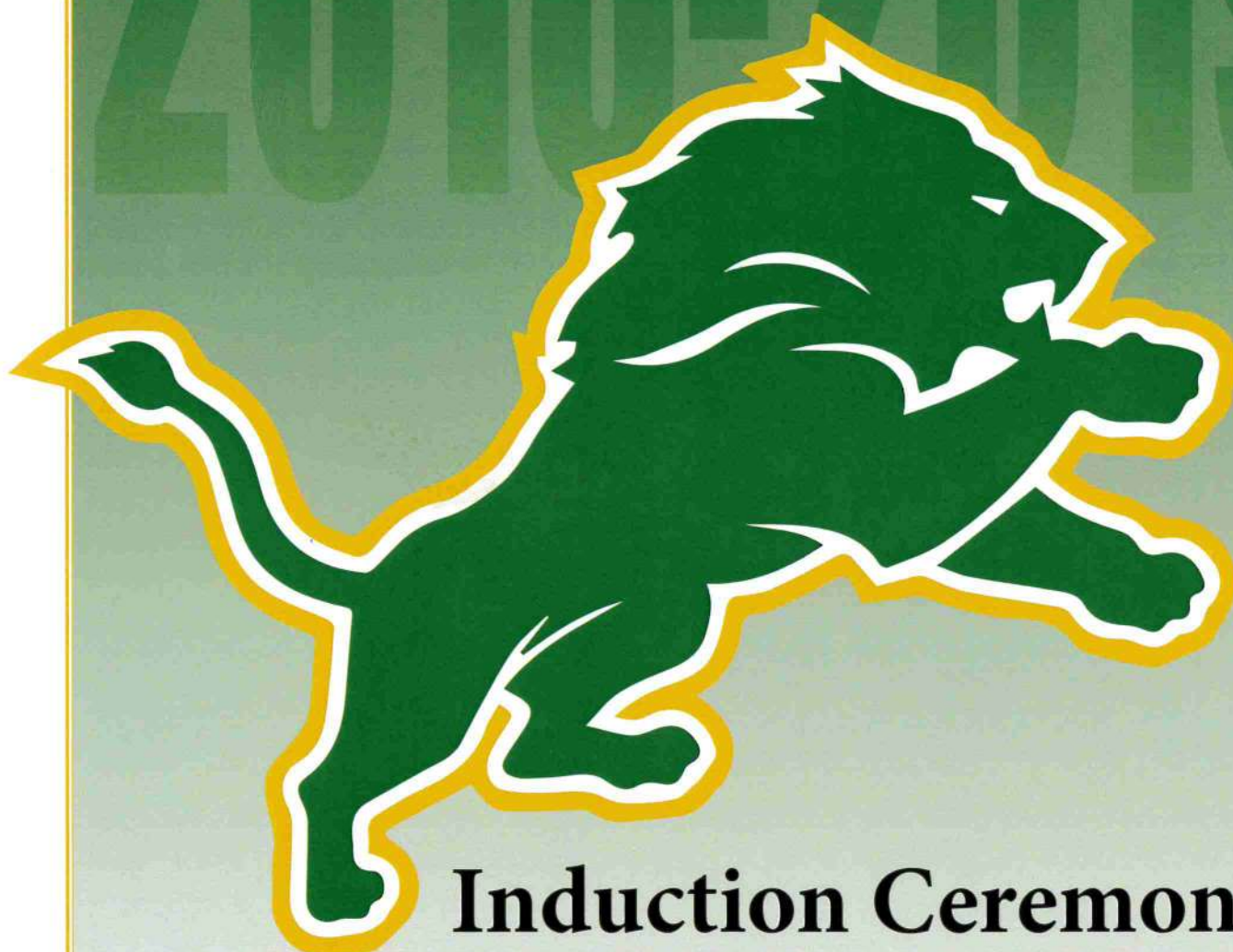


North Hunterdon High School

ATHLETIC HALL *of* FAME

2018-2019



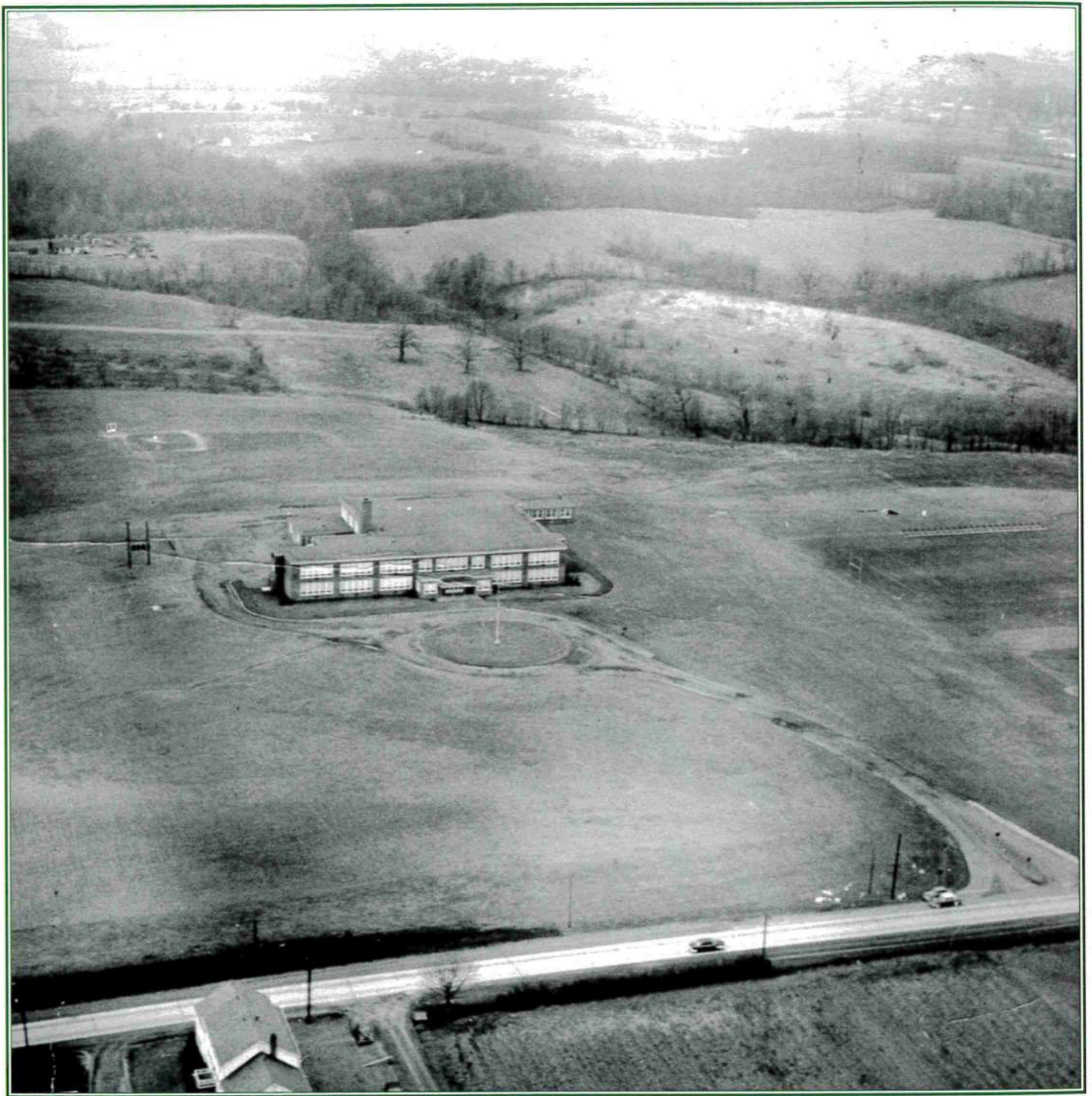
Induction Ceremonies

Class of 2018-Class of 2019

October 12, 2019

Beaver Brook Country Club

IN THE BEGINNING...



North Hunterdon Regional High School, 1951

NORTH HUNTERDON HIGH SCHOOL

Dr. Gregory Cottrell
Principal

Mr. John Mattes
Assistant Principal
Athletic Director



A NATIONAL SCHOOL
of
EXCELLENCE

Assistant Principals
Mr. John Deutsch
Mr. Timothy Flynn
Ms. Yulee Kim
Mr. Robert Pellechio
Mrs. Carol Skidmore

October 2019

North Hunterdon High School is proud to welcome you to the Athletic Hall of Fame Luncheon. Congratulations to all the inductees who have made significant contributions to our school community through their accomplishments in athletics!

The North Hunterdon High School Lions Athletic Hall of Fame was established to preserve the tradition of the NHHS Athletic program by honoring our past athletes who made significant contributions and had a positive impact on the local community. We honor them for their past achievements and their impact as positive role-models for future generations of students.

The value of athletics in schools is significant and provides several benefits for many throughout their lives. The skills learned on the field are important and can be utilized in all aspects of life such as quick-thinking, self-discipline, time management, hard work, and dedication. These skills are what have brought the honored athletes here and we celebrate their success.

We hope this ceremony brings back great memories of North Hunterdon Athletics and fills you with a sense of pride. On behalf of the North Hunterdon High school administration, faculty, staff, students, and community, we congratulate each inductee, and we thank them for their contributions and place of honor in the Athletic Hall of Fame.

A special thank you to the Hall of Fame Committee for its dedication and commitment, as well as to the sponsors for their support in making this ceremony possible.

Greg Cottrell
Principal

John Mattes
Athletic Director
Assistant Principal

NORTH HUNTERDON LIONS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE

President.....Leon Cronic
Vice PresidentLeon McGourty
Treasurer William Hauck
SecretaryMike Van Doren

