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**2018**

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# Welcome

## Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame Members

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## President's Message



Welcome to our second luncheon to celebrate Bethel School District athletic history. Our group came together after attending a Tacoma Athletic Commission Induction Banquet. Afterwards, we asked ourselves why Bethel School District didn't have an Athletic Hall of Fame. We have our teams, athletes, coaches and contributors who are worth celebrating. Bethel High School started in 1952, Spanaway Lake High School opened over thirty years ago and Graham-Kapowsin entered the prestigious South Puget Sound League as a power over ten years ago. We have a remarkable history to celebrate.

I was fortunate to have a father who took my brothers and me to early Bethel games and matches so I was able to see many of our inductees participate for our schools. It was a sense of pride for me to play for Bethel with my brothers and an even

bigger thrill to watch my children play for Bethel.

We have always had contributors who have supported our student athletes and coaches. It started with people like Art Crate who brought dozers to level the field and install lights. Clyde Hoover trucked in materials and the Swick brothers helped build the grandstands.

I am very proud of our inductees. They are state champions, dedicated coaches and passionate contributors. We are here to celebrate our history and support our current student athletes and coaches.

We are not finished yet. There is much more to come!

John Zurfluh

President, Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame

## 2018 Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

### Athletes

Roxane Asay	Darrell Borden	Jerry Brodigan	Johnny DuRocher Jr.
Larry Gotcher	Lisa Graber	Gary Gregg	Ed "Eddie" Hagen
Bill Harr	Oscar Springsteen		

### Coaches

Jack Justice	Doug Wisness
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### Contributors

Earl Platt	Tynne Swick
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### Family

The Tingstad Family

### Teams

1958 Bethel High School Football Team  
 1996 Bethel High School Volleyball Team  
 2005 Bethel High School Boys Basketball Team



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# Schedule, Sponsors & Volunteers

## Schedule

**Welcome** – John Briehl

**Lunch**

**Recognition of Past Inductees** – John Briehl

**Introduction of Directors** – John Briehl

**Presidents Message** – John Zurfluh

**Featured Speaker** – Gary Justice

<b>Individual Inductees.....</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
Bill Harr.....	Ed Niehl
Jerry Brodigan.....	Ed Niehl
Ed "Eddie" Hagen.....	Ed Niehl
Darrell Borden.....	Ed Niehl
Oscar Springsteen.....	Ed Niehl
Gary Gregg.....	Ed Niehl
Roxane Asay.....	Ed Tingstad
Johnny DuRocher Jr.....	Eric Kurlle
Lisa Graber.....	Ed Burmester
Larry Gotcher.....	Ed Burmester
Jack Justice.....	Bryan Streleski
Doug Wisness.....	Bryan Streleski
Earl Platt.....	Bryan Streleski
Tynne Swick.....	Bryan Streleski
Tingstad Family.....	Bryan Streleski

<b>Team Inductees.....</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
1958 Bethel Football.....	Ed "Eddie" Hagen
1996 Bethel Volleyball.....	John Reopelle
2005 Bethel Boys Basketball.....	Pat Mullen

**Closing** – John Briehl

**COVER:** Tynne, one of our contributor inductees, was more than the "Laundry Lady." She was a friend to hundreds of kids.

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For more information contact John Zurfluh at [jzurfluh@yahoo.com](mailto:jzurfluh@yahoo.com)



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# Bethel School Districts

## Bethel Public Schools

*“Together We Can Develop Our Most Precious Resources”*

### The History of Bethel School District

Washington State’s 19th largest school district began life 132 years ago as a one-room school in Spanaway. In the years since 1855, thirty-four different school districts were formed, saw service, and ultimately consolidated with other districts until Bethel School District was created in 1949.

The first Kapowsin School was built in 1906-07. Kapowsin High School was one of the first big schools in all of Pierce County until the 1949 earthquake severely damaged it and led to its closure after Bethel High School opened in 1952.

Other schools consolidated into the Kapowsin district included schools in Thrift, Benston, and Graham. The one-room Graham school opened in the early 1900s and was followed by a two-room in 1918 that served until 1949. When it was closed, students were transferred to the present Kapowsin School.

Roy, the only incorporated town in the Bethel School District, was officially plotted in 1884. The founder of the town gave the land for the first new school—a one room, 20x30 foot building built in 1885. In 1904 a new school was erected on the east side of town near the present Roy Elementary School. In 1913 when Roy constructed and opened a high school, many of the small districts in that area consolidated with the Roy district. In 1937 the present Roy school was completed, and in 1942 Roy High School burned to the ground. High school students were taught in portables and other available buildings in town until Bethel High School opened in 1952.

For many years the Kapowsin and Roy High Schools were the only ones serving south Pierce County. Students were bused from as far as the Tacoma city limits and one-way bus runs of more than 50 miles were not unusual.

After several years spent studying the possible consolidation of the Roy and Kapowsin districts, along with the other districts in that area, consolidation was approved in 1949 and the construction of a high school became the first goal. On June 3, 1949 the new school board voted to name the district after Mrs. Ruth Bethel, the county superintendent of schools who had played a key role in the consolidation movement.

The district sprawls over 140,000 acres of land and extends some 33 miles from border to border in southeastern Pierce County. Besides the city of Roy, six additional community areas make up the balance of Bethel’s estimated 49,000 population.

The district may be separated into two economic regions. The northern one-third is primarily a residential suburb of the city of Tacoma and the military installations (Fort Lewis Army Base and McChord Air Force Base) with some commercial and industrial development. The southern two-thirds is largely rural and undeveloped. Since the developed area of the school district is primarily suburban, commercial development is limited to those small service establishments needed to support a residential community. A recent Puget Sound Council of Government survey found that 17 percent of local wages and salary employment in the school district was provided by the retail trade sector; 11 and 9 percent were provided by the service and construction sectors, respectively.

Bethel School District has not supported an independent economy in the past and has functioned primarily as a suburban community to Tacoma and Seattle-King County. According to the 1980 census statistics, there were almost 9,000 more wage and salary employees than jobs in Bethel School District. The school district is the largest single employer within the district boundaries providing more than 1,000 jobs. Projected population increase of 25 percent during the next 10 years will be supported in part by renewed economic development, especially centered around the Frederickson Industrial Area and the southward extension of Canyon Road and associated sewer services.

Bethel School District is most commonly known outside the immediate area for its radical solution to the enrollment growth problem (year-round-schools) between 1974 and 1981. Ten years of bond issue failures resulted in severe overcrowding problems in elementary and junior high schools, and for seven years, the district operated a rotating year-round schedule which accommodated 30 percent more students in existing buildings. Passage of bond issues permitted a return to the traditional calendar in the 1981-82 school year. Since that time, bond issues have passed with sufficient regularity to keep pace with growth without resorting to double shifting or the “radical solution.”

**Neufeld, Carol E. Bethel School District #403 : an illustrated history. Tacoma, Washington: Media Production Associates, 1999.**

# Bethel School Districts

## History of Bethel School District

By C.J. Knaggs

The Bethel School District of Pierce County, Washington, is a geographic “monster.” It sprawls over 80,000 acres of land and extends some twenty-two miles from border to border in the south-eastern part of Pierce County. Eight definite communities, one an incorporated town, comprise its population

Economically, the district residents are primarily middle class. A large block of the population are members of the armed forces or are employed as a civilian workers at nearby Fort Lewis, Madigan Hospital and McChord Air Force Base. A second segment earn their livelihood in the mills and industrial plants in the City of Tacoma and in the major Boeing Aircraft plants in neighboring communities. The remainder are farmers, loggers, shopkeepers, or engaged in miscellaneous fields of employment.

Bethel District schools, dating back to the late 1800s, have seen the expansion of schools from a hit-or-miss operation to the present well-organized district that serves the educational needs of 3,600 children in five modern elementary schools, a junior high school and a high school.

The present school district is the product of a consolidation of 34 school districts. Consolidation of the small schools that once dotted the area is not a new thing. Back in 1904, the citizens of the school districts in the Roy area voted to combine their districts in an attempt to provide a more stable education for their children. From time to time other consolidations of small districts were voted upon until the number of separate districts in the area had been reduced to seven. In 1949, the Spanaway, Roy, Kapowsin, Elk Plain, and Rocky Ridge districts were consolidated into forming the Bethel School District. Later on, the Clover Creek District and the Lacamas District voted to join the Bethel Schools, giving the District its present size.

All kinds of problems faced the founders of the early schools in the area. In 1855, Captain Mallory of the U.S. Army led his troops against the Indians. After scouting along the Puyallup River, the Army withdrew to set up camp two miles east of Spanaway Lake at Montgomery's Farm. Later on, this post became a general supply center for the Army and was renamed Fort Hicks. A supply road was built to Olympia by way of the Roy and Yelm Prairies. During this period of Indian uprising, schools in the area were closed for a two-year period to protect the children from danger.

Other problems the schools could not cope with were floods that closed the school in the Clover Creek area and a fire in a one-room school in the Spanaway area. This fire is noteworthy as many residents claimed it had been set by citizens in the community in order to run the teacher “out.” The teacher actually owned the school building and was not popular with the local patrons.

Each school operated independently during the late 1800s with the one-room schools being built by local citizens and staffed by anyone that the residents could find to teach their children “readin’, ‘ritin’, and ‘righmetik.”

Little is known of these schools. Records were not kept of their operation. Pioneer tales of the early schools are colorful, as may be noted by a trip to the library in the Washington State Historical Society Museum in Tacoma. One tale tells of the type of teachers that were hired to teach children. In one of these areas schools, a teacher was hired but loved his “chewing’ tobacco.” When a student gave the right answer to a question, “the teacher would show his approval by spitting a wad of tobacco into a metal spittoon so that it would ring loud and clear—like a bell.”

In 1953–54, the Territorial Legislature tried to improve the quality of education

being offered the children by establishing the Office of County Superintendent of Schools and requiring a yearly inspection of the schools by this office. Even though the law required a written report on the Superintendent's inspection each year, it was not rigidly followed by the appointed superintendents. In 1872, the Rev. Nelson Rounds was appointed as the first Territorial Superintendent of Schools, and he began the process of improving the system of education.

As far as Pierce County Schools were concerned, the first official school was founded in Steilacoom in 1854. Mrs. Sherwood Bonney was the first teacher and she instructed her students in the front room of her own home during the summer of 1854. It was the custom in the late 1800s to have a school term of 30 to 60 days during the summer months as transportation was nearly impossible during the winter months. Dusty summer roads became huge mud baths during the winter months of rain and snow.

The first school organized in this Bethel area, according to available records, was in 1855 when the Spanaway School District was organized. A small one-room school was built by the men in the area and staffed by a teacher. In 1864 the school mysteriously caught fire and burned to the ground. No school was held in this district until 1867, when a new building was erected. At that time, funds were raised by parents to finance the construction of the school house. The cost of erecting the building was \$108.00.

About the same time, James P. Stewart moved “back to the prairie and got a school near Spanaway Lake where (he) taught for about 6 months.” Stewart later moved into Tacoma and founded a school.

In 1896, according to the Tacoma *News Tribune* file, another school was built in the Spanaway area. The school was financed by private subscription and was located on the southwest shore of Spanaway Lake.

In 1897, another school was built in Spanaway. This school was located about two blocks across Pacific Avenue away from the present school site. It was a two-story frame structure that operated until 1928. The present brick building at Spanaway replaced this structure, and the Spanaway Elementary School has had a number of additions since that time to house 610 students at the present time. The biggest growth of enrollment in the Spanaway school was during World War II when a wave of students entered the school due to the expansion of the military installations at McChord Air Base and Fort Lewis. This area never had a school that offered education to the students above the eighth grade until the present Bethel High School opened in 1952. An attempt by the citizens of Spanaway to set up a high school failed in the 1940s even though the School Board purchased some old prisoner of war barracks after World War II and attempted to form a Union High School District.

In 1866, James P. Stewart again opened a school in this area. According to original manuscripts, he built a school house and taught for Clover Creek District #4 in that year. In 1867 this school was closed as a flood destroyed his home on December 17, 1867, and he converted the school house into a home for his family.

The County Land Purchase records note that on January 3, 1893, the residents in the Clover Creek area purchased 1 acre of land from Frederick Meyer to erect a school. In 1908 the district purchased another acre for \$1.00 from Meyer.

The original school in the Clover Creek area was a one-room log cabin, located on  
*continued on next page*

# Bethel School Districts

## History of Bethel School District continued

the Spanaway Prairie, just off the Old Military Road. The next school was a two-room school that housed 60 students, divided into upper and lower grades. The heat in the building was by means of a wood burning stove which the janitor and the older boy students kept filled with logs. In the lower grade room, the students enjoyed their old stove, as it gave them a place to make hot toasted sandwiches for lunch. The heater in the upper grade room had the outstanding feature of a curved piece of metal that helped circulate warm air around the room.

In 1935 the two-room school became overcrowded as the Clover Creek area was settled by a number of people from the mid-west who had been forced out of their homes by violent wind storms. Soon there were 125 students at the crowded school, and the students were housed in a third room made by converting parts of a play shed into a classroom. Following this, part of the students were moved into a deserted gas station.

The WPA, in 1938, began construction on the present colonial style frame building that still houses a number of the Clover Creek students. Two recent brick additions to the school have made the school the present size. The district provided students with education only to the eighth grade until it joined the Bethel School District.

According to Mrs. Ross Plumb, daughter of pioneer Martin Vosnek who was a member of the Kirby School Board, the grade school of Kirby was opened in 1895 at a site across the road from the McGee Guest Home. It was a one room school.

In 1901–1902 the school was moved across the road to the present site of the McGee Guest Home. A three-room addition was built in 1920 after plans for consolidating the Clover Creek, Elk Plain, Graham and Kirby schools was defeated. The location for the combined 1 through 10 grade school could not be determined causing the voter rejection. This proposed site was near the present site of Bethel Junior High School.

During World War II, the Kirby School was gradually closed and the building sold to the McGee Guest home. A fire destroyed the old building after the Kirby school was opened as a guest home, and the Kirby District was officially annexed to the Elk Plain District in 1947.

Mr. E. L. Bower recalled the early days of the Elk Plain School. Late in the 1800s a one-room school was erected on property purchased from the Northern Pacific Railroad at \$2.50 per acre. A short time later another room was added to the original building.

In 1935, faced by an increasing population caused by people from the Midwest who migrated into the area as the violent wind storms had driven them west to get a better life, the Elk Plain School District added two more rooms to the original school. WPA built the rooms for \$800.00.

The present brick building was erected in 1937 by the combination of WPA funds and local taxes for a price of \$19,000. Since that time portables were brought in to ease overcrowded conditions, and two additions erected by the Bethel School District recently have given the school its present size. No high school education was offered by the Elk Plain School District until Bethel High School was opened.

One interesting consolidation occurred in the Elk Plain District as the Greendale school was closed (near the East Gate of Fort Lewis) by the U.S. Army in the period just before World War II. High School was opened. In 1942 the Greendale property was given to Elk Plain, but the school did not get any students, as the Greendale school had been closed and students transferred to other schools before the school district was closed.

According to the original writings by Bonney, available at the Washington State Historical Library, the Kapowsin township was founded in 1901, but not incorporated as a city. The town grew because of its lumber industry until it reached a population of 896 before World War II.

The school was first held for the youngsters in the baggage room of the depot until a school could be built. The children were later transported to an old building near Electron for their schooling.

In 1906–1907 the citizens of Kapowsin built a combination grade school, high school to serve the needs of their youngsters. It is interesting to note Kapowsin High School was one of the earliest high schools in Pierce County.

In 1923 Kapowsin High School added a gymnasium that was considered to be the most complete gym in Pierce County. It had showers, basketball courts and a swimming pool. In April of 1949 a severe earthquake hit Pierce County and made the high school building unsafe for schooling purposes. To quote a news story in the TNT printed on June 3, 1951, the sturdy two-story frame structure was so badly damaged by the quake that "today if anyone jumps up and down on the second floor, northwest room, it shakes the entire building, students report. The adjoining gymnasium, once the best in the county, was also badly damaged." The building was used to house high school students until the Bethel High School opened in 1952. The old high school was sold by the district and was dismantled.

During its operation as a school district, the Kapowsin District went through a number of consolidations, attracting many neighboring districts, since it had a high school. All-in-all there were six separate districts consolidated to form the Kapowsin District.

In 1949 the Kapowsin District opened the present grade school building and closed small grade schools operating in the Thrift, Graham, Benston and Electron areas. The grade school students who had attended the Kapowsin High-Grade School building were transferred to the new building at the same time.

The schools consolidated by Kapowsin were old pioneer schools that dated back to the late 1800s and early 1900s. About the only records available on these schools are the land purchased records in the County Office. They show that land was purchased for a school at Thrift in 1916; at Benston in 1892, 1907, and 1912; and Graham in 1907 and 1911.

The Graham Grade School was originally opened in the early 1900s as a one-room school. In 1918 a two-room school was constructed, and later on a basement was dug to be used as a play room and a lunch room. The school was closed in 1949 when the students were transferred to the present Kapowsin Elementary School.

Recent additions to the Kapowsin Grade School have made it the present size school, housing over 450 students.

### Roy Founded in 1884

The only incorporated town in the Bethel District was officially plotted in 1884 when Mr. and Mrs. James McNaught filed for the plot. In 1908 the town of Roy was officially incorporated as a 4th class town and Allmon W. West elected as Mayor. Early population count showed 315 residents. The town was located on the old military supply road from Olympia to Puyallup.

