

MID MON VALLEY ALL SPORTS HALL OF FAME



Ernest "Roger" Hotz

Friday, June 15, 2018
5:30 p.m. Reception
6:30 p.m. Dinner

St. Spyridon
Hellenic Center
1205 Grand Blvd., Monessen, PA

Jamie Reader

Dan LaCarte

John Konck

Vinnie Graham

Jamont Kinds

25TH ANNUAL INDUCTION BANQUET
Honoring High School Scholar Athletes
and WPIAL Achievement

CHAPTER OF THE PENNSYLVANIA SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Dedicated to Preserving The Rich Sports Heritage of The Mid Monongahela Valley

monvalleysportshalloffame.com

Cover designed by Gracie Abel

**Your local Sports Hall of Fame
recognizing outstanding sports figures
from the Mid Mon Valley since 1951!**



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Chapter of The Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame

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Hall of Fame Watch 2018

Welcome to the 25th annual Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame Banquet. This is our silver anniversary banquet and we have a class of par excellence.

Our student honorees, outstanding senior scholar-athletes chosen by their respective Mon Valley high schools, are to be commended on a job well done! It is our privilege to honor you in tonight's ceremony alongside the athletes who came before you. Most importantly, you represent the future for our communities, commonwealth and nation. We recognize the time, energy and dedication that you have demonstrated while participating in high school athletics and maintaining your academic excellence.

In the past decade, upon the recommendation of one of the original contributors to the Mon Valley Sportswriters Hall of Fame, Ron Paglia recommended recognizing WPIAL champions for our area high schools. Since it was so rare to have a Mon Valley High WPIAL winner, it appeared justified. Recently, we have entered a golden age of WPIAL champions. This year we have the privilege to recognize two teams and 11 individual champions.

Belle Vernon Area High School Leopards won their fourth overall Class 4A softball (21-3) WPIAL championship (2007, 2015 and 2017). BVA has won three out of the last four years of WPIAL softball championships. Captain Bailey Parshall will accept the award for the team gold.

Brownsville High School Falcons won their first ever Class 3A baseball (15-2) WPIAL championship.

Our Achievement award winners for Mon Valley High School WPIAL 2017-2018 individual Gold include in wrestling Bentworth/Charleroi's John Vargo (34-8) Class AA 182 lbs. and Belle Vernon Area's Zach Hartman (43-5) Class AAA 160 lbs. and Scott Joll (42-5) Class AAA 170 lb. In diving Ringgold's Anna Vogt Class AA won gold with a score of 354.70. In swimming BVA's Robby Spekis Class AA 200-yard Medley (1:58:48) and 100-yard breast stroke (57.80) a BVA and WPIAL record and Ian Shahan 100-yard backstroke (52.20); Elizabeth Forward's Class AA Kaelyn McClain 500-yard freestyle Time (5:12.87) and Ashlee Toth 100-yard backstroke time (59.10). In track and field Elizabeth Forward's Brianna Spirnak Class AAA javelin (150-1), Bentworth's Brenna Cavanaugh repeating her Class AA 100-meter high hurdles (14.51) and long jump (leap of 18-6) and Brownsville's Gionna Quarzo Class AA 3,200 (11:11.16) and winning gold at PIAA (10:48.19).

This past year, the Sports Hall of Fame lost 1999 inductee Dick DiBiasco (1941-2017) and 2018 inductee Edward Zuraw Sr. (1939-2017). At press time we just learned of the passing of 2017 MMVASHOF inductee Dom Bartolomucci's (1937-2018) passing on June 7, 2018. The Hall of Fame will miss these individuals and their contributions. Other Sports Hall of Fame contributors who passed away include selection committee member Wally Gibbons of Elizabeth and special events committee member Joan Andabaker.

Congratulations to 2017 Hall of Fame inductee Scott Nedrow who was inducted into the Pittsburgh Basketball Club Legends Hall of Fame on February 3, 2018 at Chartiers Country Club.

The new Charleroi High School Stadium was named for 1996 inductee Myron Pottios on September 2, 2016 and 2006 Elizabeth Forward scholar athlete Dan Altavilla was promoted to MLB on August 27, 2016.

We welcome back Waynesburg University's Lanny Frattare to the speaker's platform as our Master of Ceremonies. Lanny was the Voice of the Pittsburgh Pirates from 1976 thru 2008.

Our artist, Gracie Abel of Finleyville, has again developed a keepsake program book cover and banquet ticket graciously sponsored by Jerry Zahand of Highway Appliance. Tim Urda of Badzik Printing in Donora along with Ted and Barb Jakela are invaluable for the production of the final program book. As a member of our special events committee, Tim has provided service in every area possible. Mark Lenart at Weldon Acres Trophy in McKeesport has provided our unique Pennsylvania Hall of Fame plaques. We are most grateful for the Pennsylvania Senate citations each inductee will receive this evening, compliments of state Senator Camera Bartolotta.

Our photographer for the Sports Hall of Fame is Cris Grilli of Grilli's Studio of New Eagle. Anyone wishing a digital photo of the scholar athletes receiving their awards should contact Mr. Russell at his email: stephenvrussell@gmail.com. Our disc jockey is retired speech and forensics educator Bill Lemonovich of Monongahela. Loren Carrota of Monessen Florist sponsors the corsages and boutonnieres for our inductees.

To all of our generous sponsors – it is you who make this souvenir program book a reality.

We are most fortunate to have press coverage of the Sports Hall of Fame provided by Jeremy Sellow of The Mon Valley Independent, Bill Hughes, George Von Benko, and Wayne Stewart, of the Herald Standard, and Douglas E. Haniford of the South Hills – Mon Valley Messenger.

I want to thank the Board of Directors, special events committee and selection committee for another job well done. We thank the following Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame chapters in attendance this evening representing the Robert "Tick" Cloherty and Fayette County entities.

While cleaning out closets, attics or old trunks in the basement think of the Hall of Fame Sports Museum. Scrapbooks may have something we need to tell the story of our athletes. We treasure those vintage photographs. Remember to visit the Sports Hall of Fame Museum at the Bentleyville Best Western Garden Inn.

Again, thank you for attending. We deeply appreciate your continued support. See you at next year's banquet June 21, 2019.



Stephen V. Russell
General Chairman



For more information on the Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame, please visit
www.monvalleysportshalloffame.com
and the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame at: www.pashof.org

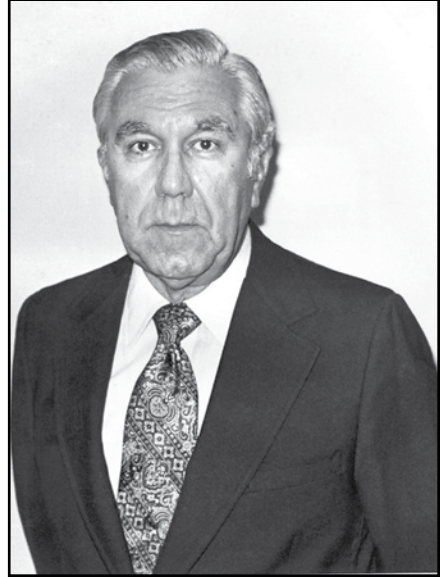


Origin of the **MON VALLEY SPORTS WRITERS HALL OF FAME**

The Mon Valley Football Conference was organized in 1925 as the Big Five Conference, and over the years additional schools were admitted. Floyd France, sports editor of the *Daily Republican* in Monongahela, formulated the original plans for the conference. The initial Big Five Conference included California, Charleroi, Donora, Monessen and Monongahela High Schools. In 1935, Brownsville was added for a Big Six Conference. Over the years additional schools included Belle Vernon, Clairton, South Allegheny, Laurel Highlands, Redstone, Thomas Jefferson and Elizabeth Forward. In 1939 Mon Valley Conference stars were honored at a banquet in Monessen High School cafeteria sponsored by the Monongahela Valley

Press Association. The following year it was held in Monongahela. In late December 1941 it was decided by the Press Association to drop its annual banquet and that the trophy and emblems would be awarded to the winning team and honored players at a banquet held annually by each school. The conference would become the oldest high school football conference in the WPIAL and the oldest scholastic group in Pennsylvania. The conference was phased out in 1980 through a realignment of schools by the WPIAL due to a declining enrollment at most schools.

At a meeting for selection of the 1950 football conference all-stars, John Bunardzya, then sports editor of *The Charleroi Mail*, suggested that a first-class banquet should be held to honor the All-Star football players. The initial banquet was held in the fall of 1950 at Paci's Restaurant near Brownsville and was sponsored by the Mon Valley Press Association. Assisting Bunardzya in planning the banquet were Bob Petriello, sports editor of the



Johnny Bunardzya

Founder of the Mon Valley
Sports Writers Hall of Fame, 1951

Brownsville Telegraph; Allen Kline, sports editor of *The Monessen Daily Independent*; Bob Wood, sports editor of the *Uniontown Morning Herald*; and Floyd France of the *Monongahela Daily Republican*. Jim Tatum, head football coach at the University of Maryland, was principal speaker. Bob Prince, voice of the Pittsburgh Pirate Baseball Club, was toastmaster. Vic Janowicz, the Ohio State Heisman Trophy winner was also in attendance.

The initial banquet was staged by the Mon Valley Sports Writers Association. In later years sportscasters of the Mon Valley were added to plan the annual banquet and select the All-Conference team. The Mon Valley Principals Association also became active in organizing these affairs.

In 1951, the second annual Mon Valley Football Conference banquet was held at the beautiful Twin Coaches Supper Club on Route 51 in Rostraver Township. The popular nightclub was owned and operated by Tony and Rose Calderone and became the place to host banquets, be it a political rally or athletic awards program. Over the next quarter of a century not only did the Mon Valley Sports Writers Hall of Fame honor great sports figures, but it also showcased some great floor shows including Liberace, Dean Martin, Pearl Bailey, Nat King Cole, The McGuire Sisters and Bobby Vinton just to name a few artists. Bob Petriello, President of the Mon Valley Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association, remembered attendance at over 1,000 people every year until the Twin Coaches was destroyed by fire on October 10, 1977.

It was in the formative second year that the writers decided to name sports personalities to a mythical Mon Valley Sports Hall of Fame, although it wasn't necessarily referred to as Hall of Fame until the sixties. In 1951, Stan Musial and Bert Rechichar were selected by the writers as the first inductees. The honorees in the early fifties were presented as personalities and distinguished guests usually acknowledged after the Big 5, Big 6 awards. From 1957 to 1963 inductees were referred to as "Special Awards." In 1964 the title became "Special Awards Mon Valley Sports Hall of Fame." In his column, *Sportraits*, on December 9, 1960, sports editor Johnny Bunardzys of *The Valley Independent* wrote the following: "That old codger, 77 year-old John 'Scissors' McIlvain of Charleroi, gave the most touching speech of the night when he said being inducted into the Mon Valley's make-believe Hall of Fame was a double pleasure for him 'because a baseball man was being honored at a football dinner.'" The Mon Valley Sports Hall of Fame was founded by John Bunardzys assisted by sportswriters Bob Petriello (Brownsville), Floyd France (Monongahela), Allen Kline (Monessen), Bob Wood (California and Washington), and Clair Brown (Belle Vernon). A few years later, Frank Buscanics, Bob Gardner, Ed Gray, Ron Paglia, Todd

Trent, Fred Hevia, Brian Herman, as well as, other press writers from the Mon Valley, also served with Bunardzya on the Sports Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

Writers and broadcasters continued to select former valley athletes to the Hall of Fame and honor them at the annual banquet throughout the next three decades. The Hall of Fame portion of the banquet was secondary to the main emphasis of the gathering which was to salute outstanding Mon Valley high school football All-Stars. The selection of Mon Valley Conference All Stars was a mainstay at these banquets along with keeping a yearly listing of the scoring leader from 1925 until 1979 when the Mon Valley Football Conference ended its run because of a change in alignment of teams by the WPIAL. A treat at these banquets was the star quality of the main speakers which gave class and charisma to the affair. They included the Four Horsemen of Notre Dame; Woody Hayes and Earle Bruce, head football coach's at Ohio State University; Jesse Owens of Olympic Games fame; Bill Veeck, a baseball owner and promoter; and Ara Parseghian, the head football coach at Notre Dame along with many other personalities. Although this kind of prodigious entertainment ceased in the late 1970's, these banquets were affairs to remember. In fact, the program books from these banquets, with their artist drawings of famous sports personalities on the cover, have become treasured valley sports memorabilia. Frequently on the night of the banquet, guest speakers who were featured on the cover requested extra copies of the book. Some of the speakers asked if they could obtain the actual drawing. Some of the artwork was created by longtime newspaper photographer and artist James "Scoop" Altamare. The program books were initially printed by the MMM Publishing Company in New Eagle. Attempting to put together a set of these books through the years would be no easy task.

The 30th consecutive All Conference football banquet would come to an end with the 1979 presentation. The end of the annual banquet was due to the WPIAL realignment of schools which had competed against local school district teams. With the change the Mon Valley Conference no longer competed against one another and the banquets came to an end.

Fortunately, the tradition, set by John Bunardzya and the Mon Valley Sportswriters, is being carried on today by the Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame.



Forerunner to the Mon Valley Sports Writers Hall of Fame

Meet the founder of the Mon Valley Football Conference sportswriter Floyd M. France of the *Monongahela Daily Republican*. The first class of football All-Conference Team stars in 1925 includes past Hall of Fame inductees James Adamson, George Chacko, John Martak, Harry McCurdy and Tom Parkinson. The Big Five Conference schools included California, Charleroi, Donora, Monessen, and Monongahela. Mr. France was an inductee himself to the Mon Valley Sports Hall of Fame in 1957.



Floyd M. France

1925 All-Conference Valley selected by Floyd France:

Ends: George J. "Beans" Chacko, Charleroi • John Kuzma, Monessen

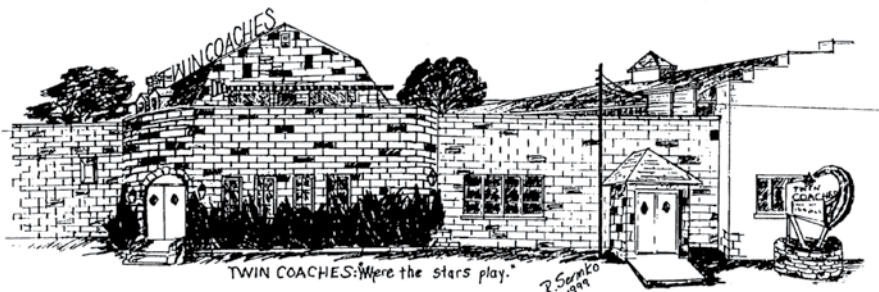
Tackles: Harvey Longhead, Charleroi • Anton Koeninger, California

Guards: Clarence E. Stump, Donora • Bernard "Tuffy" McManus, California

Center: Frank Maykovich, Monessen

Backs: James H. "Kayo" Adamson, QB • John R. Martak, Donora, RB

Harry P. "Yi" McCurdy, Monongahela, RB • Thomas H. "Pug" Parkinson, California, FB



HOME OF THE ORIGINAL MON VALLEY SPORTSWRITERS HALL OF FAME



Origin of the **MID MON VALLEY ALL SPORTS HALL OF FAME**

The Mid Mon Valley Chamber of Commerce, formed in 1988, was comprised of valley chamber organizations and concerned leaders of the communities.

