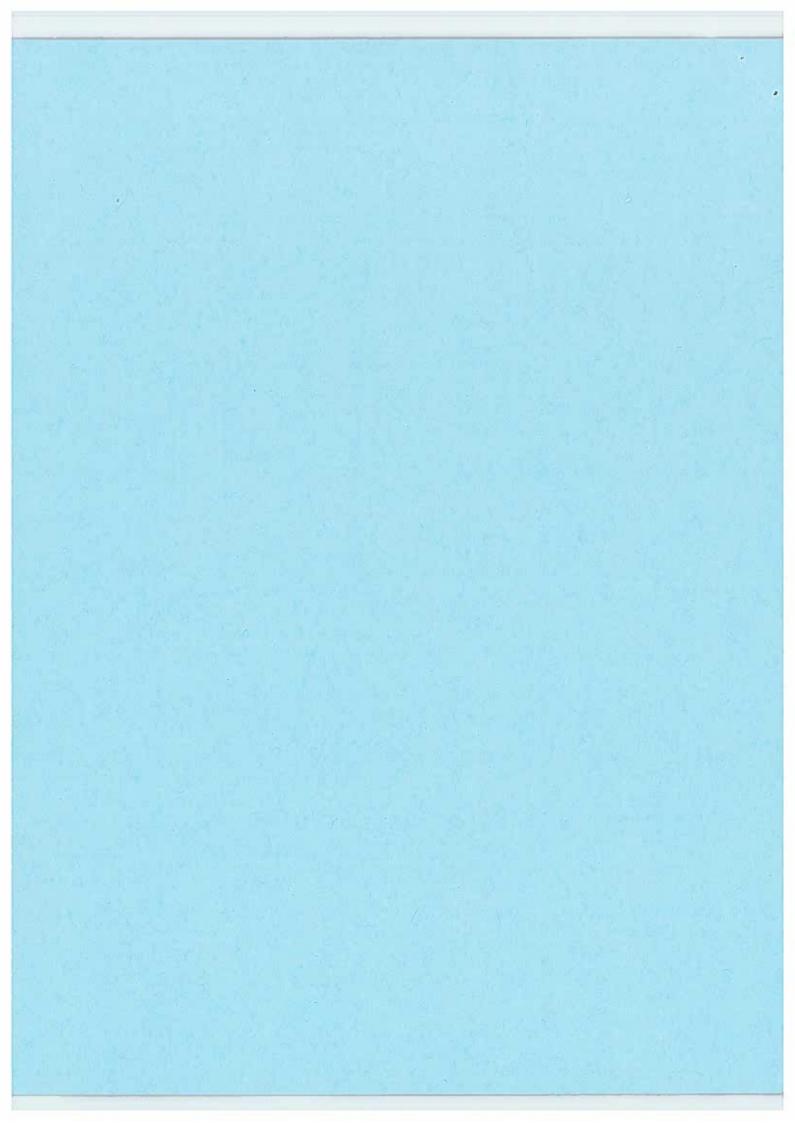
# Seneca Valley Sports Hall of Fame



Fourteenth Annual Induction Banquet September 8th, 2022



# Seneca Valley Sports Hall of Fame

#### Fourteenth Annual Banquet and Induction Program

September 8, 2022

Seneca Valley Senior High, Harmony, PA 16037

**Banquet** 

Doors Open Seneca Valley Senior High 5

5:15 P.M.

Welcome

Mickey Flood, SV '90

5:45 P.M.

**Buffet Dinner** 

Seneca Valley Senior High Cafeteria

6:00 P.M.

Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

**Induction Ceremony** 

Seneca Valley Senior High Auditorium

7:00 P.M.

Welcome

Wayne Roccia, SV '68

Remarks

Heather Lewis, Seneca Valley Director of Athletics and Activities

on behalf of the Seneca Valley School District Administration

**Presentation of Inductees** 

Kevan Smith, SV '06

Introduced by Eric Semega, SV Baseball Coach

Tony DeRiggi, SV '04

Introduced by Jay Bell, SV Football Coach

1992 Girls' Softball Team, SV '92-'95

Introduced by Terri Flynn & Jeff Macek, SV Softball Coaches

Team Represented by Amy (Henley) Davis, SV '93

Da'Lynn Mills, SV '07

Introduced by Dan Sample, SV Track & Field Coach

Roberta (Pickens) Groner, SV '96

Unable to attend. Statement of appreciation read by Wayne Roccia.

Roberta was inducted in the 2021 Hall of Fame class but deferred

acceptance until the 2022 induction.

