

Welcome to



We at the Georgetown Centre, are very happy to be the site of the 2019 Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall Fame banquet. Being a 1963 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School, I have had many memories of valley sports in my high school and college memories.

We, at the Georgetown Centre, family owned and operated since 1990, have become the premier banquet facility in this area. We operated the Yorkshire Inn Restaurant for 23 years beginning in 1970. Through the years we have established many lasting relationships whether it be by wedding, sports banquets, showers or graduations. The valley has been an important source of business for the Yorkshire Inn and the Georgetown Centre for many years.

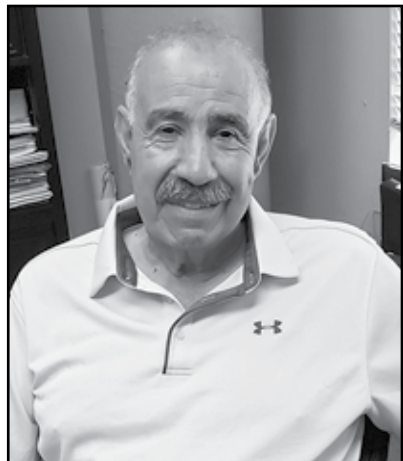
We hope that this inaugural banquet of the Mid Mon Valley sports affair becomes a new reoccurring relationship with the Georgetown Centre. We are proud to have the yearly affair here with us.

Thank you for sharing the experience with us at the Georgetown Centre.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leslie George, Jr." The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Leslie George, Jr.
Owner





Hall of Fame Watch 2019

Welcome to the 26th annual Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame Banquet. This is our first experience at The Georgetown Centre and we appreciate the graciousness of host Les George.

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.

This year inductee Charel Allen will be the fifth MMVASHOF scholar athlete inducted. Charel joins previous scholar athletes inducted which include Gina Naccarato, Vinnie Graham, Jamont Kinds, and Dan LaCarte.

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 10 individual champions.

Elizabeth Forward High School Warriors won their first-ever Class 4A softball (17-3) WPIAL championship on May 31, 2019.

California High School Trojans won their sixth baseball (18-1) WPIAL championship title on May 28, 2019 and second in the last three years.

Our Achievement award winners for Mon Valley High School WPIAL 2018-2019 individual Gold include in wrestling Bentworth/Charleroi's John Vargo (30-8) two-time Class AA 195 lbs. category and Elizabeth Forward's Ryan Michaels (43-2) Class AA 113 lbs. category. In swimming, Belle Vernon Area's two-time Robby Spekis Class AA 200-yard medley (1:57:41) and 100-yard breaststroke (56.99) a BVA and WPIAL meet record, and PIAA gold 100-yard breaststroke (56.63), and two-time Ian Shahan 100-yard butterfly (49.66) and PIAA 100-yard freestyle (45.48) a new meet record along with 100-yard butterfly (48.83), and Elizabeth Forward's Kaelyn McClain 500-yard freestyle (5:10.01), and Ringgold's Anna Vogt two-time Class AA diving (score of 436.05) and PIAA diving gold (421.10); Elizabeth Forward's Brianna Spirnak two-time Class AAA track and field javelin (141.3); Monessen's Darnel Howell

Class AA track and field high jump (leap of 6-3); Brownsville's Gionna Quarzo two-time Class AA track and field 3,200 (10:34.35); California's Jelani Stafford Class AA track and field shot put (51ft. 4 and one quarter inch).

This past year, the Sports Hall of Fame lost 2017 inductee Don Bartolomucci (1937-2018), 1956 inductee Ed Roebuck (1931-2018), 2010 inductee Stan Milchovich (1935-2019), 2007 inductee Ron Hughes (1943-2019), 1977 inductee Elmo Natali (1927-2019), and recently learned about the passing of 2004 inductee Craig Cotton (1947-2013). The Hall of Fame will miss these individuals and their contributions.

Congratulations to 2010 inductee Vic Trilli on his retirement after a 44-year athletic career and the 2019 recipient of Newman University Alumni award. Bill Contz a 1999 inductee was the after-dinner speaker at the 69th Annual Achievement Awards Banquet Toast To Our Stars at the Charleroi Elks April 28. Before his passing this year, 1977 inductee Elmo Natali was awarded an honorary doctorate in recognition of his dedication to students, his decades of service, and his lasting legacy at California University of Pennsylvania. On April 7, at the Mon Valley YMCA, our MMVASHOF chairman Dennis Stitch was ordained by the Youghiogheny Western Baptists Ministerial Conference. Scott Frederick of Monongahela became a member of the MMVASHOF Board of Directors this year.

At the Baseball Hall of Fame Ceremonies in Cooperstown this July the Ford C. Frick Award for broadcasting will be posthumously bestowed upon Monongahela High School 1929 graduate Al Helfer (1911-1975). We salute Mr. Helfer with a special page dedicated to his career.

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 yearly 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 Chris Grilli of the former 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: stephenrussell@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 Sellew and Jose Negrón 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 Western 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 19, 2020.


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

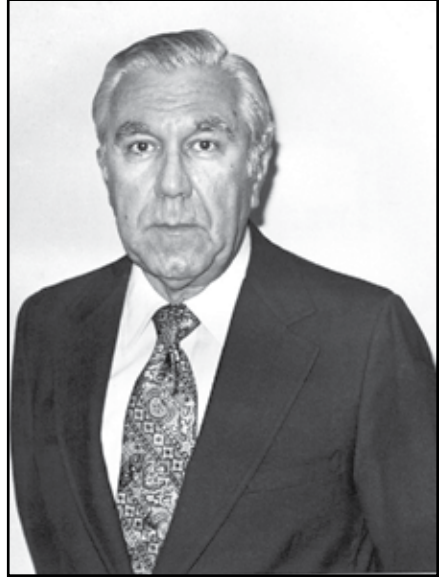


Origin of the **MON VALLEY SPORTS WRITERS HALL OF FAME**

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" Altmare. 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.

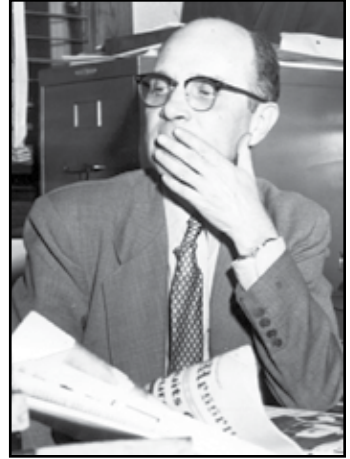
The 30th consecutive All Conference football banquet would come to an end with the 1979 presentation. The end of the annual banquet was due to the WPIAL realignment of schools which had competed against local school district teams. With the change the Mon Valley Conference no longer competed against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

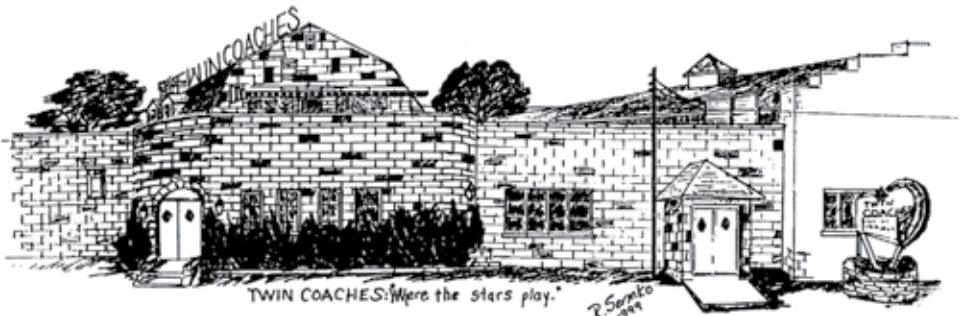
Guards: Clarence E. Stump, Donora • Bernard "Tuffy" McManus, California

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 Bunardzya. 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 Loving Memory..... Frye Funeral Home
Serving Families with Care and Dignity Since 1917

Director Pamela F. DeRose
427 West Main Street
Monongahela, PA 15063
724-258-6136

www.fryefuneralhome.com
lmfryefuneralhome@hotmail.com



www.monvalleysportshalloffame.com

A son remembers his father Elmo Natali (1927-2019)

A GOOD AND HONEST MAN

My father's life story has long been a legend, inside the family and outside of it. In fact, it's a metaphor for the successful immigrant experience in America. He was one of seven children reared by poor parents who spoke almost no English. The family lived in a tiny apartment above a garage in Gallatin, PA, a community that in some ways, seemed to have been imported directly from Italy. We entered the apartment by climbing a rickety set of wooden steps, with a sulfur creek running beneath our feet, onto a wobbly porch that wasn't much bigger than a folding table. Oddly, to this day, the smell of sulfur makes me hungry, because my Nona always served large and delicious Sunday dinners to a packed table.



Dad grew up in poverty, working on a grocer's truck every morning before school to help put food on that table. He faced a language barrier, very real prejudice against Italian-Americans and the usual isolation of immigrant people living in inhospitable environments. At best, Dad seemed destined for a rudimentary education and a dead end job in the mills or the mines. At worst, he could've been subsumed into an ingrained culture of organized crime and become a petty criminal.

His way out was sports – soccer, baseball and, most especially, football, his natural habitat. By the time Johnny Reed, the football coach at Monessen High, began to pick him up each morning and drive him to school, he had grown to be a swift and powerful runner. Reed knew his star halfback well: Dad loved the football field, but he had no such affection for the classroom. Every year, when football season ended, he disappeared, finally joining the army near the end of WWII.

Somehow, that sojourn into the larger world awakened in my father a desire for something beyond the confines of Gallatin. He earned a GED and received a scholarship to St. Bonaventure University, which was trying to move into big-time college football at the time. When that effort became too expensive, the school dropped the sport altogether. Dad, with his new bride, Norma Jean Beadling, moved on to Virginia Tech, and then transferred to California State College. He had found a new home. Dad excelled at California, so much so that Paul Brown drafted him in 1953 to play for the Cleveland Browns. However, he had an injured wrist and a need to make more than the \$1600 offered by the parsimonious Brown, because he now had a family to support.

I was 10 days old when I made my first visit to the Vulcan locker room, and although I sometimes blamed myself for ruining the opportunity, Dad never regretted not playing professional football. When the Pittsburgh Steelers offered him a contract in 1962 to be their punter, he turned them down. By then, he had me, my brother Jamie and my sister Jeanne and a career as a coach and a teacher. His profession led him from Monongahela High School and back to California. In the three decades that followed, he went from classroom teacher and defensive backfield coach to vice president, a remarkable ascent for someone who came from such a meager background.

The accolades followed – a building named in his honor, an honorary doctorate degree, his jersey retired, and two halls of fame. However, nothing was more precious to him than his family, which grew to include four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. The joy he found in them was approached only by the satisfaction he took in helping students at the university, particularly those who were in the most need, financially or otherwise. I can't tell you how often I've been stopped by alumni who tell me that without Elmo Natali's help, they would never have earned degrees or gone on to their own professional careers.

Dad went a very long way, but he never forgot what it was like to live in that tiny apartment over the sulfur creek. My Dad accomplished so much so much in his life that he would be incredulous now to see anyone crying for him. Dad achieved that most difficult goal for anyone, regardless of background – he became a good and honest man. I'm sure that's how he would want to be remembered.