In 1994, Bernard T. Sarra, Sr., a member of the Regional Chamber from Fayette City, proposed the idea of forming a special event committee representing sports-minded people from the Mid Monongahela Valley. Sarra's idea was to bring valley communities together with the areas sports interest, since there was a mood of community isolation instead of Mon Valley camaraderie. Since the Mid Mon Valley produced some very fine athletes over the decades why not celebrate this fact and bring the communities together for the common good? The Regional Chamber formed a special event committee, chaired by Bernard T. Sarra, Sr. with representation from the Greater Mid Mon Valley communities.



Bernard T. Sarra, Sr

Founder of the Mid Mon Valley
All Sports Hall of Fame, 1994

This committee held its first event, an All-Sports Tailgate Party, on September 29, 1994, at the Charleroi Elks Club. This event drew hundreds of sports-enthusiasts, many of whom had supported the Mon Valley Sports Writers Hall of Fame originally founded in 1951 by sportswriter Johnny Bunardzys. Bernard T. Sarra, Sr. proposed that the old Sports Hall of Fame be reinstated which lapsed in 1977. On July 21, 1995, a second tailgate party was held at the Washington Township Social Hall in Belle Vernon honoring eight high school scholar-athletes from each of the eight schools that would now constitute the geographical boundaries of the new Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame. The eight schools comprising the region would include Belle Vernon, Brownsville, California, Elizabeth Forward, Monessen, Charleroi, Ringgold, and Yough. Clair Brown of Belle Vernon was the toastmaster, as he was in 1994.

In the fall of 1995, the special event committee appointed a Sports Hall of Fame selection committee, headed by former sportswriter Clair Brown. The committee included past inductees to the Hall of Fame from the original Mon Valley Sportswriters Association. Included in this diverse group of educators, coaches and media were Joe Gladys, Fred Hevia, Loretta Manus, Ron Paglia, Steve Russell, Joe McCune, P. Bud Roman, Brian Herman, Bob Petriello, Bill Kubin, Sherman Brizzi and Bap Manzini. It was decided that eight sports personalities would be elected to the Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame for 1996. This class would become the first group of the newly revived Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame.

On July 26, 1996, at the St. Spyridon Social Hall in Monessen, after a nineteen year absence, the first inductees of the Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame were enshrined. The number of scholar-athletes representing each school district was expanded from eight to sixteen with each school choosing a male and female student. Attorney Melvin Bassi of Monongahela hosted the gathering as toastmaster. Attendance was over 400 persons.

The Mid Mon Valley Regional Chamber of Commerce dissolved on March 21, 1997. Bernard T. Sarra, Sr. initiated a plan to form a separate entity, the Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame. The members of the special event committee proceeded to elect a Board of Directors on April 29, 1997, to oversee the operations of the Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame. Bernard T. Sarra, Sr. became the first Chairman of the Board of Directors. Andrew Solan of Rostraver Township was appointed special event committee chairman. Clair Brown of Belle Vernon was named chairman of the selection committee. Steve Russell of Monongahela was named general chairman acting as a liaison among the three groups of the Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame. Kathy Krisfalusy of Monongahela was selected treasurer.

A home for the Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame had been under consideration and review since August 1997. The Holiday Inn of Belle Vernon, at the intersection of Route 51 and Interstate 70, was chosen with the cooperation of hotel manager Robert Palmer, and owner Jay Lustig. In the fall of 1998, a permanent exhibit located in the Holiday Inn lobby was opened to the public. The display consisted of pictures, standees, trophies, and general memorabilia of past and present Sports Hall of Fame personalities. Steve Russell assumed the duties of curator for the Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame exhibit. On December 31, 2008 the Holiday Inn closed its doors and the exhibit was dismantled. The exhibit was extremely popular throughout its tour. In May of 2009 the exhibit was moved to the Bentleyville Best Western Garden Inn through the graciousness of the owner and Hall of Fame supporter Dr. Kamlesh Gosai. On April 11, 2010 a grand opening was held for the public officially opening the Hall of Fame exhibits. In attendance were Hall of Fame inductees Louis Cecconi, Dennis Laskey, and James "Mouse" Chacko.

In 1997 and 1998 a total of sixteen more inductees were elected to in the Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame. In 1999, the Board of Directors accepted a plan to name between four and eight inductees in future years. In 1999, a barrier was broken when the first woman, golfer Suzy Williams Broadhurst, was elected to the Hall of Fame. After a three year run at the St. Spyridon Greek Hellenic Center in Monessen, the Hall of Fame banquet was moved in 1999 to the Carroll Township Social Hall in Monongahela.

In 2000, the duties of toastmaster transferred from attorney Melvin Bassi of Monongahela to former NFL player Bill Priatko of North Huntingdon. The banquet moved to the campus of California University of Pennsylvania. In 2000, the Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame officially became affiliated with the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. The guidelines for the State Hall of Fame were adopted by the Mid Mon Valley Chapter on October 10, 2000 and a change in eligibility was recommended. Sports figures must have been retired from the sport or athletic position a minimum of three years, or reached their 55th birthday, or have been in the sport or position a minimum of 25 years.

The Hall of Fame published a biographical journal written and compiled by Steve Russell in 2001. The book represented the first attempt to keep a permanent written history of all 133 sports heroes elected to the Hall. Lee Oliver Hewitt, graphic designer for *The Valley Independent*, did line artist drawings for each biography. The task of locating a suitable photograph of each inductee from 1951 to 2001 was completed with much effort.

On October 8, 2002, Bernard T. Sarra Sr., Chairman of the Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame, passed the leadership role to his successor Ron Paglia of Charleroi. Paglia was a logical choice to succeed Sarra, since he had a long and distinguished career at *The Valley Independent* newspaper performing duties in the sports department and eventually as the newspaper city editor. Dennis J. Stitch of Charleroi succeeded Ron Paglia as Chairman in April 2003. Continuing in leadership positions would be Andrew Solan as secretary and Steve Russell as general chairman. A change in the chairmanship of the selection committee was made earlier in 2002 with the naming of Brian Herman, Sports Editor of *The Valley Independent*. Kathy Krisfalusy relinquished her role as treasurer to Jeffrey T. Vitale of Monongahela. Vitale would hold the position until 2011. In 2012 Thomas J. Jenkins became secretary.

On November 6, 2004 at the 42nd annual Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame induction dinner held in Warrendale, the Mon Valley had two of its own personalities enshrined. A Donora flavor was present with the induction of Ken Griffey, Sr. and the late Arnold Galiffa. They joined fellow Mid Mon Valley Sports Hall of Fame inductees Stan Musial, Bert Rechichar, Dan "Deacon" Towler, Armand Niccolai, John Potsklan, and Sever Toretti. The Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame had its first induction dinner in 1963 and today is made up of 28 different chapters of which the Mid Mon Valley is one.

At the 2005 banquet the organization introduced the first in a series of card sets depicting Hall of Fame inductees and a brief biography. The first series included inductees from 2001 thru 2005. One-thousand sets were made for the first series of thirty-six cards. In following years sets were limited to a production of 500 and each set would include previous inductees along with recent selections. Ross Farmer of West Newton and Lee Hewitt of Newell joined forces to work on the bios and artist drawings depicted on the cards.

On November 4, 2006, in Greater Hazleton, Pennsylvania, two additional Mon Valley Sports Hall of Fame members were inducted into the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. Bap Manzini and Jim Russell, represented by his son, Steve Russell, were inducted at the 44th annual banquet held at Genetti's Motor Lodge with over three hundred people in attendance. On November 3, 2007 Myron Pottios was inducted into the state Hall of Fame in Essington, Pa.

On June 13, 2008 the Hall of Fame banquet returned to Rostraver Township at Don Ivill's The Willow Room. A commemorative badge was issued to all in attendance honoring the inaugural inductees from the Twin Coaches in 1951 Stan Musial and Bert Rechichar. On November 1, 2008 Fred Cox was inducted into the state Hall of Fame in Washington, Pennsylvania.

Dale Hamer performed master of ceremonies duties at the 2010 banquet succeeding Bill Priatko who relinquished that role. On October 16, 2010 Bill Malinchak was inducted into the state Hall of Fame in Danville, Pennsylvania. Bill Hillgrove, the Voice of the Pittsburgh Steelers and University of Pittsburgh football and basketball became the fifth master of ceremonies at the 2011 banquet. On October 22, 2011 Lou "Bimbo" Cecconi was inducted into the state Hall of Fame in the Philadelphia area. At the 2012 banquet University of Pittsburgh's Pat Bostick accepted the role of master of ceremonies. On November 10, 2012 Dale Hamer and Sam Havrilak were inducted into the state Hall of Fame at the banquet in Cranberry Township, Pittsburgh.

Master of Ceremony duties transferred to Douglas Lee President of Waynesburg University in 2016 following Pat Bostick's four year tenure through 2015. Pennsylvania State Hall of Fame inductees continued in 2014 with Ron Necciai, 2015 with Eric Crabtree and 2016 with Craig Fayak. The Hall of Fame banquet facility continued at The Willow Room through 2016 when the dining establishment closed. The banquet returned to its former venue last attended in 1998 at St Spyridon Hellenic Center in Monessen in 2017.

The goal of the present Sports Hall of Fame is to continue to promote harmony and good will throughout the communities of the Mid-Monongahela Valley through a common bond in our great sports heritage as well as to maintain the rich historical legacy of sports in the Mon Valley.

In Memoriam

Dick DiBiaso



Class of 1999
February 6, 1941 – October 19, 2017

Edward Zuraw, Sr.



Class of 2014
January 26, 1939 – November 16, 2017



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Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame Banquet

**Saint Spyridon Hellenic Center
in Monessen**

Friday, June 16, 2017



*Chairman of the Board Dennis Stitch and
Master of Ceremonies Lanny Frattare*



Meet the 2017 Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame Inductees



Left to right are Coach Joe Salvino, Scott Nedrow, Daryle Ruby, Joe Margoneri, Phil Hughes, and Coach Don Bartolomucci



Meet the 2017 Scholar-Athletes of the Mid Monongahela Valley Schools



First row from left: Brownsville's Alexandria Seto, Belle Vernon Area's Sophia Yantko, Yough's Olivia Miller and Jack Cleary

Second row from left: Ringgold's Dalton Holt and Olivia Warner, Charleroi's Carter Risky and Jessica Day, Bentworth's Josh Hughes and Autumn Zgorliski

Third row from left: California's Nathaniel Luketich and Jenna Miller, Elizabeth Forward's Ryan Lee and Madison Ambler, Monessen's Justice Rice and Victoria Cooper

Meet the 2017 Mon Valley WPIAL Achievement Awardees



Left to right: Randy Marino presents California's Ashley McIntosh with Achievement award for the Class AA championship in the 300 intermediate hurdles in 45.73 seconds along with Steve Russell



Meet the 2017 Mon Valley WPIAL Achievement Awardees



Monessen's basketball Coach Joe Salvino and senior captain Justice Rice accept Achievement award on behalf of their team, the Class A WPIAL championship basketball Monessen Greyhounds, with presentations by Randy Marino and Steve Russell of the MMVASHOF.



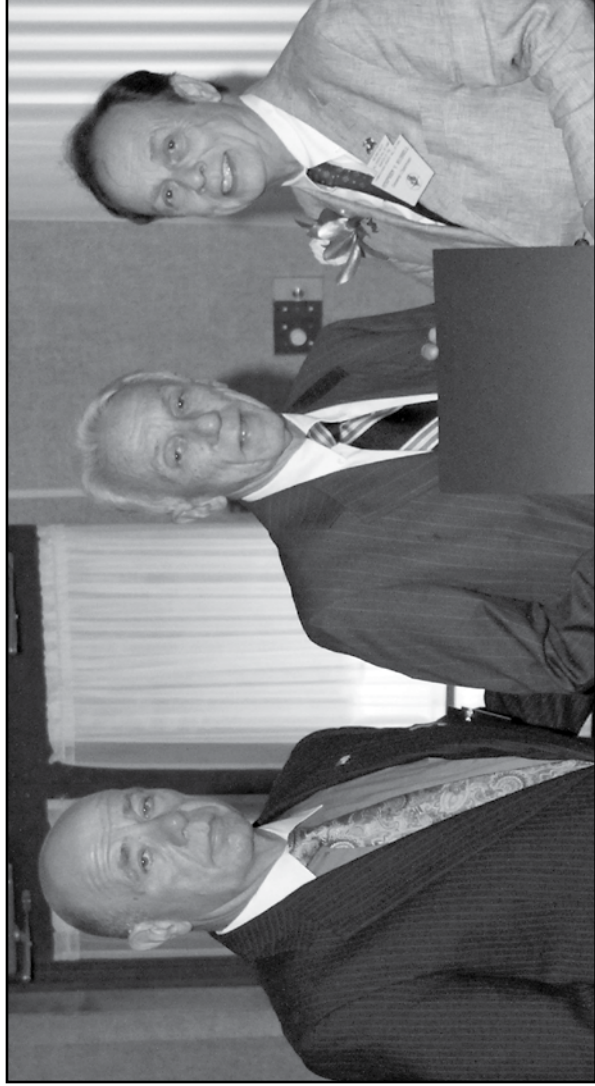


Meet the 2017 Mon Valley WPIAL Achievement Awardees



Senior captain John DeFranco, head baseball coach Nick Damico, and senior captain Nathaniel Luketich accept Achievement award on behalf of their team, the Class AA champion baseball California Trojans with presentations by Randy Marino (left) and Steve Russell (right)

Meet the 2017 Mon Valley WPIAL Achievement Awardees



Belle Vernon Area softball head coach Tom Rodriguez accepts Achievement award on behalf of his team, the Class AAAAA WPIAL championship softball Leopards, with presentation by Randy Marino (left) and Steve Russell (right)



