

ATHLETES

MEG BULGER, OAKLAND CATHOLIC CLASS OF 2003

As impressive as her individual accomplishments were, maybe the most impressive thing about Meg Bulger was how much she won. During her four seasons at Oakland Catholic High School, she won 120 games and lost only 10. The 120 wins are believed to be the most ever by a WPIAL player. Bulger had a national reputation at Oakland Catholic, being selected to the prestigious Parade All-American team in 2003. She finished her career with 2,044 points and was the player of the year in 2003. She played in the WPIAL and state championship game all four years at Oakland Catholic, won three WPIALs and two PIAAs. She went on to have a highly successful career at West Virginia University and was one of the best shooters the Mountaineers ever had. Her career 3-point percentage of 43 percent is the best in West Virginia history. She finished with 265 3-pointers and 1,665 points, fifth-best in school history. She now does color commentary for basketball games on TV.

DORIN DICKERSON, WEST ALLEGHENY CLASS OF 2006

For West Allegheny football, Dickerson was Mr. Everything. In the 2005 football season, Dickerson had an unforgettable senior year, playing running back, sometimes quarterback, sometimes receiver, defensive back and kick returner. He was the Post-Gazette Player of the Year before being selected to play in the prestigious US Army All-American Bowl. That season, Dickerson rushed for 1,429 yards, had 22 receptions for 423 yards, completed a few passes, led the WPIAL in touchdowns with 36 and intercepted four passes. No wonder he was ranked among the top 100 players in the country. Dickerson went on to play at Pitt, where he had another unforgettable senior year – as a tight end. He was selected a first-team All-American by the Football Writers Association and CBS Sports. Dickerson went on to play in the NFL for three seasons with the Houston Texans, Buffalo Bills and Detroit Lions.

JONNA HUEMRICH BURKE, BETHEL PARK CLASS OF 1990

Go ahead and just call Jonna a “legend.” The Atlantic Coast Conference named Burke this year to its 12th annual class of ACC Women’s Basketball Legends. Burke received the honor based on her outstanding play at the University of Pittsburgh. But Burke also was a star at Bethel Park High School. Burke was a two-time selection to the prestigious Post-Gazette Fabulous 5. She had more than 1,000 points by the time she was a junior. She averaged 24 points and 11 rebounds as a junior and 21 points and 10 rebounds as a senior. At Pitt, she was the Big East Conference Rookie of the Year in 1991 and was first-team all-conference in 1993 and ’94. She scored 1,807 career points at Pitt and had 954 rebounds. When she graduated, she was in the school’s top 10 in scoring, rebounding, steals and assists. After her playing days, she eventually became the head coach at Bethel Park and she has established the Black Hawks as one of the WPIAL’s best programs. Burke won a WPIAL championship as a coach in 2013.

JERRY KOLLER, BETHEL PARK CLASS OF 1996

Koller was one of the most decorated swimmers in the history of the WPIAL. Bethel Park’s school colors are black and orange, but the one associated most often with Koller was gold. During his career at Bethel Park, he won six individual WPIAL gold medals in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle events. He set a WPIAL record in the 100 freestyle. Koller also won seven WPIAL gold medals as a member of relay teams and those teams both set WPIAL records. On the PIAA level, Koller won three individual gold medals in both the 50 and 100 and set state records in both events as a senior. He also won five PIAA golds on relay teams and those teams also set PIAA records. All told in individual and relay events, Koller won 21 gold medals at the WPIAL and PIAA levels. After Bethel Park he went on to swim at the University of Pittsburgh, where he helped the Panthers win Big East Conference championships. He coached high school swimming after his college days.

T.J. McCONNELL, CHARTIERS VALLEY CLASS OF 2010

He once was the “little kid” on the basketball court at Chartiers Valley. Today, T.J. McConnell is in the NBA. This says enough about McConnell’s talent as a basketball player: He is only the second athlete to be inducted into the WPIAL Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility. Six years ago, McConnell had one of the best seasons of any high school player in more than 100 years of WPIAL basketball. McConnell scored 1,062 points as a senior, the most in a season in WPIAL history. The only other WPIAL boy to score 1,000 in a season was legendary Don Hennon in 1955. McConnell averaged 34 points a game as a senior, the second-best in the WPIAL in the past 30 years. McConnell won 101 games at Chartiers Valley and finished his career as the WPIAL’s fifth all-time leading scorer with 2,404 points and is second in career 3-pointers with 334. He played for two seasons at Duquesne University, where he was named the Atlantic 10 Conference Freshman of the Year. He played his final two college seasons at the University of Arizona, where he was the point guard on two NCAA Elite 8 teams and was an all-Pac 12 selection. He made the NBA’s Philadelphia 76ers this season and is one of the few point guards ever from the WPIAL to make the NBA.

