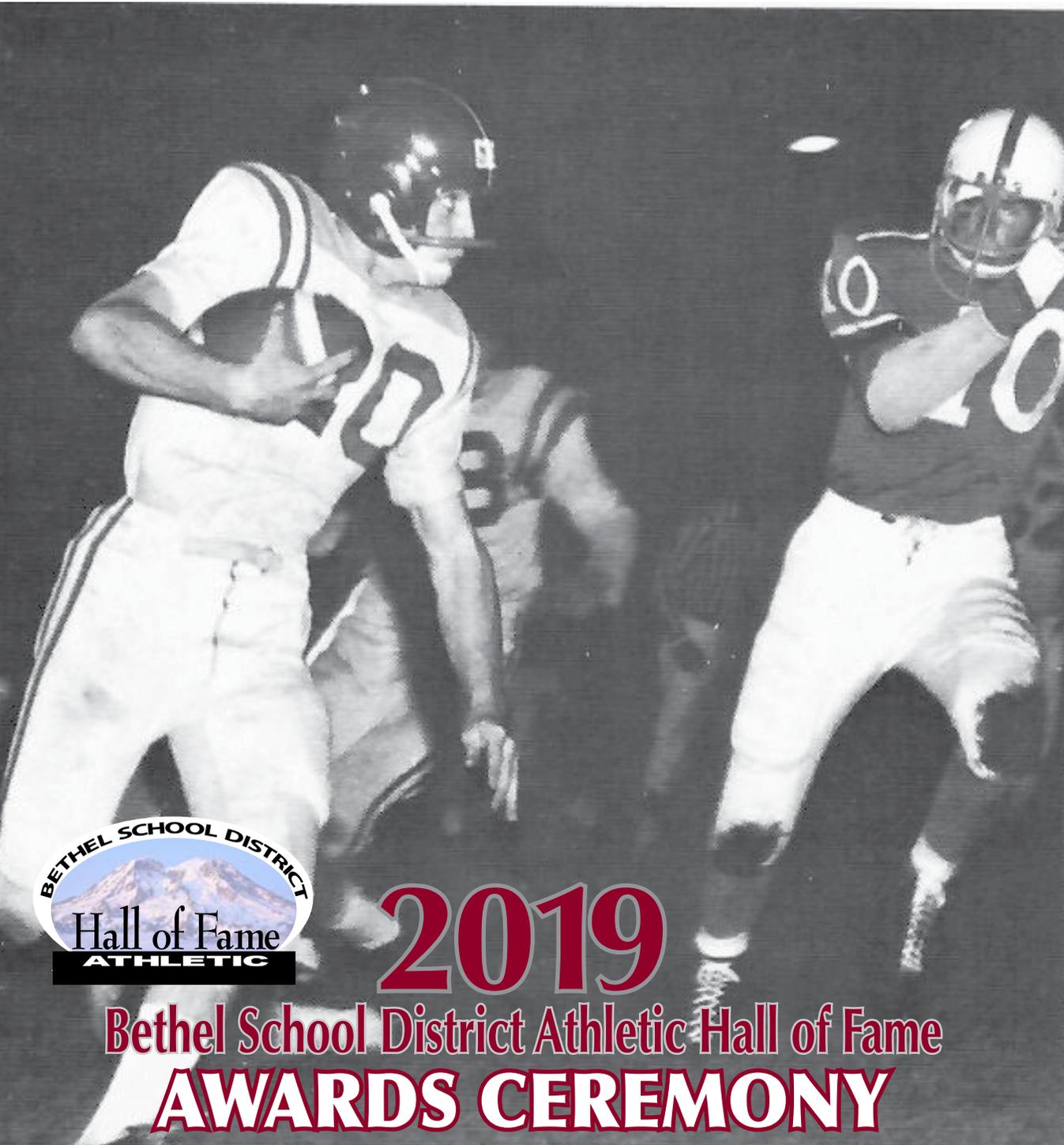


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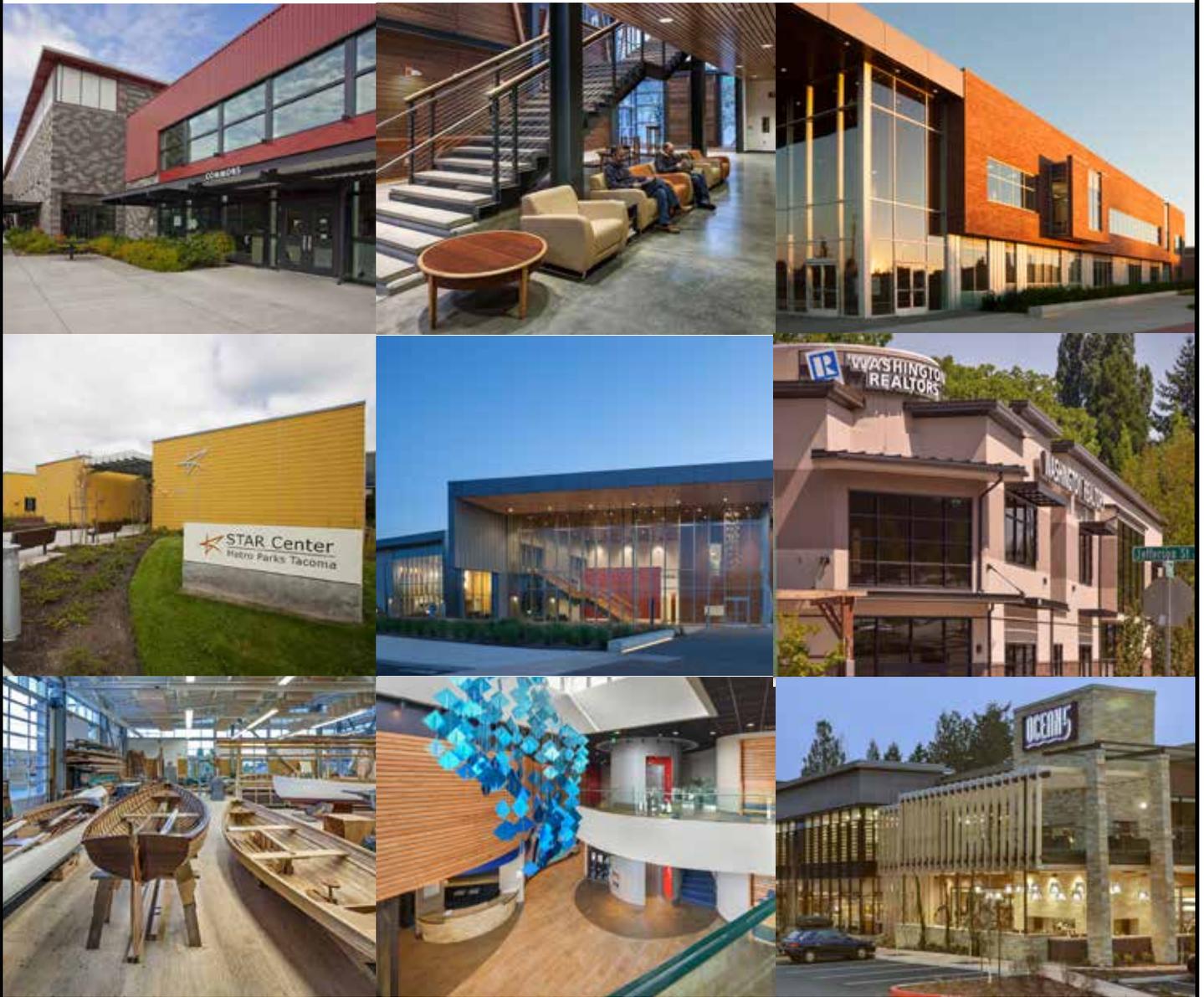


2019

Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame **AWARDS CEREMONY**

March 9 • Spanaway Middle School

Hall of Fame



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2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



In Honor of Cody A. Miller, Jr.

It was a Tuesday nearly three months after Cody's passing that John Zurfluh walked into my office. I assumed him to be there for his occasional visit to talk with my Dad and reminisce about their Bethel High School glory days but as I walked out my door, he bellowed "just the guy I was looking for" and of course I again assumed my father was standing behind me, but he was not...He was looking for me... We sat down and began to talk. Last, we had seen each other was at my uncle's funeral. We laughed at the moments shared amongst such friends and talked about the crowds of people that came to pay respect. We reminisced for a great deal of time, then we cried, and we spoke some more. For those of you that don't know...John is a bit of a crier and it didn't take much to get me going either. So, as I write this now four months have passed, and I still miss my uncle like it was yesterday. Each morning I get into my truck and above my visor is a bookmark handed out at his service with a picture of the man we all adore. It's a reminder to me. A reminder to try and be a better father, better son, better man, and a better community member. John told me the Bethel Athletic Hall of Fame's intention of honoring and dedicating this ceremony to Cody and I was awestruck. Honored and humbled, of course, I began to put pen to page...

I'm not sure exactly where to start, so let's go back to the beginning of Cody's athletic heroism and his peewee rodeo days spent mutton busting. Not much to do about Bethel High School but funny nonetheless. He of course was the grand champion (I'm sure) at the local grange and not a lot of folks are left to testify otherwise. Forward a few years into Little League where again Cody held the home run record and threw several no-hitters (not all that likely of course, but sounds good and probably very little objection). Finally, he earned at Bethel High School, where his true athletic prowess was discovered. He was part of a Championship Wrestling Team (1962-'63), later on a varsity wrestler and a tremendous football player. We will hear and read many stories about his days at Bethel High School and I'll let his peers tell you about his athletic exploits, adventures, and championships. While I don't know many of his career statistics, I do know this...that he was a great athlete, but more importantly, a great teammate. It was never about the personal accolades, his own spot on the podium, his name in lights, or a ceremony dedicated to him. He always eyed the "end game." We don't sit here and remember how we were runner-up at the White River Classic or that we finished 0-9 in a horrific football season. We remember the people who surrounded us. The people who held us up in these times and made us into who we are today. That is the championship that Cody won...

Let me close by saying Cody was one of the most amazing men I have ever met. He and my Father were inseparable. This made him more to me than just an uncle and I (hopefully) more than a nephew. Although it feels like this dedication is a last goodbye, it most certainly is not. You will continue to see signs of him all around us. You will hear his Friday night cheers on the Art Crate Field bleachers. You will see his determination in the eye of the wrestler striving to hang on in double overtime. Finally, you will see his tears in those senior athletes who just played the final game of their careers. He is there for all these moments and will forever be in our heart.

With Love...
Your Honored Nephew,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Miller".

Josh Miller, Yelm High School 1996



Welcome

President's Message



Welcome!

To begin with, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the members of our third class of inductees for a job well done. Your accomplishments during your time in the Bethel School District has brought a great deal of pride to the residents of the Spanaway /Graham communities as well as to those that have since moved out of the area. It is our mission as a non-profit organization to recognize you and your accomplishments at this ceremony. Again COGRATULATIONS!

Secondly, I would like to point out some "firsts" for our organization. In today's ceremony we are proud to be inducting our first two athletes from our newest high school, Graham-Kapowsin. We are very aware of our responsibility to be inclusive and feel that this is a step in that direction and are certain that there will be many more

G-K inductees to follow. Along those lines we also will be recognizing the accomplishments of two special needs teams from Spanaway Lake High School. We are very proud of their accomplishments and are eager to share their success story with the greater community. Additionally, as an organization, we have conducted elections within our group and have had a change in some of the leadership positions and all of our members are working hard to provide for a successful transition.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for attending today's ceremony. Our organization has truly embarked on a labor of love and are happy to share our results with you. It is only with your continued support that we will pursue the recognition of future inductees into the Bethel School District Hall of Fame.

Hope you enjoy the program!

Sincerely,

Ed Burmester
President, Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame

Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame Members

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Will Kinne
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Michael Pavia
Tom Siegel
John Zurfluh (BJ)

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Bryan Streleski
Ed Tingstad
John Zurfluh (LJ)
Ed Burmester
Roxane Asay

2019 Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Athletes

Garrett Alwert	Ryan Barrett	Darin Borden	Felix Brodigan
Gene Curbow	Jan Dempsey	Marjorie Goddard	Blain Guenther
Yvette "Henry" Barnes	Gene Ketter	Sadena Parks	Caesar Rayford
Brad Sweet	Chris Tompkins		

Coaches

Frank Pavia

Contributors

Jim Ball, Beth Bardwell, Cody Miller and Lavada Roy

Family

The Mullen Family: Mike, Pat, Molly and Nick

Teams

2005 Spanaway Lake High School State Special Olympics Basketball team
2009 Spanaway Lake High School State Special Olympics Basketball team

Schedule, Sponsors & Volunteers

Schedule

Lunch

Welcome – John Briebl

Presidents Message – Ed Burmester

Introduction of Directors – John Briebl

Recognition of Past Inductees – John Briebl

Featured Speaker – Logan Seeley

Cody Miller Program Deidcation – John Zurfluh

Team Inductees Presenter

2005 Spanaway Lake
Special Olympics Basketball Team Ed Burmester
2009 Spanaway Lake
Special Olympics Basketball Team John Zurfluh

Individual Inductees..... Presenter

Garrett Alwert Phil Misley
Ryan Barrett Ryan Zakula
Darin Borden Bryan Streleski
Jan Dempsey Kevin Aoki
Marjorie Goddard Kevin Aoki
Blaine Guenther Eric Kurle
Yvette (Henry) Barnes Teri Leifson
Sadena Parks Jim Ball
Caesar Rayford Eric Kurle
Brad Sweet Scott Stirts
Chris Tompkins Ed Burmester
Felix Brodigan Ed Niehl
Gene Curbow Ed Niehl
Gene Ketter Ed Niehl

Coaches Presenter

Frank Pavia Ed Niehl

Contributors..... Presenter

Jim Ball Mike Mullen
Beth Bardwell Bryan Streleski
LaVada Roy Ed Burmester

Family Presenter

The Mullen Family (Mike, Pat, Molly and Nick) .. Jim Ball

Closing – John Briebl

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**Tacoma South Sound Sports Commission
would like to congratulate the
2019 Bethel School District
Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees**

Master of Ceremonies



John Briebl

John attended Bethel Junior and Senior High where he served as student body president at both schools. He graduated in 1968 lettering 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 reuniting 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 their social services programs.

John lives on Tule Lake in Parkland with his wife and fellow Bethel Brave, Lani. They have three children and two grandchildren.

Guest Speaker



Logan Seelye

In July of 2003, Logan Seelye had just completed his junior year at Spanaway Lake High School and was an aspiring football player with the dream of earning a Division I scholarship and ultimately, one day, being an NFL draft selection. As fate would have it, while playing in a 7 on 7 scrimmage at the Central Washington University Football Camp, Logan suffered a life changing injury. In a collision with another player, Logan broke his neck and received a paralyzing spinal cord injury. Doctors told him he'd likely never have feeling or movement from the chest down.

In one of the most compelling stories ever, Logan refused to let his injuries define him. Fast forward more than a decade later, Logan's post injury achievements are truly sensational. After months of intense physical therapy, he defied doctor's expectations and in June of 2004 with the help of a walker, Logan made his way across the stage to receive his high school diploma. He earned his Bachelor's Degree at Central Washington University in four years and presented the commencement speech to his graduating class. And, he married his high school sweetheart, Jordyan, and purchased a house in the Spanaway area where they are raising their young daughter, Skylar.

To learn more about his amazing inspirational story and his creation of his "10 and 90" foundation, the philosophy that has shaped his life, please go to the website <http://www.10and90.foundation>.

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.

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.

Hall of Fame

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
- Bethel High School FOCLA
- Lani Briehl, Rose Burmester, Julie Day, Rick Ham, Krista Ham, Linda Martn, Donna Morgan, Marilyn Poage, Sue McNiven, Kathy Knelleken, Doris Hominda, and Michelle Hamilton

Past Inductees

Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame Past Inductees

Athletes—Roxane Asay, Mike Blowers, Darrell Borden, Johnny DuRocher Jr., Larry Gotcher, Lisa Graber, Gary Gregg, Ed “Eddie” Hagen, Bill Harr, Herb Jones (dec.), Larry Ladowski, Mike Matheny, Susie Morehart, Bob Niehl, Oscar Springsteen

Coaches—Bob Fincham (dec.), Paul Greeley (dec.), Jack Justice, Ed Niehl, Doug Wisness

Contributors—Sonny Beegle (dec.), Art Crate (dec.), Mike Macdonald (dec.), Earl Platt, Tynne Swick

Family—The Tingstad Family

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

1958 Bethel High School Football Team

Coach: Ed Niehl, Assistant Coach: Jack Justice, Managers: King Phelps, David Rennie, Don Leigh, Jim Nichols

Roster: Farrell Ressler, Terry Whittlesey, Gary Justice, John Phelan, Bill Bell, Ed “Eddie” Hagen, Marcus Wickline, Clyde Baker, Don Raper, Rod Parham, Richard Dittbenner, Larry Gehring, Bill Scott, Lloyd Williams, Mike Wharton, Dale Curtiss, Gerald “Jerry” Crippen, Jim Metzener, Neil Lambertsen, Gary Gregg, Gary Pierce, Bayard Crate, Bruce Moore, Tom Jones, Miland Krumpos, Jay Brown, Carl Schriver, Larry Stearns, Dave Belvin, Doug Woods

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 Lightenwalter, Al Ketter

1996 Bethel High School Volleyball Team

Coach: John Reopelle, Assistant Coaches: Monica Farley, Christine Nelson, Manager: Kalani, Vera Wright (scorekeeper)

Roster: Malissa Reed, Valerie Lee, Katy Zurfluh, Donja Walker, Joanna Johnson, Heather Mayo, Rachelle Gienger, Jordan Gienger, Corrin Breon, Michelle Barlow, Jennifer Ladwig, Dori Bratusch, Holly Hobbs

2001 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 Satiacum

2005 Bethel High School Boys Basketball Team

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

Roster: Mike Vargas, Chuck Hogue, Jordan Sutton, Ryan Purugganan, Mike Yusko, Marquis Matthews, Jamil Turner, Scott Stanley, Alex Tiefenthaler, Kevin Cattage, Brandon Moore, Robbie Betschart, Scott Tiefenthaler

Athletic Hall of Fame Membership

BECOME A MEMBER

The Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame, an independent non-profit organization, was started to ensure that the athletic history and traditions of the district are celebrated. The continued operation of the Hall of Fame depends on community involvement.

You are invited to join our organization by becoming a member. Annual dues are \$40.00 per year or \$200.00 for a Lifetime Membership.

Membership is January through December of each year.



Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email Address _____

Send your \$40.00 payment payable to: B.S.D.F. and send with this form to:
Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame
21818 38th Ave. E., Spanaway, WA 98387

You will receive your membership card within 14 days.

Number of memberships _____ @ \$40 ea. Total \$ _____

Number of Lifetime Membership @ \$200.00 ea. Total \$ _____

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*We would like to congratulate the
2019 Bethel School District Athletic
Hall of Fame Inductees*



Nomination Form

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253-820-3438

bethelhalloffame.org

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Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame Nomination Form

See Nomination Criteria — ALL FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY

Category: Athlete _____ Team_____ Coach_____ Contributor_____

High School: Bethel _____ Spanaway Lake _____ Graham-Kapowsin _____

Other Bethel School _____ Years of involvement: _____

Nominee: Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Maiden Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

If nominating a Team: Team Name _____

Sports & Years Played/Coached/Contributed:

Achievements/Honors/Community or School Involvement:

College/University/Professional Participation/Achievement:

Nominated by:
Name: _____

Telephone _____ Email: _____

Reference 1 Name: _____ Phone: _____

Reference 2 Name _____ Phone: _____

For additional information see Web page at <http://www.bethelhalloffame.org>

-ALL NOMINATIONS WILL REMAIN ACTIVE FOR THREE INDUCTION CEREMONIES-

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

Submit to: Bethel 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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***Congratulations to the 2019
Bethel School District Hall of Fame Inductees!***

2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



Garrett Alwert (BHS '99)

Garrett Alwert was born on October, 1980 in Tacoma, Washington to parents Lloyd and Cindy Alwert, both long time teachers in the Bethel School District. His brother Ryan was also an athlete at Bethel High School.

Garrett graduated with a 3.96 GPA, spending his entire school career at Bethel schools (Shining Mountain Elementary, Bethel Junior High and Bethel High School).

Athletically, Garrett earned six varsity letters at Bethel High School: two varsity letters as a member of the football team. His junior year he played wide receiver and safety on the state playoff team. As a senior he was a captain and starting quarterback on a team that

finished 6-3 just missing out on the post season.

