

# **WPIAL HALL OF FAME 2018**

## **ATHLETES**

### **CURTIS BRAY, GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL**

#### **CLASS OF 1988**

At Gateway High School, Curtis Bray was the first athlete to finish with 12 varsity letters in four different sports. He especially excelled in football and, in 1987, was named the first Gatorade National Player of the Year. Curtis also was a USA Today and Parade All-American. Bray was an outstanding linebacker, but also starred in basketball (14 ppg and 11 rpg as a senior) and track and field. To give you an idea of his athletic ability, he won WPIAL and state championships in the javelin in 1988. Bray started the first football game of his career at Pitt and played four seasons for the Panthers before getting into college coaching. He was an assistant at Iowa State before he passed away in 2014.

### **BREEHANA JACOBS, LAUREL HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL**

#### **CLASS OF 2007**

Breehana Jacobs lived in the fast lane. One of the greatest sprinters in the history of Western Pennsylvania, Jacobs won eight WPIAL gold medals and six PIAA golds in sprinting events during her career. In 2007, she became only the third female in WPIAL history to sweep the championships in the 100-, 200- and 400-meter dashes. She still holds the best time in WPIAL history in the 400 and still owns a PIAA championship meet record in the 100. After high school, Jacobs ran at the University of South Carolina, where she was a five-time All-American. Breehana was a member of Team USA in the 2007 Junior Olympic Pan-Am Games.

### **JUSTIN KING, GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL**

#### **CLASS OF 2005**

When he played football at Gateway, Justin King wore the crown as the Gatorade Pennsylvania Player of the Year. He went on to a fine career as a defensive back at Penn State and then played in the NFL for four seasons with the St. Louis Rams and Indianapolis Colts. At Gateway, King ran for 4,519 yards, which at the time, was the third-best ever in the WPIAL's largest classification. He ran for 1,900 yards as a senior and also was one of the WPIAL's top track sprinters. As a defensive back at Penn State, King was a freshman All-American and two-time all-Big Ten Conference selection. King is the stepson of Terry Smith, another 2018 WPIAL Hall of Fame inductee.

### **COLEMAN SCOTT, WAYNESBURG HIGH SCHOOL**

#### **CLASS OF 2004**

As a wrestler, Coleman was "the Great Scott" and eventually was a medal winner in the Olympics. In four years at Waynesburg, Scott won four WPIAL championships and three state titles. His record was 156-12. He went on to wrestle at Oklahoma State, where he won three Big 12 Conference championships and was an NCAA place-winner three times. Scott also excelled at international wrestling and won a bronze medal as a member of the U.S. team in the 2012 Olympics in London. He is currently in his third year as head wrestling coach of the University of North Carolina Tar Heels.

**LEE SHAFFER, BALDWIN HIGH SCHOOL****CLASS OF 1955**

Lee Shaffer moved from Chicago into the Baldwin school district in 1953. His success in high school and afterwards made him one of the best basketball players ever in the WPIAL. He was the ACC Player of the Year while playing at the University of North Carolina, was the No. 5 pick in the NBA draft, made the NBA All-Star Game one year and averaged 27 points in a playoff series against the Cincinnati Royals led by the great Oscar Robertson. Lee was once part of a trade for Wilt Chamberlain. At Baldwin, Shaffer averaged 25 points a game as a senior and scored 41 in a WPIAL playoff game, which still ties for seventh-most in a WPIAL postseason contest.

**AQ SHIPLEY, MOON HIGH SCHOOL****CLASS OF 2004**

AQ Shipley was A-plus as an athlete at Moon. So impressive was he as an eighth-grader, that the varsity coaches started him at center as a freshman. A standout lineman, he was a Post-Gazette Fabulous 22 pick and all-state. But he also was a starter on Moon's 2004 basketball team that won WPIAL and PIAA titles. Shipley went on to have an outstanding career as a lineman at Penn State, where he won the 2008 Rimington Award, given annually to the best center in college football. Drafted by the Steelers, Shipley has played center in the NFL for the Indianapolis Colts, Baltimore Ravens and Arizona Cardinals. He started every game for the Cardinals this past season and today, AQ is the anchor of the Cards' offensive line.

**TERRY SMITH, GATEWAY HIGH SCHOOL****CLASS OF 1987**

As a senior at Gateway High School, Terry Smith was selected to play in the prestigious Dapper Dan Roundball Classic and the Big 33 all-star football game. Terry Smith was a stellar athlete, and in football in 1986, he was a quarterback-defensive back on a WPIAL championship team that finished ranked No. 3 in the country by USA Today. He averaged 17 points a game as a senior in basketball. Smith signed with Penn State for football and he went on to set a Nittany Lion single-season record for receptions with 55. He eventually became head coach of Gateway football, where was 101-30 in 11 seasons with seven conference titles and four appearances in WPIAL title games. He left to become a college coach and is now an assistant at Penn State.

