

# WPIAL HALL OF FAME AND COURAGE AWARD 2014 INDUCTEES

## ATHLETES

### **DANTE CALABRIA, BLACKHAWK HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1992**

There are 2,252 reasons to remember Calabria at Blackhawk. That's how many points he scored in his basketball career. A 6-foot-4 guard, Calabria is one of the WPIAL's greatest shooters, making 66 3-pointers as a senior when he averaged 27 points and eight rebounds. He shot 60 percent as a junior and senior and was the primary reason Blackhawk was 62-2 in those two years. He won three WPIAL championships, a state title and the 1992 team is considered one of the WPIAL's best in the past few decades. The Cougars won 32 games in a row and averaged 91 points a game. Calabria went on to play for the North Carolina Tar Heels and was part of an NCAA championship team as well as a Final Four team. He is one of the top 3-point shooters in North Carolina history and went on to play 16 seasons of professional ball overseas.

### **RALPH CINDRICH, AVELLA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1967**

Cindrigh was an outstanding football player, going on to play in the NFL for four seasons. But he was also a top-notch wrestler. At Avella, Cindrigh was a WPIAL champion and twice made it to the state championship match in wrestling. He also made his mark on the football field, helping Avella to a WPIAL title game in 1966. He was named All-State and was selected to the Big 33 football all-star game in 1967 before going on to the University of Pittsburgh, where he was a standout in both football and wrestling. He was an All-American in wrestling and was an Associated Press All-American linebacker in football for the Panthers before being taken in the fifth round of the 1972 NFL draft. He played for New England, Houston and Denver in the NFL. A nationally recognized sports lawyer and agent, Cindrigh was recently recognized as a Lifetime Achievement Award winner for his service to the legal profession.

### **SHANNON DAVIS, SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1989**

All you need to know about Davis' basketball talent is that she was named to the prestigious Parade All-American team not once, not twice, but three times. Davis was a superb talent who also was named by USA Today as one of the top five players in the country as a senior. She finished her career at Sacred Heart with 2,275 points. Sacred Heart closed in 1989 and Davis helped the school go out with a bang when she led the basketball team to the state championship. She averaged 22 points, 16 rebounds and 5 blocks that season and had 29 points and 22 rebounds in a state semifinal game against Penn Hills. Davis was selected to the Post-Gazette Fabulous 5 three times and was the P-G Athlete of the Year twice. She signed with the University of Virginia.

### **KELLY DEEP PANUCCI, MOON AREA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1987**

Tennis was a family affair in the Deep family. Kelly was part of doubles teams that won an unprecedented 4 WPIAL and 4 PIAA doubles championships at Moon Area high school. Two of the championships were with her sister Colleen as partner. Brother Don Deep joined Kelly as a partner in finishing third in the PIAA mixed doubles. At Memphis State University, Deep earned All-Metro Conference tennis honors and was an

Academic All American. Deep is a National Board Certified English teacher at Quaker Valley High School

**BETH FRIDAY BOVAY, UPPER ST. CLAIR HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1999**

Whether making shots or stopping shots, Friday was spectacular. Friday was a Post-Gazette Fabulous 5 selection as a basketball player at Upper St. Clair, and All-Area pick as a goalkeeper in soccer. Friday was instrumental in helping her team win the State AAAA basketball Championship and WPIAL soccer Championship. She averaged 21 points and 16 rebounds as a senior basketball player and had 17 shutouts in 26 games for the Upper St. Clair soccer team. She had 31 points and 26 rebounds in one state playoff basketball game and did not allow a goal in four WPIAL playoff soccer games. She was the P-G Athlete of the Year in 1999 and went on to have an outstanding basketball career at Duquesne University where she is the only player to have more than 1,000 career points and 1,000 career rebounds. She is also one of only two Duquesne women's' players to have their number retired.

**ERIC KASPEROWICZ, NORTH HILLS HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1994**

The Parade All-American team in 1994 included only eight quarterbacks across the country. One was Peyton Manning. Another was Eric Kasperowicz. At North Hills, Kasperowicz was one of the best all-around players in WPIAL history. He had 6,869 career yards and also had 20 career interceptions as a defensive back. He is still among the top 20 passers in WPIAL history with 5,500 yards (330 of 581 attempts). He also rushed for 1,369 yards and had an unforgettable senior year, leading North Hills to WPIAL and state championships. He completed 164 of 274 for 2,781 yards, rushed for 837 and intercepted 14 passes. And late in the state championship game, he threw for a 28-yard touchdown fourth-and-goal and then ran for the two-point conversion in a 15-14 North Hills win. After high school, Kasperowicz went on to play linebacker at the University of Pittsburgh.

