



Jerry Kaphers may have coached and influenced as many athletes in the history of Albert Lea as any coach. The track & field teams were always large in numbers and talent and the cross country teams consisted of dedicated and determined runners who put in a lot of miles running around Albert Lea.

Jerry's coaching style was very successful and he got the most out of all his athletes. He was a real student of running and field techniques, conducted well planned and organized practices and motivated young athletes with outstanding sports psychology to achieve their best.

Under Jerry's leadership Albert Lea won many championships. His cross country dual record was 131 – 43, six Big 9 Championships ('66, '68, '78, '79, '80, '81), Region 1 Championships ('66, '67, '81). In track & field he achieved a record of 136 – 35 – 2, Big 9 Championships in ('69, '70), and Region 1 Championships ('69, '70). Albert Lea qualified an athlete in the State Track & Field Meet for 17 consecutive years. Jerry had three relay teams win state championships and every school record was set during the time he coached! Jerry is in the Minnesota Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame (1992) and was named Minnesota Coach of the Year – Cross Country (1978).