Celebrating Alumni Achievement

2025 INDUCTION CEREMONY

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Ottawa Hills Local Schools

ATHLETIC HALL of FAME

September 18, 2025

Sylvania Country Club

Program

Celebrating **Alumni** *Achievement*

Thursday, September 18, 2025

5:00 p.m. Reception, dinner and induction ceremony
Sylvania Country Club – 5201 Corey Rd., Sylvania

Friday, September 19, 2025

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

Inductees will be recognized on the field at halftime of the football game.

About the Awards

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, Mary Geiger, Anjali Gupta, Chris Hardman, Jackie Hylant, Margretta Laskey, George Lathrop, Ben McMurray, Erica Silk, and Judd Silverman.

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, Mary Geiger, Anjali Gupta, Chris Hardman, Jackie Hylant, Margretta Laskey, George Lathrop, Ben McMurray, Erica Silk, and Judd Silverman.

The Class of 2025

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

Sarah Bloomquist ('90)
Award-winning journalist, master storyteller, and community champion

Susan Feniger ('71)
James Beard Award winner, food television star and culinary pioneer

Jim Klein ('62)
Distinguished law professor, legal education innovator and access to justice advocate

Geof Meyers ('62)
Corporate finance leader, community board champion, and philanthropic leader

Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Eliot Browarsky ('10)
Two-sport standout and Division I collegiate soccer star

Burt Jamieson ('80)
Record-setting basketball scorer, three-sport athlete and collegiate competitor

Megan Jamieson ('07)
Big Ten Distinguished Scholar and Sportsmanship Award recipient

Rodger Owen ('58)
Green Bear sports legend and Fair Trade coffee industry pioneer

2008 Boys Soccer Team
State championship team and Toledo-area trailblazers

Ahmed Abdel Halim
Tim Bosserman
Evan Brochin
Eliot Browarsky
Jarrett Bruner
Josh Bruner
Ben Bryant
Coach Jorge Diaz
Kevin Elliott
Logan Glosser
Reed Glosser
Nick Gore
Jack Jamieson
David Joseph
Sam Kuehnle
Coach Greg McElroy
Ian Monroe
Kevin Nugent
Drew Rohm-Ensing
Sam Rumpf
Jack Saddemi
Emerson Saum
Ian Trickey
Alec VanHeyst

This program was updated in May of 2026 to ensure that all players who contributed to the 2008 Soccer Team's State Championship win are appropriately included and recognized.

Past Honorees

Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

2024 INDUCTEES
Amy (Robbins) Kadens ('99)
Brad Rubini ('79)
Penny (Katchka) Staelin ('64)
Steve Staelin ('63)

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

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)
Robert (Bob) Hinkle ('56) (in memoriam)
Amul Thapar ('87)
Gary M. Woodbury ('58)

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

2024 INDUCTEES
Coach Chris Hardman
Jeff Gehring ('61)
Andy Lott ('88)
Jack Loy ('77)
Lindy Redmann ('74)
Kimberly (Kos) Southall ('93)
1992/93 and 1993/94 Field Hockey Teams
1986 Varsity Baseball Team

2023 INDUCTEES
John Buckey ('69)
Craig Burkhart ('69)
Coach Richard Kuzma
Michael Tanner ('73)

Girls Athletic Association ('63)
Penny Carver Dean ('63)
Marianne Fleck Gehring ('63)
Diane Smith Kerin ('63)
Jane Ulmer Kuta ('63)
Gretta Fleck Laskey ('63)
Margo Seney Morrow ('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)

Susan Feniger

James Beard Award winner, food television star and culinary pioneer

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Ottawa Hills Local Schools

Susan Feniger, Ottawa Hills High School Class of 1971, is an award-winning chef, restaurateur, cookbook author and television personality who revolutionized Los Angeles' culinary landscape. Born in Toledo, Ohio, to parents Ruth Alice and Yale Feniger, and raised in Ottawa Hills, she credits her mother as a major inspiration.