Edward Butler
Barbara Eveland Dalrymple
John Fasanello
Tom Powers
Rich Reiner

Gene Robbins
Robin Scheier
Jack Van Doren
Brian Walsh

ADMINISTRATIVE LIAISON

John MattesDirector of Athletics

NORTH HUNTERDON LIONS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON AND INDUCTION CEREMONIES

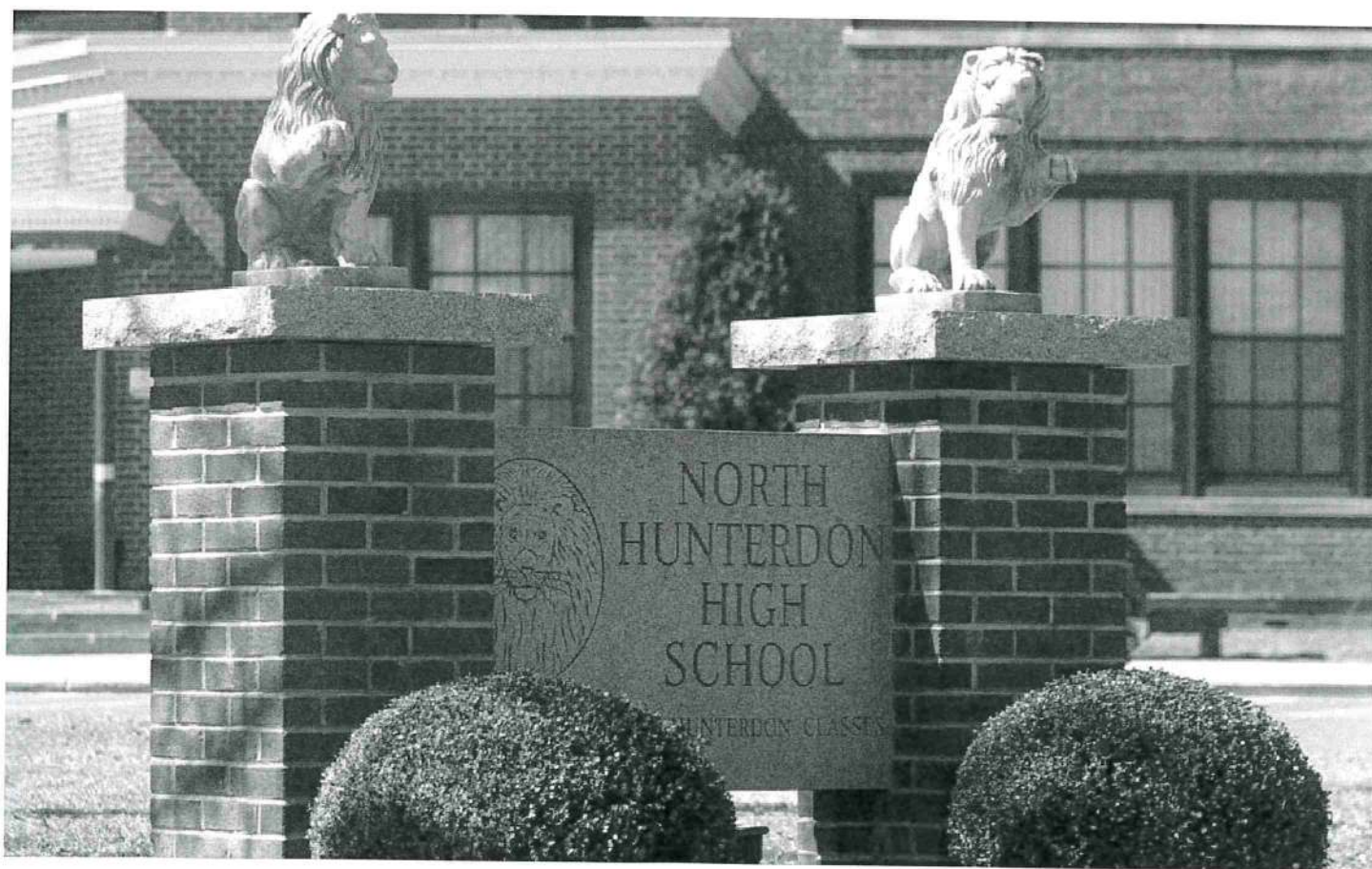
Welcome.....Mr. Leon Cronic

LUNCHEON

INDUCTIONS

Introduction of Lions Hall of FameMr. Leon Cronic

Masters of Ceremonies Messrs. Leon Cronic, William Hauck



**NHHS LIONS HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE
CONGRATULATES INDUCTEES TO THE
NORTH HUNTERDON LIONS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME**

ATHLETES

George Zack '60
George Wilbur '63
John Marchak '70
Debbie Bowden '92
Pat Dolan '93
Chris Dolan '96

Carly Becker '06
Ali Freedman '07
Jenna Gonzalez '08
Hilary Murray '08
Jason Knapp '08

COACHES

Harold Norcross

Jeff Steele

TEAMS

1967 & 1968 Field Hockey Teams 1989-1990 Shuttle Hurdle Relay Team

CONTRIBUTORS

William Hauck '92

John McGourty, Sr.

Jim Crossin

GEORGE ZACK '60

Breaking onto a tough varsity football line as a sophomore is...a tough proposition. But big George Zack, in spite of his youth, did that back in 1957 when the team would run up a 7-1 record under Lion Hall of Fame coach Paul Rickenbach.

All the usual foes in the county went down, and even Highland Park, so often our nemesis in those days, proved no match for the '57 team. Hunterdon Central, our arch foe, took a 25-0 beating. The newspaper writeup noted "crisp blocking, fierce tackling, huge holes ripped open..." and "a big hole off left tackle" for the Lions' third touchdown. George's position was left tackle.

In George's junior year the 6-1-1 team again won the county championship (all there was in those days). Against Metuchen, an 18-12 victory, he recovered a fumble on the fourth play of the game, and that led to a Lion score. In a brutal defensive battle, the Lions held a redoubtable Highland Park team to a 0-0 tie.

The *Courier* story included this encomium: "George Zack is the lineman of the week. The 6-1, 205-pound left tackle was the mainstay of the Regional line. He was great defensively... played all 48 minutes...sustained a knee injury and may be out of action for two weeks. For the honor Zack beat out a Bernards end who caught three TD passes."

High praise from from a suburban newspaper for a boy from "the country." The only down side was that knee injury...

Hall of Fame coach Harry Vandermark, who had never been on a wrestling team and knew little about the sport, was our first wrestling coach. But he learned quickly...and in 1957 we had our first varsity wrestling team—and big George Zack was a key member.

Although the team record was only 2-8, there were some highlights that indicated a bright future for Lion wrestling. Among them was a team fourth-place finish in the District tournament. Six of our grapplers—including George—won silver medals. Not bad for a first-year effort...

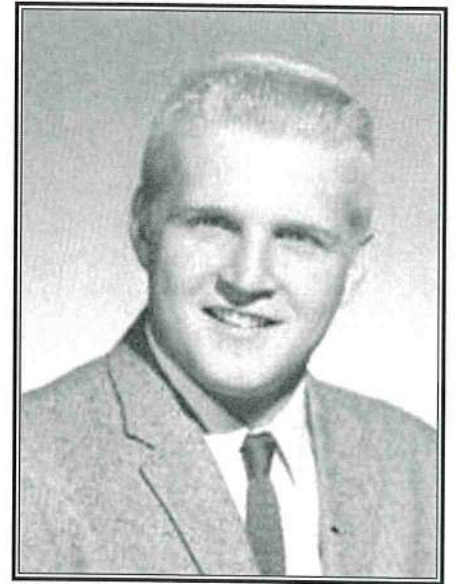
The second year saw a team record of 4-6. At the close of a tight match with Hanover Park, George was up 9-2 and secured the team win by fall. In the Christmas tourney at Hunterdon Central, George was our lone champion, winning the the heavyweight title with a pin. He was our first undefeated wrestler in dual meets, pinning all but three opponents. At the Districts we had two champs and four seconds, one of whom was Mr. Zack.

In the 1959-60 season the team had its first winning record, 8-4, and placed third in the District. The big match earlier in the season was the North Jersey Invitational Tournament, which featured three state champions and two runners-up. This is how the *Courier* told George's tale:

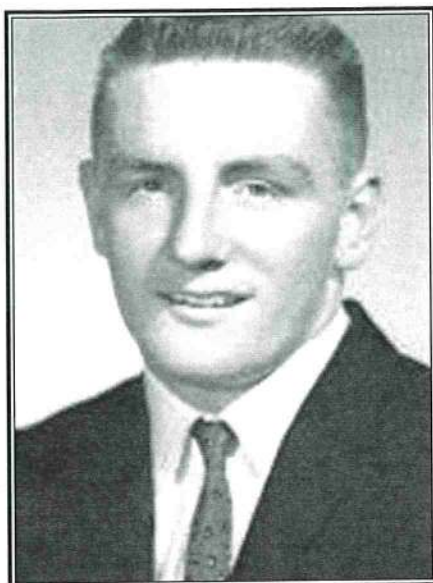
"George Zack of Regional lost little time in letting the wrestling world know he was out for big game, for his superior strength and determination made short work of George Walker of Somerville, pinning him in 57 seconds of packed action, to raise the roof of the gym."

Alas, though he was apparently on the road to a state title, matters of health removed George from the wrestling scene...

Gentle giant George and his late wife Linda, sister of the Hall of Fame's Bob Brannon, stayed local while he worked in heavy construction. Son George Jr. and daughter Tracy were both two-sport athletes. His main sport nowadays is fishing, along with watching football and NASCAR races.



GEORGE WILBUR '63



Once more, down memory lane to the days before boom boxes—and later cell phones—began to dominate kids' time...

Lebanon, a small Hunterdon town that produced many fine athletes... just about every day kids were off to the town park to indulge healthfully in sports. Among them were four who are members of this Hall of Fame: Melissa Whitehead, Bob Brannon, Dick Van Doren, Steve Whitehead—all formidable stars in their days at "Regional," as everyone called the school.

Today we welcome into the Hall another of the great athletes from that town and era, Mr. George Wilbur. In football George played right end alongside Whitehead at tackle, both men in for offense and defense, rugged "60-minute" players.

A gifted tight end, he was a great blocker for the backs in the days of more running than passing. But for his sure hands quarterback Brannon named him "Hands."

In a tight game with powerful Group IV Bridgewater-Raritan, the win on the line and Regional deep in their own territory, needing a crucial first down to run out the clock, Brannon called for a trick play—the "hook & ladder," in which the end would receive a pass and then lateral to a back speeding nearby.

Stunned coaches could hardly believe their eyes. One slip and the game might well be lost! But the pass was to "Hands," and he executed the catch-and-flea-flicker release perfectly. They did the same against West Morris to set up a win in the closing seconds. The team finished with a 7-1 record and was ranked second in Central Jersey Group III.

Steve says that George was "a demon on defense." A sportswriter declared, "He had the power to contain end sweeps, pounded down the blockers rolling his way, and generally made it rough for any play moving in his direction. He was one of the reasons North Hunterdon gave up little to their opponents in the scoring column."

George had another talent for the sport: the "educated toe." Very few extra points were booted back in the day of non-specialization, but George set a school season record of 18—two more than the sum of the three other county schools after their 39 total TD's! And his talent was recognized beyond Hunterdon County as the *Courier-News* chose him to the All-Area second team—the only county player selected that high.

Playing baseball, George had been selected to the Little Bigger League's All-Star team. He was a fine batter—a slugger who belted home runs and hit for high average as well. Moving up to high school, George showed the coaches his ability early on and was moved up to varsity before the end of his frosh season.

Hitting his stride as a junior, he batted .370 and then .395 as a senior. George had a slew of extra-base hits. A great clutch hitter in runs-needed situations, his power provided the boost helping his senior-year 16-3 team to county and DRC titles. He rarely struck out and speedily stole many bases.

As in football, George was equally sound on defense. An excellent left-fielder, "Hands" never misjudged a ball or missed one. If it hit his glove, it was caught. He was the consummate all-around superb ball player.

George graduated with honors from Rider, and earned his MBA at North Dakota (while in the Air Force serving as missile launch officer for the Minuteman III rocket). He and wife Sally have sons Alan and Brian and reside in Minnesota.

JOHN MARCHAK '70 (1952 – 1990)

Big John Marchak, we hardly knew ye.

Voted the best all-around athlete in his class, his legacy has been obscured by the passage of time. The Marchak family moved into the district before John's freshman year and left the area after his graduation. At North John developed a reputation as a dedicated and talented athlete with a quiet disposition.

He carved his name into school annals with his senior year in wrestling. The co-captain went undefeated all the way to the state finals, where he lost a close decision. Marchak (23-1) was the 10th state finalist since Hall of Fame coach Harold Vandermark started the school's program in 1958.

The 178-pounder was part of a dynamite finish in the era when the matches came to the mat in straight weight order, with John Gramlich at 148, Dave Gaunt at 168, and Karl Boehmer at heavyweight. In the dual-meet season Gaunt and Marchak were 12-0, Gramlich 11-0-1. (Gaunt won his first state title that year.)

Marchak worked up to his senior-year championship bid as a district runner-up as a soph and by winning a district title in his junior year on a 9-3 team that won the Christmas tourney and District 17. He advanced to the region finals as a junior. In those days only the winners in district and region advanced to the next round.

Marchak succeeded with an effective double-leg takedown and by strength earned through just plain hard work. He accomplished his athletic feats even as he lived with childhood diabetes. Brother Mark said John worked out so intensely that he was able to ward off use of insulin for short periods of time.