He earned one varsity letter his senior year as a member of the basketball team that won the SPSL Championship and played in the State tournament.

He earned three varsity letters as a member of the baseball team playing first base and pitching. As a sophomore he hit .420 at the plate and was 2-0 on the mound with a 0.00 ERA on the SPSL League Championship team. As a junior he hit .429 earning 2nd Team All SPSL honors as a pitcher and utility player. His senior

year he hit .600 with six home runs, going 5-2 on the mound. He was awarded SPSL Player of the Year and named Tacoma News Tribune's All-Area First Baseman and All-Area Player of the Year. He was named to the All-State team and was a USA Today Honorable Mention All-American. He was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in the 1999 Major League Baseball Amateur Draft.

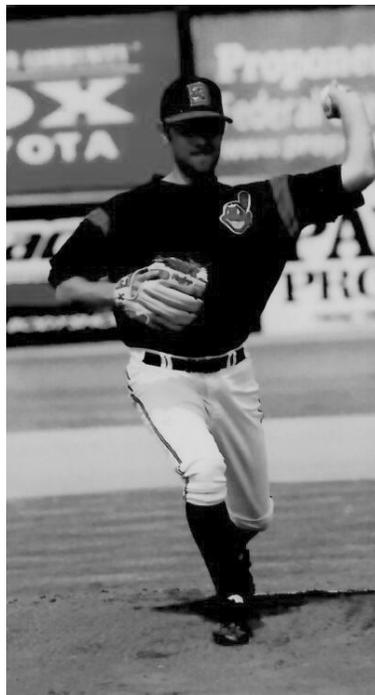
After high school he went to Washington State University on a baseball scholarship. He was a 4-time Pac-10 Academic Honorable Mention honoree. As a redshirt freshman he pitched, fifteen appearances, eight starts, and hit primarily as the team's designated hitter. His redshirt sophomore season he had ten starts on the mound also recording two saves out of the bullpen. As a redshirt Junior he earned a win against USC in Los Angeles, WSU's first win at USC since 1969. His senior season, as a team captain, he posted a career high 76 and 2/3rds innings with twenty appearances and seven starts.

He was named Pac-10 Pitcher of the Week after he held USC scoreless over eight innings in a 5-1 win. He led the team in

saves and was given the Coaches Cup award recognizing the team's MVP.

After college Garrett signed with the Cleveland Indians. He pitched for the Indian's minor league affiliate in Burlington, North Carolina for a season before a chronic illness ended his playing career.

Garrett is now happily married to Karissa and together they have two daughters, Kylie (6) and Kendall (4), and one son Kanen (1).



Inductees

2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



Elizabeth (Beth) Bardwell (Contributor 1945–1972)

Beth Bardwell earned her teaching certification from Central Washington College of Education, a BS from Washington State College and she furthered her education at Pacific Lutheran College.

Mrs. Bardwell came to Kapowsin in 1945. While there she taught 4th, 7th and 8th grade and high school PE, English, Typing and Psychology. She was a Senior Class Advisor. She also coached tennis, the only high school sports with girls competing. In 1951, the school's yearbook, "The Brave," was dedicated to her.

Throughout her teaching career, Beth Bardwell was highly respected by students and staff. She was an active staff member known for her wisdom and "no nonsense" manner. She was so direct that it was rumored that Beth

had been in military service prior to teaching, which she hadn't. Former students would bet on it. Just the same, Beth was dedicated to the development of her students, mentally, physically and socially.

Mrs. Bardwell knew that physical education and athletic competition was necessary for her young female students. When Bethel High School opened. Beth was the first girls' PE teacher. During her years teaching PE, she was continually developing curriculum. She loved to dance and incorporated dance, and later modern dance, into the curriculum. She and Ed Neil put on a two day spring program for the community called Gymorama. It focused on physical education with student demonstrations and, of course, some dance.



Mrs. "B" as she was called by her students, was most passionate about creating the opportunity for girls to participate in competitive sports. As mentioned before, other than tennis, there were no girls' sports programs. Thus, in the early 1950s she introduced Girls' Athletic Association, or GAA, to Bethel High School. GAA was an intramural program. Her son Kirk remembers, that in the beginning, competitions took place on Saturdays. As the program grew, competitions were also held after school. Sports included bowling, swimming, field hockey basketball volleyball, and more. When the new Bethel Junior High opened in 1958, a GAA program was soon organized there by Glenda Clemons under the guidance of Mrs. Bardwell. GAA was the precursor to girls' inter-mural sports. Because of GAA



and Mrs. "B," girls would be prepared to compete.

The 1965 yearbook was dedicated to Beth and in 1968 she gave up teaching PE to become the girls' guidance counselor, helping in a way only Mrs. "B" could. It is interesting and fitting that in the 1972 year-

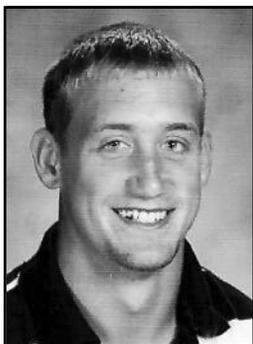
book, the year of Mrs. Bardwell's

retirement, girls' volleyball was first mentioned as a inter-mural girls sport. A job well done Beth Bardwell



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

2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



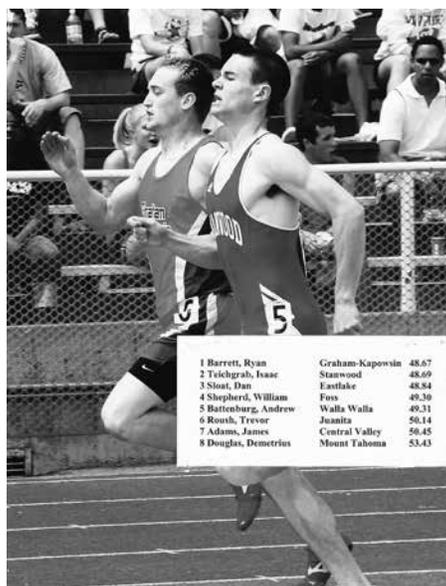
Ryan Barrett (GK '07)

Ryan Barrett transferred from Rogers High School to Graham-Kapowsin the summer of 2005 as a junior. He was part of the first graduating class at Graham-Kapowsin in 2007. Ryan accomplished plenty in the two years he attended Graham-Kapowsin High School!

Ryan earned six varsity letters at Graham-Kapowsin High School, two in football as a safety/receiver for coach Eric Kurle, two letters in basketball as a guard for coach Brian Strelski and two as a sprinter for coach Ryan Zackula's track team.

Ryan turned out for football in the fall of 2005. He made the varsity squad playing defensive back and wide receiver his junior and senior year. Ryan helped the Eagles make it to the playoffs both years. During his senior year the team's league record was 5-5 and Ryan was named to South Puget Sound League honorable mention team.

Ryan also played two years as a varsity basketball player under coach Bryan Strelski as a point guard. He led the team with assists both years and in his senior year was voted Mr. Offense by his teammates.



Ryan's most accredited sport was track. He participated two years on the varsity track team coached by Mark Conrad and Ryan Zackula. He ran the 100-meter, 200-meter, 400-meter and the 1600-meter Relay for the Eagles.

In 2006 (Junior Year), Ryan ran the 100 and 200-meter race and qualified for state for each event. He was part of the 1600-meter Relay team that placed 5th that year with teammates Matt Smith, Ryan Ancheta and Evan Schwantner. Ryan received the GK "Mr. Track" award that year.

In 2007 (Senior Year), He qualified for state in the 100-meter where he placed 5th and ran the 200-meter. He ran the 400-meter race, with a time of 48.67 placing first while becoming the first Graham-Kapowsin track 4A champion—still a school record today! Ryan then ran the 1600-meter relay with teammates Ryan Ancheta, Evan Schwantner and Reggi Christor, with a time of 3.19.56, to place first again. He received the SPSL Male Track Athlete of the Year Award and Graham-Kapowsin gave him, for the second year, the Mr. Track Award. Ryan held the school records in the 400-meter and 1600-meter relay events. With his accomplishments Ryan was among a select list invited to compete in the at Brooks Washington/Oregon Meet of Champions that year where Ryan won the 400-meter and helped the WA team win the 1600-meter relay! Graham-Kapowsin also chose Ryan as the GK Spring Athlete of the Year in 2007.

After high school, Ryan was awarded a scholarship in track to Clark College where he attended for two years before he transferred to Washington State University, also with a scholarship in track.

At Clark College he was coached by former Cougar All-American John Cassleman, earning two varsity letters in track as a sprinter. As a freshman Ryan won the 400-meter, 4x400-meter relay and took second in 200-meter at Northwest Athletic Association of Community Colleges championship. During his sophomore year, Ryan took second at NWAACC in the 400-meter in a PR time of 47.39 and was selected as MVP of Clark team twice. In total Ryan received seven All-American honors. Ryan was selected into the Clark College Hall of Fame.



Senior Ryan B

After Transferring to WSU, Ryan had a top time in the 400-meter of 49.56i and 200-meter time of 22.46i at the Husky Classic (2/13/10, Seattle) and he also ran the team's best 400-meter time of 48.07 at Mt. SAC Relays (4/16/10, Walnut). Ryan's season-best 200-meter time of 21.98w was at the Stanford Invite (3/27/10) and he also finished 15th in 400-meter at Pac-10 Championships (49.49).

Ryan Graduated from Washington State University in 2012 with a degree in Social Sciences.

Ryan's parents are Todd and Brenda Barrett of Graham. Ryan's sister is Kaylee Barrett (GKHS 13') who also graduated from Graham-Kapowsin in 2013.

Ryan currently lives in Graham, where he runs his businesses, (Barrett's Enterprise, Barrett's Trucking & Barrett's Landscaping & Construction).

Track Athletes

2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



Jim Ball (Contributor 1977–2007)

Jim graduated from Curtis High School. He participated on the boys' basketball team and helped take home a state championship in 1971. Jim also participated on the golf and track team for the Vikings. After high school Jim went on to play four years of basketball and golf at Pacific Lutheran University, 1973–76. He earned seven varsity letters and was a conference Medalist in golf in 1976.

In February of 1977, Jim started teaching 4th grade at Spanaway Elementary and did so for eight years. He then taught history and various classes at Bethel and Spanaway Lake High School. He coached junior varsity basketball at Spanaway Jr. High for one year, then coached eight years with Mike Mullen as his basketball assistant at Bethel High School. He then became head basketball coach at Spanaway Lake High School for two years.

Jim Ball began his athletic administration career at Bethel High School by succeeding Ed Neihl as the Director of the Bethel Recreation program. When Jim began this job in 1981 there were 120 baseball/softball teams. When Jim turned over the program June of 2000, there were 240 baseball/softball teams. Jim oversaw the writing of the by-laws for Bethel Recreation, forming it into a non-profit, creating a strong board of directors, building a storage building and added additional programs which were 1st grade tee ball, coach pitch softball and girls' softball.

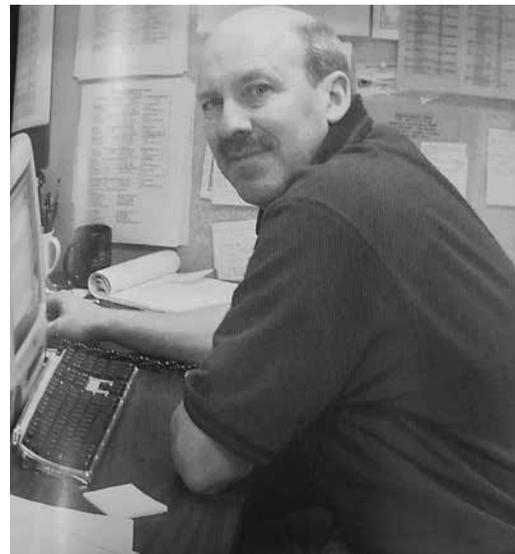
In 1989, Jim was hired to succeed Ed Tingstad as the Bethel High School Building Athletic Coordinator. During his time as Athletic Director, Bethel won two state championships (1996 Girls Volleyball and 2005 Boys Basketball). In 2003–2008, Jim Co-Coach Girls' Golf with Tedene Bottiger. They took four trips to state together as Co-Coaches, coaching inductee Sadena Parks to her 6th, 2nd and two State titles. The girls golf team finished second in state in 2006 and

2008. Jim was selected as the SPSL Golf Coach of the Year in 2006.

Jim oversaw the expansion and upgrading of several facilities. Two of the most noticeable facility upgrades were The Mike Blowers Baseball Field and upgrading the girls' softball facility. Jim was part of the stadium facility upgrade after a fire demolished the visiting grandstands. Jim was the SPSL and West Central District III (WCDIII) Athletic Director of the Year 2003–04. Jim was also head of the district committee to fundraise for the field turf project on the district stadium.

In 1989, Jim served as Co-District Athletic Director with Ed Burmester for five years. Jim was commissioner of the SPSL and WCDIII Volleyball, SPSL and WCDIII Girls Bowling. Jim was the host Athletic Director for WCDIII Volleyball and WCDIII Bowling. Both tournaments were hosted by Bethel High School under Jim's direction.

Jim retired in 2007 and through 2008 was a retired/rehire. Jim and his wife Claudia, who also taught 24 years at Graham Elementary, live downtown Tacoma. They keep busy with their blended family of five children who were all graduates of Bethel High School and nine grandchildren.



2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



Yvette (Henry) Barnes (BHS '82)

Yvette Henry, a 1982 Bethel High School graduate, entered the halls of Bethel in September of 1979 as a sophomore. She earned three varsity letters in three different sports: volleyball, basketball and track.

Yvette started her year playing volleyball, coached by Sean Madden and Debbi Caramandi. She started swinging during her sophomore year as an outside hitter. The team had a league record of 5-7 and did not qualify for playoffs.

She returned her junior year to be awarded in the fall "Athlete of the Month." Losing many seniors from the previous year the teams league record was 2-7 and again did not make it to the playoffs. Yvette still was voted SPSL First team. During her senior year the team improved their record to 6-3, made it through Districts and qualified for State. The team overall record was 17-10 and placed 5th at State.

After volleyball season Yvette moved right into basketball. She played forward on the team that was coached by Rob Andrea. It was a disappointing season, but Yvette came back stronger her junior year. Yvette led the team in scoring and rebounding. The team was 8-10 and missed going to the play-offs. She was awarded winter "Athlete of the Month" and was voted All-South Puget Sound League First Team. During her senior year, she was chosen as co-captain with Suzanne Sharpe. A better year than the previous, the team's league record was 8-10. She again led the team in scoring, received the Captains Award and was voted for the second year in a row to the South Puget Sound League First team.

By the springtime, Yvette moved outside to participate in her third sport, track,

coached by Terry Leifson. Yvette participated in the mile relay and was the last leg, the 400 open, long jump and high jump. During her sophomore year she received the spring "Athlete of the Month" award. She continued on in her sophomore, junior and senior years to qualify for districts and the State track meet where in her senior year she placed 6th in the high jump and holds the high jump record at Bethel High School to date. She also received the Coaches Award her senior year.

After graduating high school, Yvette accepted a scholarship to Green River Community College to play volleyball and basketball. She also accepted a scholarship to the University of Idaho in volleyball.

Yvette received the Green River Community College and the University of Idaho Talent Award.

Yvette continued to play indoor volleyball competitively through USVBA and received a First Team Award in 1986. She continued to play outdoor grass and beach volleyball until 1990 and played co-ed indoor volleyball until she turned 50.

Yvette moved back into the Bethel School District to be closer to her family. Her parents Oliver L. Henry passed away in 2018 at 96 years old and her mother Winifred Henry still lives in Graham.

Yvette has three brothers, Martin (BHS '76), Oliver II (BHS '77), Vernon (BHS '79), and one sister Margaret (Vanderhyden) (SLHS '84). Both of Yvette's children, Jared Henry (BHS '12) and Pierette Barnes (BHS '16), attended Bethel high school and participated in sports until they graduated. She also has two nieces and one nephew who were Bethel High School graduates. Yvette always supported her children by volunteering in class

continued on next page



Inductees

2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



and on the courts. She was an elementary classroom mom, Bethel Rec. volleyball and basketball coach, video productions volunteer at Cougar Mountain and volleyball team mom and photographer at Bethel High School.

Yvette has had great success in her career from co-hosting a live broadcast show on KSTW in 2003 with Chris Cashman called "Around the Sound" to now owning her own Marketing and Photography business covering King and Pierce Counties.

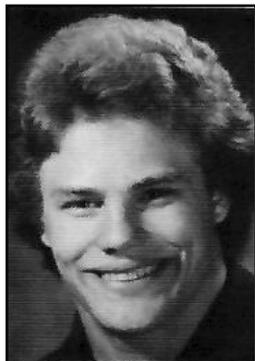
Yvette reflects back on her time at Bethel High School and she attributes some of her success from the great coaches and teachers throughout her life as a student athlete in the Bethel School District. She feels blessed to have attended Bethel High School in the great days of the 80's and she loved the best peach crisp pies from Tynne!!



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**Congratulations to the Bethel School District
Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees**

2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

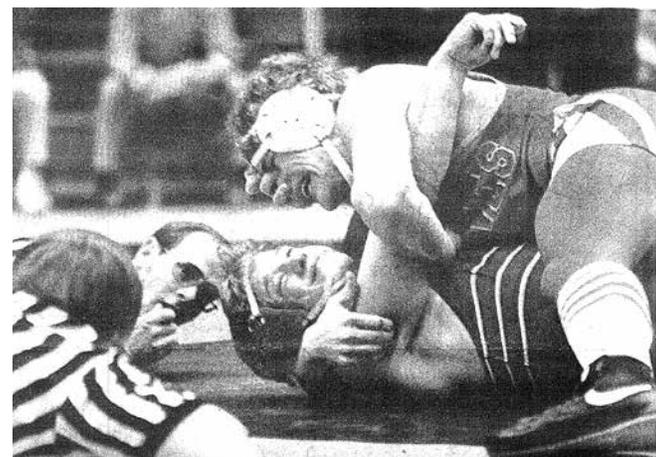


Darin Borden (BHS '82)

The Borden family is well established historically in the Bethel School District. Darrell Borden, also an inductee of the Bethel Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018, and Virginia Rearden, the Sportsmanship awardee of 1953, raised four children, and all attended Bethel High School. Their youngest son, Darin Borden is this year's inductee. Darin graduated in 1982 lettering in football, wrestling, track and baseball.

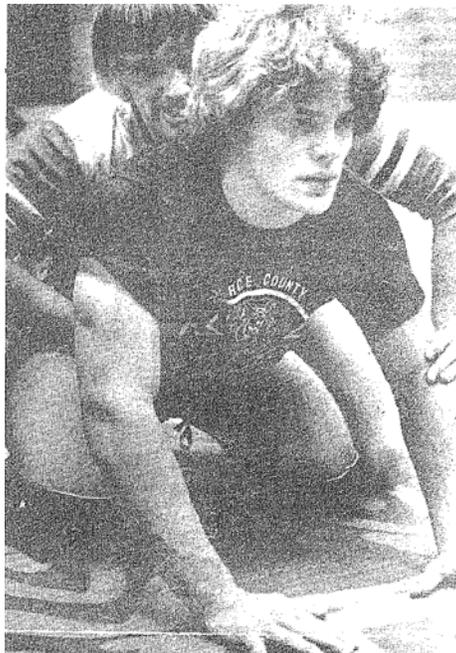
Darin was most acclaimed for his wrestling career, winning the State AAA Championships two years in a row, in 1981 and 1982, and placing 5th in State in 1980. In the process he compiled a record of 63 wins and only one loss in his junior and senior year combined. Darin received notoriety by the South Puget Sound League (SPSL) Athletic Association and was selected as the SPSL Athlete of the Year, SPSL Wrestler of the Year, and a member of the SPSL Wrestling All-Star Team. He was the MVP trophy recipient of three high school tournaments and won twelve gold medals.

Following high school, Darin received full ride scholarship offers from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), University of Iowa, Washington State University and Arizona State University. Additionally, he was nominated by Senator Slade Gordon to attend West Point Academy with an open enrollment offer to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Choosing UNLV, he wrestled there two years before the program was retired.



qualified for State in track in the shot put and discus in 1981.

