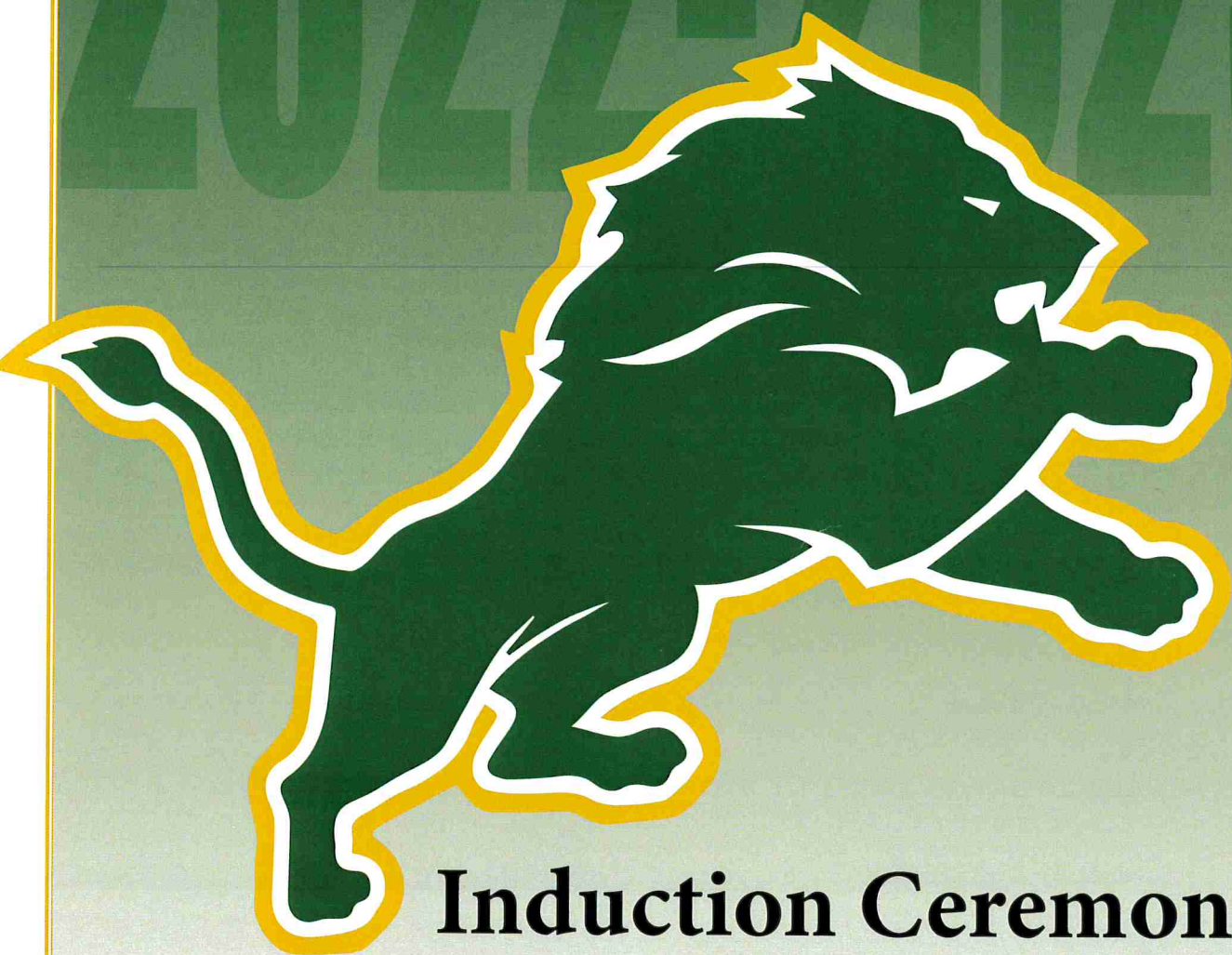


# North Hunterdon High School

ATHLETIC HALL<sup>of</sup>FAME

2022-2023



## Induction Ceremonies

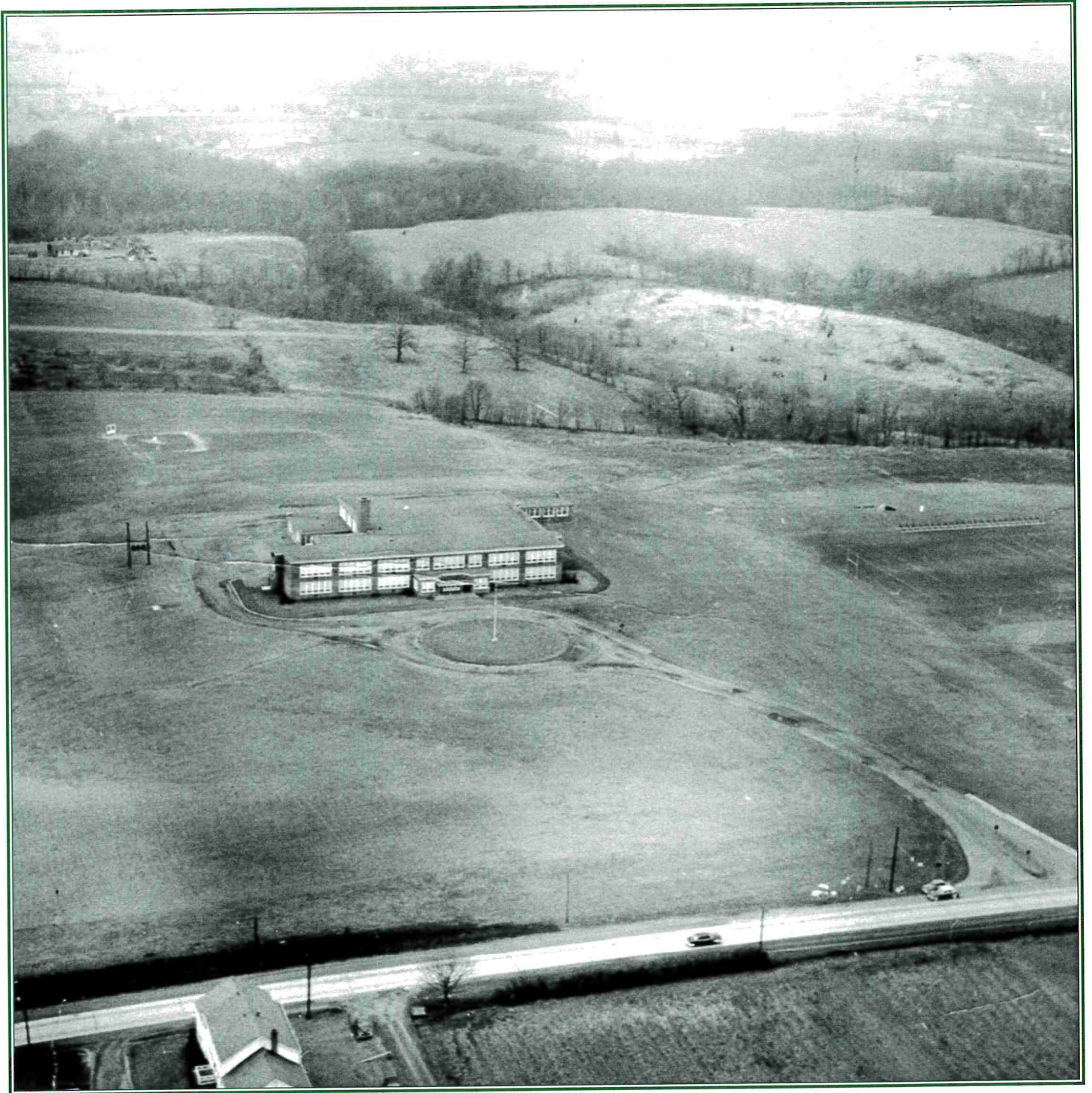
Class of 2022-Class of 2023

November 11, 2023

Beaver Brook Country Club



**IN THE BEGINNING...**



**North Hunterdon Regional High School, 1951**

# NORTH HUNTERDON LIONS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME LUNCHEON AND INDUCTION CEREMONIES

Welcome..... Mr. Leon Cronce

## LUNCHEON

## INDUCTIONS

Introduction of Lions Hall of Fame ..... Mr. Leon Cronce

Masters of Ceremonies ..... Messrs. Leon Cronce, William Hauck





# NORTH HUNTERDON HIGH SCHOOL

**Dr. Gregory Cottrell**  
Principal

**Ms. Alexa Freguletti**  
Athletic Director



A NATIONAL SCHOOL  
of  
EXCELLENCE

Assistant Principals  
**Mr. John Deutsch**  
**Ms. Stacy Ditze**  
**Mr. Timothy Flynn**  
**Mr. Chris Maslonka**  
**Mr. Robert Pellechio**

October 2023

Dear Friends,

With great pleasure, North Hunterdon High School welcomes you to the Athletic Hall of Fame Luncheon. We are thrilled to recognize our inductees, who have significantly contributed to our school community as accomplished athletes.

The North Hunterdon High School Lions Athletic Hall of Fame was established to preserve the tradition of the NHHS Athletic Program by honoring the athletes who made a difference in our local community and who made significant contributions to our school district. Athletic fields are a place where strength and skills are built, as well as hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Today, we honor these athletes for their past achievements and for being positive role models for future generations.

North Hunterdon High School's Hall of Fame is filled with outstanding athletes who took the skills they learned in the fields and gyms and utilized them in all aspects of life. Their quick thinking, determination, and self-discipline have brought them here as honored athletes, and we celebrate their accomplishments.

