen's men's program ranks as the all-time winningest program as ranked by the NAIA. The Pioneer men recorded 35 top-10 NAIA national finishes with Hazen as head coach. In his final season as head coach in 2019, Hazen led two women to the NCAA Division II finale, with yet another All-American in Hazen's 29<sup>th</sup> year leading the women's team.

Coach Hazen also served as Malone's head coach of men's track and field for 28 years and women's for three years. He coached more than 325 NAIA All-Americans in cross country and track and field, with the total representing more than 80 percent of the All-Americans in all of Malone athletics history.

He served as an assistant for Team USA in the 2012 Olympics, working with the men's distance runners. Coach Hazen also was Head Manager for the 1999 Junior Pan American Games track team and was twice named as U.S. coach for men's cross country at the World Championships in 1992 and 1996, along with being selected as the assistant coach for Team USA in the track world championships in 2005. He also has coached two Olympians in his distinguished career.

In 2016, Coach Hazen received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the OATCCC for 100 total seasons of coaching service after being inducted into their Hall of Fame in 1990. He also was named to the USTFCCA Coaches Hall of Fame in 2017, exactly 30 years after being a member of the second Hall of Fame class at then Malone College.

## The 2021 Legends Cross Country Meet Information

### Date and Location

Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - The Legends Meet will be held at the Trumbull County Fairgrounds (4181 Hoagland Blackstub Rd. Cortland, OH). The Fairgrounds offer an excellent facility for cross country meets. Ample parking, sheltered seating and restrooms are available to complement a fast, spectator-friendly course. Maplewood High School will be the host school for The Legends Meet.

### Awards

The top four teams in the high school races and the top three teams in the middle school races will receive team picture plaque awards. The top seven members of the winning high school teams and the coach will receive individual awards. The top 25 individuals in all races will receive individual awards. Individual champions in each race will receive picture plaques. Team awards will be presented by The Legends on the stage in front of the grandstands one hour after the scheduled start time of each race. Individual awards are presented on the stage by The Legends immediately after the finish of each race.

### Entry

Any school may enter the meet through Baum's Page beginning August 1st - [baumspage.com](http://baumspage.com)

### Fees

- \$85 HS Boys (unlimited entries; \$10 per individual if 8 runners or less)
- \$85 HS Girls (unlimited entries; \$10 per individual if 8 runners or less)
- \$60 MS Boys (unlimited entries; \$10 per individual if less than 6 runners)
- \$60 MS Girls (unlimited entries; \$10 per individual if less than 6 runners)
- A "B Team" can be entered in a varsity race for a \$25 fee

\* Each coach submitting a full team into any one of the team races will receive a coach's gift.

\* **IMPORTANT - PLEASE NOTE** - Entry fee checks **MUST** be made payable to: **Maplewood Running Rockets** (Do NOT make checks payable to Maplewood HS) and be mailed to:

Legends Meet - c/o Maplewood Running Rockets - 312 Golf Drive - Cortland, OH 44410

### Schedule of Events

- 9:00 JV Middle School Girls Race - 2 Mile
- 9:30 JV Middle School Boys Race - 2 Mile
- 10:00 Varsity Middle School Girls Race - 2 Mile (Limited to 9 runners per team)
- 10:30 Varsity Middle School Boys Race - 2 Mile (Limited to 9 runners per team)
- 11:00 \*Small School High School Girls Race - 5K (Limited to 9 runners per team)
- 11:30 \*Small School High School Boys Race - 5K (Limited to 9 runners per team)
- 12:00 National Anthem / Presentation of The Legends
- 12:15 Elementary Kids Grades 3 and Under - 1/2 Mile - Individual awards given to the top 10 boys and top 10 girls
- 12:20 Elementary Kids Grades 4 through 6 - 1 Mile - Individual awards given to the top 10 boys and top 10 girls
- 12:30 Open High School Girls Race - 5K
- 1:00 Open High School Boys Race - 5K
- 1:30 \*Large School High School Girls Race - 5K (Limited to 9 runners per team)
- 2:00 \*Large School High School Boys Race - 5K (Limited to 9 runners per team)

\***Divisions** - For varsity high school races, two divisions will be used; large and small based upon school enrollment figures. If a school has 220 or less students in grades 9-11 for the given sex, they are considered small school. Schools with 221 or more are large schools. The large school race will be the more competitive race but small schools may enter that division if they wish to compete in the more competitive race. Large schools may not choose to run the small school race, however.

- ✓ **Chip timing** will be used with a chip that is attached to the runner's shoe. There will be a bullpen area at the finish of the race where water will be available and chips will be collected. If coaches have runners that do not run or do not finish the race, they must turn in the chips for those athletes at the registration area. Schools will be charged \$10 for each missing chip.
- ✓ **Digital Clocks** will be available at the 1 and 2 mile marks for each race.
- ✓ **Results** will be available at [baumspage.com](http://baumspage.com)
- ✓ **Concessions** and other vendors will be available beneath the grandstands.
- ✓ **Legends Meet T-shirts** will be sold at the registration area.
- ✓ **Restrooms** are available under the grandstands and in adjacent buildings.
- ✓ **Parking** - There will be a \$5 parking fee per non-team vehicle that will be charged in accordance with fairground policy.
- ✓ **Coaches** are asked to please cooperate in advance by:
  - Submitting rosters online at [baumspage.com](http://baumspage.com) by the 5:00 PM deadline on the Tuesday before the meet.
  - Ensuring correct chips are securely placed on runners shoes... and all chips returned after race.