**TANISHA WRIGHT, WEST MIFFLIN HIGH SCHOOL****CLASS OF 2001**

At every level of her basketball career, Tanisha was "Wright on". In fact, her career is not over. Just last month, she came out of retirement and signed a contract with the WNBA's Minnesota Lynx. Wright was a standout guard at West Mifflin High School and a two-time Post-Gazette Player of the Year. As a junior, she scored a WPIAL championship-game record 51 points in a memorable triple overtime loss to Blackhawk. She finished her career with 2,477 points, 1,100 rebounds and 594 assists and a WPIAL title. At Penn State she scored 1,995 points before playing 12 years in the WNBA. She won a WNBA title with Seattle, made the all-WNBA defensive team five times and is 13<sup>th</sup> all-time in assists.

## **COACHES**

### **PHIL BRIDENBAUGH**

It has been more than 60 years since Phil Bridenbaugh coached a high school football game, but his legend still lives. Bridenbaugh coached New Castle High School from 1922-55 and is one of only three coaches in WPIAL history to win seven or more football championships. He won six outright and had one tie and he coached during an era when there were no playoffs – just championship games. He is still the seventh winningest coach in WPIAL history with a record of 265-64-25. His career winning percentage was an impressive .784. Bridenbaugh also coached at Geneva College before coming to New Castle, and also was an outstanding athlete, playing four different sports at Franklin & Marshall College.

### **CHUCK DEVENZIO**

Chuck DeVenizio coached high school basketball for more than 40 years at six schools, including four in the WPIAL. He is the fifth-winningest coach in WPIAL history with a record of 659-255. He coached in the WPIAL at Springdale (twice), Ambridge, North Allegheny and Cornell. His 1967 Ambridge team, which included his son, Dick, is considered one of the best in WPIAL history. The Bridgers were 27-0 and their average margin of victory was more than 20 points. He also won a WPIAL title at Springdale in 1989. DeVenizio, who was an athlete at the former Coraopolis High School, also coached Springdale's baseball team to a WPIAL championship in 1954.

### **TOM NOLA**

A native of McKeesport and a football and baseball letterman for both the Tigers and for Bethany College, Tom Nola created a dynasty in his 12 years as Clairton's football coach. His team at one point had a state record 66-game winning streak, and the Bears attracted a national following. He is one of only eight coaches in the history of the WPIAL to win six or more championships. He also won four PIAA titles. Nola's record at Clairton was a remarkable 141-22. Nola also had two coaching stints at Serra Catholic and one at Gateway for two seasons. His all-time record in 19 seasons was 165-64.

## **TEAM**

### **STO-ROX SOFTBALL 1989**

Sto-Rox once had a dynasty in girls softball, winning 10 WPIAL titles and 26 section titles. But Coach Bill Palermo's 1989 Viking team was one of a kind because of its dominance and how it won a state championship. The Vikings finished 21-1 and won a WPIAL championship. Then in the PIAA title game, pitcher Bonnie Gasior fired a no-hitter as the Vikings defeated South Williamsport, 2-0. It was the first no-hitter in a state championship and Sto-Rox became only the second WPIAL team to win a PIAA title. Six Sto-Rox players from the '89 team were Post-Gazette all-section picks – Gasior, Mary Ann Marks, Missy Booth, Kim Shazer, Jen Jacobs and Kelly Young.

## **COURAGE AWARD**

### **MAX LAMM, MARS HIGH SCHOOL**

This award goes to an individual who overcomes obstacles and is an inspiration to others. Max Lamm had an 11-10 record as a sophomore on the Mars wrestling team this season. But simply the fact that he is wrestling is an amazing story. Lamm is blind, the result of a rare eye cancer he was diagnosed with as an infant. But it has not held Lamm back. Max has tried water skiing, snow skiing and tubing; he's driven a sports quad and he's an accomplished drummer. He got into wrestling as a sixth-grader. As a freshman, he finished third in his section in the 138-pound weight class and qualified for the WPIAL tournament. This year, he placed second at the Steve DeAugustino Holiday Classic and the MAC tournament. An injury ended his season prior to postseason tournaments.

## **CONTRIBUTOR**

### **PAT RATESIC**

Ratesic was involved in WPIAL sports for decades, as an athlete, coach, athletic director and a member of the WPIAL Board of Control. A 1961 graduate of McKeesport High School, Ratesic played football and ran track before going on to play defensive back at the University of Miami. After his playing days, he was an assistant coach and teacher at East Allegheny, Serra Catholic and Plum high schools and spent time as assistant principal at Latrobe Junior High, assistant principal and AD at McKeesport, and principal at Penn-Trafford. He also was a football official for 24 years at the high school and Division I college level. He is a former president and vice president of the WPIAL.

## **OFFICIAL**

### **ANTHONY NOTARO**

Notaro was a PIAA registered official for almost a half century. Notaro, who grew up on the North Side of Pittsburgh, started his officiating career in baseball in 1962. He officiated in the WPIAL for 47 years and also worked football, basketball, softball and volleyball. An inspiration to others in the profession, the Iron City Football Officials Association instituted the annual Tony Notaro Award in his honor and presents it to a football official who dedicates time toward the chapter, to mentoring and guiding younger officials on the field and in finding balance in their family and spiritual lives.