#### Congratulations to the 2022 Seneca Valley Sports Hall of Fame Inductees!

#### **Seneca Valley Sports Hall of Fame Committee**

Mr. Wayne Roccia (SV '68 + Coach)

Mr. Dan Follett (SV '07 + Coach)

Mr. Steve Mayes (SV Coach)

Mr. Bob Magerko (SV Coach)

Mr. Mickey Flood (SV '90 + Coach)

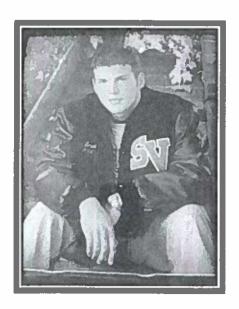
Mr. Dan Dickey (SV '07 + Coach)

Mr. Larry Wendereusz, Jr. (SV '92 + Coach)

Mrs. Megan (Peaco) Hammer (SV'11)

Ms. Megan Meeder (SV '96 + Coach)

Founders and Former Committee Members: Ken Lockey, Tom Heckendorn, Sue Ennis



**Kevan Smith** 

#### Football, Baseball

Kevan Smith, a 2006 graduate, was an impressive dual sport athlete for the Raiders. After continuing his collegiate career at the University of Pittsburgh in both baseball and football, Kevan played baseball professionally until 2021. Kevan stated that sports have influenced his life in "endless ways."

"Sports are a way to develop discipline, structure, and maturity in life. Sports exposed me to intense adversity, trials, and doubts that built my character and created the person I am today. Sports kept me focused on life goals and kept me away from trouble. I find myself today thankful for what sports have brought to my life. I would not change a thing about my career and what I experienced."

As a member of the SV football team coached by Ron Butschle, Kevan started as quarterback for 12 games during his junior and senior seasons. Despite the setback of a wrist injury during his final seasons, Kevan still managed to throw over 2,100 yards in that time (2004/620 yards and 7 touchdowns and 2005/1,538 yards and 8 touchdowns). For his excellence on the gridiron, Kevan was named a *Top 50 National Quarterback Prospect by Scout.com*, a *Top 50 PA Prospect by Rivals.com*, and to the PrepStar All-Star East Region.

Kevan also excelled as a catcher for SV's baseball team coached by Eric Semega. A four-year letterman, Kevan garnered the coveted title of WPIAL AAAA Player of the Year in 2006. During his four years, the SV baseball team had winning seasons in 2004 (advancing to the WPIAL quarterfinals) and 2006 (advancing to the WPIAL semifinals). As a senior, Kevan hit .517 (31 for 60), including 5 home runs and 20 RBI. Kevan won the home run hitting contest in the WPIAL-District 10 all-star game.

Reflecting on his time as a Seneca Valley athlete, Kevan says his favorite memories were "Competing and training with so many great teammates and friends. Being blessed with all the amazing coaches, staff, and teachers I had. I thoroughly enjoyed my years at Seneca and all the wonderful people I met."

After his time as a Raider, Kevan began his collegiate career at the University of Pittsburgh on a football scholarship with a business-marketing major. Kevan was selected as Pitt's Offensive Scout Team Player of the Year in 2006, though he was redshirted his freshman season. During his redshirt freshman season, he played in five games, starting as quarterback for three of those games. Kevan set a record for passing yards by a freshman in a single game (15 of 22 passes for 202 yards), breaking a previous record held by Dan Marino. Kevan played in one game in the 2008 season. However, this year, Kevan decided to make the switch to baseball for the Panthers. He played as catcher for three impressive seasons with a career batting average at Pitt of .375, 19 home runs, and 123 RBI. Kevan also achieved multiple all-time statistics during his collegiate baseball career highlighted by 5<sup>th</sup> all-time in batting average (.375), 18<sup>th</sup> all-time in at-bats (544), 12<sup>th</sup> all-time in runs (137), 12<sup>th</sup> all-time in hits (204), 10<sup>th</sup> all-time in doubles (40), 12<sup>th</sup> all-time in triples (6), 11<sup>th</sup> all-time in HR's (19), 9<sup>th</sup> all-time in total bases (313), and 11<sup>th</sup> all-time in RBIs (123). Kevan is a member of Pitt's 75 hit, 50 RBI, and 10 HR club. He garnered an All-Big East Conference selection in 2010 and 2011 as well as All-Region in 2011 and was named to the All-Tournament Team twice in the conference tournament.

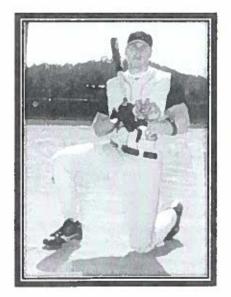
In 2011, Kevan was drafted out of Pitt by the Chicago White Sox in the 7<sup>th</sup> round of the Major League Baseball draft. His pro career began with the Bristol White Sox minor league team, and he also spent time in the minors with the Great Falls Voyagers (2011), Kannapolis Intimidators (2012), Winston-Salem Dash (2013), Birmingham Barons (2014), Glendale Desert Dogs (2014), and Charlotte Knights (2015). His minor league stats were an overall .284 average with 60 HR's, and 345 RBI's in 2,065 at bats.

