

Cardinal
GIBBONS
High School

XVI ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY



Saturday, January 12, 2019



Alma Mater

*Hail to Cardinal Gibbons High School
All our love we give to thee
Lying still beside the waters
Of Atlantic's pale blue sea.*

*You have lit our lamps of knowledge
You have given us the sword
We are armed to carry wisdom
From your halls into the world.*

*Clothed in red and white we challenge
Any foe or any fray
With the knowledge we will conquer
Before sunset on God's day.*

*O you halls of sacred learning
We will carry forth your word
And the name of Cardinal Gibbons
Shall forever be revered.*

*Charlotte Blitstein 1966-69
Faculty Member - Author*

Welcome.....Michael Morrill

Athletic Director

Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2017

Invocation.....Carlos Perez-Cubas Class of 1979

Director of Student Activities

Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2018

**Hosts.....The Administration, Athletic Department, and
Staff of Cardinal Gibbons High School**

Presentation of Inductees...Michael Morrill

Athletic Director

Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2017

Margo Flack, Class of 1998

Assistant Athletic Director

Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2012

Matthew Dubuc, Class of 1992

Assistant Athletic Director

Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2011

Tyler Ziontz, Class of 1995

Athletic Development

Athletic Hall of Fame 2018-2019 Inductees

COACH

Eugene H. Morrison II

ATHLETES

Ellen Dunne Class of 1996

Janie Velentzas Class of 1996

Michael DiPierro Class of 1999

Blair Walsh Class of 2008

TEAMS

2005 Boys' Volleyball State Champions

SPECIAL PERSON

Joey Accardi Class of 1994

ADMINISTRATOR

Paul D. Ott Class of 1966

Reception to Follow

2019 Athletic Hall Of Fame Induction Ceremony



Criteria for Selection

“Cardinal Gibbons Athletic Hall Of Fame” was formed for the purpose of recognizing and honoring those student- athletes, coaches, teams, administrators and special individuals who have made an outstanding contribution and/or offered extraordinary service to Cardinal Gibbons Athletics. The following criteria are considered when making inductee selections.

1. Nominations are based on the following categories: athlete, coach, team, administrator, or special individuals.
2. Athletes must have graduated 10 years before an individual or team can be considered.
3. An athlete must have lettered in at least one varsity sport.
4. An individual (if not selected posthumously) must be present to accept the award, unless unforeseen circumstances prevent him/her from attending. Without these unforeseen circumstances a nominee has only 3 years to be present to be inducted.
5. If there is a tie in the nominations the earlier graduate will be chosen.
6. An individual maybe nominated for more than one category at one time and may be inducted as an individual and team in the same or different classes.
7. An equal number of male and female athletes are strongly suggested.
8. Recommendation forms and nominee information must meet all deadlines to be eligible for consideration.
9. Anyone in the Hall of Fame may nominate a person or team who the individual feels is worthy and meets the above criteria. However, if you are not a Hall of Fame member, you must do so through a current Hall of Fame member. It will be the Cardinal Gibbons Hall of Fame member’s responsibility to fill out the nomination form, thereby verifying, endorsing the credentials, qualifications and character of this nominee. All nominations must be presented to the Board with facts to back up the reasons why this person should be a member of the Hall of Fame. All information on eligible candidates will be presented to the Board. The Board, in turn by vote, will choose the candidates for the respective year.
10. The Hall of Fame Committee consists of the Selection Committee Members and all inducted members.

Inaugural Class 2003- 2004

Thomas Dennehy, Administrator
Sister Marie Schramko, O.S.F., Administrator
Louise Crocco, Athletic Director
Jim Gurzynski, Athlete

Class of 2004- 2005

Dora Castorri, Coach
Don Marino, Coach
Laurie Fleming Rowley, Athlete
Pam Giblin, Athlete
Gus Crocco, Athlete
Dave Shepherd, Athlete

Class of 2005 - 2006

Walt Green, Administrator
Jude Abrams, Coach
Glenn Lee, Coach
Joseph LaRocca, Athlete
Donnell Bennett, Athlete
1975 Girls State Volleyball Team

