Celebrating Alumni Achievement

2024 INDUCTION CEREMONY

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Ottawa Hills Local Schools

ATHLETIC HALL of FAME

September 19, 2024

Inverness Club

Program

Celebrating **Alumni** *Achievement*

Thursday, September 19, 2024

5:00 p.m. Reception, dinner and induction ceremony
Inverness Club – 4601 Dorr St., Toledo

Friday, September 20, 2024

7:30 p.m. Ottawa Hills High School Niedermeier Stadium

Inductees will be recognized on the field at halftime.

About the Awards

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Ottawa Hills Local Schools

The Distinguished Alumni Award was established in 2017 to recognize Ottawa Hills Local Schools' attendees who have made a meaningful contribution to society, and whose accomplishments, affiliations, and careers have honored the tradition of excellence at Ottawa Hills. The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes alumni who have made significant accomplishments in the following, while maintaining high standards in personal integrity and character:

- An outstanding leader in their field;
- Service to their community and humanity through local, state, national, or international organizations; and/or
- Demonstrated exemplary accomplishments in the following areas: arts, education, government, science, business, or public service.

The Distinguished Alumni Committee is comprised of Kate Backoff, Jackie Berenzeig, Mary Geiger, Gretta Laskey, Ben McMurray, Erica Silk, and Judd Silverman.

ATHLETIC HALL of FAME

The Ottawa Hills High School Athletic Hall of Fame was established in 2019 to formally honor the memory and contributions of the many outstanding athletes, teams, coaches, and supporters of our athletic programs. The Hall of Fame serves as a symbol of our appreciation of the excellence, honor, and devotion displayed by these celebrated individuals and teams. The Athletic Hall of Fame Award recognizes those who:

- Made exceptional and extraordinary contributions in our athletic program;
- Had outstanding statistical achievement in an individual sport or sports; and/or
- Conducted themselves in such a way as to reflect honor on the school and must have exhibited those qualities of character and standards of conduct consistent with their status as a role model to the community.

The Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is comprised of Kate Backoff, Jackie Berenzeig, Mary Geiger, Gretta Laskey, Ben McMurray, Erica Silk, and Judd Silverman.

The Class of 2024

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients



Amy (Robbins) Kadens (’99)
Advocate for healthy children and family development



Brad Rubini (’79)
Claire’s Day co-creator to inspire lifelong readers



Steve Staelin (’63)
Community leader and business mentor



Penny (Katchka) Staelin (’64)
Juvenile justice system leader committed to community service

Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees



Coach Chris Hardman
Mentor and Ottawa Hills coach for 50 years



Jeff Gehring (’61)
Basketball standout and guidance counselor



Andy Lott (’88)
Baseball champion with a passion for hard work



Jack Loy (’77)
1,000-yard football rusher and dedicated mentor



Lindy Redmann (’74)
Multi-sport athlete with a love for field hockey



Kimberly (Kos) Southall (’93)
Field hockey star who finds the joy in all team sports



1992-1993 Field Hockey Team



1993-1994 Field Hockey Team

Back-to-back state champions



1986 Varsity Baseball Team
Creating a legacy of champions

Past Honorees

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

2023 INDUCTEES
Shelley Wolson ('76)
Steve Jenks ('77)
Kristján Gíslason ('74)

2022 INDUCTEES
Dr. Jessica Ciralsky
Carl Heiles ('57)
Phil Mattingly ('02)
Cleveland O'Neal III ('74)
Jim White, Jr. ('58)

2021 INDUCTEE
Dr. David Glow ('55)

2020 INDUCTEES
Barbara Barker ('79)
Mary (Carson) Fedderke ('65)
Constance Hauman ('79)
Amul Thapar ('87)
Gary M. Woodbury ('58)
Robert (Bob) Hinkle ('56) (in memoriam)

2019 INDUCTEES
Betsy (Carson) Brady ('64)
Pete Kadens ('96)
Rustin "Polly" (Steele) Levenson ('65)
Robert (Bob) Shopneck ('68)
Dr. Catherine Webb ('66)

