

2015-2016 Elida Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Marc Bishop
Class of 1995



Marc is a 1995 graduate of Elida High School, where he earned 8 varsity letters while participating in football (1), basketball (4), and baseball (3) during his years at Elida High School.

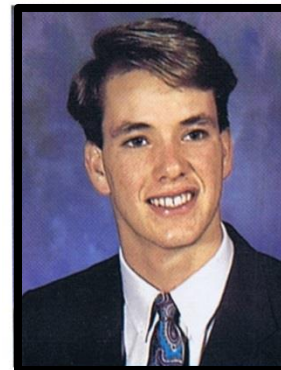
Marc is one of only 8 players in Elida history to score over 1,000 points. Marc was also a member of the 1994-1995 team, which had a season record of 20-3 and made it to Division I Regionals. During his high school career, he received 1st Team All-WBL honors two times, was 1995 WBL Player of the Year, District Player of the Year, and earned All-State Special Mention.

After graduation, Marc went on to play collegiate ball at the University of Findlay where he is still in the record book for the most three-point field goals attempted (779) of which he made a career (313). During his career at the University of Findlay, from 1995-1999; Marc scored 1658 points, which ranks ninth on the career list.

In 2011 Marc was inducted into the Findlay University Athletic Hall of Fame for his achievements. As a sophomore he was selected to 1st Team Mid-Ohio, was an NAIA Great Lakes Region selection on three occasions, was named 3rd team NAIA All-American as a sophomore and a senior, earned 2nd team Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference twice and was NAIA Great Lakes Region Player of the Year 1998-1999. Also, his team made three appearances in the NAIA Division I National Tournament. During Marc's junior season the Oilers were GLIAC South Division champions.

Marc is currently the Head Basketball Coach at Van Buren High School.

Chris Vondran
Class of 1989



Chris graduated from Elida High School in 1989; he participated in Varsity Tennis for three years from 1986-1988. He also participated in Varsity Swimming for four years from 1986-1989, where he earned his highest honors.

During his high school career, Chris earned the following honors:

- Northwest Ohio High School District Swim Champ's
50yd Freestyle -1987, 1988 & 1989
100yd Breaststroke -1987, 1988 & 1989
- Ohio High School State Swim Championships
50yd Freestyle -1987, 1988 & 1989 (7th)
100yd Breaststroke -1987, 1988 & 1989 (1st)
- 1989 Ohio High School State Swimming Champion
100yd Breaststroke -58.26 sec.
- Elida High School Records:
100yd Breaststroke -58.26 sec. (1989)
50yd Freestyle -21.51 sec. (1989)

Chris went on to earn swim honors at the Ohio State University. He competed on the Varsity Men's Swim Team from 1989-1991, where he was named Outstanding Freshmen Varsity Swimmer and earned a Varsity "O" both years.

Chris became a Volunteer Assistant Coach at Ohio State for the Men's Varsity Swim Team from 2001-2004.

Chris is married to Tracy and they have three children. Tracy is also an Ohio State graduate and is a high school Women's Volleyball Coach & Personal Fitness Trainer.

Don Bridges
Class of 1962



Don graduated in the Elida High School class of 1962. He is a four-year letter winner in basketball and baseball at Gomer High School, earning all-league awards in both sports. Don's greatest success came in baseball, where he finished his four year career with a batting average of .496 and a pitching record of 47-7. He pitched multiple one-hitters, and one perfect game.

Don first caught the attention of professional baseball scouts at the age of 12, when he was assisting Ed Sandy at a tryout camp sponsored by the Philadelphia Phillies. Scouts followed Don through his high school career, and in the spring of 1962 Don was offered contracts by four professional teams. Don turned down college scholarship opportunities to sign a professional contract with the Philadelphia Phillies.

Don played five seasons as a left-handed hitting outfielder in the minor leagues, with stops in Miami, Florida, Bakersfield, California, Eugene, Oregon, and Chattanooga, Tennessee. In the off-season, Don would return to the Lima area and attend classes at Ohio Northern University. Don left professional baseball after five seasons, but continued playing baseball for the Gomer Merchants, and, for many years, softball with the Kruse Furniture team. Don also coached his sons little league teams, and assisted with the Elida Acme baseball summer team.

Don has been married to his high school sweetheart, Carolyn (Crates) for 50 years. They are the parents of two sons, Jeff and Brian, and four grandsons. Don worked for Textron Corporation (formerly Ex-Cello) for 29 years, until they left Lima. Don is now semi-retired and still enjoys playing golf.