

GRANVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2024



SEPTEMBER 14, 2024
CHERRY VALLEY HOTEL

EVENT SCHEDULE

Cocktail Hour	5:30-6:00
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Class of 2024 Photos	6:15
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Dinner Service	6:45
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Ceremony Opening	7:15
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Josh DeVoll
Athletic Director

Presenters/ Class of 2024 Inductees

Coach Bob Hollen
Rose Sawyers
Jane Copenhefer

2015 Softball State Championship Team

Coach Rae Stuart
Coach John Barker
Coach Caitlin Chaney
Coach Dick Gosnell

Sophia Ehlers
Halle Garman
Megan Gummere
Karissa Harris
Kiaya Johnson
CeCe MacLae
Lexie McDonie
Jackie Moore
Anna Moorehead
Rose Sawyers
Abby Skerbetz
Shelby Sprouse
Olivia Simon
Maddy Richardson
Abigayle Westerheide

Closing Remarks/ Social Forum	9:30-10:00
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Josh DeVoll
Athletic Director





BOB HOLLEN

Introduced by Jim Reding

Bob Hollen began his coaching career as an Assistant Varsity Football coach at Granville High School. He was also an Assistant Wrestling and Golf Coach.

Bob was most well known for his time as the Boys and Girls Indoor/Outdoor Track and Cross Country Coach. Anyone who attended a track or cross country meet likely heard him referred to as “Coach” or “Bob-O.”

Throughout the 37 years he coached boys and girls track and the 27 years he coached cross country his athletes amassed a tremendous amount of honors. Bob ended his coaching career at Granville with 125 Girls Track All-Ohioans, 110 Boys Track All-Ohioans, 132 Girls Indoor track

All-Ohioans, 83 Boys Indoor Track All-Ohioans, 4 Girls Cross-Country All-Ohioans and 4 Boys Cross-Country All-Ohioans.

His teams also saw great success both locally and within the state. His track and cross country teams combined to earn 36 League titles, 19 Central District titles, 19 Central District Runner-Up titles, 3 Regional Titles and 11 Regional Runner-Up Titles. The 2002 Girls Track Team were the State Runners-Up. Granville Boys and Girls Track athletes qualified to the state meet 37 straight years and saw several state champions during that time.

Bob also received several awards for his coaching as well as his

involvement in the sports of Track and Field and Cross Country. In 1986 he was awarded the University of Findlay Eichner Alumni Award for Coaching Success. In 2002 He received the Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches (OATCCC) Fred Dafler Award. In 2012 He was awarded the OATCCC Fred Dafler Award. In 2014 Bob was inducted into the OATCCC Hall of Fame. In 2020 he was honored with the OATCCC Ed Barker Award. He was also awarded numerous Licking County League and Mid-State League Coach of the Year Awards in Track. In 2023 he was inducted into the Licking County League coaches Hall of Fame.





ROSE SAWYERS

Introduced by Tim Davison

At Granville High School, Rose was a four-year varsity letter winner in soccer and softball, and a one-year varsity letter winner in basketball. During her 2014 basketball season as a freshman, Rose was All-League and Special Mention All-District.

In softball, Rose had a career batting average of .372. She had 31 career doubles, 11 triples, and 8 home runs. Along with 66 career RBI's. Rose received the honors of four year All LCL; two-time Second team All Central District; two time All Dispatch Metro Team; and two year All Newark Advocate. She was also a member of the 2015 State Championship team.

In soccer, Rose scored 86 career goals. She also had 71 career assists, which at the time was second in school and county history. During her sophomore season, Rose set the school record for most assists as a sophomore (29). Rose received the honors of four year First Team All LCL; four year All Central District (Three years First Team); three time Honorable Mention Central Ohio Super 12 soccer team; and two time Second Team All Ohio. She was a member of the 2015 State Runner-up team (scoring the only Granville goal) and a member of the State Final Four teams in 2014 and 2016.

Rose received a scholarship to play soccer at the University of

Toledo. Due to illness she did not get to play her freshman season. Rose scored 2 goals before tearing her quad for a second time ending her sophomore season and leading to the decision to withdraw from soccer and transfer to The Ohio State University to continue her education.

Rose graduated from OSU in 2023 with a degree in Education specializing to work with students with Moderate to Intensive disabilities. She currently resides in Columbus, Ohio and is working as an Intervention Specialist for Dublin City Schools.





JANE COPENHEFER

Introduced by Janine Tiffe

Jane Copenhefer was born, at home, to Betty and Warren Copenhefer on August 27, 1953. She attended Fairborn Elementary in kindergarten. Her family moved to Granville, Ohio in 1959, and Jane began her career as a Blue Ace in the first grade.