**MIKE VERNILLO, FORT CHERRY HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 2000**

When Vernillo finished his football career at Fort Cherry High School, there was no running back in WPIAL history who could be like Mike. Vernillo graduated as the WPIAL's all-time leading rusher with 7,646 yards on 927 carries. His mark stood as the record until Hopewell's Rushel Shell broke it in 2011. Vernillo wasn't a big running back, but gained yards in gigantic chunks, earning Post-Gazette Fabulous 22 honors by the time was a sophomore. He burst on the scene as a freshman when he ran for 1,613 yards for coach Jim Garry's Fort Cherry team. As a sophomore, he gained 424 yards in one game. Vernillo signed with West Virginia University and eventually ended up playing for Slippery Rock University.

## COACHES

### **BOB JACOBY, SOFTBALL-FOOTBALL**

Jacoby was known mostly as a football coach at Bishop Canevin, but he also was the school's softball coach for three decades. Put the two sports together, and Jacoby was a head coach for 70 seasons (40 in football and 30 in softball). A former player at North Catholic High School, Jacoby retired in football after the 2012 season and is the 11<sup>th</sup> winningest coach in WPIAL history with a 230-170-7 record. He won one WPIAL title in 1990 and was runner-up once in 1983. He also made it to the PIAA final in 1990. In addition, he enjoyed great success as the school's softball coach, winning two WPIAL titles and one PIAA championship.

### **DAVE MELONI, SOCCER**

The Springdale Dynamos boys soccer team was dynamite under Meloni in the 1960s and 70s. Meloni's Dynamos were undefeated through 72 consecutive games from 1968-72. To this day, that streak is still the best in Pennsylvania history and the second-best in the country. As a coach, it was unusual when Meloni didn't win a title at Springdale. He won nine championships in 15 years with the Dynamos before retiring and he helped bring recognition to a fledgling WPIAL sport. He was a longtime soccer official after his coaching days. Meloni attended North Carolina State on a football scholarship. After playing football for three years, he switched to soccer and was team MVP and captain

### **TOM SANKOVICH, BASEBALL**

One of the greatest coaches in WPIAL baseball history, Sankovich once had a team (1989) that finished the season ranked No. 10 in the country by USA Today. Sankovich started the Connellsville baseball program in 1971 and he won the first of four WPIAL titles only two years later in 1973. Besides the four WPIAL titles and one PIAA title, Sankovich coached the Falcons for 20 years from 1971-90 and finished his career with a 422-105 record (.801 winning percentage). Sankovich was a standout football player at the University of Maryland and also was Connellsville High School's football coach at one time.

### **DON YANNESSA, FOOTBALL**

One of the most successful – and colorful – coaches that ever walked the WPIAL sidelines. He once had a small part in the movie "All The Right Moves." Yannesssa coached 37 seasons at Aliquippa, Baldwin and Ambridge and is 10<sup>th</sup> on the WPIAL all-time wins list with a record of 249-137-7. A former player at Aliquippa High School and New Mexico State, Yannesssa took over at his alma mater in 1972. The program was in dire shape, but Yannesssa built the Quips into champions, winning four WPIAL titles and finishing as runner-up three times. His 17-year record at Aliquippa was 142-44-5. He went on to become coach/athletic director at Baldwin for 14 years and coached Ambridge for six seasons before retiring after the 2008 season.

## TEAMS

### **BEAVER FALLS FOOTBALL 1960**

Perfection and one of the greatest quarterbacks in WPIAL history were the earmarks of this team. Beaver Falls finished 9-0 and outscored teams, 305-63. Back then, only undefeated teams played for WPIAL championships, but since the Tigers were the only perfect team in Class AA, they were declared champions. This team was led by senior

Joe Namath, the legendary quarterback who went on to make the Pro Football Hall of Fame. In an era where teams didn't throw much, Namath completed 85 of 164 for 1,564 yards. Tom Krzemienski was his favorite receiver, catching 54 passes. Both players were named all-state. Tony Golmont was another standout receiver while Bo Hayden and Butch Ryan were top running backs. Namath played at the University of Alabama, Golmont at North Carolina State and Ryan at Iowa. The team was coached by Larry Bruno, who was in only his second season with the Tigers and went on to become one of the WPIAL all-time greats.

