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

Executive Office

•1106 Stanton Street•
Monongahela, Pennsylvania 15063
stephenrussell1106@comcast.net•(724)-258-3823
www.monvalleysportshalloffame.com

Chapter of The Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame

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Hall of Fame 2017 Watch

Welcome to the 24th annual Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame Banquet. We are pleased to be returning to St. Spyridon's Hellenic Center. Our last banquet at this facility was in 1998.

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.

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 three teams and two individual champions.

Our first team Achievement award winner this evening goes to the 2017 WPIAL Class A Monessen Basketball Greyhounds (21-8). Coach Joe Salvino and his senior captains Marc Gibson, Jaron Youngblood, Justice Rice, and Jason Altomore will accept the award. This is Coach Salvino's sixth WPIAL in Monessen's storied history (1995, 2001, 2002, 2011 and 2015). Previous Monessen basketball titles also occurred in 1919 and 1923.

California Area High School Trojans won their fifth overall WPIAL Class AA Baseball championship in 2017 (1983, 2001, 2006 and 2014). Captains Nathaniel Luketich, John DeFranco and Alex Adams along with fourth-year Coach Nick Damico will accept the award.

Belle Vernon Area High School Leopards won their third overall Class AAAA WPIAL Softball championship in 2017 (2007 and 2015). Captains Lexie Church and Megan Christner along with three-time WPIAL Coach Tom Rodriquez will accept the award.

Our Achievement award winners for individual track and field gold include Bentworth's junior Brenna Cavanaugh for her WPIAL Class AA double gold for the 100m-high hurdles with a time of 14.64 along with long jump leap of 18'9." California High School's senior Ashley McIntosh scored WPIAL Class AA gold in the 300 intermediate hurdles setting a new school record, crossing the finish line in 45.73 seconds.

This past year, the Sports Hall of Fame lost 1977 inductee Peter Cherocci (1933-2017) and 1997 inductee Rudy Andabaker (1928-2016). The Hall of Fame will miss these individuals and their contributions.

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

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

Our photographer for the Sports Hall of Fame is Cris Grilli of Grilli's Studio of New Eagle. Anyone wishing a digital photo of the scholar athletes receiving their awards should contact Mr. Russell at his email: stephenvrussell@gmail.com. Our disc jockey is retired speech and forensics educator Bill Lemonovich of Monongahela. Loren Carrota of Monessen Florist sponsors the corsages and boutonnieres for our inductees. To all of our 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 of *The Mon Valley Independent*, Bill Hughes, George Von Benko and Michael Palm, Executive Director of the *Herald Standard*, Rick Shrum of the *Observer-Reporter*, 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 Hall of Fame chapters in attendance this evening representing the 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 15, 2018.

Steve Russell

Stephen V. Russell
General Chairman

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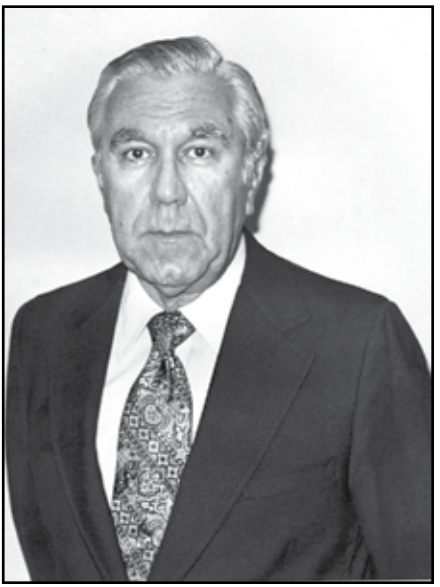
For more information on the Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame, please visit *www.monvalleysportshalloffame.com*
and the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame at: *www.pashof.org*

Origin of the MON VALLEY SPORTS WRITERS HALL OF FAME



Johnny Bunardzya

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

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

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 Bunardzya 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 Bunardzya 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" Altemare. 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 Helenic Center in Monessen, the Hall of Fame banquet was moved in 1999 to the Carroll Township Social Hall in Monongahela.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In Memoriam

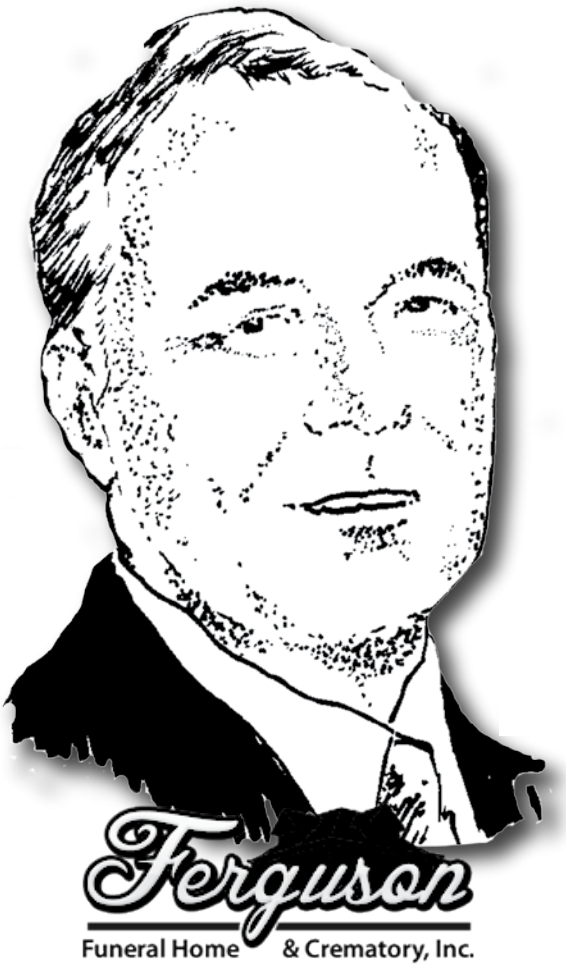
Rudy Andabaker, Class of 1997
August 21, 1928 - September 25, 2016

700 Broad Avenue Belle Vernon, PA 15012
Telephone: (724)929-5300
Website: fergusonfuneralhomeandcrematory.com

In Memoriam

Peter L. Cherocci, Class of 1977

March 20, 1933 - May 22, 2017



Ferguson

Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc.

700 Broad Avenue Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Telephone: (724)929-5300

Website: fergusonfuneralhomeandcrematory.com

Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame Banquet

The Willow Room at Willowpointe in Rostraver Township

Friday, June 17, 2016

Toastmaster Douglas Lee and
Chairman of the Board Dennis Stitch

Meet the 2016 Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame Inductees

Seated from left: Bobby Burns, Jim Edwards, John Ballein, and Joanne Giannini, representing Dr. Joe Fedorchik, Jr.
Standing from left: Ken Kulak II, representing his father Ken Kulak, Brigadier General Dave Papak,
Scott Wolfe, representing Barney Wolfe and Keith Bassi

Meet the 2016 Scholar-Athletes of the Mid Monongahela Valley Schools

Seated from left: Katherine Sendek (Ringgold)), Sarah Sepesky (Belle Vernon Area), Peyton Jacobs (Brownsville), Madison Nester (Yough), Destiny Gudel (California Area), Heather Chester (Bentworth), Shelby Minardi (Monessen), Kyra Watkins (Charleroi Area), Lauren Cain (Elizabeth Forward).

Standing from left: Casey Zajicek (California Area), Joseph Gruber (Belle Vernon Area), Travis Bevard (Brownsville), Douglas Gudenburr (Ringgold), Connor Poolett (Elizabeth Forward), Daniel Cox (Yough), Zachary Baker (Monessen), Ty Mitchell (Bentworth), and Michael Kondratik (Charleroi Area).

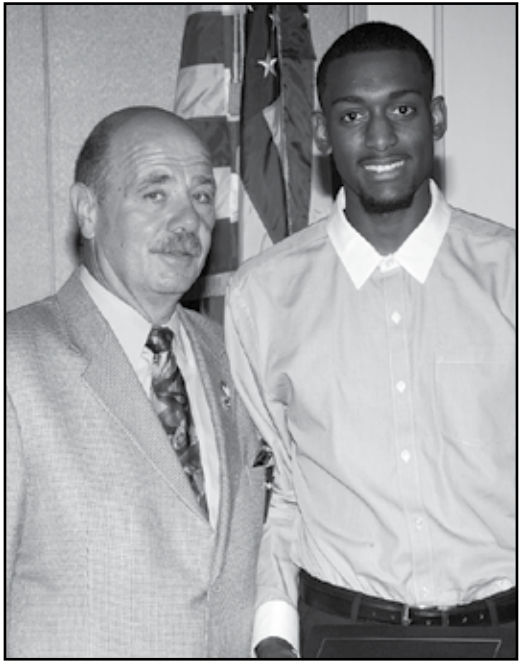
Meet the 2016 Mon Valley WPIAL Achievement Awardees

Belle Vernon Area's head wrestling Coach Mike Doppleheuer and senior co-captain Mitchell Hartman accept Achievement award on behalf of their team, the Class AAA WPIAL championship wrestling Belle Vernon Area Leopards, with presentation by Randy Marino and Steve Russell of the Hall of Fame.

Meet the 2016 Mon Valley WPIAL Achievement Awardees

Individual WPIAL championship BVA wrestling Achievement awardees include senior Derek Verkleeren, 152 pounds, and sophomore Zachary Hartman, 132 pounds, with presentation by Randy Marino and Steve Russell.

Meet the 2016 Mon Valley WPIAL Achievement Awardees



Track and Field individual WPIAL champion Raymond Sitton, 110m hurdles, of Monessen and Maris Seto, high jump, of Brownsville receives the Hall of Fame Achievement award from Randy Marino.

