



**ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME
INDUCTION CLASS OF 2024**

POSTHUMOUS ATHLETES

GARY COBB

Withrow, Class of 1956
Football

WALT MAERKI

Withrow, Class of 1938
Baseball, Basketball & Football

JULE ROSENTHAL

Hughes, Class of 1938
Swimming

FRANK SHANDS

Hartwell, Class of 1940
Basketball, Football & Track and Field

COACHES

E.A. POOS

Hughes & Woodward
Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country,
Football, Gymnastics
& Track and Field

LARRY WETENKAMP

Central, Courter Tech, Hughes,
Taft & Western Hills
Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf,
Gymnastics, Track and Field & Volleyball

LIVING ATHLETES

TYRONE BROWN

Withrow, Class of 1991
Football & Track and Field

SHANA DARDEN

Taft, Class of 2005
Basketball, Softball, Track and Field
& Volleyball

JENNIFER HOGAN

Western Hills, Class of 1996
Basketball, Softball & Volleyball

DANNY HORACE

Western Hills, Class of 2001
Basketball and Football

ASHLEY LIVERPOOL

Walnut Hills, Class of 2010
Soccer & Track and Field

PHILIP RITCHIE

Withrow, Class of 1961
Football

ANDREA SMYTHE

CAPE, Class of 1989
Basketball

SKYLER WILLIS-WALTON

Withrow, Class of 2011
Track and Field & Volleyball

HONORARY

DAVID DIERKER

CPS District Athletic Director

★ 2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES: POSTHUMOUS ATHLETES ★



GARY COBB

Withrow, Class of 1956, Football

Gary was a local boy who attended Withrow High School from 1952 to 1956. During his time at Withrow, he was named All-City and All-State as a center. He ultimately won a football scholarship to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where he played under Coach John Pont. At Miami, Gary's football journey continued as he earned All-Mid-American Conference honors twice as a guard in 1958 and 1959. He was known as an aggressive and intelligent player.

After graduating from Miami, Gary played briefly with the Buffalo Bills before returning home. His true calling was coaching; he served as an assistant coach at Walnut Hills High School and later became the head coach at Western Hills High School in Cincinnati.

Coaching was one of Gary's greatest attributes. His talents grew as he contributed to various football teams and served as a counselor for the Alpha Chapter of Sigma Chi. He believed that groups of individuals united by a common goal were sturdier than the bricks and mortar of organizations. These qualities led Gary to a successful business career. His daughter remembers his determination in the face of any obstacle, often saying, "There is a solution to be found for any problem."

Weekends were often spent tailgating at his home in Milford, Ohio, watching Miami of Oxford and the Bengals. Withrow held a special place in Gary's heart. He maintained lifelong friendships with his teammates and would gather with them over the years to reminisce about the game and the time he cherished. Throughout his life, he returned for events and enjoyed playing with his kids and family dog on the Withrow field on weekends. After his passing, he was inducted into Withrow High School's Hall of Fame.

In the last year of his life, he and his daughter, Lisa, would visit the field to watch the Mt. Carmel Fire, a semi-pro team, scrimmage. He loved to see the game and engage with the young people watching and playing. Gary enjoyed life and valued his relationships—qualities that made him a great football player and coach.



WALT MAERKI

Withrow, Class of 1938, Baseball, Basketball & Football

Walt Maerki was one of the finest athletes to come out of Withrow High School. By the time he graduated in 1938, he had earned ten varsity letters: three in basketball, three in baseball, and four in football, where he truly excelled. On the Tiger football team, he was a four-year letterman, starting center, and captain in his junior and senior years. The Cincinnati Post wrote that the "165-pound center is probably as good a defensive player as any in Greater Cincinnati." In his final season, he was named to the first team center by the Ohio High School Football Coaches Association. This recognition was remarkable at a time when the All-State teams were dominated by players from Northeast Ohio. With his inclusion on the team, Maerki became eligible to participate in a football game over the Christmas holidays in Florida against a team of All-Stars from that state. The Ohio team would be coached by Paul Brown and Withrow football coach Angus King. "I didn't make the trip," Maerki later recalled, "because it would have made me ineligible to play basketball and baseball."