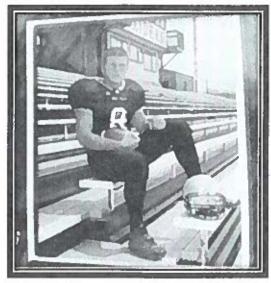
In 2017, Kevan made his major league debut with the White Sox and finished the season with a .283 batting average, 4 HRs and 30 RBIs in 276 at bats. In October 2018, Kevan went to the Los Angeles Angels and registered a .251 average with 5 HRs and 20 RBIs in 191 at bats. Kevan spent 2020 and part of the 2021 season with the Tampa Bay Rays before ending the season with the Atlanta Braves and earning a World Series Ring from the Braves' victory in 2021. Kevan's overall major league stats included a .259 average, 13 HRs, and 82 RBIs in 780 at bats.

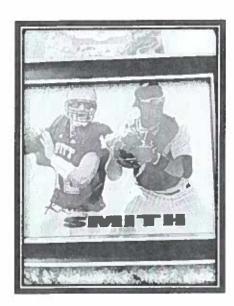
After 10 years of professional baseball, six in the major leagues, Kevan is now enjoying his time with his wife and young son and daughter. He is in the business of developing habitat for deer hunting. His advice after his time as a professional athlete: "Enjoy the ride in whatever God has blessed you with. Find contentment and be grateful for the situation you are currently in. Work towards attainable goals that will bring you happiness and joy. Focus on what you can control and do not be distracted by what others have accomplished. Be happy for them and stay focused on yourself. Be a good person and always encourage others to succeed in whatever it may be. Attitude is contagious so find positivity in everything you do. Ultimately, work hard and have fun! We all only get one life so LIVE IT!"

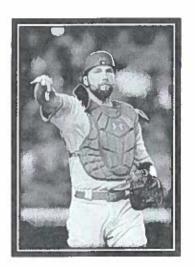
Kevan would like to thank his biggest fans and supporters. "Since I started at 6 years old, my parents were the rock that supported my athletics. My Dad attended nearly every single game and practice I had through college football and baseball. I can't even compute the miles and time him and I spent traveling to games or just throwing football/baseball in the backyard. My mom collected nearly every article through the years and filmed endless hours of my games on camera. As I got to college and into professional baseball I met my wife, Jessica. She became an additional critical supporter that allowed me to continue to have such a wonderful professional career. Along with my parents, she was always there for me through the ups and downs. I am also forever grateful to all my friends, family, and coaches that supported me throughout my career. I love you all!"

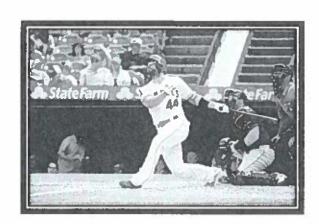
# **Kevan Smith-Additional Photos**



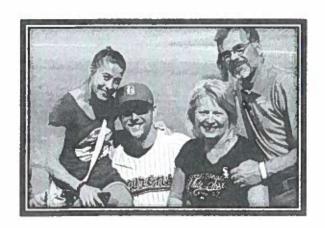




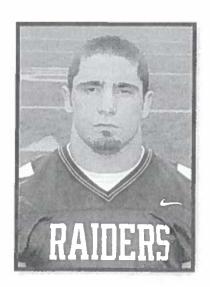












Tony DeRiggi

#### Football

Tony DeRiggi, a 2004 graduate, contributed to the success of both the Seneca Valley football team, coached by Ron Butschle, and the Mount Union Football team in his collegiate career. Tony states that sports have influenced his life by showing that being "hardworking always pays off."

Once Tony started playing football at age seven, his passion for the game never ceased. Tony's SV football career began in 7<sup>th</sup> grade in 1998. The next season, Tony started as a fullback and linebacker for an 8<sup>th</sup> grade team that went both undefeated and unscored upon with a record of 8-0. He set a record for 94 carries for 645 yards and found the endzone on 10 occasions plus two 2pt conversions for 64 points. Tony also had 59 tackles as an eight grader.

Tony was a starter on the 9<sup>th</sup> grade team, which had a record of 5-3. He continued to be a starting varsity linebacker for the remainder of his high school career. In 2002 (8-3 record), Tony helped SV team advance to the WPIAL Quarterfinals. During his junior season, Tony made 70 tackles and sacked the QB on three plays. In both his sophomore and junior seasons, Tony was named 1<sup>st</sup> Team WPIAL All-Conference on defense. He was also selected to the Northern Area Football Coaches Association All Star Team for his senior season.

Though Tony is proud of his team's accomplishments, his most important memories from his time as a Seneca Valley athlete come from the friendships formed with his teammates and their families. He also appreciated the commitment and encouragement from his coaches, especially Jay Bell. Tony's reflection on his favorite memories with the football team include "Running out of the field house and the drums banging on Friday nights. Also football conditioning and summer camp."