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

2008

Belle Vernon Area High School ..... Jacob A. Nagy, Megan Russell
Brownsville High School ..... Craig Novak, Erika Coffey
California High School ..... Nathan Wright, Natalie Granato
Charleroi High School ..... Roman J. DiPiazza, Jennifer Samoda
Elizabeth Forward High School ..... Zachary Mikolics, Julia Urbanski

Monessen High School ..... Jared R. Dziak, Breane Minardi
Ringgold High School..... Adam Madar, Logan Rachelle Cole
Yough High School ..... Joseph Chada, Grace Smor

2009

Belle Vernon Area High School ..... Zachary Wardle, Cori Stark
Brownsville High School ..... Stacey Knox
California High School ..... Ben Carson, Christina Pankratz
Charleroi High School..... Taylor Andrisko, 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 Myrga, Miranda Arison
California Area High School..... Benjamin V. Thomas, Christina Puhnaty
Charleroi Area High School ..... Luke Simpson, Natalie Baker
Elizabeth Forward High School ..... Mathew Casturo, Braelyn N. Tracy
Monessen High School ..... Zachary Abrahamsen, Alexis Malarbi
Ringgold High School..... Chris Spahr, Christina Wills
Yough High School ..... Domanic Miele, Natalie Beers

2014

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

2015

Belle Vernon Area High School ..... James Yantko, Samantha Mendicino
Bentworth High School..... Nick Liermann, Reilly Skerbetz
Brownsville Area High 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

Student Scholar/Athletes 2017

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

Tyler Seliga

Varsity 3-year soccer letterman/captain
1st Team All Section
Varsity 3- year wrestling letterman
2017-2017 – Team Captain, 4th Place Westmoreland County Tournament, 2nd Place Section 2 Tournament, WPIAL 4th Place and PIAA State Qualifier, Earned 100th Career Victory
2015-2017 – 3rd Place Westmoreland County Tournament, WPIAL Team Champions, PIAA Team 3rd - , WPIAL Qualifier
2014-2015 – 3rd Place Section 2 Tournament, WPIAL Qualifier
2013-2014 - 2nd Place Eastern Area Invitational (Gateway Tournament), 3rd Place Section 2 Tournament, WPIAL Qualifier
Varsity 2-year baseball letterman
Honors: U.S. Army Reserve National Scholar/Athlete Award for Academic and Athletic Excellence, National Student Athlete Award Recipient, National Honor Society, *Herald Standard* Centennial Chevrolet Scholar Athlete
Clubs: Student Council
Volunteer: March for Parks, Relay for Life
Seton Hill: Early Childhood Education and wrestling team

Sophia Yantko

Varsity 3-year volleyball letterwoman
Varsity 4-year track/field letterwoman, three-time Qualifier for AAA WPIAL in javelin, four-time Qualifier for USATF, National Junior Olympics in javelin
Varsity 1-year basketball letterwoman
Honors: Honor Societies (National, Spanish, Science, Social Studies), US Marines National Student Scholar/Athlete Award for Academic and Athletic Excellence, 2015 WPIAL Sportsmanship Summit Nominee
Clubs: Interact Club, Student Council, Physical Education club, MIC/SADD, Outdoors Club, Chorus, Prom Committee treasurer, Penn State 4.0 Club
Volunteer: Altar Server St Anne's Church, Vacation Bible School Volunteer St Anne's Church, Project Linus, Food Bank St Sebastian Church, Pancake Festival St Sebastian Church, Southwestern Surgery Center staff volunteer ,Relay for Life, Blood Drive, Assistant Throwing Coach for Valley Speedsters Track Club
Ohio University: biology and track team

Student Scholar/Athletes 2017

Bentworth High School

Josh Hughes

Varsity 3-year football letterman/quarterback
All Conference Team (2015-16), *Mon Valley Independent* Player of the Week (10-2-15, 10-16-15), *Observer-Reporter* Player of the Week (10-15-15) and 2015 Elite 11, Second Team Mon Valley Independent Finest 25, Career 4,793 yards and 48 TD's
Varsity 3-year baseball letterman
Honors: National Honor Society, *Herald Standard* Centennial Chevrolet Scholar Athlete
Clubs: Live God 24/7 NYC Mission Team
Volunteer: NYC Relief Bus Feeding, Homeless feeding in Chelsea Park Harlem, Brooklyn
Saint Vincent College

Autumn Zgorliski

Varsity 4 -year softball letterwoman
Varsity 3-year basketball letterwoman
Varsity 1- year volleyball
Honors: National Honor Society, Westinghouse Science Honor Institute, Who's Who Among America High School students
Clubs: Junior council vice-president, Homecoming Court, Majorette captain, L.E.F.T. program
Volunteer: Cokeburg Bingo, Cheerleading coach for midget program
Waynesburg University: forensic science

Student Scholar/Athletes 2017

Brownsville Area High School

Jared Gaddis

Varsity 1-year football
Varsity 4-year basketball letterman/captain
Player of the Month, All County, *Herald Standard* Centennial Chevrolet Scholar Athlete
Honors: Student of the Month
Clubs: SADD, Environmental club, Chess Club vice president, junior/senior class president
Volunteer: Dunlap Lake clean-ups, fishing line recycling program, Grande March setup
Penn State Fayette campus: business/economics

Alexandria Seto

Varsity 4-year basketball letterwoman/captain, All County, Roundball Classic Player, 1,000 career points
Varsity 4-year volleyball letterwoman/captain, All County, team MVP (4)
All Section First Team
Varsity 4-year track letterwoman/captain, FCCA Field MVP
Varsity 4-year cross-country letterwoman, All County
Honors: Chamber of Commerce/Rotary Student of the Month, Superintendent awards, W&J Merit Scholar award, Tricada/WIPIAL student Athlete, *Herald Standard* Centennial Chevrolet Scholar Athlete
Clubs: Tri-Hi-Y treasurer, Future Is Mine, FCCLA, Student Council, Student in Action, Upper Bound, Senior Cabinet, National/French Honor Society, 4.0 club, class treasurer
Volunteer: Fayette Friends of Animals, youth basketball, Operation Falcon, Revitalization community service, CYS Christmas/Easter party
Washington & Jefferson College: biological physics

Student Scholar/Athletes 2017

California Area High School

Nathaniel Luketich

Varsity 4-year baseball letterman/captain
2017 *Herald Standard* Centennial Chevrolet Scholar/Athlete Spotlight, Mid *Mon Valley Independent* Player of the Week, WPIAL All Section (2015-17), *Observer Reporter* All District Team (2015), *Greensburg Tribune Review* Athlete of the Week (2015)
Varsity basketball letterman (2016-17)
Varsity 4-year golf letterman/captain, 2015 Team MVP, Section 8-AA Champions
Honors: United States Military Academy Athletic award 2016, California Rotary Student of the Month (Nov 2016)
Clubs: Vice President National Honor Society, Leo Club, Interact, Envirothon Team, Student Forum
Volunteer: Washington Hospital, First Presbyterian Church
University of Pittsburgh: chemistry

Jenna Miller

Varsity 3-year volleyball letterwoman
MVP 2016
Varsity 3-year basketball letterwoman
Centennial Chevrolet Scholar/Athlete *Herald Standard*/ All District
3rd team/ All Section 1st team/ basketball classic/ Super 10 Mon Valley/ MVP Southside Beaver tournament 2016/ Budd Grebb Championship winner 2015
Varsity 2-year track-field letterwoman/ 2015-16 WPIAL qualifiers
Clubs: Relay for Life, art show, The Future is Mine, Interact, Leo club
Volunteer: school dances, town car show concession stand, toys and Slippers donation, Jump for Rope Heart Association, track events
Waynesburg University: Marine biology

Student Scholar/Athletes 2017

Charleroi Area High School

Carter Riskey

Varsity 4-year football letterman
Honorable Mention, All Conference
Varsity 4-year wrestling letterman
Clubs: Astronomy club, Student Council, drafting club
Volunteer: Relay for Life, School District Blood Drive, Youth Wrestling Tournament
Slippery Rock

Jessica Day

Varsity 4-year soccer letterwoman/captain
Varsity 4-year track letterwoman/captain
WPIAL 2016 broke school record in the 400m., participant in WPIAL 2016 100m. 200m. 400m. – 2017 200m.400m. States 2016 400m.
Honors: National Honor Society, Salutatorian, Penn State 4.0 Club, Challenge Program for Academic Performance, November Charthene Girl of the Month, *Herald Standard* Centennial Chevrolet Scholar Athlete, Wendy's HS Heisman award
Clubs: History Club, SADD, Executive Committee, Secretary Ski Club
Volunteer: Relay for Life, Special Olympics, Camp Invention, blood donation
Robert Morris University: nursing

Student Scholar/Athletes 2017

Elizabeth Forward High School

Ryan Lee

Varsity 4-year soccer letterman/captain
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Star of the Week, All Section, *Daily News* Spotlight Athlete of the Week (2 times)
Honors: National Honor Society
Clubs: Physics Club President, International Club Founder
Penn State Greater Allegheny: special education/physical education

Madison Ambler

Varsity 4-year volleyball letterwoman
South Fayette Athlete of the Week, *Herald Standard*
Centennial Chevrolet Scholar Athlete/Jim Collins Scholar Athlete Scholarship nominee
All Section 3 First Team Girls
Honors: National Honor Society
Clubs: Interact, Class of 2017 Historian, Fitness Club Vice President PBIS Brave Bunch, Student Government Association
Volunteer: United Methodist Church
California University of Pennsylvania: criminology/forensic science

Student Scholar/Athletes 2017

Monessen High School

Justice Rice

Varsity 3-year soccer letterman All Section
Varsity 2-year baseball letterman
Varsity 3-year basketball letterman
All Section, 1st team All State senior, WPIAL Class A Player of the Year, 1,530 career points, *Mon Valley Independent* Bee Graphix Super 6 first team and Super 6 Boys Player of the Year
Honors: Westmoreland County Judge John J. Driscoll Scholar Athlete, Tri-County Athletic Scholar, Co-Valedictorian, Lion's Club Student of the Month, Monessen-Rostraver Rotary Student of the Month, National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society
Clubs: Spanish, Yearbook, Student Government, SADD, Editor Newspaper
Volunteer: Monessen Walk-in-the-Park, road clean-up,
Grove City College: Engineering

