

Northeast Ohio Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame Biographies

Class of 2008

Curt Kapinski – Elyria High School

Curt is a 1968 graduate of Keystone HS and a 1972 graduate of Baldwin Wallace College where he earned 4 varsity baseball letters, All-District honors, national rankings as a collegiate pitcher, and a place in BW's College Hall of Fame. Curt signed as a free agent with the Cleveland Indians. After 2 1/2 years in the Indian's minor league system, both his arm and professional career ended. Curt began his teaching/coaching career in 1974 as the JV coach at Elyria. In 1979, he became the assistant coach at Oberlin College and then the head coach in 1984. He returned to Elyria and became their head coach in 1988-2004. In his 17 seasons in leading the Pioneers, his teams posted a 236-148 record with 6 league championships, 5 district appearances, 3 Regional tourneys and a trip to the Final 4. Curt helped form the Lorain County Baseball Coaches Association and served as its treasurer for 16 years. In 1997, he helped in the creation of the Northeast Ohio Baseball Coaches Association, and was its Executive Director from 1998-2004. In 1997, Curt became the OHSBCA state poll director. He is married to Becky and has two sons, Chris and Dave and two stepsons, Tim and Andy.

Mike Ryan – Perry High School

Mike began teaching at Perry H.S. in Lake County in 1979. After graduating from Olmsted Falls H.S. in 1974, Mike continued his baseball career at Kent State University. He lettered for three years as a catcher and received his B.A. degree in 1979. Holding a master's degree and has been teaching industrial arts at Perry for 28 years. While at Perry, he has served as an assistant football coach for 28 years, an assistant wrestling coach for 26 years, and as the head baseball coach for 26 years. As the head baseball coach, Mike's teams have won 396 games with 9 conference, 10 sectional, 2 district runner-ups. In 2004, the Pirates went to the Final Four. Mike was elected to the OHSBCA executive board after serving as a NE rep. He served as the 2003 OHSBCA president. Mike has been one of the lucky players and coaches, through hard work, to hold the honor of playing in, coaching in, having his son play in and organizing the All-Ohio Series held in June. Mike has been married for 27 years to his best friend, Lori. They have 3 children, Brynn, Mike and Hannah all of whom have received OHSBCA Scholarships. This accomplishment would not have been possible without the enduring support of his coaching staff, the players of the past and present, the Perry Local Schools administration, the Perry Baseball community and last but not least his family whom he holds the greatest debt of gratitude.

Doug Miller – Canton Central Catholic/East Canton High School

Doug Miller has been the head baseball coach at Canton Central Catholic High School for 35 Seasons (1982-2016) and currently at East Canton High School (2017-Present). His record stands at 742-313, just one of 7 coaches to win over 700 games in the state of Ohio and currently ranked 8th heading into 2021 seasons.

While at Canton Central Catholic the Crusaders had seventeen 20 win seasons and twice won over 30 games. Coach Miller's teams have won 13 District Championships advancing to the Regional's 13 times. He won six Regional Championships and four times was Regional Runner-Up. Twice was Division II State runner-up in 1997 and 2003 and won 3 State Championships in 2008, 2011 and 2015. Additionally, he won 22 Sectional Championships. In 2019 he led East Canton to their first Conference Championship in 40 seasons as they also advanced to the District Tournament.

Canton Central Catholic Field is named in his honor. In 2016 he was named ABCA Division III District 4 Coach of the Year, in 2008 they named him their National High School Coach of the Year. The NEOBCA named him Coach of the

Year for Division III in 2015 and Division IV 2019. In 2014 he was the OHSBCA Division II Coach of the Year. Coach Miller received Stark County Coach of the Year honors in 1997, 2000 and 2015. Selected to coach in the Mizuno All-Ohio Series in 1988, 1997, 2002 and 2016. He also coached in the Northeast Ohio Baseball Coaches Association All- Star game at Jacobs Field in 2001. Coach Miller has coached 33 Poll All-Ohioans, 12 Mizuno All-Ohio and 32 Academic All-Ohioans.

Doug Miller has been a poll voter with The OHSBCA since its inception until 2016. He has been the game director for the Dumonts All-Star Classic for senior baseball players from Division II, III, and IV school's in the Stark County area for 16 years. He has worked the Omar Vizquel summer baseball camp in Canton for several years. Doug played collegiately at Kent State Stark and Malone College. He played in the Canton Class A Baseball League for 13 years and was elected to the Stark County Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame in 1986. Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame 2005, the NEOBCA Hall of Fame in 2008 and the Tuscarawas County Baseball Hall of Fame in 2011.

In addition to coaching baseball, Coach Miller coached Girls' Basketball for 9 years, Assistant Football Coach for 17 Seasons and Boys' Basketball for 13 years. His 1981 girls' basketball team was Class AA state runner-up. He is currently the Athletic Director at East Canton High School after being previous AD and Sociology Teacher at Canton Central Catholic for 37 years. Coach Miller graduated from Canton Lincoln High School and Malone College and received his Master's Degree from Ashland University.

Dennis Woods – Glenville/Cleveland Heights/Lake Catholic

He began his career at Glenville High School 1966-1974 and 1986-1996 (20 Seasons), continued at Cuyahoga Community College 1977-1979 (3 Seasons), Case Western Reserve University 1981-1985 (5 Seasons), Cleveland Heights 1997-1999 (3 Seasons) and Lake Catholic High School 18 Seasons (2000present). 2018 marked his 50th season coaching baseball.

His entire teaching career of 32 years was at Glenville High School beginning in 1964 and retiring in 1996. During his teaching career he was a Health & Physical Education Teacher: serving as an Athletic Director for 7 years, Department Chairperson 26 years, Student Council Advisor, Intramural Director, Assistant Wrestling Coach, and Physical Fitness Coach.

Has a career record of 745-391 at the High School level entering 2021 season. Overall has 842 Career wins when include 97 wins as Collegiate Head Coach (97-113 Overall). 9 League Championships in the City League, 3 North Coast

League Championships. In 1973 played for the State Championship finishing as Runner-Up to Cincinnati Elder.

He has been Coach of the Year 4 times in the City League, 2 times North Coast, GBCA Coach of the Year in 1973, 2010 and 2012, AAU Presidents Award 1999, Lake County Baseball Coaches association Coach of the Year in 2004, 2005, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2017, twice coached Mizuno All Star Series, 1973 & 1990: Robert Clemente summer Baseball Award 1996, Who's Who among American Teachers 1996 Class. In 2019 he was named the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association Division III Coach of the Year, as well as the NEOBCA Division III Coach of the Year as he led VASJ to a District Runner-Up in his very first season at the helm.

A graduate of Miami University and Kent State University Graduate School.

Inducted into the Cleveland South High School Hall of Fame, Glenville High School Hall of Fame, Lake County Captains Crows Nest Hall of Fame and Northeast Ohio Baseball Coaches Association. Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame 2006.

Served as Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association President from 1972-1973, 1989, and 1997-2009. Was one of the founders of the Northeast Ohio Baseball Coaches Association along with Curt Karpinski (Elyria) and Mike Mohner (Fairport). In 2017-2018 season served as the NEOBCA Vice-President

He has three sons: Scott, Brian and Dennis Jr: Two Daughters in Law, Joann & Monica: Two Grandsons, Brandon & Nicholas: Three Granddaughters, Dejah, Teresa & Dennika.

Ray Sharnsky – Gilmour Academy

Coach Sharnsky guided the Gilmour program for a period of 31 seasons (1979-2009). He has accumulated a total of 510 wins – 225 losses for a .694 winning percentage. His teams have won 14 league titles, been ranked in the top 20 of Ohio 16 times, and 6 times they have appeared in the "Sweet Sixteen." He has been "Coach of the Year" in the Northeast District, Greater Cleveland Coaches Association, The Plain Dealer, and the New Herald newspapers, and has been Conference "Coach of the Year" in the SEC/MAC 8 baseball conference. In 2004 was selected as Coach of the Mizuno All-Ohio Series. In 2016 was honored as the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association Golden Deeds Award Winners.

Coach Sharnsky has served on the Ohio district board of directors, the NEO board, and the GBCA board. He moved through the Chairs in the OHSBCA

and was its president in 1998. He has made presentations to numerous youth groups throughout Greater Cleveland and runs camps at Gilmour Academy. He assisted with the Canton Crocodiles in the Professional Class "A" level of the Frontier League. He was director of the Elmer Flick summer high school league. Coach Sharnsky was a presenter at the OHSAA youth clinic, and this year will speak at the coaches clinic.

In addition to coaching baseball, he led the only varsity golf team in Ohio ever to win 4 State Championships in a row (1991-1994). He has two Bachelor's Degrees for the University of Akron and a masters from John Carroll University. He has two sons Brian and Brent.

Vince Pellegrini – McDonald High School

Vince was born and raised in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Clarion State University in 1963 and received his master's degree from West Virginia University in 1974. During both high school and college, Vince played baseball assisting his team as a "good field, no hit journeyman."

In 1963, Vince began his teaching career at Grand Valley High School. That year he started the school's first-ever baseball team. His eleven year stay at Grand Valley, produced four sectional titles, two district titles, and two regional appearances. While at GV, Vince coached in three Tri-County (Lake-GeaugaAshtabula) All-Star games. In 1974 Coach Pellegrini moved to McDonald High School in Trumbull County and instituted the first baseball program there. Vince's tenure at McDonald has resulted in eleven sectional titles, four district titles, one regional championship, and a state semifinal appearance in 1997. In his thirty-seven years of coaching, Pellegrini's final won-lost record stands at 430-283.

Coach Pellegrini has been honored as Trumbull County Coach of the Year ten times. He presently serves as a representative for the NEOBCA, coached in the NEOBCA All-star game at Jacobs Field in 1999, and coached in the 2000 Mizuno All-Ohio Series. Vince is in this 38th year as a social studies teacher.

He has been married to his wife, Mary Ellen Meier, for twenty-five years. They have three children - Heather Belgin, a graduate of Clarion University, Vince, a junior at Youngstown State, and Eric, a sophomore at Westminster College and a 1999 OHSBCA scholarship winner. The family also includes son-in-law, Bernie Belgin, a graduate of Clarion. The Pellegrini's reside in Girard. Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame in 2001.

Mike Mohner – Fairport Harbor High School

Mike Mohner spent twenty seasons as baseball coach at Fairport Harding High, fourteen as the Skippers Head coach beginning in 1986 taking over for Larry Sudbrook who is Head Coach at Saint Bonaventure. Coach Mohner completed his fifteen year career as Head Coach in 2000 with a 347-97 career record for a .786 winning percentage.

His teams won seven league, twelve sectional, seven district, a regional, and six Division IV State Coaches Poll Championships. In 1993, 1995, and 1996, Coach Mohner was named Ohio Division IV Coach of the Year by the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association (OHSBCA). In addition, he has been named league (GRC and ESC) Coach of the Year seven times, News Herald Class A-AA and Division III-IV Coach of the Year five times, Plain Dealer LakeGeauga County Coach of the Year in 1993, Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association (GCBCA) twice (1993, 1998), and Lake County Baseball Club Coach of the Year in 1995. In 1992, he was chosen to coach in the Mizuno All-Ohio Series.

In 1998 he served on the coaching staff of Team Ohio. After four years of the Board of Directors to the OHSBCA, he was elected to the executive board. In 1998, Mohner served as the President to the association. He is presently Secretary-Treasurer Elect to the OHSBCA. He has also served eight years as a member of the National Ranking Committee for the National High School Baseball Coaches Association (BCA) and Baseball America. He is a member of the Executive Board of the BCA representing District 4. As Chairman of the Formulating Committee, he authored the first constitution for the Northeast Ohio Baseball Coaches Association (NEOBICA). He also served as the association's interim Executive Director its first year. He remains as the director of the NEOBICA All-Star Series at Jacobs Field. He is a past President of Lake County Baseball Club. In March 1994, he was honored as Easton's featured coach in the inaugural edition of "Extra Innings," the national newspaper of high school baseball.

He has also had several articles published in the baseball-coaching manual of the BCA, "From the Dugout." Coach Mohner has spoken at many camps and clinics on the state and national level. In December, 1999, he addressed the national convention of the BCA in Tucson.

He is a 1973 graduate of Harvey High School in Painesville. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Journalism from Bowling Green University and his teaching certification from Lake Erie College. He holds a Master's Degree in Administration from John Carroll University. In 2000, he returned to his alma mater as Assistant Principal and Athletic Director.

He and wife Barbara (LaPash), former softball coach at Fairport, are the parents of two children, Mickey Mantle (11) and Melissa Marie (9). Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame 2001.

Frank Gamble – Massillon Perry High School

Graduated from Fairless High School where he lettered in football and baseball. He then went onto Ashland College where he graduated with a teaching degree in Sociology and Psychology. Frank attended post graduate school at Kent State University adding Social Studies to his teaching degree.

Frank started his teaching career at Tuslaw High School where he served as the head football coach for four years and the head baseball coach for sixteen years. While at Tuslaw, his teams won four years while serving as an assistant coach and head baseball coach. At Massillon Perry High School was Head Baseball Coach/Athletic Director for 22 Seasons.

Frank Gamble's overall career baseball record is 611 wins and 371 losses in 37 Seasons, which is the top 15 in state history. He was Stark County Coach of the Year in 1995 and has coached in the All-Ohio Baseball Series in 1996. Ten of his baseball players have played in the All-Ohio Series, with forty-five of his team members playing college baseball. He has been fortunate to have two of his players drafted by the Major Leagues.

After retiring from Massillon Perry he went on to Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina and was their Volunteer Assistant (1 Season) and Director of Baseball Operations (2 Seasons) from 2012-2014. In 2015 he joined the Coaching Staff at Wooster College.

Frank is Past President of the Ohio Baseball Coaches Association, was named game director for the Series in 1991, and State Baseball Clinic Director in 1993. He presently serves as Consultant to the O.H.S.A.A. for the State Baseball Board of Directors.

Frank and his wife, Emma, have been married for 28 years and are the proud parents of two sons; Bill, and Brian, both of whom are Head High School coaches at Jackson High School and Sandy Valley High School respectively.

Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame in 1998 and in 2009 was inducted into Tuscarawas County Baseball Hall of Fame.

Art Massey – Cuyahoga Heights High School

Art Massey attended Cleveland South High School where he played football, basketball and baseball and earned 9 varsity letters. He attended Ohio University on a football scholarship. Art played two years of football and two

years of baseball at Ohio University. He started playing soccer and was "All-Midwest" and an "All-American" selection. Art graduated from Ohio University in 1963 and earned a Master's Degree from Kent State University in 1968.

Art started teaching and coaching at Shaker Heights. He coached football, basketball, and baseball with Fred Heinlen from 1963 to 1968. He went to Cuyahoga Heights and became head baseball coach in 1969. In 28 years at Cuyahoga Heights he had more than 400 victories. They were the state runnerup in 1976, and appeared in three regional finals. Cuyahoga Heights participated in 11 district contests and Art won "Coach of the Year" in Greater Cleveland Coaches Association. Four Cuyahoga Heights players were All-State with three playing at the Division I College Program. Art is past President of the Greater Cleveland Coaches Association and IAABO (International Association of Approved Basketball Officials) Board 55. He retired from Cuyahoga Heights in 1996.

Art started officiating in 1966 and has worked at the Collegiate Level in both football and basketball. He is still working as a football referee at the Division I college level.

Art has been married to Marlene for the past 30 years and they have three sons; Mike, Mark and Matt. Marlene is a registered nurse, Mike is in law enforcement, Mark is an educator and Matt is in food service.

Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame in 1997.

William Schmidt – Ashtabula Saint John High School

Began coaching in 1974, retired after 41 Seasons in 2015. Won 1983 Class A State Championship. Won his 300th Career Game on April 24, 2015 over Andrew Osborne Academy. Coached Ohio State Head Football Coach Urban Meyer who was drafted by the Atlanta Braves as a Senior and spent 2 seasons in the minor League before pursuing a football playing and coaching career.

Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame in 1997.

Joe Gilhousen – GlenOak/Massillon High School

Coach Joe Gilhousen has been the Head Baseball Coach at Oakwood, GlenOak, Massillon Washington High Schools and an Assistant Coach for Mount Union University for 39 seasons from 1973-2011. He is a 1966 graduate of Canton Lehman High School and a 1970 graduate of Kent State University, where he earned 3 varsity letters in baseball. He graduated from the University of Akron in 1975 with a Master's Degree in Secondary Education.

During his tenure at Oakwood and GlenOak, his teams have won 575 games,

17 Federal League Championships, 19 Sectional Championships, 9 District Championships, 3 Regional Championships, and 2 Division I State Championships in 1995 and 1996, becoming the only public school in Ohio's big-school division to ever do so. GlenOak's baseball field has been dedicated to his honor. In 1995, when the GlenOak Golden Eagles were State Poll Champions, Coach Gilhousen was named Ohio's Division I Baseball Coach of the Year. He has been named Federal League Coach of the Year in 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997 and 2001. In Addition, he has been honored as the Stark County Baseball Coach of the Year in 1978, 1981, 1986, 1990, 1994, 1996 and 2001.

Gilhousen left GlenOak after the 2005 season to serve as an assistant at the University of Mount Union for four seasons (2006-2009) before jumping back into the high school game at Massillon for the 2010 season. Coached at for two seasons Massillon Washington in 2010-2011 owning a 26-22 record for the Tigers. He won his 600th game in 2011, his final season coaching. He ended his career with 601 wins and 327 losses.

Coach Gilhousen is a Past President (1983) of the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association. He coached in the O.H.S.B.C.A. All-Ohio Series in 1982 and in 1990. He was inducted into the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1993.

Coach Gilhousen was also inducted into the Stark County Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame in 1994 as well as being named an Outstanding Alumnus of Lehman High School in 2002. Coach Gilhousen and his wife, Carolyn, have two children Alan and Erica.

Marion DeLaney – Maple Heights High School

Marion DeLaney graduated from Marion Harding High School in 1957. He was a 1st team All-Buckeye Conference and 2nd team All-Ohio Linebacker in football. After graduation he attended Muskingum College, where he was a two year letterman in football, and a member of the baseball team. Coach DeLaney interrupted his college career from 1960-1962 to serve in the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army. After graduating from Muskingum College in 1964, he started his teaching and coaching career at Maple Heights. He received his Master's Degree in Secondary Administration in 1970 from the University of Akron.

Prior to becoming the Head Baseball Coach, he was a varsity Assistant for two years, and Head Jr. Varsity Coach for five years. He took over the reins of the baseball program in 1973. His Jr. Varsity team posted 79 wins and his Varsity teams have posted over 250 wins. While competing in the strong Greater Cleveland Conference, his teams have won two championships, and five second

place finishes. In State Tournament play his teams have been Regional runnerup four times, and Sectional Champion ten times. He has also coached as a Varsity Football Assistant for seventeen years, and Varsity Basketball Assistant for three years.

Marion and his wife Jeanne, who is Manager of Adult Services at the Maple Heights Regional Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library, have been married 27 years. They have three daughters: Karin, who is a Truant Officer for the Maple Heights Schools;; Kathie, who is a Dental Assistant; and Shari, who is a freshman at Mount Saint Mary's College in Emmitsbur, MD. All three daughters were three-sport participants in high school, earning 35 varsity letters among them. All were offered athletic scholarships to play in college; Karin in track, who ran in the State Track Meet, Kathie in volleyball, who won All-State honors in basketball and volleyball. Shari was 2nd team All-State basketball player, and she received a full athletic scholarship at Division I Mount Saint Mary's in Maryland.

Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame in 1992.

Paul Serra – Euclid High School

After graduating from Kent State University, he played pro baseball in the New York Mets minor league system. According to baseballreference.com, he hit for a .301 average and nine home runs in two seasons with the Auburn Mets.

Following his playing career, Serra became an assistant coach at Euclid High in 1972 and then head coach in 1977, while also being a teacher.

His baseball teams have a record of 400 wins and 106 losses and have won numerous championships. In 1982 won the Class A State Championship. Also made State Tournament appearances in 1978, 1979 (State Runner-Up) and 1990.

He was a member of the committee that helped bring the Continental Amateur Baseball Association tournament, featuring many of the best youth teams from North America, to Euclid more than 20 years ago.

The CABA tournament has spotlighted many future major leaguers, including Alex Rodriguez, now with the New York Yankees.

Serra continues to be heavily involved in Euclid sports as the sports director for the city Recreation Department, where he works to organize softball, baseball, volleyball, basketball and various other leagues throughout the year.

Euclid High School Baseball Field named in his honor. Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame in 1992.

Tim Miller – Canton South High School

Tim Miller has been the head baseball coach at Canton South High School for 26 years. His teams have compiled a record of 345 wins and 217 losses, including 8 Federal League Championships.

Tim has been honored by being selected as Stark County Coach of the Year (1975), coached in the 1984 All-Ohio Series, and in 1987 was inducted into the Stark County Baseball Hall of Fame. Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame in 1991.

Coach Miller is a 1964 graduate of Ohio Northern University where he won two letters in football and four letters in baseball. Tim was captain of the baseball team his senior year. In 1970, he received his Master's degree from the University of Akron.

Tim has been very active in the OHSBCA as a member of the Board of Directors, director of the All-Ohio Series, Clinic Director, and is past president of the Association.

Tim Miller's community involvement includes 22 years as a coordinator of boy's groups at the Canton Catholic Community League. Tim is currently a member of the Canton Zoning Board.

Tim and his wife, Jill, have been married 26 years. The Millers have three children, Scott, 25 years old is a Mechanical Engineer for Ameritech, Matthew, 23 years old is employed by General Electric Capital. Sheri, 20 years old is a junior at Walsh College, Canton, Ohio.

Update December 2016:

Head Coach 1965-1993 (29 Seasons), career record 404-244. Won 1 NBC Championship. 2013 Canton South HS Field named Tim Miller Field.

Bernie Hovan – Nordonia High School

Bernie Hovan has been a Baseball Coach for 20 years. He coached at Mapleton High School in Ashland, Ohio, for 2 years and coached at Nordonia High School in Macedonia, Ohio for the Past 18 years. Bernie is currently coaching, teaching and living in the Nordonia School District. He is married to Jean and they have 2 children: Mike, John, Debbie and David. Bernie has served on the Board for the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association and is presently a representative for the State Baseball Poll. He is also active with the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association. In 1987 he received the "Man of the Year" award from this association. In his service Bernie has been a member of the National Baseball Coaches Association. Bernie in his 20 years has compiled

a record of 309 wins and 217 losses. His teams have made it to the regionals 4 times. His school is a member of the Metro League in the Northeast District.

Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame in 1989.

John Anspach – Cuyahoga Falls High School

John Anspach is a 1959 graduate of Ohio Northern University where he was a two year letter winner on the baseball team. John's coaching and teaching career also began in 1959 when he was hired as the head baseball coaches in the Defiance City School System. After six years at Defiance, John had a record of 56 wins and 41 losses.

In 1965 John took a job with the Cuyahoga Fall City School System as an assistant football coach. In 1970, after two years as an assistant coach, John became the head baseball coach. From 1970 to 1984, Cuyahoga Falls High School had a record of 323 wins and 129 losses. Included during this period were 3 district championships and a total of 10 teams that won 20 or more games. This with his 6 years at Defiance give John a fine record of 379 wins and 170 losses.

A person who believes very strongly in setting personal and team goals, John still teaches at Cuyahoga Falls High School.

John is married to Carol and they have five children; John, Susie, David, Amy and Mark.

Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame in 1985.

Luke Izer – Sandy Valley High School

Luke Izer is a graduate of Bellville High School and Baldwin Wallace College. An all-around athlete, Luke earned 12 varsity letters in football, basketball, baseball, and track while in high school. At Baldwin Wallace he earned 4 letters each in football and baseball. in 1960 Luke led the nation with a .495 batting average.

As a teacher, Luke has worked the last 23 years at Sandy Valley High School. His football and baseball playing experience have served him well as Luke has been a varsity football assistant for 25 years (22 at Sandy Valley) and a head baseball coach for 24 years (22 at Sandy Valley).

During his 24 year head coaching tenure Luke has won 312 games which includes 4 District Runners-up, 9 Sectional Titles and 5 League Championships. Six times his fellow coaches have awarded him league coach of the year honors.

Luke has had 7 players named to the All-Ohio All Star Series. In 1974 he coached in the series. One of Luke's former players has made it to the major leagues but more noteworthy, 16 of his charges are now coaches.

As a 29 year member of the OHSBCA, Luke has served as a N.E. AA representative and has worked on the All-Star games and baseball clinics.

Luke and his wife Kathie, a science teacher Sandy Valley, have a daughter Kim, in college.

In football, Izer served as an offensive line coach for 32 years. Izer has umpired for 22 years, including 10 years at the college level.

Inducted into OHSBCA HOF in 1984. Inducted into Sandy Valley High School Hall of Fame in 2015 and Baldwin Wallace Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995.

Roy Bates – Northwestern High School

Few high school coaches, in their wildest dreams, could ever think of accomplishing the feats that Roy Bates has accomplished. Roy rose to fame at Chester H.S., then on to Northwestern H.S. to do likewise. He remains, even today, one of the few coaches elected into the Ohio High School Hall of Fame in both baseball and basketball. Roy's teams won over 400 games in both sports. His Northwestern Huskies won the 1959 state championship in baseball. In 1965, they won the state basketball championship. While Roy was the Athletic Director, the Huskies won state basketball titles in 1958 and 1966. The foundation of the great Chester and Northwestern sports program was begun in 1937 when Roy started his teaching career. Coach Bates squads were known for tremendous team effort, great defense and competitiveness. Coach Bates never coached or played on a team with a losing record. His total baseball coaching record for varsity was 498-38. His JV coaching record was 87-0 and his freshmen baseball coaching record was 208-7. Roy was an assistant coach for Bobby Knight at Indiana University. Players included Butch Carter, Isiah Thomas and Randy Whitman.

Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame in 1983.

George Sosebee – Hudson High School

His baseball teams captured 13 League titles (1963, 1965, 1968, 1970, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1982, 1983, and 1985) during his 24 seasons as coach (1962-1985). He also won 15 Sectional Championships (1963, 1965, 1968, 1970, 1973-1979, 1982-1985) and won a total of 308 games. He was inducted into the Ohio High School Athletic Association Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame before the 1982 season began. The high school baseball field was named after him when he retired from coaching in 1985.

Dave Young – Tallmadge High School

He has excelled both as a player and coach in baseball. Young starred at Akron East High, Akron U and for 21 years in the Greater Akron AA Baseball league. Coach Young's varsity career coaching record was 465-168 at Tallmadge High School. At time of his retirement was the Winningest Head Coach in Summit County. Tallmadge High School field is named in his honor.

Dave also coached Freshmen basketball for 31 years and Varsity Cross Country for 5 years. His teams at Tallmadge won 10 Metropolitan League champions, 6 District Championships, 1 Regional Championship and a State Runner-up in 1966.

Coach Young has been elected to six Hall of Fames: Akron AA League, Summit County Sports, East H.S., Tallmadge H.S., Akron University and the OHSBCA.

Coach graduated from East H.S. in 1955, pitched 2 no-hitters and was a teammate of NY Yankee, Gene Michaels. He continued his baseball career at Akron University with a career pitching record of 24-8. His career ERA of 1.13 and career strikeouts of 325 are still Akron records. His ERA in 1958 of 0.46 was the best in the nation. Coach Young played 21 years in the Akron AA league in the summer. Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame in 1982.

Robert Smith – Riverside High School

Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame 1982.

Milo Ratkovich – Akron Kenmore

Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame 1981.

