

Fox Chapel Area Schools Sports Hall of Fame

Sports Hall of Fame Class of 2006



The Fox Chapel Area Sports Hall of Fame will be holding the Induction Ceremony and Banquet on Sunday, June 4, 2006 at the Holiday Inn RIDC.

The Hall of Fame committee is honored to enshrine the following Fox Chapel Area alumni:

• **Eric Hegedus** – 1981. Earned three varsity letters in basketball. Scored over one thousand career points and lead the team to three straight WPIAL playoff appearances. Bucknell men's basketball 1981-1985. Team captain and three year starter; twice led team in rebounding while leading the team to three consecutive 20 win seasons.

• **Gary Spahr** -- 1972. Three-time varsity soccer letter winner, All WPIAL. Four-year starter at Slippery Rock University. Named Western PA Intercollegiate, Pennsylvania State College and Area All-American three times. NAIA National All-American. Final two years at Slippery Rock team posted a record of 30-1-1.

• **Walt Johnston** – 1985. Eight varsity letters in football, track and basketball. All conference football 1985, WPIAL 4x100 meter relay finalist, WPIAL high hurdles finalist 1985. Four year starter at defensive back for Lafayette College, 1986 defensive rookie of year, 1990 defensive backfield MVP.

• **Jim Patterson** – 1981. Four varsity letters in wrestling and football. In wrestling, two-time section champion, two time West Penn Conference champion, WPIAL runner-up, sixth place PIAA championship. Fox Chapel single season wins record stood for 24 years. California University of PA lettered in football and wrestling. West Virginia University two varsity letters, 2nd place Eastern Regional, NCAA tournament qualifier.

• **Deborah (Flowers) Welty** – 1992. Earned seven varsity letters in soccer and basketball.

Four-year varsity soccer, four time all section, three time WPIAL All Star, two time All State and Regional All-American, MVP WPIAL All-Star Game. University of Delaware Soccer, lettered in 1993. Conference Rookie of Week 9/13/03.

• **Art and Virginia Grindle** – Coaches. Art was the head basketball coach at Blawnox School for twelve years losing only 18 games in that time. First coach of Fox Chapel Area swim team and amassed eleven winning seasons in twelve years. Head boys golf coach at Fox Chapel Area. Virginia coached swimming at both Fox Chapel (1961-1968) and the University of Pittsburgh (1968-78). Inducted into the PA Sports Hall of Fame (Western Chapter) and the PA Swimming Hall of Fame. Both Art and Ginny are still active swimming officials in the WPIAL and PIAA.

• **Lou "Sonny" Yakopec** – Aspinwall 1945. Earned eight varsity letters in basketball and football. Led Aspinwall to the 1944 WPIAL Class B championship. Attended the University of Pittsburgh where he was the starting fullback and punter before entering the Air Force following his freshman year. Offered contracts from the Pirates, Red Sox and Indians to play professional baseball. Member of the U.S. Olympic Soccer Team in 1948 and 1952. Member of the Alle-Kiski Sports Hall of Fame and the Western PA Sports Hall of Fame.

In addition the Fox Chapel Area Hall of Fame will be recognizing the 1977 WPIAL and PIAA Champion Boys Basketball Team. This was the first team PIAA champion for Fox Chapel Area.

Please see the article on the banquet for information on reservations to this year's festivities.

Fox Chapel Athletes Earn WPIAL Championships

This winter proved to be one of championships for Fox Chapel Area athletes Rae Letterle and Carol Lin.

Senior Rae Letterle earned three gold medals at the WPIAL Gymnastics Championships at Moon High School. She began her gold rush with a first place finish in the bars with a score of 9.850. A first place finish on the floor routine with a score of 9.700 propelled Letterle to the WPIAL Advanced All-Around Championship with a score of 37.700. Letterle is Fox Chapel's first WPIAL champion in Gymnastics. She

hopes to continue competing on the collegiate level at the University of Kentucky.

While Letterle was finishing her high school career with a WPIAL championship, Freshman Carol Lin was starting her with one. At the WPIAL Swimming and Diving Championship at Trees Pool on the Pitt Campus, Carol Lin captured the WPIAL 200 Yard Freestyle title with a time of 1:55.01. Lin also climbed the medal stand three other times at this year's championships.

Congratulations to both girls on great seasons.

Basketball and Wrestling Post Impressive Seasons

Boys' and girls' basketball and wrestling all posted impressive results this winter.

The boys' basketball team finished the season with a record of 16 wins and 10 losses and qualified for the WPIAL playoffs after finishing second in section play. The boys faced Plum in the opening round of the WPIAL playoffs and emerged victorious before falling in round two to old rival Central Catholic.

The girls' basketball team also qualified for the WPIAL playoffs following a successful season with a final record of 17 wins and 10 losses. The girls opened the playoffs by defeating Penn Hills 52-36. They were eliminated from the WPIAL championship following a loss to Mt. Lebanon. The girls

drew Oakland Catholic in the opening round of the PIAA playoffs and fell 48-41.

The wrestling team (18-6) continued its run of strong individual performances. Senior Brett Skonieczny and Junior Brian Letters both captured Allegheny County Championships and followed those up with Section Titles to advance to the WPIAL Championships. Joining them at the WPIAL finals were seniors Andrew Lever and Paul DeLuca and freshman Justin Mahon. Letters finished fourth, just missing his third trip to the PIAA Championships while Skoencizny finished third at the WPIALs to earn his first PIAA Championship appearance.

“Did you know that there are over 50 former Fox Chapel Area athletes currently competing at the NCAA Division I,II, or III level.”

Swimmers Race to WPIALS

This season twenty-one Fox Chapel Area swimmers qualified for the WPIAL Championships at Trees Pool. The weekend proved to be a fruitful one as the Foxes came home with a number of medals.