Victoria Cooper

Varsity senior basketball letterwoman
Varsity 4-year soccer letterwoman/captain
Varsity 4-year softball letterwoman/captain
All Section
Varsity 4-year cheerleader All American Elite Team
Honors: Westmoreland County Judge John J. Driscoll Scholar/Athlete, Secretary National Honor Society, Rotary Student of the Month, Wendy's Heisman award, Women in Science award, US Achievement Academy, National Science award, All American Scholar award, National Leadership & Service award, Spanish National Honor Secretary
Clubs: SADD, Student Government, Leo Club, Spanish Club, Future Is Mine, Class President, FBLA, Ski Club Treasurer, Performing Arts
Volunteer: O.S.P.T.A. Hospice, Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church, Leo Club
Slippery Rock University: exercise science: pre-physician assistant

Student Scholar/Athletes 2017

Ringgold High School

Dalton Holt

Varsity 3-year football letterman/captain
3-time All Big 9 Conference selection, All State DB, Player of the Week, Mon Valley Finest 25 team, Ringgold's all-time leader in receiving yards, 2016 safety MVP for All State 125 camp series,
Varsity 3-year baseball letterman
Varsity 2-year track and field letterman
100m, 200m, 4x100m relay
Honors: Ringgold Rams Booster Club certificate of achievement
Slippery Rock University: exercise science

Olivia Warner

Varsity 4-year girl's tennis letterwoman/captain
#1 singles position 49 wins
Honors: National Honor Society
Clubs: Spring musical participant 4 years, Interact, Relay for Life
Volunteer: tutor middle school students in tennis, Nursing home Bingo, Medallion Ball
Slippery Rock University: computer science/tennis scholarship

Student Scholar/Athletes 2017

Yough High School

Jack Cleary

Varsity 3-year cross country letterman/captain/ distance 5K/
3-time WPIAL Qualifier
Varsity 4-year track & field letterman
Events 4x800, 1600, 800, 3200 relay
Honors: National Honor Society
Clubs: Senior mentors, National and French Honor Society
Volunteer: road cleanup, pet friend's animal care
University of Pittsburgh: biology

Olivia Miller

Varsity 4- year softball letterwoman
Tribune Review Spotlight Athlete of the Week
Varsity 2-year volleyball letterwoman
All Section 2nd team, MVP Chartiers Houston Tournament (2016)
Honors: Vice President National Honor Society, April Student of the Month, Yough Rocks, French National Honor Society, *Herald Standard* Centennial Chevrolet Scholar Athlete
Clubs: Chamber choir, student council, Fellowship of Christian Athletics
Volunteer: peer tutoring, senior mentoring, Hospaws car wash, West Newton field cleanup, Yough softball clinic
Penn State Altoona: electromechanical engineering technology

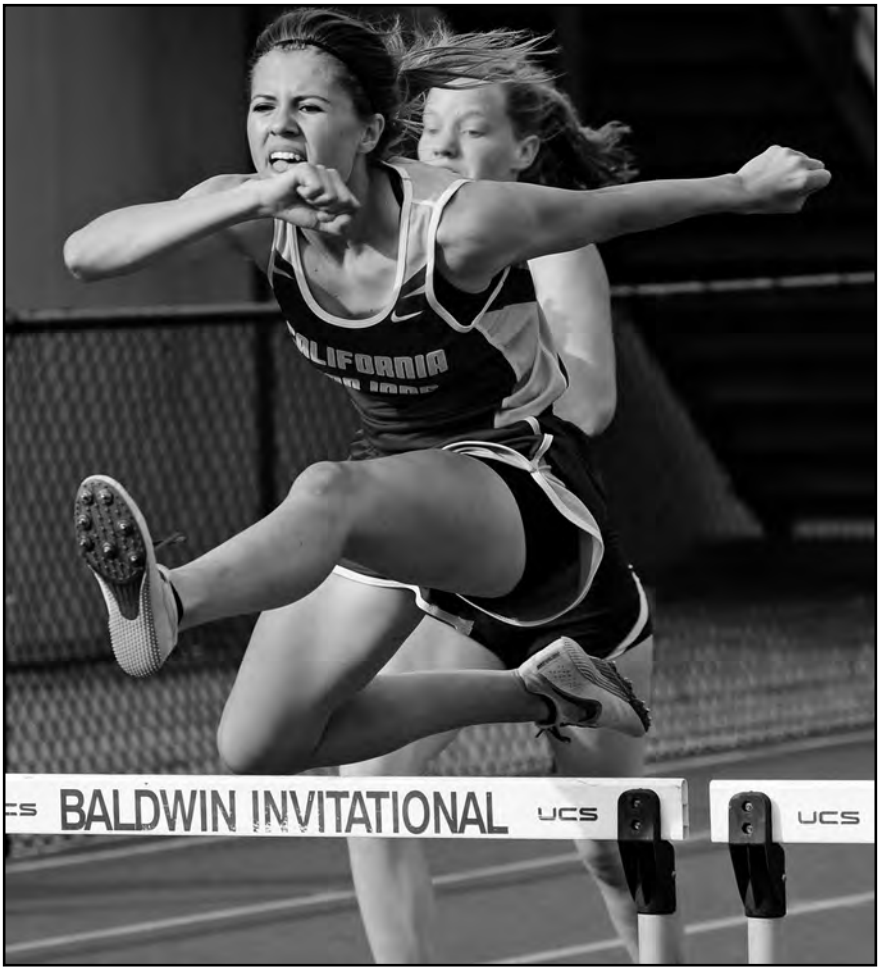
Bentworth High School
Brenna Cavanaugh
2017 WPIAL Track and Field Gold
May 18, 2017

Brenna Cavanaugh of Bentworth won the PIAA 100 meter hurdles with a time of 14.14 to claim the gold at the state meet May 25. She also finished 3rd in the long jump with a jump of 18 ft. 3.5 inches.

Junior Brenna Cavanaugh runs in the finals of the girls Class AA 100m high hurdles at a time of 14.64 at the WPIAL Track & Field Championships at Baldwin High School. Cavanaugh won the gold medal in the event as well as in the long jump with a leap of 18'9" while also earning silver in the 100 and a fifth-place medal in the triple jump.

(Compliments of the *Herald Standard* May 19, 2017)

California High School
Ashley McIntosh
2017 WPIAL Track and Field Gold
May 18, 2017



Ashley claimed the Class AA WPIAL championship in the 300 intermediate hurdles setting a new school record, crossing the finish line in 45.73 seconds at Baldwin High School.

(Compliments of the *Herald Standard* May 19, 2017)

Meet the 2017 California High School Trojan Baseball Team Class AA WPIAL Champions (20-2) May 30, 2017

Bottom Row (left to right): Brenden Padilla, Alex Fraka, Colton Lusk, Jacob Swartz, Enzo Mariscotti, Tyler Jacobs, Bobby Harris, Brenden Sheehan, Nathan Zemany

Top Row (left to right): Assistant Coach Neil Forsythe, Steve Martin, Richard Stimmell, Brandon Powell, Alex Adams, Nathaniel Luketich, Kass Taylor, John DeFranco, Derrick Hammitt, Drake Johnson, Head Coach Nick Damico, Assistant Coach Lou Pasquale

Meet the 2017 Belle Vernon Area High School Leopard Softball Team Class AAAA WPIAL Champions (19-1) June 1, 2017

Bottom Row (left to right): Ally Pacak, Kelsey Lynn, Megan Christner, Lexie Church, Hunter Stangroom, Hanna Legazza

Middle Row (left to right): Jayden Scapellato, Bailey Parshall, Kourtney Gavatorta, Alex Sokol, Mekenzie Sokol, Natalie French, Jordan French, Kaitlyn Carr, Lindsay Steeber, Jaelynn Clegg, Hayley Benning

Top Row (left to right): Tom Rodriguez-Head Coach, John Christner-Volunteer Coach, Dan McFadden-Assistant Coach, Kelly Parshall-Volunteer Coach

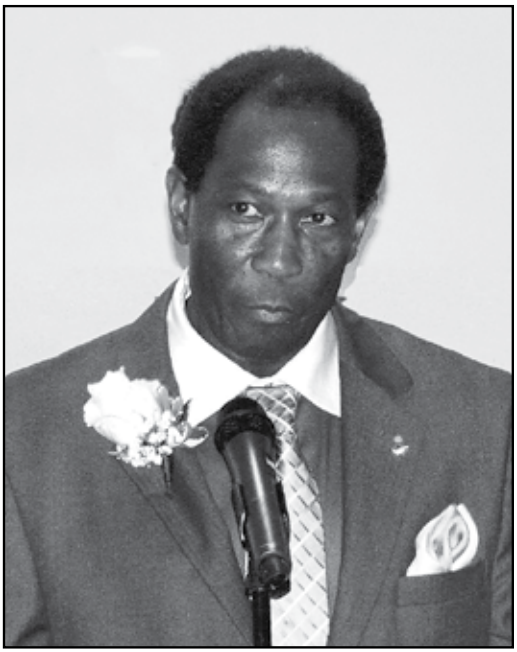
Meet the 2017 Monessen High School Greyhounds Class A WPIAL Basketball Champions (21-8)

Bottom Row (left to right): Marc Gibson, Dishon Howell, Isaiah Allums, Vaughn Taylor, Elijahwa Payne, Score Keeper John Kukrak

Top Row (left to right): Coach Joe Salvino, Videographer Jack Howell, Jaron Youngblood, Justice Rice, Jaden Altomore, Lyndon Henderson, Cory Fleming, Assistant Coach Craig Rice, Assistant Coach Ricky Tyburski

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 coach at Charleroi Middle and High School. In January 2017, Dennis became a diabetes consultant at Novo Nordisk.