RICK RAZZANO, NEW CASTLE CLASS OF 1974

As a football player, Razzano made it on the high school, major college and NFL levels. Razzano was such a force as a fullback and linebacker for New Castle High School that he was the MVP of the WPIAL in 1973 for a team that won a WPIAL championship. Razzano led the team in rushing, made 114 tackles and was named first-team all-state. His No. 42 jersey is retired at New Castle. After his days with the Red Hurricanes, Razzano went on to a highly successful career at Virginia Tech, where he still holds the Hokies record for career tackles with 634 and also the season record with 177. Razzano then played two seasons in the Canadian Football League before playing five seasons for the NFL’s Cincinnati Bengals. But Razzano was more than just a football player. He started for New Castle in basketball as a sophomore and also hit .376 in baseball. He also competed in track and field for two years and set the school record in the shot put. Razzano went on to coach high school football for 15 years in Ohio.

RACHEL ROHANNA, WAYNESBURG CLASS OF 2009

In high school, Rohanna was a WPIAL and state champion. These days, she is playing her first season on the LPGA tour. Rohanna, who comes from a family of golfers, is one of the few WPIAL females to make the LPGA tour. At Waynesburg High School, there wasn’t a girls team. So Rohanna was the top player on the boys team. When it came time for the WPIAL girls individual competition, though, Rohanna was often without a peer. She won WPIAL and state championships in both 2005 and 2007. After high school, Rohanna went on to play at Ohio State where she was twice named an all-Big Ten Conference selection. She led the Buckeyes to two consecutive NCAA championship appearances in 2011 and 2012. She also was a two-time academic All-American. Rohanna has participated in the U.S. Women’s Open and in 2010 she was the medalist in the U.S. Women’s Amateur. During that tournament, she recorded a score of 65, which is an all-time record for the U.S. Amateur.

COACHES

LEONARD “GUS” DeAUGUSTINO, WRESTLING

DeAugustino made the 1952 U.S. Olympic team as a wrestler. Later as a coach, he established North Allegheny as one of the best programs in the state. DeAugustino was North Allegheny’s wrestling coach for 34 years before stepping away in 1990. He won seven WPIAL team championships, six state titles and had a record of 380-104-2. His 1988 team was ranked No. 1 in the country and is in the WPIAL Hall of Fame. DeAugustino coached 48 WPIAL individual champions and 21 state champs and was a three-time national coach of the year. He also went on to start a wrestling program at Duquesne University. As a wrestler, DeAugustino was a PIAA champion at Grove City High School and went on to become Lock Haven University’s first NCAA champion in 1953.

CHRIS MARY, WRESTLING

The wrestling room at Canon-McMillan has been “christened.” It is named the “Chris Mary Wrestling Practice Facility.” But when it comes to championship coaches, there is little room for peers next to Chris Mary. The wrestling coach at Canon-McMillan from 2000-2013, Mary won four WPIAL team championships and they came consecutively from 2010-13. No WPIAL team has ever won four consecutive Triple-A team titles. He also won two PIAA team championships at the dual meet level and three others at the individual tournament. On top of that, he won 12 section titles. Mary was selected the national coach of the year by Open Mat in 2012, and the national coach of the year by USA Wrestling magazine in 2013. Under Mary’s coaching, 20 Canon-Mac wrestlers won WPIAL individual titles and six state championships. Mary was a pretty good wrestler himself at Chartiers-Houston, finishing 98-6-3 with three WPIAL championships. He placed second at the PIAA tournament once and third two other times.

JOE MUCCI, FOOTBALL

As coaches go, he was no average Joe. In almost 30 years as a head coach at Greensburg Central Catholic and Jeannette, Mucci had a record of 183-49-4. He had success in his first job at Greensburg Central Catholic, but then made a gigantic impact in Jayhawk country – Jeannette High School. Under Mucci, Jeannette won three WPIAL championships in 1971, ’81 and ’83 and finished as runner-up two other times. The Jayhawks were undefeated three times. His teams were always juggernauts, especially on defense. During Mucci’s 18 years at Jeannette, the Jayhawks allowed only 8.8 points a game. During his time at Jeannette, Mucci also was the school’s athletic director. Mucci is a graduate of Derry High School and went on to St. Vincent, where he is a member of the school’s sports Hall of Fame.

PAT TARQUINIO, FOOTBALL

They call him Tarq. As a coach, they just called him “Winner.” When Tarquinio stepped down as Beaver’s coach in 1999, he was the winningest coach in WPIAL history. He is now sixth on the all-time list with a record of 269-143-11. Tarquinio was Ellwood City’s coach for seven years before moving onto Beaver, where he coached from 1966-99. At Beaver, he won 241 games and three WPIAL titles in 1972, ’81 and ’82. He won 12 conference titles with the Bobcats and his teams also finished as the WPIAL runner-up twice. The Bobcats also had undefeated streaks of 21 and 24 games. After leaving Beaver, Tarquinio went on to become an assistant at Hopewell. Tarquinio also was an excellent player at Stowe High School and then Juniata College. He is in a few other halls of fame.