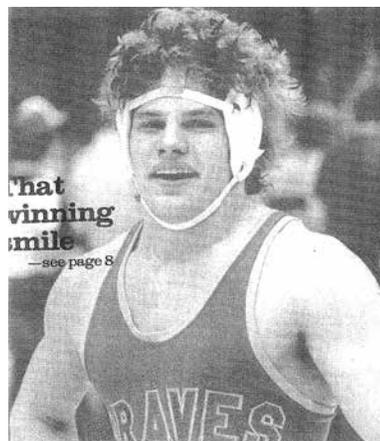
Darin is a business owner here in the Puget Sound area and, as a volunteer, attempts to improve the lives of the homeless in our community. He and his wife Cheryl contribute their time to the State of Washington's Point In Time Counts and help provide needed homeless services through the New Hope Resource Center. He has three daughters and a son who are graduates from local high schools of which his daughter was also a scholar athlete.



While at Bethel High School he received numerous awards including Most Aggressive, Photography Award (as head photographer for the yearbook), Activities Award, Coaches Award, and multiple Athlete of the Month awards.

Darin also excelled in his other sports playing football all three years and receiving a High School Hall of Fame award for his football career. Even though the school size had grown, he still played both sides of the ball as a fullback, linebacker, kicker and kick returner. He also

qualified for State in track in the shot put and discus in 1981.



Inductees

2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



Felix Brodigan (BHS '54)

"Felix Brodigan was the go-to-guy underneath the basket—he helped us win a lot of games."

—Dave Rich (BHS '55), a teammate of Mr. Brodigan

By way of introduction, three of this year's inductees, Felix Brodigan, Gene Curbow and Gene Ketter were all teammates and together, they were part of some great football and basketball teams in the early years of Bethel athletics. Sports writers covering the league would also link them together. For example on the eve of the 1953 Bethel-Peninsula football game, Tacoma News Tribune contributor Rog McDonald wrote, *"The Bethel lineup is loaded with outstanding players. Just to mention a few, Gene Ketter, a 185 lb. junior, handles the quarterback chores and is rated as one of the smartest signal callers in the conference. Gene Curbow, a 170 lb. junior, runs from the left half-back spot and is a hard youngster to stop on offense and he also plays a bang-up game on defense. Felix Brodigan, who tips the scales at a shade over 200 lbs. and stands 6'3," is a standout at an end position and has caused the opposition a lot of trouble all season..."*

Felix was born on March 31, 1936 in Thunderhawk, SD. His father, Felix, and mother, Margre, had four other children, a son and three daughters. Felix's younger brother Jerry, is a member of The Hall of Fame, having been inducted in 2017. Felix attended Milton and Meeker grade schools and Puyallup High School his freshman year (1950-'51), then transferred to Bethel High School in the Fall of 1951, and by the time he graduated in the spring of 1954, he was recognized as an outstanding three sport athlete. However, there were some "bumps in the road" along the way.

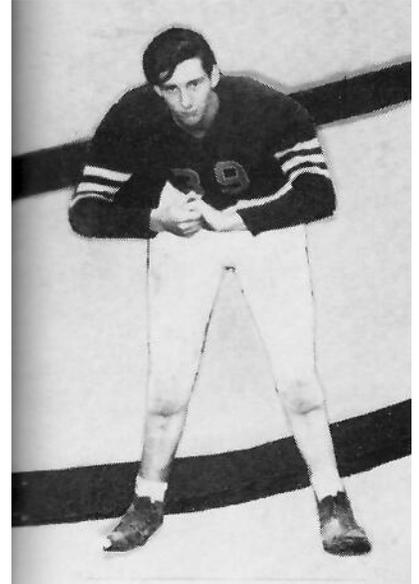
Felix was awarded five varsity letters; two in football and basketball and one in track. By all accounts, he would have earned one more in football and basketball and at least two more in track but for the following problems—when he enrolled at Bethel as a sophomore, his father refused to sign the school district's athletic waiver. Consequently, Felix could not participate in either football or basketball that year, and to compound the irony in all of this Bethel did not have a track team until 1954—the team didn't exist in 1952 or 1953. Regardless of whether it was five varsity letters, or eight of nine, Felix was blessed with the speed of a sprinter and had the height and size of an offensive end, even in today's football market. As a defensive lineman, he was tenacious and constantly disrupted the opposing offenses. On the basketball court, he was a dominant, high scoring center, a superb rebounder and he was also a league champion in track.

In the fall of 1952, Felix's father finally relented and signed the athletic waiver. As a junior on the '52 football team, Felix was a first string defensive tackle and was a key part of a defensive unit that held their league opponents to just 32 points in six games. The next year saw a major shake-up in the Braves' offensive alignment. Darrell Borden (fullback) and Terry Piper (offensive end) graduated. In order to replace these outstanding players, Coach Ed Niehl moved John Kerr from his offensive end position to fullback. Since the two quarterbacks, Gordon Barna and Ken Olive, had also graduated, he picked Gene Ketter to be the new quarterback, and continuing with these moves, Felix and Dave Rich were the new offensive ends. These changes, as radical as they may have seemed at the time, proved to be very successful. The 1953 football season, like the three previous years, proved to be just as exciting. Some close games; some that were high scoring; and the final game that would qualify as being one for the ages in Bethel's football history.

The season started with the annual "King's Axe" game with the Eatonville Cruisers. In the first quarter, Gene Curbow scored a touchdown on a five yard run giving Bethel a 6-0 lead at halftime. In the third quarter, Gary Allison scored making it 12-0. With this precarious lead and Eatonville threatening to score throughout the game, Felix put the game out of the Cruisers' reach when he "...grabbed a blocked pass in mid-air and raced 30 yards for a third touchdown in the final minutes of the game." Bethel prevailed 18-0.

The following week was the league opener against the 1952 champions, the Orting Cardinals. In a tough defensive game on both sides, Bethel defeated the defending champions 14-0. Bethel's touchdowns came in the first and fourth quarters. Gary Allison scored from five yards out and Gene Curbow tossed a three yard pass to Gene Ketter for the final score. The Vashon Pirates were next on the schedule and Bethel recorded its third shutout of the season 25-0. Gary Allison scored two touchdowns on runs, Gene Ketter added another and Gene Curbow threw a touchdown pass to Felix. The official league game against Eatonville was like "night and day" from the "King's Axe" contest played several weeks earlier. In a 33-0 rout, Gene Curbow scored three touchdowns and fullback John Kerr added two more. The next game was a show-down with the undefeated Peninsula Seahawks.

Going into the 1953 season, the pundits had picked Bethel, Federal Way and Peninsula as the favorites to win the league championship. True to form, both teams came into the game with identical 3-0 records. Gene Curbow's long return of the opening kick off set up the first touchdown, a three yard pass to Felix. Both teams scored in the second quarter and Bethel held a 12-6 half time lead. With five minutes to go in the fourth quarter, Peninsula scored and the game ended in a 12-12 tie. A portion of the post game write-up in The News Tribune stated the following: *"Terry Plumb and Felix Brodigan played their usual fine game in helping protect their team's undefeated record."* Yelm was next on the schedule and the storm that ensued was not what the Tornadoes had in mind. In a rout, the Braves won 46-0. Felix caught three touchdown passes—two from Gene Ketter and one from Gene Curbow. Dave Rich (1), Gary Allison (2), and Dennis McGraw (1) scored



continued on next page

2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

the other four touchdowns.

After the 12–12 tie with Bethel, Peninsula lost two games and dropped out of contention for the league title. This meant that the outcome of Bethel's last game of the season against the Federal Way Eagles would determine which team would be the league champion. It was only fitting that this contest would pit two of the preseason favorites—Federal Way (7–0–0) and Bethel (6–0–1). In order to take the title, Bethel had to win the game. A tie would not be enough. The pregame coverage in the press went throughout King and Pierce counties. A column in The News Tribune, in part, stated the following: *"Bethel is primarily a rushing team, although in a 46–0 rout of Yelm on Armistice Day, the Braves racked up 204 yards passing and 100 rushing. Gary Allison, Gene Curbow and Gene Ketter are standouts in the backfield, along with Felix Brodigan, an end, in the Braves offense."*

On November 20, 1953, on a soggy, miserable field—almost to the point of being unplayable—the two teams locked up in what turned out to be a tough, hard-fought defensive struggle. The Eagles scored first, taking the opening kickoff 62 yards in ten plays. The Braves came right back and scored, moving 69 yards in five plays. The key play in the drive was a long pass from Gene Ketter to Felix, good for 55 yards to the Federal Way three yard line. Gene Curbow went in for the score on the next play. With Federal Way leading by a score of 7–6, the next three quarters were literally a stalemate and the outcome was never certain until the Eagles scored the winning touchdown with only 55 seconds left to go in the game. Federal Way prevailed by a score of 13–6 and won the league championship with a perfect 8–0–0 record. Yes, by finishing second in the league standings it was a successful season, albeit bittersweet in not winning the title.

Felix had an outstanding year, both on offense and defense. For the season, as a team, Bethel threw eight touchdown passes—five to Felix (three from Curbow and two from Ketter). His six touchdowns and six P.A.T.'s (42 total points) ranked second on the team to Gary Allison's 49 points (8 T.D.'s and 1 P.A.T.). Not too bad for a guy whose abbreviated football career started out as a defensive tackle.

Quite frankly, Bethel's first two basketball teams were not very good (1950–'51) and (1951–'52). A more complete history of these early seasons can be found in Gene Ketter's biography. However, the 1952–'53 season was indeed a different story. The team lost three starters from the previous year due to graduation, including the star center and leading scorer, Lee McGee. Felix proved to be a worthy replacement. Bethel posted its first winning season with a 8–6 record and finished tied for fourth in the eight team league. Felix and Walt Leigh were the team's high point men in three games each and shared a fourth, followed by Dave Rich with three, Ken Olive with two and Gene Ketter and Gene Curbow with one each. Because of the tie, the Braves had to play Peninsula for the last spot in the "A" League District Tournament. The playoff game resulted in a 56–47 Seahawk win. Walt Leigh led the Braves with 14 points, followed by Felix with 11.

The next year, the 1953–'54 season, proved to be magical. The Braves played four non-league contests, two with Bellermine (which they lost) and two with Franklin Pierce (winning one and losing one). When the season opened the team was ready and they took the league championship with a perfect 16–0 record. Felix was a major contributor. He was a dominating force in rebounding, both on offense and defense, and he was a perfect compliment to the other four starting players. Walt Leigh (15 league games—233 points—15.5 average per game) and Gene Ketter (16 league games, 213 points, 13.3 average per game) were the scorers, along with the scrappy, hard-nosed play of Dave Rich (8.5 average per game) and the steady play of Gary Allison (6.0 average per game) rounding out this superb lineup. In 16 league games, Felix scored 190 points for an average off 11.9 points per game, which was third on the team. As to just how important Felix was to this team can be shown in some Tacoma News Tribune press clippings which appeared throughout the season:

- In a non-league loss to the Bellermine Lions (57–48) the game summary stated the following: *"The Bells' height was a deciding factor in the game, as Bethel was playing without its rugged center, Felix Brodigan, who was out with a sprained ankle. Brodigan stands 6'3."*

- *"Led by Gene Ketter and Felix Brodigan, the Bethel Braves scored 53–41 victory over the defending champion Yelm Tornadoes in an early West Central League 'Crucial' here Tuesday night. *** "Ketter connected for 23 points and Brodigan for 17..."*

- In a short column entitled "BETHEL BRAVES TO MEET FIFE," the writer stated that, *"In order to win, Fife will have to stop Gene Ketter, Bethel forward who scored 23 points and Felix Brodigan who hit 17 Tuesday against Yelm."*

- In a 63–35 win over White River, the game summary included the following: *"Gene Ketter paced the winners with 14 points...Felix Brodigan, Bethel center was outstanding on the boards in the 15 minutes he was in the game."*

- Bethel's 51–42 victory over Eatonville was especially gratifying—it was the first in three years—*"Dave Rich, Gene Ketter and Walt Leigh turned in outstanding jobs for the winners with all-around good floor play and rebounding. Felix Brodigan, Bethel center, caught fire in the second half and poured 15 points through the hoop. His total of 18 was high for the night."*

- The Brave's captured their 14th straight victory by edging the Peninsula Seahawks 59–57. This clinched the league title. The press report on the game stated the following: *"Felix Brodigan's work on the boards for the winners was a decisive factor. Bethel grabbed 44 rebounds compared to 20 for Peninsula."*



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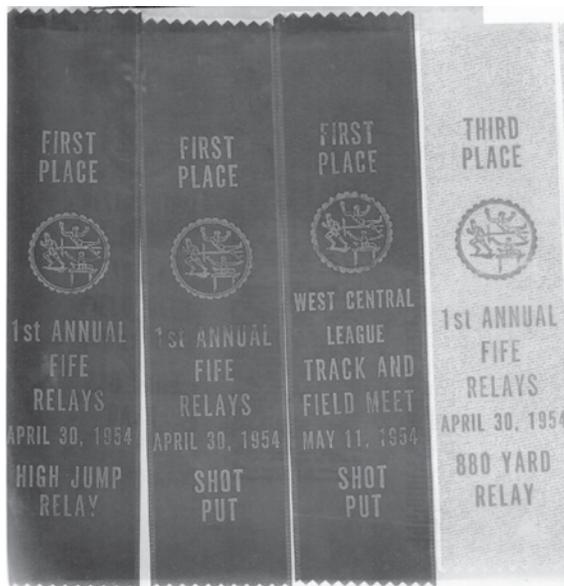
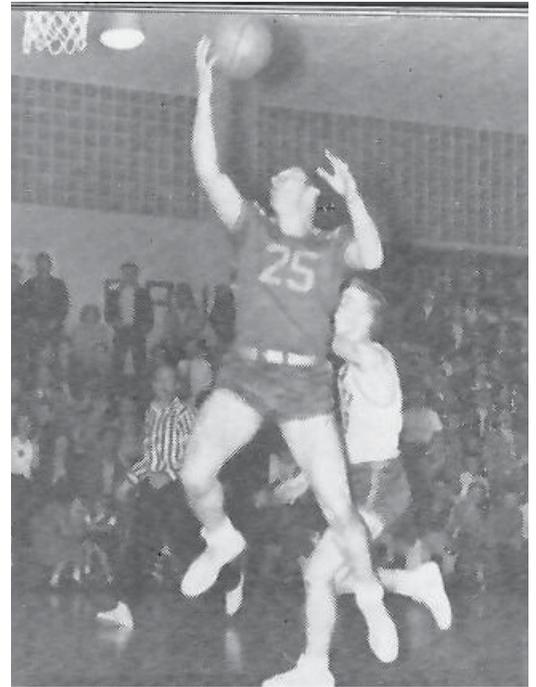
2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

- Bethel's second win of the season over Eatonville was a nail-biter all the way. The final score was 61-60 and it was the Braves' 15th straight win. According to the writer covering the game, "one of the turning points of the contest came right at the start of the final quarter. Gary Allison scored a field goal for Bethel and was fouled on the shot. He missed the free throw but Felix Brodigan tipped the ball in for two more points cutting the Cruisers' lead to one point." A minute later, Bethel went into the lead, and Walt Leigh's basket with ten seconds to go clinched the game for the Braves.

Bethel completed its undefeated season with a convincing 74-51 win over Vashon Pirates. Felix was high point man with 19, followed by Dave Rich with 16. Unfortunately, Bethel's season came to an abrupt halt in the Class "A" District Tournament, with a 64-55 loss to a tough Auburn team from the Puget Sound League. Three nights later, they lost a heart-breaking game to the Bremerton Wildcats, 46-43. In those two games Felix led Bethel with an average of 15 points per game.

Felix's only varsity track letter came in 1954. As stated above, this was Bethel's first team and they met with a fair amount of success. They finished third in the 1st annual Fife Relays and fourth in League Meet. Felix participated in both the field events and sprints and his athleticism was very apparent. At the Fife Relays, held on April 30, 1954, Felix placed first in the shot put, first in the high jump and a third place finish as a member of Bethel's 880 yard relay team.

On May 11, 1954, Felix competed in the West Central League Track and Field meet and won the League Championship in the shot put. He finished third in the high jump and fourth in the 220 yard dash. Now please note that this fourth place finish has only been included because, back in those days, you didn't see a 6'3," 205 lb. sprinter very often! Perhaps a testament to his overall abilities.



After graduating from Bethel High School in 1954, Felix played basketball and softball for several years with various teams through the Pierce County Recreational Program. Over the years he worked for Shaub-Ellison, Sears and Campbell's Vending and eventually became self-employed as a carpenter. He has been retired for about twelve years. Shortly after her graduation from high school, he married Margie McFadden and they have been married for sixty-two years. They raised five children and now have 13 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Felix Brodigan's induction into the Hall of Fame is unique for two reasons. The first involves football. It has often been stated that linemen are always the last ones to be recognized as major contributors to a team. Well, Mr. Brodigan will be the first true football lineman to be inducted—a defensive lineman and an end on offense. The second is on a more personal note, Felix and his brother Jerry are the first brothers to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.



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Gene Curbow (BHS '55)

"Darrell Borden and Gene Curbow started a tradition and they set the standard for the many great running backs who played for Bethel in the 1950's and '60's."

—Dave Rich (BHS '55), a teammate of Mr. Curbow.

In the 1940's, the Black Knights of Army fielded some great football teams. In the mid-1940's Army had two running backs who would become legends, not only at West Point, but in the history of college football as well. Fullback Felix "Doc" Blanchard was known as "Mr. Inside" and halfback Glen Davis was "Mr. Outside" and together, they led Army to two national championships (1944 and 1945). Both were Heisman Trophy winners —Blanchard

in 1945 and Davis in 1946. Beginning in 1951 the Bethel Braves had their own version of "Mr. Inside" and "Mr. Outside."

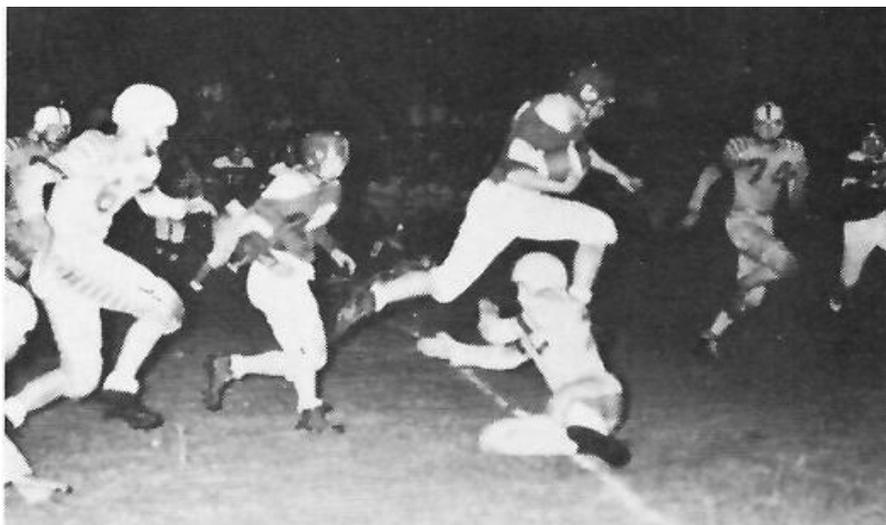
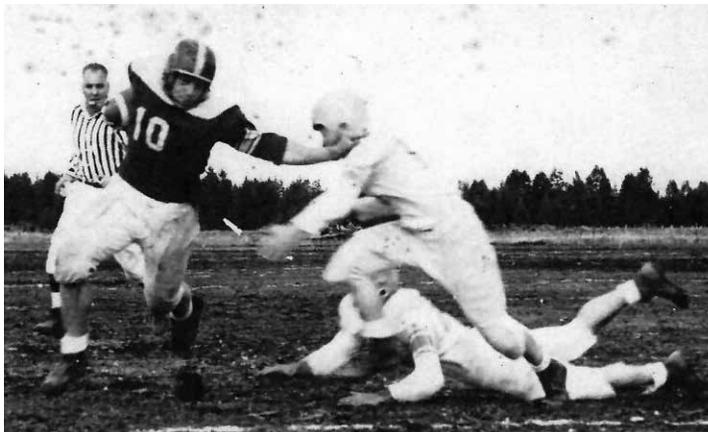
1951 was the dawn of a new era for Bethel High School football. Earl Platt, as principal, hired Ed Niehl to be the new head football coach. Mr. Niehl was a 1951 graduate of Washington State College and in his words "was as green as they come." The season would pose some real problems for Mr. Ed Niehl as almost all of the key players from the 1950 championship team had graduated and there were only nine returning lettermen. The hardest hit was the offensive backfield—three of the four were gone. The only holdover was fullback Darrell Borden, now a junior. The line, both on offense and defense, also was in question since only two remaining first-team linemen were still available. Obviously, this meant that six out of the nine returning lettermen were substitutes from the year before, and that the team needed to be rebuilt around those individuals.