Susan graduated from Pitzer College in 1976 with a degree in economics, business and psychology. While studying at Pitzer, she worked in the school cafeteria where her supervisor, a former Army cook, recognized her affinity for the kitchen and suggested culinary school. She convinced her economics professor to let her complete her degree by doing an independent study at the Culinary Institute of America (CIA). After graduating from the CIA in 1977, she made a groundbreaking move joining the nearly all-male kitchen at Chicago's Le Perroquet, where she serendipitously met the only other woman in the kitchen, Mary Sue Milliken.

After working for Wolfgang Puck at Ma Maison in Los Angeles, Susan went to the French Riviera to further hone her skills and returned to open City Café with Milliken in 1981. In 1985, they opened the Mexican restaurant Border Grill in the original City Café space, and later that same year, Susan earned a James Beard Award cementing her impact on the culinary world. The restaurant later expanded to Las Vegas' Mandalay Bay Resort. In 1998, they opened the Latin-flavored restaurant Ciudad in Los Angeles.

The duo became pioneers of modern Mexican cuisine and broke barriers as female restaurateurs in a male-dominated industry. They brought their innovative approaches to The Food Network with nearly 400 episodes of "Too Hot Tamales" and "Tamales World Tour" in the 1990s. In 1993, Susan and Mary Sue appeared with Julia Child in her PBS series "Cooking with Master Chefs."

In 2009, Susan opened her first solo project, Street, a multi-ethnic eatery featuring street foods from around the world. The restaurant name reflected her philosophy: "There's a cultural connection found on the street. I connect that way to food and to the people making it." In 2013, she opened Mud Hen Tavern at Street's former location, named after childhood memories of attending Toledo Mud Hens baseball games with her father. Most recently, she and Milliken opened Socalo in Santa Monica in 2019 and Alice B. in Palm Springs in 2023.

Susan appeared on the second season of "Top Chef Masters" in 2010, raising $32,500 for the Scleroderma Research Foundation. She has co-authored six cookbooks and received numerous honors, including the 2018 Julia Child Award and the Elizabeth Burns Lifetime Achievement Award from the California Restaurant Association in 2013.

Susan is deeply committed to community service, serving on the boards of the Scleroderma Research Foundation since 1988, the Los Angeles LGBT Center, and the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board. She co-founded Women Chefs & Restaurateurs and Chefs Collaborative, organizations promoting women's advancement in the restaurant industry and building better food systems.

Today, Susan continues her culinary innovations through Mundo Hospitality Group, which includes multiple restaurants, food trucks and catering services, always guided by her passion for exploring global cuisines and bringing authentic flavors to Los Angeles diners. Sharing in her life is Susan's wife, Liz Lachman.

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Sarah Bloomquist

Award-winning journalist, master storyteller, and community champion

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Ottawa Hills Local Schools

Sarah Bloomquist has become one of the most recognizable and trusted reporters in Philadelphia, the fourth largest television market in the United States.

As an anchor and reporter at WPVI-TV, part of ABC and the Walt Disney Company, she has covered the most important stories of the last three decades. At the anchor desk, she leads 6abc's Noon and 4 p.m. newscasts and is a host of the political roundtable program "Inside Story". As a reporter, she has developed a reputation as a master storyteller with interviewing skills that can get everyone from top elected officials to people on the street to share their tales.

Sarah has traveled extensively to cover events that matter most to Philadelphia viewers. Her work has taken her around the world, including stories in Italy, Egypt and Kenya. In the United States, Sarah has covered multiple Presidential Inaugurations, political conventions, wildfires, hurricanes, as well as the World Series and Super Bowls and, of note, the season finale of "Dancing with the Stars".

During the COVID lockdown, she repeatedly converted

rooms in her home into television studios, and in addition to covering the daily news during that uncertain time, she delivered uplifting stories to 6abc's viewers, with the goal of keeping positivity and hope in their lives.

Sarah's versatility as an anchor and her commitment to local philanthropy have her hosting annual telethons, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for nonprofits including Philabundance, the region's largest charity serving food-insecure people.