Fred Breisweiser – Fairless High School

Fred Brideweser graduated from Capital University where he still is ranked with the all-time athletes who have attended Capital. In one year, he was AllOhio Conference guard in basketball, All-Ohio Conference halfback in football, individual high point participant in the conference track meet and a baseball letter winner. He was post-humously inducted into the Capital University Hall of Fame on January 14, 1978. "Bridey" was appointed head football, basketball and baseball coach at the former Navarre High School in 1931, and coached there until 1959 when he was hired as the Athletic Director and head baseball coach at Fairless H.S. He retired from Fairless in 1967. Mr. Brideweser became well-known in Ohio scholastic athletics. He amassed a 436-151 baseball record with 5 teams playing in the state finals in Columbus. He coached several undefeated football teams with a overall coaching record of 140-51-13. His basketball teams won several league championships including county and Sectional tournaments. During his high school career, his teams always played a difficult schedule vs. bigger schools. In 1972, he was presented

with an Honorary Lifetime membership in the Ohio H.S. Football Coaches Association and on Aug. 4, 1977, he was posthumously inducted into their HOF in ceremonies at the All-Star game in Canton, OH. Fred's record as an athlete and a coach are not the only thing that made him great. His sincere concern for people, his loyalty and dedication to his job and his pride to the Fairless community were truly remarkable. In the 44 years that he was with us, he was never once heard to make an unkind remark about another person.

By the same token, no other person was heard to make a derogatory remark about Fred Brideweser, the teacher, the coach or the man. Coach "Bridey" passed away on September 26, 1975. Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame 1980.

Jim Humpal – Brush High School

Jim Humpal started his coaching career at Greenview Junior High school in 1960 where his teams compiled a 28-2 record. He started the JV program at Charles F. Brush High School in 1963, and became the Varsity baseball coach in 1964. His varsity teams compiled 500 plus wins during 28 years.

The teams won many sectional, district and regional titles as well as several league championships in both the Lake Erie League and the Greater Cleveland Conference. Several of those players went on to play in the majors.

Jim is Past President of both the Greater Cleveland High School baseball coaches association and the OHSBCA. He was inducted into the OHSBCA in 1977. Recently, he was inducted into the Charles F. Brush HS Hall of Fame. Junior High, high school, sandlots and international baseball have been a very important part of Jim's coaching career. 28 years Head Coach at C.F. Brush High School

500+ wins

6 league championships

16 Sectional Championships

5 District Championships

3 Regional Championships

2 Final Four appearances

1 State Runner-up

19 average wins per season

7 players to pro baseball

3 played MLB

Inducted into the OHSBCA 1977

Member of the C.F. Brush High School Hall of Fame

selected as the 1st high school baseball coach to participate at the National Sports Festival in 1980

Don Kelly – Rocky River High School

Coach Kelly was a teacher and coach at the High School for 30 years. As Head Baseball Coach he won approximately 500 games. He is a member of the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He built the Rocky River baseball program into one of the most respected in the area during the 60's, 70's and 80's. He also was responsible for turning the baseball field into one of the finest at that time. Mr. Kelly did all of the work on the field himself. He built the old bleachers and worked to install a scoreboard. In 1969 was President of the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association.

Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame in 1977.

George Caso – Fairview High School

George Caso was born in Cleveland and graduated from West Technical High School. He earned a bachelor's and master's degrees from Kent State University and served in the Navy during World War II. He began his teaching career in 1952 at Avon High School, where he started the baseball program and taught Industrial Arts, Biology and Geography. He also taught Industrial Arts at Mayer Junior High School. For many years, he also was Fairview's Junior Varsity and Varsity basketball coach and was an assistant football coach for track and football. He lived in Cleveland until he built his home in North Olmsted in 1956. George Caso taught for 43 years. He and his wife, Anita had a son, Scott and daughter, Sandra. Coach Caso was inducted into the OHSBCA in 1977 and was selected to Coach in OHSBCA in 1984. He passed away on Dec. 22, 1996.

Augie Bossu – Benedictine High School

Augie Bossu is one of the few men to coach in seven decades (1940s, 1950s, 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, 2000s). His lifetime baseball record is 681-300. Benedictine won seven City Championship crowns and 13 East Senate baseball titles. His totals include 23 Sectional Titles and eleven District Championships. His teams earned five trips to the State Final Four.

Augie is a member of the Ohio High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame, National High School Sports Hall of Fame in Kansas City, and the Benedictine Athletic Hall of Fame.

A 1939 graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Bossu played guard for the Fighting Irish under coach Elmer Layden. During World War II, he served in the Army Signal Corps and left the service with the rank of Major. He returned to school and received a Masters degree in Physical Education from Stanford University.

Augie has been married to his wife Florence for 57 years and they have eight children: Jean, Mary Lou, Frank, Virginia, Steve, Cecelia, Theresa, Angela. All eight children have college degrees, seven have Masters degrees and one has a Doctorate degree. His sons, Frank and Steve, are Benedictine and Notre Dame graduates and played for Augie.

Fred Heinlen – Shaker Heights High School

Fred Heinlen graduated from Shaw High School where he played baseball, basketball and football. Fred played baseball and basketball at Springfield College. He served five years in the Service Air Corp.

Fred coached at Shaker Heights High School for thirty years where he won 466 games and lost 261. He won two state high school baseball championships in 1965 (AA) and 1976 (AAA). Fred coached basketball for 34 years and was assistant football coach and Athletic Director for 25 years. After retiring from Shaker Heights Fred worked at University School for 19 years where he coached football, basketball and baseball. In 1992 Shaker Heights dedicated their scoreboard in his honor.

He has been a clinic instructor for the Cleveland Indians for ten years. He has fifty-five years of coaching experience. He officiated high school and collegiate basketball for 30 seasons before retiring in 1994. In 2003 was inducted into the OHSAA Officials Hall of Fame. In 2006 Shaker Heights High School established a Fred Heinlen award for athletes with his values: respect, hard work, leadership and integrity. Served as the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association President in 1967.

For several years in the 1980s, Heinlen wrote a column about youth and sports in The Plain Dealer. He also wrote a book, "The Veteran Mentor's Guide to Baseball Coaching." For a while, he ran the 30-second clock at Browns' home games.

He has been married to his wife Lois for 59 years. They have three children Doug, Rodd and Jan.

Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame in 1976.

Hank Miller – Canton McKinley High School

Hank was a teacher of Industrial Arts and Vocational Carpentry for 39 years. He retired from Canton City Schools in 1989. He coached many sports

including tennis, golf, basketball, but football and undoubtedly baseball were his favorites. He was a World War II veteran who served in the Marine Corps. Hank graduated from Canton Township High School (Canton South) in 1942 and earned his college degree from Ohio Northern. His coaching career started at Mogadore High School with coaching stints at Louisville, Canton Lincoln, Canton McKinley, and Glen Oak High Schools. Hank was a lifetime member of the National Education Association. Hank was President of the OHSBCA in 1982. He officiated basketball and served as recreational director for the city of Louisville. Hank is a member of the Greater Canton Amateur Sports Hall of Fame and the Ohio Northern University Athletic Hall of Fame. He was founder of the Hank Miller High School baseball series.

Hank was married to Carol Sefert Miller for 42 years. Carol passed away December 19, 1997. Hank has four children-Mike, Sue, John, and Mark.

Bob Addis – Euclid High School

Bob graduated from Barberton High School and Kent State University. He served in World War II in the Marines. He played professional baseball beginning in 1950-51 with the Boston Braves, 1952-53 Chicago Cubs and 1953 with the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Bob began teaching at Shaker Heights in 1958 and then taught 34 years at Euclid High School. He was the Coordinator of Athletics for 25 years. He coached for 17 years which included 12 league championships, 1 state semifinalist in 1960 and 1 state championship in 1963. He coached 18 all-state players and had a career coaching record of 402-114.

Bob is a Hall of Fame member of Barberton High School, Euclid High School, Greater Akron Baseball, Summit County, State Athletic Directors and Ohio H.S. Baseball Coaches Association in 1975. From 1964-1966 was President of the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association and again in 1968.

Neal Nelson – Willoughby South High School

At Euclid Shore, earned three letters in football, three in basketball and three in baseball. In 1942 he was captain of the football team, and made All-Conference.

In basketball Neal played on the 1942 and 1943 Greater Cleveland Conference Championship teams. In 1943 he was team captain and made All-Conference and Greater Cleveland All-Scholastic.

As a baseball player Neal was captain of the teams in 1942 and 1943 which won conference championships. He was an All-Conference selection both years.

On a scholarship to Kent State University, Neal earned three letters in football and three in baseball. He was captain of the Kent State football team in 1947.

Taught and coached at Euclid High School from 1946 to 1962 before leaving for Willoughby and retiring there in 1982. Head Baseball Coach for 20 Seasons from 1959-1978, compiling 161-148-2 Career Record at Willoughby South.

In addition to coaching baseball was Case Western's Head Football Coach from 1982-1984 and also coached Football and Wrestling at Willoughby South. In 1961 was President of the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association and from 1956-1959 was the 1st President of the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association.

Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame in 1974 and is a member of Euclid High School Hall of Fame.

Les Scarr – Barberton High School

The first baseball coach to be named to the Ohio High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame in 1972 and certainly one of the greatest ever to coach in the Akron area. In 19 years at Barberton High School his teams won 253 games, lost 167 and had five ties. The Magics won four regional championships, advancing to the Ohio Championship game in both 1947 and 1959. On the '47 team that lost to Upper Arlington, 2-0 in extra innings, were Hall of Famers Glenn "Bo" Schembechler and Hal Naragon. He was honored with induction into the Kent State Hall of Fame where he received a B.S. and M.A. He was also inducted into the: Summit County Sports HOF (1975), Barberton Sports HOF (1979), and the Greater Akron Baseball HOF (1996). Les died in 1974.



Class of 2009

John "Spark" Spankal – Eastlake North High School

John "Spark" Spankal began his career as a teacher and JV coach at Eastlake North in 1974 after graduating from Bowling Green State University with a degree in health and physical education. He moved to special education, was named head baseball coach, and received his Master's in Administration degree from Cleveland State all in the 1979-80 school year. He was selected as Lake County Learning Disabilities Teacher of the Year in 1982, and prior to retirement in 2005, Spark returned to teaching health for the two most enjoyable years of his teaching career. Currently he works part-time in the North special education department, volunteers on the North baseball staff, is an instructor at Super Joe's Baseball Academy, and is the secretary-treasurer of the Lake County Baseball Club, the local high school baseball coaches association. Having coached at all levels in the local summer leagues, Spark currently organizes and coaches the Shannon Fence team in the Tri-State Collegiate Summer Baseball League.

Spark's varsity baseball teams compiled a record of 439-272-2. Most of these games were played in the old Greater Cleveland Conference, an eight-school league that boasted not only four OHSBCA Hall of Fame coaches, but also seven coaches who won 300 games or more. "Against those guys," Spark jokes, "we established a legacy of finishing second." His teams' wins are the most by a coach at a single school in Lake County history. Under Spark the Rangers won three conference championships, played in the district 15 times, and made one regional appearance. He was selected as coach of the year twice by both the GCC and the Premier Athletic Conference. He was also a two-time coach of the year by the Cleveland Plain Dealer, three times by the Lake County NewsHerald and four times by the Lake County Baseball Club. Spark coached in the 1998 Mizuno All-Star Series, and in 2005 was given the Ohio High School Athletic Association's Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Award. Six of his former players have gone on to play professionally.

Spark played both football and baseball at Mentor High School. He met his wife Jill (Sidney H.S.) at BGSU. They married and settled in Mentor to raise two sons. Jill, a retired second grade teacher in Mentor, was (and still is) the one who held things together while "my three boys were out playing." Oldest son Josh, a three-sport athlete at Mentor, graduated from Ohio University, works as a chemist for Barr Laboratories, and is doing grad work at Xavier University. He married his wife Jess (Milford, OU) in October and they live in Cincinnati. Twenty-three-year-old Jake was a member of Mentor's state-contending baseball and football teams. He played baseball at the College of Wooster graduating with a degree in Social Studies and minor in Art. Jake is currently an assistant baseball and strength coach at Case-Western University while

doing graduate work in exercise science at Cleveland State. Both boys are OHSBCA Scholarship recipients.

Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame in 2009.

Ken Ciolek – Lakewood High School

Ken Ciolek is a 1965 graduate of Cathedral Latin High School in Cleveland. He received an Associate Degree from Cuyahoga Community College in 1967 and a Bachelors of Science Degree from Kent State University in 1970. He earned a

Masters in Education Degree from Cleveland State University in 1979. He has taught Health and Physical Education in the Lakewood City Schools for 31 years. Ken is currently an adjunct professor at Baldwin Wallace University where he has been for the last 30 years as a coach and educator.

Coach Ciolek has coached Baseball and Football for over 40 years at Lakewood High School and Baldwin Wallace University. He spent 31 years coaching baseball at Lakewood High School and served as the head coach for 22 years. During the Ciolek Head Coaching era, the Lakewood Rangers amassed 412 victories against only 157 defeats for an outstanding .724 winning percentage.

Coach Ciolek's teams NEVER had a losing season in his 22 years as Head Coach. The Rangers under Ken's direction had 11 seasons of 20 or more wins, capturing 8 Lake Erie League Championships and advancing to the Regional tournament play 3 times. During Coach Ciolek's 22 year Head Coaching tenure, 16 Ranger players were named to the state All-Ohio Honors and he was selected and coached in the State All –Ohio Series on 4 different occasions. Eight former players of Coach Ciolek were named MVP Award winners of the Lake Erie League and one was named Player of the Year for the Northeast Ohio Region. Over 40 former players attended and participated in collegiate baseball.

Coach Ciolek has been a proud member of the Greater Cleveland High School Baseball Coaches Association, the Northeast Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association and Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association. He served as an officer and Past President of the Greater Cleveland High School Baseball Coaches Association. He was inducted into the Lakewood High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002 and the Northeast Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Hall Of Fame in 2009. Coach Ciolek was named Lake Erie League Coach of the Year on 8 different occasions and All-Sun Post Coach Of the Year 2 times. He was the recipient 3 times of the Freeman Award as the Lakewood City Schools Coach of the Year.