(Grateful acknowledgement to Alan Natali, retired California University of Pennsylvania English professor, who wrote this on the passing of his father May 28, 2019)



Meet the 2018 Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame Inductees



*Front Row (left to right): Vinnie Graham, Jana Konek Ward representing her deceased father John Konek, Ernest "Roger" Hotz, and Jamont Kinds Bartolomucci
Back Row: Jamie Reader and Dan LaCarte*



Meet the 2018 Scholar-Athletes of the Mid Monongahela Valley Schools



Front Row (left to right): Bentworth's Jenna Vito, Yough's E. Makenzie Cosharek, Ringgold's Jackson O'Conner and Mackenzie Musser, California's Braden Collins and Bailey Vig, Brownsville's Jessica Vance and Jaden Harvey
Second Row: Elizabeth Forward's Tyler Ocilka and Cassidy Kern, Belle Vernon Area's Chris McCullough and Taylor Kovatch
Back Row: Charleroi's Caleb Carson and Sierra Short, Monessen's Tyler Caterino and Madison Guzzie



Meet the 2018 Mon Valley WPIAL Team Achievement Awardee



Belle Vernon Area's head softball Coach Tom Rodriguez along with senior captain Bailey Parshall accept Achievement Award on behalf of their team, the Class 4A WPIAL Lady Leps Softball Champions with presentation by general chairman Steve Russell of the MMVASOF.

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 Eisley, 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 Strellick |
| 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 Jampedro, 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 Myrnga, 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 School | Shane 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 School | Joseph Gruber, Sara Sepesky |
| Bentworth High School..... | Ty Mitchell, Heather Chester |
| Brownsville Area High School | Travis 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 School | Ryan Lee, Madison Ambler |
| Monessen High School..... | Justice Rice, Victoria Cooper |
| Ringgold High School..... | Dalton Holt, Olivia Warner |
| Yough High School | Jack Cleary, Olivia Miller |

2018

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Belle Vernon Area High School | Christopher McCullough, Taylor Kovatch |
| Bentworth High School..... | Ashton Lopez, Jenna Vito |
| Brownsville Area High School | Jaden Harvey, Jessica Michelle Vance |
| California Area High School..... | Braden Collins, Bailey Vig |
| Charleroi Area High School | Caleb Carson, Sierra Short |
| Elizabeth Forward High School | Tyler Ocilka, Cassidy Kern |
| Monessen High School..... | Tyler Caterino, Maddie Guzzie |
| Ringgold High School..... | Jackson O'Connor, Mackenzie Musser |
| Yough High School | Michael J. Martini, E. Makenzie Cosharek |

Bold indicates an inductee of the Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame

Student Scholar/Athletes 2019

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



Jacob Sepesky

Varsity 4-year track letterman

Ryan Moravec Memorial Track & Field award

Varsity 2-year soccer letterman

Paul Sasko Memorial scholarship

Varsity 2-year cross country letterman

Varsity 1-year basketball letterman

Delance Stanley award

Honors: National Honor Society (Spanish, Science, and Social Studies), 2-year WPIAL Track Qualifier, Adidas High School Player of the Week

Clubs: Interact Club, PE Club, Gifted Program

Volunteer: Toys for Tots, Relay for Life, Volunteer at Mon Valley Hospital, Overly's Country Christmas, and Play-Doh for Patients

Penn State: engineering



Lindsay Steeber

Varsity 4-year basketball letterwoman / senior captain

Sasha Zuro Basketball scholarship award

Varsity 3-year softball letterwoman

Chris Williams Memorial award

Varsity 1-year girls cross track and field letterwoman (sprinter/long jump)

Honors: Valedictorian, National Honor Society, Westmoreland County Scholar Athlete, *The Mon Valley Independent-Beegraphix* Super 6 Breakthrough Athlete of the Year 2019, *Triblive* Athlete of the Week, J. Budd Grebb All-Star Team, Sasha Zuro Memorial Basketball Scholarship, Chris Williams Memorial Scholarship in Softball

Clubs: class treasurer 10-12, student council, interact, Spanish, and P.E. clubs, and MICSADD

Volunteer: Relay for Life, Salvation Army Bell-Ringing, Food Drive, The Bag Brigade, and Change for Children

Duquesne University: political science

Student Scholar/Athletes 2019

Bentworth High School



Colin Heinrich

Varsity 4-year football defensive letterman/captain
65 tackles and four sacks senior season, *Herald Standard*
scholar athlete, Tri County scholar athlete
Honors: National Honor Society president
Clubs: 4-H club
Volunteer: Special Olympics
Youngstown: mechanical engineering



Leah Lindley

Varsity 4-year volleyball letterwoman/senior captain
All Section team, Buccaneer Classic All-Tournament team,
24 aces and 54 kills as a senior
Varsity 4-year softball letterwoman/captain (11,12), strikeouts
(134 senior year), batting average .475, RBI's 27
Honors: National Honor Society, *Herald Standard* scholar
athlete
Clubs: Junior Council treasurer, Student Council secretary, ski
club
Volunteer: Special Olympics, Blessings in a Backpack
Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania

Student Scholar/Athletes 2019

Brownsville Area High School



Evan Olesko

Varsity 4-year football letterman/captain

3x All County, All Conference (12), 54 tackles

Honors: National Honor Society president, French Honor Society president, Brownsville Rotary Student of the Month

Clubs: ski club, math competition Academic League, Penn State 4.0 Club

Volunteer: volunteer junior fire fighter at Tower Hill #2, CPR trained

Robert Morris University: actuary science



Sarah Lemesh

Varsity 4-year tennis WPIAL qualifier (10)

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

4x All Conference, 2x All Section

Hotspurs FC

Honors: National Honor Society vice president, Spanish Honor Society president, Fayette County Chamber of Commerce Student of the Month

Clubs: class treasurer (10-12), math competition Academic League, Leo club, Penn State Fayette 4.0 club

Volunteer: Washington City Mission, elementary mentoring Penn State University Park: engineering

Student Scholar/Athletes 2019

California Area High School



Jelani Stafford

Varsity 4-year football letterman/captain

2x Tri County South All Conference

2018 *The Mon Valley Independent*/Bee Graphix Finest 25,

2018 Pennsylvania Football New All-State team

Observer Reporter Feb 15 2018, Mon Valley Breakthrough

Player Of the Year 2017, *Post-Gazette* All Conference-Offense 2018

Offense 2017, All State (3,280 total rushing yards; 47 TD's)

Varsity 1-year track (gold medal in the shot put at 18th annual

Scott Frederick Mid-Mon Valley track classic at Charleroi High

with a throw of 46 feet seven inches), 2019 WPIAL Class AA

gold: shot put (51 feet 4 and one quarter inch), 2019 PIAA:

4th shot put (55.10 and A quarter

Varsity 2-year basketball (2015, 2016)

Volunteer: assist with personal training at Brownsville Athletic Club Youngstown State University: business



Dajah Gudel

Varsity 3-year basketball letterwoman/captain (11-12)

Varsity 2-year volleyball letterwoman

Varsity 1-year track letterwoman

Herald Standard scholar athlete

Clubs: Envirothon

Volunteer: Relay for Life 2018-2019, tutor elementary students, road clean up

California University of Pennsylvania: physical therapy assistant

Student Scholar/Athletes 2019

Charleroi Area High School



Cole Hunter Perry

Varsity 4-year football letterman/captain-two-way starter

Total rushing yards as a junior/senior 2,067, First Team All-Conference offense (11), First Team All-Conference offense defense (12), *The Mon Valley Independent Bee Graphix* (2018), Coaches Choice award (2018)

Varsity 4-year baseball letterman/captain

The Mon Valley Independent Dirty Dozen

Honors: Lions Club Cub of the Month, Washington-Greene Sports Hall of Fame scholar athlete

Clubs: drafting club president, French club, Student Council, Calculus club, ski club, STEM club

Robert Morris University: software engineering



Anna Kuenzel

Varsity 4-year volleyball letterwoman

Herald Standard Scholar Athlete Centennial Chevrolet award

Varsity 4-year track letterwoman

Honors: Zonta Amelia Earhart award, Rotary Club Student of the Month, DAR Good Citizen award, The Challenge Program Academic Excellence and Community Service awards, Charthene Club Girl of the Year

Clubs: STEM club president, drafting club treasurer, Bots IQ team captain, Executive Committee, SADD and Interact, National Honor Society President

Volunteer: Next Step Ministries Trip, Charleroi clean up, Camp Invention Leadership Intern, Charleroi Day of Hope, Doors Open Pittsburgh, Vacation Bible School, church and community dinners

Ohio University: civil engineering

Student Scholar/Athletes 2019

Elizabeth Forward High School



Joram Stith

Varsity 4-year cross country letterman/captain
2x Medalist at Yough River Trail Invitational
Varsity 4-year track and field letterman/captain
Qualifier TSTCA Indoor Championship/ Medalist,
WPIAL
Honors: National Honor Society, 3x Scholar Athlete,
Clubs: chapter president technology student association, cyber
patriot team
captain, varsity Academic League co-captain
Volunteer: proud Eagle Scout, patriot leader (boy scouts),
Reach Mission
and Project Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh, choir church
worship team
United States Coast Guard Academy: cyber systems



Nancy Beinlich

Varsity 4-year girls soccer letterwoman/captain (11,12)
Tribune Review Spotlight Athlete of the Week, *The Mon Valley
Independent* Feb 15 (2017 2nd team/2018 1st team)/2018
Defensive Player Of the Year, WPIAL All Section (2018)
Honors: National Honors Society president, AP scholar with
distinction, National Merit Society commended scholar,
2017/18 Ben Carson scholar athlete, DAR scholar athlete,
Rotary Club Service award, Wm and Louise Shank Memorial
scholar award, John Hopkins Center Talented Youth delegate
Clubs: Interact Club president, vice president Student
Government Association
Volunteer: EFHS Community Service award (2019), committee
chair for Backpack Buddies Initiative, event coordinator Make
Your Own Scarecrow Foundation (Autism Connection of
PA), Cribs for Kids, Pumpkin Sand/Art chairperson (Downs
syndrome), Mon Valley Relay forLife (2018,19)
The College of William & Mary: biochemistry (pre-med)

Student Scholar/Athletes 2019

Monessen High School



Tyler Swann

Varsity 4-year soccer letterman/captain
Herald Standard scholar athlete
Varsity 4-year baseball letterman/captain
Honors: National Honor Society
Clubs: class secretary, Spanish club, FBLA
Volunteer: City Park clean up
Penn State



Soleil Simpson

Varsity 4-year softball letterwoman/captain
Varsity 4-year cheerleader and captain
Honors: National Honor Society, Westmoreland County
scholar Athlete, co-Valedictorian
Clubs: SADD president, Homecoming court
Volunteer: youth cheerleading coach
Georgetown University: chemistry

Student Scholar/Athletes 2019

Ringgold High School



Eli Schoedel

Varsity 2-year track and field

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

2x WPIAL All Section, Ringgold's all-time leading goal scorer (59),

offensive player of the year (11), *Herald Standard* scholar athlete,

2x *Mon Valley Independent Bee* Graphix Finest 15, Rookie of the (9)