Class of 2006 - 2007

Tony Licata, Coach/Athletic Director
Jo Cabana, Coach
Dennis Romanelli, Athlete/Benefactor
Denise Sancrainte Faber, Athlete
1987 Baseball State Championship Team

Class of 2007 - 2008

Jill Stephen, Athlete
Fran Giblin, Coach
Josh Fogg, Athlete
Micah Gardner, Athlete

Class of 2008 -2009

Bill Googe, Athlete
Kathy Gluth Scher, Athlete
Kendra Lasher, Athlete
Frank Pettineo, Coach
Ryan Shealy, Athlete
"Chain Gang", Special

Class of 2009 - 2010

Lowe "Junior" Wren, Coach
Rob Castorri, Athlete
Michon Lubbers, Athlete
Jason Bostic, Athlete
Vanessa Fuchs, Athlete
Paula Ferrante – Special Category
1973 State Championship Tennis Team

Class of 2010 – 2011

Marcy Sanscrainte Meter, Coach
Kieran O'Connor, Athlete
Pauline Milano, Special
Marty Grady, Coach
Joanna Sahn, Athlete
Matt Dubuc, Athlete
1980 Boys Tennis State Champions

Class of 2011-2012

Brother Michael Brickman, CSC, Special
Margo Miller Flack, Athlete
Ms. Missy Meyer, Athlete
Mr. Dave Montiel, Athlete
Mr. Tommy Peragine, Athlete
1977 & 1978 Girls State Champions Tennis Team

Class of 2012 - 2013

Dr. John Bloom, Jr., Team Physician
Jim Scott, Tennis Coach
Mary Dunn, Athlete
Bruce Link, Athlete
Michael Werle, Athlete
Jodi Kenoyer-Zeman Athlete
2002-2003 State Champion Wrestling Teams

Class of 2013 - 2014

Jim Drotos, Coach
Mercedes Ballne ter Maat, Athlete
Joni M. Vollman, Athlete
Rafael Ferreira, Athlete & Coach
Jennifer Ridenoure, Athlete
Robert Rob Stiegele, Athlete
1976 - 1977 - 1978 - 1979
Girls Volleyball State Champions Teams

Class of 2014-2015

Carrie Fleming Cromartie, Athlete - class of 1975
Marty Durkin, Athlete - Class of 1985
Chuck Klee, Athlete - Class of 1995
Reid Sinclair, Athlete - Class of 1996
Tahaji Felder, Athlete - Class of 1999
1985 Boys Tennis State Championship Team
1986 Boys Tennis State Championship Team
1987 Boys Tennis State Championship Team
1988 Boys Tennis State Championship Team

Class of 2015-2016

Carrie Rowley Bennett - Athlete - Class of 1999
Nancy Taylor Schuster - Athlete - Class of 1985
Kathy McPadden Potter - Athlete - Class of 1979
Justin Meyer - Athlete - Class of 1988
Richard "Dick" Michael Welsh - Athlete - Class of 1966
Dr. A. J. "Bud" Tight - Benefactor
1990 Girls Tennis State Championship Team
1995 Girls Tennis State Championship Team
1996 Girls Tennis State Championship Team

Class of 2016-2017

Michael Morrill, Coach
Deirdre (Dee Dee) Benam '73, Athlete
Evans Celestin '93, Athlete
Beth O'Connell Elletson '07, Athlete
Daniel Perry '81, Athlete
Rich Tunison '87, Athlete
Bob & Jackie Hanke, Special Persons/Benefactors
1984 Girls Volleyball State Champions
1985 Girls Volleyball State Champions
1986 Girls Volleyball State Champions
1988 Girls Volleyball State Champions
1989 Girls Volleyball State Champions

Class of 2017-2018

Antwan Chiles, Class of 1991, Athlete
Sandi Fox Cabeza, Class of 2000, Athlete
Jonathan "JT" Taylor, Class of 2003, Athlete
Jenna Romanelli, Class of 2007, Athlete
John Chikerotis, Coach
Carlos Perez-Cubas, Class of 1979, Special Person
1998 State Champions Girls Cheerleading
2005 State Champions Wrestling Team



Eugene H. Morrison II



Gene went to Hackley School in Tarrytown, NY where he played Varsity Football 2 years, Varsity Basketball 3 years and Varsity Baseball 3 years. He was Captain of Basketball and Baseball and Athlete of the Year his Senior year.