Ken was a varsity Football coach at Lakewood High School for 15 years being involved in 6 Lake Erie Championships and an assistant varsity football coach at Baldwin Wallace University for 18 years taking part in the Division 3 National Playoffs and Ohio Athletic Conference Championships. Coach Ciolek

also served as an assistant varsity baseball coach at Baldwin Wallace University for 9 years. Coach Ciolek is now assisting and observing his grand children participate in athletics.

Ken has been married to his wife Cathy for 44 years and resides in Parma Ohio. He is proud of his three children, spouses and eight grandchildren. Son Jim (Shauna) Van and Olivia, daughter Kimberly(Matt) Joe and A.J., daughter Amy(Mike) Sam, Miranda, Alex and Erin. Each has supported, helped and contributed to the success of all the teams and seasons of coaching.

Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame in 2016.

Jerry Nowak – Brooklyn High School

Head Varsity Coach at Brooklyn High School from 1968-1990 (23 Seasons), prior to spent 5 Seasons as Assistant Varsity Coach. Had a career record of 312-182 and led team to District Championship in 1980 and 1984. Was named Conference Coach of the Year six times (1974, 1977, 1980, 1984, 1987, 1990). Was selected to Coach in the All-Ohio Series in 1983 and 1990.

Was President of the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association from 1978-1979. Also served as their Coaches Clinic Director from 1978-1982 and founded their Scholarship Fund. In 1990 won their “Man of the Year” Award and was recognized by the ABCA for 25 years of coaching.

Lenny May – Chagrin Falls High School

Head Coach 1971-1989 compiling 217-152 Overall Record. Won CVC Championship in 1980.

Chagrin Falls teacher of the year in 1987. He went on to serve as the high school's baseball coach, founder of the school's newspaper, assistant football coach and was the school Athletic Director for 12 years. The high school's baseball field is named Lenny May Field. Inducted into Chagrin Falls High School Hall of Fame in 2003.

Bob Merritt – Crestwood High School

Bob Merritt graduated from Berea High School and went on to earn his Bachelor's Degree and play baseball at Miami University. At Miami his junior and senior years were highlighted by teams that won the first two MAC Baseball titles in school history. He earned a Master's Degree from Xavier University.

Coach Merritt began his coaching career at Caldwell High School where he coached football, basketball and baseball. After four years Bob moved to Crestwood High School where he continued to coach baseball and football and taught Physical Education. His baseball teams finished with a 406-242 record

between Cauldwell (4 Seasons) and Crestwood High School (29 Seasons). Bob also coached ten years of college football at Hiram College. He was Offensive Coordinator of the record setting 1987 team that was ranked 7th in the nation and qualified for the national playoffs. Spent 4 seasons (2011-2014) at Baldwin Wallace University's Pitching Coach and was an integral part of the team that set a school record for games won in a season and the reach the Division III World Series. In 2015 became the Pitching Coach at Cuyahoga Community College and helped set school record for wins (47) in 2016.

Bob served on the State Board of the OHSBCA as a representative from the Northeast District and was chosen as one of the original pollsters when the OHSBCA began to rank teams from around the state in 1986. He was selected Portage Trail Conference Coach of the Year five times, Akron Touchdown Club Coach of the Year two times, and coach of the Mizuno All-Ohio Series twice. Bob was instrumental in the creation of both the Summit-Portage and the Portage County All-Star games. Coach Merritt has had over 50 of his former players move on to play college baseball including former Gatorade and Ohio Player of the Year Chuck Crowder (Georgia Tech/Colorado Rockies), Dave Oster (General Manager/Vice-president San Diego Padres-A), Adam Crowder (Kent State/All-American) and Brett Merritt (Urbana) currently assistant coach at University of Toledo. Bob was selected in the inaugural class of the newly formed NEOBCA Hall of Fame in 2009.

Bob resides in Mantua with his wife, Karen, and daughter Brittany. Karen is a Spanish Professor at The University of Akron. Brittany, a former OHSBCA scholarship winner played softball and graduated from Northwood University in West Palm Beach, Florida and is currently employed by the Cleveland Clinic. Son, Brett, resides in Toledo where he coaches baseball at the University of Toledo.

Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame in 2013 and Greater Akron Baseball Hall of Fame in 2017.

Joseph Santora – Mayfield High School

Head Baseball Coach for 33 Seasons from 1966-1999. During that time posted a 419-370 record. He won 4 Conference Championships (1966, 1978, 1979, 1999), approximately 25 Sectional Championships, 2 District Championships (1979, 1991) and in 1991 led Mayfield to a Regional Runner-Up finish. Selected to Coach OHSBCA All-Ohio Series in 1989 and 1999. Member of Mayfield Staff Hall of Fame.

Chuck Schilling – Hudson High School

Schilling's Hudson teams won nine league championships (1993-1998, 2004, 2005, 2011, and 2012), 16 sectional championships (1991, 1993, 1994, 1996, 2003, 2006, 2008-2010, and 2012), three district championships (1997, 2000 and 2012) and one regional championship (1997). Schilling compiled a .679 winning percentage as head coach of the Explorers as he earned 461 victories against 218 losses. Prior to that he served as Assistant Varsity Coach in 1987 under Jeff Brown and as Head Freshman Coach from 1983-1986 under George Sosebee.

Inducted into the Greater Akron Baseball Hall of Fame in 2015. Was named Coach of the Year nine times. Served as OHSBCA Poll Voter for approximately 20 years. Organized Summit vs Portage County All-Star Game (1989-1999).

Serves on Hudson Baseball Association Board of Directors and run many Hudson youth baseball camps.



Left to Right: Chuck Schilling, John Spankal, Lenny May, Ken Ciolek, Bob Merritt, Jerry Nowak, Joe Santora

Class of 2010

Jim Clark – Notre Dame Cathedral High School

Head Coach for 22 Seasons entering 2018 (1996-Present), won his 400th game in 2013 over Padua Franciscan. Won Division II State Championship in 2001 (246 Overall) and 2009 (28-4 Overall), State Runner-Up in 2006 finishing season 24-7 overall, was in State Final Four in 2014 finishing 17-12 and 2008 finishing 22-5, was Regional Runner-Up in 2007 finishing 18-10 and Advanced to Regional Semi-Finals (Sweet 16) in 2016, 2013, 2005. Won 5 Regional Championships in 2014, 2009, 2008, 2006, 2001.

Won 12 District Championships in 2016, 2014, 2013, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2001, 1998, 1997, and 1996.

Won 19 Sectional Championships in 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005, 2004, 2003, 2002, 2001, 1999, 1998, 1997, 1996.

In 2006 was selected as Coach in OHSBCA Mizuno All-Ohio Series. In 2008 was inducted into NDCL Hall of Fame. Coached two players, Mike Madsen and Bobby Kingsbury who would later be drafted out of college and play professionally.

Cliff Cook – Bay Village High School

Cliff Cook, a 30-year coaching veteran in the Cleveland area at Bay Village High School.

Cook has served as an assistant baseball coach at Baldwin-Wallace since 1999, focusing his efforts as the recruiting coordinator and pitching coach. In 2004, he guided the Yellow Jacket pitching staff to a 4.66 earned run average as the team posted a 20-14 record. The following season, the staff lowered the team ERA to 4.64 under Cook's direction. In 2007 was named Assistant Coach at Cleveland State University.

Prior to arriving at B-W, Cook was the head coach at Bay Village High School for 23 years retiring in 1999. During his tenure, he compiled a 437-255 record and was named the Southwestern Conference Coach of the Year seven times. He captured seven conference, six sectional and four district titles at Bay, while also making four regional appearances. In 1980, Cook guided Bay Village to a state runner-up finish and was tabbed as the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 1989. He helped establish Freshman Baseball in 1975 and a summer baseball program for 21 years.

Chris Kaczmar – Walsh Jesuit High School

Chris Kaczmar is a 1988 graduate of Walsh Jesuit High School and a 1992 graduate of Miami University where he earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Architecture. Upon graduation, he began working at the family business of Kaczmar Architects Incorporated where he is still employed. In 1999 he earned his license as a State of Ohio Registered Architect (NCARB).

Coach Kaczmar returned to his high school alma mater as an assistant baseball coach in the 1995 season and then was named the head coach in 1997. During the past 20 years as head coach entering 2017, his teams have won 9 conference championships, 17 Sectional titles, 12 District titles, 3 Regional runner-up finishes, 6 Regional titles, 2 State runner-up finishes, and 4 State Championships. His teams have also earned 2 State Poll Championships, 2014 being the latest, as well as 4 State Poll runner-up finishes. Over those 20 years as head coach, the Warriors have a 490-94 record. During his tenure at WJ, 102 players have advanced to play collegiate baseball, including twenty-six All-Ohio players, four (4) Ohio Players of the Year, and six players have been drafted in the MLB June draft.

He and his wife of nineteen years Bethany have four children: Emma (17), Stanley (15), Henry (13) and Lucille (11).

Some of his awards include:

1999 ABCA Midwest Regional Coach of the Year, 1999 National High School Coach of the Year Finalist, 2001 Cleveland Plain Dealer Medina - Summit – Portage Coach of the Year, 2001 Cleveland Plain Dealer Seven County Coach of the Year, 2004 Cleveland Plain Dealer Medina - Summit – Portage Coach of the Year, 2004 NHSBCA Midwest Regional Coach of the Year, 2004 National High School Coach of the Year Finalist, 2005 Cuyahoga River Baseball Conference Coach of the Year, 2005 Record Publishing Coach of the Year, 2006 Cuyahoga River Baseball Conference Coach of the Year, 2006 ABCA Midwest Regional Coach of the Year, 2006 National High School Coach of the Year Finalist, 2007 Ohio Division II Coach of the Year, 2008 Record Publishing Coach of the Year, 2009 ABCA Midwest Regional Coach of the Year, 2009 National High School Coach of the Year Finalist, 2010 Cuyahoga River Baseball Conference Coach of the Year, 2010 NEOBCA Hall of Fame inductee, 2011 Cuyahoga River Baseball Conference Coach of the Year, 2011 National Easton Sports Master Coach Award winner, 2011 NFHS Ohio Coach of the Year and Section 2/National Coach of the Year candidate, 2014 North Coast League Coach of the Year, 2015 North Coast League Coach of the Year, 2015 OHSBCA Hall of Fame inductee, and 2016 Greater Akron Baseball Hall of Fame inductee.

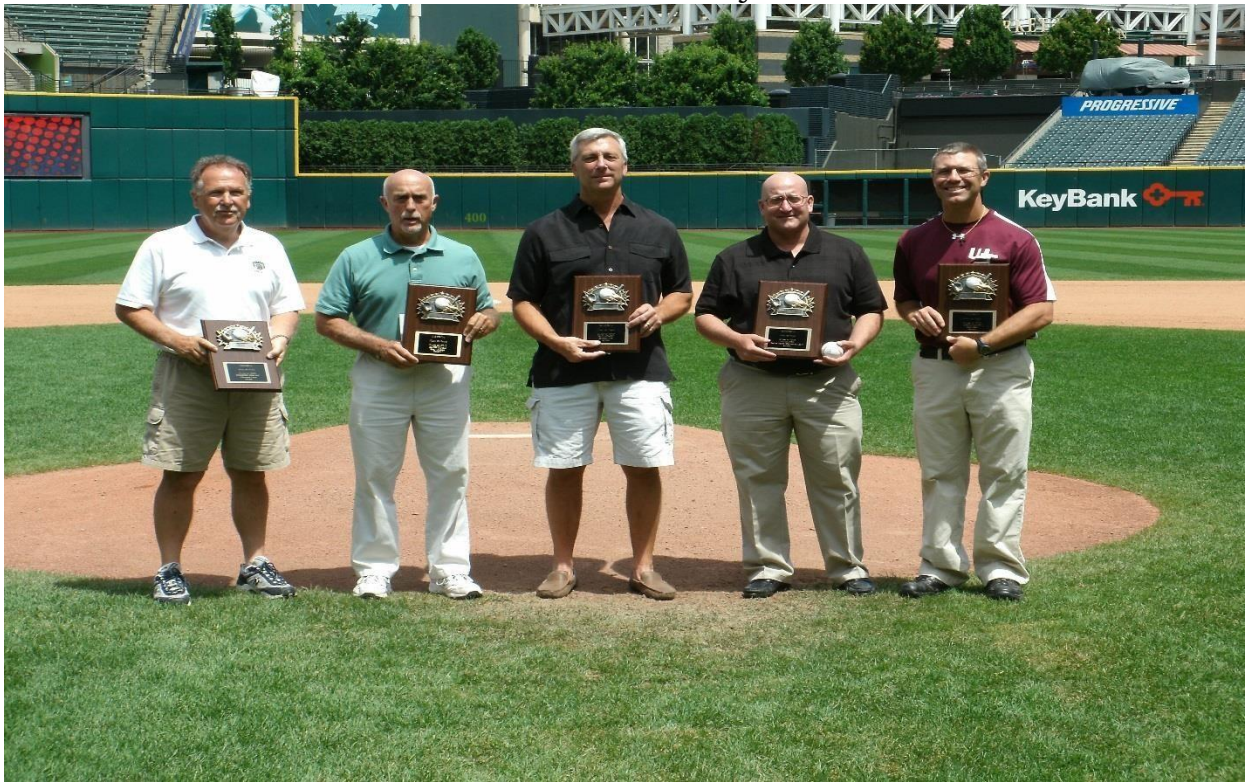
Bud Longo – Shaker Heights High School

From 1988-2006 (19 Seasons) with a career record of 298-169-1 and had the highest All-Time Winning Percentage (.638%) in School History. During L.E.L. play was 163-73 (.691%). Led Shaker Heights to 7 Lake Erie League Championships, 13 Sectional Championships, 4 District Championships and 4 Regional Appearances. Three times appeared in Regional Final and was Regional Runner-Up. Named Lake Erie League Coach of the Year 7 times and in 1994 was Cleveland Plain Dealer Coach of the Year and Greater Cleveland Baseball Coach of the Year leading the team to a 25-4 record.

During his tenure, Longo coached 23 players who played collegiately, including Matt Guerrier, who pitched for the Minnesota Twins and Los Angeles Dodgers for 11 seasons. Coached in the OHSBCA All-Ohio Series in 1995, 1998 and 2004 and Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association All-Star Game in 1995 at Gordon Park.