Honors: National Honor Society

Clubs: Relay for Life, American Civics club

Volunteer: Monongahela's Light up Night, referee

for local youth tournaments, Healthy Kids running series

Carlow University: cardiovascular perfusion



Anna Vogt

Varsity 4-swimming/diving letterwoman/captain

WPIAL/PIAA Class AA diving champion 2019, WPIAL Class

AA diving champion 2018, *Herald Standard* Most Outstanding performer 2019, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* Athlete of the Week

Varsity 4-year track and field letterwoman/captain MVP 2017/2018

Honors: Ringgold Rams Club Hall of Fame student honoree, National and Spanish Honor Society, Award of Distinction,

WPIAL \$1000 scholar athlete scholarship award

Clubs: secretary athletic training club, foreign language club, Interact, The Future is Mine, technology student association, art club, outdoor adventure club

Volunteer: Toys for Tots, Salvation Army red kettle drive, Relay for Life, Youth gymnastic coach, Thanksgiving church dinner, food drives

Clarion University

Student Scholar/Athletes 2019

Yough High School



Dustin Shoaf

Varsity 4-year football letterman/captain
Big East MVP, All State running back, 3x All Conference Player,
2x WPIAL leading rusher, 2x Yough offensive team MVP, 5,053
career rushing yards, 48 career TD's
Varsity 1-year wrestling
John Weaver award
Varsity 2-year track letterman (10, 11)
Honors: Yough Football Academic Team
Clubs: Spirit club, Student Council, senior mentoring
Volunteer: Blood drive, road clean up, shoveling snow
Mercyhurst University: education major



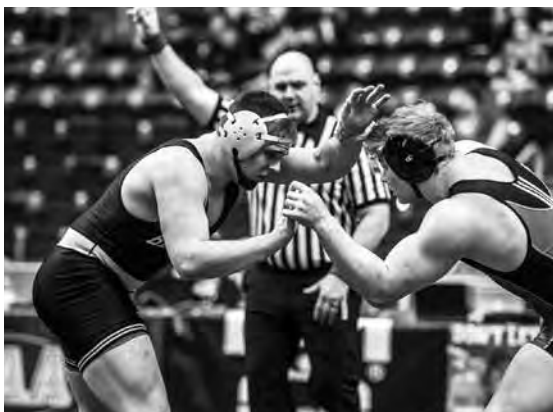
Rebecca Ghion

Varsity 4-year lacrosse letterwoman/captain (11, 12),
WPIAL All Section
Varsity 3-year volleyball letterwoman
Varsity 2-year bowling letterwoman/captain (12)
Honors: National Honor Society recording secretary, West Newton
Women's Club Top 10, Rotary Student of the Month, French
National Honor Society, National Art Honor Society
Clubs: Student Council corresponding secretary, Robotics
secretary, The Future is Mine, CAPI SADD, Homecoming
Court Queen
Volunteer: mural painting, road drives, West Newton Elementary
PTO, Grand March Prom committee, nursing home, Sutersville
Fire Department
Washington & Jefferson College: Earth & Space science

2019 Mid Mon Valley High School Athletes



Mon Valley High School WPIAL 2018-2019 Individual Gold



Bentworth/Charleroi **John Vargo** (30-8) 2x Class AA at 195 lbs.



Elizabeth Forward **Ryan Michaels** (43-2) Class AA at 113 lbs.



Belle Vernon Area Robby Spekis 2x Class AA 200-yard medley (1:57.41) and 100-yard breaststroke (56.99) a BVA and WPIAL meet record, PIAA 100-yard breaststroke (56.63)

Mon Valley High School WPIAL 2018-2019 Individual Gold



Belle Vernon Area **Ian Shahan** 2x Class AA 100-yard butterfly (49.66) meet record and 100-yard freestyle (45.48) meet record, PIAA 100-yard butterfly (48.83) and 100-yard freestyle (45.39)

Elizabeth Forward **Kaelyn McClain** Class AA 500-yard freestyle (5:10.01)



Ringgold **Anna Vogt** 2x Class AA (436.05), PIAA (421.10)

Mon Valley High School WPIAL 2018-2019 Individual Gold



Elizabeth Forward **Brianna Spirnak** 2x Class AAA javelin (141.3), PIAA 5th place (137.4)



Brownsville **Gionna Quarzo** 2x Class AA 3200 (10:34.35) meet record, PIAA 3200 (10:25.91) state record



Monessen **Darnell Howell** Class AA high jump (6-3), PIAA 7th place (6-2)



California **Jelani Stafford** Class AA shot put (51 feet 4 and one quarter inch), PIAA 4th place (55.10 and a quarter)

**Congratulations to the 2019 Elizabeth Forward High
School Warrior Softball Team
Class 4A WPIAL Champions (17-3)
May 31, 2019**



Kneeling (left to right): Allison Berkley, Taylor Ludwick, Alexis Argyros

Standing: Angelina McCorkle, Cassie Greenawalt, Brooke Markland, Jordan Pinneri, Grace Smith, Brianna Sersevic, Kailey Larcinese, Mackenzie Kearns, Anna Resnik, Casey Evans

Congratulations to the 2019 California High School Trojan Baseball Class A WPIAL Champions (18-1) May 28, 2019



Kneeling (left to right): Jacob Swartz and Nathan Zernany

Standing: Drew Thomas, Jordan Kearns, Jesse Byrne, Jacob Thomas, Fred Conrad, Connor Vig, Brody Conner, Matt Trunzo, Payton Conte, Jacob Piktel, Colton Lusk, Jacob Kotchman, Brendan Padilla

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 Wayneburg 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.

Robby Spekis

Tonight's Vocalist



Rob Spekis has not only been one of the best swimmers in Belle Vernon Area School District history but he also has earned recognition as an all-around student. This 2019 BVA grad, the son of Lisa and Bob Spekis, of Rostraver, served as captain and a four-year letterman of the Leopards swim team, winning WPIAL gold medals in the 200-yard Individual Medley and 100-Yard Breast Stroke in both his junior and senior years. He holds the WPIAL record for the 100-yard Breast Stroke and went on to become the 2019 PIAA champion in the event. A highest honor student, he was class president for all four years of high school. He was this year's recipient of the Tribune Review Outstanding Young Citizen Award and sportscaster Bob Pompeani's KDKA-TV Extra Effort Award. He was co-winner of the Herald Standard Swimmer of the Year Award and a USA Swimming Scholastic All-American. Rob will continue his academic career at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where he will major in marine biology and be a member of the Sharks' swim team.

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.



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.”

Dennis was ordained at the Mon Valley YMCA by the Youghiogheny Western Baptist Ministerial Conference in 2019. He is currently an assistant baseball coach at Serra Catholic High School.

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.”

Program

GRAND ENTRANCE*INTRODUCTION OF THE CLASS OF 2019*

WELCOME*Dennis Stich*
Chairman of the Board

NATIONAL ANTHEM*Robby Spekis*
Belle Vernon Area High School

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE *Cole Hunter Perry*
Charleroi Area High School

INVOCATION.....*Nancy Beinlich*
Elizabeth Forward Area High School

DINNER BUFFET

- ~Ham Cheese & Vegetable tray~
- ~Italian Wedding Soup~
- ~Tossed Garden Salad with Italian/Ranch~
- ~Baked Chicken with Bone~
- ~Roast Sirloin of Beef with au jus~
- ~Herbed Roasted Redskins~
- ~Steamed Vegetable Medley~
- ~Bread Works Hard Rolls~
- ~Chocolate Mousse~
- ~Ice/Hot Tea/Water/Coffee~

INTRODUCTION OF MASTER OF CEREMONIES*Dennis Stich*

MASTER OF CEREMONIES *Lanny Frattare*

PRESENTATION OF 2019 SCHOLAR ATHLETES AND WPIAL
GOLD WINNERS.....*Bill Hughes, Steve Russell, Rob Harhai*

PRESENTATION OF HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEES CLASS OF 2019 *Lanny Frattare*

PRESENTATION OF MID-MON VALLEY ALL SPORTS
HALL OF FAME APPRECIATION AWARD*Dennis Stich*

BENEDICTION*Dennis Stich*

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 M. 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. “Doc” Carlson, M.D.***, **Louis C. “Bimbo” Cecconi**, Leslie “Bus” Edwards*, **Armand J. Niccolai***
- 1965 George Humphries*, Harry P. “Yi” McCurdy*, William T. “Vince” Stapulis*, Kenneth L. Stilley*
- 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” Schrading*, 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 Mahovich, 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 Peter L. 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" DiBiasco*, **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 B. 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 "Hop" Verkleeren, M.D., Judge Reggie Walton
- 2010** Art Artis*, John Barbero*, Andrew "Buzz" Garnic, Sr., Pete Goimarac 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 Graham, Ernest "Roger" Hotz, Jamont Kinds, John Konek*, Dan LaCarte, Jamie Reader,
- 2019** Charel Allen, Ron Bertovich, Rod Fedorchak, Marlon McIntyre, Lew Rawls, Lenny Smith, Patsy "Dino" DeBerardinis*

*Deceased

Bold indicates a member of the PA Sports Hall of Fame

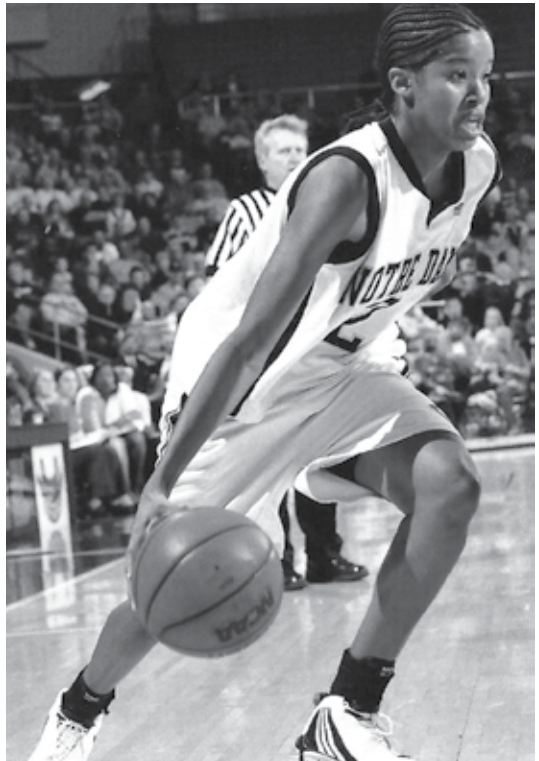
Charel Allen

A 2004 Monessen High School graduate, Charel Allen has a storied basketball career that has spanned two decades and has taken her around the world.

A four-year starter for the Lady Greyhounds, the 5-foot-11 Allen built quite a formidable basketball legacy before even stepping foot on a college or professional basketball court. During her career at Monessen, Charel earned Associated Press (AP) All-State first team honors in 2002, 2003, and 2004. In addition, Charel earned AP selection as the Class A Player of the Year in 2003 and 2004.

Allen also received accolades as *Street and Smith's* honorable mention All-American honors during all four years of her high school career.