2018 INDUCTEES
Dr. James Geiger ('79)
Roa Lynn ('55)
Larry Mindel ('55)
M. Scott Peeler ('89)
Frederic Roberts ('79)

2017 INDUCTEES (INAUGURAL CLASS)
Christine Brennan ('76)
Craig Burkhart ('69)
Russell Carson ('61)
Richard DeVore ('51) (in memoriam)
John Galbraith ('41)
David Staelin ('56) (in memoriam)
Sally Stuckey ('74)

Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

2023 INDUCTEES
John Buckey ('69)
Craig Burkhart ('69)
Michael Tanner ('73)
Richard Kuzma, Coach
Girls Athletic Association ('63)
Penny Carver Dean ('63)
Gretta Fleck Laskey ('63)
Marianne Fleck Gehring ('63)
Diane Smith Kerin ('63)
Margo Seney Morrow ('63)
Jane Ulmer Kuta ('63)
Joan Ulmer Fisher ('63)

2022 INDUCTEES
Paula (Wagoner) Conway ('94)
Norm Niedermeier, Coach
Sandy Osterman, Coach
John Spengler ('77)
Jim White, Jr. ('58)

2021 INDUCTEES
Wendy (Roberts) Pavicic ('97)
David Roadhouse ('62)

2020 INDUCTEES
Jamie O'Hara ('68)
Katherine (Jamieson) Folino ('10)

2019 INDUCTEES (INAUGURAL CLASS)
Kelly Coleman ('82)
John M. Hill ('56)
Laurie Imes ('81)
Jim Tenney ('56)

Amy (Robbins) Kadens ('99)

Advocate for healthy children and family development



Amy Kadens has made a tremendous impact in addressing the critical issue of diaper insecurity in the United States. As a mother of three young children, she co-founded Share Our Spare in 2011, a nonprofit organization that provides clothing and other essentials to infants and toddlers from low-income families.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Amy's work with Share Our Spare took on new urgency. The organization partnered with the Greater Chicago Food Depository to distribute nearly 10 million diapers to families in need through diaper banks. Through this work, Amy realized that traditional diaper banks, which meet only 3% of the national demand, were insufficient to address the growing crisis. Amy knew there had to be a better way to address this public health crisis.

In response, Amy founded MOD Collective – an organization that exists to end diaper need. MOD Collective's signature program is Diaper Dollars, an innovative and compassionate solution that gives families in need a monthly prepaid digital e-card to purchase diapers from retail stores nationwide. MOD Collective, named after Marion O'Brien Donovan, the inventor of the precursor to the disposable diaper, seeks to bridge the gap left by traditional charity models and empower families to meet their own needs with dignity and convenience.

Amy emphasizes that diaper insecurity has far-reaching consequences, affecting not only physical health but also mental well-being and economic stability. She points out that diaper need is a leading cause of maternal depression and can prevent children from attending daycare, which in turn limits parents' ability to work, perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

"This is a public health crisis without a public solution," Amy remarked in a 2023 interview with JCW Media Group. Through MOD Collective's innovative approach, Amy has gathered data and momentum to begin driving legislative action and expanding support for struggling families.

Amy's work has brought much-needed attention to diaper insecurity, paving the way for a future where no child or parent suffers due to a lack of something as essential as a diaper. Her efforts continue to inspire change and offer hope to countless families across the nation.

Brad Rubini ('79)

Claire's Day co-creator to inspire lifelong readers



Brad Rubini co-created Claire's Day, a festival dedicated to inspiring children to become lifelong readers, in memory of his daughter, Claire, who passed away unexpectedly in 2000 at the age of 10 due to a misdiagnosed heart condition. Claire was an avid reader, and Brad founded the festival with his wife, Julie, to keep her legacy alive. For over 20 years, Claire's Day has been a beacon of literacy in the community and is now Northwest Ohio's largest children's book festival.

What began as a one-day free family book festival in 2002 has grown into a variety of literary experiences impacting over 15,000 children annually. Claire's Day established the School Visit outreach program in 2004. The program places visiting authors and illustrators in schools that have partnered with Claire's Day, offering their students the opportunity to hear stories and inspirations directly from creators. In 2016, the 15th anniversary of Claire's Day, 15 authors visited 43 schools throughout the greater Toledo area. Claire's Night was also established in 2004, providing a fundraising reception to give adults the opportunity to mix and mingle with guest artists and writers.

