



PRESS RELEASE

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West Bend High Schools Athletic Hall of Fame Adds Seven

West Bend — Seven deserving people were inducted into the West Bend High Schools Athletic Hall of Fame during a ceremony on the football field just prior to the start of the East vs West Homecoming football game on October 9.

A selection committee made up of current and former students, teachers, and coaches, as well as a community member, chose the following seven new members of the West Bend High Schools Athletic Hall of Fame:

Evan Albrecht

West Bend West Class of 2018

Epitome of a winner. Emotional team leader. Fiery. Competitive. Fearless.

Fans of West Bend West Baseball may know who this is just from those descriptive phrases and words. Evan Albrecht, as described by his West High School baseball coach, Bill Albrecht, was "...the greatest competitor I have ever coached."

In Evan's four years on the Spartan baseball team, the team record was 109-14, including the WIAA State Championship in 2017. He was a four-year varsity starter at shortstop, team captain all four years, first-team all-conference all four years, first-team all-state in 2017, and second-team all-state in 2018. Of course, Evan has a number of records in the Spartan Baseball record books.

He also brought his competitiveness and fearless nature to the West basketball team for three seasons. During his senior year in 2018, he was offensive MVP and team captain.

After high school, Evan's amazing baseball career continued at the Big Ten's Purdue University. He was a five-year starter at shortstop and a team captain for four years. In 2022, he was named to the second team of the American Baseball Coaches Association Midwest Region and had the highest Purdue University batting average ever in the era of BBCOR bats at .365.

Grace Baumann

West Bend West Class of 2018

Grace Baumann shined on the volleyball court in the fall and on the track in the spring. In both places, her athletic ability was matched by her unwavering commitment to excellence, making her a player teammates respected, opponents admired, and coaches trusted.

Alongside her athletic accomplishments, Grace always displayed sportsmanship, a team-first mentality, and exceptional character. In volleyball, she played every position, was a four-year letterwinner, first-team all-conference, conference player of the year, and Washington County player of the year. She led the team to the 2017 North Shore Conference Championship.

In track and field, a sport that often highlights individual achievements, Grace prioritized the collective good. She lettered all four years, was all-conference four times, and qualified for the WIAA State Championships multiple times, placing sixth in the 100-meter hurdles in 2017. Grace was also named the 2018 Pick Award winner for the best female athlete at West High School.

She continued her volleyball career at St. Norbert College, where she ranks among the top five in three different statistical categories. In addition, she is one of only four volleyball players in St. Norbert College history to have 1,000 kills and 1,000 digs.

Dave Bloomier

West Bend High Schools Girls Swimming and Diving Coach

Throughout his 45-year head coaching career at West Bend East and West High Schools, Dave Bloomier never rested on his success. He strove for excellence with every team he coached, bringing to each practice the latest competitive swimming strokes and training techniques.

Dave set high standards for his teams and individual swimmers, and it showed in the results. At West Bend, he coached two state champions and nine conference championship teams, along with countless individual and relay conference champions and state championship qualifiers. Over a career that also included 31 years as head coach at Waukesha North and more than 50 years of club coaching, Dave coached 38 swimmers to All-American status. Three of his breaststrokers broke the national record in the 100 breaststroke and, along with two of his butterflyers, went on to compete at the U.S. Olympic Trials.

Dave's peers have honored him many times. He was named Wisconsin High School Coach of the Year in 1984, 1990, 1991, 1999, and 2003, and earned National Federation Midwest District Coach of the Year honors in 2003. In 2014, he was inducted into the Wisconsin Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association Hall of Fame, an organization he has served as president and state delegate. In 2016, he became the first recipient of the West Bend High Schools Prudence Pick Hwy Coach of the Year Award. He also co-owned Mid-States Swim Camps for 27 years, helping develop young swimmers across the region.

In 2025, Dave retired as the head coach but continues to serve as an assistant coach for the West Bend High Schools Girls Swimming and Diving team. Dave Bloomier is an amazing coach!

Brad Geldnich

West Bend East Class of 1993

Whether excelling as a three-sport athlete for West Bend East in the early nineties, or giving back to the West Bend community by helping to develop countless young athletes, Brad Geldnich has always exemplified and taught the values of teamwork, sportsmanship, discipline, and hard work.