After only two weeks of practice in September, head coach Ed Niehl managed to somehow put together a solid offensive and defensive line, as well as a great backfield. Gordon Barna, a junior, was the new quarterback and sophomore Glen Fuhrman was at one halfback position. Of course, Darrell Borden would be the fullback—but there was a "catch" to all of this—an unknown quantity—a kid, a freshman, would be the other starting halfback. Darrell Borden, "Mr. Inside" would now be joined by "Mr. Outside," Gene Curbow. For the next two years, they would create sheer bedlam for the opposing defenses. According to Mr. Niehl, these two players were a perfect match, a "one-two punch" if you will. Both were strong, "hard-nosed," determined backs who could really punish a defense.

The 1951 season started out on a couple of dismal notes. In the first annual "King's Axe" game against Eatonville—a non-league affair—the Cruisers prevailed 6-0. In a heart-breaking loss to Peninsula, the only score of the game was a safety and a 2-0 Seahawks win. Finally, the following week, the Braves defeated the

Orting Cardinals 6-0 to post the first victory of the season. The October 12, 1951 game against the Fife Trojans was probably the turning point of the season for the Braves. Federal Way and Fife were favored to win the league title and this game was a "must" for Bethel. In the second quarter, Darrell Borden rambled 70 yards to the Fife ten and scored three plays later. After a Bethel fumble, Fife scored the tying touchdown. At the start of the second half, Darrell Borden returned the kickoff to the Fife 45 yard line and with Gene and Darrell alternately carrying the football, Gene scored the win-

continued on next page



Inductees

2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



ning touchdown on a three yard run. For the remainder of the game, the Braves' defense held up, and the team came away with a 13–6 win. As it turned out, this would be Fife's only league loss of the season.

The next two league games would showcase the Braves' growing maturity, both on offense and defense. In a 25–7 victory over the Yelm Tornados, Darrell Borden scored two touchdowns, one on an intercepted pass and, not to be outdone, Gene scored the other two, one from short yardage and the other on a 20 yard end sweep. The official league game with Eatonville, just like in the first "King's Axe" game earlier in the season, proved to be another defensive struggle. After a scoreless first half, Eatonville struck first early in the third quarter. A 15 yard pass to Gary Allison put the ball on Bethel's three yard line and on the next play, another pass to Allison was good for the touchdown. In what proved to be the difference in the game, the Cruisers' kicker missed the point-after (P.A.T.). Several minutes later, the Braves culminated an 80 yard drive with Gene, now known as the "freshman sensation," scoring a touchdown on a five yard run. With the score tied at 6–6, the P.A.T. would be a must, but it proved to be anything but easy. Darrell Borden's kick was good, but a 15 yard penalty nullified the P.A.T. However on the next attempt, Borden completed a pass to Gene in the end zone for the one point. For the rest of the game Bethel's defense was solid and the Brave's avenged their "King's Axe" loss with a 7–6 victory. At this point in the season, three teams had conference records of 4–1–0, Bethel, Fife and Federal Way. However, the next day Peninsula High School issued a press release indicating that it would be forfeiting both the Orting and Fife games because of a case of polio on the Seahawk football team. A horrible crippling disease, polio was feared back in that day. Fife would be assured of a tie for the 1951 Pierce County League championship.

On November 2, 1951, Bethel travelled north to play a non-league game with Tahoma, a member of the highly-regarded KINGCO Conference. With Tahoma ahead 7–0, Gene put Bethel on the scoreboard with a 12 yard touchdown run to make it a 7–6 game at halftime. In the third quarter, Darrell Borden took control of the game, scoring two touchdowns and a P.A.T., with Gordon Barna adding a fourth touchdown to close out a 26–7 Bethel win. The stage was now set for a final game showdown with the Federal Way Eagles and whoever wins the game ties Fife for the league championship. The game turned out to be a complete disaster for the Braves, an absolute nightmare. In a 37–6 thrashing, fumbles, penalties, botched plays and mental mistakes led to the team's downfall. Federal Way held the halftime lead at 14–6, then exploded for three touchdowns in the third quarter. Bethel's only score came on an eight yard pass from Darrell Borden to Terry Piper. There was one other touchdown, a 57 yard pass from Gene to Darrell Borden, only to have it nullified by a clipping penalty.

In spite of the lopsided loss to Federal Way, the '51 season was considered a success. The sportswriters handicapping their pre-season favorites had picked Bethel to be the "dark horse" entry in the league, and the Braves finished with a 4–2–0 record (5–3–0 overall) which was good for a second place finish, one game ahead of Eatonville (3–3–0). For the season, Darrell Borden led the team with 39 points (6 TD's and 3 P.A.T.s); Gene was second with 37 points (6 TD's and 1 P.A.T.).

A great amount of optimism was felt entering the 1952 football season and two of the major contributing factors were as follows. (1) the entire starting backfield, including the two quarterbacks, Gordon Barna and Ken Olive, would be returning, as well as most of the starting line, and; (2) Gary Allison transferred from Eatonville and entered Bethel as a junior. He was well known to the Bethel players and coaches, having scored the Cruisers' touchdown in a 7–6 loss to the Braves during the '51 season. Allison was an outstanding athlete and while at Bethel, he would go on to earn six varsity letters.

Bethel opened the 1952 football season with a convincing 28–0 win over Eatonville in the second annual "King's Axe" game. Gary Allison, probably much to the chagrin felt by his former team, scored the first touchdown. Gene was responsible for the next two, running one in and his 12 yard pass to Terry Piper accounted for the other. Darrell Borden scored Bethel's fourth touchdown. The two pre-season favorites, Federal Way and Bethel, squared off in the Pierce County League opener, which ended up in a 6–6 tie. A 20 yard touchdown pass from Darrell Borden to Terry Piper was all that the Braves could muster. The next two league games were also ties—a scoreless battle with Orting, and a 6–6 standoff with Peninsula. The Braves' only score against the Seahawks was a Glen Fuhrman touchdown run from three yards out. The next encounter was a non-league match-up with Vashon and in a 7–0 Bethel win, the team's only touchdown came in the fourth quarter on a double reverse, with Gary Allison carrying for 18 yards. A pass from Ken Olive to Gene Ketter was good for the extra point. The Fife Trojans were next on the schedule and Bethel finally broke into the win column with a 13–7 victory, but it wasn't easy. Bethel's first touchdown came on a 35 yard pass from Ken Olive to Gene Ketter. After Fife tied the score, and the game winding down to the closing minutes, Gene broke through the Trojans' defense and galloped 30 yards for the winning score. This win kept the Braves in contention for the league title.

Next on the schedule was Yelm, and in a 7–0 win, the game's only touchdown was on a 15 yard pass from Gene to Gene Ketter. Ketter scored the P.A.T.. The last game of the season was against Eatonville and Gary Allison was again a Cruiser nemesis. In a 33–13 rout, he, along with Ken Olive and Gene scored one touchdown each—Darrell Borden scored two.

The Braves finished the season with a 3–0–3 league record (5–1–3 overall) which was good for a second place tie with Federal Way (4–1–1). The Orting Cardinals took the championship with a 5–0–1 league record. In many respects, the 1952 season was a disappointment in that Bethel was one of the pre-season favorites and the three tie games cost them dearly. On the season, Gene, Gary Allison and Darrell Borden scored three touchdowns apiece to lead the team. Terry Piper and Gene Ketter shared the honors for the most touchdown receptions, each with two—Piper from Gene and Darrell Borden; and Ketter from Gene and Ken Olive.

Both Ed Niehl and Jack Justice knew that there was a lot of work to be done going into the 1953 season. Graduation took both quarterbacks, along with fullback Darrell Borden. With Borden's graduation. Gene had a new fullback, John Kerr, a converted offensive end. Also, in what probably was a gamble at the time, Gene Ketter was the new quarterback; Dave Rich replaced him at end; and with John Kerr moving to fullback, Felix Brodigan took over as the other offensive end. All of these moves proved to be very successful. Now a junior, and wearing a new uniform with #10 on his back (he wore #49 his freshman and sophomore seasons—he would wear #33 his senior year), Gene was a

continued on next page

2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

seasoned veteran and a force to be reckoned with for the next two years.

The season began on September 18, 1953 with the now traditional “Kings Axe” game against Eatonville. In an 18–0 win, Gene, Gary Allison and Felix Brodigan scored the three touchdowns. A week later the Braves travelled to Orting and in a 14–0 win, Gary Allison scored the first touchdown and Gene Ketter accounted for the second—a three yard pass from Gene Curbow. The next game was against the Vashon Pirates, now a member of the newly formed nine team West Central League. The Braves had little difficulty in posting a 25–0 victory. Gary Allison scored twice, Gene Ketter once, and Gene threw a touchdown pass to Felix Brodigan. The Braves chalked up their third league win against Eatonville—33–0. Gene scored three times on runs of one, nine and 50 yards. John Kerr added Bethel’s other touchdowns on runs of 58 and two yards. This set the stage for a match-up between Bethel and Peninsula, two of the three pre-season favorites. Federal Way was the other.

Gene, in what was one of the finest games of his career, took Peninsula’s opening kickoff 90 yards to the Seahawks three yard line. Two plays later he flipped a pass to Felix Brodigan for the score. After Peninsula tied it with a touchdown in the second quarter, Gene scored again on a two yard plunge—Bethel led at halftime 12–6. That score held up until, with five minutes left to go in the game, Peninsula scored a touchdown and the game ended in a 12–12 tie. One post-game write-up stated the following: “Curbow amassed 221 yards from scrimmage during the game. Defensively, ends John Kerr and Gene Ketter stood out for Bethel.” Another summary stated that “the game was a bitter struggle from start to finish with both teams showing their power on the offense as well as defensively. Gene Curbow, Bethel back, was easily the outstanding offensive star of the game.” Gene’s 221 rushing yards was a school record at the time. Bethel shut out their next two opponents—13–0 over a new-comer to the league, Buckley (later known as White River) and 14–0 over Fife.

In the Buckley game, Gary Allison scored from short yardage and John Kerr scored the last touchdown on a 14 yard run. The Fife game proved to be more interesting and part of the game summary in The News Tribune read as follows: “A 48 yard pass play, Gene Curbow to Dave Rich, accounted for Bethel’s initial touchdown. Rich caught the toss on the Fife 20 and romped the rest of the way untouched.” “...Midway in the third quarter, Curbow’s punt rolled dead in the mud on the Fife 2-yard line to set up Bethel’s second touchdown.” The Trojans then tried to punt and a bad snap from center resulted in Gary Allison falling on the ball in the end zone.

The Braves put themselves in a position for another championship clash with Federal Way for the league title with a 46–0 victory over Yelm. Gene Ketter had his best game of the season, throwing three touchdown passes—two to Felix Brodigan and one to Dave Rich. Gene Curbow added another to Brodigan. Gary Allison (2) and Dennis McGraw (1) accounted for the other scores. Now, for the second time in three years, the Braves and the Eagles would lock horns in a game with championship implications, only this time, unlike 1951, the winner would take the league title outright. Federal Way’s record was 7–0–0; Bethel’s was 6–0–1. The game was scheduled for November 20, 1953 at Federal Way. However, it was determined that the field was unplayable and the contest was moved to Sumner High School and that field wasn’t much better.

The Eagles took the opening kick-off and went 62 yards in ten plays to score the first touchdown. The Braves came right back to score, moving the ball 69 yards in five plays. A pass from Gene Ketter to Felix Brodigan was good for 55 yards, to the Federal Way three yard line. Gene went in for the touchdown on the next play. For the next three quarters, the game turned into a brutal, defensive battle and the outcome was never certain until the Eagles scored a second touchdown with only 55 seconds left to go in the game. Federal Way would prevail 13–6 and Bethel would finish alone in second place with a 6–1–1 record (7–1–1 overall). For the season, the team statistics were impressive. Bethel finished second to Federal Way in points scored in league play with 163 (181 overall) and tied them for the fewest points allowed with 25. The Braves also recorded six league shutouts (seven overall). Gary Allison led the team with 49 points, followed by Felix Brodigan with 42 and Gene with 41. Gene also threw five touchdown passes—three to Felix Brodigan and one each to Gene Ketter and Dave Rich. Gene Ketter threw three—one to Dave Rich and the other two to Brodigan.

The 1954 football season would end three years of frustration for the Bethel faithful—the team would tie Fife for the League Championship. Going into the season the Braves would have to replace three stalwarts on offense and defense; John Kerr, Gary Allison and Felix Brodigan, and, as in the past, the coaches made the right decisions. Walt Leigh replaced Brodigan at an end position, Gene was joined by a new fullback, Gene Ressler and junior Dennis McGraw, backed up by sophomore Wayne Bush, replaced Gary Allison as the other halfback. Sadly, not all of the game summaries were available and it’s unfortunate because the ‘54 season was probably the best year for both Gene and Gene Ketter.

The Braves opened the season with a 6–0 win over the Vashon Pirates. With about a minute left to go in the game, Gene Ketter’s 12 yard touchdown pass to Gene Ressler was the difference. In the next game, the team defended the “King’s



continued on next page

2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

Axe" in a 20–0 victory over Eatonville. Gene Ketter ran for one touchdown, passed for another to Walt Leigh, and was on the receiving end of a pass from Gene for the final score. After a 45–0 rout against Peninsula, the Braves took on the White River Hornets. Both teams were undefeated and the Braves had to come from behind to score a 14–13 win. The game summary in the TNT stated the following: *"Gene Curbow had one of his best nights of the season for Bethel, scoring all 14 of his team's points. One touchdown was on a 15-yard run, the second on a 12-yard pass from Gene Ketter. He ran over both conversions. He also picked up 103 yards on 16 carries (6.4 yard average) during the contest."*

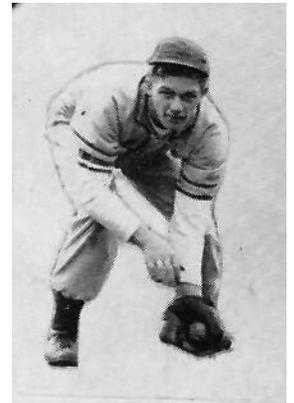
Bethel, still unbeaten, now faced Fife, one of the pre-season favorites. They had one loss, a 21–8 defeat against White River, and to their credit the underdog Trojans came away with a 14–6 win. Bethel held a 6–0 halftime lead on a 31 yard scoring pass from Gene Ketter to Dave Rich, but Fife came back in the second half to gain the victory. The following week Bethel bounced back with a 13–6 win over a stubborn and talented Yelm team. Now, with two games left in the season, the Braves set their sights on Federal Way and Orting and both were absolute mismatches. In a 51–0 thrashing of Federal Way, Gene Ketter had a career night, throwing five touchdown passes, three of them to Dave Rich. Gene would add two more, one to Rich and the other to Ketter. Also, on 12 carries Gene picked up 105 yards, an 8.8 average and one touchdown. Wayne Bush would pick up the other two scores. Bethel closed out the season with a 49–0 win over Orting, and with Fife's win against Eatonville, this meant that the Braves would share the league title with the Trojans, both at 7–1–0.

In the four years that Gene played football, all of the teams were solid, well-coached and blessed with some awfully good talent—these guys could really play some football. From 1951 through 1954, the teams were 20–4–4 (.786%) in league play; 4–2–0 in non-league and overall, 24–6–4 (.765%). Gene would eventually be awarded nine varsity letters—four in football, two in basketball, two in baseball and one in track. However, according to Gene, these other sports were just mere "pastimes" for him—his true passion was football. However, he played on the 1952–53 basketball team that posted the first winning record in the school's history and the 1953–'54 team that won the league championship with a perfect 16–0 record. While never a starter on those teams, he was a reliable substitute off of the bench and could score some points. Gene was also the starting second baseman for the 1952 and 1953 baseball teams and his ninth, and last varsity letter was in 1954, as a participant in the field events on the track team.

Gene was a local boy born on March 10, 1935 at Fort Lewis. He attended Spanaway grade school before entering Bethel. After he graduated in the Spring of 1955, Gene worked in heavy construction for fifteen years, then was with Nordstrom in a management position at Southcenter and finally, for fifteen years was an R.V. technician at Sumner Trailer Sales. He and his wife Jean have been married for 63 years and raised three children; two boys Dennis and Jeff, and a daughter Penny. They also had a family business, a nursery near Orting, and since there was a Gene and a Jean it was only fitting that they called the business "A Pair of Geans." For many years, they were active members of the Daffodilians and helped to build, or actually built floats that participated in the annual daffodil parade.

According to Ed Niehl, had Gene continued his education beyond high school, he could have played football for a junior college or small college and he would have been successful. He was that good.

Finally, Darrell Borden was inducted into The Hall of Fame in 2017 and he holds a unique place in that he is the first athlete to become a member who played on the first football team known as the "Bethel Braves." Gene is unique in that he is the only player to receive four varsity letters in football in the Ed Niehl "era." To say the least, both were "dynamite" football players, and it is only fitting that Gene Curbow joins his teammate as a very worthy member of The Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame.



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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.

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Krista Dempsey (BHS '83)

Dempsey may be heavily recruited. "She's 5-8 and a powerful hitter and left handed which is very valuable for setting."

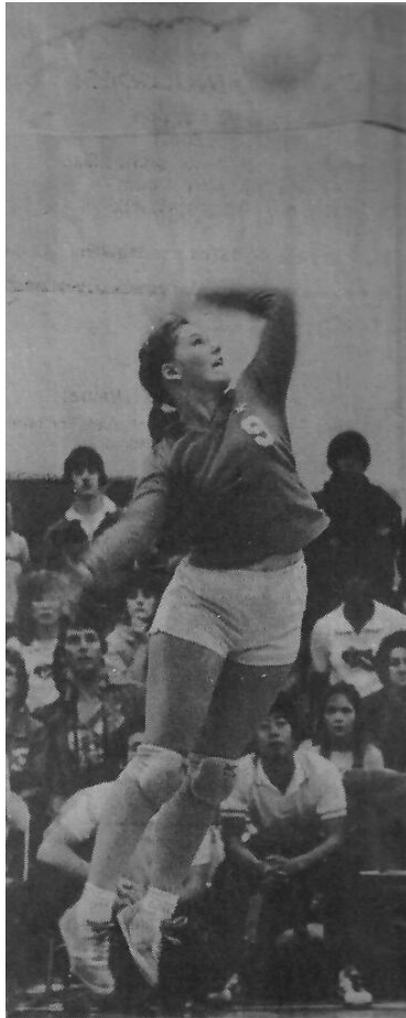
—Coach Sean Madden, BHS

"This kid is a clutch kid. Mentally she's very tough."

—Bethel Girls Basketball Coach
Teddi Bottiger



Jan Dempsey was born January 7, 1965 to Herb and Jeris Dempsey. She is the middle child having an older and younger brother. Jan attended Elk Plain Elementary and in 1977 entered Bethel Junior High where her competitive sports life began. Playing volleyball, basketball and softball she was selected as Athlete of the Year in 9th grade. As she began her Bethel High School year in 1980 she was selected for the varsity volleyball team, coached by Sean Madden, where she earned her first of ten (10)



varsity letters—three in volleyball, two in basketball, three in softball and two as boys basketball statistician. She acquired numerous athletic and academic honors through her years at BHS.

In 1980 the girls' volleyball team was beginning its 6th year in the South Puget Sound League and still lacked a winning season. By 1981 they posted a winning season of 6 wins and 3 losses, placed 4th in Districts and earned their way to the State Championship finishing 9th. The Braves record, including post season, was 10 wins and 7 losses.

In the following year, the 1982 team was League Co-Champion with Rogers with a record of 8 wins and 1 loss. They earned another trip to the State Tournament by beating Puyallup, 5-15, 15-9, 15-9 and Wilson, 15-7, 15-10 placing 5th in Districts. Improving on the previous year, they finished 7th in State. In that 1982 season, Ms. Dempsey was Co-Captain (with Marjorie Goddard). She was Bethel High School Athlete of the Month. The South Puget Sound League selected her for the All League First Team and the distinction of being Most Valuable Player.

Her basketball experience began with her on the JV her sophomore year at Bethel. She spent her Junior and senior years playing varsity for Coach Rob Andrea. In the 1982-83 season she led the team in field goal percentage and earned the Most Valuable Player and Coaches' Award honors.

Her high school softball career was also quite successful. All three years she was a starting infielder on 1st base, coached by Ed Tingstad. She maintained a batting average over .400 for each of the three years played. In the 1981 and 1982 seasons she led the team in home runs and RBI's.

