

MARCH 8, 2025



**HALL OF
FAME**





Maroa-Forsyth Foundation & Archives
presents the
**2025 HALL OF FAME BANQUET AND
BENEFIT**

Master of Ceremonies: Matt Hall

Welcome: Tina Horve, Maroa-Forsyth Foundation & Archives
President

Celebrating our Alumni

Will Austin
David Boys
Cody Floyd
Austin Peebles

Our Musical Legacy: MFHS Honors Choir Performance
Celtic Dance – words and music by Kirby Shaw

Celebrating Faculty Excellence

Diane Daggett
William Dayton Keyes, Jr.
Melvin Nicol

Continuing the Tradition of Excellence: Brice Stewart, High School
Principal

Celebrating our Community Supporters

The Steve Horve Family

A New Legacy for Tomorrow: Adam Ibbotson, Superintendent

Celebrating Our Teams

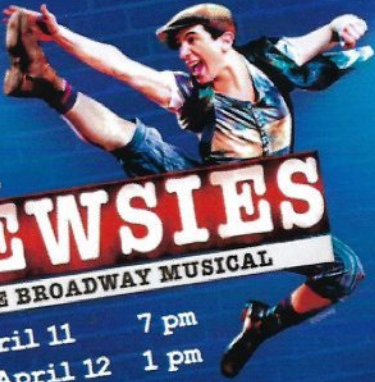
1981 Football Team
1982 Baseball Team
1983 Football Team

Closing Remarks: Matt Hall

Save the date for the Maroa-Forsyth High School Musical – tickets are on sale now!

EXTRA! EXTRA!

MAROA-FORSYTH HIGH SCHOOL
PRESENTS



Disney
NEWSIES
THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

Friday, April 11	7 pm
Saturday, April 12	1 pm
Saturday, April 12	7 pm
Sunday, April 13	1 pm



RESERVED SEATING
STUDENTS [K-12] \$12
ADULTS \$15

Maroa-Forsyth Auditorium | 101 South Cedar St. Maroa, IL

We would like to thank Mike Hall Actions for sponsoring this event!





The Maroa Foundation & Archives HOF Committee would like to thank the following people for all of their contributions. Without their help, this evening would not have been possible.

Phil Applebee for having the vision for a Hall of Fame for the Maroa-Forsyth School District.

Matt Hall (class of 1998) for agreeing to be our Master of Ceremonies.

Evan Hall with Mike Hall Auction Co. for providing auctioneer services for our live auction.

Gabi Kirgan (current student) for designing our program cover

Grace Allsup (current student) for providing music during our Cocktail Hour

The Maroa-Forsyth High School Honors Choir, under the direction of Christopher Weisenborn, for the entertainment.

HS art teacher, Ashlyn Britz, for working with her Graphic Design class on designing our program cover.

HS National Honor Society sponsor, Dawn Mann, for working with the NHS students to capture the essence of our inductees in their bios.

NHS students, Jackson Wallen, Grace Allsup, Avery Henderson, and Isabella Donaker, for writing our inductees' bios.

Cassie Crouch and her students for the beautiful table decorations and for making the Hall of Fame Plaques

Bob Dahlke and VisoGraphics for the programs

The Maroa-Forsyth Foundation & Archives board and members for their support.



WILL AUSTIN

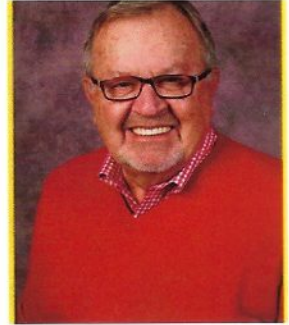
Will Austin graduated from MFHS in 1986. He has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois in Urbana and a Masters of Business Administration from The Ohio State University. After graduate school, Austin began working for General Motors Delco Electronics Division in Singapore before taking an eighteen-month assignment in Sao Paulo at Delphi Automotive Systems's South American headquarters. Later in his career, in 2002, he decided to develop a simple car to bring transportation to the developing world, so Austin founded the Institute for Affordable Transportation. This institute is a non-profit public charity devoted to developing and building basic vehicles for the world's less fortunate in order to bridge the gap between vital services and people in need.





