

2026 Male Legend



Drew Hunter - In 1964, the great Jim Ryun shocked the sports world by becoming the first high school runner to break the 4-minute barrier in the mile and only the 13th American ever at the time. Fifty-two years later, Drew Hunter threw another jolt into the running establishment, opening the door for expanded opportunities for America's top young athletes by going sub-4:00 multiple times, winning national titles and signing a long-term partnership with a major shoe company, all while still in high school. Coached by his father (2012 Legend Marc) and mother (masters champion Joan), Drew Hunter excelled at all distances and in all seasons as a standout at Loudoun Valley (VA) High School.

As only a sophomore, Drew won the prestigious 3,000-meter run at the Penn Relays in a national class record of 8:16.31, besting a field loaded with talented upper classmen. Already a state champion in XC, he added two more Virginia titles in the outdoor track season of 2014.

Capped off by a win in the then Foot Locker South Regional, he was undefeated in the fall of 2014 en route to San Diego for the national final against a field loaded with talented seniors and future U.S. distance stars, notably Grant Fisher and Conner Mantz. Drew finished fourth, just 11 seconds behind Fisher.

National titles indoors and out and another win at the Penn Relays highlighted the 2015 track seasons for Hunter, who also finished second in the U.S. U20 1,500 meters in the summer before his final year in high school. Undefeated once again headed back to San Diego for the Foot Locker XC finale in December 2015, Hunter led from wire to wire, opening a gap of several seconds at the mile mark and extending it to the finish.

On the heels of a senior XC season that earned him the Gatorade National Cross Country Runner of the Year Award, Drew broke the national HS indoor 3,000 record while also breaking the 8:00 barrier with his 7:59.33. The next weekend at the Armory in New York City, Drew covered the mile in 3:58.25 to set another national record and become just the eighth prep to go sub-4 and only the second ever indoors.

He lowered his indoor mile record again two weeks later in the Millrose Games at the fabled Armory, clocking 3:57.81.

His final HS outdoor season would include a memorable anchor 1,600 to lift Loudoun Valley to victory in the distance medley relay at the Penn Relays and another sub-4 mile at the Prefontaine Classic in Eugene.

In 2017, not long after turning pro, Drew co-founded Tinman Elite, a professional running team based out of Boulder, Colo., whose mission includes pushing "the sport of running forward" and being "uncompromising and certain in our values and goals."

Highlights early in Drew's professional career include his USATF indoor 2-mile title in 2019 in 8:25.29 and the national 5K road win in 2021 in 13:53. After finishing fourth in the 5,000 at USATF nationals in 2025, he represented the USA in the NACAC Championships in the Bahamas, claiming the win by just four-hundredths of a second to lead a 1-2 USA finish. This past May, Drew won the national 5K road title and guaranteed himself a spot in last weekend's World Road Running Championships in Copenhagen. Battling windy conditions, he was part of the lead group that included reigning world champ Jimmy Gressier of France, Norwegian star Jakob Ingebrigtsen and Eritrea's Dawit Seare. Seare outkicked Ingebrigtsen, while Drew delivered on a pre-race goal, setting a U.S. and North/Central American record of 13:14 and leading the American men to a fourth-place team finish.

Now representing Asics, Hunter currently is 10th all-time (and 8th indoors) for Americans with a 2-mile best of 8:10.91, 24th all-time for Americans in the 10,000 with his 27:24.49 PR in 2025 and No. 32 in the 5,000 with a 2026 time of 13:05.60. He also has clocked 3:54.80 in the mile.

2026 Female Legend



Olivia Howell - In its 18-year history, the Legends meet has honored some of the greatest ever from Ohio and the U.S. State high school and collegiate champions, marathon have been recognized for their achievements.

Former Solon standout Olivia Howell lays a claim that no other Legend before her had achieved – cross the finish line first in a Legends meet race.

Howell topped the Large School Girls field as a Comet freshman, showcasing the talent that would result in a fifth-place finish at the 2015 OHSAA Div. I XC final and the first of numerous All-Ohio honors. She would add podium finishes in the OATCCC and OHSAA meets in her first high school campaigns in the event that would become her specialty-the 1,600 meters/mile-in HS and college.

