



Albert Lea High School  
Athletic Hall of Fame  
2025 Inductee



A-SQUAD VOLLEYBALL: Front Row; M. Speltz, S. Ost, K. Ehrhard, J. Matheson, and K. Wadding. Second Row; COACH FAGERQUIST, J. Pierson, S. Shoff, C. Hultgren, and N. Kelly.

### **1974 Volleyball Team**

The 1974 Volleyball team played their home games in the “new” high school gym in the “old” high school, and the nomination form for the team highlighted that they were the first group of girls to participate in interscholastic teams for Albert Lea High

School and were the first volleyball team to win back-to-back conference titles. The team went on to lose to Blooming Prairie in the district finals.

The original design of the girls' letter jacket for the Albert Lea Tigerettes was created by this team as they sat in the girl's health room at the old high school. A first-ever season-ending potluck and awards ceremony for this team became a standard for years to come in Tigerette sports. Dorothy McIntyre, assistant director of the Minnesota State High School League, spoke at the dinner.

The girls on this team were leaders in their own right. Most of them played more than one sport, worked, helped at home and participated in church and community. These 1975 graduates continue to be leaders, supporting girls and women in their communities, and encouraging their own daughters to be involved in sports and pass on the lessons learned in Albert Lea girls athletics.

They were proud to be the leaders of the Title IX Education Amendments of 1972.

They didn't have all of the resources available to today's athletes, but athletes today have those opportunities because of what was accomplished in girls' sports in the early 1970s. "Because of women our age, girls now have the opportunity of gifted coaches, although the coaches were good coaches at the time we needed them.

They can also participate in multiple sports or an individual sport for months of the year including Junior Olympics, summer camps and traveling sports teams plus receive athletic scholarships. The summer after we graduated, sports camps were offered and minimal scholarships were becoming available for a college sports program," the nomination noted.