

MYNDERSE ACADEMY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME NEWSLETTER

Issue VI

January 2015

The Class of 2014



Seated: Krista Ruschak Long, Diana Stachelhaus Pannucci, Elizabeth Bruch Becht, Gavin Henry (for father Alan), Andrew Verkey
Standing: Gary Bullis, Arthur Wormuth (for father Warren), Dominic Caraccilo

INDUCTION 2014 RECAP

According to feedback received from various people attending this year's induction, the Mynderse Academy Athletic Hall of Fame conducted another successful induction ceremony. Those in attendance were treated to remembrances from past years as well as memorable speeches. If you know of any Mynderse graduate who hasn't attended an induction, please encourage them to do so; we're confident they won't be disappointed.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

It's not too early to begin thinking of Induction Weekend 2015. The upcoming 2015 induction will take place on Sunday, October 11 starting at 4:00 PM at the New York Chiropractic College. Please plan to attend, if possible.

Hall of Fame Website

You're invited to check out the MA Athletic Hall of Fame on the Seneca Falls School District website. The website contains information and photos of every Hall of Fame member and team.

Go to the district website at www.sfcs.k12.ny.us and click on the "Athletics" tab. You should see the link for the Mynderse Academy Athletic Hall of Fame.

REMEMBRANCE

If you know of the passing of any MAA HOF member, please notify one of the HOF Committee members. The HOF wishes to pay tribute to these individuals.



Seated: Bob Caraccilo, Mary Ellen Spennachio Wagner (for Mauro), Jim Palumbo, Dom Caraccilo, Dick Yates, John Pannucci, Dave Rogers
Standing: Mike Bullis, Pete Saracino, Gene Caraccilo, Mickey Burke, Bob Millis, Abe Meyers, Rich Eno, Joe Addona (for Dick), Harry Amidon, Judy Giovannini (for Mike), Patricia Garnsey (for Cy)

1952, 53 & 54 Baseball Teams

The 1952 league champions (12-1) were the first team in Mynderse history to win a sectional title. Led by captain Rich Addona, the team had a tight defense and outstanding pitching anchored by John Pannucci. Cy Garnsey received the MVP and best hitter awards. Coach Masterson was assisted by managers Palendro and Peone.

The 1953 team also won the league and sectional titles. They are the only baseball team in Mynderse history to go undefeated (16-0) capturing the sectional crown. The team was lead by ace right-hander and captain, John Pannucci. The captain earned MVP and highest batting average awards. Coach Scutt was assisted by manager Joe Peone and Bill Cologgi.

The 1954 team also won sectionals and enabled the Mynderse squad to become the first team in school history to earn a "Three-Peat". Coached by Mauro Spennachio and Ray Bullis with Bill Cologgi as manager, they completed the third and final season of three

sectional wins in a row. Captain Bruno Lombardo earned the MVP and highest batting average awards.

Coach Ray Winthrop contributed by coaching all three JV baseball squads during the record setting run.

MYNDERSE ACADEMY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

MEMBERS

JERRY ANDERSON - 1992
JOSEPH AVVEDUTI - 1970
LISA CARACCILO ANDERSON - 1986
BETH ANNE BRADSHAW - 1993
BOB BUCHWALD - 1962
GARY BULLIS - 1979
DOM CARACCILO - 1952
DOMINIC CARACCILO - 1980
GENE CARACCILO - 1955
CHRIS DRAGONE - 2002
COACH GEORGE DAVIS
COACH MIKE FERRARA - 1975
LARRY GIUSTI - 1971
LISA POLZINETTI GALVIN - 1982
COACH ALAN HENRY
KRISTA RUSCHAK LONG - 1997
KAREN LOUCKS - 1977
DAVE MCNANEY - 1973
RICHARD "ABE" MEYERS - 1956
COACH JOHN NICHOLSON
JOHN PANNUCCI - 1953
FRAN PISCITELLI - 1966
MARK PISCITELLI - 1969
LES ROBINSON - 1962
BOB VALESENTE - 1958
GEORGE VALESENTE - 1962
ANDREW VERKEY - 1997
MATT VERKEY - 1992
ROD VERKEY - 1964
DAVE WORMUTH - 1959