During her freshman year (2001), Allen helped lead the Lady Greyhounds to the WPIAL Women's Basketball Championship, where Monessen lost to Clairton. Despite Monessen losing the championship, Allen won a WPIAL Special Performance Award for her performance in the game, where she scored 39 points. This type of success continued throughout the rest of Allen's high school hoop career. In her senior season, Charel led the Lady Greyhounds to not only the 2004 WPIAL Women's Basketball Championship, but also the PIAA State Championship. This was the first time a WPIAL school won the women's basket-



ball state championship since 1983, and only the second time in history. In both her junior and senior seasons, Allen earned honors as the WPIAL Class A Women's Basketball Player of the Year from the *Valley Independent*, *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, and *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*.

Allen ended her high school career at Monessen with 3,110 points, making her just one of three women's basketball players in the WPIAL to attain that level, and one of eight to reach that level in the state. In Monessen history, Charel ranks second in points scored behind Gina Naccarato, who reached 3,3,64 points. Oddly enough, Naccarato (HOF 2005) was one of Allen's high school coaches. Speaking of Allen, Naccarato said "I coached her the whole time she played for Monessen. She was easy to coach, just a great all around kid. She was probably one of the best athletes to come out of Monessen."

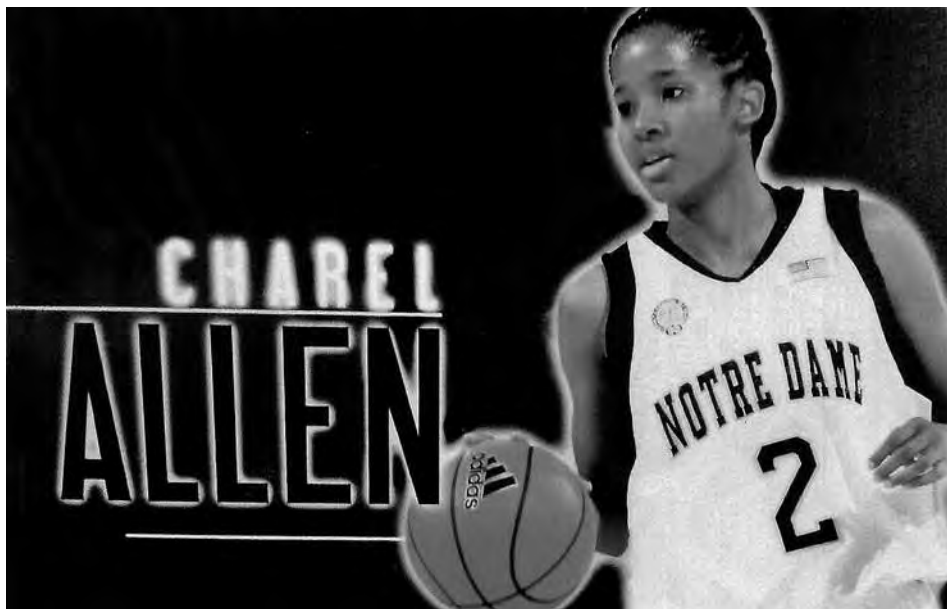
Charel continued her basketball career at the collegiate level at the University of Notre Dame, where her team made it to the NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament during all four of her playing years. Allen had a freshman season plagued by injuries, including one to her ACL. On overcoming her injury, Charel said "I probably had my best years after my knee buckled and gave out. It was probably the most painful thing I've ever felt in my life, but I was drafted and still played professionally." Allen came back strong for her sophomore season, where she played in every game in the season and ranked fourth in the team in scoring and third in rebounding for the second year in a row.

At Notre Dame, Charel's performance continued to improve throughout her junior and senior seasons, both of which she was a team captain. Charel finished her career at Notre Dame as the No. 8 leading scorer in the history their women's basketball program. During her last two years at Notre Dame, Allen's accolades went from being ranked high on the team to being ranked high in the Big East conference. Allen became the only Notre Dame Women's Basketball player to score more than 1500 points with 500-plus rebounds and 200-plus assists and steals. During her junior and senior seasons, Charel was named a Big East Conference First Team selection. She was an *Associated Press* All-American honorable mention in her senior season and was the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Honorable Mention All-American in both her junior and senior seasons.

Charel graduated from Notre Dame in 2008 with a bachelor's degree in sociology and computer applications. Not long after graduating, Cha-

rel was drafted in the third round of the 2008 WNBA draft by Sacramento Monarchs. Allen played one season with Sacramento before moving to Europe and embarking on what would be a nine-year women's professional basketball career with stops in Turkey, Bulgaria, and Israel. While in the Bulgarian league, Allen won championships in 2012 and 2016, won regular season titles in 2010, 2012, and 2015, and captured the Bulgarian Cup in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015, and 2016. Allen received accolades as an All-Bulgarian First Team selection in 2011, 2012, 2014, and 2016. Charel was named Guard of the Year in 2014 and 2016, and was named Player of the Year in 2014. Charel was also named to the Bulgarian League All-Import Team in 2010, 2011, 2013, and 2014, and was named the Import League Player of the Year in 2014.

Following her nine-year career in Europe, Allen returned to America and joined the Cal State Fullerton women's basketball coaching staff beginning with the 2017-2018 season. Charel serves as an Assistant Coach at Fullerton and helps with recruiting and coaching the wings for the team.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Charel Allen

**2019 Mid Mon Valley
Sports Hall of Fame**

Inductee

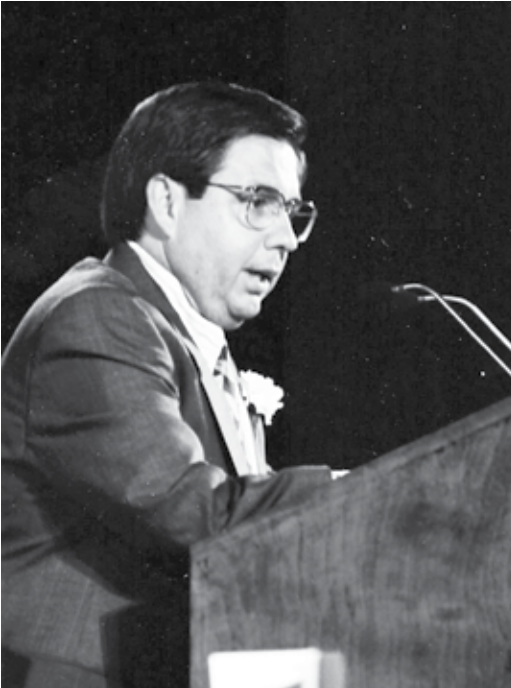


From

**The Monessen City
School District**

"Home of the Greyhounds"

Ron Bertovich



“I knew I was not going to be a true athlete, so I wanted to do something in sports,” reflected Ron Bertovich, who grew up on the small side physically, but certainly not mentally. In grade school a track coach told him his “speed was deceiving, that he was actually slower than he looked.” Nevertheless, Bertovich who was raised on a Bentleyville dairy farm and graduated from Mon Valley Catholic High (Class of 1972) said, “I always wanted to be in sports,” so he set out to make his mark in the world of sports. He succeeded, meeting many interesting people along the way.

His saga began in high school where he was the manager for the basketball and football teams, kept score, and was an unofficial trainer’s helper. “You wear a lot of hats in Catholic schools,” he said. “I did that for four years.” Bertovich said that two of his finest sports mentors were at MVCH, Phil Pergola, the basketball coach then, and Tom Donahoe. “Tom went on to become the general manager of the Steelers and the Buffalo Bills,” he said. At St. Francis University (Class of 1976), Bertovich was the intramural director, an equipment manager and the club director of the football team, and the basketball team’s manager. “It was club football so I was in charge of fund raising, I oversaw the schedule, I was in charge of transportation and public relations,” Bertovich said. “Every free minute I had, I spent in the athletic department, learning the business from the ground floor up.”

The college's athletic director, I.V. Davis, "took me under his wing and taught me everything he could."

St. Francis played basketball against "teams from all over the Atlantic seaboard. They played at the Palestra, in the Oklahoma City Tournament, and in Madison Square Garden. They played big-time schedules. I was basically the team's athletic director." The college must have instilled unselfishness as it produced two guards who led the NBA in assists: Norm Van Lier and Kevin Porter (four times). In a 1978 contest, Porter had a record 29 assists, still the second-best output ever.

With a B.S. in Business Management and a Masters in Industrial Relations, Bertovich assumed many athletic administrative positions. He became the Sports Information Director for Iona College in 1980 after being interviewed by Jim Valvano. "He asked me to (prioritize) the sports at Iona, and I said basketball, football, hockey, baseball. He said, 'Wrong. It's basketball then everything else.'" Four days later, Valvano accepted the North Carolina State job. "We remained friends until the day he died," Bertovich said.

In 1982, Bertovich moved on to accept the position of the Director of Communications/Assistant Commissioner for the Atlantic 10 Conference. Four years later, he moved up a notch to become the commissioner of that conference, doing so from 1986-1994. He began his term at the age of 31, making him the youngest Division I commissioner in the nation. "We were a basketball league through and through, but with big-time football programs," Bertovich said. "Penn State was in the conference along with West Virginia, Temple, and Rutgers. I was there when Penn State left to join the Big 10 and when John Chaney tried to choke John Calipari after a game. "One of the best things I ever did that I'm proud of is I asked Dave Gavitt, who was the commissioner of the Big East, to be my mentor. I'd call and ask for guidance, 'How would you handle this?' I tried to reach out to the best in the business, and he welcomed me and helped me out of jams."

Bertovich's next move was to become the Vice President General Manager of the Empire Sports Network in Buffalo for five years. "We were the fastest growing regional sports network in the country, covering the Buffalo Bills, the Buffalo Sabers, and college sports," he said.

Then, in 1998, he filled the position of Executive Vice President of Administration for the Buffalo Sabres and HSBC Arena. In 2003, the Mid-Continent Conference (now the Summit League) hired him as their commissioner. Bertovich was also the Deputy Commissioner of Basketball for the Colonial Athletic Association beginning in 2006 through May of 2017. "We

had two teams reach the NCAA Final Four, George Mason in '06, seven months after I got there, and VCU in '11," Bertovich said. "That was back before mid-majors were going to the Finals."

Somehow, he also found time to work as a member of the NCAA Men's Basketball Issues Committee, a group that made recommendations for proposed legislation. He was a founding member of the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame, and he was recognized by his college as a Distinguished Alumnus-Communications. Few Valley residents have such a diverse and resume as Bertovich.

Semi-retired now, Ron and his wife Cheryl have two grown daughters, Meghan and Kim. He resides near Buffalo in Getzville, New Buffalo in Getzville, New York. Gazing back over his illustrious career, he reflected, "I've been blessed because of all the people I've met. At the end of the day, it's all about the people."

