

## *Debbie Bunch Bruns*

Debbie grew up in High Ridge, Missouri where she was raised by her mother Elcie. Her father passed away when she was 9 years old. She grew up off of Hunning Road where she was an only child. She attended High Ridge Elementary, North Jefferson Middle School and was a 1985 graduate of Northwest High School. She spent her early years participating in competitive roller skating where she won many awards at the regional and national level. She chose to hang up her roller skates for high school sports once she attended Northwest.

At Northwest Debbie played volleyball and basketball for 4 years and track for 3 years. In track she finished 7th her junior year and 2nd her senior year in the discus at the Missouri State Track meet in Jefferson City. She held the record for the longest throw (130'-2") for more than 30 years. Debbie was a member of the National Honor Society and contributed to the Liontrac her senior year. She was the first female representative for Northwest High School for the Post-Dispatch Scholar Athlete. Debbie was also voted the most athletic female representing the senior superlatives. She maintained a 3.85 G.P.A. and graduated in the top 10 in her class of 452.

Debbie accepted a scholarship to Missouri State University to continue her track career, throwing the discus, shot put and javelin. She graduated in 3 years with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting. She started her career as an accountant with McBride and Son Homes. She quickly moved into the construction estimating side of the business. She has spent the last 30 years in the construction industry and currently works for Vee Jay Cement.

Debbie has 2 children, Nathan (29) and Emily Bruns (25). Nathan is an attorney for a law firm in Des Peres and Emily works as a Behavioral Health Therapist for BJC-Children's Hospital. Debbie is married to her husband Gary who is a retired attorney.

Debbie continued to be involved with volleyball when she coached her daughter for 10 years on a select volleyball team. She continues to play currently just for fun.

Debbie had several coaches that influenced and guided her in her high school career. Coach Joan Braun for volleyball and basketball, Coach Pat Bailey for track and Coach Galen Swinger who worked with her tirelessly on the proper technique to throwing the discus.

Debbie credits much of her success in life to her mother Elcie. She has always been her #1 supporter and fan. She went to every volleyball and basketball game. She braved the weather for every track meet home and away. The coaches, parents and other players always knew if Debbie was participating Elcie would be in the stands. She would not be the person she is today without the love and support of her mom.

It is with great enthusiasm that the Northwest Alumni Association presents Debbie Bunch Bruns as an inductee into the Athletic Hall of Fame for 2023.