After graduation, Maerki attended Ohio Wesleyan College to play football. After two years and making the All-Ohio college team in 1941, he dropped out of school to join the Navy as World War II began. During his service, he flew 158 missions over places like Luzon, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa, earning a Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, and the Air Medal. Following his 41 months in service, he returned to Cincinnati, where he had a successful career in business.



★ 2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES: POSTHUMOUS ATHLETES ★



JULE ROSENTHAL

Hughes, Class of 1938, Swimming

After Jule Rosenthal graduated, the swimming coach at the Central Parkway Y.M.C.A. told the newspapers that Rosenthal was the finest sprint swimmer Cincinnati ever produced.

As a sophomore swimming for Hughes in 1936, Jule Rosenthal became the Public High School League champion in the 100-yard freestyle and finished second in the 50-yard freestyle. He followed that up by winning the 100-yard freestyle at the Southwest Ohio District Meet and was part of the record-setting 200-yard relay team that claimed victory. Rosenthal continued his winning streak at the state meet with a first-place finish in the 100-yard freestyle, helping Hughes finish in eighth place.

Entering the 1937 District Swimming Meet, Rosenthal had set new records in the 100-yard freestyle and as a member of the 200-yard relay team, leading Hughes to win the PHSL swimming title. In Columbus, Rosenthal won the 100-yard freestyle for the second consecutive year. He was also a member of the Hughes 200-yard relay team, which placed second in a disputed finish, securing third place for the team in the meet.

In his senior year, Rosenthal led Hughes to a PHSL swimming championship by winning both the 50 and 100-yard freestyle events in record times. The team went on to capture the Southwest Ohio District Championship, with Rosenthal again winning the 50 and 100-yard freestyle events. A week later, he won the state 50-yard freestyle championship in record time but finished second in the 100-yard freestyle, failing to defend his title.

Following graduation, Rosenthal was named to the All-American Scholastic Swimming Team, chosen by the National Inter-Collegiate Swimming Association.

Rosenthal wasn't a single-sport athlete; he also earned three letters in track and finished second in the district long jump competition, earning a trip to Columbus for the State Track and Field Meet.



FRANK SHANDS

Hartwell, Class of 1940, Basketball, Football, & Track and Field

Frank excelled as a halfback and defensive lineman at now-defunct Hartwell High School in the late 1930s.

Frank served as a track coach at Cincinnati DePorres from 1948 to 1964, at Cincinnati Purcell from 1965 to 1970, and at Cincinnati Princeton from 1971 to 1981. He also coached cross country at DePorres from 1960 to 1963, at Purcell from 1964 to 1967, and at Princeton from 1978 to 1981.

Throughout his coaching career, he achieved remarkable success, winning two state high school track titles and finishing as a runner-up four times. At DePorres, he led his teams to ten district meet victories. During his tenure at Purcell, he secured five league titles in track and four in cross country, while at Princeton, he won four league titles in track.

In addition to team successes, he coached 18 individual state high school track meet champions and was the founder and manager of several meets. Over the years, he won more than 100 dual and tri track meets. Prior to his coaching career, he was also a successful discus thrower at Miami University.





2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES: COACHES



E.A. POOS

Hughes & Woodward

Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Gymnastics & Track and Field

Dr. E.A. Poos was born in Germany and came to the U.S. at the age of 16. He began teaching physical education at Woodward High School in 1893 while simultaneously attending medical school. In 1896, he completed his medical degree at the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, receiving a Doctor of Medicine degree. Soon, each of the Cincinnati public high schools—Hughes, Woodward, and Walnut Hills—had a doctor/teacher of physical education.