The founders of the town, the McNaught family, also gave the land for the first school in Roy A small building was constructed in 1885 that was one-room and

*continued on next page*

# Bethel School Districts

## History of Bethel School District continued

20x30 feet. In 1890 another room was added to the school.

In 1904 a school was built on the east side of town near the present site of the Roy Grade School.

Two elections were held in 1912 to establish a high school in Roy and, after a battle at the polls, the voters approved the construction. In 1913 Roy High School was built and opened. Students from the small schools around Roy enrolled to get their high school education. A number of school districts at that time joined the district, since it had a high school.

In 1924 the citizens in the Roy area voted for \$12,000 in bonds to build a gym and auditorium that was completed a short time later.

In 1937 the present Roy Grade school building was completed on the high school site. Federal funds under the PWA law provided for the major expenses. Beginning in 1938, a number of meetings were held to determine if a new high school should be built, but state opposition to the building and a start of World War II stopped these plans. Early on a morning in October 1942, the Roy High School caught on fire and burned to the ground. Temporary portables were brought to the site, and the high school students sued them for their high school until Bethel High School opened in 1952. To quote a June 3, 1951 article in the TNT, "at Roy the high school students today are put up in portables, the old garage and any building that is available in town."

### Transportation Creates Bethel

Transportation for students to school in early 1900s was a major problem. A contract in the files of the Bethel School District signed in 1914 provided for transportation for children by horse and buggy from Electron to Kapowsin.

World War I changed the idea of transporting children to school and helped vacate the widely scattered one or two-room schools located in this area. With the war came the development of trucks for the military and this, in turn, led to the use of school buses.

Through the 1920s it was common for children to walk one and one-half miles to meet a bus. It was usually a ton and a half Model T Ford truck with winged wooden sets along the side and a bench down the middle. Pupils rode facing each other. Sides of the bus were covered with oiled canvas and the door was open. In the winter it was cold!

The driver of the bus was often a local grocer or farmer. After the children were taken to school, the seats were swung out of the way and the bus was used to haul groceries or milk or cow feed.

In the late 1920s, the 1930s and the 1940s the superintendents of the Roy and Kapowsin districts made trips to the perimeter communities by their districts to enroll more students. Mr. Earl Platt, Principal of Bethel Senior High, recalls that as late as 1949, he drove a bus that started its run on the city limits of Tacoma, weaved in and out of the present Bethel District to take high school students to Kapowsin. Mr. Francis Olson, Assistant Superintendent of the Bethel schools, recalls he had the same experience when he drove a Roy High School bus. The long bus runs were made economically sound, as the State allowed additional funds for each student registered from outside the high school districts.

Since Franklin Pierce High School was a long way from opening, the two high schools' board of directors in the southern part of Pierce County (Kapowsin and

Roy) were eager to go into Parkland to get any high schools students they could. This was necessary, as in the 1930s the depression made the financial support from these outside students important. Bus runs of over 50 miles one-way were not unusual.

To show the wide area that the Roy buses covered in 1946, below are the figures showing the number of student attending Roy High School and where they lived:

Area	Number
Spanaway	38
Elk Plain	12
Roy	40
Collins	24
Rocky Ridge	1
Woodland	1
Parkland	11
Lacamas	7
Central Avenue	2
Midland	1



### Roy and Kapowsin Unite

As early as 1941, the Pierce County School Office began to conduct surveys to determine the possible consolidation of districts in the county. On April 15, 1941, a group was picked to study consolidation due to increased population caused by Fort Lewis and McChord Field activity.

On April 22, 1941, the TNT reported that a County Reorganization committee had been selected with three people named to serve South Central Pierce County. They were: Mable Crate, Rocky Ridge; Bert Witehead, Roy; and Bertha Johnston, Kapowsin.

A short time later, July 1941, the TNT reported that a survey taken by the committee may show that a high school of 400 students could be built at Loveland and serve the needs of this area. To show how close this estimate was, Bethel High School was built in 1952 for 400 students!!

With the coming of World War II, the plans for consolidating the districts and combining the Roy and Kapowsin High Schools were dropped. Following the war, plans began again and were speeded by the loss of the schools at Roy by fire and the damage in of the Kapowsin High School by an earthquake.

In 1949 the districts in this area voted to consolidate and set the building of a high school to be their major goal. On June 3, 1949, the School Board of District 403 voted to name the district after Mrs. Ruth Bethel, County Superintendent, who had been instrumental in consolidating the district. The name was suggested by Leonard Goodwin, a student at Roy.

On March 14, 1950, the Bethel District voters voted in favor of two financial issues to construct a high school in the Loveland area, but rejected the location suggested by the School Board. In June of 1950 the voters were given their choice of sites for the school and voted in favor of the Castle property (the present site of the Junior and Senior High Schools).

Plans were revealed in September of 1951 for the present Bethel High School to be built on the 60 acre site and house 400 students. On December 7, 1951, the groundbreaking ceremony was held with Senator Warren G. Magnuson as guest speaker.

Delayed slightly by building problems, Bethel High School opened its doors for the

*continued on next page*

# Bethel School Districts

## History of Bethel School District continued

first time in September 1952 and held its official dedication on November 9 with Dr. George D. Strayer as guest speaker.

The school opened in 1952 with 385 students in the four-year school. By 1958 over 540 students were receiving an education in the building. A two-room brick building was constructed to help ease the crowded conditions at the high school. In 1958 the junior high opened and the high school's enrollment dropped to below 400, as the ninth grade students were now being housed in the junior high facility. The two-room addition to the high school was converted into an administration building for the District during the summer of 1958.

### Addition to Senior High

Within five years as the senior high's enrollment again skyrocketed, and the District began a construction project to house over 600 tenth through twelfth grade students. The addition opened in the fall of 1963 and gave the high school students more complete shops, a band room and larger P.E. facilities.

By the fall of 1965 the senior high and its neighboring junior high had reached over-capacity enrollments. The Board of Directors decided, with the approval of the State Department, that the most logical step would be to place another addition on to the senior high building and transfer the ninth grade back into the high school, making it a four-year high school again.

This was accomplished last fall (1966) after a 16-room addition was completed. The new wing on the high school includes science lab, office space for teachers, conference rooms for students, a three-in-one team teaching area and nine more classrooms. Current enrollment at the high school was 940 students and predictions are being made that over 1,000 students will be in the four-year high school next fall.

### Bethel Junior High School Opens

The Bethel School Board, in the fall of 1957, began to formulate plans for the solution of the crowded conditions in the high school and most of the District's elementary schools. The solution, the Board felt, was to ease the load in all schools by constructing a junior high. The voters in November of 1957 approved the necessary funds, and work on the largest single building in the Bethel School District began in December of 1957.

In November of 1958, after double-shifting the senior high and junior high students since the start of school that fall, Bethel Junior High opened its doors to over 500 students.

On March 23, 1959, the school was dedicated with Mr. Lloyd Andrews, State Superintendent of Instruction, as the keynote speaker.

By the fall of 1963, the junior high had reached its capacity of 724 students and within the next two years, reached an enrollment of over 800 students. At the present time, only two grades are enrolled in the junior high, the 7th and 8th grades, and the school had over 600 students.

### Lacamas Joins Bethel District

The newest annexation to the Bethel School District occurred on July 1, 1963, when the Pioneer School District, Lacamas District #324, was annexed to the Bethel School District.

The Lacamas area and its schools have one of the most colorful histories of any

schools in the State of Washington. Actually two school districts were founded in its area, School District #5 and School District #324.

County school records show that funds were allocated to the Muck District #5 in 1860, the earliest records kept. Angie Bowden in her book, *Early Schools of Washington Territory*, notes that the Muck Creek School was considered "to be part of the Nisqually Station. This school, District #5, in 1863, had a school population of 43 and maintained a 90-day term. The teacher received \$40 a month."

Pioneer historian William Bonney wrote that in 1872 the Muck District was divided and part of its area was annexed to District #12.

District #85 was founded in 1897, according to records in the Pierce County School Office in Tacoma. Due to the rugged travel conditions on extremely poor roads in the late 1800s, the teachers in both Districts #5 and #85 were provided with housing as part of their pay. The teachers stayed with families near the schools and were expected to do the custodian work at the school building, along with teaching up to 40 students in the 1st through 8th grade school.

Following the consolidation of the Muck and Lacamas Districts into District #34 in June of 1920, the new school board took its first action by having the Clerk of the Board H. N. Svinth, draw up a resolution to bond the District for \$5,500 to construct and furnish a new classroom and a teacher's cottage. The architect, in submitting the final plans, changed the addition to include a domestic science room, a classroom and a teacher cottage to be built all under one roof. This new addition caused some concern for the school board, as the architect had failed to plan for doors in the partitions, but after being refused pay for the blue prints, the architect promptly drew doorways on his blue prints and was paid \$195.60 for his plans. Construction began immediately on the building, and on November 26, 1920, the building was opened and the contractor was paid \$4,890.00 for his work.

The first school year for District #324 was 1920-21 school year. Two teachers were hired at \$145 each per month, including janitor work, and 43 students reported to school the first day to begin the nine-month term. One year later, the school's enrollment took a dip with only 20 pupils showing up on the first day of school.

Transportation at Lacamas presented problems for the school board in the 1920s as the bus service was provided by local residents who bid on both providing a bus and driving it. At one time the district actually "bought" the bus and then sold it back to the owner-driver for a \$1 charge the district paid for the bus.

Plans to build a new schoolhouse failed in the depression years, as the district could not get the necessary support from both the State and the Federal WPA funds.

It appears that full use of the school property was made by the Lacamas School Board as the Board minutes revealed that at one time the school property was leased at a small charge to a local resident to keep livestock during the summer months. Shortly before World War II the Board worked out an agreement with the U.S. Army to allow the Army to use the property for manoeuvres during the summer months.

After its annexation in 1963 to the Bethel District, the Lacamas School changed from 1st to 8th grade school to a 1st to 6th grade organization. The kindergarten children were transported to Roy Elementary School and the 7th and 8th graders entered the Bethel Junior High.

In the fall of 1965, the 42 Lacamas students were transferred to the school at Roy and the Lacamas building was closed. According to former Bethel Superintendent

*continued on next page*

# Bethel School Districts

## History of Bethel School District continued

John Milroy, this was done to “give both Roy and Lacamas school children a better education by eliminating combination classes. The joining of the two student bodies at one school has made it possible to provide a complete service program to these students, the same as those offered in all other Bethel schools. These programs include a library, remedial reading, speech, music and health services.”

### What the Future Holds for Bethel Schools

Planning is now underway for additional construction of buildings on all grade levels to keep up with the increasing enrollment in the Bethel area. Population surveys taken in the Seattle-Tacoma areas indicate that the increase of manufacturing and industrial projects will double the school enrollment in this area within the next few years.



In November of 1981 at a ceremony headlined by Washington State Senator Henry Jackson, Spanaway Lake High School opened its doors and became the second high school of the Bethel School District. The district had been looking for a location of a second high school and found it in the heart of the Spanaway community on 13th Avenue East and 168th St. East. The school started with just two grade levels, sophomores and juniors, allowing the seniors to graduate from the school they had been attending for

the previous two years, Bethel High School. The first graduating class from Spanaway Lake came in June 1983.

The boundaries established that identified Spanaway Lake's student population contained a populace rich in diverse ethnic backgrounds and cultural differences. From its very beginnings, it was the goal of the schools administration to recognize and honor these diversities. Numerous ASB clubs were formed (Heritage, Native American) which helped to serve the purpose of educating the student body with the message that cultural and ethnic differences did exist, but that all clubs and students deserved respect. The success of this idea did not happen overnight, but over the years the students at Spanaway Lake learned to celebrate their differences while still remaining fiercely loyal to each other and their school. For many students, Spanaway Lake became the best place to go each day.

The opening of a school comes with many challenges, some more significant than others. Selecting school colors and its mascot were two of those decisions. A committee of community members was formed to complete the challenge. The colors came down to a decision between the colors of the relatively new Seattle Seahawk football franchise, or those of the more established Oakland Raiders. At the time, the Raiders were enjoying more success while the young Seahawks were still finding their way. In the end, the committee selected black, silver, and white. The mascot decision took on a more local approach. Some of the committee members recalled a newspaper that had its circulation in an area known as the prairie, the Roy area. The newspaper had an armored knight, a sentinel, as its header. After some discussion and knowing that this was an opportunity to preserve some of the area's history, the decision was made to make the sentinel the school's mascot.

Over the past 35 years there have been many success stories to come from Spanaway Lake. These stories cover a wide variety of areas which is further evidence that opportunities exist for everyone who attended the school. With grace and eloquence, Tami Forman became the school's first Daffodil Princess in 1982-83 with Emily Oliver becoming the 2015-16 princess and the Daffodil Pageant's current Queen. Judy Gillespie, a classified employee, successfully managed the Spanaway Lake Craft Fair for years raising thousands of dollars for the school's ASB Clubs and athletic department and thereby changing the school forever. Barnard Crouse's

development of the Spanaway Lake Music Company set the vocal and performance standards for choir programs across the state. Lawrence Reed had tremendous success working with students with special needs and entering them into the state's Special Olympics competition where his students won two state titles in basketball, 2005 and 2009, and over an eight year period (2005-2013) finished six times in the top three positions. Paul Greeley developed a dominant wrestling program in the late 90's which culminated in a hard fought state wrestling title in 2001 and continued to place in the top five in subsequent years. And, there were others who gained national recognition after graduating from Spanaway Lake. Jerry Cantrell, a former president of the choir club at SLHS, formed and became the lead guitarist, co-lead vocalist and main song writer for the rock band Alice in Chains. Derrike Cope, former baseball player at SLHS, became a professional race car driver and winner of the 1990 Daytona 500.

There are certainly many more success stories that have not been mentioned. As well, there are many more yet to come. Perhaps the most important success stories are those of the numerous graduates of Spanaway Lake High School that are solid, productive citizens working every day in their local communities.

Go Sentinels!!



Graham-Kapowsin High School opened its doors in the fall of 2005 with Jennifer Bethman as the principal and Mark Conrad as the Athletic Coordinator. Graham-Kapowsin began its tenure in the SPSL 4A where it continues to compete today. The school mascot for GKHS is the Eagles with Orange, Blue and White school colors. GKHS gained some of the history of the Kapowsin area as community members donated pictures, letterman jackets and awards from Kapowsin High School that closed doors in 1952 in a merge with Bethel High School. The mission of the building was to increase Advance Placement courses, college readiness and increase student attendance through meaningful relationships between staff and students.

Graham-Kapowsin opened its doors with many strong programs with state appearances in year one from the girl's swim team, the wrestling team and boys track. In year two, GK crowned their first individual state champions in wrestling (Brad Sweet) and boys track (Relay Team—Ryan Barrett, Ryan Ancheta, Matt Smith, Evan Schwantner & Nick Smith). The girl's basketball team was in the state playoffs in third year as two more individuals state champions were crowned in wrestling leading them to a second place finish as a team at state. The football team has been in playoffs for 10 years in a row playing in the semi-finals in the fall of 2014 and the volleyball team has made 5 appearances in the state tournament with the high of a 6th place finish in 2009. The girl's soccer team made the playoffs in the fall of 2008, representing the Bethel School District in the soccer playoffs for the first time in district history. With all the athletic success came several team and individual state academic champions from cheerleading to wrestling.

# Master of Ceremonies



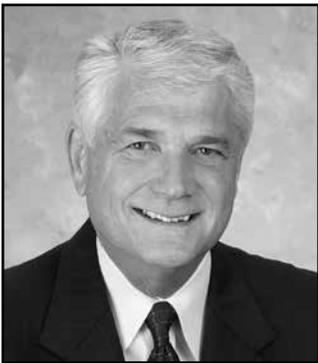
## **John Briehl**

John attended Bethel Junior and Senior High where he was elected student body president at both schools. He graduated in 1968 and lettered in Cross Country, Basketball and Track. In addition to his Student Council responsibilities, he was a member of the Letterman's Club, Key Club, Concert Band, Torch Honor Society, Drama Club, and he wrote a sports column for the BHS school newspaper, the *Brave Talk*.

Graduating from Washington State University in 1972 and 1973, John completed degrees in Broadcast Communications, and Sociology. Early in his career, he worked in the mental health field and with runaway youth and their families. John retired from the City of Tacoma after 35 years as the Director of Human Rights and the Human Services Department where he led the city's housing and employment antidiscrimination efforts and directed the social services programs.

John lives on Tule Lake in Parkland with his wife and high school sweetheart, Lani. They have three children and two grandchildren.

# Guest Speaker



## **Gary Justice**

Our featured speaker has a special connection to today's induction ceremonies for the Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame—two of them, in fact! He is the son of coaching inductee, Jack Justice, and he was a member of the 1958 Bethel High School Class A state championship football team, which is also being inducted.

Gary Justice is a 1960 graduate of Bethel High School who played not only football for the Braves, but also basketball and baseball. Following graduation, he attended Centralia College, where he played baseball for the Trailblazers. In 1988, he was named Centralia's Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. He is an Honors Graduate of Washington State University, graduating in the same 1965 class as his sister, Sharon. He also served three years in the United State Army, primarily as an officer in the Army Security Agency.

Gary is best known for his long career as a news reporter and primary anchor for KIRO-TV News, in Seattle. His broadcast news career, from 1965 until 1995, included coverage of all of Washington's most significant news events during those decades. In 1984, United Press International named Gary's 5PM Eyewitness News program as the Best Local Newscast in America.

