

“Friends of Medina Track and Cross Country Award”

This year we are honoring **Joe Swinglish** with the 8th annual “Friends of Medina Track and Cross Country Award.” This award is based upon all of the time and effort that Joe gave to the Medina Boys’ Track program while he was a teacher and coach in the Medina City Schools.

Joe Swinglish grew up in Republic, PA. He comes from a family that worked in the coal mines. He graduated from Redstone High School in 1959 where he was a standout on the football and track teams. Joe has his Bachelor of Science degree from California State University of PA (1963) and his Master of Science degree from Oklahoma University (1969).

Joe began teaching general science at Medina Junior High School in 1963. He started the junior high track program in 1965. While at the junior high he was also a football coach. In 1967 Joe began teaching at Medina High School where he became a varsity track coach under Harl Evans. Joe also coached freshman and junior varsity football. Mr. Swinglish became the head track coach in 1969. That same year Medina won their first ever conference track championship (Southwestern Conference). That team was undefeated in dual and tri meets as was the 1970 track team.

In the seven years with Joe Swinglish as head coach the track teams won many “Big Meet” titles. These meets included the SWC championship, Westlake Relays, Nordionia Invitational and the Medina County Invitational. The Medina Country Invitational eventually became the Medina Relays in 1985. Ten Medina athletes qualified for the state track meet with six of them placing seventh or higher.

Joe Swinglish served as assistant track coach at Medina H. S. from 1978 to 1992 under head coach, Jim Demo. Joe retired from teaching in 1997. Joe and his wife, Maryann live in Strongsville. They have been married for 52 years!

Thank you, Joe Swinglish for all that you have done for the Medina High School Track program. It is because of people like you that the track programs at Medina High School are consistently near the top in the state of Ohio year after year.

Past winners:	2011	Gene and Jan Febus
	2012	Tom George and Holly George
	2013	Jim Demo
	2014	John Gorsek
	2015	Jim Getz
	2017	Ron Kolzing
	2018	Bob Jenkins