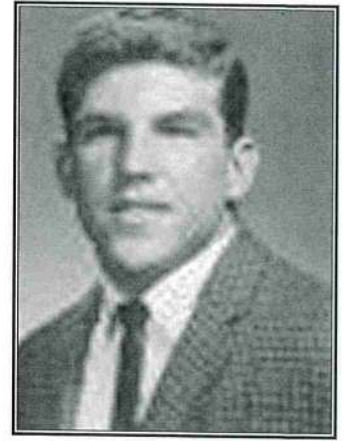
John accompanied Mark ('69) onto the football field, where John lettered for three years. He keyed the defense as a crushing middle linebacker in Hall of Fame coach Len Lane's 5-3-3 defense during the county-championship 1968 year and was an inside-outside powerful and agile threat as a runner. John's most notable achievement as a junior was a 70-yard interception return for a TD, for many years a school record.

In his senior year John became a featured running back, too, scoring three of the Lions' mere nine touchdowns in an 0-8 season under a new coach. That year, the *Democrat* newspaper said Marchak played the best game of his career as the workhorse of the Lion lineup as Regional struggled valiantly against archrival Hunterdon Central. John bulled in for a TD in the second period to give the Lions a 6-0 halftime lead, but they ultimately fell, 14-6, to the Devils, coached by Fritz Halfacre—who later became a Lion Hall of Fame coach.

In baseball, he became part of an outfield mix as a reserve outfielder. In a preseason preview, sportswriter Lowell Snare observed that John, an adequate hitter, "has good speed for his size and covers ground you wouldn't think he could."

His quiet personality masked a kibitzer with a deep sense of humor. An amateur magician, he later wove the craft into his testimony in the ministry. John gave the invocation at the 1970 wrestling banquet, not surprising considering his devotion to the Faith. He was ordained in 1975, the year after his graduation from Taylor University, where he had been a fine college wrestler.

He pastored at two churches in Indiana and earned a master's degree in community counseling from Ball State University. He and his wife Kathy had two children, Julie and Justin—who became a professional stunt cyclist for Schwinn bicycles.





DEBBIE BOWDEN WOLF '92

The “cannonball” may be fun, but the “belly whopper” might be painful. To be a true competition diver requires a great deal of skill, agility—and nerve. And to compete for prizes, a lot of knowledge and an array of dives.

Six basic types of dives are used. At least one dive must come from each of these categories: forward, back, reverse, inward, and twisting. Further, to compete in a championship meet a diver needs a voluntary dive from each of the five types, an optional dive from each category, and a sixth optional dive from any of the categories.

Diving involves gymnastic moves, somersaulting and twisting, and Debra started spinning, flipping and rotating as a young girl (1st to 3rd grades) in gymnastics. Training to dive safely at a high level meant using —especially when she went to Florida to train with national team coaches— belts on a trampoline, and also belts and diving boards with landings on a mat.

One thing separating the medal winners from the average is the ability to perform twisting dives—such as a backward one-and-a-half somersault with a twist—extremely well. Our champion diver did them all extremely well.

Debbie started diving in fourth grade at the tender age of ten. She was a member of the Lords of the Boards team, practicing in the Somerset YMCA pool, and coached very well by Fred Woodruff, who for 25 years has made Rutgers diving highly competitive in Division I.

Debbie Bowden was absolutely the best diver to attend North Hunterdon High. She won the Mid-State Conference diving championship as a *freshman*. The top six count for team points in the State meet, and she was sixth that year.

Flying off the three-meter board, she took third place in the New Jersey States as a sophomore. Debbie was also second in the Mid-State Conference and was named to the All-Area first team.

Next year she was once again in sixth place at the States, but went on to the Nationals and won the bronze medal—only six points from first place—plus a seventh place on the one-meter board. She made the *Courier-News* All-Area second team. For three consecutive years she was in the top-ten of both the one- and three-meter boards at the YMCA Nationals.

Senior year was bound to be Debbie's time to rise to be the best in New Jersey, and she did: *State champion*. Years of hard work and dedication culminated in her greatest achievement as a diver. And she had accomplished this—and all her successes—without a regular diving coach at the high school.

She says, however, “Having the support and recognition of the North Hunterdon High School community made this accomplishment even more special.”

Debbie was All-Conference first team, of course, but at the State championship meet she was astounding—winning the title by outscoring the second-place diver by nearly 40 points! Topping off her high school career, she was one-meter board All-American as well. The *Courier* had it right, declaring before the season had begun, she's a “top-of-the-line” diver.

At Colgate University Debbie, in her very first year, set that college's one-meter ten-dive record, and that record stands today—in a sport where records seem to be broken almost every month.

Unfortunately, a severe back injury—a herniated disc—would write *finis* to her extraordinary diving career. She says that perhaps it was time to move on anyway, after countless plunges since fourth grade....

Debbie and husband Todd have four children, all athletic, and whose sports exemplify diversity—volleyball, tennis, basketball, lacrosse, softball, and field hockey.

PAT DOLAN '93

Brother Act—Scene 1...

When the 1989 cross-country season began, Pat Dolan wasn't there—he was on the freshman soccer team. Tongue-in-cheek, Hall of Fame coach Don Roberts said, "Coach Rich Moore (also in the Hall) made his best coaching move ever—cutting Pat Dolan."

In reality, Pat decided to be a runner in the winter track program and won his frosh letter therein with Coach Roberts. He did so well that there was no doubt he would join the spring track team and continue to enjoy the fun of running competitively.

So, sophomore year found him grinding out the miles in cross country, earning his varsity letter and helping the team to a dual-meet record of 11-2, plus second-place finishes in the Sectional and Group III meets—with a happy fifth-place showing in the Meet of Champions (all groups).

On to winter track, now getting his varsity letter and helping the team to second place in the State relay races as well as a second in Group III track. Ready for more action, Pat returned to the track for what shaped up to be a great spring for him and the team.

And so it was. The team went 8-0, winning the Conference and Sectional titles, with a second place in the States, along with a championship 4x800 in the East Coast Relays and fine runs at the Penn Relays. Pat was always willing to run any race he was asked to by Hall of Fame coach Bob O'Rourke.

Cross country in Pat's junior year was his breakout into the "big time." Undeclared at 8-0 in the dual meets, the team won the Conference title and took silver in both the Sectionals and Group III State meets, finishing with a sixth place in the Meet of Champions. Pat was named All-Conference.

Following a sound winter track season came a 6-1 spring track season highlighted by outstanding performances in relays. Pat and friends ran *national best times* in winning the distance medley at the Penn Relays and the 4x1600 at the East Coast Relays, and won the Virginia distance medley title too. Overall, the team won the Sectionals and took second in the States.

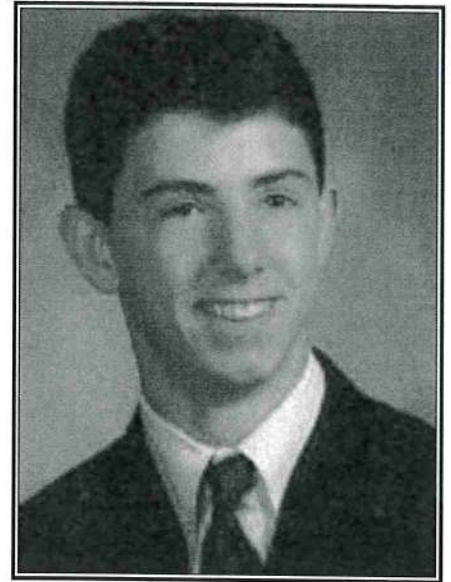
In his final cross country season, Pat, future national champion Brendan Heffernan, and a stellar group of supporting runners racked up an 11-0 dual meet season and won gold in the Conference, Sectional, and State meets. Pat, the Conference meet champ, sixth in the Meet of Champions (16:19), was first-team for Conference and All-State, as well as All-Star for the Easton, Plainfield, and Trenton newspapers.

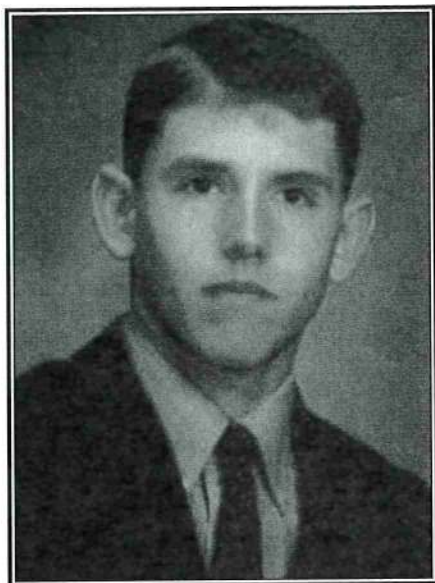
Winter track: Pat Dolan, State 3200-meter champion and member of the distance medley championship teams at the Princeton Relays and for Group III, setting the *State record*.

Time for the grand finale in spring track...Pat helped the team (6-3) to a second place in the East Coast Relays and won many points—as always—in many races. He won the mile race at the Bernards Invitational in 4:19.

The apex of success: 3200-meter champion in the Conference, Sectional and State meets. (An injured leg kept him out of the MOC.) All-Conference and All-State, of course, with the newspaper accolades as well...

Pat next ran well for Penn State University. Nowadays he has great responsibility for keeping the grounds near-perfect for the sportsmen—and women—who tread grass (and sand, at times) while swatting and chasing small spheroids over hill and dale. He is the superintendent of the Copper Hill Country Club golf course.





CHRIS DOLAN '96

Brother Act—Scene 2...

Like brother, like—brother. Given Pat's success and influence, it was only natural that Chris would take up the banner of distance running and give our teams more reasons to thank the Dolan family.

The 1993 cross country team had a lot to live up to, considering the success of recent teams, and with the graduation of some of the best runners in the state.

But Coach O'Rourke had brought along a promising crop of runners, and they proved to be more than equal to the task. Chris Dolan would be the "catalyst" for future State titlist and close friend Chris Robinson, as Pat had been for Brendan Heffernan.

The team went 9-0 and won the Eastern States, Conference, and Group III championships and finished second at the Meet of Champions. It was the start of a stupendous three-year run. Only a sophomore, Chris was named

to the All-Conference first team.

Already a seasoned runner by his junior year, Chris again joined Robinson to lead the team to more of the same. That year they once more won the Eastern States race and the Conference, Sectional, and Group III titles.

Chris was All-Conference and picked to all-star teams by the *Express-Times* and *Courier-News* for his outstanding contributions to the 11-0 team. Number-one runner Chris Robinson says, "Chris was a real stand-up guy who contributed greatly to the team. He was the unsung hero. There was no Robinson without Dolan. He was the great stabilizer and source of encouragement." And only four runners beat Chris in dual meets...

Senior year was indeed a grand finale: team Conference, Sectional, and Group III titles—for the third consecutive year—and second (to a non-public school) in the Meet of Champions, in which Chris took sixth in 16:15. Chris won the individual championships at both the Conference and Sectional meets. He had been a key runner for three years on undefeated and championship cross-country teams.

The long, hard practice runs were actually enjoyable to Chris and his championship pals: "Having a team of best friends made the work seem easy."

Chris also won many points for the winter track teams and in his senior year ran in the 3200-meter race at the Meet of Champions.

Chris won varsity letters in spring track all four years during a period of average won-loss seasons for the teams, but he and several others performed very well, winning many individual and relay events. Of Chris, Hall of Fame coach Bob O'Rourke says, "Chris was the quintessential leadoff runner on dozens of county, conference, and state championship relay winners—distance medley, 4x800, 4x1600. He would unselfishly double and triple in dual meets to get points for the team."

In fact, he was working so diligently for the team that he won the Boyer Award for MVP as a junior. In that season he led off for the distance medley team that won in the prestigious East Coast Relays, just one of the many victorious days in his career. His biggest individual wins came in his senior year at the Conference and Sectionals—3200-meter race champion.

