

Hall of Fame

2022

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

September 17th • Spanaway Middle School

SPONSORED BY





**“The Miller family and employees congratulates
Jody Miller for his induction into the Bethel Athletic Hall of Fame”**



JODY MILLER
CONSTRUCTION

Jody Miller Construction
253-537-6116

jody@jodymillerconstruction.com

Proud sponsor of the Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame.

WELCOME

President's Message



I would like to welcome everyone in attendance to our 2022 Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame Luncheon. Covid 19 threw us a huge curve as we were forced to postpone this luncheon from its originally scheduled day in March. Three months prior to its scheduled date our committee determined that we could not hold it with reasonable assurance that everyone attending would be safe from the virus. Since schools are now fully open and their lunchrooms are working at normal operations, we now feel better about bringing this group together. We do encourage you to do everything you can to minimize the spread of Covid 19.

Our committee is comprised of past Administrators, Coaches, Teachers, and Athletes that have all been active in a variety of activities at our schools. Each has the desire to bring the history of our district to life by honoring the teams and individuals that rose to greatness in their careers. I would like to thank each one of them on the work they have put in to make this ceremony a success.

Whether you are here as an inductee, a proud family member or a friend, I hope you enjoy the ceremony that we have planned. Today is the day for these inductees to "Shine." We honor the great performances of each inductee during their athletic career at one of our three high schools. We cheered them on during their career and we are back today to show each of them that we still remember the joy they brought us.

Today we will induct 2 Teams, 11 individual athletes, and 1 contributor into our Hall of Fame. Today's inductees join the already inducted 10 Athletic Teams, 45 individual athletes, 7 coaches and 12 contributors who are already members. Together they chronicle the long and impressive history of sports in the Bethel School District. Each honored Team, Individual Athlete, Coach and Contributor is an important part of this history.

In the 6 years of our existence, we have strived to identify the people who have had a positive impact on our sports history. We ask your help in our search for who should be in our next class of inductees. If you would like to nominate someone you think should be part of our Hall of Fame, we ask you to visit our web-page at www.bethelhalloffame1.org to obtain a nomination form. If you would like to be more involved, either as a member of our committee or a board member, we welcome your interest. You can find more information about becoming a member on our web-page.

I would like to thank you, again, for making this a special day for our new members of the Bethel School District Hall of Fame.

Bob Niehl
President, Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame

Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame Members

BOARD MEMBERS

Bob Niehl—President
John Zurfluh—Vice President
Bryan Streleski—Vice President
Debbi Caramandi—Secretary
Kellie Ham—Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Don Ash
Marilyn Ash
John Briebl
Kellie Ham
Terry Leifson
Mike Mullen
Ed Niehl
Dave Rich
John Zurfluh

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Ed Niehl
Roxanne Asay
John Briebl
Ed Burmester
Bob Niehl
Brian Streleski
Ed Tingstad
John Zurfluh (BJ)

MEMBERS

Marilyn Ash
Don Ash
Kellie Ham
Rick Ham
Bob Heskett
Carolyn Jones
Terry Leifson
Lee Martin
Carolyn Ockfen
Dave Rich
Easter Springsteen
Oscar Springsteen
John Zurfluh(LJ)

On the Cover...

2022 Contributor Inductee Ed Burmester who over the years taught, coached, was an Athletic Director and Bethel Recreation Director for the Bethel School District. He coached inductee Shawn Butler and was the assistant coach for the 1980 Bethel Boys Basketball team that is being inducted this year.

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 bethelhall-offame1.org.

Our Mission

The mission of the Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame is to honor past athletes, coaches, families, contributors and teams 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.

2022 Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Athletes

Shawn Butler
Jody Miller
Bryan Strleski

Cal Christoph
Dan Pitsch

Amanda DuRocher
Greg Powell

Jeff Gotcher
Steve Reopelle

Anthony Meray
Carl Schriver

Contributors

Ed Burmester

Teams

1962 Bethel High School Wrestling Team

Coach: Frank Pavia

Roster: Larry Bonnel, Larry Buster, Warren Butler, Gary Gray, Al Guthrie, Mike Matheny, Bill Miles, Bill Harr, Vic Hugdahl, Rick Selden, Mike Sweaney, Wayne Wetherbee, Dave Williams

1980 Bethel High School Boys Basketball Team

Coach: Mike Mullen, Assistant Coach: Ed Burmester, Russ Leslie

Managers: Preston Loveless, Gregg Geoff

Roster: Robert Boyd, Michael Butler, Clay Carlsteen John DuRocher, Mark Martin, Jim Moore, Dave Morgan, Murph Nelson, Tom Pierce, Mark Stambaugh, Matt Piper, Jeff Valentine

SCHEDULE, SPONSORS & VOLUNTEERS

Schedule

Welcome – John Briebl

Lunch

Recognition of Past Inductees – John Briebl

Introduction of Directors – John Briebl

Presidents Message – Bob Niehl

Featured Speaker – Corey Belser

Contributor Inductee **Presenter**
 Ed Burmester Bryan Strelski

Individual Inductees..... **Presenter**
 Shawn Butler Ed Burmester
 Cal Christoph Ed Niehl
 Amanda DuRocher James Hammond
 Jeff Gotcher Bob Heskett
 Anthony Meray Gavin Kralik
 Jody Miller Ed Tingstad
 Dan Pitsch Bob Heskett
 Greg Powell Babe Buholm
 Steve Reopelle Mike Mullen
 Carl Schriver Ed Niehl
 Bryan Strelski Mike Mullen

Team Inductees **Presenter**
1980 Bethel Boys Basketball Team Mike Mullen & Ed Burmester

*Coach: Mike Mullen, Assistant Coach: Ed Burmester, Russ Leslie
 Managers: Preston Loveless, Gregg Geoff
 Roster: Robert Boyd, Michael Butler, Clay Carlsteen, John DuRocher,
 Mark Martin, Jim Moore, Dave Morgan, Murph Nelson, Tom Pierce,
 Matt Piper, Mark Stambaugh, Jeff Valentine*

1962–63 Bethel Wrestling Team Mike Matheny
*Coach: Frank Pavia
 Roster: Warren Butler, Gary Gray, Wayne Wetherbee, Al Guthrie,
 Larry Buster, Mike Matheny, Larry Bonnel, Dave Williams,
 Mike Sweaney, Bill Miles, Bill Harr, Vic Hugdahl, Rick Selden*

Closing – John Briebl

Sponsors
Thank you to our sponsors for their generous support!!

GOLD
 Jody Miller Construction
 Crescent Realty
 The Truss Company
 Kellie Ham Type&Graphics

SILVER
 J&J Auto

BRONZE



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.

Lani Briebl, Julie Day, Rick Ham, Caroline Jones, Kathy Knelleken, Ella Kostick, Linda Martin, Sue McNiven, Donna Morgan, Easter Springsteen

J & J AUTO REPAIR

5320 224th St. E. • Spanaway, WA
OIL CHANGES • TUNE-UPS • BRAKES

24HR. TOWING SERVICE

847.7275

Auto Wrecking

WE BUY JUNK CARS



BECOME A MEMBER

We welcome anyone to become a member. Membership dues are \$40.00 a year and is renewable annually, August–July. Meetings are scheduled monthly. It's easy! Just fill out the form and send in with your payment.

For more information contact John Zurfluh at jzurfluh@yahoo.com



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.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



John Briehl

John is a lifelong Bethel School District supporter. He attended Bethel Junior and Senior High where he served as student body president at both schools. Graduating in 1968, John lettered in Cross Country, Basketball and Track. In addition to his Student Council responsibilities, he was a member of the Letterman's Club, Key Club, Concert Band, Torch Honor Society, Drama Club, and wrote a sports column for the BHS school newspaper, the Brave Talk. John graduated from Washington State University where he completed degrees in Broadcast Communications and Sociology. Early in his career, he worked in the mental health field reuniting runaway youth with their families. John retired from the City of Tacoma after 37 years as the Executive Director of the Human Rights and the Human Services Department where he led the city's housing and employment anti-discrimination efforts and directed their social services programs. Most recently, he has served on the Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame Board of

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

GUEST SPEAKER



Corey Belser

Corey Belser graduated from Bethel High School in 2001. During his career he was one of the top players in the Puget Sound area in both basketball and football. As a junior his basketball team finished first in league; second in district and state. As a senior the Braves advanced to the 4A State Basketball Tournament and finished 8th. After his senior season the honors rolled in. Corey was named Tacoma News Tribune All-Area Player of the Year among other awards for his high school basketball career.

Corey's football career was just as impressive. He started as both a receiver and safety where he earned First Team All-League honors. Corey was a big factor in Bethel finishing second in the state playoffs. Corey was nominated as a Wendy's High School Heisman candidate.

In 2001 he accepted a basketball scholarship to the University of San Diego. As a senior he was voted to the WCC All Academic First Team as well as being selected as the WCC Defensive Player of the Year. He also was selected as an Arthur Ash Scholar Athlete Award recipient.

After graduating in 2006 with a Bachelors in Urban Development Studies and a Masters in Leadership Corey headed to Europe. From 2006–2012 He played professional basketball for a number of European teams. In 2012 he was selected Second-Team All-League in Greece.

In 2013 Corey moved from the court to the bench as he spent the next five years coaching in the NBAGL. During his time in the NBAGL, he won three Conference Championships and one League Championship.

Corey has been at Seattle University the last three years serving as their Assistant Director of Equipment and Events. He still also works with the Maldives National Team as an advisor.

Athletic Hall of Fame



NOMINATION FORM

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

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

Nominee:

Last Name: _____ Maiden Name _____ First Name: _____
Home Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

Sports & Year Played/Coached/Contributed: _____

Achievements/Honors/Community or School Involvement: _____

College/University/Professional Participation/Achievement: _____

Nominated by:

Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

For additional information see web page at www.bethelhalloffame1.org

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

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

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

NOMINATION GUIDELINES



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

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 letters 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 who 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 above competition

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

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

ED BURMESTER, (Contributer: SJH, BHS, SLHS)

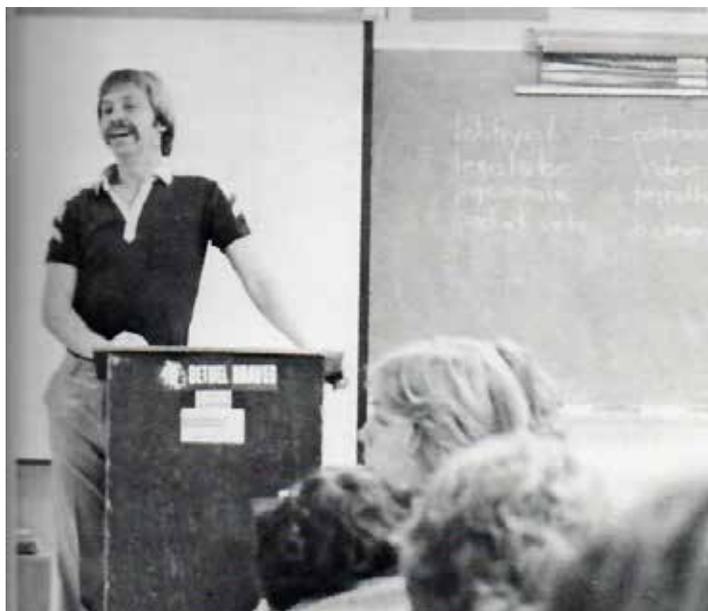
Ed Burmester was born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1948, moved west at an early age, and has been a life-long resident of Pierce County ever since. He was involved in athletics from an early age. The South End Boys' Club was his playground and his playmates included a number of remarkable athletes: Ron Cey, who had a sixteen year career with the Los Angeles Dodgers and Chicago Cubs, highlighted by being voted the MVP in the 1981 World Series; Bobby Moore (Amad Rashad) an All-American running back/receiver at the University of Oregon and a four-time All-Pro selection in the NFL; and last but not least, Gary Carr a member of the Carr family that became part of Lincoln High School's amazing family of athletes. During Ed's time at the South End Boys' Club, he received the "Boy of the Year" honors as well as a scholarship to help him attend college. Ed attended Mt. Tahoma High School, graduating in 1966. He married Rose Hale in 1968 and three children, Scott, Angela, and Benjamin blessed their marriage. He continued his education at Western Washington State College, graduating in 1970, and eventually earned his degree of Master of Education from City University in 1994.



After college he returned to Pierce County to begin his teaching career. Thankfully, he chose the Bethel School District to share his teaching and athletic talents. Ed began his working/coaching career at Spanaway Junior High School in 1970. After eight years at SJH, Ed joined Mike Mullen at Bethel High School as an assistant boys' basketball coach and was part of the coaching staff of the BHS 1980 state team. He spent three years as Mike's assistant, while teaching United States History. Spanaway Lake High School opened in 1981 and Ed joined their staff. He was also chosen as Spanaway Lake High School's first boys head basketball coach, a position he held for eight years, winning the Pierce County League's Basketball Championship during the 1984-85 season. His 1985 team also won the West Central District III Championship and played in the Regional Tournament. This team featured stand-out players including among others, David Valentine and Bethel Hall of Fame inductee, Shawn Butler. His teams qualified for the West Central District Playoffs four times during his eight years as head coach.

Ed was always a leading advocate for everything SLHS/BSD. His loyalty to the big picture remained as his leadership priorities. Ed was a person people valued because of his level-headed, hardworking professionalism. He was an outstanding classroom teacher. Ed was the social studies department chair, and a member of a group of lead teachers who helped to coach younger teachers to be successful (Trainer of Trainers). His students had a high degree of respect for him and the staff envied his personality and passion for everything he did.