Before coming to Philadelphia in 2002, Sarah had an award-winning career in her hometown at Toledo's WTVG. She covered many local and national stories including the Columbine Massacre and she traveled to New York to cover the 9/11 attacks. In 2001, she was named Best Reporter in Ohio by the Associated Press and in 2002, she was awarded First Place in the Spot News Category for her coverage from New York. She was also nominated for two Emmy awards for her live coverage from Ground Zero.

Sarah's storytelling career began in sixth grade at Ottawa Hills Elementary School where she was selected to be a part of a kids' journalism program on WGTE called "The Right Side Up" where young people discussed current news events. In eighth grade, her English teacher, Ms. Alice Lora, suggested she consider a career in journalism. Ms. Lora had taught the legendary ABC News anchor Diane Sawyer during her early teaching career in Kentucky and noticed Sarah shared a similar interest in writing and reporting. In 10th grade, Ms. Lora recommended Sarah to a scholastic journalism program at Columbia University in New York. She would later select Sarah to be a co-editor of The Arrowhead newspaper. Later, Sarah contributed to the Miami Student newspaper at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. She went on to get her master's degree in broadcast journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in Chicago.

In 2001, Sarah was named Best Reporter in Ohio by the Associated Press and in 2002, she was awarded First Place in the Spot News Category for her coverage from New York. She was also nominated for two Emmy awards for her live coverage from Ground Zero.

Throughout her career Sarah has been a champion of journalism and its power to impact lives. She tells stories that are important to everyone in the community, and as a member of that community she is proud of the impact she has made.

In her free time, Sarah enjoys playing tennis with her husband, Justin, and daughter, Andie, who is entering eighth grade.

Geof Meyers

Corporate finance leader, community board champion, and philanthropic leader

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
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Geoffrey "Geof" Meyers is a prominent business leader and dedicated community volunteer whose roots run deep in Ottawa Hills. A native son who attended Ottawa Hills High School from kindergarten through graduation in 1962, Geof represents the values of excellence and service that define the community. His father, Dr. Ward Meyers, moved to Toledo to establish a successful surgical practice, while his mother Ruth was actively involved in community organizations, most notably the Toledo Museum of Art. During his time at OHHS, Geof demonstrated early leadership qualities by playing football and serving as Student Council vice president.

After graduating from Northwestern University in 1966 with a bachelor's degree in history and comparative literature, Geof furthered his education by earning an MBA from Ohio State University. He also fulfilled his military obligation by serving six years in the Ohio National Guard. He launched his distinguished corporate career at Owens-Illinois (O-I), where he spent two decades advancing through increasingly responsible financial and planning supervisory positions. His expertise was particularly evident when he supervised the O-I Treasury Department during the late 1980s, a critical period when Kohlberg Kravis Roberts (KKR) partnered with O-I management in a major leveraged buyout of the company.

Following the O-I restructuring and the subsequent sale of numerous company divisions, Geof participated in the strategic acquisition of Health Care and Retirement Corp (HCR) in 1991. He assumed multiple executive roles as executive vice president, chief financial officer, treasurer, and board director, positions he held until 2006. During his tenure, Geof played a pivotal role in HCR's acquisition of the former Manor Care Inc. in the late 1990s, creating HCR ManorCare and nearly doubling the company's size to 60,000 employees with more than $3 billion in annual revenue.

In 2006, Geof transitioned from corporate executive to focus on his expanding role as a community leader and corporate board member. His commitment to public service is evident through his extensive involvement in local organizations. He served multiple years on the Ottawa Hills Zoning Commission, contributed to the Mercy System board, and was appointed to the prestigious Board of Trustees of the State Teachers' Retirement System. His financial expertise proved invaluable when he joined the Toledo Community Foundation board, where he chaired both the Finance and Investment committees. He also brought his leadership skills to the Trust Company of Toledo, serving as its chairman.

His corporate board experience includes chairman roles at PharMerica Corporation (NYSE) until its sale to Walgreens/

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KKR, and director positions at HCA Healthcare and Welltower (both NYSE companies).