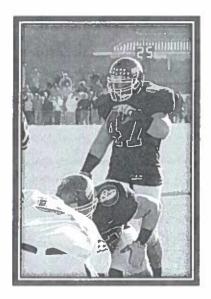
After SV, Tony traded in his black and blue Raider jersey for a Mount Union Purple Raiders uniform. He was a four-year letter winner and a three-year starter at middle linebacker for Mount Union's football team, coached by Larry Kehres. In his first collegiate season, Mount Union had a winning record of 12-1 and advanced to the D3 semi-finals. In 2005, Mount Union was the D3 National Champions going 14-1. In 2006, the Raiders were undefeated (15-0) and again the D3 National Champions. Finally, Tony's 2007 final season at Mount Union concluded with a record of 14-1 and the D3 National

Runner-Ups. Tony's overall collegiate record was 55 wins and 3 losses on the four-time Ohio Athletic Conference Champion team. His overall career stats at Mount Union included 71 solo tackles, 90 assisted tackles, 161 total tackles, 12.5 TFL, 8.5 sacks, 3 interceptions, 4 forced fumbles, 1 fumble recovery, 9 pass breakups, and 9 QB hurries.

During his time at Mount Union, Tony respected his coach Larry Kehres for not only wanting to know what kind of football player he would be, but also what kind of person he would be. After graduating from Mount Union, Tony returned to his Alma Mater in 2008 as an assistant coach and the team celebrated as D3 National Champions once again.

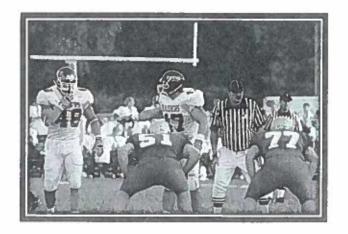
Today, Tony is vice president of an insurance company in addition to owning a contracting business. He and his wife Monica have a son and daughter. Tony would like to the thank his family for supporting his athletic career. In an interview with the Butler Eagle, Tony states that his mother, Debbie, and his sisters, Josie and Sammy, made many sacrifices to always be there for him. He also is thankful for the support from his aunts, uncles, and grandparents, especially his Grandpap who never missed a single game in Tony's fifteen years of playing football.

#### **Tony DeRiggi-Additional Photos**











#### 1992 Fast Pitch Softball Team

#### SV Classes of 1992-95

For the first seven years Seneca Valley's Fast Pitch Softball team competed, the team had never made the playoffs, making what happened in 1992 all the more magical. The team, led by senior pitcher Marlesse Schlott and comprised of mostly juniors, gelled together to accomplish what no one would have thought possible...winning the Section 7 Class AAA and advancing to the WPIAL playoffs as the 13<sup>th</sup> seed. The Raiders progressed through the playoffs to eventually face a powerhouse rival Shaler team in the WPIAL title game that had beaten them in 23 straight contests. In what would be the first of two meetings in the playoffs, Seneca Valley defeated Shaler to advance in the state tournament as WPIAL champions! The Raiders had made their presence known during the march to Shippensburg for the State Championships by rolling over the remaining three PIAA playoff opponents, outscoring them by a combined 33-7. This included defeating Shaler, once again, this time in the PIAA semi-finals, earning the Raiders the Western PIAA Championship and a spot in the State Championship game. The Raiders made SV proud against a tough Williamsport team in the State Finals in Shippensburg, taking the game to extra innings but eventually falling 0-1.

The Raiders went 22-6, were named 1992 Team of the Year, and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette highlighted Seneca Valley Softball as one of the top 10 sports stories of 1992! Many of the team went on to play in college and Marlesse Schlott, the teams senior Pitcher has recently been named the Seneca Valley Softball varsity head coach. Marlesse was also enshrined into the Seneca Valley Sport Hall of Fame in the class of 2012.

Reflecting on this special year, the team shares many fond memories.

"It was always great to beat NA, but Shaler was the real powerhouse back then. SV had never beaten Shaler, but in our 1992 season we beat them to win the WPIAL trophy and then beat them again in the PIAA semi-final game - it felt like we were on top of the world! It was amazing how the team came together - Lynn Leonberg and Jen Markich were consistent power hitters, but during the playoffs, it seemed like every single player was on top of her game for every single game. WPIAL had great teams, and we entered the playoffs as a 13th seed. We played some great teams in the PIAA, but we rolled over everyone, outscoring them 33-7 until the championship game stopped us. When we lost the state championship it hurt, but our season had been so magical and everyone had played so hard, that we were proud of what we had accomplished. We blared the song Another One Bites the Dust from open bus windows as we pulled out of the parking lot at away games. It was probably annoying to the other team, but man, it felt good. We knew we

were playing like "Champions" and that Queen medley really resonated!" (Shared by Kristin (Lutz) Shadoan speaking for the 1992 SV Softball Team)

The 1992 Softball team shares that sports have influenced their lives by learning "the joy of having the support of a team and the importance of everyone working together to achieve a goal. Nobody was more important or less important than anyone else because without one of the "wheels" of our team, we would not have been able to achieve so much in the 1992 season!" The softball team would all like to thank their families for being incredibly supportive during this special season.

