



Woodbridge Township Athletic Alumni Association



2022

Hall of Fame Ceremony



October 9, 2022

**The Woodbridge
Community Center**

Special Guest of Honor
Sandra Schmidtke



Congratulations to all inductees to the 2022 Hall of
Fame Class of the Woodbridge Township Athletic
Alumni Association

John E. McCormac

Mayor, Woodbridge Township

Woodbridge Township Council

Council President Howie Bauer, Second Ward

Council Vice President Gregg Ficarra, At-Large

Sharon McAuliffe, First Ward

Cory S. Spillar, Third Ward

Viru N. Patel, Fourth Ward

Debbie Meehan, Fifth Ward

Kyle Anderson, At-Large

Lizbeth DeJesus, At-Large

Brian F. Small, At-Large

Woodbridge Township Athletic Alumni Association

2022 Program Hall of Fame Ceremony

October 9, 2022

Welcome

Nick Sardone, WTAAA President

Invocation

Deacon Peter Barcellona
St. Anthony of Padua, Port Reading

Opening Remarks

Mayor John E. McCormac

Introduction of 2022 HoF Class

Nick Sardone

Inductees at tables (Please Stand)

Introduction of WTAAA Committee and HOF'ers in attendance (Please Stand)

Nick Sardone

Special Guest of Honor

Ms. Sandra Schmidtke
Presented by Tom Chmiel, Ann Cyrana, and Kae Kirby – Jeter

Dinner – Tables will be called

Group Photo – 2022 Inductees

1st Photo for Individuals, 2nd Photo for Teams

Awards and Proclamations

Introductions by Nancy Cuntala and Sharon DiLonardo

Patrick Barbato, *Woodbridge High School, 1981*
Anthony J. Caffiero, *Woodbridge High School, 1994*
David Carmon, *John F. Kennedy Memorial High School, 2002*
Kristin Composto Slater, *John F. Kennedy Memorial High School, 2000*
William Nyers, *Coach, Woodbridge High School, 1984*
Paul J. Gretsky, *John F. Kennedy Memorial High School, 1977*
Jerry Harold Hall, *Woodbridge High School, 1961*
Michael F. Kaelber, *Colonia High School, 1969*
Dennis W. Kuntz, *Colonia High School, 1970*
William Kuntz, *Colonia High School, 1978*
Gary Kuzniak, *Coach, John F. Kennedy Memorial High School, 1971(WHS)*
Pellegrino Benjamin LaSala, *Coach, Athletic Director, Colonia High School*
Tembwe Lukabu, *Colonia High School, 2000*
Adrienne Lyman Woodhull, *Woodbridge High School, 1996*
William Matusz Jr., *Woodbridge High School, 1962*
Jamison Panko, *John F. Kennedy Memorial High School, 1990*
Jason Sims, *John F. Kennedy Memorial High School, 1984*
Laura Zollo Calabrese, *Colonia High School, 1999*

Teams

1970 Woodbridge High School - Football Team
1980 Colonia High School - Softball Team
1992 John F. Kennedy Memorial High School - Baseball Team

Benediction

Deacon Peter Barcellona
St. Anthony of Padua, Port Reading

Concluding Remarks

Nick Sardone
"Try to Stay 'Forever Young'"



Special Guest of Honor

Sandy Schmidtke

Colonia High School

Sandy grew up in a coal mining town in Pennsylvania where she learned how to shoot a rifle, fix equipment and grow confident in her abilities. She was in the first graduating class of Dunbar Township High School... a first of many firsts. A pre-Title IX athlete, she played organized sports with the boys and learned how to compete. An undergrad degree from Slippery Rock and two masters' degrees later, she was ready for her first job at Avenel Jr. High. (1965) Next stop...CHS.

It was 1967, Colonia High School was ready to open its doors, and with Dr. Geddis as the first principal, Sandy was in the first wave of young teachers ready to teach in the fast growing Woodbridge Township. All the teachers looked forward to their assignments; and when Sandy walked in to Dr. Geddis' office-she was going to be the cheer advisor. When Sandy said, "I know nothing about cheerleading", Dr. Geddis deadpanned, "Well Miss Schmidtke, I would suggest you go to the library and get a book." Little did anyone know what was in store for this new program. Building new traditions and doing things "the Colonia way" was built under Sandy's advisement. She was building a pride for Colonia High School that is still evident today.

Sandy's life revolved around Colonia High School, Woodbridge Township and especially her students and athletes. She coached the girls' tennis team, who travelled to Springwood Swim Club to practice. She was also in charge of the band units (all of them), including the five boys who were the flag bearers and led the band in parades and ceremonies. Sandy was everywhere! Archery's first co-ed team was led by none other than Sandy—which included a stick shift van used to transport the team and equipment...and you can guess who didn't know how to drive a stick shift! She was also the yearbook advisor with Frank Gubernat and did skits at the Pep Rallies with health

teacher Lynn Sheehan. Sandy also ran an intramural floor hockey program in the spring where wood and supplies were donated to create a "rink". In the town, the Ernest Dubay track meet for elementary and junior high students was created and Sandy became the voice and MC of the program. Sandy's friend and co-worker Jennifer Kirby-Jeter (HoF) had this to say; "Sandy was "THE BOSS". She was a savvy person and things got done with her, by her and because of her. She led by example and I enjoyed working with her because of her commitment to the kids, the programs and the community. From her presence on the PE floor to the lessons learned in her "office", it was an experience I will treasure."

For a person who knew nothing about cheerleading, Sandy knew a lot about motivation, character and leadership. Forming the first Colonia squads and the first competition team was a challenge she accepted. Her favorite word during practice was, "AGAIN", because she and her squad were striving for as close to perfection as they could get. The cheerleading squad was known around the county and state as "the team to beat" and they set the bar high. Maria Zullo Mantak, first team captain spoke about Sandy... "Sandy knew all too well that success in sports required 10% talent and 90% mental strength. The words "We are #1!" were repeated over and over again. In fact, she insisted that I create a competition cheer that began with those exact words. At the time, I was not convinced it was a good idea. But, as it turned out, the "We are #1!" cheer took us straight to the top, as she knew it would.

However for Sandy, it wasn't just about winning cheering competitions. She was coaching us to be winners in life, and I can think of no greater gift a coach can give. How blessed we all were to have received that special gift!"

Sandy was also "a woman of the times." Title IX had just been passed and teachers/

Previous Special Guests of Honor

Ron Osborne 1996

Lou Creekmur 1997

Samuel A. Lupo 1998

Johnnie Royle 1999

Matt Fratterolo 2000

Mayor John E. McCormac 2015

Harding William "Pete" Peterson 2016

William "Bill" Kovacs 2017

Frank & Dr. Vincent Capraro 2018

Herb Hollowell 2019



coaches such as Hall of Famers Sue Williams, Marie Gardner, Joan Wataha, Jennifer Kirby-Jeter and Sandy were on the front lines of equality for the girls. Practice times, uniforms and overall respect was what they sought... and it became a reality slowly but surely. Sandy managed to take it a step further. As vice principal of Colonia High School (recommended by Bob Sanislaus, principal), Sandy became a mentor for both males and females who looked toward administration in their careers. Giving females the same chance of leadership positions, she was willing and excited to share her experience. Jenn Murphy, Vice Principal of Colonia High School and Principal of Fords Middle School had this to say. "The first time meeting Ms. Schmidtke, I thought that she portrayed herself as a no nonsense type of person. Initially, I would avoid Ms. Schmidtke because I did not want to be the person to get yelled at. As the years went by, I noticed that you only saw that no nonsense side if you were not meeting her expectations. There were so many funny stories with Ms. Schmidtke. Like, when she called my classroom to ask a random question, where I truly felt she was looking to make sure that I didn't "disappear" and leave early. When I was working on my Master's, Ms. Schmidtke took me into the "secret" scheduling room. She was working on the schedule and I was simply supposed to watch, listen, and learn. Well, it was fourth block and that is

the bewitching hour where I am ready to fall asleep. As I was fighting sleep and the lesson ended, I swore I went unnoticed. Nope, Ms. Schmidtke clearly called me out the next day and I was so embarrassed but so happy that I didn't get yelled at. Throughout the mentorship, Ms. Schmidtke made it a point to make sure that I was around for a learning experience. Whether it was behavior/conduct that I needed to see or even going to see how Ms. Schmidtke gets the football team energized for the day's game. Ms. Schmidtke is a great supporter to have to encourage me to be an administrator, and I wholeheartedly appreciate her and many thanks for all that she did. You're the best Ms. Schmidtke!"

Sandy's life, pre and post retirement was a busy and people filled environment. Sandy was an original member-and the only female-of the WTAAA when it was first formed. Upon its return, she was tagged to be a member and brought several women to be included for equity and point of view. There is a scholarship in her name at Colonia High School and many of the traditions she began are still going strong. So far, 42 of her students went into PE teaching/coaching because of her. The amount of weddings, baby and wedding showers, and even wakes she has attended are too numerous to count...but shows what she means and meant to Woodbridge Township and Colonia High School. We salute you and thank you for being a part of this great town!

Voting Members

Nick Sardone
President / Trustee

Sandra Schmidtke
HOF | Coach | CHS
Vice President / Trustee

Gregg Ficarra
Councilman | JFK
Trustee

Ann Cyrana
Coach | JFK, CHS
Secretary

Jim Anderson
HOF | JFK

Kyle Anderson
Councilman | JFK

Tom Chmiel
HOF | Coach | WHS, CHS

Nancy Cuntala
HOF | Coach | JFK

Sharon Couch DiLonardo
HOF | Coach | CHS, JFK

Rich Duda
JFK

Norma Arnesen Grasso
HOF | Coach | JFK, WHS

Michael Kaelber
Coach | CHS

Ellen Baureis Pisano
HOF | Coach | CHS, WHS

Tina Sabunas
HOF | CHS

Michael Yannazzo
HOF | Coach | WHS

Bobby Timinski
HOF | CHS

Non-Voting Members

Vito Cimilluca
Business Administrator
Township of Woodbridge, NJ

Patrick Muller
Treasurer

NOTE: The WTAAA was active between 1989-2000. The current committee re-organized the Hall of Fame in 2015. Due to the pandemic, there was no induction in 2020 or 2021.

Woodbridge Township Athletic Alumni Association

2022 Hall of Fame Committee

18th Induction Dinner



First row - Sharon DiLonardo, Mike Yannazzo, Sandy Schmidtke, Patrick Muller, Nancy Cuntala
Second row - Norma Grasso, Ann Cyrana, Tom Chmiel, Rich Duda, Nick Sardone, Gregg Ficarra,
Mike Kaelber, Jim Anderson, Bobby Timinski
Absent from photo - Kyle Anderson, Vito Cimilluca, Ellen Baureis Pisano, Tina Sabunas

The WTAAA is very proud to welcome this incredible 2022 class to our Hall of Fame. The class has achieved tremendous success not only athletically, but also, academically and professionally. They represent not only the best from Woodbridge Township but many excellent colleges and universities. The new members were selected from a very strong field of nominees. Tonight, we celebrate their many accomplishments, and congratulate the 2022 Hall of Famers with gratitude for a job well done.

The WTAAA has started to organize a website. Just go to **hall.maximize.us**. Here, you will see the biographies for the first six years of the seventeen previous Hall of Fame inductions. The WTAAA is producing a new website. We are working with **BiggerFish Marketing**, Woodbridge, towards a late fall 2022 launch.

Special thanks are extended to Steven Steinberg and Steven C. Simzak at **Stone Mountain Printing**, Woodbridge, for printing the program, and **Joe Romer Trophy Shop** in Edison. We also wish to thank our writers and typists: namely Jim Anderson, Kyle Anderson, Sharon DiLonardo, Michael Kaelber, Jenna Sardone, Nick Sardone, and special thanks to Ann Cyrana. We wish to thank the many local businesses for their advertisements in our booklet. Please support these businesses. They support the WTAAA and our senior scholarship awards.

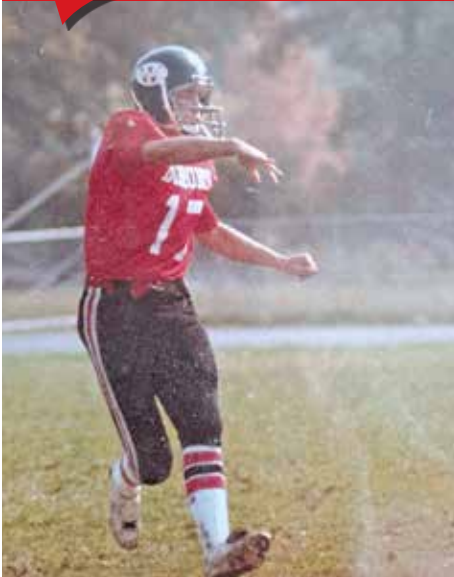
We extend our appreciation to Mayor McCormac, Assembly Speaker Coughlin, Senator Vitale, Assemblywoman Lopez, and Assemblyman Wisniewski, and Dr. Massimino and the Board of Education for their proclamations; T.V. 35/36 for taping the induction dinner; Debbie Meehan of The Corner newspaper; and Brian Molnar and his entire staff at the Woodbridge Community Center.

Finally, sincere thanks go to the entire WTAAA Hall of Fame Committee for their considerable effort and time in planning and organizing the dinner. Special thanks go to Norma Grasso for planning the table reservations.

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DR. PATRICK BARBATO CLASS OF 1981



Patrick joins his father, Patsy, as the eighth father/son duo in the WTAAA Hall of Fame. They join the Aquila's, Etzold's, Giordano's, Jago's, Marciniak's, Peterson's and Tyrrell's.

Patrick played three sports successfully at WHS, but it was football where his star was the brightest. In 1980, Patrick led head Coach Frank Capraro's (HoF) Barrons to the school's first Central Jersey Group 4 State Sectional Playoff Championship and 8-2-1 record. Patrick was named third team Star Ledger All-State All- Groups. He was also named First Team All-County/All-Area by The Star Ledger, The Home News, The News Tribune and the N.Y. Daily News. Patrick earned a scholarship to Temple University. He was recruited by college football Hall of Fame Coach Wayne Hardin. After a red-shirt season in 1981, he competed on the '82, '83 and 1984 Owl teams. Following a coaching change at Temple, he transferred to Washburn University, Kansas, during the 1985 spring training season but did not play there.

Patrick formerly held most of the passing and running quarterback records at WHS. He is currently ranked on the following school 2022 milestone charts 42 years later.

- Most touchdown passes in a game - 3rd(tied) 4 versus JFK – November 27, 1980
- Most touchdown passes in a season - 6th – 13 – 1980
- Most touchdown passes in a career - 6th – 17 – 1978-1980
- Most rushing touchdowns by a quarterback in a game - 1st(tied)—3 versus Cedar Ridge— November 1, 1980
- Most rushing touchdowns by a quarterback in a season- 2nd – 9 – 1980
- Most rushing touchdowns by a quarterback in a career- 2nd – 9 – 1978-1980
- Most passes completed by a quarterback in a season - 7th – 104 -- 1980
- Most passing yards by a quarterback in a season - 3rd – 1,707 – 1980

*Note: Patrick missed most of his junior season due to injury.

Also, prior to college, Patrick participated in the North vs. South summer All Star Classic at quarterback.

Patrick was guided by assistant coach Mike

Cilento (HoF) during that historical 1980 playoff championship season. His favorite targets were Dr. Frank Corbo (HoF), Ed Tobin and Nick DeMuro. The Barrons had to come from behind very late to defeat JP Stevens 8-7 on a ten yard pass from Barbato to Tobin and a 2-point conversion pass from Barbato to Corbo. JP Stevens showed all out blitzes, but the Barron offensive line contained them according to team mate Ed Lenart. There was the late 7-0 victory at Sayreville.

In the playoff championship victory over Raritan, 7-6, before 4,100 fans, Barbato engineered an 83-yard drive in the closing two minutes. He completed clutch passes to DeMuro, Corbo and Tobin to set up a one-yard touchdown run by John Scutti. After being iced twice, Scutti kicked the game winning extra point with just 50 seconds left to play to win the school's first Central Jersey playoff title.