It must be noted that outside of sports at BHS, Jan went to Girls State in 1982. She was selected as a Washington State Principals' Scholar, National Honor Society member, and Elk's Teenager of the Month. She graduated as the Class of 1982 Salutatorian.

The University of Montana recruited her on a volleyball scholarship. She played NCAA Division I volleyball where in the 1985 season she led



the Grizzlies in assists and assist percentage and was Co-SIDA Academic All District. After having spent a semester studying abroad in Spain, Jan received a Bachelor of Science degree

continued on next page

2018 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



in 1988 with majors in Business Management and Spanish (High Honors). In 1992 she earned a Masters' of Business Administration degree from Pacific Lutheran University.

Jan worked at PLU as an advisor of undergraduate students and Director of the MBA program. Since leaving the program in 1999 she has been working in information technology managing projects for telecommunications companies. She lives in the Boston Harbor area of Olympia with husband of 26 years, Tom Sampson.

Her athletic focus has shifted to less competitive sports, stand up paddle boarding and cycling. She is an avid bike commuter and co-captain of the 'Easy Riders' Bike MS team. Each year this team rides to raise money or MS research and to deliver services to those that face the challenges of Multiple Sclerosis

Jan's athletic achievements distinguish her as one of the ground breakers for excellence in Bethel women's sports.



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Marjorie Melanie (Goddard) Riccardi (BHS '83)

"Ask coaches who the best volleyball player in this area is and you'll get a unanimous vote for Goddard. It's a natural vote. She pounded volleyballs past every one of them at one time or another."

—By Greg Johns of the Tacoma News Tribune

Marjorie was born December, 1964 in Tacoma, Washington. Her parents were Jack (John) and Marilyn Goddard. She has one older sister Heidi who is also a Bethel High School graduate. Marjorie went to Elk Plain Elementary School and Bethel Junior High School where she played volleyball and softball. Upon entering Bethel High School in 1980, she was selected to the varsity volleyball team, and later the BHS varsity softball team, coached by Ed Tingstad, lettering all three years in each. Maintaining a 3.84 grade point average at Bethel High School Marjorie was honored for her athletic and academic achievements.

In 1980 when Marjorie began her Bethel volleyball career, the varsity team had yet to have a winning record. And though the team improved their record it was 2–7. The difference this year was best stated by Coach Madden as he reflected,

"The difference between our 2–7 record and a 7–2 record was about a dozen points."

Marjorie Goddard was chosen team MVP that year as a sophomore as would be the case the next two years. In the 1981 season the Braves turned the corner with 6 wins and 3 losses... their first winning season. They qualified for Districts and progressed to the State Tournament where they finished 9th. The 1982 season was her senior year and Marjorie was chosen Co-captain with friend/team mate Jan Dempsey. This was Bethel's best year yet with an 8 and 1 record losing only to Rogers to become Co-SPSL Champions. Taking 5th in Districts they moved on to State where they finished a respectable 7th. In the South Puget Sound League Marjorie was chosen All League First team all three years and recognized as MVP in the Curtis Invitational Tournament.

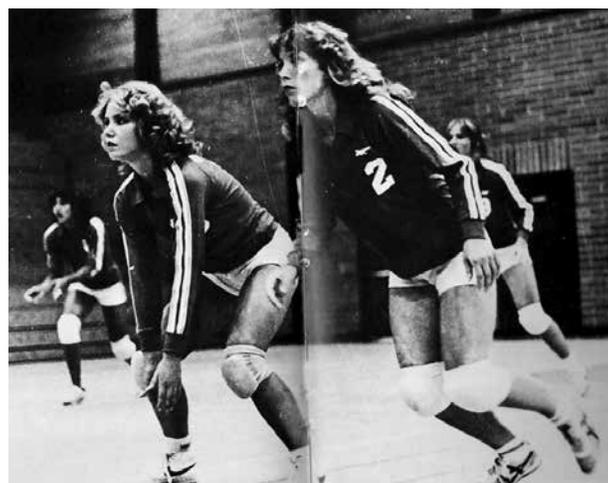
Bethel Softball was still developing in the years 1980, 1981 and 1982 failing to have a winning season. Coached by Ed Tingstad, Marjorie lettered all three years and in 1982 led the team in runs scored and was 2nd in RBI's to Jan Dempsey.

Marjorie was a member of the National Honor Society all three years with a 3.84

GPA. She was chosen as a Girls State Participant in 1982. In her senior year she was voted Most Athletic Girl by the student body and chosen Student of the Month, Athlete of the Month, Puyallup Elks Teenager of the Month and Female Athlete of the Year.

Marjorie was the recipient of a "full ride," four year volleyball scholarship to Washington State University playing NCAA Division I Volleyball. While at WSU she was on the NorPac/Pac 1 Athletic Conference Honor Role in 1983, 1984, and 1985. While there she was the Conference Leader in Digs (1984—traded with team mate Sue Geppert). Academically, she was on the

continued on next page



2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

Presidents Honor Roll all four years from 1983 to 1986. In 1986 she received a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts for Arts and Humanities.

Post graduation Marjorie has coached girls' softball, boys Little League baseball and five years girls high school volleyball at Lee Davis High school in Mechanicsville, Virginia, finishing 4th in State in 2012.

Marjorie was married in Hawaii and is now living in Richmond, VA with husband Pino Riccardi. They have a daughter Rianna, 21 years old and son Orion, 19 years, who are both Honor Students at Virginia Commonwealth University and, of course, outstanding athletes. She works as an Interior Decorator and Personal Trainer specializing in physical rehabilitation at a YMCA in Richmond, Virginia.

As a premier athlete in the first decade of girls league sports, Marjorie Goddard showed that Bethel's volleyball program met the standard for state competition.

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Blaine Guenther (BHS '03)

Determined, focused worker and tough football player...these are the adjectives I would use to describe Blaine Guenther. He made himself into a remarkable lineman at Bethel High School and an even better college lineman at the Air Force Academy. If there was a challenge in front of him, he found a way to overcome and excel in that area. Blaine is an incredibly talented young man who has achieved so much in all aspects of his life.

—Eric Kurlle, BHS Football Coach



Blaine Guenther was a 2003 graduate of Bethel High School. He lettered in football and wrestling all three years. He was captain of both teams. He also lettered twice in track and field. By his senior year, BHS football had a record of 35–4. The success of the team helped set him up for a scholarship at the Air Force Academy to play football.

Blaine also excelled at wrestling. He went to state his junior and senior years. As a junior, he placed 7th in State and took 2nd as a senior. All the BHS fans wore T-shirts to the state meet that said, "I'm with the Big Guy!"

After high school, he played football for the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. He was a four year letter winner. As a senior, he served as team captain and was named First team for the All Mountain West Conference. He was awarded the Mr. Intensity award. This award goes to the player who consistently works the hardest day in and day out. His senior year USAFA went to their first bowl game in six years.



After college Blaine was one of three players to return to the academy to serve as a graduate assistant and be an assistant coach.

He was deployed to the Middle East twice as an engineer and then served as an Associate Professor of Aerospace Studies at the University of Colorado. He was also the AFTOTC Recruiting Flight Commander.

Blaine then attended dental school at the University of Pennsylvania. He is currently in San Antonio, Texas where he is starting a residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery.

Blaine is married to his wife Alyssa. They gave birth to a daughter, Leighton last June.

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2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



Gene Ketter (BHS '55), Deceased

"Gene Ketter was the best athlete of that era at Bethel High School."

—Dave Rich (BHS '55), teammate

Gene Ketter excelled in three sports and by the time he graduated in 1955, he would be awarded nine varsity letters—three in football, two in baseball, and four in basketball. Those four letters would place him in rare company. Gene, Dave Rich and Walt Leigh would be the only basketball players of that era to garner that many.



Gene was born December 31, 1936 in Tacoma. His parents, Andrew and Alma had five other children, Andy, David, Zona, Bonnie and Barbara. He attended Roy Elementary and in the Fall of 1951, Gene's freshman year, the Bethel School District was still in transition. Construction on the new high school would not be completed until the Fall of 1952 and consequently, the Kapowsin and Roy High Schools were still open. The athletic teams from the two schools were combined and known as the "Bethel Braves."

1951 saw changes in the coaching staff. Ed Niehl, was hired as the new head football coach and Robert Fincham, was promoted from assistant to head coach of the basketball team. Both had very successful athletic careers in college and they would have a major impact on their respective teams during the decade of the 1950's.

As a freshman, Gene turned out for the basketball team. The prior year the team played twelve league games and lost all of them. However, things would be different, as Mr. Fincham started to mold a much more competitive team. Gene was a starting guard and freshman Dave Rich and Walt Leigh were also on the varsity squad. The team played five non-league games and won two of them and in league play that were 5-7 (7-10 overall). However, four of those losses were to the league champion Eatonville team (twice) and to Yelm (2nd place, also twice), and both would go on to finish second and sixth respectively in the State "Class B" tournament.



In seventeen games Lee McGee, Bethel's star 6'4" center, led the team with 193 points (11.4 average per game), Dan Rolcik was second with 105 (6.6 average per game), Gene was third with 95 (5.9 average per game), and Virgil Lyons was fourth with 69. Dave Rich and Walt Leigh were frequent substitutes off of the bench all season.

Now a sophomore, Gene turned out for football in the Fall of 1952 and made the varsity squad as an end, both on offense and defense. The Braves were one of the favorites to take the league title but as fate would have it, three tie games would lead to their undoing. The team would finish league play undefeated (3-0-3, 5-1-3 overall), but again, those ties cost them dearly. Orting was the league champion (5-0-1) and Bethel tied Fife (4-1-1) for second place. Gene had a good year and was instrumental in two of Bethel's three league wins. In a 13-7 victory over Fife, quarterback Ken Olive hooked up on a 35 yard pass to Gene to score Bethel's first touchdown, and in a close 7-0 shutout over Yelm, Gene's 15 yard touchdown pass from Gene Curbow was the difference. In order to put Gene's season into perspective, the Braves were mainly a running team—they threw only

four touchdown passes all season and Gene caught two of them.

The 1952-'53 basketball team had to be completely restructured. Five of the best players on the team had graduated. Two of the starting five were returning, Gene and senior Ken Olive. They would be joined by sophomores Dave Rich and Walt Leigh, along with juniors Felix Brodigan and Gary Allison, a transfer student from Eatonville High School. Mr. Fincham now had the nucleus for two teams; one that would provide Bethel with its first winning season and the other would deliver a league championship. The team tied for fourth with Peninsula in the eight team Pierce County League, with a record of eight wins and six losses. Throughout the season the Braves exhibited a very balanced offense in scoring. Walt Leigh and Felix Brodigan were high point men in three games each and shared a fourth, Dave Rich followed with three, then Ken Olive with two and Gene and Gene Curbow with one a piece. Finally, the season also saw another first, a chance to play in the post-season. Because of the tie with Peninsula, the last seed in the Class "A" District Tournament was yet to be determined, and in the play-off game, the Seahawks prevailed by a score of 56-47. Yes, the year ended on a "sour note," but the next basketball season would prove to be indeed, magical.

continued on next page

2019 Inductees

2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

The 1953 football season would be another challenge for Ed Niehl and his assistant, Jack Justice. Their star fullback, Darrell Borden, along with quarterbacks Ken Olive and Gordon Barna and end Terry Piper, all graduated and had to be replaced. In some moves that seemed questionable at the time, John Kerr was moved from his offensive end position to fullback; Felix Brodigan, a defensive tackle, would take his place as an offensive end; Dave Rich would replace Terry Piper at the other end position; Gary Allison would start at right halfback in place of Glen Fuhrman, who suffered a career ending injury in the 1952 season; Gene Curbow would return as the left halfback; and Gene Ketter would be the quarterback. A new position, a new number (Gene wore #29 his sophomore year, #30 this year and #33 his senior year), and a new league. Apparently the coaches must have had "Lady Luck" on their side, and a "crystal ball" to guide them because all of these moves proved to be very successful.

Now a member of the West Central League, Bethel, along with Peninsula and Federal Way, were the pre-season picks to win the league title. The Braves opened the season with a non-league 18–0 win over Eatonville in the annual "King's Axe" game and they followed up with a league opening 14–0 victory against the Orting Cardinals. Gary Allison scored first, and late in the game, Gene Curbow tossed a three yard pass to Gene for the final touchdown. The next two games were also shutouts, 25–0 over Vashon and 33–0 against Eatonville. In the Vashon game, Gene scored the first touchdown on a short run. Now, with four straight wins and nary a touchdown scored against them, the Braves would face the Peninsula Seahawks in a match-up of two unbeaten teams. The pre-game press coverage was extensive. Rog McDonald of the T.N.T. wrote the following: *"The Braves lineup is loaded with outstanding players...Gene Ketter, a 185 lb. junior, handles the quarterback chores and is rated as one of the smartest signal callers in the conference."* As advertised, the game was exciting—the teams battled to a 12–12 tie. The post-game write-up, in part, stated that *"ends John Kerr and Gene Ketter played excellent ball on defense and were a thorn in the sides of the Peninsula ball carriers all evening."* This meant that the undefeated Federal Way Eagles were now alone at the top of the league standings.

Apparently undeterred by the tie, Bethel blanked Buckley 13–0; the Fife Trojans 14–0; and the Yelm Tornadoes 46–0, a game in which Gene was at his best. He completed 10 out of 15 passes, three for touchdowns—two to Felix Brodigan and one to Dave Rich—Gene Curbow also threw a scoring pass to Brodigan. Gary Allison accounted for two touchdowns on runs and Dennis McGraw added another. As was the case in 1951, the stage was set for another showdown against Federal Way, only this time it would be for the outright league championship.

The game was originally scheduled to be played at the Eagles' home field, but it was deemed to be unplayable and the contest was moved to the Sumner High School field. As in the Peninsula game earlier in the season, the press coverage was considerable, not only in Pierce County, but in King County as well.

One column entitled *"Hard To Predict"* stated that *"Bethel is primarily a running team, although in a 46–0 rout in Yelm on Armistice Day the Braves racked up 204 yards passing and 100 rushing. Gary Allison, Gene Curbow and Gene Ketter are standouts in the backfield, along with Felix Brodigan, an end, in the Braves' offense."* Bethel had to win the game in order to take the league title, a tie wouldn't do it as Federal Way's record was 7–0–0, compared to Bethel's 6–0–1. So, on November 20, 1953, the teams squared off on a very muddy field for the championship.

Federal Way took the opening kickoff and scored. Bethel came right back to score a touchdown which was set up by a 55 yard pass from Gene to Felix Brodigan. Two plays later, Gene Curbow went in from three yards out. At the end of the first quarter it was Federal Way 7, Bethel 6 and for the next three quarters the two teams were locked in a bruising, sometimes bloody defensive standoff until finally, with 55 seconds left to go in the game, the Eagles scored a second touchdown and prevailed 13–6. Bethel would finish alone in second place with a record of 6–1–1. All-in-all, it was a successful season, but three straight second place finishes, mainly at the hands of the Federal Way Eagles, would haunt the Braves for another year.

The 1953–'54 basketball season proved to be a different story. Coming off of an 8–6 league campaign the previous year, Mr. Fincham had the luxury of having four of his five starters returning for another year, along with a solid bench of sophomores and juniors. The only starter that had to be replaced was Ken Olive, and Gary Allison proved to be up to the task. The center would be senior Felix Brodigan; the two forwards were juniors Dave Rich and Gene; and junior Walt Leigh and senior Gary Allison would be the guards. In order to get his team "league-tough," Mr. Fincham scheduled four games against some much tougher competition, i.e. Bellermine, from the Class "AA" City League and Franklin Pierce, an "A" member of the Puget Sound League. The Braves lost both games to Bellermine, but split the two games with Franklin Pierce. The Braves were now ready to take on their West Central opponents and they did so like a well-oiled machine, winning all 16 games and the league championship. Only two games were even close and there really wasn't any team that could match them, either on offense or defense. The Braves led the league in scoring with 945 points and third in points allowed (726), an average margin of victory of 14 points.

Individually, Walt Leigh and Gene were the scorers, Felix Brodigan was the go-to-guy underneath the basket and Dave Rich, along with Gary Allison, were great on defense and their pin-point passing led to many assists. Walt Leigh led the team with 233 points (15.5 average in 15 games); Gene was second with 213 points (13.3 average in 16 games); followed by Felix Brodigan (190, an 11.9 average in 16 games); Dave Rich (136, an 8.5 average in 16 games); and Gary Allison (96, a 6.0 average in 16 games). Finally, Gene led the team in scoring in seven games; Leigh in six and Brodigan in three.

Throughout the season, the local sportswriters recognized how balanced this team was and several quotes were indicative of that fact:

- *"Led by Gene Ketter and Felix Brodigan, the Bethel Braves scored a 53–41 victory over the defending champion Yelm Tornadoes in an early season West Central League 'Crucial' here Tuesday night."* This piece was followed up with a pre-game analysis of the Bethel–Fife game:

continued on next page



2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



"In order to win, Fife will have to stop Gene Ketter, Bethel forward, who scored 23 points and center Felix Brodigan who hit 17 against Yelm."

- In the aforementioned Fife game, the summary stated as follows: *"Gene Ketter collected 22 points for Bethel to take scoring honors, but his wasn't a solo effort, as Walter Leigh and Dave Rich scored 17 and 12 points respectively. Leigh was also outstanding in his floor work, setting up plays, and in rebounding."* The final score was Bethel 67, Fife 54.

- In a 65-53 win over Peninsula, the story appeared the next day and stated that *"four Bethel starters hit two figures in the scoring. Dave Rich had 11, Gene Ketter 19, Felix Brodigan 16 and Walt Leigh 15."* After the first victory against Eatonville (51-42), a writer reported that *"Dave Rich, Gene Ketter and Walter Leigh turned in outstanding jobs for the winners with all-around good floor play and rebounding. Felix Brodigan, Bethel center, caught fire in the second half and poured 15 points through the hoop. His total of 18 was high for the night."* And, in the second Eatonville game (61-60), *"four of the Bethel starters hit the double figures. Walter Leigh led the attack with 18 points followed by Gene Ketter and Felix Brodigan 14*

and Gary Allison with 12."

Unfortunately, Bethel's season came to an abrupt halt in the West Central District Class "A" Tournament. Bethel received a first-round bye, but was defeated by Auburn of the Puget Sound League 64-55. Three days later, the Braves met the Bremerton Wildcats of the Cross-State League. Bethel led 20-11 at halftime, but the Wildcats staged a third quarter rally and held on to edge the Braves 46-43. It surely was a disappointing end to a fine season; however, it was Bethel's first league championship and the first appearance in a tournament. It would be something to build on.

The 1954 football season ended three years of frustration and second place finishes, as the Braves would tie the Fife Trojans for the league title. Gene and Gene Curbow, now seniors, were still at quarterback and left halfback. Dave Rich, also a senior, would be one of the offensive ends and Walt Leigh would be the other. Fullback John Kerr and right halfback Gary Allison graduated and were replaced by Gene Ressler and Dennis McGraw, with sophomore Wayne Bush as a frequent substitute for McGraw. As usual, head coach Ed Niehl and his assistant Jack Justice made the right moves. Due to the records being unavailable, the game summaries for the entire season are incomplete. However, newspaper clippings covering five of the eight league games (there were no pre-season games) have been provided and they document the most important games of the season.

Bethel opened league play with a 6-0 win over the Vashon Pirates. The game was mainly a defensive battle with the Pirates holding the favored Braves twice within the 10-yard line on downs. In the last 90 seconds of the game, Gene's 12 yard touchdown pass to Gene Ressler proved to be the winning margin. In the second contest of the season, the Braves took on the Eatonville Cruisers in the "King's Axe" game and came out on top 20-0. Gene had a fine game, completing nine of twelve passes, running for one touchdown, passing for another to Walt Leigh, and caught a scoring pass from Gene Curbow for the Braves' final touchdown.

After a 45-0 rout against Peninsula, the Braves were undefeated and now had to face the only other undefeated team in the league—the 4-0-0 White River Hornets. In a hard-fought 14-13 win, Gene Curbow scored all of Bethel's points, including a 12 yard pass from Gene in the third quarter. Now at 4-0-0 in league play, the team would travel to Fife to play the once-beaten Trojans—in the fourth game of their season they lost to White River 21-8—and Bethel ran into a fired-up Fife team that absolutely controlled the second half. Bethel scored first when Gene hit Dave Rich on a 31 yard touchdown strike to give Bethel a 6-0 halftime lead. Fife came back to score twice in the third quarter, one on an 88 yard punt return and the other on an 11 yard run. According to the post-game write-up, Fife's blocking and defensive line play was outstanding in the second half and that was the reason for their 14-6 win.