The girls' team finished second in the WPIAL and was led by strong individual performances from Carol Lin (1st-100 Free, 4th-200 Free), Katie Leech (2nd-100 Back, 3rd-200 IM), Maggie Deiseroth (5th-50 Free), Shannon Boyd (6th-50 Free), Emily Zacherl (6th-500 Free) and Hillary Lotz (8th-100 Fly). The girls climbed the medal podium after posting strong finishes in

the 400 Free Relay (2nd), 200 Free Relay (3rd), and 200 Medley Relay (3rd).

The girls concluded their season with a tenth place finish at the PIAA Championships that included a third in the 200 Free Relay and an eighth in the 400 Free Relay.

The boys' team finished ninth in the WPIAL. Notable performances included senior Gene Kurtysh (2nd-200 Free, 5th-100 Free), the 200 Free Relay (2nd) and the 400 Free Relay (8th).

Congratulations goes out to Coach Clark and all the swimming Foxes for a fine season.

Hall of Fame Golf Outing

The tenth annual Hall of Fame Golf Outing is scheduled for Saturday, June 3, 2006 at Birdsfoot Golf Course in Slate Lick, PA near Freeport. Last year's event was sold out so don't delay signing up. Play begins at 8:30 with a shotgun start with lunch to follow completion of play. The donation of \$85 per player (or \$325 per foursome) includes 18 holes of golf, cart, drinks during play, a hot/cold buffet and prizes.

Tee and green sponsorships are also available for \$100. Please contact Harry Jenkins at (412) 967-2400 ext. 1894 to reserve a spot in the outing or sponsor a hole before the May 26 deadline.

Banquet Program & Auction

The program for this year's banquet will feature advertising and congratulatory notes for this year's inductees. A \$200 tax-deductible contribution, from individuals or businesses for a full-page ad, will include four complimentary banquet tickets. A half page ad for \$ 100 includes two banquet admissions. A business card size ad can be printed for \$ 50 and includes one banquet ticket. Questions should be referred to Jim Perry at (724) 274-9355. The deadline for advertising is May 12.

In conjunction with this year's banquet the Fox Chapel Area Sports Hall of Fame will once again be hosting a silent auction to raise funds to support the student-athletes of the Fox Chapel Area School District. If you would like to donate a round of gold, piece of sports memorabilia, restaurant gift certificate or other item please contact auction coordinators, Rich Kriston at 412-828-6597 or Dave Progar at 412-828-1328. All gifts are tax deductible.

Our Mission

The Fox Chapel Area Schools Sports Hall of Fame was formed with three goals in mind: to honor those individuals that have demonstrated excellence in athletics during or after their enrollment at Fox Chapel Area High School, or those individuals that have contributed greatly to the success of those athletes, to endow scholarships for our current male and female athletes, and to supplement and improve our current athletic facilities. We hope that you share our goals. Our membership is open to any individual interested in achieving these goals.

Executive Committee: S. Billings, E. Boyle, J. Broderick, D. Damico, G. Damico, B. Elder, M. Flowers, R. Frank, H. Jenkins, R. Kriston, C. Lodge, H. Lodge, C. Mesiano, J. Perry, D. Progar, D. Ware, K. Williams

Fox Chapel Area Schools Hall of Fame Membership Application

Please Print All Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

E-mail _____

Membership level

- 3 year \$25 Bronze \$25-100
- Lifetime \$100 Silver \$101-250
- Family Annual \$25 Gold \$ 251-500
- _____ Platinum \$501+

_____ **Mail completed application to:
Fox Chapel Area Schools
Sports Hall of Fame
PO Box 38124
Pittsburgh, PA 15238**

Fox Chapel Area Schools
Sports Hall of Fame

PO Box 38124
Pittsburgh, PA
15238

QuickTime™ and a
Photo - JPEG decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Scholarship Opportunities

Applications for the Frank Fuhrer Family Scholarship are available in the high school guidance department. The Fuhrer Family Scholarship awards one \$2,500 annual scholarship renewable for each of four years. The generosity of the Frank Fuhrer family has continued to make this scholarship possible and help us fulfill one of the Hall of Fame's founding goals.

Student-athletes interested in applying for the Fuhrer scholarship should visit the guidance department for an application. Please be sure to complete both the scholarship application and resume by April 15, 2005 to be eligible.

The Hall of Fame also offers scholarships to middle school athletes who wish to attend sports camps. Contact Ron Frank for more details.

Hall of Fame Induction Banquet

This year's Fox Chapel Area Schools Sports Hall of Fame Induction Banquet will take place on Sunday, June 12 at the Holiday Inn RIDC. The evening will begin at 5:30 with a cocktail hour (cash bar) followed by dinner and the induction events.

Please make plans to attend and honor a former classmate or neighbor as he or she is inducted into the Fox Chapel Area Schools Sports Hall of Fame. The dinner is also a great opportunity to reconnect with the Fox Chapel sports community and school district. You may reserve a ticket for the event or

an entire table by contacting Charlie Mesiano at (724) 274-5079. Please indicate your preference of chicken or beef when making your reservation. Your dinner reservation also includes a complimentary one-year membership to the Sports Hall of Fame.

If you can't attend the dinner, you may still participate by donating an auction item or purchasing an advertisement for the program. More information about these events may be found within this newsletter.

We hope to see you all at the banquet.

About Our Organization..

The Fox Chapel Area Schools Sports Hall of Fame is a member organization of the Fox Chapel Excellence for Education Fund, Inc. The Fund is registered as a charitable

organization with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. A copy of the Fund's official registration may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within PA, 1 (800) 732-0999.