After a regular season loss to Madison Central, Spartan's head coach Bob DeMarco, said this. "Barbato is the best all-around threat at quarterback in Middlesex County. He throws and runs the option well. I'd have to rate him the most outstanding quarterback we've faced all year." (The Star Ledger, Peter Wolf, 12/2/80)

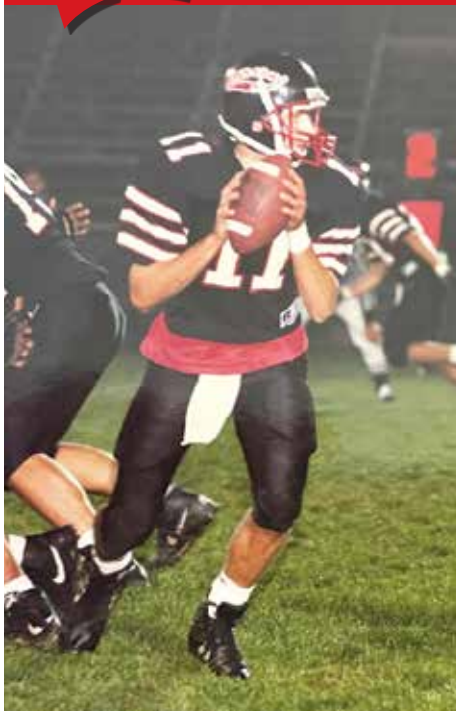
Woodbridge head Coach Frank Capraro had this to say. "Pat is one of the finest clutch performers I've seen in high school football." "Barbato made the big plays under pressure with poise. He helped carry the team with his arm in key games, was durable and played the whole season." "He was the finest pure passer in my time (18 years) at Woodbridge." (Source: All county write-up quotes)

Today, Patrick is married to Beth. The couple has been blessed with two children, Patrick and Kaitlin and two young grandsons. He is Dr. Barbato now, a chiropractor. Patrick wishes to thank the following people for helping to make him a Hall of Famer; mom and dad, his siblings, Chip, Michael, Debbie and Donna, and all of his coaches especially Frank Capraro, Mike Cilento and Wayne Hardin, a college Hall of Fame coach for recruiting him to Temple University.

The WTAAA welcomes Dr. Patrick Barbato (Mr. QB) to our Hall of Fame where he joins his beloved dad Patsy Barbato. Congratulations!



ANTHONY J. CAFFIERO CLASS OF 1994



When Coach Frank Bender took control of the Woodbridge football program in 1993, he was told that a veteran roster was returning from Coach Mike Cilento's last season. (7-3-0 playoff team and GMC Red Division Tri-Champion). Moreover, he was told that the one position he needed to fill was quarterback.

Well, it did not take very long for the new coach to find his man. He selected Anthony Caffiero, an intelligent, hard-working and true student-athlete to take the reins and lead the offense. Anthony was another old-fashioned three sport athlete. It was football, however, that he loved the most and where his skills were the most competitive. Anthony had been on the varsity roster since his sophomore season. In his junior season, he played tight end (523 receiving yards) and safety when he was named First Team All-Area by The News Tribune, The Star Ledger and The Home News at safety. Therefore, when Coach Bender came on board, he knew that he found his on field leader in the huddle and named Anthony one of his captains.

As the 1993 season unfolded, the Barrons got off to a difficult start at 2-2. Team unity started to come together finally in the second half at JP Stevens in a 22-6 victory. From there, the Barrons won six straight including huge wins over Piscataway, Colonia, East Brunswick, Sayreville (OT-playoffs), JFK and Trenton (playoffs). The state ranked Trenton Tornadoes were stopped on a fourth and goal from the two-yard line as time expired. The Barrons of 1993 had just captured the school's second NJSIAA State Sectional Central Jersey Group 4 playoff championship. Most of the games in the 9-2 season were tight, but the team was gritty, determined, resourceful and unified enough to pull off the big upset (to all but themselves). The Barrons were ranked 7th in the final Star Ledger state wide poll.

When the post-season awards were announced, Anthony was named First Team All-State by the Associated Press at safety and Second team All-State by The Star Ledger. He was named First Team All-Area defensive back by all the local papers including The Home News, The News Tribune and The Star Ledger. Anthony had 50 tackles, 27 assists, 9 pass knock-downs and 3 interceptions. Unofficially on defense, he was involved in over 200 tackles in his career. At quarterback, he had 691 passing yards and 6 touchdown passes. He also rushed for 378 yards and three scores. He received the WHS coaches' MVP Award. He participated in the 1994, first

ever, summer Snapple Bowl All Star game at defensive back and quarterback, where he threw for a winning 140 yards. Anthony was a Bill Denny/Rutgers Award scholarship recipient and a member of the National Honor Society. With such an exemplary scholarship and athletic background, he found his way to Columbia University where he lettered as a freshman and sophomore. He was also recruited by Princeton, Yale and Cornell.

Anthony wishes to thank his parents, Rich and Diane, for bringing him up properly. He wants to thank all his coaches, especially, Mike Cilento who "built us up," and Frank Bender who had a "calm demeanor especially during important play calling." "I really liked him." He said, "the assistant coaches were excellent namely Gary Kuzniak (OC), Bob Zega (DC), Lou Ciccone, Roger Kenny, Jim Lammers, Joe Sacco and Richard Sandholt." Coach Bender in a post season quote said the following. "He is a very, very good athlete. He is not real fast but fast enough. He is not real strong but strong enough. He takes advantage of all his skills. He is very intelligent." "He is willing to do anything and everything for us to succeed. He wanted to win more than anyone else on our team or any other team." (Source: All County article quotes). Recently, Coach Bender added, "hardwork, dedication, loyalty, leadership. Put them all together and you have a winner. That describes Anthony perfectly. A winner! It was an honor to coach such a great young man. Congratulations on your induction into the Woodbridge (WTAAA) Hall of Fame."

Anthony was asked for his best memories. He said, "giving Grandma a hug after the title victory back at WHS and celebrating all the wins with my teammates and coaches." Looking back, he was proud to be WHS's last First Team All-State player (until 2019). He will never forget Mike Feeney's spectacular end zone touchdown catch versus East Brunswick to get us in the playoffs. Finally, he is very proud of his "nasty boy" shirt...a defensive team award. He was asked about any advice he would give to current student-athletes. He said "team first, and focus on your job and your role."

Today, Anthony lives in NJ with his wife, Beth, and his children, Nick and Mattilyn. He is the proprietor of a computer website business entitled Colts Neck Interactive. The WTAAA welcomes Anthony Joseph Caffiero (Mr. QB and DB) to our Hall of Fame . CONGRATULATIONS!





DAVID CARMON CLASS OF 2002



These days, three sport athletes that can excel at all three are hard to find. In 1999, young Dave Carmon arrived at John F. Kennedy High School and by the time he graduated in 2002 he had collected multiple varsity letters and numerous accolades in Football, Basketball and Track and Field. Dave Carmon would then head to Delaware Valley College (now Delaware Valley University) where he would become a leader in multiple receiving categories for the Aggies.

Dave Carmon moved to the Iselin section of Woodbridge Township while still in grade school and attended Indiana Ave School #18. Playing his youth sports with the Fords Bearcats, Iselin AA and eventually the St. Cecelia's Golden Knights, Dave credits his father, Boyd, for his early training in sports. In Pop Warner, Dave was used mostly as a running back but his high school coaches Scott Osborne and Joe Kirk would convince him to play wide receiver. Boy were they right. Dave would make the All Division teams in his sophomore and junior seasons and made Honorable Mention All-State in his senior season setting a school record for 32 receptions 644 yards and 9 TD's. Dave made the "physical" catch and was a great route runner positioning himself to make the catch any way he could. Dave recalls returning a punt against a highly ranked New Brunswick team to contribute to the "perfect game" they played that night defeating the Zebras on the road.

In basketball, Dave was a 3-year starter for the Mustangs averaging 10 points and 10 rebounds per game and considers the win at Colonia in his senior year his most memorable basketball moment.

JFK High School has had some of the greatest track and field athletes in this township's history and Dave Carmon earned his place among those greats. In 2001, Dave

was on a 4 X 400 relay team that place 3rd at the Penn Relays and Dave placed 5th in the NJSIAA sectionals the 400 Intermediate Hurdles. In 2002 Dave set a school record with 144 points, his 4X400 team placed 1st at Penn Relays and 5th in sectionals, 2nd in Group 3 with the triple jump and 6th at the Meet of Champions where he set the school record with a jump of 43'11".

On the college scene, Dave Carmon would arrive at Delaware Valley College in 2002 and upon graduation he would be a member of two Mid Atlantic Conference Championship teams. He would also be selected to the All Mid Atlantic Conference Team and Honorable Mention to the D3 Football All American Teams. Individually, Dave set single season and career records while starring for the Aggies.

- Career Receptions 1st (214), 3,087 yards
- 11 receptions in one game TWICE! He had 78 receptions in one season (2nd All Time)
- Season Receiving Yards – 1,159 (2nd All Time), Season Receiving TD's 5th with 9TD's and 6th with 8
- 19 Career Receiving TD's (5th All Time), Career Receiving Yards 3,087 (3rd All Time)
- 5th Career All Purpose Yards with 3,449.

(NOTE: All statistics were provided by Lou Hegyes, JFK '66, and David's nominator.)

Currently, Dave is teaching Special Education and is a Football, basketball, and track coach at Bernards High School. Dave married his high school sweetheart, Lauren, and the two are raising their sons Devin and Dylan in Dunellen. Dave lost his dad while in middle school and would like to acknowledge his mom Chiara Carmon for her love and support during those years when he needed it the most. Congratulations Dave! Welcome to the WTAAA Hall of Fame.



KRISTIN COMPOSTO SLATER CLASS OF 2000



Earning 12 varsity letters, Kristin Composto has distinguished herself as one of the finest athletes to compete for John F. Kennedy Memorial High School. After earning a varsity letter in Cross Country in her freshman year, Kristin made the switch to Girls Tennis in the Fall and went on to make her mark with an overall career singles record of 62-8. She was named to the GMC All Division Tennis Team for three seasons.

Kristin's first love was competing in track, specifically the high jump, where she continued to "raise the bar" on her athletic accomplishments. The Indoor Winter Track season is proof of her dedication to the sport – as she trained and competed alone as JFKMHS did not field an Indoor Winter Track team at the time. During her senior year, Kristin continued her three-year reign as the top high jumper in the county as she won the State Group 2 Championship for the third straight year. She placed third in the Meet of Champions, and her high mark of 5'8" at the Yale Invitational was one of the top heights in the nation that season.

In her first track meet as a freshman, Kristin broke the girls high jump school record and went on to jump a personal best of 5'10" during her high school career at JFKMHS. Her father, Gerald Composto, was her coach and dedicated his life to those four years in order to ensure her successful high jumping career. All of the late nights after he would get home from work, they'd travel to Princeton and other places to get an opportunity to high jump inside during the indoor season. Kristin is thankful to her mom, Diane, and sister, Kara, for supporting her and giving up time to travel to all of her track meets.

Kristin's specific indoor accomplishments were as follows:

- GMC Champion - 1998 and 1999 at 5'4".
- NJ State Group 2 Champion - 1998 at 5'6", 1999 at 5'4", and 2000 at 5'6" (source: GMC Track & Field Coaches Association website).

As a freshman, Kristin garnished her first GMC Spring High Jump title. She went on to win the GMC Spring Championship twice more, and along the way, set many impressive records while being named to the All-Conference, All-Area, All-County, All-State, and All-American teams.

Kristin's specific outdoor accomplishments were as follows:

- GMC Champion outdoor in 1997, 1998, and 1999 at 5'4".
- Central Jersey Group 3 Sectional winner in 1998 at 5'2" and the C.J Group 2 Sectional winner in 1999 at 5'6".
- NJ State Group 3 Champion in 1998 at 5'3" in 1999, in Group 2 at 5'8", and in 2000 at 5'6".
- NJ Meet of Champions Outdoor winner in 2000 at 5'8". ("highlight of her career, personally")

In total, Kristin was a six time NJ State Group champion. She placed seven out of eight times at the Meet of Champions. Her first place jump of 5'8" at the Yale Indoor Track Classic in 2000 is still tied for third all-time in Middlesex County history. The record is 5'9" (source: GMC Track & Field Coaches Association website). Kristin's first place jump of 5'8" at the Meet of Champions in 2000 is tied for fourth all-time in Middlesex County history. The record is 5'9". Kristin was the Eastern States Outdoor

champion in 1998 at 5'6". She was two time All-American as she placed in the 1998 Indoor and Outdoor National Championships. She was the Home News Tribune Indoor Track Athlete of the Year in 1998. The Star Ledger honored her as the Middlesex County Track Athlete of the Year in 2000. She was selected First Team All-County, All-Group, and All-State in her legendary career. Finally, Kristin was one of 15 female high jumpers in the nation to be invited to participate at the Olympic Training Camp in Chula Vista, California.

Additional career highlights:

- At the Golden West Invitational in Sacramento, California, she placed 6th in 2000 at 5'6".
- Armory Holiday Classic Champion in 2000 at 5'6".
- Hispanic Games Champion in 1999 at 5'6".
- West Point Invitational Champion in 1999 and 2000 at 5'6".
- Loucks Games Champion in 1999 at 5'4".
- MacYouth National Invitational Champion in 1998 at 5'8".
- Colgate Games Champion in 1997 and 1998.

Commitment, dedication, and competitive spirit highlighted Kristin's high school career. Highly recruited as a premier high jumper, Kristin attended the University of Connecticut on a track and field scholarship. She qualified for the Big East Championships in her freshman season. She later transferred home to Rutgers, but old injuries unfortunately affected her career.

Kristin truly embodied the characteristics of an outstanding scholar-athlete. She was a two-year member of the National Honor Society and achieved Honor Roll status for four years. Ranked 30 in a class of 166, Kristin received the Middlesex County School Boards Association Student Recognition Award in 2000. Her experience as a student athlete shaped her into the person she is today. During the off season for track, she participated in tennis under Coach Sharon DiLorenzo's guidance. She fondly looks back on her tennis career and is very thankful for Sharon's coaching and support inside and outside the classroom. She received an excellent education and had many teachers and guidance counselors supporting her tenure at JFKMHS. These experiences inspired her to become a teacher herself. Kristin would like to specifically thank Brad Altland, Ed Bobal, Lois Rotella, Jackie Brandt, and Jared Rummage. Kristin has taken her athletic experience and used it to support her own athletes when she coached track for 7 years.

Currently, Kristin works as a teacher in Old Bridge Township. She is a devoted wife to her husband, Stephen, and loving mother to their daughters, Katarina and Victoria. Her message to the athletes of Woodbridge Township is as follows, "You get what you give. Make it count, because when you look back on your life, you will not regret the party you didn't go to. (I didn't go to my prom because I was in California at the Golden West Invitational). I would do it again in a heartbeat. You only have one chance in this life; this is your moment."

The WTAAA is very pleased to welcome Kristin Composto Slater into our Hall of Fame. She was a highly decorated Woodbridge Township high school athlete at John F. Kennedy Memorial High School. CONGRATULATIONS!!





BILL NYERS

FOOTBALL COACH, CLASS OF 1984



When Coach Nyers took over the WHS gridiron program in 1994, he knew that he had a tough act to follow. The Barrons, under coach Frank Bender, had just won the school's second Central Jersey Group 4 State Sectional playoff championship on the way to a 9-2 record. Was 1994 going to be a rebuild or would the winning Barrons continue? Fortunately, it turned out to be the latter.

Coach Nyers continued the school's consecutive winning season streak dating back to coach Mike Cilento in 1990. During his first four seasons, he compiled a 27-10-1 record through 1997. From 1990-1997, the WHS football program never lost more than three games in any one nine game season. This matched a similar eight-year streak by the 1969-1976 Barrons under HoF coaches Lupo and Capraro.

The 1997 season was the high light season (9-2) as coach Bill's Barrons captured the program's third Central Jersey Group 4 State Sectional playoff championship. Keith Hemmings, receiver, made the Star Ledger All State- All Groups 2nd team and was player of the year. Jason Razillard, center, was All State- All Groups 3rd team. Four players, including Hemmings, Razillard, Shaun McGrath, qb, and Kiheme Cowan, tb, were named First team All County. Chris Jones, te, and Ryan Halladay, lb, were named 3rd team All County. The Barron captains in 1997 were Cowan, McGrath, Kurtis Brown, and Frank Juliano, the school's current defensive coordinator. On January 1, 2000, Paul Franklin, The Home News Tribune, selected Hemmings to the paper's All Century Team.

Overall, in his thirteen years, 1994-2002 and 2012-2015, in two separate stints, Coach Bill Nyers is WHS's third all time winningest coach with a record of 70-58-1. He had nine winning seasons including '94,'95,'96, '97, '00, '01, '12, '14 and '15. His teams qualified for the NJSIAA playoffs six times in '97, '00,'01,'12, '14 and '15. (NOTE: Only four teams were selected through 1998). To this day, the 1997 team remains the highest scoring team in school history with 326 points. Coach Nyers always loved the offensive side of the game. He always enjoyed drawing up plays.

At least, fifteen of his players went on to play college football including three of our WTAAA Hall of Famers ; Kyle Johnson (Syracuse), Brian Russo (Wagner) and Keith Hemmings (Boston College). Johnson also enjoyed a successful five-year career with the NFL Denver Broncos.