Hall of Fame coach Don Roberts, who had the lads on his winter track teams, echoes Coach O'Rourke on Chris's work ethic and dedication to Lion teams: "Chris, like his brother Pat, never refused to run in any race that helped the team."

Injured in college, Chris has returned to running and is active in other sports, and he and wife Jennifer enjoy the athletic doings of six-year-old Bridget and Kayleigh.

34 pts 1995

CARLY BECKER SOUDERS '06

It is said that the second fastest moving object in sports is a fencer's blade. (A bullet is first, if you wondered.) Fencers must employ a blend of speed, strength, technique, and tactical thinking on the strip, thus giving credence to the sport's sobriquet of "physical chess."

It is essential to have, at the least, good hand-eye coordination, arm strength, skillful footwork, balance, quick reaction time, and an analytical mind to detect and exploit any weakness or fault in one's opponent. Every part of the body will get a workout—and so will the mind, as every bout is also a battle of wits. Our star fencer had it all.

Carly Becker made her presence on the foil team known immediately. Taking the place of a graduated senior from the preceding season's District and Santelli Tournament championship team, Carly earned a gold letter, helping the foil team to first-place finishes in the prestigious Santelli event, then the Districts—and at the apex, the State foil team title.

As a sophomore, Carly kept the team strong as the girls fenced to yet another District title and garnered the third-place medal as an individual. She was rated the state's top fencer on the C-strip.

There would be no let-down in her junior year. Carly won the District championship and took second in the State finals. She was named to the first team for the Skyland Conference and, at the pinnacle, took first-team All-State honors, chosen by the state's fencing coaches. The foil team again won the Santelli, took the Skyland Conference trophy, and another first-place in the Districts.

Leading the squad and captain in her senior year, Carly was puncturing the hopes of foil fencers around the state. The team once more won the District title, Carly herself taking the top honor as an individual fencer. Topping off her high school career in grand style, she won the individual State championship and was, of course, named for the second consecutive year to the All-State first team. Grander yet, she was the *Star-Ledger's* choice for New Jersey Female Fencer of the Year.

During her four years the foil squad accounted for most of the fencing team's wins in an overall record of 31-21, counting foil, epee, and sabre squads—and all but one of the top-three squad placements in the big tournaments.

Shucking off the kudos, team captain Carly, recognizing the importance of teamwork and for all on the team to help one another, says, "I couldn't have asked for a better team." And she had a great team, one that consistently foiled the efforts of opponents.

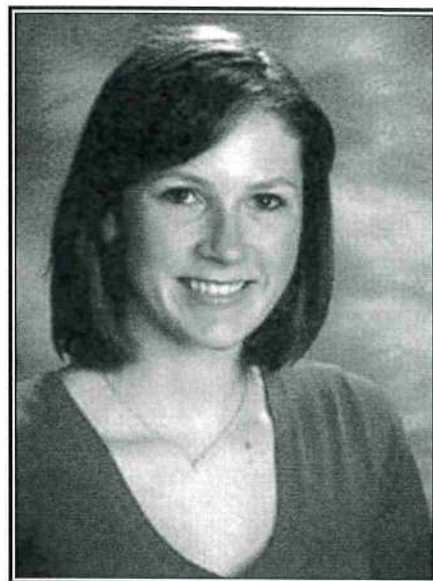
Practicing with her teammates had been among her favorite and most memorable moments of high school. Carly also had great times traveling to national tournaments with her father, a pilot, who flew them to most of those tourneys.

Although Carly "majored" in fencing, she also employed some fine footwork and the manual manipulation of a tennis racquet while at North Hunterdon. During both her freshman and sophomore years she was on the varsity tennis team before deciding to concentrate on fencing.

In fact, she helped the team to a second-place finish in the Hunterdon-Warren tournament as a freshman, and then to first place the next season. After that—fencing's big gain, tennis's loss...

At Columbia University Carly fenced varsity for three years until injured. For the first two years the team won the Ivy League championship.

Carly and Sean have toddlers Lillian (in soccer and dance) and Connor.





ALISON FREEDMAN '07

Following a 16-10 2005 season and minus his star pitcher, Coach Jeff Steele had some big decisions to make. One of his best moves was to bring up from the JV's a pair of pitchers not tested in varsity play. One was junior Alison Freedman.

Ali's first appearance "in the circle" was a one-hit, six-strikeout, no-walks gem. Three wins into the season she was undefeated and showing that she could do more than just pitch—a one-hitter with only one ball out of the infield—and nine assists for outs.

Rolling along, she had 40 strikeouts and a mere three walks in her first 60 innings. Coach Steele said: "Ali has been rock-solid and doesn't make mistakes. She has good control, throws strikes, is around the plate all the time, mixes speeds, and really keeps the other team guessing."

She was gunning for win number 14 in the Hunterdon/Warren title game, "owned" by Hunterdon Central for years. She "came up big in key spots," said Coach, and North Hunterdon had its first-ever championship.

Into the state tournament at 15-0, Ali won a four-hitter. "I wanted this game," she said. "I pitched my heart out." Evidently the transition from JV to the big time did not intimidate her...She won the Sectional semifinal game on a two-hitter—and set a new school record of 17 wins for a season.

In the news: "The tall and lanky right-hander doesn't overpower with speed. She keeps batters off-balance and makes the big pitch when needed." Her comment was, "I rely on ball movement and making pitches to set up the batters."

The Sectional final game against a tough Westfield team went to eight innings (six the norm) in which Ali gave up only one earned run in the 3-2 win, the first-ever Sectional title for Lion softball. She got out of tough spots. Slugger Sam Pellechio: "Ali's a fighter and never gives up. We also have a good defense to back her up."

Ranked third in the state, North faced number-two Ridgewood in the Group IV semifinal game. It was a battle all the way with the Lions getting the 2-1 victory that sent them to the finals—another first.

Ali and the team then won our first softball State championship, 2-0, as she four-hit Steinert. The girls had a state title and a school-best 27-3 record. Ali became the area's first 20-0 pitcher. She threw 90 strikeouts in 137 innings with only 13 walks—14 earned runs and a 0.71 ERA. She was named to several all-star teams, including the AP New Jersey first team. A great year in the move up to varsity play...

In 2007 Ali once again started off in great fashion with four wins. Unfortunately, a neck injury would keep her out of action for three weeks. She came back to help the team to more victories, not giving up a walk until her 11th game.

Going into the state tourney she was 7-3 with a 1.64 ERA. A one-hitter won the first Sectional game, and a four-hitter took the semifinal. Another one-hit shutout—eight strikeouts, one walk—put the Sectional champ Lions into the Group IV semifinals.

Clifton (eventual champions) prevailed 2-0 to deny the Lions a return to the state title game. Ali's record for the season was a solid 10-5, the team's 22-7. Her ERA was only 1.54 with 63 strikeouts and just eight walks.

A great competitor and a winner in every way...

Life after North Hunterdon began with college in Virginia, but sans softball.

JENNA GONZALEZ '08

Jenna was the younger of the pitchers called up to the varsity by Coach Jeff Steele in 2006. Only a sophomore, she quickly proved her value to the team when coach gave her the ball for the opening game of the season.

Jenna went all the way in a 5-0 win, giving up only two hits and one walk while striking out eight. She was a “power” pitcher with great control and would record many strikeouts—and wins—in her career.

Coach Steele alternated starts between Jenna and Ali Freedman before giving Ali the start for the majority of the 30 games. Jenna had a good 7-3 record that included two one-hitters, 61 strikeouts in 64 innings, and a 2.49 ERA, as the team won both the Sectional and State championship titles.

Said the coach, “Jenna is a class kid. I never heard a peep out of her when she wasn’t given the ball in the big games.” She was, however, instrumental in getting the team to the State Group IV championship, using “guile and finesse”—and six different pitches—to beguile opposing batters.

Jenna pitched an eight-strikeout opening game of the 2007 season, again alternating games with Ali. She would become the number-one hurler in her senior year, showing everyone great perseverance in staying the course.

“I was always cheering Ali on, and she did the same for me. She took over in the end, but I was fine with that. This IS a team game.”

Jenna went a fine 11-2 for the year, with an ERA of 1.57 and 95 strikeouts in 85 innings. She was third team all-area for the *Courier* and the *Express*. And now the patient waiting was over....

Senior year—time for Jenna to take on the burden of lead pitcher, hoping to help the team up from its preceding 22-7 season record. With excellent control, she opened with a one-hit, seven-strikeout, one-walk gem.

As the season progressed, she threw many low-hit games—and the count included *five* no-hitters and thirteen shutouts. Top game for strikeouts: 14.

Once again North Hunterdon made it to the Sectional tournament, winning the quarterfinal game 4-1 on a six-hit, seven-strikeout outing. Then Jenna had a severe reaction to medication that caused her hand to swell up so much she couldn’t grip the softball.

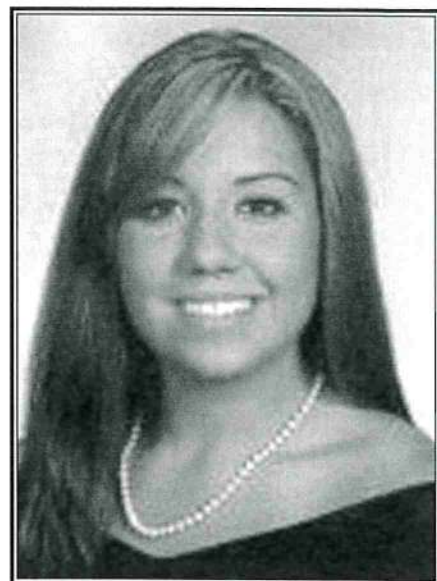
After missing two games, she was back for the Sectional semi-final. “Flat” and weary, she gave up runs as never before. The Lions were losing 6-1, but Jenna began to regain her form in the later innings, and the never-give-up team battled back to tie the game.

Jenna had told the girls, “We’re not going out like this. This is not our last game.” That tying run came in the bottom of the seventh inning. In the ninth, down 8-7, the great comeback succeeded when North scored two runs to get the win, a third-straight Sectional title, and a trip to the Group IV State semi-final game.

Another great comeback—but this time an unearned run in the ninth resulted in a loss. The team finished at 25-4. Jenna set a school record of 22 wins with a .89 ERA, 189 strikeouts and only 40 walks in 166 innings. Her career record was 40-9.

She was named to the *Courier* and *Express* All-Area first teams, the *Ledger* Group IV and West Jersey first teams. and the *Democrat* first team. A stellar example of both an excellent pitcher and a young woman with great patience...

Jenna’s next stop on the softball trail took her to Moravian College.





DR. HILARY MURRAY SCHWEITZER '08

Better than "The Natural" of fiction, Hilary Murray was a splendid three-sport natural athlete for North Hunterdon.

A forward in soccer, Hilary switched to goalie in her junior season when Coach Garrett Lelko needed help. "I'll do anything for us to win," she said—the prime motivation for the epitome of a team player.

Her quickness and great hand-eye coordination were perfect for her new role. She learned quickly how to play in the goal as she won her second varsity letter and shut out the opposition nine times, tying the school record.

She was great in helping the team to win the Sectional title, blocking a penalty kick to keep the score close and preserve the victory in the Group IV final game—a good season and selection to the Skyland Conference first team. In her senior year she racked up another eight shutouts and another pick to the conference first team.

Even better, she was chosen to the *Star-Ledger* All-West Jersey and *Express-Times* first teams and received the Irons Award as the female MVP.

Basketball was Hilary's winter sport. For two varsity seasons she wore uniform "#1," a fitting reminder of her value to the team—and the school. Following a rebuilding year, she and her teammates were ready for much better success.

Senior point guard and team leader, Hilary was hit by a severe case of tonsillitis, with huge swelling and only a tiny breathing gap, that could have stymied her. Not Hilary: "It was so hard, but I couldn't let my team down and get the tonsils out and miss a month."