While at Woodward, Poos invented a game that he called Centerball, which the students named Poos Ball. Played by both girls and boys, the indoor game grew in popularity and spread to other schools. Eventually, Poos Ball tournaments were held among the public schools. Over time, he began receiving inquiries from as far away as Canada. When the volume of inquiries became burdensome, he arranged to have a rulebook published. Although it is no longer played today, Poos Ball was a part of public schools until the 1920s.

In 1901, Poos moved to Hughes, where he continued teaching and was named physical director. According to the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, he was “the first man appointed to a full-time job in the physical education department of the Cincinnati schools and the first man to hold such a job in the United States.” Up until 1918, Poos not only taught all of the gym classes at Hughes but also coached every athletic team. During this time, his football teams won nine consecutive Interscholastic League Championships. When he eventually stepped down from coaching football, basketball, and baseball, he continued coaching cross-country, track, and gymnastics until his retirement. His 1924 track and field team won the State Track Meet.

Among the athletes he coached were Sam Stoller, the 1931 state champion in the 100-yard dash (who beat Jesse Owens), and John Anderson, the 1925 Ohio High School discus and shot put champion. Anderson went on to place fifth in the 1928 Olympics discus throw and won the gold medal in that event in 1932. Both men are members of the CPS Athletic Hall of Fame. Another athlete he trained and mentored was Arch McCarthy, who began playing for and assisting Poos before going on to his own coaching career in the Public Schools Hall of Fame at Western Hills.

Poos remained at Hughes until 1935, when he turned 70 and school board policy required him to retire. His career with the Cincinnati Public Schools lasted 42 years, making him the last of the doctor/teachers of physical education.



LARRY WETENKAMP

Central, Courter Tech, Hughes, Taft, & Western Hills

Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Gymnastics, Track and Field & Volleyball

Larry Wetenkamp graduated from Central High School in 1956, where he was an outstanding performer on the Knights' gymnastics team and a record-setting pole vaulter on the track team, finishing second at the Southwest Ohio District Track Meet and qualifying for the state track meet in Columbus.

After receiving his BS degree from Eastern Kentucky University, Larry returned to Cincinnati to begin his teaching and coaching career at Heinold Junior High School. From 1962 to 1964, he coached football, basketball, gymnastics, volleyball, and track at Heinold, winning PHSL West Division Championships in football, gymnastics, and track.

In 1965, he returned to Central as the school's cross-country coach, leading his team to win the PHSL and District Cross Country Championships in his first year.

In 1966, he moved to Taft High School to serve as an assistant football coach, replacing Willard





2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES: COACHES



Stargel, who became the head football coach at Walnut Hills. He also took on the role of head track coach.

In the early 1970s, Wetenkamp taught and coached at Courter Tech during the school's final years of existence. As the head track coach, twelve members of his team qualified for the state track meet over the last four years. He also coached football, serving as an assistant under head coach Harry Andrendas, where he coached the linemen while Andrendas coached the backs.

In 1979, he transferred to Western Hills, where he coached the Mustangs' golf team, winning four PHSL championships. For two years, he also coached the Mustangs' girls' track team.

2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES: LIVING ATHLETES



TYRONE BROWN

Withrow, Class of 1991, Football & Track and Field

Tyrone Brown was born on January 3, 1973, to Michael Brown Sr. and Juanita Brown. He is the youngest of four siblings: Michael Jr., Steven, and Tracy. Tyrone grew up in Kennedy Heights and Evanston, attending Taft Elementary, Silverton Elementary, and Eastern Hills Junior High. At the age of 12, he began participating in track and field during the summer months for the Cincinnati All Stars. Being part of the team each summer involved traveling to different states for track meets in hopes of securing a spot in the Junior Olympics for track and field. It was during these long, hot summer months that Tyrone learned about hard work, dedication, and commitment.

