

## Theresa Tharp inducted into Limon HS Athletic Hall of Fame

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

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Theresa Tharp, a standout athlete at Limon High School in the mid-1980s, was honored this year as an inductee into the Limon High School Lloyd Gaskill Athletic Hall of Fame.

It was a formal occasion on Monday, May 24 when current Limon athletes were recognized at their annual "L" Club Banquet.

The program finale found Leba (Gaskill) Harrington, daughter of legendary coach Lloyd Gaskill, presiding over the induction ceremony of three new members of the Gaskill Athletic Hall of Fame.

Inductees included Theresa Hilferty Tharp (1986 graduate), Tom Bender (1957) and Randy Amerine (1969).

Initiated in 2003, the Gaskill Hall of Fame now includes 40 members.

When the first members were inducted seven years ago, Tharp said she remembers thinking about the significance of that recognition. "It is a great honor to be part of this," she added last week.

Tharp is also proud to note her dad, Lyle Hilferty, is an Honorary "L" Club member, having been given the honor in 2004.

Prior to the "L" Club banquet, a reception was held for the three Hall of Fame inductees. Following the reception, they took a tour of the school, which had changed considerably since the three had graduated in 1957, 1969 and 1986.

Tharp said it was fun to become better acquainted with the other inductees and to hear how times had changed.

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Tharp lettered in volleyball and basketball all four years and in track three years at Limon High School.

As a sophomore, she was named Class A All-State/All-Tournament in basketball.

As a junior, in volleyball, she was named Gazette Telegraph Athlete of the Week and All-Area, Class A All-Tournament MVP and Player of the Year and Class A All-State. In basketball, she made All-State first team and in track was named to the All-Area 1600 meter relay team.

As a senior, Tharp was chosen for the Colorado Coaches of Girls' Sports All-Star volleyball team, Class A All-State volleyball, Gazette Telegraph Athlete of the Week in basketball, Rocky Mountain All-State first team basketball and Gazette first team in basketball.

After high school, Tharp played college volleyball in 1986 at Mesa State and in 1987 at CSU-Pueblo.

In 1990, she married Jeff Tharp. They currently live in Holyoke, where she teaches fifth grade, coaches junior high volleyball and is the summer recreation director for the City of Holyoke.

Former teammates and coaches, as well as her current students and her family had made comments for Harrington's presentation of Tharp at the induction ceremony.

The program meant a lot to Tharp, who acknowledged she hasn't seen or talked to some of those people for many years.

Tharp said sports taught her discipline and to give her best to something, whether it's sports, math, computers, band or whatever.

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She comes from a long line of competitive athletes. Her grandmother played softball until she was 73, her dad played college basketball and she started early competing to keep up with her brothers.

Harrington told the gathered crowd that she had visited with 2009 Hall of Fame inductee Sherri Bandy-Jeffries, who graduated in 1985, a year ahead of Tharp.

Jeffries had commented she was glad she and Theresa were on the same team, because she sure wouldn't have wanted to be on the receiving side of her spike.

Harrington said Tharp's sister Trish said Theresa always pushed her to do her very best. Trish added her sister played hard no matter what, even if she was hurt.

Her volleyball coach said she was a quiet leader and was one of the best 5'7" outside hitters because she could spike the ball right- or left-handed, depending on the defense.

Tharp's basketball coach added she was dedicated, hard-working, determined and fiercely competitive.

An HJHS volleyball player told Harrington Coach Tharp showed she cared about her team, believed in them and taught them so much. Tharp's sons added it's still not easy to play HORSE with their mom.

Family members joining Theresa for the special Hall of Fame induction program included her husband Jeff and sons Austin and Logan; grandmother, Dorothy Ford of Mad-rid, Neb.; parents, Lyle and Wyvonne Hilferty of Limon; sister, Trish Faber and her daughter Hannah of Colorado Springs; brother, Tim Hilferty of Limon; and niece, Abby Hilferty of Limon.