Lesser remembered by most might be the three years Gary served as sports director for KIRO-TV, from 1976 through 1978. During that time, he was the television play-by-play announcer for the Seattle Seahawks' preseason games for their first three seasons. He also served as color commentator for Seattle SuperSonics telecasts, alongside legendary announcer, Pete Gross. And he spent one season in the radio booth with Wayne Cody for Washington Huskies football.

Following his retirement from broadcasting, Gary was a partner in Feek Justice Financial, in Kirkland, which continues today as Conover Capital Management, in Bellevue.



Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame



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# Bethel School Districts Athletic Hall of Fame



## About Us

A group of community volunteers have formed the Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame. This group is a nonprofit organization that has partnered with the Bethel School District Foundation and the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation to better serve our purpose.

The Hall of Fame exists to ensure that the athletic history and traditions of the district are celebrated. If you are interested in becoming a member, click on the Membership link on our website [bethelhalloffame.org](http://bethelhalloffame.org).

## Our Mission

The mission of the Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame is to honor past teams, athletes, coaches and contributors of Bethel, Spanaway Lake and Graham-Kapowsin High Schools.

## Our Goal

The goal of this organization is to honor inductees at a luncheon held each year.

## 2016 Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

### Athletes

Mike Blowers, Herb Jones (dec.), Larry Ladowski, Susie Morehart, Bob Niehl, Mike Matheny

### Coaches

Bob Fincham (dec.), Paul Greeley (dec.), Ed Niehl

### Contributors

Sonny Beegle (dec.), Art Crate (dec.), Mike Macdonald (dec.)

### Teams

#### 1956 Bethel High School Football Team

Coach: Ed Niehl, Assistant Coach: Jack Justice (dec.), Managers: Gregory Spivey, and Mickey Malcahey

Roster: Robert Arends, Morris Bush (dec.), Wayne Bush, Phil Caldwell, Allen Cantrell, James Dean, Howard Funkhouser, Bob Huddleston, Dave Johnson, Don Jorgensen, Buck Lathrom, Jim Lyons (dec.), Larry McGee, Dan McGraw, Dennis McGraw, Tim McGraw, Ron Meadors (dec.), Gerald Plumb, Rodney Redford, Howard White, Terry Whittlesey, Gene Ressler, Charlie Parham, Gerald Crippen, George Bennett

#### 1970 Bethel High School Boys Basketball Team

Coach: Bob Fincham, Assistant Coach: Don Ash, Managers: Bob Nelson, Ray Feddersen

Roster: Skip Thiel, Dick Platt, Mike Morehart, Doug Wilson, Bob Niehl, Jerry Connelly, Mark Belvin, Tom Bullion, Dennis Jasmer, Ken Krumpos, Chuck Brown, Ken Lightenwaller, Al Ketter

#### 2002 Spanaway Lake High School Wrestling Team

Coach: Paul Greeley, Assistant Coaches: Chris Shead, Scott Stirts, Managers: Sarah Johnson, Kay Cisneros, Kelly Hoosier, Olga Petrenko, Nathan Harper

Roster: Jesus Maldonado, Micky Elliot, Casey Cox, Kurtis Giovannini, Chris Caseman, Mike Easterly, Brandon Stover, Muhammad Shamsid-Deen, Pat Pitsch, Rick Johnson, Dan Pitsch, Yuri Malamura, Gavin Winter, Jimmy Llyod, Ty Saticum



# Nomination Form

## Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame Nomination Form (see nomination criteria)

**Category:**     Athlete     Team     Coach     Contributor     Family  
**High School:**     Bethel     Spanaway Lake     Graham Kapowsin     Other Bethel School \_\_\_\_\_  
**Year of Graduation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee:**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sports & Year Played/Coached/Contributed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Achievements/Honors/Community or School Involvement: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

College/University/Professional Participation/Achievement: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Nominated by:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

For additional information see web page at [www.bethelhalloffame.org](http://www.bethelhalloffame.org)

----- ALL NOMINATIONS WILL REMAIN ACTIVE -----

***Attach supplementary material, i.e. newspaper articles, photos, etc.***

Submit to:  
Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame  
21818 38th Ave East • Spanaway, Washington 98387

# Nomination Guidelines



## Guidelines for Nomination and Selection to the Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame

*Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame*

- A. Anyone may nominate a candidate for the Hall of Fame. Additional nomination forms available at all Bethel School District high schools.
- B. The following items may be considered as a possible basis for nomination. These items are not meant to be inclusive nor does attainment make membership automatic.

### 1. Athletes:

- Shall be a graduate of a Bethel School District High School
- Shall exemplify characteristics of integrity, sportsmanship and citizenship before and after graduation

#### Additional considerations:

- Member of a state championship team
- Qualified for state playoffs at least twice
- An individual or member of a team winning a district or above tournament or meet
- An individual or member of a team placing in the top four in a state tournament
- Selected to an all-league, area, district, regional or all-state team
- Received multiple varsity letter and/or other team or school athletic awards
- Received six or more varsity letters
- Was a school record holder
- Participated in a school and/or community service outside of athletics
- Athletes will be eligible for nomination ten years after graduation

### 2. Coach

- Shall have coached in a Bethel District school for minimum of ten years
- Demonstrated an unusually high level of achievement which may include state, regional, district and league championships
- Coached one or more athletes have received university scholarships or other high honors
- Has been positively involved in the school and/or community
- Coach will be eligible ten years after leaving the district

### 3. Team

- May include state, regionals, district and league championships.
- Team will be eligible ten years after above competition

### 4. Contributor

Includes administrators, teachers, school staff, families and community members who have made outstanding contributions or offered extraordinary services to student athletes and the athletic programs of the Bethel School District.

Contributor will be eligible after ten years of competition and or award

- C. All qualified nominees not selected will remain on the master nomination list



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# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



**Roxane Asay (BHS '78)**

Born on May 20, 1960, in Alamosa, Colorado, Roxane along with parents Phil and Sherron Asay and younger brother Mike lived in Spanaway while she attended Bethel High School. Roxane was inspirational and well-liked at Bethel for her great personality and sense of humor. She was on the Honor Roll all three years while attending Bethel High School. Her athletic accomplishments included three varsity letters in tennis and basketball, one letter in softball and one letter in track.

In tennis she was coached by Nancy Johnson. Besides playing the number one position in singles, Roxane played doubles with Jana Houtsma. They qualified for the District Play-offs in her senior year.

She also lettered in track her sophomore year, under Coach

Terry Leifson, running in the 440 Relay. The 440 relay team qualified for districts that year.

In 1978 Bethel started their first softball team coached by Ed Tingstad. Roxane lettered on the softball team and switched between playing short-stop and 2nd base.

While enjoying all sports, basketball was her love! She was the starting guard for the Braves for three years. In 1976, as a sophomore, the team was coached by Ed Tingstad. They played in the South Puget Sound League and took third place. Her junior and senior years she was coached by Rob Andrea. During Roxane's junior year (1977) the team was a force in the league and had lots of talent which included seniors Debbie Davidson, Judy Irving, Vickie Leslie, Francis McKamey, and Mickie Whaley. Roxane, Jana Houtsma, Kathy McAlpine, Colleen Iwanski and Donna Gunderson rounded out the team. This team won the SPSL league and was the first Bethel girl's team to make it to the District Play-offs. Unfortunately, they never quite made it to state. After losing most of the team in their senior year, Kathy McAlpine and Roxane teamed up to average 16.9 and 16.8 points per game between the two of them for a 3rd place finish in the league. Clover Park, also in their league, became the State Champions.

After Roxane graduated from high school, she attended Green River Community College (1979-1980) on a full-ride athletic scholarship where she was their starting point guard. GRCC was the division champ both years and placed 3rd in 1979 and 5th in the NWACC in 1980.

Roxane was awarded First Team All-Conference as a freshman, and in 1980 she was 2nd Team All-Conference and chosen Most Inspirational Player.

Roxane went on in 1981-1982 to play at Montana State-Billings on a full-ride basketball scholarship where she was the starting point guard both years. In 1982 she was awarded 2nd Team All-Conference for her assist and playmaking abilities.

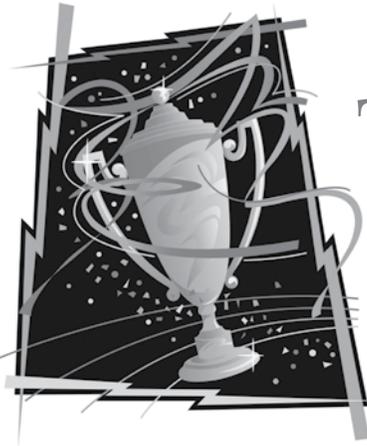
While attending college in Montana, Roxane also played doubles tennis and refereed boy's high school basketball during the off season.

After college Roxane went on to be an Assistant Basketball Coach at Green River Community College. She then was an Assistant Coach at PLU in 1986-1987, and coached softball at Tacoma Community College in 1986-87.

Today, Roxane is a Sr. Procurement Analyst for The Boeing Company in Tukwila and is on the Board of Directors for the Fred Oldfield Art and Heritage Center in Puyallup. She enjoys painting, training sheepherding dogs, and supporting her young niece who is a seasoned Quarter Midget Racer and a novice basketball player.



*Inductees*



Kellie Ham

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**Congratulations to all the 2018 Inductees who are  
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# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



## Darrell Borden (BHS '53)

*"Darrell Borden did everything that I ever asked of him. If I said, 'Darrell, there's a brick wall, now run through it, he would've tried.'"*

— Ed Niehl, Head Football Coach, Bethel High School (1951–1965)

Darrell Borden was born September 8th, 1934 in Tacoma, WA. His parents were Arthur and Mae Borden. He attended Kapowsin Elementary School and entered Kapowsin High School as a freshman in the Fall of 1949. He graduated from Bethel High School in the Spring of 1953.

Darrell holds a unique place among this year's inductees—he is the first athlete to become a member of the Hall of Fame who played on the first football team known as the "Bethel Braves."

Darrell was a three year letterman in football ('50-'52) which coincided with the beginning of one of the greatest decades in Bethel football history ('50-'59). During those ten years, the Braves won four league championships ('50, '55, '57 and '58) and tied for another ('54). They finished second twice ('51 and '53) and tied for second in 1952. The teams posted five undefeated seasons in league play, and were 51–12–6 (.783) for the decade. The only losing season occurred in 1959. One of the things that is important to remember about the decade of the '50's is that the teams that Darrell played on set the stage for what was to follow and that he was a very important part of the first three starting a winning tradition.

The 1950 team won the Pierce County League title with a 6–0–0 record (7–1–0 overall). Darrell was the starting fullback and linebacker on defense and he had several outstanding games that year. In a 19–0 win over Yelm, the newspaper account stated the following: "Three backs, Dean Tibbits, Darrell Borden and Tony Radon, sparked the Bethel win. Borden went through the line for 25 yards for the first six." In a tough 6–0 win over Eatonville, the story in the papers read: "(Tony) Radon and Darrell Borden were tops on offense... ." And in a 51–7 rout of Tahoma in a non-league game, Darrell scored three touchdowns.

The 1951 season ushered in a new era for Bethel football. Ed Niehl, fresh out of college and as "green as they come" (his words) took over as the head coach. That year also marked the introduction of a new backfield mate for Darrell—freshman Gene Curbow. Between the two of them, they would create havoc in the league for the next two years. According to Mr. Niehl, these two players were a perfect match—a "one-

two punch," if you will. Both were hard-charging, aggressive backs who could really punish a defense.

The 1951 team finished second in the Pierce County League (4–2–0, 5–3–0 overall) to Fife and Federal Way (both 5–1–0). A heart-breaking 2–0 loss to Peninsula cost the Braves a chance to tie for the league title. As a junior, Darrell had a great year and was one of the leaders on the team. Under Coach Niehl's new offense system, he would alternate as a halfback or the fullback depending on the formation. Regardless of where he might be in the backfield, Darrell was recognized as one of the top backs in the league. Some of his best games that season are as follows: In a 13–6 victory over Fife, a newspaper reporter stated that "Darrell Borden, Bethel's chunky, hard-running junior halfback, was the standout individual performer... ." Darrell's 70 yard run set up the initial touchdown and he eventually scored from seven yards out. Again, quoting the reporter: "Borden returned the second-half kickoff 45 yards... and then spearheaded the march which led to the winning touchdown." In a tough 6–0 win over Orting, he scored the only touchdown, and in a 25–7 rout of Yelm, Darrell scored twice, one on a 65 yard return of an intercepted pass. Finally, in a non-league win over Tahoma 26–7, he scored two of the four touchdowns, both on short runs.



*continued on next page*

Inductees

# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

## 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees continued

The 1952 season saw the Braves post its second undefeated season in league play in three years. Unfortunately, the team had three ties, (3–0–3, 5–1–3 overall) and this dropped them into a tie for the second place, but only by the narrowest of margins. Had Bethel prevailed in just one of those tie games, they would have tied Orting (5–0–1) for the league title. Darrell, now the full-time fullback, had another outstanding year. In the league opener against Federal Way, his 20 yard touchdown pass to Terry Piper in the fourth quarter led to a 6–6 tie. In an excerpt from the Fife H.S. yearbook, it states: “The Braves, led by Darrell Borden, a hard running back, defeated the Trojans in a hard fought contest 13–7.” Finally, in a 33–13 defeat of Eatonville, he scored two touchdowns.

Darrell was a multi-tasker. He was a running back, a linebacker and also the punter and placekicker. He led the team in rushing for several years, was the captain of the ‘52 team, and was selected as an All-Pierce County League fullback. Darrell was also the first of many outstanding running backs in the decade of the ‘50’s to play for Bethel and he set the standard.

Darrell was a two year letterman in basketball (‘49–‘50 and ‘50–‘51) and also a two year letterman in baseball (1952 and 1953). In the ‘52 season, he was the right-fielder, and in ‘53 was the catcher for two very good pitchers—Bob Kuper (a four year letterman) and Danny McGraw. The team finished tied for second in the Pierce County League standings.

After his graduation from Bethel in 1953, Darrell remained active in athletics into the 1980’s. He coached Little League football and women’s softball, winning a league championship one year. He is also active in the Eagle’s Club charity programs, as well as being the treasurer for the past eight years, and a member of the Eagle’s Horse Shoe Club. Darrell, and his wife, Virginia, are the parents of four children: Eric, (deceased), Darrin, Sandy and Leon—they also have six grandchildren. Virginia, along with all four children, were Bethel High School graduates.

Darrell Borden is a true “old-timer” and is just one of the many, in that era, who deserves to be inducted into the Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame.



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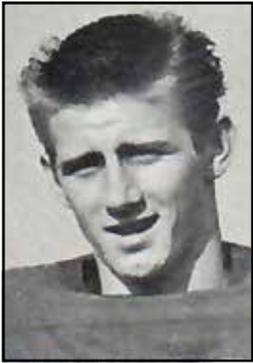
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**Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees**

# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



**Jerry Brodigan** (BHS '62)

*"Jerry Brodigan was one of the best all-around athletes to ever come out of Bethel High School."*

—John Zurfluh, President,  
Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame  
and Mike Matheny, Hall of Fame member  
and a football teammate

Jerry was born on April 12th, 1944 in Puyallup, WA. His father, Felix, and mother, Margrey, had four other children, a son and three daughters. Jerry's older brother Felix, was an outstanding athlete in his own right at Bethel, graduating in 1954.

Jerry attended Meeker and Kapowsin elementary schools through the eighth grade. He attended the newly opened Bethel Junior High School for his 9th grade year and participated in football, basketball and baseball. He entered Bethel Senior High School as a sophomore in the Fall of 1959 and by time he graduated in the Spring of 1962, his record of accomplishments as a true all-around athlete ranks him among the best in the school's history. He was awarded eight varsity letters—two in football, three in basketball and three in track—along with all-league and all-state honors.

1960 was the dawn of a new era for Bethel sports—the school joined the newly formed Seamount League which consisted of the other three Class "A" schools (Peninsula, Fife, and White River) from the West Central League, two Class "AA" schools, North

Thurston and Shelton, and Curtis High School. Competing for the first time in the new league, the '60 football team posted a 4-4-0 overall record which was a vast improvement over the previous year. Jerry was the start-

ing quarterback, and along with senior halfback, Bill Bell, junior halfback Roger Simmons, and a solid offensive line, the team scored 132 points.

As a starting guard for the '60-'61 basketball team, Jerry scored 202 points in 12 league games—a 16.8 average/game—which led the team. He also finished among the league leaders in scoring and was awarded a rather curious honor, he was selected to the All-State third team out of all high schools not qualifying for the State Tournament. Also, Jerry probably received All-League honors, such as first or second team.

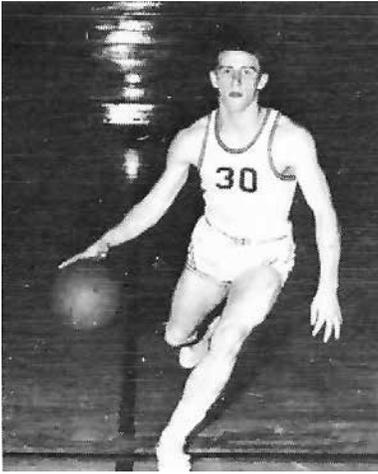
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Inductees

# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

## 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees continued



Unfortunately, he can't remember (even after some rather stern cross-examination!) and there aren't any newspaper accounts readily available.