Ed joined the Bethel School District Athletic Administration as Spanaway Lake High School's Athletic Director in 1992, a position he held for twelve years. During his years serving the Bethel School District's Spanaway Lake High school, he brought stability and growth to many of their athletic programs, including league championships in tennis (boys and girls), wrestling, (the 2000 wrestling team was State Champions), boys' basketball, cross country, track and fastpitch. In the 2000-2002 school year, he was the Co-Athletic Director of the Bethel School District. School administrator and coaches who had the privilege of knowing and working with Ed, admired his passion, his energy, and dedication. Above all Ed was a total team player who won the trust of all who knew him. He did not seek the spotlight and held himself ac-



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES CONTINUED



countable.

Ed was a consistent member of the SLHS yearly Craft Fair, organized and promoted by Judy Gillespie, for more than two decades. The fair raised hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years which was distributed equally between the activity and athletic budgets.

Ed was extremely proud of his 47 years serving the Bethel School District programs. He retired from his teaching/athletic duties in 2004, but would spend eight more years directing the Bethel School District Recreation Program, then four more years as equipment manager and field maintenance director. He recently has retired as a member of the Bethel Recreation Board of Directors, a position he held for several years. Currently, Ed spends part of his retirement time as one of the Directors of the Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame organization. Ed is also very proud of his family (including seven grandchildren) and the fact that his wife, Rose, has been very supportive throughout their 53 years of marriage.

Ed's decision to spend his entire working career at one school district was heavily influenced by his older brothers, Al and Tom. Both brothers have made similar commitments to education, coaching and athletic administration. Al spent 42 years working in the North Thurston School District, and Tom spent 43 years working for the Tacoma School District. If you combined all the years served by the brothers in teaching, coaching and athletic administration, it would total up to 132 years! All the inspiration for

their interest in teaching can be traced back to their mother, Gloria.

Ed Burmester gave Spanaway Lake High School the kind of athletic leadership that compels others to recognize the passion and energy he gave to every program each and every day during his life long career in the Bethel School District and especially Spanaway Lake High School. Ed will forever be remembered as Mr. Athletics at Spanaway Lake.



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 reigns. 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.

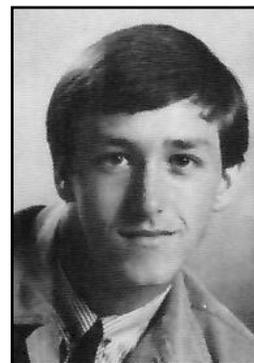
Currently, the Bethel Recreation Office is located at the Bethel Learning Center. For more information on Bethel Recreation, call 253-800-5941 or at bethelrec.org.

Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

SHAWN BUTLER (SLHS '85)

Shawn Butler was born to his parents, Wayne and Shirley Butler, on December 6, 1966 in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. The Butler family moved into the Spanaway area and resided in the Bethel School District where Shawn and his two sisters, Debbie and Judy, completed their public education. Shawn attended Spanaway and Thompson Elementary schools, Spanaway Junior High, and began his high school career in 1982 at Spanaway Lake High School.

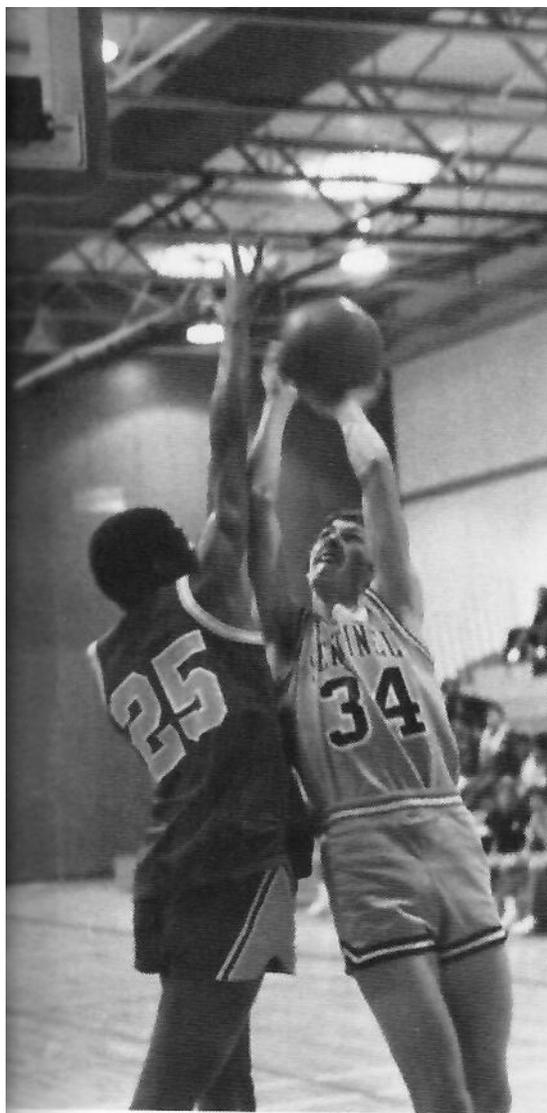


During Shawn's three years at Spanaway Lake, he earned six varsity letters, three each in basketball and baseball. In basketball as a sophomore, it was evident that he possessed all the skills to make the varsity team and be a major contributor on a competitive team at a school that was entering just its second year. In his sophomore year (82-83) Shawn completed a solid season helping the Sentinels earn a birth in the Pierce County League District Tournament. In his junior season, (83-84) Shawn really took off. The team struggled early on but finished the season winning six of their last eight games, qualifying for the district tournament once again. In district play, the Sentinels won their first game but were eliminated after losing their next. Shawn's play during the two-game district competition was stellar, averaging 20.0 points per game. Additionally, his season's statistics were extremely impressive, leading the team in 11 of 14 statistical categories.

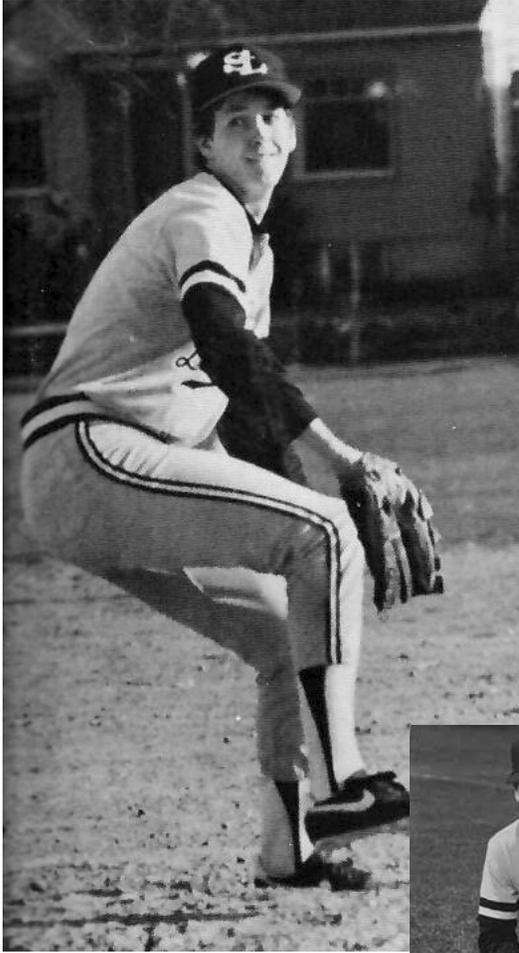
In Shawn's senior year, (84-85) he was surrounded by three key players from the previous year and the team exploded. Late in the season the Sentinels put together an impressive nine game win streak culminating in winning the Pierce County League Championship with a 12-3 record. The team proceeded to go on and win the West Central District III Championship before being eliminated in the regional tournament, finishing the season with 17 wins, 7 loss record. During this season, Shawn was first or second in fourteen statistical categories. More importantly, Shawn tailored his game so that the strength of the other players could provide for a more balanced approach. Shawn was always more concerned with the success of the team as opposed to his own personal statistics.

In baseball Shawn was a standout pitcher for Spanaway Lake. He was a three year varsity letter winner, 1983-84-85. In his sophomore year, Shawn pitched 67 and a third innings, striking out 85 batters, threw a no-hitter, and won seven games. The team won the Pierce County League title with a 17-2 record, finishing with an overall season record of 17 wins, 4 losses. As a junior ('84), Shawn really came into his own. The Sentinels finished with a 10-3 league record, good enough to win the league title for the second straight year. In two back-to-back starts, Shawn struck out 32 batters, (17 in one game, 15 in the other) out of a possible 42 batters. As a result of Shawn's dominance, he was selected Pierce County League MVP. In his senior year ('85) the Sentinels finished league play with an 8-6 win-loss record, 11-7 overall, where Shawn was once again an important factor in the team's success. During his baseball career at Spanaway Lake, Shawn set several school records, some of which still remain today.

Post high school Shawn attended Green River Community College and played baseball for two years, 1986-87, earning First-Team All NWACC West Division honors. In the winter of 1986, Shawn was selected in the fourth round of the Major League baseball draft by the Seattle Mariners. During the summer of '87, Shawn pitched for



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES CONTINUED



San Diego State University and toured all over California and played in the World Port Tournament in Rotterdam, Netherlands, where he faced teams from Cuba, Taiwan, and the Netherlands. Upon his return, he enrolled at Pacific Lutheran University where he continued his play for coach Larry Marshall ('87-89). During his time with PLU, the team toured Japan playing numerous games.

After finishing his baseball pursuits, Shawn joined the Eatonville, WA police force where he served in the law enforcement community from 1989 to 1994. Next Shawn continued his career and became a deputy sheriff in Pierce County, receiving numerous letters of accommodations and several medals of merit and lifesaving awards, serving from 1994 and retiring in 2020.

Shawn currently is enjoying his retirement life with his wife, Lise, and two sons, Zach and Kyle, living in Jefferson City, Montana.



Hall of Fame

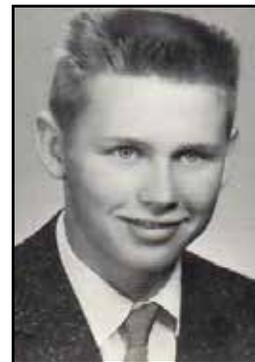
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

CAL CHRISTOPH (BHS '58)

Cal Christoph, like many other great Bethel athletes of the 1950's, was a true three sport standout. He was a two year letterman in football and lettered three years in both basketball and baseball. As Eddie Hagen so aptly stated, "In football, Cal's statistics on offense speak for themselves." His best year was in 1957—his senior year. The team finished 8-1, losing only to Bellevue (a non-league game), 8-6 in the season opening contest and they went on to win the League Championship literally "going away." The team scored a league leading 201 points and allowed just 19. Eatonville was a distant second with 105 points scored and allowing 38. Cal was second on the team in scoring with 54 points (8 TD's and 6 P.A.T.'s) and second in rushing with 660 yards on 108 carries (6.11 yard average).

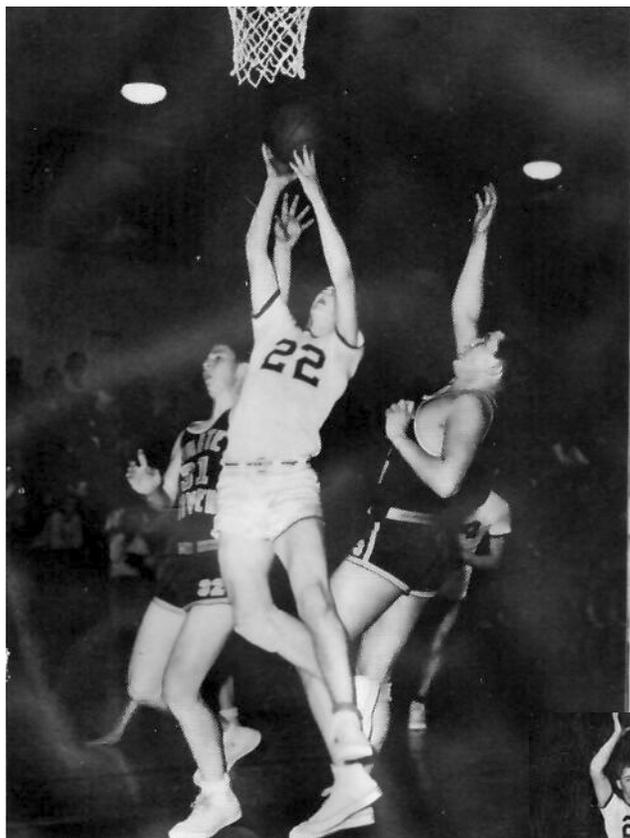
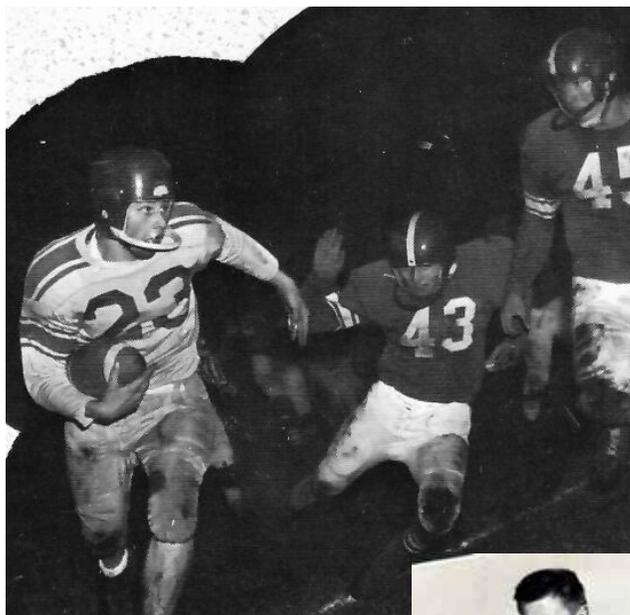
The team basically relied on the run gaining a total of 2126 yards on the ground. However, they were no slouches when it came to passing the football. Statistics for seven out of the nine games have been verified and they are impressive. They attempted 60 passes and completed 29 (48.3%) for 665 yards (22.9 yards/completion). Ten touchdown passes were thrown, six by Cal and three by Eddie Hagen (one could not be verified as to who threw it). Cal's touchdown passes averaged 36.2 yards per catch—the longest being a 56 yarder to Gary Gregg in a 40-13 win over Orting.