He graduated from Hackley School 1960 and went on to play for Babson College in Wellesley Massachusetts in 1961. There he scored 23 points for them at the Boston Garden. After he went to Oklahoma City University where he played baseball. Gene also played in the 1965 NCAA Basketball tournament.

After graduating Gene went on to teach Math and coached 8th grade Basketball from Sept 1966 to June 1969. He also coached Golf at Hackley From 1968 and 1969 with a (24 - 1 - 1) and 24 wins in a row.

In 1967 he married his wonderful wife, Jean Vander Schaaf. In 1969 Gene taught Math and Coached Varsity Basketball at Pine Crest in Ft. Lauderdale. Also, in the same year they welcomed their first bundle of joy, Stephanie Jean Morrison Born Nov. 8, 1969. Stephanie went on to graduated from CGHS in 1987. Continuing his career, Gene taught Math at the Mills School in Ft. Lauderdale 1970 - 73 and started the Boys Basketball team 1971, 1972 and 1973. During his tenure there Gene and

Jean welcomed their second daughter Jennifer Jean Morrison Born on Nov. 24, 1971. and she also graduated from CGHS in 1990. In 1976 Gene started at Cardinal Gibbons teaching Geometry and coaching Golf. In just a year he went to state with Tom Garner in May 1977. The golf team won Districts in 1983, 1984, 1995, 1998 and 1999. In 1980 and 1984 the Golf Team Came in second. In 1980 and 1984 Gene was named Boys Coach of the Year. Gene started the Cardinal Gibbons Invitational in 1984 and the Benjamin Invitation which continues to this day.

Gene also coached the Girls Basketball at Cardinal Gibbons 1982 through 1986. He received an All Broward County Basketball Award Certificate for Girls Basketball 1984 for outstanding Achievement.

In 1986 he started Girls Golf team at Cardinal Gibbons and went to state with Mary Dunne. Gene was named Girls Coach of the Year 1989. Gene served on the State Advisory Board 1998 and 1999.

In 1993 Gene retired from Cardinal Gibbons. Gene was honored by St. Thomas Athletic Booster Club Hall of Fame Oct. 1994. Gene and Jean now resides in Nesbit, Mississippi and they love attending the Memphis Grizzly Basketball Games.







Ellen Dunne '96



Ellen Dunne's golf career began at the age of six by watching and following her older sister Mary Dunne-Hembd, '89, a member of the Cardinal Gibbons Hall of Fame. After watching her sister play in golf tournaments and going to her golf lessons, she became runner- up twice in the Florida State Individual Championship.

During the course of her high school career, Ellen was the Miami Herald and Sun-Sentinel Player of the Year three out of the four years while at Cardinal Gibbons. She averaged 38 strokes per nine holes during her high school years. In her freshman year she came in second in her District and finished twice as a runner- up in the State Individual Championship her junior and senior year by two strokes both times.

She received a golf scholarship to Florida International University where she was a three time member of the Sun-belt conference and received the Lois P. Britton Women's Golf scholarship for and outstanding student-athlete with a GPA of 3.0 or better. Ellen graduated with a degree in Parks and Recreation with a minor in Sports Management.

Soon after graduating Ellen turned pro after winning the 2002 Broward Amateur. She competed on the Symetra Tour (the development tour for the LGPA). She spent about five years traveling throughout the country on the tour and was also a member of the Sun Coast tour in Florida. In 2010 Ellen was one of the top five on the money list on the Sun Coast tour.

After playing on the tour for several years she has turned her love of the game of golf to LPGA Teaching and Club Profession. She is in her second level of apprentice in order to become a LPGA Teacher.

She is currently living in her home town of Lauderdale By The Sea and has been working for the golf retail store of Edwin Watts.





