

Heidi (Geier) Woodard '95



Heidi Geier graduated in 1995 from Roncalli Catholic High School. During her four years, she competed for the Crimson Pride in multiple sports and collected countless memories with her coaches and teammates. In volleyball, she led the state in kills as a senior with 366. That mark and her career total of 809 ranked as Class B records.

In basketball, Geier helped the Lady Pride secure back-to-back state runner-up titles in 1994 and 1995, averaging 10.2 rebounds a game her senior year. She ended her career as a first-team selection for the Omaha World-Herald's All-Omaha area small school basketball team.

In track and field, Geier won the All-Class gold medal in the high jump her senior year with a leap of 5 feet, 9 inches.

Equally dedicated to her studies, Geier carried a 4.15 grade point average and ranked 10th in her senior class academically.

Because softball was not recognized as a high school sanctioned sport in Nebraska until her sophomore year (1993), Geier played both softball and basketball in her first high school fall season (1992). Once softball became sanctioned, she chose to concentrate on volleyball in the fall – while competing in softball throughout the summer.

She went on to play softball in college at Creighton University. She remains the program's all-time stolen base leader (83), while ranking in the top five all-time in batting average (.358), hits (243) and runs (129).

A three-time all-Missouri Valley Conference pick, Woodard started all but one game of her storied career to accept Creighton's Carl M. Reinert Female Student-Athlete of the Year Award in 1999. She also became the first athlete in school history to twice be named a CoSIDA Academic All-American. In 2006, she was inducted into the Creighton University Athletic Hall of Fame.

She is married to fellow Roncalli Catholic alumni, Ryan Woodard. Together, they have three children.

Molly (Belling) Kerkman '05



Molly (Belling) Kerkman is a class of 2005 graduate of Roncalli Catholic High School. She was the fourth out of five children in her family who all attended Roncalli Catholic. Born and raised in St. Cecilia's parish, Molly is a dedicated educator and accomplished athlete, whose passion for track and field has shaped her journey in athletics and beyond.

She participated in basketball, volleyball, and track and field, securing her place as a leading sprinter. Throughout her tenure at Roncalli Catholic, she won numerous state titles in track and field, including an all-class gold in the 100 meter dash, with a time of 11.9 seconds, as well as being a three-time Class B Nebraska Track and Field State Champion in the 100 and 200 meter dash.

Continuing her athletic achievements, Molly earned an athletic scholarship to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, where she became a 10-time All-American. During her college career, she excelled at the North Central Conference Championships and was recognized as the NCC Outdoor Track and Field Championship Outstanding Athlete two years in a row. Molly was also the back-to-back US Track and Field Outdoor North Central Regional Athlete of the Year, where she was recognized for her personal best times of 11.45 seconds in the 100 meter dash and 23.44 seconds in the 200 meter dash. She was a distinguished scholar as a member of the Women's All-Academic Team and Academic Honor Roll.

Molly graduated from UNO in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Elementary Education and later earned her Master's in Literacy with an endorsement in Early Childhood Education. Her career in education includes roles as a kindergarten teacher and instructional facilitator for Omaha Public Schools. She later achieved her Administration Certification in Spring of 2020. Molly has also contributed to the development of young athletes as an assistant track coach at Marian High School, where she coached multiple state qualifiers.

Currently, Molly works at Education Service Unit #3 (ESU #3) as a Pyramid Model Expansion Coach, focusing on the implementation of social-emotional strategies in preschool and kindergarten classrooms. She is committed to fostering a supportive learning environment for young children.

Outside of her professional life, Molly is married to her husband of three years, John, and they have one child, Charles. They enjoy spending time with family and numerous nieces and nephews. Molly's journey reflects a blend of athletic excellence and a deep commitment to education, faith, and family.

Ed Burns '73 Archbishop Rummel



Whether on the football field or on the basketball court, Ed Burns was a leader and a star. As a first team All-Metro and First Team All-State quarterback his senior year, Ed led Rummel to win the school's first conference title.

Leading the Metro with 20 touchdown passes, Ed helped lead Rummel to an 8-2 record while beating Bellevue 14-13 in the Metro Championship.

On the basketball court Ed was just as impressive. As a junior, Ed averaged 18 points and 13 rebounds, earning First Team All-Metro honors. His senior year he averaged 22 points and 12 rebounds, earning First Team All-Metro and First Team All-State honors. Ed helped Rummel get to the state basketball tournament for the first time in school history in 1971 and 1972.

In 1973 Ed was named the B'Nai Brith Athlete of the year. He was a Sunkist Top 100 All-American High School player. He was Stockyards Player of the Year. He was also Runner-up World Herald Athlete of the Year. Ed received a football scholarship to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he graduated in 1977. Ed was then drafted by the New Orleans Saints as a quarterback where he played from 1978-1981.