STEVE HORVE FAMILY

Steve Horve began building homes in the Maroa-Forsyth district in 1970 with home construction beginning in the Montezuma Hills neighborhood. Over the next fifty years, Horve would build many of the additions in Forsyth, bringing hundreds of families into the community. These additions include Hickory Point Estates and Apartments, Stevens Creek Estates and Stevens Creek Pointe, Forsyth Park Estates, Eagle Ridge Estates, Schroll Pointe Estates, Beaver Creek Estates, Greenbriar, Grayhawk, and Shadow Ridge Estates. Horve also built and remodeled many businesses in the district. These businesses include First Mutual Bank, Applebee's, Country Inn and Suites, Country Kitchen Restaurant, Hickory Point Christian Village, Ramada Inn, Hickory Point Golf Course Clubhouse, Homewood Suites, O'Charley's, The Back Institute, and several more. The Horve family has been and remains dedicated to this community.





MELVIN NICOL

Melvin Nicol graduated from Illinois State University with a Bachelor's degree in Education in 1931 and earned his Master's degree from Iowa State University in 1935. In 1938, Nicol became the Maroa High School ag teacher, serving the Maroa community as an educator for thirty-five years. Nicol filled in as the school coach during World War II, served as the assistant principal for a year, and as the interim unit superintendent during the 1960 school year. Outside of the school, Nicol served as the FFA Illinois Association of Vocational Ag Teachers (IAVAT) District Director for the 1948-49 school year, secretary for the county Teacher's Association, IAVAT president, and as a reporter for the Bloomington Pantagraph. Some of Nicol's many awards include the 1970-71 Macon County Teacher of the Year, the Freedoms Foundation Valley Forge Classroom Teacher's medal, the Distinguished Alumni Award from Iowa State University in 1973, and the national Geigy Professional Recognition Award for outstanding ag teacher.





CODY FLOYD

After graduating from Maroa-Forsyth High School in 2005, Cody Floyd enlisted in the United States Army. Floyd was stationed at the remote Combat Outpost Keating, where he served as a medic in Afghanistan. Floyd and twenty-seven of his brothers-in-arms were wounded during the Battle of Kamdesh, which claimed the lives of 8 American soldiers. Floyd received two Purple Hearts during his service to the country. After his time with the Army, Floyd became Chairman of the Board for the Heroes Helping Heroes Foundation, whose mission is "to serve and support these heroes and their families suffering from the silent wounds of first- and second-hand PTSD." Floyd continues to serve his community as a deputy for Champaign County, for which he was recognized as the Champaign County Deputy of the Year in July 2023.





WILLIAM DAYTON KEYES, JR

William Dayton Keyes, Jr. began his career at Maroa High School in 1928 as a history teacher. A progressive educator and innovator, Keyes organized the Maroa High School Camera Club and started the Radio Club, which installed the first intercom system not only at Maroa High but in all of Macon County. Mr. Keyes became Maroa High School principal in 1933, continuing his teaching in the classroom. Keyes' leadership extended beyond the classroom. During World War II, he and Mr. Nicols answered a government call to action by leading the Victory Corps initiative, an effort that saw 98% participation rate among Maroa's male students. He restructured High School courses to get students ready for military service in WWII, by offering classes in Radio, First Aid, and pre-flight. His dedication to civic engagement continued through his founding of the Maroa Civil Air Patrol Cadets program and the Ground Observation Corps. In 1948, Keyes became Maroa's first superintendent, a role in which he continued to champion academic excellence, extracurricular involvement, and student mentorship. His commitment to education and service left an indelible mark on the School District, the community, and the countless students whose lives he influenced.