Geof married Molly Murtagh in 1982 while both worked at O-I, including assignments in Düsseldorf, Germany. They have four children: Amy (Cincinnati), Geoff Jr. (Ottawa Hills), Tom (Los Angeles), and Jack (Raleigh), all OHHS alumni through junior high, plus five grandchildren. Geof also has two children: Kurt and Melinda (North Carolina) and four grandchildren from a previous marriage. While Geof enjoyed the challenges of corporate life and governance, he also enjoys his family, Ottawa Hills and friends, many of whom he's had since Ottawa Hills school days. He has pursued golf, skiing, shooting and waterfowl hunting. He and Molly live in Toledo, Naples, Florida, and Harbor Springs, Michigan.

James M. Klein

Distinguished law professor, legal education innovator and access to justice advocate

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Ottawa Hills Local Schools

James (Jim) M. Klein, Class of 1962, enjoyed a distinguished 38-year career at the University of Toledo College of Law before retiring in 2009. Originally planning to become a dentist like his late father and brother, Jim was a pre-dental major at the University of Michigan. However, in his third year at Michigan he decided that he wanted to be an attorney. In May 1966 Jim received his B.A. in English and chose to attend law school at Case Western Reserve University. In May 1969 Jim graduated in the top 15 percent of his class and served as an editorial board member of the law review.

In August 1969 Jim was awarded a fellowship with the Reginald Heber Smith Community Lawyer Fellowship Program sponsored by the University of Pennsylvania Law School. After completing the Program's training session, Jim was placed with Contra Costa Legal Services Program in Richmond, CA. He served as a legal services attorney from 1969-71, representing low-income clients in federal and state court actions.

In July 1971, Jim joined the University of Toledo College of Law faculty and significantly impacted clinical legal education, helping establish the school's Legal Clinic to allow students to gain practical experience. In 2000, he founded the Public Service Externship Clinic for students to engage in public service work.

During his tenure, Jim served six years as a member of the ABA Accreditation Committee and participated in more than 20 law school accreditation inspections. He was the University's NCAA faculty athletics representative for 17 years and was the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from 1992 to 1993 and the Interim Dean from 1993-1995. He also was a visiting professor at the University of New Mexico, the University of San Diego, the University of Western Australia, and several other law schools. In 2015, Jim was awarded a Fulbright Specialist grant to teach a course in U.S. civil procedure to Chinese law graduates at East China University of Law and Political Science in Shanghai.

Jim received the Access to Justice Distinguished Service Award in 2001 and he authored articles and books on various legal topics, including Ohio civil practice and employment law. Upon his retirement in 2009, the law school established an endowed fund in Jim's honor to support law students working with indigent clients.

Jim and his wife, Heide, moved to Charleston, South Carolina, in December 2009. From January 2010 to January 2018, he was a full-time visiting faculty member at the Charleston School of Law, where he taught Civil Procedure I and II and directed the law school's .xternship Program.

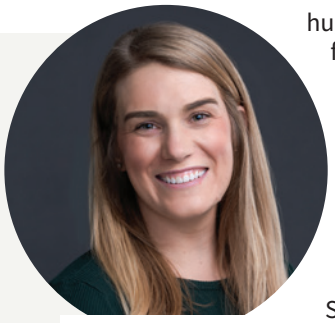
Jim has served as a part-time labor arbitrator since 1980. For nearly a decade, he has served as co-trustee on an asbestos bankruptcy trust established by a company that filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the United States Bankruptcy Code to pay personal injury claims caused by exposure to asbestos. He also volunteers as a mentor to a junior high student each school year.

Jim emphasized the importance of diversity in legal education for effective teaching and learning throughout his career. Reflecting on his formative years, he said, "I cannot emphasize enough the positive impact of growing up in the Village of Ottawa Hills and how lucky I was to receive the best K-12 education one could possibly hope for."

Reflecting on his formative years, James said, "I cannot emphasize enough the positive impact of growing up in the Village of Ottawa Hills and how lucky I was to receive the best K-12 education one could possibly hope for."

Megan Jamieson

Big Ten Distinguished Scholar and Sportsmanship Award recipient



Growing up in Ottawa Hills, Megan Jamieson could not wait for her chance to put on a Green Bear uniform, like her father, aunts, uncles and cousins had before her. She was born into a family that valued the excitement of competition and dedication to hard work.