Ed is married to Reenie (McNeil) Burns and has seven children and 11 grandchildren. He worked for AOI Corporation for 32 years before retiring in 2021. Ed remains part of Roncalli Catholic football, as he has helped coach for the past 30 years.

Ed received the Pope St. John the XXIII award in 2024, which is the highest honor given by Roncalli Catholic for those who have made significant contributions and advancements in service to the children and friends of God.

Jim Skow '81



There has never been a more physical, tough, and better competitor in Roncalli Catholic football history than Jim Skow. Born June 29, 1963 in Omaha to Lavonne and Richard Skow, Jim attended St. James Catholic School.

He then attended Roncalli Catholic High School from 1977-1981, where he became one of the best football players in school history. In his senior year, he was All-State and honorable-mention All-America as a defensive tackle for Coach Doug Radtke.

Jim received a football scholarship to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he attended from 1981-1985. Jim had a wonderful career at Nebraska. In his senior year in 1985, he was First-Team All-American in the American Football Coaches Association. That year, he had 53 tackles, 43 of them unassisted. He had a school-record 25 tackles for loss, totaling a school-record 163 yards, including a school-record 15 quarterback sacks. For his career, he had a school-record 44 tackles for loss, totaling another school-record 268 yards. He finished his career at Nebraska with 93 total tackles, a remarkable 73 of them unassisted, and finished with 24 career sacks.

Jim was drafted by the Cincinnati Bengals in the third round of the 1986 NFL draft. In 1990, he was traded to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and played for the Seattle Seahawks in 1991 and the LA Rams in 1992. He finished his career with 24 sacks and one fumble recovery. His best season was in 1988 when he recorded 9.5 sacks and helped the Bengals reach Super Bowl XXIII.

After football, Jim attended law school at Stetson University from 1993 to 1996. He was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1997 and has been practicing law since. Jim has been married to Sue since 2011 and has a 26-year-old stepson, Nick, and a 13-year-old daughter, Katie.

Alec Bohm '15



Born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, Alec Bohm was a standout baseball player at Roncalli Catholic High School. Considered by many to be one of the best players in the state of Nebraska, Bohm was named All-Class, All-State both his junior and senior season's while playing for the Crimson Pride.

Bohm hit a combined .533 over his junior and senior campaigns with nine home runs, 40 RBI, and 40 runs scored in just 27 games.

Despite not being selected in the 2015 MLB Draft, Bohm furthered his baseball career by playing for the Wichita State Shockers. During his three years at Wichita State, he was a consistent offensive powerhouse, maintaining a batting average above .300. In addition to his collegiate success, Bohm honed his skills in summer leagues, playing in both the Coastal Plain League and the prestigious Cape Cod Baseball League.

In 2018, Bohm was drafted third overall by the Philadelphia Phillies, signing with the team that June. Despite an early knee injury that delayed his progress, he quickly advanced through the Phillies' farm system. By 2019, Bohm earned a spot in the All-Star Futures Game, showcasing his potential. Although the 2020 Minor League season was canceled due to COVID-19, he made his MLB debut that August, becoming the Phillies' everyday third baseman.

Bohm's rookie season was strong, but challenges in 2021 led to a brief return to the minors. However, his resilience paid off, as he returned as the Phillies' starting third baseman in 2022. He was a crucial part of the team's success, helping them win the National League pennant in 2022 and advancing to the 2023 National League Championship Series. His hard work and talent were further recognized this season when he was selected to take part in the Home Run Derby and was named to his first MLB All-Star Game. Bohm hit .280 last season with 15 home runs and 97 RBI in 143 games.

Roger Higgins



Roger Higgins was born in Schuyler, NE and raised by his grandparents, John and Lilly Higgins. He graduated from Schuyler High School in 1947 where he distinguished himself as a four-sport athlete and a member of the school band. After high school, he briefly attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln before enlisting in the U.S. Coast Guard, serving in the South Pacific. Upon his return, he attended Wayne State College, becoming a two-sport All-American in football and basketball.

During his time at Wayne State, Roger met his future wife, Donna Sweeney, R.N., and they soon married. Although drafted by the L.A. Rams, Roger chose to prioritize his growing family and he declined the opportunity in order to focus on his role as a dedicated husband and father. Together, they moved to Omaha in 1954, where Higgins got his first teaching and coaching position at Cathedral High School. He remained for 19 years while also being promoted to Activities Director and Principal. During this time, Roger and Donna also raised their eight children. All of whom graduated from Catholic schools, and many went on to follow in their parents' footsteps by pursuing careers in education, athletics, and/or healthcare.