DIANE DAGGETT

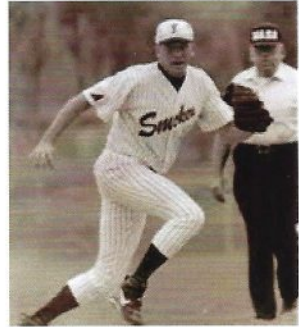
Diane Daggett graduated from Illinois State University with her B.S. in Education, and taught at MFHS from 1976 until 2014. Mrs. Daggett was very involved within the district. She advised FHA/FCCLA, led the canvassing committee for the new High School, served as MFEA President, and was the post-prom chairperson. During her time as FHA/FCCLA advisor, she had 12 section officers, 2 state officers, and 8 students who medaled in Star Events at State. Mrs. Daggett also led 2 students in Star Events at the National Conference. Diane Daggett directly impacted the lives of hundreds of students through her teaching and passion for FCS education.





DAVID BOYS

David Boys graduated from Maroa-Forsyth High School in 1982. After high school, Boys continued his studies at East Gulf Junior College and played baseball. After college, Boys joined both the Decatur Generals and Decatur Pride, playing shortstop. During his baseball career, Boys was a member of 5 international softball Congress world championship teams, 8 amateur softball association national championship teams, played for the US National team for 10 years, competed in two Pan-Am Games, and played in New Zealand for two years. In 2009 while playing with Pride, Boys averaged .427, with 25 home runs, and 61 runs batted in. David Boys has had an extraordinary career on and off the field.





AUSTIN PEEBLES

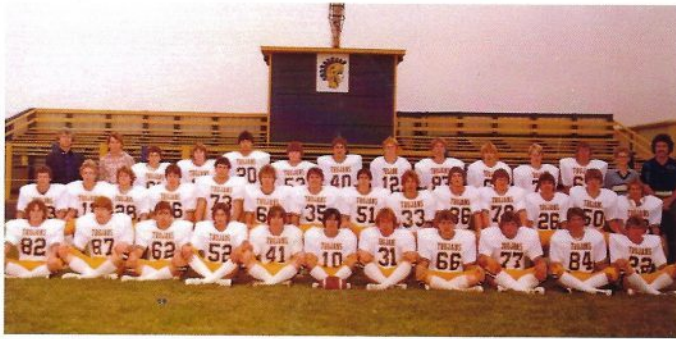
Austin Peebles graduated from Maroa-Forsyth High School in 2006. During his senior year, Peebles was part of the basketball team that won third in the state. He went on to play Division II basketball at St. Joseph College in Indiana. After graduating college, he worked for several years at the Bulls/Sox Training Academy in Chicago. Peebles currently works as the Manager of Camps and Clinics at Spurs Sports & Entertainment, working with the San Antonio Spurs. In 2024, Austin Peebles was inducted to the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame as a player.



Know someone you would like to nominate?

The nominating committee would appreciate your help! Use the QR code below or visit www.mfschools.net/news/hall-of-fame. Nominations need to be submitted by July 31st.





1981 FOOTBALL TEAM

The Fall 1981 MFHS football team finished the season as the undefeated Meridian Conference Champions and IHSA State Runner-Up. With a flawless regular season record of 9-0 and an overall season record of 12-1, the team demonstrated dominance on the field, outscoring opponents by 417-14 during the regular season.