Mid Mon Valley Scholar Athletes

1995

Belle Vernon Area High School Vinnie Graham
California High School Steve Hajdu
Charleroi High School..... Bob Filander
Monessen High School..... Patric Greene
Ringgold High School..... Jamont Kinds, Emily Cokinos
Yough High School Allison Sims

1996

Belle Vernon Area High School Brian Nogy, Heather Zolak
Brownsville High School Cara Davis
California High School Mark Bennett
Charleroi High School..... Brodie Claybaugh, Heather Eland
Elizabeth Forward High School Brian Arico, Kelli Baran
Monessen High School..... Josh Belczyk, Gina Naccarato
Ringgold High School..... Leif Ellis, Candi Pasquinelli
Yough High School Nate Sann, Kelly Garvallis

1997

Belle Vernon Area High School Chris Dacko, Renee Matz
Brownsville High School Justin Isarywongse, Nina Turcik
California High School Brady Barbero, Brandi Bennett
Charleroi High School..... Joe Strangis, Julie Ann Kinder
Elizabeth Forward High School Shawn Malloy, Erin Cray
Monessen High School..... Thomas Majors, Kim Gratta
Ringgold High School..... Adam Smith, Carrie Schlieper
Yough High School Ryan Sikora, Kimberly Vay

1998

Belle Vernon Area High School Matt Easley, Megan Backstrom
Brownsville High School Chad Rohland, Lisa McGrady
California High School Joseph Yurkovich, Leslie Edwards
Charleroi High School..... Marc Giorgi, Janelle Pieri
Elizabeth Forward High School Joseph Hipsky, Natalie R. Meehleib
Monessen High School..... David Christian Stein, Nicole Lynn Naccarato
Ringgold High School..... Greg Ghilani, Lauren Petrosky
Yough High School Doug Ivanac, Leigh Prpich

1999

Belle Vernon Area High School	Nick Solan, Tracey Rodriguez
Brownsville High School	Joel Seelye , Danielle Pazzabon
California High School	Ryan Reynolds, Lindsay Hollowood
Charleroi High School	Dan LaCarte, Kelly Haywood
Elizabeth Forward High School	Mark Iacone, Brandi Tennant
Monessen High School.....	Brandon Isbell, Carla Howard
Ringgold High School.....	Jonathan Nath, Sha Vonne Steward
Yough High School	Aaron Lyle, Erin Lawson

2000

Belle Vernon Area High School	Ryan P. Russell, Crystal Mayfield
Brownsville High School	Alyssa A. Trynock, Ryan Chafin
California High School	Wendy Sheets, Christopher A. Tchinski
Charleroi High School.....	Catherine M. Davis, Mark Tedrow
Elizabeth Forward High School	Rachel Bazylak, Patrick Risha
Monessen High School.....	Lisa Mauck, Chase Helon
Ringgold High School.....	Kristen Lancas, David Barkey
Yough High School	Danielle Wright, Ross Markle

2001

Belle Vernon Area High School	Larissa Lazar, Eric McElvenny
Brownsville High School	Casey Peters, Chris Zivkovich
California High School	Amanda Towner, Joshua Crockett
Charleroi High School.....	Nicole Hazy, Aaron Salotti
Elizabeth Forward High School	Amy Slash, Jared Kreider
Monessen High School.....	Carly Swann, Joshua Turkovich
Ringgold High School.....	Jessica Sabol, Lloyd Price
Yough High School	Erin Urick, Ryan Golobush

2002

Belle Vernon Area High School	Rachel Konsugar, John Jolley
Brownsville High School	Molly McClelland, Elliott Sally
California High School	Lauren Martinak, Matthew Morich
Charleroi High School.....	Melanie Marshall, Derek DiPiazza
Elizabeth Forward High School	Heather Boyd, Alexander Hindman
Monessen High School.....	Natalie DeiCas, Brandon Jackson
Ringgold High School.....	Jennifer Maria Pergola, Robert Minnie
Yough High School	Rosemary Trenk, Ryan Thompson

2003

Belle Vernon Area High School Jonathan Visnich, Sarah Mendicino
Brownsville High School Chad Rice, Julie Kromer
California High School Calvin Kent, Amy Wohar
Charleroi High School Aaron Giorgi, Rona Bullard
Elizabeth Forward High School Brad Mitchell, Lindsay Wright
Monessen High School A. J. Jackson, Kellie Kifus
Ringgold High School Michael Bassi, Stephanie Kuhn
Yough High School John DeSimone, Amanda Bashioum

2004

Belle Vernon Area High School Jared Naylor, Jamie Alexis Paterline
Brownsville High School Steve Pazzabon, Danielle Davison
California High School Parke T. Bongiorno II, Marijo Bilitski
Charleroi High School Greg Trilli, Geraldine Alcorn
Elizabeth Forward High School Aaron Pankiewicz, Autumn Meredith
Monessen High School Richard "Mike" Blainefield, Charel Allen
Ringgold High School Phillip Andrew Anselmino, Valerie Rogers
Yough High School Adam Portik, Jenna Leber

2005

Belle Vernon Area High School Douglas Ivill, Corey Lee Baron
Brownsville High School Scott Fraley, Julie Martini
California High School Andrew Galis, Rebecca Evans
Charleroi High School Brian Brandt, Kelsey Ramsdell
Elizabeth Forward High School Christopher Ogurchak, Kayla Younge
Monessen High School David J. Lauteri, Amanda Como
Ringgold High School Adam Christopher Zewe, Amy Kifus
Yough High School Mark G. Dorn, Amanda Urick

2006

Belle Vernon Area High School Craig Custer, Lindsey Zubritsky
Brownsville High School John Marcolini, Jeana Lynn Rouse
California High School Franklin Donald Turosik, Kayla Palyas
Charleroi High School Chris Chacko, Briannon Scorza
Elizabeth Forward High School Michael T. Lugarich, Dina Mannarino
Monessen High School Evan Senitta, Mariea Gigliotti
Ringgold High School Robert "Bean" Heller, Brittney Radic
Yough High School Darnell Strader, Melanie McClain

2007

Belle Vernon Area High School Joshua Keffer, Kayla Nuccetelli
Brownsville High School Michael Rhoads, Nicole M. Kerestine
California High School Michael Galis, Taylor Popelas
Charleroi High School Nathan J. Helster, Kelsey Strelick
Elizabeth Forward High School Daniel Laffin, Jennifer McLay
Monessen High School Vincent Campbell, Alicia Campbell
Ringgold High School Nate Blackman, Cassidy L. Quattrone
Yough High School Nicholas Hegedus, Samatha Rimel

2008

Belle Vernon Area High School Jacob A. Nagy, Megan Russell
Brownsville High School Craig Novak, Erika Coffey
California High School Nathan Wright, Natalie Granato
Charleroi High School Roman J. DiPiazza, Jennifer Samoda
Elizabeth Forward High School Zachary Mikolics, Julia Urbanski
Monessen High School Jared R. Dziak, Breane Minardi
Ringgold High School Adam Madar, Logan Rachelle Cole
Yough High School Joseph Chada, Grace Smor

2009

Belle Vernon Area High School Zachary Wardle, Cori Stark
Brownsville High School Stacey Knox
California High School Ben Carson, Christina Pankratz
Charleroi High School Taylor Andrisco, Alyssa Lee
Elizabeth Forward High School Ryan Styche, Hannah Shaner
Monessen High School Tyler Chaussinand, Ta'Nesha Anderson
Ringgold High School Tom Sherred, Samantha Jenkins
Yough High School Nathan Roll, Kelly Pleva

2010

Belle Vernon Area High School Justin Sellew, Jocelyn Connolly
Bentworth High School Clay Roman, Katlyn D'Orazio
Brownsville High School Donald E. Thomas, Amber Simcoke
California High School Nicholas Andrew Wohar, Allison Greenlief
Charleroi High School Zachary Meharey, Alyssa R. Helster
Elizabeth Forward High School Joshua Gibbons, Kassia Krol
Monessen High School ShelDon Miller, Hayley Halinka
Ringgold High School Brian Johnson, Katherine Cramer
Yough High School Matt Sever, Kasey Lynn

2011

Belle Vernon Area High School Nicholas Gruber, Mary Elizabeth Spang
Bentworth High School..... August Mizia, Courtney Korpus
Brownsville High School..... Zach Landman, Emily Konter
California Area High School..... Samuel Kevin Luketich, Elizabeth Ann Doman
Charleroi Area High School Chase Ayers, Chaniece Tarpley
Elizabeth Forward High School Daniel Altavilla, Lauren Nicole Bruno
Monessen High School..... Joshua Jampetro, Ashley Marie Hartung
Ringgold High School..... Colin McCormick, Samantha Helmantoler
Yough High School Jonathan Nicolas Miedel, Denise Babilya

2012

Belle Vernon Area High School Ian Dobbins, Jenna Babinski
Bentworth High School..... Garrett Damich, Jessica Dorazio
Brownsville High School..... John DiDominic, Ashtyn Guty
California Area High School..... Cody Lambert, Kadie Clancy
Charleroi Area High School Cory Raymond Mosco, Erin Downes
Elizabeth Forward High School Eric Danko, Tessa Gacovsky
Monessen High School..... Coby Matush, Desiree J. Rice
Ringgold High School..... Jake Wisener, Chianti Sivek
Yough High School Michael Hartos, Shyanne Sanders

2013

Belle Vernon Area High School: Geno Leone, Heather Ann Wells
Bentworth High School:..... Jesse Paul Martin, Taylor Pompei
Brownsville Area High School Brandon Myrga, Miranda Arison
California Area High School..... Benjamin V. Thomas, Christina Puhnaty
Charleroi Area High School Luke Simpson, Natalie Baker
Elizabeth Forward High School Mathew Casturo, Braelyn N. Tracy
Monessen High School..... Zachary Abrahamsen, Alexis Malarbi
Ringgold High School..... Chris Spahr, Christina Wills
Yough High School Domanic Miele, Natalie Beers

2014

Belle Vernon Area High School Jake Sweitzer, Katie Anna
Bentworth High School..... Mathew Vickless, Ella Schaltenbrand
Brownsville Area High School Nick Despot, Whitney Ptak
California Area High School..... Michael Elliott Luketich, Kailyn Clancy
Charleroi Area High School Mathew Indorante, Angela Tilghman
Elizabeth Forward High School Andrew Jacobs, Alison Pastore
Monessen High School..... Nathanael Moon, Monet Wade
Ringgold High School..... Devin Fallenstein, Eleni Radic
Yough High School Teddy Charletta, Natalie Peebles

2015

Belle Vernon Area High School James Yantko, Samantha Mendicino
Bentworth High School..... Nick Liermann, Reilly Skerbetz
Brownsville Area High SchoolShane Roebuck, Jenna Shumar
California Area High School.....Aaron Previsky, Lyndsey Nicole Huhn
Charleroi Area High School Matthew Szerszen, Rose Hawk
Elizabeth Forward High School Luke Fournier, Jessica Palady
Monessen High School..... Joshua Kucmeroski, Marisa Germinario
Ringgold High School.....Noah Smith, Kirsten McMichael
Yough High School James Kelly Sokol, Leigh Appolonia

2016

Belle Vernon Area High SchoolJoseph Gruber, Sara Sepesky
Bentworth High School.....Ty Mitchell, Heather Chester
Brownsville Area High SchoolTravis Bevard, Peyton Jacobs
California Area High School.....Casey Zajicek, Destiny Gudel
Charleroi Area High School Michael Kondratik, Kyra Watkins
Elizabeth Forward High School Connor Poolett, Lauren Cain
Monessen High School..... Zachary J. Baker, Shelby Minardi
Ringgold High School.....Douglas Gudenburr, Katherine Sendek
Yough High School Daniel Cox, Madison Nestor

2017

Belle Vernon Area High School Tyler Seliga, Sophia Yantko
Bentworth High School..... Josh Hughes, Autumn Zgorliski
Brownsville Area High School Jared Gaddis, Alexandria Seto
California Area High School.....Nathaniel Luketich, Jenna Miller
Charleroi Area High School Carter Risky, Jessica Day
Elizabeth Forward High SchoolRyan Lee, Madison Ambler
Monessen High School.....Justice Rice, Victoria Cooper
Ringgold High School.....Dalton Holt, Olivia Warner
Yough High School Jack Cleary, Olivia Miller

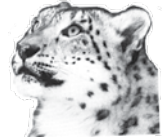
Student Scholar/Athletes 2018

Sponsored by

LEE SUPPLY CO. INC.

The Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame annually honors senior scholar-athletes representing the nine school districts within the Mid Monongahela Valley. Tonight's students are sponsored by the generous support of Charleroi's Lee Supply Company. This evening the spotlight shines upon these young men and women who have made a difference in the classroom, in athletics, and in their communities.

