



Class of 2026

Shirley Chesterfield-Stanton

As a Title IX baby, Shirley Chesterfield-Stanton starred in Track & Field (3 years), Gymnastics (2 years) and Cross Country (1 year) at Butte High School along with summer softball. She earned six varsity letters; these were the inaugural years of MHSAA girls' sports.

Her track sprint records survived at Butte High for 20-plus years. At Montana State University, she shined at track and field (4 years), gymnastics (3 years) and volleyball (4 years) from 1972 to 1976. She qualified for regional competitions, 4 Track, 4 Volleyball and 3 Gymnastics. Her career highlight was qualifying for the National Track and Field Championships in 1975.

She was a member of 4 summer softball state championships, two regional championships and twice qualified for the National Softball Tournament.

The Butte High graduate spent 40 years coaching track and field at Helena Capital High School, head coach for 38 years. She was head coach for 13 years in gymnastics and 5 in volleyball.

She earned a rare feat of state championships in multiple sports — gymnastics in 1987 and 1989, and track in field in 1996 and 1997, along with three runner-up finishes in track and field and two in gymnastics. She retired in 2016.

Chesterfield-Stanton was inducted into the Montana Coaches Association Hall of fame in 2002, the Helena Sports Hall of Fame in 2009, and the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2018. The MCA awarded her the National Distinguished Service award in 2024.

She was twice named the MCA track and field coach of the year, while garnering seven total nominations. The MCA also tabbed her as a special sports coach of the year in gymnastics. She was named Region 7 girls' track & field coach of the year on two occasions.

She spent more than 30 years announcing at numerous Helena Capital athletics events, football, volleyball, and basketball.



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