Brad also established the C.A.R.E. (Claire's Awards for Reading Excellence) program, which has recognized over 10,000 students as the most improved readers in their schools. Beyond impacting the community in memory of Claire, Brad has been a dedicated volunteer at First Tee, participated in numerous volunteer projects with Toledo Rotary, and serves as a golf course rater for the United States Golf Association with the Northern Ohio Golf Association. Brad also served as President of the Rotary Club of Toledo, one of the largest Rotary clubs in the world.

Dubbed "Mr. P" as in "Mr. Personality" by his children, Brad has a habit of striking up conversations with strangers. This outgoing nature has served him well in both personal and professional endeavors. Brad's personal philosophy, "The harder you work, the luckier you get," drives his approach to both work and life. He has overcome significant challenges, including struggling with dyslexia, which wasn't diagnosed until his senior year of high school. Reflecting on his time at Ottawa Hills Schools, Brad recalls the influence of his English teacher, Mrs. Barb Wagner, who he surprised with an outstanding year-end project, earning him an A and saving himself from failing.

Today, Brad continues to work in the family business, now in its 92nd year. He and his wife, Julie, have been married for 36 years and have two children, Kyle and Ian, who are both happy and thriving. Brad and Julie are currently on their second journey around the United States in a motorhome, enjoying activities like golfing, kayaking, biking, hiking, and exploring cultural sites in each state.

Steve Staelin ('63)

Community leader and business mentor



Steve Staelin is a retired managing partner of Ernst & Young (EY). He began his career with the firm after earning his BS and MBA from the University of Michigan in 1969. Looking back on his time at EY, Steve is most proud of the individuals he mentored. He guided many from their early years at the firm and they later became CFOs, CEOs, or fellow partners of EY. "It's wonderful to see people grow and develop into highly accomplished business and community leaders," said Steve.

Over the years, Steve served on numerous community boards and committees, including the chairmanship of ProMedica Health Systems. He also served as treasurer, vice president, and president of the Toledo Zoo board. Steve was instrumental in bringing new leadership to the Toledo Zoo in a time of extreme turmoil, and regaining community support to pass a much-needed levy. This may be one of Steve's most significant impacts on the community, as he helped secure the future of the Toledo Zoo with a clear vision for reform and necessary funding. Steve also served as president of the board of education at Ottawa Hills and was extremely proud to present his daughter, Tiffany, with her high school diploma at commencement.

Reflecting on his upbringing, Steve says growing up in a village like Ottawa Hills instills a strong sense of commitment to others and the greater good because of the deep sense of community. "You are accountable to your neighbors, fellow students, and teachers." Steve's OH education provided a strong foundation and prepared him for post-secondary education. The collegiality and camaraderie of his class challenged him to succeed in the classroom and led to lifelong friendships.

Penny (Katchka) Staelin ('64)

Juvenile justice system leader committed to community service



Penny Staelin has played a crucial role in giving the most vulnerable children a voice in the justice system, in Lucas County and throughout the country. She founded and was the Director of the Lucas County Juvenile Court Citizen Review Boards and the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program. The Review Boards are an arm of the court that monitor the Children's Services permanency plans for abuse/neglect cases. The CASA's are guardian ad litems who work directly with the children and families, and represent the child in court.

This CASA program was the third in the country and now there are 800 such programs. Penny was hired by the court to be the Director of Training for the Review Boards, the CASA's and the Guardian ad Litem attorneys. Her extensive impact in the juvenile justice system earned her two awards in the community and the programs received a National Award from the Juvenile Court Judges of America which she accepted in Portland, Oregon.

"My parents were great believers in giving back," Penny said. "A love of service is one of the greatest gifts we can give our children." She is a past president of the Toledo Museum of Art (TMA) Ambassadors and a member of the TMA Board of Trustees. She credits the Junior League of Toledo for greatly enriching her life. She served as the Vice President and held many committee chairmanships for the League. She chaired Major Gifts for the United Way and served on other community boards such as ProMedica Metro Hospitals, UTMC Foundation, YWCA, Planned Parenthood and others. One of Penny's greatest joys was operating her stationery shop for over 25 years. She loved working with and helping clients through important times in their lives, such as weddings, funerals and other events.

While Penny has accomplished many things in her life, she says she is most proud of her children and grandchildren. "The support of my family and friends has always given me confidence to take on many new experiences."

A life together...

