



Described by Coach Tim Gushue as *“a likeable young man who spent time volunteering with youth football clinics,”* 1983 Shawnee graduate Gregg Rakoczy was a three-sport athlete at Shawnee High School who has not forgotten lessons learned during his Renegade years! Gregg earned a total of seven varsity letters while at Shawnee in football, winter track, and spring track. In football, Gregg played tackle, kicker, and punter. In winter track, Gregg excelled as a shot putter, and during spring track he also threw the javelin and discus. Gregg was named All-County, All-South Jersey, and All Group-IV while playing football, and again named All-county while competing in spring track. Heavily influenced by his coaches and teachers while at Shawnee, Gregg fondly remembers English teacher Pappy Parker’s weekly reminder... *“Buckle up and don’t drink and drive, it saves lives,”* as well as Coach Dave Spinella’s words of respect and dignity, *“Answer yes not yeah.”* Gregg’s induction into Shawnee’s Hall of Fame would not be complete without a heartfelt shout out and “thank you” to his freshman football coaches Gary Williams, John Myers, John Czarnecki and Joe Perrone, and varsity coaches Marty Nelson, Roger Pullen, Tim Gushue and Dave Spinella, all for *“building the foundation of my future career.”*



After graduating from Shawnee, Gregg attended to the University of Miami in Florida, where he majored in Business Administration, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1988. While playing for the Hurricanes, he earned four varsity letters during his career, and as a young freshman at Miami, helped his team win the 1983 National Championship against Nebraska in the Orange Bowl. During his years of play at Miami, Gregg was named 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All American – Coaches and Associated Press, and 1<sup>st</sup> Team *Playboy Magazine* All American.

At the same time which Gregg was finishing his last year at University of Miami, he was drafted in early 1987 by the Cleveland Browns (2<sup>nd</sup> round; 32<sup>nd</sup> overall) and began his pro football career. Gregg was named 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Rookie, and played in the 1987 AFC Championship game known as “The Fumble,” against the Denver Broncos at Mile High Stadium. Gregg once again returned with his team and played in a second AFC Championship game in 1989 against the Broncos. Gregg played for the Cleveland Browns from 1987-1990, then continued playing professionally for the New England Patriots from 1991-1992.

After retiring from professional football, Gregg returned to the business sector where he is a Lead Product Marketing Manager for AT & T’s Telecom field. Gregg married, and with his wife Suzanne, started a family which includes their children Rachel, Erik, Kyla and Nick. Greg’s wife Suzanne sadly passed in May of 2011, and Gregg remarried in December of 2012. He and his wife Dana are currently raising their family and living in Boca Raton, Florida.

As a coach, as a dad, and on a personal level for himself, Gregg continues to instill the words of Shawnee’s Mr. Burtis, (Gymnastics and Weightlifting Coach,) *“Believe....believe in what you set your mind to do.”*

*Congratulations, Gregg!*