At the age of 15, Tyrone began his journey at Withrow High School (1988-1991). He was a two-sport athlete, continuing his participation in track and field while also playing football. His accomplishments earned him letterman status from his sophomore year through his senior year. As a sophomore, Tyrone was a member of the 1989 football team that went undefeated. As a senior, he made the All-League, All-City, All-Southwest Region, and All-State teams as the Most Accomplished Wide Receiver. His standout performances earned him an invitation to the East/West All-Star Game and a spot on the Channel 5 All-Star Team. Tyrone was also inducted into "Who's Who in Sports." In track and field, where he was a four-year letterman, he helped the relay team place third in the 4x800 relay at the state championship meet during his sophomore year. As a junior, Tyrone finished seventh overall in the state championship in the 400 meters.

Entering his senior year, Tyrone was recognized as the fastest runner in Cincinnati. He led the boys' track team to a District Championship, finishing first in both the 200 and 400 meters while anchoring the winning 4x400 team. The following week, he played an integral role in helping the team finish second overall in the regional meet. Tyrone finished second in the 400 meters at the state championship, while also placing third in the 4x400. To conclude his senior season, he was named Runner of the Year by The Cincinnati Post. After graduation, Tyrone received a scholarship to attend the University of Toledo, where he continued to play wide receiver at the collegiate level, starting for two years with the Rockets. During his tenure, he averaged 25.3 yards per catch. Tyrone welcomed his daughter, Jasmine Brown, into the world during his undergraduate years. After going undrafted, he signed a contract with the Atlanta Falcons, playing two seasons (1995 and 1996). After his time in the NFL, Tyrone spent three seasons playing for the Toronto Argonauts (1999-2001) in the CFL and also spent a season (2003) competing in the Arena Football League as a member of the Indiana Firebirds.

Tyrone currently resides in Georgia, where he spends his free time playing golf and training young, aspiring male athletes in football. He is also an active member of the NFL Alumni Association and enjoys spending time with his family.





2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES: LIVING ATHLETES



SHANA DARDEN

Taft, Class of 2005, Basketball, Softball, Track and Field & Volleyball

During Shana's high school athletic career she earned the following awards & recognitions: Varsity Team Captain for Volleyball, Basketball, Softball, Track and Field, Team MVP Basketball for being an outstanding defensive player, a high number of steals, rebounds, and blocks (Ms. Basketball 2005), All Conference Track and Field (2004 & 2005), Team League Champions (Varsity Basketball 2004), District Meet Silver Medalist (High Jump, 2005), Regional High Jump Contender (2005). Shana also was a member of the Drill Team/ Band where she proudly served as a Captain (2003-2005).

Shana earned her way on every varsity athletic team that Taft High School offered for young ladies during her high school career. Not only was Shana a dedicated student athlete during her tenure at Taft high school, she was also an intelligent, bright, and dedicated student leader. Academic Honors and accomplishments include: graduating 4th in her class and earning outstanding scholarships and internships because of her hard work and commitment in the classroom. Shana earned the National Scholar/Athlete Award from The United States Army Reserve for Academic and Athletic excellence. A member of the National Honors Society, Shana was Junior and Senior class president for the Student Government Association, Royal Court winner, attended Rotary Camp Enterprise, leadership camps, Daisy Chain participant, and a student ambassador for Taft high school. Shana was selected by the coaching staff as a Varsity Captain for every team she joined due to her abilities to lead, be fair, honest, trustworthy, empathetic, poised, dedicated, disciplined, and an extremely hard worker. Shana's ability to lead and encourage her teammates carried over into her post high school life in intramural sports, a dancer, as well as a cheer and dance coach for both elementary and high school girls for Cincinnati Public Schools. After high school Shana attended Kentucky State University where her leadership and bright light continued to shine. She earned a Bachelor's in Education and Social Sciences, and a Master's Degree.