Belle Vernon Area High School



Christopher McCullough

Varsity 2-year soccer letterman
Varsity 2-year football letterman
Varsity 1-year swimming letterman/captain
Varsity 1-year baseball letterman
Honors: GRIT Athletic Award, Naomi Club scholarship, National Student Athlete award
Clubs: MIC/SADD president, physical education president, Friends First, Outdoors club
Volunteer: Central Blood Bank, Food Bank, NAEP test, Ronald McDonald House, Washington City Mission, Relay for Life, NAEP exam
Geneva: Nursing



Taylor Kovatch

Varsity 4-year basketball letterwoman / senior captain
Varsity 4-year track/field letterwoman
Varsity 1-year girls cross country letterwoman
Varsity 1-year girls' soccer letterwoman
Honors: National Honor Society, Ryan Moravec Memorial track/field award, Hail Mighty Leopards award (multi sports)
Clubs: Interact, Physical Education
Volunteer: Salvation Army, usher BVA musicals, Relay for Life, Overlys Holiday decorating
Waynesburg University: Sports Medicine or Elementary Education

Student Scholar/Athletes 2018

Bentworth High School



Ashton Lopez

Varsity 4-year football defensive letterman
Century All Conference, Bee Graphix All Star Football classic,
38 solo tackles in two years, 13 assist
Varsity 4-year wrestling letterman
All Star team
Honors: National Honor Society, Challenge Program for
academic excellence
Clubs: Marching band, Boy Scout of America
Volunteer: Washington County Food Bank
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth: mechanical
engineering



Jenna Vito

Varsity 3-year volleyball letterwoman/captain (Jr, Sr)
2016 1st Team All Section
Varsity 3-year basketball letterwoman/captain (Sr)
2017 Christmas tournament All-Tournament team member
Honors: National Honor Society Treasurer, PHE AA Merit award,
Herald Standard Centennial Chevrolet scholar athlete,
Tri-County Athletic Directors Association scholar athlete
Clubs: FBLA president, Student Council president, Junior
Council Treasurer, Senior Council Treasurer, Girl Scouts,
Library Aid, yearbook
Volunteer: Pennies for Patients change drive, giving tree, Ron
for Alex Race
West Virginia University: chemical engineering

Student Scholar/Athletes 2018

Brownsville Area High School



Jaden Harvey

Varsity 4-year track letterman/captain
All County, Mid Mon Valley meet
Varsity 4-year Cross Country Letterman/captain 11, 12
All County
Honors: National Honor Society President, Spanish Honor Society, Penn State 4.0, B'nai Brith, National Society of High School Scholars, Rotary and Fayette Chamber of Commerce Student of the Month
Clubs: Senior class vice president, Audio-Visual, Academic League, Debate team
Volunteer: Students in Action Team, public library project, Nemaocolin Castle, Historic Church of St. Peter
George Washington University: government/pre law



Jessica Michelle Vance

Varsity 4-year basketball letterwoman/captain 11, 12
Varsity 4-year track letterwoman/captain, WPIAL Qualifier, PIAA Qualifier 12
Varsity 4-year cross-country letterwoman, PIAA Qualifier 10, 11, 12,
All County team 10, 11, 12
Varsity 2-year Cheerleader
Honors: National/Spanish Honor Society, *Herald Standard* Centennial Chevrolet Scholar Athlete, International Rotary Student of the Month, National Society of High School Scholars, Cal U scholarship cross country
Clubs: Student Council, Student Cabinet
Volunteer: elderly, trash pick-up, Flag Day, community days
California University of PA: business

Student Scholar/Athletes 2018

California Area High School



Braden Collins

Varsity 4-year football letterman
2016 and 2017 Tri County South All Conference
2017 Mon Valley/Bee Graphix Finest 25
2017 Pennsylvania Football New All-State team – First Team OL
Honors: Cal U football squad in the fall
Clubs: track and field, Interact
Volunteer: Relay for Life, Walk A Thon, Fight Against Hunger
Cal U
California University of Pennsylvania: accounting



Bailey Vig

Varsity 4-year basketball letterwoman/captain (11-12)
Three-time WPIAL All Section First Team, 2018 Roundball Classic participant, 2018 First team *Mon Valley Independent / Bee Graphix Super 6* and two-time Player of the Week, *Herald Standard* Centennial Athlete 2017 Winter, 2016-17 *Herald Standard* Small School All Area First Team, 2018 Second Team All-District *Observer Reporter*, Two-time *Trib Live* HSSN Player of the Week, Two-time Lady Trojans Holiday Classic MVP, 2017 Budd Grebb League All Star selection, 2017 and 2018 South Side Beaver All-Tournament team, 2016 & 2018 California Girls Basketball MVP
Honors: Valedictorian, California Rotary February Student of the Month, Sophomore class president, 2016 RYLA Leadership award
Clubs: National Honor Society President, Interact Club Vice President, Drama Club 2016, Student Council, track and field team 2018
Volunteer: Food bank, Rotary, middle school girls' basketball clinic, school play ticket seller, Bible school
Penn State Fayette campus: nursing

Student Scholar/Athletes 2018

Charleroi Area High School



Caleb Carson



Varsity Soccer 4-year letterman/captain (11, 12)
All-Section Goalkeeper (11, 12), All WPIAL Goalkeeper (11, 12),
First Team *Mon Valley Independent-Bee Graphix* Goalkeeper (11, 12)
Varsity Basketball 4-year letterman/captain
Scott Smith Sportsmanship award 2016, Bee Graphix Super 6 Honorable
Mention 2016, Honorable, All Tournament Team 2017
Varsity Football punter senior year
All Conference Honorable Mention 2017
Honors: Lion's Club Academic Student of the month 2018, Rotary Student
of the Month 2018, Toast To Our Stars Outstanding Athlete 2017,
TTOS Outstanding Scholar Athlete 2018, *Herald Standard* Century
Chevrolet Winter Scholar Athlete, James "Doodles" Protin award
Clubs: Student Council VP, SADD, Teen Outreach, Astronomy Club VP, Camp
Invention
Community Service: Relay for Life, Little Great Race, School Blood Drive,
Urban Impact Pittsburgh Youth Soccer, Washington Co. City Mission
Volunteer, Church Youth Group Worship Team (Keyboard)
Grove City College

Sierra Short



Varsity 2-year soccer letterwoman
Somerset Soccer Showcase
Varsity 4-year basketball letterwoman/captain
Freshman Finest 15, Grebb League 3-year All Star, *Mon Valley
Independent* Super 6 All Stars, 2015 MVP Charleroi Holiday Tournament,
Varsity 2-year track letterwoman
Varsity 2-year volleyball letterwoman
All Section Third team 2017
Honors: National Honor Society parliamentarian, Hugh O'Brien Youth
Leadership 2016, Penn State 4.0 Club, Dr. Freddie Fu Internship/Scholarship
2017, Rensselaer Medal 2017, Rotary Student of the Month October 2017,
Charleroi Charlene Girl of the Month December 2017, Progeny Challenge
Program Community Service, *Herald Standard* Centennial Chevrolet
Scholar-Athlete fall 2017, James "Doodles" Protin award
Clubs: Senior class president, executive committee, peer jury foreman,
Academic League (Home Town High Q KDKA-TV), Mock Trial Lead
Attorney, Internet club vice president, Foreign Language club, Student
Council, REACH/Gifted, Students Against Destructive Decisions vice
president
Volunteer: Relay for Life, Camp Invention Youth Leadership, Joe Perrotta
Youth Baseball Tournament, peer tutor, Bible School, Middle school girls
basketball coach
Chatham University: physician assistant

Student Scholar/Athletes 2018

Elizabeth Forward High School



Tyler Ocilka

Varsity 4-year football letterman/captain (11/12)
Second Team All-Conference Defensive line
Honors: National Honor Society, *Herald Standard* Centennial
Chevrolet Scholar Athlete, All-Academic Team
Clubs: EF intramural sports
Volunteer: EF Youth football camp, Camp of Champions
Youngstown State University: mathematics



Cassidy Kern

Varsity 4-year soccer letterwoman/captain (11, 12)
2017 All Section Team, 2017 Feb 15 Second Team
Varsity 4-year softball letterwoman/captain (10, 11, 12)
Honors: National Honor Society, 4-year All-Academic Team,
Herald Standard Centennial Chevrolet Scholar Athlete
Clubs: 5-year member PA Renegades; captain (2016, 2017,
2018)
Volunteer: Swing for a survivor golf outing, Zachary's Mission,
coach 10u All-Star Softball Team
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown: Nursing

Student Scholar/Athletes 2018

Monessen High School



Tyler Caterino

Varsity 4-year soccer letterman/captain (10, 11, 12)

All Section 2015, 2016, 2017 All WPIAL

Varsity 4-year baseball letterman/captain (11, 12)

Honors: National Honor Society Vice President, Spanish

National Honor Society President

Clubs: Spanish Club President, Editor in Chief Newspaper &

Yearbook, senior class council, TFIM, SADD, Student Council

Volunteer: road clean-up, baby sitting

Westminster: Nursing



Maddie Guzzie

Varsity 4-year softball letterwoman/captain

All Section Honorable Mention, third team 2018 Dirty Dozen

All-Stars

Honors: National Honor Society, French National Honor Society

Clubs: SADD, Student Government, senior class treasurer,

TFIM, ski club

Volunteer: Pet Adoption League

Duquesne University: nursing

Student Scholar/Athletes 2018

Ringgold High School



Jackson O'Connor

Varsity football letterman/kicker

All Conference Honorable Mention 2017

Varsity 4-year soccer letterman/captain (11, 12)

2016/2017 All Section, 2017 All WPIAL

Varsity 2-year swimming letterman 2014/2015

Varsity wrestling letterman 2017

Honors: 2016 Challenge Program award for Academic

Excellence, RHS science award, Ringgold male athlete of the

year, *Herald Standard* Centennial Chevrolet scholar athlete,

RHS Athletic Directors Distinguished 4.0 award, Mon Valley/

Bee Graphix Finest, Co-Valedictorian

Volunteer: Relay for Life (11, 12)

Slippery Rock University: biology with pre-chiropractic



Mackenzie Musser

Varsity 4-year soccer letterwoman/captain (11, 12)

Honors: National Honor Society, Co-Valedictorian

Clubs: Interact, The Future Is Mine, Foreign Language club,

Rampound

Volunteer: Toys for Tots, Red Kettle Drive Salvation Army, Relay for Life, Youth soccer coach

Robert Morris University: nursing

Student Scholar/Athletes 2018

Yough High School



Michael J. Martini

Varsity 2-year cross country letterman/captain

Most Heart of the Team award

Varsity 2-year wrestling letterman/captain

Team manager due to injury

Clubs: SADD president, yearbook, Skills USA Leadership team, CWCTC, track

Volunteer: middle track meets, finances for charity donations, student fundraisers

Marines



E. Makenzie Cosharek

Varsity senior cross country letterwoman

All around runner award

Varsity 4-year track letterwoman/captain

Honors: National Honor Society recording secretary, French

National Honor Society treasurer, Yough Rocks, The Challenge

program STEM West Newton Woman's club, Rotary Club

Student of the Month

Clubs: CAP/SADD, TFIM

Volunteer: nursing home caroling, hurricane victim collections,

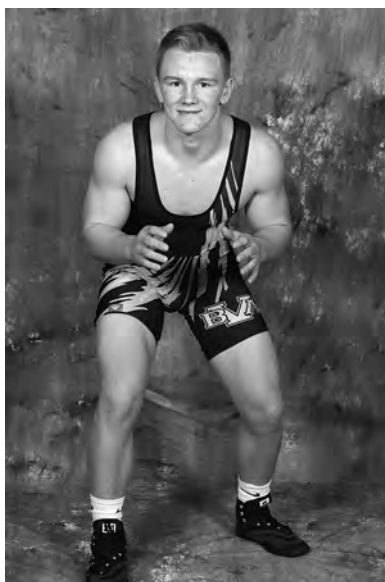
underclassman tutoring, drug awareness, track meets

Robert Morris University: actuarial science

Mon Valley High School WPIAL 2017-2018 Individual Gold



Bentworth/Charleroi's John Vargo, left,
(34-8) wrestling Class AA182 lbs.



Belle Vernon Area's Scott Joll, right, (42-5)
Class AAA wrestling 170 lb.



Belle Vernon Area's Zach Hartman, left,
(43-5) Class AAA wrestling 160 lbs.

Mon Valley High School WPIAL 2017-2018 Individual Gold



BVA's Robby Spekis, left, Class AA 200-yard Medley (1:58:48) and 100-yard breast stroke (57.80) BVA and WPIAL record

Elizabeth Forward: Class AA swimming Kaelyn McClain, right, 500-yard freestyle Time (5:12.87)



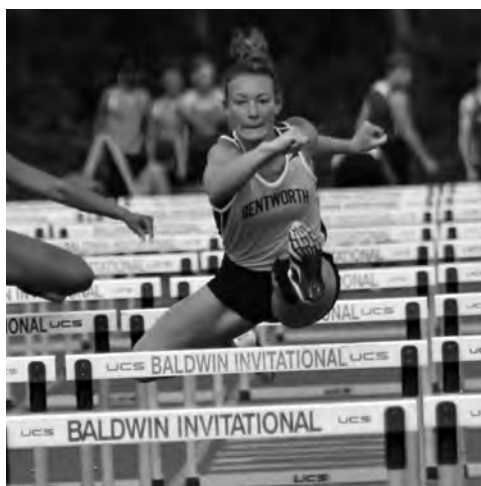
Elizabeth Forward: Class AA swimming Ashlee Toth, left, 100-yard backstroke time (59.10)

Mon Valley High School WPIAL 2017-2018 Individual Gold



Elizabeth Forward's Brianna Spirnak, left, Class AAA track and field javelin (150-1)

Brownsville's Gionna Quarzo, right, Class AA track and field 3,200 (11:11.16) and won gold at PIAA (10:48.19)



Bentworth's Brenna Cavanaugh, left, repeated her Class AA track and field 100-meter high hurdles (14.51) and long jump (leap of 18-6)

Mon Valley High School WPIAL 2017-2018 Individual Gold



Ringgold's Anna Vogt
Class AA Diving (score of 354.70)



Belle Vernon Area's Ian Shahan
100-yard backstroke (52.20)



Belle Vernon Area High School Lady Leopards (21-3) won their third overall Class 4A softball WPIAL championship since 2015. Captain Bailey Parshall, left, has been phenomenal over her 4-year high school career while the district leader in strikeouts with 984. Premier Girls Fast Pitch named Bailey a high school All American. Parshall is a WPIAL Class 4A Player of the Year and Extra Inning Softball rated her with a 33rd rank in the nation. She is also this year's Dirty Dozen Pitcher of the Year. Bailey will continue her career at Penn State University.

The BVA Athletic Department Salutes Individual WPIAL Awardees and Softball Team!



Scott Joll Zach Hartman Bailey Parshall Ian Shahan Robby Speckis

Meet the 2018 Belle Vernon Area High School Leopard Softball Team Class 4A WPIAL Champions (21-3) May 30, 2018



Bottom Row (left to right) Kourtney Gavatorita, Bailey Parshall, Alex Sokol — **2nd Row** Ashlyn Ayersman, Ally Pacak, Casey Weightman, Jayden Scapellato, Danielle Engstrom — **3rd Row** Vanessa Porter, Olivia Manack, Natalie French, Sophia Godzak, Makenzie Greco
4th Row Emily Dongilli, Madison Monack, Samantha Buza, Stacia Morgan, Maya Engstrom, Jordan French
Top Row Coach Tom Rodriguez, Assistant Coach Kelly Parshall, Assistant Coach John Christner, Mekenzie Sokol, Jenelle Popelas, Jaelynn Clegg, Assistant Coach Dan McFadden, Assistant Coach Haley Bashada

Meet the 2018 Brownsville High School Baseball Falcons Class WPIAL 3A Champions (15-2) May 30, 2018



Bottom Row (left to right) Brody Bagwell, Preston Frost, Rocco Frisco, Ricky Marucci, Nick Climes, Cam Brosky, Trevor Stewart, Colton Dellarose
Kneeling John Hovanec, Nick Keeney, Josh Davison, Austin Lincoski, Derek Timko, Mike Petrock, Dylan Brosky
Standing Assistant Coach Nick Eadle, Caleb Onesko, Zach Kutek, Shandon Marshall, Zach Whitlock, DJ Zimcosky, Assistant Coach Ralph Rice, Head Coach Skooter Roebuck



Dennis J. Stitch

Chairman of the Board of Directors

Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame

Dennis has been the chairman of the Board of Directors of the Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame since 2003 and has worked in partnership with two masters of ceremonies, Bill Priatko, Dale Hamer, Bill Hillgrove and now Pat Bostick, a voice of Pitt Panther football.

