

Steve Bingen

Coach

Steve coached at Slinger High School from 1976-2003. He is a Slinger graduate from the class of 1967, was a co-captain of both the cross country and track teams as well as a track State Qualifier and MVP his senior year. He then attended UW-Milwaukee where he lettered in both cross country and track. Steve had the privilege of being coached by John Tierney, who influenced and supported him in his quest to become an educator and coach.

After graduation, Steve taught social studies and served as boys' head track and cross country coach for very competitive teams at Whitefish Bay Dominican. As fate may have it, a lay-off at Dominican led to Steve's hiring as a Slinger Middle School teacher in 1974. His first coaching assignment was in wrestling, two years at the middle school and then two years at the JV level. During those first two years, Steve also volunteered as a track coach, helping both boys and girls.

In 1976 he became a high school counselor, was named head girls' track coach, and he convinced the administration that it was time to sponsor girls' cross country. Blessed with many dedicated and gifted athletes, Slinger girls' track and cross country teams under Coach Bingen had numerous successful seasons. The cross country team won the conference meet twelve consecutive seasons from 1977 to 1988. During this period Slinger was either the Sectional Champion or Runner-up nine times and qualified for the State Meet eight times. The 1978 and 1979 teams were State Runner-ups. Cathy Branta (1978, 79, 80) and Diane Breuer (1986) were Individual State Champions.

In track, Slinger girls won the Scenic Moraine Conference Meet four consecutive years – 1977 to 1981. Beginning in 1983 and ending with the 1990 Conference Relays, Slinger dominated the Parkland Conference winning every Indoor, Outdoor or Relay Meet held. Under Coach Bingen, the Owls won 10 Regional and 6 Sectional titles and had State Qualifiers every year from 1978 through 1996. Individual State Champions included Cathy Branta (6x – '79,'80,'81), Patty Boehlen (2x – '86), Stacy Kundinger ('89) and Marc Ruesch ('89) the one year that Steve headed both the boys' and girls' teams.