In 1972, he was awarded the World Herald Coach of the Year after leading his boys' varsity basketball team to their first state title while also being an early adopter of advocacy in girls' sports by coaching young women in the Catholic Youth Organization. After leaving Cathedral, he taught and coached for six years at Omaha Bryan High School, but during those few short years, he never forgot his Faith. The Catechism lessons his grandmother imparted to him as a child led him to follow his true vocation, and he returned to Catholic schools. In 1980, his legacy began at Roncalli Catholic High School where he would remain until his death.

At Roncalli Catholic, he became an institution. Higgins wore many hats here including: teacher, athletic director, groundskeeper, but most dear to him, coach. Mr. Higgins coached football, basketball, cross-country, and track and field. Higgins' coaching style was unforgettable. His former athletes and assistant coaches would describe his style as "an expectation of excellence"—or, as some would say, simply, "old school." However, for Higgins, sports weren't only about winning—they were about winning with dignity and grace. To him, being excellent didn't just mean being a good athlete; it meant being a good person.

After retiring from education in 1992, he remained at Roncalli Catholic as the groundskeeper and a track and field coach. While maintaining the grounds, Higgins also enjoyed traveling the country to support each of his 18 grandchildren in their activities including, everything from little league baseball to dance competitions to NFL games. For some of those grandchildren, he didn't have to travel far, as seven of them graduated from Roncalli Catholic, and Higgins could be seen (and heard) from the stands at all home and away games.

While Higgins loved all athletics, he was uniquely dedicated to track and field which he coached until his death. Roger Higgins' last day as a coach was May 22nd, 2010—the Nebraska State Track and Field Meet. Just a few weeks later, June 10, 2010, he passed away. In the same year of his passing, Roger and his family were honored with induction into the Nebraska Coaches Association Hall of Fame, a recognition of their lifelong contributions to athletics.

Roger Higgins' impact extended beyond wins and titles; he inspired a love for faith, family, and the pursuit of excellence in everyone he encountered. His legacy is not only etched in halls of fame or on the Roncalli Catholic track but lives on in the values he instilled in his family, students, athletes, and community. This honor reminds us all of the difference one dedicated life can make.

Dave Miller '69 Archbishop Rummel



Born and raised in Omaha, Dave has dedicated nearly 60 years to the world of sports and education, beginning with his foundational years at St. Bernard's and culminating in a distinguished career at Roncalli Catholic High School. A proud graduate of Rummel High School in 1969, he was a three-sport letterman.

After earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in 1978, Dave began teaching at Roncalli Catholic that fall. Over the years, he coached various sports, including football, basketball, boys soccer, track and field, and boys tennis, amassing over 200 victories in boys' soccer alone.

In 1999, Dave was honored as the Class B Soccer Coach of the Year, leading the soccer team to a remarkable season that culminated in a State Runner-up finish and a national ranking of #13, with a record of 19-1. He also proudly coached the Soccer Shrine Bowl in 1994 and 1999.

Beyond coaching, Dave played a pivotal role in establishing the Roncalli Catholic Booster Club during the 1994-1995 school year and served on the Board of Directors for the Nebraska Schools Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NSIAAA) from 1998 to 2007, receiving the Distinguished Service Award in 2007.

A devoted family person, he has been married for 49 years and is the proud parent of three Roncalli Catholic graduates (1997, 2000, 2003) and a grandparent to eight grandchildren, all actively involved in sports and dance. Dave continues to contribute to Roncalli Catholic, running the clock for football games since retiring, solidifying his status as a beloved figure in the Roncalli Catholic Community.

Dave's commitment to sports, education, and community makes him a deserving inductee into the Athletic Hall of Fame, where his legacy will inspire future generations.

Bill Schlueter



With an educational background of St. Rose Grade School, Archbishop Ryan High School and Creighton University, it should come as no surprise that Bill Schlueter pursued a career in Catholic education. The path to Rummel/Roncalli Catholic was not as clear.

When selecting possible student teaching options, Rummel was not on his list. So imagine his surprise when he was assigned to the north Omaha school. He spent his semester under the guidance of Harry Forehand and thought that his association with the Christian Brothers School was over. A phone call in the spring of 1969 changed everything. He was offered a position teaching English for the following school year. Thinking it was as good a place as any to start, he accepted the position. Little did he know that over fifty years and hundreds of ugly ties later, he would still be involved here as a test proctor, football announcer, and Trivia night emcee.

The job also came with a position as cross country coach which was ironic since he had never seen a race in his life. That position was followed by coaching track and field, softball, baseball, girls basketball, golf, and his favorite volleyball. He also served as Director of Students/Disciplinarian for 10 years.