The Braves bounced back the following week, notching a 13-6 win against a young, talented Yelm team. Now with Fife and Bethel having identical 5-1-0 records, the final two games would be crucial, and as fate would have it, the next to the last game of the season would be against, of course, the Federal Way Eagles. For the preceding three years that team had been a real pain, a nemesis for Bethel. But it is now 1954 and there's an old saying, "Revenge is Sweet"—better yet, "Revenge is a dish best served cold." On a very chilly night in November the Braves absolutely demolished the Federal Way Eagles 51-0 and it was Gene's night. He threw five touchdown passes for 202 yards, and was on the receiving end of another scoring throw from Gene Curbow. Dave Rich caught four touchdown passes, three from Gene and one from Gene Curbow. Curbow also ran for 105 yards on 12 carries (an 8.8 average) for one touchdown and Wayne Bush added two more. The game summary also stated

continued on next page

Bethel
Inductees

2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

that *“the backs did not win the game alone...as the entire Bethel forward wall played hard, aggressive ball. Thorne Tibbitts, Curbow and Ketter shared defensive honors with 11 tackles each.”* The Braves concluded their season with a 49–0 win over Orting. A tie with Fife for the championship gave Bethel its first league title since 1950 when the school was in the old Pierce County League. Finally, the team statistics were impressive, Bethel led the league in points scored (204) and fewest points allowed (33).

1954–55 proved to be another banner basketball season for the Braves. Center Felix Brodigan and guard Gary Allison had graduated and they were replaced by Larry Symmons, Don Stave, and Thorne Tibbitts—Symmons and Stave shared the duties at center while Tibbitts stepped in for Allison. Also, the “core” of the team was returning for their senior year; Gene, Walt Leigh, along with team captain Dave Rich, and it would turn out to be a very remarkable year.

Early in the season, as was now Mr. Fincham’s habit, he scheduled four games against bigger schools from other tough leagues. The Braves won three of them, losing only to Franklin Pierce. As league play began, Bethel reeled off seven straight wins, all by convincing margins, but in the eighth game, the team fell to the White River Hornets, 57–53. Undaunted by the upset, the Braves went on to win the remaining eight games and capture their second straight league title. As was the case in the previous season, aside from the one loss, there were only two other games that were even close. The Braves avenged their only loss, beating White River 78–54 in the return match-up. Bethel had a balanced attack on offense, and everyone on the team contributed to their 15 league wins. Some quotes from the writers who covered the games are as follows:

- Bethel 61, Yelm 29—*“Gene Ketter, Bethel guard, was high for the game with 16 points, although three other Bethel players hit double figures. They were Walter Leigh with 13, Thorne Tibbitts with 12 and Dave Rich with 11.”*

- Bethel 58, Central Kitsap 48 (a non-league game)—*“Gene Ketter was the game’s high-point man with 21, although two other Braves hit double figures. They were Dave Rich with 13 and Walter Leigh with 10.”*

- Bethel 62, Vashon 51—*“The ability of Don Stave, Dave Rich and Larry Symmons on the boards for Bethel was a major factor in the win. Gene Ketter paced the Braves’ scorers with 21 points.”*

- Bethel 64, Fife 56—*“One of the decisive factors in the game was the board work of Walter Leigh and Dave Rich, Bethel’s two forwards. Also important was the defensive work and ball-hawking of Thorne Tibbitts and Gene Ketter, Bethel’s guards.”*

- And finally, in one of the few close league games, Bethel 45, Eatonville 43—*“Gene Ketter supplied the go-ahead points with two minutes to go as he stole the ball the dropped in a field goal to put his team in front 40–39. The Braves scored eight straight points immediately before Ketter’s bucket, to pull up from a 39–31 deficit...Ketter led Bethel with 16 points.”*

For the 16 game season, the team set a new league record by scoring an even 1000 points (a 63 per game average) and allowing 711 (44 per game), which was second to Eatonville’s 689. Just before entering the West Central District Class “A” playoffs, Dan Walton of The Tacoma News Tribune commented on the team’s season, including the four non-league games: *“During their 20 game campaign, the sharp-shooting Braves scored 1235 points. That’s an average of more than 61 per game. Their opponents 46.6. The Braves’ scoring pace is remarkable when it is considered that the preps play only eight-minute quarters. * * * The previous year, Bethel was undefeated in 16 games, giving the little school (enrollment 420) a record of 31–1 over the two-season span in West Central competition. The team has won 35 and lost only 7 in the two campaigns as an over-all record.”*

The Braves would fare much better in the District Tournament than the previous year. After an opening round thumping at the hands of Enumclaw 71–46, the Braves came back to beat Renton (42–39) and Fife (67–48) and were one win away from going to the State Tournament. In a heart-breaker against South Kitsap, Bethel led 43–40 at the end of the third quarter, only to have their opponents come back in the final quarter to take a 49–46 victory—only four points away from going to the State Tournament. The team’s overall record for the season was 20–4.

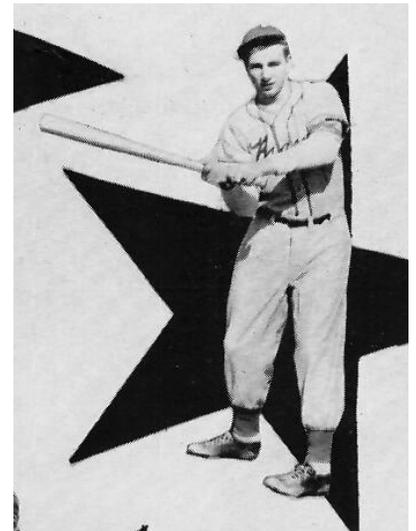
Individually, Gene led the league in scoring with 289 points in 16 games—an 18.0 average, followed by Walt Leigh with 249 in 15 games a 16.6 average; Dave Rich with 144, a 9.0 average; Thorne Tibbitts with 128, an 8.0 average; and Larry Symmons (5.5) and Don Stave (2.8). The team, in their 24 game season, scored a total of 1436 points, i.e. 60 per game and this record couldn’t be matched by most high schools. Gene (430) and Walt Leigh (361) scored 791 total points in those games. A great coach and great players produced a great team, one of the best in the history of Bethel High School basketball.

Gene was also a very accomplished baseball player and was the starting shortstop on the 1954 and 1955 teams. He was a good hitter, especially in the “clutch,” i.e. when the game was “on the line,” and he was a great fielder on defense. At the end of the school year, Gene received the Outstanding Athlete Award and was also president of the 1954–’55 senior class.

After Gene graduated, he worked for Concrete Technology for over 30 years. He also continued to be involved in athletics, playing both fast-pitch and slow-pitch softball for several years on various teams in the area. However, his true love was the outdoors, and hunting and fishing were his favorite pass-times. Because of his athletic abilities, he also excelled as a bowler and was an avid, low-handicap golfer.

Gene was a devoted family man. In 1959 he married Joyce Grinde and they had four children, Kenny, Kellie, Kevin and Kyle. All of his children graduated from Bethel High School and participated in various sports programs. Of his six grandchildren, five have also graduated from Bethel and one is still attending. True to their grandfather’s “roots,” all were, or are, involved in athletics and the entire family still resides in Roy.

Gene Ketter passed away in March of 2006 and he is survived by his wife, Joyce, and their four children. He, along with so many others who are no longer with us created an enduring legacy of the early years of Bethel athletics, and this biography, hopefully, will provide a window into that past. Gene was certainly a big part of this and his induction, along with his teammates Felix Brodigan and Gene Curbow into The Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame, will serve as a tribute and a reminder as to just how many individuals are a part of that great history.



2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



Cody A. Miller, Jr. BHS'65 (Contributor) Deceased

"I want to make this community a better place to live and raise a family."

—Cody Miller

This year's program is being dedicated to Cody A. Miller, Jr. as a contributor, not only to the Bethel School District, but to the community as well.

Cody was born October 2, 1947 to Grace and Cody Miller, Sr., and was the second oldest of four children. His siblings were Corrie Grace (deceased), and two younger brothers, Jody and Rory. After attending local elementary and junior high schools, he entered Bethel High School as a sophomore in the Fall of 1962 and graduated in the Spring of 1965.

In the Fall of 1965 Cody continued his education and athletic career at Yakima Valley Junior College, but the war in Asia was escalating and he enlisted in the U.S. Army. Upon graduating from Officer's Candidate School, he received a commission as a Second Lieutenant and was sent to Vietnam where he saw combat first hand. Towards the end of his tour of duty, Cody contracted hepatitis and while recovering at a field hospital, the compound was attacked and during the encounter he was severely wounded. Yet, despite his injuries, he was still able to help other wounded soldiers to safety. For his service in combat zones, Cody received numerous citations, including the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

Upon his discharge from the Army as a First Lieutenant, Cody decided to complete his education and enrolled at Tacoma Community College, and while there he met Cynthia Garabato. Later on he graduated from Western Washington State University. Cody and Cynthia were married on February 13, 1971 and eventually three sons were welcomed into the family, Cody III, Casey and Colby.

On October 8th, 1971, Cody purchased a struggling real estate company in the community, and through some hard work and business savy, turned the company around and transformed it into a highly respected and profitable entity—Crescent Realty, Inc. Once the new corporation became established and a highly visible part of not only the Spanaway area but throughout the region as well, Cody would make his "mark" as a contributor and benefactor for so many organizations and causes and this would last for over thirty years.



Cody's support was both hands-on and behind-the-scenes. A great example of the former was his involvement as a veteran's advocate and golf. The golf course at the American Lake Veteran's Hospital was badly in need of some improvements. At the same time, soldiers who were severely injured in the Gulf War were being treated at the hospital. In Cody's mind the project was simple—the soldiers needed rehabilitation, so why not introduce them to the game of golf? Through his efforts, and many others (including P.G.A. tour pro Ken Still), Cody helped sponsor charity golf tournaments to raise money to improve the course and to make it more accessible to these disabled veterans. In passing, it also should be stated that he was relentless in obtaining golf clubs so that these veterans could play. He would contact friends and associates and ask that they donate their used clubs, and if they hesitated, he was not above issuing a "gentle" order—"We really need your golf clubs and I know that you'll help out!". It was very effective.

Cody's contributions to the Bethel School District were many and varied—so numerous that all could not be listed in this biography. For example, and this would be behind-the-scenes, was his help when bonds or levies were necessary to support the district's students. He would open his offices to the volunteers and they would have free use of the telephones, copy machines, the coffee pot, you name it. Likewise, when the Hall of Fame was just a thought, a concept, several early meetings were held there and Cody continued to be a generous contributor to the organization. He also helped sponsor charity events to help raise money to support athletics within the district, such as a golf tournament to benefit the Bethel and Graham-Kapowsin High School boy's basketball and football programs and direct donations to the Bethel—Above The Rim Booster Club. There were also donations to the community as a whole, and the list includes Pierce County Parks and

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Inductees

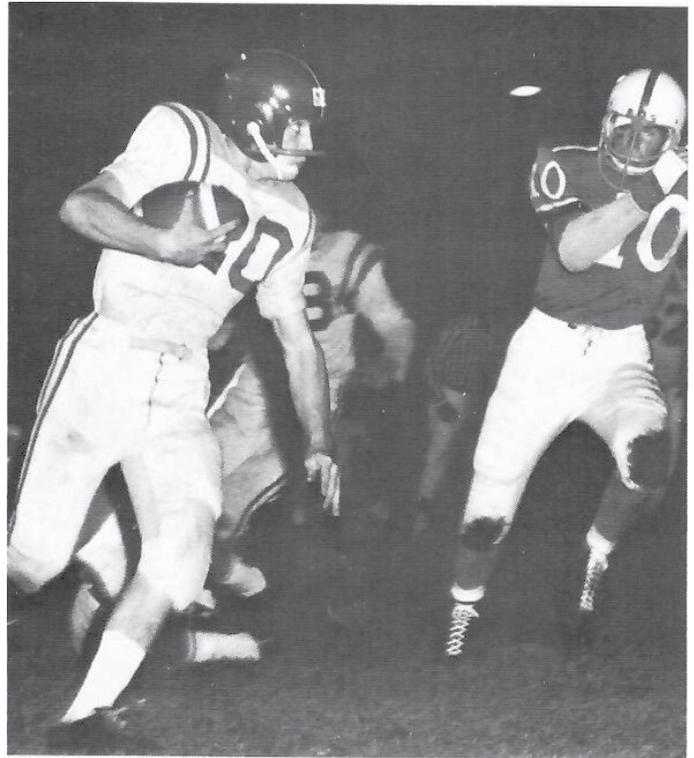
2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

Recreation and the Spanaway Lions Club. It seems that there were no bounds or limitations to Cody's involvement and commitment.

Cody Miller was awarded six varsity letters, three in football ('62, '63, '64), two in wrestling ('63-'64 and '64-'65) and one in tennis ('63). He was an outstanding football player and while not overly fast, he was quick and deceptive and had the uncanny ability to cut, dodge and weave his way through opposing defenses and elude would-be tacklers. Consequently, Cody was a great broken-field runner and a real headache for a lot of teams.

Cody was a three year starter as a defensive halfback and in his sophomore year (1962) his 25 tackles were second among all defensive backs. He also tied for the team lead in interceptions. On offense, he was the back-up quarterback for the starter, Mike Matheny. Cody's best year came as a senior in 1964. In a ten game season, he was the starting quarterback for roughly one-half of the year, completing 56.7% of his passes. However, because of his ability to run the football from a half-back position, he assumed that role for the remainder of the season. For the year, he averaged 4.6 yards on 87 carries for 401 yards, which was second on the team and he was also second in touchdowns scored. On defense, Cody led all defensive backs with 53 tackles which tied him with linebacker Larry Burkhart for third on the team.

Cody received two varsity letters in wrestling (1963-'64 and 1964-'65). In his sophomore year (the '62-'63 season), he was a member of the junior varsity team and was wrestling in the 145 lb. division. His usual opponents in practice would be either Larry Bonnell (138), Dave Williams (145) or Mike Sweaney (154). That year the varsity team would win the league and district championships and go on to finish



second at the State Tournament and both Bonnell and Williams competed in that event. So, early on in his career, Cody wrestled two of the best in the entire state—it was a “trial by ordeal” and no wonder in his senior year he would win 64% of his matches. Cody is being inducted as a “contributor” but it should never be forgotten that he was a talented and gifted athlete a well.

Cody passed away on September 13th, 2018 and all who knew him shall miss him greatly. When you'd see him, he'd greet you with a big smile and a firm, sincere handshake. There were no facades or pretenses—nothing phoney about him. He touched so many lives in so many ways. He really enjoyed people and the camaraderie and it ran the gamut, from being on a golf course with friends and family (he was a “golf-aholic” and like a lot of us, he never quite mastered the game), to playing on or sponsoring slo-pitch and other athletic teams for many years and to the various business and personal relationships that he had throughout his life. Above all, he was loyal to his family and friends as well. Cody also had a compassionate side and one of the things that people often forget is that he was a great believer in “second chances”—someone who had maybe fallen on hard times or down-on-their-luck, Cody would always be there to offer counsel, advise and a helping hand. He was truly one of a kind.

Speaking on behalf of all those associated with the Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame, we are honored to induct him.

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2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



Sadena Parks (BHS '08)

Definitely one of Bethel's most unique personalities on the Bethel High School Golf team. Sadena, a four-time State golfer and two-time State Champion, always kept the team loose and laughing during her four years at Bethel High School.

Sadena began her golfing career alongside her dad. At the age of nine, she would go with him to the driving range and by the time she was eleven, she began playing golf.

In 2006, Sadena's freshman year, she was still a student at Bethel Jr. High. The school district allowed 9th graders from the junior highs to participate on the high school teams as long as the sport was not offered at the junior high level. Sadena had a great freshman year. She made the SPSL First Team and qualified to go to State held in May through the league tournament. She went on to the state tournament, shot a 161 and placed 6th. She qualified for All-State—not bad for her first year as a freshman.

During Sadena's sophomore year, she had another great season, earning a place on the SPSL First team. Placing first at the league tournament again sending her to state for the second year. At State, Sadena played great, shot a 149 for two days, winning a 3-hole sudden death play-off to become Bethel High School's first State Champion as a women's golfer. Bethel's Girls Golf Team of Sadena and Jackie Brown earned second place team honors, the highest finish of any golf team at Bethel High School.

Sadena returned her junior year and for the third time was on the SPSL First Team and again earned a spot on the First Team All-State by finishing 2nd place at the state tournament. A first and second place finish was not Sadena's goal. She wanted that championship back in her name.

As a senior, she was ready to retain her state title. She chose not to participate on the basketball or track team so she could focus on golf. She had another great season, for the fourth year she was on the SPSL First Team, won medalist honors at the league tournament, went on to the State tournament and shot a 2 under par 142. Sadena was five shots behind the leader with nine holes to play. Sadena shot four under par, 32, on the back nine to win her second state championship. Bethel's Girls Golf team of Sadena and again, Jackie Brown finished 2nd at state.

Sadena, also was a member of the varsity basketball team her sophomore and junior year. Coached by John Ainslie Sadena played guard and helped the team to first place in league in 2006 and on to the playoffs. She also was on the track team her junior year and participated in the 100-meter dash, long jump and triple jump coached by Pat Mullen.

In 2006 the school chose Sadena as one of their Record-Breaking Athletes.

Sadena accepted a scholarship to play at the University of Washington. She played 120 rounds in her Husky career, missing two tournaments to concentrate on graduation studies. She was ranked as the 9th most all-time win-
continued on next page



2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



ner in UW history. She was the UW's top finisher in eight events during her career and had 17 top 25 finishes during her career and 3 top-10's. She boasts two of the lowest rounds in school history, shooting a 5-under-par 66 in the first round of the 2011 Stanford Intercollegiate and a 6-under-par 66 in the second round of the 2011 NCAA West Regional, which tied the women's course record at Washington National. Her scoring average of 74.79 as a senior ranked her as the 8th best average in UW single-season history. Sadena was the Huskies top finisher at the 2009 NCAA Central Regionals placing 20th out of 108 competitors.



During her senior year of college (2011-12), Sadena's scoring average of 74.79 was second on the team and ranked as the 8th best average in UW single-season history. She was the team's top finisher in four events and was second in two others. She shot a

career-low 66 in the first round of the 2011 Stanford Intercollegiate, a score that ties for second lowest ever in UW history. She shot under par eight times during the season to lead the team. She had two top-10 finishes, including a career-best second place in Hawai'i at the Rainbow Wahine. She notched a career-low score of 213 (-3) in the Rainbow Wahine Invitational and shot 2-over-par 218 at the Pacific Coast Championship to lead the Huskies and tie for 17th overall. Sadena was Washington's low scorer at the NCAA East Regional.

Sadena went on to pursue a professional career in golf. She participated on the Golf Channel Show Big Break and started her professional career on the Symetra Tour. In her second season she won two tournaments and finished 4th overall on the money list. This qualified her for the LPGA. Her first year on tour she finished inside the top 100 on the money list which qualified her for a second season on tour. She finished outside the top 100 but was able to retain her LPGA status by finishing 2nd at the Q-School Tournament. She played a 3rd year on the LPGA but finished outside the top 100. Sadena is currently on the Symetra Tour and working to regain her LPGA status.

Currently Sadena works for a marketing firm in New York city.











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2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



Frank Pavia (Coach 1955–68) Deceased

Bethel High School Wrestling Coach (1955–'56 through 1967–'68) and Baseball Coach 1957–65

Frank Pavia encouraged me to participate in wrestling. He was down-to-earth and could communicate and connect with the members of his team. Above all, he was loyal to them.

—Bill Harr (BHS '63), and a member of The Hall of Fame (inducted 2018)



Francis James Pavia, “Frank,” to all who knew him, was born September 30, 1925 in Tacoma to Dominick and Christine Pavia. He attended McCarver and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1943. Like many young men in that day, Mr. Pavia immediately joined the U.S. Army Air Corps, but was transferred to the infantry where he was trained as a mechanic and eventually rose to the rank of Technical Sergeant. He was honorably discharged in 1946 and entered Pacific Lutheran College on the G.I. Bill, graduating in 1950 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He then entered the University of Washington, College of Law in the fall of 1950, and after two years, realized that a career in law was not for him. Mr. Pavia returned to Pacific Lutheran and earned a second degree, a Bachelors of Education, and began teaching at Bethel High School in the Fall of 1955. Also, because of his training in the U.S. Army, he worked at local gas stations as a mechanic while attending Pacific Lutheran and continued “Moonlighting” on weekends long after being hired by Bethel.