On behalf of the North Hunterdon High School Community, we would like to congratulate each inductee and thank them for their contributions as they enter this select group of chosen athletes. We hope today's ceremony brings back great memories and feelings of pride as they take their 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

Alexa Freguletti  
Athletic Director  
Assistant Principal



# **NORTH HUNTERDON LIONS ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE**

President..... Leon Cronic  
Vice President ..... Leon McGourty  
Treasurer ..... Bill Hauck  
Executive Assistant ..... Mike Van Doren

Laura Burr	Rich Reiner
Barbara Eveland Dalrymple	Gene Robbins
John Fasanello	Robin Scheier
Joe Georgewitz	Hilary Murray Schweitzer
Garret Lelko	Brian Walsh

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO...**

North Hunterdon High School Advisory Committee:

Greg Cottrell, Principal  
Alexa Freguletti, Athletic Director  
John Deutsch, Assistant Principal  
Ellen Anderson, Secretary

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

**ATHLETES**

Brian Harris '92	Stephanie Reiner '09
Brad Patkochis '93	Ted Delia '09
Karen Timko '95	John Havay '10
Amanda Tewksbury '06	Brendan Cusack '11
Tyler Tompkins '08	Jessica Pellechio '12

**COACH**

Thomas Hank

**TEAMS**

1968 Boys Cross Country	1991 - 1992 Boys Track
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**CONTRIBUTORS**

Jill Robinson '76	Brian Plushanski '73
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## BRIAN HARRIS '92

In the long legacy of very talented Lion runners, Brian Harris stands out as a linchpin of the NHHS juggernaut that dominated cross country and track in Central Jersey.

Varsity freshman Brian helped the cross country team to an undefeated 8-0 season, the Conference title and the Central Jersey Group IV Sectional championship. Next season it was exactly more of the same.

The team's streak continued in Brian's junior year. In the state championship series they took second place in both the Sectional and Group III races and then leaped to a fifth-place finish in the Meet of Champions.

Closing his cross country career for North, Brian once again was a mainstay on an undefeated team that took seconds in the Sectional and Group meets and sixth place in the Meet of Champions.

Brian won the Boyer Award as team MVP. He and teammate Brendan Heffernan had, over three seasons, regularly taken the first two places in championship meets and provided inspiration for their teams and for the teams that followed.

In his junior year he ran a 4:31 1600 meters to take fifth in Group III indoor track. Next year he set a school-record 9:36.5 in the 3200 to place third in the Meet of Champions.

Brian was splendid in four varsity years of spring track.

The 1991 team of his junior year went 8-0, won the Conference and Sectional meets, the Ridgewood Relays, Group III Sectionals, and the East Coast 4 x 800 relay title, along with second in the Group III State meet. Hard-running Brian was key for the team and took third in the State meet 1600.

Senior Brian, as always, came through for the 6-1 team, winning the Conference 800 and the Boyer Award for his outstanding individual runs, including third in the State 1600, and for relay running-- his favorite. The team was second in Group III after winning the Sectionals.

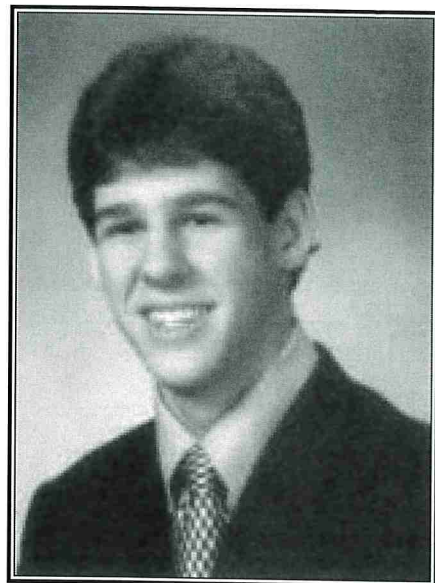
For that meet, on a 90+ degree day, Coach O'Rourke asked Brian and Brendan if they each would be willing to run three events to help the team. They not only agreed, but proceeded to take the top two places in the 800, 1600, and 3200 meters! That performance *has never been replicated* in state track history.

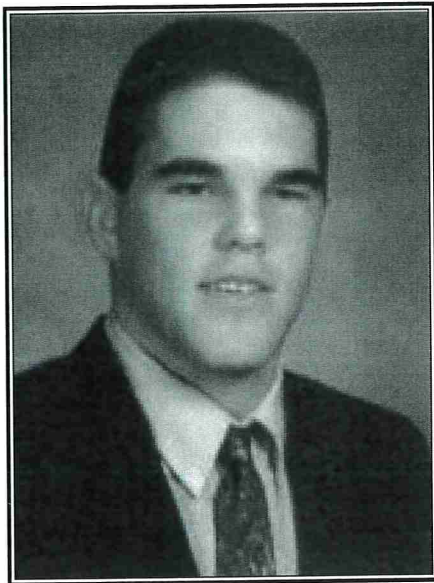
At the Colonial Relays in Virginia the Distance Medley team took first place. At the East Coast Relays, the 4 x 1600 squad won in a National-best 17:40.4. And their performance in the 1992 Penn Relays is legendary.

Brian held the baton in the middle of the pack in the first leg of the Distance Medley race. He not only ran an excellent 3:06 1200 meters, he burst into the lead, and the team went on to finish first among US teams in a USA-best time of 10:10.6--the "best race of my life." A national championship!

Always a varsity runner, including college, Brian scored a multitude of points for the Lions in numerous cross-country races, track meets, and relay races. Coach O'Rourke best sums up Brian's running ethos: "unrelenting hard work, dedication to team, and top-quality performances throughout his career."

Brian lost two toes and his junior college season to cancer, but beat the odds and ran well as a senior and thereafter. He still holds the Kutztown U 5000 meter record and has run 11 marathons, his best a 2:32.29 in Boston, during a Nor'easter, no less.





## BRAD PATKOCHIS '93

In football, linemen rarely gain the headlines, but they make the blocks and many tackles that determine the outcome of the game.

From 1990 to 1992, North football was blessed with one of those granite giants in Brad Patkochis, team MVP in 1992. He anchored the offensive and defensive lines for three years, earning all-conference, all-state and AP All-American honors along the way. By his senior year he was 6-6 and 240 pounds.

Speed, hands, footwork, balance, attitude and ability to explode, said *SuperPrep* magazine in tabbing him as a preseason All-American in 1992. Physical, yes, but mental, too. Even in high school, he would remind teammates of their assignment on a given play.

Brad was an athlete from childhood. Like many rural kids, he started with backyard football and then team play with the Flemington Pioneers, until weight restrictions forced him from the game for years. Instead, he

played basketball.

He got back on the gridiron as a freshman at North. He lettered as a soph, but found out even the best of players need skillful others around them for a team to be successful. The Lions won just five games in his three years on varsity.

As a junior tackle, he reveled in being in the down-in-the-dirt gang and won the team's "Hog Award" as best lineman. Eric Tomczak, who scored 16 TDs in 1992, remembers he just rode Brad's right hip as he pulled on the Lions' bread-and-butter counter play. "Easy running for me," said Tomczak. "I owe Brad for clearing paths for me."

Brad received most accolades on defense, where speed accentuated size to yield his competitive edge.

At the end of the senior year the Lions were beginning to taste success, dropping a 34-31 heartbreaker at Warren Hills, and winning the last two tilts decisively.

His final game was a satisfying revenge victory over Voorhees in the Milk Can game, a 28-0 scrubbing that reversed two years of shutouts. It was also memorable for the way the day ended personally. On his last play as a Lion he intercepted a pass, ran down the sideline toward paydirt when the Voorhees QB tackled him at the knees out of bounds. Next stop? Hunterdon Medical Center.

Brad wrestled for the first time in his soph and junior years at the coach's suggestion. The sport gave him a valuable lesson, he said. Wrestling – the running and constant work in a heated room – was the best single thing to help him prepare, mentally and physically, for college athletics, he said.

Major colleges sought Brad. He chose Syracuse, where his father, Charles ('59), a Lion HOFer himself, was a frosh on the national championship team led by the great Ernie Davis. Brad was a captain on Big East-winning teams, and his offensive line kept All-American QB Donovan McNabb well protected.

Brad is an active and respected part of the Hunterdon community, serving as Quakertown fire chief. He and other Delaware Valley-area youth coaches run a youth football program-- one that doesn't have weight restrictions.

Good genes and family upbringing formed the Patkochis boys. "From an early age, my dad told Scott and me that we had all the attributes to play football in college. We just had to focus and work hard."

How right Pop was.



## KAREN TIMKO RUITENBERG '95

Karen Timko began to play field hockey for the Lions as a freshman while her Hall of Fame sister, Beth, was starring in the sport in her senior year. Karen lettered on the jv team right away, but moved up to the Skyland Conference-champion varsity that season. She was playing the sport for the *first time in her life*.

One of her most memorable moments was providing an assist to her Hall of Fame sister Beth in a State game that season.

The varsity team was in a rebuilding season in her sophomore year, but even with a 6-7-5 record, Karen stood out enough to be chosen to the Conference second team.

After an uneven start, the girls began to gel as a team in Karen's third season and qualified for the State tournament. Seeded a lowly seventh, they faced number-two seed Red Bank and came away with a 2-1 victory in overtime.

Next they surprised third-seeded Notre Dame in overtime, 1-0. Into the Sectional final they rolled, taking on number-one seed Ocean Township. Against all odds, the Lionettes prevailed, 1-0

This made North Hunterdon the Central Jersey Group III Sectional champions-- a very special title for a team that was not expected to be even close to winning that title. And a great deal of that success was due to Karen. Coach Bonnie Carter said she had a calm demeanor and was "a joy to coach."

For her outstanding play and leadership, team co-captain Karen was awarded the Irons Award as team MVP. She was first-team in the Conference and made second team All-West Jersey for the *Star-Ledger* and likewise for the *Courier News* All-Area team. She made Group III second team as well as the North Jersey All Stars.