Penny and Steve had their first date when they were young 14-year old students at Ottawa Hills and recently celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary. They share the same personal philosophy to approach life with enthusiasm and accept opportunities that will enrich your life. No matter what life hands you, you must keep going and find your purpose.

Steve and Penny's lives have not been without great challenges. Their daughter, Tiffany, an environmental consultant and educator, passed away suddenly when she was just 31 years old from a malignant brain tumor.

In Tiffany's memory, they established the Tiffany Staelin Fund at the Greater Toledo Community Foundation to support organizations consistent with Tiffany's passions. As they said, "We are grateful that God gave us Tiffany for 31 years . . . just wish we could have had more."

Today they are very proud of their son, Tyler, and his family. Tyler is a surgeon and his wife, Katie, is an RN in Nashville, TN. They have three children, the eldest of which is now a freshman at Yale and on the men's rowing team. Their two daughters are honor students and actively involved in high school athletics.

Coach Chris Hardman

Mentor and Ottawa Hills coach for 50 years



Chris Hardman was working in Bowling Green when he noticed a job posting on a wall for an open position at Ottawa Hills. He applied, and the rest is history. "I've been the lucky one. When I started in August of 1974, I didn't know that Ottawa Hills would become my life's work," says Hardman. He spent the next three decades working at Ottawa Hills Junior/Senior High School.

Hardman retired from his teaching position at OHHS in 2013/2014. Anyone who knows Chris wouldn't be surprised to hear that, despite retiring, he continued teaching youth. Recognizing the opportunity to share his life experiences, Hardman became a motivational speaker, drawing from his 40 years of experience in education. He recently volunteered as a speaker for 5th and 6th grade Green Bears. These "Conversations with Coach Hardman" focus on peer relationships, decision-making, and leadership by example. "We are surrounded by a terrific community here. People move here for the schools and the sense of community. There is no other place like it," says Hardman. "I've never not wanted to come to work; and that is such a good thing to be able to say."

In recent years, Hardman also took on the role of substitute teacher. When the elementary school started seeing larger enrollment, Hardman stepped in as an additional elementary physical education teacher. Towards the end of the 2023-2024 school year, Hardman became a paraprofessional at the elementary school, filling in when the district faced staffing shortages.

Mentorship and leading by example are fundamental aspects of coaching, beliefs that Hardman holds dear. Mentoring has always been crucial to him. "My father, a teacher and coach, taught me the value of mentoring." Hardman encourages younger players to volunteer as helpers on the junior varsity and varsity teams, allowing older athletes to mentor younger ones.

Hardman has coached for decades and his dedication to Green Bear Athletics is felt deeply in the Ottawa Hills community. This year marks his 44th season as the head varsity baseball coach. On April 10, 2024, at Hardman Field, the Varsity Baseball team defeated Whiteford 2-1, giving Coach Hardman his 700th win. In addition to baseball, Hardman has coached various other teams and sports. 2024 commemorates his 50th year of coaching Ottawa Hills athletics.

Chris says, "I am incredibly fortunate to have been involved with the Ottawa Hills community for such a long time. We raised our four daughters here and now, seven of our grandchildren reside in the village. I recognized years ago that there is no better place to be an educator, and no better place for a young person to receive an education, than at Ottawa Hills Schools." He continues, "I have been very privileged to have coached some wonderful student-athletes and shared those experiences with their families. It doesn't get any better than that! I know that because of my long tenure here, some believe that Chris Hardman has given his life to Ottawa Hills, but in reality, Ottawa Hills has given me my life!"

Jeff Gehring ('61)

Basketball standout and guidance counselor



Jeff Gehring's journey from Ottawa Hills High School to becoming one of Miami University's most celebrated basketball players is a testament to his extraordinary talent and dedication. Graduating from OHHS in 1961, Jeff quickly made his mark on the varsity basketball team at Miami University, where he would go on to achieve remarkable success.

During his time at Miami, Jeff became the second-highest scorer in the university's history, a feat that solidified his legacy in college basketball. He was the first player in Miami's history to score over 400 points in each of his three varsity seasons, amassing a total of 1,295 points. His scoring prowess was matched by his consistency, as he ranked third in Miami's all-time career list in point average with 18.0 points per game, and his field goal percentage of .478 (498-1042) placed him among the best shooters of his era. Jeff's excellence extended to free throws as well, with an impressive .789 (200-379) free throw percentage.