Throughout his career as a teacher, his focus was mainly on Washington State History, psychology and sociology. In addition to his duties as a wrestling and baseball coach, he was involved with many other students on a personal level as the junior class advisor and the senior class guidance director for several years. He also served on the Executive Board of the Bethel Booster’s Club.

According to Ed Niehl, the idea to start a wrestling program at Bethel High School originally came from Jack Justice in 1954. At the time, Mr. Niehl was the head football coach and the athletic director, and Mr. Justice was the assistant head football coach. Again, as per Mr. Niehl, wrestling was a frequent topic of discussion in conversations with the athletic directors of the other schools in the league at their monthly meetings. Fife was the only school in the league to have an established program. However, wrestling was a sport that was gaining in popularity year by year and many of the other larger schools, such as Lincoln, Stadium, Puyallup and Sumner had wrestling programs for several years as a recognized league sport.

Mr. Niehl liked the idea and made his “pitch” to Earl Platt, Bethel’s principal. Quite frankly, Mr. Niehl probably didn’t have to do very much to convince him that a program should be started, in that Mr. Platt was an ardent believer that high school sports kept a lot of students in school until they graduated. Mr. Platt then went to the school board and was able to obtain the some funding. In the meantime, Mr. Justice volunteered to be the coach and he was joined by Mr. Pavia—who would be the assistant—and hence, wrestling at Bethel was born.

The initial season would start in the late fall of 1955 and coincide with the basketball season, which ended in late January or early February, 1956. While some money was available for equipment, the practice facilities were indeed spartan as they were in one of the school’s bus barns on the back lot. The entire team consisted of eight wrestlers; two freshmen, Carl Shriver and Markus Wickline, two seniors, Phil Caldwell and Buck Lathrum, and the other four were sophomores, Del Hardie, Bob Rasmussen, Ed Leber and Chuck Parham.

At this point, three things are worth mentioning: (1) There was no wrestling season in the West Central League and this would continue



until Bethel entered the Seamount League in the Fall of 1960; (2) In spite of not being in a league in which most, if not all of the schools had wrestling programs, Bethel could still send wrestlers to the district “A” and state tournaments; and (3) Bethel’s only opponent from the West Central League was Fife and, as this biography continues, it will cover some hotly contested matches between the two schools, which would ultimately decide league championships. Bethel and Fife were bitter rivals for several years.

continued on next page

2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

Four matches were scheduled for the first year and the Braves won one of them—the team defeated Franklin Pierce, tied the Lincoln High School reserves, and lost their matches to the Stadium High School reserves and to Fife. This was Bethel's introduction to competitive wrestling and for the next few seasons it would not be an easy venture. As stated above, wrestling was not a recognized sport in the West Central League and consequently, Bethel had to look elsewhere for matches, and ended up facing some "big league" foes. From the second season (1956-'57) until the last year in that league (1959-'60), the Braves went up against the varsity teams from the City League (Lincoln and Stadium—4 times each) and Wilson (twice); the Puget Sound League (Puyallup—5 times), Franklin Pierce (twice) and Clover Park (once); the KINGCO League (Bellevue—twice) along with one match against Bothell and Lake Washington. Bethel would also face Olympia, a member of the Capitol League four times and of course Fife, five times. Bethel was a small Class "A" school and many of their opponents were Class "AA", but these matches would prove to be vital in the coming years.



As Bethel entered its second year (1956-'57) of competition, it was very apparent that the wrestling "Bug" had caught on. Frank Pavia was now the head coach, as Mr. Justice took over as the assistant coach to Bob Fincham, the head basketball coach. Bob Rasmussen and Carl Schriver returned for their second year, but the team had many new members and enough to fill all weight divisions, as well as having an eight member reserve team. The season however, was not all that great as the Braves finished 0-4-1—the tie was against Puyallup.

After winning just one match in the previous two years, Bethel started to turn it around in the 1957-'58 season and was about to become a team to be reckoned with in high school wrestling. The Braves finished 3-4-0, beating Fife for the first time and Puyallup twice; the team lost to Lake Washington, Lincoln, Stadium and Olympia. In those seven matches, Bethel scored 144 points to their opponents 190. But, two individuals managed to make some history in the annals of Bethel wrestling history. Charles Ackerson, a junior, and freshman Dave Zacek were the school's first district champions, and, Mr. Zacek would go on to finish third in his weight division at the State Tournament—another first for the Braves. It would be a harbinger of events that were to come.

Mr. Pavia's 1958-'59 team would put Bethel on "the map" as an established formidable opponent. The team finished the season with a record 6-2-0, beating Lincoln (34-14), Wilson (35-14), Bellevue (33-23), Franklin Pierce (53-3), Stadium (26-21) and for the second straight year, Fife (30-18). Their only losses were to Olympia (22-19) and Puyallup (26-14). Carl Schriver and Charles Ackerson were the co-captains and Mr. Schriver indicated that after the Stadium match, several of their wrestlers made it a point to congratulate the Bethel team on how well they did and how tough they were. The Braves scored 244 points on the season, to their opponents 141.

Bethel's last year as a member of the West Central League, and basically wrestling as an "independent" team, came in the 1959-'60 season. While their record was a disappointing 4-4-2, the Braves registered convincing wins over Lincoln (46-8), Franklin Pierce (40-14) and Bothell (48-0). The other win was a close 22-19 match against Wilson. The team tied the Stadium Tigers (24-24) and the Clover Park Warriors (22-22), but lost to Olympia (30-18), Bellevue (29-20), Puyallup (35-15), and, heaven forbid, the Fife Trojans (28-13). Regardless of the season's record, the Braves out-scored their opponents 268-209, which was the highest total to date for a Bethel wrestling team. Individually, the Braves also made some history. For the first time, three wrestlers went to the State Championship meet at Pullman and all three placed in their weight divisions—co-captain Dave Zacek placed third, his second third place finish in three years; co-captain Rod Perham took a fifth spot; and Larry Stearns also finished fifth in the unlimited division.

The 1960-'61 season also provided some new "firsts" for the team: (1) Bethel would join the newly formed Seamount League, which consisted of Bethel and six other schools, North Thurston, Peninsula, Shelton, Fife, Curtis and White River. The Braves were now a member of a conference that recognized wrestling as a sanctioned league sport; (2) Quoting from the 1961 "Bethelonian": "WRESTLERS GET NEW ROOM—Because of the construction of the new bus garage this year, the wrestling team was able to have their regular 'after school' turn out in the old bus building. This eliminated the problem of not having enough space." In other words, the school's buses weren't in the way! And (3), again quoting from that years "Bethelonian": "Plans at the present time are being made to purchase a larger wrestling mat. The Booster Club has contributed a great amount of help with this project." Money was tight and the wrestlers didn't have such luxuries as weight rooms or jacuzzis, much less trainers and assistant coaches—Frank Pavia was the "laboring oar" and those were his teams.

Upon entering the new league, many of Mr. Pavia's wrestlers were now match-tested veterans from the previous years of going up against more experienced teams from the larger schools in the area and this would pay some immediate dividends. The '60-'61 season's schedule would consist of four non-league and five league matches. The Braves were convincing in their non-league wins over Franklin Pierce (42-10), Puyallup (35-9), and Wilson (34-14). The only close match was with Stadium (22-17). In the league matches, the Braves totally dominated their opponents—Curtis (46-0), White River (48-8), North Thurston (53-5), and Shelton (48-0). Unfortunately, Fife also tore through the league and as if it were preordained, Bethel and Fife would meet in the last match of the season to determine which team would be the first Seamount League champion. The match was held on February 9th, 1961 and just under 1000 people packed the Bethel gymnasium—it was standing room only and Fife took the match 28-15. Still, at 8-1-0, it was a fine year for the team. The

continued on next page

2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

Braves had a scoring advantage of almost 300 points (343–63) over all of their opponents. Individually, five wrestlers would score at least 24 points, with Larry Stearns leading the way with 38. There was a bright future with Wayne Wetherbee (28), Bill Jasper (26), Bill Miles (25), Dave Williams (16) and Mike Matheny (14) all returning.

The 1961–'62 season saw the Braves win seven out of eight matches—the only blemish on their record was a tie with Stadium (20–20). Again, Bethel dominated four of their league opponents—Curtis (31–11), White River (36–8), North Thurston (32–16), and Shelton (42–10), and of course, the last match would be against Fife. As was the case in the 1960–'61 season, both teams were undefeated and the winner would be the league champion. The match was a nail-biter and Bethel pulled out a 23–21 victory. The Braves out-scored all opponents by a better than two-to-one margin (251–121) and six wrestlers scored at least 21 points—Bill Miles (34) and Dave Williams (32) led the team. Finally, there was another first for the team. Six wrestlers went to the state tournament, the most ever in the school's program, and junior Mike Matheny placed fourth in his weight division.



The next year would be the high-water mark for Mr. Pavia and his teams. The 1962–'63 season would see the Braves not only win the league title, but the West Central District Tournament as well, and go on to finish second in the state tournament. It was one of the greatest wrestling teams in Bethel High School history. However, after the opening match, one could doubt that statement because in a non-league contest, Bethel took on the Stadium Tigers, one of the favorites in the City League, and were defeated 24–21. The Braves then defeated the Puyallup Vikings (30–15) and entered league play with their first match against North Thurston and they defeated the Rams by a score of 29–15, and went on to be undefeated in the remaining five matches. Bethel defeated Curtis (46–10), Sumner (27–15), Laughbon (55–5), Fife (33–14) and White River (40–8).

Four wrestlers competed in the state tournament; Dave Williams, Bill Harr, Mike Matheny and Larry Bonnell. Harr would win the second place trophy in the 175 lb. weight division and Matheny would be Bethel's first state champion, taking the title in the 133 lb. division. This was another first for Bethel—previously, Dave Zacek had two third place finishes at the state meet.

As a team, the Braves out-scored all opponents 281–106. Individually, the scoring was about as balanced as one could get: the top eight scorers were Mike Matheny (34), Dave Williams (32), Bill Miles and Wayne Wetherbee (31), Larry Bonnell (30), Bill Harr (29), Gary Gray (25) and Al Guthrie (23). This was a team loaded with talented and determined wrestlers and well-coached by Frank Pavia.

As is the case for all high school programs, athletes graduate and teams have to be rebuilt and this is what Mr. Pavia faced going into the 1963–'64 season. Furthermore, the rest of the schools in the league started to "catch up" as their wrestlers started to gain experience and be more competitive, and as a result, both Bethel and Fife would no longer be the dominant teams in the league.

For the next five years Mr. Pavia's teams would be good, but not great. At the beginning of the 1963–'64 season, Mr. Richard Mosier became the junior varsity coach and assisted Mr. Pavia with the varsity. The season would also bring about the rise of two very talented wrestlers, junior Danny Staab and his brother, sophomore Dennis Staab, and they would lead the team in scoring for the year. Dennis would go on to finish second at the state tournament. However, the Staab brothers couldn't carry the entire team and Mr. Pavia would suffer his first losing season since Bethel joined the Seamount League. While the team was 3–3 in league action, they were 1–2–1 in non-league contests (4–5–1 overall).

The Braves posted a fourth place finish in the 1964–'65 campaign with a 4–3 record. In two non-league matches, the team would beat Stadium (24–20) and Mt. Tahoma (36–6) for a 6–3 record overall. Steve Norgan would lead the team with a 19–2 mark and go on to place third in the state tournament. A third Staab brother, sophomore Randy, would join his two brothers and the three of them combined would win 37 matches and lose just 10, with one draw (Danny (11–2), Dennis (14–2–1), and Randy (12–6)). The team fared a little better in the 1965–'66 season with a 5–3 record, good for a third place finish and for the first time in Mr. Pavia's career, there were no non-league matches. In the eight league matches, Randy and Dennis Staab, along with Dave Rice, would each post 7–1–0 records to lead the team.

In the 1966–'67 season, Bethel would have its first losing season in league matches (4–5) and finished fourth in what was now a 10 team conference. In spite of that, the season was salvaged somewhat with two non-league wins over Tahoma (38–15) and Enumclaw (42–8), giving the Braves a winning season after all (6–5). Mr. Pavia's final season as Bethel's head wrestling coach would be in 1967–'68. The league had swelled to 12 teams and the Braves finished seventh with a 5–6 record. Sophomore Jody Miller, the younger brother of this year's honoree, Cody Miller, led the team in wins with 8, against 3 losses, good for 30 team points. This was second to John Francis' (7–4–0) 34.

From a team beginning with no league affiliation, austere facilities and a "bare-bones" budget, to almost winning a state championship and along the way, coaching many wrestlers who participated in the State Championship meets. Mr. Pavia earned the respect of his peers, his colleagues, the Bethel fans and his wrestlers. Seven would garner places at the state level: Dave Zacek (two 3rd's); Mike Matheny (a 4th and a 1st); Bill Harr (a 2nd); Rod Parham (a 5th); Larry Stearns (a 5th); Dennis Staab

continued on next page



2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

(a 2nd); and, Steve Norgan (a 3rd).

Prior to joining the Seamount League, Mr. Pavia's record against teams that, as one of his wrestlers stated, "we had no business being in the same gym with" was 14-16-4 (1955-'56 through 1959-'60). His Seamount League record (1960-'61 through 1967-'68) was 36-21 (.632) and in non-league matches it was 12-3-2 (.765) for an overall record of 48-24-2 (.662). For 13 years, it was 62-40-6, a .602 winning percentage.

Mr. Pavia was also Bethel's baseball coach, beginning in the 1957 season through 1965. While he didn't enjoy a championship season as he did in wrestling, his teams were always competitive in both the West Central and Seamount leagues, placing as high as second in 1957 and 1960. He was a good coach and knew how to evaluate and best use the talent that he had on his teams.

A good example came during the 1958 season. Quoting from the yearbook: "BRAVES PLACE THIRD IN WCL—Bethel's baseball squad got off to a very slow start this year, and it wasn't until the Braves dumped the highly rated Orting Cardinals in the fourth game of the season that they caught fire. After the Orting game, the Braves went on to dump the rest of their WCL opponents to gain a third place tie by the time the season ended.*** Much of the credit for the Braves' uphill fight must go to the pitcher Eddie Hagen, Gary Gregg and Coach Frank Pavia. Hagen became Bethel's starting pitcher mid-way through the season and compiled a good earned run average, as well as knocking out a .342 average at the plate." The move was simple but effective. Gregg was the starting pitcher, but was struggling and Hagen was in the outfield. Mr. Pavia merely had them switch positions and Gregg, relieved the pressure, went on to lead the team in batting (.352).

Mr. Pavia married Carol MacDonald in 1954 and they had five children, Joe; Michael (a lawyer in Chicago, IL); Suzanne (died 2010); Terese; and Anne. One sister, Dorothy Santelli, resides in Tacoma and is in her 90's. Tragically, Mr. Pavia died of a sudden and massive heart attack on January 22, 1969 at the age of 43. Joan passed away in 2007 at the age of 73.

As stated above, Frank Pavia was well respected by his peers, and in recognition he has been inducted into The Washington State Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Furthermore, The Seamount League Championship Trophy, which was given each year to the school winning the title, bears his name—it is Frank Pavia's trophy. Suffice it to say that his induction into the Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame is a well-deserved tribute.



Bethel School District

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2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



Caesar Rayford (BHS '04)

Caesar Rayford has distinguished himself in academics, athletics and within his career. He began accumulating awards and contributing to Bethel High School serving as Sophomore Class President, ASB Executive Board Member for three years and as a three-sport athlete.

In 2002 Caesar was a member of the JV and varsity basketball team coached by Pat Mullen. He was also a player on the football team, coached by Eric Kurler that competed in the state tournament and he was a member of the varsity track team, also coached by Pat Mullen, that competed in the state quarterfinals.

In 2003 as a junior and member of the varsity football team. Caesar was recognized by the News Tribune as Player of the Week and the team competed in the state playoffs. In varsity basketball, he received the award for Most Improved Player; the varsity basketball team also participated in the state playoffs that year. In track Caesar was 7th in the State in the 1600 meter relay and 6th in the state high jump.

In 2004 Caesar continued to receive awards and achieve success in three sports in addition to his academic endeavors. In varsity football, he was named First-Team All SPSL, Second Team State, North West Golden Nugget and participated in the state tournament. In varsity basketball Caesar was again recognized as most improved and the basketball team placed third in the state tournament. In varsity track he continued to excel as the team placed 4th in the state tournament and set a new school record in the 4x4 relay who he ran with Jacob Harkness, Mike Wells and Jimmy Schofield.

Caesar graduated in the top 10% of his class with a 3.7 GPA, was voted sportiest and was recognized as Athlete of the Year. He was offered four basketball scholarships and over 10 football scholarships electing to attend the University of Washington on a football scholarship. Caesar continued to distinguish himself at the University of Washington, lettering all four years in football and receiving honors as the Pepsi PAC 10 Special Teams Player of the Week and the UW Special Team Player of the week.

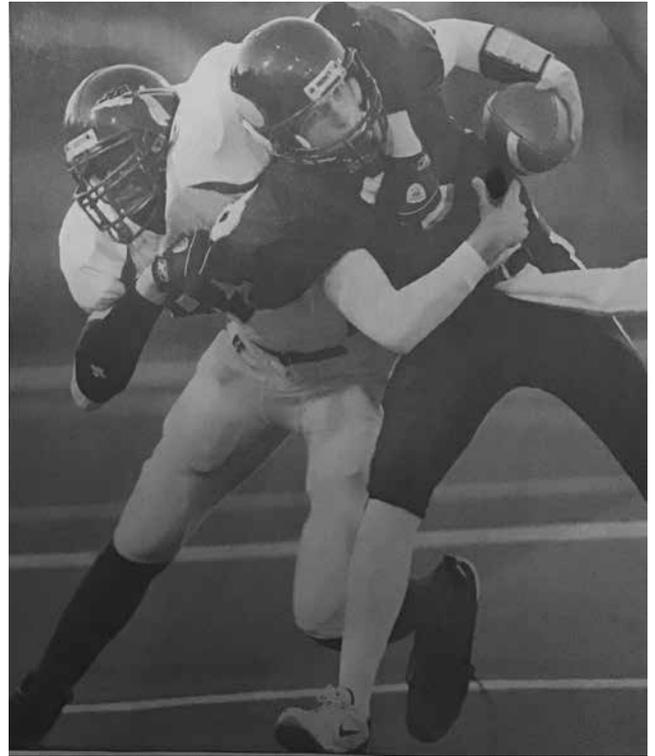
After receiving his Bachelor's degree in Geography, he continued his career in football joining the Canadian Football League BC Lions in 2008 and later as a member of the Arena Football League Spokane Shock team which won the Arena Bowl Championship in 2009.

Caesar joined the Utah Blaze Arena League Championship team where he was named the Arena Defensive player of the week nine times, named to the 2011 All Arena Team and held the Arena Football League Sack record and held the Utah Blaze record for the most consecutive games played.

In 2013 he joined the Indianapolis Colts where he led the NFL in preseason sacks and was later traded to the Dallas Cowboys where he played until 2014. While in Dallas, he was the recipient of the Do the Right Thing Award, recognizing his efforts in community service.

Caesar continued his football career in the NFL and with the Arena Football League with the Montreal Alouettes, Minnesota Vikings, LA Kiss and the Tampa Bay Storm.

Caesar's professional pursuits since leaving the football field has focused on programs and roles where he can impact academic and sports outcomes for young adults in his community. He has achieved success as a juvenile justice counselor, varsity high school defensive line coach, motivational speaker, high school counselor and mentor, Planned Parenthood Teen Success Program Leader and in the Utah Foster Care Program.



2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



LaVada Roy (Contributor SJH 1976–1981; SLHS 1981–1998)

LaVada Roy was born in 1937 and lived in Romona, Kansas until coming to the Bethel School District in 1976. Her and husband Bob, who had retired from the Air Force after 23 years of service, decided to head west to Alaska. Along the way they stopped in the Spanaway area to visit and never left. LaVada and Bob were married for 38 years and both were devoted Bethel School District employees, a devotion that was only surpassed by the one they maintained for each other. It was almost impossible to know LaVada without also knowing Bob. They have a family of two boys, Donald and Jeff.