(Grateful acknowledgment to Wayne Stewart for this biography that appeared September 21, 2018 in the *Herald Standard*)

Western New York College Basketball Tip Off Luncheon

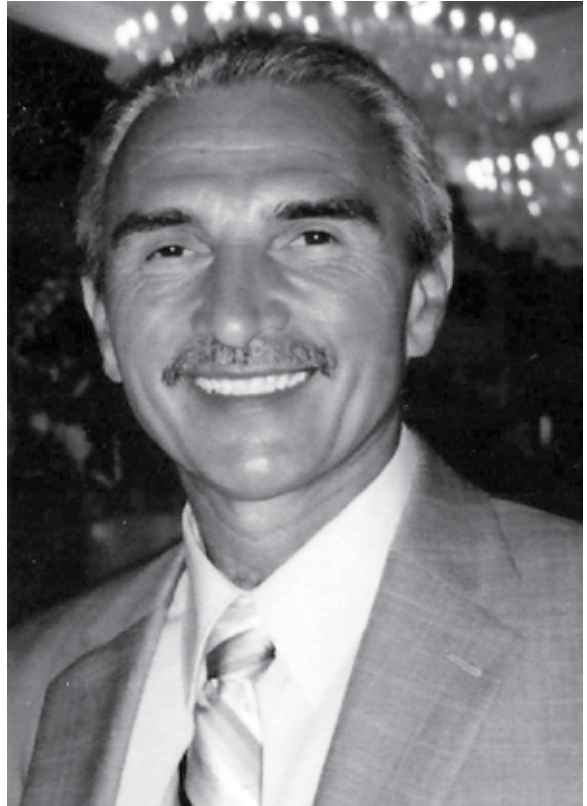


Left to right: John Rigas, Ron Bertovich, Mike Rigas, former Marquette basketball mentor Al McGuire

Patsy "Dino" DeBerardinis

Mon Valley Catholic High School had its share of outstanding basketball players in its 27-year existence from 1960-1989 and there is no question that Patsy DeBerardinis stands out as the lone 1,000-point scorer in the school's history.

Besides finishing a three-year varsity career with 1,346 points, the 5-11 DeBerardinis set school single-game marks with 44 points against Hampton, most points in one-season with 530, and 29 rebounds against Charleroi. He averaged 21 points a game completing 46 percent of his shots while grabbing 14 rebounds a contest. "Dino" had a deadly jump shot along with a lightning quick drive and was the team's leading rebounder.



"By the time I was a senior," DeBerardinis said, "teams were playing a box-and-one, double-teaming me, anything they could do to stop me from scoring."

DeBerardinis was named All-Section all three years in the City/Catholic AAA bracket. He also made second team All-State and was the City Catholic's most valuable player in 1968.

He also had the distinction of being the lone Spartan to play in the prestigious Roundball Classic at the Civic Arena in Pittsburgh on March 29, 1968. He was a member of the City-Catholic League Stars, who dropped a 97-79 decision to West Penn stars in front of 13,266 in the preliminary contest.

For many Mon Valley basketball buffs, had DeBerardinis played for the 1967-68 Donora Dragons, they would have won the state basketball championship. John Gorsin, a basketball diehard, has no doubt. "They would have been state champions," he reasoned. "They were terrific without him. Just think what they could have been with him." DeBerardinis reiterated, "Still, I have to admit, I would have loved to play at Donora. We were unstoppable. We never lost in the summer league."

Ironically, one of the West Penn coaches was Donora's Fran LaMendola. Despite being a record-setter and two-time All-State player at Mon Valley Catholic, DeBerardinis wasn't a happy camper at the parochial school.

He had played a couple of summers on powerhouse Donora team in the Mon Valley YMCA League with friends like Ken Griffey, Bernie Galiffa, Malcolm and Dennis Lomax, Bill Paraschak, Keith James, and Russell Tyree. DeBerardinis grew up playing basketball in the alley behind his house on Castner Avenue, between fourth and fifth streets, with these childhood friends.

While the 1968 Donora High School team was good enough to go undefeated, 27-0, until losing to Laurel Highlands in the WPIAL championship game at the Civic Arena, DeBerardinis had to carry the load for the Spartans in the rugged Pittsburgh Catholic League against much bigger schools like Greensburg Central, Central Catholic, North Catholic, South Hills Catholic, Serra and Canevin. "We took our lumps," remembered Patsy. "These teams were all strong, and we had the smallest enrollment among them."

DeBerardinis also had a hard act to follow since his oldest brother, Gene, starred in basketball and baseball at Donora before his stint as a three-year starter in basketball at St. Francis College in Loretto. Two other brothers, Paul who graduated from Mon Valley Catholic in 1962, and James who graduated in 1967, also starred on the Mon Valley Catholic basketball court. Cheering on the four DeBerardinis brothers were five sisters, Josephine, Joan, Ann, Rita and Mary. Mom, Ann Petrus and Dad, Patsy were most proud of all the boys and their accomplishments especially on the court. Mom prepared a scrapbook of newspaper articles, and pictures for each son.

"I wanted to go to Donora High but my parents wouldn't let me," he claimed. "When I was in ninth grade I tried to get kicked out of school by cussing at a nun. Father Hugh Lang, the school's headmaster, talked to my parents but nothing happened. Dr. Michael Herk, the Donora High School principal, and coach LeMendola even came to my house about me attending Donora but my parents didn't want to hear it." LaMendola believed DeBerardinis was one of the better basketball players in western Pennsylvania and stated, "He's a tremendous all-around ball-player."

"It still irks me today that I didn't get to play at Donora High and for my last two years at Mon Valley Catholic High I had to play out of position at center instead of guard," said DeBerardinis. "My last year, Dave Dolfi and I were the only

seniors on the team. Mon Valley didn't have an activities bus then so kids from out of town didn't come out."

Mon Valley Catholic High basketball coach Cliff Carlson exclaimed, "in my book, DeBerardinis is one the best players in the state. He's a team leader. He's not a selfish player and will pass off to a teammate rather than take a shot when he's open. He is the heart of the team."

After graduating from Mon Valley Catholic in 1968, DeBerardinis attended perennial junior college powerhouse Indian River Community College in Fort Pierce, Florida. In an article by sports writer Ron Paglia in the February 10, 1969 edition of *The Valley Independent*, the piece stated that freshman Patsy DeBerardinis hit a season high of 30 points over Edison. Patsy also picked up a nickname by his teammates who called him "Hondo" after Boston Celtics John Havlicek because of his aggressiveness on the court. He averaged 13 points and head coach Art Tollis called DeBerardinis "a quick player who is a good shooter."

Following two years at Indian River, DeBerardinis transferred to Slippery Rock. "I wanted to go to California State College but coach Myles Witchey wanted four-year players instead of two-year players," he said. He wasn't at the Rock long. "I stayed a month or two," he said. There were 30 players out so the coach had us running cross-country to get the number down. I wanted to teach and coach basketball but my friends were all making a lot more money in the mill so I quit school and then got married. I quit school with 73 credits."

DeBerardinis reflected on his athletic career a few years later. "I wasn't trying to kid myself. I could still play the game, but for some reason I was burned out. It just wasn't fun anymore, so I gave it up. As I look back on it all, it was great. I was the star, and ended up meeting (1973 MVC Homecoming Queen) Darcy Huhra who became my wife." The couple had three children, Dena (Charles Colditz), Lisa (Kevin Riley), and Brad (Lindsey) along with six grandchildren, Michael, Darren, Reagan, Sean Riley; Carson and Quinn Patsy Colditz.

DeBerardinis took an early retirement in 2009 after 15 years as a maintenance worker at the State Corrections Institution in Greensburg. His first job was working in the blast furnace at U.S. Steel in Homestead followed by 17 years at Combustion Engineering and five years in construction.

Patsy was born on June 21, 1950. He passed away February 21, 2016 after a lengthy battle with cancer at the age of 65.

MMVASHOF inductee basketball coach Phil Pergola remembers that "Dino" was not only a great scorer, but also a great passer and rebounder, just a complete player!"

(Grateful acknowledgment to Brian Herman for his Mid Mon Valley Sports Memories column on Patsy DeBerardinis April 19, 2013 in *The Valley Independent*)

Rodney N. Fedorchak

Rodney Nicholas Fedorchak was born April 22, 1948, in Monongahela, Pennsylvania, the son of the Reverend Nicholas Fedorchak and his wife, Helen. Being an Orthodox priest's son in a blue collar town carried many responsibilities, and while acting in accordance with the values and religious principles expected was not always easy, emulating an upstanding life was always the ultimate goal.

From an early age, Rod felt he had to exemplify a strong moral compass and practice the principles by which he was raised. This attitude was reinforced by his outstanding performance academically and later on through his dedication and physicality on the basketball court and football field.

Rod's sports career began in the ninth grade at Monongahela Junior High School under Coach George Zober, who recognized Rod's natural ability and encouraged him to try out for the basketball team. By the end of his freshman year, Rod had set nine school records and led the entire league in scoring. While continuing to expand his interest in sports, Rod followed a natural progression to football. Gene Stranko recruited Rod to play football at Carroll Township Junior High School. Rod contributed greatly, and his team finished their season undefeated. As a sophomore, Rod continued to play basketball with four senior starters under coaches Jim Jackson and George Everett. He had the most playing time of any starter and ultimately contributed to a very successful season.

By his senior year, Rod had attracted more scholarship offers in basketball than football. But, football had its hooks in deep and Rod's pigskin



career continued to develop. Encouraged by Joe McCune, Pete Balaban and Dave Simmons, Rod persevered and optimized his performance by gaining fifty pounds. As a tight end in his first game against rival Donora, Rod successfully caught two touchdown passes. His hard work and high level of productivity led to: All Big 6 conference, all WPIAL, and All-State honors in both his junior and senior years. Graduating from Monongahela High School in 1966, Rod earned prestigious recognition as an academic honor student.

With his physical accomplishments and scholastic credentials, Rod received multiple offers from various educational institutions. After careful thought, a considerable amount of influence from his father who loved Pitt and the special place Pitt had in the Mon Valley from former players including Fred Cox, Ron Linaburg, Ray Popp, Dick Miale and Jay McCune Rod decided to play in front of the home crowd. The decision was further reinforced by Pitt's reputation for having an excellent dental school.

Dave Hart landed Rod as his first major recruit along with Dave and Mike Mancuso and Chuck Hutchko. Rod lettered for three years playing tight end and tackle. As these were hard-nosed times for Pitt football, Rod credits his early upbringing, his unyielding determination, and the desire to meet and exceed any and all challenging obstacles. As a senior Rod received a boost from coaches Carl DePasqual and Lou Ciccone and elevated his play to an even higher level.

As a result of Rod's athletic performance at Pitt, he graduated in 1970 and was drafted to play football professionally by both the Kansas City Chiefs and the Montreal Allouettes. Rod's dedication to academics also earned him Dean's List honors and acceptance into the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine. After weighing his options, Rod chose dental school in a decision that his career interest took precedence over his love of athletics. Even though he chose academics, Rod didn't completely sever his ties with football as he served as a graduate assistant with Carl DePasqual and John Majors, who soon brought Pitt back into national football prominence.

In 1974, with the work ethic and dedication to continuous improvement that Rod learned to master on the athletic field, he was selected as first in his dental class for clinical and restorative skills. Rod then made a commitment to serve his country by joining the army, where he served as a captain dentist assigned to the 82nd Airborne in the post-Vietnam era. In 1976, he left the army after serving in a distinguished manner and moved to Aliquippa, Pennsylvania to establish his own dental practice. Ironically, Aliquippa High School beat Monongahela, (his former team) 7-0 in the WPIAL finals in 1964 at Pitt Stadium.

It seems as though no matter where Rod goes there's always a winning team around, whether he's playing or not. Rod's high quality of work ethic,

combined with his caring and helpful manner, resulted in not only building a very successful dental practice in Aliquippa, but also opening a second office in Moon Township. Rod's superior reputation soon led to an offer from his alma mater, the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, to serve as an associate professor. Today, Rod stays connected to sports, not only through his golf game, but also as the designated all-sports dentist at Robert Morris University. An added bonus of his employment at Robert Morris University was having the opportunity to work with Bill Priatko, a hall of fame member who was also employed at Robert Morris University.