Richard Szalay – Olmsted Falls High School

Won 364 games in two stints as Head Coach, Head Coach for 26 Seasons. Was named Southwestern Conference Coach of the year in 1987 and 2001.



Left to Right: Richard Szalay, Cliff Cook, Bud Longo, Jim Clark, Chris Kaczmar

Class of 2011

Jeff Gibson – Revere High School

Jeff Gibson was a coach at Revere for over 30 years (1973-2007). He was the head baseball coach at Revere for 17 years (1981-1997) after coaching JV for the previous 8 years (1973-1980). As Head Varsity Coach won 143 games, 5 league titles (1981, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1987), and 4 sectional championships (1984, 1985, 1990, 1994).

Coach Gibson was also the Cross Country Coach (boys and girls) for 25 years (1982-2007) and in those years the program won 3 league titles, 4 district titles, 5 regional titles, and 8 state appearances. Mr. Gibson has over 50

seasons of coaching and positively impacting student-athletes at Revere High School.

Jeff Keck – Vermillion High School

Coach Keck has been the head of the Sailor's baseball program since 2002. During that 14 year period, the Sailors have compiled a 258-152 record. The Sailors have won 3 West Shore Conference Championships (2007, 2009, and 2010) and have had six 20 win seasons (2004, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2015, and 2016). The Sailors have finished in the Division 2 coaches poll in the top ten in Ohio 4 times and have been to the District Finals 3 times.

Since 2002, the Sailors have had 27 All-Academic All-Ohio Players and 6 Mizuno -All-Ohio Players, and 3 players have been selected "Mr. Baseball" of Lorain County.

Prior to coaching at Vermilion, Coach Keck was the head coach at Firelands High School where he led that program to a Lorain County Championship in 1996. While at Firelands, he had 4 All-Academic-All Ohio players and 1 AllOhio Mizuno Player.

Coach Keck has been named Lorain County Conference Coach of the year 2 times and West Shore Conference Coach of the Year 3 times. He has also been selected "Coach of the Year" in Lorain County 5 times and was named to the Northeast Ohio Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2011.

Coach Keck has served as a District Representative and Poll Voter in the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association and has been the President and AllStar Game Director of the Lorain County and Northeast Ohio All Star Games for over 10 years. In his 30 year coaching career, he has a record of 394-276, but is most proud of his ability to make a positive impact on young men's lives.

Bill Kronik – Collinwood High School

1989 Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association President.

Don Lee – Warren JFK High School

Head Coach for 34 Seasons from 1984-2017. Advanced to Regional Final (Elite 8) in 2002. Won 2 District Championships and was District Runner-Up in 2003, 2016.

Mike McMullen – Medina High School

Led the Medina Bees for 16 Seasons as Head Coach. During that time had a career record of 216-188, won 2 Conference Championships and won a District Championship.

Don Seeker – Tallmadge High School

Seeker was an All-Suburban League athlete in football and baseball during his years at Tallmadge High School before graduating in 1978. He then played three years of baseball on an athletic scholarship at Miami University in Oxford before he was drafted by the Kansas City Royals in 1981.

In 2001 won the Sectional, District and Regional Championships before losing the Division II State Championship Game to NDCL 8-0.

In 2002 Led Tallmadge to the Division II State Championship 6-1 over Edison High School, finishing 27-5 Overall.

In 2003 led Tallmadge to 24-3 Record, a Sectional Championship and was named Suburban League Coach of the Year.

In 2004 Tallmadge went 22-6, finished 2nd in Suburban League and was District Runner-Up to eventual State Champion Walsh Jesuit.

Coached two players, Carlo Testa and Jason Stephens, who went on to play professionally. Has served as Athletic Director at Tallmadge High School since 2003.

Jeff Short – Westlake High School

Coach Jeff Short's tenure with the Westlake High School Demons began 27 years ago when he was named the freshman baseball coach in 1986. The next year he moved up to become the junior varsity coach and in 1989, he was named head coach. In 24 seasons as head coach, he compiled an overall record of 345-242 including 20 winning seasons. He was named Southwestern Conference Coach of the Year three times, named The Plain Dealer Coach of the

Year twice, was a Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association Coach of the

Year and was inducted into the Northeast Ohio Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2010. In May 2013 he received another honor as he was inducted into the Crow's Nest Hall of Fame by the Lake County Captains Baseball organization (Cleveland Indians Class A Affiliate). In 1996 was selected to Coach in the OHSBCA All-Ohio Series.

During his head coaching career, the Westlake Demons earned four Southwestern Conference championships, made 12 appearances in Districts, earned three regional appearances and in 2012, the team played for the Division I State Baseball Championship. No other team in the history of Westlake High School has ever made it to the state title game in any sport. The team finished 2012 with a 24-7 record, which are the most wins in school history.

What made the 2012 run to the state championship game even more special was that earlier that year; Coach Short announced that he would be retiring from coaching baseball at the end of the season. He remains a math teacher with the Westlake City Schools where he has taught for the past 28 years.

Coach Short was honored to represent Northeast Ohio as a Mizuno All-Ohio Series Coach in 1996. He was named the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association All-Star Game coach in 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999 and 2002, and has coached several Jacobs Field All-Star games over the years.

Coach Short has been a member of the OHSBCA for 25 years and served on the State Board from 1994-96. He also was a member of the State Coaches Poll.

Seven Westlake High School baseball players have been selected to the Mizuno All-Ohio series teams over the years. More than 50 players have signed on to play college baseball and one player signed a Major League Baseball contract. Former player Chris Holick (Westlake High School Class of 1995) is the current assistant baseball coach at The Ohio State University.

In addition to coaching baseball at Westlake High School, Coach Short has coached boys junior varsity and varsity boys basketball. He also was the girls varsity basketball head coach for three seasons. He continues to stay active with basketball as he currently serves as a basketball official in the Clevelandarea.

His motto for coaching and in life is to "always surround yourself with good people." He is grateful to his coaching staffs over the years for their support and dedication.

Jeff grew up in Archbold, Ohio (near Toledo) before moving to Northeast Ohio upon graduating from the University of Toledo with a degree in elementary education. He also holds a master's degree in Sports Management from Cleveland State University.

He resides in Avon, Ohio with his wife of 20 years, Julie Verba. The couple is the proud parents of a three-year-old son, Jason.

Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame in 2014.

Cliff Zunis – Avon Lake High School

Zunis was a coach at Avon Lake High School for 25 years, with 16 of them as head coach and 9 as an Assistant. His coaching career spanned from 1975 to 2000, and he became the Shoremen's head coach in 1984 and retired after 1999. To his best recollection he had a personal career record of 246-176. Zunis' teams won three conference titles, two district championships, and one regional championship. Cliff was Division II Coach of the Year in 1999 when the Shoremen finished the regular season undefeated and ranked as the number one team in the state. Six of his teams finished ranked in the top ten. Twice coached in the OHSBCA All-Ohio Series in 1995 and 1998.



Left to Right: Don Seeker, Bill Kronik, Don Lee, Jeff Keck, Cliff Zunis, Mike McMullen, Jeff Gibson, Jeff Short

Class of 2012

Lou Cangelosi – Valley Forge High School

No bio at this time.

Jerry Chase – Cleveland Central Catholic/Chanel High School

Coach Jerry Chase graduated from Bowling Green State University in 1968. He took a job in Berryville, Virginia at Clarke County High School where he was also the golf coach and assisted in basketball. He moved back to the Greater Cleveland area and taught at Cleveland Central Catholic where he also coached freshman basketball and freshman and JV baseball. In 1974 Coach Chase was named the Head Baseball Coach at Central Catholic, a position he would hold for the next 13 years. His teams won several North Central Conference titles and he was named NCC Coach of the year several times as well. At Central Catholic Chase coached JV basketball beginning in 1974 and his teams won 212 games at the JV level from '74-'87. He also received his Master's Degree from Ashland University in 1981. Coach Chase returned to his Alma Mater, Chanel, in 1987 to become the Director of Athletics and Head Baseball Coach.

In his first year at Chanel, despite being 6-11 at the tournament's start, his team would lose only once more before earning its way to the State Final Four. There they lost to a good Cincinnati McNicholas team. His teams reached the Regional Tournament several more times but were unable to again reach that Final Four level. Coach Chase resigned his positions of Head Baseball Coach and Director of Athletics in 2003 with the intent of watching his son play college baseball.

During his tenure as Head Baseball coach, Chase had several of his players go on to play college baseball as well as have several drafted into professional baseball. One player, Billy Wertz made it to the big leagues as a relief pitcher for Cleveland. He also coached future Minor League player and Division I Head Coach Rick Rembielak who would win 596 games as Head Coach at Kent State, Wake Forest and Akron University.

Coach Chase was also very active in the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association serving 2 terms as that group's President. During his presidency the association took over the local clinic from CSU, the All-Star game was played in Cleveland Municipal Stadium. Also during his coaching career, Chase was named that group's Man of the Year and Coach of the Year.

Coach Chase served as the Head Baseball Coach at Cuyahoga Community College for 3 years from 2005 to 2008. In his three years there his teams won over 100 games. In his high school career as head coach, Chase's teams won 446 games. He was inducted into the Chanel High School Hall of fame, the

Cleveland Central Catholic High School Athletic Hall of Fame, and the Northeast Ohio Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame. He returned as an assistant coach at both St. Vincent-St. Mary and at Benedictine High Schools after his stint at Cuyahoga Community College. Coach Chase continues to coach at summer baseball camps and in summer travel leagues in Northeast Ohio.

Inducted into OHSBCA Hall of Fame in 2017.

Tom Owens – West Branch High School

Head Baseball Coach 23 Seasons for West Branch High School (1976-1998) compiling 279-224-8 Overall Record. Won 2 District Championships (1974, 1998), 12 Sectional Championships and 2 Northeast Buckeye Conference Championships (1991, 1997).

Angelo Rodriguez – Cleveland South High School

Graduated from BW in 1962 and was inducted into the Alumni Athletic Association Hall of Fame in 1994. After graduation, Rodriguez began teaching at Thomas Jefferson Junior High School in Cleveland and working toward a master's degree at Kent State University. Rodriguez received his master's degree in education from KSU in 1967.

In 1964, Rodriguez began his teaching career at South H.S. As the baseball coach for 22 years, Rodriguez compiled a 271-165 overall record, won eight Senate championships and four city titles, and in 1990 was named the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association Man of the Year.

In addition to being active as a teacher and coach, Rodriguez belonged to the Boys and Girls Club of Cleveland, the National Association of Social Studies Teachers, the Greater Cleveland Social Studies Association and the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association.

Franks Rozum – Strongsville High School

Varsity Baseball Coach for Strongsville High School and lead director and coach of Cuyahoga County Triple A Baseball for 42 years. He and his organization hosted several NABF Junior Division Regional tournaments, and his team participated in the very first NABF College Division National Championship Series held at the University of Maryland in 1984. A member and friend of the National Amateur Baseball Federation since 1980, and the organization's Man of the Year in 1988. Member of Strongsville High School Hall of Fame.

Mark Zofka – Padua/Holy Name High School

He has a career record of 283-145 in 17 seasons at Holy Name and Padua Franciscan high schools. He was named Greater Cleveland Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 2002 and 2005. Also in 2005, he was named the Cuyahoga County Coach of the Year, and his team qualified for the State Final 4. Zofka's teams won five district championships and a regional championship. In 1992 was President of the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association.

Served as the Head Coach at Cuyahoga Community College for six seasons and coached Ryan Bores who would eventually be drafted by the Texas Rangers.

Is a member of the Cleveland State Hall of Fame, class of 2002.

Class of 2013

Len Taylor – Mentor High School

Len Taylor graduated from Eastlake North High School in 1972 and then attended Lakeland Community College where he earned an Associate Degree. Then he transferred to Bowling Green State University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in 1977.

After graduation, Len became the Athletic Director for the Lake/Geauga Catholic Youth Organization. In 1978 he was hired as a Health and Physical Education teacher for Mentor Exempted Village Schools. He taught at the Junior High School up until 1988 where he coached Freshman Basketball for nine years and three years of seventh and eighth grade football. In 1981 Len became an Assistant Varsity Football Coach. In 1987 he was hired as the JV Baseball Coach and in 1988 started teaching at the High School and coaching varsity baseball as an assistant. He retired from coaching football in 2004 after 25 years of service.

In 2000 he was hired as the sixth Head Baseball Coach for Mentor High School, a position that he held for 15 Seasons until retiring after 2014 season. He taught 35 years for Mentor Schools. During his head coaching career his record is 317-107 for career winning percentage of .748. In 2013 went 23-6 advancing to the Regional Final before losing to Aurora. In his final season in 2014 went 18-7 and advanced to Regional Final before losing to eventual State Champion Jackson. Won his 300th game April 9, 2014. He accomplished 10 conference titles, 6 district championships, was a state qualifier for 3 years and state runner-up in 2004 and 2007. He has been named the league Coach of the Year nine times, the county Coach of the Year eight times, the News Herald Coach of the Year three times and the Plain Dealer Coach of the Year four times. He was named by the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association Coach of the Year three times. Len received the honor of being named the All Ohio Coach of the Year in 2004. Served as Varsity Assistant for 13 Seasons (1987-1999) prior to being named Head Coach.

He has three beautiful children, Lenny (28) an Ohio University graduate and personal trainer. Jessica (25) a graduate of Ohio University and is a Actuary for Progressive Insurance. Bryan (23) attended Lakeland Community College and currently working in the trades.

Steve Barona – Beachwood High School

Served as Head Coach at Beachwood from 1990-2008 (19 Seasons). Won 4 Conference Championships in both the Metropolitan Athletic Conference (2002, 2003) and the Cuyahoga Valley Conference (2006, 2007).

In 2008 won the DIII District Championships leading the team to the Regional Semi-Final before losing to Woodridge 4-0 and finishing season 16-6 overall. Won Sectional Championships in 2008, 2007, 2006, and 2002.

Has served on the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association Board for several seasons. At Beachwood coached future professional player, Brad Goldberg.