In spite of her suffering, she guided the team to a 19-5 record, directing an up-tempo attack between gasps for air. She never voluntarily checked out of a game, so Coach Tom Hank occasionally forced her to the bench for a breather. And she made the conference first team. And then...

Hilary leaped from a 15-2 frosh softball team right to the varsity team that ran up a school-best 27-3 record and the State Group IV championship, the school's first. Speedy Hilary raced in the outfield and on the basepaths. For example, in the Group semifinal game she beat out a bunt single, beat a throw to third on a grounder, and helped to get the tying run across in a 2-1 win.

Next season the team record was 22-7 and included a second consecutive Sectional title. Hilary had 31 hits and 10 RBI's for a .323 batting average and made county and conference first teams.

Senior year saw a team record of 25-4, a third-straight Sectional crown, and a one-run loss in the Group semi. Hilary batted .356 with 37 hits, 27 runs, 9 RBI's—and zero errors in the field. Coach summed it up best: "Hilary is an outstanding three-sport athlete—and a pure athlete. She played well in a lot of big games...is invaluable, and a great leader."

She was picked to the first teams for the conference and the *Democrat, Ledger* All-West Jersey, and All-Area by the *Express* and the *Courier*. Topping all that, she was named Female Athlete of the Year by the *Courier*...a fitting tribute to a supreme competitor and team player.

At Moravian, Hilary was four-year starter and team leader at point guard and is in the top group for assists in the college's basketball program.

Wed to college beau Jake, she is a chiropractor with her well-known father and North grad John in Murray Chiropractic.

JASON KNAPP '08

"It's not often you see a kid throwing 95-96-97 mph at this level," lamented Bloomfield High coach Mike Policastro.

Jason Knapp had just limited the prodigious Bloomfield team to one bloop hit in North Hunterdon's 10-0 state Group IV semifinal game, with seven strikeouts and only one walk...a perfect example of why the Phillies drafted him in the second round—the second player overall picked from New Jersey.

Getting to that stage was not a given in young Jason's career—he earned it the old-fashioned way: hard work and self-discipline. Before his senior season Jason was a very large lad with a very strong arm. But he knew he had to improve both his strength and his skills in order to become a really good pitcher.

Between his junior and senior seasons he did a lot of running and weightlifting to prepare for his final Lion season "because I wasn't going to allow anything to stop me..." He worked diligently on the mechanics of his pitching, too, to improve control and to hone a slider and a changeup to go along with his blazing fastball.

Sophomore year saw Jason earn his first varsity letter as Hall of Fame coach Parker Snare brought him along carefully.

In his junior year Jason had a 3-3 record with 56 strikeouts in 34 innings and a low 1.99 ERA. Playing first base, he did fine at the plate, too, batting .429, with three homers and 17 RBI for a 13-11 team. He was named to the Skyland Conference All-Star first team, the *Express-Times* All-Area second team, and the *Star-Ledger* All-West Jersey second team.

After a year of hard work and practice, he was ready for the "big time" success to match his big frame (6'5", 225 pounds) of solid muscle and had the determination and will power to accomplish his goals.

Jason posted a 6-1 record on the mound, throwing for 79 strikeouts in 51 innings. Opponents scored only 10 earned runs against his pitching, for a mere 1.37 ERA. Jason, again batting "cleanup," had a .453 batting average—plenty good in itself—but he also blasted seven home runs, nine doubles, and two triples, for 17 RBI, and scored 26 runs.

We might think that opposing pitchers had some trepidation in facing Jason in the batter's box, considering that he was walked 35 times in 30 games—a school single-season record. A "big target," he secured another season record—hit by a pitch 11 times!

Superb pitching and hitting, an on-base percentage of .668...Jason Knapp was the quintessential all-around threat on a baseball field.

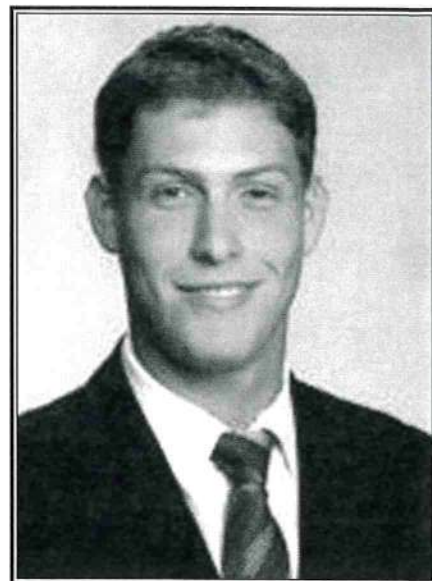
Jason led the team to an 18-12 record, with a strong finish that included the Sectional championship over Bloomfield and second place in the Group IV final two days later (pitched by others).

Honors for the season: NH male MVP and multiple first-team selections—Skyland Conference, *Express-Times* All-Area, *Courier-News* All-Area, *Star-Ledger* All-Group IV and All-State.

How could one top all that? Very handily, by being named the *Star-Ledger's* Pitcher of the Year. He had put in a tremendous amount of work to achieve his goals and had succeeded admirably....

Right into minor league ball for the summer—a 3-1 record with ERA only 2.61 and batting average against him a lowly .228—and fastest pitcher in the league. Alas, two shoulder and "Tommy John" injuries would hamper and eventually close his three-championship-rings pro career....

Jason, a managing partner at Integrated Productions in LA, now helps to provide excitement as an assistant producer for the hit tv show *Live PD*.





1967 & 1968 FIELD HOCKEY

1965...11-0 with just one goal scored on the Lion hockey team...

1966...11-0 with not one goal allowed by the Lion hockey team...

Thus, the big question: Could the 1967 team possibly come close to those great season records?

Coach Dot Owensby had instilled in the players the value of hard work as a prerequisite to success, and she was not going to rest on her laurels—nor allow the girls to relax, either.

The “new” team continued to arrive as early as possible to practice sessions. They ran those grueling “hill laps” faithfully—the daily drudgery that became the strength of tenacious hockey players. (Thank you, Chris Kydd, for your hard-running example!) All teammates who contributed to this article emphasized the value of those mad sprints up the hill. And they honed their hockey-playing skills incessantly. Excellence would still be the result of hard work and dedication.

Co-captains Ruth Manning and Mary Jane Wallace led in every way and encouraged the younger girls to learn the Lions’ game. Sue Ditson was rock-solid in the goal.

Nine of the 12 girls on the squad had been on the 1966 team—four of them (Sue Berger, Chris Kydd, Ruth Manning, Mary Jane Wallace) even from the 1965 team—so there was a strong nucleus that gave added support to the idea that this year’s team must be highly successful.

Sometimes that experienced cadre doesn’t come through as expected, but the 1967 team certainly lived up to expectations. For a *third consecutive year* the field hockey team went undefeated.

The first game, versus P’burg, was a close one, a 1-0 decision, followed by a 7-0 romp over High Bridge. Then rugged South Hunterdon, 2-1. Arch-foe Hunterdon Central proved no match for the Lions in a 4-1 win.

Surprise—High Bridge came back and forced a 1-1 tie. DelVal went down 2-0, but Princeton got a 2-2 tie. In the rematch the Central Red Devils played ferociously, losing only 1-0. South Hunterdon lost their rematch 3-1.

DelVal once again lost 2-0, Warren Hills by a 2-1 score—and the team finished undefeated with a record of 10-0-2. Following the regular season, the girls once again entered competition in the North Jersey “Play Day” against a host of schools—and won the unofficial state championship again, in those days before the state sanctioned a playoff system.

School spirit was strong in those days. As the team bus returned to the school that day with the girls singing the Alma Mater—as they always did—they were greeted by the football and soccer teams with a standing ovation. (In those years the guys used to refer jokingly—but with affection—that the hockey players were “the men of Regional” because of their ferocious play and overwhelming success.)

Looking ahead to 1968, five varsity players would be returning, and some fine JV players would move up after their good 6-1-3 season. Co-captains were veterans Sue Berger and Chris Kydd. Whether the varsity could roll up a fourth consecutive no-loss year, however, was a matter of conjecture.

A 1-0 victory over P’burg preceded the game against that rugged South Hunterdon squad—which pulled off a 2-1 win over the Lions. Thus ended a 34-game win streak. But no other foe would do as well. The Lady Lions roared back with wins of 5-0 over Warren Hills, 4-1 topping DelVal, and 6-0 routs of High Bridge, Hunterdon Central, and Blairstown.

Princeton managed to get a scoreless tie, but then Ridge (3-0), Warren Hills (2-0), Belvidere (5-3), and Hackettstown (6-1) all bowed down before the Lions. Although the North Hunterdon hockey team had lost one game, they still finished with a splendid 10-1-1 record.

And, once again in after-season play, this team joined in the hectic fun of the Play Day in Plainfield to take on all-comers—and beat them all, for yet another unofficial state championship. And just to reinforce the idea that our young women were the best, they then beat a team of experienced, older women.

The string of victories and county and area championships were the best consecutive four years in North Hunterdon history. Coach Owensby retired from the fray knowing that she had instilled in her girls that the teams were all about being the best they could be....

And these girls embraced that concept fully. They had constantly challenged one another to be “the best,” to continue the tradition established by their predecessors. It was always doing a little more than what was expected, and all that hard work and dedication did lead to excellence and great success.

And more—camaraderie abounded. There was always singing and laughing to and from away games and joking about many things—including showers. As Ruth Manning would say, “Do you know that soap doesn’t carry germs?” Drinks from the common water bucket never hurt anyone either.

Coach Owensby worked the girls hard, but she also had a dry sense of humor. Connie Mulvaney recalls the game in which opposing players kept falling all over the field. At the next day’s practice Coach deadpanned, “Today we are going to practice scooping the ball over fallen bodies.”

One example of hard work and dedication carrying through to this modern era: Betty Tyrell has won a national bicycle racing championship 42 times and is the current 65-69 age group titleholder. “The love of hard work and competition that began at North is still very much a part of me.”

Chances are, that attitude carried over into the lives of all the 1965-66-67-68 champions and their families.



PICTURED (L-R): Coach Steve Searfoss, Andza Wegrzynowicz, Robyn Pangi, Nicole Brown, Kara Spencer, Assistant Coach Shane Berry.

1989-1990 SHUTTLE HURDLE RELAY TEAM STATE CHAMPIONS

One of the most interesting and exciting events in the world of track and field is the hurdles. It is both a speed and skill event and can even be dangerous. Modern hurdles, though they tip over when hit, can still be (and are!) a source of pain and injury.

Mere sprinting takes speed, practice, good form. But hurdling has a much greater technical component, necessitating speed between adjustments for getting over each hurdle. Because of the complexity involved, many

runners will just try to rely on raw speed and a good amount of luck to get through a race, but well-planned steps and proper technique can allow an efficient hurdler to outrun faster opponents.

The shuttle hurdle event is different in one respect from the usual one-way hurdles race. Four team members occupy two lanes of the track. One races toward the "passing zone" while another waits, in the lane next to the first runner's lane, but not to receive a baton, as in ordinary relays.

Instead, the next runner starts when the first is within the proper area and then runs and hurdles back to the starting line. The third and fourth hurdlers repeat the process.

It's fun and exciting to watch...and enjoyably challenging to the hurdlers in the race. The winter indoor track teams of Coach Steve Searfoss and his able assistant Shane Berry had more than a good run at that game.

In the 1988-89 season the shuttle hurdlers had great success. Led by senior Nicole Smith, a swift and efficient hurdler, the girls won a pair of shuttle hurdles titles in two prestigious events. In the Red Bank relays it was Nicole, junior Kara Spencer, and sophomores Robyn Pangi and Andza Wegrzynowicz taking the prize.