Cal was like a lot of kids as a teenager, he grew! At 16 he was 5'11" and maybe 150 lbs. In his junior year he was 6'0" and 170 lbs. and in his senior year he attained his adult height of 6'1" and weight of 190 lbs., but always with the speed of a sprinter. This not only served him well in his senior year in football but on the basketball court as well. In his sophomore year (the 1955-'56 season) Cal appeared in 13 of the 19 games and finished fourth on the team in scoring and third on the team in average points per game. The next year (the 1956-'57 season) the team placed second in the league with a 10-4 record. (The league co-champions were Eatonville and Peninsula with 11-3 records.) Cal was second in total points scored with 228 (12.0 average), and Dave Leigh led the team with 243 (a 12.8 average). Cal's senior year (the 1957-'58 season) proved to be his best by far. Bethel tied with Yelm for the League Championship, both with 12-2 records. In the 21 game season he led the Braves with 375 points scored for a 17.9 average per game and in 14 league games scored 253 points for an 18.1 average. While it has not



Cal Christoph was a year ahead of me and I was a teammate of his my sophomore and junior years in football and basketball and three years in baseball. He was a natural athlete and outstanding in all three sports. In football, Cal's statistics on offense speak for themselves. However, his versatility must be mentioned. Cal could not only run and pass, but he could also catch a pass and block for the other backs when they carried the football. Also, on defense his size and game savvy made him a threat to be reckoned with for the opposing offenses. In basketball, he could score from anywhere on the court, both inside and out, and he was a terrific rebounder on the offense and defensive boards. In baseball, he was a fine defensive infielder and he could hit with power. But Cal was more than that. In his firm but quiet way, he was a tough competitor who wanted the team to win regardless of who was the "star" in any particular sport or game. After the 1957 football season Cal received The Inspirational Award which was a tribute to his leadership and the respect that he had from all of his teammates.

—Eddie Hagen, BHS '59
Member of The Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES CONTINUED



been verified, this could very well have led the league, or was close to it.

As noted above, Cal was also a three year letterman in baseball—a starting second baseman his sophomore and junior years and the third baseman his senior year. As Eddie Hagen stated, "...he was a fine defensive infielder and he could hit with power." While The Tacoma News Tribune (The TNT) reports in baseball are, at best, sketchy and incomplete, a couple of games were covered in which Cal's name appeared and gave some credence to Mr. Hagen's statement that he could hit with power.

In a May 1st, 1956 win 9–3 over Fife, the TNT wrote the following, "The Bethel Braves pounded out three doubles and three singles in the first two innings to take a 6–0 lead over Fife. Fife came back with three runs in the fifth inning but the hard-hitting Braves wrapped it up with three runs in the sixth on three singles and a triple by Christoph."

And, in a May, 1957 loss to Fife, the TNT stated that "Bethel became the first team to score on Fife in league action yesterday. Fife pitcher Dennis Peterson walked in the first one with three consecutive passes following a single by Don Leigh." "The Braves picked up their second run the hard way in the third when Cal Christoph tripled to drive in Ed Hagen."

Cal attended The College of Puget Sound on an athletic scholarship and played football for legendary Coach John Heinrick. Utilizing his size and speed, he was a split end on offense and was at his old position in high school, an end on the defensive line. He was a four year letterman; a co-captain his senior year; and was named to an All-Star team. Cal graduated with a degree in business administration and was employed by Western Farmers of America for many years. He eventually retired from Lew Rents in Olympia in 2008 having made many friends along the way.

Calvin Henry Christoph, Jr. was born on August 11th, 1940 in Kapowsin, WA. His father, Calvin Sr, and mother, Mary, had one other child, a daughter, Jean. Cal attended Kapowsin grade school and entered Bethel High School in the Fall of 1954 and graduated in the Spring of 1958. In 1961 he married Janice Dworsky and they had four children during their 14 year marriage - Todd, Calvin James, Cary and Dana. Cal never remarried but was a devoted father to his two sons and two daughters and would visit each on a rotating basis on the weekends. According to his son, Todd, Cal always had a "treasure" to share or a gun to "test fire." Again, according to Todd, Cal's stories and sayings are still being repeated by his children to this day and that his best attribute was simply being a dad. Sadly, Cal passed away from heart failure at the age of 70 on April 16th, 2011, surrounded by his children.

The last paragraph of Eddie Hagen's tribute to Cal Christoph says it best. His leadership and devotion to the team defined his career, and while his statistics are certainly impressive, Mr. Hagen pointed out that "Cal was more than that." His Hall of Fame induction is well-deserved.

Hall of Fame

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

AMANDA DUROCHER (BHS '05)

Amanda DuRocher came from a long line of Bethel High School athletes. Both her parents were multi-letter winners and her brother Johnny was one of the most highly decorated athletes in school history. Not only was Amanda an exceptional athlete, but she excelled in the classroom as well with a 3.88 grade point average. She was voted by her peers as team captain on the soccer team her junior and senior year, as well as captain of the basketball team her senior year.



Amanda was a three sport star, excelling in soccer, basketball, and track. Amanda was a three time First-Team All League as a goalie, and twice First-Team All Area. In her junior year she was League MVP and All League goalie, even though the team had a losing record. She repeated as an All League and All Area as a senior, where she set an SPSL record for blocked shots on goal.

Amanda lettered in track her sophomore year, as a shot putter, discus thrower and ran the hurdles, qualifying for state.

Basketball was where Amanda made her name and became known in the area. She was a three time First-Team All League Guard, leading her team every year in scoring and steals. In her junior and senior years, she was pivotal in the team winning back to back League Championships and appearances in the state championships. She was First-Team All Area twice, First-Team All West Central District twice. She was a two time participant in the North vs South All SPSL All Star Game. She was also chosen to play in the East vs West All Star Game her senior year. She was recognized twice as a Seattle PI All Star, once for soccer in 2003, and basketball in 2005. As a senior, Amanda helped lead the team to a 20-0 undefeated League Championship, Washington State Championship appearance and was named League MVP.

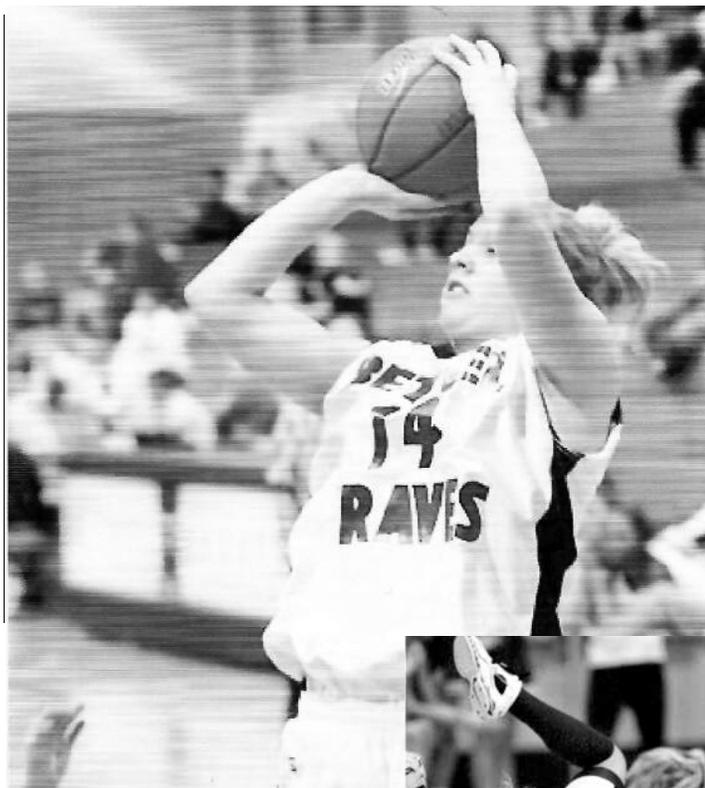
Known for her step back three point shot. Amanda almost amassed 1,000 points in her career. She shot well behind the three point line and set school records for three point shots made in a game, season and career.

Recruited to play Division 1 in both soccer and basketball, she chose to play basketball at Washington State University. Playing only two years there, where she was a two year starter, she set the single season record for three point shots made in a game and season. After her freshman year, she made the All PAC -10 Freshmen Team, and twice was All Academic First Team.

After her two years at WSU, she transferred to Masters College in California. She was a two year starter and All League player in the Golden State Athletic Conference. Twice her team qualified for the National Championships. After her two year career at Masters, she had their record for three point shots made in a game and career.

Finding out she still had eligibility in soccer, Amanda took to the pitch for two years and played goalie for Masters College. In her first year, the team won the National Championship in their classification, and she was recognized as a First Team All League player. The next year they qualified for post season, but were ousted after the quarter finals. Amanda was recognized as First Team All League again, and named a Kodak All American at the goalie position.

Amanda is married now to Tyler Diamond and lives in Simi Valley. She is mom to two boys, Tate, 6 years and Bear, 3 years.



Amanda DuRocher

*Congratulations on your induction into the
Bethel Athletic Hall of Fame!*

Love Grandpa & Grandma



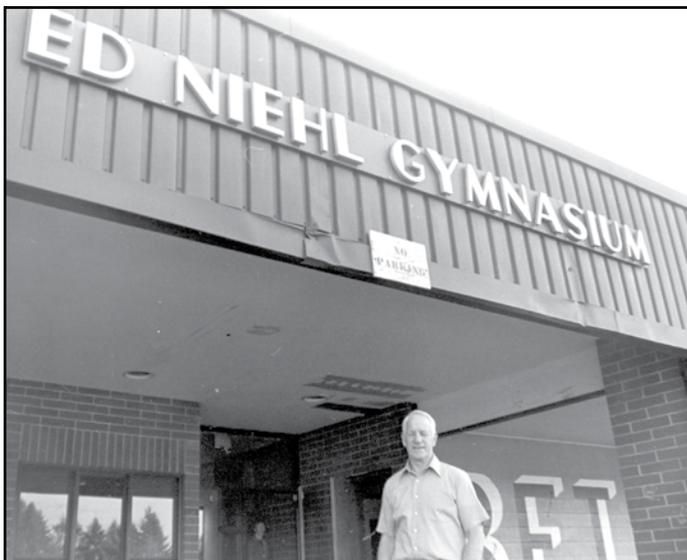
Rebecca M. Schmid
Assistant Vice President
Branch Manager, Spanaway



Spanaway Branch
17502 Pacific Ave South
Spanaway, WA 98387

P 253-539-3094 | C 253-254-4462 | F 253-539-3290
rebeccas@columbiabank.com

nmls 1099328



Ed Niehl, BHS Athletic Director and
Hall of Fame Inductee,
standing in front of the
Bethel High School Gymnasium
that was named in his honor.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

JEFF GOTCHER (SLHS '87)

According to Webster's Dictionary, the definition of perfection is "...the condition, state, or quality of being free as possible from all flaws or defects." That definition adequately describes the three years of wrestling performed by Jeff Gotcher at Spanaway Lake High School from 1985-1987. During that three year time period, Jeff Gotcher was undefeated in the 101 matches he wrestled. Jeff Gotcher was the 3A State Champion in 1985 at 148 pounds, and 4A State champion at 148 pounds in 1986 and 1987.

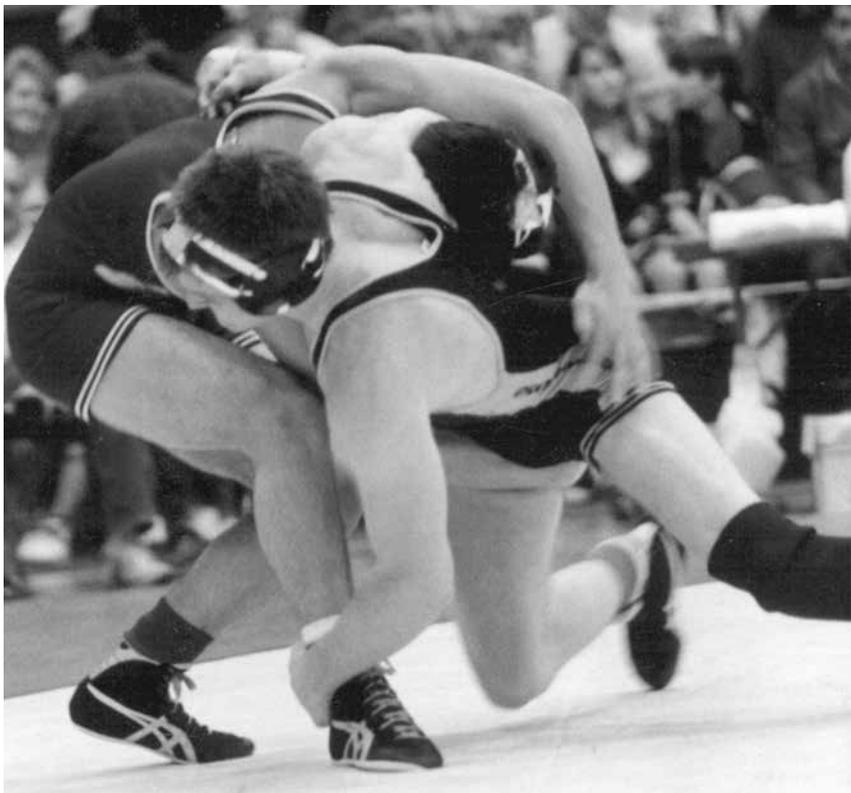
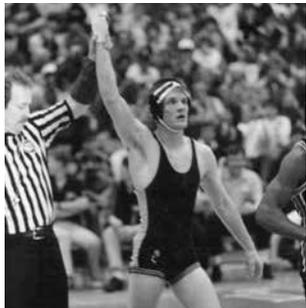
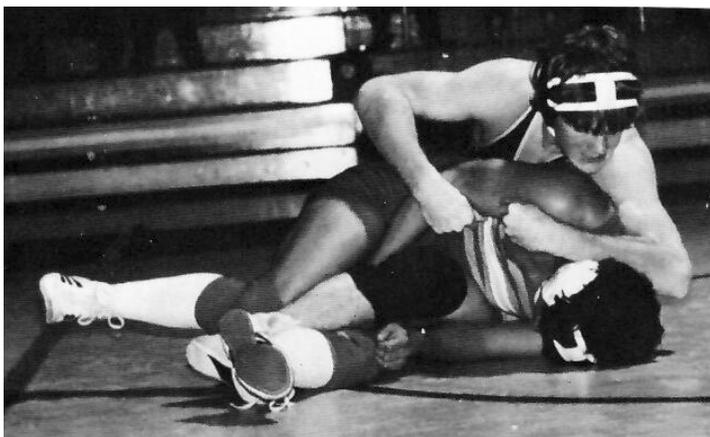
Jeff is believed to be the first wrestler to go undefeated in a three year high school career.

