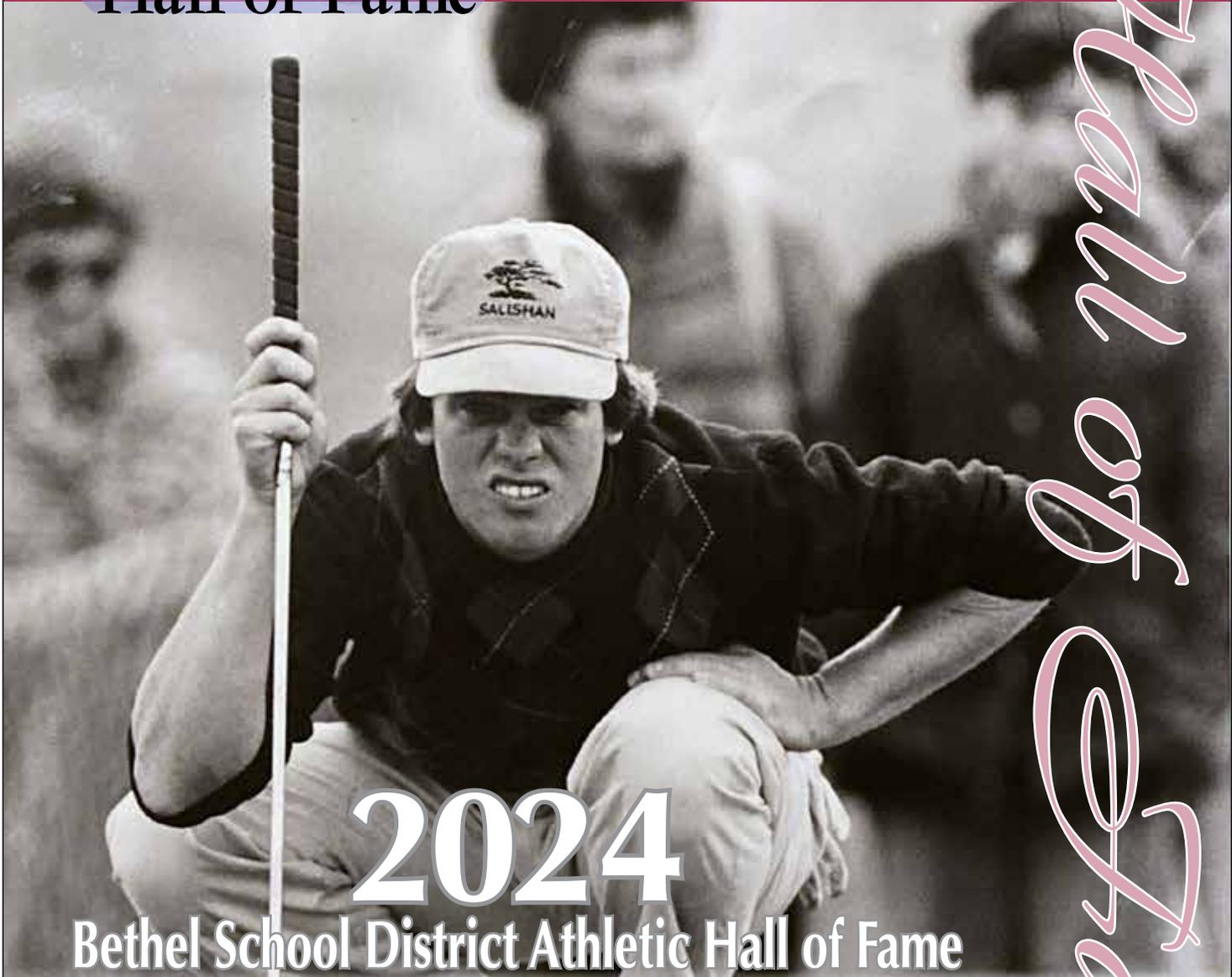


BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT



Hall of Fame

Hall of Fame



2024

Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame

AWARDS CEREMONY

March 9th • Spanaway Middle School

SPONSORED BY





**The Miller family and employees congratulates
the 2024 Inductees into the Bethel Athletic Hall of Fame**



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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 2024 Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame luncheon. Whether you are here as an inductee, a proud parent or friend or a Bethel School District sports enthusiast, I hope you enjoy the ceremony that we have planned. This is the day we honor the great performances of our inductees during their athletic career at one of our three high schools.

The Hall of Fame currently has ten teams, forty-one individual athletes, six coaches ten contributors and two families. Each of these inductees have been instrumental in building the successful history that the Bethel School District enjoys. These new members inducted today continue to strengthen the rich tradition of our districts three high schools.

To our inductees "this is your day to shine" just as you did during your career in one of our high schools. Your induction shows that even after many years have passed you and your achievements still shine as bright today as they did when you were playing. This is a day to relive your achievements with teammates and fans.