A three-year letter winner under Coach Dick Shrider, Jeff's impact on the court was undeniable. He was selected to the All-MAC second team as a sophomore and earned first-team honors in his junior and senior years. His leadership and skill helped Miami achieve a three-year record of 49-24, including a share of the MAC championship with a 20-5 record in his senior year.

Despite being drafted by the Cincinnati Royals in the 7th round, Jeff chose a different path, dedicating 35 years to serving the Columbus school district as a guidance counselor. His decision to work in education exemplifies his commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of others, a trait that defined him both on and off the court.

Jeff's outstanding achievements in basketball were recognized with his induction into the Miami University Hall of Fame in 1976. His legacy was further immortalized in a feature spread in *Sports Illustrated*, celebrating his contributions to the Miami Redskins basketball team.

Jeff's wife, Marianne (Fleck) Gehring, was inducted into the Ottawa Hills Athletic Hall of Fame in 2023. As a beloved figure in Ottawa Hills and beyond, Jeff Gehring's life story is one of perseverance, excellence, and dedication to both sport and community.

Andy Lott ('88)

Baseball champion with a passion for hard work



Andy Lott's passion for sports was ignited at an early age. Encouraged by his parents and inspired by his sister, Torrey, a successful tennis player, Andy developed a deep love for competition. Traveling to Torrey's matches, he absorbed the nuances of competitive sports, learning the value of determination and teamwork.

A standout athlete, Andy embraced a personal philosophy that was rooted in confidence and self-belief. He and his teammates carried a mindset that they were meant to dominate the court or field, often elevating their performance to new heights. This unwavering confidence became a cornerstone of his athletic success.

One of Andy's most cherished memories from his high school athletic career was winning the state baseball championship as a sophomore in 1986. The journey to that victory was marked by a series of unforgettable moments, including Coach Hardman's motivating words, "Someone is going to win 7 more, 6 more, 5 more…why not us?" These words fueled the team's drive as they navigated the eight games required to clinch the title. The final game, in which Andy pitched, stands out as a highlight, not just for the win but for the shared joy of celebrating with lifelong friends.

Andy credits several coaches for their significant impact on his athletic career. Coach Bob Repp's passion and intensity for competition left a lasting impression, while Coach Hardman's patience, strategic acumen, and ability to bring out the best in each player were invaluable. Andy appreciated Coach Hardman's understanding that each player required a different approach to be led effectively, a quality that made him a great mentor.

Growing up in Ottawa Hills, Andy benefited from a supportive community with excellent facilities, systems, and parents who valued organized athletics. His high school athletic experience not only shaped his competitive spirit but also laid the foundation for his future endeavors. After graduation, Andy continued his athletic career, playing baseball for two years at the College of Wooster, where he helped lead the team to the Division III College World Series. He finished his college career pitching for the University of Toledo Rockets.

Today, Andy applies the lessons learned from his athletic career to his professional life. With over two decades of experience in the hospitality industry, including 17 years with The Ritz-Carlton and recent work at The Henderson Beach Resort on the Gulf Coast, Andy's commitment to excellence and teamwork remains steadfast.

Reflecting on his time as an athlete, Andy advises current high school athletes to find a mentor, work diligently at their craft, and never underestimate the importance of the small details. While talent is essential, he emphasizes that hard work and consistency are key to long-term success.

Jack Loy ('77)

1,000-yard football rusher and dedicated mentor



Jack Loy's athletic journey began alongside his brother Jim, who played a significant role in shaping Jack's love for sports. Growing up, the brothers were inseparable, competing in various backyard games and playing church basketball together from an early age. When they first started playing football, they hadn't yet moved to Ottawa Hills, and while they were split into different teams due to their grades, their shared passion for sports remained a constant bond. Jim, a formidable presence on the field at 6'3" and 210 pounds, was not only a great athlete but also a protective older brother who always looked out for Jack and their teammates.

One of Jack's most memorable achievements came during his junior year when he rushed for 1,000 yards in football. While the accomplishment is often credited to him, Jack humbly views it as a team effort. With Jim leading the blocking out of the backfield and a strong offensive line, Jack's success was a testament to the collective strength of the team.