Unfortunately, Coach Nyers' personal health has been severely compromised during the last twenty

years from kidney cancer, multiple infections and frequent surgeries. This has limited him from doing what he loves and that is coaching football.

In 1997, Coach Nyers was named Bill Denny Coach of the Year as well as the GMC coaches and Star Ledger Coach of the Year. 1997 remains the last sectional title by a WHS Barron football team. In 2007, he received the SNAPPLE Bowl- Meritorious Achievement Award for his voluntary fifteen year coaching participation in the annual summer classic. Prior to Woodbridge, Bill was the head coach at Mt. Olive in 1993. He has also been an offensive coordinator (2004-2005) and offensive line coach at Kean University for five years. He was the head coach at Plainfield High School for two seasons.

When Bill was asked about some fond memories, he mentioned of course, the 1997 season. He also focused on the 1995 team that just missed qualifying for the old four-team playoffs (now 8). He said that team had the ability to win it all but did not get the opportunity to participate by one power point. He remembers fondly the comeback playoff win at Irvington in 2014. As Kean offensive coordinator, he cited that his team was #1 in "sacks allowed nationally". Bill also remembers his own football career when he blew out his knee as a freshman in 1980. He never fully recovered from that injury. However, he said, "this is where I developed the passion to coach. Later, I was given the chance to channel my energy into teaching and coaching football to high school and college kids". Finally, he stated, I am thankful to every coach I came in contact".

Today, Bill Nyers is a special education teacher at WHS where he was a PTO Teacher of the Year in 1997. He resides in Port Reading with his wife, Jackie, a teacher at CHS. The couple has been blessed with three children, Anthony, Brittany and Nick. Anthony is now an assistant coach at WHS in football and basketball. Brittany is a nursing coordinator. Nick attends college at East Stroudsburg University. Anthony and Nick were star athletes at WHS. Anthony played football and basketball. Nick participated in football and wrestling with some baseball. Brittany played softball.

The WTAAA is pleased and honored to welcome Coach Bill Nyers to our Hall of Fame. He is a man who truly loves Woodbridge and it's proud history. Congratulations, Coach Bill!





PAUL J. GRETSKY CLASS OF 1977



Paul Joseph Gretsky graduated from John F. Kennedy Memorial High School in 1977. He currently serves as Senior Director at Los Alamos National Laboratory managing the execution of major capital projects in excess of \$3.2 Billion related to infrastructure required to meet plutonium pit production deliverables for U.S. nuclear weapons program. He holds a B.S. in Engineering & Technology from Norwich University Military College (1981) and M.S. in Engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology (1992). Paul's professional experience spans over 41 years in business operations and the management of multibillion-dollar consulting, engineering, construction, and disaster recovery programs. Paul has successfully delivered programs in North America, Caribbean, Europe, Africa, and Middle East regions. Paul is a certified Project Management Professional (PMI) and Professional Project Executive. Throughout his professional career and numerous cross-country and international assignments, he has been supported by his wife Carol and their daughter Katarina who have always provided council; unwavering support; and firm foundation.

Paul was a 3- year varsity letterman member of the 1974 - 1976 JFK Mustang varsity football teams under Hall of Fame Coach Ron Osborne. He led the team in tackles during his junior and senior seasons. He was team captain as a senior and was selected First Team All County at linebacker by The News Tribune. Paul was a member of The National Honor Society . At the end of the

school year in 1977, he was JFK's Bill Denny / Rutgers scholarship recipient.

At Norwich University, Paul was a 4-year varsity letterman in football playing middle linebacker while serving in the Corp of Cadets. He led the team in tackles in both his junior and senior years as well as quarterback sacks in his senior year under Coach Barry Mynter. He was selected as the Defensive Captain for his senior year. He was selected for 2nd Team All American Division III by the Sports Information Writers in his senior year. He was also selected 1980/1981 New England Division III Defensive Player of the Week once in his senior year. Paul was awarded the school's Michael Yesalonia MVP trophy in 1980. In 2001, Paul was inducted into the Norwich University Athletic Hall of Fame.

Paul would like to express his sincere appreciation to several of his teachers/ coaches at JFK: Ronnie Osborne, Vinny Attardi, Buzzy Estok, Ray Newman, and Bruce Hughes "all of whom had a significant positive impact on his development as an athlete but most of all as a person."

Paul counsils current and future high school athletes "to remember that the traits of communication, dedication, teamwork, and commitment will be used throughout your life endeavors, transcending athletics to relationships, work and organizational involvement."

It is indeed a pleasure for the WTAAA to induct such a distinguished and prominent professional in Paul Joseph Gretsky into our Hall of Fame . CONGRATULATIONS!





JERRY HAROLD HALL CLASS OF 1961



Jerry Hall (left), Dr. Lee Roy Walker (coach, right)



From the mid 1950's through the early 1970's, Woodbridge High was always in contention for team honors in the sport of track and field. Under WTAAA Hall of Fame coaches Lou Gabriel, Lou Bartha, Herb Hollowell, Henry Chomicki and Bob Kasko, the Barron cindermen won numerous Middlesex County indoor and outdoor team championships. For example, the 1961 team won the Central Jersey Group 4 Championship and the 1961 MC outdoor team title. The 1961 team also finished with a 7-0 dual meet record versus quality group 4 competition. Lou Bartha was named "coach of the year" by the coaches' association. The teams usually scored very high in the New Jersey State Group 4 meets and had several indoor and outdoor statewide champions. Many athletes went on to compete in college track and field.

One of the gifted athletes we honor tonight is Jerry Hall. Jerry was a member of the 1958 through 1961 Barron teams. Some of his individual highlights include:

- 1960- MC outdoor- high hurdles- 1st place (15.5)
- 1960- MC indoor- low hurdles- 3rd place
- 1961- MC outdoor- low hurdles- 4th place
- 1961- MC outdoor- high hurdles- 1st place (14.9)
- 1961- CJ sectional outdoor- group 4 high hurdles- 2nd place
- 1961- CJ sectional outdoor- group 4 low hurdles - 5th place
- 1961- State outdoor- group 4 high hurdles - 2nd place
- 1961- MC outdoor- *shuttle low hurdles relay - 1st place (55.3)
- 1961- MC outdoor- shuttle high hurdles relay - 1st place (1:03.7)

*This record time stood for 10 years until it was broken by Jerry's brother, Gary Morton, and his team by about 1 second. (Source- Woodbridge Independent Leader- May 1, 1961, pg. 17-18.) (Source- GMC Track Coaches Association Website)

For his accomplishments, Jerry received the Woodbridge Elks Athletic Award for the month of May, 1961.

After high school graduation, Jerry followed his WHS teammate and WTAAA Hall of Famer, Andrew McCray to North Carolina Central University (1961-1965). The duo continued their track exploits under the legendary Dr. Leroy T. Walker. They ran together on the school's first Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association championship team in 1964. The team was inducted into the NCCU Alex M. Rivera Hall of Fame in 1985.

Jerry gives credit to Coach Lou Gabriel "for getting me started in track at WHS." He also said that "an early influence was Eli Gordon at Perth Amboy High School."

Today, Jerry lives in Delaware with his wife of thirty five years Diane. The couple has three children, Adrienne, Gregory and Alicia and five grandchildren. In addition to his B.S. degree from NCCU, Jerry has an M.S. degree from the University of South Carolina. During his career, Jerry worked as a corrections officer at Rahway State Prison. He was Director of Therapeutic Recreation at Midland Center in SC for children with special needs and Director of Recreation for the SC State Department of Juvenile Correction. Later, he returned to NJ as Early Periodic Screening and Diagnosis Coordinator for the Department of Human Services and Affirmative Action Officer for Medicaid in Vineland. Jerry also had a 36 year career in the Military (Army). He served as a line medic in Vietnam and retired as a 1st. sergeant. During his life, Jerry received several awards including a Combat Medical Badge, an Army Achievement Medal, and State of Delaware "Conspicuous Service Cross" for Exceptional Performance of Duty.

The WTAAA thanks Jerry Hall for his military and overall service. We are proud and honored to welcome him to our WTAAA Hall of Fame. Congratulations, Jerry!



MICHAEL Kaelber CLASS OF 1969



When the doors of Colonia High School opened in September, 1967, in walked junior Mike Kaelber. During the first day Mike's physics teacher, WTAAA HoF baseball coach Mickey Kott, for whom Mike had played at Avenel Junior High, said to Mike, "I have signed you up for Cross Country. I think it will help your speed for baseball. See Coach Murphy and he will give you your shoes." Mike's CHS athletic career began. Over the next two years, Mike ran cross country, played basketball, ran winter track and played baseball, earning five varsity letters in the process and enjoying team and personal success.

Cross Country - Mike lettered as a junior and senior, running for WTAAA HoF coaches Mike Murphy and Harry Brett. He finished anywhere from 2nd to 7th among Colonia runners, depending on the meet. As a senior, Mike was a co-captain of the 1968 XC team, one of the better XC teams in CHS history. Team accomplishments included a 13-2 dual meet record, Woodbridge Township champs, 3rd place finish in the Middlesex County championships, 2nd place finish in the Greater Central Jersey Conference (GCJC) Group IV Central Division championship, 3rd place finish in the GCJC Group IV championship, and 5th place finish in the State Group IV championship.

Basketball and Winter Track - Mike played basketball as a junior and lettered in winter track as a senior, running the half mile and the mile, participating on medal winning two-mile relay teams and running a 4:44 mile in the Middlesex County Winter championships.

Baseball - Mike lettered as a junior and senior, playing first base, pitching and the outfield. He was the CHS Baseball MVP in 1969; an award voted on by his teammates. Coach Kott referred to Mike as "Old Reliable" after New York Yankee great Tommy Heinrich for Mike's propensity to hit in the clutch; Mike had 35 RBIs in his senior season. Mike was the Central Jersey Group IV Conference, Central Division I All Star First Baseman and the Star Ledger All Middlesex County 2nd Team First Baseman. The 1969 CHS team was runner-up in the Middlesex County tournament, the 1st time a CHS baseball team made it to the county final.

Mike played summer baseball for American Legion Post 248 for 3 years. The 1969 Post 248 team, a combination of players from several high schools, including WHS, JFK and CHS, won the Middlesex County championship, the New Jersey State Tournament District 2 championship and was State Champ Runner-up to perennial champion Brooklawn Post 72. Mike's contributions to the team's success included being the winning pitcher in the District 2 championship win over Livingston with 5 1/3 innings of scoreless relief pitching. Mike was named 1st team 1st baseman on the 1969 Middlesex County American Legion All Star Team.

Mike played baseball for three years at Lafayette College, playing first base and pitching.

Academics - A student athlete, Mike was second in his 1969 CHS graduating class, President of the National Honor Society and was the CHS student athlete honoree at the Woodbridge Kiwanis Club 1968 Fall Athletic Dinner. Mike is a 1973 graduate of Lafayette College, A.B. Math, magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Maroon Key Junior Honor Society, Rutgers University - M.S. Statistics, 1977 and Rutgers University Newark School of Law - Juris Doctor, 1986.

Basketball Officiating - Mike has been a member of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials (IAABO) - North Jersey Board 33 since 1981. Mike has served as a mentor for new officials, has served on numerous

Board 33 committees and served as its president for 2018-2019. A well-respected active high school basketball official for over 35 years, Mike officiated numerous county tournament and state tournament games, retiring from active officiating after the 2018-2019 season.

Teaching and Coaching - Mike taught math and coached various sports in the Woodbridge Township school district; five years at Colonia Junior High where he coached baseball, basketball, wrestling and soccer and eight years at Colonia High School where he coached soccer and softball. Mike was an assistant softball coach to WTAAA HoF coach Stew Jago where their teams won back-to-back Middlesex County Championships in 1980 and 1981.

In 1978, with varsity soccer coach Ray Perez, parents and community members, Mike helped to co-found the Colonia Soccer Association, the first feeder program for Colonia High School Soccer, serving as CSA league administrator in various capacities, including president, from 1978 - 1982.

After leaving teaching in 1986, Mike continued his coaching in recreation programs in Woodbridge Township; Woodbridge Little League, receiving the WLL Years of Service Appreciation Award in 2005; Woodbridge Youth Soccer; Fords Youth Association Girls Softball; and Middlesex County American Legion Baseball League from which he received administrative awards in 2006, 2009, 2010 and 2014. As coach of Woodbridge Junior American Legion program (U-17) he organized and conducted winter baseball workouts for Woodbridge High School baseball players.

Professional Career - Mike left teaching in 1986 to become an attorney and is considered one of the leading school law attorneys in the state of New Jersey. He retired from his position in the Legal Department of the New Jersey School Boards Association in 2017 after almost 30 years of service, the last 9 as Director of the Legal, Policy and Labor Relations Department. He currently does legal consulting work for educational organizations. Mike is currently president of the New Jersey Association of School Attorneys (NJASA), received the NJASA Distinguished Service Award in 2011, and is a member of the New Jersey Association for Gifted Children (NJAGC) HoF.

Mike lives in Woodbridge with his lovely bride of over 41 years, Patricia. They have two children and five grandchildren. Mike thanks all of them for their love and support. They are the sunshine and center of his life and his motivation to be the best that he can be every day. Grandsons Brayden and Landon brought Mike back on the coaching lines this spring in coach-pitch baseball.

Mike would like to thank the WTAAA HoF Committee for his selection and is humbled and honored to be part of the WTAAA HoF with so many other outstanding individuals. Mike would like to thank his parents for their guidance and support as he grew up in Colonia and his teachers and coaches, especially Coaches Kott, Murphy, Brett, Sanislow and Koy for not only the athletic skills they taught but also the life lessons they provided of dedication, hard work, teamwork and loyalty, which have helped to guide his life and make him the person he is today. Special congratulations to teammate Dennis Kuntz and the members of the 1980 CHS Girls Softball team on today's induction to the WTAAA HoF and special thoughts and prayers to the family of Stew Jago, the leader of this team and the driving force in its success. CONGRATULATIONS, Mike, and welcome to the WTAAA Hall of Fame !!

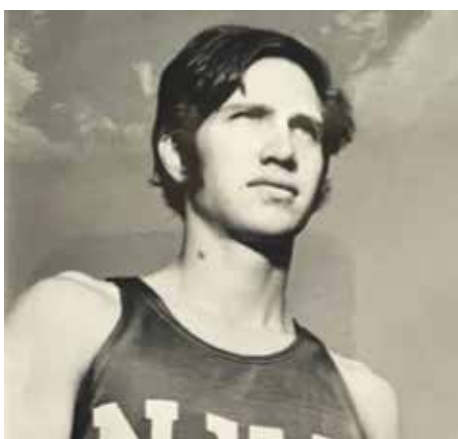




DENNIS W. KUNTZ CLASS OF 1970



Dennis Kuntz was one of the first preeminent track and field athletes in the history of Colonia High School. Dennis entered Colonia High as a sophomore in September, 1967, when the school's doors first opened and, teaming with twin brother David, was a significant force in establishing the Patriots as a cross country and track and field power to be reckoned with at the county, conference and state levels. A runner for all seasons, Dennis was coached by WTAAA Hall of Fame coaches Harry Brett and Mike Murphy and earned eight (8) varsity letters during his Colonia High School career; two (2) cross country, three (3) winter track and three (3) spring track and garnered numerous individual, relay and team honors.



Cross Country - As a junior, Dennis was a consistent top five team finisher for the 1968 Patriot's Cross Country team; a squad which amassed a 13-2 dual meet record. Team accomplishments that year included Woodbridge Township champs, a third-place finish in the Middlesex County championships, a second-place finish in the Greater Central Jersey Conference (GCJC) Group IV Central Division championship, a third-place finish in the GCJC Group IV championship, and a fifth-place finish in the State Group IV championship.

Senior co-captain (with brother Dave) Dennis and the Patriots were even better in the 1969 cross country season. The team recorded an undefeated 15-0 dual meet record and consistently finished in the top 5 of most weekend meets including the Shore Coaches Invitational, the Edison Invitational and the Warinaco Park Turkey Trot. The team was Woodbridge Township champions, finished second in the GCJC Group IV Central Division championships (Dennis 3rd), first in the GCJC Group IV conference championship (Dennis finished 4th) and first in the Central Jersey Group IV cross country championship (Dennis finished 3rd). Most significantly, this was the first Central Jersey Group IV championship in Colonia High School history for any sport. In the State All Groups Cross Country championship, Dennis finished 13th on a tough, wet and narrow Garret Mountain course. Dennis had only one major meet when he finished outside of the top ten and was first team All Middlesex County Cross Country.