During his high school wrestling career, Jeff received the following honors and recognition; ASICS Number 1 ranked wrestler in the country, under classmen, 1986, and High School All-American 1986, 1987. Post high school recognition includes National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Pierce County Hall of Fame, and Puget Sound All Century Top 100 Athletes.

Jeff's older brother, Larry, was a senior when Jeff was a sophomore. Larry had also qualified for the state tournament and was undefeated for his entire senior season as well. During the run up to the state tournament they were debating which of the two was going to be the first athlete from SLHS to earn a state title. As it worked out, only because Larry wrestled in the weight classification immediately before Jeff's, Larry got to wrestle first and won his match thus becoming the first athlete to win a state title at SLHS. Jeff wrestled next and quickly became the second to do so. Jeff, a sophomore, and Larry, a senior, became State Title Champions in 1985, and both went the entire season without a loss. These two extremely talented athletes put SLHS on the wrestling map for good. Jeff would continue to dominate the wrestling landscape for the next two years.

Post high school, Jeff volunteered coaching at Spanaway Lake High School from 1988-1990. In 1991, Jeff became an assistant coach at Pacific Lutheran University and was also an assistant coach at White River High School from 1998-2000, and from 2012-2017. In addition, Jeff also volunteered time with individual wrestlers and teams doing personal training, participating and promoting camps and clinics, and monitoring kids through the years.

Today Jeff works locally in the community as an owner/operator truck driver which he has done for the past 20 years.



EZ AUTO

LICENSE & TITLE

*Congratulations to all the athletes who are being inducted into the
2022 Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame*

Dick Zierman

Owner

Hours: 9am to 5:30pm (Monday–Saturday)

22225 Mountain Highway East, Suite F
Spanaway, Washington 98387

ezautolicense2@aol.com

253-875-7732
fax/253-875-7735



KeyBank

Congratulates

all of the 2022 inductees into

The Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

ANTHONY MERAY, (BHS '10)

Anthony Meray continues to exemplify characteristics of integrity and sportsmanship. From Shining Mountain Elementary to Bethel High School, Anthony excelled in both athletics and academics.

At Bethel Junior High Anthony played football and basketball.

In 2007, as a sophomore, Anthony stepped into the halls of Bethel High School and right onto the Brave Football team coached by Gavin Kralik. He was a three-year varsity player. As a senior he was 5'9," weighed 185 pounds, and played running back and defensive back for the Braves.

When other teams defenses faced Bethel, stopping Meray was priority No. 1. No team ever fully completed that task. Meray rushed for at least 126 yards per game and topped 200 yards in four contests finishing with 2,003 rushing yards, 25 touchdowns, 2,741 all-purpose yards, which at the time was a SPSL record and his nickname had become Anthony "All Day" Meray.

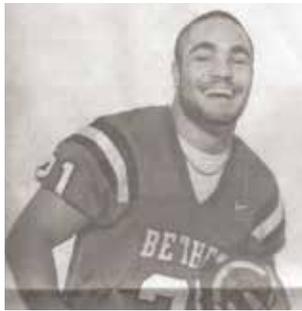
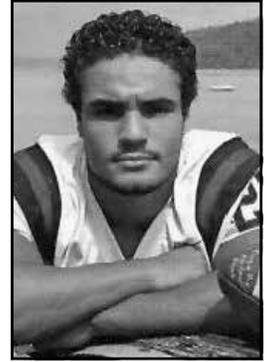
He also was awarded in 2009 the All Area Football Player of the Year and Best Offensive Player of the Year. He was the SPSL Football Record Holder and the Tacoma News Tribune Player of the Year.

Meray was also a participant in the East vs West All Star Game in 2010. He received the President's Education Award, National Football Foundation College Hall of Fame Honor Award, BHS Peoples Choice Award. He was not just a good athlete: he was a smart athlete and was on the Honor Roll at Bethel from 2006 to graduation in 2010.

Anthony also played basketball since second grade. He played on several select basketball teams, and competed at multiple camps winning an MVP award at NBC Basketball camp. In high school he started as a sophomore point guard under the guidance of coach Pat Mullen. Often he would have to juggle the balance between football camps and the basketball season's requirements. The high school basketball team was always a competitor for the State Championship tournaments in the three years he played. He served as a team captain and also won an award for Defensive Player of the Year for the team during his senior season.

After graduating from Bethel, Anthony went to Kent State where he played football for four years. After graduating from Kent State University, he returned home to help the Bethel School District athletics and community as a Performance Coach. He coached football at Graham Kapowsin High School and does guest speaking on the importance of both athletics and academics.

His mother and father who have always instilled academic, and athletic excellence in him since he and his three brothers were kids. All three brothers were athletic. Both parents served in the military for a combined total of thirty years are now retired. Anthony and his brothers were given the blueprint by their examples of service before self, leadership, honesty, and making sure they put their best foot forward in all that they did as young men.



Doyle Printing Company

Graphic Design
 Layout/Forms
 Stationery
 Process Printing
 Mailing Services
 Web Design

Tel: 253-531-7087
 Fax: 253-531-7104
 www.doyleprinting.com

1702 112th Street East • Tacoma, WA 98445

QUALITY PRINTING SERVICES SINCE 1975



★ NEW LOCATION
 115 176TH STREET SOUTH SUITE D
 SPANAWAY, WA. 98387 ★

**SCREEN PRINTING, EMBROIDERY,
 AWARDS, TROPHIES & UNIFORMS**

253.536.8221

THELINEUP7@COMCAST.NET



Kellie Ham Type & Graphics

253-843-9436

khgraphics@aol.com

Congratulations to the Bethel School District
 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees



Winning Seasons
 CUSTOM PRINTING
 EMBROIDERY
 & TEAM WEBSITE SALES



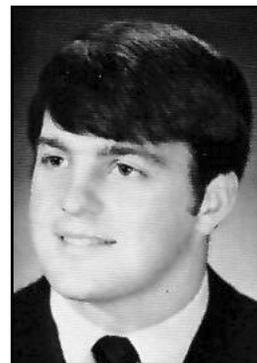
253-582-3585 / www.winningseasons.net

THANK YOU TO THE MANY BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT COACHES FOR 40 YEARS OF BEING ABLE TO SERVE YOU AND YOUR TEAMS

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

JODY MILLER (BHS '70)

Jody Miller was part of an exceptional group of sophomore football players who entered Bethel High School in the fall of 1967. During the previous year, this freshman team had gone undefeated and unscored upon during the league season. Jody was a big part of this team's success. The potential was there but there was a lot of work to do if they were going to return to the glory days of the late 50s when Bethel was crowned as the league champions several times.



Miller wasted no time before he impacted the Bethel football team. He started on both offense and defense and returned kicks in his first game. He quickly moved from a player with promise to a player you could build a team around. By the end of his first year, he was Bethel's leading scorer, ground gainer and number three receiver.

In addition to his offensive talent, he was also a fine defensive back who seemed to be able to predict where the next play would go. He was one of the top defenders against the pass but could quickly close in on a ball carrier and was known as a great tackler.

The 1967 season turned out to be a learning experience for the Braves as they finished the year with a season record of 2-6-1, a league record of 1-3-1 and finished in sixth place. Despite the losing record, Jody, and a number of other sophomores, gained valuable experience that would help them grow as a team.

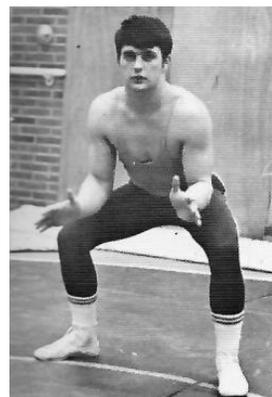
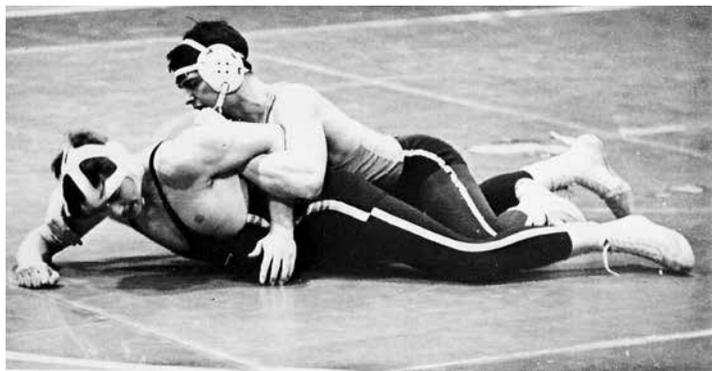
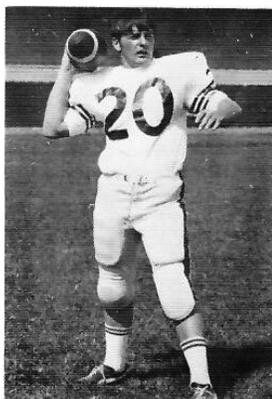
The 1968 season saw the Bethel football reach their first goal, a winning season. This was the first winning season since the 1962 team. At 6-4 finishing over .500 was a positive step forward.

While the team was getting better, Jody was also moving forward. After having a good season as a sophomore, Jody used his junior year to become a dominant player. He had an explosive first step with the ability to effortlessly change direction and run to daylight. Once he was in open space, his top end speed took over. As one of the best 100 yard dash athletes in the league, few could catch him even with a favorable angle. For those defensive backs that did contain him, Jody would lower his shoulder and deliver a hit that was uncommon for a 165 lb. back.

Jody was quickly becoming the Bethel scoring machine. He scored 9 of the 23 touchdowns the team score in the 1968 season. He could do it all, as seen by how he scored his touchdowns. After not scoring in Bethel's first four games, he exploded scoring nine touchdowns in the last six contests. Four of these scores were runs from 25 yards or longer. Each of these runs featured his quickness and balance by getting to the open field then turning on the speed all the way to the end zone. Another three touchdowns were from two yards or less, using his power and strength to score. One touchdown came on a 25-yard pass from quarterback Larry Loete. He also had a 90-yard kick-off return against Mt. Si for his third touchdown of the game.

Jody's best game of the year was against North Thurston. The Rams had defeated the Braves in each of their past ten meetings. Miller carried the ball eleven times for 171 yards and two touchdowns. The touchdowns came within a 2:00 minute stretch and were 51 and 68 yards respectively. This provided the momentum Bethel needed to notch a 27 to 14 win over the Rams.

Jody was also a star on the defensive side of the ball. His three interceptions lead the team, he was sixth in tackles and recovered a fumble. These accomplishments earned him a Second-Team All-League selection on defense.



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES CONTINUED

The 1969 season was expected to be a great one where Bethel would challenge for the league championship. In the end, Enumclaw and Sumner both ended the season 9–1 with the Braves a half game behind at 8–1–1 in third place. A 0–0 tie against the Curtis Vikings in the fourth game of the year proved to be the difference. Bethel drove deep into Curtis' territory several times but could not find the end zone. Even though the Bethel defense never allowed the Curtis offense inside the 30 yard line, the game ended in a tie.

As a senior, Jody's game continued to rise. The 1969 Braves scored 22 touchdowns with Jody leading the team by scoring 12 of them. Just like his junior year, Jody found several ways to score. His best game of his senior year was against Peninsula. Two of his rushing touchdowns were 40 and 75 yards plus a run of 53 yards. By game's end, Jody had 188 rushing yards to set a new school record. Other scoring highlights were his punt return for a touchdown on a 61-yard romp against Tumwater and a recovery of a fumble in the end zone against North Thurston.

When asked about Jody's talents, Coach Tingstad said, "Jody Miller was the best back he coached in his time at Bethel High School." He then added, "I know it happened but I cannot remember a time that he was ever tackled in the open field by a single defender."

Winter took Jody each year to the wrestling mat as Bethel's top wrestler. His sophomore year saw him wrestling at 148 lbs. Jody led the team with an individual record of 8–4. Jody finished with 30 total points, placing him second on the team to John Francis, who scored 34 points with a record of 7–4.

In the 68–69 season, Jody moved up the 157 lb. weight classification. He again led the team in wins, 11–4 record, and also points, 37 points.

