

JULIE LOBENSTEIN JORDAHL (ATHLETE, EDUCATOR, COACH & VOLUNTEER)

Julie Lobenstein Jordahl was a superbly gifted athlete who was also a trailblazer for girls high school sports in Portage. She participated in volleyball, basketball and track at PHS, but when she entered her freshman year at PHS in the fall of 1971 there had been no inter-scholastic sports for any girls at PHS. All sports had been played through the Girl's Athletic Association (GAA) intramural program in school. During her freshman season she did participate in GAA volleyball and basketball, but PHS formed its first girls inter-scholastic track team that spring. Mrs. Jordahl proved to be a unique athlete throwing the shot put and running the mile amongst other events as a freshman. In Portage's first year of competitive track Julie was the conference champion in the 1 mile event as a freshman. She would win conference in the mile again as a sophomore, junior and senior. She placed 7th at State in the mile as a sophomore in PHS's 2nd year of competition.

During Julie's junior year, PHS added inter-scholastic volleyball for the first time and she thrived in that sport. The next year she led that team to State. In 1975, her senior year, she saw the introduction of inter-scholastics girls basketball. The team lost its first game by 3 points, but won 6 of its next seven games and she was a valuable member of that team.

Mrs. Jordahl has also been a great educator, coach and community volunteer in Portage for over 30 years. She taught in the Portage School District for 29 years working with 4-H, archery and children with special needs.