Winter Track - As a sophomore and junior, Dennis was a consistent performer in dual meet competition, focusing on the 880-yard run, mile run and various relay teams. He was a middle of the pack runner as a junior, learning the ropes with good relays and personal bests, setting the stage for his senior season.

Co-captain Dennis had a highly successful senior season highlighted by winning the mile run at the 1970 Middlesex County individual championships. Twin brother Dave won the 880-yard run on that same day causing some to believe that the same competitor had been victorious in both the 880 and mile run in back-to-back events. Dennis won the mile run at the State Group IV Sectional Championships and finished 4th in the mile run at the State All Group IV championships.

The 1970 Winter Track team finished 3rd in the Middlesex County Individual Meet and 2nd in the Middlesex County Relays Meet.

Spring Track - Dennis was a three-time spring track letter winner, starting out as a hurdler as a sophomore. Dennis earned numerous dual meet points as a sophomore and was part of the Colonia hurdle relay team (Ryall, Papernick, Kuntz, Haynes) which won the 1968 Middlesex County Spring hurdle relay championship.



Dennis blossomed in Spring track in his junior year, particularly on the relay team front. In the Spring 1969 campaign, Dennis was part of Colonia's 1st place sprint medley team (Pavuk, Dennis Kuntz, Marr, Haynes) at the Greater Central Jersey Conference Group IV Relays; 1st place 2-mile relay team (Pavuk, Dennis Kuntz, Confer, Dave Kuntz) at the Middlesex County Relays; 1st place 2-mile relay team (Pavuk, Dennis Kuntz, Confer, Dave Kuntz) at the St. Joseph Montvale Relays; 1st place mile relay team (Dennis Kuntz, Burns, Pavuk, Dave Kuntz) at the 1969 Middlesex County Championships and the 1st place distance medley relay teams at the Colonial and Emery Relays.

Co-captain Dennis' success continued as a senior in the Spring 1970 campaign. Dennis was part of Colonia's championship mile relay team (Dave Kuntz, Papernick, Felton, Dennis Kuntz) that finished 1st at the Highland Park relays, 1st at the Colonial Relays at William and Mary in Virginia, set a school record at the Penn Relays, and finished 3rd in the Eastern States Invitational.

Dennis was part of Colonia's championship sprint medley relay team (Felton, Dave Kuntz, Mahr, Dennis Kuntz) which finished 1st in the Greater Central Jersey Group IV Conference Relays, setting a new record in the process. And 2nd at the Middlesex County Relays. Dennis was a part of the Patriots' 2-mile relay team that finished 2nd at the St. Joseph's Montvale Relays and 3rd place at the Colonial Relays at William and Mary College in Virginia.

On the individual side, Dennis was the 1970 Greater Central Jersey Group IV Sectional champion and record holder in the 880-yard run, he finished in 4th place in the 880-yard run at the State Group IV meet and finished in 2nd place in the 880-yard run at the State All Groups Meet of Champions.

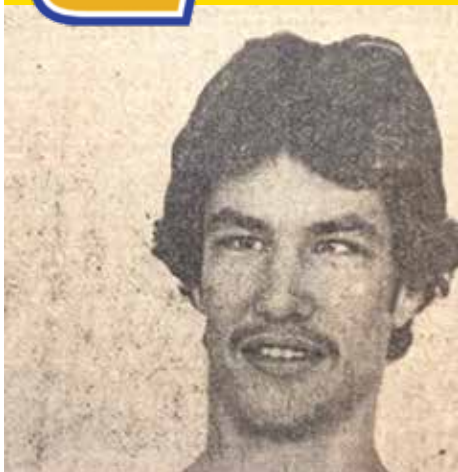
Dennis and Dave continued their running careers at NYU where they were four-year varsity award winners in cross country, indoor and outdoor track; 12 letters in all. They were regular participants on key indoor and outdoor relay teams, participating at the Millrose Games, U.S. Olympic Invitational, Penn Relays and IC4A/NCAA Championships.

After college, Dennis found time to run dozens of marathons and has great memories of completing a New York City marathon alongside his brother Dave, running a few marathons and half marathons with his daughters and running a sub three-hour New York City marathon just days before his daughter Jackie was born.

Dennis would like to thank coaches Harry Brett and Mike Murphy for bringing out the best in him; they saw something in him that he didn't know was there. Coaches Brett and Murphy were Yin and Yang personalities, each with a way that helped build character and discipline to help deal with adversity and bring out the best in their athletes; a lesson we could all benefit from - believe in yourself. Hard work and discipline will enable you to accomplish the goals you have set.

Dennis and his wife Linda will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this coming June. They have three daughters, each of whom played collegiate basketball, and three grandchildren. Dennis retired from IBM after a forty-year career in sales and management positions. Since retiring, Dennis has founded a YouTube channel that teaches anglers how to service and repair their fishing reels. His channel, 2nd Chance Tackle, currently has over 20,000 subscribers. Dennis is still out and about jogging and participating in local fun runs. If you notice, you may see him on the roads in and about Colonia. We welcome Dennis to the WTAAA HALL of FAME ...CONGRATULATIONS!

WILLIAM "BILL" KUNTZ CLASS OF 1978



When Bill Kuntz entered the doors of Colonia High School in September, 1975, he had some big athletic shoes to fill, as older brothers David and Dennis Kuntz were two of the preeminent track and field athletes in the early history of Colonia High School. While the forte of David and Dennis was the middle and long-distance running events, Bill chose his own path and it made all the difference. Bill chose the high jump as his event of choice and became a State Champion in the event.

Bill's career started out in an inauspicious manner as he broke his wrists in physical education class and missed most of his sophomore year. He more than made up for it in his Junior and Senior years as he earned four varsity letters, two in Winter track and two in Spring track and was a dominant force in the high jump at the Conference, County and State levels. Bill also competed in the high hurdles, long jump and pole vault, earning numerous team points for Colonia High School in dual, conference and county meets.

Winter Track

As a Junior, along with numerous dual meet wins, Bill was the 1977 Middlesex County high jump champion, finished in 3rd place in the State Group IV championships and 4th place in the State All Groups Meet of Champions. He finished in third place in the high jump at the Middlesex County Relays.

As a Senior, along with numerous dual meet wins, Bill, once again, was the 1978 Middlesex County high jump champion, with a leap of 6'6", was the State Group IV Sectional high jump champion and the State Group IV Champion with a leap of 6'8 1/4". Bill participated in the State All Group Meet of Champions and the Eastern States Invitational, where he finished in 5th place. Bill was named Courier News athlete of the week.

Spring Track

As a Junior, along with numerous dual meet wins, Bill finished in 1st place in the high jump at the East Brunswick relays, 1st place in the Middlesex County Championships, 1st place in

the State Group IV sectionals, 3rd place in the State Group IV Championships, and 4th place in the State All Groups Meet of Champions.

As a Senior, along with numerous dual meet wins, Bill finished in 1st place in the high jump at the Middlesex County Championships, 1st place in the State Group IV Sectionals, 2nd place in the State Group IV Championships and participated in the State All Groups Meet of Champions.

Bill was named the Colonia High School Most Outstanding Track and Field Athlete for both the 1978 Winter and 1978 Spring Track seasons.

Personal and Professional

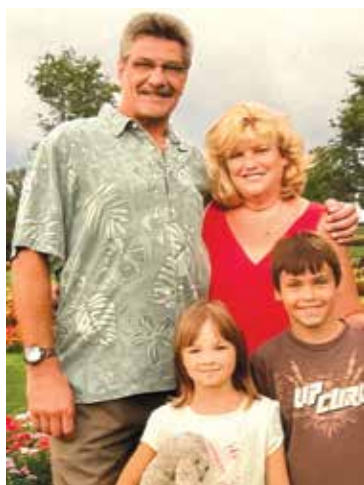
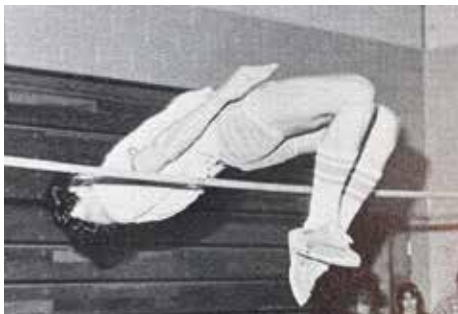
Bill attended Middlesex County College and, following in his father's footsteps, in 1980, became a member of Local 68 of the Operating Engineers, retiring in December, 2021, after 41 years of service.

Bill lives in Colonia, a stone's throw away from where he grew up, and was married to his wife, the former Carol Schenk, for 32 years. The couple have two adopted children Daniel and Miranda. Unfortunately, Carol passed away three years ago after a courageous battle with cancer. Carol was everything to Bill and their children and they miss her every day.

Bill would like to thank WTAAA HoF coaches John Picaroni and Jim "Bucky" McDonald for their coaching and guidance. He would not have been as successful without their help. Bill's message to current track and field athletes is to keep working on your technique; it becomes internalized and natural. After many repetitions, you'll find the rhythm of your event.

In 1995, Bill became a member of the Adirondack Luge Club and the United States Luge Association. He became an accomplished amateur slider, finishing in 3rd place in a national club slider masters event at Lake Placid. He has been a certified International Luge race official since 1997 and officiates various national seeding races and world cup events.

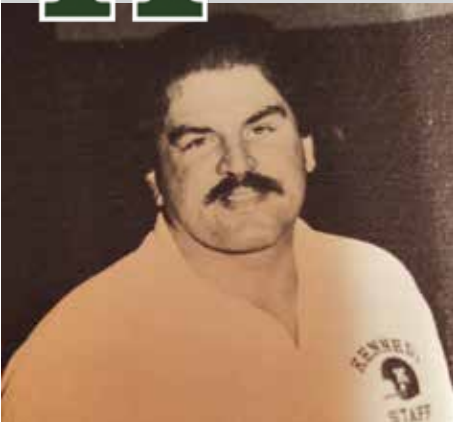
Bill Kuntz, the WTAAA welcomes you into our Hall of Fame. CONGRATULATIONS!





GARY KUZNIAK (WHS, CLASS OF 1971)

HEAD WRESTLING COACH, MULTIPLE SPORTS COACH



Gary actually graduated from Woodbridge High School in 1971. He was a two-year letter winner in football for coach Sam Lupo's (HoF) undefeated 1969 team and the 1970 team (7-2-0) that was awarded the Central Jersey Group 4 Sectional trophy by the NJSIAA. Gary's best assignment on the field was placekicker, where he formally held the school's kicking record. He was also a two-year letter winner in baseball for coach Dick Miglec (HoF). At Montclair State University, Gary wrestled for three seasons under coach Tim Sullivan. This experience led him to a career as a wrestling coach and official for 25 years and a past president of the Central Jersey Chapter NJWOA.

The WTAAA elected Gary under his JFK cap because his longest tenure as a head coach was at JFK wrestling 1978-1990 (12 seasons). In 1982-83, he was voted District 19 Coach of the Year, The Home News Coach of the Year, The News Tribune Coach of the Year and Bicentennial Conference Coach of the Year twice in 1982-83, 1983-84. His 1982-83 team finished 12-0 in the regular season and was the first team in Woodbridge Township to qualify for the state sectionals. His JFK teams won two Bicentennial Athletic Conference tournament titles. Gary is credited with developing the Mustang "Mat Rat" program which is now Woodbridge Rec wrestling. At JFK, he developed an individual state place winner in Robert Barnes.

From 1990-91 to 1992-93, Gary moved over to WHS to replace fellow inductee Ben LaSala. His 1992-93 Barron team was District

19 champions. He was voted Coach of the Year. In three seasons at WHS, Gary was 32-12 as he surpassed the 100-win plateau for his career. Three of his assistant coaches attained head coach status at JFK and WHS. They were Joe Harrington, Cesar Samaniego and Bob Zega while Ben LaSala continued at Colonia.

As an assistant coach, Gary was WHS's offensive coordinator for the 1993 Central Jersey Group 4 Sectional Champions under coach Frank Bender and offensive line coach for the school's 1997 Central Jersey Group 4 Sectional Champions under fellow inductee Bill Nyers. He was also an assistant coach for Bob McLaughlin (HoF) and the 1988 JFK Group 3 State Championship softball team (HoF).

Gary served the Woodbridge Township Board of Education as a physical education, health and driver education teacher for 23 years. He then became an administrator for 17 years including 14 years as principal of Woodbridge Middle School and Avenel Middle School.

Gary's wife, Michele, shared the following thoughts. "Gary's legacy will live through all the people he has impacted throughout his forty-year career. He has inspired, helped and touched so many lives. His memory will never be forgotten as he will always be alive in all of our hearts."

Michele and their daughter Ashley will receive Gary's Hall of Fame awards posthumously tonight. The WTAAA is pleased and honored to induct Gary Kuzniak into our Hall of Fame. Congratulations!!!



PELLEGRINO BENJAMIN LA SALA

MULTIPLE SPORTS COACH, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



When Coach Nick Priscoe retired from WHS in 1974, he had an earlier reputation as a “Man for all Seasons”. Although his prime sports were football and baseball, he also coached some basketball and track and field early in his career. Later, he served ten years as athletic director at WHS and was involved in everything through all the seasons.

The term “Man for all Seasons” can also be added to Coach Ben LaSala’s resume. Whether it was football in the fall, wrestling coach/official in the winter, or softball/baseball coach in the spring, Coach Ben has done it all. For the past ten years, he has also served as athletic director at CHS, where he is involved in everything through all the seasons.

Coach Ben became the head wrestling coach at WHS in 1985-86. He immediately revived the program. He produced a 42-34 record in five seasons but was 33-15 over his last three years there in the Red Division. He was named District 11 Coach of the Year in 1988 and The New Tribune and GMC Coach of the Year in 1989. He was also an assistant football coach there in the late 80’s.

In 1993, Coach Ben moved over to Colonia High School as head wrestling mentor through the 2003 season. Following three years of rebuilding, his teams went 43-13-1 from the 1998-2001 seasons. Overall, he won 73 matches at CHS. In 1998, he was named Home News Tribune and District 11 Coach of the Year with a 12-3 record, and he guided the Patriots to the school’s first sectional tournament. During this early period at CHS, he also served as an assistant coach in football and baseball.

Coach LaSala was named head football coach at CHS in 1996 following a very successful run by Patsy Barbato (HoF). Over the next seventeen seasons (1996-2012), he produced a 94-76-0 record including twelve .500 or better seasons. His teams won three GMC White Division titles in 1997, 1999 and 2007. The Patriots qualified for the playoffs eight times in 1998, 1999, 2001, 2005, 2007, 2010, 2011 and 2012. He was named Coach of the Year in 1998 by The Home News Tribune and many former players have gone on to play college football including tonight’s inductee Tem Lukabu at Colgate and Eric LeGrand at Rutgers.

He also served as Head Softball Coach from 1994-2002 when his teams produced 99 wins.

He has been Colonia’s Athletic Director since 2013. His favorite “catchphrase” has always been “athletics are an extension of the classroom and athletics is the biggest classroom in the school.” Ken Pace, fellow Hall of Famer had this to say, “I have known Ben LaSala since the early 1980’s as a fellow student at Kean University, as a teacher and coach, and now as a fellow administrator at Colonia High School. Regardless of his position, I have never witnessed any educator with more passion and compassion for his student-athletes and for his school community. A tireless worker, Coach LaSala has always challenged himself, his student-athletes and the educators he oversees to the highest level of commitment to meet the needs of the Colonia High School community.” During his time as AD, LaSala has been the Chairperson of the Boys Tennis Tournament, Girls Softball Tournament and Wrestling Tournament. He serves on the NJSIAA Football Committee which recommends legislation to better the game of football, and is one of the founders of the BCC Football Conference and is on its executive committee.

Coach LaSala is a past president of the New Jersey and GMC football coaches’ association and the GMC Wrestling Coaches Association where he was named “Man of the Year” in 1990. He has been an NJSIAA wrestling referee and was a Snapple Bowl football coach since its inception. He is a member of the NJFCA Hall of Fame (2015) and the NJSCA Hall of Fame (2018). He received the Chester A. Zadrowski’s Distinguished Educator Award in 2017 and was also the 2011 Distinguished American for the Bill Denny/Rutgers Football Letterwinners Chapter of the National Football Foundation.

Following the catastrophic injury to Eric LeGrand at Rutgers, Ben LaSala became an important force in the Team LeGrand Believe Chapter of the Chris and Dana Reeve Foundation.

Despite all of his accomplishments, Coach Ben is most proud of his family including his wife Susan of 35 years and his three children; Joseph (head football coach at WHS), daughter in law Christina, Lexie and Marissa. The WTAAA very pleased to welcome another “Man for all Seasons” to our Hall of Fame. CONGRATULATIONS to Coach Ben LaSala!!