The 1961 Braves football team regained some of its luster of the decade of the 1950's. The team finished third (4–2 in league, 6–2 overall) in a very close race with North Thurston (5–0–1) and Fife (4–1–1). Had Bethel prevailed in the North Thurston game, the team would have won the league championship. The last game of Jerry's football career may have been one of his best and it came against Curtis at the conclusion of the '61 season. It was a must-win situation—a win, and the team clinches third place; a loss, and the team finishes fourth and possibly fifth. The Curtis Vikings had a strong offense and defense and had tied the eventual champions, North Thurston, and lost to Fife by five points (19–14). The game was played, as one reporter wrote: "on a wind-whipped, rain drenched football field." Another recounted that "both teams battled back and forth in the face of a near gale and a drowning rain." The Braves were victorious, 27–6.

Roger Simmons scored the first touchdown and Jerry scored the last three, all of them on short runs. Indeed, it was a total team effort. Due to the superb blocking by the offensive line, the backs were able to reel off big gains from scrimmage which led to touchdowns. Bill Harr's 45 yarder to the Viking's one yard line set up Jerry's first touchdown. Runs by Simmons (35 yards) and Jerry (31 yards) resulted in his second score and

Jerry's 29 yard run highlighted his last touchdown. The defense was equal to the task and held Curtis to just a lone second quarter touchdown.

For the season, Jerry was selected as the First Team All-Seamount League quarterback. In the six league games he was second in scoring with 56 points; first in scoring for all games (league and non-league) and second among the all-area high schools with 87 points. On defense, he set the league record for the most intercepted passes in one game (3 against White River).

Bethel's 1961–'62 basketball team was not very successful. However, Jerry was selected as a first team All-Seamount League guard and was again named to the All-State third team out of all the high schools not qualifying for the State Tournament. In addition to those honors, he led the Seamount League in scoring (18.3 points/game) and his 311 points in 18 games (17.3 average/game) was among the all-area high school leading scorers.

Jerry was awarded his third letter in track after the 1962 season. He led the team in points and was undefeated in all league meets in the 100 and 220 yard dashes. As a team, Bethel placed third out of the seven teams in the Seamount League Championship Meet. After the state championships, there was another meet sponsored by the A.A.U.. Jerry placed first in the Long Jump (nee: Broad Jump) and he is very proud of the medal that he received.

Upon graduating from Bethel High School in 1962, Jerry attended Yakima Junior College on an athletic scholarship. Unfortunately, during the fall football practices, he fell ill with a serious intestinal virus which kept him incapacitated for an extended period of time. And, like many institutions back then, his scholarship was cancelled. He returned home and was promptly drafted into the Army. During his two years on active duty, Jerry played fast-pitch softball (aka "true" softball). After his discharge, the slow-pitch softball "craze" began and he played for many years with six different teams, including the Heidleberg team. They went to the National Tournament twice, and as part of that group, Jerry was inducted into the Pierce County Sports Hall of Fame in June of 2016.

Jerry worked for Concrete Tech. for 32 years. He and his wife, Nancy, have been married for 35 years and they have one (1) daughter who lives in Seattle with her husband and their granddaughter.

On a final note, Jerry was never a part of any league championship team. However, the opposing coaches, the newspaper reporters covering the games, both local and state-wide, were cognizant of his athletic talent and capabilities and gave him the recognition that he deserved. Jerry is certainly a worthy addition to the Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame.



# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



**Johnny DuRocher Jr.** (BHS '03)

It's not surprising how athletic Johnny DuRocher is. Johnny was born on June 21, 1984 in Tacoma, Washington to parents John and Corrina DuRocher, both athletes and graduates of Bethel High School. His sister, Amanda, also was an athlete at Bethel.

Johnny was an exceptional student and graduated with a 3.64 grade point average.

Johnny was a three year starter (2000–2002) as quarterback for the Braves. His career record while at Bethel was 35–5. Johnny led the team to three SPSL championships, and was undefeated in the league in 2001 and 2002. They made it to the state playoffs three consecutive years.

In 2000 they played in the championship game and in 2001 and 2002 they made it to the semi-finals.

In his sophomore year, he was awarded All League 2nd Team Quarterback.

During Johnny's junior and senior year, he was awarded All League 1st Team Quarterback and All Area First Team Quarterback. His senior year he also was awarded first team All State Quarterback Offensive Player of the year for the SPSL, MVP of the SPSL, Tacoma News Tribune Player of the Year, Gatorade State Player of the Year, US Army All American and played in the All American game in San Antonio. Johnny was also an All American for Prepstar and Super-prep magazine.

At the time of high school graduation, Johnny was the first player to be a Gatorade player of the state and US Army All American in the same year. He also was ranked 9th in career passing for 11 man football, ending up with over

7000 passing yards, 73 touchdowns and a 64 percent completion rate.

After high school Johnny played one year in Oregon and then transferred to the University of Washington. Johnny played 8 games and lettered at UW in 2006 before a career-ending brain injury.

Johnny was also a basketball player for the Braves. He was a three year letterman, two year starter and played on the SPSL champion team his senior year.

Johnny received the 6th man award his sophomore year; Second Team All SPSL his junior year and 1st Team All WCD his junior year; 1st Team All SPSL and 2nd Team All Area his senior year.

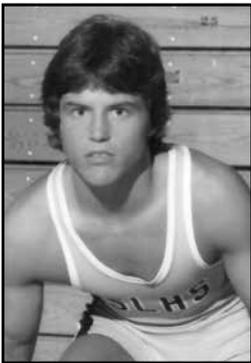
Johnny was also a great baseball player, but he only played one year of high school baseball. He started and played in all 20 SPSL games that year, splitting time at catcher and shortstop. He went onto play one year of baseball at UW. He was drafted in the 32nd round by the Seattle Mariners. Johnny was the pitcher on Seattle Mariners Rookie League Championship team and was promoted to Everett Aquasox and Wisconsin Rattlers. He suffered a career ending Tommy John injury in his second year.

Johnny is now happily married to Whitney and has two little girls. He lives in Eatonville and is a fireman and works as Director of Football Operations at Rise Football Academy.



Inductees

# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



**Larry Gotcher (SLHS '85)**

Larry Gotcher enrolled at Spanaway Lake High School in September of 1983 and from that point on, he proceeded to become one of the most decorated high school wrestling competitors in the nation's history.

As a sophomore at Spanaway Lake High School Larry quickly established himself as a force to be reckoned with. Larry not only won every match he participated in as a sophomore at SLJHS, he pinned every opponent he faced on his home mat. At this point it was too early to tell, although



highly predictable, he would continue this accomplishment throughout the next two years. At the conclusion of his sophomore year, he had lost only one match at the state level finishing in 3rd place.

During his junior year, he continued to dominate. Just as in his previous year, Larry won the district and regional tournament in convincing fashion. Larry would go on to finish second in the state tournament in the 141 lbs. weight classification, finishing one place higher than the previous year. Also, it was at this time that Larry began to broaden his wrestling experiences. At the age of 16, he won the regional Olympic Trials at the 136.5 weight division in Greco-Roman style, and finished second in the freestyle. It is important to note that Larry was actually wrestling mature, young men but was still able to dominate. His accomplishment at such an early age has only been duplicated two times in U.S. wrestling history.

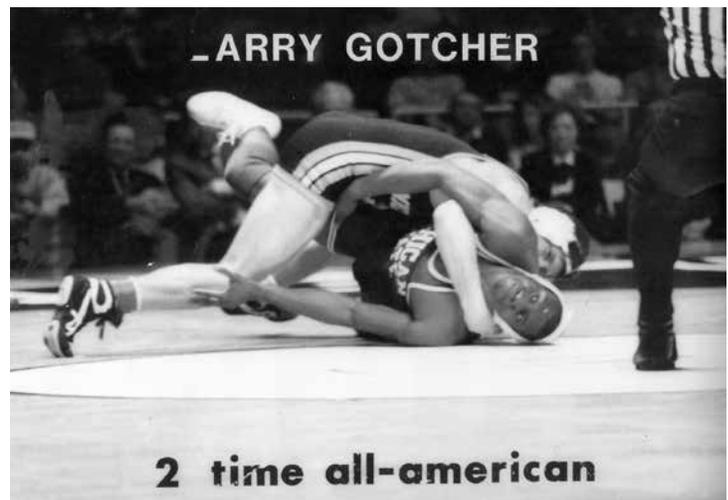
As a senior, Larry reached the pinnacle of his high school career. In 1985, he won every match and became the Washington State 3A wrestling Champion at the 141 lbs. weight classification. Larry also continued to add to his wrestling portfolio by becoming Junior National Champion Freestyle at 143 lbs., Junior National Champion 7th place Greco-Roman at 143 lbs., and recognized as an ASICS Tiger All-American.

Post high school Larry had his pick of colleges to attend, receiving 62 full scholarship offers, including offers from all the military academies, Stanford, Harvard and the one he accepted, University of Michigan. Not surprisingly, he continued to excel. In the NCAA Division 1 All American meets he finished 5th in '88, 4th in '89, 9th in '90, while also being selected the U of M team wrestling captain from 1989-1990. Larry was a Big Ten Champion and a two time All-American He was a four time qualifier for the Olympic Qualifier, and is currently 7th on the all-time wins list for the University of Michigan wrestling team with 119 wins.



Larry graduated from the U of M with a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Business. After graduation he coached for Ann Arbor Huron High School where he won Rookie Coach of the Year ('91), Coach of the Year ('92, '93), while maintaining his competitive spirit by training for the Masters Team hoping to compete in the World Championships in 2018. For the past two decades, Larry has been one of the top realtors in Washtenaw County. Larry also has owned and managed several business in the real estate market in the Ann Arbor area.

Larry is married to his wife Andrea, and has three children together, Kaitlin (24), Larry Jr. (20) and Keira (13).



# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



**Lisa (Graber) Slater (SLHS '91)**

Lisa Graber attended Spanaway Lake High School as a sophomore in 1988 and graduated in 1991. During her three years of attendance, she quickly established herself as one of the most prolific student/athletes to ever attend the school. She earned three varsity letters in each of the two programs of basketball and softball, and was recognized in both sports for her outstanding play and accomplishments. Basketball, however, was the sport in which she truly excelled.



As a sophomore in 1988, her team finished with a 9 win 9 loss season but because of her 15 point, 2.6 assists, and 1.6 rebounds per game averages she earned the first of her three 1st Team All SPSL (South Puget Sound League) recognitions.

As a junior, Lisa continued to add to what was already becoming a remarkable career. At 14 wins and 6 losses her team earned a district birth and missed advancing to the state tournament



by one game. Her junior season totals continued to improve and impress: her 22 points, 1.9 steals, and 2.6 assists per game averages earned her, in addition to 1st Team All SPSL, 1st Team All Area, and 2nd Team All State distinction.

Entering her senior year, it came as no surprise that Lisa would go on and continue to totally dominate the girls' basketball landscape. Her team advanced to the districts but once again was denied a birth to the state tournament by one game, losing by a 1 point margin. Her individual performance; however, was "off the charts." Her points per game average was an astounding 30.3 points per game. To put this in perspective, she led the entire state, including the male gender, in points scored per game average, a record that stood until this 2018 season. Her other statistics during her senior year included 6.9 rebounds, 4.5 assists, and 4.3 steals per game. As a result, she was recognized 1st Team All SPSL, 1st Team All Area, 1st Team All State and Honorable Mention All American. Lisa had truly achieved a record setting year which capped off an amazing high school career.



Other awards and recognition Lisa achieved while still in high school included recognition as one of the top players on the West Coast, MVP of Far West Superstar Camp, and one of the top 100 prep athletes of the twentieth century for the Tacoma News Tribune.

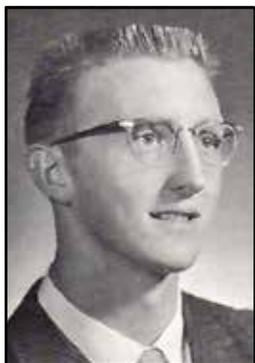


In addition to enjoying tremendous success in the athletic arena, Lisa also excelled in her academic endeavors. She achieved Honor Roll status all three years at Spanaway Lake High School. After her graduation, Lisa received a full scholarship offer from Eastern Washington University. While attending Eastern and playing basketball, Lisa was named to the Big Sky Conference All-Academic Team all four years. Lisa graduated from Eastern where she earned her Bachelors' and Masters' Degrees.

Today, Lisa lives locally and is an educator at the secondary level. Lisa is married to her husband, Ryan, and has a family of two boys, Luke 8 and Caleb 3.

2018 Inductees

# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



**Gary Gregg**—Deceased, (BHS '59)

*"Eddie Hagen and Gary Gregg were two of the best football players I ever coached."*

— Ed Niehl, Head Football Coach, Bethel High School 1951 through 1965

*"Gary Gregg was the best athlete during our time at Bethel High School."*

—Eddie Hagen, Hall of Fame inductee and teammate; Rex Bell, also a teammate and a four year letterman and co-captain (along with Hagen) of the 1959 baseball team. Both B.H.S., Class of 1959

Unfortunately, Gary Gregg's personal biography is woefully incomplete. He was from Spanaway and graduated from Bethel High School in 1959. Gary was briefly married to Sue Fager (B.H.S., '60) and had one daughter; both are deceased. It is believed that he moved first to California, and then to Texas and remarried. Gary passed away in Texas and that date is unknown. No further information has been found.

If you mention Eddie Hagen, then you have to add Gary Gregg. As with Eddie, Gary played on four of the best teams ever to represent Bethel High School. The 1957 and 1958 football teams were league champions and over the course of the two seasons, won sixteen straight games. The 1957-'58 basketball team tied for the league championship and the 1958-'59 team won the championship out-right. Overall the two teams won 25 out of 28 league games, and like Eddie, Gary played a vital role on both of them.

Gary was awarded eleven varsity letters—three in football, three in basketball, four in baseball and one in track. He probably would have won more in track, except that in his junior year, in the middle of the 1958 season, his baseball coach, Frank Pavia, gave Gary Gregg an ultimatum: "either be on the track team or be on the baseball team, you're not going to do both"—he chose the baseball team. However, he still had accumulated enough points to be awarded a varsity letter in track.

The 1957 football team, as to the entire season, has been amply covered in Eddie Hagen's biography. However, some of Gary's best games and statistics are worth mentioning.

In a 7-0 win over Peninsula, Gary scored the only touchdown on a seven yard run; in the second quarter of the Eatonville game, Gary broke loose on what was termed "a brilliant ninety yard run" for the last touchdown in a 20-0 Bethel win; in what might have been



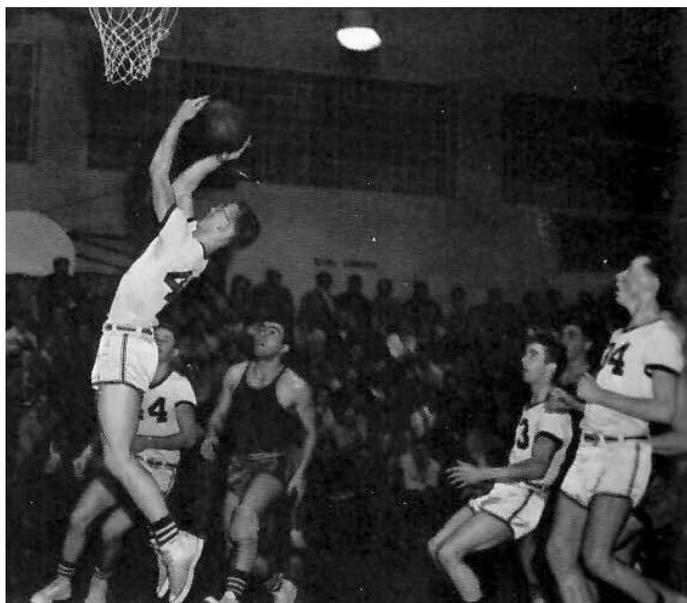
his greatest game during the '57 season, Gary scored five touchdowns—two on runs from scrimmage and three on pass receptions in a 40-6 win over Fife; and in a 44-0 win over Yelm, Gary took the ball and ran 54 yards for a touchdown on the first play of the game. For the season, he rushed for 660 yards (2nd on the team) on 108 carries—a 6.1 yard average, and was the co-winner of the Pass Interception and Tackling Trophies.

The 1958 football team, as inductees, have been well documented in this program, along with Gary's superb play that season. His statistics were indeed impressive. He led the team in rushing—845 yards

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# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees continued



on 115 carries for a 7.3 yard average and scoring (112 points overall). He also caught thirteen passes, six of which went for touchdowns. He, along with Carl Shriver, were the co-captains and at the end of the season, Gary received the Inspirational Award and another Tackling Trophy.

Gary earned the first of his three varsity letters in basketball in the 1956-'57 season.

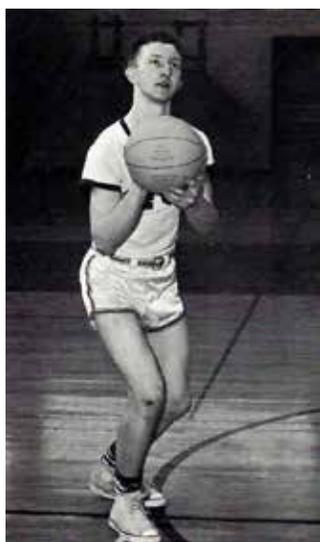
Like Eddie Hagen,

Gary was one of the sophomores who would, later on, be a key player on the 1957-'58 and 1958-'59 basketball teams.