As a senior, Jody wrestled again at 157 lbs. weight class. He led the team in wins (14–4) and points (59). His 6–0 win over Sumner's Dennis Silvernail gave Jody the Seamount League Championship in his weight class. At the District Championships, Jody received a first round bye and then won his next two matches. He was defeated in the championship match by Steve Bastrom, from Auburn, to finish second in the District.

As with football and wrestling, Jody found himself as a leader on the '67 Track team. He was the number one pole vaulter and sprinter in the 100 yard dash. When the year was over, Jody was fifth on the team in total points and placed fifth in the Seamount League Meet in the pole vault.

As a junior, Jody tied the school record set by Larry Johnson in 1966 at 12'6." He was also a member of the 880-relay team that set a school record of 1:33.

Jody's goal was to play football at the college level. As a senior, Miller turned his attention to the sprints. He set a school record of 9.9 in the 100 yard dash breaking the previous record of 10.0 that was set by Dave Rich in 1955.

After graduation, Jody attended Western Washington University where he quickly became a very important part of the Viking team. For the first half of the season, Jody was used mainly as a kick returner. His first game was a 21–0 win over Oregon College of Education. Jody ran back a first quarter punt for 73 yards and a touchdown to give the Vikings a 7–0 lead. He then started off the second half by returning the kickoff for 87 yards and a second Viking touchdown. This performance earned Jody "Back of the Week" honors in his first college game. His first start in the backfield came in a 28–6 win over Eastern Washington. Jody carried 25 times for 153 yards and a 31-yard touchdown run.

Jody's sophomore year found him as a starter at halfback for the Vikings as well as their kick returner. Unfortunately, his season and career ended early as a result of a torn ACL in his knee.

Jody certainly left his mark on Bethel High School sports. From his first football game to his last track meet, he was a true star. He earned nine varsity letters and was seen as a leader in each of his sports. His accomplishments speak for themselves and easily make him one of the best three sport athletes in Bethel history.

Hall of Fame

Black Bear Outpost, Inc.

Propane, Accessories & Gifts

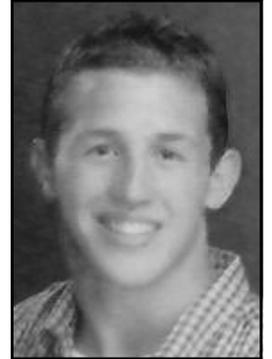


Ernie Ammons
16114 Pacific Ave.
Spanaway, WA 98387
(253)314-5335 Office
blackbearoutpost2@gmail.com
www.blackbearpropane.com

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

DAN PITSCCH, (SLHS 01)

Dan was born June 25, 1982 in Tacoma, Washington to Daniel and Linda Pitsch. His family settled in Spanaway in 1986, and he attended Evergreen Elementary, Cedarcrest Junior High, and Spanaway Lake High School. Dan was first introduced to athletics in the Bethel Recreation program. When he was in second grade, he learned about a youth wrestling team, the Bethel All Stars. This is where Dan's wrestling career started, coached by Bethel High School wrestler and graduate, Marty Plumb.



In 1995 he began wrestling at Cedarcrest and was coached by Spanaway Lake High School graduate, Brad Stellmon. Comprised mostly of Bethel All Star alum, Cedarcrest dominated in the mid 90's, winning the SPSL Junior High League Championship twice during his time there. Dan was a 3x League Champion and never lost a single match. While at Cedarcrest he also played football, basketball, and baseball, accumulating a total of seven varsity letters.

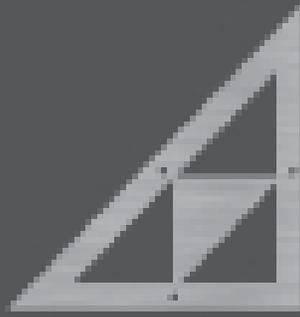
In 1998 he attended Spanaway Lake High School, and began playing football for long-time coach, John Robak. That same year he started wrestling for Hall of Fame coach, Paul Greeley. Dan's sophomore year, he won the SPSL League Tournament, and placed 6th at the State Tournament. His junior year, he won the League Tournament again, followed by the Regional Tournament which culminated in his first State Championship. Dan's State Championship, along with his teammate's points, propelled Spanaway Lake to their first top 10 finish at the WIAA 4A State Tournament. The Summer of 2000 was a turning point for Dan, as he was recognized as an All-American at the Junior National Tournament in Fargo, North Dakota. This accomplishment led to a number of college recruits, most notably Oregon State University. Dan chose to sign his letter of intent with OSU in November, 2000. This was the first of several major accomplishments during his senior year. The football team won the SPSL League Championship for the first time in school history and advanced to the State Quarterfinals.

The 2000-01 wrestling season proved to be one for the ages. Spanaway Lake was dominant during the regular season with several returning veterans. With the addition of Dan's younger brother, Pat, they sent seven wrestlers to the WIAA 4A State Tournament. When the dust settled, Spanaway Lake was crowned State Champions, along with Capital High School, for the first ever tie in WIAA history. Dan finished his high school career as a three-time League Champion, two-time Regional Champion, and two-time State Champion. The 2000-01 4A State Wrestling Title remains the only Team State Championship in school history.

After graduating from SLHS, he attended Oregon State University from 2001-2006 on an athletic scholarship. After red-shirting, he earned four varsity letters, was a three-time placer at the Pac-10 Championships, and was a two-time NCAA Tournament Qualifier. He graduated with a BA in 2006 and returned home to become the new Head Wrestling Coach at Spanaway Lake. It was during his time at Spanaway Lake that he began thinking about teaching and building a career working with kids. In 2008 he went back to school and received his Master's Degree in Teaching. He landed his first teaching job in 2009 at Decatur High School in Federal Way. In 2014, he began teaching and coaching at Bonney Lake High School, and led Bonney Lake to its first ever WIAA 3A State Wrestling Championship in 2017.

Dan and his wife Carli live in Auburn and have three children; Titus, Piper, and Aspen.





theTRUSSco.

2802 142nd Avenue East
P.O. Box 1770
Sumner, WA 98390

Phone: (253) 863-5555
Fax: (253) 891-1168
plans@thetrussco.com

*The Truss Company would like to congratulate
all of the 2022 Bethel School District
Hall of Fame inductees.*

The Truss Company has been providing exceptional service
to the building industry for more than 30 years.

With our state of the art technology and dedicated employees we have
become the leaders in the roof and floor truss manufacturing industry.

We pride ourselves in our ability to deliver a quality product,
on time and at a reasonable price to fit your building needs.

Give us a call, our highly trained sales and design staff
are ready to help you with your next building project.



253-863-5555

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

GREG POWELL, (BHS '66)

Greg Powell followed in the footsteps of several great Bethel basketball players of the 1950's and into the 1960's. Arguably, Greg Powell may have been the best of them all. He was also an accomplished "thin-clad," excelling in three field events—the shot put, discus and the high jump. Standing 6'8" and weighing 185 lbs. by his senior year he was an awesome rebounder and shooter and, quite frankly, the most unlikely of shot putters one could ever imagine.

Gregory Bruce Powell was born on June 10, 1948 in Enid, Oklahoma. He was the middle child of Leland and Ruth Powell (his father was career Army). He has an older brother, Gary (who was an outstanding basketball player at Bethel in his own right) and a younger sister, Gayle. Greg attended Fort Lewis and Spanaway grade schools, Bethel Junior High and entered Bethel Senior High in the Fall of 1963.

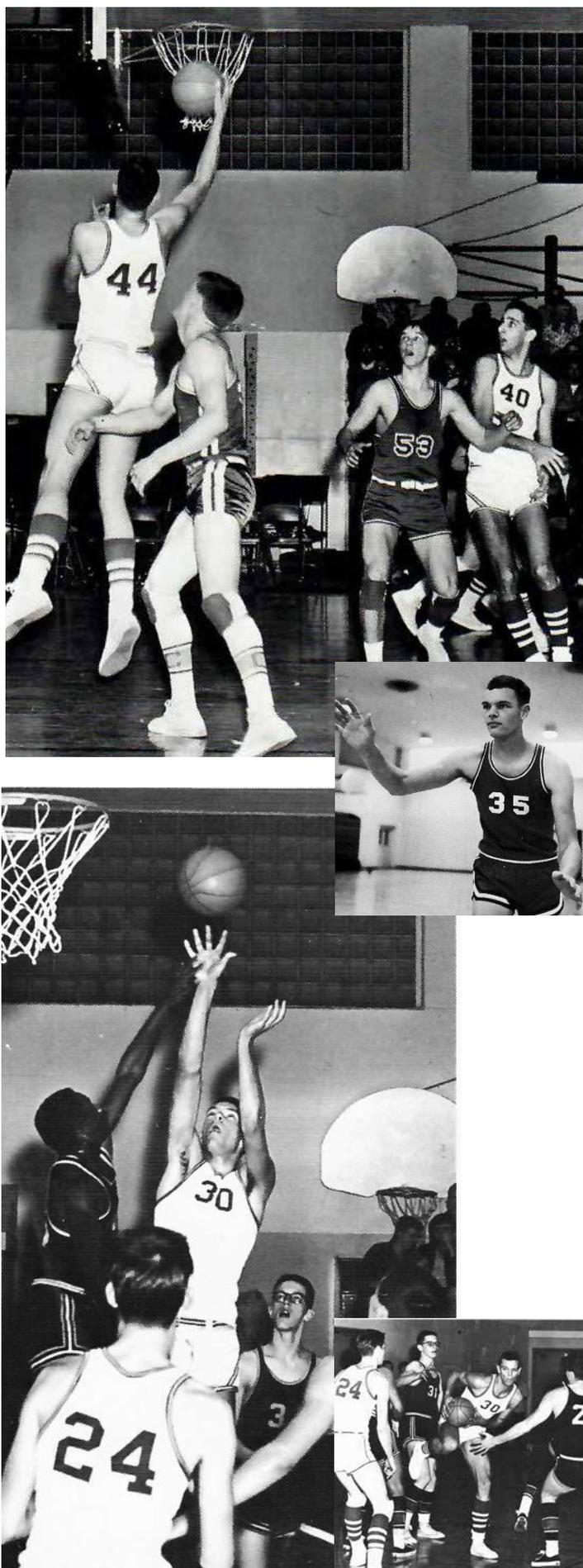
As a sophomore, Greg turned out for the 1963-'64 basketball team and beat out a senior letterman for the starting center position. The rest is history. Greg was a three year letterman in basketball and in the 1963-'64 season he averaged 6.2 points/game and his 154 rebounds led the team. In his junior year (the 1964-'65 season) Greg scored a team leading 295 points (a 16.8 average/game) and also took down 273 rebounds which not only led the team but also broke the school record previously held by Don Hughes (230) set in the 1962-'63 season. At the end of the season Greg was selected as the First-Team All-Seamount League Center—an accomplishment back then not usually given to juniors but only to seniors.

Greg's senior year, the 1965-'66 season, was one of achievement and disappointment. First the achievements: The team finished second in the league with a 13-5 record—Peninsula finished first with a 15-3 record. Greg scored 248 point for a 19.1 game average which led the league, and his 231 rebounds again led the team. At the season's end he was again voted as the First Team All-Seamount League Center. However, Greg injured his knee in the second Peninsula game and his season was over. He missed the last five league games as well as the "AA" playoff game against South Kitsap in order to determine which team would go to the district tournament (Bethel lost the playoff game 41-40). Most everyone who had followed the team would have told you that Bethel would have gone a lot farther in the post-season had Gregg been in the lineup and able to play.



I had the good fortune of having Greg as a teammate from 8th grade thru high school. Greg was an excellent track and field athlete. At one point he had BHS records in shot, high jump and discus. But it was on the basketball court that Greg truly shined. He not only led the league in rebounding and scoring but probably blocked shots and made up for his teammates mistakes. We always knew Greg had our back either with a block or a rebound. Greg was often double teamed and took a lot of pounding as our Big Man. But in all the years of playing with him, I never saw Greg get upset with an opponent and certainly never with a teammate. He only fouled out of one game in high school. Greg was the best Big Man in the state and HE WAS THE ULTIMATE TEAMMATE!

—Lannie Gilstrap, BHS'66
Teammate and captain of the '65-'66 basketball team. Also, a true rarity in sports, Mr. Gilstrap received varsity letters in five different sports: football, basketball, baseball, tennis and cross-country.



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES CONTINUED



Greg was also a three year letterman in track and he had an outstanding career. At stated above his three events were the discus, shot put and high jump. In 1966 he qualified for the State meet at Pullman in the high jump—the first Bethel “thinclad” to represent the school at the State level since Dave Rich in 1955. In those three years, in meets that could be documented (the TNT failed to publish three or four), Greg totaled 30 first place finishes and 20 second place finishes in these three events. He also held several school, field and meet records, to-wit:

1965: 1st in the discus (149’2”) at the League Championship meet—a new school record; in a meet against Curtis he set a school record in the shot put (50’3”); and, tied for 1st in the high jump at the Seamount-KingCo AA Sub-districts (6’1”)—a new meet record.

1966: In a meet against Foster, Greg set a new school and field record at Bethel in the discus (150’1 1/2”); At Sumner, he high jumped 6’2”—a new school record; and, at the Seamount League

qualifying meet at Bethel (for entries into the league championship meet), Greg cleared 6’ 1 1/4” in the high jump—a new field record.

After graduating in 1966, Greg had knee surgery to try and correct the injury that he had sustained in the Peninsula game. In the fall Greg attended W.S.U on a full basketball scholarship. About three weeks into the pre-season freshman team practices, he injured the knee again and, while he was able to play in some of the games, he knew that he couldn’t continue to play with that knee in its current condition. After consulting with the coaches and trainers, he was sent to Spokane to see a specialist and Greg was then advised that his career in basketball was over—the knee could not be repaired to the extent which would allow him to ever play again. Despite this set-back Greg continued with his education and went on to graduate with a B.S. degree from W.S.U in 1971. After serving

as a deputy sheriff for Multnomah County in Oregon, Greg was hired by the Washington State Department of Fisheries as a patrol officer and later worked for the Washington State DSHS as a fraud investigator, finally retiring in 2009.