From a young age, Megan's world revolved around playing sports. Her summers were spent swimming, playing catch in the backyard, shooting hoops, and playing pickup games with her neighbors. Sports were always her favorite pastime, and as she got older, she could see a future as an athlete. For Megan, sports brought not just competition but also joy.

"By eighth grade, I knew I wanted to play sports in college. I was determined to make the varsity team in field hockey, basketball, and softball the next year, and I was relentless in my preparation to be able to do so."

"Megan was devoted to practicing and setting goals at a young age. She didn't cry if she lost. She just worked harder the next day, and elevated those around her with her work ethic," her father, Burt, reflected.

During her athletic career at Ottawa Hills, Megan went on to earn 14 varsity letters across four sports. Megan began her field hockey career as a member of the 2003 State Runner-Up team and went on to be the team MVP and third-team all-state in 2006. On the basketball court, she captained the 2006 district championship team and the 2007 TAAC championship team, and led the Green Bears to a top three ranking in the state in 2007. She became the third female at OHHS to score 1,000 points and took home numerous first-team TAAC and district awards for her performance and academics throughout her tenure as a Green Bear.

Some of Megan's fondest memories as a Green Bear were team dinners at friends' houses, singing the fight song after huge wins, but the memories she cherishes most are from sharing the field and court with her younger sister, Katherine, during her senior year. "Since we had played with each other so much growing up, I instinctively knew where she was going to be on the court. It was hard to stop us, and it made every game more fun."

Megan went on to play field hockey at Northwestern University and completed her undergraduate and master's degrees as a Wildcat. She was a three-year starter, a Big Ten Distinguished Scholar, and the Big Ten Sportsmanship Award recipient in 2011.

Megan lives in Chicago and stays active through CrossFit and walks with her dog, Coach. She is now in her second year coaching high school field hockey, and has been thrilled to give back and return to a sport that has given her so much in return.

> "By eighth grade, I knew I wanted to play sports in college. I was determined to make the varsity team in field hockey, basketball, and softball the next year, and I was relentless in my preparation to be able to do so."

Burt Jamieson

Record-setting basketball scorer, three-sport athlete and collegiate competitor

The youngest of five boys and a sister, Burt was blessed with many mostly loving coaches at home who taught him how to catch, throw and shoot. His favorite sport was whatever season it was at the time. As he grew, basketball became his favorite sport. It didn't hurt that his best friends and teammates Paul Abendroth and Reeves Northrup shared this passion, and he developed a goal of playing college basketball. His off-season sports were golf and baseball.

Burt played three years of varsity golf for the Green Bears and was fortunate to be on teams that qualified for state all three years (1977, 1978, 1979). The 1978 team was state runner-up. Burt finished eighth, third and second individually. His senior year he was a district medalist. Later in life he enjoyed multiple successes as club and senior club champions at local country clubs.

After basketball season ended, Burt headed to Geresy Field where he started for the varsity as a freshman (it was good to be left-handed and pitch). His coach was Chris Hardman in his first year as varsity coach. Burt's career batting average was .349. As a senior, he hit .426 with five home runs when a ragtag team put together the best OHHS winning record at the time, making it to regionals.

On the hardwood, Burt and his best friends had considerable success. He was a three-year starter for the 1977-80 Green Bear teams that only lost eight games in three years. Burt had a magical night in December 1978, when he set the single-game scoring record of 45 points in front of all his siblings who were home for the holidays. For his career, Burt averaged 12.2 points and 8 rebounds per game for the Green Bears. Burt went on to play for Wittenberg University,

Burt credits his success to loving parents who never pushed but provided opportunity, siblings who helped hone both his desire and skills, and two notable coaches: Chris Hardman and Larry Hunter (Wittenberg).

a Division III school with a great basketball tradition. Burt was sixth man on the 1983 Tigers national runner-up team. He also played one season of golf and baseball for Wittenberg.

Burt credits his success to loving parents who never pushed but provided opportunity, siblings who helped hone both his desire and skills, and two notable coaches: Chris Hardman and Larry Hunter (Wittenberg). “Coach Hardman had a knack for infusing confidence in me and has become a lifelong friend.” Coach Hunter taught leadership skills, how to compete at a higher level, mental toughness and how to win. These lessons have served Burt for a lifetime.