In the Princeton Relays Nicole Smith, Nicole Brown (soph), Robyn and Andza were victorious. And the coaches kept the girls busy in other races, too. Noteworthy results included Andza on the fourth-place 4 x 400 relay in the Meet of Champions, Nicole Smith and Robyn on the fifth-place 4 x 200 in Group IV, and Nicole Brown taking third in the Group IV high jump.

It was the "big time" for the shuttle hurdle relay team of 1989-90. Senior Kara Spencer with juniors Nicole Brown, Robin Pangi, and Andza Wegrzynowicz sped in both directions perfectly to win the State Group IV title, defeating such suburban schools as JP Stevens, Columbia, Marlboro, Madison, and others.

Further, Nicole and Robyn took second place in the State high jump relay and Robyn was fourth in the individual high jump competition. Thanks largely to the efforts of those versatile young ladies North Hunterdon High's full team placed fourth in the State Group IV meet.

What made these girls so special at their hurdling? Robin, a tall girl with speed and good form...Andza, a tireless worker dedicated to achieving her goals...Kara, a hard worker with flawless form...Nicole, outstanding swiftness that gave her a huge advantage out of the starting blocks...

While most would head out at the end of team practice, this foursome stayed late to work on technique and drills. That's why their performance improved so much. The old adage applied perfectly: Practice makes perfect!

Of course the girls had much success in spring track, too, running hurdles, leaping far and high, running in non-hurdle races—and helping the girls track teams go undefeated in dual meets from 1987 through 1990 and with only one loss in 1991. They had the speed and the skill to be champions...and they were.

COACH HAROLD “SKIP” NORCROSS

In the early autumn of 1964 future Hall of Fame wrestling team initiator and coach Harry Vandermark was about to leave the school's business department and start up what would become the special education department.

An enterprising young South Jersey man who had been working at Philco Finance Corporation in Philadelphia as an auditor received a phone call from Dr. Singley, the first principal of North Hunterdon, to offer Harry's old job to that man—who had never been to Hunterdon County.

He was immediately impressed by the school, and after only fifteen minutes of interviewing, “Doc,” equally impressed, hired him. Mr. Norcross succinctly averred, “Best decision I ever made!”



As a high school student in Pemberton, a small school, “Skip” played basketball in the winter and ran track (about 10 boys on the team) in the spring.

Skip enjoyed the sport and kept up his interest at Trenton State College. There he learned a lot about training methods and strategy, not suspecting that one day he would be able to put that knowledge to use at a school to the north.

First, though, he was given the task of coaching the JV boys basketball team. Skip performed that job for six years and never had a losing season. He went out with a flourish, his best team at 16-4, and an overall winning 63% record.

Next he was asked to help out with the freshmen for a couple of years and did so in winning style—a 61% success record, including another 16-4 finale.

Years later Skip filled in for another two years, this time for the freshman girls basketball team, and once again showed his ability to lead—15-2 and 14-3 seasons, a fine 85% wins.

The girls track program needed an assistant coach, and “I jumped at the chance,” said Skip. That year the team went 9-6. As it turned out, the head coaching job was open the next season, and it went to Skip.

At the helm for the first time, Coach Norcross led the team to a 12-3 record and a second-place finish in the Delaware River Conference meet. He said that when girls basketball moved from spring to winter scheduling, many fine players became a big part of making girls track great.

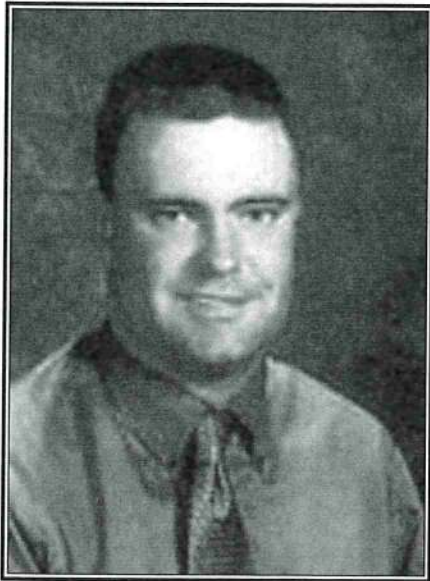
“Learning how to place those kids in events where they would be successful was what eventually made us a good, then a great program. I am grateful for the coaches who helped me and for the athletes who were willing to learn a new sport. The real reason for our success...”

Skip's second year saw the record upped to 15-2, another second place in the DRC, and third in the Central Jersey Sectionals. It was also the final year for Sue Van Horn, who left with school records in four events.

But plenty of talent was on hand for year three, in which the team record improved to 11-1. Then came the “dream season,” a team-best record of 13-0 and the championship for both the DRC and Central Jersey Group III.

Mr. Norcross would be heading to Voorhees after his final season. And what better way to go out but with a big bang—dual-meet record 8-1 and three championships: DRC, Central Jersey Group III, and overall State Group III. Great for the kids and great for their jovial coach...with a 59-7, 89% five-year score!

Skip, modestly always crediting the kids and other coaches, including Hall of Fame's Don Roberts and Bob McGivney for helping, retired to Virginia with wife Tena (a guidance counselor).



COACH JEFF STEELE

A varsity baseball player on Voorhees' three consecutive conference champions, Jeff found that softball really is a different sort of game. But a quick learner, he would coach North Hunterdon teams to the heights in New Jersey.

His first season, 2005, was "like a roller coaster ride—win a bunch, lose a bunch." A respectable record of 16-10 and "we should be in good shape next year." One of the grand understatements in the annals of Lion athletics...

Halfway through the 2006 campaign the Lions were 4-0 in 1-run games. "We're just finding a way to win those games," he said. He felt "like a jockey on a frisky thoroughbred." But he was a smart jockey, having brought up from the JV's two young pitchers who would prove to be among the best ever. He knew how to beat the odds in taking risks.

Junior Ali Freedman and sophomore Jenna Gonzalez would pitch the team to record highs in wins and tournament success in 2006 and the ensuing two years—including three straight Sectional titles and a Group IV State championship.

Another outstanding coaching move was to switch his cleanup batter lower in the lineup, where she was comfortable and successful. Jess DiLeo would be the *Express* player of the week after her performance in the Hunterdon/Warren title game—three-for-four, including a long HR and two runs scored—our first such title, made sweeter by soundly beating perennial winner Central.

Jeff was great at creating a winning team "chemistry," instilling in his players a strong desire to win and have fun too, with "great kids and parents."

With only three losses, the team went into the Sectional finals ranked third in the state and emerged with the win over a strong Westfield team in eight innings—the day after we had to play a makeup game. Next came the Group IV semifinal against Ridgewood. Coach Steele took the risk and sent his star slugger, Hall of Fame's Sam Pellechio, racing home—for a close call at the plate that gave the Lions a 2-1 victory.

On to the final game, against Hamilton East, another nail-biter. Home runs by frosh Rebecca Schaefer (yet another great coaching choice) and Sam gave North Hunterdon the 2-1 win and the school's first State softball title.

A school-record 27 wins, ranked second in New Jersey, *Express-Times* coach of the year, a slew of girls named to all-star teams...the second-year coach had worked his magic. Hilary Murray said it best: "He wants us all to succeed, and we trust him completely. He always believes in us, and we always want to win for him, and for us as well. He always tells us never to give up, and play to the last out. And that's what we did."

In 2007 Jeff led the team to a 22-7 record and a second Sectional title. Next season saw the team off to a school-record 18-1 start, a *third-straight* Sectional title, and a 25-4 record for the "cardiac kids," continuing the tradition of come-from-behind wins. The best was a 9-inning, 9-8 Sectional win after a 1-6 start. Jeff was named *Courier* coach of the year.

Jeff continued at the helm through the 2013 season, consistently turning out winning teams, going high in the Sectionals, and bringing along many all-star players. His record was 190-67, a fine 74% wins...and great respect. As one writer put it: "Steele is a class act."

Jeff is now the athletic director at Bound Brook HS. He and Kelli (a NH volunteer assistant coach for him) have young slugger Derek, with Sean on deck.

WILLIAM "BILLY" HAUCK '82

CONTRIBUTOR

If North Hunterdon High School had an alumni contest to determine a "Mr. North Hunterdon," Mr. William Hauck would be a chief contender for the title.

Billy has long served the school as student, athlete, class officer, sports announcer and in other roles—frequently comedic ones.

Great good humor was—and is—the hallmark of his careers in school, on the job, and in retirement. "Everything I did was for fun and morale building and for laughs—nothing harmful or discriminatory towards anyone of any age or position. I think it worked."



Thousands will attest to that, as "Hauckie" continues his cheerful path through life. Those fortunate enough to have been there when Bill was a North Hunterdon student were highly entertained by his hijinks, chief of which may have been when he appeared in the cafeteria dressed as King Kong, lifted a lovely blonde onto a table, and roared at paper airplanes flung at him by fellow students....

Hall of Fame coach Don Roberts let Billy do the morning announcements on basketball game days. This gave our own "Jimmy the Greek" the opportunity not only to make sure we knew about the games, but also to give the point spreads!

On the serious side, Billy was a fine athlete for Lion football and baseball. He was a tri-captain of the football team and was chosen by the Delaware River Conference coaches for first team offensive tackle in his senior year.

He batted .407 as co-captain for the 17-7 baseball squad that year (6 losses by one run), won the Boyer Award as MVP, and was both all-conference and county first team. Billy kept morale high in both sports—and *produced* for the teams by outstanding performance as a Lion athlete.

Our super "Jungle" student cheering section is another of his contributions to the school, a joint effort by Bill and Coach Roberts back in 1980. As senior class president—by 83% of the vote!— he led the way to procuring the electronic bulletin board at the route 31 entrance.

As the voice of the students Hauckie was in the administrative offices daily. To entertain the school while his class was at Disney World, Billy did live call-ins that were broadcast in the school.

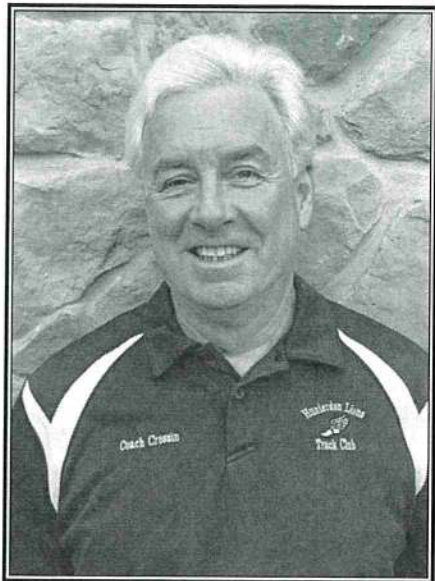
If you attend home Lion football and basketball games, you will hear him announcing the gridiron action and see him keeping the stats book as scorekeeper for both boys and girls hoops. And he is the announcer for football, field hockey, soccer, and lacrosse seniors' nights as well.

Billy also has been serving North Hunterdon on the Athletic Hall of Fame Committee and has been treasurer for the past eight years. His input into the selection of athletes is backed by the knowledge acquired in his many years as student, athlete, and super-fan of Lion sports.

At Alfred University Billy studied political science and criminal justice and public law. "Football knees" wrote *finis* to his own athletic career. But he did travel to Syracuse to watch games—and to OTB—a way to his skills as a handicapper.

He holds advanced degrees in criminal science and public management and worked for three decades for the NJ Department of Law and Public Safety (rose to become warden at Edna Mahon women's prison).

Visitors to Hunterdon Medical Center will meet Billy at the front door, where he assists with directions, wheelchairs, or other needs and also gives orientation for new staff. Bill does volunteer work for many other organizations...and there's no more affable contributor to school and community.



