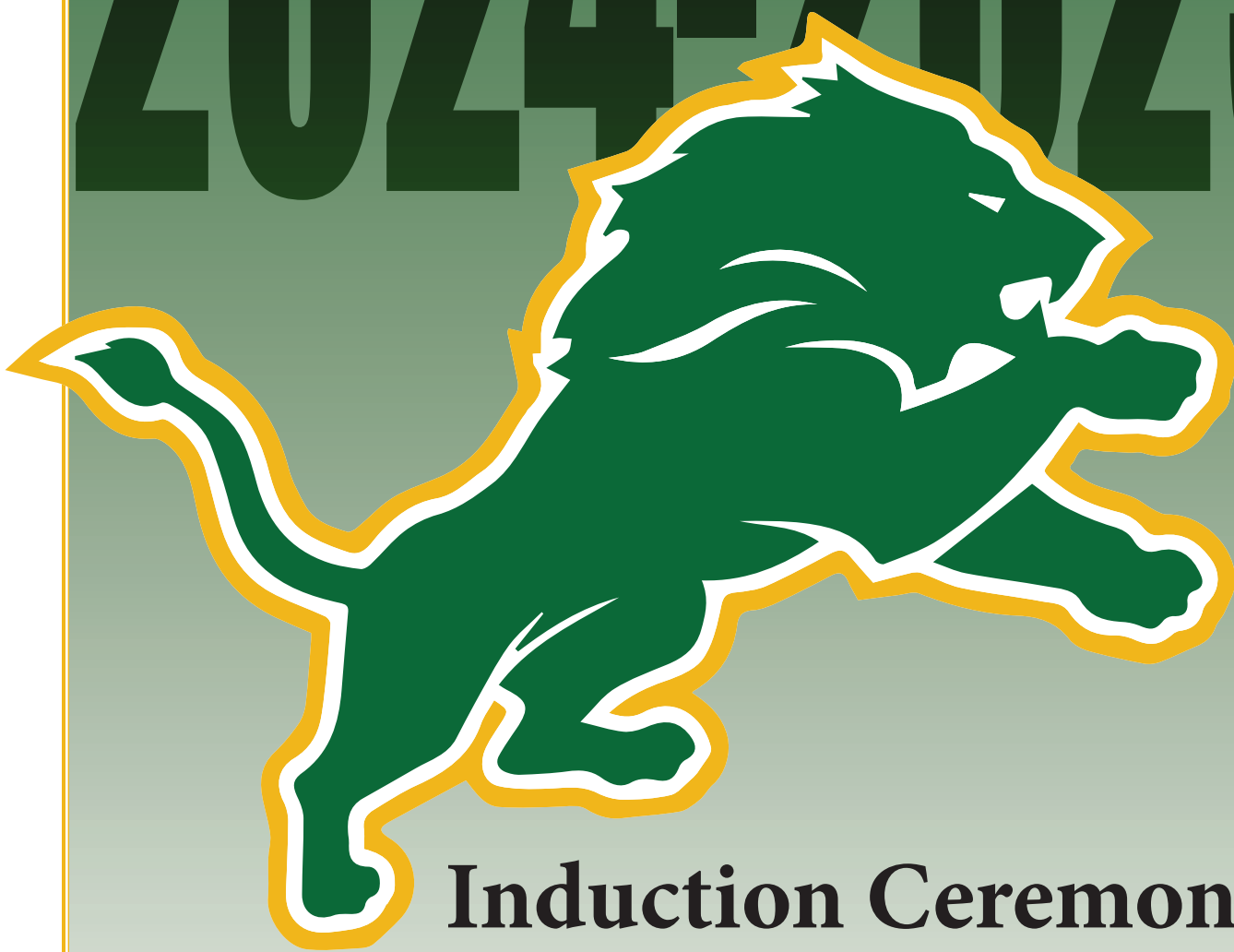


# North Hunterdon High School

ATHLETIC HALL<sup>of</sup>FAME

# 2024-2025



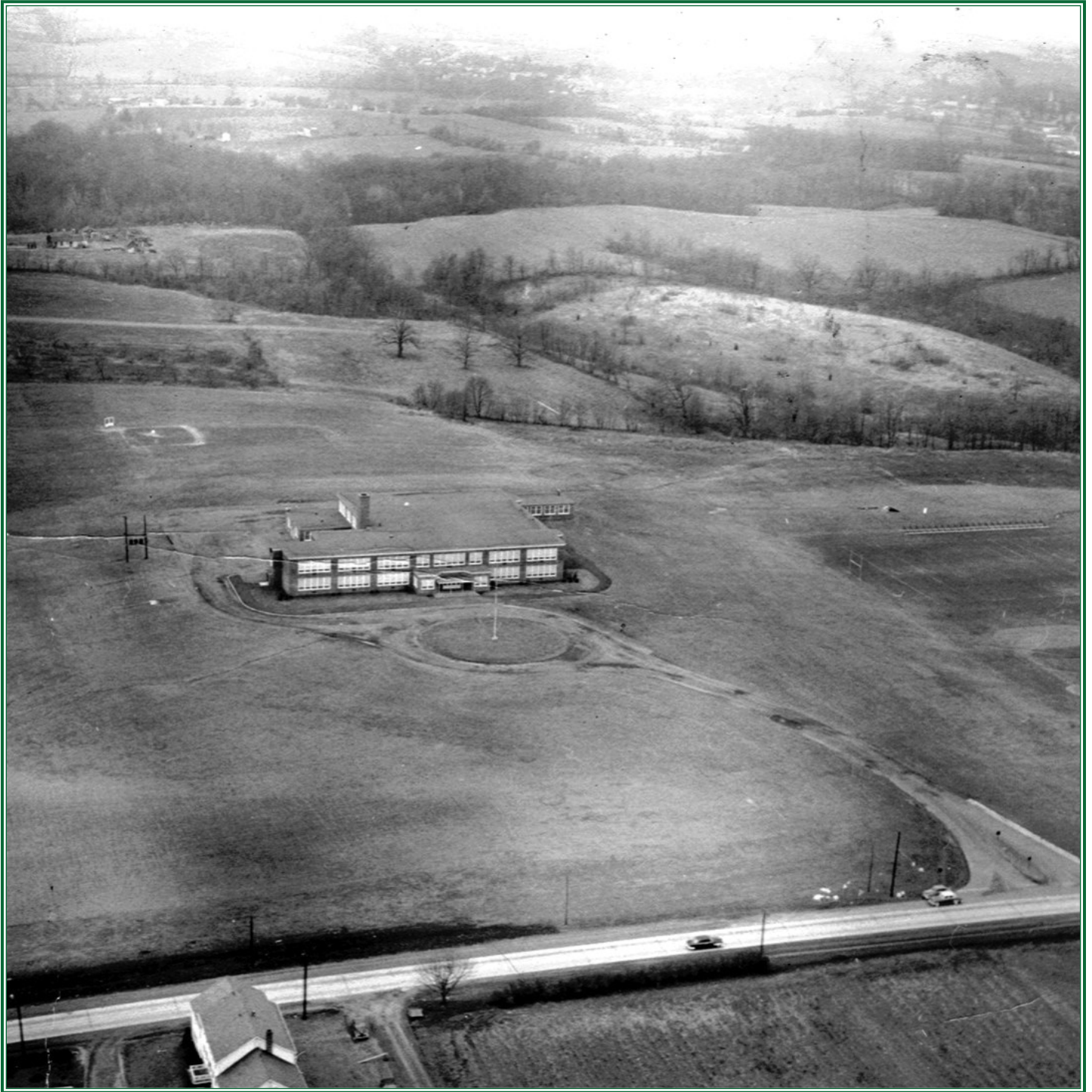
## Induction Ceremonies

Class of 2024-Class of 2025

October 18, 2025

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. Garrett Lelko

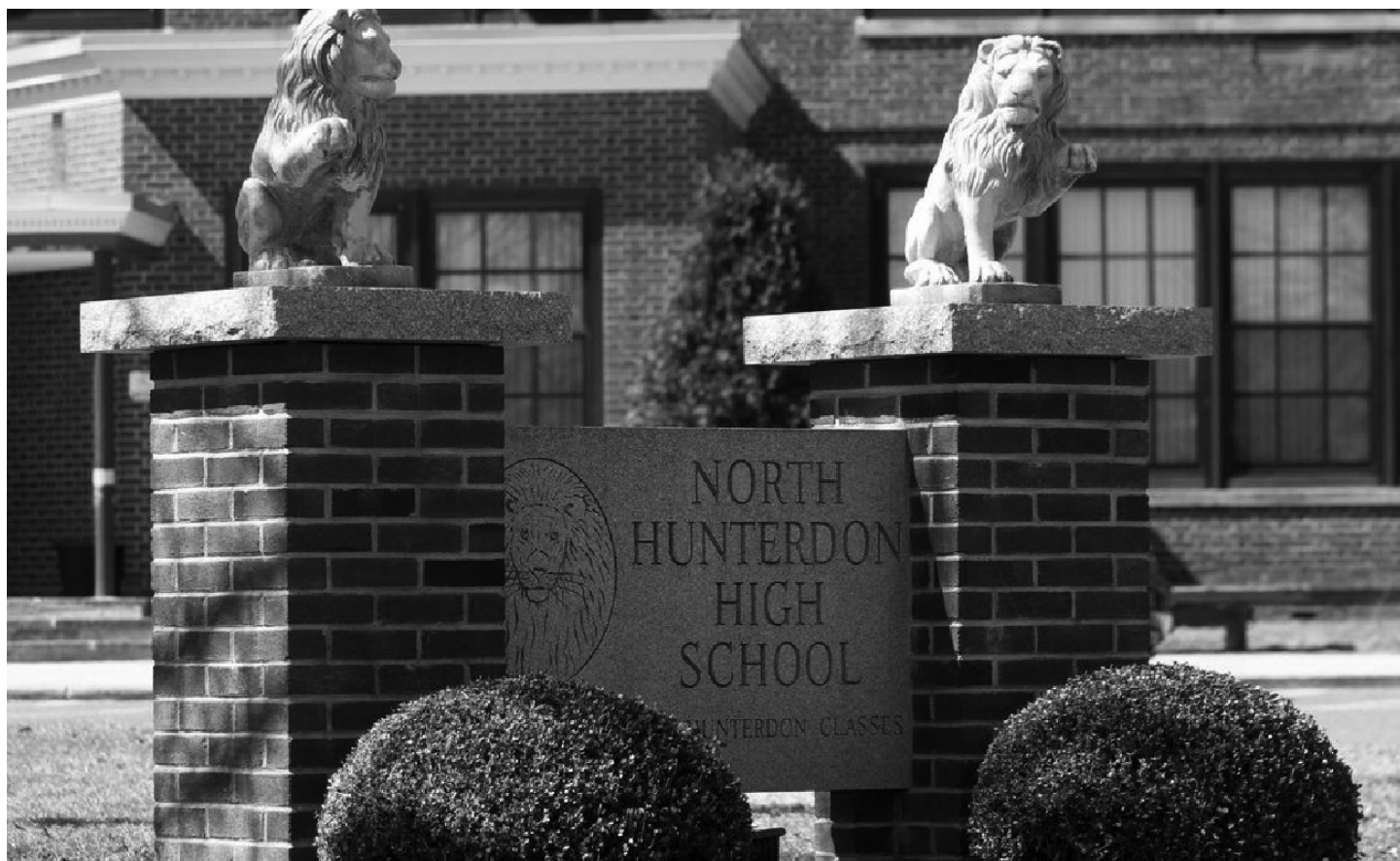
## LUNCHEON

## INDUCTIONS

Master of Ceremonies ..... Mr. Garrett Lelko

Introduction of Lions Hall of Fame ..... Mr. Garrett Lelko

25th Anniversary of the Hall of Fame..... Mrs. Robin Scheier



# NORTH HUNTERDON HIGH SCHOOL

**Dr. Gregory Cottrell**  
Principal

**Mrs. Courtney Murgittroyd**  
Athletic Director



A NATIONAL SCHOOL  
of  
EXCELLENCE

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

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October 2025

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 traditions 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. Athletics are a place where strength, skills, hard work, dedication, and perseverance are built. 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 through athletics 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

Courtney Murgittroyd  
Athletic Director/Assistant Principal



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

President..... Garrett Lelko

Vice President ..... Hilary Schweitzer

Executive Assistant ..... Mike Van Doren

Treasurer ..... Bill Hauck

Leon Cronic

Jessica Pellechio

John Fasanella

Rich Reiner

Rick Frondorf

Gene Robbins

Joe Georgewitz

Robin Scheier

Brian Walsh

## **THANKS TO...**

Greg Cottrell, Principal

Stacy Ditze, Assistant Principal

John Deutsch, Assistant Principal

Courtney Murgittroyd, Athletic Director

Ellen Anderson, Secretary

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

**ATHLETES**

Jeannie LaPlaca '87	Morgan Harvey '14
Zak Haapaoja '10	Allison Lane '14
Jack Delia '11	Julia Wood '14
Matt McDonald '11	Eve Glasergreen '15
Stephanie Zengel '12	Ryan Pomrinca '15
Caroline Jaeger '13	

**TEAMS**

1974 Girls Cross Country	2006 Girls Soccer
1975 Girls Cross Country	2012 Girls Cross Country

## JEANNIE LaPLACA GAME '87

The ol' one-two punch combination has always been a major component of boxing. In cross country, a rare but exceptionally potent combination is the one-two-three-first-across-the-finish-line, which guarantees a team victory for the race. Girls teams at North Hunterdon saw that work to perfection in the 1980's with Jodie Bilotta, Anne Marie Letko, and Jeannie LaPlaca romping over all comers.

Jeannie made the varsity cross country team as a freshman and immediately helped run the team to an undefeated dual meet schedule, 13-0, as well as victories in the Shore Coaches, Eastern, and Fordham invitationals. After winning the Mid-State Conference title, the girls ran victoriously through the State Sectionals, Group III, and Meet of Champions races, and Jeannie was All-State. Taking third place individually and beating the previous year's MOC champs was especially rewarding to her.



Tenth grade meant more of the same-- undefeated in duals, victories in the invitationals, the conference title, and then-- another set of championships in the big races-- Sectionals, Group, and Meet of Champions. Jeannie won the Sectional race in 17:49, listed as the fastest time in Group III Central Jersey between 1976 and 2023! Jeannie won the Irons Award as team MVP and was All-Conference and All-State.

Next year the girls continued their practice of running undefeated through the duals and the invitationals and the conference on the way to winning yet again the Sectional, Group, and Meet of Champions races. And Jeannie was once again All-State.

