

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME NIGHT

February 3, 2006

Welcome Hall of Fame recipients, family members, friends, and Bear fans, young and old. This is the eighteenth year for the St. Joseph High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Athletic Director, Kevin Guzzo, and Principal, Jeff Runser, will be honoring the five new inductees with a plaque at halftime.

St. Joseph High School has a very simple philosophy. Each individual has the right and responsibility to develop and grow as a student, as an athlete, and as a person through a variety of experiences. Athletics has been a positive outlet for our honored guests. Certainly, as you read through the profiles of the inductees, you can see that these people serve as strong role models in all facets of life. They have distinguished themselves as great athletes, but more importantly, as good students and community leaders throughout the United States.

We hope you enjoy tonight's activities and invite you to spend some time with the new inductees, their families and friends, at a reception in the Field House conference room, after the game.

Bart Kruse

Bart Kruse grew up in Ann Arbor and went to Ann Arbor High School. During his high school years, Bart earned seven varsity letters while participating in wrestling, cross country, and track. Bart went on to attend Eastern Michigan University where he was a conference champion in wrestling and a team captain.

At St. Joseph High School, Bart was the varsity wrestling coach from 1970 until his retirement in 2001. During this time Bart accumulated a record of over 350 victories while leading his teams to the following accomplishments: Berrien County Champions in 1993; Conference Champions in 1999; and District Champions in 1988, 1992, and 2001. For his outstanding coaching efforts in wrestling, Bart was named the Southwestern Michigan Coach of the Year in 1993.

Bart was also an assistant varsity football coach for his thirty one years at St. Joseph High School. He is a member of the Michigan High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame, and was named Class B Assistant Football Coach of the Year in 1984.

Bart currently resides in St. Joseph with his wife Carolyn.

George Waning

George Waning grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana and attended Central Catholic High School where he participated in football and basketball. After high school, George attended Marion College where he played varsity basketball for four years. Two of those four years George was voted Most Valuable Player in basketball. In 2000, George was selected to the Marion College Hall of Fame for his outstanding career in basketball.

George came to St. Joseph in 1971 as an assistant principal and athletic director. During his 29 years serving as the athletic director, George redefined athletics at St. Joseph High School. Some of the many contributions George made include: he hosted over 100 MHSAA District, Regional, and State Final tournaments; he hosted the Class D State Finals in Softball; helped raise over three quarters of a million dollars for the Athletic Department at St. Joseph High School; he increased athletic offerings from 9 to 22 sports with equal representation for men and women; and he was instrumental in the development of the high school's soccer and tennis facilities. George was awarded Regional Athletic Director of the Year in 1996.

In 2002, George was awarded the distinguished Allen W. Bush award from the MHSAA for frequent and significant contributions to the MHSAA over his tenure as athletic director.

George resides in St. Joseph with his wife Millie.

Craig Blasko

Craig is a 1989 graduate of St. Joseph High School. While he was in high school, Craig earned four varsity letters, two in basketball, one in football, and one in track. In basketball Craig was an Honorable Mention All Conference and All State selection in 1988. In 1989, Craig was selected to the All Conference, All District, and All Region teams. He was also a 3rd team All State selection and a member of the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan All Star Game. Craig was also a member of the National Honor Society.

Craig continued his basketball career at Lake Michigan College, Western Michigan University, and Indiana University at South Bend. At Lake Michigan College he was a two year starter and an Honorable Mention All Conference selection in 1991. He was also voted Lake Michigan College Athlete of the Year in 1991. At IUSB, Craig was a two year starter who remains in the top ten career categories in steals and rebounds.

Craig currently resides in Grandville, Michigan with his wife Jessica and their 1 ½ year old son, Kole. Craig is a psychologist in the Wyoming Public Schools district and coaches JV girl's basketball and 7th grade boy's basketball.

Kim Knuth-Klaer

Kim is a 1995 graduate of St. Joseph High School where she earned ten varsity letters. She participated in basketball, softball, soccer, and volleyball, earning numerous awards. In softball she was a three time All Conference selection; in soccer she was an All Conference and All State Honorable Mention selection; and in volleyball she was an All Conference and All State Honorable Mention selection. In basketball, Kim was a four time All Conference selection and a three time All State selection. For outstanding play during her senior year, Kim was awarded the prestigious Miss Basketball award, which is given annually to the best female basketball player in the state of Michigan. Kim was also recognized as the Cook Athlete of the Year in both 1992 and 1993 and was voted Berrien County Athlete of the Year in 1995.

Kim continued her brilliant basketball career at the University of Toledo. At Toledo she was a four year starter while earning the following awards: MAC Freshman of the Year in 1996, and MAC Player of the Year in 1998 and 1999. She currently is the all time leading scorer for men's and women's basketball in the MAC conference.

Kim resides in St. Joseph with her husband Ryan and their two children, Riley and Karly. She is a chemical engineer who is currently taking time off to be with her children.

D. Brad German

Brad graduated from St. Joseph in 1988 where he was a four time letter winner and team MVP in men's swimming. During his four years on the team Brad was a ten time All Big 8 Conference Team member, a three time Big 8 Conference Individual Champion, and a three time All State team member. In 1988 Brad was the state champion in the 200 yard individual medley, and the state runner up in the 100 yard backstroke. Brad was a senior when the men's swim team won their first Big 8 Conference Championship. Brad is currently the St. Joseph High School record holder in the 100 yard backstroke and the 200 yard individual medley.

Brad went on to swim at the University of Michigan for one year and helped lead the team to a 1989 Big Ten Championship and a 3rd place team finish at the NCAA Championships.

Brad currently resides in St. Joseph. He is the co-founder of Cybitek, a St. Joseph based web design, development, and internet marketing firm. He is also the head swim coach at the St. Joseph River Yacht Club and South Shore Health and Racquet Club.