As a junior, and starting guard on the 1957-'58 team, Gary was third on the team in scoring—190 points for a 9.0 per game average. On the 1958-'59 team, which went to the State Class "A" basketball tournament, he was second to Eddie Hagen in scoring with 184 points and a 9.7 per game average. (For more details on these two teams, please see Eddie Hagen's biography in this program.)

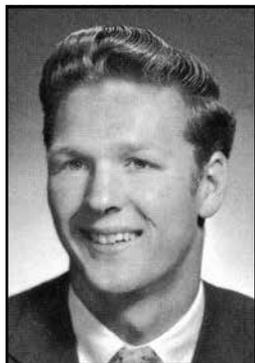
Gary, along with Eddie Hagen, was a four letterman in baseball—one of seven baseball players in the 1950's to achieve this honor. In 1958, he led the team in batting, hitting .352.

After graduation from Bethel High School in 1959, Gary went on to play football for the College of Puget Sound. After that, as stated above, almost all of his remaining life is a mystery. However; as sad as it may be, that he cannot be duly honored vis-a-vis his relatives, he still has his teammates and friends who will remember him as a great athlete and one of the best to ever represent Bethel High School.



Inductees

# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



**Ed "Eddie" Hagen** (BHS '59)

*"Eddie Hagen and Gary Gregg were two of the best football players I ever coached."*  
—Ed Niehl, Head Football Coach, Bethel High School—1951 through 1965

Ed Hagen, or "Eddie" as he is known to his friends, along with fellow-inductee, Gary Gregg, had the unique opportunity to play on two of the best football teams and two of the best basketball teams ever assembled in Bethel High School's history.

Eddie was born on August 10th, 1940 in Devil's Lake, North Dakota. His father, James, and his mother, Signe, had four other children, three sons and a daughter. Eddie attended Spanaway Elementary School where he participated in flag football, basketball and fast-pitch softball. He entered Bethel High School in the Fall of 1955 and played on the freshman football and basketball teams. By the time he graduated in the Spring of 1959, he had been awarded ten varsity letters, second only to Gary Gregg's eleven in that era.

In the early 1920's, the legendary sportswriter, Grantland Rice, coined a new term for a football player—the "triple-threat man"—one who could run, throw and kick the football. Some thirty years later, Eddie added a new twist to this description; he could run, throw and, when he lined up as a receiver, could catch the football.

Eddie earned the first of his three varsity letters in football in 1956. There were a few seniors on the '56 team who played on the '55 Hall of Fame team. Moreover, the '56 team had a wealth of juniors and sophomores who not only lettered, but would form the nucleus for the league championship teams of 1957 and 1958.

The 1957 team was undefeated in seven league games and, as indicated above, won the West Central League title. The Braves scored 201 points against the opponents and allowed a total of just 19, including five shut-outs. The two non-league games are worth mentioning. In the opening game of the season, Bethel played Bellevue, a class "AA" team, and the outcome was a heart-breaking 8–6 Bellevue win. In the season ending game, the Braves took on the North Thurston Rams, another "AA" team and supposedly "unbeatable." Bethel prevailed 15–0. For all nine games on the season, the final tally was 227 points scored



by the offense and 27 against the defense.

Eddie was a key part of this team. He was fourth in rushing, averaging 6.4 yards per carry. True to his "triple-threat" label, he caught a touchdown pass from Cal Christoph in the White River game, completed a 50 yard touchdown pass to Miland Krumpos against Yelm, and, to quote the 1958 "Bethelonian" regarding the Yelm game: "with the score tied 13–13 at the beginning of the 3rd quarter, Bethel took over in a brilliant demonstration of running and passing. Christoph, Gregg, Hagen and Whittelsey did the honors, leaving the final score at 40–13."

The 1958 Bethel football team needs no introduction nor discussion here. The entire team is being inducted into the Hall of Fame and Eddie's many contributions are well documented in that portion of this program (although it is worthy to note that he averaged 5.8 yards per carry rushing the football).

Eddie was also a three year letterman in basketball. He earned his first varsity letter as a member of the 1956–'57 team which finished second in the league (10–4) to the co-champions, Eatonville and Peninsula (11–3). And, like the 1956 football team, there were a number of juniors and sophomores who were ready to step forward and take the team to the next level.

The 1957–'58 basketball team tied with Yelm for the league championship, both with records of 12–2. Eddie was fourth on the team in scoring with 141 points for a 6.7 average per game. However, the 1958–'59 team provided a new "first" in Bethel High School basketball. The team not only won the league championship, (13–1), but sailed through the districts and entered the State Class "A" Basketball Tournament for the first time in the school's history. During the season, Eddie led the team in scoring with 197 points for a 10.4 average per game. Unfortunately, at the State Tournament the Braves lost the first game to a top ranked Ephrata team (66–52); won the second against Oak Harbor (37–30); but lost to Chehalis (55–46) on the third day and thus were eliminated. But, Eddie drew the attention of the Tournament Committee and was selected as a member of the Honorable Mention Team.

The third sport, and maybe his favorite, was baseball. As a freshman in the spring of 1956, Eddie tried out for the team and not only made it, but was a starting outfielder and led the team in hitting, batting .412. The 1958 season is an excellent example of his talent and all-around athletic ability. Gary Gregg was the starting pitcher and Eddie was starting in the outfield. The team got off to a horrible start, losing its first three league games. The coach, Frank Pavia, then made a change—he switched two positions—Gregg went to the outfield and Eddie became the starting pitcher. Over the last four league games, Eddie was the winning pitcher in all of them and the team tied for third place. Gregg led the team in hitting with a .352 average; Eddie was second, batting .342.

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# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees continued



Now, not to be outdone by Eddie's exploits on the football field and on the basketball court, are two of possibly his best baseball games. In the only documentation provided—and during that '58 season, Bethel beat Ortling 5–4. Eddie struck out nine and drove in four runs with two triples and a single in four at-bats. In a 12–5 rout of Vashon, he hit a grand slam home run. I'm sure that there were other games as equally impressive. Finally, in the 1959 season, Eddie was the co-captain of the team, along with Rex Bell, and he is one (1) of only seven individuals in the 1950's to be awarded four varsity letters in baseball.

After graduating in 1959, Eddie continued his educational and athletic pursuits. He served for three years in the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne, and after his discharge, attended Olympic Community College for two years eventually earning a teaching degree in 1970 from Central Wash-

ington University. In 1970, Eddie was hired by the Bethel School District and taught P.E. for eleven years at Spanaway Junior High School. During that time he coached basketball and baseball, was the school's athletic director and, on the side, ran the Pierce County Park's Department Adult Rec. basketball program.

In 1981, Eddie embarked on a new adventure. He was hired by DODDS—the government "alphabet soup" for The Department of Defense Dependent Schools overseas. He was assigned to the Army American High School in Hanau, Germany, where, for 10 1/2 years he was a P.E. instructor and taught math in the seventh through the twelfth grades. He also coached varsity basketball and soccer on both the boys and girls teams. Eddie then transferred (through the U.S. Air Force) to the Yokota American High School in Fussa, Tokyo, Japan. He spent 8 1/2 years there and again was the P.E. instructor and taught math, grades seven through twelve. As was the case in Germany, he continued to coach varsity basketball and boys and girls soccer and managed to add a new sport—intramural golf.

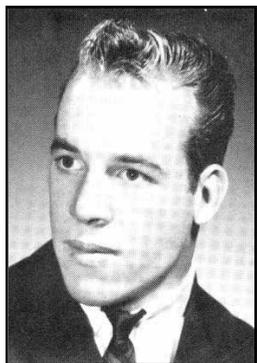
Eddie retired in June of 2000 and, as a volunteer, coaches seventh and eighth grade girls basketball at Conway School in Mount Vernon, Washington, where he and his wife reside. Mr. Ed Hagen's record is replete with his accomplishments, not only as an athlete at Bethel High School, but also in his life's work as a coach, teacher and mentor to young men and women. He's a truly remarkable man.



**Ed Niehl  
standing in front  
of the  
Bethel High School  
Gymnasium that was  
named in his honor.**

Inductees

# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



**Bill Harr** (BHS '63)

*"We had three really good plays; Harr left, Harr right, and Harr up the middle."*

—Hall of Fame Member Mike Matheny, Quarterback -  
The 1962 Bethel High School Football Team

Bill Harr was one tough football player. A newspaper pundit called him "a one-man wrecking crew" and several other reporters dubbed him Bill "The Bull" Harr. He was also a champion wrestler and an outstanding athlete on the track team. However, the journey that he had to take to achieve this success is indeed compelling.

William Russell Harr was born in Pampa, Texas on 21 June 1944. Bill was the oldest of six children. The rest of the Harr family consisted of his father, Russell, his mother, Billie, four brothers and one sister. Bill's parents

were by no means well-to-do and throughout the years experienced some very difficult times. As the oldest child, Bill worked at various odd-jobs from a very early age in order to contribute money to help support his parents and siblings. The family moved often and eventually ended up in Seattle, staying in various low cost hotels and other similar types of housing. In the summers, the whole family would travel to Bakersfield, CA to pick fruit and cotton, often having to hitchhike the entire way. To say the least, it was a tough childhood.

When Bill was eleven years old, the family moved to Tacoma and at age twelve he moved out of the family home and stayed with various families of classmates and friends for the next several years. In spite of being separated from his family, Bill continued to work to help support them and reflecting back on these years, he considers himself very fortunate to be taken in by these other families. During Bill's junior high school years (grades 7, 8 and 9), he attended four different schools—McCarver, Jason Lee, Gray and Baker—and, what is important to note is that he never had a chance to compete in any athletic programs, whether it be in elementary school, junior high or his sophomore year at Wilson High School.

He transferred to Bethel High School as a junior in the Fall of 1961 and at the prodding and urging of Bethel's football coach, Ed Niehl, Bill turned out for the football team, and "the rest is history." He was not only awarded a varsity letter, but he ended up being the starting fullback on offense and a starting lineman and linebacker on defense.

Bill could literally dominate a football game on both sides of the line. In the '61 season-ending game against Curtis, with the league's highest scoring offense led by quarterback Hal Miller, halfback Bob Van Valkenburg, and ultimately the leagues leading scorer, fullback Wiltse Weber, the Braves' defense held the Vikings to just a touchdown in a 27-6 win. (The game has been chronicled in Jerry Brodigan's biography.) Bill led the defense with twelve tackles—Doug Hudson, an All-League first team end, had eleven. The next year, as a senior, Bill had one of the best seasons in Bethel's football history. In nine games overall, on offense, he rushed for just over 1300 yards and averaged 7.8 yards per carry. On defense, Bill averaged 10.7 tackles per game. In a 19-12 win against Fife, Bill scored two of the three touchdowns; he scored three of the six touchdowns in a 41-13 rout of White River; and three more on the runs of 55, 10 and 6 yards in a 27-0 victory over Laughbon. The headline in the newspaper read, "Bethel Blanks Laughbon 27-0." The first paragraph of the game summary was just one sentence: "Harr, Harr, Harr."

At the end of the 1962 season, Bill was selected as the first team All-Seamount League fullback. In seven league games, he not only led in rushing, (1126 yards), total offense (again, 1126 yards) and touchdowns (12), but these numbers were new league records as well. He also led all area high schools in points scored with 100, beating out the likes of Dave Williams (Lincoln) and Bill Parker (Wilson), both of whom went on to play for the University of Washington.

Many of the players on the '61 football team were also on the wrestling team, and, towards the end of the season, they suggested that he turn out for that sport. He made the varsity team and throughout the course of the season continued to improve, so much so, that he competed at the State Tournament in Pullman, WA. Also, at the urging of the football players who were on the track team, they convinced Bill to give that a try. He did and was awarded the first of his two varsity letters in 1962.

The 1962-'63 wrestling team won its second straight Seamount League title, and they didn't stop there. The team also won the West Central District Trophy and sent four wrestlers to the State Tournament, Mike Matheny, Larry Bonnell, Dave Williams and Bill. The Braves won the Second Place State Trophy.

In the state championship match, in the 178 pound division, Bill's opponent was from Bellevue High School. At the end of a tough, exhausting match, the score was tied 5-5, and on a very controversial decision, the referee awarded the win to the Bellevue wrestler. The

*continued on next page*



# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

## 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees continued

final score was 6-5 and it has been entered in the official archives as a "referee's decision." A year or so later, Bill gained a certain amount of revenge in a junior college match when he defeated the same opponent on points, 6-1. Yes, Bill finished second at the state tournament, but, all-in-all, not bad for a guy who only took up the sport a year and a half earlier.

Bill competed in four events for the 1963 track team; the discus, the shot-put, the 100 yard dash, and the 440 yard dash. He was successful in all of them and in a meet against Fife High School, placed first in all four.

After graduating from Bethel High School in 1963, Bill attended Columbia Basin Junior College for two years and lettered both years in football, wrestling and track. Upon leaving junior college, Bill was employed by the City of Tacoma for 32 years and retired in 1995. Since then, he has been very active in the Tacoma Elks Lodge with its charity programs, and also works for them on a part-time basis several days a week. With regards to his involvement in the Lodge's charity work, Bill has received special recognition on numerous occasions. He also continued to be involved in athletics. In the 1990's he was an assistant wrestling coach at Wilson, Lincoln and Gig Harbor High Schools, and refereed wrestling matches throughout the area for about 30 years.

Over the years, Bill has been a devoted family man. He was married eighteen (18) years to his first wife, Donna, who passed away. Bill and his second wife, Ruby, have been married 24 years and between them they have raised five children.

Finally, when he was advised that he was going to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, Bill modestly commented: "I guess somebody up there must like me." Folks, that's Bill Harr, a man thankful for the opportunities that he was given.

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# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



**Jack Justice** (BHS-Coach)

Jack Justice was an authentic Dust Bowl Okie. Forced out of Oklahoma by the devastating Midwest drought of the 1930s, the Justice family settled in the Elk Plain/Spanaway area when Jack was just a schoolboy. Jack went on from Spanaway Grade School to Kapowsin High School, where he played and starred in football, basketball and baseball. The start of World War II, however, changed Jack's life in many ways. Just one month after the attack on Pearl Harbor plunged the U.S. into the war, Jack married his high school sweetheart (and Kapowsin H.S. cheerleader) June Bunney. Shortly afterwards,

Jack enlisted in the U.S. Army like so many young Americans. Four years later, when he returned from the final battles in Italy with the 10th Mountain Division, Jack had a wife, three children and no high school diploma. But, the interruption of his education and athletic life, not to mention his personal life, was only temporary. Another story of the Greatest Generation!

Taking advantage of the G-I Bill, Jack completed his high school education, and enrolled in what was then Pacific Lutheran College. Remarkably, in addition to his schoolwork and working almost full-time to provide for his growing family, he also resumed his athletic career, playing on the PLC football team coached by the legendary duo of Marv Harshman and Marv Tommervik. He was featured in the Tacoma News Tribune in 1947 as the freshman tackle with three kids! Jack graduated from Pacific Lutheran in 1951, and launched the teaching and coaching career that has led to his induction today into the Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame.



With the opening of the new Bethel High School campus in 1952, Jack joined Ed Niehl to help build the Braves' football program, and build it they did! Literally with their own hands, and working alongside the Bethel stadium's namesake, Art Crate, they spent the summer building the new high school's football field. With that task accomplished, they then set about building the teams to play on that field.

Unlike today's programs where there seem to be almost as many coaches on the sidelines as players, in those early days it was Ed and Jack. Ed was the head coach and backfield coach with primary responsibility for the offense. Jack was the line coach with primary responsibility for the defense. Ed has said on more than one occasion, "I never thought of Jack Justice as an assistant coach. I always considered him to be the co-head coach." However they approached it, the dynamic duo had immediate success on both sides of the ball. In that 1952 season, the Braves were undefeated in



league play, but had to settle for a second-place tie because of three tie games (3-0-3, 5-1-3 overall). That was followed in 1953 with another 2nd place finish (6-1-1, 7-1-1 overall). But, the stage was set! In 1954, the Braves tied with Fife for the league championship. In 1955, they stood alone as league champions after an historic season in which the Braves were unscored upon for the entire season, an accomplishment that led to that team's induction into the Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame in its inaugural ceremony in 2016.

The Niehl/Justice-led march through the decade of the 1950s was capped in 1957 and 1958 with consecutive league championships that included 16 consecutive victories and Bethel's first-ever state title in any sport, when the 1958 team was named by Associated Press as its Class A State Champions. It was the first year of competition for the Class A division that was created to serve as a mid-division between the state's largest and smallest schools. For that accomplishment, the Braves football team of 1958 is being inducted today into the Bethel Hall of Fame.

Jack would continue to coach football through the 1963 season, a span that reached 101 games. In that time, he and Ed Niehl coached the Braves to an overall record of 65-28-8 (.683).

Jack Justice was a great football coach, but his Hall of Fame coaching career was not limited to the gridiron. Literally a "Jack" of all trades, he was also a significant contributor to several other sports in his Bethel career. He was a founder, along with co-coach Frank Pavia, of



*continued on next page*

# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

## 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees continued

the Bethel High School wrestling program in 1955. He was head baseball coach in 1955 and 1956. And, he was assistant basketball coach to Hall of Famer Bob Fincham for three seasons, 1956–57, 1957–58 and 1958–59. The 1957–58 team tied for the league championship, and the 1958–59 team not only ran away with the league championship, but went on to make the school's first-ever appearance in the State Championship Tournament. It was a great group of athletes, as all five starters on that basketball team had also been key players on the state championship football team. Jack Justice was proud to have served as a coach for both.