#### **Full Roster:**

Heather Allison (Sharek)

Erin Cusick (Robinson)

Amy Henley (Davis)

Elizabeth Klein (Short)

Lynn Leonberg (Wendereusz)

Kris Mahafkey

Lisa Malsch (Knabb)

Jen Markich (Brumley)

Julie Meshanko (Sivillo)

Darlene Morgan

Melissa Piper (Bonicky)

Amy Rectenwald (Barron)

Marlesse Schlott (Hames)

Brenda Sheets (Allen)

Coaches:

Terri Flynn (Head)

Jeff Macek (Assistant)

Managers:

Michelle Allen (Carrier)

Kristin Lutz (Shadoan)

**Score Keeper:** 

Nancy Zinkham

**Trainers:** 

**Rudy Corona** 

Steve Bonnet

#### 1992 Softball Team-Additional Photos







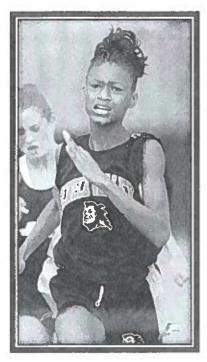












Da'Lynn Mills

#### Track & Field

Da'Lynn Mills, a 2007 graduate, was a noteworthy athlete and greatly contributed to the success of the SV Girls' Track & Field team coached by Wayne Roccia. A four year letter winner, she excelled both on the track in three sprinting events and on the field as a champion high jumper. Da'Lynn believes sports have influenced her life by "seeing so many people give their time and energy to coach, work booths, and just support me throughout my years made me realize that it does truly take a village and that you never know how your time can impact those you come in contact with. Because of that, I volunteer in different capacities throughout the year so that I can help influence others as I was influenced."

As a freshman in 2004, Da'Lynn assisted her teammates in achieving their 21st consecutive winning season with a 12-4 record as well as being the WPIAL Team Runner-Up. Da'Lynn finished 2nd in the high jump at the section championship meet and 7th place in the high jump at the WPIAL meet.

As a sophomore in the 2005 season, Da'Lynn set the school record for the 100m dash – a record she still holds today with a time of 12.06 second! She placed first in the high jump at the section championships, 3<sup>rd</sup> in high jump and 10<sup>th</sup> in the 100m at the WPIAL Championship Meet and went on to place 7<sup>th</sup> in the high jump at the PIAA State meet. That season, she helped the Raiders achieve the 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive winning season with a 11-2 record, the honor of co-section champs and for the first time in the program's history, the team advanced to the playoffs in consecutive years. Da'Lynn set a second school record this year as part of the 4x100m relay team with a time of 49.41 seconds, which is still the record today.

Da'Lynn continued to flourish on both the track and the field during her final two years at SV. The girls' team achieved their 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive winning season in 2006 with a record of 7-3. During the section championship meet,

Da'Lynn placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 200m dash and tied for first in the high jump with two of her fellow SV teammates. At the WPIAL meet, she placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the high jump, 4<sup>th</sup> in the 200m, and 9<sup>th</sup> in the 4x100m relay. As a junior, Da'Lynn once again qualified for the PIAA State meet where she placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the high jump and 6<sup>th</sup> in the 200m. During the 2006 season, Da'Lynn set the school record in the 200m dash with at time of 24.86 seconds. In 2006, Da'Lynn also participated in the Junior National Olympics where she finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the high jump.

Da'Lynn's senior year of 2007 was full of accomplishments. The team accomplished its 24<sup>th</sup> consecutive winning season with a record of 7-3. At the section championship, Da'Lynn placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the 200m and tied for 1<sup>st</sup> in the high jump. When the team moved on to the WPIAL championship meet, Da'Lynn was WPIAL Champion by placing first in the high jump. Her 4x100m relay team placed third and Da'Lynn was 4<sup>th</sup> in the 200m. Da'Lynn concluded her senior season by qualifying for the PIAA State meet where she placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in high jump and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 200m. As a senior, Da'Lynn reset her record for the 200m with a time of 24.55 seconds and set the new school record for the high jump with a jump of 5'7". In addition to her 100m and 4x100m relay, Da'Lynn holds both of these records still today. Da'Lynn is also on the SV Girls' Top 10 All Time list for long jump (9<sup>th</sup>), high jump (1<sup>st</sup>), 100m (1<sup>st</sup>), and 200m (1<sup>st</sup>). She also holds a coveted spot on the WPIAL All Time Top 25 List for the 200m (10<sup>th</sup>) and high jump (20<sup>th</sup>). Da'Lynn received all state honors for indoor track and field in 2005 and 2006 as well as outdoor track and field for 2006 and 2007.