ATHLETE - GOLF



Janie Velentzas '96



Janie Velentzas, came to Cardinal Gibbons High School after a very long history of being exposed to the legendary Volleyball program through Cardinal Gibbons Hall of Famer, All American, and still a great assistant coach today, Denise Sanscrainte Faber.

In elementary school Janie, her sister Christina Velentzas (2-time state championship winner and class of 94) and her cousin, Cara Cosper Penn, 3 state championship winner, class of 99, and myself were Coached by Coach Faber. Coach Faber who also was a 2 State Champion teams showed them the tools, heart, and strong desire to follow in her footsteps.

Janie was being perparing to play for the Legendary Coach Louise Crocco and for a program like no other in the entire nation!

Once arriving on the court as a freshman playing for Cardinal Gibbons and Coach Louise Crocco, she was in shock!! She finally arrived where she wanted to be for so long, a freshman playing for the BEST of the BEST!!

She was the type of player that would never settle for anything less than her best! She was blessed by receiving some unbelievable awards and opportunities due to her family (Mom and Dad) and Coaches and Staff!

Awards:

- She became a member of the USA Youth National Team training at the Olympic training facility in San Diego, California, as a junior in high school in 1995.
- 1994 Dairy Farmers Player of the year State of Florida
- 1994-1995 Class 4A Player of the Year Miami Herald and Sun Sentinel
- First player to start and win 4 consecutive state titles
- All state, all conference, all county 1st team selections all 4 years.
- Lettered in softball and basketball while at Gibbons
- Received a full scholarship to the University of Florida.
- She made 3 Final Four appearances.

After college, she moved right away into helping others and dedicating her time by motivational speaking, food drives, hospital visits, blood drives and donations. She was being directed by something way bigger than herself and found that her true passion is being of maximum service to others!!

She was fortunate to have been given the opportunity to turn to her Real Estate business into a multimillion dollar company after becoming a licensed realtor in the state of Florida 12yrs ago.

The drive, motivation, and relentless pursuit to never give up was fueled by a deep desire to help others, and must be attributed to God, my mother and father, sister and of course my coaches, Louise Crocco, Miss Jude Abrams, Paula, Denise Faber, Kathy Sher, Mrs Marcy Meyer, Mrs Caroline Macklin. She stated, " I am truly blessed and I am so graciously honored by this achievement and have to give a special thank to Jennifer Ei, Class of '95 for commitment to see me honored for my accomplishments at Cardinal Gibbons High School! Pride in oneself cannot be given it must be lived."



Michael DiPierro '99



Michael started at Cardinal Gibbons in 1996 as a freshman. He played football, basketball, and volleyball his first two years, then chose to focus only on volleyball his junior and senior years. He was chosen by the Sun Sentinel and Miami Herald as 1st team all-county his sophomore, junior, and senior years. His senior year he was also named Player of the Year. In 1998, his junior year, he led the Redskins to the county championship over rival St Thomas. In 1999, his senior year, he led them to the Tri County Championship which is the equivalent to the state championship as volleyball was not a recognized sport by the state at that time. Also in 1999, he was named to the USA Junior Olympic Beach Volleyball Team.

Michael was offered numerous division 1 scholarships and eventually picked Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Mo. His freshman year he led the team in kills and was named 1st team All-Conference and 1st team All American. In 2002, his Junior year, he led the Lions to a runner up National Championship finish and was named All American.

After college Michael moved back to Pompano Beach, Fl and started playing professional 2-man beach volleyball. In 2003 he won his 1st of five Bud Light Beach Volleyball National Championships. He has won over 200 Open level tournaments

including over 20 Toyota Beach Volleyball Tour wins and most recently in 2016 won the National Volleyball League's East Coast Championships. In 2010, he got to as career-high as the 8th best team in the country before tearing his ACL and MCL. That pretty much put an end to his professional career and he focused on starting a family.

Michael met his wife Katie while in college and they have been married for ten years. They have two sons, Dominik and Dax and both the boys have a love for sports and are following in their dads' footsteps. Currently Michael is employed as a poker dealer at the Isle Casino in Pompano Beach.