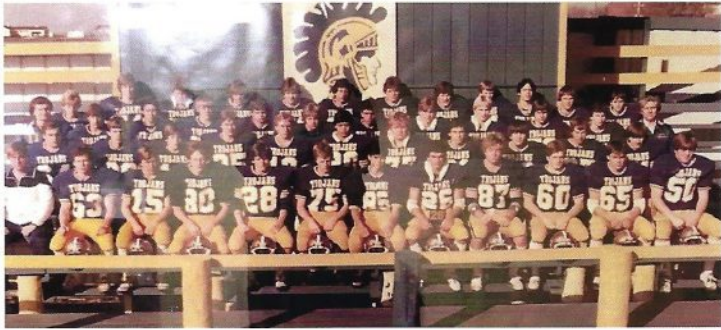
Several players earned prestigious honors that season, highlighting the team's depth and talent. Greg Thompson was named All Conference kicker and quarterback, 1st Team All Area "Player of the Year," and 1st Team All State. Randy Lane earned All Conference defensive back and wide receiver, 1st Team and 2nd Team All Area honors, along with All State Special Mention. Other standout players on the team who received either All Conference, All Area, or All State recognitions included Jim Burns, David Boys, Steve Horve, Lynn Sill, Danny Weyen, Roland Teeters, Daren Haenney, Rick James, and Phil Harris. Coach Fred Thompson was named "Area Coach of the Year." Player Jeff Query later advanced to play professional football for the Green Bay Packers.



1982 BASEBALL TEAM

The 1982 MFHS baseball team, coached by Fred Thompson, made school history by capturing both the Regional and Sectional Championships, culminating in a semi-final finish at the IHSA State Tournament. This achievement was the best finish in school history until 2024. With a dominant 23-1 regular season record and team batting average of .378, the squad finished the year with an overall record of 24-2.

Several standout players earned accolades for their performances during the season. Greg Thompson was named All-Conference and All-Area Infielder and was named Decatur Herald & Review's Player of the Year. Other notable players included David Boys (All-Conference DH), Roger Craig (All-Conference Pitcher), and Scott Newlin (All-Conference Infielder). Kevin Koslofski (All-Conference Outfield) was also selected as All-State Tournament Team and went on to play professional baseball for the Kansas City Royals.



1983 FOOTBALL TEAM

The 1983 football team finished as the State Class 1A Runner-up. They reached the finals after taking Monmouth-Yorkwood into the first overtime game in IHSA 1A State Finals history, ultimately falling just short of the title. The team shared the Meridian Conference Championship, boasting a regular season record of 8-1 and an overall record of 11-2.

Several players earned individual honors for their outstanding performances. Colin Runyen was named to the All-Meridian Conference Team for offense. Kevin Jannusch made the All-Meridian Conference 1st team center and 2nd team lineman. Kevin Koslofski earned All-State running back and All-Macon County Team honors. Linemen Brian Emery and Erik Black were recognized on the All-Meridian Conference and All-Macon County teams, with Black also earning 2nd team kicker honors. Additional accolades went to Jeff Wilson, Brian Powell, Jeff Followell, Richard Boyer, Steve Dixon, and Scott Major for their contributions. Head Coach Fred Thompson was named Macon County Coach of the Year.

MF School Archives
Tina Horve, Archivist
Tina.Horve@mfschools.net

The School Archives promotes the collection, preservation, and digitization of historical items from the Maroa-Forsyth School District and its communities. The Archives holds school records dating back to the late 1800s, yearbooks and school newspapers, photos, videos, clothing items, and more, with the goal of increasing public access to these items through its website, social media, and in-person events. Alumni, former faculty, staff, and community members are welcome to contact the Archives for research or for donations of school-related materials.

Use the QR code below or visit www.MFSchoolArchives.com



Maroa-Forsyth Foundation



Started in 1996, the Foundation is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization that is dedicated to enriching, enhancing, and supporting the Maroa-Forsyth School District. It provides funds to enhance classroom curriculum and aids teachers through the fulfillment of Teacher Classroom Grants.

Through the generous donations of alumni, parents, community members, and other supporters, the Foundation has provided over \$263,000 in classroom grants and over \$48,000 in scholarships to graduating MF seniors. Foundation classroom grants have purchased materials for Grade School, Middle School, and High School students across all programs, including music, reading, art, science, social studies, school assemblies, and the Wall of Valor display.

Please take a moment tonight to donate to the Foundation by check or credit card at the silent auction table. Your donation makes a huge difference in the lives of current MF students and the work their teachers can do in the classroom.

Thank You!