TEMBWE LUKABU CLASS OF 2000



Tembwe was born in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. He played on the 1998 (7-3-0) and 1999 (6-4-0) Colonia teams for Coach Ben LaSala. In '98, he was named 3rd team at linebacker by the Home News Tribune. In '99, he was named First Team by the Star Ledger and 2nd team by the Home News Tribune and was on a team that won the GMC White Division with a key victory over Sayreville. This is what Coach Ben LaSala had to say about Tem. "Tembwe came to us as a sophomore and his impact on our program was immediate. He was a leader on and off the football field. He was not only an exceptional player but he was a better person. He was a "throwback", meaning he was the type of person who you hope other people would emulate. His coaching career speaks for itself. Being named a coordinator at a Division 1 school such as Boston College, is a tribute to his hard work and dedication. I know in the coaching circles he will rise to being a Head Coach very soon."

After high school, Tem played for Colgate University from the 2000-2003 seasons (31-7 overall record and 18-2 Patriot League). He was a three-year starter at linebacker. In 2003, he was a team captain and an Associated Press 3rd team All American. In 2002 and 2003, Colgate won back to back Patriot League titles, and Tem was "defensive player of the year". He was also First Team All Patriot League and All-Atlantic Region as well as First Team All ECAC in 2003. Colgate reached the NCAA Division 1AA National Championship game in 2003 and finished with a 15-1 record. Tem majored in history, minored in political science, and graduated in 2004. (Source: Wikipedia)

During his professional career, Tem has served as a college linebacker and defensive

line assistant coach at Rhode Island, Rutgers, Colgate, Florida International and Mississippi State. From 2012 to 2013, Tem was a defensive assistant for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. From 2016-2017, he was the defensive quality control coach working with the L.B.s and D.B.s for the San Francisco 49ers. In 2019, he was linebacker coach for the Cincinnati Bengals. In 2020, he became the defensive coordinator for the Boston College Eagles. (Source: Wikipedia) In his two years there, the Eagles defense went from 101st in scoring defense to 31st. Also, the Eagles pass defense went from 122nd to 3rd in the country. (Source: www.si.com) He also oversaw a defense that jumped from finishing 125th in total defense the year prior to his arrival in 2019 to 73rd in 2020. Boston College allowed 28.4 points per game last season, 60th nationally after finishing 101st nationally in 2019. Three members of his defense were named All-ACC in 2020. (Source: Boston College Football Website)

Tem has this to say to current high school students, "take charge of your narrative. Do not settle and allow someone else to control your levels of success. Always aim higher, you are better than you know." Sound advice!

Tem would also like to say "thanks to my Mom and Dad (Mbiya and Kabouji) for fostering opportunities for success academically and athletically". He gives "thanks to my siblings for supporting and believing in me and thanks to coaches and teammates who pushed me and supported and created a super environment to compete and succeed." Tem is married to Kate, a former team captain for Colgate women's soccer. They are the proud parents of daughters Zaida and Kamryn and son, Pax. The WTAAA welcomes Tembwe (Tem) Lukabu to the Hall of Fame. Congratulations!!



ADRIENNE LYMAN WOODHULL

CLASS OF 1996



Adrienne is considered to be one of the most prominent and accomplished athletes to play softball at a Woodbridge Township high school. The reason is because her skills, desire and persistence allowed her to play at the highest college level, NCAA Division 1, at Georgia State University. As such, she had the opportunity to test her skill versus the best namely future college All Americans and Olympians.

At WHS, Adrienne was a three years varsity team member for Coach Stew Jago (HoF) from 1994-1996. She also played three years of varsity basketball for coach Rita Saylor.

As a sophomore, she was a News Tribune honorable mention All Area. She batted .293 in 22 games through 75 at bats and scored 20

time, Georgia State was a member of the Trans American Athletic Conference. On the Georgia State milestone lists, Adrienne is still tied for 9th place in career triples (8). She played on Georgia State teams (four seasons) with an overall record of 117-108 and three winning seasons. In 1999, Adrienne was an All "TAAC", 2nd team selection. On March 8, 1997, she recorded 8 put outs at 1st base vs. LSU. On April 26, 2000, she doubled in the 6th inning to bring home the winning run in a 1-0 victory over Furman. On May 1, 2000, she was the weekly award winner by the Sun Newspaper. Her college coaches were Bob Heck, 2 seasons, and Phyllis Guedrye 2 seasons for her NCAA Division 1 softball career.

Georgia State Softball Career Stats

Season	GP/GS	At Bats	Avg.	R	H	RBI	BB	HR	FLD %
1997	29/21	54	.185	8	10	5	1	0	.949
1998	45/42	122	.246	18	30	13	6	2	.941
1999*	50/45	140	.321	29	45	24	8	3	.901
2000	62/62	177	.249	14	44	36	11	2	.963
Total	186/170	493	.261	69	129	78	26	7	

Source: Georgia State Sports Information by John William Owens



runs. Her fielding percentage was .905. She led her team in five stats including games, at bats, doubles (4), hbp and assists (56). As a junior, Adrienne was a Home News, All Area 2nd team, The News Tribune All Area honorable mention, a Star Ledger 3rd team all county and All GMC red division. She batted .348 in 22 games through 66 at bats and scored 18 runs. She hit a HR and had 13 rbi. Her fielding percentage was .959. She led the team four stats including games, triples (5), walks and assists (65). As a senior, Adrienne was a Home News Tribune All Area 2nd team and a Star Ledger All County 2nd team. She batted .353 in 20 games through 68 at bats and scored 28 runs. She hit a HR and had 8 RBI. Her fielding percentage was .897. She led the team in five stats including games, at bats, runs (28), doubles (6) and assists (49). Adrienne's career batting average was .331 with 44 singles, 12 doubles, 11 triples and 2 HR's. She was a three-year starter during coach Jago's first three years at WHS. She never missed a game. Coach Jago wrote, "Adrienne had a cannon for an arm and great range". (source: All WHS statistics were provided by coach Jago on his nomination form.)

Following high school, Adrienne accepted a $\frac{3}{4}$ scholarship to Georgia State University and its NCAA Division 1 program. She earned four varsity letters there playing 3rd base, 1st base and shortstop from 1997-2000. At that

time, Georgia State was a member of the Trans American Athletic Conference. On the Georgia State milestone lists, Adrienne is still tied for 9th place in career triples (8). She played on Georgia State teams (four seasons) with an overall record of 117-108 and three winning seasons. In 1999, Adrienne was an All "TAAC", 2nd team selection. On March 8, 1997, she recorded 8 put outs at 1st base vs. LSU. On April 26, 2000, she doubled in the 6th inning to bring home the winning run in a 1-0 victory over Furman. On May 1, 2000, she was the weekly award winner by the Sun Newspaper. Her college coaches were Bob Heck, 2 seasons, and Phyllis Guedrye 2 seasons for her NCAA Division 1 softball career.

Adrienne is married to John, a teacher at WHS and a former baseball player at the school. The couple has 2 children, Jake and Grace. They live in Colonia. Adrienne works for an insurance company and after several promotions, she is now area president of the Bridgewater location since 2017.

Adrienne recently stated, "through my career at Georgia State, we played against many top ranked schools including Alabama, Clemson, Georgia, Georgia Tech, Florida State, Fresno State, LSU, Virginia Tech, Auburn and Missouri. I take great pride in having competed against the top teams in the country as well as Olympic athlete Laura Berg". "I would like to thank my mother, Carolyn Lyman. Without her love and support getting to that next level of play might not have been possible. I would also like to thank Coach Stew Jago for his nomination and helping to make me into the athlete and person I am today. To all the young players out there that want to take their game to the next level, you have to love the game and do it for you. There are a lot of practices and games, but if you truly love it you won't care how much time you spend doing it".

The WTAAA is very proud to welcome Adrienne Lyman Woodhull, one of the most successful softball players from Woodbridge Township to our Hall of Fame! Congratulations!



WILLIAM "BILL" MATUSZ, JR.

CLASS OF 1962



Bill inherited his incredible baseball genes from his father William Matusz Sr. Dad was an All State Star Ledger second baseman on WHS's excellent 1935 team (13-4) that featured Hall of Famers Frank Jost and Percy Wukovets.

Bill Jr. was an outstanding young player in the youth leagues of Woodbridge Township. His reputation was strong before he entered WHS in 1958. His high school pitching career began to take shape on the varsity level in 1961 and 1962. His records were 5-1 and 4-4 for coach Frank Capraro (HoF). Bill's teammates in high school included WTAAA HoF'ers Jerry Miller, Richie Kovack, Jimmy Dunda and Joe Higgins. In high school, Bill was the winning pitcher in both games of a double header versus Edison (1961). He pitched a two hit shutout to win the first game and in the second game, he earned the win in relief. "On high school graduation day (6-21-62), Bill had a tryout with the Yankees at Yankee Stadium. He still remembers "standing on the mound looking at the monuments in center field until the scouts started hollering at him to pitch the ball".

Bill received a full baseball scholarship to Seton Hall University. After playing on the freshman team in 1963 with a record of 5-4, and 1.80 era (the NCAA did not allow freshman to play varsity back then), Bill joined the varsity Pirates in 1964 and played through 1966. Under coach Owen Carroll, Bill had impressive records.

1964- sophomore- 8-1, 1.52 ERA. Bill pitched eight complete games. This is still a school record. Bill modestly does not think his record will ever be broken because "they don't expect pitchers to go more than six innings anymore." The Pirates made the College World Series for the first time in Omaha, Nebraska, that year. Bill pitched the team to a victory over Texas A&M 14-5 and a fifth place finish. After sophomore year, he played summer ball in Rapid City, South Dakota, in the Basin League. This league was sponsored by the NCAA for college players. Don Sutton, MLB HoF'er, played there among many others.

In 1965, as a junior, Bill's record was 4-3

with a 2.70 ERA. Despite missing three weeks due to an ankle injury, Bill received the annual achievement award from Fords Clara Barton.

In 1966, as a senior, Bill was 6-2, with a 1.02 ERA. Both losses were 1-0 scores. Bill's era was the eighth best in the nation. His total career varsity record was 18-6, with a 1.80 era. He was voted to the Metropolitan College Baseball All Star Team. Besides Seton Hall, players were selected from St. Johns, Iona, LIU, FDU, Hofstra, Manhattan and Fordham.

Bill set four school records including most games pitched-34, most innings pitched- 227, most varsity wins-18, and most complete games on the season-8. As mentioned previously, the 8 complete games are still a standing record today.

Woodbridge Township has produced a large number of players since the late 1930's to play professional baseball in the minor leagues of America. Most of the players are included in our Hall of Fame. Tonight, we are very proud to add Bill Matusz Jr. to the list. Following his college graduation in 1966 from Seton Hall, the Atlanta Braves, in the 51st round- pick #802, drafted Bill. He signed and was now a Pro. The lifelong dream was achieved. He was the third pick ever from Seton Hall. Bill was assigned to the rookie and A league. He pitched at West Palm Beach, Florida. Bill's record was 3-3 with a 2.89 era. He pitched a no-hitter against Tampa in the Florida State league (A ball). During the winter tragically, however, Bill lost sight in his left eye following an off the field work accident. Sadly, this put an end to his promising professional baseball career.

Today, Bill lives in Pennsylvania with his wife of fifty four years, Nancy, a 1965 JFK graduate. They have two children, Lori and Brian and his wife Stephanie.

Bill's professional career after baseball was as an insurance executive for over 40 years with Prudential and United Health Care. During those years, "he still considered himself a baseball player". We agree ! It is an honor and a pleasure to welcome another "Pro" ball player to our WTAAA Hall of Fame! Congratulations, Bill!





JAMISON PANKO CLASS OF 1990



During the 1989-90 season, JFK basketball completed a great season under Coach Ken Pace, Sr. (HoF). The Mustangs finished with a final record of 28-3. They were GMC Tournament champions by virtue of a very dramatic 54-53 win over Perth Amboy. They were Central Jersey Group 3 Sectional Champions by virtue of a 62-59 comeback victory over Long Branch and defeated Highland Regional 72-65 in the Sectional Semifinal. They were also GMC White Division Champions and Dickinson High School Holiday Champs. Unfortunately, the team lost to Snyder in the Group 3 State Championship game 46-65. The team was ranked #12 in the final Star Ledger statewide poll and #1 in all local polls.

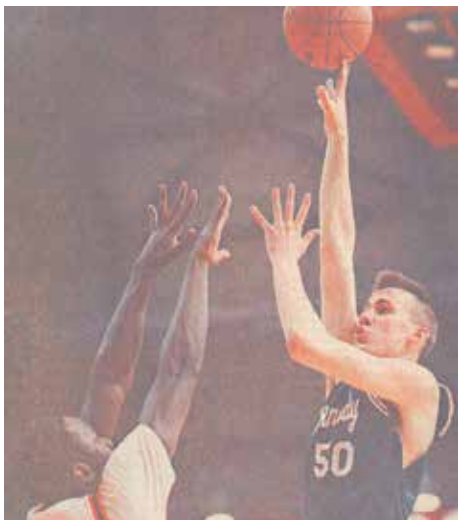
One of the leading players on the team was tonight's Hall of Fame inductee Jamison Panko. Jamison averaged 16.1 points per game, 10.2 rebounds per game, 3.0 blocks, 2.1 steals and shot 56% from the floor. He was named First Team All-County by The News Tribune, The Home News, The Star Ledger, WCTC Radio and Suburban Cable Television. Jamison joins his teammates Courtney Burton (2015) and Lenny Reyes (2016) in the WTAAA Hall of Fame.

After the season, Jamison said, "We'll be a legend in the school just like the '74 team. They'll put the banner up in the school and hopefully teachers and coaches will tell kids all about our team when they look at our banner." (Source: The News Tribune by John Haley, Sunday, March 11, 1990, p. B-8) Coach Pace added at that time, "Jamie wasn't just a big guy who sat in the paint. He came out at people. He is very mobile and can run the floor. In 31 games, he had maybe one bad game. He just worked so hard on his overall game. He has a nice touch from the outside and he has tremendous defensive ability." (Source: The News Tribune, All-County Team, March 22, 1990) In addition to All-County honors, Jamison was selected to play in the New Jersey High School North, South All Star game at Rutgers. Jamison went on to play college basketball at Lafayette College for three years.

Jamison's coach at JFK and current CHS principal, Ken Pace, recently stated, "As a high school head boys basketball coach you are sometimes able to be a part of some tremendous memories for these young student-athletes. Jamison Panko was a part of one of the most talked about teams in John F. Kennedy Memorial High School history (if not the entire Woodbridge Township School District) in 1990 as one of the leaders of the 28-3 Boys Basketball

Championship team. Jamison and his teammates were incredible workers and shared the role and responsibility of picking each other up for a once in a lifetime experience. Jamison truly became a leader late in that season in big moments in big games that I hope, helped make him a confident adult you could always count on as a husband and father and he would accomplish whatever his family needed in the future. Although Jamison played big when we needed him to, he also had a heart of gold and had a great bond with his teammates. I remember an incident after our State Semi Final win over Highland Regional where the team trailed by 17 points in the 2nd half and ended up winning by eight (Jamison had 20 points and 17 rebounds in that game). Jamison actually had a quote in the paper the next day. The quote was something to the effect of "I feel sorry for Coach Pace. I think we are aging him quite a bit in these last few games!" In a season of memories for these student-athletes and the school community and after a huge win, Jamison was worried about his coach? What do you do in the future with a hardworking and caring young man like Jamison? Well, if you're smart, you hire him as your Vice Principal and you count on him like his teammates did to work hard for your school community as an administrator so that his Principal and ex-head Coach doesn't age too much and makes it to retirement some day! Jamison Panko has exceeded my expectations both as a player and as an administrator. This is a tremendous honor to induct Jamison Panko into the WTAAA Hall of Fame. Jamison Panko will always be a shining example of one of the many very successful student-athletes to come out of John F. Kennedy Memorial High School."

Jamison has served as an English teacher, coach and administrator for the Woodbridge Township Board of Education for 20 plus years. After serving as a district supervisor, Jamison is now the Vice-Principal at Colonia High School. His wife, Mary, is the Vice-Principal at Woodbridge High School. The couple is blessed with two children, Harrison and Marianne. By the way, Jamison's late great uncle was Lou Creekmur, Woodbridge High School's Pro Football Hall of Famer. He was a brother to Jamison's grandfather. The WTAAA welcomes Jamison Panko to the Hall of Fame. Congratulations!





