

THE HIGH HOPES NEWS

www.parkeryouthfoundation.com



Steve (left) and Phil Mahre celebrated Olympic victory.

Steve and Phil Mahre recall watching the 1968 Winter Olympics on TV, as skiing superstar Jean-Claude Killy won three alpine events in Grenoble, France.

"That would be really kinda cool to do," Steve remembers thinking. And, by 1984, the twin Yakima natives were themselves on the podium, receiving Olympic medals in slalom at the Winter Olympics in Sarajevo, Bosnia. Phil took the gold and Steve, just .21 seconds behind, captured the silver.

Today, the 62-year-old brothers continue to live in the Yakima Valley. Steve's company, SI Mahre, Inc., and Phil's company, PF Mahre, Inc., host ski camps in Utah. They also do corporate entertaining for companies wishing to schedule ski excursions for groups of employees. In summer, they work

Olympic Medalists: Yakima's Mahre Twins Share Their Experience

By Christine Corbett Conklin

with Steve's son, Andy, for Mahre Construction, framing houses and doing remodeling. Both brothers are married: Phil with three children and five grandchildren, Steve with two children and two grandchildren. Most all of them ski.

Now, "I really don't spend much time thinking about it," said Phil of the 1984 Olympics win plus his earlier silver medal in slalom in the Lake Placid Winter Olympics in 1980 and various World Cup victories. "It was instrumental in my life and opened some doors," however, acknowledged the twin who is "four minutes" older than his brother. For example, the brothers did a "Drink Milk" commercial, were featured on a Grape Nuts cereal box and helped promote Olympus cameras. They also did endorsements in the ski industry. In 2008, the Parker Youth & Sports Foundation honored the brothers as Sports Legends of the year at the annual banquet.

The Mahre twins began skiing at an early age. They were on the slopes by about age six, recalled Steve. By age eight, they were racing. By high school, they were on the U.S. ski team, although they skipped the chance to go to Europe with the team one summer because they decided instead to play high school football, the sport which was "their first love." By age 18, they were off to their first Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria.

Both twins observed that it was a little overwhelming at first to be at the Olympics, in the midst of so many athletes, from so many sports and nations. However, by 1984, with World Cup wins on their records and experience in two Winter

Olympics, they were seasoned to win. And they had been training hard.

"We basically trained four to five hours each day in the early season," said Phil. Once race season began, they cut back to maybe three hours of training per day. "We were training and racing pretty much year round, rarely off snow for more than three weeks at any one time."

For the Olympics, the Mahres would usually arrive with their teammates the day before Opening Ceremonies and leave the day after their last competition, Phil said. They were allowed to ski



Steve and Phil enjoyed a day in the snow with Phil's granddaughter, Chloe.

(continued on page 3)

Presentations Made to Local Youth Sports Programs

By Jerry Ward

It was a busy fall for the Parker Youth & Sports Foundation, with \$14,847 awarded to Valley youth sports programs. The holiday spirit was enhanced in November and December as the Yakima Monday Morning Quarterback (MMQB) Club provided a weekly venue for the Foundation to present grants and donations to youth sports programs in the Valley.

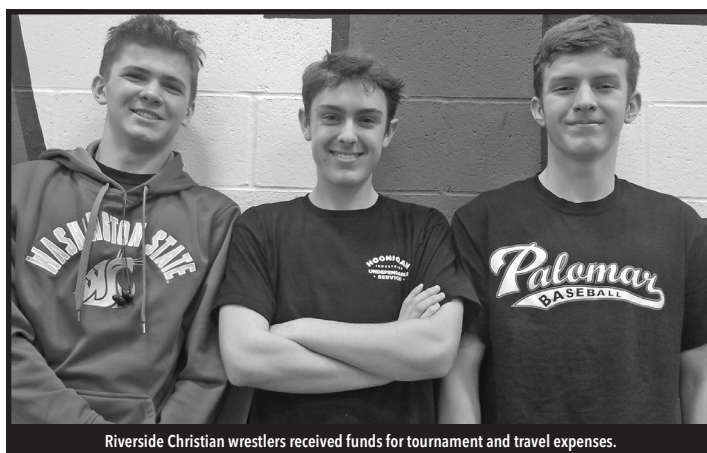
Spud Edmondson, a past board member and current MMQB president, coordinated the programs, resulting in regular press coverage and air time on KIMA sports. PY&SF grants committee members Sam Karr, Bob Spain and Jon Mulvenon were also instrumental in organizing the meetings.

Presentations included: **White Swan wrestling** for uniforms and practice gear; **Riverside Christian wrestling** for tournament and travel expenses; and donations to **Eisenhower, Davis, and LaSalle high school athletic programs**. The two wrestling program grants created many good memories for the QB club membership and recipients, with donations made in memory of long-time wrestling officials and valley sports legends, Wayne Purdom and Gene Ramos.

