



Kevin Morrissey

Year of Induction: **2022**

Year of Graduation: **1979**

When Kevin Morrissey received his diploma as a member of the Johnson City High School Class of 1979, he also had made his mark as an accomplished athlete as a member of the track team and the cross-country team. His impressive records were held for many years and his love of both sports stayed with him throughout his adult life.

During his four years in high school, Morrissey set many records, awards, honors and achievements with the majority of these during the 1978 and 1979 seasons. The 110 meter high hurdle was one of those records that still holds today. Morrissey set this record in 1979 at 15.1 seconds. Until 2016, he held the 400 meter record at 56.8 seconds. This 37 year record was broken by a student-athlete he coached, Jon Bessette, who set the new record at 56.37 seconds. His other accomplishments were also important to note.

In 1978, Morrissey distinguished himself as a NYS Championship Qualifier for the 330 yard intermediate hurdles as well as All STAC first team for the 330 yard intermediate hurdles and second team for the 120 yard high hurdles.

In 1979 he was the STAC champion for the 330 yard intermediate hurdles, the Section IV Relay champions in the shuttle hurdle relay, the Maine-Endwell Kiwanis Relay champion of the shuttle hurdle relay, the NYS Championship Qualifier for the 110 meter high hurdles, 400 meter intermediate hurdles (in which he competed while nursing a wired/broken jaw), All STAC first team for the 330 yard intermediate hurdles and all STAC first team for the 120 yard high hurdles.

In 1978-1979, he earned numerous top 3 finishes in STAC, Section IV, the Parkhurst Invitational, the Metric Meet Invitational, the Maine-Endwell Relays and the Section IV Relays. Then in 1979 to cap off his high school athletic career, he earned the top 6th seeding in the NYS Championship Meet in the 110 meter high hurdles and the 400 intermediate hurdles.

After high school, Morrissey attended Buffalo State College where he ran track during the fall of 1979. He later attended Broome Community College (now SUNY Broome) from 1986-1988. His work life was focused in the world of sales and marketing and even served as the Marketing Director of the Health, Fitness, and Wellness Division of the Penguin Group USA. With his continued athletic mindset, he excelled in his career and was honored in 2004 to be named National Inside Sales Representative of the Year.

With time to return to the sports he loved, in 2015 Morrissey returned to his alma mater to give his knowledge of both sports as a coach for the varsity and also to offer his help during summer sports camps at Johnson City. He has been an important part of the program. His service has been his way of giving back to his high school athletic program. His presence has been motivational for the student-athletes as he teaches and encourages them to do their best during every practice and at every meet.

Morrissey has assisted the varsity program and has celebrated several successes with the teams and with the individual student-athletes. This would include the Division Girls Champions in 2016 and 2022, the Division Boys Champions in 2016 and 2017, the Class B Girls Champions in 2021 and 2022, the Class B Boys Champions in 2017. He also was part of the coaching staff when Emily Cluck became the NYS Champion in the 400 meters in 2016 and when Jon Bessette set the new 400 meter hurdle record in 2016.

Morrissey and his wife, Elizabeth, have four daughters and sons-in-law and three grandchildren. Living in Windsor, NY, he has continued his community service as a Knights of Columbus member since 2000 and as a coach for the Kirkwood Girls Grades 4-6 youth basketball program. He has inspired many as a motivational speaker.

It is an honor for the Johnson City Athletic Hall of Fame Committee to welcome Kevin Morrissey into its athletic hall of fame as both an athlete and a contributor.