JIM CROSSIN CONTRIBUTOR

Jim Crossin grew up running competitively in Philadelphia for Father Judge High School, then St. Joseph's University on a track scholarship. Jim qualified for the Invitational Mile and Two Mile races at the prestigious Penn Relays in 1965 and 1966, respectively. He also ran a then-meet record time to win the Two Mile Championship race indoors at the Inquirer Games.

At St. Joseph's on a track scholarship, he was a member of two Middle Atlantic Conference Championship track and field teams. He was the silver medalist at the IC4A College Championships, placed second in the Big Five two-mile race, and third in the MAC two-mile race.

In the 1970's and 80's he won road races from 5k to the marathon. In 1979, Jim qualified for and ran the Boston Marathon in the impressive time of 2 hours and 34 minutes.

When Jim moved to Clinton Township in 1998, he knew well of North Hunterdon's tradition of running excellence, and was thrilled that his daughters would someday run for the school. He fondly remembers that on the day the family closed on their new home, he ran up Regional Road to North Hunterdon and ran a hard mile around the track!

In 2005, shortly after Sean Walsh had been named the coach of the girls' cross country and track teams, Sean approached Jim to see if he would be interested in starting a youth running program for pre-high school girls in the area. At the time, Jim's oldest daughter, Becky ('04), had recently graduated from North, and his younger daughters Amy ('06) and Laura ('08) were members of the high school team. Coaching had long been a dream of Jim's, so he quickly agreed. Thus was born "The Lady Lions Running Club."

The club began with eight girls, and shortly after boys were included and it was redubbed "The Hunterdon Lions Track Club." The club has grown to include 250 boys and girls each spring, many of whom have moved on to compete for North Hunterdon. The club is widely recognized as a top youth program, having produced many athletes who have won USATF titles at the state and regional levels. At the high school level, the club's graduates have contributed extensively to numerous Hunterdon/ Warren/Sussex, Skyland Conference, Sectional, Group, Meet of Champions, and three consecutive girls Nike Northeast Regional Cross Country titles.

Additionally, the Hunterdon Lions Track Club has produced more than a dozen NCAA Division One athletes, including Matt McDonald, Alexis Roper, Morgan Harvey, Ray Sellaro, Eve Glasergreen, and Emily Nugent, to name just a few. The club's influence on the success of the high school programs over the last 20 years cannot be overstated. The work of Jim and the other Hunterdon Lions Track Club coaches and volunteers has been instrumental in all of the wins achieved at the high school, and without Jim's vision the victories would not have come to fruition.

However, irrespective all of the team and individual success at the high school level, Jim is proud of the fact that the Hunterdon Lions Track Club has allowed several thousand Hunterdon County youth to gain experience in the sport of track and field, and provided a platform for children to have a positive athletic experience while learning how to lead healthy lifestyles. Jim notes that outside of his marriage to Kathy and raising his three daughters, the founding of the Hunterdon Lions Track Club and the impact that the club has had on the youth of Hunterdon County has been the most satisfying and rewarding experience of his life.

JOHN MCGOURTY, SR.

(1924-2009)

CONTRIBUTOR

One of the Greatest Generation—and a *man's man*: self-reliant... dependable... morally good... loyal... courageous... daring... consistent... persistent... self-sacrificing... impressive... these and all other qualities of a real man were hallmarks of John McGourty.

John's days of service began in earnest during World War II when he was out in the Pacific in the midst of danger (on an LST) in the island-hopping attacks that led to Tokyo. Next came serving the general public as a New Jersey state trooper, where he rose to the rank of captain in a distinguished 28-year career.

John loved sports and kept himself physically fit always. An avid runner, he could be seen on the school track in the morning and ran in road races even in advanced age. He firmly believed that participating in sports builds character, discipline, and teamwork—a legacy that carried into the lives of his children and continues in his many grandchildren.

One—or perhaps we should say *many*—of his contributions to North Hunterdon High can be seen in the number of children and grandchildren who joined Lion teams, including cross country, track, fencing, field hockey, football, softball, wrestling, cheerleading, twirling, and band. He attended innumerable events to encourage and support them and their teammates.

John first became a fan in 1966, cheering on John Jr. in cross country races. Then came football and wrestling, and for the next 40 years he rarely missed an event. If a referee made a questionable call in a grappling match, everyone in the gym would hear John's displeasure!

Classy wrestling by sons Vince and Leon (4th in State) culminated on St. Patrick's Day 1985 when the youngest of the family, Tom, won his State title and the award for Outstanding Wrestler, with Dad and the whole family in attendance.

Tennis was another of his sports, and he was very good at it. Younger players who got into a game with him soon learned that it was not so easy to blast the ball past him when he was at the net—because if the ball was hit to his left he would swiftly switch his racquet to his left hand and drop the ball over the net to win the point!

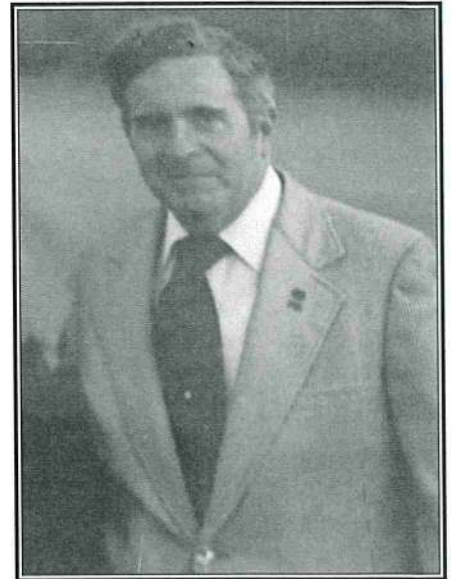
John helped Lion athletics in many ways as a member, and president, of the Booster Club, working many breakfast and dinner events to raise money for multifarious projects that benefited our sports programs. One of his greatest contributions was working and campaigning tirelessly for our grand new gym.

Another involved what we might call "Chicago Cubs Syndrome." Wrigley Field was the true home of daylight-only baseball, having no field lighting for three-quarters of a century. Around here, North Hunterdon was without such lights on both the original (north side of school) and the present stadium for many years...no Friday-night games for us.

John perceived as another duty the attainment of bright lights for the new field. A man's man, he put his honor and personal finances on the line to accomplish that goal, not only galvanizing support for the project, but *co-signing for the bank loan* that would put up those lights. How many not-wealthy- by-any-means men with a large family would volunteer to risk such a thing?!

But John McGourty firmly believed, as he often said to his family, that "God will provide." He was faithful and loyal to Leona, his wife of 61 years, his ten children and many grandchildren, his friends, his fellow troopers, his God and his Church—and to North Hunterdon High School, especially our sports programs.

Thank you, John...





SUSAN LANDGRAF LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

The North Hunterdon Athletic Hall of Fame Committee expresses sincere thanks—and admiration—to Susan Landgraf, who has been an immense help to the Hall of Fame all through the two decades of its existence.

Sue has managed our ticket sales, been our chief contact with the Athletic Directors, dug up information, made sure we have had a meeting space, and generally cleared the path to keep things running smoothly and on time.

And she has done yeoman work for the school throughout her career. Among a number of key administrative duties, such as athletic scheduling, athletic vendor orders, confirming schedules with athletics and transportation, athletic awards, athletic records, student eligibility, athletic meeting coordination, summer camp coordination, etc. Mrs. Landgraf is talented with every computer program. Mrs. Landgraf also did much of the Skyland Conference secretarial work such as agendas, minutes, schedules...

Sue was named the 2014 winner of the Administrative Assistant Award of Excellence by the Directors of Athletics. The DAANJ, the professional organization for over 300 active and 100 retired New Jersey high school athletic directors, works closely with the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association to promote interscholastic athletic programs in the state.

More recently, Sue was recognized as Administrative Assistant of the Year by the Hunterdon/Warren Athletic Directors Association.

"North Hunterdon has won championships on many levels and has had many coaches recognized as coach of the year recipients, but the true ROCK STAR of our athletic department is Sue Landgraf," says former Athletic Director John Deutsch.

"She has served our school and thousands of student-athletes for many years, sharing in the success of our students, coaches and staff in all athletic arenas and in the classrooms as well. She is one of the top interscholastic athletic professionals in New Jersey."

More recently, Sue was recognized as Administrative Assistant of the Year by the Hunterdon/Warren Athletic Directors Association.

Retired Director of Athletics Bob Hopek declares, "Sue's commitment and sacrifice for student athletes and coaches, not only at North but throughout the Skyland Conference and for the Directors of Athletics Association of NJ was greatly appreciated by everyone who had the opportunity to interact with her. She has been the face of North athletics.

"Sue is a very special person with unquestionable loyalty, trust, and solid work ethic. She is thoroughly professional, intelligent, and honest and has the ability to multitask and deal with a multitude of issues on a daily basis.

"She has earned the thanks of so many that she has helped through the years. It was indeed my good fortune—and an honor—to have worked with her. I am deeply thankful to Sue for all she did."

Present Athletic Director John Mattes: "Mother, wife, secretary (more like AD), mentor, and friend—she will be missed by everyone (especially the coaching staff). I enjoyed every minute working with Sue the past year and a half. I will miss the laughter more than anything! Thank you, Sue, and congratulations!"

Thank you, Sue, from all of us—and all the best in your retirement...

HALL OF FAME ATHLETES, 1952-2017

1952 Glenn Lambert	1966 Alan Detwiler	1986 Allison Greene
1952 Jim Ovady	1966 Walt Hudnett	1986 Dave Olexson
1952 Ron Weber	1967 Kirk Edwards	1987 Darlene Andrews
1953 Ken Braun	1969 Parker Snare	1987 Beth Gromlowicz
1953 Jack Tharp	1971 Dave Gaunt	1987 Anne Marie Letko
1953 Greg Wojdat	1971 Scott Cassels	1988 Jodie Bilotta
1954 John Transue	1972 Jim Skripko	1988 Duane Grade
1955 Dave Strain	1973 Gary Shepperd	1988 Mike Van Doren
1956 Frank Cozze	1974 Doug Hintz	1989 Brian Partlow
1956 Tom Langston	1974 Helen Beth Hintz	1990 Brett Skapinetz
1957 Irv Apgar	1974 Mike Lusardi	1990 Kent Tschannen
1957 Gene O'Neill	1975 Bruce Wodder	1991 Jason Kramer
1958 Jerry Keller	1977 Alice Hedden	1991 Mike Loftin
1959 Bob Clawson	1977 Dave Smigelsky	1992 Paige Hargrove
1959 Joe Gromlowicz	1979 Sue Van Horn	1992 Beth Timko
1959 Charlie Patkochis	1979 Marty Vybihal	1993 Brendan Heffernan
1960 Reid De Nyse	1980 Scott Skripko	1993 Jeff Miller
1960 Ken Gromlowicz	1981 Dave Carlson	1993 Chris Vidak
1960 Joe Skripko	1982 Marge Demarrais	1994 Hutch Novacek
1961 Nick Frey	1982 Sharon Greene	1995 Steve Taibi
1961 Tom Marziaz	1982 Mike Price	1996 Chris Robinson
1961 Marty McCormick	1982 Nancy Skripko	1996 Rich Theesfeld
1961 Dale Winter	1983 Ellen Bitow	1998 Chris Loftus
1963 Bob Brannan	1983 Pam Hudson	1999 Julie Culley
1963 Paul Goble	1984 Tracy Bigley	1999 Nate Sisco
1963 Dick Van Doren	1984 Stacy Bilotta	2000 Colleen Ginty
1963 Steve Whitehead	1984 Mark Nace	2000 Megan Haughey
1964 Gene Sevi	1985 Bill Babcock	2000 Becki Toth
1964 Steve Wolschina	1985 Pam Balogh	2001 Suki Dorfman
1965 Dale Blazure	1985 Gary Bendel	2001 Anthony Schiavino
1965 Gene Detwiler	1985 Andy Martin	2003 Rick Frondorf
1965 Jim McCormick	1985 Tom McGourty	2005 Rachel Kulick
1965 Ralph Steele	1985 Gavin Sloane	2007 Samantha Pellechio
1965 Melissa Whitehead	1986 Joe Beneducci	