Greg and his wife, Michelle, were married in 1976 and their two children, Leigh Anne, born in 1976 and Eric, born in 1982, have blessed the family with five grandchildren. They presently reside in Mt. Vernon, WA and Greg and his wife do a lot of traveling in their fifth wheel trailer. His statement in a letter to me says it best, “As I enter my seventieth year, I feel I am blessed as I have a great family, able to still get around and grandkids are just awesome!”

Greg Powell is certainly deserving of being inducted into the Hall of Fame as one of the great basketball and track athletes of the past and he is considered by many to be one of Bethel’s best ever.

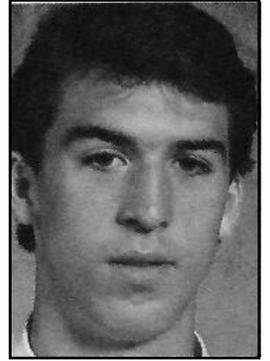


Hall of Fame

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

STEVE REOPELLE, (BHS '86)

Steve Reopelle was a 1986 graduate of Bethel High School. During his athletic career he excelled as a two sport athlete while lettering twice in football and three times in basketball. He was selected to serve as a captain on both teams and was given the Bethel High School Coaches Award in 1986. He was also honored as a Pierce County Scholar Athlete by the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame and the Tacoma Athletic Commission.



During his junior season of football, Steve set a state passing record by throwing for 441 yards in a single game. He passed for a total of 2,680 yards and 26 touchdowns in his two years as a starter. After his junior season, he was selected as the Tacoma News Tribune All Area quarterback and was selected twice to the All SPSL Second Team. Steve also won the "Mr. Offense" award after the 1984 and 1985 seasons.

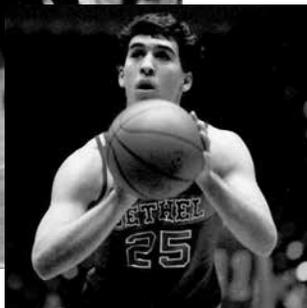
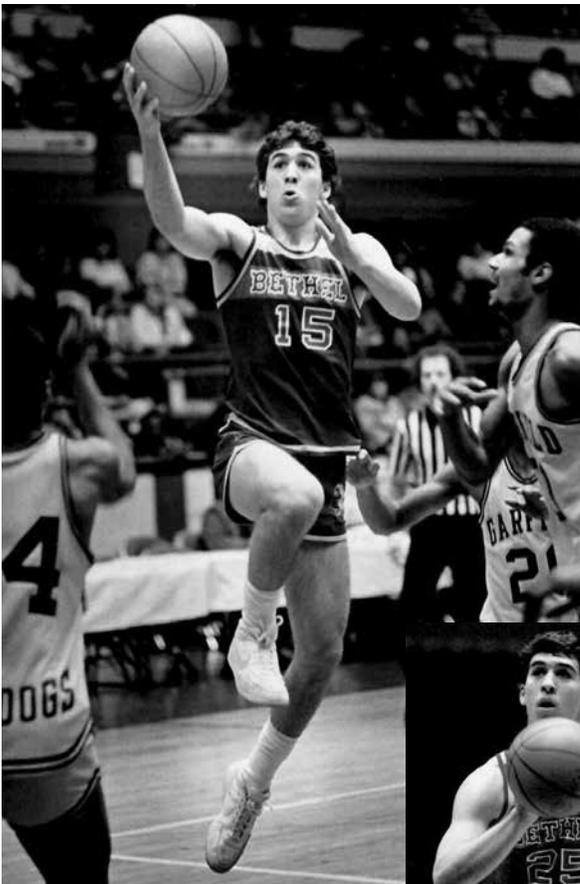
On the basketball court, Steve scored a combined 716 points during his junior and senior seasons.

There were two noteworthy games Steve played an active role in. The first one was a game with Puyallup which went into overtime eight times, this was a state record and Bethel won. He was twice selected to the All SPSL Second Team and led the South Puget Sound League in scoring his senior year while averaging 20.1 points per game. His senior year he was part of a team that finished 8th in the AAA Washington State Tournament. In 1986, he was awarded the Herb Jones Memorial Award.

Steve went on to play college football at Santa Rosa Junior College in California. An injury to his throwing arm at the start of his freshman season forced him to red-shirt and switch positions. He then started two seasons at free safety.

Steve was hired by the Tacoma Police Department in 1990. During his 30 years on the department, he was assigned to patrol and narcotics. He was also a member of the SWAT team and was selected to the position of team leader. He also served ten years as the president of the Washington State Tactical Officers Association. He recently retired from the department after spending the last thirteen years as a detective in the homicide unit.

Steve is currently living in San Antonio, Texas with his wife, Kristy, and their daughter, Kiley.



Embroidery and Screen Printing Awards, Trophies & Uniforms



**Contact
Tara at:
(253) 536-8221**



**Congratulations
2022 Inductees!!!**

**THE
LINEUP**

NEW LOCATION
115 176th St, Ste. D
Spanaway, WA 98387
(253) 536-8221

thelineup7@comcast.net

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

CARL SCHRIVER, (BHS '59)

Carl Schriver was a three year letterman in football and was the consummate lineman on offense as a guard and as a linebacker on defense. He set the standard, i.e. this is how you block for a running back or protect the passer, and this is how you tackle an opposing player—he was textbook. Carl also holds a unique distinction—he is the only player in the Ed Niehl “era” to be co-captain on two teams ('57 and '58) and both were League Champions. The 1958 team was also voted as the top team of all Class “A” schools in the state. He was the co-winner of The Tackling Trophy in 1957 (114 tackles) and second on the team in 1958 (81 tackles).

The Tacoma News Tribune (the TNT) gave very little “ink” to an offensive lineman or, for that matter, anyone on the defensive side of the ball, unless that player was outstanding and Carl was one of those. Here are some quotes from the TNT:

In 1956 Bethel shutout White River 18-0. The TNT stated that the “(d)efensive standouts for Bethel included Allen Cantrell and Carl Schriver.”

In a 7-0 win over Peninsula in 1957 the TNT noted that: “Gene Smallwood and Carl Schriver, Bethel guards, were among the outstanding players for Bethel.”

Again in 1957, following another 7-0 win, this time over Vashon, the TNT wrote that “Morris Bush and Carl Schriver, linebackers, plus guard Delbert Hardie were praised for their work by Bethel Coach Ed Niehl.”

Finally, in the last two games of the '57 season, a 40-6 win over Fife and a 15-0 upset win over North Thurston (a non-league affair), the TNT wrote the following re: the Fife game: “Bethel Coach Ed Niehl praised the defensive work of Carl Schriver, Delbert Hardie, Dale Curtiss and Morris Bush. Schriver led the team in tackles with 17.” In the North Thurston game the TNT stated that “Carl Schriver led Bethel tacklers with 26... (Gary) Gregg was second with 25.”

In an October 23rd, 1958 TNT article by Dan Walton exclusively devoted to the Bethel Braves’ team, he wrote that “on the line, Carl Schriver, a 168-pound guard, is the leader and he doubles as a linebacker on defense. He is a close second to (Gary) Gregg in the tackling department.”

Carl’s name would also appear in the TNT three more times during the '58

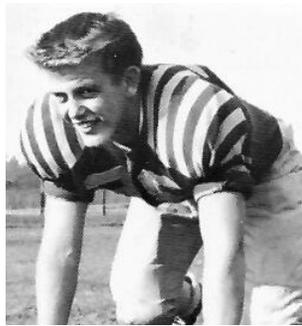


Jack Justice and I would often talk about Carl and how he could recognize what play the opposing offense had called and how he would react as the play developed. Carl would always be in the right spot and in there for the tackle.

—Head Coach Ed Niehl (1951-1965) and member of The Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame, as well as Assistant Coach Jack Justice.

Carl Schriver competed in two of the toughest sports in school: football and wrestling. I believe that wrestling helped to develop his strength, quickness and speed which enhanced his abilities in football to block on the offensive line and to pursue and tackle the ball carriers when he was on defense. Along with his knowledge of the game, his anticipation and reaction as to the other team's offensive plays was extraordinary. In my opinion, Carl was the best offensive lineman and along with Gary Gregg, they were the two best defensive players on Bethel's championship football teams in 1957 and 1958.

—Eddie Hagen, BHS '59
A teammate and member of The Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame.

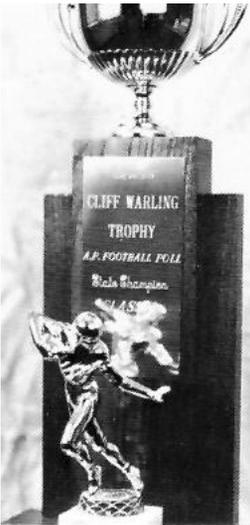


HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES CONTINUED



season. In an 18–6 win over Peninsula the paper stated that “Dale Curtiss, Carl Schriver and double-threat Gregg starred for the Braves on defense...” In a must win 12–0 victory over White River, the TNT wrote the following, “The continuous battle between Bethel’s star co-captains, Carl Schriver and Gregg was won this night by Schriver with 12 tackles, one more than his competitor.” And, in the League Championship clinching win over Fife 28–0 the following appeared, “Gary Gregg played a sparkling game—running, passing and receiving passes (as) well. Guard Carl Schriver and back Tom Jones were also standouts for the winners.”

Carl harkens to the beginning of wrestling at Bethel. As a freshman in the late fall of 1955, he was a member of the first wrestling team and he went on to letter the following three years. In his senior year he was the co-captain of the 1958–’59 team. During those three years, Bethel was a member of the West Central League and wrestling was not a recognized sport—Fife was the only other school with a wrestling team in the league. Consequently, the Braves had to look elsewhere for opponents and the team’s coach, Frank Pavia, scheduled some “heavy-weights”—the “big boys”—and Carl and his teammates were literally thrown into the breach.



Aside from their annual match with Fife, over the next three seasons (’56–’57 through ’58–’59), Bethel went up against the varsity teams from the City League (Lincoln, Stadium and Wilson), Puyallup and Franklin Pierce from the Puget Sound League, Bellevue and Lake Washington from the KingCo League and Olympia, a member of the Capitol League. Bethel was a small Class “A” school and many of those schools were much larger with established wrestling programs. However, according to Carl, Bethel was able to hold its own against these “big league” foes and ended up sending several wrestlers to the state tournament. Carl was an integral part of those three teams. This regiment of tough opponents would last for one more year (the ’59–’60 season) until Bethel joined the newly formed Seamount League in the Fall of 1960. Wrestling became an officially recognized sport and wrestling some of the state’s best teams during the previous years would pay dividends to the next group of individuals coming into the program. (Please see the 1962–’63 wrestling team biography.)

Carl Robert Schriver was born on August 14, 1941 in Tacoma, WA. His parents, Robert and Hazel, had a large family—three boys and four girls. The family moved around quite a bit and Carl attended many grade schools—Elk Plain, Kapowsin, Graham and finally, Spanaway, where the family finally settled. He entered Bethel High School in the Fall of 1955 and graduated in the Spring of 1959. After graduation Carl moved to Southern California where he met his wife, Linda, and during 58 years that marriage was blessed with two children, Wayne and Brenda along with seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

During the 1960’s, Carl was involved in a number of occupations, mainly in construction and fabrication. He was an iron worker; worked for Concrete Tech and Rockwin Prestressed Concrete; along with being a building inspector for the cities of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Around 1970, as Carl put it, “A crane fell on me” and he couldn’t work for several years. During that time, he began to read the Bible and on August 5, 1971 (his rebirth) he felt that he had been saved by The Lord and turned his pursuits to the ministry. Carl pastored The Pine Street Baptist Church in Norwalk, CA for 32 years, retiring from the pulpit in 2007. He still preaches at local missions and holds Bible study groups in his home.

When you talk with Carl, you’ll find that he’s a man of strong convictions, faith and belief, and that he won’t mince words with you. Along with this, he’s a real character and he can tell you some great stories about the football and wrestling teams that he was an important part of in the early years of Bethel High School. Carl Schriver is a great addition to The Hall of Fame.

Hall of Fame

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

BRYAN STRELESKI, (BHS '96)

Bryan Streleski was born December 2nd, 1977 in Tacoma Washington. Bryan has lived, worked, played and attended school in Bethel nearly his entire life. He graduated from Bethel High School in 1996. Not only did Bryan succeed on the playing field but in the classroom, as well. He graduated high school with a 3.65 grade point average and 3.75 GPA at Central Washington University.

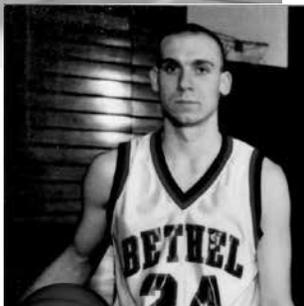
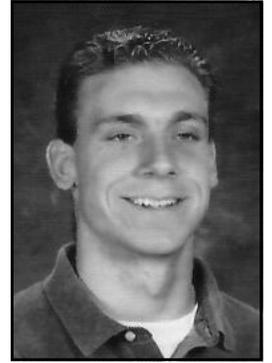
Bryan was a three sport athlete. Nine time varsity letter winner in football, basketball and baseball at Bethel High School. He received South Puget Sound All-League Honors in each sport all three years of high school.

