

WPIAL HALL OF FAME

The WPIAL Hall of Fame was organized as a means of recognizing, preserving, and promoting the heritage of interscholastic athletics in Western Pennsylvania. Many individuals and teams have made extraordinary contributions and have achieved superb accomplishments in high school sports. The Hall of Fame aims to honor the contributions and accomplishments of those selected as models for future generations.

CLASS OF 2009

COACHES

ABE EVERHART – Once made Sports Illustrated Faces in the Crowd for his coaching success. He coached Uniontown for 29 years before retiring after the 1976 season. His career record was 549-149, with four WPIAL championships and two PIAA titles. His 1964 team was undefeated and his teams once won 52 games in a row, which still ties a WPIAL record today. Everhart passed away in 1986, but his legend lives on.

CHUCK STULL – You need almost six hands to count the number of WPIAL team tennis championships Stull won. He coached Mt. Lebanon's boys' and girls' teams from 1969-1997 and won a total of 27 WPIAL titles, 13 in boys and 14 in girls. He coached a total of 22 state champions in both singles and doubles combined, and a few of his players went on to become pros. His career record in team matches was 855-70.

BRUNO SCHWARZ – Maybe the most renowned boys' soccer coach in WPIAL history, he coached North Allegheny's boys' team for 35 seasons before retiring after 2002. He retired as the winningest coach in PIAA history with a record of 516-168-46. He won six WPIAL championships, made it to the state championship four times and won one state title. He also coached Pittsburgh's professional indoor soccer team – the Spirit.

DALE MEDDOCK – This man was a real "gym" dandy. He coached Ambridge gymnastics teams from 1971 to 1984 and won an amazing 187 dual meets and lost only one. He won 12 consecutive WPIAL titles from 1973 to 1984 and eight straight PIAA titles after the sport was recognized at that level in 1977.

ATHLETES

JIMBO COVERT, FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL – Recognized as one of the best linemen to ever play high school football in Western Pennsylvania. He was a UPI first-team all-state selection at Freedom High School in 1977 and also an accomplished wrestler at Freedom. He went on to be an All-American at Pitt, a first-round draft choice in the NFL, a Super Bowl winner, a two-time Pro Bowl selection and a member of the College Football Hall of Fame.

BRIAN DAVIS, WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL – Twenty-five years ago, he was Parade magazine's national player of the year in 1984. He is still the 20th leading rusher in WPIAL history with 4,480 yards and his career yards-per-carry average was 9.7. In

his high school career, he also won a state long jump championship and, although he was only 5 feet 10, he was the starting center on a Washington state championship basketball team.

JODI (FIGLEY) RENNER, HOPEWELL HIGH SCHOOL – She never knew what it was like to NOT win a WPIAL girls' golf championship as she won four from 1983 to '86. She also won two state titles and before going on to play at Stanford, where she finished seventh in the NCAA tournament as a senior. She eventually went on to play on the LPGA tour for a few years.

STAN MUSIAL, DONORA HIGH SCHOOL – Musial was such a good baseball player that he turned professional as a senior in high school. At Donora High in the late 1930s, Musial was a standout baseball player, but also a talented football and basketball player. He went on to become one of the greatest baseball players in Major League history. He played for the St. Louis Cardinals from 1941-63 and his 3,630 hits are still fourth all time behind only Pete Rose, Ty Cobb and Hank Aaron. A three-time National League MVP, seven-time batting champion and a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame.

LAURYN WILLIAMS, ROCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL – This athlete was so good that she once got a standing ovation from a crowd of 5,000 at the state track championships. In high school at Rochester, she became only the third female in PIAA history to win the 100- and 200-meter dashes three different years. She set state records and WPIAL records, went on to become an NCAA sprint champion at the University of Miami and ran in the Olympics twice. In the 2004 Games, she was a silver medalist in the 100-meter dash.

CAROLE (ZAJAC) TYNAN, BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL – Considered the greatest distance runner in WPIAL history. As a junior and senior, she won WPIAL and state track championships in the 1,600 and 3,200 runs and had the best times in WPIAL history. She also won WPIAL and state cross-country championships as both a junior and senior. She went on to star at Villanova and in 2005, the NCAA selected her the Most Outstanding Student-Athlete in cross country for the past quarter century.

CASSIDY KRUG, MONTOUR HIGH SCHOOL - She made quite a splash at Montour, winning three WPIAL diving championships and three state championships. She graduated from Stanford in 2007, where she was a seven-time All-American, won the NCAA 1 and 3 meters championships as a senior and was named NCAA diver of the year.

CONTEST OFFICIAL

DUANE NORTON – A veteran of 58 years of serving as an active PIAA registered official. He has actively officiated football, basketball, softball and remains an active volleyball official. He served 20 years as the WPIAL male officials representative which included a seat on the WPIAL Board of Control. Over the years, he has supported numerous clinics to train officials in proper techniques and rules application. He worked tirelessly with the a state senator in having legislation passed which affords protection for sports officials when physically confronted by unruly individuals.

CONTRIBUTOR

MIKE ARBUTINA – Served as WPIAL President for 18 years. In addition he represented the league on the PIAA Board of Directors from 1972-1990 and served as president of the PIAA FROM 1978-79. Under his leadership, the WPIAL football championships expanded into super Saturday with all four championships being contested at Three Rivers Stadium. He was a leader in the formative years of girls' sports and helped put the girls on an even footing with boys sports.

TEAMS

NORTH ALLEGHENY WRESTLING, 1988 – This team wasn't just No. 1 in the WPIAL or state. They finished ranked No. 1 in the country. They had outstanding wrestlers at many weight classes, including two of the WPIAL's best ever in Ty Moore and Ray Brinzer. The team was coached by legendary Gus DeAugustino

GREENSBURG SAEM GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL 1998 – Talk about dominance. This team never lost a game in seven postseason matches. They won WPIAL and PIAA titles, and in the state final, shut out Mt. Lebanon, 15-0, in one game. Two of Greensburg Salem's players made first-team all-state – Tara Greene and Marita Jones.

MIDLAND BOYS' BASKETBALL 1965 – These Midland Leopards earned their stripes as one of the most dominant teams in WPIAL history. Midland featured two of the WPIAL's best players ever in Simmie Hill and Norm Van Lier. Under coach Hank Kuzma, the team went 28-0 and won seven postseason games by a whopping average of 23.1 points. Only one team came within 12 points of Midland in the postseason.

COURAGE AWARD

JOHN CHALLIS, FREEDOM HIGH SCHOOL – John is the first winner of the WPIAL's Courage Award – and how appropriate. John was an athlete at Freedom High School whose battle with cancer gained nationwide attention a year ago. John passed away last August, but he inspired many and his story was featured on ESPN and other numerous national media outlets. His own personal motto of Courage Plus Believe Equals Life left a lasting impression on many people and John's legacy lives on strongly today.