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

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

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

Lanny Frattare
Tonight's Master of Ceremonies

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

Dillon Shash
Tonight's Vocalist

Dillon Shash is the son of Jill and Joe Shash and is a 2017 co-valedictorian Monessen High graduate. His favorite classes include Psychology, Human Anatomy, and Physiology. Dillon is President of the LEO Club, Vice President of TSA, Treasurer of Youth Council, and a member of NHS, SNHS, Yearbook Club, Spanish Club, Newspaper Committee, Marching Band, and Acapella. Outside of school he is the Vice President of the Monessen Amphitheater Committee and is also a member of his church choir. Dillon has received the Good Neighbor Award from W&J College, LIONS Student of the Month, Rotary Club Student of the Month, and was a finalist in the Photographer's Forum Picture Contest. He has performed with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra as part of a Student Chorale. Dillon plans to attend California University of Pennsylvania where he will pursue a degree in Psychology for a future position as Clinical Psychologist.

Bill Lemonovich
Tonight's DJ

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

Program

GRAND ENTRANCE .... *INTRODUCTION OF THE CLASS OF 2017*

WELCOME ..... *Dennis Stitch*
Chairman of the Board

INVOCATION..... *Ashley McIntosh*
California Area High School

NATIONAL ANTHEM ..... *Dillon Shash*
Monessen High School

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE ..... *Carter Riskey*
Charleroi Area High School

DINNER

~Cheese and Crackers/Punch Bowl~
~Fresh Fruit Cup~
~Fresh Tossed Salad (Ranch or Italian Dressings)~
~Oven Baked Half Chicken~
~Baked Potato~
~Green Bean Almondine~
~Assorted Dinner Rolls and Bread with Butter~
~Strawberry Shortcake ~
~Coffee/Hot Tea/Ice Tea/Water~

INTRODUCTION OF TOASTMASTER ..... *Dennis Stitch*

TOASTMASTER ..... *Lanny Frattare*
President, Waynesburg University

PRESENTATION OF 2017 SCHOLAR ATHLETES AND WPIAL GOLD WINNERS..... *Bill Hughes, Steve Russell, Randy Marino*

PRESENTATION OF HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES CLASS OF 2017 ..... *Lanny Frattare*

PRESENTATION OF MID-MON VALLEY ALL SPORTS HALL OF FAME APPRECIATION AWARD ..... *Lanny Frattare*

BENEDICTION ..... *Sophia Yantko*
Belle Vernon Area High School

MID MON VALLEY ALL SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

1951 ***Stan "The Man" Musial*, Bert Rechichar***

1952 P.G. Hayes*, Pat Mullin*, ***Jim Russell****

1953 Tom Brown*, Jim Hamer*, Bill Parkinson, Sr.*

1954 No Selections

1955 Joe Connell*, ***Arnold Galiffa****, James K. Russell*

1956 Michael "Ki" Duda, Ed.D.*, Ed Roebuck, ***Rev. "Deacon" Dan Towler****

1957 Floyd France*, Tom Preston*, Steve Stepanian*

1958 Thomas Barbero*, M.H. Heatter, M.D.*, John T. Matta*

1959 Thomas Parkinson, D.D.S.*, Harry R. Sickels*, G. Harold "Doc" Smith*

1960 William J. "Billy" Long*, John G. "Scissors" McIlvain*, Charles H. "Jerry" Wunderlich*

1961 Carl "Head" Aschman*, Earl "Skykes" Bruce*, John P. "Moon" Clark*, Nick Kotys*

1962 Preston A. Ditty*, Pete Garnic*, Clyde B. Smith*

1963 Neil Brown*, ***John Potsklan****, ***Sever J. Toretti****

1964 ***H.C. "Red" Carlson, M.D.****, **Louis C. "Bimbo" 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 Mahovlich, D.D.S.*, Andy Yartin*

1975 Clair N. Brown*, Frank Janosik*, Joseph McCune*, Roger Rossi*

1976 George J. "Beans" Chacko*, ***Fred Cox, D.C.***, Bert Sutton*, Albert P. "Bo" Wildman*

1977 Pete Cherocci*, George Hays*, George "Jake" Kovalcik*, Elmo Natali, John "Shag" Wolosky*

1978 – 1995 – No Selections

1996 Bruce Dal Canton*, Joe Gladys*, **Ron Necciai**, Ollie Payne*, Ulice Payne, ***Myron "Mo" Pottios***, Andy Sepsi*,Paul Wyatt*

1997 Rudy Andabaker*, Al J. Elmer" Benyak*, Gustave "Gus" Brickner*, James "Mouse" Chacko, Carl Crawley, Jr., Doug Crusan, Frank Lignelli, ***Bill Malinchak***

1998 **Eric Crabtree**, Dick Fields*, Leon "Pappy" Johnson*, Fran LaMendola, Don "Ducky" LeJohn*, Jeff Petrucci, Ronald "Ron" Rossi*, Danny Taylor*

1999 Suzy Williams Broadhurst, Mike Bucchianeri*, Bill Contz, Angelo Dabiero, Richard "Dick" DiBiaso, ***Sam Havrilak, D.D.S.***, John "Poppy" Popovich*

2000 Don Asmonga*, Tony Benjamin, Augie Bossu*, Julius Dawkins, Val Jansante*, Joe Montana, Lee Sala*

2001 Henry "Heinie" Adams*, Tom Ballaban*, Eugene Belczyk, ***Dale Hamer***, Bill Robinson*, Joe Sarra*, Jack Scarvel*, George Zuraw

2002 Bernie Galiffa*, **Fred Mazurek**, William "Bill" Parkinson, Jr.*, Pete Rostosky, Joe Rudolph, James Simms*, Bill Urbanik

2003 John "Chipper" Bruno*, Don Croftcheck, Anthony J. Romantino, Ed.D.*, David "Pivot" Russell, Fred Uhlman, Sr., Danny Warbutton*, Fred Yuss, Ron Yuss

2004 Melvin Bassi, J.D.*, Melvin Boyd, Craig Cotton, John "Corky" DeMillion*, Ashley Totedo, Scott Zolak

2005 Mitch Bailey*, **Craig Fayak**, Steve Garban, Stan "Butch" Kemp, Gina Naccarato

2006 Bobby Locke, Greg Paterra, Anthony Peterson, John "Shell" Shelapinsky*, Governor John K. Tener*

2007 James Bayens* Pete Daley, Sr.*, Brad Ferrara, M.D., Ron Hughes, Bob Johnson, Dennis "Bird" Laskey, Tom Parks

2008 James H. "Kayo" Adamson*, John F. Hewitt*, Gary V. Hogan, Joseph M. Kurey, Charles W. "Billy" Russell, Donna DeMarino Sanft, Robert "Red" Worrell*, John "Big John" Wozniak*

2009 Felton Brown, Sr.*, Andy Dzurinko, Fleming Mosely III Ed.D, Donald Peters, Roger Valdiserri, John Verkleeren, M.D., Judge Reggie Walton

2010 Art Artis*, John Barbero*, Andrew "Buzz" Garnic Sr., Pete 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

*Deceased

Bold indicates a member of the PA Sports Hall of Fame

Don Bartolomucci

Don Bartolomucci was a football lifer. As a player football provided him with an education, and later a career in education and coaching.

Bartolomucci was a crackerjack running back on some fine Brownsville High School football teams in the 1950s. A four-year starter, he played on teams that posted records of 5-5 in 1952, and in his sophomore year in 1953, they posted a 6-4 mark and handed Uniontown its only loss. In 1954, they were 9-1. The lone blemish was a 19-7 loss to Duquesne. Even with one loss, Brownsville was accorded WPIAL championship status in some quarters. They were WPIAL champs as measured by Dr. Roger Saylor's rankings. By his ratings system, the Brownies were WPIAL champs, even though they had lost to Duquesne.

In 1955, Bartolomucci's senior campaign, the Brownies went 7-2-1. "In the four years that I started we never had a losing season," Bartolomucci stated. "My brother, Frank, was a senior and I was freshman and I went to elementary school in Newell, and in eighth grade, I traveled up to the high school and played JV football and freshman football. Then in ninth grade, I was fortunate to go to camp and start with my brother. He was a right halfback and I was a fullback, and Howie Brashear was the left halfback."

Bartolomucci earned All-Big Six honors in 1954 and 1955. "It was a big thing in the valley to be in the Big Six at that time," Bartolomucci recalled. "Making the conference team was like making the WPIAL team for us back then. My sophomore year, I made honorable mention and we used to have the banquets at the Twin Coaches, and that was a big deal. My junior year, I was

first team All-Big Six, and in 1955, my senior year, I tore up my knee and I didn't get to play the whole season, so that year I made second team All-Big Six."

When Bartolomucci graduated from Brownsville in 1956 he was coming off that knee injury and his participation in Washington County–Fayette County All-Star game was a big factor in getting a college football scholarship. He was a starter on the Fayette County All-Star squad that defeated the Washington County All-Stars, 14-6, in front of 5,000 fans in Connellsville.

"When I tore my knee up my senior year," Bartolomucci explained. "I had some letters and offers, but I didn't have anything concrete, so playing in that All-Star game was very, very important for me because I didn't have any offers. When the game was over John Popovich, the coach at Waynesburg College came in the locker room and recruited a bunch of kids from the valley. There were four of us that were recruited to Waynesburg.