In football, Bryan was selected as the SPSL Honorable Mention Defensive Back as a sophomore, Second-Team Receiver and First-Team Defensive Back as a junior and SPSL Honorable Mention Quarterback and First-Team Defensive Back his senior year. For basketball, Bryan was selected as SPSL Second-Team All-League as a sophomore, First-Team as a junior and Most Valuable Player of the SPSL as a senior. In baseball, Bryan was SPSL Honorable Mention second base as a sophomore, Second-Team shortstop his junior year and First-Team third base his senior year.

The basketball court was Bryan's second home. He set a school record with a quadruple double his sophomore year with 12 points, 11 assists, 10 rebounds and 10 steals. Bryan led the BHS basketball team to a SPSL League Championship and back-to-back State Tournament appearances. During the team's playoff run his junior year, Bryan scored 8 points in 30 seconds to send the team to the Washington Basketball State Tournament. Bryan was a member of the News Tribune All-Area Basketball Team his junior and senior year. During his senior year, he was selected to the All-State Team and played in the Coaches Association Washington vs Oregon All-State game.

During Bryan's senior year, he received the NFL Hall of Fame Scholar Athlete Award and Scholarship. The News Tribune and Tacoma Athletic Commission also recognized Bryan as the Athlete of the Year.

After the hard work was completed at Bethel High School, Bryan went on to play basketball and baseball at Tacoma Community College. During his time at TCC, Bryan was Second-Team All NWAC as a freshman and First-Team as sophomore in basketball. While competing against a rival team, Bryan scored a career high 39 points with 37 of those points coming in the second half of the game. Bryan was named the Tacoma Community College Athlete of the Year in both years at the school.



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES CONTINUED



Bryan finished his playing career at Central Washington University, earning two varsity letters as a member of the basketball team. His junior year, the team went on a 26 game winning streak throughout the season and lost in the Regional Final of the NCAA Division II tournament. As the team captain for his final season, he led the team deep into the NCAA Division II Tournament once again. Bryan received the Coaches Award each season, while also completing his undergraduate and graduate studies through CWU.

Bryan Strelski is currently the Bethel School District Director of Athletics & Security. He spends a majority of his time outside of work coaching his own kids and current BSD youth. Bryan is being supported today by his wife Tina, daughter Haley, and son Eli, as well as many other family and friends.



Hall of Fame



Kellie Ham
Type & Graphics
253-843-9436
khgraphics@aol.com

Congratulations to the Bethel School District
Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

HALL OF FAME TEAM INDUCTEES



1980 BETHEL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM: *Back row left to right:* Assistant Coach Ed Burmester, Robert Boyd, Michael Butler, Murph Nelson, Jim Moore, Jeff Valentine, Matt Piper, Dave Morgan, Clay Carlsteen John DuRocher, Coach Mike Mullen. **Front row:** Manager Preston Loveless, players Tom Pierce, Mark Martin and manager Gregg Geoff.



1979–1980 BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

Mike Mullen said, “As head basketball coach for the Bethel Braves from 1979–96, and an active guy in the athletic community, I have attended many awards events and read tons of Hall of Fame programs, over the past 50 years. I have even contributed to some of them.”

For this 1979–80 Bethel Braves Basketball Team, Coach Mullen did not want to talk about scores and stats. He didn’t want to list wins and losses and he didn’t want to highlight just the best plays or players. “This team was more than scores, stats, and wins and losses. This team was about setting standards and precedents.” Throughout their three years at Bethel High School, during basketball practices and games, they created new ways of working and playing that would continue to be the standard practice and play protocol for future teams.

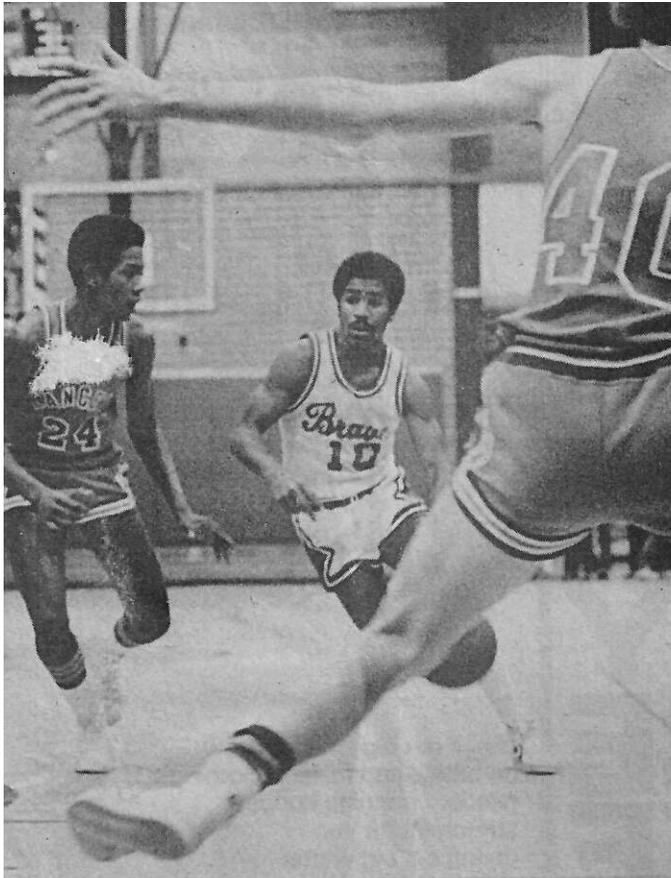
What this team did for the first time in 1980, Bethel basketball continued even after Coach Mike Mullen retired and his son Pat took over the coaching position. These guys set new rules and new foundations that provided and maintained a competitive spark. They coalesced as a team. Typically, Bethel had kids who associated only with their individual communities which at the time was Graham, Kapowsin, Spanaway and Roy; all the places that they defined as their schools. But this season, thanks to this team, they became one strong Bethel team.

When most of these players were juniors, the team only won five games. However, the following year, because of the work they put in, they made it to the playoffs and went on to qualify for the Washington State Tournament.

One game Coach Mike Mullen wanted to emphasize. It was the game that took them to State. It was because of players who did not receive much attention that they won the game. Two of those players



HALL OF FAME TEAM INDUCTEES CONTINUED



were Murphy Nelson and Mike Butler whose clamp down defense, especially in the second half, virtually shut down the leading scorers from the other team. Without that win, this team would not have gone on to the Washington State Tournament.

Two inside men, Matt Piper and Jeff Valentine, really worked hard during the off-season. By their senior year, they showed so much improvement that the offense had to be re-worked to put more emphasis on their play. During the summer before his senior year, Matt trained for and ran the Sound to Narrows which is a 7.5 mile race held in Tacoma every year. Through his training and racing he lost twenty pounds and vastly improved his fitness. Also, that year Jeff Valentine ended up being the lead scorer on the team because of his hard work and quiet determination. As a result of their in-season and off-season work and improvement, they positioned themselves to immeasurably strengthen the team.

The guards, as well, had to give up some of what they had been doing in the past and shift their focus. They did so without complaining. They realized this team was greater than the individuals.

Ed Burmester, the assistant coach, was very crucial in the team's success. Ed had coached most of these kids at Spanaway Junior High for three years. He transferred to Bethel High School along with most of these players and took on the junior varsity coaching position. Some of the players did not feel



Hall of Fame

HALL OF FAME TEAM INDUCTEES CONTINUED



comfortable enough to go to Mike Mullen as head coach with questions or concerns; they felt more comfortable with Ed because he had coached them for three years previously. He knew these players on a deeper, more personal level and had a special ability to understand and motivate them. He reached them in ways Coach Mullen wasn't able to.

Russ Leslie was the summer league coach. He worked with these players during the summer and his expertise also helped formulate this winning team.

These players did not realize, through everything they did then as a team, how much of that experience carried over into their personal lives. Coach Mullen followed most of these kids after high school and is aware of many of the successes they achieved. He also knows what kind of individuals they have become in adulthood. He could not be prouder of these young men both in terms of how they were in that winning year and who they are now.

At the beginning of their senior season, there were a few people in the stands who came to cheer them on. By the middle of the season, the stands were packed. By the end of the season, when they went to play at the Seattle Coliseum, they had nine buses full of fans. Going down Pacific Avenue, you could see signs in the windows of the businesses along the way, wishing them good luck and saying, "GO BETHEL!" To say that the greater community couldn't have been more supportive. This enthusiasm began at a standing room only pep assembly, continued with the caravan of buses to the state playoff games and culminated with the fans in the stands chanting once we arrived. During that season and on that day, everyone yelled, "WE ARE BETHEL."





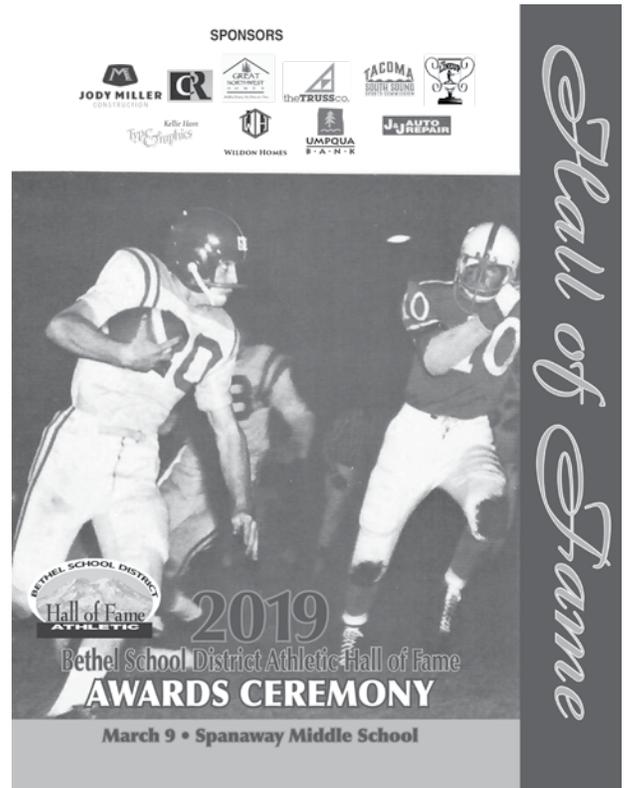
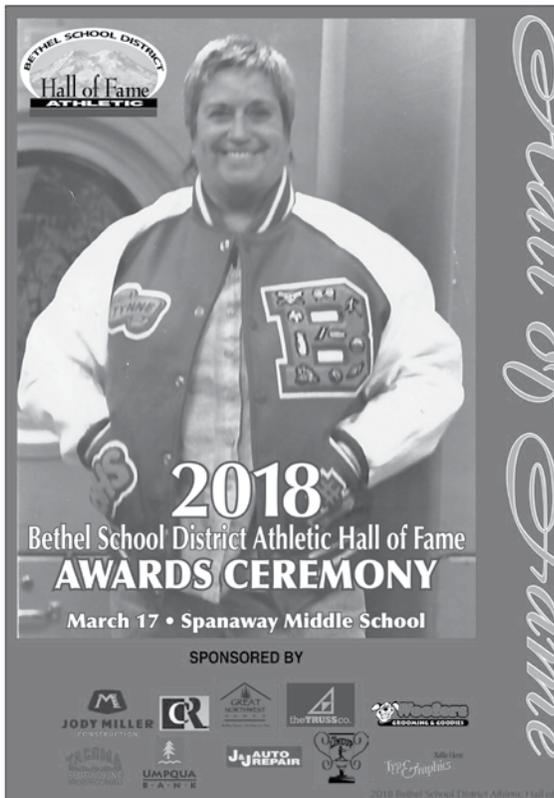
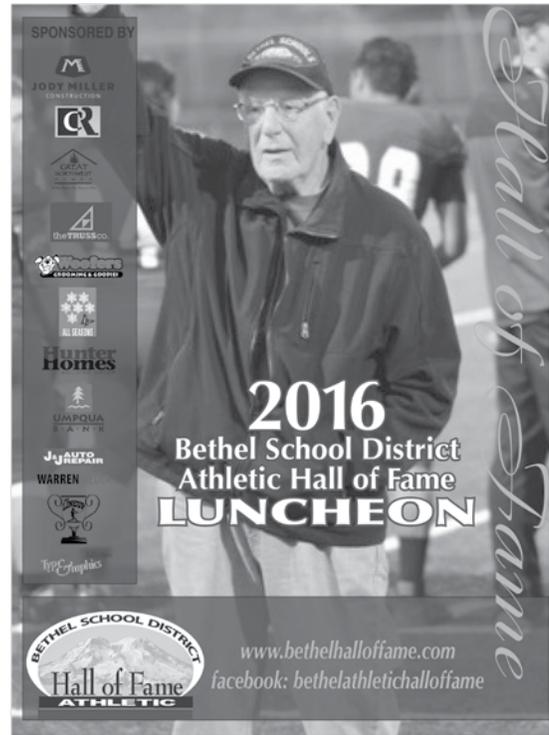
The Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame is a nonprofit organization.

The Hall of Fame exists to ensure that the athletic history and traditions of the district are celebrated by honoring past athletes, coaches, families, contributors and teams of Bethel, Spanaway Lake and Graham-Kapowsin High Schools.

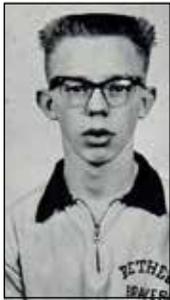
We are celebrating our fourth Award Ceremony this year. The Hall of Fame meets once a month.

You are welcome to join us anytime.

For more information go to our website: bethelhalloffame1.org.



HALL OF FAME TEAM INDUCTEE



Warren Butler (106)



Gary Gray (106)



Wayne Wetherbee (112)

THE 1962-'63 WRESTLING TEAM "The Gathering Storm"

Wrestling is a unique sport. It requires great individual effort for six long minutes. No help other than the cheering from the sidelines. No gang tackles at the goal line to preserve the win in football. No rebound of a missed shot by the center and a quick pass to a guard or forward to start a fast break in basketball. No double plays to end a baseball game. No one to help you get a take-down or a pin in wrestling—just you.

