

[Dixon High School Hall of Fame](#)



Inducted 2017
John Dawson
Class of 1948

John Dawson, Class of 1948, was a three-sport star while at Dixon High School, participating in football, basketball, and track while maintaining a good GPA. Jon wanted to play baseball but was too busy focusing on, and excelling at, his track events. This focus on track paid off as he placed first in the long jump and third in the 100 yard dash at the Superior California Athletic League meet during his sophomore year. But it was the broad jump (now referred to as the long jump) where Jon individually excelled, winning first place in the long jump at the San Joaquin Section meet his senior year. Jon also was part of the first place team in that 880 Relay and achieved a second place in the 440 yard dash, qualifying him for the State Track & Field meet which was held in Berkeley. Unfortunately, Jon sprained his ankle prior to the State Track & Field meet, and while he still ran the 104 40 yard dash and competed as part of the relay team, he couldn't compete at his usual competitive level.

During Jon senior year, he was a captain on the Hall of Fame 1947 Championship Football team and was proud to be part of a group of fellow teammates that also won the SCAL basketball and track championships as well. In the seasons football final, Dixon beat the favorite Rio Vista team for the County Championship and went on to be named Small School Cal-Hi Team of the Year. It was on the basketball court where one of his best memories occurred when he and his teammates beat a Willows High School team who had a 50-game win streak evaporate when Dixon beat them on their home court. After high school, John attended the University of California Berkeley where he played four years of football under the coaching of the renowned Lynn "Pappy" Waldorf whose teams went to three successive Rose Bowl's from 1948–1950. John is still a member of the "Pappy's Boys" Club. After college, John return home to work on the family ranch but his love of flying took over. He originally became interested in flying when, as a five-year-old boy, he was playing on his family farm and a neighbor, who was a former World War I fighter pilot, gave John his own private air show. During his high school days, John took flying lessons whenever he had enough funds to do so. He later became a member of the Air National Guard where he became a Colonel and flew F86's, F102's, and F106's that were capable of flying at Mach 2 speed, going from San Francisco to Boston in 2 hours. He later decided to take an opportunity to sign on with Pan American Airlines where he went on to a satisfying 25-year career. John is a charter member of the Dixon Lions Club. John has three children, Cristy, Diane and Jerry and lives on his Dixon ranch with his wife Maxine.