



Albert Lea High School  
Athletic Hall of Fame  
2025 Inductee



**Class of 1962**  
**Football, Basketball,**  
**Track and Field**

**Gary Jacobsen** Gary Jacobsen, better known as “Jake,” began his athletic career at ALHS in the 1957-1958 season. He made the varsity football team as an eighth grader. He also lettered in track that same year. In track he participated in four events: High Hurdles, Low Hurdles, High Hump, and Long Jump. The following year, ninth grade, he lettered in three sports: football, basketball, and track. All totaled. He earned four varsity letters in Junior High.

In his sophomore year he led the track team to its first ever Big Nine, District and Regional titles. At the state track and field meet, he finished 6th in two events: High Hurdles and Long Jump. He also lettered in football and basketball. He earned Honorable Mention in basketball and was the team’s leading scorer and rebounder.

In the 1960-1961 season, the football team won the first ever Big Nine Title. Jake was All-Conference and earned Honorable mention on the All-State Football Team. His career came to a temporary halt due to a knee injury which required surgery to reconstruct his knee. This prohibited him from playing basketball and track the rest of his junior year.

In 1961-1962, Jake was on the football team, but could not play due to his injury. He helped "coach" his teammates. The basketball season produced another first, The Big Nine Championship Title. Jake was All-Conference, leading rebounder, and one of the two top scorers. He also earned other media awards - WCCO Team of the Week.

He continued his career at Macalester College in St. Paul, playing basketball and earning his teaching degree. He later moved his family to Albert Lea where he taught until his retirement. He was an assistant hockey coach for many years.