We continue to look for new members for our Hall of Fame Committees. Our committee has two major needs at this time. First we need members from Spanaway Lake and Graham-Kapowsin High School. We all have an added interest in student athletes that perform at the school we are associated with and we need Spanaway Lake and Graham-Kapowsin to have more representation on the committee. Secondly, we need an infusion of younger members. If you have an interest in joining our group, please use the form in this program and return it to the address listed on the form.

Bob Niehl
President, Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame

On the Cover...

Bethel High School 1980 graduate John Doyle played varsity golf for Bethel for four years (1977-1980). After high school John went on to play golf on a scholarship to Washington State University and then played four years on the professional tour.

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

Ed Burmester
Kellie Ham
Carolyn Jones
Terry Leifson
Bob Niehl
Ed Niehl
Sandy McDaniel
Mark Torgerson
John Briebl

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Ed Niehl
Roxanne Assay
Darren Borden
Ed Burmester
John Briebl
Bob Niehl
Bryan Streleski
Ed Tingstad
John Zurfluh (LJ)
Corey Belser
Mark Torgerson
Jeff Gotcher
Mike Mullen
Terry Leifson
Edie Hagen
Don McNivern
Bob Heskett
Chase Chambers
Travis Brock

2023-24 MEMBERS

Thom Duncanson
Kellie Ham
Rick Ham
Easter Springsteen
Oscar Springsteen
Carolyn Jones
Carolyn Okfen
Don Ash
John Zurfluh (BJ)



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 bethelhalloffame1.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.

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.

Gail Caramandi, Jeanine Eshpeter, Rhonda Gibson, Rick Ham, Kathy Kenelleken, Linda Martin, Lynn Martin, Lisa Martin, Kathi Miller, Kaitie Simons, Easter Springsteen, Rohan Sandoval, Sandy Wusterbarth, Shelli Williams-Felty, Graham-Kapowsin FCCLA—Kass Reynolds, Michelle Hamilton and the FCCLA students

2024 Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Athletes

Corey Belser, BHS '01
Kim Stone (Cuzner), BHS '99
Kim Georgia (Vargas), SLHS '90
Kayla Reno (Waldauser), GKHS '09

Mark Belvin, BHS '70
Kim Leifson (Dickerson), BHS '90
Loni Ainslie (Parks), BHS '01
Jamie Walker (Fuller), GKHS '09

Travis Brock, BHS '98
John Doyle, BHS '80
Dave Rich, BHS '55

Coach

Kevin Aoki

Contributors

Dan Caramandi

Family

The DuRochers – John '81, Corrina '81, Johnny '03 and Amanda '05

Team

2000 Bethel High School Boys Basketball Team

Coach Pat Mullen, Assistant Coaches Russ Leslie, Ken Iverson, Managers Denise Clements, Heather Coatney, Lacey Lindsay, and Earl Brothers. Roster: Virgil Matthews, Ron Hobbs, Jimmy Ball, Josh Allar, Dwayne Barnes, Jerrell Everson, Nate Gall, Corey Belser, Kevin Hill, Kaelen Moore, Duane Hill and Nick Moore.

SCHEDULE, SPONSORS & VOLUNTEERS

Schedule

Welcome – John Briehl

Lunch

Recognition of Past Inductees – John Briehl

Introduction of Directors – John Briehl

Presidents Message – Bob Niehl

Guest Speaker – Dr. James Hammond

Contribution Inductee..... **Presenter**

Dan Caramandi Ed Burmester

Coach Inductee..... **Presenter**

Kevin Aoki Bryan Strelski

Family Inductee..... **Presenter**

The DuRochers (John, Corrina, Johnny & Amanda) James Hammond

Individual Inductees..... **Presenter**

Loni Ainslie (Parks), BHS '01 John Ainslie

Kayla Reno (Waldauser)..... Loni Ainslie

Corey Belser, BHS '01 Pat Mullen

Mark Belvin, BHS '70 Don Ash

Kim Stone (Cuzner), BHS '99 Bob Stone

Kim Leifson (Dickerson), BHS '90..... Kevin Aoki

John Doyle, BHS '80 Doug Briehl

Kim Georgia (Vargas), SLHS '90..... John Ainslie

Dave Rich, BHS '55 Ed Niehl

Jamie Walker (Fuller), GKHS '09..... Bryan Strelski

Travis Brock, BHS '98 Oscar Springsteen

Recognition of Current High School Athletes

from Bethel, Spanaway Lake and Graham-Kapowsin

Team Inductees **Presenter**

2000 Bethel Boys Basketball Team Mike Mullen

Coach Pat Mullen, Assistant Coaches Russ Leslie, Ken Iverson, Managers Denise Clements, Heather Coatney, Lacey Lindsay, and Earl Brothers. Roster: Virgil Matthews, Ron Hobbs, Jimmy Ball, Josh Allar, Dwayne Barnes, Jerrell Everson, Nate Gall, Corey Belser, Kevin Hill, Kaelen Moore, Duane Hill and Nick Moore.