So how does the "team" concept enter in wrestling? As a member of three teams starting with the '61-'62 season, I can tell you. The more experienced wrestlers would help their other teammates hone their skills and also to help those just coming into the program as sophomores. The object was to work hard and make the entire team better. Under the leadership of Coach Frank Pavia, this system worked. Training in the "chicken coop," with a wood stove for heat, this team was the best that the Bethel Braves had ever produced. Rick Selden (BHS '64), a member of the '62-'63 wrestling team competed in the "unlimited" weight division and a two-year letterman in wrestling ('62-'63 and '63-'64).

It all began the fall of 1960. This was Bethel's first year in the newly formed Seamount League. Unlike the West Central League in which wrestling was not a recognized sport, the Seamount League made wrestling an official sport. The 1960-'61 Braves wrestling team consisted of match hardened veterans who had gone up against some of the best teams out of the City, Puget Sound, Capitol and KingCo Leagues. As Rick Selden so aptly stated above, the "team" concept came into play.

The 1960-'61 Bethel wrestling team finished second in the league, losing to Fife in the final (and championship) match of the season. The team was led by some outstanding wrestlers: seniors Dave Zacek, a four-year letterman, a four-time district champion who finished third in State twice; Larry Stearns, also a four-year letterman who finished fifth in State in the unlimited weight division his junior year; Lee Flood, a two-year letterman; and junior two-year letterman, Bill Jasper. With the help of these accomplished wrestlers and the rest of the team, four sophomores lettered—Wayne Wetherbee, Mike Matheny, Dave Williams and Bill Miles.

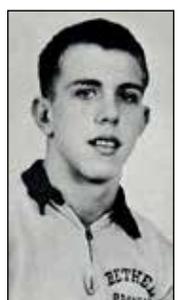
The following year (1961-'62), led by senior captain Bill Jasper, the Braves edged the second place Fife Trojans 23-21 to cap off a 7-0-1 season and claim the league title. It was Fife's only league loss. The four sophomore lettermen from the previous year, now juniors, were joined by four more juniors who also lettered: Al Guthrie, Larry Bonnell, Bill Harr and Larry Buster. Six wrestlers from that team participated



Al Guthrie (120)



Larry Buster (127)



Mike Matheny (133)

HALL OF FAME TEAM INDUCTEES CONTINUED



Larry Bonnell (138)



Dave Williams (145)



Mike Sweaney (154)



Bill Miles (165)

in the State Tournament—Dave Williams, Bill Jasper, Bill Miles, Bill Harr, Larry Bonnell and Mike Matheny, who finished fourth in those state matches.

The Gathering Storm? Eight of the twelve weight divisions on this championship team were manned by seniors-to-be who had proven themselves as some of the league, district and state's best. The 1962-'63 wrestling team was one of the greatest that Bethel would ever produce and it was the "high watermark" of Coach Frank Pavia's career. The team would have eight returning senior lettermen. Rounding out the rest of the team were seniors Mike Sweaney and Vic Hugdahl along with juniors Warren Butler, Gary Gray and Rick Selden.

After losing the season's opening match to the City League powerhouse Stadium Tigers 24-21, the team went on to defeat the Puget Sound League Puyallup Vikings 30-15. From then, the Braves won all six of their matches in league competition and repeated as the champions. The team literally dominated their opponents, outscoring all competitors 230-67 (the closest match was against Sumner 27-15 and they whipped their longtime nemesis Fife 33-14).

As the 1963 Bethelonian stated, "After the league season had ended, Pavia and his squad traveled to Fife High School for the sub-district's matches. Out of the twelve varsity wrestlers, eight of them won places to enter the West Central District Tournament. Seeded first after the sub-district were: Al Guthrie, Mike Matheny, Larry Bonnell, Dave Williams, Bill Miles and Bill Harr. Gary Gray won a second-place seeding and Larry Buster a third..." The yearbook continued: "Following the three-day West Central (District) Meet, the Bethel Braves picked up the first-place trophy for team points and placed four wrestlers in the Washington State Tournament. The wrestlers who represented Bethel at State were: Bill Harr, seeded first; Dave Williams and Mike Matheny, seeded second; and Larry Bonnell, seeded fourth."

Representing Bethel High School, the rest of their teammates, the four of them scored a total of 27 points and finished second to the State Champion Bellevue's 30. Pullman was third with 25. Of particular note was that Mike Matheny finished first in his weight division (136) and gave Bethel its first State Champion. It would be some 38 years before any other wrestling team in the Bethel School District would surpass the 1962-'63 team's accomplishment. In the 2000-01 season, Lake Spanaway shared the State Championship with Capitol.

Season Team Scores

21	Bethel,	Stadium	24
30	Bethel,	Puyallup	15
29	Bethel,	North Thurston	15
46	Bethel,	Curtis	10
27	Bethel,	Sumner	15
55	Bethel,	Laughbon	5
33	Bethel,	Fife	14
40	Bethel,	White River	8



Bill Harr (175)



Vic Hugdahl (193)



Rick Selden (Unlimited)



Frank Pavia (Coach)

Hall of Fame

Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame Past Inductees

ATHLETES

Roxane Asay (BHS '78)
Garrett Alwert (BHS '99)
Yvette "Henry" Barnes (BHS '82)
Ryan Barrett (BHS '07)
Mike Blowers (BHS '84)
Darin Borden (BHS '82)
Darrell Borden (BHS '53)
Felix Brodigan (BHS '54)
Jerry Brodigan (BHS '62)
Gene Curbow (BHS '55)
Jan Dempsey (BHS '83)
Johnny DuRocher Jr. (BHS '03)
Marjorie Goddard (BHS '83)
Larry Gotcher (SLHS '85)
Lisa Graber (SLHS '91)
Gary Gregg (BHS '59)
Blain Guenther (BHS '03)
Ed "Eddie" Hagen (BHS '59)
Bill Harr (BHS '63)
Herb Jones (BHS '83)
Gene Ketter (BHS '55)
Larry Ladowski (BHS '73)
Mike Matheny (BHS '63)
Susie Morehart (BHS '78)
Bob Niehl (BHS '70)
Sadena Parks (BHS '08)
Caesar Rayford (BHS '04)
Oscar Springsteen (BHS '80)
Brad Sweet (GKHS '08)
Chris Tompkins (SLHS '83)

COACHES

Bob Fincham (BHS)
Paul Greeley (BHS, SLHS)
Ed Niehl (BHS)
Frank Pavia (BHS)
Jack Justice (BHS)
Doug Wisness (BHS)

CONTRIBUTORS

Jim Ball, (SLHS, BHS)
Beth Bardwell, (BHS)
Sonny Beegle
Art Crate
Mike Macdonald
Cody Miller (BHS)
Earl Platt (BHS)
Lavada Roy (SLHS)
Tynne Swick (BHS)

FAMILY

The Mullen Family: Mike, Pat, Molly, Nick
The Tingstad Family: (Ed (Sr.), Ed (Jr.), Mark, David)

TEAMS

1956 Bethel High School Football Team

Coach: Ed Niehl, Assistant Coach: Jack Justice (deceased)
Managers: Gregory Spivey, Mickey Malcahey
Players: 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 (co-capt.), Tim McGraw, Ron Meadors (dec.), Gerald Plumb (co-capt.), 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
Players: 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 Krumpus, 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
Players: Skip Thiel, Dick Platt, Mike Morehart, Doug Wilson, Bob Niehl, Jerry Connelly, Mark Belvin, Tom Bullion, Dennis Jasmer, Ken Krumpus, 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)
Players: 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

2002 Spanaway Lake High School Wrestling Team

Coach: Paul Greeley, Assistant Coaches: Chris Shead, Scott Stirts
Managers: Sarah Johnson, Kay Cisneros, Kelly Hoosier, Olga Petrenko, Nathan Harper
Wrestlers: Jesus Maldonado, Micky Elliot (3rd State), Casey Cox, Kurtis Giovannini, Chris Caseman, Mike Easterly, Brandon Stover (5th State), Muhammad Shamsid-Deen, Pat Pitsch (3rd State), Rick Johnson (State Qualifier), Dan Pitsch (1st State), Yuri Malamura, Gavin Winter, Jimmy Llyod, Ty Stiacum (4th State)

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
Players: 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

2005 Spanaway Lake High School Special Olympics Basketball team

Coach: Lawrence Reed, Marlene Hedgpeth
Assistant Coaches: Ryan Kolowinski, Gary Milbradt
Players: Laura Bell, Katie Davis, Brandon Holguin, Nolan Lortz, Kyle Merritt, William Savole, Nickey Traylor, Anthony Canchola, Andrea Justin

2009 Spanaway Lake High School Special Olympics Basketball team

Coach: Lawrence Reed, Marlene Hedgpeth
Assistant Coaches: Thomas Dill, Ryan Kolowinski, Gary Milbradt, Caroline Cohea, Tami Wooten
Players: Jillian Almodovar, Sylvester Berry, Gregory Patengale, Phillip Rice, Sandra Simpson, Kyle Stoner, Michael Williams, Amber Class, Amber Wiegand

Hall of Fame

BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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 Kapwsin 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.”



BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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 DISTRICT

History of Bethel School District continued

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

continued on next page

BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT

History of Bethel School District continued

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

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

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

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

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

Transportation Creates Bethel

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

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

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

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

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

Since Franklin Pierce High School was a long way from opening, the two high schools' board of directors in the southern part of Pierce County (Kapowsin and Roy) were eager to go into Parkland to get any high schools students they could. This was necessary,

as in the 1930s the depression made the financial support from these outside students important. Bus runs of over 50 miles one-way were not unusual.

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

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



Roy and Kapowsin Unite

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

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

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

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

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

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

Plans were revealed in September of 1951 for the present Bethel High School to be built on the 60 acre site and house 400 students. On December 7, 1951, the ground-breaking 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.

continued on next page

BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Addition to Senior High

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

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

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

Bethel Junior High School Opens

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

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

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

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

Lacamas Joins Bethel District

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

The Lacamas area and its schools have one of the most colorful histories of any schools in the State of Washington. Actually two school districts were founded in its area, School District #5 and School District #324.

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

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

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

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

continued on next page



BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT

History of Bethel School District continued

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

What the Future Holds for Bethel Schools

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



In November of 1981 at a ceremony headlined by Washington State Senator Henry Jackson, Spanaway Lake High School opened its doors and became the second high school of the Bethel School District. The district had been looking for a location of a second high school and found it in the heart of the Spanaway community on 13th Avenue East and 168th St. East. The school started with just two grade levels, sophomores and juniors, allowing the seniors to graduate from the school they had been attending for the previous two years, Bethel High School. The first graduating class from Spanaway Lake came in June 1983.

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

The opening of a school comes with many challenges, some more significant than others. Selecting school colors and its mascot were two of those decisions. A committee of community members was formed to complete the challenge. The colors came down to a decision between the colors of the relatively new Seattle Seahawks 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 develop-

ment 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.

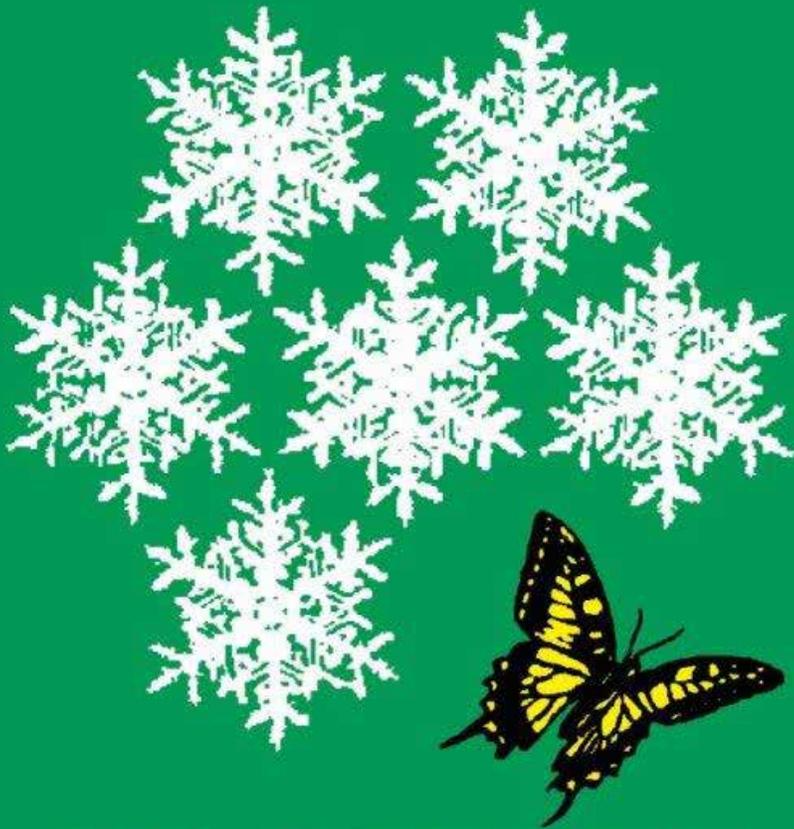
Go Sentinels!!



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.

**Congratulations
to all the
2022 Inductees!**



ALL SEASONS
PEST CONTROL

- Spiders
- Carpenter Ants
- Wasps
- Rats & Mice
- Preventative Programs



CALL for APPOINTMENT & PRICING

253-535-5600

www.allseasonspest.com



Crescent Realty congratulates
all of the 2022 inductees into
The Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame

For All Your Real Estate Questions

CALL

Travis Robinson

Broker

Crescent Realty, Inc.

Office: 253-531-9400

16119 Pacific Avenue South • P.O. Box 577
Spanaway, WA 98387