After finishing third in XC as a sophomore, Howell took the state and nation by storm in the 1,600 in the spring of 2017 after winning the indoor metric mile title in 4:58.15. She registered a pair of 4:52s en route to going undefeated outdoors in the 1,600 and recording the second-fastest time in the U.S., a 4:43.25 that won an OHSAA final where the top 4 broke 4:50.

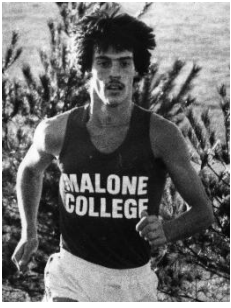
Howell closed out her HS career at Solon with a runner-up XC finish as a junior before claiming the OHSAA 1,600 title the ensuing spring. She added an 800-1,600 double at the state final her season year, covering the distances in 2:08.60 and 4:45.25, respectively.

It didn't take long for Howell to make her mark at her new home, the University of Illinois. She swept the Big Ten indoor mile and outdoor 1,500 titles in 2021 and then was 10th in the NCAA 1,500 final for the first of six All-American honors as a collegian.

In 2022, she again won both conference crowns on the track and also grabbed All-American honors indoors and out in the mile/1,500. Her best finish in a collegiate XC race – first in the Midwest Regional – was the precursor for a memorable 2023 track season, her final at Illinois. Indoors, Howell blasted a mile PR 4:33.77 on the big oval at Notre Dame before winning the Big Ten and NCAA titles weeks later. Outdoors, she won again at the Big Ten meet and claimed another All-American honor in the NCAA 1,500.

A graduate transfer to Texas, Howell wrapped up her collegiate career with All-Big 12 runs in the 800 and 1,500 before claiming her final All-American honor in the NCAA 1,500 final at Hayward Field in 2024. Howell now runs professionally for Adidas.

2026 Senior Legend



Joel Marchand - Long before The Decision altered professional sports in NE Ohio, another equally weighty decision changed the athletic path of 2026 Legend Joel Marchand and Navarre Fairless athletics.

Convinced to play football for the Falcons as a freshman, Marchand returned to cross country the next fall and soon became one of the top distance runners in Ohio AND the school's first state champion in any sport and one of its most decorated ever.

Marchand's first time on a state meet podium was at the 1978 track finale at Ohio Stadium as he finished fifth in the then 2-mile run in 9:41.1. The following fall, he claimed his first state title in Class AA and led Fairless to the runner-up team spot in XC.

He added to his state title total back on the track in 1979 as his 9:22.2 clocking was the best in the 2 mile in AA and set the stage for a remarkable senior year that is one of the finest ever in the Buckeye state.

With a trio of Legends honorees (John Zishka, Ricky Pittman and George Nicholas) dueling and dominating in AAA, Marchand did not disappoint in a solo run in the 1979 Class AA individual race. His 12:11.9 clocking was more than 30 seconds ahead of his closest challenger and only bettered by Nicholas and a 12:08.2 over 2.5 miles in edging Pittman in the AAA individual race.

The Fairless star closed out his prep career in style, joining a short list of Ohio greats to win the Distance Triple Crown (XC and 1,600 and 3,200 in track) in a school or calendar year. His winning times in The Shoe that June were 4:16.7 and 9:13.4, which then was the AA state meet record.

Marchand stayed close to home to continue his running career, deciding to join fellow Legends honoree Jack Hazen and the then Malone College Pioneers, who were a major force in the NAIA ranks. Although only a true freshman, Marchand battled with the nation's best, helping Malone finish second to powerhouse Adams State with an 11th-place finish.

A handful of months later, Marchand was a national champion indoors, claiming the 1981 NAIA 3-mile run in a then record 13:59.86 on the super tight arena ovals of the day and doubling it up with a fifth in the 2 mile. His championship was the second ever in Malone athletics history.

The following fall, Malone was fourth in the team standings with Marchand finishing ninth, having battled with the likes of the incomparable (and again race winner) Pat Porter and Adams State. Marchand and Porter squared off again indoors in 1982 in the NAIA 2-mile championship as Porter claimed his last NAIA title before dominating U.S. cross country for the next decade, with Marchand a close second.

Marchand's final All-American honor at Malone was in 1984 when his 16th-place effort led the Pioneers to fourth in the NAIA XC ranks.