Jack was deeply influenced by his coaches at Ottawa Hills, particularly Coach Niedermeier and Coach Hardman. Their coaching styles, which emphasized respect, clear communication, and thoughtful strategy over yelling and intimidation, left a lasting impact on Jack. These lessons not only shaped his athletic career but also influenced his approach to life beyond sports.

After high school, Jack continued to embody the values he learned on the field. His experience as an athlete taught him the importance of being a good teammate, a lesson that proved invaluable in his career as a steel tubing manufacturer's representative and later in his 16-year coaching career at St. Francis de Sales High School. Jack believes that the essence of teamwork—thinking of others, working hard, and remaining humble—are principles that have guided him throughout his life.

Jack's advice to current high school athletes reflects his belief in the power of selflessness and dedication. He encourages athletes to focus on making their teammates better and to prioritize team goals over personal achievements. For Jack, the culture of his senior year team, where everyone played for each other and no one was bigger than the team, was the epitome of what sports should be about.

Today, Jack reflects on his time as an athlete with gratitude, recognizing that the lessons of hard work, humility, and teamwork have shaped his life well beyond the playing field.

Lindy Redmann ('74)

Multi-sport athlete with a love for field hockey



Linda Beth "Lindy" Redmann loved all sports. "She could do just about anything and was good at almost everything she tried," says Fred Redmann, Lindy's older brother. While women's athletics tended to take a back seat to men's, Title IX was enacted in 1972, two years before Lindy graduated from Ottawa Hills High School. Before Title IX, the Girls Athletic Association (GAA) was instrumental in engaging and supporting young women in sports. Lindy served as vice president of the GAA in her junior year and president in her senior year, demonstrating her commitment to women's athletics during her formative years.

During her time at Ottawa Hills, Lindy played a variety of sports, but her favorite was field hockey. She went on to play field hockey all four years at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. In her senior year, she was awarded Most Valuable Senior Player. Lindy continued to play field hockey on club teams in Atlanta, GA, after graduating from college. She was also a very accomplished horsewoman, taking lessons with several of her Ottawa Hills classmates for seven years. Later, she taught horseback riding for a short period of time.

The Lindy Redmann Sports Award was established in 1984 in memory of Lindy, who passed away far too soon at the age of 28 following a battle with Hodgkin's disease. Lindy's high school field hockey coach, Sandy Osterman, affectionately nicknamed "Miss O," helped the Redmann family create a meaningful way to honor Lindy through the award. The award was passionately and enthusiastically continued by Coach Jo Cooley. Each spring, the award is given to a junior female athlete who best exemplifies the characteristics of humility, loyalty and determination. Lindy also had a strong feeling for fair play, a dedication to win, talent which ranked among the highest on the team, and spirited on-field leadership. The award recipient's name is engraved on a plaque that hangs in the school hallway. As of this year, 40 female athletes have received this esteemed award.

Fred says, "As a family, we felt The Lindy Redmann Award would be something that Lindy would be proud of. Hopefully it helps to inspire and encourage girls to work hard to earn the recognition that comes with receiving this award. Lindy cherished her time at Ottawa Hills and would be honored and humbled to be inducted into the Hall of Fame."

Kimberly (Kos) Southall ('93)

Field hockey star who finds the joy in all team sports



Kimberly (Kos) Southall is an accomplished field hockey player. She played Division I for Boston University, earning First Team All-Conference and First Team All-Region honors during her time there. In 2003, Kim was inducted into Boston University's Athletic Hall of Fame. During her time at Ottawa Hills High School, Kim earned varsity letters all four years in field hockey, basketball, and softball. She was named Maumee Valley Tournament MVP, All-Star Team MVP, All-Ohio All-Star, Northern Ohio All-Star, team captain, Ohio State Champion, and was inducted into the Toledo City Athletic League Hall of Fame in 2018.

Kim is also a ten-time recipient of the Eastern Independent League (EIL) Field Hockey Coach of the Year award. She led the varsity field hockey team at Newton Country Day School to six EIL championships over her 25 years as head coach. Kim's love for athletics extended beyond coaching; she also served as the Athletic Director at Newton Country Day for 19 years.