It is easy to measure an athlete's abilities on the field. Now more than ever sports analysts and fans alike are getting caught up in statistics. It has gotten to the point where analysts are now breaking down a player's statistics into deeper statistics to not only see what the player has done, but also what the player will do. One thing that cannot be measured is the player off the field. There are many cases when we hear of athletes allowing their fame to dictate their lifestyle and permanently tarnish their image. For athletes such as Dennis J. Stitch, however, character off the field was equally important to performance on the field.



Dennis Stitch was born in Lock View, Fallowfield Township. He graduated from Charleroi Area High School in 1978 where he was a standout baseball player. Jesse Smith, a scouting assistant for the Pittsburgh Pirates, in the spring of 1977 thought Stitch's baseball prowess worth an interest. After graduating high school, Stitch took his talents to the University of Pittsburgh where he was a walk-on starter for four years in the outfield. Laverne Lewis, the wife of former University of Pittsburgh baseball coach Bobby Lewis can distinctly recall not only the play of Stitch, but his gracious efforts as well. "Dennis played a quiet type of leadership when he performed. When Bob was ill, he took him to lunch and spent a lot of quality time with him, I'll never forget that." Three of his four seasons Dennis was nominated for academic All-American, all while graduating with degrees in business and communications and minoring in economics and photography in 1983. After college Stitch signed a professional contract with the Seattle Mariners and would see time with the Red Sox, Twins and Braves, in the minor leagues. Instead, Stitch began his professional career, but that did not mean his time as an athlete was completed.

Dennis studied martial arts, specifically Tai Kwan Do and earned his way to a black belt. He is a two time regional champion and a National Champion in Free Fighting. To become a national champion Stitch competed in a field of over 600 fighters in Las Vegas.

"Involved" does not even begin to describe Stitch's lifestyle. Dennis was a member on the Charleroi Area School Board for ten years until 1999. He is also on the board of

directors for the Mon Valley YMCA and the Washington County Housing Authority. He is on the board of directors at Covenant Christian Church and is a Golden Heritage lifetime member of the National Branch of the NAACP.

His biggest contributions, however, come from his own creations. In 1992, Dennis founded the Black Caucus of the 20th Congressional District. With politics being such an integral part of America, the organization was established to raise political awareness and inform people of how the process works. Dennis served as the organization president until 1999 and brought in several key speakers such as Governor Douglas Wilder, Senator Al Edwards and Congressman Chaka Fattah. His efforts were recognized when former president Bill Clinton extended a personal invitation to Stitch, noting him as a leader in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Stitch also gave back to the community by establishing the 1993 Dennis J. Stitch Baseball award which is awarded to a Charleroi Area High School baseball player “who exemplifies honesty, teamwork and consistency.” “The spirit of giving never lacks its opportunity for exercise,” says Stitch. “When you give back from your heart for the right reasons it’s a great thing.” He also established the Aquilla “Precious” Lockett scholarship in 1998 for a Charleroi Area High School senior pursuing college. The award is named for Aquilla “Precious” Lockett who was a self-educated woman that influenced Stitch in his daily life.

Dennis worked for 22 years at Abbot Laboratories as a senior territory manager and was a winner of the company’s top salesman as a Pharmaceutical Representative. From May 12, 2014 to March 31, 2015, Dennis was employed by Cardio Metabolic Specialists for PDI/Vivus. Highly successful, he moved the company from a rank of 147 to 4. Dennis was recognized as the “BEST” of the sales force. In April 2015 Dennis was employed as a Clinical Sales Specialist for Genentech, a world leader in biopharmaceuticals. He will sell Esbriet, a treatment for lung disease. Dennis has been a football coach at Charleroi Middle and High School. In January 2017, Dennis became a diabetes consultant at Novo Nordisk.

In 2010, Stitch had the honor of being part of the University of Pittsburgh’s Hall of Fame Class. He was one of six honored at the Pitt Varsity Club’s 50th annual awards dinner. This award goes to University of Pittsburgh Alumnae who are “distinguished in their professions and communities and who, by their accomplishments, have enhanced the value of Pitt’s intercollegiate athletics programs.” Stitch was honored to receive this distinction but noted that his work comes as a result of others. “Whether it’s you or me we’re all standing on someone else’s back. Other people lay the foundation for you and that’s why it’s important to help others the way you were helped.”

The recipients are selected by prominent members of the community, not by members of the university. Sam Clancy, Varsity Letter Club coordinator and Athletic Gifts officer, believes that selecting Stitch was a no-brainer. “He fits the award description to the letter.” This has nothing to do with monetary contributions made to the school. We just want to show our gratitude to our past scholar-athletes who are highly thought of.”

With so much time dedicated to worthy causes, Dennis still finds time for his wife Valerie J. Marraccini, whom he married in 2000, and their five kids, Amanda, Adrienne, Aaron, Sarah, and Emmanuel. Dennis has earned a master’s degree in theology from Mon Valley Bible Institute in November 2010. Through everything he has been through, Stitch thanks the Mon Valley for where he is today. “You learn so many valuable lessons in the Mon Valley and take them wherever you go. I’m just a recipient of all these good seeds that have been planted here.”

Lanny Frattare

Tonight's Master of Ceremonies



Tonight's MC is no stranger to the audience. In 1976, Lanny became a member of the Pittsburgh Pirates announcing team and was the Voice of our Buccos for thirty-three years. Lanny called 5,000 Pirates games, more than anyone else. A Rochester, New York native, Lanny received a BA from Ithaca College. He was the play by play announcer for the Charleston (WV) Charlies and the Rochester (NY) Americans hockey team for two years. Over the course of five decades in broadcasting, Lanny has been a radio disc jockey, a radio news and sports reporter and has announced Ohio State basketball on television, West Virginia basketball on radio and television, West Virginia baseball on television and Penn State football on radio. In 2009, Lanny became an assistant professor of communications at Waynesburg University. In 2010, he began work for the MSA Sports Network announcing high school football, basketball, baseball and softball. Lanny is the father of two children David and Megan.

Allegra Ochs

Tonight's Vocalist



Allegra Ochs, daughter of Aaron and Kristy Ochs of Rostraver Twp., last appeared on the BVA stage as Mary Poppins, and Polly Baker in *Crazy for You*. She has participated in musicals and theatrical productions, including the *Diary of Anne Frank* as Edith Frank. Allegra has represented her school in WCMEA's County Chorus. She was selected for PMEA's Honors Choir, PMEA's District Chorus, the Westmoreland Symphony and the PMEA Regional Choir. Recently Allegra made the All-State Choir in Lancaster, PA. Allegra is a cantor at the Church of St. Anne. Ochs is a BVA Varsity Cheerleader as one of the co-captains. Ochs is a member of Interact, Spanish, and French Clubs along with Vice President both of MIC/SADD and the senior. She is a member of National Honor Society, National Spanish Honor Society, and Rotary Student of the Month along with induction into the Penn State 4.0 Club. Allegra studies ballet, pointe, jazz, tap, lyrical, and hip hop at Feel the Rhythm Dance Studio in Charleroi and serves as a student teacher. Allegra will be continuing her education at Waynesburg University to major in nursing.

Bill Lemonovich

Tonight's DJ



Bill Lemonovich is tonight's MMVASHOF Disc Jockey. Bill has been entertaining us in this role over the past several years. A graduate of Beth-Center and Cal U, he is very much part of the Mon Valley fabric even though his teaching career was in Montgomery County, Maryland. Today, the talented Bill coaches the forensics team at Trinity High School. With his abundant vinyl and CD music collections, he is in demand at political events, corporate gatherings, weddings, proms, and holiday affairs. We are delighted each year with Bill's unique ability of choosing the perfect song for each of our inductee's introductions.

Program

GRAND ENTRANCE*INTRODUCTION OF THE CLASS OF 2018*

WELCOME*Dennis Stitch*
Chairman of the Board

INVOCATION.....*Caleb Carson*
Charleroi Area High School

NATIONAL ANTHEM.....*Allegra Ochs*
Belle Vernon Area High School

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.....*Bailey Vig*
California Area High School

DINNER BUFFET

Provided by Martin's Catering, Perryopolis, PA

- ~Tossed Salad~
- ~Stuffed Chicken Breast~
- ~Braised Pork~
- ~Parmesan Red Smashed Potatoes~
- ~Haluski~
- ~Rum Glazed Carrots~
- ~Coffee/Hot Tea/Ice Tea/Water~

INTRODUCTION OF TOASTMASTER*Dennis Stitch*

MASTER OF CEREMONIES *Lanny Frattare*

PRESENTATION OF 2018 SCHOLAR ATHLETES AND WPIAL
GOLD WINNERS.....*Bill Hughes, Steve Russell, Randy Marino*

PRESENTATION OF HALL OF FAME

INDUCTEES CLASS OF 2018 *Lanny Frattare*

PRESENTATION OF MID-MON VALLEY ALL SPORTS

HALL OF FAME APPRECIATION AWARD *Lanny Frattare*

BENEDICTION *Sierra Short*
Charleroi Area High School

MID MON VALLEY ALL SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

- 1951 **Stan “The Man” Musial***, **Bert Rechichar**
- 1952 P.G. Hayes*, Pat Mullin*, **Jim Russell***
- 1953 Tom Brown*, Jim Hamer*, Bill Parkinson, Sr.*
- 1954 No Selections
- 1955 Joe Connell*, **Arnold Galiffa***, James K. Russell*
- 1956 Michael “Ki” Duda, Ed.D.* , Ed Roebuck, **Rev. “Deacon” Dan Towler***
- 1957 Floyd France*, Tom Preston*, Steve Stepanian*
- 1958 Thomas Barbero*, M.H. Heatter, M.D.* , John T. Matta*
- 1959 Thomas Parkinson, D.D.S.* , Harry R. Sickels*, G. Harold “Doc” Smith*
- 1960 William J. “Billy” Long*, John G. “Scissors” McIlvain*, Charles H. “Jerry” Wunderlich*
- 1961 Carl “Head” Aschman*, Earl “Skykes” Bruce*, John P. “Moon” Clark*, Nick Kotys*
- 1962 Preston A. Ditty*, Pete Garnic*, Clyde B. Smith*
- 1963 Neil Brown*, **John Potsklan***, **Sever J. Toretti***
- 1964 **H.C. “Red” Carlson, M.D.***, **Louis C. “Bimbo” Ceconi**, Leslie “Bus” Edwards*, **Armand J. Niccolai***
- 1965 George Humphries*, Harry P. “Yi” McCurdy*, William T. “Vince” Stapulis*, Kenneth L. Stillely*
- 1966 Chuck Drazenovich*, Arthur E. Feldman*, Nestor E. Henrion*, John R. Martak*
- 1967 Alvin “Dutch” Biddle*, R. James “Rab” Currie*, Robert B. “Bob” Davis*, Stewart S. Townsend*
- 1968 John R. Bunardzya*, John W. Butler*, James P. “Pat” Herron*, Wade Wilson, Ed.D*
- 1969 James”Toots” Fillingham*, Thomas “Dead Eye” McCurdy*, Robert S. Petriello*, Daniel “Boots” Salotti*
- 1970 Peter Gallo*, **Baptiste “Bap” Manzini***, James C. “Dick” Schradling*, James “Captain” Weir*
- 1971, 1972 – No Selections
- 1973 **George “Ken” Griffey, Sr.**, Michael J. Herk, Ed.D.* , Peter “Bud” Roman*
- 1974 Alex Barantovich*, Charles R. “Jesse” James*, James O. Leeper*, Charles Mahovlich, D.D.S.* , Andy Yartin*
- 1975 Clair N. Brown*, Frank Janosik*, Joseph McCune*, Roger Rossi*
- 1976 George J. “Beans” Chacko*, **Fred Cox, D.C.**, Bert Sutton*, Albert P. “Bo” Wildman*
- 1977 Pete Cherocci*, George Hays*, George “Jake” Kovalcik*, Elmo Natali, John “Shag” Wolosky*
- 1978 – 1995 – No Selections
- 1996 **Bruce Dal Canton***, Joe Gladys*, **Ron Necciai**, Ollie Payne*, Ulice Payne, **Myron “Mo” Pottios**, Andy Sepsi*, Paul Wyatt*
- 1997 Rudy Andabaker*, Al J. Elmer” Benyak*, Gustave “Gus” Brickner*, James “Mouse” Chacko, Carl Crawley, Jr., Doug Crusan, Frank Lignelli, **Bill Malinchak**
- 1998 **Eric Crabtree**, Dick Fields*, Leon “Pappy” Johnson*, Fran LaMendola,