In her final hockey season Karen was co-captain and MVP for the second time, scoring 21 goals, fourth highest in school history. She finished with 40 career goals and 18 assists. She made second team All-State All-Groups, first team All-West Jersey, Associated Press All-State, and North Jersey Field Hockey Coaches first team.

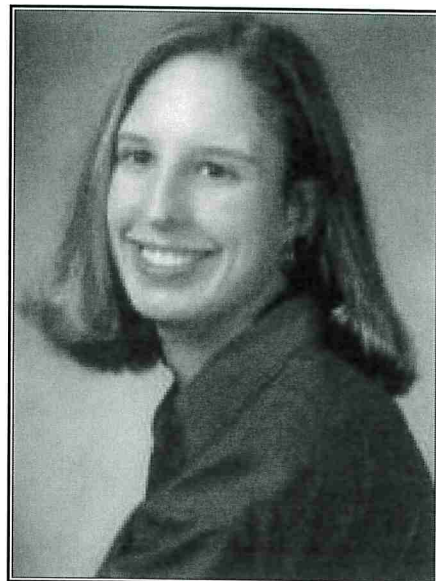
In the winters Karen was a three-year varsity starter in basketball, helping the team to a fine 20-5 record and making the Conference second team as a sophomore. Next year was even better, a 20-2 record, Conference championship, and for Karen *Courier-News* honorable mention.

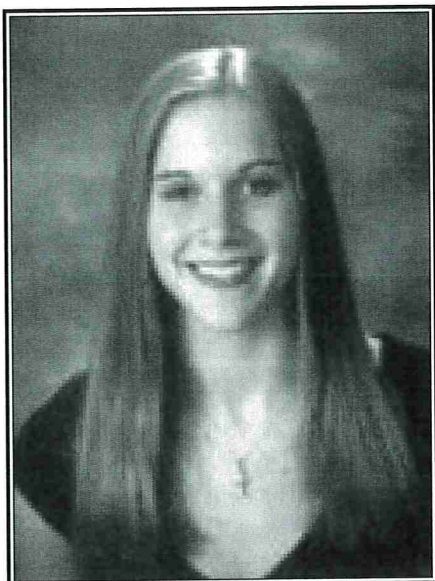
The senior year began with Karen being chosen for the MVP award when the team won the Easton Christmas tourney and ended with the 17-7 team's season MVP and Conference first team selections. Karen's skillful playing was key in the three-year record of 57-14. She made the *Star-Ledger* All-West Jersey second team.

Softball showed a familiar role for freshman Karen, starting fast on the jv team and moving up to win a varsity letter. She helped the needy team rebound to a winning run after a weak start.

A 9-8 season followed, and they handed Central their only loss in the league in the final game of the year. Although the teams were not outstanding in her four years, her play was of the highest caliber.

Karen went on to star in Rutgers field hockey-- Player of the Year and co-captain as a senior. At Kittatiny High she coached two league hockey team champs and was *Ledger* West Jersey and *NJ Herald* Coach of the Year in 2005.





## AMANDA TEWKSBURY ALVAREZ '06

Amanda Tewksbury made the varsity basketball team as a freshman (the only frosh on the team, with six seniors, two juniors, and two sophs), playing for a squad that went 11-11 for the season.

Next year she joined six juniors and two seniors for a much better 19-5 season, during which she was a major force in the team's improvement. Things looked good right from the start when the girls placed second in both the Christmas Tournament and the Hunterdon-Warren tourney.

And along the way the 19-5 Lady Lions won a share of the championship in the Skyland Conference. Amanda's excellent playing earned her a place on the Skyland Conference first team. In addition to her scoring ability, her outstanding defense brought many steals and deflections every year.

Her junior year was the "breakout" time for North Hunterdon, the team running up a 22-2 record and winning the Hunterdon/Warren title. They played twice in the State tournament, winning the first game. Nevertheless, it had been an outstanding season that included a run of 19 consecutive victories.

Amanda was chosen for the Irons Award-- the team MVP trophy-- and was also named to the Skyland Conference first team once more. During the season she received the *Star-Ledger* Player of the Week award. But she especially appreciated the "love and support of my senior teammates."

The team record fell to 19-6 in her senior year, but the season was "a lot of fun" according to Coach Hank. North repeated as winners of the Hunterdon/Warren tournament and also were "War of the Worlds" champions-- and hurt no Martians. She led the team to the semifinals of the Sections.

A well-wished for--by North Hunterdon fans, at least!-- Amanda's 1,000<sup>th</sup> point scored-- came during the Lady Lions 39-34 victory over Montgomery on Valentine's Day. She would end her career with 1,105 points.

"What's nice about Amanda's achievement," said Coach Hank, "is that she's always been a very unselfish player. She'll pass up a lot of shots so that she can get the ball to teammates who are open. When she plays it's not about Amanda getting 20 points. She'd rather score eight and have the team win."

Amanda needed only three points at game time to reach the milestone figure. Just before halftime the moment arrived. She had just gotten a black eye from an opponent's elbow. Undeterred, she grabbed a rebound and sank a jumper just inside the lane.

Amanda made first team in the Conference for the third consecutive year and won her third MVP Irons Award. The *Express-Times* named her to the All-Area first team, with the *Star-Ledger* placing her on the All West Jersey team as well as the state Group 4 third team. The *Courier-News* and the *Democrat* awarded her the honor of Player of the Year.

At the University of Maine Amanda continued to be a scoring, rebounding, assisting, stealing star on the court during four varsity years and was team captain in her senior year. She ranked high nationally in free throw percentage.

A Maine Scholar-Athlete all four years, she initiated a much-needed Fellowship of Christian Athletes group at the college. Amanda would go on to coach high school basketball and also work in a non-profit sports ministry.



## TYLER TOMPKINS '08

From 2005 to 2007, North Hunterdon soccer was on a roll, and literally in the middle of those three most successful years on the pitch in the school history was Tyler Tompkins.

Tyler was the acclaimed center forward – the striker – on the team that produced seasons of 14, 14 and 16 victories. He was a first-team Skylands Conference and *Express-Times* choice for three years, *Courier-News* all-star, and chosen for the third team for the *Star-Ledger's* West Jersey Group 4 team.

The *Express-Times*, which named Tyler its “Player of the Year in 2007,” wrote that he was only the third player in Hunterdon County history with more than 50 goals in a career. Tyler ranks second in NH scoring history with 56 goals and 29 assists.

Tyler was the most talented and skilled player coached by John Simpson in his 14 years -- no small mention, because Simpson coached four who were named Area Player of the Year either by the *Express-Times*, *Courier-News* or *Star-Ledger*.

In soccer, “finishing is the hardest thing,” Coach Simpson said, but Tyler was more. Not only was he adept at putting the ball past the ‘keeper with head or either foot, he was a creator and playmaker as well – all in the name of team victory.

“Tyler had that ability to just decide a game when it was needed. “He was that good,” the coach said. Tyler was often marked by the opposition, and he excelled at using that to his advantage to create space for his teammates to exploit and score.

“Tyler is a finisher who can score with his left foot, right foot and head and he can do it from the inside or the outside,” said his coach. “The only thing you can hope for is to make him give up the ball-- and even that is dangerous.”

Tompkins exhibited that deftness in the closing seconds of North Hunterdon’s 1-0 victory over Union in the NJSIAA North Jersey, Section 2, Group 4 quarterfinals. Tyler, marked by two defenders, took a forward pass from Joe Fiori and slotted the ball to Casey McNamara, who hammered the ball into the net with 15 seconds remaining in the game.

The victory was a sweet statement for non-city soccer. That time the country boys got the newspaper headline.

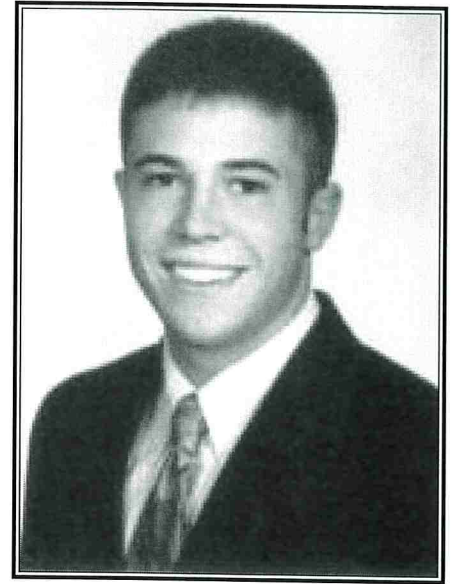
“Winning was the most important objective to him. The team mattered most. He held himself to a high standard,” said Coach Simpson.

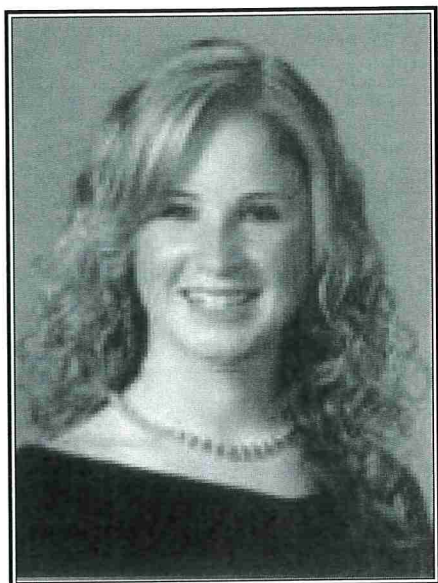
As a senior, Boyer Award winner Tyler experienced the higher level of speed and power in the NJ Soccer coaches’ All-State All-Star game, his second selection to their team.

He went off to play three years at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh. As a soph in late September 2009, he was chosen as the Atlantic 10 men’s soccer Player of the Week for recording an assist and three goals, including the game-winner, in a 1-0 victory at Robert Morris.

