



MHSA ATHLETES' HALL OF FAME  
**Joseph Gregory Rice (1935)**  
**Missoula County High School**  
Inducted 1994

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Rice was named winner of the 1940 Sullivan Award as the top amateur athlete in the nation. He won both the 880 and mile at the state meet as a sophomore, junior and senior for Missoula County High School. His success as a distance runner for the Notre Dame Fighting Irish led to his induction into the NCAA Track and Field Hall of Fame. The first NCAA Cross Country Meet was held in the fall of 1937, and the winner was Rice. He repeated at the second meet in 1939. After graduation from Notre Dame he was affiliated with the New York Athletic Club. At one time he held 35 records in various distance events in a variety of meets. His best three-mile time was not bettered for 17 years and his two-mile record prevailed for nine years.

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