LaVada's first district job was at Spanaway Junior High School in 1976 where she worked in the laundry room and assisted in the lunchroom until she decided to take the same position at the new high school, Spanaway Lake, in 1981. At this time, it was common practice for the district to hire an employee at the secondary schools with the responsibility of managing an in-school laundry facility. LaVada was a working woman who knew

only how to give her "all" at what she thought needed to be done. She laundered towels for all the physical education classes, she laundered uniforms for all the athletic teams (including scrubbing football pants until her hands became raw) and mended those items when necessary. She packaged uniforms for each athlete to pick up before their athletic contest and made sure those items were returned the next morning to be laundered and organized for the next contest. At the conclusion of the season, LaVada inventoried and stored all the items away. At a new school with a fixed budget, her efforts to conduct this facility in the manner in which she did was extremely important.

Even though the location of the laundry room kept her somewhat isolated to one part of the building, LaVada knew all the students. Her warm personality mixed with her strict student expectations quickly evolved into feelings of mutual respect and admiration. Many of the boys (and some of the girls) called her "mom" because she cared about their well being. She made popcorn and had it readily available for students to enjoy when they stopped by to chat. The relationships she built over the years were endless in number.

In the late 80's and throughout the 90's, LaVada teamed up with the schools' wrestling coach, Bob Heskett and decided to create a invitational wrestling tournament to be held over the school's winter break. Other schools had hosted wrestling tournaments but Bob and LaVda wanted something unique. They decided to host a "hospitality" room where the coaches, event staff, and officials could visit during down time in their tournament schedule to grab a snack. As the years progressed, Lavada had contacted many of the local community food vendors for donations and soon this hospitality room had turned into a full blown smorgasbord of items to eat. At the conclusion of the tournament, all the SLHS wrestlers were invited in to clean up what was left. This event became so popular that coaches and officials were disappointed if they didn't receive an invitation. This was indicative of the type of effort and level of commitment you could expect from LaVada. To further validate the enormous responsibilities LaVada had taken on over the years, when LaVada retired in 1998, the district decided that hiring one person to replace her was not enough, so they hired a second.

Today, LaVada lives in Spanaway and is very active in a host of volunteer activities. She is an avid Seahawk fan and volunteers at the South Sound Seahawk Booster Club. She volunteers at the Marcus and Desmond Trufant Annual Summer Football Camp where she also serves on the board of directors and helps in handing out coats to children of need at the Tacoma Boys and Girls Club. She also volunteers her time at the Kenny Easley Golf Tournament, the Randy Morris Football Camp and Russell Wilson Training Camp.

LaVada's contribution to helping improve the quality of athletics in the Bethel School District was truly remarkable. She made being involved in athletics at Spanaway Lake High School a special experience.



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**Congratulations to all the 2019 Inductees
who are being inducted this year into the
Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame**

2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



Brad Sweet (GK 2008')

Back to back state titles. What an accomplishment. Brad Sweet, a two-time, 4A State Wrestling Champion, is one of Graham-Kapowsins finest wrestlers.

Brad had a career record of 105 wins, 7 losses with 71 pins and he still holds numerous school records: two of which are undefeated season (winning percentage) and career points at the state tournament. Brad wrestled in the 4A South Puget Sound League for the Eagles and was their team captain for three years.

Scott Stirts and Brent Stover were the wrestling head and assistant coaches. Brad became a three-year varsity letterman, league champ, regional champ and a top four wrestler at state. During his junior and senior year he was the State Champion.

As a sophomore (2006), 145 lb. class, Brad placed 4th at the state tournament.

In 2007, as a junior, he again wrestled at 145 lbs., and again qualified for the state tournament placing 1st with an undefeated season. He was GK's first individual wrestling champion.

Brad came back his senior year (2008) and was the team captain. This time he wrestled in the 152 lbs. weight class and returned to the state tournament as the first-place champion, winning back to back State titles, another first for Graham-Kapowsin.

Brad helped lead his team to a 2nd place State Finish (2007). He was voted Academic State Champion that year with a 4.0 gpa. Brad was also included as a TNT All-Area wrestler his senior year. Brad wrestled in China as part of the High School All-Star Exchange Team.

Brad was also chosen as the teams Inspirational, Most Aggressive and twice the Coaches Award.

Before wrestling season even began in high school. Brad was a

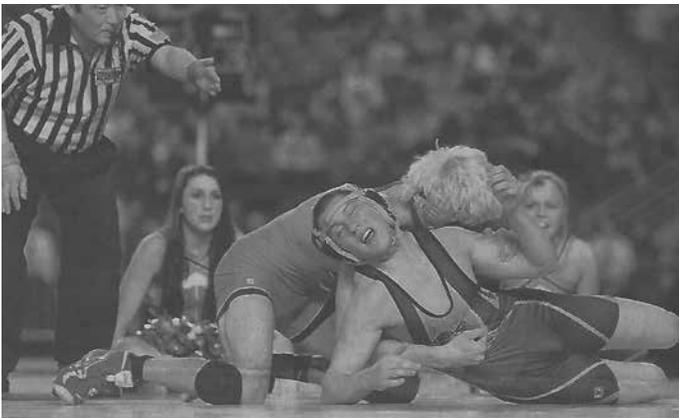
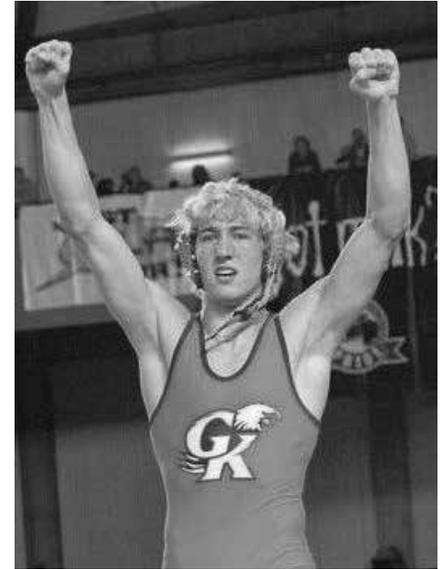
three-year varsity letterman playing linebacker for the Eagles football team. With Eric Kurlle as his coach, the Eagles made it to the quarter finals at State in 2006. During Brads junior year, he was voted by his team as Team Defense MVP. He was also chosen to be on the All-League 2nd Team as Linebacker and was voted to the News Tribune All-Area Defense team. In 2007, his senior year, Brad led the league in tackles and was voted as Team MVP on Defense and named All-League First Team Linebacker.

Brad was the Tacoma Athletic Commission Winter Athlete of the Year and was Graham-Kapowsin Winter Athlete of the Year 2006–2007 and 2007–2008. He was also Graham-Kapowsins Athlete of the Year in 2007–2008.

After high school, Brad accepted a wrestling scholarship to Boise State University. He wrestled one season there, and one season at Yakima Valley Community College before injuries ended his wrestling career. He graduated from Central Washington with a Business degree.

Brad was born March 3, 1989 to Mike and Michelle Sweet. He has a brother Chris Sweet who also graduated from GK in 2007.

Currently Brad is the owner/operator of his fencing company. Brad and his girlfriend have a four-year-old daughter, Emery, and they now live in Maui, Hawaii.



Rebecca M. Schmid

Assistant Vice President
Branch Manager, Spanaway

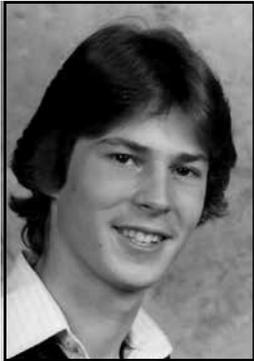


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2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



Chris Tompkins BHS, SLHS (1980–1983)

Webster's Dictionary defines the word "natural (n) ...as a person regarded as having an innate gift or talent for a particular task or activity." If you would have had the opportunity to watch Chris Tompkins play basketball for Spanaway Lake High School in the early eighties, you would have agreed that the word "natural" would have been an accurate description.

Chris began his high school years in 1980 where as a sophomore he attended Bethel High School. He started the first half of the basketball season playing junior varsity but because of the

level of his play, he was soon elevated to the varsity team. The second high school in the district, Spanaway Lake, opened in the fall of 1981, and Chris transferred. In that first year Spanaway Lake opened with the junior class as their highest level of enrollment and would compete in the tough Pierce County League against schools that were at full enrollment. With Chris as the floor general, the Sentinels finished their first season with a five hundred record, 9 wins, 9 losses. For the season Chris' stat line read: 17.7 points per game average; 46% shooting from the field; 73% free throw shooting; five rebounds and two assists per game. The Sentinels qualified for the districts where they were defeated by Bainbridge Island 65–57. Chris' basketball talent was on full display as he scored 27 points in the losing effort. Chris was recognized for his accomplishments as he was named to the First Team All Pierce County League and throughout the season he was recognized at his school by being selected Athlete of the Month on two different occasions.

As Chris began his senior year in 1982 he was truly a marked man. Because of his success the previous year, he drew the opponents' best defensive player(s) and schemes. Chris was able to continue to perform at an exceptionally high level. The Sentinels finished their second season with a vastly improved record, winning 15 and losing 6, good enough for a second place finish. Chris averaged 17.1 ppg, while making field goals at a 49% clip. Additionally his free throw shooting was 76% while averaging 6.1 rebounds and 3.2 assists per game. Chris had proven that he was one of the premier players in the area.

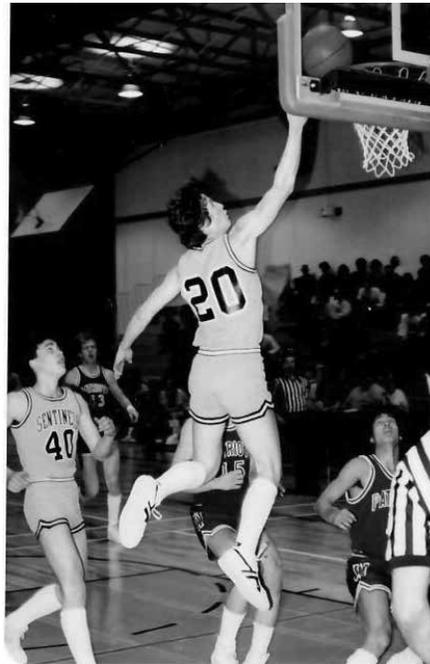


Don Zech. Post college, Chris pursued his basketball ambitions in Australia where he played against NBL teams, their level of professional competition.

Chris also found time to play baseball. In his senior year in high school, Chris played center field and completed the season with a .327 batting average. He was selected to the First Team All Pierce County League and was invited to play in the All-State game. During the game, Chris went 2 for 3 with a triple and a sacrifice fly that tied the game, resulting in him earning MVP honors.

Chris was also concerned about his academics. He graduated 48th out of 300 in 1983 from Spanaway Lake High School. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Puget Sound. He currently lives locally and has spent the past 27 years working for the Pierce County juvenile courts.

During the early to mid 1980s Spanaway Lake High School enjoyed a great deal of success in basketball with Chris Tompkins paving the way for this success to take place.



The Sentinels qualified for the districts for the second straight year. This time they were successful, winning their first game against Port Angeles in a thriller, 59–57. Chris, once again, led the way by controlling the flow of the game and scoring 18 points. In their second game, the Sentinels were defeated by North Kitsap, 59–47. Chris scored a respectable 21 points and kept the Sentinels within striking distance the entire game.

As a result of his in-season and post-season play, Chris was selected to the First Team All Pierce County League for the second straight year, and also was selected to the 2A All-State Team. Additionally, he received and accepted a four year basketball scholarship to attend the University of Puget Sound where he went on to play and average 12 points per game for the legendary coach,



Inductees

2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

The Mullen Family

The Mullen family has stirred the excitement of the general population in the greater Pierce County for a long time. Grandpa Mullen was one of Tacoma's best baseball players in the 1920's, played exhibition games against barnstorming teams of major league players including Babe Ruth. He rose to fame in his days at Lincoln High School. When you balance the talents of the Ennis family from Everett, where Jim Ennis the noted coach (his 1941 high school basketball team won the state championship) and athletic director you have a solid foundation for the Mike Mullen family.

Mike graduated from Bellarmine Prep in 1956. Mike earned his BA from Seattle University in 1960 and a master's degree from Seattle U in 1961. Mike started his coaching/teaching career at Stewart Junior High in Tacoma. In his five year

stay at Stewart his basketball team won five

championships and had a win loss record of 84 and 12. After assisting at Curtis High School for two years he began his head coaching career at Decatur HS in Federal Way in 1971, he spent five years at Olympia HS before becoming the head coach at Bethel HS in 1978. His nineteen years as Bethel's head coach were outstanding: ten state tournaments, placing in the top eight, five times, fourteen WCDIII tournaments, won four league titles and coach of the year honors four times. Mike was inducted into the Washington State Basketball Hall of fame in 2000. His total career record was an impressive 487 wins against 202 losses. Mike was enthusiastic on the sidelines and his teams followed his lead. When you note that the South Puget Sound League was a premiere league in the state with Bethel playing in the state tournament ten times against their best in the state, it's that consistency that best characterized all the teams that Mike coached. Mike also coached cross country and track during his long coaching career.

Mike's best assistant coaches both come from his family. With due respect for son Pat, many would still give the nod to Rosie, Mike's wife. Rosie held her own in a family full of coaches. Her Dad, Jim Ennis, was an outstanding football and basketball coach during his Hall of Fame career. Rosie was a career educator and coached softball, basketball and volleyball at Mt Tahoma High School. But with three children and Mike to organize, her job was mainly out of the spotlight while her husband and three kids kept her smiling. It would have been very interesting to have been the invisible guest at their nightly dinners (when they were home) because it would have been her time to shine. Rosie always sat two rows behind the team bench, and it was a blessing for Bethel basketball, as her presence was a stabilizing and motivating contribution to her

Hall of Fame husband. Rosie's penetrating eyes were always a thing of love that many times returned Mike to the basketball strategist that highlighted his Hall of Fame coaching career. Mike said of Rosie that she played a vital role in all aspects of the Mullen family.

Families all have the basic same start; some like the Mullen's had a rocket start. As mentioned, both the Mullen's and the Ennis's were well grounded in their athletic accomplishments. Mike and Rosie propelled their athletic heredity by bringing three future contributors that would keep the families lights shining brightly. Pat, Molly, and Nick were all accomplished student athletes at Bethel High School. Pat was a 3-year starter in basketball and holds the assist record



continued on next page

2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees



at BHS and the SPSL. He played collegiately at Tacoma Community College and the University of Puget Sound. Pat began his coaching at Frontier Junior High, was an assistant coach with his Dad for three years and became the Bethel head coach when Mike retired in 1995. Pat was the head coach at BHS from 1996 to 2011. His teams qualified for state seven times, winning the state championship in 2005, placed 2nd at state in 2000 and 3rd in 2004. His Bethel High School teams reached the post-season every year he coached. Pat moved to Emerald Ridge High School in 2011 where he is still coaching.



Molly was an outstanding volleyball player at Bethel High School. She was the volleyball captain for two years and earned all league honors on the first team twice.

Molly graduated from Western Washington University with a BA in Finance and Business. She began her teaching/coaching career in the Renton School District where she was the head volleyball coach at Renton High School for four years. Molly continued her education, by earning a master's degree in school administration in 1992. Her educational career has included stops in the Renton SD for



four years, Fife SD for five years and the Bethel SD for sixteen. During those years she was voted Pierce County Career and Technical Educator of the Year and has held administrative positions in the Bethel School District as Alternative Learning Coordinator and Assistant CTE Director.

Nick lettered all three years in football and basketball at BHS. He continued his playing days at the University of Puget Sound where he was a four-year starter on the defensive line. Nick was the team captain during both his junior and senior years and was voted all leagues twice.



Nick's coaching career started in 1999 in Tacoma, coaching at Mt Tahoma High School for three years, at Franklin Pierce for four years and became the head football coach at Timberline in 2007. His Timberline teams have been consistent winners, winning the league title eight times, qualifying for the state playoffs six times and has been coach of the year six times. His 2017 team was undefeated during the regular season. Nick has also been the schools' athletic director for three years.

The Mullen family's contributions to the Bethel School District's athletics through coaching and participation have credited a historical legacy.



2019 Inductees

2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

2005 Spanaway Lake High School Special Olympics Basketball Team

In January of 2005, head coach of the Special Olympics Basketball Team of Spanaway Lake, Lawrence Reed and Marlene Hedgpeth, who teamed up with assistant coaches Thomas Dill, Ryan Kolowinski and Gary Milbradt to begin their basketball season. They welcomed transfer student Nickey Traylor to team up with William Savole, Kyle Merritt, Andrea Justice, Nolan Lortz, Katie Davis, Brandon Holguin, Laura Bell, and Anthony Canchola as they began their preparation for the Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament.

Early on in their preparation, Coach Reed concentrated on teaching the fundamentals. After several practices they were ready to put their skills to the test. Coach Reed knew that prior to the tournament it would be essential for his players to somehow achieve live game experience. After some

serious contemplation, Coach Reed came up with the idea of having his team scrimmage against the schools' girls' team. The girls' coach, Serinity Ogrand, agreed and soon the practice games began. Coach Reed would later explain, *"It forced them to play ball the way real teams play."*

Their practice experience paid off. In March the team travelled to Wenatchee to compete in the state tournament. With Traylor leading the way offensively, Spanaway Lake brought home the gold medal, winning the state championship. The Sentinels went 3-1 defeating Tahoma High School in the championship game 36-23. Coach Hedgpeth summed it up perfectly when she said, *"We made shots. We played together as a team."* According to Coach Reed, their success in winning the Special Olympics State Basketball Championship title gave all his players a renewed sense of confidence and belonging. Upon their return to their school, all the players reconnected with the student body in a manner that had not been evident before.

Congratulations to coaches and players of the 2005 Special Olympics State Basketball Champions from Spanaway Lake High School who are the first Special Olympics basketball team to get inducted into the Hall of Fame.



2005 Spanaway Lake Special Olympics State Basketball Champions

Coach: Lawrence Reed,
Marlene Hedgpeth
Assistant Coaches: Ryan Kolowinski,
Gary Milbradt

2005 Team Roster

Laura Bell
Katie Davis
Brandon Holguin
Nolan Lortz
Kyle Merritt
William Savole
Nickey Traylor
Anthony Canchola
Andrea Justin

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2019 Bethel Hall of Fame Inductees

2009 Spanaway Lake Special Olympics State Basketball Champions

Just four years removed from their last Special Olympics State Basketball Championship, Spanaway Lake's team did it again. The 2009 Special Olympics State Basketball Champions won three games at the tournament site in Wenatchee, Washington to once again bring home the gold. They were led by newcomers, sophomores Sylvester Berry and Michael Williams, but during the three-game schedule, the team enjoyed balanced scoring with every Sentinel getting into the scoring column. Other members of the team included Gregory Patten-gale, Jillian Almodovar, Kyle Stoner, Phillip Rice, and Sandra Simpson.

Head Coach Lawrence Reed and Marlene Hedgpeh, along with assistant coaches Ryan Kolo-winski, Gary Milbradt, Caroline Cohea, Tami Wooten, and Amber Class began preparing the team in January. They relentlessly worked on the fundamentals that ultimately lead to their success.

Every Tuesday and Thursday they drilled consistently on dribbling, pass-ing and shooting. Mastering these funda-mentals along with a heavy emphasis on teamwork, proved to be the right formula for success.

During the tournament the Sen-tinels played three games, in two of the games beating the NPS Knights in a thrill-er 35-32 and stopping the Spokane Valley Stars 48-29.

Congratulations to Coach Reed,



2009 Spanaway Lake Special Olympics State Basketball Champions

Coach: Lawrence Reed,
Marlene Hedgpeh
Assistant Coaches: Thomas Dill,
Ryan Kolowinski, Gary Milbradt,
Caroline Cohea, Tami Wooten,
Amber Wiegard

2009 Team Roster:

Jillian Almodovar
Sylvester Berry
Gregory Patengale
Phillip Rice
Sandra Simpson
Kyle Stoner
Michael Williams
Amber Class

who has since passed, and everyone else involved, and especially to his players that combined to make this a "special" experience that will never be forgotten.

This team is the second Bethel School District and Spanaway Lake High School Special Olympics basketball team to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.



Inductees

Kellie Ham

TypE Graphics

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email: khgraphics@aol.com

Roy, Washington

**Congratulations to
Gene Ketter**

*for his outstanding
athletic accomplishments
at Bethel High School
in the sports he played:
football, basketball and baseball.*

**Congratulations
to all the
2019 inductees.**

**What great accomplishments
you have achieved.**

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

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

continued on next page

Bethel School Districts

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:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Number</u>
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 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

continued on next page

Bethel School Districts

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 Districts'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 Wash-*

ington 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 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."

continued on next page

Bethel School Districts

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.



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