JASON SIMS CLASS OF 1984



A 3-sport athlete at John F. Kennedy High School Jason Sims earned 11 varsity letters in Football, Basketball and Track. Jason Sims made a name for himself as one the premier athletes in Woodbridge Township during the early 1980's. As an Iselin Junior High School 9th Grade student Jason was invited by Hall of Fame Basketball Coach Ray Newman and Hall of Fame Track Coach Bob Bingham to try out for their varsity level programs. Jason not only made the varsity level in track and basketball at 14 years old he also earned varsity letters.

For the next three seasons Jason was an assist leader and prolific scorer as point guard and captain of the JFK basketball team. Jason helped lead the Mustangs to the NJSIAA post season in three consecutive seasons. On the gridiron Jason starred at tailback and cornerback but midway through Jason's junior year he suffered a season ending knee injury. It was during his senior football season that Jason would be recognized by the Bicentennial Conference selecting him to the All-Conference Team.

As a key member of the record breaking, historic JFK track team Jason would be a standout sprinter, javelin thrower, high jumper, and long jumper. In the sprints Jason excelled in the 100M, 4x100M, 4x200M and 4x400M relays. In 1982 Jason was a member of a long jump relay that broke the JFK School Record that was set in 1974. That '82 Long Jump relay team were Middlesex County Athletic Conference Champions. In 1983 Jason was the Bicentennial Conference Champ for the Long Jump and in 1984 he was the overall Middlesex County Champion. In 1984 Jason was key member of the 4x100M relay team that were Middlesex County Champions.

Jason's performance on the gridiron caught the attention of West Chester University Head Coach, Danny Hale. Midway through his freshman season Jason was promoted to the varsity level and eventually earning a starting position for the Rams at tailback. As a freshman, Jason would enjoy four consecutive games where he rushed for over 100 yards, including 146 yards on 30 carries vs 1AA

opponent Lehigh University. Over the next three seasons Jason would rush for 3,058 yards (3rd All Time in 1987), with 40 TD's (4th All Time), for a career average of 5.5 yards per carry. In 1987 Jason set the single game rushing record with 272 yards against American International University. His 1,368 yards in 1987 was the 3rd best rushing season in school history at the time.

Jason was recognized as a three time All PSAC Tailback and in 2015 he was inducted into the West Chester University Hall of Fame.

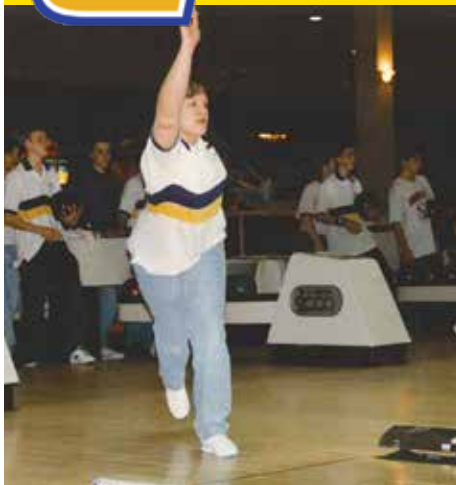
Today, Jason resides in Iselin and is the proud father of Jason Jr. and Jarett Sims. He is also the owner of Lifeguard Medical Supply in Avenel and continues to volunteer with the Woodbridge Township youth as a long-time coach and board member of the Iselin Giants Football and Cheer program now known as the Woodbridge Broncos. CONGRATULATIONS! Welcome to the Hall!





LAURA ZOLLO CALABRESE

CLASS OF 1999



Laura Zollo Calabrese, Colonia High School Class of 1999 graduate, currently lives in Woodbridge, NJ. She is married to Angelo Calabrese, has three stepchildren – Angelo, Aidan, Addison, and one daughter – Francesca. She works for the Woodbridge Township School District where she is the Supervisor of Reading & Writing K-5, ASI, and Elementary Summer Enrichment. In her free time, Laura enjoys spending time with family and friends, crafting, and volunteering for her daughter's school and dance team.

Laura started bowling at the age of 8. Her father, Vincent, would bring her to her weekly Saturday morning league at Majestic Lanes. After every high school match and tournament, he would leave out the newspaper with the results which Laura still has to this day. Her sister, Jennifer, bowled with her for several years before leaving the sport only to then rejoin her sister in Laura's junior and senior years. Laura then went on to bowl on many travel teams starting with Majestic Lanes before moving over to Woodbridge Bowling Center. Ruth & Vincent, her parents, brought her all over the state of New Jersey to bowl. She met many friends and created many lifelong memories through bowling.

As a Colonia Patriot, Laura served as the Captain of the girls' bowling team her Sophomore, Junior, and Senior years and was a four-year letter winner. In her freshman year, 1995-96, Laura finished the season with the fourth-highest average (170.9), eight 200 games, and nine 500 sets. Her high game was a 238 which was part of her season-best 633 series. She qualified 13th overall as an individual with a 503 set in the GMC Tournament. She then went on to place 9th overall in the finals. That year the team won the Joe Romer Memorial Tournament with Zollo bowling the high game (224) and high series (605) of the day. This was the first time in five years that the tournament was won by a different school. In the quarter finals of the GMC Tournament, Colonia High School swept the undefeated, top-seeded Woodbridge High School team. Zollo Calabrese was named All White Division, All GMC Conference, and Home News & Tribune All Area Team.

In her sophomore year, Zollo Calabrese was once again named All White Division, All GMC Conference, and Home News Tribune All Area Team. This season's highlights included rolling the 3rd top individual high set (605) in the Central Jersey Winter Classic Tournament and qualifying 1st with a 631 set in the GMC Individual Tournament qualifying round. She went on to place 2nd overall as an individual. Zollo Calabrese assisted the girls' team with a 591 set which led to their second consecutive title in the tournament. She finished the season 3rd overall with an average of 183, 5th high scratch game of 244, and

4th high scratch series of 621.

In 1997-98, her junior year, Laura was joined by her sister Jennifer on the team. She was then featured as the Home News & Tribune Athlete of the Week in January. This year she went on to place 16th as an individual in the NJSIAA tournament. She finished this year being named to the All White Division, All GMC Conference, and Home News Tribune First Teams. Overall, she averaged 178.09 with a high scratch game of 226, and a high scratch series of 584.

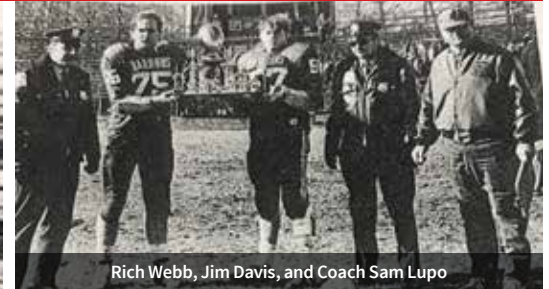
The Colonia Patriots did not win many team titles. Zollo Calabrese brought attention to the team on the individual level, especially her senior year. In the GMC Individual Qualifying Round, she bowled a 582 to qualify 3rd. During the finals, Zollo Calabrese rolled a 616 to draw the top seed entering the stepladder finals. She then went on to win the Individual Crown proving victorious over a cross-town WHS rival (254-210). This 254 game was also the highest score in the finals since a North Brunswick bowler's score in 1996. This was one of the sweetest victories for her as she proved that the Patriots could come out on top after all. In the NJSIAA tournament, Zollo Calabrese added the state title to her GMC Individual title. She posted the high game of the day with a 255 and high series of the day with a 616. Having won both individual crowns in her senior year was, undeniably, the way Laura would leave her mark in the bowling world. This accomplishment places her as one of the two bowlers in the state's history to ever win both individual titles in the same year. Laura was the feature of several articles in the Home News Tribune and The Star Ledger her senior year. She concluded the season with a high scratch game of 277, high scratch series of 648, and a 183 average. She was named The Star Ledger State Bowler of the Year, The Star Ledger Central Jersey 1st Team, The Star Ledger All State Team, Home News Tribune Bowler of the Year, Home News Tribune All Area Team, White Division, and All GMC Conference. She truly saved the best for last.

Her coach, Jennifer Kirby-Jeter, had the following to share when reflecting on her years as Laura's coach – "What coach could not love an athlete who received honors their freshman year and exceeded them every year? Laura was that athlete. She was at the top of all categories. The bowler to beat on this team, in the conference, and state. Never a problem in class and had the support of her family."

To all athletes, no matter the sport, Zollo Calabrese wants "to remind them that anything they want to achieve they can. Just remain focused, determined, and never underestimate yourself." CONGRATULATIONS, Laura, and welcome to the WTAAA Hall of Fame!



1970 FOOTBALL TEAM



Rich Webb, Jim Davis, and Coach Sam Lupo



Gary Kuzniak



Bob Parrott



George Ryan

When preparations began for the 1970 season, the head coach, Sam Lupo, knew that he had to replace a number of star players from his undefeated 1969 team. The list included Jimmy Russo (HoF) and Tony Russomanno (HoF).

However, Coach Sam also knew that he had several rising seniors and juniors returning, and he was optimistic that the team could have another excellent season. Wow! Was Coach Sam prophetic? Yes, he was! The Barrons of 1970 (7-2-0) finished just three points from perfection. The only losses were versus Carteret 7-8 and Thomas Jefferson (Elizabeth) 0-2 on a rain soaked quagmire of a field at WHS. Unfortunately, the Barrons All State running back, John Huttenberger (HoF) was injured in the second half of the Carteret game. The injury also forced him to miss the Jefferson game. This game was billed as the "game of the day" in NJ but in addition to "Hutt", Jefferson's All State back, Gil Chapman also missed the game due to injury. If Woodbridge wanted to have a chance at the Central Jersey Group 4 sectional championship, they would have to defeat arch rival Edison on Thanksgiving Day. They did this easily to the tune of 49-9. John Huttenberger and John Wagenhoffer each scored three touchdowns in the decisive victory. "Hutt" scored his 100th point of the season, highest in the county. Tom Welter picked off a pass and returned it for a touchdown.

When the NJSIAA sectional titles were announced, the Barrons were awarded the Central Jersey Group 4 Championship trophy, the school's fifth prior to playoffs (1974). They also won the school's third straight Greater Jersey Conference Central I Division title. A mid-season game versus JP Stevens (7-1-1) proved huge and drew close to 8,000 fans according to police estimates. Woodbridge prevailed 29-24. John Wagenhoffer took the second half kickoff and raced 95 yards for an untouched touchdown in the great comeback victory.

In the final NJ statewide rankings, the Barrons

finished 9th in the NJSIAA poll, 12th in The Newark Star Ledger poll, and 16th in The Newark Evening News poll. The team scored 211 points, a then school record. The Barrons gave the program a second straight winning season on a march to eight straight winning seasons. From 1969 to 1976, WHS football never lost more than three games in any one nine game season. The head coaches were Sam Lupo (HoF) for the first four and Frank Capraro (HoF) for the last four. The eight winning seasons in a row broke the previous school record by Nick Priscoe's (HoF) teams from 1957-1962.

1970 Football Schedule

JFK, 20-0
@East Brunswick, 32-7
Colonia, 21-0
Perth Amboy, 25-15
JP Stevens, 29-24
Plainfield, 28-0
@Carteret, 7-8
Thomas Jefferson (Elizabeth), 0-2
@ Edison, 49-9



John Huttenberger

The team's star players included the following all state individuals: John Huttenberger* (HoF), Rich Webb (HoF) and Jim Davis*. "Hutt" was The Home News and The News Tribune "Back of the Year". Rich Webb was The News Tribune "Lineman of the Year". In addition to Hutt, Davis and Webb, All County honors went to Al Gluchoski* (HoF), Bob Parrot (HoF) and Tom Welter. (Note: On January 1st, 2000, Paul Franklin of The Home News Tribune named "Hutt" to the paper's All-Century Team.) Team Captains were Jimmy Davis and Rich Webb. John Huttenberger, to this day, still holds the school record for "most rushing yards in a game" with 315 versus Perth Amboy on October 17th, 1970.

Contributing players included: Senior leaders—Ken Andrews, Gary Kuzniak*, Jim Lechleiter*, Bob Panko, Al Rosen, George Ryan*, Dennis Santora, Victor

Simon, Craig Smith, John Spond, Dan Tooker, Paul Ungeleighter, John Wagenhoffer, Tom Welter. Junior leaders—Bill Almasi, Kevin Barnes, Tom Carragino, Mark Demoreski, Tom Dorris, John Errante, Dan Fenton, Ken Koblentz, Ken Koznar, Tom Kumpa (HoF), Mike Kwiatkowski, Jim Lucas, Joe Lutisan, George McGrath, Tom Short, Robert Simkovich, Walter Sosnovich*, Steve Starrick*. Additional juniors were George Ellis, Thomas Finocchio (manager), Dennis Francese, Gregory Gurbach, Craig Jacob, George Matt, John Murphy, Angelo Sica. The sophomore leader was Richard Kondrk. The excellent coaches were: Head Coach Sam Lupo* (HoF) and assistants Patsy Barbato* (HoF), Cary Hamrah* (HoF), Al Meravi (HoF), Dick Miglecz* (HoF) and Harry Zmijewski*. **(*We remember these players and coaches IN Memoriam)**

The 1970 WHS Barrons had an excellent coaching staff, excellent student athletes, talent, and excellent team chemistry. The guys cared about each other and tried their best to win every time they took the field. The assistant coach, Al Meravi, recently stated, "as coaches we were very lucky to have great hardworking players. They were loyal to the program and rooted for each other. These players made us feel extremely proud as their coaches." Rich Webb, All State lineman (HoF) recently stated, "the '70 WHS football team coached by Sam Lupo and his outstanding staff was a hard hitting, blue collar crew that took up where the undefeated '69 team left off. Ranked #1 in the State at 6-0, only 3 points and a key injury kept us from realizing the dream of 9-0. Our 2-0 loss to eventual State #1 Thomas Jefferson (now Elizabeth) before 7,000 on a rain soaked Woodbridge field was an all time classic." For these reasons, they are now WTAAA Hall of Famers. For all these reasons, the 1970 WHS Barrons are considered to be one of the greatest football teams in the school's proud and storied history. Congratulations '70 Barrons and welcome to The Hall!

1980 SOFTBALL TEAM



SOFTBALL: 1st Row: Karen Youngman, Mary Dalu, Geri McFadden, Cathy Paxton, 2nd Row: Tammy Zavatoski, Donna DiFabio, Cheryl Olah, Belinda Belin, Sheryl Lorensen, Laura Bradley, Laura Robinson, Lisa Martino, 3rd Row: Kristin Minaides, Kim McArdle, Lynn Gretkowski, Donna Maddi, Sue Martin, Trish O'Neill.

When WTAA Hall of Famer Stew Jago* began his softball head coaching career at Colonia High School in 1979, games were played at School #27. He immediately raised the competitive level of the program. The school finally had girls with more recreational league experience and high school experience. They liked playing softball and were serious about winning. They wanted to practice and wanted to improve. That first team in 1979 finished 14-8-1. However, the 1980 senior class was believed to be the beginning of the "turn around".

As preparations began for the 1980 season, Coach Jago knew that he had a veteran team returning and could be even more competitive. The team was led by future Hall of Famers Cheryl Olah*, a junior pitcher, and Karen Youngman, a senior third baseman. When the season ended, Colonia High School, only an 11th seed, had won the first Middlesex County Tournament Championship in school history. They finished 21-7 and 15-5 in the old Middlesex County Athletic Conference. In the MCT, the lady Patriots upset #6 seed Hoffman (now South Amboy) 2-0, #3 Piscataway 6-5, #10 JFK 2-1 and #16 Sayreville 2-1. CHS was on the softball map.

Karen Youngman and Cheryl Olah were named All State Group 4 third team and First Team All County. Mary Dalu made 3rd team All County. Team captains were Geraldine McFadden (OF), Mary Dalu (C) and Karen Youngman (SS, 3B). Cathy Paxton was also a senior player. (P)

Junior year contributors were Belinda Belin, Laura Bradley, Donna DiFabio, Sheryl Lorensen, Lisa Martino, Cheryl Olah and Laura Robinson. Sophomore contributors were Lynn Gretkowski, Donna Maddi, Sue Martin, Kristen Minaides, Kim McArdle, Tricia O'Neill*, and Tammy Zavatoski. The assistant coach was tonight's Hall of Fame inductee Mike Kaelber. As a tri-captain, Karen Youngman wanted to thank Coach Jago and Coach Kaelber for "righting the ship". (****We remember IN MEMORIAM***)

Coach Stew Jago made the following comment about his first championship CHS softball team on his nomination form. "This team played great defense and got a ton of clutch hitting all season long. The bulk of this team came back to win the County Tournament the following year to become back champions." "This team (1980) was a family in the truest sense of the word."