Today, Tyler works professionally as a coach and trainer of youth teams for FarPost, the same company that trained him and North Hunterdon Storm teammates when they were youngsters.

“My favorite thing about Tyler Tompkins is something everyone in the induction ceremony will see, and that’s his smile,” said Simpson. “It’s a 24-karat smile. We smiled a lot back then with Tyler.”





## STEPHANIE REINER '09

In the 1980's, when modern cheerleading began to include difficult stunting and more gymnastics skills, cheerleaders earned respect as serious athletes, and "courage, sacrifice, determination, commitment, toughness heart, talent, and guts" were a requirement for all serious cheerleaders.

Stunt focuses on the technical and athletic components of cheerleading.

It's no surprise that Stephanie "the Stuntwoman" Reiner Welsey has earned the distinction of being inducted into the North Hunterdon High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Her exceptional accomplishments in the sport of cheerleading at NHHS are impressive, to say the least.

Her NHHS Cheer Coach, Lori Guida Schuetz, described Stephanie as "an elite-trained gymnast who developed into an incredibly dynamic, talented, and awe-inspiring cheerleader." Coach Guida credits Stephanie as playing a significant and valuable role in contributing to North's cheer program's success at a time when it was being established as an up-and-coming team in

the Skyland Conference, and even on the national scene.

Stephanie was a four-year varsity cheerleader in the autumn and helped those teams to Skyland Conference first place showings in competition in 2005, 2007, and 2008. She herself was named to the Conference First Team in both her junior and senior years.

In that senior year she was also selected to be a member of the New Jersey Cheer and Dance Association (NJCDCA) All-State Team.

In the winter season Stephanie was, again, a four-year varsity cheerleader on the wrestling and competition team. In her sophomore year the team entered the Cheer Academy All-Star competition and took first place among 26 competing teams.

This was the prelude to outstanding performances in the Contest of Champions in Orlando, Florida, where the girls won the National championship in the Lions' first-ever entry in that meet! In the Individual aspect of that meet, Stephanie performed a choreographed cheer-tumbling routine, live in front of judges and the crowd.

Performing skills at the maximum level of tumbling, Stephanie perfectly executed a round off back handspring double full twisting layout on a spring floor. She was the only North Hunterdon cheerleader to perform this Olympic-level tumbling pass in a competition, and she won fourth place in the nation.

The Lions participated in the Delaware Valley College competition the following year and won the Varsity Stunt Group title. Stephanie, as always, was key to that win.

In her final North Hunterdon season the team reached the final round of the Universal Cheer-leaders Association National competition in Florida once again, this time finishing in seventh place out of 64 teams. The team earned an ESPN Spotlight when the program was nationally broadcast in April 2009, with a close-up of Stephanie's exceptional stunting!

She won the Irons Award as Most Valuable Player on the team, a well-deserved honor for the always-varsity Stephanie.

Stephanie's love for cheerleading accompanied her to college, where she majored in finance and excelled as a co-ed cheerleader. Stephanie was named MVP her senior year. Her team placed second all four years at UCA Nationals in Orlando, FL in Division IA.

A definitive measure of Stephanie's skills and leadership: while studying at the University of Delaware, she was chosen to coach and teach as a Universal Cheerleader's Association staff member, to travel, perform, and instruct cheerleaders at many locations across the United States-- for four summers.



## TED DELIA '09

“He is a class act, from top to bottom,” said coach John Mattes. “We know that teams will be gearing up to stop him, but he has the ability to rush for 100 yards every week. He is just a once-in-a-lifetime back.”

Coach Mattes was speaking of senior tailback Ted Delia (5-9,195), who had rushed for over 1,000 yards two seasons in a row, and had a school record 1,535 yards and 16 touchdowns as a junior, with six td's in one game for another school mark. He would add 14 more td's and score 86 points in his senior year, even though the team finished 4-6—for the third consecutive year.

Delia broke just about every North rushing mark for a single season and career. He saw limited varsity action as a freshman on a 1-9 team, rushing nine times for 67 yards, over seven yards per carry. The team improved to 4-6 the following season. Though only a sophomore, Ted was chosen MVP for the squad and was selected to the Skyland Conference first team.

Then came that great junior year. Even though the team record did not improve, Ted did all that could be expected to keep the Lions competitive. A true workhorse, he carried the ball a record 282 times for that record 1535 yards, averaging an excellent 5.5 yards.

In addition Ted was the team's leading kickoff returner, running back 21 kicks for 454 yards—the longest for 95 yards, a 22-yard average—and one touchdown. He racked up a record 1992 all-purpose yards, had four consecutive over-200-yard games (also a record), tied the school records of 16 td's and five rushing td's in one game and set a new one--six in a game. And won the Fritz Halfacre award for player of the year...

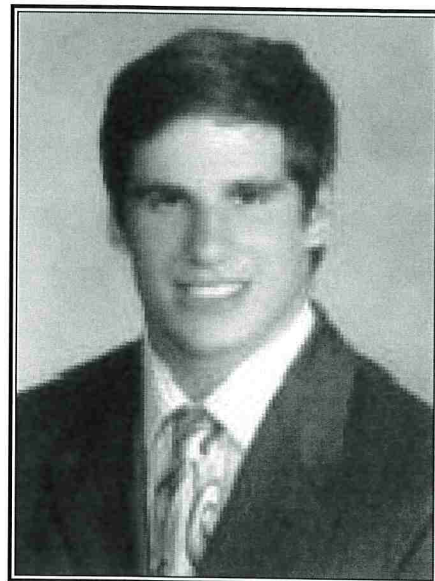
In his final season Ted again was MVP and Skyland and *Express-Times* first team. He set records! 1688 rushing yards, 2034 all-purpose yards in a season and career totals of 39 td's, 4314 rushing yards. *The Star-Ledger* named him to the All-West Jersey first team and the All-Group 4 second team.

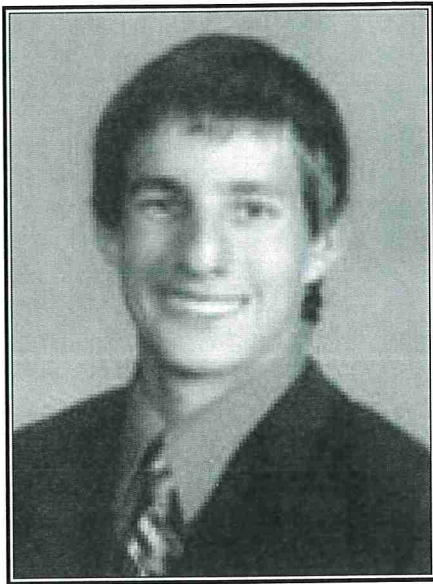
We cannot leave the gridiron without mentioning Ted's play in the “Can Game” against Voorhees. In three years he ran for 599 yards and eight touchdowns. He was the Lions offensive MVP as a soph and then the overall MVP for two consecutive years.

In the spring a young man's fancy turns to...lacrosse. Ted jumped to varsity as a soph. The team went 3-14, but Ted's play earned him Honorable Mention by both the conference and the state lacrosse league.

The team was much better at 10-10 his junior year, and Ted made the conference and the *Express-Times* first teams-- as well as the State league's second team. In his final season the team slipped to a 5-13 record, but Ted made the conference first team and won the Boyer MVP award.

Ted could do it all on the college level, too. At Gettysburg he ran for 1071 yards and nine td's as a junior, with five 100-yard games, 10 punt returns—three for td's—and a 26-yard return average, to be declared D-3 South Region punt returner of the year. Not a bad senior year either-- 845 yards and 15 td's!





## JOHN HAVAY '10

Golf... an interesting, if slow-paced, game in which skills of various sorts, stamina, and patience are absolutely required in order to attain satisfactory results.

A low comedian once described the game thusly: "You hit a little ball as far as you can, and if you find it the same day, you have won." In Enniscorthy, Ireland, in 1901, a writer first penned the oft-repeated description, "golf, which is a good walk spoiled."

To untold numbers of players around the world, golf is much more than that. It is a means of healthful exercise, fresh air and sunshine, fun and pleasure-- but also labor, frustration, and exasperation. In short, golf can be at the same time a passion and an albatross.

The sport at North Hunterdon began in the spring of 1967. Fast-forward forty years to 2007 to find freshman John Havay quickly earning a varsity spot on a 13-4 team led by Hall of Fame star Eric Adolffson.

Coach Kirk Hissner had received a call from John's mother, asking him to give the middle-school Little-Leaguer a lesson. "From that point forward, he threw out the baseball mitt and started sleeping with his golf clubs," said Kirk.

Kirk knew that from then on John was constantly practicing, and by the time he reached North he was playing with the top five on the varsity.

John helped the team to first place in the county competition and to second in the Highland Conference, an auspicious beginning for the only frosh on varsity. Some of the credit can be attributed to John's uncle, Mike Havay, head professional at Quail Brook, who got the lad started on the game.

Next season Coach Kirk Hissner's 16-2 team once again took first place in the county, and soph John placed second individually. He made the Skyland Conference first team and was the only North player picked for the *Express-Times* All-Area first team.

In his junior year John once more made the Conference first team as well as the *Express-Times* first team-- with Mr. Hissner Coach of the Year-- and once again was instrumental in the team's 15-2 record. The boys were co-champions in the conference and won the conference tournament. The team took second places in both the Sectionals and State Group IV.

John's senior season saw him and the team attain great heights. John took first-place honors in the High Bridge Tournament, the Viking Invitational, the Bunker Hill Invitational, the Skyland Conference West, and second in the Cherry Valley Invitational. He then proceeded to a third in Group IV States. The team again were conference co-champions. Overall, the team won the North Jersey IV Sectional title and took second in the State Group tourney.

John averaged 37 strokes over the nine-hole courses in leading the team to a 17-1 record. As one sports writer put it, John "recorded a litany of top-three finishes for the Group IV championship Lions."

