

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME NIGHT

February 18, 2011

Welcome Hall of Fame recipients, family members, friends, and Bear fans, young and old. This is the twenty second year for the St. Joseph High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Athletic Director, Kevin Guzzo, and Principal, Jeff Runser, will be honoring the four 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.

Richard "Butch" Herndon

Richard "Butch" Herndon is a 1961 graduate of St. Joseph High School. While attending St. Joseph High School, Butch earned ten varsity letters playing football, basketball, and baseball. Butch was an All Conference selection in football both his junior and senior years. In basketball, Butch was part of the conference championship team his sophomore, junior, and senior seasons. As a member of the varsity baseball team for four years, Butch helped his team win four consecutive conference championships.

Butch continued his athletic career after high school with involvement in both semi-pro football (for 1 year) and semi-pro baseball (for 3 years.) Butch also was a member of the Indianapolis Clowns for 6 years, an organization that built a national following as one of baseball's favorite entertainment attractions during that era.

Butch currently resides in East Boston, Massachusetts.

Dale Kubicki

Dale Kubicki retired from teaching and coaching at St. Joseph High School in 2002. Dale's educational career spanned 40 years, with 32 of those years at St. Joseph High School. Along with teaching, Dale served as the high school Athletic Director from 1976 to 1978.

During Dale's tenure as a teacher, he also served the district as a coach in many capacities. Dale was a wrestling coach for one year and the girl's varsity cross country coach for three

years. Dale is probably most recognized for the years and dedication he served as an assistant football coach and as assistant track coach. Dale was an assistant track coach for 25 years, concentrating mainly on the throwing events. Dale was also a junior varsity and freshman football coach for a combined 25 years. For his dedication to the sport of football, Dale was named the Michigan High School Football Coaches Association Assistant Coach of the Year in 1993.

Dale resides in St. Joseph with his wife Connie. He is an avid sports fan and a huge supporter of St. Joseph athletics.

Lars Petzke

Lars Petzke is a 1998 graduate of St. Joseph High School who excelled in cross country and track and field. Lars earned three letters in both cross country and track and field. Lars was an All Region, All County, and Academic All State selection in both his junior and senior years in cross country. He was also the conference individual runner-up his senior year while leading his team to a conference championship. In track Lars was All State and Academic All State in both his junior and senior years. As part of the 4 x 800 meter relay, Lars was a two time State Champion, and in his senior year his team set the school and state record in the 4 x 800 meter relay. This record still stands today. Lars' success was a key factor in his team winning the 1997 State Championship in track and field.

Lars continued his brilliant running career at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. Lars earned 12 varsity letters there while being named a five-time NAIA Academic All American and a one-time NAIA All American. In 2002 he was part of the 4 x 800 meter conference champion team, and in 2003 he was named the top senior male student athlete at Aquinas College.

Lars resides in St. Joseph with his wife Liz and his son Carter. He is a realtor who also finds time to be an assistant cross country and track coach at St. Joseph High School.

Mark Witkowski

Mark Witkowski graduated from St. Joseph High School in 1969. During his tenure at St. Joseph High School, Mark earned a total of nine varsity letters: two in football, three in basketball, three in baseball, and one in track.

In football Mark was an All State Honorable Mention selection his senior year, as well as being selected to the WSJM First Team and the All Conference Team. Mark was also selected as an All Conference Team member in basketball his junior and senior years. Mark was voted the John Karsten Award winner his senior year for his outstanding leadership, sportsmanship, and achievement.

Mark went on to the United States Air Force Academy after high school. While at the Academy, Mark played for both the freshman and junior varsity football teams.

Mark resides in Swansea, Illinois with his wife Joetta. They have five children: Thomas, Peter, Christina, James, and Andrew. Mark works for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.