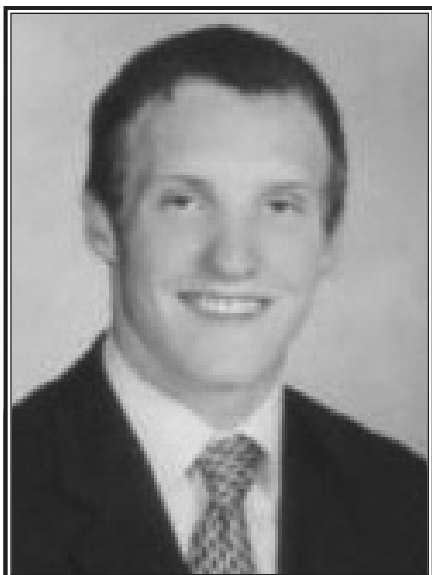
Could this great run of successes continue in her senior year? A resounding yes! as the "Fast Ladies" of HOF coach Bob McGivney romped through the dual-meets, the invitationals, and the conference undefeated. They not only won the Sectionals and Group III, they won the Meet of Champions with a new team record of 24 points-- and the threesome amazingly took the first three places! Again, Jeannie won honors in all categories-- fitting rewards for a stupendous career.

Winning everything in track & field is not so easily done, but the girls came through quite well in Jeannie's four years on the team. Running in mid-distance races and relays, she helped the team to a 9-2 dual meet record and team titles in the conference and Sectionals. Only a frosh, she qualified to run in the Groups by taking a third in the 3200-meter run (1-2-3 for the Lions!) and then fifth in the State Group meet.

Coach McGivney ran the 1985 team to an undefeated dual-meet season and the title at the Emory Relays. Ditto for the conference, Sectionals, and Group III State championships. Jeannie did her part well in many races-- high points coming in the Sectional 3200, a fourth place, and then third in the much tougher Group III run, and success in many relays.

Jeannie played an even bigger role in her junior year as the team again was undefeated, and she won many points in the conference, Sectional, and Group meets, on the way to yet another State title for the team.

Difficult as it may be, the Lady Lions won everything the next year too. In the Sectional meet our one-two-three cross country combo ran one-two-three in both the 1600- and 3200-meter races-- and did it again in the State championship 3200! A grand finale for Jeannie and her fellow great runners...



## ZAK HAAPAOJA '10

He played all over the field on both offense and defense, like the great football player Bronko Nagurski, and did so with skill and finesse during a remarkable career as a Lion soccer player.

Zak Haapaoja got extensive varsity time-- a rarity-- as a freshman at the outside midfielder position. In his second year he moved to the outside back line. His versatility shined again in his junior year when Coach John Simpson moved Zak into the critical role as the team's center midfielder.

Zak's ability as a defender drew attention far and wide-- and not just in the league, or even the state. He was recognized in national ranking circles as one of the top defenders in the nation, earning a spot on ESPN RISE's list of standout defenders.

Enough already! some might have said--but then, again, Coach moved Zak-- this time to "up top" at striker position for his senior season. Simpson had seen innumerable times Zak's ability to adjust to and embrace whatever challenges were laid at his nimble feet, so did not see any risk in another position change for his best player. As for Zak himself, he said, "It wasn't such a big deal. I just wanted to get into the game and play and do my best."

"I never had any doubt Zak would flourish up top," Simpson said, after Zak struck for seven goals in the first three games and proceeded to lead the team to the best-ever season for a Lion soccer team. He excelled at every position he was asked to play and was a major reason for North's soccer success over the four years he played on varsity.

The young teen Zak was selected for a national team and toured for two weeks playing against German club teams... possibly the "greatest soccer moment," in his teen years, he said.