"Three of us started our freshman year, which was a pretty big honor. I starter four years, we didn't win a lot of games, but we won a lot of fights. Bartolomucci played on Yellow Jacket squads that went 1-5-1 in 1956, 3-3-1 in 1957, 3-5-1 in 1958 and 1-6-2 in 1958. He garnered Little All-American Honorable Mention honors 1958 and 1959. He was selected as an All-District fullback. He had a big season in 1959 rushing for 808 yards. He played in the Gem Bowl All-Star game in 1959. The East downed the West in that game, 17-16. "The Gem Bowl was college players from the Big 10 and small colleges," Bartolomucci said. "The head coach on the West squad was Ara Parseghian. I ended up playing for the West squad and I kicked an extra point in that game. It was a great experience playing for somebody like that."

Bartolomucci went to work for New York Life Insurance and worked for them from 1960 to 1965. He started his coaching career an assistant at Beth-Center High School in 1965.

"Bill Connors, who was a quarterback in high school when I played, got the head coaching job at Beth Center," Bartolomucci said. "I gave him a call and asked him if I could help him out. But I didn't have a teaching certificate. I was friends with Marion "Slugger" Klingensmith who took me to the Education Department in Harrisburg and I got an emergency certificate and I needed 13 or 14 extra hours. They hired me on an emergency certificate, that's how I got into education. I got certification right away from California University and that's how my career started."

Bartolomucci served as a position coach at Beth-Center from 1965-70, defensive coach from 1970-78, head coach from 1979-1987, assistant coach in 1989 and was head coach again from 1990-94. "I was an assistant for Bill Connors for 14 years," Bartolomucci offered. "Then I got the head job, in 1987, my assistant coach got killed in a tractor accident and I kind of lost interest, I was

pretty broken up over it, so I resigned. It's a good thing I did because in 1989 I had heart surgery. It worked out perfect for me. I became an assistant with Bobby Keys at Jefferson-Morgan; I wanted to see if I could handle it and come back. Then I re-applied at Beth-Center in 1990 and I coached there for five years."

His record at Beth Center was 99-46-4 with trips to the WPIAL playoffs in 1982, 1986, 1991, 1992 and 1994. In 1982, 1986 and 1994 he won Century Conference championships. His 1986 squad made it to the WPIAL Class AA championship game and lost to Burrell, 3-0. "Beth-Center had great tradition," Bertolomucci stated. "It started with Bill Connors and then through my tenure and Ed Woods had a great career there too. It was all about who you hired as coaches, I always hired people that I coached, so I didn't have a problem selling them on the system. You have to have three things in coaching: administrative support, great assistants and you have to have great kids. I was lucky I had all three aspects."

Bartolomucci retired from teaching in 1993, but continued to coach. He returned to Brownsville, taking over a program that was floundering with a record of 3-27 in the previous three seasons. Three years later in 1997, Brownsville was in the WPIAL Class AAA championship game at Three Rivers Stadium, falling to an outstanding West Allegheny team, 51-24. Brownsville also qualified for the playoffs in 1998, 1999 and 2000.

"I wanted to go home," Bartolomucci said. "You have to be in the right place at the right time and they had some outstanding athletes coming up. We had an unbelievable group of athletes and I still have breakfast with some of those kids. It was a great group and we had a great run."

Bartolomucci married the former Marjorie Kuklo in 1959 and they have three children, Don, Terri and Marc. Bartolomucci is retired and resides in Scenery Hill.

The overall coaching record for Bartolomucci is 147-82-4. He was honored as Coach of the Year in Washington County, the Century Conference and the Eastern Association of Interscholastic Football Officials. He was inducted into the Washington-Greene County Hall of Fame in 2010.

(Grateful acknowledgement to George Von Benko for this biography that appeared in the *Herald-Standard* December 26, 2016)

Phil Hughes

One of the greatest runners in the long history of Charleroi was Phil Hughes (Class of 1971), a rare 1,000 yard rusher, joining the likes of Lew Rawls who gained 1,019 yards in 1966.

Flashback to Hughes' high school glory days as a three-year letterman in basketball, track, and football. He set two school records by high jumping 6' 1" and by finishing the 100-yard in a sizzling 9.9 seconds. Hughes said he nearly "made it to the States, but I pulled a hamstring. I got beat three times in three years, once a year, by the same person, Norman Jones from Clairton and I ran a 4.3, 40 on cinders, once with bare feet—I was trying to show off," he chuckled.

Still, football was understandably his favorite sport. The 6' 1", 185 pound Hughes rambled for 3,217 yards and scored 257 career points. He began flashing his talent as a mere sophomore, becoming the first Charleroi running back to gain over 1,000 yards (1,109).

Further accomplishments earned him All Big 10 status in his junior and senior seasons. In fact, as a junior his 1,211 yards rushing established a new school record. That record stood for decades until Darrell Harding eclipsed it. In his junior season, Hughes also led his conference in scoring with 93 points while turning in an incredible three games with 200+ yards rushing. Every time he lugged the football he churned out 5.9 yards.

Due to an injury, his senior yardage output slipped to 897 yards, which was still a stellar total and easily good enough to earn him first team All-State honors. Toss in the fact that he was a defensive star. His head coach, Rab Currie, once said, "He has some of the best moves I've seen for a high school kid."

He added, “When he’s hit, he gives it a second, third, and sometimes a fourth effort. I’ve seen him break as many as four tackles on his way to a touchdown.”

Hughes still recalls one rainy night game against Clairton in which he scored on a run and on a 37-yard field goal. He said, “The headline in the paper said HUGHES 9 CLAIRTON 0. But Monessen was our rival, and I never beat them, and that hurts me. They had signs up on the Charleroi –Monessen Bridge that I saw as I went to their stadium when I was a senior that said PHIL WHO? But my ankle got twisted against Brownsville before that, when I had three touchdowns in the first quarter. So I couldn’t play against Monessen, and the signs made me so upset that I couldn’t represent. And we only lost by about three points. If I was playing, we would have dominated them.”

Hughes received a full scholarship to Potomac State, a West Virginia junior college. West Virginia University coach Bobby Bowden had a great runner at the time, Jim Braxton, but Hughes said there was a chance that he would fill a Mountaineer void after he went to Potomac State. However, Hughes became discouraged there, where he said the team’s field “was like a cow pasture,” so he returned home.

Hughes said he tried out for and impressed Hall of Fame coach George Allen who was coaching the Washington Redskins. Hughes was hopeful that he might take the roster spot left vacant when Charley Taylor was about to retire. Taylor changed his mind, though, so Hughes switched gears and played semi-pro ball for teams such as the Washington Generals and the Pittsburgh Wolf Pak who had former NFL quarterback “Jefferson Street” Joe Gilliam throwing to him.

According to Hughes, he also tried out for the Steelers at Three Rivers Stadium, but he was told by team official Dick Haley that despite his talent, the Steelers “had a dynasty going” at the time and had no room for him. Undaunted, Hughes played for Morgantown for $25 per game. Traveling there from the Valley three days a week for practices, he was playing for the love of the game, certainly not for the money.

Hughes is a member of the Charleroi Football Hall of Fame and the Charleroi All Sports Hall of Fame. A retired West Penn Power worker, Hughes is the father of one son, Marcus Allen Hughes—named after two uncles, not for the former NFL great. Hughes still resides in the Charleroi area, living in the house he grew up in, the very house where he began his football days, throwing the ball around in his yard.

“I still have all my same old friends I had when I was in high school. I’m happy.” Looking back, he says he is most proud of achieving what he did in sports for his hometown.

(Grateful acknowledgement to Wayne Stewart for this biography that appeared in the *Herald Standard* January 23, 2017)

Joe Margoneri

Smithton native Joe Margoneri was like a comet bursting on the major league baseball scene and then fading because of arm trouble.

The fireballing lefty honed his baseball skills on the sandlots in Western Pennsylvania.

"We didn't have baseball at South Huntington Township High School," Margoneri recalled. "I played sandlot baseball when I was like 16 or 17 years old with older players. We had town and patch teams like Herminie and Madison, just small coal mining towns. When I was older like 18 or 19 I worked for Walter King who owned coal mines and coke oven in Scottdale. I drive a truck from the coke ovens and he ran a team and I played for his team."

Margoneri was discovered by the New York Giants and King played a big part in his signing.

"Playing for King it was semi pro baseball," Margoneri said. "I got about five bucks or ten bucks here and there. King called a scout for the New York Giants named Nick Shinkoff. I pitched a game on a Friday night and had a good evening and King came to me and said come over here a scout wants to see you pitch. I went up on Saturday morning and just threw on the side with a catcher. Shinkoff brought me back home and I signed a contract that day. I sat down with my mom and dad and he gave me two brand new baseballs and I signed a Class D contract for $200 a month."

At age 20 he led the Wisconsin State League in wins (23) & strike outs (288) at Oshkosh. The 288 strikeouts set a new Wisconsin State League record.

"The first year I set the strikeout record," Margoneri stated. "The fastball was my bread and butter pitch. They didn't have a radar gun, but I guess I was throwing in the mid 90's. I had a lot of strikeouts; I threw mostly fastballs and tried to work on a curve and a change up."

After posting a record of 23-4 at Oshkosh, Margoneri jumped to Class B Sunbury in the Interstate League. In 30 games, 28 starts he went 18-8 and recorded 212 strikeouts.

"I led the league in strikeouts at Sunbury and then the Army got a hold of me," Margoneri said.

Margoneri was drafted into the Army during the Korean War.

He spent the next two seasons (1952-53) stationed at Brooke Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. "I was fortunate, I stayed state-side. I played baseball down in San Antonio, Texas. It was what they called special service. They had football players, basketball players — all types of athletes down there in one section," he said. His teammates included some big leaguers "Don Newcombe and Bobby Brown were down there. We played semi pro teams and the air bases down there around San Antonio. We were really good. Playing in the service kept me sharp."

Margoneri returned to the Giants minor league system after his two years in the service and pitched Double A Nashville and Triple A Minneapolis. He was 14-10 for the Nashville Volunteers and 1-0 for the Minneapolis Millers. Margoneri led the Southern Association with 184 strikeouts.