Reflecting on her time on the SV track and field team, Da'Lynn states "Nothing beats the smell of icy hot and the laughs on our bus rides! We were way too young for the amount of icy hot we used to apply!! Being on the track team was so much fun overall that it's hard to even think of a bad memory."

Da'Lynn's success as a Raider led to her collegiate career at the University of Pittsburgh. Da'Lynn was a pivotal member of Pitt's indoor and outdoor track and field teams for four seasons while studying exercise science. In her collegiate freshman indoor season, she finished 20<sup>th</sup> in the 200m in the ECAC Championships and 8<sup>th</sup> in the 200m at the Big East Indoor Championships. During the outdoor season, she was a key part of the ECAC and Big East 4x100m relay team. During her sophomore season, Da'Lynn placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the 200m at the indoor Big East Championships and 11<sup>th</sup> in the high jump. In her junior season, Da'Lynn placed top 5 in the 60m and qualified for the 200m during the indoor ECAC Championships. She placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the 60m and 4<sup>th</sup> in the 200m at the Big East indoor Championships. During the outdoor season, Da'Lynn competed in the NCAA Division 1 prelims for the 200m. She was runner-up in the 200m, 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 100m, and a member of the 4x100m relay team at the ECAC Championships. Da'Lynn also finished 3<sup>rd</sup> as a member of the 4x100m relay team, top-five in the 200m dash, and 8<sup>th</sup> in the 100m dash at the Big East Championships. As a Pitt senior, Da'Lynn's 4x100m relay team set the program record of 44.24, which still stands today. She also earned Second Team All-America Honors.

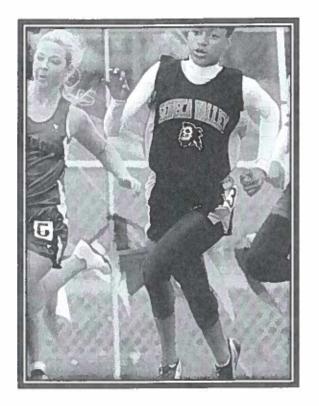
Throughout her track and field career at Pitt, Da'Lynn's standout times include running a 7.55 in the 60m, 11.79 in the 100m, and 23.76 in the 200m. Da'Lynn is on the University of Pittsburgh's Top 10 performance list for indoor for the 200m (6<sup>th</sup>). In addition to holding the school's record with her team for the outdoor 4x100m relay from 2011, Da'Lynn is also on Pitt's Top 10 performance list for the 200m (5<sup>th</sup>). After graduating with her exercise science degree from Pitt, Da'Lynn went on to receive a master's degree from the University of Georgia.

Today, Da'Lynn lives in Texas where she works in corporate wellness for an insurance company. She shares "To this day one of my favorite sayings comes from one of my 8th grade teachers Mr. O'Shea. P2S, positive problem solver. That's how I try to approach life and I share that with many along the way!" Da'Lynn would like to thank her mother and brother for their support during her athletic career. "Both gave so much time to sit out in the crazy PA elements to watch me practice and compete. Thank you so much for your love and support!"

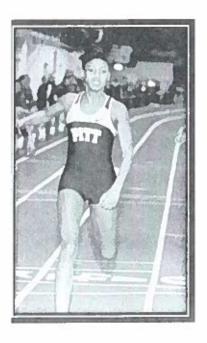
#### Da'Lynn Mills-Additional Photos

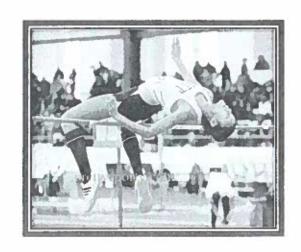


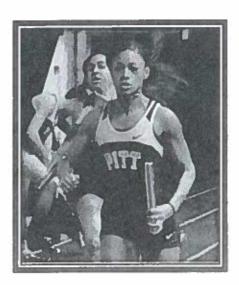














Roberta Pickens Groner

#### Cross Country, Track and Field

Roberta (Pickens) Groner, a 1996 graduate, earned eight varsity letters in two sports and was twice named Co-MVP during her SV career, excelling in cross country and track and field as a middle and long distance runner. Today, Roberta runs professionally as a marathoner for the United States, while working full time and raising three teenaged sons.

During her seasons on Coach Randy Huey's cross country teams, compiling a four year record of 29-3, Roberta was a key member of teams that were section champs in 1992 during her freshman year, followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> in the WPIAL Team Championships and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the PIAA Team Championships in 1993. The 1993 team was undefeated in the section that year with Roberta finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> best for the Raiders most often. She was the top girl runner at the Northern Invitational for the region. As a junior, the cross country team was 5<sup>th</sup> in the WPIAL and repeated as section champs. SV repeated as section champs for the fourth consecutive season in 1995.