Dave Clegg – Southeast High School

Was a three year letter winner at Kent State from 1978-1980 and served as Captain his Senior Year.

Has been Head Coach at Southeast for 33 Seasons from 1983-2018 compiling career record of 319-280. Served as Assistant for two years prior (1981-1982). Won 8 Conference Championships and a Sectional Championship in 2002. Named 2016 NEOBCA Coach of the Year for Division II.

Jeff Dallas – Revere/Saint Vincent-Saint Mary High School

Coached baseball for 13 seasons, 12 as Head Coach owning a career record of 158-122. From 1990-1994 was Head Coach at Saint Vincent Saint Mary then from 1998-2004 was Head Coach at Revere High School and Assistant in 2007.

At SVSM went 83-38 and was named Diamond League Coach of the Year in 1991 and 1992. In 1992 was the Head Coach of Summit County in the Portage vs Summit County All-Star Game and led SVSM to State Semi-Final. Won 3 District Championships in 1990, 1991, and 1992 and 4 Sectional Championships in 1990, 1991, 1992, and 1993.

At Revere went 69-84 overall and won 2 Sectional Championships in 2000 and 2004.

Overall won 4 Conference Championships, 6 Sectional Championships, 4 District Championships, 2 time District Runner-Up, 1 Regional Championship and 1 Regional Runner-Up.

Dallas served as co-offensive coordinator and offensive line coach when St. Vincent-St. Mary won D-III state championships in 2012 and '13 under former Copley head coach Dan Boarman. Dallas previously was an assistant at Revere from 1995-2009.

Steve Grescovich – Walsh Jesuit High School

Is a 1974 Graduate of Walsh Jesuit who went on to become Head Baseball Coach for 15 Seasons from 1982-1996 and has served as an Assistant at Walsh Jesuit since 1997. As Head Coach posted career record of 231-110 and led his 1989 team to State Semi-Finals. Was named Coach of the Year for Medina/Summit County that season and named Akron Beacon Journal Clem Caraboolad Memorial Award Winner. Coached a total of 10 All-Ohio players during his 15 seasons.

Jerry Gruss – Saint Edward/Lakewood High School

Began career as an Assistant at Cleveland Central Catholic before being named Head Coach at Saint Edward. Head Baseball Coach for 12 Seasons at Saint Edward High School and Lakewood High School.

While at Saint Edward went 80-56 in 5 Seasons from 1981-1985 and led team to Regional Runner-Up (Elite 8) and coached future MLB Catcher Darrin Campbell.

Served as Lakewood High School's JV Coach for several seasons before becoming Head Coach. As Lakewood's Head Coach from 2002-2007 went 100-66 during that time and won 3 Sectional Championships (2002, 2006, 2007) and was District Runner-Up to eventual State Champion St. Ignatius in 2002. In 2003 established Al DiBiasio early Bird Tournament and won tournament in its inaugural year beating Saint Edward, Holy Name and North Olmsted. Won 100th career win in 2003 over Lorain Admiral King.

Served as President of the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association in 1985. Also served on Football Staff at Lakewood High School for several seasons.

Norris Smith – Amherst Steele High School

Norris Smith had the most successful reign as head coach in the for the first couple years of the Amherst baseball team. In his thirteen years as the head coach, he had nine winning seasons. He also had four conference championships and two sectional titles. Seven of his players went on to play college baseball. One of these players, Dave Zvara, is now the current athletic director at Amherst Steele high school.

George Snider – Chanel/Woodridge/Aurora High School

Was Head Varsity Head at St. Peter Chanel, Woodridge and Aurora High School. In 13 Seasons at Aurora went 147-162 with 2 Cuyahoga Valley Conference Championships (2009, 2012) and 2 Sectional Championships (2007, 2010).

Tim Tomc – Parma Senior High School

Coach Tomc spent his first 30 years as a Coach at Parma Senior High School. The past 7 he's been an assistant for the Bengals.

This Hall of Famer just completed his 37th year as a High school baseball coach. In 11 seasons as a head coach his teams won 113 games. He was selected to coach in the Mizuno All-State series in 1989. In 2000 he was named to the Parma Sr HS Hall of Fame.

He is a longtime member of the state & local coaches associations and served as President of the GCBCA.

During the summer months he provides instruction for players and coaches in the Parma Recreation department – for years he was apart of a coaching team that did clinics for the Cleveland Baseball Federation.

He just completed his 7th season as an asst. coach at Benedictine – this past winter the GCBCA honored him as their asst. coach of the year.



Left to Right: Tim Tomc, Len Taylor, Jeff Dallas, Norris Smith, Dave Clegg, Rob Gruss, Steve Barona

Class of 2014

Tim Cope – Southington/Champion

Tim Cope enters his third season as an assistant as of 2016 with the Hiram Terriers baseball program. Cope served as the head coach at nearby Champion High School for 10 years before joining Hiram. In addition to coaching boys baseball, he is also the Athletic Director at Champion as well as being a physical education teacher. Prior to his move to Champion H.S., Cope was a health and physical education teacher within the Grand Valley Local School District for a year and coached baseball in addition to serving as Athletic Director at Southington High School for 7 Seasons. During his tenure as a high school coach, he led his teams to seven league titles, five district titles (1998, 2000, 2005, 2009), three regional titles (1998, 2000, 2005) and made three state semifinal appearances (1998, 2000, 2005). He was also named Trumbull County Coach of the Year 7 times and recognized by the OHSBCA for 15 Years of Service and 200 wins.

He is a member of the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association (OHSBCA), the Northeast Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Association (NEOIAAA), the Ohio Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (OIAAA) and the Trumbull County.

Coaches Association. Cope has been inducted into the NEOBCA Hall of Fame (2014) and the Chalker High School Athletic Hall of Fame (2008). He has received the "Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity" Award from the NEOIAAA in 2013 and has been named the TCCA "Coach of the Year" a total of seven times. In addition, Cope has coached high school summer baseball leagues, winning several league championships and has coached in numerous area All-Star games.

Terry Griffith – Fairless High School

Coached the Fairless baseball team from 1977 to 2000 (24 Seasons) and also spent 4 Seasons as Assistant Head Coach. School's winningest coach with 259 victories and 220 Losses and seven league championships. He also won 6 Sectional Championships, 2 District Championships and made 1 Regional Final Appearance (Elite 8). He was named League Coach of the Year 7 times and was selected to Coach in the OHSBCA All-Ohio Series in 1989. In 2002 he was selected as a member of the Stark County Baseball Hall of Fame. Team's baseball facility, the Terry Griffith "1" Baseball Complex, was dedicated in his honor.

Marty Kane – Normandy

Spent 12 years (1991-2003) as a head coach with a career record of 199-105. He began his coaching career in the early 60's but gave up coaching to embark on a career as a school administrator. In 1991 he returned to the baseball diamond. The 2013-2014 school year was his 54th year working in education.

After an outstanding High School career as a left-handed pitcher he attended Kent State University on a baseball scholarship and then played in the Boston Red Sox organization. He was inducted into the Kent State University athletic Hall of Fame in 1997.

During his tenure as Head Coach his program nearly tripled in size. He played a vital role in summer baseball programs both in his local school district and travel baseball. His teams won 3 District Championships and made it to the Regional Final once. (40) of his players made the All-League team, (8) made the Plain Dealer All-Scholastic team. (1) player made the Mizuno All-State team. (18) of his players went on to play college baseball and in 1999 Lake Erie League Coach of the Year.

Tom Kubinski – Elyria West/Elyria Catholic

Coached 4 teams for a total of 34 Seasons as Head Coach, accumulating over 300 wins while at Oberlin, North Ridgeville, Elyria West and Elyria Catholic. During that time he won 9 Sectional Championships, 5 District Championships, 2 Regional Championships and won the 1992 State Championship. The State Championship was the first ever by a Lorain County team.

Won a total of 14 Coach of the Year awards and was selected as OHSBCA All-Ohio Series coach twice. In 1996 he won the Umpires Association Award for Sportsmanship. He is also Past President of the Lorain County Baseball Coaches Association.

Dennis Turkall – Euclid High School

Spent 20 Seasons as Coach at Euclid High School, 12 as an Assistant/JV Coach under the legendary Paul Serra and 8 seasons as Head Coach from 1995-2002. During his tenure Euclid won 287 games when he was an Assistant/JV Coach and went 169-53 for a .758 winning percentage as Head Coach. During his 8 Seasons, he won 7 Sectional Championships and 5 District Championships. The New Herald named him Coach of the Year 6 times and he was Coach of the Year 7 times in the Greater Cleveland Conference and Lake Erie League.

Member of Euclid High School and Cleveland State Hall of Fame.

Dave Wilks – Holy Name

Spent 14 Seasons as Head Coach at Holy Name High School, recording 216 wins and 110 Losses during that time. During that time led the Green Wave to Regionals four times and was 8-0, advancing to the State Final Four each time. Twice he made it to the State Championship Game, winning the State Title in 1981 and Runner-Up in 1988. Taught 42 years and during that time also served as Assistant Football Coach and also became Head Football Coach. Eventually went on to be an Assistant at Baldwin Wallace.



Left to Right: Tom Kubinski, Marty Kane, Dave Wilks, Tim Cope, Terry Griffith, Dennis Turkall

Class of 2015

Bill Frey – Brunswick High School

Frey, 66, was a biology teacher at Brunswick High School from 1978-2007. During that time, he also coached baseball and girls basketball and was a member of the Medina County Sports Hall of Fame. As Head Girls Basketball Coach he won 177 games.

From 1989-2007 (19 Seasons), Frey coached baseball at the high school and when he finally stepped down, he left as Medina County's winningest coach, with a record of 329-128-2. In addition to earning several Pioneer Conference titles between 1992-2001, he also won league championships in 2004 and 2006. He had 5 players win Medina County Player of the Year.

Joe Kilburg – Cleveland Central Catholic High School

Kilburg prepped at Cathedral Latin High School in 1966 and earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Dayton in 1970. He went on to earn his master's degree in "sports science" from the University of Ashland in 1983.

In 1983, he was named the head coach at Cleveland Central Catholic High School. He created a highly competitive program before leaving the program in 1995 after 13 Seasons and 250 Wins. His 1993 team finished in the final 16 of the state and he led his team to two other District Championship games, finishing as Runner-Up both times.

Joe has also been an instructor for 26 years at the Phil Bova Baseball camp. Joe has also been asked to speak at several clinics and mini camps. During his career he was on a coaching staff with NEOBCA Hall of Famer's Cliff Cook (BW), Ken Ciolek (BW) and Jerry Chase (CCC).

Currently, Joe teaches high school science in Cleveland and was an assistant coach at Baldwin-Wallace College for 11 Seasons. in Berea, OH. Kilburg is married and has two sons. His wife Judy is a baseball fan. Joe, his oldest, played at Stanford and was a professional baseball player in the minor leagues.

Ken Krepop – Westlake High School

Head Varsity Baseball for 15 Seasons with a record of 210-120. His 1973 team won the Southwestern Conference Championship and set the school record for highest winning percentage (18-2, .900). Twice he was named Southwestern Conference Coach of the Year. Led the team to the District Championship game three times and was selected as Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association All-Star Game Coach four times and was selected to coach in the OHSBCA All-Ohio Series once. He also served as President of the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association in 1981, was Chairmen of the GCBCA Coaches Clinic and won their Man of the Year Award in 1986.

Jim Rucki – Rocky River High School

Rucki won 192 games during a 13-year stint (1987-1999) as head baseball coach at Rocky River High School, a run capped by Division II state runner-up finishes in both 1998 and 1999. Cincinnati McNicholas nipped Rocky River 6-5 in the 1998 state championship game; a year later, Cuyahoga Falls Walsh Jesuit edged the Pirates 5-4 in nine innings.

Rucki led the program to six West Shore Conference titles in 13 seasons, as well as six sectional, three district (1993, 1998, 1999) and two regional championships. In 1999 was named Coach of the Year by the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Rucki left Rocky River for the boys varsity basketball opening at Findlay prior to the 1999-2000 school year. He returned to the diamond in 2007, though, when he took over the baseball program at Liberty-Benton.

Rucki, who achieved over 300 career baseball wins, guided Liberty Benton to a school-record 22 wins in 2013 and posted a 110-52 record in seven seasons as head coach. He guided the Eagles to three Blanchard Valley Conference championships (2007, 2012, 2013) and two sectional titles (2009, 2010).

Rucki, who spent 10 of his 13 years at Rocky River as the head basketball coach, achieved a milestone on the hardwood as well when he achieved his 400th career win this past season. Rucki posted a 160-71 record at Rocky River and a 391-177 slate at Findlay for a career record of 403-189.

Brian Sliwinski – Padua/Benedictine High School

Starting at Cuyahoga Heights before coaching five years at Padua then coming to Benedictine, he has coached 25 Seasons of High School baseball. From 1995-1998 he was the head coach at Padua Franciscan before joining the Bengals staff as a varsity assistant in 1999. Sliwinski recently completed his 16th season (2000-2015) as Benedictine's head coach. He won 230 game as Head Coach at Benedictine and finished his career with 305 wins overall. Won nine Sectional Championships in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014. Was District Runner-Up five times in 2004, 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2014 at Benedictine.

Sliwinski was named the North Coast League Coach of the Year in 1995 and the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 2004.

Sliwinski spent his summers coaching and conducting clinics for the East-West Baseball Ambassadors. Traveling to Puerto Rico, Holland, Germany, Belgium and Russia to teach the game of baseball.

He has held the position of President of the Greater Cleveland Baseball

Coaches Association, board member of the Northeast Ohio Baseball Coaches Association and Poll Voter for the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association.

For 10 years Coach Sliwinski worked for the Cleveland Baseball Federation as a field monitor, equipment manager and camp/clinic instructor. A founding member of the Diamond Connie Mack League, Coach Sliwinski has served various duties for the amateur baseball league.



Left to Right: Jim Rucki, Joe Kilburg, Ken Krepop, Brian Sliwinski

Class of 2016

Scott Gabelt – Marlinton High School

Spent 30 Years as an Educator at Marlinton from 1985-2015. Was named Alliance Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Month in October 2014.