- Don "Ducky" LeJohn*, Jeff Petrucci, Ronald "Ron" Rossi*, Danny Taylor*
- 1999** Suzy Williams Broadhurst, Mike Bucchianeri*, Bill Contz, Angelo Dabiero, Richard "Dick" DiBiaso*, **Sam Havrilak, D.D.S.**, John "Poppy" Popovich*
- 2000** Don Asmonga*, Tony Benjamin, Augie Bossu*, Julius Dawkins, Val Jansante*, Joe Montana, Lee Sala*
- 2001** Henry "Heinie" Adams*, Tom Ballaban*, Eugene Belczyk, **Dale Hamer**, Bill Robinson*, Joe Sarra*, Jack Scarvel*, George Zuraw
- 2002** Bernie Galiffa*, **Fred Mazurek**, William "Bill" Parkinson, Jr.*, Pete Rostosky, Joe Rudolph, James Simms*, Bill Urbanik
- 2003** John "Chipper" Bruno*, Don Croftcheck, Anthony J. Romantino, Ed.D.* , David "Pivot" Russell, Fred Uhlman, Sr., Danny Warbutton*, Fred Yuss, Ron Yuss
- 2004** Melvin Bassi, J.D.* , Melvin Boyd, Craig Cotton, John "Corky" DeMillion*, Ashley Totedo, Scott Zolak
- 2005** Mitch Bailey*, **Craig Fayak**, Steve Garban, Stan "Butch" Kemp, Gina Naccarato
- 2006** Bobby Locke, Greg Pattera, Anthony Peterson, John "Shell" Shelapinsky*, Governor John K. Tener*
- 2007** James Bayens* Pete Daley, Sr.* , Brad Ferrara, M.D., Ron Hughes, Bob Johnson, Dennis "Bird" Laskey, Tom Parks
- 2008** James H. "Kayo" Adamson*, John F. Hewitt*, Gary V. Hogan, Joseph M. Kurey, Charles W. "Billy" Russell, Donna DeMarino Sanft, **Robert "Red" Worrell***, John "Big John" Wozniak*
- 2009** Felton Brown, Sr.* , Andy Dzurinko, Fleming Mosely III Ed.D, Donald Peters, Roger Valdiserri, John Verkleeren, M.D., Judge Reggie Walton
- 2010** Art Artis*, John Barbero*, Andrew "Buzz" Garnic Sr., Pete Goimmarac Sr*, Mark Gorscak, Stan "Nunnie" Milchovich, Vic Trilli
- 2011** Charles Ahlborn, D.M.D., John "Hoss" Hostetler, Charles "Yogi" Jones, Don Law, Michael Moorer, Willie "the Whip" Ross*, Paul Zolak
- 2012** Fred Angerman, Brian Herman, Darrell Harding, Ben Jones, Walter Malinchak*, Tom Urbanik, Casper Voithofer
- 2013** Michael Bright, Brian Miller Bowman, Gary Cramer, Bernie Floriani*, William Lee, Ron Paglia, Larry Papini
- 2014** Milfred "Bubby" Holmes, Maurice Mathieu, John Maczuzak*, Heather Ferrari Milkent, Tony Segzda, Charles H. "Chuck" Smith, Edward Zuraw*
- 2015** Bill Blick, Ron Forsythe*, Eugene Gladys, Jack Green, Phil Pergola, Bill Ryczaj, Yancey Taylor
- 2016** John Ballein, Ed. D., Keith Bassi, J.D., Bobby Burns, Jim Edwards, Joseph J. Fedorchik, Sr., M.D.* , Ken "KK" Kulak*, Brigadier General David Papak, Wilbert "Barney" Wolfe*
- 2017** Don Bartolomucci*, Phil Hughes, Joe Margoneri, Scott Nedrow, Daryle Ruby, Joe Salvino
- 2018** Vinnie Grahm, Erbest "Roger" Hotz, Jamont Kinds, Dan LaCarte, Jamie Reader, Jon Konek*

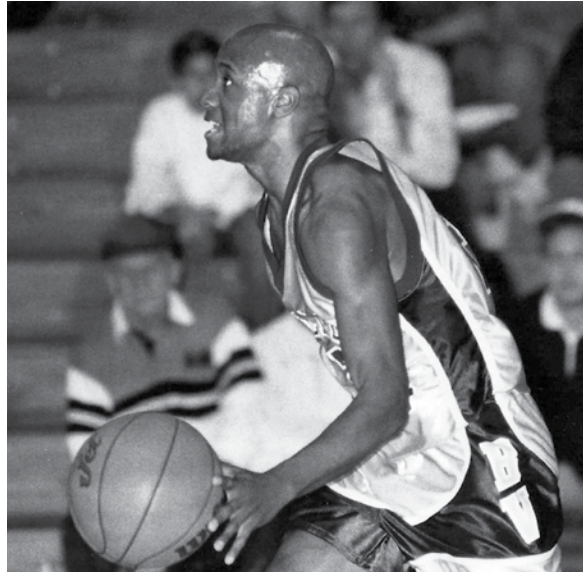
*Deceased

Bold indicates a member of the PA Sports Hall of Fame

Vince Graham

When you talk about the top point producers in WPIAL basketball history, Belle Vernon's Vince Graham has to be mentioned. The former Leopard ranks number four on the WPIAL's All-Time scoring list.

Graham played at Belle Vernon from 1991-92 through 1994-95. The Leopards posted records of 5-18, 13-11, 15-10 and 11-13. They made the WPIAL playoffs in 1993-94 and defeated Peters Township 75-74 before falling to Seton LaSalle in overtime 67-63.



“I played with a great group of guys,” Graham said. “I have a lot of memories and we had great coaches and they were very important.

“My junior year when we went to the second round of the playoffs I broke my wrist late in the season against Brownsville. The first round we played Peters Township, I got fitted with a soft cast and played. My junior year was one of the best years I had. We had a nice team.

Graham tallied 2,429 points during his career at Belle Vernon. He played junior high football, but decided to play strictly basketball in high school.

“My game was pretty much a combination of everything,” Graham recalled. “I was pretty quick and I could get to the basket. By my senior year I had worked on my outside shot and it was a lot better and more accurate.”

Belle Vernon had some big scoring nights when Graham played, the Leopards defeating Brownsville 127-83 on Jan. 22, 1993.

“That was a track meet, that was a lot of points,” Graham said.

Graham had a high game of 60 points in a 84-72 win over Penn-Traford on Dec. 20, 1994, and followed that by pumping in 42 in a 73-65 loss to Uniontown on Dec. 22, 1994.

“I remember the 60-point night,” Graham said. “We were at home and I was pretty much hot from everywhere, inside, outside. I remember when I got to 50, my buddy Josh Murray’s dad said I had 50 and told me to keep going. I probably could have scored more, but coach took me out with about three minutes left. It was just one of those nights when everything was clicking. I just couldn’t miss.”

Graham has fond memories of former Belle Vernon coach Bill Wiltz, who is now the coach at Charleroi.

“I had a great relationship with Coach Wiltz,” Graham stated. “He was a father figure to me and when recruiting time came around he was there for me. I can remember him taking me to visit George Washington during the summer.”

Back in the day, Wiltz had this to say about Graham.

“Vince is probably the best guard in western Pennsylvania,” Wiltz offered. “His quickness and ability to score place him above any other guard in the area.”

Graham was pursued by some Division I schools like Penn State, Boston College, George Washington, Texas and Duquesne.

“My size (5-8) hurt me and I still hadn’t taken my SAT test at that point in recruiting,” Graham explained. “Coach Mike Jarvis from George Washington wanted me to go to a junior college and I did go to Moberly Community College in Missouri for about a month. I called my mom and told her I didn’t like it. I told her I was going to come home and play for California University of Pennsylvania and at least you can see me play.”

Graham started off well at Cal, playing for first-year coach Bill Brown during the 1996-97 campaign. Graham averaged 14.4 points and was the PSAC West Rookie of the Year. He helped the Vulcans post a 17-11 record.

During the 1997-98 season, Graham averaged 13.6 points and was named All-PSAC West. He helped Cal win the first of three straight PSAC West titles and an NCAA Division II tourney appearance. Cal lost

to Edinboro, 79-78, in the first round. The Vulcans finished with a 23-5 record and were ranked 16th in the final NCAA II poll.

Graham only played in 10 games during the 1998-99 season, when he suffered a knee injury. He averaged 11.0 points before the injury. “I had some good days at Cal,” Graham recalled. “I still remember the 79-78 loss to Edinboro, we just needed a little more time on the clock. We had a good group of guys and some good teams, guys like Rob Jones and Derrick Scott. Coach Brown was a good coach and a good mentor and he had some good assistants. My shot got really good when I hit the college level.

“I got hurt in a game right before Christmas during the 1998-99 season. I made a move and was going to the hoop for a routine layup and I heard a pop and I tore my patella tendon in my knee. I rehabbed the knee and was coming into my senior season and I did the same exact move in a Connie Hawkins League summer game and I tore the tendon again. That was it for basketball. I finished school and got my degree. The injury was tough; it wasn’t the way I wanted it to end.”

Graham was born on March 3, 1976 and is the son of Vincenne Cheatham and today lives in White Oak with his wife Elizabeth Ann with four sons Brayden, Tyler, Mason, and Jordan. Graham has worked for Phillips Respirationics of New Kensington.

“Looking back, I wouldn’t trade the athletic career for anything in the world,” Graham stated.

(Grateful acknowledgment to George Von Benko’s “Memory Lane” column on Vince Graham December 17, 2013 in the *Herald-Standard*)



Mom Vincenne Cheatham holding son Vinnie’s commemorative 2,000 point basketball presented by BVA Athletic Director Jim Bush in the BVA gymnasium December 23, 1994

Ernest "Roger" Hotz

As an actor on stage and in films, Roger Hotz knows the value of a strong supporting cast

That respect for others, buoyed with deep faith, has guided him through a lifetime of achievements.

"My athletic ability was given to me by God, and I pray that I have glorified his name through all of my accomplishment," Hotz, a native of California, Pa. now living in Orlando, Fla., said.

Hotz wrote distinct chapters in basketball history at California Community High School and California State College (now California University of Pennsylvania) in the 1950s, but he has always been quick to share the accolades.

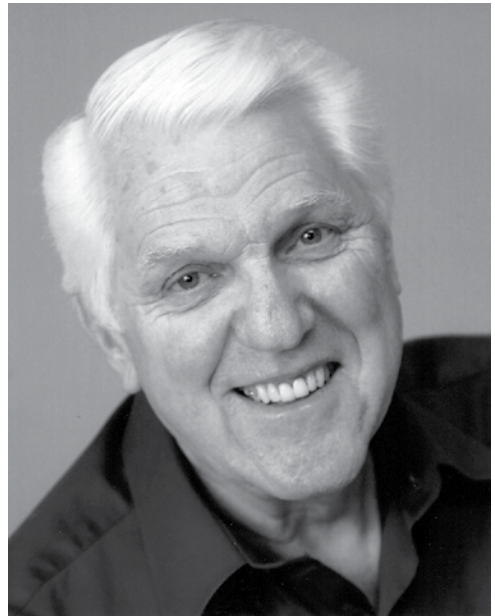
"I was blessed with great teammates and coaches," he said. "No one accomplishes anything by himself."

That gratitude also has been extended many times to his parents, the late Alex and Margaret Underwood Hotz.

"I was fortunate to have the parents I had," Hotz, 81, said. "They were always very supportive and encouraged my efforts."

Those sentiments on a recent sunny afternoon in Orlando echoed similar, and poignant, comments from Hotz when he was inducted into the California Trojan Booster Club Hall of Fame on April 24, 1976.

"As much as I appreciate it, this trophy really doesn't belong to me," Hotz told the banquet audience at California University's Gallagher Hall. "My parents went through a lot for me. They stuck by me, and, my Mom in particular put up with a lot while I was playing. There were a lot of extra meals to cook when I came home late from practice. This trophy belongs to her."



With that, Hotz, a 1955 graduate of California Community High School, walked from the podium, stretched his long legs across the dining hall and gave the commemorative award to his mother – along with a kiss.

Hotz's father was a coal miner for 43 years and a longtime member of the California Volunteer Fire Department. His mother worked as a custodian at the college, which was located only a few blocks from the family's home in the Phillipsburg neighborhood of California, after his sister graduated from high school. Melanie Hotz recently retired from a career as a registered nurse and educator at The Washington Hospital.

Hotz got his first taste of organized athletics as a freshman on his high school football team in 1951. His hopes for a college gridiron career were cut short when he suffered a broken collarbone at the start of his senior year.

Hotz made the most of his three years as a letterman – and standout – basketball player with his high school team. He broke most of the Trojans' scoring records and garnered numerous post-season honors.

“Coach (Bill) Watkins always pushed me hard and that made me become the athlete I became,” Hotz said of the longtime CCHS basketball mentor. “That taught me self-discipline and a great work ethic, which helped prepare me for all that I have become.”

He also recalled such “great teammates” as Gary Kennedy, Sergie Tудay, John Slusarczyk, Tom Saxe and Jack McKay “among many others.”

Hotz, a 6-5 center, culminated his scholastic career by being named to the All-Mon Valley Section 5-A first team in 1955. Others in that select group included forwards Buck Grover of Brownsville and Don Burke of Monongahela and guards Ernie Lattanzio of Monessen and Dan Testy of Charleroi. Hotz and Grover were the only unanimous choices of the coaches that selected the team.

Grover won Section 5 individual scoring title with a 21.5 points per game average, and Hotz was second at 19.3. They faced each other in the 1954-55 season finale. Hotz outscored Grover 25-15 in leading California to a 64-57 victory.

Hotz didn't limit his talents to athletics in high school. He also played in the CCHS band.

Living only a turn-around jump from the campus of California State College, Hotz knew he would continue his education and basketball career there.

“There were not many athletic scholarships available in those days, I couldn't afford to go anywhere else,” he said. “I had the opportunity to play basketball and, more important, I received a good education. My experiences at California prepared me well for the future.”

Coach Gene Hester at Cal State welcomed Hotz with open arms – and strong words of advice.

“(Hester) told me before we played our first game in December 1955, ‘If you continue to work as hard as you are now, you will play a lot of ball for me,’” Hotz recalled. “His confidence in me gave me the confidence in myself to achieve the success I had.”

So did teammates, who were “dedicated to the game” during Hotz’s four years as a starter for the Vulcans. He said it was “a privilege” to have played with such men as Lloyd Gilmore, Sibby Lonigro, Stan “Nunny” Milchovich, Ken Rager and Dennis Kuremsky “and many others” in that era.

California experienced a rough season in 1958-59, but Hotz, then a senior, made his presence felt as far as school and State Teachers Conference records were concerned.

As a senior that season, Hotz scored 573 points, a school record at the time. He averaged 28.7 points and more than 10 rebounds a game. He scored a school record 47 points in his final collegiate game, a 92-74 win over Slippery Rock in 1959. He also established a career scoring record at that time with 1,747 points to eclipse the previous mark of 1,317 held by Dick Majernik, a 1955 graduate.

“I didn’t get to see Dick play very often,” Hotz said of Majernik. “We were always playing at the same time when I was in high school and he was in college. He was a great player.”

The career record set by Hotz was considered a unique achievement at the time considering that the Vulcans played an average of just 18 games a season.

In conference play, Hotz averaged nearly 30 points a game as a junior and more than 33 points as a senior. He was a three-time all-conference selection, and the school’s athletic council and student congress retired his jersey number, 54, shortly after his final season. Hotz was inducted into the California University of Pennsylvania athletic Hall of Fame in 1996.

He also played tennis for four years at the university, losing only two singles matches in that stretch.

“After we moved to Michigan in 1963 I played in city leagues, church leagues, YMCA leagues and anywhere I could find a game,” Hotz said. “I did the same when we moved to Florida, where I played until I was 56. I figured after more than 40 years it was time to quit before I got hurt.”

Hotz began his educational career as a mathematics teacher in 1959-60 at Laurel Valley High School near Johnstown. He moved to Elizabeth-Forward High the following year and was a teacher and coach for three years there before going to Michigan in 1963. He worked as a teacher, guidance counselor and administrator for 18 years in Michigan and in 1979 moved to Florida, where he continued his career in education at Gateway High School in Kissimmee. During that time, he coached golf for six years. He retired in 1999 after 40 years as an educator.

Hotz and his wife, the former Carol Conley of Claysville, have been married for 56 years.