Most importantly of all, Rod is very proud of his family. His wife, Jo (a Robert Morris University graduate), was his biggest booster and backboard of support throughout his career. He is also very proud of his children: Alexis (Indiana University, Duquesne University MBA), Stephanie (University of Pittsburgh, Duquesne University, M.ED), and Nicholas (University of Pittsburgh). Dr. Fedorchak and his wife are members of St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Cannonsburg where he enjoys singing in the choir. He is a member of Montour Heights Country Club and served on the Board of Directors.

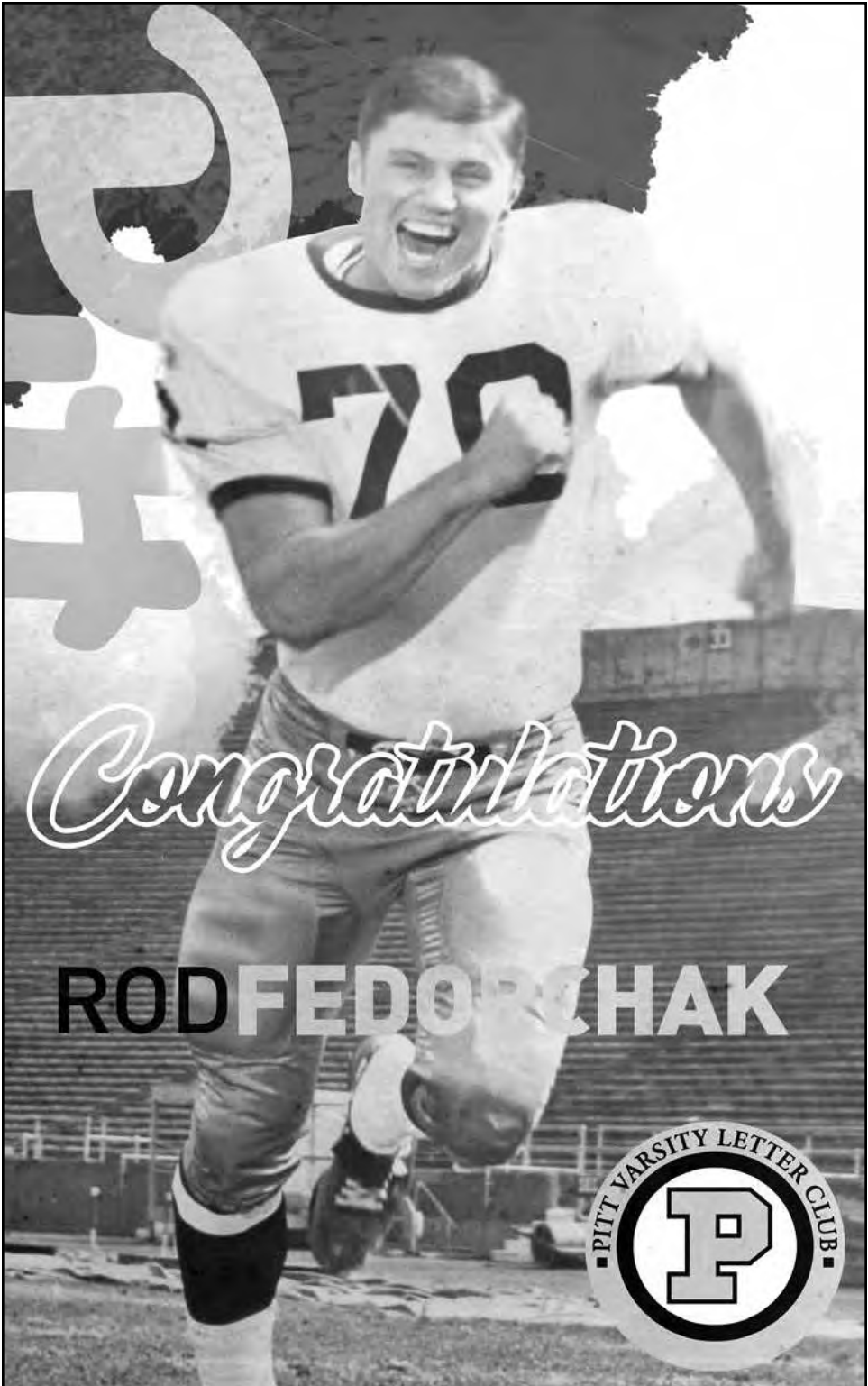
In 2016, Dr. Fedorchak was elected to the Varsity Letter Club University of Pittsburgh Lettermen of Distinction. Dr. Fedorchak retired from dentistry in 2018.

Dr. Fedorchak is extremely humbled and honored to have been selected into the Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame. Representing the rich history and strong values of the organization is truly a wonderful commendation and will be forever cherished and respected for future generations.

1964-65 Monongahela High School Section Champions



Row 1: D. Kavka; J. McCune; D. Dutch; D. Zewe; A. Sewchok; J. Campbell; D. Mathies; D. Bucy; Row 2: T. Beckinger; P. Raeh; F. Angerman; M. Ferraro; J. Vugrinovich; D. Rollison; L. Penn; R. Meehleib; Row 3: B. Dickie; B. Miale; R. Fedorchak; R. Milenko; C. Ott; K. Osleger; B. Briscoe; Row 4: R. Massari; M. Garry; D. Mancuso; C. Hutchko; M. Mancuso; B. Lusk; S. Michalic; D. Hill; Row 5: G. Spalla; R. Crum; C. Crall; D. Recker; B. Spence; L. Powers; R. Conter; Row 6: B. Wood.



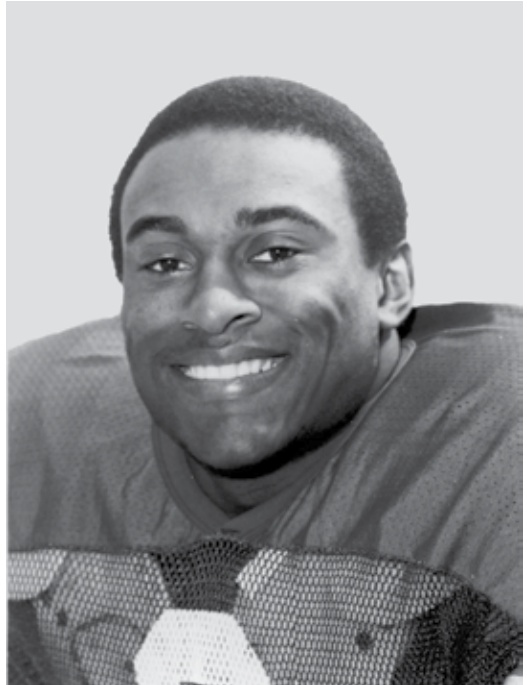
Congratulations

ROD FEDORCHAK



Marlon McIntyre

Marlon “The Magician” McIntyre excelled on the gridiron and the hardwood at Belle Vernon Area High School in the late 1970s and early 80s. Head football coach Jeff Petrucci made McIntyre, his wonder-athlete, the featured back for three seasons while earning three conference championships in the process. McIntyre proved to be the workhorse of the Belle Vernon offense with his elusive running ability and power.



The Leopards posted a record of 11-1 in 1978 capturing the Big Ten Conference title, they beat Jeanette, 15-14, in the WPIAL playoffs before they were derailed by Blackhawk, 13-7.

Belle Vernon won the Big Ten and went 8-2-1 in 1979. The Leopards lost to Baldwin, 17-10, and tied Elizabeth Forward, 0-0. Gateway knocked them out of the WPIAL playoffs, 30-7.

During McIntyre’s senior season in 1980, Belle Vernon again won the Big Ten Conference and finished with a record of 11-1. In the WPIAL playoffs, the Leps beat Greensburg Central Catholic, 17-14, and lost to Aliquippa, 8-7. “We weren’t big, but we were dedicated,” McIntyre said of those Belle Vernon squads. “We had a great summer program and we all worked together. We knew that the man next to us — we could count on him. We were a complete team and we were almost like a family. Everybody had great heart. We all grew up together from midget league, middle school and

all the way up. There were two middle schools Bellmar and Rostraver, and when we combined, the two middle schools were winners. We had never lost games in midget league and middle school on both sides. We grew into a solid football team.”

Looking back, McIntyre has great respect for his coach Petrucci. “He was a big factor in our success,” McIntyre opined. “If you didn’t come to the summer program he would be hard on you. He would open the weight room in the morning and the evening so you had both times to work out. I enjoyed playing for him. He was almost like a second dad, and I was like his son. He was an excellent coach. He was a perfectionist.”

The 6-foot, 193-pound McIntyre had some outstanding seasons for the Leopards. As a sophomore, he scored six touchdowns. As a junior in 1979, McIntyre had a monster season, as he rushed for over 1,000 yards and tallied 14 touchdowns. Slowed by injuries his senior season, McIntyre rushed for 600 yards and 10 touchdowns. “I could out run you,” McIntyre stated. “Or, if need be, I could run you over or go around you. It just depended on what I had to do to get the job done.”

The failures in the playoffs still haunt McIntyre. “The playoff loses still hurt,” McIntyre said. “The loss to Blackhawk was a crushing blow, they were so big, they looked like the Steelers. High school was good, we had great teams. My senior year, the loss to Aliquippa, 8-7, that still stings. We were all crying because we wanted to get down to Three Rivers Stadium. You talk about big, Aliquippa was huge. We weren’t intimidated, we played them tough.”

McIntyre was a force in basketball. He played on Belle Vernon teams that went 15-11 in 1978-79, 10-13 in 1979-80 and 20-8 in 1980-81. The team his senior season won two Section 3 tiebreakers against Ringgold and Laurel Highlands. In the WPIAL playoffs, the Leopards beat Latrobe, 64-57, and Wilkinsburg, 62-58. They lost to Aliquippa 71-56. In the PIAA Tournament, they downed Punxsutawney, 73-52, and then lost to Erie McDowell, 62-58, in triple overtime. In his basketball career at Belle Vernon, McIntyre scored 887 points. “I loved basketball,” McIntyre stated. “I could jump for my size. A lot of people felt I was better at basketball than football.” McIntyre loved playing basketball for Don Asmonga.

“He was a great coach,” McIntyre said. “We had dedication in hoops, too.”

When McIntyre graduated from Belle Vernon in 1981, he was heavily recruited for football. He was a *Post-Gazette* Fabulous 22 selection and a WPIAL AAA All-Star. He narrowed his college choices to Pitt, Ohio State,

Michigan and West Virginia. “I chose Pitt because it was close to home and my parents were older, so they could come see me play,” McIntyre explained.

McIntyre played one season for Jackie Sherrill at Pitt in 1981 when the Panthers finished 11-1 and beat Georgia in the Sugar Bowl, 24-20. Foge Fazio took over after Sherrill left for Texas A&M. The Panthers were 9-3 in 1982, with losses to Notre Dame and Penn State. They were beaten by SMU in the Cotton Bowl, 7-3. In 1983, Pitt went 8-3-1 with losses to Maryland and West Virginia, and a 24-24 tie with Penn State. Ohio State downed them, 28-23, in the Fiesta Bowl. In McIntyre’s senior campaign in 1984, the Panthers slipped to a 3-7-1 record.

