

## **2019 HONORARY REFEREE: Larry Saathoff**

Larry Saathoff, a 1968 graduate of Estelline High School, has been chosen as the Honorary Referee for this year's Pat Gilligan-Alumni Invitational Track Meet, scheduled for April 23.

Larry was born and raised in Estelline. He was a member of the largest class to ever graduate from EHS. There were a lot of great athletes at that time, Larry said, so intramural basketball was a big activity and participants had a lot of fun.

After graduation Larry attended Lake Area Vocational Technical Institute in Watertown for two years where he studied farm equipment and diesel machinery. After graduation he worked for Ray Thompson Implement in Hendricks, MN before entering the construction field and eventually worked for the Hamlin County Highway Department for 25 years, 19 as superintendent. He returned to the construction field before his retirement.

Larry has been active in service his entire life, from family, to friends, and his community. He served on the Estelline Board of Education for 12 years and was president from 1998-2005. During that the time, he was instrumental in helping to build and design the new high school and Beckman Field which also included acquiring grants for the streets to the school. Larry, along with the late Pat Gilligan, teamed up as project managers for the track and field and what we enjoy here today is due to their leadership. Larry has always valued academics as well and during his tenure as president of the school board, Estelline ranked number one in test scores in the state of South Dakota.

Larry was also a member of the chain crew at high school football games from 2000-2016. His first game was memorable as it was the night of the dedication of Beckman Field which had to eventually be moved to the old field when the lights went out. The Redmen did win and the lights at Beckman Field have worked ever since.

Larry is now serving his ninth year on the Hamlin County Board of Commissioners. He is also a member of the Estelline Rodeo Club and the Estelline Alumni Association. He feels anything that promotes Estelline is worth being supported.