Mr. Havay won the Boyer Award for team MVP, was Skyland Conference first-team and *Express-Times* All-Area first team for the third time running, plus *Courier-News* All-Area first team. Topping all, he was first team All-State. And then made varsity as a freshman in college...

For him, golf was a fine walk-- *unspoiled*, indeed....

And now John is caddiemaster at Trump National in Bedminster.



# BRENDAN CUSACK '11

Stepping onto the strip at North Hunterdon for his first practice, young Brendan Cusack made an immediate and lasting impression on Coach John Reid.

“When I came home from school I said to my wife, ‘I have a freshman who is the most unorthodox fencer ever. But I’m not changing anything about his style!’ ”

Brendan’s unique style may have been less “disciplined” than the usual among fencers, but was certainly less predictable. His athleticism allowed him to stray from classically-taught technique. If he had not been a fencer, he says he’d have taken up track or soccer.

Brendan used great foot speed and often the element of surprise to make opponents wonder what he was doing. While they were thinking about why he may have leaped into the air, he would run at them. His reputation as a jocular and likeable person belied his intense desire to win. That gusto took him far.

As a boy he would play with sticks as “swords,” and was impressed when he saw fencing for the first time as he watched the televised Olympics. He began fencing at age ten and got into competition at age 13. He loved competing, a chance to “use your whole body and not hold anything back.”

As a Lion, Brendan was a success immediately, leading the foil team to a 13-1 record, by far the best of the three fencing squads (epee and saber the others). He also scored highest in the District tournament, winning the silver medal while leading the foil team to the title.

On to the States, where all the best fencers in New Jersey were ready for the grand finale. Once again Brendan rose to the occasion, leading the foil squad to silver while taking fourth place himself.

Possessing dual citizenship, Brendan took second place in the Senior Irish Open championship!

His second year as a Lion would see even better results. The fencers’ 11-3 record once more was led by the foil men, who won the prestigious Cetrulo Tournament and the Districts, Brendan taking both individual golds.

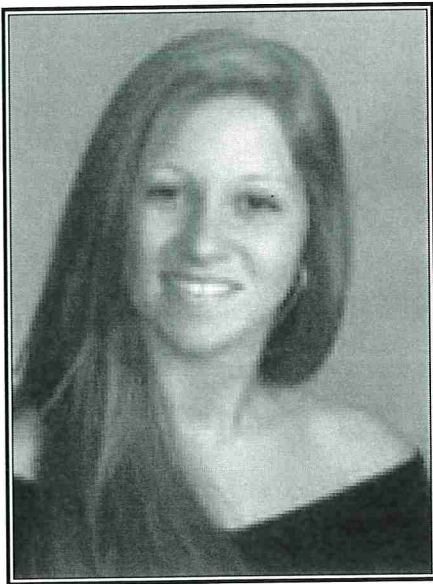
The foil squad then won the State title, with Brendan moving up a notch to individual third place. He was awarded a spot on both the Star-Ledger and New Jersey Coaches All-State first teams. In Ireland he won bronze in the Senior Nationals.

As a junior Brendan led the foil men to another District title and a third place in the States. He won the Districts and took second place in the States-- moving up another notch and again making first team All-State. Then he won the Irish Open and competed well in the Junior Worlds in Azerbaijan.

Concluding his high school career, Brendan took second in the Districts but won the State foil championship. He was first team All-State for the third consecutive year and was named Fencer of the Year.

Next, Brendan was third in the Junior World Cup in France—losing a close match to the future champion-- then placed sixteenth in the Senior European Championships in Sheffield, England-- the first Irish fencer ever to finish that high in the toughest tournament in the world besides the Olympics-- and him only 18....





## JESSICA PELLECHIO '12

Being able to follow one's dreams is among life's great opportunities. To work diligently and achieve them is a splendid reward. As Jessica Pellechio entered North Hunterdon she had three athletic goals in mind: to start varsity basketball as a freshman, to be on a state championship team, to score 1,000 points. *She achieved every one.*

Freshman Jess helped the varsity team to a 21-4 record and *Express-Times* top-team rating in the area. In addition, they were *Star-Ledger* number one team in West Jersey, Skyland champions, and winners of the Hunterdon/Warren tournament, with Jess winning the MVP award.

She was named to the *Express* All-area second team, *Ledger* All-Hunterdon team, and the *Ledger's* All-West Jersey second team as well as third team All-State frosh-soph team.

Not a bad start for a ninth-grader— but just a hint of what was to come. In her soph year Jessica led the team to a 26-4 record, averaging 14 points per game, including a slew of three-point shots, and a Skyland title again. But that was just for starters.

The Lady Lions won the Sectional title in the state tournament and followed up with the overall Group 4 championship, in which she was voted Most Valuable Player. This was the first time our girls had qualified for the Tournament of Champions for all Group team winners.

The quarterfinal game went down to the wire, with Coach Tom Hank setting up the play for the winning shot—a Pellechio three-pointer! Speaking of which, Jessica had become just the third player in region history to exceed 100 three-point baskets in only two seasons.

Accolades: first-team selection by the *Democrat*, *Courier-News*, *Ledger* West Jersey and All-Group 4, plus both *Ledger* West Jersey and *Express* Player of the Year.

Third year—how far could the Lions go? Not quite so far, but still a fine season: a 25-3 record, another Skylands title, two State wins and almost a third, by five points. Jessica maintained her 14-point scoring average, still driving for two's and bombing the three's.

She once again was team MVP, first team *Democrat*, *Express*, and *Ledger* West Jersey—and passed the 1,000-point mark. All three goals accomplished before her senior year!

MVP Jess led the West Jersey Team of the Year team to a 27-6 record in her finale and another Skylands title, as well as the Sectional championship, and to within three points of the Group 4 title.

First team yet again for the *Democrat*, *Express*, *Ledger* Group 4 and West Jersey, and—West Jersey Player of the Year. In addition, she was nominated to McDonald's All-America team. Jessica's total of 1,528 points was the second-highest for girls in Lion basketball history. She had a record 279 three-pointers.

Jessica also was a splendid varsity shortstop during her first two years at North before deciding to concentrate on basketball. Then her springs and summers were spent on the New Jersey Elite AAU team.

Jess would go on to outstanding court careers for Virginia Commonwealth and Drexel universities, where the coaches wanted her for her ability to drive to the basket and her superb ability to hit the long shots. Said the VCU coach: "She is recognized as a pure shooter and scorer." No doubts about that!



# 1968 BOYS CROSS COUNTRY

North Hunterdon Regional High School opened in 1951 with 415 students and the longest high school name in New Jersey. In the spring the baseball team won the school's first league title with a 12-3 record.

In the ensuing twelve years no boys team in any sport went undefeated in the regular schedule until 1968, when Coach Don Isham's cross-country lads ran to a dual-meet record of 14-0.

A varsity high school and college runner himself, Coach Isham knew well how to train, motivate, and get the best from his harriers. He kept spirit and teamwork high and was the first coach to initiate morning workouts to go along with the usual after-school practice. John Fasanello was his aide.

Paul Pikna led the team, ably backed by Joe Lomerson, Gary Stout, Dave Voorhees, Dave Shishim, and Bill Wittenberg, who rarely finished in the same order. Walter Clark, Jim Snyder, Bill Thorne, Tom Dominko, and Bob Polhemus added depth.

In addition to the local competition, the team traveled as far as Bound Brook, Cranford, and Plainfield to have enough meets to fill a season's schedule. And teams from Scotch Plains, Somerville, Blair, and Highland Park came to "Regional." So there was a sort of cosmopolitan mix to the opposition.

Opening with a pair of "away" meets, the Lions scored fairly easy wins over Bridgewater West and Manville before getting the opportunity to race on our home course, which was a rugged hill-and-dale 2.5 miles that included the "lower half," where now are Ingersoll Rand and other buildings, with a 270-degree turn into a long, killer uphill. Warren Hills and Scotch Plains were demolished.

Eight more wins set the stage for the Delaware River Conference Championship race, that year at Delaware Valley. Separate races were to be held for varsity, junior varsity, and freshmen teams.

Our men made the championships into a one-team show, winning all three titles, with ace Paul Pikna within four seconds of grabbing the course record.

Of the top 15 runners, Regional had six—Pikna in first, Gary Stout third, Dave Voorhees fourth, Dave Shishim fifth, Joe Lomerson sixth, and Bill Wittenberg fifteenth. The team score was a low 19, with Delval far back at 40, and Central a distant 66.

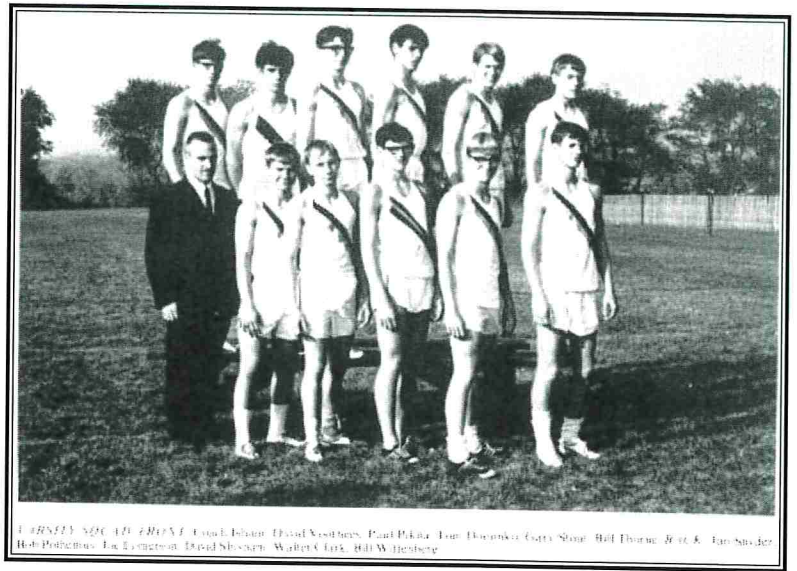
The team then wrapped up the school's first boys undefeated season in any sport by taking down Highland Park with relative ease. Next would be the Central Jersey Group III race in New Brunswick.