Jane attended Granville High School from the fall of 1968 to the spring of 1972. Her family was very involved in the Granville community athletically and otherwise. Her parents, Warren & Betty, owned the Granville Recreation Center located at the corner of North Prospect and East College Streets, and Warren helped establish the Granville Junior High School football program with Gene Knight, Les Franklin, and Herman Meriwether. Her brother Craig was inducted into the GHS Athletic Hall of Fame in 1989-90 as he excelled at football, track, and wrestling. Jane was just as athletically accomplished as her brother, if not more. In fact, during Jane's middle school days, Granville High School basketball coach Paul Nemetz stated, "She's a better ball handler than anyone I have on the [boy's] varsity team." However, as this was before the implementation of Title IX, only her former schoolmates and coaches seem to be aware of her story, achievements, and dedication to Granville sports.

While attending Granville High School, Jane Copenhefer lettered 19 times across six sports: varsity basketball (four years), varsity softball (four years), varsity track (four years), varsity volleyball

(three years), varsity tennis (two years), and field hockey (two years). Copenhefer also played Granville Kiwanis League Softball in the summer.

After graduating from GHS, Copenhefer went on to play sports for OSU-Newark. During her two years at the branch campus, she played volleyball and basketball under coach Sheila Hiles, and tennis coached by Dr. Wilma Meckstroth and Bonnie Brown. Copenhefer was a vital member of the OSU-N basketball team, which nearly beat the OSU main campus team at the 1974 Ohio Women's Tournament in Cedarville despite the fact that they had only seven players on their roster. In tennis, she and her doubles partner won the state tournament for regional campuses. In 1974, Copenhefer left the regional campus for the main campus, where she successfully made the women's basketball team. Jane also made contributions to Granville and Licking County as a coach. She coached basketball at OSU-Newark and Granville Middle School for two years in the late 1970s.

Other athletic accolades during her time at Granville include the following: in the spring of 1968, Copenhefer received 1st place in low hurdles, medley relay, and long jump, and 2nd place in the high jump at the Granville Junior-Senior High School Girls Track competition. In 1970 she received 3rd place for the distance softball throw contest at the Licking-Fairfield County Girls' Track Meet. Competing in

the OSU Track Development Meet in Columbus, she placed 1st in five events, 2nd in four events, 3rd in one event, and 4th in two events. In regional contests hosted by the US Track and Field Federation Meet, Jane placed 1st, 2nd, and 5th place in various events. In the state-wide Junior Olympics, she placed 1st in the long jump.

Copenhefer also participated in high school marching band for five years (beginning as an eighth grader), GHS choir for four years, and the Licking County 4-H Band for seven years. She became an advisor for the 4-H Band in 1973 and went on to become the director of the band in 1986. Jane retired from the Licking County 4-H Band in 2019, dedicating over 50 years of her life to nurturing the talent and leadership of young people from all over Licking County. She has undoubtedly touched thousands of lives.

Jane currently works for Dr.'s Josh Wolfe and Brandy Cestoni at Newark Family Eye Care. She has worked as a manufacturing optician since shortly after graduating from GHS in 1972. When not working with her Eye Care team, she enjoys traveling and spending time with her amazing friends and family.

2015 SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

Introduced by Rae Stuart

The 2015 softball season will forever be remembered for its extraordinary team spirit, resilience, and the unyielding determination that propelled the team to triumph. This was a season where the “whole” truly became greater than the sum of its parts. From unexpected heroics to the sweet taste of victory in the state championship, the journey of this team is one for the ages. Our season was a testament to the power of perseverance, teamwork, and the relentless pursuit of excellence. This group of young athletes came together in a way that transcended the game, leaving a legacy that will be celebrated for generations.

Non-Starters' Contribution:

Every great team is built on the foundation of every member, not just the stars. The non-starters on this team played an indispensable role in the season's success. In practice, they pushed the starters to be better, challenging them with fierce defense and relentless energy. Their efforts were a key factor in sharpening the skills and strategies that would ultimately lead to victory. Moreover, their selflessness and willingness to embrace their roles created an environment of mutual respect and camaraderie, which was critical to the team's cohesion.

Loss to Lebanon: Late in the season, the loss to Lebanon could have been a devastating blow. Known for their own brand of arrogance, Lebanon's victory over us was a wake-up call. But instead of allowing it to derail our season, the team used it as a catalyst for change. The defeat brought the team closer together, fostering a renewed focus and a burning desire to prove themselves. In retrospect, that loss was the spark that ignited our remarkable tournament run, as it pushed the players to dig deeper, work harder, and play with even greater heart. What might have been a setback for the season was actually the catalyst for the incredible tournament run that followed. The team used that loss as fuel, refining their strategies and tightening their unity.