In his soph and junior years the team won two Hunterdon/Warren titles, then iced the cake by winning the inaugural Hunterdon/Warren/Sussex championship. In the quarterfinals Zak had two goals and two assists in a win over Sparta. Next came a goal and an assist in beating Hackettstown in the semis.

The championship game, against Newton, was a 3-0 victory, with Zak scoring two beautiful headers in six minutes. Zak was chosen the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

Zak certainly made the most of every position he played, culminating in his final year by scoring 22 goals, tied for North's second-highest in a season, and-- the mark of a totally unselfish team player-- dishing out 13 assists, an unusually high number for a forward-- as the team rolled to a school-record number of wins in a 17-3 season. The overall four-year record was 60-20-1, and a large portion of that success hinged on Zak's play.

Season awards for Zak included the Boyer for team MVP, Express-Times ("the best forward in the area") All-Area first team, Star-Ledger West Jersey Player of the Year and first team All-State, plus selection to the Soccer Coaches Association All-Star team.

George Mason University may have recruited Zak as a defenseman, but they got a man who could play well at any position on the pitch, and he helped the team to an A-10 championship.

At Murray Chiropractic, Dr. Zak now finesses aches and pains.



# JACK DELIA '11

He excelled at football and his favorite, wrestling, for which he made the varsity team as a freshman. Being large is one thing, but competing mano a mano with other large athletes who are more mature and have more experience is a daunting task. Yet Jack hung in there and battled strongly to help the team to a 14-5 record.

How many athletes have been told to “Gut it out!” in difficult circumstances? In his frosh year on the mats, Jack wrestled in the Districts with a sore (as it turned out-- broken) hand and won his first bout by dint of tactical maneuvering-- the start of his real wrestling knowledge, he says.

Jack began his sophomore year of wrestling by winning first place in the tough Hopatcong Tournament. The team was on the way to a 20-5 season, a Sectional championship, and a District 17 Coach of the Year award for Jason Hawk.

Jack won the Scott VanDoren Award for the most improved wrestler on the team, having run up an impressive 30-9 record, and was named to the Skyland Conference second team.

After that fine season it was “rebuilding time” for the team, but Jack was already prepared to go “all the way” to the top. Against Delaware Valley his skills brought him the Dan Hutchins Memorial Award, and against Hunterdon Central the Boehmer Most Outstanding Wrestler Award.

Jack was heavyweight champion in the Hunterdon/Warren/ Sussex tournament, prefiguring his District 17 title. He entered the big time by winning the Region 5 championship and was off to the State tournament. Jack won all his bouts to reach the finals, finishing just one win short of the State championship.

Awards for that great season included being named to the Skylands first team and the Express-Times All-Area first team. The Boyer Award for the team MVP was his.

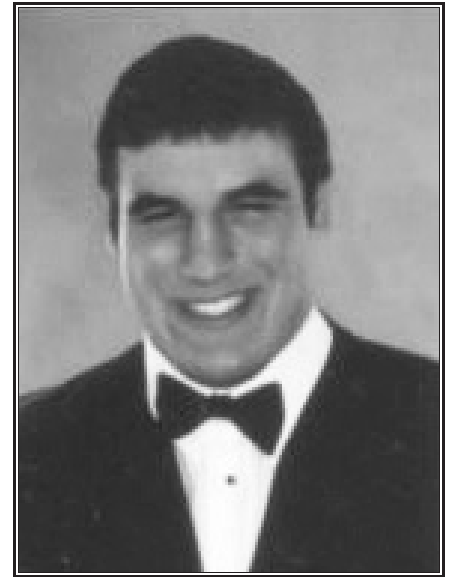
In his senior year Jack would continue to run up the victories, winning for the hundredth time on February 12. Another undefeated dual-meet season was succeeded by tournament victories-- H/W/S, District 17, and Region 5-- on the way to a run through the State tourney and the battle for the championship. Jack again was second.

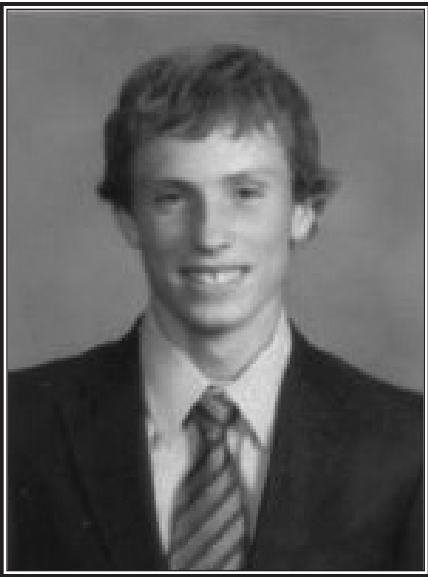
His season record was 38-1 and 75-2 combined with his junior year's 37-1. Total varsity record-- a splendid 109-26. Jack won his second Boyer Award and was a Skyland, Democrat, Courier, and Express first team pick, as well as Star-Ledger All-West Jersey team.

Jack had football to keep him in shape before grappling seasons and played varsity for three years. The team records were average, but his outstanding play was noted by the award-givers. In his final season he was voted Most Valuable Defensive Player in the famous Milk Can game. He was first-team defense for the Mid-State Conference and the Democrat. The Star-Ledger picks were All-West Jersey defense first team and All-Group IV second team-- not easy to get on a non-title team!

Coach John Mattes sums up Jack's stature in a way that applies to all his endeavors: “Jack was a man of few words, but he let his ability and performance speak for him. He was a dominant two-way lineman and a pleasure to coach, always putting the team above himself.”

Jack now wrestles bits and bytes as a Google software engineer..





## MATT McDONALD '11

Matt McDonald ran his first five kilometer race when he was in fourth grade, not knowing that it was to be the start of a great running career. "I was so excited. I did reasonably well, so I just kind of stuck with it."

Matt stayed the course so well, in fact, that he made all three varsity teams-- cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track-- in his freshman year, on the run to greatness.

Cross country was his favorite, and as a freshman he earned selection to the All-Hunterdon/Warren third team. Next came a super sophomore year. Matt won the Petty "Fun Run" and the Hunterdon/Warren race, took fourth in the Skylands meet and sixth in the State Sectionals. Matt not only made the Express-Times All-Area team, the Star-Ledger named him the West Jersey Runner of the Year. Plus-- the Boyer Award as team MVP.

As a junior Matt won the Hunterdon/Warren/Sussex meets and the Sectionals, then took fourth in the Group State championship in 16:08. He was named to the Skylands and Express first teams, was chosen Courier-News first team and Runner of the Year, Ledger West Jersey Runner of the Year, Group IV first team, and All-State second team. And his second Boyer Award.

For his senior season Matt again showed the way. Among his many wins were repeats in the Skylands race (15:45.7), H/W/S (third time), and the Sectionals, with a second in the Group meet (15:42). Running in the Meet of Champions Matt took fourth-- and tied the 16:31 school record time of Brendan Heffernan.

Naturally, the awards came: third Boyer Award, Express All-Area and Runner of the Year. In the Footlocker National race he was the first NJ finisher, 10th in 15:40.

In winter track, as a soph he took third in the Skyland 3200 meters and sixth in the Group meet. Junior year he moved up to second in the Conference, then won the Sectional race and placed fifth in the Group. He was first team All-Area for the Courier and Express.

Senior speed time-- first, a Skyland meet record 3200 plus the 1600 title. Matt won the Sectional race with a new 3200 record of 9:24.33 and went on to win the Group race in 9:20.57-- State champ. And then, the Meet of Champions... Matt beat the best in the state in a school record 9:15.73!

The awards-- All-West Jersey and Courier first teams and Runner of the Year; All Group IV first team; and the Boyer Award.

Spring track-- as a soph, Skylands and Express first teams in the 3200. Turning up the velocity next year, wins in the Conference 1600 and 3200, resetting his own record in 9:19, and chosen top athlete of the meet.

Senior Matt then set a new record of 9:11.95 winning the Sectional meet and took second in the 1600. He next lowered his 3200 time to 9:05.6 in placing second in the Group IV race. Moving on to the Meet of Champions, he again took second place.

Matt won the 1600 and 3200 places on the Skylands first team; Express All-Area first team and Runner of the Year; Ledger West Jersey first team and Runner of the Year.

Now a respected biology professor at Drexel, Matt is an ace marathon runner.

Glad you "stuck with it," Matt!

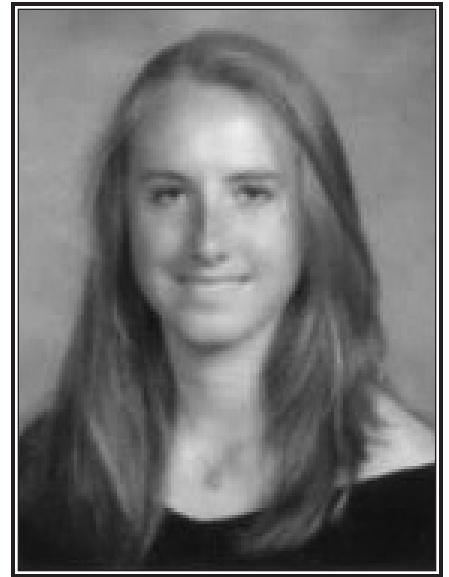
# STEPHANIE ZENGEL OLIVER '12

Stephanie Zengel was destined to become an outstanding athlete, and today she joins her mother Ellen, nee Bitow, and brother Tom in the Lions Athletic Hall of Fame.