ALL BROWARD BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

COACH FRANK F. FERRARI

NET GAINS: The Herald's first team in boys' volleyball. Front row, from left, Bryan Prather, Cardinal Gibbons, Michael DiPietro, Cardinal Gibbons, and Mike Peletier. Back row, from left, Chris Bertrigo, St. Thomas Aquinas, Hugo Alvarez, Pine Crest, and Paul Piller. St. Thomas Aquinas.

FIRST TEAM		THIRD TEAM	
Pos.	Name	Pos.	Name
MB	Mike DiPietro	MB	Thom Mott
MB	Alvin Padilla	MB	David Sprague
CB	Chris Bertrigo	CB	Scott Kershner
CB	Hugo Alvarez	CB	Colin Tulliver
CB	Raymond Prather	CB	Ray Phelan
CB	Paul Piller	CB	Aranya Harrison
SECOND TEAM		HONORABLE MENTION	
Pos.	Name	Pos.	Name
MB	Mark Kerschner	MB	David Sprague
MB	David Piller	MB	David Sprague
CB	David Sprague	CB	David Sprague
CB	David Sprague	CB	David Sprague
CB	David Sprague	CB	David Sprague
CB	David Sprague	CB	David Sprague

ALL BROWARD BREAKFAST

The Herald's All-Broward Athletic Awards Breakfast will be held June 1 at 8:00 a.m. at the Signatures Grand, 6900 W. Shaw Road, Ft. Lauderdale.

An All-Broward medalion will be awarded to each first team All-Broward athlete. The Player of the Year in each sport will be awarded, and the overall team and individual Athlete of the Year will be announced.



Gibbons wins boys' volleyball championship

By DON EMANUEL JR.

Cardinal Gibbons High School won the boys' volleyball championship in the 1999 season. The team defeated St. Thomas Aquinas in the final match, 3-1. Gibbons' victory was a testament to their hard work and dedication throughout the season.

The team's success was led by coach Frank Ferrari, who guided them to their first championship. The team's key players included Mike DiPietro, Alvin Padilla, and Chris Bertrigo.



THE SLAMMERS: The All-Broward boys' volleyball team, from left, coaches of Matt Padilla, Neil Mayo, Rusty Shaw, Mike DiPietro, Burt Blair and Justin Meyer. Only DiPietro, a junior, returns next season.



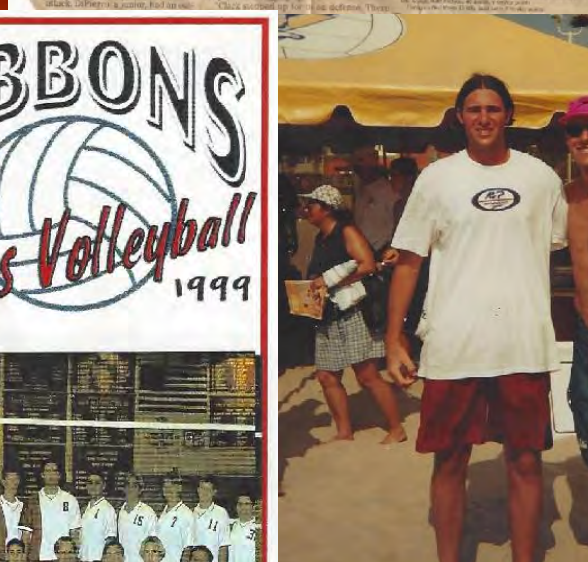
Gibbons stops St. Thomas for county title

By TODD WRIGHT

Cardinal Gibbons High School stopped St. Thomas Aquinas in the final match of the 1999 boys' volleyball championship. Gibbons won the match 3-1, securing the county title.

The match was a hard-fought battle, with Gibbons showing superior defense and offense. St. Thomas put up a strong fight, but Gibbons' consistent play proved to be the difference.

The victory marks a significant achievement for Gibbons, as it is their first county title in boys' volleyball. The team and their coach, Frank Ferrari, are proud of the accomplishment.