Burt also volunteered his time to help young Ottawa Hills athletes, coaching Little League, travel baseball and basketball. He also worked with varsity basketball players who wanted to get better, stressing fundamentals and the little things and giving back some of what he received from others. His advice to youth is to find some activity (sport or other) that you love and then pursue it. Join a “winning” program and learn the process of success. “Make sure you thank those who have had a positive impact on you.”

Rodger Owen

Green Bear sports legend and Fair Trade coffee industry pioneer

ATHLETIC HALL of FAME

Rodger Owen, Class of 1958, was born in Toledo, Ohio, and raised in Ottawa Hills on Underhill Road. At OHHS, he earned 14 varsity letters, including two in track for sprints and high jump. He played tight end and tailback in a single wing offense, helping turn around a football program that had been struggling. Beginning in the middle of his sophomore season, the team won 20 consecutive games alongside players like John Hill, Jim White and Dave Glow, each a former Athletic Hall of Fame award winner. During his junior season, the team’s record was 304 points scored with only 12 points scored against them, ranking No. 17 in Ohio regardless of class.

During his four-year basketball career at Ottawa Hills, the team won 58 games and lost only 11 and Rodger started all four years in every game. Rodger went on to graduate from Denison University in 1962 with a double major in speech and economics, where he made varsity basketball as a freshman and was elected vice president and treasurer of the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity.

After serving as a U.S. Navy supply corps officer on the USS Hoel (DDG-13) in San Diego, Rodger returned to Toledo and joined Owens Illinois (O-I) Forest Products Division for 10 years, earning membership in the Sales Builder Club as one of the top 10 out of 150 eligible salespeople. In 1975, Rodger left O-I to start Bucks County Coffee Company in his basement with the mission to “find and roast the finest coffee in the world.” Over 20 years, he built the company to 40 retail stores and a large wholesale business serving Sam’s Club, Sunoco, Safeway and Walmart. His wife, Kathy, was an active executive partner.

Rodger revolutionized the coffee industry through several innovations. He invented the first coffee kiosk inside supermarkets, requiring only 100 square feet with supermarkets handling advertising and revenue collection while his company operated with one employee. He also participated with a Canadian coffee company and Colombian Coffee Co-op in a program called La Verada, paying farmers 10 cents per pound above market price to fund six new school rooms, a medical clinic and internet connection.

As president of the Specialty Coffee Association, Rodger grew membership from 500 to 8,200 companies worldwide during the early specialty coffee movement. Most significantly, he was instrumental in helping Yale graduate Paul Rice launch Fair Trade International, facilitating Rice’s work with the association’s International Relations Committee. Fair Trade International has grown from zero to $1 billion annually, money given back to coffee farmers to improve their lives.

At OHHS, Rodger earned 14 varsity letters, including two in track for sprints and high jump. Beginning in the middle of his sophomore season, the football team won 20 consecutive games alongside players like John Hill, Jim White and Dave Glow, each a former Athletic Hall of Fame award winner.

There is no doubt that Rodger’s incredible tenacity as a young athlete helped him persevere in his entrepreneurial success later in life. Rodger is still very physically active and enjoys working out four times a week at LA Fitness.

Eliot Browarsky

Two-sport standout and Division I collegiate soccer star

ATHLETIC HALL of FAME

Eliot Browarsky, class of 2010, was a basketball and soccer standout who grew up with a ball either in his hands or at his feet. His parents got him into sports at an early age where he developed a deep love for competition and winning. Growing up playing travel basketball, soccer, and baseball – he was constantly at a game, practice, or tournament. He credits both of his working parents as the real MVPs of his athletic success.

One of Eliot's most cherished soccer moments includes the 2008 soccer state championship. Coach McElroy and senior captains Ben Bryant, Jack Jamieson, and Sam Kuehnle were remarkable leaders. In the state final, it was McElroy's motivating words at halftime after being severely outplayed but keeping the game tied, saying "We bent but didn't break, all it takes is one" before Kuehnle scored an incredible game winner.