Jack interrupted his coaching and teaching careers on two different occasions to pursue another professional ambition, home building! During those periods he developed, contracted and constructed many homes, most of them almost within shouting distance of his beloved Bethel High School. Although never coaching again after the 1963 football season, Jack returned to teaching at Bethel until his retirement. Retirement was never a sedentary lifestyle for him, however. He snagged one of the last commercial fishing licenses available in Washington, and spent many seasons chasing and catching, with friends and family, all the salmon the law would allow! He was known far and wide along the coast by his C-B handle, "Uncle Jack!" Lifelong RV'ers, Jack and June Justice also spent many happy, and dry, winters together in the California and Arizona deserts

Coach Jack Justice died April 25, 2006, at the age of 81. His beloved wife, June, passed away April 17, 2010.

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# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



## Earl W. Platt (BHS-Contributor)

A teacher, a coach, a principal, a mentor, and a friend.

*"When the new high school first opened its doors in the Fall of 1952 and until his retirement in 1974, Earl Platt was the "face" of Bethel. He was highly respected not only by those within the school, the community as a whole, and by his colleagues in other districts, literally throughout the state."*

— Mr. Dave Rich, Mr. Platt's successor as Principal of Bethel High School.

Earl Wallace Platt was born in Tacoma, WA on the 1st of May, 1917. Early in his life he lost his father and there were times when the family struggled to make ends meet. In spite of those tough times during the Great Depression, he graduated from Stadium High School, and was a star athlete in football, basketball and baseball.

In the Fall of 1937, Mr. Platt enrolled at the Pacific Lutheran College and graduated in the Spring of 1941. Because of his achievements during these four years at P.L.C. he is now recognized, as one writer stated: "one of the athletic greats in P.L.C. history." Mr. Platt was a four year letterman and starting end (both on offense and defense) for the Lutes' football teams. In 1940, he, and the other end, Sig Sigurdson, were the first P.L.C. players to be honored as Little All-Americans. During those years, P.L.C. had some terrific teams and with Marv "Tommygun" Tommervik at quarterback, Mr. Platt and Mr. Sigurdson at the two ends, many of those football games are still legendary in P.L.C.'s history. (The sportswriters nicknamed him Earl "Grabby" Platt—a label that I'm not so sure he ever appreciated.) He was also a four year letterman and starting center on the basketball team. While being named to The All-Conference team, he also was a member of the team that won P.L.C.'s first Winco League Championship. His third sport was baseball where he was a starting first baseman.

Mr. Platt began his career in teaching and coaching at South Bend High School in the Fall of 1941. World War II began in December and at the end of the school year, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and eventually became a P.T. boat captain, serving in the South Pacific. After his discharge in 1945, Mr. Platt taught and coached for one (1) year at Winlock High School. In the Fall of 1946, Mr. Platt began teaching at Kapowsin High School and also coached the basketball and track teams. In 1947 he was appointed principal of the high school and continued in that position until he took over as principal of the newly formed Bethel School District. He continued to teach several subjects and also coached the football ('47-'50) and baseball ('49-'50) teams.

Mr. Platt's proudest achievement as a coach was leading the 1950 football team to the Pierce County League Championship. It was a combination of players from both the Kapowsin and Roy high schools and it was the first team to participate under the name of the "Bethel Braves." They were a perfect 6-0 in League play and outscored the opponents 96-13, with four shutouts (Peninsula, Orting, Yelm and Eatonville). This was his last team, and according to Ed Niehl, Mr. Platt always missed coaching. The responsibilities, duties and quite frankly, the headaches of being the principal of a new high school just simply would not allow any more direct involvement with an athletic program.

Mr. Platt firmly believed that athletics and other activities should be a major part of not only a student's high school experience, whether involved, or just a fan, but for the parents and the community as well. He was also a realist, knowing that certain students wouldn't graduate unless they participated in athletic programs. With this in mind, Mr. Platt urged all of the coaches to keep these individuals involved and on course to finish school. Again, as per Ed Niehl, Mr. Platt was very supportive of the athletic department but he took a "hands off" approach. He didn't necessarily participate when someone was being interviewed for a coaching position; however, we had guidelines. He wanted coaches (and as members of the faculty) who were

quality people and would seriously consider staying in the Bethel School District for their entire careers. He felt that this would provide stability and continuity for all of the programs, whether it be scholastic or athletic.

From the time that Bethel opened in 1952, a small rural high school with almost 350 students, until he retired in 1974 with over 1600 students in a suburban setting, Mr. Platt saw a vast expansion of the athletic department and the athletic facilities as well. From the continuation and introduction of the new athletic programs, to some projects, both big and small, he was a great supporter in all of them. In the

*continued on next page*



# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

## 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees continued



men's programs, he oversaw the following: track and field as a permanent sport; wrestling; golf; tennis as a league sport; and cross-country. Mr. Platt was also a great advocate for programs involving women. Long before the law suits started (Re: Title 9), he either helped introduce, or paved the way for women's basketball, volleyball, softball, track and field, and cross-country to become permanent league sanctioned sports.

As stated, he supported the "big" projects, most notably the construction of Art Crate Field. But the "little" projects may better demonstrate his commitment to providing programs for both men and women. For years, dating back to at least 1947, tennis teams had existed at Kapowsin, and later on, at Bethel. Like track and field, it was "off and on." From all the research materials available, tennis was not a league sport, and, it was the only one available for women. Finally, in 1957, the Bethel tennis team became an official member of the West Central League. Realizing that the school's tennis facilities were nonexistent, Mr. Platt, with lots of help, lobbied for and received funding for the construction of new courts, which opened in time for the start of the 1957 season.

Mr. Platt retired at the end of the 1974 school year — a twenty three year run: quite a journey. From overseeing the athletic department's inclusion of new sports for both men and women, to help guiding his school through two Class "A" leagues (Pierce County and West Central) and into the Seamount League, eventually to become Class "AA" in all league sports. This involvement with athletics was not confined to just Bethel High School. For years Mr. Platt served on the Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association's board and committees, served three times as the president of the Seamount League's Principals' Association and helped start the Pierce County Recreational League in the Bethel District. He led the school through levy failures, over-crowding, nation-wide student revolts against education, racial unrest, double-shifting, split scheduling and a few other crisis. Yet he never forgot his background in athletics, nor his resolve and commitment to see to it that all students had the chance to participate in the various sports programs.

After his retirement, Mr. Platt and his wife, Marjorie, moved to Ocean Shores, WA. According to one of his sons, Dick, he loved to dig razor clams and especially enjoyed the many visits by his former students and teachers, along with principals and administrators from other school districts—his colleagues that he had come to know over the years. As for the razor clams, a visitor would seldom leave his home without taking some.

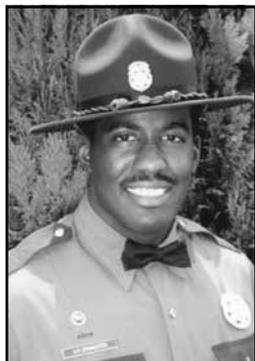
One of his hobbies, and not many people know of this, is that he would take a felt tip pen and tablet and sketch geometric designs and figures. Apparently, this started in high school and continued throughout his life. Again, as per Dick Platt, these "doodles" (for lack of a better term) were relaxing and would appear on Christmas cards sent to the family and friends.

Marjorie Platt passed away in 1986. Mr. Platt died at the age of 74 on October 9th, 1991, just nine days before he was to be inducted into the Pacific Lutheran Athletic Hall of Fame. They had four sons. Gary, the third son, passed away Dec. 1966. Earl and Marjorie Platt are survived by the other three, Earl Wallace, Jr. (Wally), William (Bill) and Richard (Dick).



Inductees

# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



**Oscar Springsteen** (BHS '80)

Oscar Springsteen graduated from Bethel High School in 1980. While attending Bethel High School during his three years, Oscar established himself as one of Bethel's finest athletes.

Oscar was a varsity member of the football team for three years. His senior year he was awarded the All SPSL Defensive Lineman Award.

Wrestling was where Oscar excelled. He was a three year letterman. He was selected to the All Area Pierce County Wrestling Team in 1980. That year he won the Washington State 3A Division 190 lb. Wrestling Championship. Also, he was selected

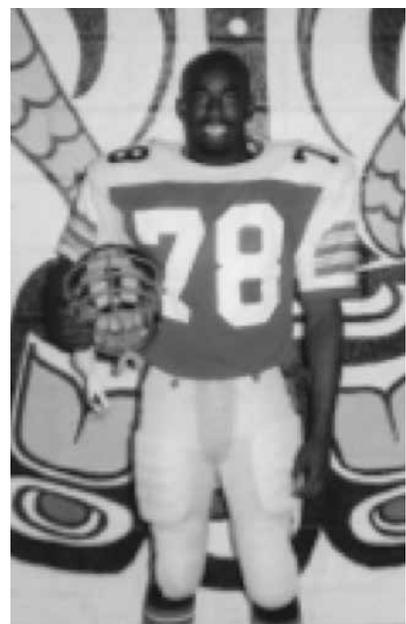
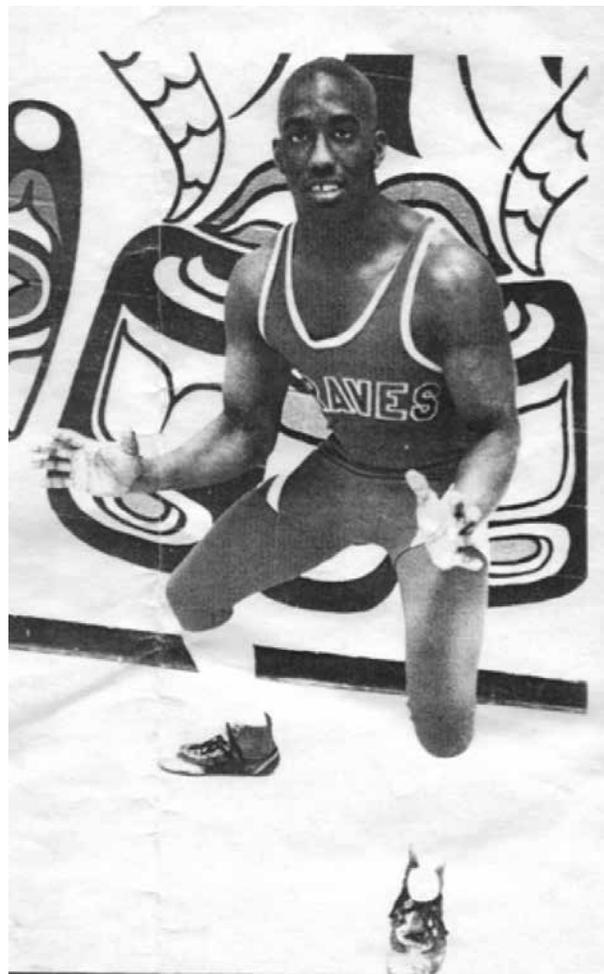
for the Gary Platt Memorial Award and Athlete of the year recipient.

Oscar received a full scholarship to attend Eastern Washington University and wrestled 5 seasons for the Eagles. In 1983 he was recognized as the MVP and Team Captain of the wrestling team before graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration in 1984.

Oscar participates in the Graham Seventh Day Adventist Church as an Ordained Deacon, Youth & Men's Ministries and Church Board Member.

In January 1986, he graduated from the Washington State Patrol Academy and received the Most Physically Fit Award for The Trooper Class of 62. Before retiring from the Washington State Patrol in the summer of 2010, Oscar received the rank of Assistant Commander for District 5 Vancouver Washington as a Lieutenant.

Oscar lives in Graham with his wife and two boys who are also state champions in wrestling at Bethel High School. Since 1986, Oscar has coached junior high, high school and club Sports in the Bethel School District and is currently coaching football and wrestling at Bethel High School.



# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



**Tynne Tess Swick** (BHS-Contributor)

On September 14, 1934, in an old home on the Yelm Prairie, Douglas and Teresa Averill welcomed Tynee Tess Averill (Swick) in to the world. Her sister, Tarice, and Tynee grew up in Roy attending school there until Bethel High School was built. Tynne was a part of the second graduating class of Bethel High in 1953.

She married her long-time sweetheart, Glen Swick, in 1954. In the mid-1950's they moved to their own little piece of paradise, which they called the farm in Spanaway. It was only a few miles from Bethel High School.



Over a six year period, Glen and she had 5 children: Caryn, Lloyd, Sid, Tom & Cathy.



Once all of her children had married, Glen and she had 48 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her large extended family included many brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law and nieces and nephews. Three generations of Swicks attended Bethel High School.

After raising her children, her career in the Bethel School District began as a cook

at Spanaway Elementary in the early 1970's. After a two year stint in Alaska, the Swick Family returned to Spanaway. Thus began her career as the "Laundry Lady" at Bethel High School. Above the laundry door, a sign read "Tynne's Room" and she was very proud of the love and work she gave to the students and staff at BHS. Tynne's official duties were to take care of all of the sports uniforms, cleaning them and making sure they were ready for the next game.



However, her greatest impact was beyond the laundry room. Tynne baked goodies for the traveling teams offering a variety of selections. Many of the sports teams were invited to Tynne's home at least once or twice during their season for a home-cooked dinner in the evening or for more

afternoon baked goods.

Tynne was also a frequent supporter of the athletic teams traveling to away games with the team. This was a highlight for her. On many senior nights, Tynne stood in for the students whose parents couldn't be there. She loved supporting the student athletes and made them feel special.

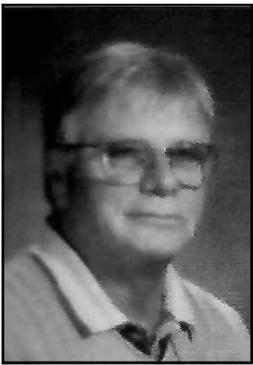


In the early 1990's Tynne was presented a Bethel letterman's jacket with her name on the back. She gleamed with pride upon receiving it and her family shared in the pride. Tynne was more than just the "Laundry Lady" at Bethel High School. She was a friend, a supporter and a person they could trust. Some of those students remained close to her after retirement.

Tynne truly loved her job at Bethel: she created a family from Bethel athletes and staff and Bethel is a better place because of her. She passed peacefully on April 7, 2016 with her family by her side.

*Inductees*

# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



**Doug Wisness (BHS-Coach)**

Doug brought a lot of versatility to the Bethel School District coaching staff. In his 30+ years of teaching and coaching he shared that extra passion necessary for excellence. Doug could elaborate on most coaching fundamentals more than most coaches and be excited about his stories no matter how long it took to fully explain. Doug's passion for coaching included a wide variety of sports. He coached in our Bethel Rec. Program for a number of years while he began his high school coaching career. He was BHS head cross country and track coach during his early years and would head the girl's golf program and bowling teams during the 90' and into the new century.

Doug was born in North Dakota in 1942 and graduated from



Dickinson State University in 1964. Doug and his wife, Darlene, married in 1965, and Doug took a job with the Boeing Company and settled in to become a solid Washingtonian. Doug joined the Bethel School District staff in 1968 and began his teaching/coaching career at Bethel High School in 1969. It was not long before he was firmly entrenched in the coaching staff at Bethel High School. He spent 8 years as the head coach in cross country and 9 years in track as the head coach. Those programs had immediate success. His Cross Country teams won three Seamount League Championships and qualified many teams and individuals to the district and state meets.

Doug's teams had the individual league champ 6 straight years. Stan Adkins placed 2nd in the state meet in 1971. Doug was Bethel High School head track coach for 9 years. During those years Bethel High School won 2 league championships and his track athletes held all the school event records many of which are still the schools best. (Those records include the boy's 2 mile, discus, 220, triple jump, 180 hurdles in the boys and the girls record in the 100 and long jump. His 1972 track boy's team placed 3rd in the state meet and placed athletes in the top eight in nine different events during his track coaching career.

When the girls were finally allowed to participate in athletics, Doug coached the first girls track team for 5 years. He added to his versatility by coaching girl's golf and bowling. He assisted in boys golf from 1990 to 1995 and was the girls coach from 1996 to 2003. It was during these years that he was also BHS's first bowling coach where his teams claimed 2 league championships. His 2003 girls golf team was state academic champs, with a team average 3.7 GPA.

His golfing interest, of course, started with his own playing enjoyment and it was natural for Doug to extend himself into coaching golf. His coaching success in golf and bowling were not surprising. Doug's knowledge, dedication, resourcefulness and ability to relate to all athletes was exceptional. Doug's golfing enthusiasm was continued after his coaching career by creating and managing his own golf company. His designing and manufacturing of golf clubs was consistent with his attention to detail and commitment to always going the extra mile. His golf business extended his athletic involvement for 17 years.