The team practiced as hard as ever, knowing that Regional had never won a State Sectional title. They would be running against the likes of such major teams as Metuchen, Watchung Hills, Matawan, Red Bank, Asbury Park, Rumson-Fair Haven....

In a well-run race our men placed three in the top-fifteen—Pikna in third, Joe Lomerson tenth, and Gary Stout fourteenth-- for a relatively easy win.

And so we had our first major State title, with only the all-areas Group III race remaining in two weeks on the flat course in Elizabeth-- not much in the way of "cross-country" and new in our experience. Regional finished sixth among the twenty teams in the race.

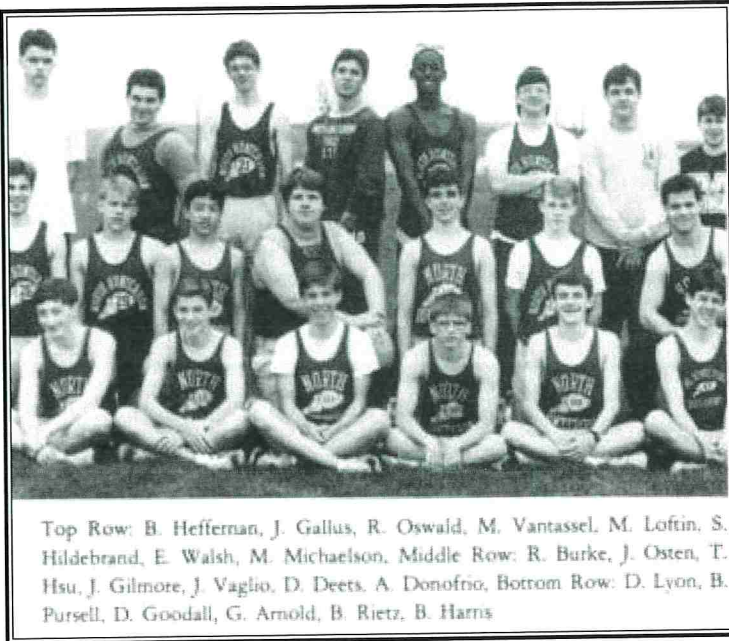
Nevertheless, it had been a splendid run—undefeated in dual meets, supreme in the conference (on all three levels), and the first time a boys North Hunterdon team brought home a State Sectional championship trophy.



VARSLITY SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP: Coach Isham, David Voorhees, Paul Pikna, Tom Dominko, Gary Stout, Bill Thorne, Joe L., Jim Snyder, Bob Polhemus, Joe Lomerson, David Shishim, Walter Clark, Bill Wittenberg



## 1991 BOYS TRACK



Past can be prelude in many ways. In terms of running at North Hunterdon, Coach Bob O'Rourke's 1990 cross country team's 11-2 record, including second places in the Sectionals and Groups, plus a fifth in the Meet of Champions, boded well for the track seasons ahead.

Winter track results were a further indication that the spring track and field season could be one of the best in school history.

The Distance Medley crew of Pat Redmond, John Majercak, Jim Letko, and Brian Harris won, as did the High Jump Relay team of Mike Loftin and Pat Redmond. Overall, Team North was second in that State Sectional meet.

Moving up to the Group III meet, the team again took second place. The amazing victory belonged to Mike Loftin, who set not only a still-school record, but a Group record seven-foot high jump!

In the MOC he was State champion at 6-10, with Pat fourth in the 800 and Brian fifth in the 1600. And so it was time to prepare for the fans' favorite, spring track and field, with Jim O'Connor and Charlie Heidecker assisting Coach O'Rourke.

That sport requires a large contingent of competitors with a combination of abilities for all running events and all field events, and thus a staff of skilled coaches to pull everyone together while running through the team schedule and hoping to be in the mix when the end-of-season State schedule comes around.

The young Lion men went 8-0, defeating even the vaunted and perennially super-team of Franklin High.

They were the Ridgewood Relays champions, the overall Skyland Relays champions, the Skylands Raritan Division champions, and the overall Skylands champions. The team won the Central Jersey Sectionals and took second in Group III.

Sectional champions were Mike Loftin in the high hurdles, Pat Redmond in the 400 hurdles, and Brendan Heffernan in the 1600 and 3200 runs.

In the Group meet Mike got a fifth in the 110 hurdles and second in the high jump; Pat took second in the 400 hurdles; Matt Hoh was second in the 800, Pat in fourth; and Brendan and Brian Harris second and third in the 1600.

At the East Coast Relay championships the 3200 meter foursome of Brendan, Brian, Pat, and Matt Hoh took first in a still school record of 7:48.26. And Matt Hoh, John Majercak, Pat Redmond, and Dan Krzyzkowski were fifth in the 1600 relay at the MOC.

More outdoor track school records: Mike Loftin, 6'10" in the high jump and 14.4 in the high hurdles, both still our best; Pat Redmond, 54.1 in the 400-meter hurdles; in the MOC, Matt, 1:54.42 in the 800 meters and Brendan, 4:17.35 for 1600 meters.

Thanks also to the field team for earning many points. Our records, sadly, name no other names....

As Coach O'Rourke was able to say at the end, "This was our finest season in track and field!"



# 1992 BOYS TRACK

As the 1992 track and field year began, the Lions were in fine form for another great run at a winning season. And they did not disappoint, running up a 6-1 record (Franklin the spoiler) under Coach O'Rourke and assistants Charlie Heidecker and Bonnie Carter.

"Prep sessions" included the undefeated cross country team with Harris, Heffernan, Redmond, and Pat Dolan All-Conference selections. Brendan also won the Eastern title, set a school record winning the Meet of Champions, and proceeded to win the Foot Locker National race!

In winter track the team was third in Group III, Pat Redmond winning the 800 race and Brian Harris taking fourth in the 1600 and third in the 3200. Team North was third in the meet. Brian then placed third in the Meet of Champions.

Each year one of the earliest track and field meets is the prestigious Penn Relays, bringing to Philadelphia excellent athletes from all over the nation-- and even beyond. (Think power-Jamaica.) The Lions brought a stellar Distance Medley relay team to the meet: Brian Harris, Rocco Ferraro, Patrick Redmond, and Brendan Heffernan.

Brian, running the leadoff 1200-meter leg of the race, suddenly burst from the middle of the pack and ran an excellent 3:06.4 to put North Hunterdon in the lead. His teammates never let up, bringing home the best American time of the meet, a still-standing school record of 10:10.51... and the National championship!

With Dave Lyon, Pat Dolan, Brian, and Brendan on the job it was another great victory at the East Coast Relays. Their 4 x 1600 squad won the race in 17:40-- the fastest time in the U.S.A. in 1992!

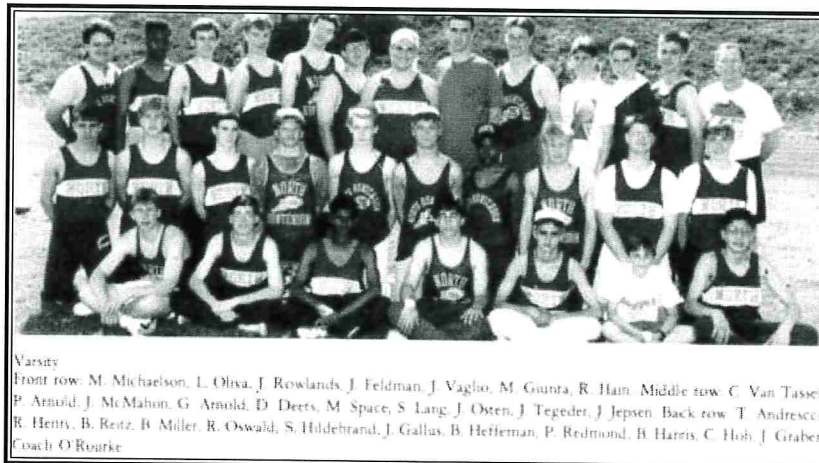
In the field, Dan Deets won the Sectional pole vault at 14'4". If Joe Vaglio and Mike Space, major contributors in that event, had been in the meet we would have scored 1-2-3.

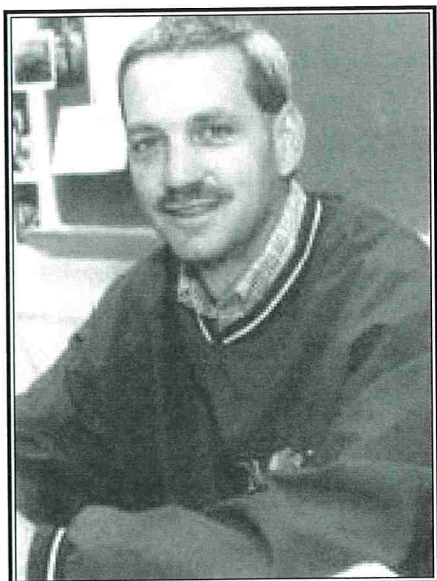
Pat Redmond won the State championship in the 400 hurdles, lowering his school record to 53.74 seconds. Pat was also a fine high jumper, scoring many points during his career.

More State championships came from Brendan Heffernan, victorious in both the 1600 and 3200 runs. Team points once more were added by Brian Harris, third in the 1600 and fourth in the 3200.

As for the overall picture, North Hunterdon was second in State Group III scoring among the 40 teams in the meet. Not bad for a group of "hicks from the sticks"...