Unexpected Heroes: The season was marked by the emergence of unexpected heroes, none more so than freshman Halle Garman. When starting catcher Anna Moorehead went down with a season-ending injury, Halle stepped up to fill the void, proving that age is just a number. Her composure in high-pressure situations was extraordinary, especially in the state semi-final where her game-ending throw to catch a would-be base stealer demonstrated not only her skill but her mental toughness. Halle's contributions were crucial in maintaining the

team's momentum during the most challenging moments of the season. Halle's poise under pressure and pivotal plays, exemplified the team's depth and resilience.

Team-Building and Unity: One of the most memorable off-field moments of the season was the team's scavenger hunt. This seemingly simple activity had profound implications, serving as a crucial team-building exercise that helped the players bond on a deeper level. As they worked together to solve clues and complete tasks, the girls learned to trust each other, communicate effectively, and most importantly, to have fun together. This camaraderie was evident on the field, as the team's unity became their greatest strength. The scavenger hunt was not just a fun diversion—it was the moment when the girls became a true team, ready to take on any challenge. One of the most memorial moments off the field brought the team closer together, solidifying the bonds that would carry them through the toughest of games. This unity was the foundation upon which the season's success was built.

Defeating Greenville: The matchup against Greenville was more than just another game—it was a battle of wills. Known for their arrogance and overconfidence, Greenville's

team, coaches, and fans came into the game expecting an easy victory. However, our team's preparation, discipline, and refusal to be intimidated turned the tide. The victory was not just about the scoreline; it was a symbolic moment that showcased our team's resilience and unity. It was a triumph that resonated beyond the field, earning respect from even the most skeptical observers. This victory over Greenville was a turning point, the win was not just about the score but also about putting their overconfident opponents—and their supporters—firmly in their place.

State Semi-Final Showdown: The state semi-final will go down in history as one of the most thrilling and emotional games ever played. Abby's no-hitter was a masterclass in pitching, a performance that left opponents bewildered and her teammates inspired. Yet, it was Olivia Simon's grit that truly defined the game. After being carried off the field due to a serious injury, her determination to return the next day and contribute to the team's victory

was a moment of pure inspiration. Halle's critical defensive play to end the game was the perfect culmination of a team effort that will be remembered as a defining chapter in our program's history.

State Championship Glory: The journey culminated in a hard-fought victory over Lakewood in the state championship game—a rival that had long been a thorn in our side. The final game was a showcase of everything the team had worked for: discipline, teamwork, and unbreakable spirit. As the final out was recorded, there was no greater feeling than knowing they had not only won the championship but had done so by defeating a formidable opponent like Lakewood. The sweetness of that victory was amplified by the knowledge that it was earned through collective effort, with every player, coach, and supporter contributing to the triumph. This was the crowning achievement of our season, a victory over Lakewood in the state championship game. They fell to a team that had become a well-oiled machine and the victory was sweeter knowing that this was not

just a win for individual talent but for a group of girls who had truly become a team.

In summary, the 2015 season was about more than just winning games; it was about a group of young women coming together to achieve something greater than themselves. As the season progressed, they gelled into a team that no opponent wanted to face, culminating in a state championship win that will be remembered as a testament to their collective strength and spirit. It was a season of growth, of overcoming adversity, and of proving that with heart, determination, and teamwork, anything is possible. The legacy of this team will not only be remembered in the record books but in the hearts of those who witnessed their journey. This team had an unparalleled sense of unity, teamwork, and determination. As they take their place in the Hall of Fame, we honor not just their victories, but the spirit and unity that made them champions in every sense of the word!







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SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

HALL OF FAME
PLANNING COMMITTEE

JACK WESTERHEIDE

JUST WRITE

CHERRY VALLEY HOTEL

GHS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

NOMINATION FORM

PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM TO:

Josh DeVoll, Athletic Director

Email: jdevoll@granvilleschools.org

Phone: (740) 587-8164

248 New Burg Street

Granville, Ohio 43023

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:

MAY 1, 2025

DATE OF SUBMISSION: _____

NOMINEE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

GRADUATION YEAR / COACHING TENURE: _____

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SELECTION COMMITTEE:

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS (UP TO TWO PAGES) MAY BE ATTACHED. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT THE
NOMINEE TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND POST GRADUATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

NOMINATOR
INFORMATION:

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

THIS NOMINATION WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE SELECTION COMMITTEE FOR THREE YEARS