The SV Girl's Track and Field team coached by Wayne Roccia was also successful during Roberta's four-year career. In her freshman season, the team was 13-2, tying for the section title. The next year (1994), the Raiders went 16-2 and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the WPIAL team championships. Roberta was 8<sup>th</sup> in the 1600-meter at WPIALs, advancing to the PIAA state meet. Success continued for the Raider girls' track and field team in 1995 when they finished 9-2 while Roberta began to build her individual resume by excelling in the 1600-meter. As a junior in 1995, she finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the WPIAL meet, and as a junior she set a new 1600-meter school record with a time of 5:19 that spring. During Roberta's senior year in 1996, the girls' track and field team achieved their 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive winning season with an 8-2 record. She was the 1600-meter champion in the section and finished 9<sup>th</sup> at the WPIAL meet, advancing to the PIAA championship. Roberta reset the school record in the 1600-meter run at 5:17.6; this record stood for eight years until 2003! She currently remains in the Top 10 All-Time female runners for SV in the 1600-meters.

Roberta's success as a runner at SV launched her college career at St. Francis (PA) where she pursued nursing. She ran three seasons annually for the cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track and field teams. St. Francis won the NEC cross country team championship in 1996 and Roberta was awarded the NEC Freshmen of the Year honor. As a sophomore at St. Francis, Roberta finished 2<sup>nd</sup> at the NEC Conference Championships and the team finished 1<sup>st</sup> to achieve the first-ever title for the Red Flash. The same school year she was named All-Region NCAA Division II for indoor and for outdoor track. She set the school record in the 3000-meter race at 10:34.1 at the West Virginia Invitational and then reset the record with a 1<sup>st</sup> place finish at the Kent State Invitational the next month. She set a new record in the 5000-meter as a sophomore and reset the 3000-meter record at the Bucknell Invitational.

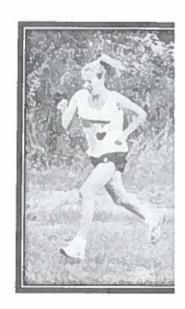
During her junior and senior years, Roberta's highlights included record breaking runs. In February 1998, She was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 3000-meter at the NEC Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships, setting a record time of 10:23.70, and she won the 1600-meter at the Robert Morris University Invitational, helping her team to a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish. In April 1998 during the track and field season, she won the 3000-meter at the University of Maryland Invitational. By graduation, Roberta set school records in the 1500-meters, 3000-meters, and 5000-meters multiple times for St. Francis.

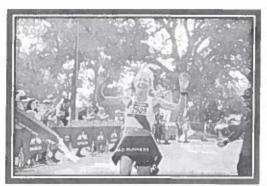
After more than a decade without running or racing, Roberta began to train for marathons in 2011, and she safely completed the 2013 Boston Marathon an hour before it was marred by tragedy. In 2014, after moving to New Jersey for her career, she launched her professional running career with a coach and team. Roberta finished the New York City marathon in 2015 in 2:45:54. At the California International Marathon in 2017, she advanced to the elite level by finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> with a time of 2:30.38. In 2019, Roberta qualified for the World Championship, finishing 5<sup>th</sup> at the Rotterdam Marathon in the Netherlands. The Worlds were held in Doha, Qatar in spring 2019 and the conditions were so intensely hot that the marathon was moved to the middle of the night. Roberta placed an impressive 6<sup>th</sup> at Worlds, and she was the first place runner from Team USA at age 42. This led to her advancing to the 2020 Olympic Trials in Atlanta, Georgia. Although she did not make Team USA, her professional running career continues with a slate of marathons in the coming months. Roberta lives with her three sons, Bryan (17), Aiden (15) and Dylan (14) in northern New Jersey and works on the front line of health care as a nurse.