McIntyre’s career numbers at Pitt are 207 carries for 957 yards and four touchdowns. He caught 41 passes for 266 yards and returned 11 kickoffs for 222 yards and average of 20.2 yards a return.

“It was a good decision to go to Pitt,” McIntyre offered. “If my parents were younger, I might have gone elsewhere, but I wanted that family support. I played on some very good teams and we had great talent.”

McIntyre was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams in the eighth round of the 1985 NFL Draft, and bounced around to several NFL training camps, and had a cup of coffee in the Canadian Football League. He was also selected by the Baltimore Stars in the USFL draft.

Marlon was inducted into the Belle Vernon Football Hall of Fame in 2001.

Now 56-years old, McIntyre resides in Richmond, Virginia, with his wife of 10 years, Christy. They have three children, one by a previous marriage: Brandon, Elijah and Latasha. McIntyre is involved in the construction business and has started a little trucking business.

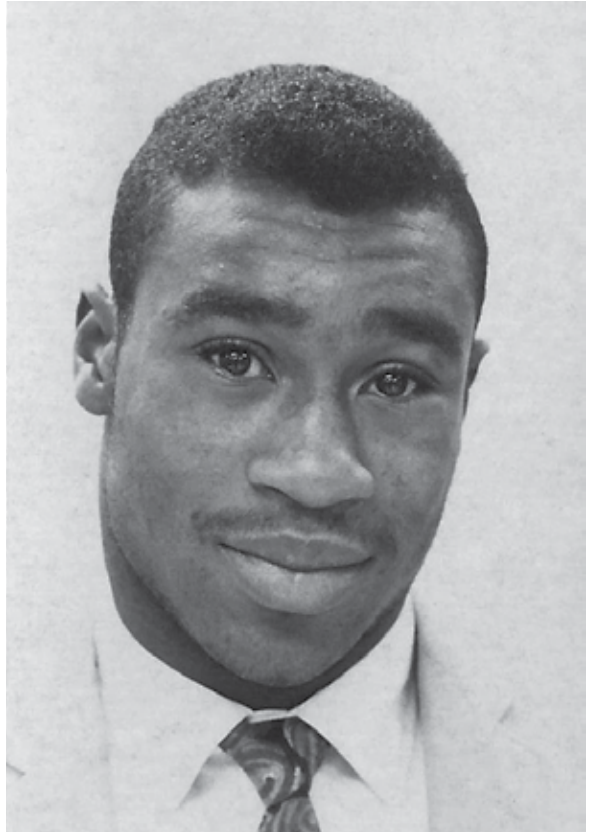
“I had a nice career,” McIntyre said. “Once you get older, you think about what you could have done differently. But I’m happy. That competitive drive is still with me in everything that I do.”

(Grateful acknowledgment to George Von Benko for this biography that appeared October 22, 2018 in the *Herald Standard*)

Lew Rawls

Not to be confused with recording star Lou Rawls who could be heard over Pittsburgh's popular R & B radio station WAMO decades ago, Lew (spelled with a "W") Rawls was a different type of star. Rawls, in fact, was one of the best running backs in the entire state back when he donned a Charleroi High football uniform.

Rawls, who packed a whole lot of power in his 5' 6 1/2" 142-pound frame, graduated in 1968 after racking up tons of honors, including being named to the Mon Valley All-Star team three times and earning Honorable Mention status for the Big 33 Classic.



Backtrack to his junior season. Rawls, a three-year letterman, became a starter and promptly won the Big 9 scoring title with 79 points. That year he also accomplished something no running back in the annals of Cougar football had ever done when he became their first runner to amass 1,000 yards in a season. He exploded for a reported 1,039 yards in 1966, and scored 79 points to lead the Big 9, but he was far from finished.

In his senior season he racked up 84 points, lighting up the scoreboard time and again. Along the way he became a hard-hitting linebacker and the first back in the Mid Mon Valley to rush for 1,000 yards two consecutive years since Monessen's Ben Jones achieved that feat in 1960 and 1961.

Reports vary, but one source lists Rawls' senior season rushing total at 1,123 and his career rushing yardage at 2,491 (another source lists 2,349 yards). In his final season, he also carried the ball for 12 touchdowns. All that despite sitting out at times during blowouts. It's no wonder he was on the All Conference first team in both 1966 and 1967.

As strong as he was quick, Rawls said he was the MVP of his district, made the All-WPIAL squad, and was named to the All-State Honorable Mention list. In one memorable game versus rival Monessen, Rawls helped his Cougars muzzle the Greyhounds by earning a 13-7 victory with his 213 yards on 27 carries.

Rawls said he is most proud of just being a part of the tremendous football program at Charleroi. The evasive Rawls also paid tribute to "my style of running—nobody will match it. I gave my leg to [tacklers] then took it back, runnin inside and out. My strongest point was my head fake and my swivel of the hips." Rawls, who also fended off would be tacklers by dishing out forearm upper cut blows, simply didn't give defenders a good shot at a clean, hard hit.

He cited items from an old newspaper clipping in which Cougar coach Rab Currie said that with a little more height Rawls could have been the best Valley runner ever. Currie called Rawls the best running back he had seen since he began coaching in the Big 9 in 1959.

When the gridiron dust cleared away at the end of Rawls' career, his body of works gained him a full football scholarship to Hiram Scott Junior College in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, where he started as a freshman. His many outstanding feats also earned him membership in the Charleroi Football Hall of Fame as well as in the Charleroi All Sports Hall of Fame.

Long time educator and Valley football coach Joe Barcelona recalled Rawls being so impressive, he was desired by the University of Nebraska, recruited by the 1971 Walter Camp Coach of the Year recipient, Bob Devaney. Make no mistake, Devaney knew talent when he saw it—he went on to be elected into the College Football Hall of Fame. Barcelona continued, "They hid him at Hiram Scott Junior College up in the boonies. Rawls could sure play some football."

Barcelona recalled Currie employed an "I" formation to help runners like Rawls who he situated seven yards behind the line to better utilize his speed to the outside. "He'd get going and run 40 yards to get 20.

"He was 5' 5 1/2"—they always claimed taller— and he had spindly, little legs, but he had the upper body of a heavyweight. He said to me one time, 'I

think I was the best back in the state.’ I said, ‘If there was one better, I haven’t heard of him.’”

Barcelona noted that Rawls used to enter the locker room with a kind of swagger. “He could swagger because he backed it up. The guy was absolutely fantastic. Three-year starter. Never broke a play. Was on offense and defense. Ran back kicks, everything. And he could also block. He was just one hard-headed, tough kid. I never say Lew start a fight, but he never lost one that he got into.”

At one-point Rawls, now a retired steelworker, served two seasons as a volunteer assistant coach for the Cougars. He still maintains ties to his community, currently living in Charleroi. He is the father of four daughters: Patrice, Fantina, Almodie, and Cappi. Unlike the singer, this Rawls has no reason to sing the blues.

(Grateful acknowledgment to Wayne Stewart for this biography that appeared November 15, 2018 in the *Herald Standard*)



CONGRATULATIONS LEW RAWLS

FOR YOUR ELUSIVENESS AND
ELECTRIFYING PERFORMANCE AS A
CHARLEROI GRIDIRON LEGENDARY
PLAYER! THANKS FOR MEMORIES,
CHARLEROI AREA HIGH SCHOOL
CLASS OF 1968



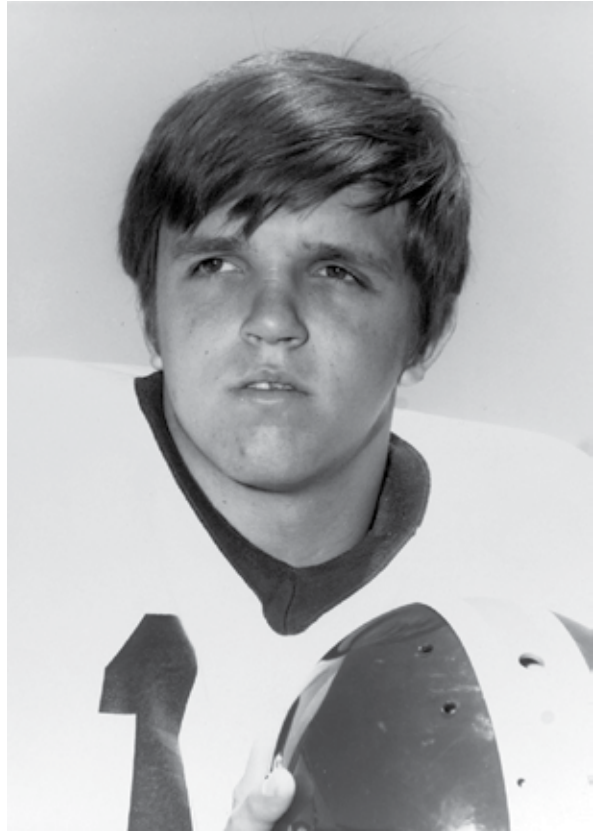
Lenny Smith

Lenny Smith was as versatile as he was talented, and that applied to his play on the football field, the basketball court, and the baseball diamond. The 1967 graduate of Elizabeth Forward could, in the words of the ancient sports cliché, do it all. He was the no-brainer choice as his senior class' pick for the most athletic male.

“I’m proud I earned a starting spot on the varsity baseball team my freshman year,” Smith stated, “and playing in the American Legion state championship at Lehigh going into my senior year.”

However, football clearly was his best sport and arguably the one in which he best showcased his versatility. He said that as a sophomore a memorable moment occurred when “holding for extra points, I scored two points on an errant snap” which proved to be the margin of victory over McKeesport, for the first time E.F. ever knocked off that opponent. As a junior Smith lettered as a defensive back. The following season he replaced quarterback Norm Pellegrini, who had guided the Warriors during the 1965 football campaign.

Local sports historian Tom Jenkins said, “Lenny was one of the key reasons why Elizabeth-Forward won their first conference title in 1966.”



His head football coach George Hays concurred, crediting Smith for their great season as he was so instrumental in taking the '66 squad to an 8-0-1 record and their Big 9 Conference title. In turn, Smith credits coaches such as John Bacha for his influence and encouragement throughout his high school days.

Jenkins noted that, “Only a 7-7 tie against Belle Vernon, in the second game of the season, prevented the Warriors from having a perfect year. The tie knocked the Warriors out of the race for the WPIAL title.”

The 5-11, 170-pound Smith was selected his team’s MVP. In addition, he was named the All-Big 9 quarterback and he was a Big 33 nominee. Even more impressive, he was selected to the All-WPIAL team and was named to second team All-State.

His senior season quarterback statistics glistened as he completed 79 of his 131 attempts for 910 yards and eight touchdowns, which led the conference. He also rushed for nearly 500 yards and scored six touchdowns running the football.

Jenkins pointed out, “Not only was he an outstanding quarterback he was also an outstanding safety on defense. Smith also played basketball his senior year, and he is remembered for his baseball prowess as a second basemen who batted third.

Coveted by college football coaches, Smith chose to accept a scholarship offer from Virginia Tech, one of more than 45 offers he received. The school’s head coach, Jerry Claiborne, was impressed with both his defensive prowess and his fine high school academic record.