Her parents and brother were all influential as they taught her, helped her to practice, and instilled the attitude of doing her best in several sports.

In freshman basketball she played well on the 17-0 frosh of 2008-2009, and moved up to varsity as a sophomore.

Her contributions helped Hall of Fame coach Tom Hanks' teams to a great run, starting with the 26-4 Group IV championship team, the first to win a post-season Tournament of Champions game. Then a 25-3 record in her junior year and the Express-Times choice for top team in the area as well as Group IV second place. Senior year's team went 27-6 and again won high ranking in the state.



But Stephanie's first love was softball, and there was no doubt about her prowess-- varsity as a freshman. For that Group IV second place 22-5 team Stephanie batted .307 and hit six doubles, a triple, a home run, scored 15 runs, and batted in 16. She was a Conference and County first team selection plus second-team pick by the Courier-News and Star-Ledger All-West Jersey. An excellent beginning.

The 2010 team record was so-so, but Stephanie contributed mightily, batting .351 with 33 hits, including five doubles, a triple, and a home run. She batted in 13 and scored 25 times. Her production meant selection to the first team in the Skyland Conference and for the Democrat. The Star-Ledger again chose her for the All-West Jersey second team.

In her junior year the team record would improve, making it to the second round of the state playoffs, greatly aided by Stephanie's hitting. The fast pitchers in the league did not look forward to facing Steph!

Her batting average was an amazing .465-- that's a hit almost every other time at the plate. And she had plenty of those-- 46, including 18 doubles, two triples, four home runs, 33 runs batted in, and 32 runs scored.

Accolades were guaranteed, and they flowed in: first teams All-County...Skyland Conference...Express-Times... Courier-News...Star-Ledger All-West Jersey and All-Group IV... and Star-Ledger All-State second team.

For the senior grand finale Steph led the 25-7 team to a high state ranking with a .427 average and even more hits-- 49, with eight doubles, three triples, and ten home runs. She batted 43 runs across the plate and scored 38.

The awards: Democrat first team and Player of the Year; Conference first team; Express first team; Ledger All-West Jersey first team, Group IV first team, All-State first team. In addition to all those, she was chosen Democrat player of the Year and Star-Ledger West Jersey Hitter of the Year.

Topping off the great season, Stephanie was picked for the North-South Senior Softball All-Star game. She had set season records for most hits (49) and doubles (18); career runs scored (110); most career hits (155), doubles (37--tied), triples (8), home runs (16), runs scored (110), RBI (105), and average (.391).

Great at Gettysburg too? Conference first team three years, player of the year as a senior; .319 career average, with still school records: 213 hits, 51 doubles, 126 RBI's, 312 total bases, and 21-game hitting streak!



## CAROLINE JAEGER STOOPS '13

The years 2012-14 were three of the best in the history of girls lacrosse at North with a 70 percent (43-20) win mark and a string of three consecutive Hunterdon/Warren/Sussex titles. The Lady Lions blossomed with a 13-6 mark in 2013 and dominated with a 19-4 record in 2014.

Three remarkable players stood out in that era. Caroline Jaeger, Julia Wood and Allison Lane combined their considerable athletic abilities from grade-school days, polishing skills alongside teammates of complementary abilities.

Four-year letter-winner Caroline tallied 10 goals as a frosh, then burst into stardom as a soph with 50 goals. She smashed that mark with 77 in her junior year, en route to a career resume of 200 goals and 31 assists. Her final goal came in her last game in a season-ending loss in the states.

While making a name for herself with her speed, agility and all-around skill, Caroline built upon the family history. She threatened the career record of 219 goals by sister Alison (2007), who was until 2013 the only lacrosse Hall of Famer, the very first Express-Times Lacrosse Player of the Year, and who helped coach Caroline whenever she was in the area and had the opportunity.

Caroline's sterling play accomplished honors that no other Lion laxer had received. She was a two-time Skyland Conference Delaware Division first-team selection, and the Express-Times Player of the Year in 2013. She was also lauded as North's first-ever U.S Lacrosse All-American honorable mention and recognized a U.S. Lacrosse Academic All-American.

While numbers display her athleticism, Caroline's career was marked by "humility, leadership and unwavering commitment to her team," said Coach Stacy Ditze. Caroline developed into one of the most respected midfielders in the conference, contributing on both ends of the field, she said, and developing into a go-to player on faceoffs when control of the ball was crucial.

"What distinguished her was the way she carried herself," Ditze said. Known for her honesty on the field and genuine love for the game, "Caroline inspired those around her through quiet leadership," the coach said. A will to win and relentless effort encouraged teammates to raise their level of play.

Caroline said she went into her senior season as captain knowing she would have to stand up and be more vocal on the field and in practice. That happened, said the coach. At practice, everyone was catching and passing well because they didn't want to disappoint her. In games, the kids would do anything she'd ask them to do.

Caroline recalled, "Everyone on the field had a certain skill that we knew we could rely on."

Wood recalled Caroline as the "suave, calm" player with an internal fire that, when lit, she would steam roll right over you. "I loved it because it was unexpected from her personality. She had this competitive rage (in the best way) that I really looked up to."

Caroline continued her lacrosse journey at Gettysburg (Pa.) College, where she assumed a key role in offensive transition for the Division 3 national champion Bullets team in 2017. As a senior, she scored 46 goals (making 57 percent of shots) and had nine assists.

Caroline's career has been in higher education and healthcare fundraising and non-profit work. She works for Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee.



# MORGAN HARVEY WOODROME '14

The pinnacle of accomplishment in New Jersey high school track and field is to win the Meet of Champions. Morgan Harvey did so in 2013. This accomplishment alone places Morgan in the pantheon of the North Hunterdon girls' storied history of track and field. Without question, Morgan was one of the most dominant athletes the high school has ever produced.

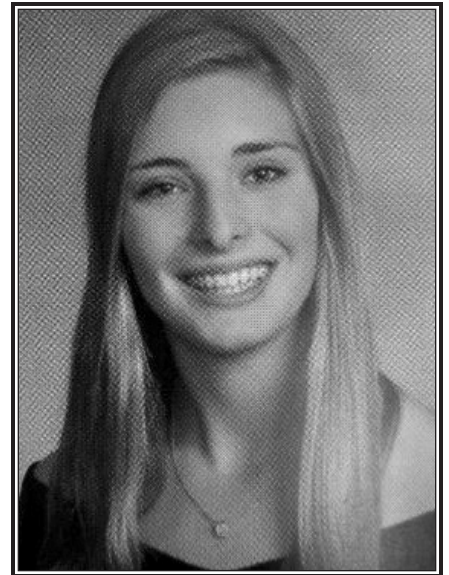
As stated above, Morgan won the Meet of Champions in the 100 hurdles her junior season in 2013 (All-Groups Champion). That year at the Meet of Champions she also finished second by less than 1/10th of a second in the 400 hurdles, running 59.63. For those who might need a comparison to another widely successful sport at North Hunterdon, this feat by Morgan was akin to a wrestler finishing 1st in one weight class in Atlantic City and then finishing 2nd in a higher weight class in the same day. Additionally, Morgan finished 2nd by less than 4/10th of a second in the 400 hurdles at the New Balance Outdoor Nationals (back when there was only one national meet at the end of the high school outdoor season). She also won the Group IV State Championship in the 400 hurdles and was second in Group IV in the 100 hurdles (in a blazing fast 13.95 seconds). She won both hurdle events at the Sectional meet that season. Finally, between the 200m, 400m, 400h and the 100h, Morgan won 6 Hunterdon/Warren/Sussex or Skyland Conference individual outdoor championships in 2013. Additionally, indoors, she won individual conference championships in the 55-meter hurdles and the open 400-meter race.

In her senior year in 2014, Morgan was second at the Meet of Champions in the 400 hurdles (she finished second to future world record holder and Olympic champion Sydney McLaughlin). That same year, Morgan won Group IV in the 400 hurdles. She was 1st in the 400 hurdles and 2nd in the 100 hurdles at the Sectional meet. Additionally, between the 400, 400h and the 100h, Morgan won 4 H/W/S or Skyland Conference individual outdoor championships in 2014. Early in the outdoor season, Morgan also qualified for the prestigious Penn Relays in the 400 hurdles, where she finished as the top American girl. She also won the open 400-meter race indoors at the Skyland Conference meet.

In Morgan's sophomore season in 2012, she was a state place winner at the Meet of Champions in both the open 400-meter race and the 100 hurdles, 7th and 5th respectively. Morgan won the Group IV individual State Championship in the 100 hurdles. This was Morgan's first Group title. In 2012 between the 200m, 400m, 400h and the 100h, Morgan won 4 individual outdoor championships in the H/W/S or Skyland Conference meets. Also, she won the open 400-meter indoor Skyland Conference race.