LIFETIME CONTRIBUTORS

ART BAKER
DAVE BAKER
ELIZABETH BRUCH BECHT - 1970
JOHN BRACHT - 1903
BRUCE KNAPP, SR. - 1950
NICK NETTI
DOM PARADISE - 1949
ANGE SUFFREDINI
WARREN WORMUTH

MYNDERSE TEAMS

1946 FOOTBALL TEAM
1938 FOOTBALL TEAM
1992 BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM
1985 GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM
1994 GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM
1952, 53, & 54 BASEBALL TEAMS

FORERUNNERS TO TITLE IX

ANGIE BANTUVANIS
HELEN REYNOLDS WESTFALL - 1958
BARRIE DOANE CLARK - 1946
DIANA STACHELHAUS PANNUCCI - 57

Verk's Trivia Corner

Trivia enthusiast, Rod Verkey, tries to stump the readers.
SEND YOUR ANSWERS TO:
rverkey@hotmail.com



1. What years did MA have undefeated football seasons?
2. What years did MA have undefeated baseball & basketball seasons?
3. How many MAA HOF members are also in the Ithaca College HOF - name them?
4. What MAA HOF member was also president of a large US university?

WHY ISN'T SO & SO IN THE HALL OF FAME?

This will be the sixth year of the MAA HOF and interest seems to grow each year. Most Committee members have been asked why certain Mynderse athletes aren't in the Hall. There are a couple of possible reasons....

1. Hall by-laws restrict induction classes to only 5 new athletes per year.
2. The particular athlete in question may not have been nominated (THE most important step). You can nominate someone, it is very easy. Ask a Committee member for the simple form.



"Tales From The Past" Saint Patrick's Panthers

By John Capacci

Beginning in 1950 under the coaching leadership of men like Geno Giovannini and Chipper Vergamini, with the full support of Pastor John P. O'Beirne and Asst. Pastor Thomas Kane, St. Patrick's Parochial School in Seneca Falls began offering organized team sports in football and baseball to St. Patrick's students. Basketball was offered several years later. The basketball team played in the school room hall until the current gymnasium was built in approximately 1953.

During the approximate ten year period from 1950-1960, the St. Patrick's Panthers played football, basketball and baseball against other catholic schools in the area and anyone else who had a team. Geno Giovannini is also credited with establishing a Mynderse Academy Junior High football program during this same period. Some of the former players remember traveling to Aquinas Stadium in Rochester to play a football game against Rochester area catholic schools prior to a an Aquinas High School game.

The Panthers competed in the Rochester Diocesan tournaments in baseball and basketball – winning league and diocesan titles. St. Patrick's football and baseball ended around 1954 with the advent of Pop Warner and Vince Lombardi football, as well as with the establishment of Little League Baseball in Seneca Falls.

The success of the St. Patrick's athletic program provided the first organized football, basketball and baseball experience for many St. Patrick's students. These programs coupled with the Kiwanis Grasshopper baseball program, established a "feeder" system for many athletes entering Mynderse

Academy athletics.

Rumors still abound to this day that the St. Patrick's football team ran the same offense and defense used by the Mynderse Academy varsity squad. It was also noted that Mynderse Academy Athletic Hall of Fame coach George Davis would attend St. Patrick's games on Sunday at the K of C field and would "suggest" plays and position changes to the St. Patrick's coaches.

The photo shows the 1954 St. Patrick's Panther Football team. Many of the players on this team, Bobby Spano, Bill Crough, George Bunce, Vince Piscitelli, Len Colavito, Billy Burns, John Capacci, Jim Delia and George Valesente went on to lead Mynderse Academy through its incredible unbeaten league championship run from 1952 through 1960. Several members of that young Panther team also became captains of the Mynderse Varsity Football teams earning All League honors.

Can you find them?

Our next issue of the MAAHOF Newsletter will be mailed in June 2015. This spring edition will cover the 2015 Induction Ceremony and other activities over the 2015 induction weekend.

Remember, if for some reason, you'd like to be removed from the mailing list, please contact one of the HOF Committee members.