

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME NIGHT

February 6, 2009

Welcome Hall of Fame recipients, family members, friends, and Bear fans, young and old. This is the twenty first 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 Athletic Office after the game.

Bob Farnum

Bob Farnum is a 1960 graduate of St. Joseph High School. During his time at St. Joseph High School, Bob earned nine varsity letters while participating in football (two letters), basketball (3 letters), and baseball (4 letters). For his outstanding efforts in football he was named to the All Conference Team for two years and the All Southwest Michigan Team for one year. He was also recognized in basketball as a member of the All Southwest Michigan Team his senior year. Bob was a member of the team that played the first game here in the Bear Den in 1960.

Bob went on to play freshman football and baseball at Western Michigan University where he graduated from in 1965.

Bob is recently retired from Johnson Controls and lives with his wife Sunny in Holland, Michigan .

LeRoy (Pee Wee) Dorow

LeRoy (Pee Wee) Dorow graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1950. LeRoy earned twelve varsity letters while participating in football (four letters), basketball (four letters), and baseball (four letters). In his senior season of basketball, LeRoy was named to the All Big 7 Team, and was a Third Team All State selection.

LeRoy continued his brilliant athletic career at Hillsdale College where he participated in football, basketball, and baseball. In 1952 LeRoy led the MIAA conference in passing for football and was an All MIAA Conference selection in baseball. In 1953 LeRoy was the captain of the basketball team, and led the MIAA Conference in scoring. LeRoy went on to play baseball in the Chicago White Sox farm league for several years before coming back to Hillsdale to graduate in 1964.

At age 34 LeRoy was teaching in Benton Harbor when he suddenly became ill and passed away, leaving behind a wife and two daughters. Accepting this award on behalf of LeRoy tonight is his wife, Barbara.

Jim Harmon

Jim Harmon grew up in Otsego, Michigan and attended Otsego High School. While in high school, Jim was an outstanding athlete in football, basketball and track. He earned 11 varsity letters and was an All Conference selection in both basketball and football. Jim attended Albion College after high school and was a two year member of the football team there. Jim transferred to Western Michigan University his junior year and received both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Western.

Jim came to teach at St. Joseph in 1968 after teaching and coaching for four years at Albion High School. Jim coached football for twenty years at St. Joseph, eighteen of those years as an assistant varsity coach. He also coached cross country for five years, and in that time led his team to a Regional Championship and two top ten finishes in the state. Jim is probably best known for coaching track as he was boy's assistant for thirteen years, and the girl's head coach for nineteen years. During his tenure as the girl's track coach, he led his teams to one Big 8 Championship, six Regional Championships, four Top Ten finishes at the state meet, including a state runner up, and many more invitational championships.

In 2002, after an outstanding career as an educator and coach, Jim retired from St. Joseph High School. In recent years, Jim has volunteered his time as an assistant track coach here at the high school. He currently resides in St. Joseph with his wife Peg.

Brian Doak

Brian Doak graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1997. During his athletic participation at St. Joseph High School, Brian earned nine varsity letters in golf, basketball, and baseball. Brian was as an All Academic Conference member in all three sports, along with being All Conference in golf all four years. Brian also advanced to the state finals in golf his sophomore, junior, and senior years.

Brian continued his athletic career in basketball and golf at Lake Michigan College for two years. He was an Academic All Conference member in both basketball and golf and a Distinguished Academic All American in golf. After LMC, Brian attended Duquesne University and was a member of their golf team for two years. At Duquesne, Brian was an Academic All Conference member along with finishing in the top ten in the Atlantic 10 Championship.

Brian resides in Noblesville, Indiana with his wife Emily and two children, Hunter and Addison. He is a Certified Financial Planner for Merrill Lynch.

Ben Watson

Ben Watson is a 1998 graduate of St. Joseph High School who participated in three sports. During his career at St. Joseph High School Ben earned a total of ten varsity letters, four each in cross country and track, and two in basketball. In cross country Ben was a two time All Conference and All Region selection along with being an Academic All State member his senior year. In basketball, Ben was a Second Team All Conference member his senior year and still holds the school record for the most consecutive free throws made in game situations at 26. In track and field, Ben was a two time All State member, a three time Regional Champion, a two time Academic All State member, and a member of the 1997 State Championship track team. He also was a State Champion in the 3200 meter relay in both 1997 and 1998, and his 1998 relay teams still holds the school and state record in that event.

Ben continued his education at Grand Valley State University where he participated in cross country, indoor track and outdoor track. Ben earned four varsity letters in all three sports he participated in. Ben was also an All Conference and All Region selection in cross country in 2002, along with an All Conference selection in indoor track in 2000 and 2003.

Ben currently resides in Rockford Michigan with his wife Mindy and son Noah. He teaches at Rockford High School, and is their women's cross country coach and assistant track and field coach.