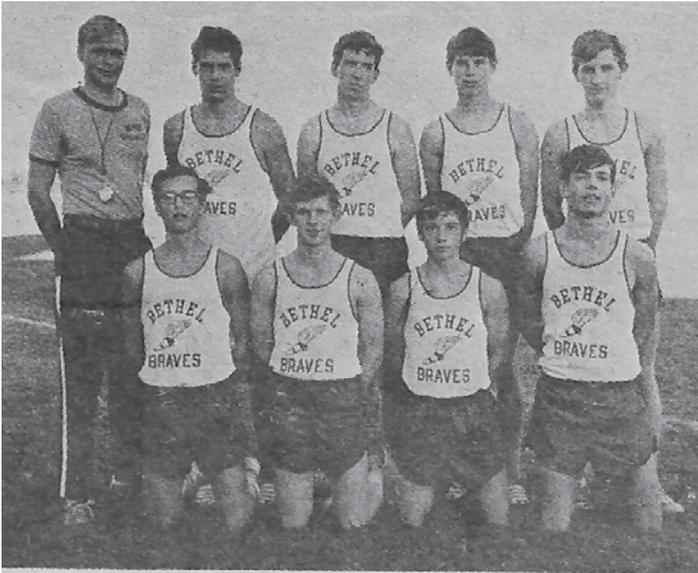
Doug's love of life never slows as is attested by all the above but that does not complete the story. Doug and wife Darlene played a major role in the Bethel School District ski school

*continued on next page*



# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees continued



**SEAMOUNT LEAGUE CO-CHAMPS** Standing left to right: Coach Doug Wisness, Seniors Mike Smithlin and Ricky Rich, Sophomores Stan Adkins and Jim Conant, Kneeling: Juniors Bob Nylander, Terry Browning, Norm Cox and Steve Brown.

program during the 70's and early 80's. Doug was also the commissioner of the Bethel faculty and friend's golf and bowling leagues from 1985 to 2000. There were 64 men and women who participated in the golf league yearly.

Doug retired from the Bethel School District in 2003, sold his golf business in 2017 and now enjoys following his 3 children and their families. Son Doug has a singing group called the Coats that perform all over the country; son Justin is the choir director at Rogers High School and daughter Crystal is a teacher at Auburn High School. Wife Darlene taught in the business department at Bethel High School for 30+ years.

His commitment to Bethel High School Sports is a testament of what our Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame is all about.



## Bethel Recreation Association

The Bethel Recreation Association was created by the combined wisdom of the then Bethel School District Athletic Director Ed Niehl and community members Don Leise, and Larry and Wanda Stanley in 1967. Initially the program partnered with the Pierce County Parks system but eventually broke away to form their own non-profit organization. Ed Niehl became the first District Representative with Don Leise the initial president of the Bethel Recreation Association Board of Directors.

Under Niehl's leadership and Leise's guidance, the program offered flag football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, and softball for grades four, five and six. After a few years, T-ball was added for the primary grades. In an effort to keep the focus on the program, each elementary school employed a Bethel Recreation Coordinator who was paid \$10.00 a month. Through the continued efforts of the school coordinators, volunteers Sonny Beegle, Donna Morgan and others too numerous to mention, the Bethel Recreation program became a staple of the Bethel community.

In 1979 the Niehl/Leise era ended and in 1981 Jim Ball took the leadership reins. The program continued to increase in popularity and at its peak during the Ball administration (1981-2000) there were an astonishing 300 baseball, softball, t-ball teams, 180 girls and boys basketball teams at grade levels four, five and six, with an approximate year total of 3500 participants. After Jim Ball resigned others to become Director were Brian Grassi, Ed Burmester, Carly Cappeto, Nick Jones and now presently Jolie Moxley.

During its almost 50 years of existence, the Bethel Recreation Association has always promoted safety, good sportsmanship, and fair play. It embraces the participation of both genders while encouraging involvement of students who are experiencing play for the first time as well as those that have played before. The program relies heavily on adult volunteers for coaching, and offers an opportunity for high school students to return to the program as an official, coach, or to fulfill volunteer hours. At an estimate, annual participation numbers are 4000 per year with the program reaching nearly 200,000 participants since its existence.

Currently, the Bethel Recreation Office is located at the Bethel Learning Center. For more information on Bethel Recreation call 253-683-5941 or at [bethelrec.org](http://bethelrec.org).

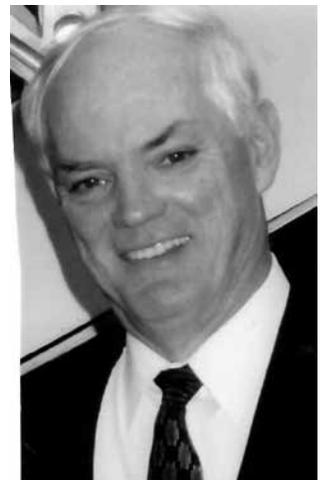
# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



## The Tingstad Family

It's a privilege to share a story about the Tingstad family. They do provide an interesting collection of accomplishments that had its start in 1939. The Tingstads moved from Hettinger North Dakota to settle in the Tacoma area. Joe and Dorothy Tingstad were the parents of 4 children, 2 girls and 2 boys. Ed, the 3rd child, was born in 1939. They lived on a small lot in the Fern Hill area that was only 3 blocks from the Tacoma/Bethel school district boundaries. Ed attended school in Tacoma for his entire educational careers. There were not a lot of chores on their small lot that mom Tingstad called her castle. Dad put a basket on the garage when Ed was in grade school. Yakima Avenue was the football field that neighborhood kids used to play all kinds of group football games. Neighborhood yards were the baseball fields and as time passed, they graduated to Harmon playfield and years of athletic activities followed. Stewart Junior High intramural program was a highlight for Ed as his home room would capture all nine championships during his 3 years at Stewart. Ed played one year of football and baseball at Lincoln High School but his greatest interest was basketball. After 2 years of little joy, his senior year basketball team finished 6th at the state basketball tournament.

John P. Heinrick gave him a chance to continue his dream in becoming a teacher and coach. Ed graduated from UPS in 1962 with a degree in history and Oroville School District gave him his dream. He would spend 3 years at Oroville before moving to Lakes for one year. Ed's Bethel career would start in the fall of 1966 and would last until 1997. During those years, he taught in the history department and coached football for nine years at the high school and 3 more at Bethel Junior High. Ed also coached girls basketball and softball and helped in track for 5 years. When Ed Niehl retired in 1981, Ed became the district Athletic Director, a position he held for 16 years.



The Tingstad Family we are honoring today would have its greatest addition in June of 1962. It was that year that Ed married Darlene Losey and the foundation of what would become another Tingstad family. While the Tingstad men made the headlines as coaches and athletes, the lone Tingstad woman in the house was an All-American wife and mother. Ed and Darlene's marriage lasted 39 years and her commitment to her family fueled the engine that made everything "Go." The three sons who blessed the marriage were stars at Bethel High School in football, basketball and spring sports. All three boys earned acclaim as scholar athletes by the National Football Foundation. Ed played football at WSU, Mark at ASU and David at Boise State. All three graduated with honors from Bethel High School and college. Ed currently is an orthopedic surgeon in Pullman and is one of WSU athletic physicians. Mark is Vice President of Finance for Intracorp, a West Coast real estate developer, based in Seattle. David is the managing partner as an attorney with the firm of Beresford-Booth in Edmonds. Darlene was also a respected teacher in the Bethel School District. In her last 10 years, she saw her family become complete. Her sons were all married and she was able to become a mom to three daughters, Laura, Lisa, Janelle. She often bragged about her new daughters, how neat it was that they enjoyed the same thing she did...Talking!

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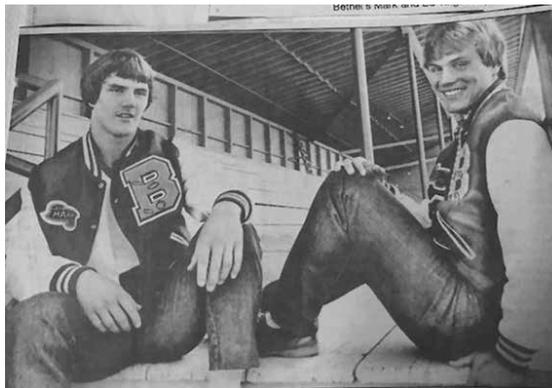
# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

## 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees continued

### The Student Athlete Tingstad Boys!!!

Ed:

- 9 BHS athletic letters
- Bethel High School Student Body President
- All league in football and baseball
- All state in football and baseball
- 4 year athletic scholarship to WSU
- National Football Foundation Scholar Athletic 1984
- Academic All Pac 10 all 4 years at WSU
- University of Washington Medical School
- Vanderbilt University Orthopedic Residency



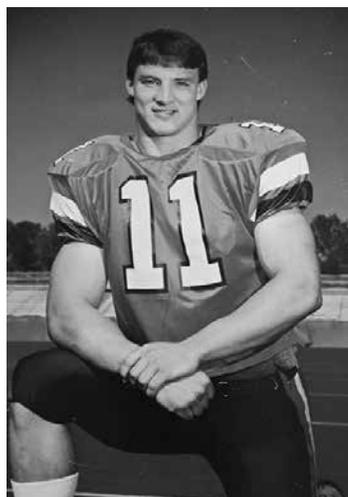
Mark:

- 7 BHS athletic letters
- All league tight end and linebacker
- All state in football
- National Football Foundation Scholar Athletic 1985
- 4 year athletic scholarship to ASU
- Masters in Taxation ASU
- Pac 10 All Academic first team all 4 years at ASU
- Associated Press All American honorable mention as a junior
- Led Pac 10 in tackles as a junior
- Left ASU as number 4 all time in tackles



David:

- 8 BHS athletic letters
- Bethel High School Student Body President
- National Football Foundation Scholar/Athletic 1988
- 4 year athletic scholarship at Boise State
- 4 year starter at BSU—44 consecutive starts
- Captain on BSU Football team his senior year
- Played in 1-AA BSU Football Semi-Final game in 1990
- Voted as the number 1 Business School Grad his senior year at BSU
- Graduated from Seattle School of Law with Honors in 1996



Inductees

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# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



## 1958 Bethel Braves Roster

Coach: Ed Niehl

Assistant Coach: Jack Justice

Managers: King Phelps, David Rennie,  
Don Leigh, Jim Nichols

No.	Name	Gr.	Pos.
10	Farrell Ressler	11	Guard
11	Terry Whittlesey	12	Back
12	Gary Justice	11	Back
13	John Phelan	12	End
14	Bill Bell	10	Back
15	Ed "Eddie" Hagen	12	Back
16	Marcus Wickline	12	Back
17	Clyde Baker	12	End
18	Don Raper	11	Tackle
19	Rod Parham	11	Guard
20	Richard Dittbenner	12	Guard
21	Larry Gehring	11	Center
22	Bill Scott	11	Tackle
23	Lloyd Williams	10	Guard
24	Mike Wharton	11	End
25	Dale Curtiss	12	Tackle
26	Gerald "Jerry" Crippen	12	Guard
27	Jim Metzener	12	Center
28	Neil Lambertsen	11	Tackle
29	Gary Gregg	12	Back
30	Gary Pierce	12	Tackle
31	Bayard Crate	11	End
32	Bruce Moore	10	Tackle
33	Tom Jones	12	Back
34	Miland Krumpos	11	End
35	Jay Brown	11	Tackle
36	Carl Shriver	12	Guard
37	Larry Stearns	10	Tackle
38	Dave Belvin	10	Tackle
45	Doug Woods	10	Back

## 1958 Undefeated State Class "A" Champions The Bethel High School Football Team

The 1958 football team, co-captained by Carl Shriver and Gary Gregg, is considered by many to be one of the greatest ever to represent Bethel High School.

The offense, coached by Ed Niehl, was designed with the intent to keep the opposing defenses constantly off-balance and in a continuous guessing game—superior team speed and deception were the keys to success. The team scored a league leading 171 points (190 overall).

The defense, coached by Jack Justice, was as equally impressive. Again, team speed, coupled with the sheer athleticism of the players made this the best defense in the league. Quite frankly, it must have been a nightmare for the opposing offenses and their coaches. Over the course of the entire season, the team recorded five shutouts and allowed a total of just 19 points.

According to Mr. Niehl, all of the players in the back-field were outstanding. However, the backbone, the real strength of the team were the linemen. Back in those days, "two-platoon" football was unheard of—at that time the entire team played on both offense and defense—and what is significant about the linemen is that the "second team", for the most part, was just as good as the "first team" in talent and ability. They were truly a group to be reckoned with by the opposing teams.

After winning the West Central League Jamboree Championship, the

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Inductees

# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

## 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees continued



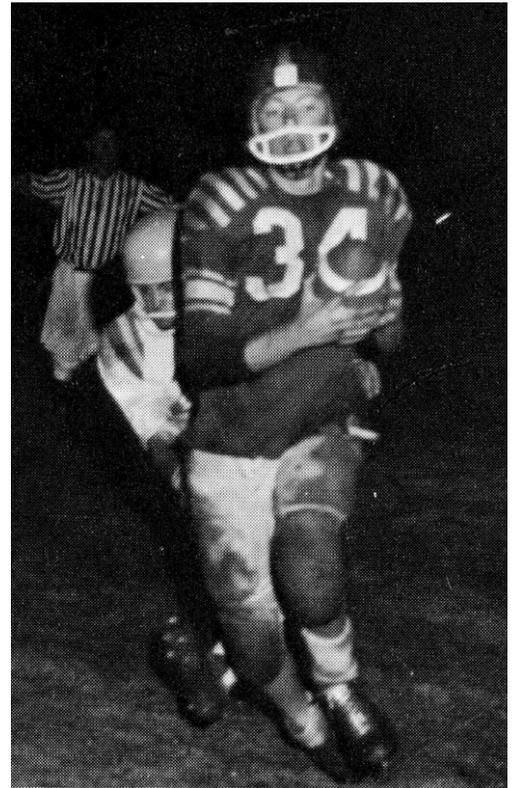
Braves opened the season with a non-league upset victory (19-0) over the Foster Bulldogs, a member of the highly touted KINGCO League. In that game, Eddie Hagen threw two touchdown passes, one to Gary Gregg and the other to Bayard Crate. Gregg scored the third and final touchdown. Over the next seven league games, the team was undefeated and won the West Central League Championship literally “going away”—White River was a distant second at 4 wins, 1 loss (to Bethel) and 2 ties. A recap of the league games is indicative of just how dominant this team was.

Bethel opened with a 34-6 win over the Yelm Tornadoes. Tom Jones scored three touchdowns, which included a kickoff return of 72 yards. Gary Gregg scored the other two (2), one on a 53 yard pass from Eddie Hagen. The following week, the Braves beat the Peninsula Seahawks 18-6. Gary Gregg scored on

runs of 87 and 52 yards and Eddie Hagen scored the third touchdown on a 68 yard pass from Gregg.

Next on the schedule were the Vashon Pirates. Gary Gregg scored three touchdowns, one on a four yard run; another on a 55 yard return of an intercepted pass; and the last on a 60 yard pass from Tom Jones. The final score was 19-7.

In what was considered to be the toughest game of the season, the Braves took on the White River Hornets. In a 12-0 win, the defense held the Hornets to only four first downs for the entire game and Tom Jones intercepted three passes. Bethel's two touchdowns came on runs from Gary Gregg and Eddie Hagen. The Eatonville Cruisers presented the last big



hurdle for the Braves in order to wrap up the league title. The game proved to be an absolute mismatch—Bethel 32, Eatonville 0. On the first play of the game, Tom Jones took the handoff and ran 68 yards for a touchdown. The next two touchdowns were on passes by Eddie Hagen to Gary Gregg. Miland Krumpus scored the fourth on an eighteen (18) yard pass from Gregg, and the final touchdown was on an eight yard run by Hagen in the fourth quarter. Again, the defense proved to be stellar, the team blocked three punts, and held the Eatonville offense to a mi-

*continued on next*

# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees continued



nus one yard rushing.

Bethel clinched its second straight league championship by downing the Fife Trojans 28-0. Gary Gregg scored three touchdowns, one on a 51 yard run, and Miland Krumpos also scored on a pass from Gregg. The Braves closed out the season (and their 16th straight win covering the '57 and '58 seasons) with a 28-0 victory over the Orting Cardinals. In the first half, Gary Gregg scored on a five yard run and another on a 30 yard pass from Edddie Hagen. Gregg and Bill Bell added a touchdown apiece to close out the game.

As a fitting conclusion to this remarkable season, the Associated Press sports writers in the state were polled

and they selected the Bethel Braves as the top team of all Class "A" schools in the State of Washington. In honor of this accomplishment, the coaches and the team received the Warling Trophy. At the year end football banquet, Gary Gregg received the Inspirational Award and the Tackling Trophy. Tom Jones won the Pass Interception Award.

On a final note, this was a great team, with great coaches, and, as some of the players have stated, "We were just a bunch of guys who went out there to play football and have some fun."



Inductees

# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



## 1996 State Volleyball Champions— The Bethel Braves Volleyball Team

### 1996 Bethel Braves Volleyball Roster

Coach: John Reopelle

Assistant Coaches: Monica Farley,  
Christine Nelson

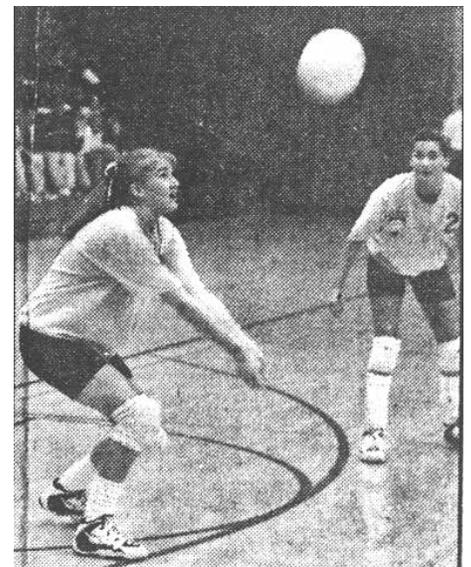
Manager: Kalani, Vera Wright (scorekeeper)

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Gr.
1	Malissa Reed	DS	5'4"	12
2	Valerie Lee	OH	5'7"	11
3	Katy Zurfluh	S	5'7"	10
4	Donja Walker	MB	5'7"	12
5	Joanna Johnson	OH	5'8"	12
6	Heather Mayo	OH	5'7"	11
7	Rachelle Gienger	OH	5'10"	12
8	Jordan Gienger	MB	5'10"	11
9	Corrin Breon	OH	5'9"	10
10	Michelle Barlow	OH	5'10"	12
11	Jennifer Ladwig	OH	5'6"	11
12	Dori Bratusch	S	5'7"	12
13	Holly Hobbs	S	5'6"	11



The 1996 Bethel High School volleyball team was a talented group of athletes who became one of the most dominant volleyball teams in state history. This team finished the season with a record of 34-0 and brought home the state championship trophy.