A team captain, Karen Youngman, recently stated "I am proud to be part of the class of 1980 and a member of the CHS softball community. I feel we were the start of making the program more competitive. With the addition of Coach Jago and Mike Kaelber to guide us and the talented under classman, we shocked them all by going all the way to MC champions by 1980. Thank you for this honor and the opportunity for us to reconnect. I am looking forward to catching up with everyone and having a great evening."

A team captain, Geraldine McFadden, added this comment. "Our thanks go to the good Lord above, to our dedicated coaches with our supportive parents, and to a group of girls whose perseverance to never quit allowed us to make it to #1. We are humbled and grateful for this evening."

The WTAA welcomes Coach Stew Jago's 1980 Colonia High School softball team into the Hall of Fame. Be proud of your accomplishments as you join a prominent group of CHS student-athletes. Congratulations!! Mrs. Donna DiFabio Jago and their sons, Christopher and Michael, will accept the plaque on behalf of the team and beloved Coach Stew Jago.



1992 BASEBALL TEAM



KNEELING (Left to Right): Steve Christenson, Don Nelson, Tom Caffrey, Pete Saniscalchi, Steve Karas, Archal Dhruva
STANDING (Left to Right): Jerry Smith, Steve Muretta, Alex Bosch, Jeff Trela, Dan Heimlich, Lester Czerniak, Jim Gordon, Chris Corsaro, Dan Tyler, Bob Lanigan **NOT PICTURED:** Tim Knodel and Telly Ladoo.



When John F. Kennedy Memorial High School opened in September, 1964, the Mustang baseball program enjoyed immediate success. From 1965 through 1972, the school enjoyed eight winning seasons in a row. They won two Greater Jersey Conference division titles and performed well each season in the Middlesex County Tournament. However, one thing always eluded them and that was a sectional title. Fortunately, that goal was finally achieved in 1992 under third year coach Jerry Smith, Sr. (HoF), and assistant coach Bob Lanigan. (HoF)

The JFK '92 Mustangs captured the school's first Central Jersey Group II Sectional Championship. They also won the GMC Blue Division and finished with an 18—4 record. It was the beginning of a very successful run by Coach Smith's teams that would see them enjoy thirteen winning seasons in a row including four seasons of twenty or more wins and several additional championships.

The '92 Mustangs had a nice blend of upperclassmen and underclassmen. The seniors included Steve Christensen (CF), Chris Corsaro (IF/P), Steve Muretta (UT), Donald Nelson (OF) and Telly Ladoo (OF). The juniors were Tom Caffrey (SS/P), Peter Saniscalchi (2B), Jeff Trela (1B), Steven Karas

(3B), Archal Dhruva (P) and Jim Gordon (P) and later (HoF). The sophomore class contributed Lester Czerniak (OF/P), Dan Heimlich (3B/OF), Tim Knodel (OF) and Dan Tyler(UT). The freshman star was Alex Bosch (C) and (HoF) later. The reliable scorekeepers were Michele McCarthy, Dana Sacco and Jessica Smith. The manager was Chris Styler. The trainer was Mr. Brad Altland and the athletic director was Mr. Frank Capraro (HoF).

During the sectional tournament run, the Mustangs defeated Carteret 7-0, Somerville 12-3 and Holmdel 6-3. The 18 wins tied a then school record with the 1966 team. The squad had a team batting average of .321 with over 200 hits. They went undefeated at home. Steve Christensen had the most stolen bases (17) and Chris Corsaro had the most hits (29). Tom Caffrey scored the most runs (22). Pete Saniscalchi had the highest batting average at .418 and led the team in RBIs with 29. The top pitchers were Archal Dhruva (1.85 ERA and 6-1 record) and Jim Gordon (1.31 ERA and 8-1 record). The team also performed very well in the classroom, earning a second consecutive GMC Academic Award.

When post-season honors were released, Coach Smith Sr. was named area Coach of the Year by The

News Tribune. Jim Gordon (P) and Pete Saniscalchi (2B) were named to the First Team. Chris Corsaro (3B) was a Second Team selection. Archal Dhruva, Steve Christensen, Tom Caffrey and Alex Bosch were honorable mention choices.

Following the championship victory over Holmdel, Coach Smith said, "when we started two years ago, I just wanted the team to be competitive, play hard, hustle on the field. But these kids have done that and beyond. They've been working two years for this." (Source: "Mustangs Bring Home First Sectional Championship" by Rich Haley, The News Tribune, May 31, 1992)

The WTAAA is pleased to welcome the 1992 John F. Kennedy Memorial High School Mustang baseball team. They captured the first NJSIAA State Sectional Championship in school history and that achievement earns them a spot in our Hall of Fame. Congratulations to ALL team members!

Woodbridge Township Athletic Alumni Association

2022 Scholarship Recipients

The Woodbridge Township Athletic Alumni Association presents six awards for a total of \$1,800.00 at the Senior Graduation Awards Programs, and donated to the new Marisa Tufaro Foundation for Middlesex County children in need of assistance. The athletes must represent their sport(s) in both performance and leadership. The recipients demonstrate a competitive spirit, great enthusiasm, a sense of fair play, and exhibit good sportsmanship and pride in their activities. The WTAAA gives special thanks to the Woodbridge Township business community for supporting the scholarship program.



Matt Scherb
(Ann Cyrana)
Zoe Gotti



Melany Gomez
Sharon DiLonardo
Calvin Claiborne



Isaiah Allen
Tom Chmiel
Melanie Updale

Woodbridge Township Athletic Alumni Association

2021 Scholarship Recipients



Harrison Brindley | Alissa Fasulo



Michael Hein
Sharon DiLonardo
Olivia Sims



Isaiah Williams | Juliana Carvalho

Previous Scholarship Recipients

2017

Jessica Malinchok & Jarred Ruiz CHS

Maura Farley & Alexander "AJ" Moore JFK

Sierra Twomey & Keshawn "Scoobie" Henry WHS

2018

Samantha Ashton & Drew Galea CHS

Jelisa Lovett & Aaron Coleman JFK

Brooke Timinski & Curtis Nesbit WHS

2019

Casey Mulrooney & Tommy Mitch CHS

Jillian Sims & Dennis Howard JFK

Kaylah Davis & James Stoveken WHS

Woodbridge Township Athletic Alumni Association
2020 Scholarship Recipients



CHS - Mark Nykolyn



CHS - Tiffany Rolon-Locus



JFK - Emmanuel Diaz



JFK - Jenny Gordon



WHS - Jesus Cabrera



WHS - Trinity Eason



Scholarship Donations

As a 501(c)(3), all donations are tax deductible. You can specify if your donation is for our Scholarship Fund. Contributions may be sent to:

WTAAA

c/o Woodbridge Recreation Department

600 Main Street

Woodbridge, NJ 07095

Woodbridge Township Athletic Alumni Association

WTAAA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

FROM 1989 – MARCH 2000



Adams, Edward
Adams, Robert "Ace"
Alexander, Leroy
Anacker, Mel
Anderson, Don
Aquila, Anthony
Aquila, Dominick
Aquila, John "Jack"
Aquila, Warren
Archdeacon, Richard
Barany, Ernie
Barbato, Patsy
Barcellona, Andrew
Barcellona, Tony Sr.
Barlund, Richard
Basarab, Michael
Beleski, Al
Benkert, Heinie
Benzelski, Dr. Robert
Bixel, Claire
Boland, Bob
Boland, Jim
Bosze, Joseph
Brey, Bill (Novo)
Brodkin, Bart
Brooks, Randy
Buonocore, Dr. Fred
Buonocore, Vinnie
Burke, Jackie
Cacciola, Tony
Campbell, L.M. "Bud"
Capraro, Frank
Capraro, Dr. Vince
Chaplar, Frank
Christensen, Erik
Christensen, Walter

Cipo, John
Creekmur, Lou
Cunningham, Pat
D'Aprile, Nick
Dalina, Pete
Deryn, John
DiDonna, Mark
DiMock, James
Drummond, Spencer
Dubay, Ernie
Dubay, John
Dunda, James
Dunfee, Al
Dunham, Bonnie
Dunham, Art
Etzold, Edmund Max
Fair, Dr. George
Fair, Robert
Farr, Charles
Finn, Bob
Finn, William J.
Flaherty, Joseph
Fratteolo, Matt
Furdock, Don
Gabriel, Lou
Gerek, George
Gerns, Owen
Giordano, Tom
Gioffre, Vince
Gluchoski, Al
Goglas, Kenny
Gonyo, Gerry
Hackett, Lee
Hagler, Lou
Handerhan, William
Higgins, Joe

Hladik, John
Hoagland, Eddie "Sully"
Hollowell, Herb
Houseman, Walter
Howell, John
Huttenberger, John
Jackson, Ray
Jago, Matthew
Jago, Stew
Johannson, George
Johnson, Arthur "Buster"
Johnston, Ed
Jost, Frank
Juhasz, Joe
Karnas, Michael
Kasko, Robert
Kish, John
Kondryk, John
Konick, Dr. Emery
Koperwhats, Bob
Koperwhats, Donna
Korcowski, John
Korcowski, Tom
Kostecky, T.J.
Kovacs, Stephen
Kirkleski, Frank
Kumpa, Tom
Kuzniak, Richard
Lake, James
Lamberti, Pat
Launhardt, Walt
Lawrence, Roy
Leahy, Eugene
Leffler, Al "Albie"
Leffler, Fred "Fritz"
Lockie, Tom

Luhrs, Warren
Lupo, Sam
Marciniak, Tom
Markous, Tom
Markovics, Frank
Markulin, Steve
Marshall, Sam
Mascenik, Robert
Matusz, Joann
(McMillian)
Mazza, Anthony
McAuliffe, Tom
McCallen, Howie
McLaughlin, Bob
Meravi, Al
Miglec, Dick
Miller, Jerry
Molnar, Charles
Montague, Dr. Don
Montecalvo, Fran
Moskowitz, Jack
Mueller, Dr. Fred
Nagy, Joe
Olah, Dr. Tim
Parrott, Bob
Pellegrino, Angelo
Peterson, Bernard
Peterson, Bernard Jr.
Peterson, Hardy
Petrie, Tom
Pirnik, Robert
Pocheck, Steve
Priscoe, Nick
Protz, John "Jack"
Rice, Orville
Rothfuss, Charles

Royle, John
Russo, James
Russomano, Anthony
Santoro, Anthony
Schmidt, Peter
Schundler, Peter
Schundler, Russell
Schwartz, Vic
Scutti, Dominick
Semak, Nick
Smith, Earl
Solecki, Kay (McAuliffe)
Sparks, Bill
Stanko, Steve
Stillman, Walter
Straube, Lee
Tambour, Lincoln
Thompson, Thomas "Tucker"
Toth, Paul
Toth, Rudy
Tyrrell, Al
Tyrrell, Dick
Tyrrell, Ken
Ulozas, Tom
Wagerik, Julius
Wasilek, George
Wataha, Joan
Webb, Richard
Wieczerek, Tom
Williams, Tom "Ramrod"
Wukovets, Percy
Zambo, Steve "Buddy"
Zapoticzny, Ronald
Zilai, Jimmy
Zullo, John



Acquisto, Robert
Arnesen, Norma (Grasso)
Aromando, Tom
Barnikow, Larry
Bartha, Lou
Burbella, George
Caleca, Bob
Campana, Al
Campana, Tom
Carbonaro, Tom
Cardinale, Gary
Cimaglia, James
Clancy, Elaine (Oleck)

Clancy, Evelyn (Mars)
Clancy, James
Clancy, Rosemary (Egan)
Croasdale, Joseph
Connolly, Mary P.
Cuntala, Nancy
Curran, Terry
Duda, Joan
Egan, Dennis
Fairchild, Vincent
Gardner, Marie
Garley, Thomas "Skip"
Grillo, Carl

Handerhan, Paul
Howard, John
Hamrah, Cary
Jorgensen, Jay
Knoth, Joseph
Lanigan, Bob
Lyons, Mike
Manfre, Donna (Geleski)
Mathews, Kathy
McDonald, James
McIntyre, James
Miller, Bill
Moyer, Roy

O'Brien, Michael
Osborne, Dan
Osborne, Ron
Petroski, Jeff
Petty, Jack
Pope, Al
Price, Les
Ricciardi, Paul
Ricciardi, Steve
Scarola, William
Schramm, Robert
Shissias, Barbara
Smythe, John

Soporowski, Ray
Stanley, Lori (Sustak)
Stevens, Jim
Sylvernal, Robin (Surma)
Ulrich, Richard
Volker, Mike
Wahl, Kenneth
Wiggins, Rich
Wrabel, Cathy (Sysock)
Zapotocky, Adrian



Baldante, John
Barnhard, David
Barnhard, Roger S.
Baureis, Ellen (Pisano)
Baureis, Nancy (McDonald)
Blackman, Scott
Boris, Paul
Brett, Harry
Buzzi, Charles
Cilento, Michael
Cilento, Steve

Comito, Frank
Confer, Tom
Confer, Roger S.
Couch, Sharon (DiLonardo)
Crilly, James
Draina, Joseph
Evanko, Kevin
Evanko, Mark
Fenton, Peter
Frank, Craig
Franken, John

Gaytas, William
Grose, Harry
Grose, Jeff
Hannon, David
Helman, Dr. Jeff
Higgins, Susan F.
(Lyster)
Higgins, Tom
Hyland, Ken
Janowski, Deborah
Kott, Mickey

Levandowski, Tom
Loprete, Robert
Lyness, Mike
Martino, Joseph
Mason, Glen
McMahon, Dan
Merkler, Ed
Murphy, Mike
Nardone, James
Oshiro, Don
Perez, Bill

Peters, Joseph
Peters, Robert
Prongay, Tom
Ryall, Tom
Sanislow, Robert
Schmidtke, Sandra
Siracusa, Pat
Tisdale, Robert
Zarsky, Cindy
Zullo, Maria (Mantak)

Woodbridge Township Athletic Alumni Association

WTAAA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

FROM 1995 – MARCH 2000

1960	Woodbridge Football Team	Coach Nick Priscoe
1962-1963	Woodbridge Boys Basketball Team	Coach James Lake
1963-1964	Woodbridge Boys Basketball Team	Coach James Lake
1967	JFK Football Team	Coach Ron Osborne
1968-1969	Colonia Boys Basketball Team	Coach Robert Sanislow
1969	Woodbridge Football Team	Coach Sam Lupo
1971	JFK Football Team	Coach Ron Osborne
1973-1974	JFK Boys Basketball Team	Coach Ray Newman
1974-1975	Woodbridge Boys Basketball Team	Coach Joseph Flaherty

Woodbridge Township Athletic Alumni Association

WTAAA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

SINCE NEW COMMITTEE 2015

1957	Woodbridge Baseball	Coach Frank Capraro
1957	Woodbridge Boys Track Mile Relay Team	Coach Lou Gabriel
1970	Colonia Boys Track Relay Team	Coaches Harry Brett & Mike Murphy
1972-1973	Colonia Boys Basketball Team	Coach Bob Tisdale
1978	JFK Football Team	Coach Cary Hamrah
1978	Woodbridge Softball Team	Coach Joan Wataha
1984	Woodbridge Girls Tennis Team	Coach Ellen Baureis Pisano
1988	JFK Softball Team	Coach Robert McLaughlin
1990	Colonia Softball Team	Coach Stew Jago
1990	JFK Boys Basketball Team	Coach Ken Pace
1970	JFK Track and Field (Indoor-Winter) Team	Coach Herb Hollowell
1974	Colonia Football Team	Coach Joe Martino

Woodbridge Township Athletic Alumni Association

WTAAA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

SINCE NEW COMMITTEE 2015



Edward Ackerman
Randy J. Adleman
Dave Aprill
Danielle Barajas
Dan Bertolami
Michele Bressant
Henri Chomicki – coach
Dr. Frank Corbo
John Eppensteiner

Edmund Etzold
Darlene Francisco (Matthews)
Michele Fowler
Tom Giordano, Jr.
Keith Hemmings Jr.
Carrie Huzar (Brown)
Richard Kovack
Theodore Kujawski
Amy Hansen (Thacker)

Eileen Jauch
Leonard “Buck” Jenkins
A. Kyle Johnson
Andr a Harris (Lust)
Paul Mallas
David Marciniak
Diane Matelski (Edmonds)
Andrew McCray
Ricky Meyers

Lou Mucardo
Robert Murphy
John W. Novak Jr.
Ed Paladino
John Picaroni
Chris Pinter
Brian Russo
William “Bill” Schoenig
Mike Yannazzo – Coach



Eric Allen
Ron Allen
James Anderson
Robert Bingham
Alex Bosch
Chris Buglovsky
Robert Burlage
Courtney Burton
David Cassella

Maureen Clancy (Harshman)
Amy Coppola (Kroner)
Ann Cyrana
Lisa Da Cruz
Alyson Eberhardt
Jennifer Egan (Bjorndahl)
David Esposito
Matt Esposito
Kathleen Flanagan (Colon)

James Gordon
J. Delvin Horsford
Jeff Kipila
Denise Koury
Mike Manfre
Andrew Munkacsi
Michele Nelson (Masino)
Ray Newman – Coach
Lenny Reyes

Frank Ruggiero
Patrick Sheehan
Darran Simon
Jerry Smith Sr. – Coach
Christine Stuppi (Chih)
David Tabon
Alfonzo Thomas
Robert Yesalonia
Sue Williams – Coach



Vincent Abene
Twana Allen
Joe Armeni
Al Alvarez
Caesar Alvarez
Gary Battle
Charles Braden
Larraine Bratton
Lisa Chin (Stanziani)
Tom Chmiel – Coach

Gerald Connell
Leonard Dandridge
Gene Derkack
Robert Farrell
Don Ferraro
Kathy Flicek (Deinlein)
Dr. Martine Gubernat
Mike Helman
Fred Herzog
Jennifer Kirby-Jeter- Coach

Jack Kreiger- Coach
David Kuntz
Bill Lichtenstein
L.T. Levine
Judi Martino
Suzanne Mergner
Cheryl Olah
Ken Pace Sr. – Coach
Michael Payne
William A. “Tony” Payne

Tina Sabunas
Lorraine Smakula
Steve Solop
Lynn Spirko
Robert Timinski
Robert Urbanik
Karen Youngman

We Remember In Memoriam

Sadly, the following people have passed since our last dinner in 2019. They were all supporters of the WTAAA Hall of Fame and Woodbridge Township Athletics in general. We apologize, in advance, if we omitted any names.