Deciding to play winter ball Margoneri pitched for the Navegantes del Magallanes club of the Venezuelan Winter League, and was responsible for the only defeat suffered by the Puerto Rican Cangrejeros de Santurce champion team, 7–2, in the closing game of the 1955 Caribbean Series. Notably, Margoneri hurled a complete game against a powerful lineup that included future Hall of Famers Roberto Clemente and Willie Mays, as well as Harry Chiti, Buster Clarkson, George Crowe, Luis Olmo and Don Zimmer.

During this period the Giants signed him to a four-year contract.

Margoneri was on the Giants radar when he came to spring training in 1955. In the March 7, 1955 issue of the *Long Island Star-Journal*, Giants' manager Leo Durocher raved about Margoneri's potential. "I like everything about the kid, said Durocher. I like his attitude … his poise … his motion … and, above all, his fastball. He's firing' harder than the others because he's ready. He pitched in one of those winter leagues."

In 1955 Margoneri pitched for the Giants top farm club at Class AAA Minneapolis. He helped lead the team to the 1955 Junior World Series Championship, defeating the Rochester Red Wings of the International League in the best of a seven game series.

The nonstop pitching was starting to take a toll on Margoneri. He started to develop arm trouble. “That’s when my arm trouble started. I was throwing 150 pitches per game and became a bit wild,” he said.

Margoneri was 26 years old when he entered the majors in 1956 with the Giants, playing for them two years. His most productive season came in 1956, when he had a 6–6 record with a 3.93 earned run average in a pitching rotation that included Johnny Antonelli (20–13), Rubén Gómez (7–17), Al Worthington (7–14) and Jim Hearn (5–11). The next year he worked almost exclusively as a left-handed specialist out of the bullpen.

“When I was pitching in 1956 my arm was hurting,” Margoneri explained. “In 1957 it got worse, and they sent me to New York and they couldn’t do anything. I was so wild my early years that I would walk say 12 and have 14 strikeouts and two hits. I just blew my arm out.”

Margoneri pitched for Triple Phoenix in 1958, Double A San Antonio, Triple A Toronto and Triple A Toronto in 1959. He pitched 10 games with Monterey in the Mexican League and two games with Double A Indianapolis in 1960. Margoneri retired from baseball at the age of 30 after the 1960 season.

In a two-season major league career, Margoneri posted a 7–7 record with a 4.29 ERA in 36 pitching appearances, including 15 starts and three complete games, giving up 60 earned runs on 132 hits and 70 walks while striking out 67 in 126 innings of work. In nine minor league campaigns Margoneri compiled a record of 88-52.

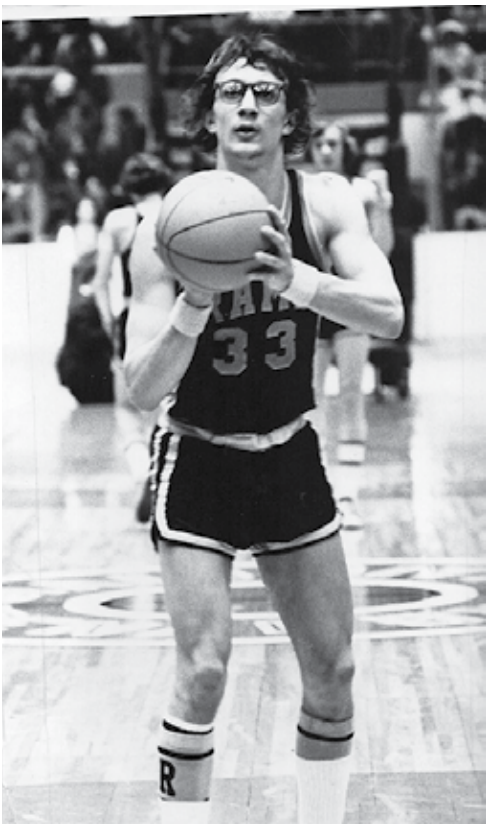
After baseball, Margoneri worked from 1962 through 1991 in the corrugated paper business as a supervisor for the International Paper Company and the St. Regis Paper Company in Pittsburgh.

Margoneri was born January 13, 1930 and lives in West Newton with his wife of over 60 years Helen. They have five daughters and 13 grandchildren.

“I happy with my career we had a pretty good life,” Margoneri said. “It was tough on my wife back in those days moving around. Who knows what would have happened if I hadn’t hurt my arm. I see this Tommy John surgery and that’s where mine started in the elbow. Who knows they might have fixed me and I may have been able to throw 100 mph.”

(Grateful acknowledgement to George Von Benko for this biography that appeared in the *Herald Standard* April 18, 2016)

Scott Nedrow



From tenth grade though college matriculation; Scott Nedrow proudly wore the blue and gold on the basketball court – first as a Ringgold standout, then in a Pitt Panther uniform.

In a way, his hoop days began when Nedrow transferred from Mon Valley Catholic after ninth grade (and after he then sat out half of his sophomore season at Ringgold). By the time he was a junior he was a starter for Coach Fran LaMendola.

The 1971-72 and 1972-73 seasons, the Ringgold Rams basketball team was stacked. In his junior season Nedrow was a starter along with running mate, sophomore Mel Boyd, Art Coleman, and two players later drafted by NBA teams, Ulice Payne and Tim Stokes. However they lost their first playoff game at the Civic Arena.

The following season, the starters were Nedrow, the senior class president, Boyd, Mike Brantley, Joe Montana and Payne.

"It was a magnificent year because no one expected us to do much because we didn't go far the year before despite having Stokes and Coleman. And I believe this was one of the major factors that brought us together," Nedrow said.

However, "We still had Boyd who was an All-American cross country runner at Pitt, Montana and Brantley, Ulice, and our sixth man Don Miller.

That group of six all received Division I scholarships."

"We had extraordinary athletes with a feel for the game and each other. On any given night, anyone could be the leading scorer. The whole team averaged between 11 and 16 points per game with Ulice and I being in upper range but everyone averaged in double figures"

The Rams defeated General Braddock in the WPIAL championship game and reached the final four in the state.

Nedrow said "The only disappointment was not winning the state championship. We lost to General Braddock in the State semis after beating them twice, once in regular season at home and again in WPIAL championship title game at the Arena. However, we redeemed ourselves in the State Consolation game by defeating the pretournament favorite and No. 1 ranked team Chester. We were ranked number two going in. Chester had lost to Reading and Stu Jackson, who later went on to Oregon and NBA fame". Thus, you could say they had beaten the best and finished the season 29-2.

The Rams were, he said, rather tired going into the General Braddock game and the "flu bug was going around and that contributed to the loss, but we had a good run all through the playoffs."

Nedrow said "The team really came together during the playoffs and it all started with a Section playoff win vs Belle Vernon. The game was played at Cal U in front of a packed crowd. It just happened to be my best game of my high school career going 11-for-12 from field and finishing with 25 points. But that victory really created the momentum for the team going into the WPIAL's and the State Championship"

All in all, it was quite a season, but Nedrow said the chemistry of the group started the summer before. "Back then, they had a YMCA Tournament in Carrol Township and we won and again it was against Belle Vernon. We all started coming together and I was selected the MVP. Most importantly we started believing in each other"

Nedrow high school career ended being selected All Section first team, All State Honorable Mention and playing in the prestigious Roundball Classic contest held at the Civic Arena.

From there it was on to the University of Pittsburgh for Nedrow who said he had also considered Wake Forest, William & Mary, and Villanova. "Pitt was the right place for me, I felt comfortable with the guys and couldn't understand why other local high school standouts would leave the Pittsburgh area and go elsewhere," Nedrow said. "I used to watch guys like George Karl from Penn Hills go and play for North Carolina. I wanted to stay home and

play in front of Pittsburgh fans. I almost ended up at Duquesne. We were close to signing with them, until the found a player in Georgia named Norm Nixon (later drafted and played for LA Lakers). It all worked out and we had fun competing against each other."

"In my freshman year, I didn't play much, as we had a senior laden NCAA Elite Eight team. We lost to the eventual national champions, North Carolina State." Nedrow said.

That team led by David Thompson, one of the greatest college basketball players ever and 7'2" Tom Burleson and point guard Monte Towe.

Redshirted the next year, Nedrow played extensively the following season as a shooting guard and began starting by midseason and wound up the second-leading scorer for Pitt, behind All American Larry Harris.

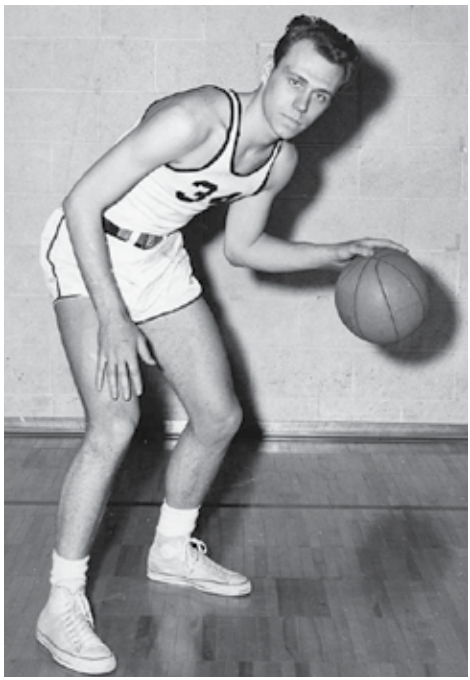
The next season his play time was reduced due to injury but still was Pitt's third leading scorer for the year. In his senior season was elected co-captain along with Harris, and won the University's Blue-Gold Award as the top scholar athlete and was nominated for the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship for study in Oxford University in England.

Nedrow has one son, William, a musician who lives in Los Angeles and graduated from Loyola Marymount University in L.A.