At the state tournament, held in Spokane, Bethel defeated Marys-  
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# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

1996 State Champions—Bethel Brave Volleyball Team continued



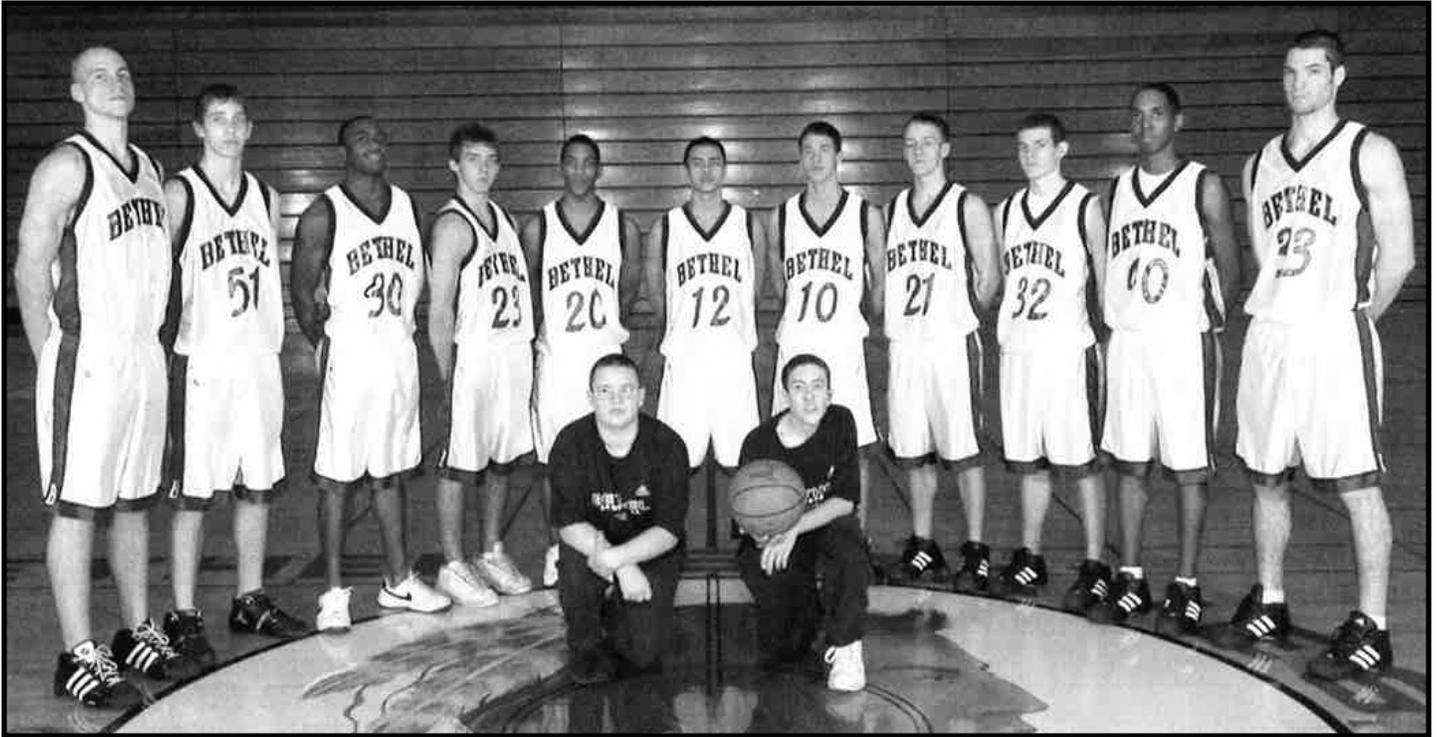
ville-Pilchuck, Redmond and Kentridge in pool play during the first day of the tournament. Only the Kentridge match went to a third game. The Braves followed that performance with three sweeps against Auburn and Ferris on the final day. The Ferris victory included an incredible comeback as Bethel fell behind 13-4 in the second game, but scored 11 straight points to win the game and match.

The championship game ended with the Braves defeating Prairie High School 15-4, 15-5 to complete their undefeated championship season. The title came after years of individual hard work and determination, supremacy was achieved through teamwork. Congratulations to the 1996 Bethel High School Volleyball State Champions!



Inductees

# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



## 2005 Bethel Braves Basketball Roster

Coach: Pat Mullen  
 Assistant Coaches: Russ Leslie, Ken Iverson,  
 Mike Mullen  
 Managers: Lance Nelson, Mike Herring,  
 Chris Ball, Matt Wanderscheid, Earl Brothers

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Gr.
10	Mike Vargas	G	5'11"	11
12	Chuck Hogue	PG	5'10"	12
20	Jordan Sutton	PG	6'0"	12
21	Ryan Purugganan	G	6'1"	12
23	Mike Yusko	G	6'1"	12
24	Marquis Matthews	PG	5'11"	10
30	Jamil Turner	G	6'2"	12
32	Scott Stanley	G	6'2"	11
33	Alex Tiefenthaler	F6	6'8"	12
40	Kevin Cattage	F	6'3"	11
45	Brandon Moore	C	6'8"	12
51	Robbie Betschart	C	6'5"	11
	Scott Tiefenthaler	F	6'4"	11

## 2005 Bethel Braves Boys' State Basketball Champions

The Braves record this season was 28-2 (tied for first in South Puget Sound League South Division, first in SPSL tournament, first in West Central/Southwest bi-district) and coached by Pat Mullen (ninth year).

Key players this season were Jordan Sutton, with 11.2 points per game and 6 assists per game; Jamil Turner, 9 points per game and 4 rebounds per game; Brandon Moore, 14.2 points per game, 11 rebounds per game and 2 blocks per game; Alex Tiefenthaler, 14.2 points per game, 8 rebounds per game; and Mike Yusko, 6.8 points per game and 3 rebounds per game.

The Braves, who had won 11 in a row, were making their seventh straight state appearance; they finished third in 2004, and second in 2000. Brandon Moore, SPSL South MVP, signed with Eastern Washington, Tiefenthaler with Portland. Turner signed with UCLA for football.



### Bethel 58, Gonzaga Prep 53

The second-ranked Braves (25-2) lived up to their billing as favorites in the first half, then labored through the second, hanging on against upset-minded Gonzaga Prep (18-10) of Spokane.

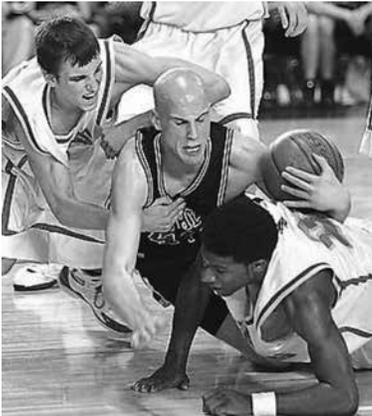
Bethel shot 64 percent in the first half (14 of 22) and built a 24-point lead just before intermission. But things unraveled for the Braves after that as the Bullpups stormed back with a 24-3 run.

Brandon Kennedy and Ian Parry sparked the comeback, Kennedy finishing with 22 points, five rebounds and four steals.

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# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

2005 State Champions—Bethel Braves Boy's State Basketball Team continued



Bethel, which led 54-51 with 45 seconds left, made 4 of 6 free throws in the final 28 seconds. Jordan Sutton scored 16, and 6-8 Brandon Moore had 14 points and 11 rebounds for Bethel.

## Bethel Survives Snohomish Rally

Bethel survived a late rally by Jon Brockman and Snohomish to beat the Panthers 57-49 and advance to the 4A semifinals for a second consecutive year.

The game appeared decided midway through the third quarter when the Pierce County team led 46-28, but then Snohomish went on a 15-0 run to close to 46-43 with 4:23 left in the game. Brockman scored 14 points in the run, including the final 12. "He can put us on his back and give us an opportunity," said Snohomish coach Len Bone. Brockman, a 6-foot-8 inside player who will play at Washington, finished with 29 points and 15 rebounds.

After the big Panthers run, Bethel put away the game with an 8-0 run of its own. Brockman had to work for every point and rebound because he was guarded throughout the game by one of two Division

I 6-8 recruits, and sometimes they both were on him. "They've got big guys and they can rotate them through, but that's been a lot of teams' strategies — bump me around and not let me get position — so I'm used to that," Brockman said.

Brandon Moore, who will play at Eastern Washington, finished with 13 points (11 in the first half) and six rebounds. Alex Tiefenthaler, who will play for the University of Portland, scored 12 points and had nine rebounds.

Moore said, "I love playing against guys like that. Banging with them is fun... It's refreshing. It gets you ready for college. That's what it's going to be like in college."

## Class 4A: Bethel comes up big

Bethel's two 6'8" inside players morphed from slumbering giants to aggressive game-changers last night as the Braves came from behind to beat Mountlake Terrace 47-44 at the Tacoma Dome to advance to the Class 4A boys basketball championship game against Kentwood.

The taut game wasn't decided until the final possession, which was a turnover by Terrace.

Bethel, had added extra suspense to the game by missing two fourth-quarter dunks. With 3:50 to play, Jamil Turner missed a dunk on a breakaway with no Hawk within 30 feet of him and Bethel leading 45-41. Then, at 2:33, Alex Tiefenthaler missed a dunk in traffic with the Braves still up 44-41.



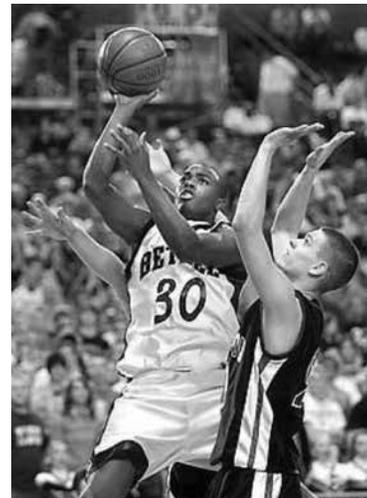
"We're not going to hammer on it," said Bethel coach Pat Mullen said of the dunk attempts. "It won't happen again. What I liked about it, though, was that after every missed dunk we got a stop." A three-point basket by Terrace's Christiaan Hammond cut the lead to 45-44 with 2:30 left.

The teams exchanged charging fouls, then Hammond gave Mountlake Terrace a chance to go ahead by calling a timeout as he was going out of bounds with the ball after it had been slapped loose from Jordan Sutton by Leigh Swanson.

Adrian Blake missed a shot — Terrace fans thought he was fouled — with 10.8 seconds left, and Brandon Moore got the rebound for Bethel and was fouled. He sank both free throws for the final points.

Moore, 6'8", had been held to two points and didn't have a rebound in the first half, but finished with 11 points and eight rebounds. Tiefenthaler, also 6'8", had only two points and three rebounds in the first half but finished with seven points and eight rebounds. Moore, who will play at Eastern Washington, said, "I think Alex and I finally realized that if we try to go to the basket, we're going to get fouls called for us and we're going to make things happen."

Bethel made 9 of 13 free throws while Terrace hit 2 of 3. The Braves' Sutton led all scorers with 16 points. It will be the second trip for Bethel (27-2) to the title game in the new century when the Braves face Kentwood, a team they defeated previously 59-52.



continued on next page

Inductees

# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

2005 State Champions—Bethel Braves Boys' State Basketball Team continued



## Kentwood title rerun ruined

Bethel ruined Kentwood's dream of back-to-back Class 4A state boys basketball titles. The hoop hardware would have made a matched set with the state 4A football trophies the Covington school collected in 2001 and 2002. Instead, the Conquerors lost a defensive struggle 33-29 and have to console themselves with a splendid run of finishing 3-1-2 in the past three basketball tournaments.

"They played real good defense and our shots weren't falling tonight," said senior Aaron Boyce. The Conquerors shot only 30 percent (12 for 40) and missed all nine three-point attempts. Kentwood had shot better than 50 percent in its three victories on the way to the title game and had made 8 of 30 three-point attempts.

"They felt good but they just didn't do down," said Blake Solomon, who missed all four of his three-point attempts last night. Solomon spoke as Bethel players cut down the nets, a ritual that was Kentwood's last year. "That was ours last year," he said as he watched the Braves take down the nets. "We made a good run this year. Nobody expected us to be here. But right now, we're just disappointed."

## Bethel bests Kentwood in 4A championship

After wearing the "team-to-beat" label for the better part of the past two seasons, the Bethel High boys basketball team lived up to its billing.

And they did so in the grittiest of ways. They played sticky defense, just a little offense, and made their free throws when it counted most. They did nothing spectacular, but plenty right, and when the final horn sounded at the Tacoma Dome, the Braves had beaten Kentwood, 33-29, in the Class 4A state championship game.

The victory marked the program's first title since 1970, and the combined score was the lowest total in the 4A boys championship since 1941. The Braves accomplished the feat without scoring a field goal in the fourth quarter, instead relying on the clutch foul shooting of senior Jordan Sutton. Sutton made three of four free throws in the final 42.9 seconds to help hold off a late Kentwood charge.

Bethel (28-2) found itself trying to preserve its lead from the line might have been worrisome to Braves fans, given the team had made 66 percent of its free throws in the tournament's first three games. But Sutton said there was no need for stress. "We've worked hard in practice shooting our free throws," he said after scoring four points, all from the line. "We're not known to be that good of a free-throw team, but in a state-championship game, that shows everybody that we can win."

Kentwood (24-6) was foiled in its attempt to win back-to-back crowns, a feat accomplished last week by O'Dea in the 3A tournament.

The Conquerors shot 30 percent (12 of 40) from the field, 56 percent from the foul line (5 of 9) and posted single-digit score totals in all four quarters.

"Both teams played good defense," Kentwood coach Dean Montzingo said. "We didn't shoot well. If we shoot a little better, we win this game."

Bethel never trailed after the first quarter, taking control with a 12-0 run to bridge the first and second periods. Mike Yusko scored six points during the spurt, and Alex Tiefertaler added five. The run ended with the Braves up 17-6 early in the second quarter. Tiefertaler finished with a game-high 13 points and six rebounds. Yusko had 11 points. "It's sinking in right now," Tiefertaler said afterward, holding a piece of the championship net. "I'm really excited. It's the moment of my life right now — best thing in basketball yet for me."



Kentwood mounted a gutsy comeback early in the fourth quarter as Aaron Boyce scored six of his team-high 12 points in the period, rallying the Conquerors to 30-29 with 1:52 remaining. But Sutton hit one free throw with 42.9 seconds left, and two more with 10.7 seconds showing to preserve the victory.

Kentwood's Blake Solomon had a baseline drive denied by Bethel's twin 6'8" towers, Tiefertaler and Brandon Moore, with 15 seconds left. And the Conquerors misfired on a pair of three-pointers in the final five seconds, dooming any hope of a comeback. Bethel players mobbed each other at half-court afterward, jumping in a circle, index fingers bobbing toward the rafters.

The Braves finished third at state last year, and lost to Foss in the 2000 title game. This year was their seventh straight state-tournament appearance.

The game marked the last for Bethel's four-star senior class  
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# 2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

2005 State Champions—Bethel Braves Boys' State Basketball Team continued



led by Sutton, Jamil Turner (UCLA for football), Moore (Eastern Washington) and Tiefenthaler (Portland). During the past three seasons, with those players accounting for the bulk of the minutes, the Braves went 76–10.

"I'm so happy. It was our third year here and the seniors went out with a bang," Moore said. "For our sophomore year, this was our goal. We were going to come here and win the state championship. Each year, we got closer to our goal and finally, got it this year."

Kentwood had won eight straight state-tournament games dating to 2003. The Conquerors won trophies in each

of their previous three trips to Tacoma, finishing seventh in 2000, third in 2003 and first last year.

But last night, in an all-South Puget Sound League championship, Bethel did just enough.

"It would be a failure (if we didn't win)," said Tiefenthaler of this season. "We had nothing in our minds but to win state. We knew we had to do it, so we did it. Bethel senior, Mike Yusko, who finished with 11 points was named championship MVP.



Inductees

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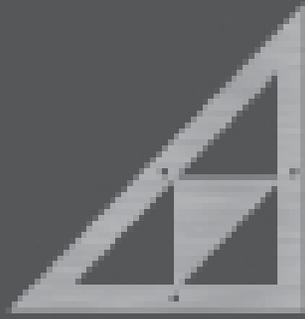
**2018 Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees**

## Thank You

The Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame  
would like to thank the following for volunteering and  
helping us make this event a success.

Your time, energy and inspiration are greatly appreciated.

- Bethel High Photo/Video Classes under the direction of Jack Murray
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- Lani Briehl, Rose Burmester, Julie Day, Rick Ham, Krista Ham, Caroline Jones  
Jamie, Ladowski, Linda Martn, Donna Morgan, Marilyn Poage, Sue McNiven



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