Shana has been an elementary rhythmic gymnastics coach for eight years. Bringing a new element and style of art to an urban, underserved school and community. Not only does Shana coach on the elementary level, she is also a High School majorette dance coach and mentor. Shana revived the Taft High School "Dancing Jewels" dance team after a ten year hiatus. The team was led to a spectacular season in the 2022-23 school year under her direction. The team competed, and won 1st place in the Cincinnati High School battle of the bands showcase. As a coach Shana is most proud of providing her dancers with opportunities beyond the dance floor. Shana has contributed largely to academic, extracurricular, financial literacy and wellness, and social excellence in the Cincinnati community. Shana is very faith based and family oriented. She is a proud world traveler, C.E.O. of her own organization "The D.E. Academy", and a small business owner. Shana has volunteered and been a supporter of the Taft High School athletics program faithfully since she graduated in 2005.



JENNIFER HOGAN

Western Hills, Class of 1996, Basketball, Softball & Volleyball

During her Western Hills High School career, Jenny Hogan was a three-sport athlete in volleyball, basketball and softball, while also playing on a Select Soccer Team during the Fall and Spring. She was a recipient of 11 varsity letters.

Her athletic achievements for volleyball include First Team All-League 1994 and 1995, with an Honorable Mention All-League in 1993; Honorable Mention All City 1995; Cincinnati Post Scholar Athlete of the Week 1995; Best Defensive Player and MVP of Team in 1993.





2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES: LIVING ATHLETES



achievements include being Honorable Mention All-League 1995; Team Hustle Award 1994, with the 1995 team being League Champs and earning a first rank spot on a weekly poll for the city.

Softball accomplishments include First Team All-League and All City 1995, Honorable Mention All League 1994, Second team All-League 1996, Team MVP 1995. In 1995, the team was the first Cincinnati Public School softball team to qualify for the State Tournament. The team finished 5th overall.

While not only excelling in athletics, Jenny excelled in the classroom as well. She graduated Cum Laude with an Honors Diploma and 3rd in her entire class. She was a member of Daisy Chain, National Honor Society, French Honor Society, Quill and Scroll Honor Society and Who's Who Among American High School Students. She was featured in the Cincinnati Business Courier and was selected for the Student Ambassador Program. She also received a myriad of academic college scholarships.

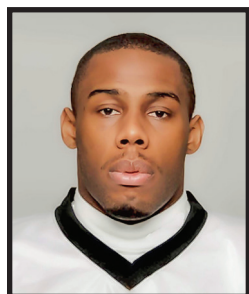
After graduating from Western Hills High school, Jenny went on to earn her bachelor's degree in Exercise Science at Wilmington College. During her time at Wilmington, she earned three varsity letters.

For Basketball, besides being the starting point guard since her sophomore year, some athletic achievements include being Honorable Mention All-League 1995; Team Hustle Award 1994, with the 1995 team being League Champs and earning a first rank spot on a weekly poll for the city.

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DANNY HORACE

Western Hills, Class of 2001, Basketball and Football

Danny Horace, a distinguished athlete from Western Hills High School, graduated in 2001, leaving a lasting impact on both basketball and football. His athletic journey began at a young age, playing basketball for the Price Hill Saints from ages 9 to 11, and competing in football with the WWA Warriors from ages 9 to 13. He then transitioned to AAU basketball, representing the Friars Club from ages 11 to 15 and the Queen City Prophets from ages 15 to 17.

At Western Hills, Danny became a four-year starter on the basketball team from 1997 to 2001. He made an impressive mark in his junior year, averaging 11 rebounds per game in 2000. As a senior, he led all players in Greater Cincinnati with an outstanding average of 12.1 rebounds per game, while also averaging 21.9 points. Under his leadership, the Mustangs achieved a remarkable 14-0 record in the Queen City Conference during both 2000 and 2001. His accolades during this time included earning a spot on the *Enquirer* D-I First Team, and being recognized as the Queen City Conference Player of the Year in 2001. Danny participated in both Nike and Adidas All-American Camps in 2000 and 2001, and he was a Gold Medal Winner at the USA Youth Basketball Festival in 2001. He was also nominated for the McDonald's All-American team and received Third Team All-State honors that year.