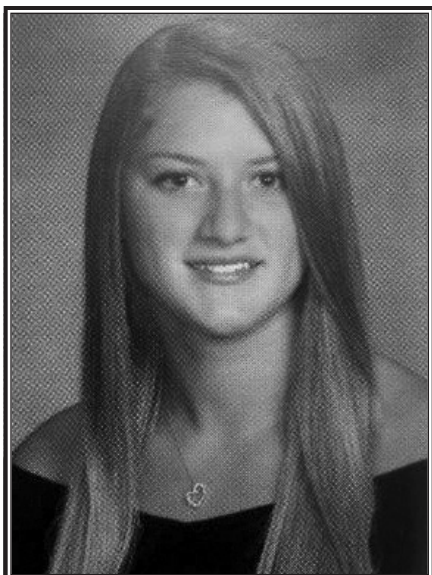
In her freshman year of 2011, Morgan was the H/W/S 200-meter champion outdoors and the indoor Sectional Champion in the open 400-meter race.

To summarize Morgan's individual victories over the course of her high school career, she won 19 Hunterdon/Warren/Sussex and Skyland Conference championships. She won 4 State Sectional Championships, 3 Group IV State Championships and, of course, 1 Meet of Champions. Additionally, she was a two-time Star-Ledger First Team All-State selection for outdoor track and field. These accomplishments cement Morgan as one of the greatest Fast Ladies of all-time, and she now rightfully takes her place in the North Hunterdon Athletics Hall of Fame.





## ALLISON LANE '14



As the seasons changed, so the ball did for Allison Lane, one of the best-ever North all-around athletes.

In the fall, it was volleyball for Allison, who joined other hitters as a dependable scorer for North's (21-3) first Group IV State champion team in 2013 as "one of the state's fiercest hitters" when she led the team with 186 kills, adding 43 blocks and 28 aces.

When the leaves dropped, she switched to basketball, where she was a double-digit scorer and team captain for Tom Hank's 17-win team in 2013-14. "She was the most talented 'team' player I ever had," Coach Hank said of Lane's unselfishness. "We would run sprints in practice and I would tell the freshmen, 'Watch Allison,' because she ran every one hard ... everything she did was full-out, a great example for all the other kids."

When spring beckoned, she blossomed on the lacrosse field, eventually to emerge as a key cog on three straight Hunterdon/Warren/Sussex championship teams for Coach Stacy Ditze and winning the tournament MVP award as a senior. "Allison brought a unique combination of height, athleticism, and intelligence to the field," said her coach.

In the summertime she and Julia Wood teamed to play in summer leagues, much as they did years earlier for the Hunterdon Mohawks youth team. In their final season at North, the dynamic duo combined to score 58 percent of the goals for the school record-setting 19-win team.

Co-captain Allison amassed a career record of 194 goals and 68 assists, and could have recorded higher numbers if she had not suffered a concussion and had to sit out for two weeks in her senior year. She earned Express-Times All-Area honors every year and made multiple Conference, Courier, and Star- Ledger first teams.

Allison and Julia inspired, calmed, propped up and refocused each other. "When you looked or played against or with Allison, she was this tall, athletic formidable player," said Julia. "She was very intimidating for an opponent. She was also one of the calmest players I have ever had the privilege to play with."

The Express-Times cited Allison's attitude when naming her All-Sports Female Athlete of the Year for the bi-state region in 2014. Even though she had committed to play lacrosse for Marquette University, as a senior she loyally continued to join her teammates in all three sports. "Dropping the other sports would have wronged my teammates, the coaches, and even myself," she said.

Her all-around athleticism earned her a coveted spot on the Ledger's "Mount Rushmore" of the four most superlative athletes in school history. Besides her lacrosse numbers, she had scored 512 points in hoops and smashed her way to 433 kills, 82 blocks, and 221 digs on volleyball teams that compiled a 73-9 record from 2012-14. And she was a Wendy's Heisman Award selection.

During her time at Marquette, she was named to the All-Big East first team twice and second team once and the Big East All-Academic team three times. Twice team captain, she was listed in her college's top ranks in nine offensive and other categories. The coach declared, "She put Marquette lacrosse on the map!"

She has made a career in the sport and is associate head coach at Eastern Michigan University. .

# JULIA WOOD BERNSTEIN '14

When youngster Julia Wood first tried tossing the lacrosse ball from the web of her stick, things didn't work out so well. The ball errantly flew behind her and she was, like, "Oh my God, this is not my thing."

Needless to say, she overcame those initial problems and, by the end of her career at North, had emerged as the top goal scorer in school history and went on to play for four years at the University of Louisville.

Julia finished with 235 goals, breaking past the 219 of NHHS Hall of Famer Alison Jaeger. In her career, Julia tallied 77 assists and 312 total points, helping lead the Lions to historic success. Each year, Julia's impact grew—from 9 points as a freshman, to 92 points as a sophomore (70 goals), 78 as a junior (60 goals), and an incredible 133 points as a senior (101 goals). In her senior season, she was eighth in the state in goals and 10th in total points.

She was the choice of both the Express-Times and the Courier-News for Player of the Year in 2014. She earned Skyland Conference Delaware Division first-team recognition every year from her sophomore season onward and was named to numerous all-area teams, including the Star-Ledger All-State second team. She received US Lacrosse All-American Honorable Mention. She and teammate Allison Lane shared the team's Irons Award, as MVPs.

She was also a three-year letter-winner in soccer.

Julia's success came partially from her ability to dodge anybody, taking on double and triple teams by the defense and creating scoring opportunities under pressure.

Using her signature split dodge, or firing precise shots into the corners of the six-foot-square net, Julia was always a threat on attack. She used impeccable timing to gain possession on the draw, and became a smart, anticipatory defender.

"When I see the goal, I know I want to score," Wood said back then. "If I see an opening, I want to take it – even if it doesn't look like I have it.... I am comfortable with the ball. In most games, when I have a lot of pressure on me, I think I do better." And you never saw her crack under the pressure, said Coach Stacy Ditze.

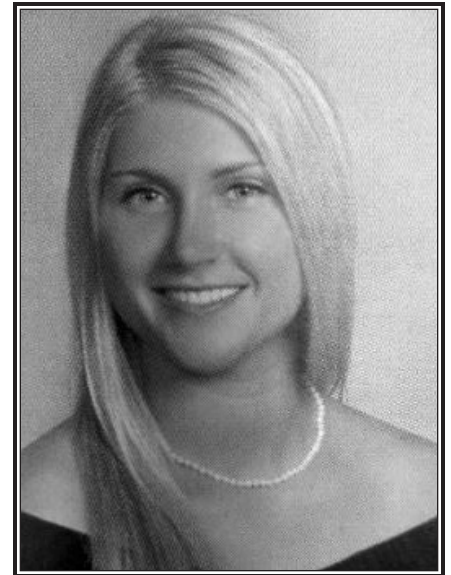
The 2014 Lions crafted a school record for wins (19-4) and captured the H/W/S tourney for the third straight year with a dominant performance, 21-7, over rival Voorhees in the final. The Lions nudged into the state rankings and would have gone higher, but for an 11-10 loss to Ridge in the Sectional semifinals.

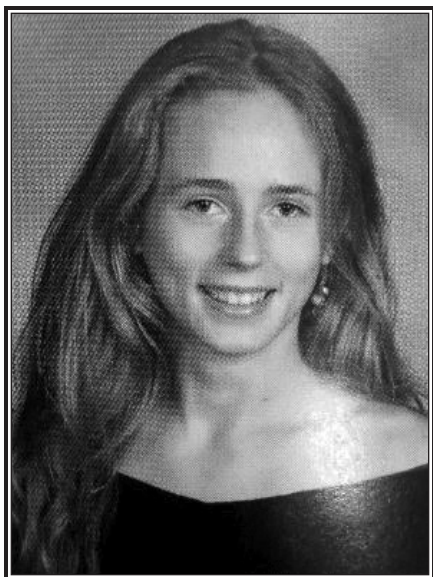
Her 101 goals came in a senior year when she and Allison Lane were responsible for 58 percent of tallies for the team. Twenty-six of Julia's goals in her senior year came in the clutch, in tri-county or NJSIAA contests.

Julia was a leader who elevated everyone around her. Her poise, competitiveness, and dedication left a lasting impression on Lion lacrosse.

While she was at Louisville, the team advanced to the NCAA Tournament in 2015, 2016 and 2017 and three times finished the season ranked in the Top 25.

Julia is the wife of Jadaen Bernstein, the former Voorhees HS three-sportster with 135 wrestling wins. He's a U.S. Naval Academy grad, now a Marine Corps jet jockey. They have an infant son.





## EVE GLASERGREEN '15

Eve Glasergreen loved to run. She was the unique teenager who ran for the love of the process and the solitude that often comes with long distance training. Eve would run in any weather condition. She would bundle herself in scarves and hats to run in frigid temperatures and snow in the wintertime. She was routinely spotted on the Capoolong Trail in pouring rain. For the first half of her high school career, she ran in toe-shoes and, initially, spurned the idea of running in circles on a track. She was relentless and there was never a question in her coaches' minds as to whether she was giving her best effort; she always gave her best.

Eve's career began slowly in her freshman year. She joined a distance program that was in transition with several solid seniors who would be moving on, and a good young core that included a strong sophomore class. She won the Irons Award as team MVP in cross country and finished fourth at the Sectional race in the 3,200 in the springtime.