Roberta Pickens Groner-Additional Photos



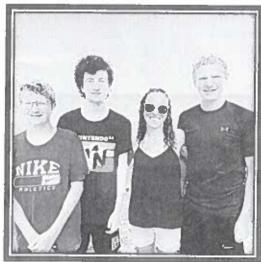


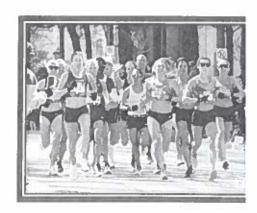












# SENECA VALLEY SPORTS HALL OF FAME Inductees Year-by-Year

2008	Rich Barron	SV '82	
	Tim Kearns	SV '70	
	Ken Lockey	SV Coach	
	Gus Nicoll	SV '84	
	George "Doc" O'Shea	SV Trainer	
	Wayne Roccia	SV '68 + Coach	
	Dan Swingle	SV '83	
	Mark Van Dyke	SV '75	
	Van Walker	SV '68	
	Martha Fox Weygandt	SV '77	
2009	Beth Black	SV '77	
	Wayne Bloom	SV '78	
	Denny Britt	SV '67	
	Dave Florie	SV Coach	
	Richard Lane	SV Coach + SV Trainer	
	Norman McMurray	SV Contributor	
2010	Thomas Heckendorn	SV Coach + SV Athletic Director	
	Lynnette K. McBride	SV '87	
	Jose Raymundo	SV '89	
	Amanda Smith	SV '02	
	Charles C. Stevens	SV '65	
	Dennis Stewart	SV '68 + Coach	
2011	Matthew Barron	SV '85	
	Mark J. Barron	SV '84	
	Kari Bonomo Creehan	SV '94	
	S. Jason Conti	SV '93	
	Megan Gilliland	SV '01	
	Bill Miller	SV Coach	
	Sean O'Shea	SV '91	
2012	David Cashdollar	SV '67	
	David Ferianc	SV '68	
	Marlesse Schlott Hames	SV '92	
	John Paul Thiebaud	SV '72	

	Raymond J. Thompson	Contributor		
	Janet Wilk Swope	SV '77		
	James Walsh	SV '85		
2013	Stacie Safritt Anderson	SV '05		
	Brian Buerkle	SV '88		
	Zach Jackson	SV '01		
	Toni Riley Kisling	SV '80		
	Joan Sherman Trach	SV '75		
	1983 PIAA Champions: Boys' Cross Country Team,			
	Coach Denny Stewart			
2014	Kristen Cheman	SV '00		
	Jim Harshaw, Jr.	SV '94		
	Terry Henry	SV Coach + SV Athletic Director		
	Peet Poillon	SV '05		
	1995 PIAA Champions: Baseball To	eam,		
	Coach David Florie			
2015	C.J. Brown	SV '09		
	Barb Hamilton Druschel	SV '80		
	Ralph Gross	SV Coach		
	Mike Schall	SV '97		
	Christopher Tully	SV '98		
	2005 PIAA Champions: Girls' Swimming 200-M. Relay,			
	Coach Tom Donati; Kylie Gamelier, Stacie Safritt,			
	Mandie Huffman, Kelly Connolly			
2016	Shawn Cully	SV '01		
	Tom Fletcher	SV '01		
	Alyson Intihar	SV '06		
	Rick Ley	SV '81		
	Mary Miller Lococo	SV '79		
	Daniel "Tex" Sample	SV '69 + Coach		
	Emily Wolfarth	SV '08		
2017	Cory Mazzoni	SV '08		
	Abby Myers	SV '11		
	ADDY WIYELS	24 11		

2007 PIAA Champions: Baseball Team, Coach Eric Semega

2018	Mike Adamczyk	SV '69
	Adam Boylan	SV '96
	Rich Dobrzanski	SV '77
	Dom Duggan	SV '03
	Eric Marton	SV '96
2010	Clair Alta mana	SV/70 · Carab · Cantributor
2019	Clair Altemus	SV '70 + Coach + Contributor
	Jill Colbert Brown	SV '96
	Jenny Weyman Gilmore	SV '84
	Bob Harsh	SV Coach
	Robert A. Magerko	SV Coach
	Anthony C. Sunseri	SV '92
	Larry P. Wendereusz, Jr.	SV '92
2020-21	Don Barclay	SV '07
	Cathy (Black) Beighey	SV '70
	Brandon Fusco	SV '06
	Roberta (Pickens) Groner	SV '96
	Ron Gruca	SV '91
	Brianne Morgan	SV '96

Nominations for the Seneca Valley Sports Hall of Fame are accepted throughout the year. All nominations are reviewed annually at the end of January to begin the process of choosing that year's Hall of Fame class.

Forms are found online at https://www.svsd.net/Page/22681. Submit nominations to Wayne Roccia by email: wroccia@zoominternet.net, or by mail: 415 Ridge Road, Zelienople, PA 16063.



Find us on Facebook: Seneca Valley Sports Hall of Fame

# **Acknowledgements and Appreciations**

The Seneca Valley Sports Hall of Fame Committee extends its sincere thanks to all our sponsors, supporters, and volunteers!

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	2022 Sponsorships & Donations					
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Linda Andreassi, Director of Communications

Katie Huttinger, Media Support Specialist

# **Seneca Valley Athletic Department**

Heather Lewis, Director of Athletics and Activities

Nii Sowa-Doku, Assistant Director of Athletics and Activities

# Thanks for the additional support from:

The Seneca Valley ROTC cadets

The Seneca Valley National Honor Society volunteers

# **Special thanks to:**

Butler Eagle reporter Derek Pyda for his dedication and outstanding work in researching and interviewing SV Hall of Fame inductees every year and writing the annual series of articles.

The Thompson Family for photos obtained from the archives of Ray Thompson.