In addition to his basketball achievements, Danny was a two-year letterman in football, serving as a starter in 1998 and 1999. He was recognized as the Freshman MVP and the Sophomore MVP on the varsity team.

Danny continued his basketball career at Miami University from 2001 to 2005, where he was a four-year starter. Throughout his collegiate career, he averaged 15 points and 9.5 rebounds per game. His freshman year saw him named to the Mid-American Conference (MAC) All-Freshman Team. In 2005,





2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES: LIVING ATHLETES



he was a key player on the MAC All-Tournament Team and helped lead Miami to the MAC Championship. His outstanding performance earned him First Team All-MAC honors, and he concluded his college career with 1,230 points (16th all-time), 782 rebounds (8th all-time), 386 free throws (6th all-time), and 71 blocks (7th all-time). Danny finished 6th in the conference with 35 blocked shots and 88 offensive rebounds, ranking 5th in the nation for blocked shots among players 6'5" or shorter.

After college, Danny embarked on a professional basketball career that spanned from 2005 to 2015, playing in various countries including Finland, Germany, France, Austria, Luxembourg, and Argentina. Throughout his time abroad, he earned multiple selections to All-Star teams, showcasing his talent on an international stage.



ASHLEY LIVERPOOL

Walnut Hills, Class of 2010, Soccer & Track and Field

Ashley Little (Liverpool) is a soft yet impactful force in both entrepreneurship and the corporate world, seamlessly combining her passions for travel, fashion, and real estate. As the owner of Eleven Twenty Two The Label, a vibrant women's clothing brand, she is known for empowering confidence and individuality. Alongside her husband, Bilal Little, Ashley co-founded ABL Realty in 2020, where they have built a portfolio of rental properties.

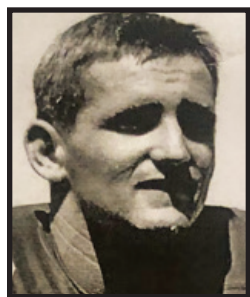
Ashley Liverpool is a remarkable track athlete whose achievements have left an indelible mark on the Cincinnati area. In 2010, she set the record for the 400 meters at the state meet, a time that stands as the third fastest all-time for girls in the region and was the second fastest overall at the time. Her prowess in relay events is equally impressive; at the 2008 State Track Meet, she was a key member of the Walnut Hills 4 x 200-meter relay team, which not only clinched first place but also set the area and state record for the fastest time in that event—still holding the second fastest time in the area at the time of her nomination.

Throughout her high school career, Ashley contributed to several relay teams that recorded some of the fastest times in Cincinnati history. She was part of the Walnut Hills 4 x 200-meter relay teams that achieved the area's eighth, twelfth, and twenty-fourth fastest times. Additionally, she played a pivotal role in the 4 x 400-meter relay team, helping to establish the area's fastest time in 2008, which remains the second fastest. Overall, Ashley was involved in seven of the top 25 4 x 400-meter relay teams throughout her time at Walnut Hills.

Her talent and dedication earned her a spot in the state meet in each of her four years, and in 2010, she was honored as one of LaRosa's High School Athletes of the Week. That same year, Ashley was recognized as Walnut Hills' Best Female Athlete, capping off a remarkable high school career that included setting six school records, including one for the 400 meters.

She was awarded a full scholarship to the University of Southern California, where she earned All-American honors and became a PAC-12 Champion in 2014.

Whether empowering women through her fashion brand, creating immersive luxury travel content, or building a thriving real estate portfolio, Ashley's unwavering dedication to excellence and creative vision ensures she leaves a lasting impact in everything she pursues.



PHILIP RITCHIE

Withrow, Class of 1961, Football

Philip was a three-sport athlete, earning nine letters and serving as captain of all three sports during his senior year (voted captain by his teammates in basketball). He was named MVP of the football team and received honorable mention All-City honors. As point guard, he led his basketball team to its first sectional and district championships since 1952. He pitched a no-hitter against rival Purcell High School and was recognized by his coaches with the 1961 Outstanding





2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES: LIVING ATHLETES



Athlete of the Year award for sportsmanship, leadership, ability, and participation. He was also selected to participate in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes conference in Milwaukee, WI.