Claiborne wasn’t wrong in wanting Smith—he became a three-year letter winner in 1968, 1969, and 1970. From his spot as a safety, he led the team in interceptions in 1968, and to this day, he is tied for fifth place on the Hokie’s all-time interception list with his 13 picks. His six in one season ranks #8, and his three in a game ranks first at V.T.

Smith got a look at the quarterback position as a sophomore but soon found out that spot wasn’t for him. “I went from F-troop on offense to alternating starting safety. That fall I inherited jersey #10 which had been All-American Frank Loria’s number—what an honor.”

“I went on to earn the starting safety job and played in the same defensive backfield with senior Frank Beamer.” Beamer would go on to become a coaching legend at the college, enduring 29 seasons there, taking his squads to bowl games every single season from 1993 through 2015, his final season

at Virginia Tech. He went to five Gator Bowl games and to the Orange and the Sugar Bowl four times each. He won 66% of his games, going 238-121-2.

Jenkins noted, “Beamer and Smith participated together in the 1968 Liberty Bowl against Mississippi.” That year Smith enjoyed playing on what was his best V.T. squad (7-3 on the regular season).

Smith played against many big-time schools including Florida State, Miami, and Alabama. “Playing Bama my first game at Legion Field in front of 83,000 fans and hearing ‘Roll Tide,’ reverberating around the field was unlike anything I had experienced and very intimidating. We lost, 14-7—not too bad.” Smith had praise for two of his V.T. coaches, Dick Redding and Terry Strock who helped him along the way.

Smith, who has been married to Elizabeth Forward classmate Carol Conn for 50 years, said, “I had an interception against Florida State the day my daughter Joy was born.” The daughter, now Joy Shields, was joined in the family by a brother Ryan. Smith is now retired from his job as an asset and property manager for Oxford Development.

(Grateful acknowledgement to Wayne Stewart for this biography May 20, 2019)

UNDEFEATED 1966 EF FOOTBALL TEAM



Row I: R. Eddy, T. Brown, S. Gibson, R. Vaun, E. Coker, R. Allsopp, B. Smith, J. Jenco, C. Tortorice, J. Tarvet. *Row II:* K. Rothbey, J. Pavlik, J. Criswell, P. Gazdik, J. Hines, J. Schwamberger, D. Kozemchak, J. Henderson, L. Smith. *Row III:* T. Waiters, G. Cheeversan, R. Arico, R. Similo, T. Rubino, F. Kurf, C. Sninsky, E. Brancholini, G. Faust. *Row IV:* M. Delmer, R. Bey, E. Kelly, K. Sanislow, K. Heatherington, D. Allen, B. Holmes, R. Hofmeister, F. Fleischaur. *Row V:* R. Patetra, W. Rice, L. Vaira, J. Atkinson, D. Copeland, J. Ford, J. Rock, F. Sorrentino.

CONGRATULATIONS

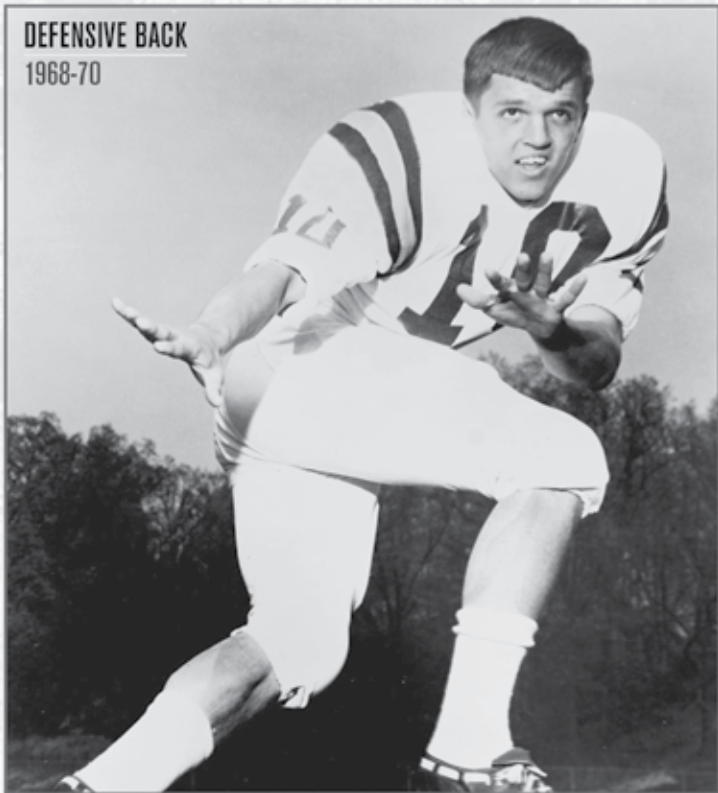
LENNY SMITH

*From
your friends
at the
Virginia
Tech
Department
of Athletics!*



HOKIES VT

DEFENSIVE BACK
1968-70



Monongahela native, Al Helfer, is the winner of the 2019 Ford Frick Award for Broadcast Excellence.

The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum has given the Frick award since 1978. The award for this year is especially focused on a baseball broadcasting pioneer.

Al Helfer was the only person to broadcast for all three New York City teams including the Giants, Yankees, and Dodgers. Helfer will be recognized posthumously at the Awards Presentation Saturday, July 20, 2019 in Cooperstown.

Al began his professional career in 1933 by rebroadcasting Pittsburgh Pirate games with Rosie Roswell on radio. From 1950 – 1954, Al broadcast the first national radio baseball games for the Mutual “Game of the Day.” He reached about sixty-five percent of the baseball audience. In the early 1950s he became known as “Mr. Radio Baseball” as well as

the authoritative voice of baseball. Al had that cheerful hearty, deep voice of the big 6-foot-4 burly man he was. As well his voice had a neighborly style of describing the great game. During his career he broadcast seven World Series and fourteen no-hitters. From 1955 through 1957 he broadcast Dodger games with Vin Scully. “Hal was a gentile, nice and wonderful man,” said Scully recently. “His character came through over the air, to the point where you would like him instinctively. So many of us in baseball thought the world of him.” His last year of broadcasting was 1969 with the Oakland Athletics and his partner Monte Moore. “I think his voice was one of the best big-league baseball ever heard,” recalled Moore. “And his pacing was so good in describing things. He wasn’t a yeller, but his enthusiasm came across for a big play.” He passed away in 1975 at age 63 and it was estimated he had traveled more than 5 million miles in his career.

Al Helfer never forgot the Mid Mon Valley or Monongahela. He was born September 26, 1911 in Elrama and grew up on Jackson Street in Monongahela. Al was a 1929 graduate of Monongahela High School where he was an outstanding athlete; lettering in football, basketball and track and field. He earned a football and basketball scholarship to Washington and Jefferson College. For many years Al gave a trophy and scholarship to an outstanding Monongahela High School athlete.

(Grateful acknowledgment to MMVASHOF board member Scott Frederick for his commentary on Monongahela’s Al Helfer)



2019 Appreciation Award



Thomas Jenkins

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 Charleroi Area High School, Jenkins graduated from California University of Pennsylvania in 1969 with a liberal arts degree. Tom began his professional career at Fox/Wetterau Grocery Company in 1970. There he worked primarily in transportation as a supervisor along with working logistics controlling inbound traffic of outside carriers. When Wetterau was bought out by Super Value Jenkins moved to CDS trucking company in Canonsburg from 1996 to 1999. Tom moved once again and worked for 13 years at the Giant Eagle Corporation in Crafton, PA as a transportation supervisor. Jenkins retired from Giant Eagle in 2012. Tom was appointed to the MMVASHOF selection committee in 2011 because of his dedication to preserving the sports legacy of the Mon Valley. In 2012 Tom was appointed as secretary to the Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors. Tom is an invaluable resource of Mon Valley sports statistical information. Tom has also served on the Charleroi High School All Sports Hall of Fame since 2013.

Previous award winners:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 2018 Paul Rach | 2006 Mike Lee |
| 2017 Dennis Stitch | 2005 Joan Andabaker |
| 2016 William Kubin | 2004 Josie Carozza |
| 2015 Tim Urda | 2003 Lee Oliver Hewitt |
| 2014 Jerry Zahand | 2002 Clair Brown |
| 2013 Richard J. Bucchianeri | 2001 Kathy Krisfalusy |
| 2012 Jim "Mouse" Chacko | 2000 Melvin B. Bassi |
| 2011 Randall E. Marino | 1999 Steve Russell |
| 2010 Bill Priatko | 1998 Andrew Solan and John Bunardzya |
| 2009 Aldo Bartolotta | 1997 Bernard T. Sarra, Sr. and Brian Herman |
| 2008 Robert "Pat" Petriello | |
| 2007 Rev. Igor Soroka | |

MID-MON VALLEY ALL SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame

2019 Board of Directors

3-Year Term (Term expires December 31, 2021)

Dennis J. Stitch, Chairman724-316-9255
Tom Graney.....724-379-4328

2-Year Term (Term expires December 31, 2020)

Thomas Evans412-217-2342
Roberta Bergstedt.....724-263-3447
Scott Frederick.....724-258-3159

1-Year Term (Term expires December 31, 2019)

Richard J. Bucchianeri.....724-258-9414
William Kubin, Vice Chairman.....724-483-3471
Paul Rach724-469-0446

General Chairman of Committees - Stephen V. Russell
Assistant General Chairman - Robert Harhai
Secretary - Thomas J. Jenkins

Special Events Committee

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Roberta Bergstedt..... | 724-263-3447 | Bill Lemonovich..... | 724-258-0160 |
| Tom Evans..... | 412-217-2342 | Ron Paglia..... | 724-483-3384 |
| Keith Hall..... | 412-600-1041 | Dennis Stitch..... | 724-489-1004 |
| Bill Hughes..... | 724-322-1076 | Tim Urda..... | 724-379-4299 |
| Tom Jenkins..... | 724-239-5997 | Chris Grilli..... | 724-258-8419 |

Selection Committee

Brian Herman, Chairman 724-929-5164

| | | | |
|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Carl Crawley, Jr. | 724-258-3867 | Steve Russell..... | 724-258-3823 |
| Dale Hamer..... | 724-733-4735 | Bill Hughes..... | 724-322-1076 |
| Thomas J. Jenkins..... | 724-239-5997 | Rob Harhai..... | 724-322-4263 |
| William Kubin..... | 724-244-5344 | Kevin Ryan, D.D.S..... | 412-754-7926 |
| Randall Marino..... | 724-493-8305 | | |

Meet the 2019 Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame Selection Committee



*Seated: Carl Crawley, Stan Milchovich deceased, Steve Russell, Brian Herman, Bill Kubin
Standing: Robbie Harhai, Tom Jenkins, Randy Marino, Bill Hughes, Kevin Ryan, Dennis Stitch*

Meet the 2019 Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors



*Seated: Richard Buccianeri, Thomas Jenkins, Stephen Russell, William Kubin
Standing: Robert Harhai, Thomas Graney, Dennis J. Stitch, Paul Rach, Tom Evans*



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



**2018 MMVASHOF Chapter
Pennsylvania Sports
Hall of Fame Inductee
Bruce Dal Canton
Woodlands Inn and Resort
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
November 3**



Pictured are President Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame Ed Ludwig, sister Diane Shook and brother Brian Dal Canton, MMVASHOF general chairman Steve Russell