Scott's job is quite different. He received his MBA from Emory University and then worked in the world of investments and finance for many years, working in many locations including New York City, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and London. Semi-retired now he runs his own small business consulting firm and after a long journey, he is now back home in the Mon Valley.

(Grateful acknowledgment to Wayne Stewart for this bio that appeared in the *Herald Standard* August 4, 2016)

Daryle Ruby



Mention outstanding basketball players in Mon Valley history and the name Daryle Alexander Ruby immediately comes to mind with longtime fans.

But there is much more to the life of the former Bellmar High School and University of Pittsburgh standout who has been a physical therapist for nearly 50 years.

"I was always interested in science and the human anatomy, how it functions and repairs itself – how the brain and spinal cord work, the circulatory system, muscle function, etc.," said Ruby, a 1961 graduate of Bellmar High now living and working in Ocean City, Maryland. "I began to explore physical therapy as a career and decided that was a way to help people adapt and overcome physical, neurological and cardiovascular issues to maximize their potential and function for daily activities."

Those keen interests led Ruby, who was president of his graduating class at Bellmar, to Pitt on an academic scholarship.

In addition to Pitt, he had received numerous offers from such Division I schools as Duquesne, Arizona State and Utah and NAIA schools throughout Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio.

"I chose Pitt for several reasons," Ruby recalled. "Coach (Bob) Timmons and his assistant, coach (Carl) Peterson, emphasized education when they were recruiting me to play basketball. They said the scholarship was academic and was for four years. Pitt also had a strong reputation with its graduate schools and was affiliated with the D.T. Watson School of Physical Therapy. In addition, Pitt's on-campus students numbered 5,000 at that time, which gave it a small college atmosphere with university facilities."

Ruby, the son of the late Stephen W. and Elizabeth Geraldine Parry Ruby of Belle Vernon, also was influenced by his father in deciding to continue his education and basketball career at Pitt.

"My Dad was a huge Pitt fan," Ruby said. "He talked about the great teams of the 1920s '30s and '50s. He often mentioned Pitt's Dream Backfield of the late 1930s – Curly Stebbins, Marshall Goldberg, Dick Cassiano and John Chickerneo. And he recalled the basketball teams coached by (Henry Clifford) Doc Carlson and such outstanding players as Paul Hyatt and Don Hennon. There was so much tradition there and I knew I wanted to be part of it."

Buoyed by that inspiration and determined to meet the requirements of an academic scholarship – exceling in the classroom as well as in basketball – Ruby, a 6-4,190-pounder, carried strong credentials to Pitt.

He was a three-year starter in basketball at Bellmar and finished his 63-game varsity career with 995 points (15.2 ppg). He was named to the All-Section 5-A team as a senior with Willie Ross of Rostraver, Don Yates of Uniontown, Joey Russell of Donora and John Verkleeren of Charleroi. Collectively, that group scored 2,127 points, with Ross setting a hot pace with 606 as the section scoring leader. Ruby finished second with 501 and Yates was third at 481. Ruby also earned All-WPIAL and All-State recognition.

Ruby credits former coach Ken Clark with developing his basketball skills.

"Mr. Clark was my only basketball coach in junior high (Vernon) and high school," Ruby recalled. "He was gentle but tough – very strict about the fundamentals of passing, dribbling, shooting, defense and ball handling. He always had a good game plan."

Ruby's older brother, Steve Ruby Jr., a 1955 graduate of Bellmar, where he was a basketball standout, also was a major factor in his development and success.

"Steve played basketball as a freshman at West Virginia University at later became a successful high school and college coach," Ruby said. "Starting when I was in junior high school, he taught me individual offensive moves he learned at WVU and proper practice habits which improved my skills."

True to his humble nature, Ruby is hesitant to talk about his prolific scoring at Bellmar.

"Other players assisted me," he said. "I was fortunate to have some very talented teammates throughout my high school career – guys like Ron Coates, Carl Osborne, Ron Feher, Walter Lautsch, John Kasuda and John Daniels."

Two games, however, do stand out.

"One of the best was breaking Sam Sergi's single-game scoring mark of 31 when I had 33 against Brownsville," Ruby said. "Sam was an outstanding athlete at Bellmar several years earlier; no question that he was one of the best ever in the Mon Valley."

Ruby topped his own standard with a 35-point effort against Monessen on Friday, January 21, 1961 at the BHS gym.

"That remains in my mind because I knew (Monessen's) Tony Romasco, Bill Malinchak and Eric Crabtree from playing ball in the summer," he said. "Bellmar had never beaten Monessen, so we had a lot of incentive. When we came out of the locker room, the Monessen players were in the hallway and said they were going to beat us again. But we won 70-69 and that was a big night for us."

Ruby recalls such outstanding opponents as Jim Chacko, Al Thiry, Bob "Tex" Coulter, Ollie Payne. Art Artis and John Verkleeren of Charleroi; Dwayne Cruze of Brownsville; the Johnson twins, Bob and Bill, of Monongahela; Gene Deberardinis and Sherman Ramey of Donora; Don Yates of Uniontown and "of course Willie Ross" of Rostraver.

"Willie and I had a friendly rivalry from junior high school through our freshman year at Pitt and Duquesne, where he went on scholarship," Ruby said. "We never met again on the basketball court after that season (1961-62). Willie was a great player and there was never a cross word between us. We traveled together to several schools when we were being recruited."

Although Bellmar didn't make the WPIAL playoffs, Ruby did play in a post-season game at the end of his senior campaign at Bellmar.

"The Monessen Ozarks arranged a game between the Section 5 All-Stars and the WPIAL All-Stars," he said. "Abe Everhart of Uniontown coached the Section 5 team and Dick Black of Mt. Lebanon guided the WPIAL club."

The game was played at the Monessen High School gym on March 30, 1961 and Ruby's teammates on the Section 5 team were John Unice, Rich Curry and Don Yates of Uniontown; Willie Ross of Rostraver; Joe Russell of Donora; John Cassin of California; Bill Ducoeur and John Verkleeren of Charleroi, and Ben Jones and Tony Romasco of Monessen

The WPIAL stars comprised Denny Ferguson of Springdale; George Suder and Eugene Vallicorsa of Aliquippa; Joe Kruzewski of Har-Brack; Jules "Buddy" Quertimont of Albert Gallatin; Frank Miniotas of McKeesport, Fred Mazurek of Redstone; Jerry Holder of Ford Cherry; Ron Allen of Wampum; Larry Hathaway and Bob Bennett of Mt. Lebanon and Carey Moore of Bentleyville.

“We practiced at the Uniontown High gym, where Coach Everhart divided us into two teams and watched us play with no directions from him,” Ruby said. “He stopped play after a half-hour and then instructed us in his half-court press defense. As for offensive strategy, he said, ‘Just freelance.’”

Everhart’s strategy worked as the Mon Valley crew defeated the WPIAL’s best 69-64 before some 1,000 fans in the grand finale of the Ozarks Athletic Association’s annual tournament. Ruby led all scorers with 15 points, while Ross and Russell added nine each. Ross paced the rebounding efforts with 13. Bennett and Mazurek topped the losers with 10 points apiece.

Ruby continued to enjoy success at Pitt.

He played in 67 varsity games from 1962 through 1965 and scored 573 points in helping the Panthers compile a 43-30 record during that stretch. The 62-63 team posted a 19-6 record and competed in the NCAA Tournament, while the 63-64 club was 17-8 and was in the National Invitation Tournament. Ruby captained the Pitt passers as senior in 1964-65.

Among Ruby’s teammates at Pitt were Brian Generalovich of Farrell, Paul Krieger of Uniontown, Tim Grgurich of Pittsburgh Central Catholic, Dave Roman of Johnstown and Calvin Sheffield of New Brighton.

“They were very talented players,” Ruby said.

So were many of the opponents he faced.

He played against Dave Stallworth of Wichita State in the NIT at Madison Square Garden, Barry Kramer and Harold “Happy” Hairston of New York University in the NCAA Tournament, and Rick Barry of Miami twice and Cazzie Russell of Michigan in the Los Angeles Classic, and Dave Bing and Jim Boeheim of Syracuse in regular seasons games. All enjoyed successful careers in the National Basketball Association, except Boeheim, head coach at Syracuse and one of the most successful coaches in college basketball history.

Ruby was graduated from Pitt in 1965 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He completed his studies in physical therapy and received his degree in 1966 at the D.T Watson School of Physical Therapy in Sewickley and began his professional career physical therapist at Shadyside Hospital. Ensuingly, he worked as director of physical therapy services at Braddock General Hospital, Ivy Nursing Home and Magee-Women’s Hospital and Butler Memorial Hospital before returning to Shadyside Hospital as director of rehabilitation services.

He later served as vice president for services in the Mon Valley, Uniontown and Greensburg areas with Keystone Rehabilitation prior to becoming a partner with Frank Guenther at Southwest Rehabilitation Associates.

“Southwest is a Medicare certified rehabilitation agency with contracts with nursing homes and home care agencies providing physical, occupational and speech services,” Ruby said. “The agency was started by Frank Guenther and Jim Armour and I was invited to become partner when Jim left.”

Ruby retired in 2015 as a home care physical therapist and had licenses in Maryland and Delaware for Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Ocean City, Maryland. In that capacity he provided physical and occupational therapy services to patients who were unable to leave their homes.

"I enjoyed homecare because I had the opportunity to help patients regain independence in such activities of daily life as ambulation, transfer and, with an occupational therapist, dressing, bathing and cooking," Ruby said. "We also provided adaptive equipment to help them reach their goals."

Ruby and his wife, the former Nancy Lee Manown of Belle Vernon is a 1962 graduate of Bellmar High School, and is the daughter of Mrs. Clara Lee Nelson Manown of Lynnwood and the late Jack Manown.

The couple has three children and seven grandchildren.