GIBBONS

Mens Volleyball

1999

Cardinal Gibbons High School
4601 Bayview Drive - Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308
954-491-2900 Fax: 954-772-1025
Principal: Rev. Fr. Joseph Kershner
Asst. Principals: Sr. Marie Schramko,
Fr. Francis Pala and Paul Ott
Dean: Walter Green
Athletic Director: Louise Crocco
Asst. Athletic Director: Michael Morrill

ATHLETE - VOLLEYBALL



Blair Walsh '08



Blair Walsh attended Cardinal Gibbons from 2005 through 2008. Blair excelled as a student-athlete during these years and was a key player on longtime great Gibbons Football Coach Michael Morrill's teams. During his time at Cardinal Gibbons Blair was named to the USA Today All American Team and was selected to play in the US Army All-American Game. He converted on a school record two 59 yard field goals during his time at Gibbons. With the help of his teammates, coaches, and family, Blair earned a football scholarship to play at the University of Georgia. While at Cardinal Gibbons, Blair developed what has become a long running desire to give back. He was proud to lead the Hospice by the Sea Teen volunteer program as its president.

In 2008 Blair made his debut for the #1 ranked Georgia Bulldogs. Later that year was named to the freshman All-SEC team. In 2009 Blair was tabbed as one of three finalists for the Lou Groza Award (given to the nation's top place kicker) and was also named the CFPA Placekicker of the Year. After the 2010 season, Blair was named to the All-SEC first team and was voted to the UGA's Football Team of the Decade (2000-10). During his senior year, he became the All-Time leading scorer in SEC history with 412 points and helped his team secure an SEC East championship.

While playing for the Dawgs Blair became deeply involved in charitable pursuits in the greater Atlanta area including multiple visits to the Shepherds.

In the spring of 2012, Blair was drafted in the 6th round of the NFL Draft by the Minnesota Vikings. Following his first season with the Vikings, Blair was named a first Team All-Pro and selected to the Pro Bowl. During this season he set multiple NFL and franchise records, including the most 50+ yard field goals in an NFL season (10). He also owns the NFL record for the most consecutive 50+ yard field goals in NFL history (12). Blair also holds the Vikings franchise record for longest field goal (56). Blair twice led the league in Field Goals Made in 2015 and 2012.

While playing in the NFL Blair continued following his passion for charitable work. He spent much of his time and treasures doing weekly visits to the Children's Hospitals and Ronald McDonald's houses in Minneapolis and Seattle. Some of the many things Blair did included visiting families staying in the Ronald McDonald going through bereavement, visiting with children battling illness in the children's hospital, providing tickets and game day passes to families in the Ronald McDonald House, appearing/acting in "in-house" entertainment productions for children at the children's hospital.

Blair has been fortunate to have a healthy and happy start to his career. Blair's experiences at Cardinal Gibbons were instrumental in laying the foundation for what will be many more successful years ahead.





ATHLETE - FOOTBALL



2005 BOYS' VOLLEYBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

Austin Belt

Thomas Cwalinski

Justin Donahue

John T. Downs

John Farland

Patrick Ferguson

Michael Haan

Tyler Hall

Chris Hambrook

Brendan Hanley

Conor Hennigar

J.R. Hillman

Michael Kuhney

Patrick Legendre

Brian O'Leary

Sean O'Leary

Michael Richards

Brett Ryan

Craig Sanscrainte

Ben Skee

Mark VanZwieten

Matt Williams

Coaches

Marcy Meyer

Missy Meyer

Justin Meyer

Pamela Meyer

Score/Stats

Denise Faber

Managers

Nonie Ferguson

Kelly Sherman

Pilar Echarte

Ingrid Torbernttson

"Voice of The Redskins"

Paula Ferrante



2005 BOYS' VOLLEYBALL STATE CHAMPIONS



2005 BOYS' VOLLEYBALL STATE CHAMPIONS



2005 BOYS' VOLLEYBALL STATE CHAMPIONS



Joey Accardi '94



Joseph Thomas Accardi, better known to everyone as Joey, grew up in Pompano Beach Florida. He is a proud alumnus of St. Coleman's Catholic School and Cardinal Gibbons High School class of 1994.