“I met her when she was student-teaching at California High School,” Hotz said. “We were married in March of 1961.”

Carol began teaching English at her alma mater, McGuffey High School in Claysville. Subsequently, after they moved to Florida, she worked for 20 years as an information specialist at Walt Disney World in Orlando before retiring in 2000.

Retirement has been anything but idle time for Hotz.

“After I retired from education I became a certified master golf club maker and have produced clubs for people throughout the United States,” he said.

He also took up acting with the Celebration Players, a popular community theater group in Orlando.

His passion for acting also has allowed Hotz to appear in minor parts in television and motion pictures. He also has appeared in TV commercials.

Hotz always has time to remember his hometown and help with fundraising efforts at California University of Pennsylvania.

“I have many fond memories of growing up in California,” he said. “There were such great times as swimming in the river, picking blackberries along the railroad tracks and eating fresh garden vegetables grown in our neighborhood.

“My friends and I used to eat that delicious homemade chili and drink a Pepsi at Alfano’s restaurant and shoot pool at Chief Morano’s pool hall. Movies and bowling also was great fun in the Hollywood Theater complex.”

Hotz also is a staunch supporter of the varsity basketball programs at California.

“We can always count on Roger to help,” Dick Majernik of Brownsville, who spearheads many of the fundraising events, said. “He comes back to play in our annual summer golf tournament.”

Hotz was among the more than 50 former Vulcans basketball stars who participated in the university’s first basketball alumni day in 2000.

Any return to California gives Hotz a chance to visit the campus.

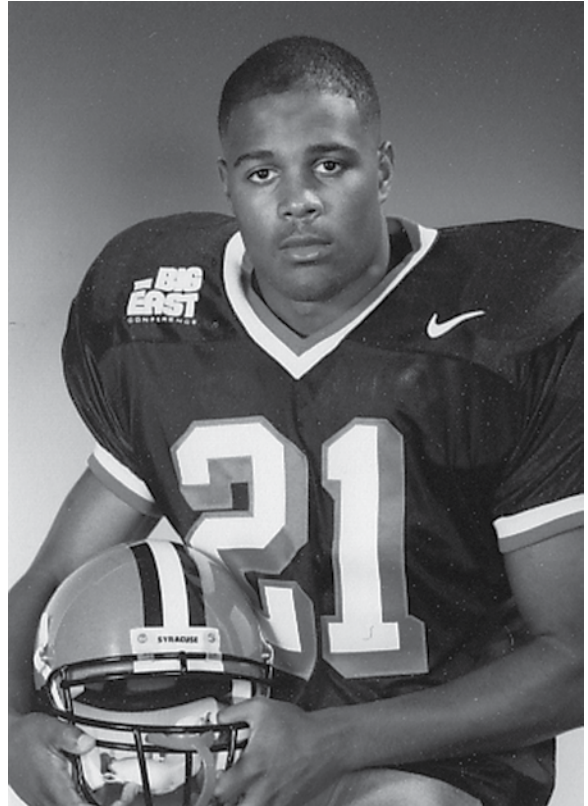
“The university and the town have certainly changed,” he said. “I realize the opportunities are much greater today. However, I preferred it when it was smaller and more personable. Can you believe my home was located in the middle of what is now the parking lot at Hamer Hall?”

(Grateful acknowledgment to Ron Paglia for the *Tribune Review* article February 17, 2009)

Jamont Kinds

Jamont Kinds is among the elite athletes ever turned out by Ringgold High School. His capturing Tri-Athlete of the Year as a senior in 1995 attests to that, as he excelled in football, basketball, and track. Jamont is the son of Cheryl Kinds and was born April 27, 1977.

Start with his days as a Rams football star. He was a Big School Second Team All-State defensive back in 1994, was an All-Conference standout for three consecutive seasons, and was selected to the 1994 *Post-Gazette's* Fabulous 22 squad. He said he is also proud of holding the Ringgold record for the most yards passing in a season, at 1294, “until Nico Law broke



it at 1,353 in Law’s junior season 2013-14.” It was a record possibly held by Joe Montana but unfortunately those records cannot be verified.

In 1994, he was listed among the top 60 high school defensive backs in the nation by the prestigious *Street and Smith* football publication. “I started getting recruited,” Kinds recalled, “as a sophomore by Division I schools. I had shoeboxes full of letters. It got to be overwhelming.”

Joe Ravasio coached Ringgold football when Kinds scampered all over the field, thrilling fans with his exploits as a defensive back and quarterback (he even had a 74-yard punt return once). Ravasio recalled, “Jamont, without a question,

was very, very athletic. He had just tremendous athleticism, great instincts as a quarterback and safety, great speed, and the ability to stop and cut—all the things that we credit to those who have the higher level skills.”

“I think what helped on the offensive end as a quarterback is he never placed his abilities above the game. He always was willing to learn, to listen. There was never any arrogance. He knew that he had to play within the parameters expected of him from his coaches and teammates. His teammates gave him a lot of respect because it was never about Jamont Kinds. It’s very difficult to find that attribute in high school, college, and especially professional athletes today.”

Ravasio called him “a tremendous basketball player with quick feet.” He was a starter for three seasons and, as a senior, he barely missed out on scoring 1,000 points. That was the year the Rams became state champs, knocking off Williamsport while relying heavily upon Kinds in the championship game. “The game came down to the wire, I scored, I think it was 27 points.” Jamont has 939 points and ranks among the top ten scorers in Ringgold basketball history.

The win was solidified when Jeff Tyree hit a bucket, got fouled, missed a free throw which was snatched up by Kinds who then stuck it back, got fouled, and completed a three-point play with about 2:30 left on the clock. “That put the game away. The unique thing about that was only four of us scored, so for us to win like that was crazy. The four of us played together from middle school on.” Those three teammates, who all hit for double figures, were Mike Horan, Czar Walsh, and Tyree.

Kinds honed his skills by “practicing hard as a little kid. All I used to do was go on the playground every day and either play football or basketball. I was always participating in some type of sport. Doing that every day, I learned. Watching guys before me helped—guys like the Brian Millers and the Yancey Taylors—I looked up to them. And the competition helped, like between me and my best friend Jeff Tyree, and people always challenged us as to who was going to be the best.

Well-rounded, Kinds was also a track star who said that in his junior year he made it to State long jump competition where he placed fourth. He won the triple jump at the Baldwin Invitational track meet as a junior with a jump of 44 feet 9 inches. In 1995 Jamont was named to the introductory class as a Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame scholar athlete.

After graduating from Ringgold, he attended Hargrave Military Academy as a transition to the college level. “We played against J.V. squads like Navy and West Virginia to get us used to playing against quality competition and players of the same caliber as we were.”

The next entry on his football resume was his experience as a defensive back at Syracuse where the school won several Big East championships. “We went to the

Liberty Bowl and won it over Houston, went to the Orange Bowl and were defeated by Florida, and to the Fiesta Bowl defeating Colorado.”

Unfortunately, Kinds career was interrupted. “I had a freak accident as a senior and had to have surgery on my stomach. It took years to heal, but I still fought through to play the game. It did limit my success.” Jamont lettered one year at Syracuse in 1997.

Still, his football prowess was more than enough to take him to the American Indoor Football League where he played for the Johnstown Riverhawks for two seasons. In his final season there, 2005, while playing as a defensive back, a freak injury to his Achilles tendon in the fourth game shelved him. However, he rebounded by playing semipro football the following season for the Pittsburgh Colts, once more as a quarterback.

Kinds, a football guy through and through, also coached at McKeesport, Ringgold, and Geibel Catholic High. He now resides in McKeesport and works for as a District Coordinator for Aflac.

(Grateful acknowledgement to Wayne Stewart for this biography that appeared March 6, 2018 in the *Herald-Standard*)



Syracuse player Jamont Kinds playing against Pitt

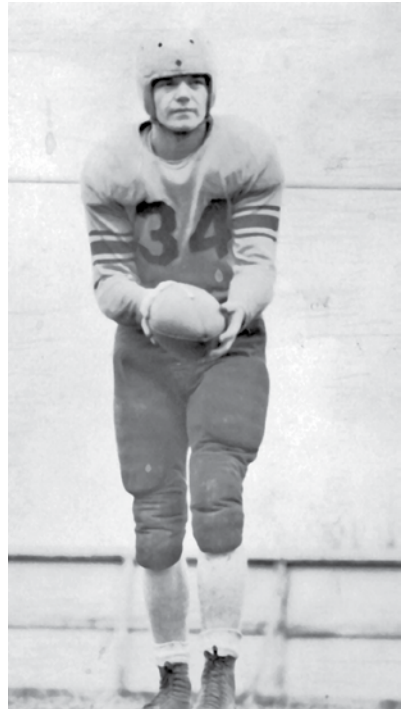
John Konek

Teammate Ed Slosky of California, Pennsylvania believes his 1949 running mate, John Konek, was the “best ever at what he did on the gridiron.” Pete Petroff, the center on the '49 California championship team remembers, “He had great speed and moves and could outrun everyone. John could break loose and make those long runs down the field. John weighed 188 pounds which was pretty big for a back in those days.” MMVASHOF 2012 inductee Casper Voithofer called Konek “multi-talented, fast, and strong.” Konek was born January 26, 1932 the son of George and Julia Simko Konek.

John was the top runner in 1949. He hit pay dirt 16 times and tacked on 10 pats for 106 points in route to becoming a high school All American. California outscored its opponents 304-61 much to the credit of Konek. California rolled to a 10-0-0 record.

Konek, with a 6 foot, one inch frame was only 17 as a senior halfback. But, as *Pittsburgh Sun Telegraph* sportswriter George Kiseda wrote, Konek's assets “are numberless. He has size, speed, and power in quantity. In an age of specialists, he is an anachronism. He hypnotized opposition coaches with his play in every department, running, kicking, passing, blocking, and tackling.”

For his efforts Konek was named to the third annual All-American high school team by the Wigwam Wisemen of American in Oklahoma City. Konek played in the All-American high school football game at Crump Stadium in Memphis. In addition to the national honors Konek also was chosen as the *Sun-Telegraph's* High School Player of the Year in Western Pennsylvania.



Sports writer Kiseda noted that the WPIAL coaches who participated in the voting for the award “left no adjective unturned” in choosing Konek 115-111 over McKeesport running back Frank Paterra. John played in the 1950 Scholastic All-American Football Game.

Konek received scholarship offers upon graduation from California High in 1950 from many major universities including, Notre Dame, Pitt, Penn State, Maryland, West Virginia, Miami, Oklahoma, L.S.U., Carnegie Tech and many others, including appointments to West Point and Annapolis. Because he wanted to play against Oklahoma and Notre Dame, Konek accepted a Division I football scholarship to the University of Kansas. Stan Milchovich recalls Konek was so good that he stipulated to Kansas that his brother Pete be given a scholarship to Kansas as well. In his first year, 1951, Konek made All Conference as a D Back. He also set a record for ten interceptions in one season. In 1952, during his junior year, a knee injury (torn ligaments and cartilage) throttled Konek’s football career.

High school teammate Slosky believes, “without the injury he could have made it to the next level, the NFL. And he was such a great baseball player that he could have played in the Major Leagues.” Despite his knee injury in 1952, Konek was still drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles after graduating from the University of Kansas. In 1954, Konek played baseball in the Phillies and Pirates minor leagues organization. As a third baseman at 6’1”, 200 lbs. John played for the Burlington-Graham Pirates of the Carolina League and the Terre Haute Phillies of the Indiana-Illinois-Iowa League.

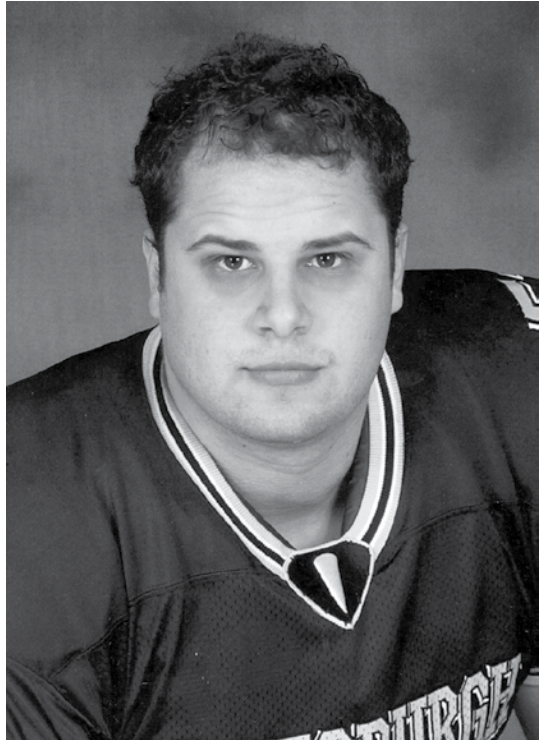
Roy Barli recently recalled Konek’s baseball skills when they were teammates on the California High team. “In ninth grade John was on third and I was on first. We won the section and played one game in the WPIAL championship games which we lost 3-1 with Tony Segzda on the mound. John and I also played three years for California American Legion. In 1949 we won the 25th District Championship.” Barli made the point that Konek was an excellent third baseman and tremendous hitter. Konek could hit any kind of pitch, didn’t matter.” Barli also remembered Konek making First Team in the basketball section.

John passed away on October 4, 2009 and was married to Carol Wolfe Konek for fifty-five years. Retired from a career in real estate sales, John enjoyed playing golf in retirement. John and Carol enjoyed a family of four children, Jill, John Douglas, Jana, and Jeff.

At his funeral it was said of Konek: “Youngest child of nine, born to Hungarian parents, Big John was bigger than life always with a higher purpose to serve. His infectious wonderful smile was genuine.”

Dan LaCarte

Dan LaCarte was a star-player during his heyday at Charleroi Area High School. A 1999 graduate and Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame Scholar-Athlete, LaCarte earned 9 letters throughout his time with the Cougars. He was captain for the 1998 Cougars Century Conference Champions; a key member on the 1996 Conference Championship Basketball team; and was the starting third basemen for the 1997 Conference Champion baseball team. A strong, multisport athlete, LaCarte wowed the crowds at Charleroi Area High School. Dan was born September 27, 1980 the son of Mary and Jack LaCarte.



LaCarte won many battles on the football gridiron, where he was a four-year starter at tight end and outside linebacker for the Cougars. A giant compared to others, Dan towered over his opponents. On offense, LaCarte hauled in 79 career catches for 981 receiving yards and 13 career touchdowns. His total receptions rank 2nd all time in school history. Defensively, LaCarte posted more than 300 career tackles, 20 career sacks, and 5 interceptions. In 1998, Dan earned a spot on the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* Fabulous 22 team and was named 1st team All State by the *Associated Press* to become just the 3rd Cougar in the last 30 years to be named to the All State team.