"As a child, my mom signed me up for everything—from gymnastics to tee ball, diving, swim team, and tennis. I was drawn to sports for several reasons, especially the camaraderie and friendships that came with them," Kim reflects on what drew her to sports. The social aspect of athletics and being part of a team gave Kim a strong sense of belonging. "Sports go beyond competition; it's about connection." Kim's mother, Ann Kos, a special education teacher at Ottawa Hills, was her biggest supporter. "Her belief in me and constant encouragement laid the foundation for my passion for sports and influenced everything I've done in my life," said Kim.

Kim remembers when field hockey was first introduced in 7th grade. She and her friends signed up and played without really knowing much about the game. In high school, she tried out for the varsity team and vividly recalls Coach Cooley announcing that she had made varsity in her 9th-grade year. Kim continued to enjoy other sports, including basketball and softball, throughout high school. Although Kim left the Village of Ottawa Hills after high school, she says it will always be home. The experiences she gained and the opportunities she had growing up in this special and unique community fundamentally shaped her life. Kim says, "One of the most valuable lessons I learned in high school was the importance of belonging to a community like Ottawa Hills. I realized how supported I was and how fortunate I am to have lifelong friendships, many of which began in kindergarten. The community of people around me then, and still with me now, truly became a part of my life, teaching me the significance of being surrounded by loving, supportive individuals. It's something I continue to cherish and appreciate every day."

Together with her husband, Alec, Kim now enjoys traveling and watching their daughter, Lily, play soccer, run track, and compete in lacrosse tournaments. Kim encourages her daughter to try everything. "Do as much as you can and remember to keep doing things that bring you joy—the end game should be happiness."

1992/93 and 1993/94 Field Hockey Teams

Back-to-back state champions

ATHLETIC HALL of FAME

The 1992/93 and 1993/94 varsity field hockey teams from Ottawa Hills High School were led by outstanding athletes, with 1992/93 captains Jackie (Hylant) Berenzweig and Kimberly (Kos) Southall, and 1993/94 captains Meredith (Ciralsky) Friedman, Paula (Wagoner) Conway, and Mallory (Blank) Curran. Under the guidance of head coach Jo Cooley, both teams had remarkable seasons, each culminating in a state championship.

The success of these teams was due to their exceptional speed and fitness. “Our team was really fast and had really good endurance,” one player recalls. “We were always faster than other teams, and if games went into overtime, we were better able to ‘survive’ because we were in better shape than many other teams.” Despite their dislike for the grueling speed drills Coach Cooley made them run at the end of practice, the team recognized the value of this conditioning in their performance.

Offensively, the team was dynamic and unpredictable. While they had star players who regularly scored, they had a deep roster of players capable of stepping up when needed. “We never doubted that someone would step up and score when we needed it,” said one player. Defensively, the team was strong and consistent, often shutting out their opponents.

The camaraderie among the players was built over years of playing multiple sports together from a young age. Many of them had been playing together since junior high, which created a strong bond both on and off the field. With only one other field hockey team in Toledo, they often traveled long distances for games, bonding during those bus trips with their beloved bus driver, Dave “Goal Time” Siwa.

The 1993/94 season was particularly memorable. With the theme “Sweet Repeat,” the team set out to defend their state championship title. Their parents embraced the theme, creating “Sweet Repeat” memorabilia, from pillowcases to winter headbands. The team faced all kinds of weather, from extreme heat to freezing rain, yet they remained unfazed, confident they could win in any condition.

At the start of the 1993/94 season, there was some uncertainty about whether the team could match the success of the previous year after losing many key players from the Class of 1993. However, the veterans stepped up, and the new players rose to the challenge, with Paula Wagoner, who was later honored as a high school All American, leading the way. The influence of German exchange student Birgit Brune, who played on the 1991 team, also played a significant role in the team’s success. Her advanced technical skills and experience from Germany’s developed field hockey system provided a model for the team to emulate.

Superstitions and traditions played a role in the team’s success as well. Jenny Cooper’s mom made Rice Krispy Treats before every important game, and it became a ritual that everyone, no matter how nervous, would eat at least a piece for good luck.

Both years, the team defeated Shaker Heights to claim the state championship. This was particularly impressive given the size difference between the schools—Ottawa Hills had just 47 students in the 1994 graduating class, while Shaker Heights had hundreds.

The teams celebrated their victories with their own psych-up mixes on cassette tape, playing Queen’s “We Are the Champions” as they returned home as state champions. Their success was recognized by a proclamation from the Toledo City Council, where they received a standing ovation from a room full of firefighters.