Joey grew up as the son of a franchise auto dealer and started his career in the car business as soon as he was old enough to pick up a broom and eventually learned to work in every position within the dealership. After high school, he attended and graduated from the Chrysler Dealer Development Academy. By the age of 24 he was operating auto dealerships as a General Manager.

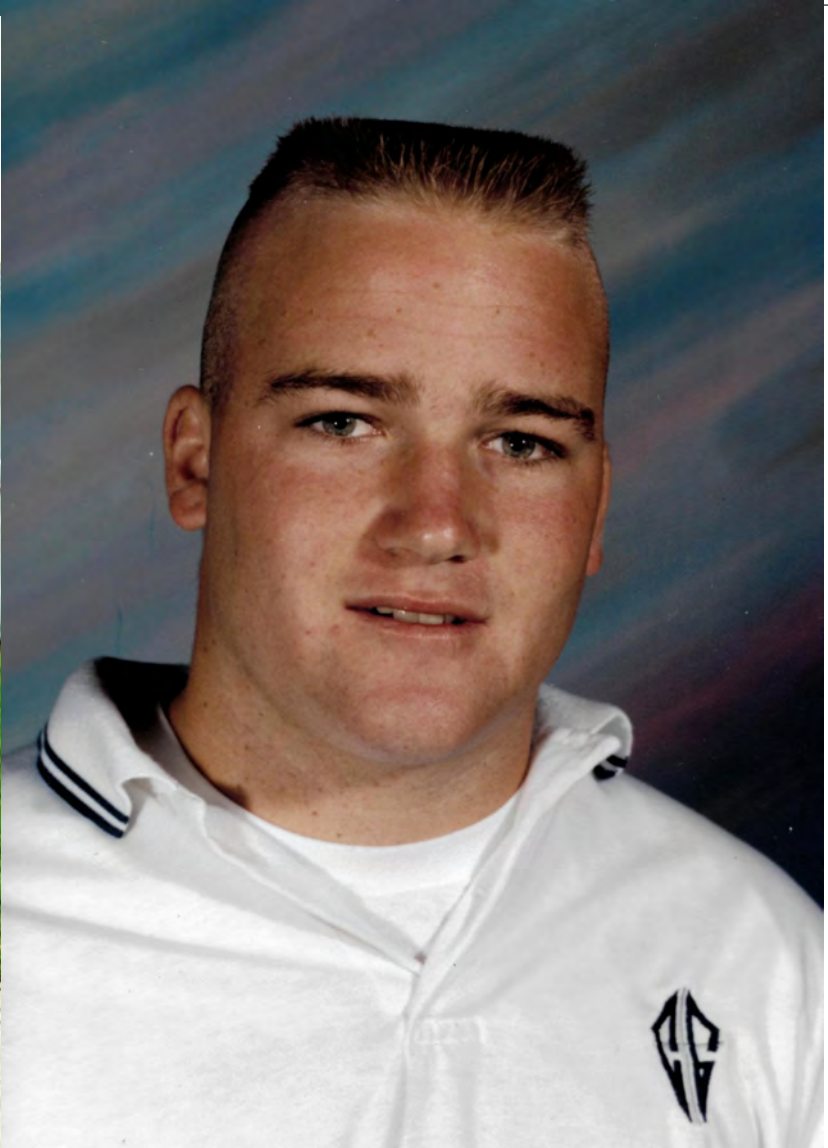
In 2006, Joey joined the Phil Smith Automotive Group and operated both the Ford and Kia stores. This was a pivotal point in Joey's career where he had the privilege of working directly with Phil Smith as a mentor, to whom Joey credits for refining his skill as an auto dealer operator and entrepreneur. During the automotive industry crisis of 2008, Joey found himself in a position to create a partnership with his mentor and they acquired the Chrysler dealership in Pompano.

Today, Joey owns and operates three franchise automotive dealerships within Florida and Alabama. His franchises include Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram and Subaru. His mission is always to provide the best customer experience and it's evident in the awards that his stores have received year after year. The dealerships have been the recipients of the FCA (Fiat Chrysler Automobiles) Customer First Award for Excellence and the Subaru Share the Love Customer Commitment Award. Both of these awards are the highest honor a dealer can receive from the manufacturer.