And so the 1991 and 1992 North Hunterdon track and field teams, led by our Hall of Fame Coach O'Rourke, won glory for themselves and the school, setting some records that have endured for three decades.





## COACH THOMAS HANK

Tom Hank knew a lot about sports, having won ten varsity letters in Phillipsburg Catholic High: three each in football and basketball, four in baseball-- including All-State honors-- and relishing a team State championship in his senior year. He followed all that as the second baseman all four years at Villanova University.

Tom would put his knowledge and experience to good use in service at his high school for two years and for the Lions the next thirty-five, successfully coaching seven boys and girls sports.

He was an assistant coach in football on all three levels for 25 years and an assistant in baseball for 15, helping out one season as interim head coach. He even coached golf for a while, garnering Conference and State Sectional titles in 1986.

He coached JV softball, too. But Tom's greatest success would come in the winter. First he coached frosh basketball for a year, moving up to head coach for six years, and girls JV basketball for seven.

And then came the crowning achievement: 19 years coaching girls basketball to 357 victories and a superb .749 percentage of wins, with many championships in county, league, State Sectional and Group play. He had four 1000-point scorers along the way.

Whether coaching or teaching history, Mr. Hank's great passion was to see his charges succeed. A mild-mannered individual, coaching would sometimes get to him. Julie Hank, mother of their three athletic children, said, "He puts his whole being into coaching. He plans everything...spends hours planning the first day of practice."

Coaching was a contrast to the cool, unemotional high school and college star athlete. He would pace the sideline, always pondering his next move. "Basketball is such an emotional sport, and you're always so close to the action," he says.

Tom's girls won the Sectional title for the first time in 2001 in a 20-6 season that came after 20-6 and 23-2 years. The *Express-Times* named him basketball Coach of the Year. They won the Skyland title as well as the Stroudsburg Christmas tourney.

More success ensued, and in 2005 the team ran up a 22-2 record, winning the Hunterdon/Warren Tournament and the Skylands title. Their only losses came from the defending 4-time AAA team in a Pennsylvania Christmas tournament and the defending 2X NJ Tournament of Champions team.

Tom was again chosen Coach of the Year by the *Express-Times*.

Rolling on, from 2008-2012 his teams racked up a 118-22 record that included titles in Skyland, Sectionals (2012), and State Group IV play. After winning the **State** title in 2010, the girls became the first Lions ever to enter the Tournament of Champions.

In the quarterfinals they defeated a team ranked number eight in the East by *USA Today*. Coach Hank actually set up a play that produced the winning points near game's end. In the semis they lost by a mere six points to the eventual champions, ranked 13th in the nation.

It had been a great season, and the press took notice. Tom was chosen Coach of the Year by the *Democrat*, the *Courier-News*, the *Star-Ledger* (covering all of the state!), and-- for the third time-- the *Express-Times*.

Above all-- you could not meet a finer gentleman, respected teacher and coach than Tom Hank.



# JILL ROBINSON PRAKOPCYK '76

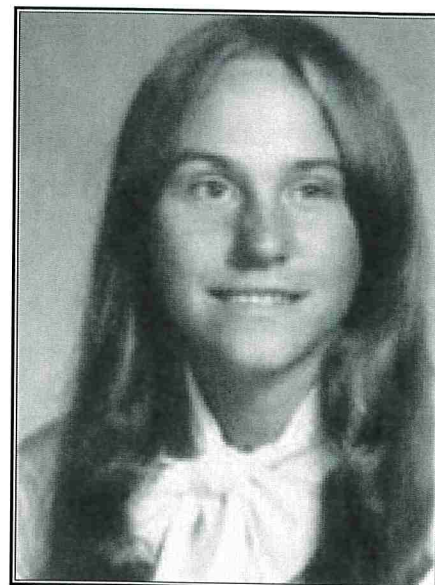
## CONTRIBUTOR

For the kids!

Parents go to great lengths to support their children, scholastically, socially, athletically. Some people, like Jill Robinson Prakopcyk, stretch a bit further.

Over many decades, Jill stepped into the volunteerism arena to dedicate hours and energy to organize the legions of parents working to make things happen for their student-athletes.

Jill grew up with the North spirit. As a youngster, she helped her older sister set up for North banquets. She evolved to a booster clubber for her own children's sports, and ultimately worked to bring North's individual sports clubs under one umbrella club. Today, North has 35 sports booster clubs, and an umbrella club contributing to common projects that benefit every student-athlete.



As an adult, Jill's first sports booster club was girls' basketball. That started with her first child at 17-- not giving birth at that age, but assuming guardianship for a three-sport North athlete, Allison Greene '86, who went to Dartmouth and on to coach major college basketball, and was inducted into the North HOF in 2003.

Then came years of booster club volunteerism for the three children to whom she and husband Rich gave birth. That meant cheerleading and softball for Jessica, and lacrosse for Daniel and Ben. Jill also squeezed in many seasons of coaching recreation softball, basketball and even Little League baseball.

From 2010-13, she championed the idea of an overall booster club. The umbrella club grew to an enrollment of about 500 families and did the spadework--non-profit status, banking, insurance, dealing with companies for sponsorships-- and teams' clubs would concentrate on their wish lists.

Major projects included raising tens of thousands of dollars to buy a new scoreboard for Singley Field and to provide AEDs (automated external defibrillators) and medical equipment for athletic trainers.

Booster club families by the hundreds provide the work to make it all happen. It means a lot of fund raising memberships, countless hot dog sales, and an ever-invigorated line of North shirts, hoodies and other spirit wear.

The umbrella club donated money for a new sound system at Singley Field, funded benches at all sports fields, and paid for athletic banquets, scholarships and gifts. It remembered coaches and custodians with celebratory lunches, and found time and money to help one-time worthy causes.

Jill was the motivating force to create the annual Dave the Rave (Robbins) Birthday Bash, which gives cupcakes to the crowd and money to Special Olympics and other charities.

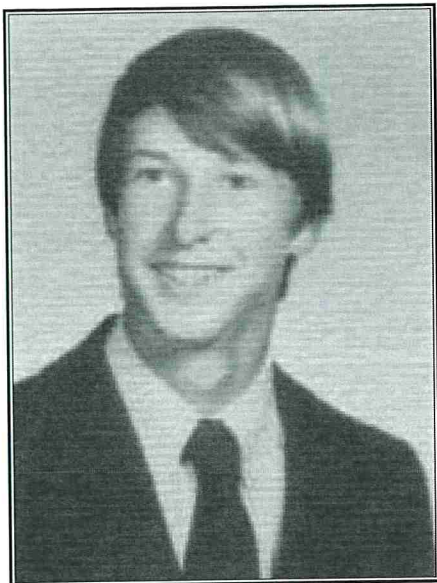
North Assistant Principal John Deutsch, the former AD, said Jill's athletic background and positive attitude "always made things work-- she was a rock star."

In high school, Jill was a slugging first baseman on successful softball teams. In her junior year, the team (15-2) won the DRC and advanced to the Sectional semifinals; Jill was a DRC honorable mention. The 1976 team had a record of 17-4, but the DRC and state titles eluded it. Jill was named to the Conference first team.

HOF Coach Bonnie Carter said, "Jill was outstanding as a player and as a young lady. I know she is still very active in the community and is a role model for all of us."

Today, Jill is a real estate agent and back in the booster game with her grandson, Grant, who attends Immaculate Conception School. "He says he is the second-best batter in the family after me!" said Jill.





## BRIAN PLUSHANSKI '73 CONTRIBUTOR

Fans of a certain age remember football when it was a down-and-dirty game. Three yards and a cloud of dust-- or sliding through the slop. Tufts of grass wedged in facemasks. Yardline markers and uniforms obscured.

Football fields of dirt and grass have limitations. Irrigation strains to spur growth of grass in the summer. By mid-season, the area between the "40's" might be a sea of mud or as hard as macadam--potentially dangerous, not much fun for athletes, and presenting facility and scheduling limitations.

In the early 2000s, people at North began to think about this newfangled stuff called artificial turf-- essentially plastic grass on top of a padded base. It presented a lot of opportunities. Problem was, it was expensive.

Stepping forward was a community hero in Brian Plushanski. He knew all about the school's playing fields from his scholastic days in the 1970s. He had fun back then. He had the knowledge and wherewithal to help now.

A successful contracting businessman, Brian did the bulk of the construction work-- he supplied much of the equipment, manpower, and expertise to scrape Singley Field flat, grade it to a perfect pitch, install the drainage, and prime it for the top coats of North's "astroturf."

And he provided his work gratis, sparing taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars! Ground-breaking took place in the summer in 2005, and the field debuted September 2.

The donation was a labor of love for Brian and his wife, the former Michelle Dean, a 1970's North cheerleader.

"Since we had the ability to do so, Michelle and I thought we would like to help with the project," said Brian. "We have fond memories of our teachers and coaches. It was a pleasure to watch our three children (Brian, Mike and Allison) share the same great experience."

His construction company has been involved in excavating improvements with several other playfield projects, including Heritage Park in Bethlehem Township and Finn Park in Union Township, either as a donation or a low bidder.

On a regular basis, today the field hosts multiple levels of football, field hockey, softball, baseball, boys' and girls' lacrosse, soccer, and track and field, as well as marching band performances and practices, graduation ceremonies, Special Olympics competitions and many others. Youth and adult recreation programs continually ask for turf availability, according to AD Alexa Freguletti.

"As the weather becomes a major factor in hosting games/practices, oftentimes our grass fields are unusable for these programs, which makes the turf so incredibly important for us," said Freguletti. "It has given all of our athletes extended opportunities for participation that they would not have had."

Athletically, Brian is a repeat inductee into the HOF as a member of Norm Pedersen's 1973 championship baseball team. Brian also starred in soccer, becoming an all-state selection and setting the North record for goals in a season at the time.