These experiences led to her sophomore campaigns, when she began to blossom as a distance runner. In cross country, she led the team to a 5th place finish at the Meet of Champions, with a 20th place performance individually. Moreover, on the track in the springtime, she won the Skyland Conference and Sectional crowns in the 3,200, and as a product of her 4th place finish in the Group IV race, she qualified for the Meet of Champions where she medaled and finished 7th. Additionally, although she never ran an open 800, she was the anchor of the 4x800 team that ran at Penn Relays for the first time in many years for North Hunterdon.

Eve's junior year in cross country produced victories at the Manhattan Invitational, the County meet and Sectional race, and a 2nd place finish in the Group Championship. At the Meet of Champions, she again ended up on the podium with a 17th place finish. In the spring, she won victories at the County and Sectional races in both the 1,600 and the 3,200. Eve won her first State Championship at the Group IV meet, when she ran 10:26.56 in the 3,200 (in the same meet she also ran 4th in the 1,600 in 4:55.96). She then finished 5th in the Meet of Champions in the 3,200.

Eve's senior year was her masterpiece. In cross country, she won every race in which she competed (which included an 18:15 performance at Holmdel at the Group race) until the Meet of Champions. She led that race through the two-mile post and held on in a gritty performance for 3rd. In doing so, she also shepherded an unranked and overlooked team to a 7th place finish. The following week, she went to Van Courtlandt Park and qualified as a dark horse for Foot Locker Nationals by running 10th. At Foot Locker in San Diego, she competed with the best girls in the Nation and finished 34th. She was named the Gatorade Cross Country Runner of the Year for New Jersey. She was a First Team All-State Selection by any entity that produced such lists. On the indoor track, she won the Section, and finished 2nd in the Group and at the Meet of Champions. Based upon her indoor performance, she qualified to run the open 3,000 at Penn Relays in the spring. Outdoors, she again won every individual race in which she competed until the Meet of Champions. At the Meet of Champions, she went out hard in the 3,200 and led much of the race. Again, she performed with tremendous grit and battled for 2nd. Finally, on a side note, although she herself would be running the 3,000 at Penn Relays, at the beginning of the season she anchored a 4x800 team at a spring relay meet to help the other girls qualify for Penn. In doing so, she split 2:16 in a ferocious early April backstretch headwind.

In summary, between cross country and indoor/outdoor track, Eve won 9 County or Conference titles, 8 State Sectional titles, 3 Group IV State Championships and finished second or third at the Meet of Champions 3 times. The breadth of her athletic prowess gave her the strength to run 10:26 in the 3,200 and 4:52 in the 1,600 (which she did in her senior year in winning the Section), while still having the speed to split 2:16 in the 800 or run sub-60 in the 400. Eve is, without question, one of the greatest North Hunterdon runners of all-time and she was truly the manifestation of a Fast Lady.



## RYAN POMRINCA '15

No Lion wrestler was more serious, motivated, and driven to succeed than Ryan Pomrinca. Said Coach Tim Flynn, "Ryan never panics. He likes to joke around and have fun, but he's all business when it comes to wrestling." His school-record 155 wins is no joke!

A four-year varsity grappler, Ryan showed his ability in a tremendous freshman season by not only winning the vast majority of his dual-meet matches, but taking first places in tournaments as well. At 113 pounds, he won his first John Goles Tournament title on the way to a 38-5 season record, culminating in a second place in Region 5 and a seventh in the State tourney.

Awards for the year included team MVP Irons Award, Skyland Conference first team, Express-Times All-Area first team, and Star-Ledger All-West Jersey first team.

Sophomore year brought more winning and a 37-5 record. At 120 pounds Ryan won the Goles Tournament again, but he really attracted attention in the prestigious King of the Mountain tournament in the tough Pennsylvania competition where he gave the reigning Pennsy 120 pound champion all he could handle-- nearly winning the 3-2 decision.

Ryan won his second District title and then took third place in the Region. He won the Boyer Award again, as well as selection to first-team conference and Ledger All-West Jersey team.

At 126 pounds for his junior year, Ryan was instrumental in helping the team to its 18-3 record and began, as usual, by romping to first place in the Goles tourney, with yet another title in the tri-county tourney and Most Outstanding in the Neptune Classic.

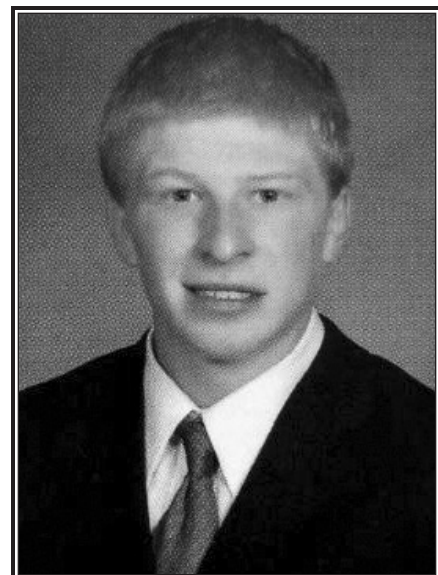
He attained win number 100 on January 31, 2014 on his way to a 38-2 season record. That total included another district title and perhaps his greatest victory--winning in overtime the Region 5 title over the returning (two-time) State champion! Ryan thereby avenged an overtime loss in the previous year's Region bout. That earned him Most Outstanding Wrestler. He went on to take third place in the State meet. Conference and Ledger awards, of course...

Senior year...Why not win the Goles tournament for the fourth time? And in style? He did-- the most points scored by a wrestler, most pins in the fastest time, including the title match in 73 seconds, and Most Outstanding award too. He won at Neptune again and was named Lehigh Valley wrestler of the week by winning at the tough Easton Invitational.

Ryan took his second Region title, won his second State bronze, and finished the season with a 42-1 record. That gave him 80-3 for his final two years and 155-13 for his Lion career. He holds the record for most wins in both Hunterdon and Warren counties.

Ryan received all the usual awards, including the Boyer. He was the NHHS Outstanding Senior Athlete of the Year and was granted the Scott Van Doren Memorial Scholarship. To sum up his major tournament awards: three-time District 17 champion, two-time Region 5 titlist, and three-time State medalist. All that and still a light-hearted lad who knew how to have fun too...

Ryan went on to win 60 times for Lehigh in the mighty Division I, helping the team to three consecutive conference titles. He is head girls wrestling coach at Easton H.S. and has won district, state, and national Coach of the Year awards.





Girls Cross Country: **Row 1, L to R** — Linda King, Sue Krogstad, Nancy Zwolinski, Maggie Poynter. **Row 2:** Donna Wilkens, Judy Thackabary, Heather Pullen, Marlo Lane, Sue Rivell, Elaine Jones

## 1974 GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

Before the Title IX law was passed in 1972, athletic programs for girls and women were a mite hit-and-miss. Many schools had a few sports, but not enough to satisfy the needs of those who wanted—needed—more options than field hockey in the fall.

A group of determined young ladies at North Hunterdon pushed for a cross country team, and in the fall of 1973 were allowed to run with the JV boys, with the caveat to prove they were serious and could show results. Without funding, they ran in Converse basketball sneakers, cut-off shorts, and in the cold weather, dads' long johns under their athletic shorts. John Scassallati was their coach.

The girls proved they were tough competitors when they were allowed to run in JV races with the boys. Male runners from the opposing teams were amazed as the girls powered up “killer hill” twice on the grueling course. They proved they were ready and able to run cross country miles at a fast pace.

The girls carried their competitive spirit and great determination into the 1974 season, outfitted with real uniforms and running shoes-- and varsity races of their own. Robert O'Rourke was assigned the coaching position, and he worked the girls as if they had been training for years, even with double practice sessions-- before (with the coach providing egg McMuffins)-- and after school. More, he provided sound coaching, enthusiasm, and inspiration.

Accustomed to running a three-mile race course when they ran with the JV boys, they seemed to chew up the distance when they ran the girls two-mile courses.

The girls' commitment and hard work paid off immediately, as they ran to a season record of 9-1 in dual meets, knocking off seven teams by huge margins (shutting out the competition in half the meets by placing 1-2-3-4-5), Hunterdon Central by ten points, and losing one race by only two points. A great season-- with more to come...

The North Jersey Sectional meet looked to be a tough battle with Saddle Brook, and so it was-- but the Lionettes emerged as champions-- in their very first year! Maggie Poynter led our girls in fifth place, followed by Heather Pullen #13, Sue Rivell #26, Judy Thackaberry #27, and Sue Krogstad #37 to take the trophy by eight points. Judy's best race of the year was the deciding factor. She remembers one of the best parts of being on the team: “The memory of us crossing the finish line as a team, race after race, is still very powerful after all these years.”

Next up, the State meet, combining the two Sections. Red Bank Catholic, with an eight-year established program was favored, and they did win-- as they had every year. Our first-year team fought to second, led by Maggie, Heather, Sue Rivell, Sue Krogstad, and Judy. Coach O'Rourke said, “This is the closest anyone has gotten to Red Bank in the five years of the meet. Next year?” There were no seniors on the team, so all the girls would be back for the 1975 season.

Eight DRC girls were chosen to the Conference team, including North's Maggie, Heather, and Sue Rivell. Elaine Jones, Sue Krogstad, and Nancy Zwolinski were Honorable Mention.

The runners of this team were the pioneers who set the stage for the great North Hunterdon girls cross country tradition!



