

Tom Goddard Class of 1968

Tom Goddard was a three-sport athlete for Clarence from 1965 to 1968 where he competed in football, wrestling and track. His contributions on the field as a player and coach make him a tremendous inductee in to the Athletic Wall of Fame Class of 2016.

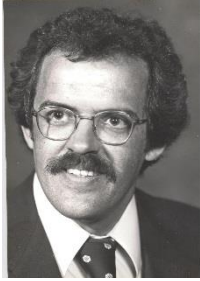
Tom moved to Clarence in the fall of 1965 at the start of his 10th grade year. He played JV football as a running back and linebacker. Tom also competed on the varsity wrestling and track teams and earned two varsity letters. During his junior year, Tom competed on the varsity football, wrestling and track teams and was awarded three varsity letters.

Tom played football in the fall of his senior year. He was captain of the undefeated 1967 team as a tight end and linebacker and was named Most Outstanding Defensive Player. Tom competed on the wrestling team in the winter and was named the Most Outstanding Senior Wrestler. He competed in track and field and set the pole vault record that stood for many years.

The highlight of Tom's senior year came as he was named the Clarence High School Male Athlete of the Year in 1968. He was also awarded the Buffalo News Outstanding Senior Athlete in 1968.

Tom went on to play football, wrestling and track at Iowa Wesleyan College from 1968—1972. He started four years as a receiver and led the team in receptions for three years. He competed in wrestling and track for one year each.

In addition to his athletic career, Tom had a tremendous career in coaching. He coached football, wrestling and track at Pembroke High School from 1972—1976. From 1977—1986, Tom coached wrestling, and track at Cheektowaga High School as well as football from 1977—1978 and again from 1980—1985. Tom eventually found his way back to Clarence and he coached the varsity football team first as an assistant in 1979 and again from 1986-1992. He became the head coach of the Clarence Varsity team in 1993. He was the longest tenured varsity football coach from 1993 to 2010. He compiled the most wins as the varsity football coach at Clarence. The highlight of his coaching career came in the fall of 2010 when he led the team to a Sectional Championship.



John Hunt Coach

John Hunt coached five athletic teams at Clarence High School spanning 26 years from 1989 to 2015. John's dedication and commitment to thousands of runners through training and education made him an inspiration to many. His teams won numerous League and Sectional Championships making him a tremendous inductee in to the Athletic Wall of Fame Class of 2016.

In the fall, John coached Boys' Cross Country earning sixteen League Titles, eight Sectional Championships and four Individual Sectional Champions. His overall record was 259 – 47. He had eleven undefeated seasons and at one time had a 46 consecutive meet win streak.

He also coached the Girls' Cross Country team earning twenty League Titles, eighteen Sectional Championships, nine Individual Sectional Champions, two State Runner-up teams in 1995 and 1998, and two State Championship teams in 1991 and 1993. His overall record was 289 – 20. John had eighteen undefeated seasons and at one time had a 132 consecutive meet win streak. One of the highlights of this coaching experience was when Marissa Saenger broke the Section 6 Cross Country Sectional Record with a time of 17:41.3.

John coached Indoor Track during the winter season. His Boys' team won five Sectional Team Championships and twelve school records were set during this time. John's Girls' teams produced five Sectional Championships and thirteen school records were set at this time. John probably logged more miles traveling to competitions than any other coach in Clarence history. Some of the venues where his teams participated annually included Cornell University, Yale University, the Armory in New York City, Ithaca College and RIT.

In the spring, John coached Girls' Outdoor Track. His teams won ten League Titles. John had eight undefeated seasons with an overall record of 82 – 30. Twelve school records were set during his coaching tenure. At one time, John had a 41 consecutive meet win streak.

John received numerous coaching awards. He was named the Super 7 Coach of the Year in 1989 and 1990, the ECIC Cross Country Coach of the Year in 2006 and 2009 and the Section VI Indoor Track Coach of the Year in 2013.



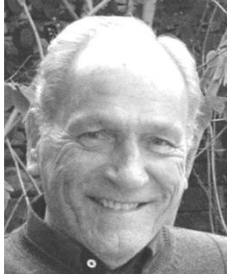
Rachael Kroog Class of 1978

Rachael Kroog was the first athlete from Clarence to participate in four varsity sports. In four years, she competed in tennis, volleyball, basketball, and softball earning sixteen Varsity Letters. Rachael also earned State Honors in tennis making her an outstanding inductee in to the Athletic Wall of Fame Class of 2016.

Rachael was a co-captain for all of her teams. In tennis, she went undefeated in doubles for two years with partner Peggy Smits. Their overall record was 30 – 0. In her junior season, Rachael was awarded the Silver Medal in doubles at the NYS Tennis Championship. Rachael competed in singles as well with an overall record of 23 – 1. In her senior season, she competed at the State Championship in singles. She was awarded the prestigious White Letter for her efforts. Rachael played basketball in the winter. In her senior year, along with her “Charlie’s Angels” teammates, Rachael captained her team and won the Sectional Championship in 1977. Rachael also participated for four years on the varsity level playing volleyball and softball. Her senior year culminated with her being awarded the Outstanding Female Athlete of the Year.

