

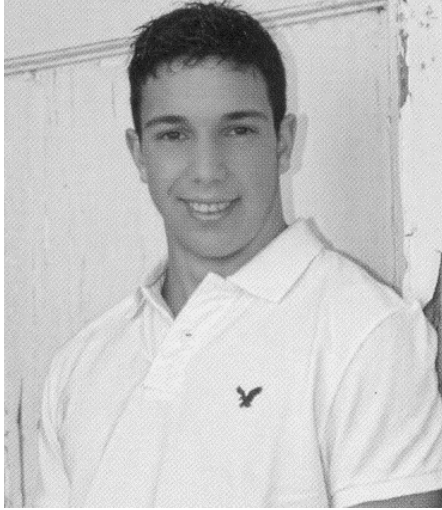
Eric McClaren
Class of 1986



Eric McClaren, Class of 1986, was one of the most decorated swimmers in the history of the program at Clarence High School. Throughout his tenure at Clarence, Eric earned several individual and team accomplishments. He was a four-year state finalist from 1982 - 1986. Eric was the only swimmer in Clarence history to be awarded the Most Valuable Swimmer award for all four years that he competed.

In 1984, Eric set the National Age Group record for the 15 - 16-year-old age group in the 400-yard free relay. As a junior, he was a National Finalist in the 200-yard individual medley.

As a senior, Eric was named ECIC and Section VI swimmer of the year. His team won the ECIC championship, and he was undefeated in all events that he entered. Eric went on to become the State Champion in the 200-yard individual medley and the 100-yard breaststroke. His time in the 200-yard individual medley was the second fastest time in NYS history. His 100-yard breaststroke time was also a Section VI record. Both of those events were school records. Those accomplishments earned him All-American honors and he qualified for the US Olympic Festival. Upon graduation, Eric went on to the University of Maryland and St. Bonaventure and competed on their swim teams. He became the school record holder in the 200-meter individual medley at SBU.



Charlie Rommel
Class of 2011



Charlie Rommel, Class of 2011, was an outstanding swimmer at Clarence High School from 2007 - 2011. Over the course of his Red Devil career, Charlie set the 50-yard and 100-yard freestyle individual school records. He also participated on the school record-setting 200-yard medley, 200-yard free, and 400-yard relay teams.

Charlie won numerous ECIC and Section VI sprint style events. As a junior, he was named Most Valuable Swimmer and broke the school record in the 50-yard freestyle event. He was also a member of the 200-yard medley relay team that set a school record. Charlie was named Scholar All-American for his efforts.

As a senior, Charlie was a member of a team that won the league and sectional championships. He broke his own 50-yard freestyle school record as well as the 100-yard freestyle school and sectional records.

In 2011, Charlie broke the state record in the 50-yard freestyle event, while finishing second. He was twice named Academic All-American and was awarded the White Letter winner for his efforts.

After graduation, Charlie continued his career at the University of Virginia. His team won an ACC Championship and set a UVA school record in the 200-meter medley relay. He also qualified and competed in the 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials for the London Summer Games.



Dina Rommel
Class of 2014



Dina Rommel, Class of 2014, was an outstanding swimmer at Clarence High School from 2009 – 2014 and is the most decorated swimmer in Clarence history. Dina earned five Varsity Red Letters as she started swimming for the Varsity team as an eighth grader.

Throughout her high school career, Dina set six school records, numerous Section VI records and state records. Overall, Dina won thirteen Section VI titles and ten state titles earning her All-American honors while achieving academic status in the National Honor Society. As a freshman, Dina won her first state championship as a member of the 400-yard freestyle relay team. In her sophomore year, she won her first individual state championship in the 50-yard freestyle event as well as another team title in the 200-yard freestyle relay. During her junior year, Dina won three state titles in the 200-yard freestyle relay, the 200-yard medley relay, and the 50-yard freestyle event. In her senior year, Dina won state titles in the 50-yard freestyle, 100-yard butterfly, and the 400-yard freestyle relay. At this state championship meet, Dina was presented with the Outstanding Competitor Award and was named the Female Athlete of the Year by the Buffalo News.

Dina went on to swim at the University of Virginia, where she was part of three ACC Championships. She held ACC Conference and school records as part of the 200-freestyle relay. She qualified and swam at the 2016 Olympic Trials for the Rio Olympic games.