Upon graduation, he received over a dozen football offers, as well as an alternate appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. He accepted a full football scholarship to Iowa State University, where he was chosen by the coaching staff as the outstanding offensive lineman on the undefeated freshman team. After being redshirted, he transferred to the University of Cincinnati, where he earned a football scholarship and was part of the 1964 MVC championship team. He also played baseball for the Bearcats during his senior year while earning his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Business Education.

He founded Delta Gypsum Inc., a drywall distribution company with seven locations in North Carolina and Tennessee. After 25 years, he relinquished management to his son, David, and son-in-law, John Kindt. Under their leadership, the company developed into the most sought-after family-owned drywall business in the Mid-Atlantic region, as recognized by numerous national M&A companies.

He served on the Board of Directors of Passage Home for over 15 years, a non-profit organization working with the inner-city community of Raleigh, NC.

He now resides in Raleigh, NC, married to his high school sweetheart, Barbara Heekin. They have four children: Kelly Kindt, Meghan Young, Stephen, and David Ritchie, all of whom live in North Carolina. He also has ten grandchildren.



ANDREA SMYTHE **CAPE, Class of 1989, Basketball**

Andrea Smythe attended the Cincinnati Academy of Physical Education (C.A.P.E.) from 1985 to 1989, where she emerged as a standout athlete. A natural talent, Andrea excelled in volleyball, softball, basketball, and track, but it was on the basketball court that "Smythe makes excellence simple," as headlined by *The Cincinnati Post* in 1988.

Starting as a lanky ninth grader with little knowledge of the game, Andrea quickly became a force to be reckoned with, earning a varsity starting position all four years. As team captain during her junior and senior years, she inspired her teammates and led by example, earning accolades such as First Team All-Conference and First Team All-District honors. She capped off her high school career by being named to the All-Ohio Second Team.

Andrea's talent and determination earned her an athletic scholarship to Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, where she continued to excel on the court. In 2022, she and her teammates were inducted into the NEO A&M Hall of Fame. She earned her associate's degree before returning to Cincinnati, where she played basketball at the University of Cincinnati. While pursuing her bachelor's degree, she was blessed with the opportunity to become a mother.

She later obtained her bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Xavier University while raising two amazing children and building a distinguished career within the Cincinnati Police Department. Over the past 28 years, she has served in various roles, including undercover officer, school resource officer, and homicide detective. Currently, she is the community outreach coordinator, where she recently spearheaded the construction of a basketball court in Price Hill, empowering the community just as she did on the court.

Andrea's belief that "it's not how you start, but how you finish"—instilled in her by her mother—continues to guide her. She aims to channel her passion for service into the nonprofit sector, focusing on helping youth who struggle in traditional learning environments.



SKYLER WILLIS-WALTON **Withrow, Class of 2011, Track and Field & Volleyball**

Skyler Walton (Willis) is a distinguished athlete and coach with a track record of success in both high school and collegiate athletics, as well as in coaching elite track and field teams at the national level. Her athletic journey began in junior high school, where she played volleyball, basketball, and ran track. It was in high school that she truly established herself as a standout athlete. She played





2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES: LIVING ATHLETES



volleyball for all four years, contributing to the varsity squad as a sophomore and earning recognition as the 2011 Volleyball CMAC Player of the Year.

