

The History of the Letterwinners M Club

The Letterwinners M Club is the official member-driven Club for Michigan Letterwinners. We are an organization run by letterwinners, for letterwinners. Since first awarded in 1866, a Varsity "M" earned at the University of Michigan has been recognized as one of the most prestigious honors in Collegiate Athletics.

The Letterwinners M Club recognizes, connects, and celebrates athletes across sports, across decades, and across the globe. We have participated with the [National Letterwinners Association](#) (NLWA), founded by the National W-Club at the University of Wisconsin in 1996.

At inception, the NLWA was geared towards the [Big Ten Conference institutions](#) and many early attendees were solely from Big Ten Schools.

The NLWA eventually expanded and is open to all NCAA colleges and universities. We at [Letterwinners M Club](#) are very proud to celebrate our athletes across the globe.

Deep Roots

Since the Letterwinners M Club was formed in 1913 it has been run by an all-volunteer board of former varsity student-athletes who donate both time and talent. The first president, Homer Heath, 1906 Big Ten Champion in the Long Jump, was appointed in 1913. There have been dozens of Presidents across sports that have served the M Club since its inception.



Former President Robert P. Ufer, 1954 was an American track and field athlete and radio broadcaster. As an athlete, Ufer set the world indoor record in the indoor 440-yard run and was selected as an All-American in 1943. As a broadcaster, he served as the lead broadcaster for the Michigan Wolverines football team for 36 years, starting in 1945. He was in the first group of athletes inducted in 1978 into the University of Michigan Athletic Hall of Honor.

Today, the Letterwinners M Club celebrates Ufer with an annual award in his honor. [The Ufer Award](#) is one of the highest honors bestowed by the [Board of Directors](#).

Since 1981, the Ufer Award has been presented each year to a Letterwinner M Club member in recognition of their exceptional enthusiasm for, and commitment to, the University of Michigan and the Letterwinners M Club.

Female Letterwinners

Since the mid-70s, when Michigan established varsity women's teams, The Letterwinners M Club has been under the leadership of 5 female presidents across a myriad of sports. The first female president was Marissa Pollick, one of the first female letterwinners in Tennis in 1977.





Pollick, who majored in history before going on to U-M Law School, became the first woman president of the Letterwinners M Club in 1999. Pollick has been teaching at U-M School of Kinesiology since 2004, beginning with a graduate course in sports law, Legal Aspects of Sport. In 2011, she began teaching an introductory version for undergraduates, a course called Legal and Ethical Issues in Sport, Race and Cultural Issues in Sport, and Sport and Public Policy.

She is the author of Introduction to Legal and Ethical Issues in Sport. She is a practicing lawyer with a focus on labor and employment law, Title IX compliance, and civil rights litigation. She serves as a consultant to schools and universities in Title IX compliance, investigations, and diversity training and education.

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In 2008, the Early Women Athletes that played before their sport was recognized as a varsity sport received an Honorary M from the Letterwinners M Club and gained access to membership.

M Club in Action

We connect and give back through [regional events](#), [online events](#), and [events](#) held at the University of Michigan

We proudly offer scholarships to athletes and sponsor events and organizations that are near and dear to our hearts.

We celebrate decades of letterwinners by displaying their names in Crisler Area on the newly constructed Letterwinners Wall. We also offer the M Banner experience to all [Letterwinners M Club members](#).

Who We Celebrate

We are inclusive – we celebrate Michigan Letterwinners across sports, decades, and across the globe.

The Future is Bright

We exist to build a unified community of letterwinners serving each other to sustain the excellence and leadership of Michigan Athletics and to help stay connected to Michigan after sports.

Our Guiding Principles

INTEGRITY

Be responsible and ethical stewards of Michigan Athletics.

RESPECT

One team of global letterwinners embracing the commonalities that bind us.

CONNECTION

Committed to fostering a life-long connection to each other and our collective experiences.

COMMITMENT

Honoring the past, celebrating the present, and driving the future of the M Club.