Coach Jo Cooley played a pivotal role in the team’s success. With a background in Syracuse, NY, where field hockey ignited her competitive spirit, Cooley brought a wealth of experience to Ottawa Hills. Her personal philosophy of staying committed and dedicated resonated with her players, helping to instill the perseverance and work ethic needed to achieve greatness. Under her leadership, Ottawa Hills Field Hockey not only won state championships but also saw many players go on to play collegiately and even become coaches themselves.

The memories of bus rides, team dinners, and countless laughs are what made these seasons special. The success of these teams was a true collective effort, marked by

The 1992/93 Team:
Back row: Ann Moore, Summer Hardman, Paula Wagoner, Mallory Blank, Jenny Cooper, Emily Casey, Brooke McCaffrey, Cecily Straub, Courtney Westmeyer, Erika Newcomer, and Coach Cooley. Front row: Tiffy DeBoer, Joe Ross, Julie Huber, Jackie Hylant, Kim Kos, Meredith Ciralsky, Megan Meinerding, and Melissa Munn.



1992/1993 Ottawa Hills HIgh School varsity field hockey team

incredible stats, strong leadership from the seniors, outstanding coaching, and the commitment and dedication of every team member. The 1992/93 and 1993/94 teams' success was more than just a collection of victories; it was a testament to teamwork, dedication, and the leadership of Coach Cooley. Their story is one of perseverance, unity, and the enduring legacy of a program that continues to inspire.

The 1993/94 Team: *Back row: Heidi Bohl, Brooke McCaffery, Emily Casey, Julie Huber, Marla Danziger, Mallory Blank, Erika Newcomer, Caroline Thomas, Liz Webb, Betsy Davies. Middle row: Jo Ross, Tiffany DeBoer, Meredith Ciralsky, Paula Wagoner, Shannan Scheuer, Meredith Hufford, Summer Hardman, Wendy Roberts. Front row: Coach Jo Cooley, Dave "Goal Time" Siwa.*



1993/1994 Ottawa Hill High School varsity field hockey team

1986 Varsity Baseball Team

Creating a legacy of champions

The 1987 MESASA yearbook features a spread on the victorious spring season of the '86 varsity baseball team, celebrating their achievement as Class A state champions. Led by Andy Lott, who went 8-0 during the state playoffs, the Bears secured their title by defeating Northwood in the district final and Wayne Trace in the regional final on their way to the state championship. The most thrilling moment in Ottawa Hills sports history occurred when Jeff Ray hit the winning run in the bottom of the 11th inning. Mark Davis, whose voice echoed throughout Columbus, exclaimed that the Green Bears and winning pitcher Andy Lott were number one as the team lifted Lott in celebration.

The excitement following the team's spectacular come-from-behind victory culminated in a parade honoring the players and coaches. Principal Jim Casper and Mayor S. Stewart Cochrane were on hand to praise the Bears, while villagers gathered around for the awards ceremony. The state championship quickly became known as the "Miracle on Evergreen Road," a truly remarkable accomplishment that will never be forgotten.

Coach Hardman reflected on the significance of the 1986 baseball team, stating, "The 1986 baseball team changed the course of Ottawa Hills baseball forever. The impact of what that team accomplished will run through every young player who will ever put on the Ottawa Hills uniform." He recalled that the team was 4-5 at the tournament draw, with no clear idea of how the season would unfold. Despite significant victories, the team never played with an air of confidence but instead chose to play with grit. Strong hitting, tough defense, and solid pitching carried the team to Columbus with a shot at the state championship. The story concludes with the team bringing home the championship trophy, and from that moment on, every Ottawa Hills baseball team has set their sights on bringing home the championship again.



1986 Ottawa Hills High School baseball team

The Miracle on Evergreen Road '86 Baseball Team: *Pictured: Front row (l to r): Coach Bennett, Mike McCormick, Scott Poll, Steve LeCron, Paul Gipson, Mike Magura, Matt Cooper, Dan O'Connell. Back row: Coach Calvin, Ted Nolette, Robin Roy, Rod Cooper, Andy Lott, Jeff Ray, Bill Kuebbler, Mike Ellenwood, Rob "Mohawk" Kuebbler, Matt Magura, Coach Hardman.*

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