

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME NIGHT

February 20, 2015

Welcome Hall of Fame recipients, family members, friends, and Bear fans. This is the twenty-sixth year for the St. Joseph High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Athletic Director Kevin Guzzo will be honoring five new inductees, plus an inductee from last year, with a plaque at halftime.

St. Joseph High School has a very simple philosophy: Each individual has the right and responsibility to develop and grow as a student, as an athlete, and as a person through a variety of experiences. Athletics has been a positive outlet for our honored guests. Certainly, as you read through the profiles of the inductees, you can see that these people serve as strong role models in all facets of life. They have distinguished themselves as great athletes but, more importantly, as good students and community leaders throughout the United States.

We hope you enjoy tonight's activities and invite you to spend some time with the new inductees, their families and friends at a reception on Main Street near the Student Center after the game.

Mary Ann Blasko Milletics

Mary Ann Blasko graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1993. She participated in both volleyball and softball, earning two varsity letters in volleyball and three varsity letters in softball. During her senior season, Mary was selected both to the All Conference First Team and the All District First Team in softball.

Mary Ann continued her softball career at Lake Michigan College and Butler University after high school. While playing at Lake Michigan College, Mary Ann earned All Conference, All Region, and All State honors for both of her seasons. Mary Ann was also selected as a First Team All American candidate as a catcher for both of her seasons at Lake Michigan College.

Mary Ann resides in the area with her husband Chad and their two children Maya and Wyatt. She has worked for St. Joseph Public Schools for the past fifteen years as a teacher and was the varsity softball coach from 2001 to 2006. She currently teaches Biology and Geology at the high school. Mary Ann joins her brother Craig (2006 Inductee) in St. Joseph High School the Hall of Fame.

Richard "Rick" Dyer

Rick Dyer graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1976. While in high school, he earned six varsity letters in football, wrestling, and baseball. During his senior year, Rick served as captain of his football, wrestling, and baseball teams and also served on a student athletic advisory committee. Rick set the single season tackle record during his senior year.

Rick continued his athletic career at Kalamazoo College where he earned varsity letters in both football and baseball. He played football for four years, baseball for three years, and wrestled “for fun.” During his senior year at Kalamazoo College, Rick served as team captain for both his football and baseball teams.

His athletic involvement continued post-college through multiple years of coaching youth soccer, baseball, and football teams, umpiring baseball games, and serving on youth sports organizational committees.

Rick currently lives in St. Joseph with his wife, Pam. He is a 35-year community banker and presently serves as President & CEO of Edgewater Bank. Rick is very active within the community, serving on various boards of non-profit and community-based organizations such as Krasl Art Center, St. Joseph Today, Cornerstone Alliance, Lakeland Foundation, SMEGA, and Michigan’s Great Southwest Strategic Leadership Council. He attributes his leadership, teamwork, and organizational skills to his high school and collegiate athletic experiences and values the lessons learned from his coaches and athletic team involvement about shared visions, commitment, perseverance, and integrity.

David Jones (2014)

David Jones is a 2002 graduate of St. Joseph High School who excelled as a pole vaulter in the sport of track and field. David earned four varsity letters in track and field and still owns the school record for pole vault at 15’4”. David was All Conference both his junior and senior years and was the Conference Pole Vault Champion in 2002. David was also selected All State his senior year and still holds the Rotary track meet record in the pole vault.

David furthered his pole vault career at Central Michigan University where he was a four-year letter winner and a three-time member of a MAC Championship Team. David was the 2005 Outdoor MAC Pole Vault Champion and was ranked 8th in the nation in the pole vault his senior year.

David resides in Livonia, Michigan and is the Assistant Operations Manager at Joe Louis Arena. He works on various projects for the National Hockey League and drives the Zamboni at Detroit Red Wings home games.

Willis Koontz

Willis Koontz began his career with St. Joseph Public Schools in 1956 as a history teacher at what would eventually become Milton JHS. After coaching football for 8 years, he became Varsity Football Coach in 1964 but resigned his position just prior to being named Principal of the new Upton Junior High School in 1968. Willis served as Assistant Principal at Milton, along with Pat Ryan, in 1968-69, until the new Upton JHS was completed and opened in 1969. Willis served in this role until his untimely death in 1982 at the age of 54. That April, the St. Joe Board of Education named the football field at Upton in his honor.

Willie and his wife Norma hosted a Christmas party every year that he was principal of Upton for all Upton staff as well as others that Willis worked with during his career at St Joseph Public Schools. He and Norma valued the “community of St Joseph Schools.” Students and staff will remember that, until his illness, he never missed a student event at Upton.

Willis met his wife Norma while attending Ball State University; she passed away in July 2009. Willis is survived by daughters Lynn (Mike) Cumberpatch of Annapolis, Maryland, Patti (David) Ankli of Oviedo, Florida, and a son Anthony (Susan) Koontz of Edwardsburg, Michigan. In addition, there are eight grandchildren—Kate/Christopher Cumberpatch, Margee/David/Sarah/Amy Ankli, and Stephanie/Allison Koontz.

Michael Morphey

Mike Morphey is a 1998 graduate of St. Joseph High School. Mike participated in both football and track, earning two varsity letters in football and four in track. In football, Mike was All Conference his senior year and earned post season honors from the *Detroit Free Press*, *The Detroit News*, and the *Associated Press*. During Mike’s track career he helped lead his team to both a 1997 state championship and a 1998 state runner up. Mike was awarded All State in three events and still holds school records in the following events: 100 meter dash, 400 meter relay, and the 800 meter relay.

Mike was also recognized his senior year for being an outstanding student athlete as the John Karsten award winner and the D.A.R. Good Citizenship Award winner.

Mike currently resides in St. Joseph with his wife Kara and their two children, Keegan and Maddox. He works for Edgewater Resources as a civil engineer.

Charles “Chuck” Sanders

Chuck Sanders graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1987. Chuck was a three sport athlete, earning four varsity letters in track, two in football, and two in basketball. Chuck was a First Team All Conference, First Team All State, and Second Team Dream Team selection in football his senior year. In track, Chuck earned All State honors three years in the high jump.

Chuck continued his football career after high school at Michigan State University where he played from 1987 to 1989. While at Michigan State, Chuck was a member of the 1987 Big Ten Championship Team and the 1988 Rose Bowl Championship Team.

Chuck currently lives in Detroit and is a teacher at Madison Heights High School. Chuck joins his brother Ebon (1995 inductee) in the St. Joseph High School Hall of Fame.