Dan was a rare three-time, all conference performer with the Cougars on the football field, but also starred on the basketball court and baseball

diamond. In basketball, Dan was a power forward underneath the hoop and averaged over 15 points per game for the Cougars, earning all section twice during his junior and senior seasons. Dan was named the MVP in the Charleroi Holiday tournament as a junior by scoring 29 points and sinking a buzzer beater over Bentworth to give the Cougars, at the time, their first Holiday tournament championship since 1984. In baseball, Dan lettered two years and was named Honorable Mention all-conference at third base during the 1997 season.

Dan earned the Steven Stepanian Award in 1999 given to Charleroi's top Male Student Athlete as well as earning the Jack Stevenson award given to the Cougars top basketball player for the 1999 season. Dan also did well in the classroom as he graduated with a 3.4 GPA and graduated in the Top 20 of his class at Charleroi Area High School.

LaCarte was highly sought after as a recruit, fielding offers from the University of Pittsburgh, NC State, West Virginia University, The Ohio State, Vanderbilt, and Duke. LaCarte would go on to attend the University of Pittsburgh after earning a full athletic scholarship with the Panthers.

The coaching staff at Pitt saw the potential in LaCarte's playing abilities and switched his position from tight end to the defensive line, before settling upon the offensive line where he would be a starter for three years. Dan's move to become the starting offensive guard in 2001 helped lead the Panthers to a 6-game winning streak to finish the season with a Tangerine Bowl victory over NC State.

Dan was a 4-year letterman at Pitt, while starting in 34 games for the Pitt Panthers at left offensive guard from 2001-2003. He appeared in 39 contests in his four-year career. The Charleroi product played in four bowl games for the Panthers and started in three of those contests. LaCarte was named to the All-Big East Academic team three times in his career at Pitt and earned Pitt's most improved offensive player award in 2001. He was also named Pitt's Offensive Lineman of the Game by his coaches for his performances in wins over Kent State, Toledo, Notre Dame and a historic win over #3 Virginia Tech in 2002.

Dan graduated with a Business Management degree at the University of Pittsburgh finishing with a 3.5 GPA.

In 2006, Dan was nominated by the *Tribune Review* as one of the all-time tight ends for its 100 year all time WPIAL team. Additionally, LaCarte was nominated in 2011 as one of the Pitt's top lineman of the decade from 2000-2010.

Since his playing days, La Carte has helped coach area teams around the Mon Valley. Dan was a part of the Charleroi Cougar Coaching staff for seven years (2004-2011), serving as the offensive line coach and offensive coordinator for the Cougars. Dan was on the staff for the 2004 Century Conference Championship team under Coach Nick Milchovich. In 2012, LaCarte coached the Belle Vernon Leopards offensive line which earned a WPIAL playoff appearance. LaCarte has since coached with the Ringgold Rams on the offensive and defensive lines.

Dan serves as the Executive Vice President of Model Cleaners, Uniforms and Apparel, which is a long-time family owned business based in Charleroi that Dan runs along with his four older brothers. The business currently employs over 200 families in the Pittsburgh region. Dan also has served on the board of the Mon Valley YMCA for the past 9 years. LaCarte resides in Carroll Township with his wife, Michele, and three children Elyse, Thomas and Vincent.

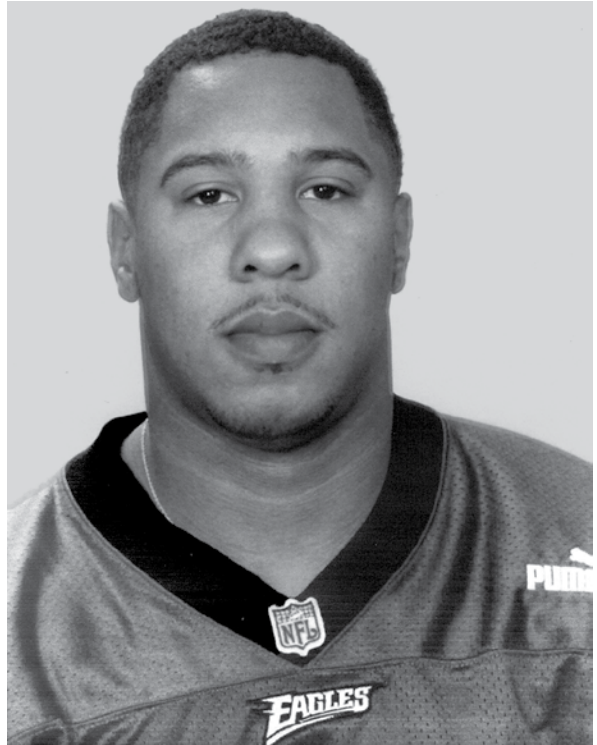


University of Pittsburgh's Dan LaCarte

Jamie Reader

A 1993 Monessen High graduate, Jamie Reader has a storied athletic career spanning the better part of two decades. From his formidable years spent at Memorial Stadium, to career defining moments in the National Football League, Reader has excelled on and off the field at all levels of the game.

During his time at Monessen High School, Reader was a three-year starter for the late Coach Jack Scarvel, a 2001 Mon Valley Sports Hall of Fame inductee. He was a defensive end as a sophomore and fullback-linebacker as a junior and senior. He made the Tri-County South Conference team his last two years.



Reader's most memorable game was at Connellsville against Geibel. "They were a pretty good team and was one of our biggest rivals," he claimed. "We were down 15-0 at halftime and coach Scarvel snapped in the dressing room. We came back to win and I had four touchdowns, including the winner with one second left." Trailing 22-6 going into the fourth quarter in a battle of the conference co-leaders, Reader scored three touchdowns in the fourth quarter of a thrilling 24-22 victory.

In Reader's junior year, Monessen was one win away from going to the WPIAL Class A championship game, but lost to eventual titlist Rochester, 40-7, in the semifinals. Reader ran for more than 1,300 yards as a senior and scored 109 points.

During his senior season, Pitt, Akron, Rutgers and most of the Mid-American

Conference teams were interested in Reader. "I really wanted to go to Pitt," he said. "Sal Sunseri was recruiting me and they were going through a coaching change before Johnny Majors was brought back. Gerry Faust was coaching at Akron and assistant Bob Junko recruited a lot of WPIAL players, including Monessen's Keith Davis and the Coles brothers, Bryan and Jaison, before me."

"Akron went with the triple option," he said. "One year I was the featured back. I had a 100-yard game against Kent State and scored two touchdowns against Virginia Tech. My last two years I was more of a receiving back and blocked one season for Ringgold's Greg Lomax."

Reader was voted the Zips' Most Valuable Back as a sophomore and senior. During his time with the Zips, Reader ran for 751 yards and caught 45 passes for 316 yards. After playing four years at the University of Akron and making the Hula Bowl in Hawaii, the 6-0, 238-pound Reader was bypassed in the NFL Draft, despite being projected among the top five fullbacks in the country. "Only four or five fullbacks got drafted that year," he said. "Arizona signed me, but I was only with them a couple of weeks. Miami then picked me up where I spent two years on the Dolphins' practice squad."

Enter NFL Europe where Reader played one season for the Scottish Claymores.

Philadelphia was the next stop, where Reader was the backup fullback to Stanley Pritchett. "I was always one play away from being the Eagles fullback, but Pritchett never got hurt when I was there," he recalled.

Reader then opted for the San Francisco Demons in the new XFL created by WWE chairman Vince McMahon. The Demons were good enough to advance to XFL championship ("Million Dollar Game") where they lost to Los Angeles Extreme, 38-6, in 2001. The Extreme's quarterback was Tommy Maddox, who signed several months later with the Pittsburgh Steelers and played five years for Coach Bill Cowher.

Reader's football playing days ended after the 2002 campaign.

Jamie is the son of Crystal Jordan Reader, born May 4, 1974. His grandmother, Helen Jordan, was a large influence in Jamie's life and sadly passed away. Reader married his college sweetheart, Misti Spring of Steubenville, Ohio, and has three children: Jami, Farrah, and Roman. He is employed at the State Corrections Institution in Waynesburg as activities specialist coordinating activities for inmates. Before that he was the fatherhood coordinator at the SPSHS Family Center in Monessen. He was also an assistant football coach for 10 years at Monessen for Joe Fischer and Andy Pacak, working with running backs and serving as offensive coordinator. Reader also coached BVA Metro Travel Basketball for three years with one championship.

(Grateful acknowledgement to Brian Herman for this biography that appeared in *The Valley Independent* June 21, 2013)

2018 Appreciation Award



Paul Rach

The Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame Appreciation Award is presented to an individual who has greatly contributed to making the Sports Hall of Fame a success. The person is chosen by the Special Event Committee and voted upon by the Board of Directors. The committee and directors take into account the individual's dedication and commitment to the organization.

A 1965 graduate of Monongahela High School, Paul began his career in education teaching and coaching in the Yough School District, where he had the privilege of coaching junior high school football and basketball and high school football, volleyball, and track and field. He also coached football at Mon Valley Catholic High School and track and field at California University of PA. He served on the WPIAL track and field committee and is a retired track and field official. Upon leaving coaching he served as athletic director and assistant principal at Yough before becoming high school principal and eventually superintendent at both Yough and Bentworth. He has had the honor of serving as a member of the Hall of Fame Board of Directors since 2004.

Previous award winners:

2017 Dennis Stitch

2016 William Kubin

2015 Tim Urda

2014 Jerry Zahand

2013 Richard J. Bucchianeri

2012 Jim "Mouse" Chacko

2011 Randall E. Marino

2010 Bill Priatko

2009 Aldo Bartolotta

2008 Robert "Pat" Petriello

2007 Rev. Igor Soroka

2006 Mike Lee

2005 Joan Andabaker

2004 Josie Carozza

2003 Lee Oliver Hewitt

2002 Clair Brown

2001 Kathy Krisfalusy

2000 Melvin B. Bassi

1999 Steve Russell

1998 Andrew Solan

and John Bunardzya

1997 Bernard T. Sarra, Sr.

and Brian Herman

MID-MON VALLEY ALL SPORTS HALL OF FAME
Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame

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Meet the 2018 Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame Selection Committee



*Seated: Carl Crawley, Jr, Brian Herman, Bill Kubin, and Stan Milchovich
Standing: Dennis Stitch, Tom Jenkins, Bill Hughes, Randy Marino and Steve Russell*



Meet the 2018 Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors



*Seated: Richard Buccianeri, Tom Evans, Roberta Bergstedt, Dennis Stitch, Bill Kubin
Standing: Paul Rach, Tom Jenkins, Tom Graney, Steve Russell*

Meet the 2017 Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame Class

Induction ceremonies at the Genetti Hotel
Williamsport October 28, 2017



*Front: Michael Payton, Sheila Murphy, Carroll Worrell (widow accepting on behalf of Red Worrell),
Patty Walton, and husband Joe Walton, Sheila M. Overton (daughter accepting on behalf of Sam Jethroe), and Jerry Conboy.
Back: Art Rooney Jr., Bill Bowes, Ron Insinger, Mari Harter (widow accepting on behalf of Dick Harter), Wil Robinson,
Jennifer Overton (daughter accepting on behalf of Sam Jethroe), and Bob Sanders*



Bruce Dal Canton



Mid Mon Valley Chapter Salutes Our 2018 Inductee 56th Annual Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame Induction & Ceremonial Dinner



•Saturday, November 3, 2018•
Woodland Resort and Convention Center
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

For tickets: 724-258-3823 or stephenrussell1106@comcast.net

What is the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame?

It is a non-profit organization founded to perpetuate the memory of athletes, male or female, who have brought lasting fame and recognition to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through their athletic achievements.

Also eligible for such distinction are those individuals who have brought similar recognition to the state through their contributions to sports in general through managerial, promotional or other influential capacities.

MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL

Membership in the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame is open to all sports-minded individuals interested in perpetuating the memory of athletic greats who have brought recognition to their state during their careers - either through their own achievements or personal influence or contributions.

The membership fee is five dollars per annum (\$5.00) and each individual chapter retains \$3.00 of that sum for expenses, although no salaries are to be paid to any officers, chairpersons or committee heads who all serve on a voluntary basis.

All members will be privileged to submit the names they choose to their own chapter officers for consideration.

JOIN NOW WRITE OR CALL

Mid Mon Valley All-Sports Hall of Fame
Steve Russell, General Chairman
1106 Stanton Street
Monongahela, PA 15063
(724) 258-3823
Email: stephenvrussell@gmail.com



History of **MMVASHOF Banquet Program Books** **1950 to 2018**

The Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame has compiled a complete collection of program books that were printed since the Hall of Fame concept was introduced at the Mon Valley Football Conference Banquet by the Mon Valley Sports Writers held at the Twin Coaches in 1951. These books, especially from the 1950s until 1970, display noteworthy artwork on the covers. Indeed, the drawings were so fascinating that, frequently on the night of the banquet, guest speakers who were featured on the cover requested extra copies of the book. Some of the speakers asked if they could obtain the actual drawing.

The idea for the original artistic design is credited to the father of the Mon Valley Sports Writers Hall of Fame, John Bunardzya. Some of the artwork was created by longtime newspaper photographer and artist James "Scoop" Altmare. The books were initially printed by the MMM Publishing Company in New Eagle, so named for the three owners whose last names all began with an "M."

With the revival of the Mon Valley Sports Hall of Fame in 1994, the books were initially printed by Copycat in California, Pennsylvania. Bernard Sarra III was in charge of the publishing of the program book through 1998.

In 1999 the program book began to resemble the original books from the former Sports Writers Hall of Fame. The difference was that the newer models featured annual Hall of Fame inductees instead of noteworthy guest speakers. The notion to change the program book back to its original view was the idea of educator and general chairman of the Hall Steve Russell. Steve enlisted one of his former students, Lee Hewitt, to design an artistic cover for the program book. As indicated by this display, Lee, an artist for *The Valley Independent*, did an extraordinary job! Currently Gracie Abel is the artist for the program. The books have been published by the Roscoe Ledger and Little Printing of Uniontown and currently by Badzik Printing in Donora.

We know you will enjoy reliving the history of our local Sports Hall of Fame through these unique program books. Most of the program books from the original Hall of Fame were donated by Brownsville newspaperman Robert Petriello, class of 1969. Our collection is now complete with the help of the Donora Historical Society who hold the collection of famed Mon Valley football coach James K. Russell, class of 1955.

Enjoy the exhibit!

Steve Russell

General Chairman

June 2011