TEAMS

BLACKHAWK BASKETBALL 1992

If this team had a motto, it would be “awwww, shoot.” Guided by a legendary coach and one of the best WPIAL players in the past few decades, Blackhawk shot – and dominated – like few WPIAL teams have. A team that started four guards finished 32-1 and the only loss was in the season opener to Baltimore Dunbar, the No. 1-ranked team in the country. Blackhawk won WPIAL and state championships along the way in 1992 and became the first team to win three consecutive WPIAL titles at the Triple-A level. Coached by John Miller, the Cougars averaged 91 points a game, one of the few in WPIAL history to average 90 for a season. During the 1991-92 season, Blackhawk scored 100 points in 11 games and won nine WPIAL and PIAA playoff games by an average of 21 points. Blackhawk was one of the top shooting teams in the country and made 234 3-pointers for the season. The Cougars had a great shooting trio of Dante Calabria, Hal Koenemund and Andy Gray, who all had 60 3-pointers or more. Calabria went on to become a standout for the North Carolina Tar Heels and Koenemund played at Robert Morris. Blackhawk also had a tough, steady point guard in Kim Niedbala while the top players off the bench were Scott Weaver (University of Illinois quarterback) and Doug Yeager. Over the last two seasons, this team had a record of 60-2.

CENTRAL CATHOLIC FOOTBALL, 2004

This team had it all, going 16-0 and winning WPIAL and PIAA championships. The Vikings had a one-of-a-kind defense and an offense that featured an unstoppable 5-foot-6 running back. Central Catholic dominated in the postseason like no other WPIAL team had. The Vikings were coached by Art Walker and had a terrific defensive coordinator in Terry Totten. They played seven WPIAL and PIAA playoff games and outscored opponents, 237-36. Central Catholic invoked the mercy rule in all three state playoff games and won the state Quad-A championship with a 40-14 victory over Neshaminy. Neshaminy had a grand total of 1 yard offense against Central Catholic’s first-team defense. In three PIAA playoff games, Central Catholic had 1,047 yards offense to only 420 for opponents. Tiny Eugene Jarvis fueled the Vikings’ offense and was a two-time Post-Gazette Player of the Year. He was one of five Central Catholic players to make first-team all-state. The others were Nate Williams, Shane Murray, Jon Hermann and John Pelusi. A few of the seniors went on to play Division I college football.

CONTEST OFFICIAL

BILL SINNING

Bill Sinning was an active registered PIAA Official for basketball from 1972-2002 and 2004 to the present in soccer. He was all business when he took the court and was diligent in his preparation to be in shape and know the rules of the game of basketball. During a span of ten years from 1988-1998, he worked 8 boys WPIAL championship games and 1 state title game. Sinning also worked 3 WPIAL girls finals and 5 City League championship games. Since 2006, he has served as the WPIAL male officials representative which includes a seat on the WPIAL Board of Directors. In these positions, he brings the same energy, enthusiasm, and dedication as he brought to the court for each game that he officiated. He has set a standard for officials that by his consistent message that through hard work, commitment to the rules and dedication, anyone will be able to achieve their goals at the highest level.

HERITAGE AWARD

DR. RAY FIORONI

Dr. Ray Fioroni was a highly successful football coach and educational leader. During his tenure as football coach at Avella High School from 1952-61, he turned a losing program into one of the WPIAL's most formidable teams. He achieved an overall record of 69-14-4. His last five years as coach saw only two defeats and a record of 40-2-2. He led Avella to two WPIAL Championships in 1957 and 1961 and four Washington County/Greene County Conference championships. At one point, his teams won 29 consecutive games. Dr. Fioroni is a member of the Washington/Greene County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame. As an educational leader he served as high school Principal of Avella High School and ended his career as the district Superintendent of schools. Dr. Fioroni was instrumental in molding successful lives for hundreds of men and women.

CONTRIBUTOR

JAMES BRUNI

Bruni was appointed to the WPIAL Football Steering Committee in 1978. One year later, he was elected to the WPIAL Board of Directors. He served for 14 years as a member of the Board of Directors. His leadership and support were instrumental in starting the league's scholar-athlete program. Since its inception in 1992, the WPIAL has awarded \$566,000 in scholarship grants to deserving scholar-athletes. While on the Board, he served four years as WPIAL Treasurer and represented the WPIAL on the PIAA Board of Directors from 1990-93. Upon retiring from the WPIAL Board of Directors, he remained active by serving on the scholarship committee for several years. Always willing to help, Bruni also served the WPIAL as the PA announcer at the football and basketball championships for several years in the 1980's.

COURAGE AWARD

LUKE BLANOCK, CANON-Mc MILLAN

The Courage Award was established in 2009 to honor former Freedom High School athlete John Challis, whose courageous battle against cancer became a national story. Luke Blanock is an athlete whose battle with a rare form of bone cancer has inspired many athletes, coaches, fans and all of Western Pennsylvania sports in general. Blanock played basketball and baseball at Canon-McMillan. After undergoing treatment for the cancer, Blanock played some for the Canon-McMillan basketball team in the 2014-15 season. The cancer returned, but it didn't deter Blanock. Despite undergoing chemotherapy treatments, Blanock started a baseball game at pitcher last spring. In February, Blanock married his high school sweetheart.