Spent 30 Seasons as Baseball Coach, the last 21 as Head Coach from 1985-2015. Finished his career with 343-260 record for .569 winning percentage.

Led the Dukes to 4 Northeastern Buckeye Conference Championships, 14 Sectional Championships, 7 District Championship Runner-Up and in 2010 won the District Championship and advanced to the Elite 8.

Was named Coach of the year by the NBC four times, twice was selected to the Mizuno All-Ohio Series (2003, 2015). In 2009 was inducted into the Stark County Baseball Hall of Fame. Served on the OHSBCA Board of Directors as a representative for Northeast Ohio for 3 years. 19 Players earned a Division I, II or NAIA scholarship during his tenure.

Also served as Wrestling Coach for 14 Seasons (1985-1994, 2005-2010), Was on Football Staff for 30 Seasons and served as Head Football Coach in 2014 and was named Coach of the Year.

Donald Jones – Twinsburg High School

Head Coach of Twinsburg High School for 30 Seasons (1988-Present) owning a career record of 415-287 entering 2018 season. Led team to 7 Conference Championships (1989, 1990, 1994, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2016), 15 Sectional Championships (1989, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1996, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017), 4 District Runner-Up finishes, 3 District Championships (1990, 2004, 2006), 2 Regional Championships (1990, 2006) and was 1990 AA State Poll Champ.

Named Conference Coach of the Year 6 times (1989, 1990, 1994, 2008, 2009, 2010). Was Inducted into Lake County Captains Crows Nest Hall of Fame 2014. In 2016 was selected to Coach in OHSBCA Mizuno All-Ohio Series AllStar game at Ohio State.

Has coached 5 (Dan Grummitt, Gerald Ogrinc, Aaron Swenson, Scott Effross, and Jalen Washington) players who have went on to play professional baseball, 40+ college players, 11 Academic All-Ohio, 3 All-Ohio Poll Players, 4 OHSBCA Mizuno All-Ohio Players (2016, 2006, 2006, 2003), 20 years Head JV/Varsity Assistant Basketball Coach at Twinsburg. Assistant Football Coach at Twinsburg (20 years), Crestwood (2 years) and currently Gilmour Academy (3 years). In 2019 was inducted into the Greater Akron Baseball Hall of Fame.

Mel Long – Hoover High School

Coached Baseball for 34 Years (1971-2004) at Hoover High School. Spent 4 Seasons (1971-1974) as Freshman Coach, 10 Seasons (1975-1984) as Head JV Coach and was Head Varsity Coach for 20 Season (1985-2000).

During time as Head Varsity Coach amassed a 327-221 overall record. Led the Vikings to 2 Federal League Championships (1992, 1998), 7 Sectional Championships (1985, 1988, 1992, 1994, 1999, 2003, 2004), 2 District Championships (1992, 1998), 5 District-Runner Up Finishes (1985, 1988, 1994, 1995, 2003), 2 Regional Championships (1992, 1998), 1998 made State Final Four and in 1992 was State Runner-Up.

Coached in Hank Miller All-Star game four times. Site Director of Northeast Division I baseball and softball sectionals and district playoffs (1985-1995). Coached 29 collegiate players, 9 at DI. Coached 1 Mizuno All-Ohioan (1989). Inducted into Stark County Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame 1985

Coached Freshman Football for 34 years at Hoover High School. Coached 8th Grade Basketball. Taught Biology 35 years at Hoover High School.

Tim Murphy – North Olmsted High School

Has been the Head Varsity Baseball Coach at North Olmsted for 23 Seasons from 1994 to 2018. Owns a career record of 341-212 for a .617 Winning Percentage.

Won South Western Conference Champions three times (1996, 1997, 2002). In 2002 was District Champions and Regional Runner-Up. Has led North Olmsted to 7 Sectional Championships (1998, 2001, 2002, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2011).

Has coached 30+ Collegiate players, 6 All-Ohio Poll Players, 10 Academic All-Ohioans, 2 Mizuno All-Ohioans (2006, 2009) and 2 MLB Players (Ryan Dennick and Adam Russell). In 2006 Coached in Mizuno All-Ohio Series.

Also is former Head Varsity Hockey Coach, Recorded 350th Career Win in 2012. 2002 Greater Cleveland Hockey Coaches Coach of the Year. Also served as Head Varsity Golf Coach.

John Sarver – Hoban/Buchtel/Kenmore/Ellet

Has spent 36 Years as a Head Baseball Coach at Kenmore, Buchtel, Archbishop Hoban and Ellet. Also spent 36 Years as Middle School Industrial Arts teacher in Akron City Schools

Owns Career Record of 493-322 entering 2016 season (461-306 entering 2014 season according to ABJ, 15-7 in 2014, 17-9 in 2015). Coached at Archbishop Hoban for two stints, leading them to 4 District Championships. In 1993 was State Runner Up, Lost 3-2 to Lakewood Hebron and finished 20-9. That same year was named Tri-County Conference Coach of the Year and OHSBCA AllOhio Series Coach.

Has been Head Coach at Ellet since 1999, during that time won 10 Akron City Series Championships (2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013) and has been named Akron City Series Coach of the Year 6 times.

Has served 35 years on staff of Ellet Football, spent 32 years as OHSAA High School Basketball Official.

Inducted into Greater Akron Baseball Hall of Fame 1994 and Summit County Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.

Paul Verno - Cardinal

Spent 35 Seasons (1955-1989) as Head Varsity Baseball Coach, with a career record of 423-187 for a .693 winning percentage. During that time won 15 Conference Championships (1956-1963, 1970-1971, 1974, 1978, 1980, 1985, 1988). In 1973 led the Huskies to the Regionals, capturing the District Championship.

1985 Suburban Conference Coach of the Year, coached 2 Conference MVP's. The Cardinal High School Baseball Field is named in his honor and he was inducted into the Cardinal Athletic Hall of Fame in 2014.

Also served as Head Football Coach 1954-1984 (31 season), 173-85 Career Record, won 8 Conference Championships and was Athletic Director from 1954-1989.



Left to Right: Scott Gabelt, John Sarver, Tim Murphy, Mel Long's Brother, Paul Verno's two sons, and Donald Jones

Class of 2017

Dan Boarman – St. Vincent – St. Mary

Boarman is a 1970 graduate of St. Vincent High School, part of one of that school's last classes. He played football at the University of Indiana as an offensive lineman and returned to STSVM soon after, serving as defensive coordinator.

Served as Head Baseball Coach for 14 Seasons from 1976-1989. During that time compiled a 225-84 career record. Led STVSM to 7 Diamond League Championships, 5 Sectional Championships (1982, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989), 4 District Championships (1982, 1986, 1987, 1989), 2 Regional Championships (1986, 1989), 2 Elite Eight Appearances (1982, 1987), 1 Final Four Appearance (1992) and won 2 State Championships in 1986 and 1989.

In 1977 was inducted into the STVSM Hall of Fame and in 2001 was inducted into the Greater Akron Baseball Hall of Fame.

Served as a Head Football Coach for 26 seasons, with Copley (1990-2006) and STVSM (2007-2015). Compiled career record of 206-96, coached 2 Ohio Mr. Football, made 17 playoff appearances, was 2 time State Semi-Finalist (2000, 2014) and won back-to-back DIII State Championships in 2012 and 20-13 with STVSM.

Dennis Dever – Woodridge

Coach Dever has been the Head Baseball Coach at Woodridge High School since 2000. Entering the 2018 season owns a career record of 332-181. During that span has won 8 Conference Championships (2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015) and was named Conference Coach of the Year each time, finished as League Runner-Up four times, won 9 Sectional Championships (2002, 2007, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017), 4 District Championships (2006, 2007, 2008, 2014), one District Runner-Up (2015), and was Regional Runner-Up twice (2008, 2014).

He has been named Coach of the Year by the Cleveland Plain Dealer and twice named Coach of the Year by the Record Publishing. He has served as a Poll Voter for the Ohio Baseball Coaches Association for 9 Seasons and helped create the Portage Trail Conference All-Star Game and has hosted it several years. In 2019 was inducted into the Greater Akron Baseball Hall of Fame.

Sean Durkin – Ursuline

Was the Head Baseball Coach at Ursuline High School for 17 Seasons from 1997-2015. Finished with a career record of 306-134. During his career led Ursuline to 9 District Championships, 3 Regional Championships, 3 Final Four Appearances, 2 State Final Four Appearances and in 2000 won the State Championship in Division III.

Also served as Head Girls Basketball Coach at Ursuline for 16 seasons from 1999-2011 and 2013-2015, compiling a 252-131 Record. During that span won 11 District Championships, 2 Regional Championships, 2 State Final Appearances and won the 2004 Division III State Championship.

Currently serves as the Athletic Director at Ursuline High School.

Robert Loeffler - Bedford

Taught and Coached entire 31 year career at Bedford City Schools from 1964-1995. During his 31 Seasons won a total of 315 games and led his teams to 4

Greater Cleveland Conference Championships (1966, 1968, 1971, 1972), 4

District Championships and 1 Elite Eight Appearance. Coached one All-Ohio Player and coached future NFL Wide Receiver Chris Chambers.

In 1977 was President of the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association and in 1998 was inducted into the Bedford High School Athletics Hall of Fame. Bedford High School Baseball Field was named in his honor June 2019.

Dennis Markiewicz – Garfield Heights/Holy Name

Served as Head Coach for 20 Seasons at Garfield Heights (1996-2010) and Holy Name (2011-2015). Finished with a career record of 295-215. Won 8 Conference Championships (6 Lake Erie League, 2 North Coast League), won 9 Sectional Championships (1997, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015), was 2 time District Runner-Up (1997, 2004), won 3 District Championships (2011, 2013, 2015), one Regional Championship (2011) and made one State Final Four Appearance (2011).

Served as Vice President in the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association (2014-2016), Vice President in the Northeast Ohio Baseball Coaches Association (2015-2016) and Co-Chairmen on NEOBCA Hall of Fame Committee since 2014.

Was named Coach of the Year by the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association in 2011 and 2015. Twice coached in the OHSBCA Mizuno All-Ohio Series in 2011 and 2014. Inducted into Garfield Heights Hall of Fame 2012.

Established Garfield Griffins Collegiate Team that still exists. Coached 7 years at Morgan League and Travel Baseball in Garfield Heights. Served as Commissioner for Garfield Heights Travel league for 1 year. Coached Football 43 Seasons (Cleveland South 23 Years, Garfield Heights 18 Years)

Larry Wiles – Field/Firestone

Was a Head Baseball for 31 Seasons, coaching at Field High for 30 Seasons (1968-1980, 1985-2000) and one season at Firestone High School (2001). Coach Wiles finished with a career record of 474-225 and is the All-Time Winningest Coach in Portage County with 456 wins.

In his career he won 7 Conference Championships (1968, 1969, 1977, 1991, 1992, 1993, 2000), 7 Sectional Championships (1972, 1987, 1990, 1995, 1998, 2000, 2001) and one District Championship (1972). He once had a 19 game winning streak at Field.

Was named Conference Coach of the Year 9 times and was selected to coach in the Portage vs Summit County All-Star game 7 times. Nine of his former players went on to become a Head High School Coach and four became College Coaches. He also coached four players who would be drafted.



Left to Right: Dennis Dever (Woodridge), Dan Boarman (STVSM), Larry Wiles (Field/Firestone), Robert Loeffler (Bedford) and Dennis Markiewicz (Garfield Heights/Holy Name)

Class of 2018

Phil J. Bova - Canfield

Coach Bova started the Canfield baseball program in the Fall of 1972. He coached the program for 14 seasons, with only his first season being a losing season. During that time he compiled a 240-119 overall record.

He won 6 Mahoning Valley Conference Championships and was named the MVC Coach of the Year 4 times. He led the Cardinals to 8 Sectional Championships, 3 District Championships and one Regional Final appearance.

In 1986 he was a Coach in the Youngstown area North vs South All-Star Game, his final season as Head Coach. After his tenure he was inducted into the Canfield High School Hall of Fame in 1993. He returned to the program as an Assistant and was on staff when they reached the Final Four in 1998. In 2011 the Canfield Baseball Field was named in his honor.

Tim Hogan – James Ford Rhodes/John Hay

Served as Head Coach of two programs, James Ford Rhodes and John Hay for a total of 28 seasons. Both baseball programs were established by Coach Hogan (Rhodes 1987-1988, John Hay 2009-2010). He compiled a career record of 237-291 during his 28 seasons.

At James Ford Rhodes he coached 21 Seasons, winning 198 games. 8 times Rhodes qualified for the Senate League Playoffs and 3 times won the Senate League Championship (2001, 2006, and 2007). In 2008 he was named the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association Division I Coach of the Year.

In Fall 2009 the John Hay Hornets baseball team was established and quickly became a contender as they qualified for the Senate League playoffs six times and in 2016 reached the title game before losing to his old school, James Ford Rhodes. In 2015 he was selected by his peers to coach in the OHSBCA Mizuno All-Ohio Series. After the 2016 season Coach Hogan retired as Head Coach and served as Assistant to the John Hay program and was named the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association (OHSBCA) Assistant Coach of the Year.

Coach Hogan was actively involved in the area coaches associations. In the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association (GCBCA) he was Vice-President (1994), President (1995-1996) and served as Treasurer from 1998 - Present. He was an active member of the OHSBCA and NEOBCA during his career.

Gordon Knisley – Marlboro/Hoover

Coach Knisley began his career as the Head Baseball Coach at Marlboro High School (now Marlinton High School) in 1951. He served as Head Coach for 6 Seasons until 1956, compiling as 60-25 overall record at the school.

He eventually moved on to a teaching career at Hoover High School was the JV Baseball Coach for 14 Seasons (1957-1970) before taking over in 1971 as the Head Coach. As the Head Coach at Hoover, Coach Knisley went 230-140 overall. He won two Federal League Championships in 1973 and 1974. He led the team to 3 Sectional Championships (1971, 1977, and 1978), 2 District Championships (1971 and 1978), finishing as Regional Runner-Up in 1971 and 1978. Three times he was named Stark County Coach of the Year (1974, 1980, and 1983) and coached in the Stark County All-Star Game four times.