> In basketball, Eliot credits his dad for spending countless hours in the driveway and getting him heavily involved on the Toledo basketball scene, often playing on 2-3 teams across the city.

In basketball, one of Eliot's most cherished moments came in 2010. After making it out of the district for the first time in 20+ years, Ottawa Hills took down two Putnam County powerhouses in the regionals at Bowling Green State University in front of electric crowds. Qualifying for the state semi-finals for the first time in school history, they finished the season 24-2 and proved that Coach Lindsay's program belonged for the years to come.

Eliot credits several people for their significant impacts on his athletic career. Prior to coaching at Ottawa Hills, McElroy had coached Eliot at Pacesetter Soccer Club. McElroy was never easy on him and instilled discipline that he still carries today. Eliot also credits teammate Ben Bryant; in the sixth grade after breaking his ankle, Eliot decided to quit soccer and switch to football. Ben called Eliot and refused to let him quit. In basketball, Eliot credits his dad for spending countless hours in the driveway and getting him heavily involved on the Toledo basketball scene, often playing on 2-3 teams across the city. He credits Coach Lindsay for believing in him, always pushing him, and giving him a chance to prove himself on the varsity team as a freshman.

Growing up in Ottawa Hills, Eliot benefited from a tight-knit community that valued organized sports and celebrated achievement. His success in high school propelled him to play division one soccer at Elon University, where his team finished the regular season in the top 25 nationally twice and qualified for three NCAA tournaments. Today, Eliot resides in Miami, Florida and has worked in sales at Paycom Software for nearly a decade. He credits much of his professional success to lessons learned in athletics and growing up in Ottawa Hills.

2008 Boys Soccer Team

State championship team and Toledo-area trailblazers

ATHLETIC HALL of FAME

The 2008 boys soccer team had a shaky start to the season but rallied to produce the best season in Ottawa Hills history. Led by team captains Ben Bryant, Jack Jamieson and Sam Kuehnle, along with fellow seniors, Kevin Elliott, Kevin Nugent, and Emerson Saum, this team could not be stopped.

They entered the tournament exceptionally well-prepared, proving their long and strenuous practices were worth the extra time. Throughout districts and regionals, the team jumped out to early leads, ensuring victories in these games. After hard-fought battles in the early part of the season, the team went all the way, winning game after game through the final match, where they emerged as state champions.

"Our success that season came down to one thing: we truly were a team. We had talented individual players, many of whom went on to play in college, but our focus was always on winning together. That team mentality showed when we faced and defeated those highly ranked teams in the playoffs." -Ben Bryant

The OHSAA summarized the exciting Green Bear state victory: Senior midfielder Sam Kuehnle's 30-yard strike in the 51st minute through an unsuspecting Worthington Christian defense gave Ottawa Hills a 1-0 win in the boys Division III soccer state championship game in rain-soaked Columbus Crew Stadium. It marked the first time a Toledo-area school won a boys or girls soccer state championship.

Unranked entering the tournament and never having advanced past the regional finals, Ottawa Hills (20-3-0)