"My parents set the standard for me early in life," Daryle said. "They emphasized a strong work ethic and stressed academics before sports. I was taught to be respectful and not judgmental and that family and friends are very important in anyone's life. I learned to respect others, help others when needed and listen when family or friends have issues that are troubling them.

"Those lessons have remained with me throughout my life."

(Grateful acknowledgement to Ron Paglia for this biography that appeared in *The Valley Independent* February 14, 2014)

Photo with Coach Kenny Clark 1959-60 Bellmar High basketball season
From left to right back row. Ron Coats, John Kasuda.
Front row Daryle Ruby, Walter Lautsch and Tom Johnson.

Joe Salvino

Thirty-three years ago, when Joe Salvino took over as varsity boys' basketball coach at Monessen, not even if he had the greatest fantasies in his mind could he have imagined how that would turn out.

Salvino had just finished his first season as an assistant to new coach Craig Austin. After one campaign, Austin left for another job and the reins were turned over to Salvino.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Under Salvino's watch, the Greyhounds made the WPIAL playoffs every single year, a mark that currently is a WPIAL record. They also won 20 section titles, six WPIAL titles and two state crowns as he has amassed an amazing record of 626-247.

In the most recent 2016-17 season, Salvino guided Monessen to a second WPIAL Class A title in three seasons and his team reached the western finals of the PIAA tournament before falling to eventual state champ Kennedy Catholic in the closest game the defending champions played in the entire playoffs.

All these years, playoff wins, titles and 1,000-point scorers later, Salvino admits he didn't see what the future had in store for him.

"I had just finished my first year as a varsity assistant and then I got the job," Salvino said. "I never thought I'd be here this long, but I certainly feel blessed. I've had great players and assistants along the way who bought into what I wanted to do.

"It shows what hard work and being a team is really about. And the community support has been amazing."

One way Salvino pushed his teams was by scheduling the most rigorous non-section slate in the state each year. While Monessen has long been a small

Class A school, enrollment-wise, the exhibition schedule always is dotted with the biggest and best schools in the WPIAL.

"To be the best, you need to play the best," Salvino said. "I was never interested in padding our record with easy wins. I don't care if we lost seven, eight, nine games, as long as we were tested and ready for the playoffs.

"Anyone can go 20-2 and then lose in the first round."

And losing in the first round has been a rarity for Monessen.

One of the standing thoughts around the community is that the WPIAL and PIAA playoffs are part of the regular season schedule for the Greyhounds.

A self-described disciple of coaching legend Bobby Knight, don't be fooled by Salvino's diminutive size in person. He is as fiery as they come and a demanding disciplinarian.

He has beaten cancer and lived through the death of his oldest son Joe. He has learned to be his own toughest critic.

Yet, as vocal as he is with his players during practices and games, nobody loves their players more than him.

That is evident by the number of former Greyhounds who, whenever they get the chance, stop by practice, go to a game or see him in public and reminisce about their time together.

"I have been tough on the players at time, but only because I believed in their potential and I wanted them to succeed," he said. "I never wanted any of my kids to leave the program as a senior and later wonder, 'I wonder if I had just done this.' I pushed them for their best, and that's usually what I got.

"I can tell you, as a coach, it feels good in the playoffs to look in the stands and see so many of my old players there supporting. That's tradition."

Salvino didn't play basketball as a student at Monessen. Too short for that game, he excelled in baseball and went on to college for that sport.

But he had a love for so many sports and as a result also had a lengthy career as an assistant football coach at Monessen and even served as head coach of the Greyhounds for two seasons.

In basketball, his illustrious career included many milestones as he eclipsed 100, 200, 300, 400, 500 and 600 win plateaus.

However, those records never meant anything to the personally-driven coach.

"To be honest, the only number that ever mattered to me was 100," he said with a laugh. "I hated like heck to lose that 100th game. I never wanted that many losses. Wins don't matter as long as we grow as a team."

When asked to recall his greatest moments in a long, illustrious career, Salvino said there were too many to mention, although these undoubtedly are among the highlights:

*Winning back-to-back state titles in 1988-89;

*Coaching a WPIAL titlist that had three 1,000-point scorers on it, including Patric Greene, Jimmy Arnold and Jeff Gagatko.

*Coaching back-to-back WPIAL champions that included two 1,000-point scorers, A.J. Jackson (school all-time scoring leader) and Brandon Jackson, as well as his current top assistant coach, Ricky Tyburski.

*Guiding Monessen to the WPIAL Class AA title while "playing up" in classification with the school having one of the smallest enrollments in the WPIAL.

*The most recent team that won two titles in three years and included two 1,000-point scorers in Jaden Altomore and Justice Rice.

At age 66, he shows little signs of slowing down, but he admits to having mellowed a bit.

"I may not yell as much as I used to, but I still push the players. I still get excited about coaching and watching my teams compete," he said. "Once that is gone, then I know it is time to walk away."

Old habits seem to die very hard.

A retired PA Turnpike worker, Salvino and his number one fan, wife, Toni Lynn, reside in Monessen. The couple has five children, including C.J. and Brianna Salvino, Jessa, Roger and Nick Brandemarte. They also have two grandchildren, Joey Salvino and Dominic Shemansky and another little boy due in July.

(Grateful acknowledgement to *The Mon Valley Independent* general manager Jeff Oliver for this exclusive biography)

2017 Appreciation Award

Dennis Stitch

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.

Our MMVASHOF Chairman of the Board of Directors, Dennis Stitch, has held that position since April 2003. In his role Dennis has continued to provide the necessary leadership to keep all of the committees functioning at high levels. His special connection with the Mon Valley gives the Hall of Fame an added boost in the Valley's support of the annual induction banquet.

The Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame is pleased and privileged to honor Mr. Stitch with our 2017 Appreciation Award. This recognition is being presented with sincere gratitude for Dennis' longstanding support of the Valley's Sports Hall of Fame.

Previous award winners:

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

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

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Meet the 2017 Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame Selection Committee

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

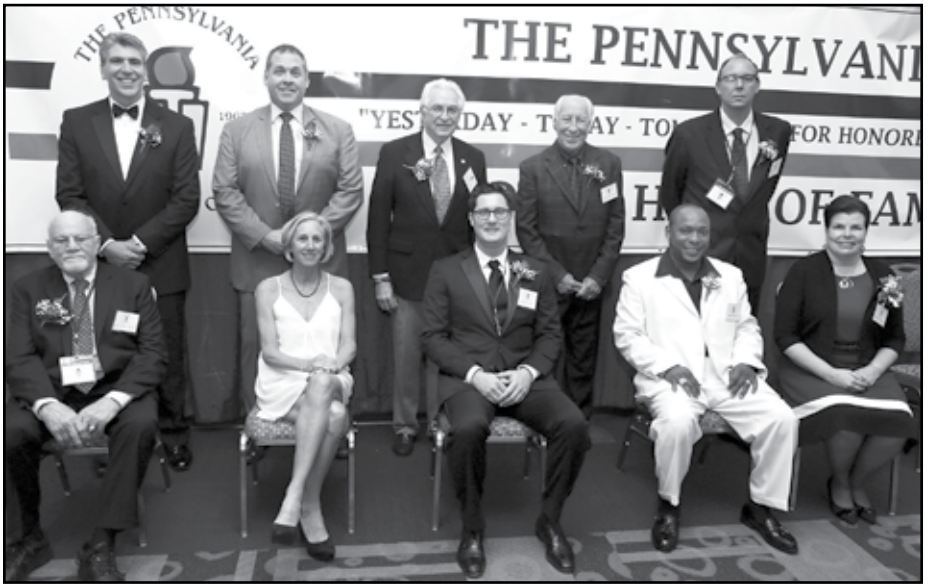
Meet the 2017 Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors

Seated: Tom Graney, Roberta Bergstedt, Tom Evans, Richard J. Bucchianeri
Standing: Dennis Stitch, Secretary Tom Jenkins, Vice Chairman Bill Kubin, Paul Rach, General Chairman Steve Russell

Meet the 2016 Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame Inductees at the 54th Annual State Induction Ceremony and Dinner

Hosted by the Metro Erie Chapter at the Bayfront Convention Center, Erie, Pennsylvania

Saturday, October 22, 2016



Seated left to right: Bill "Red" Mack, Charlene Morett-Curtiss, Craig Fayak, James Mungro II, Monica Mills

Standing left to right: Joe Valerio, Bob Kuberski, Hall Spooner for Larry Kelley, Fred Biletnikoff, Chris Nabholz

2016 MMVASHOF Chapter Pennsylvania State Hall of Fame Inductee

CRAIG FAYAK

Pictured are general chairman Steve Russell, inductee Craig Fayak and Craig's father Jack Fayak at the Bayfront Convention Center, Erie, PA.

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

INFORMATION FOR NOMINATION

The following is the criteria for nomination to the Mid Mon Valley All-Sports Hall of Fame:

1. **You must have been retired from the sport or position a minimum of three years, or**
2. **Reached your fifty-fifth birthday, or**
3. **Have been in the position or sport a minimum of twenty-five years.**

Any one of the above three criteria makes an individual eligible for consideration. Candidates are chosen from the geographic area encompassing the eight Mid Mon Valley school districts (Belle Vernon, Bentworth, Brownsville, California, Charleroi, Elizabeth Forward, Monessen, Ringgold and Yough.)

If you wish to nominate a candidate, please send their name, address, phone number and e-mail, along with a summary of their qualifications to:

Mid Mon Valley All-Sports Hall of Fame
General Chairman, Steve Russell
1106 Stanton Street
Monongahela, PA 15063
monvalleysportshalloffame@gmail.com

Visit the Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame at the Bentleyville Best Western Garden Inn!

History of

MMVASHOF Banquet Program Books

1950 to 2017

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

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

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

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

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

Enjoy the exhibit!

Steve Russell

Steve Russell

General Chairman

June 2011