



Class of 2026

John Kovacich

He was an outstanding all-around athlete. John earned eight letters during his career at Butte High. He was a team captain, and was recognized for his dual role as a defensive back and punter on Butte High's 1977 State Championship football team, which was named the best Butte Bulldog football team of the 20th Century.

Kovacich earned first-team All-Conference and first-team All-State honors as a defensive back, second team All-Conference and second-team All-State punter on Butte High's dominating defense, which allowed just 20 points on the season and shut out eight opponents on their way to an 11-0 record.

As a junior in 1976, John earned second-team All-Conference and an honorable mention All-State nod as a defensive back.

Kovacich received a scholarship to play football for the Montana Grizzlies, starting three seasons at defensive back. He was a member of the Grizzlies 1982 Big Sky Conference championship team.

Kovacich played and started two years for the Bulldogs in basketball. He helped lead Butte High to a fourth-place finish at the State tournament in 1978 — Butte High's first top-four finish since the 1950s. He was the starting second baseman on Butte's 1972 State Championship Little League All-Star team that advanced to the regional tournament in San Bernardino, California.

That team joins Kovacich in the Butte Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2026.



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