Other PY&SF board presentations during fall included annual scholarships and work grants to **YVC athletics, Yakima Hot Shots tournament, First Tee of Yakima, Team Yakima Volleyball**; YVC softball field sign sponsorship; a table sponsorship at the annual **Yakima Youth Baseball** crab feed; and to **Astria Sunnyside Foundation** for sports physicals.



White Swan wrestlers received a grant for uniforms and practice gear.



Riverside Christian wrestlers received funds for tournament and travel expenses.

Chair's Message

Dear Friends,

I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas season! At the Parker Youth & Sports Foundation, we're off and running on a new year.



Dan Williams

We're already beginning plans for our Sports Legends banquet on June 12, followed by our annual "High Hopes" golf tournament on June 13. Our 2019 events drew a great turnout, and we are excited to see so many of you again this year.

Your ongoing support is vitally important to us - and so appreciated.

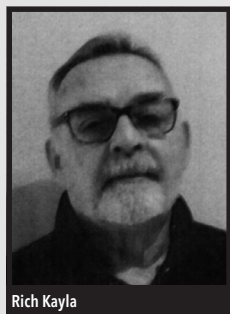
You make it possible for us to reach out to many young athletes and teams across the greater Yakima area, encouraging them in their future goals. Who knows how far our local youth may go, thanks to your generous backing? Maybe they'll follow the example of Phil and Steve Mahre, the Olympic medal winners featured on the cover of this issue of *The High Hopes News*!

All the best for a wonderful year ahead.

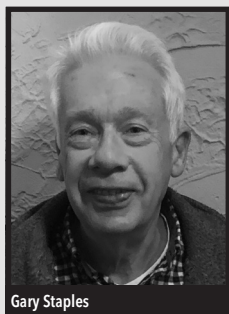
Sincerely,

Daniel Williams, Board Chair

We Welcome Three New Board Members



Rich Kayla



Gary Staples



Jeff Garretson

In November, three new board members were welcomed to the Parker Youth & Sports Foundation. We are honored and proud to introduce Rich Kayla, Gary Staples and Jeff Garretson!

- **Rich Kayla** played many sports as a youth - going on to play baseball at Seattle University. He was drafted out of college by the New York Yankees and played third base and shortstop for several years in the Yankee minor league system. Rich is now retired from business management and sales. He and his wife, Mary Ann, live in Yakima.
- **Gary Staples** is a dedicated sports fan and supporter of youth sports throughout the Valley. A University of Washington graduate, Gary retired as a naval officer and served as a broker and wealth advisor for more than 35 years, retiring as Senior Vice President of Baird Wealth Management. Gary is a volunteer leader for several youth organizations such as the YMCA. He lives in Yakima with his wife, Mary Lou.
- **Jeff Garretson** is a member of the legendary Garretson athletic family. Jeff graduated from Washington State University and is now General Manager of the Yakima Pippins baseball team. Prior to that, for 25 years, Jeff worked at the *Yakima Herald-Republic*, starting in the sports department and moving to the news department. He has extensive experience as a sports and news reporter, editor and in sports management.



Fore! The 2020 Golf Season Is Quickly Approaching

The Parker Youth & Sports Foundation supports First Tee activities in the Greater Yakima Valley. Logan Shaw, a winner in the September First Tee Challenge, shows how it's done.

News From The Foundation Office...

By Darlene Olmstead



Darlene Olmstead

Holidays are an exciting time, with giving, receiving, and acknowledging Christmas and New Year's greetings with community members.

Thank you to all who responded to our Parker Partner membership brochure. We would still like to have more Parker Partners. Keep them coming!

Spring events are rapidly approaching. We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the "Sports Legends" Banquet on June 12 and the "High Hopes" golf tournament on June 13.

Remember, we also have grant money to be awarded. Applications are on our website.

In other news, we are excited to have three new board members to add ideas and participation in our Foundation (see board list on page 4). If any of you are interested in becoming board members, contact me at the office. My hours are 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Stop in. Stay warm and safe this Winter!

Finally, please note the following memorials, donations and memberships from our community members. We are truly grateful to all of you!

MEMORIALS

Michael Havnaer in memory of Ted Shaw

Bill Faller in memory of Malcolm Lindquist,

Richard Welch and Helen Hatzenbeler

Jon Mulvenon in memory of Chip Clark

John Staffan in memory of Ollie Nelson, Jim Dale and Cliff Dale

Burl and Darlene Olmstead in memory of Ollie Nelson and Helen Hatzenbeler

Chuck Huber in memory of Rita Huber

Jerry Wilson in memory of Daryl Parker

Spud and Gay Edmondson in memory of Ralph Hinkley, Charles Lindquist and Dick Jones

Jerry Ward in memory of Ollie Nelson, Gordon

Howard, Joyce Ann Davis and Frank Bosone

Sherrie Parker in memory of Daryl Parker

FALLER\BRAYTON ENDOWMENT

Lane and Jane Phillips W.E. and A.D. Connor

LINDQUIST DONATIONS

Mary Holder Marsh and Gerry Marsh

Eileen Brayton

DONAHUE MEMORIAL

Bill Faller

Elwood Crosier

PARKER PARTNER MEMBERSHIPS

Lane Phillips
George Benedetti
Janyce Barr
Michael Schwab
Robert McCulloch
Bob McCutcheon
Ed & Lynn Stover
Jay Gilbertson
Carol Finney
Bill Faller