### **BALDWIN GIRLS VOLLEYBALL 1989**

The WPIAL has had its share of state champions in girls volleyball. But it's hard to match this Baldwin team's domination. The first team had a match record of 51-0. The first team also had a record of 118-2 in games. The team lost only one game to Richland in the regular season and one to Dover in the state championship match. After losing in the PIAA title game the previous two seasons, Baldwin and coach Paul Hines reached the top of the mountain in 1989. It would be the first of three state titles in the career of Hines, who also is in the WPIAL Hall of Fame. Outside hitter Sue Reiff and setter Julie Fernacz were named first-team all-WPIAL selections. Outside hitter Kelly Kovach was named second-team (she would later go on to become an outstanding softball pitcher at the University of Michigan). Mary Doerzbacher was honorable mention all-WPIAL. Other top players on the team were Heather Lucas, Cassie Bowen, Laurie Flynn and Robin Collet.

## **HERITAGE AWARD**

### **ARNOLD GALIFFA, DONORA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1945**

Galiffa's athleticism was at such a high level that it once earned him a spot on the cover of "Life" magazine. After winning 12 varsity letters in football, basketball, baseball and track at Donora, Galiffa went to college at West Point (Army), where he earned 11 varsity letters in football, baseball and basketball. Nicknamed "Pope," Galiffa became the starting quarterback of the Army football team and was the captain of the basketball team. In high school, he helped Donora become the first school to win WPIAL football and basketball titles in the same school year (1944-45). He was a terrific quarterback on the 1944 Donora team that was undefeated and outscored opponents, 314-44 (Donora is now part of the Ringgold school district). At Army, he earned All-American status and was eventually elected to the College Football Hall of Fame. He played two years in the NFL.

## **CONTEST OFFICIAL**

### **LARRY MAGGI**

Maggi's impact on interscholastic wrestling is extensive. A PIAA wrestling official since 1971, he has officiated 26 regional finals, 18 WPIAL team tournament championships, and 9 PIAA championship tournaments. He has also officiated in the prestigious Dapper Dan Wrestling Classic for 28 years. Maggi is the President of the Washington County Wrestling Officials Association and has served as the WPIAL wrestling rules interpreter for many years. On three different occasions, he has been named the Pennsylvania Wrestling Official of the Year. Maggi was a PA State Trooper for 24 years and currently is an elected member of the Washington County Board of Commissioners

## **CONTRIBUTOR**

### **JON VALLINA**

Vallina has been a leader and contributor to the WPIAL for many years. He has served the League as chairman of the golf steering committee and member of the WPIAL Board of Control for 12 years. As a Board member, he served terms as the Treasurer and Vice-President. Jon has always been active as a leader in interscholastic athletics and has served as President of the Tri-County, WPIAL, and Pennsylvania State Athletic Directors Associations and as a member of the PIAA Board of Directors. As head golf coach at Burgettstown High School, his teams have recorded 370 wins and have garnered 5 WPIAL team championships. In the community, Vallina established the Burgettstown Area Scholarship Foundation which has raised over \$120,000 to fund scholarships for high school seniors.

## **COURAGE AWARD**

### **BILL SUIT**

Bill Suit was diagnosed with sarcoma cancer in 2007 just as he was planning his retirement as principal of Shaler Area High School. Having courageously fought sarcoma for several years, he remained active by counseling fellow cancer patients at the Hillman Center, lobbied on Capital Hill for additional funding to find a cure for sarcoma, kept in touch with students and friends at Shaler, A former WPIAL Board of Control member, he remained active in the League as a member of the Hall of Fame and Scholarship committees. A co-founder of the Pittsburgh Cure Sarcoma Committee, he was instrumental in raising over \$300,000 for sarcoma research by serving as race director for the Pittsburgh Cure Sarcoma 5K run. Mr. Suit died in December 2013 from complications of Sarcoma. A passionate and courageous man, he inspired and touched many lives. His legacy will live on through his family, students, colleagues, and friends.