Bill was named Outstanding Young Man of America in 1982, the Archdiocese of Omaha Metro Secondary School Teacher of the Year in 2001, and given the Pope St. John XXIII Award in 2005, but says that his proudest achievement is affecting the lives of over 6,000 students at Rummel/Roncalli Catholic.

Bill has been married for 37 years to his wife Mary who is the Director of Learning Support Services/Testing Coordinator at College of St. Mary. They have one son Mark who keeps the coaching tree alive by serving as the JV boys basketball coach at Roncalli Catholic.

Dan Vaccek '90



The bloodlines of this next inductee run deep within the walls of Roncalli Catholic. His father was a teacher and coach from 1967 through 1977 at Rummel / Roncalli Catholic High School. His elder sister Susan graduated from Roncalli Catholic in 1986 and his elder brother Tom in 1987. This inductee managed to graduate in the highly distinguished class of 1990. Younger brother Paul was built for public school life.

This inductee was a four-year varsity letterman and a baseball player for the Crimson Pride. Pitched on three state tournament qualifying teams and was the assistant coach for the 1991 Class B Legion State Championship team from Roncalli Catholic.

However, this inductee is not here for his long-past athletic prowess. In August of 2012, when his daughter was beginning her freshman year with the Crimson Pride, he joined the Booster Club and began volunteering at school events. In March 2013, he graciously accepted the request to be added to the ballot for President of the Roncalli Catholic Booster Club. In April of 2013, he was voted President of the Booster Club. By the fall of 2013, he had completely revamped our concessions stand from top to bottom. At this point, he hit the ground running, searching for ways to grow our great Booster Club and never say no to the wants and needs of our coaches and student-athletes. To this day, he remains our Booster Club President, nearly 12 school years later. Throughout those 12 years, this inductee and our great Booster Club, under his leadership, have given back over \$500,000.00 to the school.

He has been married to his loving and supporting wife Connie since 10/10/10, a number easy enough for him to remember.

He has three grown children that he cares deeply for. Stepdaughter Jocelyn, Samantha (Roncalli Catholic class of 2016 and current fourth grade teacher at MOQ & the famous Drew, who was Roncalli Catholic's Honorary graduate of the class of 2024, affectionately known by many as DEW. A future son-in-law has already been welcomed into the family. In June of 2025, Matthew & Samantha will make it official.

This inductee has always had an unwavering passion for Roncalli Catholic and the success of Crimson Pride athletics. He has given more time, talent & treasure to the Roncalli Catholic community and Crimson Pride athletics than most of us will ever know.

1996 Boys Class B Basketball State Champions



The 1995-1996 Roncalli Catholic Boys Basketball Team went on roller-coaster ride of a season. From the ultimate lows, to the highest of highs, this team saw it all. It took one special team manager, Jim "Buckshot" Buckley, to keep this team together. He was the inspiration, heart, and soul of this team and helped them forget about their individual goals, and focus on one. That goal was to win for Buckshot.

Entering district play, Roncalli Catholic was struggling with a 13-9 record. They lost their last home game to a 4-13 Crete team and fell out of the rankings. From that moment on, the team came together to fight for one thing, and that was for Buckshot to see his team play one last time. Three weeks prior, Jim Buckley collapsed before one of the basketball games and had to be resuscitated right in front of the team. Buckley remained in the hospital for weeks and was sent home right before districts. However, Buckley wasn't well enough to leave his house. So the goal of the season changed because the only way Buckshot could ever see his team play again, is if they made it to the state championship, where he could watch it live on TV.

Districts saw this group of guys turn into a team, and before each game, the team would visit with Buckshot and take his spirit with them. With wins over South Sioux City and #9 Elkhorn, Roncalli Catholic was going back to state for only the fourth time in the school's history (two Rummel, one Roncalli Catholic). With a hard fought victory over #2 Ralston in the first round, and a comeback win over #1 Beatrice in the second, Roncalli Catholic made their dream a reality and Buckley would be able to watch his team one last time. With Buckshot's spirit in their hearts, Roncalli Catholic won the state championship in a back-and-forth game over #6 Hastings.

Jim Buckley meant everything to this basketball team. He was their hero. Jim passed away on October 3, 2013, at the age of 35. May he rest in peace and forever be remembered as the captain of the 1996 State Championship Team.

Justin Clark, Josh Meyer, Coach Jim Meister, Coach Doug Woodard, Coach Dan Schinzel, Ryan Meyer, Luke Wharton, Gunnar Brown, Gary Holstein, T.J. Orr, Sean Conway, Nick Heller, Dallas Dlouhy, Mike Bolter, Aaron Woodard, Jim "Buckshot" Buckley, Scott Giles, Ryan Klaas.