Jim Pelander
Kay Smith
Joe & Laura Drovetto
Dick & Betty Smith
Nancy Kendrick
Glenn Rasmussen
Michael Carey
Nancy Leahy
Mike Hoge
Burl & Darlene Olmstead

Andy Lowe
Eileen Walen
Ling Dong Huan
Robert Townsend
Jim and Joan Breese
Justin Park
Virginia Norman
Sherrie Parker
Elwood Crosier
Chris Pearson

PARKER PARTNER DONATIONS

Champion

Robert McCullough
Gary & Mary Lou Staples
Ray & Lynn Biggs
Harley & Linda Hansen
Horizon Distributing

MVP

Richard Cuyle
Gerry & Mary Holder Marsh
W.E. & A.D. Connor

Captain

John Moran (Honoring Bill Faller)

First Team

Mike Hoge
Megan Bewley
Randy Ammerman
Bill Douglas
Jim & Karen Avery
Scott D. Parker
Jon & Linda Mulvenon
Bill & Mary Huibregetse
Tom & Karen Garrison
Daniel & Jodi Farano
Ken & Mildred Stenehjelm
Marla Borton
Peter James

Winner's Circle

Lawrence Hannah
Ed & Mary Ann Kershaw
Jim & Bonnie Scoggins
Richard Bradley
Michael & Carol Ann Carlson
Gary & Pam King
Spud & Gay Edmondson
Michael Schwab
Buddy & Nancy Fish
Pug Pinyard
Larry & Deanna Book
Gene & Ann Rostvold

Olympic Medalists: Yakima's Mahre Twins Share Their Experience (continued from page 1)

on the race hill a day or two before the event for about an hour. Otherwise, they needed to train on a different hill.

Phil partially credits his 1984 gold medal win with having a more relaxed attitude, knowing that this would be his last Olympic Games. By this time, he was married and his "priorities in life were different," he said. His first son was born on the day of his win. Steve actually won the first run of that competition, but says he made "three mistakes" in the final run, still taking the silver with only a fraction of a second difference in their final times.

The two brothers worked together throughout their skiing competitions, Steve observed.

"We thought alike. We trained together. We pushed one another," he said. Often, the first one to go down a course would clue the other brother in to what he had experienced. "We always wanted the other one to do well, too." When it came to winning, they had a saying: "Keep it in the family."

Many people ask Steve and Phil what they have done with their Olympic medals. Instead of displaying them on a wall, as a testament to themselves, they have chosen to make them work for the community. The two had their medals mounted in shadow boxes and allow charities to auction off the right to keep a medal for a period of three to six months, Phil said.

Today, the Mahres have heartfelt advice for young people interested in sports.

"You have to have a passion for what you're doing; to want to be better tomorrow than you were today," Phil stressed. "Plan ahead. Where do you want to be in five, ten years?" Learn from the past, but forget about past mistakes, he suggests. "Go for it, go all in and be satisfied with the result, no matter what, if you put 100 percent in."

Both brothers advise parents to be supportive, but not to push their sons and daughters into any particular sport. "Introduce them to a lot of sports and they will find the ones they like best and gravitate to them," Steve said. Independently, they both observe that they have "never worked a day in their lives" because they love what they do so much.

"Never get frustrated. Life is too short, too sweet, to be frustrated," Phil says.

"Go out and have fun. Live your life to the fullest," Steve agrees. "These years only come once and then they're gone."

Gold Medal Business Champion Announced

The Parker Youth & Sports Foundation has named
Abbott's Printing, Inc. as our first 2020 Gold Medal
Business Champion of Youth Sports.

Thank you, Abbott's Printing, for your years of support
and printing services for the High Hopes Golf Tournament,
The High Hopes News, and our other programs and
activities. We honor your legacy and commitment to youth
athletics for our Valley!



Mission Statement

The Parker Youth & Sports Foundation is dedicated to the support and preservation of parks, sports facilities and athletic programs in the greater Yakima area.

2020 Board of Directors

Daniel Williams (President)
Nancy Leahy* (V.P./Secretary)
Chuck Hinckley (Treasurer)
Bob Alexander
Megan Bewley
William Faller*
Carol Finney*
Ray Funk
Jeff Garretson
Travis Heitman
Rich Kayla
Pat Leahy
Jon Mulvenon
Bob Spain
Gary Staples
Irma Williams

* signifies charter member

The High Hopes News Editor: Christine Conklin

Mark Your Calendar!
Foundation board meetings:
4 p.m., first Wednesday of each month,
Shaw & Sons, Yakima
Sports Legends Banquet, June 12
High Hopes Golf Tournament, June 13
Please send us your email address
to receive your *High Hopes* updates!

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