Now a resident of Lighthouse Point, Joey lives with his wife, Marisol, his four children (Zoey, Skyler, Danny and Brooke) and his mother-in-law, Maria. All of his children are following in his footsteps and currently attend both St. Coleman School and Cardinal Gibbons.

Joey has always had a love for giving back to the local community and helping others in need. Through his success, he has found great joy in being able to generously give back to his local community by supporting and sponsoring events for Saint Coleman School and for Cardinal Gibbons High School special events and the athletic department. Joey also provides annual charitable contributions to support the Danielle DeMarzo Foundation, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital and many more.





SPECIAL PERSON



Paul D. Ott '66



Paul D. Ott '66 was the second of five Ott siblings to attend Cardinal Gibbons High School. In addition, his wife Therese '69, and children Matthew '96, Michael '99, and Daniel '04, are also proud Gibbons alumni. During his four years as a student he was involved in a multitude of extracurricular activities ranging from speech and debate to swimming and basketball. By his own admission, his skills and talents in athletics would not qualify him for admission into the Hall of Fame unless there was an award given to the athlete who broke the school record for accumulated minutes on the bench! Nevertheless, the lessons learned about the value and importance of being a member of a sports team were not lost on this young man.

After graduation from a school that was only beginning to establish the traditions and rituals that would carry it forward, Ott attended the University of Notre Dame, a school steeped in tradition. During the era of Coach Ara Parsegian and a National Championship, he learned that an exceptional academic program and an exceptional athletic program were not mutually exclusive. In fact, the spirit and enthusiasm generated from the athletic program carried over into the classroom so that the chant "We're Number One" applied to the pride students

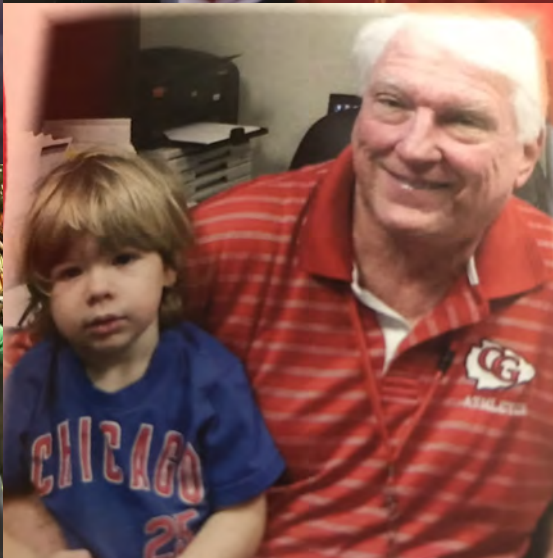
had in the entire school, not just football.

Returning to Cardinal Gibbons as a teacher, student activities director, assistant principal and then principal, the lessons learned about the importance of an excellent athletic program as a compliment to an excellent academic program remained with him. Unwilling to compromise on academic standards and moral values, he encouraged all students to be the best people they could be first, and then to fulfill their potential as students, athletes, and contributing team members, regardless of skill level. All students had to be held to the same standards. He truly believed that it is not whether you win or lose, but how you played the game that mattered most. This is not to say that winning was not the preferred outcome, especially against certain cross town rivals.

In addition to the continuous improvement of the academic facilities on campus, Ott worked with former AD Louise Crocco and current AD Mike Morrill in overseeing the funding and construction of the gym lobby and second floor practice gym, the contracted legal battle for lights on the football field, the synthetic track and Bud Tight athletic field, and the baseball dugout and concession stand.

He made a concerted effort to attend as many athletic events as possible to support the students and coaches who dedicated so much time and effort in service to their school. His door was always open and he tried to create a comfortable space and safe zone for students who were experiencing difficulty in their lives. Like former inductee Pauline Milano, he truly believed that "It's all about the kids" and that was his primary focus during his 48 year tenure.





ADMINISTRATOR

SPECIAL THANKS

*To all who were involved in our
Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony!*

*This event would not have been
possible without your assistance.*