# 1975 GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY

In this season, with Bob O'Rourke and super marathoner Gary Bertsch coaching, the girls absolutely demolished every dual-meet opponent-- shutting out nine of them-- for an undefeated 12-0 record. In many of the meets, the lead runners would even wait near the finish line, so that a whole group could cross together in first place!

Along the way they won the Shore Invitational -- Maggie Poynter in 1st place -- and later upset powerful Red Bank Catholic at the Keyport Invitational. In that race, Maggie was a very close 2nd, Heather Pullen 3rd, Sue Rivell 6th, Elaine Jones 10th, Erica Bush 12th, and Nancy Zwolinski 14th. The importance of secondary finishers is shown as Erica's placement proved to be the tiebreaker in the close race, and Nancy beat RBC's 5th runner, so NH won 32-33. New Jersey now knew the North Hunterdon team was again a force to be reckoned with -- and without two top runners that day: Sue Krogstad and Judy Thackaberry.

The Delaware River Conference meet was North's -- totally. They took the first five places to shut out the rest of the conference! Maggie, Heather, Sue R., Judy, and Sue K. did the "almost beyond belief," as Coach O'Rourke put it. "You'll have to search a long way to find a team that can shut out an entire conference." Places 10 and 12 were claimed by Elaine and Nancy. It was a Lion show all the way.

Five of the seven girls named to the Conference All-Star team were North runners—Maggie, Judy, Heather, Sue K., and Sue R. In addition, Elaine and Nancy earned Honorable Mention.

Next, on to the Central Jersey Sectionals. North Hunterdon, according to the newspaper account, "had to run some 40-50 yards farther than Red Bank Catholic because of a poorly laid out starting line and were never in the race." RBC had a direct line to the course while our girls had to run diagonally across the field amid the crowd of 250 runners just to reach the entrance to the course.

Despite the very bad starting field position, the Lady Lions gave it their all and finished a close second in the team standings. Maggie was 4th, followed by Sue R. 11th, Heather 13th, Sue K. 19th, Erica 27th, Elaine 29th, and Judy 53rd.

Then came the State Championship meet. Maggie's finale was a great one. Undefeated in dual meets, she finished 4th, beating all the girls who had crossed the finish line ahead of her at Sectionals, including RBC's number one runner. Heather ran her best race, finishing 7th, only nine seconds behind Maggie. Sue R. was 19th, Erica 45th, and Sue K. 49th.

The team had narrowed the gap, but couldn't quite catch the perennial winners. Coach Bertsch explained, "We gave them a run for their money. I'm proud of this team, all of them. They are exceptional. They work hard and never quit."

End-of-season All-State awards: Maggie Poynter, first team; Heather Pullen, second team.

From a group of young runners with no uniforms or proper footwear and running with the JV boys, the girls had continued their determination and competitive spirit to become an outstanding varsity team in their very first two seasons. Their success set the tone for many more years of excellence that would come to the girls cross country teams of North Hunterdon High School.



## GIRLS SOCCER '06

“There’s a first time for everything,” goes the old adage. When that first time is for something BIG-- that makes it truly special. And that’s the headline for the 2006 girls soccer team.

After a slightly shaky beginning to the season, with a 4-5 record, the team jelled nicely and started a string of wins leading all the way to the New Jersey state tournament. Those early losses were mostly by close scores to top 20 teams in the state. Coach Garrett Lelko knew that he and assistant Rich Moore (A NH Hall of Fame coach) had the makings for a far better than ordinary season.

In the second half of the schedule the girls shut out Belvidere, Warren Hills, Phillipsburg, and Voorhees and took down Hunterdon Central, followed by a 2-2 split of games before the beginning of the state competition. The team was ranked high enough among teams in the Sectionals to receive a bye in the first round. Their first game was a 5-0 win against Bayonne.

Next up was the higher-seeded Woodbridge team that had beaten us the previous year in the state tournament, but this year left the tourney with our victory exacting some revenge. The girls’ next game was the Sectional finals against a top-20 team, Bridgewater-Raritan, which had beaten North Hunterdon soundly in that shaky early part of the schedule, a 4-0 shutout. This game would be a much better battle and outcome with a 3-2 decision that meant the first-ever Sectional soccer title for North Hunterdon in its 57 years on the field and to the current day.

The season continued with another away game against yet another top-20 school, Kearny, in the state Group IV semifinal contest. The team returned to Hunterdon with another win on the books, a defensive battle that ended in a 1-0 Lion victory. Only one more game remained for bragging rights as the state champion. It was close, but Eastern took the title, 2-0.

Nevertheless, at the beginning of the season no one expected North Hunterdon to get anywhere near winning even a Sectional crown, yet they nearly achieved the highest laurels in New Jersey in a grand “run for the roses.” In the process and for their effort the girls set a school record for wins. The Lions were named the Star-Ledger team of the year in West Jersey and #10 in the state’s Group IV, while the Courier-News rated them #6 in their state rankings.

Individual honors began with the Irons Award for team MVP-- Megan Droelle. For the Skyland Conference, first-team players were Megan Droelle, Hilary Murray, and Lauren Musumeci. On the second team we placed Ginny Lee and Mary Kate Townsend.

The Express-Times pegged Megan Droelle as the Girls Soccer Player of the Year, and the Ledger placed her on the All-State Group IV team. Their first team All-West Jersey included Megan and Lauren with Hilary Murray and Mary Kate Townsend on third team.

The Courier-News picked Lauren for their first team, Megan for the second, with honorable mentions for Katie Hannis, Ginnie Lee, Hilary Murray, and Britney Votek. All in all, a fine aggregation of skilled players, with an excellent supporting cast of unsung heroines.

Finally, kudos to the conductor who orchestrated their sweet symphony of success-- Maestro Garrett Lelko, the Express-Times Soccer Coach of the Year..



# GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY '12

The North Hunterdon Girls' Cross Country program was named the New Jersey Team of the Decade for the 2010's by Milesplit. That dynasty began with the 2012 team that would ultimately finish 5th at the Meet of Champions. The season was characterized by the emergence and maturing of a young team. The season was also dramatically affected by Superstorm Sandy, which created unforeseen training and competition challenges in the heart of championship season.



The year began in earnest with the Bernie Magee Class Meet at Warinanco Park, the scheduled site of the Sectional race. Eve Glasergreen led the way for North in winning the sophomore race. Additionally, the squad of Sally Falk, Cailyn Lavigne, Megan Sergison, Hanna Wingler and Lauren Victor showed the team's depth in winning the junior race, while the team collectively finished second on the combined classes scoring merge.

The first real test of the season came a few weeks later with the Shore Coaches Invitational at Holmdel Park, site of the State Championship races to be held later in the season. The team did not have their best day, but gained valuable experience for the future as Abby Speck ran 4th for the team and freshman Emily Bardecker ran her first varsity race, running 5th for the Lions.

At the Hunterdon/Warren/Sussex Tri-County Championship a few weeks later, the North girls finished 2nd to eventual All-Groups Champion Voorhees. Eve again led the way for North by finishing 3rd overall in the race. The team scoring followed with Cailyn 12th, Sally 13th, Megan 19th, and Hanna 24th. It was North's best finish in a county championship meet in several years and led to another strong performance the following week at the Skyland Conference Championship held at Natirar Park. There the girls finished 3rd, behind only champion Voorhees and runner-up Hillsborough. In the Skyland Conference JV race, Breanna Cavanaugh finished 1st, which would be a harbinger of things to come for her and the team.

On October 28th and 29th, Superstorm Sandy struck New Jersey, causing school closing and power outages across the state. As a result, the cross country season was put on hold. However, Coach Walsh went to each girl's home in the coming days to organize practices off of school grounds at Hunt's Mill Park and other locations. The attendance by the girls was nearly universal. And as the Sectional race got pushed back a week and moved for the first time to Greystone Park, the girls continued to train, meeting daily with Coach Walsh while the school remained closed.

At the Sectional race, the girls won in dominant fashion over Hunterdon Central and Ridge, winning the first Sectional Championship for North Hunterdon since 2001. The top five for the girls were Eve 2nd, Cailyn 4th, Sally 9th, Megan 10th and Breanna 12th. The following week at the Group IV State Championship race, the Lions finished 2nd, qualifying the team for the Meet of Champions for the first time since 2003. At the Meet of Champions, the Fast Ladies completed their dream season by finishing 5th behind only Voorhees, Hillsborough, Mendham and Rumson-Fairhaven, making those four schools the only teams that North Hunterdon would finish behind all season in a Championship event.