Rachael was also a very well rounded student as a member of the National Honor Society. She was a percussionist with the Symphonic Band under the direction of Mike Reid and the Clarence Wind Ensemble, directed by mentor, Ron Sutherland. She was awarded Drum Major of the Marching Band, member of the Outstanding Percussion section, Outstanding Student Director and Outstanding Attitude Award. Rachael also acted in several Clarence High School musicals, directed by Len Pappas. After graduating from high school, Rachael received a tennis scholarship to the University of Kentucky.

Since college, Rachael has qualified to compete in Nationals in Softball, Ultimate Frisbee and Pickleball. She has won 70 medals including prize money and competes at the highest level in Pickleball. Rachael states it best by saying, “basically, the recurring theme of my CCHS experience would be classified as competitive and creative with having the amazing opportunity to be involved in 4 years of sports, music and drama. It was 4 of the best years of my life and I am forever grateful to the amazing leadership of my coaches, directors and teammates. They all helped me to raise the bar. As an adult, I continue to walk the creative/competitive edge with my life's work which is to empower, educate and entertain through music and live animal programs that focus on the power of kindness, compassion and connecting with ourselves, others and nature.”



Norm Layer Community Contributor

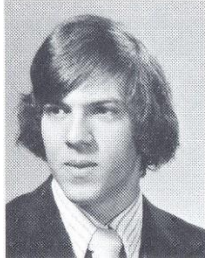
Norm Layer volunteered for the Clarence Football program for 33 years. From 1976 to 1983 he was part of the game day chain crew. Norm was also a member of the Football Fathers club that ultimately became the Football Booster Club. His contributions to the Clarence athletic and football programs in the Clarence School District make him an outstanding inductee in to the Athletic Wall of Fame Class of 2016.

From 1984 to 2009 Norm was the scoreboard operator for almost every modified, freshman, junior varsity and varsity football game at Clarence High School. He rarely, if ever, missed working the clock on game day. One of the memories of Norm running the scoreboard in the early days was when the operations were run down on the field. Norm positioned himself on a ladder behind the home team's bench and ran the clock from there. During all sorts of weather, Norm worked from his trademark ladder and never missed a beat. As a tribute, Jane Sweet a former board member, constructed a miniature replica ladder that is exhibited in the display case.

Norm unselfishly donated his time to support the football program at Clarence High School. His dedication to running the scoreboard was well known throughout the WNY officiating community. In 2002, Norm received an award from the Erie County Interscholastic Conference recognizing his service to athletics at Clarence High School.

Norm was a great family man. His wife, Ilse, was also a staunch supporter of Clarence football and could be seen at many contests. They were married for 50 years. They have two children Mark (Michelle) and Gregg (Sue) and five grandchildren, Kevin, Katie, Lindsay, Michael and Meghan. One of their joys was being able to watch their two sons Mark and Gregg play football and eventually witness Mark coach football at Clarence.

Norm was also recognized by the Town of Clarence for his dedicated volunteer service and commitment to the youth at Clarence High School. The Clarence Town Board recognized his many accomplishments and proclaimed October 9, 2009 as Norm Layer Day in the Town of Clarence.



Robert Torok Class of 1976

Robert Torok was a three-sport athlete for Clarence from 1973 to 1976 where he competed in soccer, basketball and track. Robert graduated as the all-time leading scorer in basketball and soccer making him a tremendous inductee in to the Athletic Wall of Fame Class of 2016.

Robert played soccer in the fall as a center halfback and earned two White Letter awards. He led his team to the Sectional Championship in his senior season in 1975. Robert was named a First Team ECIC All-Star in his junior and senior seasons.

Robert was a three year starter for the varsity basketball team. He averaged over 25 points per game and at that time there was no three point line. Robert was also noted for doing the dirty work during a game, defense and rebounding. His usual defensive assignment was guarding the best player on the opposing team. He led his team in rebounds and averaged over 9 rebounds per game. After his senior season, he was unanimously named as a First Team ECIC All-Star.

Robert competed in track and field for three years on the varsity team. He ran the 220 yard dash on the track and participated in the field events of long jump, triple jump, and high jump. Overall, Robert earned eight varsity letters in three sports.

Robert graduated and attended Geneseo to play basketball. Unfortunately a back injury derailed his college career. Robert graduated from the University of Buffalo with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering.

As an adult, Robert started working in the demolitions industry. One of the highlights of that career was coordinating the demolition of a building where David Copperfield, a national TV illusionist, was locked inside. The event was seen on national television.

Robert has been married for 30 years to Joanne Silvestro, a graduate of Clarence in 1972. They have 2 children, Gretchen and Bryan and two grandchildren, twins, Brandon and Taylor.