HALL OF FAME TEAMS

1965-1966 Girls Field Hockey
1973 State Baseball Champions
1975 State Football Champions
1976 Golf Champions
1979 West Jersey Football Champions
1980-1986 Girls Cross-Country Champions
1981-1985 Boys Cross-Country Champions
1981-1982 Wrestling Champions
1983-1984 State Wrestling Champions
1985-1988 Girls State Basketball Champions
1986 Central Jersey Girls Field Hockey Champions
1990-1991 Boys Sectional Basketball Champions
1992-1993 Group III State Wrestling Champions
1992-1995 Boys Cross-Country Champions
1999-2000 Boys Fencing
2006 Softball Group IV State Champions

CONTRIBUTORS

William Bowlby	Mark Saharic '77
Leon Cronce '67	Robin Hight Scheier
John Fasanella '54	Bill Simpson
Bob Kornberger '54	Lowell Snare '63
Ken Price	Mrs. Ann Snyder
Dave Robbins '63	Jack Van Doren '61

HALL OF FAME COACHES

Bonnie Carter	Fred Pierro
Pete Catanese	John Reid
"Fritz" Halfacre	Paul Rickenbach
Dennis Haughey	Don Roberts
Charles Heidecker	James Smith
Leonard Lane	Parker Snare
Jean Laskowski	Bill Snyder
Bob McGivney	Jim VanArsdale
Richard Moore	Harry Vandermark
Bob O'Rourke	John Winecker
Norman Pedersen	

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

Denis Ditze
Larry Heinrich
Robert Hopek
Dr. G. Clifford Singley

OUR THANKS TO...

Karen Ellis for putting all athletic records online
John Deutsch for creating the Hall of Fame web page on Facebook
Athletic Director John Mattes for making the way smooth
Sue Landgraf for fulfilling our requests for many years

NORTH HUNTERDON HIGH SCHOOL

ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

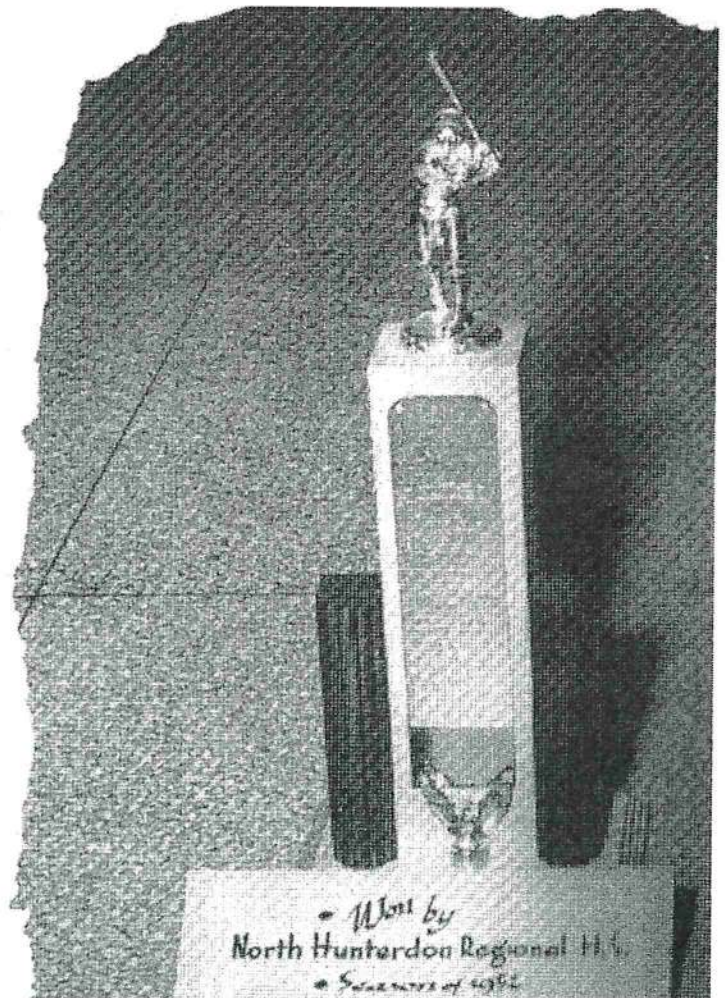
We feel that participation in athletics is an important part of the educational process, as athletic participation provides the opportunity for student athletes to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes so that they may become productive, contributing citizens of our community and society.

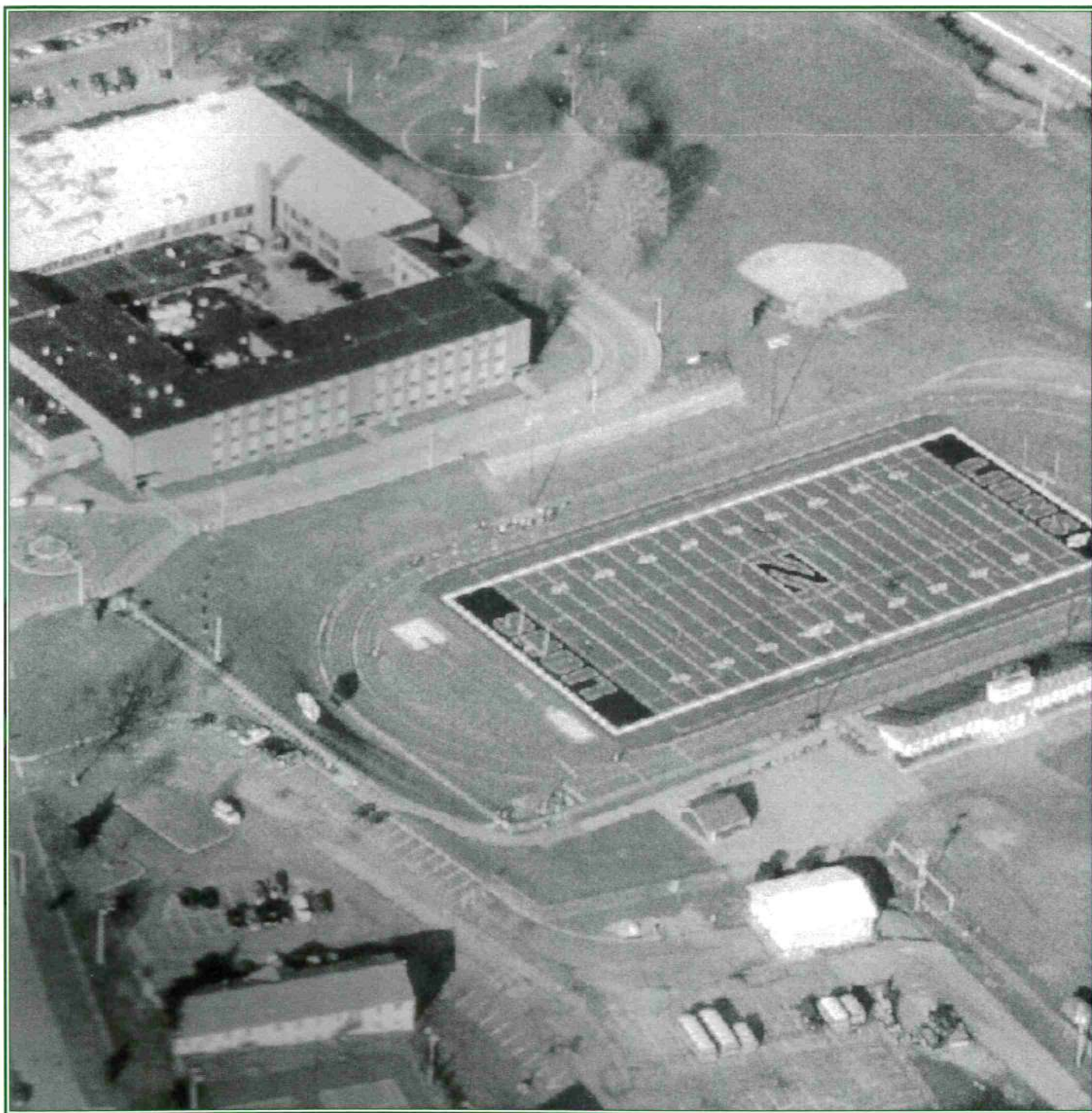
Athletics is an integral part of our students' education at North Hunterdon High School, whether they are spectators or participants. Participation is an extension of the school day, during which the learning process still continues. Students learn to respect competence, commitment, and sportsmanship. They learn the power of sharing their unique talents and intensity in working together for a common goal. We encourage our students to become involved in as many programs as possible, to do their absolute best, and to support their team and school.

They also gain insight into placing team above self, learning to accept constructive criticism, respect for others, winning and losing with dignity, self-control, and being responsible for their actions.

Last year's baseball team, the pride of Regional, was the team that brought us our first trophy. With the coaching of Norman Pedersen the boys compiled a record of twelve wins and three losses. To add to the honors Ronny Weber was awarded an honorable mention position on the All-State baseball team. Ronny Weber and Larry Bowers did most of the pitching, and with John Transue behind the plate Regional had one of the best batteries in the county. Ronny Weber accomplished the feat of pitching a no-hit game. It was this type of pitching and the timely hitting and fielding of such players as Jim Ovady, Charlie Hall, Jimmy Stock, Jack Tharp, Glenn Lambert, Leon Storr, and Stan Oleniacz that brought the first trophy to Regional High School.

*Regional's first athletic trophy—
won by the '52 baseball team.*





North Hunterdon Regional High School, 2019

2019 HALL OF FAME SPONSORS

DIAMOND SPONSOR-ABOVE \$500

Coaches and Athletes of the 1985 Championship
Cross Country Teams

Dave Gaunt
John Moliere

PLATINUM SPONSOR-\$500

Henry "Ren" Richmond

GOLD SPONSOR-\$200

Tim Anderson
Jeff Curzi Law Office
Flemington Department Store (Ted Resnick)
The Hauck Family:
Bruce, Dawn, Courtney, Charlie, Nicole & Bill
Jim McCormick
Dave & Pam (Pedersen) Schmieg & Karen Pederson
(In Honor of Coach Norm Pederson)

Tom Powers
Reiner Insurance (Rich Reiner)
Brett Skapinetz
Van Doren Oil Company
The Winecker Family
(In Memory of Coach John Winecker)
Steve Wolschina

SILVER SPONSOR-\$100

Joe Beneducci
Robert Brannan
Marge DeMarrais
Denis Ditze
Brian Eick
Nancy (Skripko) Erickson
GoalQuest Soccer (Hutch Novacek)
Sandy (Halfacre) Haas

(In Memory of Coach Fritz
Halfacre)
Doug & Janet Hintz
Tom Jeffrey
Patricia (Tyrell) Keleman
Parisi Speed School at
HealthQuest
Quest Environmental (Darin
Vogel)

Don Roberts
Barry & Robin Scheier
Gene Sevi
Victoria Sheffield
Bill & Linda Snyder
Jack Van Doren
Mike Van Doren
Richard Van Doren

BRONZE SPONSOR-\$50

Clinton Station Diner
Frank D'Astoli
Larry Heinrich
Melissa (Whitehead) Jones

Helen Lautenbach
Liz Ludwigson
Judy (Morrow) Ours
Dave Robbins

Parker Snare
Ralph Steele
Ron & Joan Weber

LION SPONSOR-\$25

Irving Apgar
Clinton Family Eye Care Center (Dr. Jaime Marcolini)
Bob Hopek

Mary (Griffo) Jolley
Made To Order Jewelry