# HALL OF FAME ATHLETES, 1952-2023

1952 Glenn Lambert	1971 Scott Cassels	1992 Brian Harris
1952 Jim Ovady	1972 Jim Skripko	1992 Beth Timko
1952 Ron Weber	1973 Gary Shepperd	1993 Pat Dolan
1953 Ken Braun	1974 Doug Hintz	1993 Brendan Heffernan
1953 Jack Tharp	1974 Helen Beth Hintz	1993 Jeff Miller
1953 Greg Wojdat	1974 Mike Lusardi	1993 Brad Patkochis
1954 John Transue	1975 Bruce Wodder	1993 Chris Vidak
1955 Dave Strain	1977 Alice Hedden	1994 Hutch Novacek
1956 Frank Cozze	1977 Dave Smigelsky	1994 Eric Tomczak
1956 Tom Langston	1979 Sue Van Horn	1995 Carrie Pierce
1957 Irv Apgar	1979 Marty Vybihal	1995 Steve Taibi
1957 Gene O'Neill	1980 Scott Skripko	1995 Karen Timko
1958 Jerry Keller	1981 Dave Carlson	1996 Chris Dolan
1959 Bob Clawson	1982 Marge Demarrais	1996 Chris Robinson
1959 Joe Gromlowicz	1982 Sharon Greene	1996 Rich Theesfeld
1959 Charlie Patkochis	1982 Mike Price	1998 Chris Loftus
1960 Reid DeNyse	1982 Nancy Skripko	1999 Julie Culley
1960 Ken Gromlowicz	1983 Ellen Bitow	1999 Nate Sisco
1960 Joe Skripko	1983 Pam Hudson	2000 Colleen Ginty
1960 George Zack	1984 Tracy Bigley	2000 Megan Haughey
1961 Nick Frey	1984 Stacy Bilotta	2000 Becki Toth
1961 Tom Marziaz	1984 Mark Nace	2001 Suki Dorfman
1961 Marty McCormick	1985 Bill Babcock	2001 Anthony Schiavino
1961 Dale Winter	1985 Pam Balogh	2003 Rick Frondorf
1963 Bob Brannan	1985 Gary Bendel	2004 James Dolbier
1963 Paul Goble	1985 Andy Martin	2005 Rachel Kulick
1963 Dick Van Doren	1985 Tom McGourty	2005 Lana Taylor
1963 Steve Whitehead	1985 Gavin Sloane	2006 Carly Becker
1963 George Wilbur	1986 Joe Beneducci	2006 Amanda Tewksbury
1964 Gene Sevi	1986 Allison Greene	2007 Erik Adolfsson
1964 Steve Wolschina	1986 Dave Olexson	2007 Alison "Ali" Freedman
1965 Dale Blazure	1987 Darlene Andrews	2007 Alison Jaeger
1965 Gene Detwiler	1987 Beth Gromlowicz	2007 Samantha Pellechio
1965 Jim McCormick	1987 Anne Marie Letko	2008 Jenna Gonzalez
1965 Ralph Steele	1988 Jodie Bilotta	2008 Jason Knapp
1965 Melissa Whitehead	1988 Duane Grade	2008 Hilary Murray Schweitzer
1966 Alan Detwiler	1988 Mike Van Doren	2008 Tyler Tompkins
1966 Bob Gaunt	1989 Brian Partlow	2009 Ted Delia
1966 Walt Hudnett	1990 Brett Skapinetz	2009 Stephanie Reiner
1967 Kirk Edwards	1990 Kent Tschannen	2010 John Havay
1969 Parker Snare	1991 Jason Kramer	2010 Tom Zengel
1970 John Marchak	1991 Mike Loftin	2011 Brendan Cusack
1970 Pam Pedersen	1992 Debra Bowden	2012 Jessica Pellechio
1971 Dave Gaunt	1992 Paige Hargrove	



## HALL OF FAME TEAMS

1965-1966 Girls Field Hockey Champions  
1967-1968 Girls Field Hockey Champions  
1968 Boys Cross Country Sectional Champions  
1973 State Baseball Champions  
1975 State Football Champions  
1976 State Golf Champions  
1979 West Jersey Football Champions  
1980-1986 Girls Cross Country State Champions  
1981-1985 Boys Cross Country State 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  
1991 and 1992 Boys Track  
1992-1993 State Wrestling Champions  
1992-1995 Boys Cross Country State Champions  
1999-2000 Boys Fencing  
2001-2002 State Wrestling Champions  
2002-2003 Sectional Wrestling Champions  
2006 Girls State Softball Champions  
2009-2010 Girls State Basketball Champions

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

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



## HALL OF FAME COACHES

Bonnie Carter	Bob McGivney	Lori Guida Schuetz
Pete Catanese	Richard Moore	James Smith
“Fritz” Halfacre	“Skip” Norcross	Parker Snare
Tom Hank	Bob O’Rourke	Bill Snyder
Dennis Haughey	Norman Pedersen	Jeff Steele
Jason Hawk	Fred Pierro	Jim VanArsdale
Charles Heidecker	John Reid	Harry Vandermark
Leonard Lane	Paul Rickenbach	John Winecker
Jean Laskowski	Don Roberts	

## CONTRIBUTORS TO NORTH ATHLETICS

William Bowlby	Bob Kornberger ‘54	Robin Hight Scheier
Leon Cronce ‘67	John McGourty, Sr.	Bill Simpson
Jim Crossin	Brian Plushanski ‘73	Lowell Snare ‘63
Brian Eick ‘80	Ken Price	Mrs. Ann Snyder
John Fasanello ‘54	Jill Robinson ‘76	Steve Sozanski ‘82
Bill Hauck ‘82	Dave Robbins ‘63	Jack Van Doren ‘61
	Mark Saharic ‘77	

## SPECIAL THANKS

We are especially thankful to Assistant Principal for Science and Math (STEM), Polytech, and Biomedical Academy Ms. Stacy Ditze for her immeasurable help in tracking down a multitude of photographs of modern athletes in yearbooks, and for providing a wealth of statistics and other information, particularly on the “human” side of the story for several athletes.

# SCHOOL SPORTS HISTORY

## *75 SPORTING YEARS AT NORTH HUNTERDON HIGH SCHOOL*

Plan ahead, they say. Well, that's exactly what foresighted educators and leading citizens in the North County did-- and right in the middle of World War II.

A survey completed in the fall of 1943 recommended the formation of a regional district as "both practical and feasible." A committee was formed in 1944 to establish the comparative costs and to make recommendations. In October of 1947 voters approved the formation of the North Hunterdon Regional High School District. The new school opened in 1951 on 53 acres, with 26 teachers and 415 students; the yearbook would list 421 by year's end. Several students were interviewed by Dick Clark on his American Bandstand tv show, and the country learned that we had then the longest name of all New Jersey high schools.

In this, our 75th year, the school opened with 1,460 students, many more teachers—and with multifarious sports.

The school mascot's name is Reggie, from the early days, when the school was known as Regional. In the 1968–69 school year, an actual lion cub, "Clyde Beatty," was used as our mascot. The yearbook title, *Regis*, is Latin for "of the king," so fits in well with the idea of the lion as "king of the jungle."

One unintended "sport" given to the boys in our first year was good exercise-- bending, picking, and chucking-- rocks, that is. The only athletic fields were those on the north side of the school, but they were new too and needed clearing. So for the first 15 minutes or so of gym class we lads picked up rocks and tossed them into piles to be carted off. Football and baseball games that first year were played on the Clinton Community Field.

Varsity sports were limited in the opening year to football, basketball, and baseball for boys; field hockey, basketball, and softball for the girls. The baseball team won the league championship, the school's first. In 1956 boys got cross country and track & field, then wrestling the next year. In 1960 boys fencing was added. It took seven more years before the boys got soccer and golf.

At long last, in 1973 girls track and fencing began, cross country the following year. Cheerleading has been around forever, but those ladies didn't make the sports record books until the winter of '74. For the boys lacrosse came in 1976, then tennis in '78, with racquets for the girls the following year. Winter track opened for the girls in 1982 and for the boys in 1987.

Girls took flight in gymnastics and got to dip their toes in the swimming pool in 1989; the boys swam ten years later. Moving into the new century, girls volleyball began in 2001, but lacrosse not until 2004. Shedding further any thoughts of females as weaklings, they began swinging golf clubs in 2019, and their wrestling team hit the mats in 2020.

Athletic purists may wonder, but the girls dance team waltzed into the record books in 2022. The final teams to date are boys volleyball and ice hockey, 2023.

Lion athletes have won numerous championships on the county, tri-county, conference, sectional, state group, and even Meet of Champions levels. They have also achieved great things on the college level-- and beyond. The Olympics come to mind: Ann Marie Letko '87-- twice, in the marathon and 5000 meter runs; Julie Culley '99 in the 5000; and—with only two years race-rowing experience!-- Steve Christensen '74 (also rowed in World championships).

Our coaches and athletes have brought great glory to the school community in many sports during three-quarters of a century, and we can count on much more to come....

# 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, 2024**



# 2025 HALL OF FAME SPONSORS

## DIAMOND SPONSOR-ABOVE \$500

Bill & Karen Babcock	Run O' the Mill
The Hauck Family	In honor of the 2012 Girls Cross Country Team,
Bruce, Dawn, Nicole, Charlie, Courtney & Bill	Eve Glasergreen, & Morgan Harvey

## PLATINUM SPONSOR-\$500

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Tom Jeffrey	Van Doren Oil Company
Lisko Environmental	The Walsh Brothers: Thomas ('86), Kevin ('91), Brian ('93), & Sean ('95)
Parisi Speed School at Health Quest	(In Memory of Joseph J. Beneducci - NHHS Athletic HOF Class of 2016)
Dave & Pam (Pedersen) Schmieg & Karen Pedersen (In Memory of Coach Pete Pedersen)	Bruce Wodder
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## LION SPONSOR-\$25

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