Allison Jochum Smerka
Class of 2000

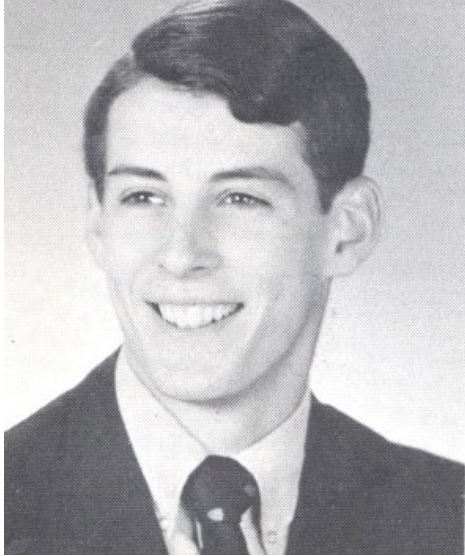


Allison Jochum Smerka, Class of 2000, was a three-sport athlete at Clarence High School from 1996-2000. She was a four-year participant of the varsity cross-country, indoor track, and track teams.

In cross-country, Allison was a member of four ECIC Championships and four Sectional Championship teams. She competed in four NYS meets, and her team earned NYS Runner-up honors.

Allison ran indoor track during the winter season. She qualified for states during all four years of competition. In her sophomore year, Allison was a member of the 4 x 800-meter relay winning a Sectional championship. As a junior, Allison won an individual Sectional Championship in the 1000-meter run. She also won two Sectional Championships as a member of the 4 x 400-meter and 4 x 800-meter relay teams. During her senior year, she qualified for states in the 1000-meter run and was a member the 4 x 400-meter relay that won the Sectional Championship. In track, Allison was the 800-meter Sectional Champion as a freshman, junior, and senior. She was the member of the 4 x 800-meter relay that won the Sectional Championship all four years. Allison was a member of the 4 x 400-meter relay that won the Sectional Championship as a sophomore, junior and senior.

After graduation, she went on to compete in all three sports at Ohio University and SUNY Geneseo.



Charles Vesper
Class of 1970
Coach



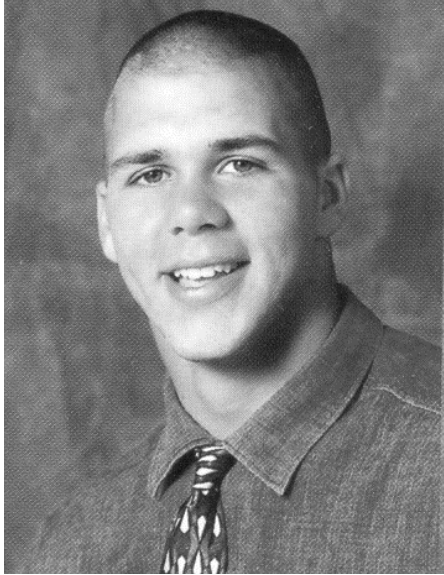
Charles Norton Vesper, Class of 1970, was a two-sport athlete at Clarence High School competing in basketball and baseball. He was a coach for forty-three years and a physical education teacher for thirty-seven years all in the Clarence School District.

Charlie competed in basketball and earned two varsity letters. As a senior, he earned 1st Team ECIC All-Star honors as well as the White Letter Award. In baseball as a senior, Charlie earned 1st Team ECIC All-Star honors and was awarded his second White Letter. His highlights included pitching a one-hitter and a no-hitter.

Upon graduation, Charlie competed in basketball for one year at Erie Tech. Charlie had a very successful career as a head coach for Girls' Varsity Basketball, Boys Varsity Basketball, and Girls' Varsity Softball. As the Girls' Varsity Basketball coach, Charlie had a record of 145 wins and 30 losses. His teams won eight ECIC Divisional Championships, five Sectional titles, two Far West Regional Championships, one Western Championship, and was one State Runner-up.

Charlie coached Boys Varsity Basketball. His overall record was 170 wins and 125 losses. His teams earned two ECIC Divisional Championships.

As the Girls' Varsity Softball coach, Charlie won two ECIC Divisional Championships and two Sectional titles.



Matthew Zielinski
Class of 1986



Matt Zielinski, Class of 1999, earned ten Varsity Letters throughout his tenure at Clarence High School from 1995 - 1999. He competed in Football, Wrestling and Track and Field.

Matt earned three Varsity Letters in football. He was a member of the 1998 Class A NYS Section VI Championship team that went undefeated. Matt was selected to the 1998 Buffalo News All-WNY Football team. He was voted the Section VI Division II Defensive Player of the Year as well as 1st Team All-State Class A as a linebacker. Matt's efforts earned him All-USA Honorable Mention.

Matt competed in wrestling for three years as a freshman, sophomore and junior. He was a two-time NYS Section VI Class AAA Champion in the 220-pound weight class. Matt earned two All-WNY Section VI honors. He was a member of the 1996 NYS Freestyle and Greco Roman Cadel National Wrestling Team.

Matt was a four-time NYS ECIC Division All-Star in Track and Field. He set the Clarence High School record in the Discus with a throw of 157' 2" that still stands today.

Upon graduation Matt was awarded and accepted a full NCAA Division 1A Football Scholarship to Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. After a successful four year- career, in 2004, he signed a free agent contract with the Baltimore Ravens in the NFL.