- **Edward R. Baureis** — founding father of the CHS fathers' club and president for several years. He was also the father of HoF inductees Ellen Baureis Pisano (1997) and Nancy Baureis McDonald (1999). Ellen is a current WTAAA committee member.
- **Paul Bongard** — father of 1974 CHS football HoF team member, Doug Bongard (2019).
- **Frank Capraro** — WHS '46 — three sport athlete, Rutgers football player, successful football / baseball coach at WHS and athletic director at JFKMHS and WHS. Frank was a founding father of the WTAAA – HoF. (1989) and co GoH in 2018.
- **Dr. Vincent Capraro** — WHS '56 — football player, coach and a founding father of the WTAAA. Vince was president for several years and a HoF inductee (1996). He was a Co-Guest of Honor with his brother Frank at the 2018 dinner.
- **Gary Cardinale** — JFK '67 — track and field star and HoF inductee (1994).
- **Henry Chomicki** — WHS '52 and Rutgers '56 — track and field. He was a HoF inductee (2015). The WHS track and field complex was dedicated to him on September 17th, 2022, by The Woodbridge Township Board of Education.
- **Matthew Cyrana** — longtime fan of JFK and CHS athletics and father of HoF inductee Ann Cyrana (2019). Ann is the current secretary of the WTAAA.
- **Joseph DeMarino** — WHS '52 — former Mayor of Woodbridge Township.
- **Nancy J. Drumm** — WHS '77 — former Woodbridge Township Council member for many years and membership director for the Woodbridge Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce for ten years.
- **C.J. Gray** — CHS '11 basketball star and 1000-point scorer. At the time of his passing, C.J. was with the Dallas Heat a pro-development team with connections to basketball overseas.
- **Joe Higgins** — WHS '64 — baseball star at WHS and Rutgers and a professional minor league player. He was a HoF inductee (1994).
- **Herb Hollowell** — WHS '53 — former three sport star athlete, scholarship athlete at Penn State University and later a teacher and successful coach at WHS and JFK. He was also a guidance counselor at JFK, and HoF inductee (1994). Herb was our Guest of Honor in 2019.
- **Stewart Jago** — WHS '73 — former three sport star athlete, football player at Trenton State College, and later a successful teacher and softball coach at CHS and WHS. Stew was a HoF inductee (2000).
- **John Kondrk** — WHS '69 — former NJ All State football player and Parade Magazine All American. John was a regular player contributor at Notre Dame in 1970 and 1971 when he played in the Cotton Bowl. He was a WTAAA – HoF inductee(1990).
- **Lou Kuhn** — WHS '53 — former three sport athlete and later a teacher at WHS and guidance counselor at JFK.
- **Gary Kuzniak** — WHS '71 — former two sport athlete, wrestler at Montclair State University and later a successful teacher, coach and school administrator in Woodbridge Township. Tonight, Gary's 1970 football team is being inducted into the HoF, and Gary is also being inducted individually as a coach posthumously.
- **Richard "Doc" Lane** — former long time (43 years) science teacher at WHS, a wrestling coach and high school official of several sports.
- **Paul Lavelle** — former teacher and baseball coach at JFK and later a district elementary principal.
- **Brian Meeney** — JFK and PA Technical HS '93 — former high school and college (Rowan) basketball and football player and football coach at several high schools including St. Thomas Aquinas most recently.
- **Robert Molnar** — WHS '51 — former football player and father of Woodbridge Recreation director Brian Molnar.
- **Arthur J. Notchey** — WHS '52 — long-time fan and supporter of W. Township athletics especially at WHS.
- **Clark Payne** — a member of the WTAAA Hall of Fame committee from 2015-2019. Two of his sons from CHS (Michael and Tony) are members of the Hall of Fame inducted in 2015.
- **Zaire Robinson** — WHS '15 — a former recent basketball star for the Barrons.
- **Leon Seyglinski** — WHS '55 — a former athlete and later Director of Parks and Recreation.
- **Darren Simon** — JFK '94 — former star track and field athlete at JFK and UCONN and Hall of Fame inductee (2018). At the time of his tragic passing, Darren was a journalist with The Washington Post and formerly with CNN.
- **Robert Timinski, Sr.** — father of HoF inductee Bobby Timinski (2019) and current Youth Sports Coordinator for Woodbridge Township. Bob, Sr. was a star athlete himself at St. Mary's, PA in 1965.
- **John Urbanik** — father of HoF inductee Robert Urbanik (2019).

2015



SITTING- left to right: Coach Joan Wataha, Kathleen Flanagan Colon, Christine Stuppi Chih, Lisa Da Cruz, Judi Martino, Maureen Clancy Harshman, Jennifer Egan Bjorndahl, Twana Allen, Tina Sabunas, Michele Bressant, Dr. Martine Gubernat, Karen Youngman.

STANDING: left to right: Paul Mallas sons, Paul and Kyle, Andrew McCray, Coach Mike Yannazzo, Courtney Burton, Coach Ken Pace Sr., Coach Ray Newman, Leonard "Buck" Jenkins, Michael Payne, Coach Henry Chomicki, James Anderson, William A. "Tony" Payne, Dan Bertolami, Ron Allen, Dr. Frank Corbo, William "Bill" Schoenig, Coach Tom Chmiel, Robert J. Murphy, Gary Battle. Absent from picture – Mike Helman and Jeff Kipila

2016



1st row – L to R – The children of Darlene Francisco Matthews- Andrew, Carly, Erik; coach Sue Williams; coach Jennifer Kirby – Jeter; Diane Matełski Edmonds; Lorraine Bratton
2nd row- L to R – Pat Cunningham; Bob Kasko; Steve Solop; John Eppenstein; Randy Adelman; John Picaroni; Lenny Reyes; Jason Smith; coach Jerry Smith Sr.; John Brennan; Alex Bosch; Chris Mangan; Courtney Burton; Kendal Green; J. Delvin Horsford; Matt Esposito; Dave Esposito; coach Jack Kreiger; Caesar Alvarez; coach Ken Pace Sr.; Jamie Panko

Absent from picture - deceased inductees – Al Alvarez; Darlene Francisco Matthews

Living inductees - Fred Herzog; A. Kyle Johnson; Bill Lichtenstein; Mike Manfre; Lynn Spirko; Amy Hansen-Thacker

2017



NJ SPORTS MEDIA 2017

SEATED – FIRST ROW – Dr. Robert "Bud" Kovacs (brother of Bill Kovacs- guest of honor), Kim Franks (Bill's daughter), and Tara Fairbanks (Bill's niece)

SEATED – SECOND ROW – Danielle Barajas, Ellen Baureis Pisano, coach of 1964 WHS girls tennis team and seven members of this team, Lisa Chin Stinziani, Amy Coppola Kroner, Denise Koury, Suzanne Mergner, Andra Harris Lust, Michele Fowler, and two members of 1976 JFK football team

STANDING – THIRD ROW – Leonard Dandridge, Mike Cilento, member of 1972-1973 CHS basketball team and assistant coach of 1978 JFK football team and ten members of 1978 JFK football team, Ray Newman, assistant coach at JFK, L.T. Levine, and Bob Lanigan, assistant coach of 1978 JFK football team.

STANDING – FOURTH ROW – Dave Aprilli, Tom Chmiel, assistant coach of 1972-1973 CHS basketball team, four members of this team, and Jack Kreiger, assistant coach, at CHS, James Gordon, Dave Marciniak, Chris Buglovsky, Bob Yesalonia, Joe Armeni, Robert Farrell, 1978 JFK football team member, and Carl Grillo, assistant coach of 1978 JFK football team.

Absent from picture are Tom Giordano Jr., Cheryl Olah, honored posthumously, Chris Pinter, David Tabon, honored posthumously, and Alfonso Thomas.

2018



L to R – front row – seated – 1988 JFK softball team members- Denise Koury, Tracy Latin, Sheryl Fornoff, Stacy Latin, Amy Malisa Moyer, Karen Stuppig, Mrs. Munkacsi;
1990 Colonia softball team members – Donna Sisco – McBaron, Colleen Nersita, Tara Molitz, Claudine Caro, Michelle Ferragamo- Murtha, Tina Sabunas, Jennifer Fabbo, Jennifer Weller, Stu Jago- head co

L to R – top row – standing – Gerry Gonyo- WHS- 1957 baseball team; 1988 JFK softball team members – Moira Forbes Zapata, Tina Kole Frost, Bob McLaughlin- head coach, Rita Saylor- assistant coach, Patricia Fitzgerald, Pam Wojton Barnhard, Katy Flanagan Colon; Sgt. Charles Braden, Gene Derkack, Ed Ackerman, Eric Allen, Ted Kujawski, Patrick Sheehan, Darran Simon, Alyson Eberhardt, and Special Guests of Honor- Dr. Vincent Capraro and Mr. Frank Capraro.

Absent from picture - deceased inductee – Richard Kovack; and living inductees- Gerald Connell, Don Ferraro, Eileen Jauch, Lou Mucardo, Dr. Andrew Munkacsi, Lorraine Smakula, and 1957 WHS baseball team members – Ron Gasiorowski and Dave Peterson.

2019



STANDING-left to right- Scott Garley- son of Tom Garley, Steve and Paul Ricciardi. Two JFK- 1970 winter Track and field teammates; Roger Barnhard and Caesar Alvarez flanked by seven more CHS -1974 football team mates; Frank Ruggiero, Ed Etzold, Andy Barcellona, Keith Hemmings Jr., Brian Russo, Robert Urbanik, David Cassella, Gary Cardinale, flanked by two more 1970 JFK track men.

SEATED-left to right- JFK track 70 teammate, assist. Coach Bob Taylor flanked by six more CHS 1974 football players, assist. coach John Picaroni, Bob Peters, and Steve Clinto; Carrie Huzar Brown, Ann Cyrana, Kathy Flicek Deinlein, Vincent Abene, Robert Timinski, Ed Paladino, John W. Novak, Jr., Coach Robert Bingham, Dr. Robert Burtage.

ABSENT from PICTURE - Head coach Herb Hollowell of JFK- 1970 winter track and field team; Judi, Lisa, Joey- children of late head coach Joe Martino- CHS -1974 football team; David Kuntz, Jim McDonald.

2023 Hall of Fame Nominations



The WTAHA invites you to send your nominations by May 15, 2023 for the next class of inductees. Forms are on your table.

C JFK W		WTAHA HALL OF FAME	
Name:		Name:	NOMINATED BY:
Home phone:		Home phone:	
Cell phone:		Cell phone:	
Fax:		Fax:	
E-mail:		E-mail:	
High School:		Class year:	
Address:			
City:		State:	ZIP Code:
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Robert Kasko
– WTAAA –
Inductee

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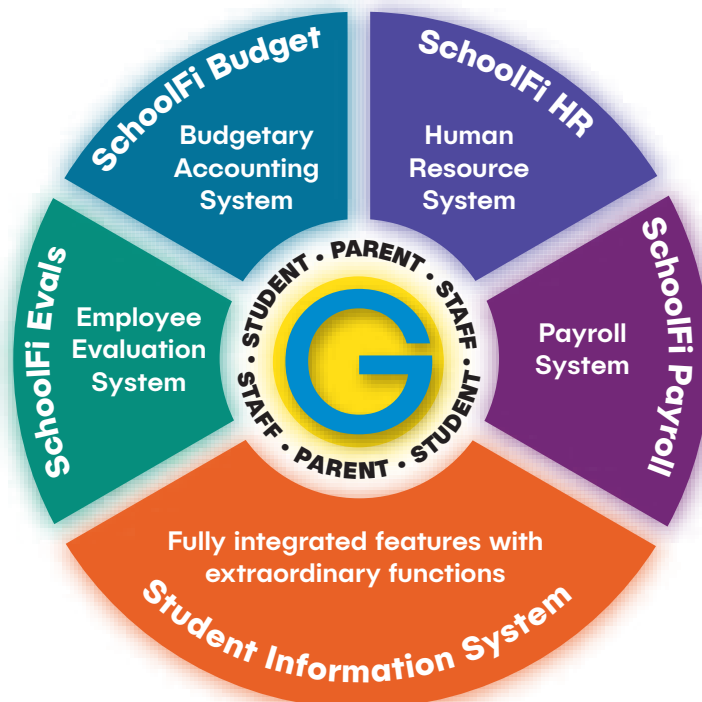
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Your talent, your energy and your zest for athletic competition in track and field have served you well. You contributed not only to the athletic program at Woodbridge High School, but also to the track program at North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina. I am so very proud of you for this much deserved recognition. May God continue to bless you.

*Much love . . your wife,
Diane C. Hall*



Congratulations, Dad/Pop Pop (a.k.a. Jerry Hall)!

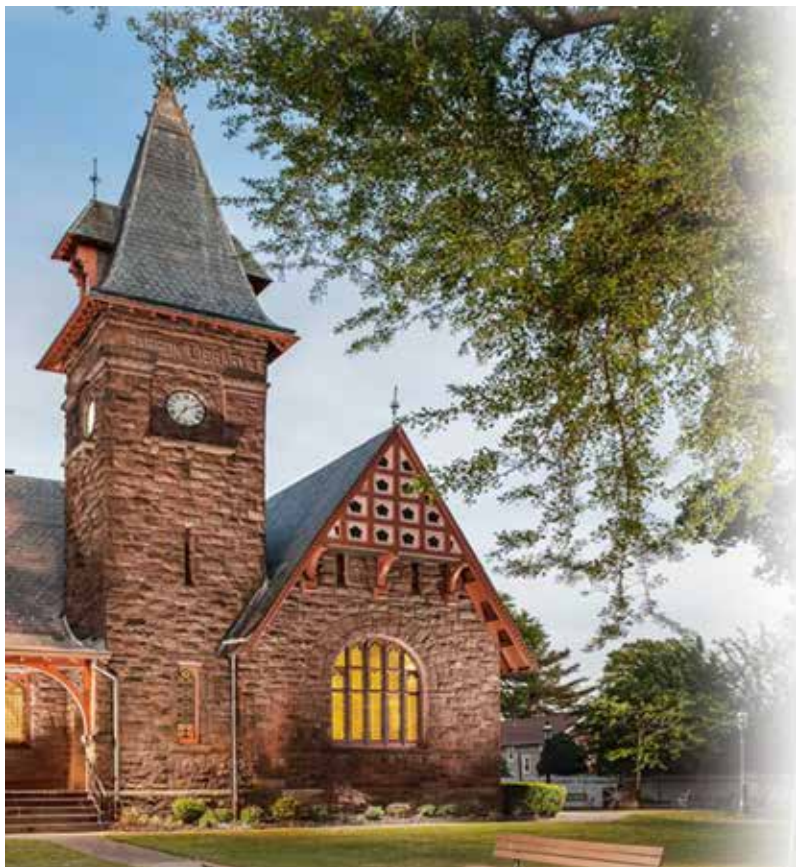


We are so proud of all your
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CONGRATULATIONS to all Hall of Fame inductees!



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- 4 | **Congratulations, Jerry, for your well deserved WHS Hall of Fame induction.** Love, Aunt Mil, Gary and Denise

*Congratulations to all of
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