

## DEA LOY

Dea Loy, a distinguished member of the Clearwater High School Class of 1976, is set to be inducted into the Tornado Athletic Hall of Fame tonight. Her remarkable journey as an aquatic sports athlete, specializing in Freestyle and Butterfly, has left an indelible mark on the record books and the hearts of those in her community. Beyond her stellar array of 8 All-American titles and 22 records, Dea's influence has extended far beyond the pool, shaping the lives of countless students during her 42-year career as a Physical Education teacher with the Pinellas County School District.

### EARLY Years:

Dea's athletic talent emerged early competing at a national level before high school.

Recognized as a Junior Olympic competitor, she secured a spot on Swimming World magazine's top 10 ranked AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) athletes in Freestyle and Butterfly sprinting events for her age group.

### HIGH SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS:

As a CHS student, Dea trained at Bobby Walker pool, under the renowned Coach Don Prokes. Notably, her athletic achievements earned her All-American and National Honor Roll distinctions in the Class 4A Division, and Dea held the CHS record for the 100-yard Freestyle for 25 years.

- As a sophomore, in 1974, Dea was the State Champion in the 100-yard Freestyle, placed 2nd in the 50-yard Freestyle, and was a member of the 200-yard Medley Relay.

- As a junior, in 1975, Dea placed 2nd in the 50-year Freestyle and the Girls Medley Relay, contributing to the team's 3rd place in the State Championship meet.

- In Dea's senior year, she was team captain. She placed 3rd in the State Championship meet in the 50-yard and 100-yard Freestyle events, and was a member of the 200-yard Medley Relay.

As a young woman, Dea exemplified sportsmanship in and out of the pool. She earned a place on the All-Suncoast Prep Spring Sports Team, lettered each year and was a member of the "C" Club, served as a CHS Football stat girl for Coach Earl Brown, and notably won the Outstanding Girls Athlete Award at the Senior All Sports Banquet, received the Graham Brown Sportsmanship Award.

#### COLLEGIATE CAREER:

During her collegiate athletic career, Dea achieved All-American status with Honors in 6 First Team and two Honorable Mentions events, setting national records in Junior College Divisions, and later competing in the NCAA Women's Championship meet in 1978 as a member of the University of Florida Women's Swim Team.

#### PROFESSIONAL CAREER:

Dea went on to promote the love of sports to thousands of students. She coached, and sponsored sports and cheerleading teams, and taught kids how to swim with the American Red Cross. One of her most cherished experiences was her involvement in the Young Athletes program, an inclusive skill development program for Pre-K to 5th-grade children participating in Field Days.

Dea retired in 2022, and is now back where it all began-swimming at Morningside Pool.

Dea, tonight we honor the enduring legacy of your swimming career and leadership in shaping youth in our community. Congratulations!