In 20 seasons, Coach Knisley finished with an overall record of 290-165 overall. In addition to coaching baseball, he was the Head Basketball Coach from 1961-1964 and an Assistant Basketball Coach from 1971-1984.

Marc Lowther – Brooklyn/Cuyahoga Heights

Coach Lowther coached for 21 seasons, owning a career record of 301 wins and 207 losses. He has won 17 Sectional Championships, 8 District Championships, 2 Regional Championships and was the 2012 Division IV State Runner-Up. Additionally, was District Runner-Up four times, Regional Runner-Up four times and in 2016 led team to Final Four. He won the Cuyahoga Valley Conference Championship in 2011. In 2013 served as the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association President. Twice was selected to coach in the OHSBCA Mizuno All-Ohio Series, coached three times in the NEOBCA All-Star Game and once in the OHSBCA Oklahoma Heartland Classic. Coached two players who played professionally, including his son Zach who is currently pitching in the Baltimore Orioles farm system.

James Macholl – Lorain Catholic

Coach Macholl established the Lorain Catholic Baseball team in the Fall of 1969 and built it into one of the most successful programs in Lorain County. During 23 season he had an overall record of 298-187 and went an incredible 50-23 in the playoffs.

His 1990 team was his most successful, as they were Class “A” State Runner-Up to Coldwater. He led the team to 12 Sectional Championships, 5 District Championships, and 1 Regional Championship. Additionally, he led his team to

4 District Runner-Up and 3 Regional Runner-Up finishes. He also won 2 Conference Championships (1975, 1983) and 1 City Championship (1976).

During his tenure he had 8 players selected All-State, 5 Players named MVP in the All-County All-Star Game and 4 players named Conference MVP. Once former player, Adrian Abrahamowicz would go on to become the Head Coach at Oberlin College.

In 2016 his 1990 Lorain Catholic team was inducted into the Lorain County Hall of Fame.

Roger Taylor – Manchester

Served as Head Coach for 28 Seasons in two tenures as Manchester Head Coach from 1974-1984 and 1991-2007, winning 332 games.

He won a Conference Championship in 3 different conferences (Suburban, All Ohio and Principal Athletic), winning a total of 8 Conference Championships (1975, 1982, 1991, 1992, 1993, 2001, 2002, and 2005). Six different times he was named League Coach of the Year. Eight times he led Manchester to a Sectional Championship (1991, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2001, 2002, and 2003). In 1993 and 1998 he led the team to District Championships, with the 1993 team finishing as Regional Runner-Up. He had two players who would go on to play professionally, Shannon Swaino (Expos) and Jordan Petraitis (Cubs).

He organized yearly baseball camps/clinics for youth baseball at Manchester and established a \$500 scholarship in honor of Head Junior Varsity Coach Rick Shaw who passed away unexpectedly.



Left to Right: Luke Smrdel (NEOBCA President), Marc Lowther (Cuyahoga Heights), Tim Hogan (Rhodes/John Hay), Phil J. Bova (Canfield), Roger Taylor (Manchester), Gordon Knisley (Marlboro/Hoover), and Bob Merritt (NEOBCA HOF CO-Chair)

Class of 2019

Bill Goddard – Wadsworth High School

Spent 34 years teaching High School Science at Wadsworth and is graduate of Wadsworth High School and University of Akron. Served as Head Coach from 1989-2005 (17 seasons) with a career record of 288-135 (.681%). During that time won 7 Suburban League Championships, 2 Regional Appearances, 2 District Championships, and 10 Sectional Championships.

Was named 2002 Cleveland Plain Dealer Coach of the Year and Medina County Spring Coach of the Year six times. Coached 6 Division I players, total of roughly 40-50 total that played at collegiate level after high school.

Coached 3 players who were eventually drafted and played professional baseball: Mark Dean (A St. Louis Cardinals), Drew Saylor (A Florida Marlins), current Colorado Rockies Manager for Modesto Nuts (A) and Andy Sonnastine (MLB Tampa Bay), pitched 5 seasons in MLB all with Tampa Bay and started in Game 4 of 2008 World Series.

Is a member of following Hall's of Fame: Wadsworth High School, Medina County, and Greater Akron Baseball.

Bob Hagner – Mapleton High School

Served three stints totaling 21 Seasons (1975-1977, 1980-1981, 1994-2009) at Mapleton High School. Owned a Career Record of 265-150 (.639%).

Won four Firelands Conference Champions, 1 Regional Championship, 2 District Championships and 10 Sectional Championships. He advanced the team as far as the 2004 State Final Four (D IV) and was seven time District Runner-Up. Played in District Championship Game 9 out of 10 years (2000-2009)

Named Times-Gazette Coach of the Year in 2003 and 2004. Mapleton High School Baseball Field Named Bob Hagner Field 2009.

Don Hertler, Sr. – North Canton Hoover High School

Served as Head Coach 17 Seasons (1954-1970) at North Canton Hoover High School. Owned Career Record of 220-90 (.710 Winning %) and won the 1970 Federal League Championship. He also assisted with Sectional, District and Regional Baseball Tournaments.

Also served as Head Football Coach 21 seasons (1960-1980) with a career record of 163-43-3 and never had a losing season, winning 7 Federal League Championships. Inducted into Ohio High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame 1987 and Inducted into Stark County Football Coaches Hall of Fame 2003. Hoover High School Football Field dedicated to him in 2011.

Served as Athletic Director for 10 years and as North Canton's Director of Parks and Recreation 1960-1967.

Matt Koenig – Canfield High School

Coaching Career spanned 23 seasons serving as a JV Coach at Canfield for 4 Seasons, 2 Seasons as Assistant Varsity at Weldon High School in North Carolina, 4 Seasons as Assistant Varsity at Warren G. Harding High School before spending 13 season as the Head Coach at Canfield High School from 2006 to 2018.

As the Head Coach at Canfield compiled a 240-100 career record (94-23 in league play) and is the winningest Head Coach in Canfield history. Won 10 Sectional Championships, 6 District Championships, twice was District Runner-Up, 3 Regional Semi-Final appearances and 3 Regional Runner-Up appearances. In 2007 won the Division II State Championship beating Sandusky Perkins 4-2. He also led the team to 7 Conference Championships and was 3 time Mingo Bay (Myrtle Beach) Tournament Champions.

He also served as Northeast Ohio District Rep for OHSBCA and was a NEOBCA Board Member. Selected to coach in 2018 OHSBCA Mizuno All-Ohio Series Led field improvements for a \$200,000 indoor hitting facility constructed in 2013, a \$20,000 press box storage with garage and sound system, 2017 Watering system and complete infield with Mar Co. Clay 2017, Blocked in bullpens 2016, and New fencing 2015.

Bob Neff – Canton McKinley

Was Head Baseball Coach at Canton McKinley for 20 seasons (1985-2004) with a Career Record of 226-169 (.572%). Won Diamond Conference Champions in 1992 and 1993. Named Diamond Conference Coach of the Year three times in 1992, 1993, and 1997. Led Canton McKinley Bulldogs to Regional Semi-Finalist 1998 and District Champions 1998.

Served as 1996 Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association President after going through the Chairs. Also in 1996 was Team Ohio Heartland Classic (Oklahoma) Assistant Coach. Had 4 Players Named All-Ohio Poll Team, 2 players drafted: Gary Grant (Milwaukee Brewers) and Mike Skeeles (Cleveland Indians). In 2005 was selected to the Stark County Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame.

Also severed for 21 Seasons as Assistant Football Coach from 1981-2002. Coached on 1997 **USA Today** National Championship Team. Coached on 3 State Championship Football Teams (1981, 1997, 1998). 2010 named East All-Star Football Coach. Inducted into Canton McKinley Football Hall of Fame 2014 Class.

Don Ramer – Mayfield

Served as Head Varsity Coach 17 Seasons (2000-2016), owning a career record of 270-186 (.592%) at Mayfield High School. Led the Wildcats to 7 Sectional Championships, 4 District Championships, a District Runner-Up (2013) and two Regional Runner-Up finishes (2008, 2010). Won 6 Conference Championships and was named Conference Coach of the Year six times. The **News Herald** named him Coach of the Year four times and was once named the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association Coach of the Year. Thirteen of his players went on to play Division I Baseball and Mitch Longo was drafted by the Cleveland Indians.

Dale Weygandt – Medina

Spent 20 Seasons as the Head Coach (1964-1984) at Medina High School after previously serving as Head Coach for two seasons at Iola-Scandinavian High School in Wisconsin (1962-1963). At Medina, he won a total of 250 games and 3 Southwest Conference Championships (1973, 1983, 1984). He led the Bee's to 5 Sectional Championships (1969, 1973, 1974, 1980, 1982) and was five time District Runner-Up (1969, 1973, 1974, 1980, 1982). In 1983 was selected to coach the OHSBCA All-Ohio Series.

Served as Commissioner Medina Youth Baseball for 3 Years. Additionally, coached Girls Basketball at Medina winning 101 games, 2 Conference Championships and were 1982 District Champions.

In 2012 was inducted into the Wayne County Sports Hall of Fame.



Class of 2020

Marvin Beal – Barberton High School

Spent 21 Seasons as the Head Coach at Barberton from 1972 to 2002. During that time he had career record of 254-198 (.592%), making him the winningest baseball coach in Barberton's storied tradition. He won 8 Sectional Championships (1972, 1974, 1976, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1986 and 1988), 4 District Championships (1972, 1976, 1977 and 1986) and in 1986 captured a Regional Championship for a berth in the State Final Four. Twice he led his team to a conference championship (1975 and 1987).

In 1987 he was recognized as the Conference Coach of the Year. Three times he won the Dick Shrine Award while in the Diamond Conference.

Coach Beal was selected to several Hall of Fames including Barberton High School Sports Hall of Fame (1993), Akron East High School Sports Hall of Fame (2000), Greater Akron Baseball Hall of Fame (2003) and Summit County Sports Hall of Fame (2008).

Sean Carmichael – Triway High School

Was the Head Coach at Triway High School for 21 Seasons from 1997 to 2019. His career record through the 2018 season stood at an impressive 386-173 for a .691 winning percentage. He won a total of 9 Conference Championships (1997, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2008, 2011, and 2015) and was named Patriot Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in 2008 and 2011. Triway captured 9 Sectional Championships (2003, 2004, 2009-2013 and 2017) and were the 2011 District Runner-Up.

He served as Athletic Director at Triway High School and also was an Area Scout and District Leader for the Crossroads Series.

Dennis Danko – Trinity High School

Coach the Trinity Trojans for 21 seasons from 1975 to 1995. During that time he never had a losing season. In 1984 he led the team to the State Final Four and was selected to coach in the OHSBCA All-Ohio Series All-Star Games. In 1989 led Trinity to the North Coast League Championship. Saint Monaco Baseball Field in Garfield Heights was named in his honor for all his accomplishments.

He also served as Head Football Coach and also never had a losing season. Led the team to back to back playoff appearances in 1986-1987 and in 1987 led team to North Coast League Championship and 10-0 Record.

Mark Echstenkamper – Independence High School

Served two stints as the Head Coach at Independence High School for a total of 17 Seasons from 2000-2014 and 2017-2018. He spent the 2015 and 2016 season as an Assistant at Wellington High School. During his tenure at Independence he had a 256-171 overall record for a .599 winning percentage. His teams went a combined 27-17 in the playoffs, winning 61% of their games.

He led the Blue Streaks to 8 Sectional Championships (2000, 2001, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013 and 2014) and 5 District Championships (2000, 2001, 2010, 2011 and 2014; with the 2000 team being the 1st District Title in team history. In 2012 led the team to a District Runner-Up finish.

His team had four top 10 finishes in the OHSBCA State Coaches Poll. Independence won 5 Chagrin Valley Conference Championships. In 2000 he was Selected as the Greater Cleveland Baseball Coaches Association Coach of the Year. Twice was selected as the OHSBCA All-Ohio Series Coach (2009-2010).

Prior to Independence he was an Assistant Baseball Coach at Kent State University in 1990. He spent 17 seasons as Independence Head Golf Coach and served 3 seasons as their Head Softball Coach winning 57 games, 2 Conference Championships and was the 1998 ***Cleveland Plain Dealer*** Coach of the Year.

Matt Giambattista – Ursuline High School

Coached the Ursuline Fighting Irish twice for a total of 18 Seasons from 1975-1980 and 1983-1994. Led the team to a 275-183 mark for a .569 winning percentage. He led the team to 6 Steel Valley Conference Championships, 3 District Championships, 2 Regional Championships and won the 1988 Division III State Championship. In 2012 was inducted in to the Ursuline High School Hall of Fame.

Ron Stoops, Sr. – Cardinal Mooney High School

Served as Head Baseball Coach for 28 Seasons at Cardinal Mooney High School from 1959 to 1987. In 1984 was selected as to coach in the OHSBCA All-Ohio Series All-Star Games. In 1993 he was part of the inaugural Cardinal Mooney High School Hall of Fame Class and a bronze statue of him was erected and placed in the school hallway. Cardinal Mooney 6,000 square foot indoor Baseball/Softball Facility was named in his honor.

He also served as Defensive Coordinator of the football team from 1959-1988. His sons went on to become Division I Head Football Coaches: Bob (Oklahoma), Mike (Arizona) and Mark (Kentucky). His other son Ron, Jr. went to coach at Cardinal Mooney High School and Youngstown State.

Andy Thompson – Mentor High School

Led the Mentor Cardinal for 22 Seasons from 1978 to 1999 and also was an Assistant Coach for 2 seasons. Led the team to a 322-234 record for a .579 winning percentage. Six times he led them to a Conference Championship (1993-1996, 1998, 1999) while also winning 8 Sectional Championships (1979, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1989, 1993, 1994, and 1999), 4 District Championships (1984, 1986, 1989, 1993) and 2 Regional Championships (1986 and 1989). Coach Thompson was the 1st President of the Lake County Baseball Coaches Association.