Brad was an accomplished three-sport athlete at East in football, basketball, and baseball, but baseball is where he truly stood out. He was one of the cornerstones of the East baseball program for four years. He pitched and played infield and outfield. During the team's run to its WIAA State Championship in 1993, Brad pitched a seven-inning shutout in the semifinal game against the number one ranked team in the state.

Brad won the West Bend East Coaches Award in 1993, which is for athletes who demonstrate exceptional leadership, work ethic, and sportsmanship. After high school, he went on to play in the Rock River Baseball League for 16 seasons.

As a member of the West Bend community, Brad has given back by coaching multiple youth teams in baseball, basketball, and football, including East JV basketball and football. He also co-founded the West Bend Thunder state league youth baseball program, which has grown from one to 12 teams.

Bob Liebetrau

West Bend East Class of 1979

Bob Liebetrau's long commitment to West Bend East athletics began as a freshman participating in four sports. In fact, he participated in four sports each year for all four years of high school—football, basketball, golf, and baseball. Nine varsity letters and many accolades later, Bob's legacy is as both an athlete and coach.

In his senior year of basketball in 1979, Bob was a unanimous first-team all-conference pick, team MVP and captain, and honorable mention all-state. He was also a team captain and

quarterback of the East football team as a senior and an honorable mention all-conference selection.

Bob was the captain of the East baseball team that was the runner-up at the WIAA State Championships in 1979 and the winner of the 1979 Pick Award as the top male athlete at East. In those days, baseball was in the summer, so Bob fit in four years of golf in the spring.

All of this experience, knowledge, and pride for East athletics continued after he graduated. Bob was an assistant boys basketball coach in the 1990s, helping the team qualify for the WIAA State Championships in 1995. Over many summers, he volunteered his time coaching boys basketball, helping develop players for their own success in the sport.

Tricia Wiedmeyer Schutz **West Bend East Class of 2001**

Tricia Wiedmeyer Schutz was an elite multi-sport athlete at West Bend East who achieved more than 3,000 career assists in volleyball and was a leader of two state championship volleyball teams.

The volleyball setter amassed many accolades in that sport, including multiple all-conference, all-county, and all-state honors. She was part of teams that won three consecutive Wisconsin Little Ten Conference championships in 1998, 1999, and 2000. In 1998, the team also qualified for the WIAA State Championships.

Qualifying for the state championships was not good enough for Tricia and her East teammates. In 1999 and 2000, they won back-to-back WIAA State Championships. She made her mark by setting a lasting WIAA State Tournament record for assists in a four-set match with 63.

Tricia was a multi-sport athlete, playing four years of basketball and soccer, serving as the basketball team captain her senior year. She was the 2001 Pick Award winner for best East female athlete. After high school, Tricia was the assistant coach for the 2007 East volleyball team that was WIAA State runner-up and has coached numerous youth teams. Today, she is an assistant volleyball coach at Kewaskum High School.

Celina Wanta Walker **West Bend West Class of 2014**

All athletes who are members of a team have a degree of selflessness; however, Celina Wanta Walker personified that trait over four years as an accomplished three-sport athlete at West Bend West. In fact, Celina is one of the few West athletes to earn 12 varsity letters.

Whether it was taking on cross country, a sport that didn't come easily to her, or on the basketball court where she averaged 18 points, seven rebounds, five assists, and four steals a game in her senior season, Celina was always unselfish, willing to fill any role necessary for the

team to succeed. She took up pole vault her junior year to help the track and field team, qualified for the WIAA State Championship, and still holds the school record in that event.

In track and field, Celina was part of the WIAA State Champion 4x400-meter relay in 2014. In basketball, she was an all-conference honoree several times and a team leader. She was part of cross country teams that won multiple conference titles and qualified for the WIAA State Championships several times. Celina also won the West Pick Award for best female athlete in 2014.

After high school, Celina attended Trinity Christian College in Illinois with a basketball and track scholarship. In her collegiate basketball career, she scored more than 1,000 points.

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Photo left to right:

Jennifer Potter, executive principal of East and West High Schools; MacKenzie Welnak, East athletic director; Grace Baumann; Bob Liebetrau; Dave Bloomier; Tricia Wiedmeyer Schutz; Evan Albrecht; Brad Geldnich; Celina Wanta Walker; Erin Felber, West athletic director.