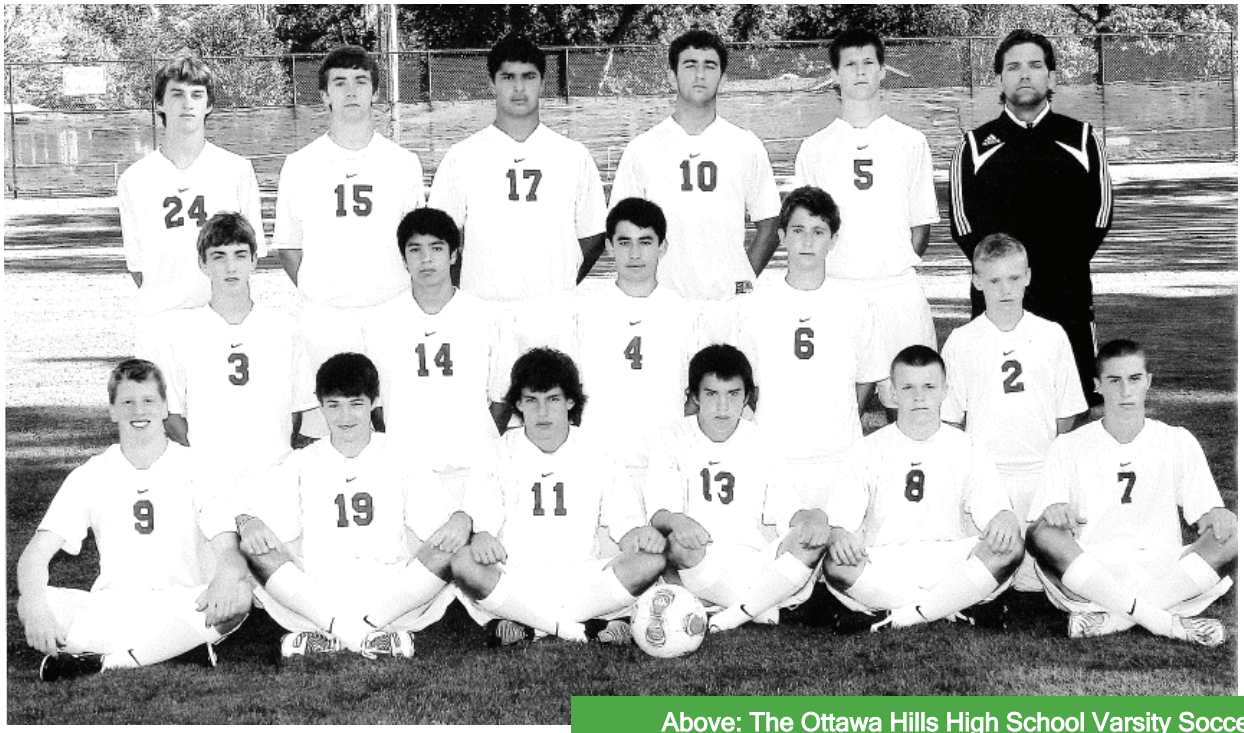
knocked off the state's top-ranked team, Gates Mills Hawken, 3-0 in the state semifinal and then the state's second-ranked team, Worthington Christian, to cap off their season-ending 14-game winning streak.

Ottawa Hills, which overcame an 0-2-0 season start, also beat sixth-ranked Bluffton in the district final and shut out 17 of its 23 opponents.

In the 51st minute, Ottawa Hills senior Ben Bryant took a 35-yard free kick from outside the top-left corner of the 18-yard box that Worthington Christian junior goalkeeper Alex Scott punched out of the penalty area. As the WC defense relaxed, Kuehnle rushed up on the ball as it bounced outside the top-right corner of the 18. His line-drive shot hit the back-left corner of the net, stunning Scott and the WC defense.

Entering the finals with a 14-game winning streak, Worthington Christian applied most of the pressure during the first half, outshooting Ottawa Hills 9-4 in the first 40 minutes. The Warriors ended the game with a 14-12 shot advantage and nearly tied the game with 9:15 left when senior midfielder Eric Stevenson's shot went off the fingertips of Ottawa Hills senior goalkeeper Kevin Elliott and bounced off the left post.

Ottawa Hills' Elliott ended the game with five saves. His first big one came with 12 minutes left in the first half when Stevenson sent a corner kick into the box that senior Luke Helmuth nearly headed in from just four yards away.



Above: The Ottawa Hills High School Varsity Soccer Team
Below: The Championship Team Celebrates State Win

Ahmed Abdel Halim
Tim Bosserman
Evan Brochin
Eliot Browarsky
Jarrett Bruner
Josh Bruner
Ben Bryant
Coach Jorge Diaz
Kevin Elliott
Logan Glosser
Reed Glosser
Nick Gore
Jack Jamieson
David Joseph
Sam Kuehnle
Coach Greg McElroy
Ian Monroe
Kevin Nugent
Drew Rohm-Ensing
Sam Rumpf
Jack Saddemi
Emerson Saum
Ian Trickey
Alec VanHeyst

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Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

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