He went on to captain the soccer team at Rider College. He learned the sport from father Fred, who was captain of the old Hampton High School team that captured the county soccer championship in 1945.

Before deciding to concentrate on soccer and baseball, Brian even tried fencing-- and captured a freshman State championship in saber!

Brian's donation has definitely helped make Friday Night Lights more fun at North.



## HALL OF FAME ATHLETES, 1952-2021

1952 Glenn Lambert	1967 Kirk Edwards	1988 Jodie Bilotta
1952 Jim Ovady	1969 Parker Snare	1988 Duane Grade
1952 Ron Weber	1970 John Marchak	1988 Mike Van Doren
1953 Ken Braun	1971 Dave Gaunt	1989 Brian Partlow
1953 Jack Tharp	1971 Scott Cassels	1990 Brett Skapinetz
1953 Greg Wojdat	1972 Jim Skripko	1990 Kent Tschannen
1954 John Transue	1973 Gary Shepperd	1991 Jason Kramer
1955 Dave Strain	1974 Doug Hintz	1991 Mike Loftin
1956 Frank Cozze	1974 Helen Beth Hintz	1992 Debra Bowden
1956 Tom Langston	1974 Mike Lusardi	1992 Paige Hargrove
1957 Irv Apgar	1975 Bruce Wodder	1992 Beth Timko
1957 Gene O'Neill	1977 Alice Hedden	1993 Pat Dolan
1958 Jerry Keller	1977 Dave Smigelsky	1993 Brendan Heffernan
1959 Bob Clawson	1979 Sue Van Horn	1993 Jeff Miller
1959 Joe Gromlowicz	1979 Marty Vybihal	1993 Chris Vidak
1959 Charlie Patkochis	1980 Scott Skripko	1994 Hutch Novacek
1960 Reid DeNyse	1981 Dave Carlson	1995 Steve Taibi
1960 Ken Gromlowicz	1982 Marge Demarrais	1996 Chris Dolan
1960 Joe Skripko	1982 Sharon Greene	1996 Chris Robinson
1960 George Zack	1982 Mike Price	1996 Rich Theesfeld
1961 Nick Frey	1982 Nancy Skripko	1998 Chris Loftus
1961 Tom Marziaz	1983 Ellen Bitow	1999 Julie Culley
1961 Marty McCormick	1983 Pam Hudson	1999 Nate Sisco
1961 Dale Winter	1984 Tracy Bigley	2000 Colleen Ginty
1963 Bob Brannan	1984 Stacy Bilotta	2000 Megan Haughey
1963 Paul Goble	1984 Mark Nace	2000 Becki Toth
1963 Dick Van Doren	1985 Bill Babcock	2001 Suki Dorfman
1963 Steve Whitehead	1985 Pam Balogh	2001 Anthony Schiavino
1963 George Wilbur	1985 Gary Bendel	2003 Rick Frondorf
1964 Gene Sevi	1985 Andy Martin	2005 Rachel Kulick
1964 Steve Wolschina	1985 Tom McGourty	2006 Carly Becker
1965 Dale Blazure	1985 Gavin Sloane	2007 Alison "Ali" Freedman
1965 Gene Detwiler	1986 Joe Beneducci	2007 Samantha Pellechio
1965 Jim McCormick	1986 Allison Greene	2008 Jenna Gonzalez
1965 Ralph Steele	1986 Dave Olexson	2008 Jason Knapp
1965 Melissa Whitehead	1987 Darlene Andrews	2008 Hilary Murray Schweitzer
1966 Alan Detwiler	1987 Beth Gromlowicz	2010 Tom Zengel
1966 Walt Hudnett	1987 Anne Marie Letko	

## HALL OF FAME TEAMS

1965-1966 Girls Field Hockey Champions  
1967-1968 Girls Field Hockey Champions  
1973 State Baseball Champions  
1975 State Football Champions  
1976 State Golf Champions  
1979 West Jersey Football Champions  
1980-1986 Girls State Cross-Country Champions  
1981-1985 Boys State Cross-Country Champions  
1981-1982 State Wrestling Champions  
1983-1984 State Wrestling Champions  
1985-1988 Girls State Basketball Champions  
1986 Central Jersey Girls Field Hockey Champions  
1989-1990 Girls State Hurdle Relays Champions  
1990-1991 Boys Sectional Basketball Champions  
1992-1993 State Wrestling Champions  
1992-1995 Boys State Cross-Country Champions  
1999-2000 Boys Fencing  
2001-2002 State Wrestling Champions  
2002-2003 Wrestling Sectional Champions  
2006 State Softball Champions  
2009-2010 Girls Basketball State Champions

## CONTRIBUTORS TO NORTH ATHLETICS

William Bowlby	Bob Kornberger '54	Bill Simpson
Leon Cronic '67	John McGourty, Sr.	Lowell Snare '63
Jim Crossin	Ken Price	Mrs. Ann Snyder
Brian Eick '80	Dave Robbins '63	Steve Sozanski '82
John Fasanella '54	Mark Saharic '77	Jack Van Doren '61
Bill Hauck '82	Robin Hight Scheier	



## HALL OF FAME COACHES

Bonnie Carter  
Pete Catanese  
"Fritz" Halfacre  
Dennis Haughey  
Jason Hawk  
Charles Heidecker  
Leonard Lane  
Jean Laskowski  
Bob McGivney

Richard Moore  
"Skip" Norcross  
Bob O'Rourke  
Norman Pedersen  
Fred Pierro  
John Reid  
Paul Rickenbach  
Don Roberts  
Lori Guida Schuetz

James Smith  
Parker Snare  
Bill Snyder  
Jeff Steele  
Jim VanArsdale  
Harry Vandermark  
John Winecker

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

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

## IN MEMORIAM EDWARD ANTHONY BUTLER

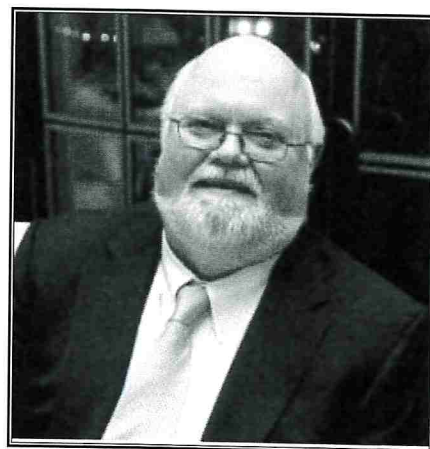
Ed Butler was passionate, pragmatic and evenhanded in his work and personal life, and was a valued member of the Hall of Fame Committee. His interest in sports and wealth of knowledge were enviable. He could and would debate statistics, history, players, games and scores with anyone at any time.

"Eddie B" was especially dedicated to the teams of North Hunterdon High School. He traveled far and wide to follow the Lions, especially those on the wrestling mats, and enthusiastically cheered the teams and youngsters wearing the green and gold.

Active in politics beginning in high school Student Council, Ed later served on the Hampton Borough Council and was also Mayor of Hampton. He was instrumental in the acquisition of the land and the building of the Hampton Recreational Park.

A man of Faith, Ed was very religious and constantly sought equity and dignity for all. His was a great love for his family, faith, politics, the North Lions and—near the top of the list:

the Yankees



# NORTH HUNTERDON HIGH SCHOOL

## ATHLETIC PHILOSOPHY

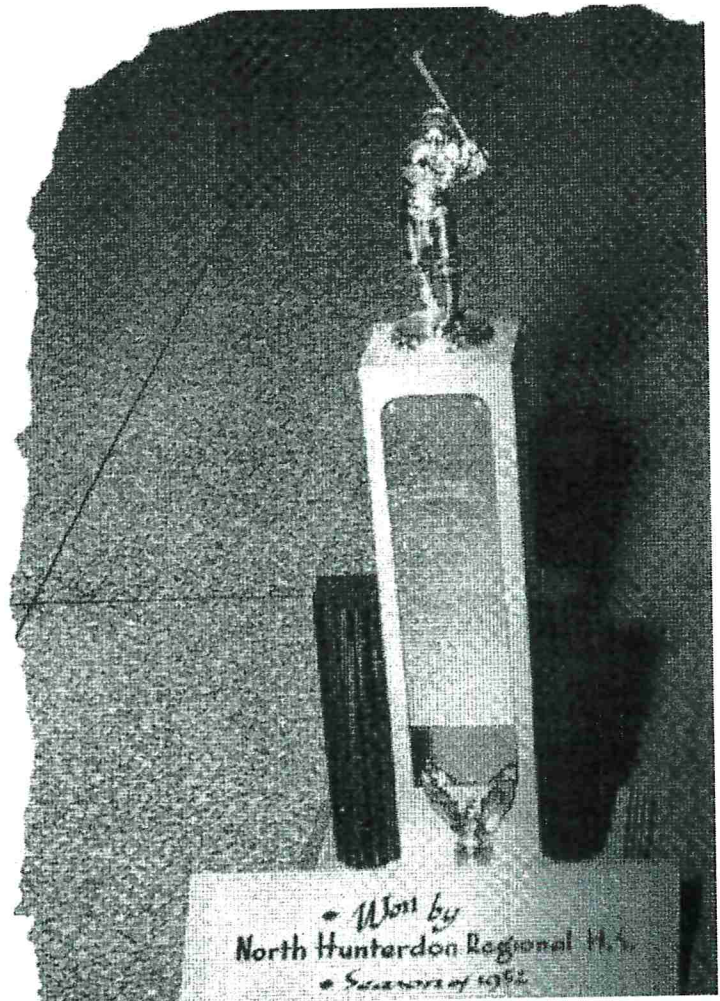
We feel that participation in athletics is an important part of the educational process, as athletic participation provides the opportunity for student athletes to develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes so that they may become productive, contributing citizens of our community and society.

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 High School, 2023**

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