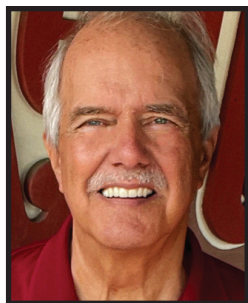
Skyler was also a four-year state qualifier in track and field, her pride and joy. The Withrow girls' track team finished as state runners-up in 2009 and 2011. In 2011, she broke the city record in the high jump with a height of 5'9". She was also the Florida Relays champion in the high jump at the University of Florida, achieving a jump of 5'8". That same year, her relay team became the Outdoor New Balance National Champions in the 800m Sprint Medley Relay (100-100-200-400), where she ran the 400m anchor leg in 54.7 seconds to secure the win.

Skyler continued her athletic excellence at the University of Akron, where she became a school record holder in multiple events: 100m hurdles (13.57), 400m hurdles (58.96), and the indoor 4x400m relay. Throughout her time at the University of Akron, she earned several honors in both indoor and outdoor competitions. Skyler was a three-year NCAA East Regional Qualifier in the 100m hurdles, 400m hurdles, and high jump, and she contributed to the University of Akron Women's Outdoor MAC Team Conference Championship in 2015, their first since 2009.

After a successful athletic career, Skyler transitioned into coaching, achieving significant accomplishments across multiple collegiate programs. She began her coaching career at Florida State University under the guidance of Coach Brandon Hon. Starting in March of 2016, she volunteered with the Noles, quickly proving herself to be a valuable asset to their staff. She later transitioned into a graduate assistant role from 2016 to 2018, where she helped coach conference champions and East Regional qualifiers. During her tenure, she guided the teams to top finishes in both indoor and outdoor conference championships, including a fourth-place finish for the women and a sixth-place finish for the men at the 2016 Indoor Conference Championships. In 2017, Skyler played a crucial role in helping Florida State achieve strong showings in the ACC.

After graduating with her Master's in Sport Management in 2018, Skyler landed her dream job with the Trojans at the University of Southern California. There, she served as an assistant sprints and hurdles coach from 2018 to 2021. At USC, Skyler played a pivotal role in leading the Trojans to multiple championships.

2024 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE: HONORARY



DAVE DIERKER

CPS District Athletic Director

After serving as a teacher, coach, and athletic director in New Jersey for 15 years, Dave Dierker became the athletic director of Mount Healthy City School District in August 1990. He held this position until he took over as the Cincinnati Public Schools Athletic Director in July 1998.

At CPS, Dierker championed the "Centers of Excellence" model, which led to top-tier facilities for football, baseball, track, and other sports that student-athletes across Cincinnati Public Schools could benefit from. He also restored sports programs for all 7th and 8th graders at CPS, allowing more students to experience the positive impacts of athletics at an earlier age. He instituted the first Outstanding Student-Athlete Recognition Banquet at CPS, building confidence and pride in hundreds of athletes over the years. Additionally, he helped form the Student Activities Foundation (SAF), which has evolved into Activities Beyond the Classroom. With Dave's vision and leadership, SAF/ABC helped level and stabilize athletics for boys and girls of all ages throughout the district.

In 2003, Dierker was recognized by the OIAAA as the Southwest District Athletic Administrator of the Year, and that same year, he was awarded the prestigious John R. Jacobs Award by the Cincinnati Foundation. He was inducted into the Ohio Athletic Administrators Hall of Fame in 2008.

Dierker served on the advisory board of the Reds Community Fund, providing CPS facilities for years of baseball and softball instruction, which ultimately became the P&G MLB Cincinnati Reds Youth Academy.

Dierker retired from CPS in 2016, and after a valiant, years-long battle against Parkinson's disease, he passed away on April 20, 2024, at the age of 74. He is survived by his loving wife of 35 years, Bonnie, and his sons, Ryan and Patrick.

His legacy will live on through the annual Dave Dierker Scholarship awarded by CPS, which recognizes one male and one female outstanding student-athlete each year with a \$2,000 scholarship and a laptop to aid in their future studies.





A huge thank you to the members of the Selection and Executive Committees for their hard work and dedication to the CPS Athletic Hall of Fame!

CONGRATULATIONS TO PREVIOUS CPS ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

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<https://www.cps-k12.org/athletics>

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