



Brad DeKrey

Inducted 2020

(Plaque #222)

Brad DeKrey moved to Rock Springs for his wife. She had been hired as a teacher and the plan was to stay for 1 year and then move back to North Dakota, where the two had grown up. Instead, the DeKreys stayed for 38 years and cultivated one of the most successful running programs in Wyoming history.

Their coaching career began in 1987, first leading the cross-country team and then later the indoor and outdoor track programs. And while their outward measurements of success speak for themselves, the DeKreys' true achievement was the culture they created for their student-athletes.

The DeKreys approached coaching not as a job, but as a lifestyle. Their runners were less like athletes and more like children. The program was their extended family. Numerous examples prove this true. In the summer, kids came to their house every morning to run. Before the season, they took the team to their mountain cabin for a weekend of team bonding. And during the season, they had weekly suppers at their home on Thursday nights and also before important races.

While championships come and go, memories last forever. Brad and Donna DeKrey's loving approach to coaching has left a lasting mark on countless people and families in Rock Springs. Friendships that formed in high school still stand today. An annual alumni race over Thanksgiving weekend highlights the DeKreys' vast coaching footprint. Current and former athletes join together to socialize and run a 5K. The race serves as a simple but enduring reminder of the DeKreys' significant legacy. It's with these memories in mind that Brad DeKrey is honored to accept this lifetime award.