Closing – John Briehl

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Schedule 2024

BECOME A MEMBER



Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame Membership Form

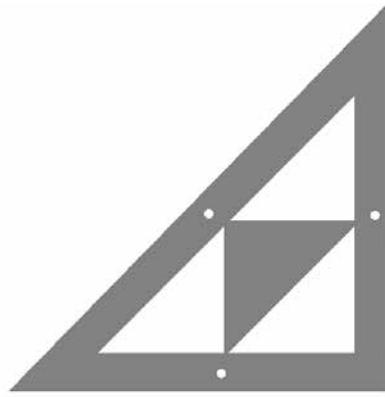
We welcome anyone to become a member. Membership dues are \$40.00 a year and is renewable annually, August–July. Life-time Memberships are \$200.00. Meetings are scheduled monthly. It's easy! Just fill out the form and send in with your payment.

For more information contact Bob Niehl at bobniehl@gmail.com

Name _____
 Address _____
 Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____
 Email Address _____

Send your one-year Membership \$40.00 or Lifetime Membership \$200.00 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.



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*The Truss Company would like to congratulate
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MASTER OF CEREMONIES



John Briebl

John attended Bethel Junior and Senior High where he was elected student body president at both schools. He graduated in 1968 and lettered in Cross Country, Basketball and Track. In addition to his Student Council responsibilities, he was a member of the Letterman's Club, Key Club, Concert Band, Torch Honor Society, Drama Club, and wrote a sports column for the BHS school newspaper, the Brave Talk. Graduating from Washington State University, he completed degrees in Broadcast Communications in 1972 and Sociology in 1973. Early in his career, he worked in the mental health field and with runaway youth and their families. John retired from the City of Tacoma after 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. John lives on Tule Lake in Parkland with his wife and high school sweetheart, Lani. They have three children and two grandchildren.

GUEST SPEAKER



Dr. James Hammond, Ontario Montclair School District Superintendent of Schools

Our featured speaker is Dr. James Hammond. He is currently the Superintendent of Schools for the Ontario Montclair School District (OMSD) in California and is the third largest primary/middle school system in the state of California.

Born and raised in Whittier, California, Dr. Hammond graduated from La Serna High School in 1988 where he was a three-year varsity basketball player. His teams went to the CIF playoffs all three years winning two Whitmont League Championships. Dr. Hammond earned All-Whitmont League First and Second-Team honors in addition to being selected as an All-CIF Honorable Mention scholar-athlete during his career at La Serna High School. In 2004, Dr. Hammond was inducted into the La Serna High School Hall of Fame. He currently resides in Ontario, California.

After graduation, Dr. Hammond attended Western New Mexico University (WNMU) on a full athletic scholarship to play basketball. After his freshman season, Dr. Hammond transferred to St. Martin's College on a full-athletic scholarship. Over the course of three seasons with the Saints, Dr. Hammond's teams won over sixty games and captured two regular season conference championships as he captained the men's basketball team his junior and senior years. In 2018, Dr. Hammond's 1990–1991 and 1991–1992 Saints Men's Basketball teams were inducted into the St. Martin's University Hall of Fame, largely in part for the success both teams had tallying twenty-three wins in each of those seasons.

Upon his graduation from Saint Martin's College in 1993, and largely due to the support and influence of prior Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees, Mike and Pat Mullen, Dr. Hammond began teaching Humanities and coaching multiple sports at Frontier Junior High School. In the fall of 1995, Dr. Hammond was hired to be an Assistant Men's Basketball Coach at Cornell University (Ithaca, NY). The following season, Dr. Hammond was hired as the first Head Men's Basketball Coach at The Evergreen State College (TESC) in Olympia. While starting the Men's Basketball program at TESC he returned to the Bethel School District for the 1996–1997 school year where he taught math at Bethel Junior High School while also serving as the Dean of Students. In 1997, Dr. Hammond got his first job as a school administrator serving as the Vice Principal of Jason Lee Middle School in Tacoma and in 2000 was hired in the same capacity at Bethel High School. In 2001, Dr. Hammond was appointed to be the Principal at Bethel High School until 2004.

Following his time at Bethel High School, Dr. Hammond served over three years as Superintendent of Schools for the Tukwila School District and in 2007 served for three school years as the Superintendent of Schools for the Davis Joint Unified School District in Davis, California.

We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Hammond back to the Bethel School District as our Guest Speaker for today's Hall of Fame induction.

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

Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame

A. Anyone may nominate a candidate for the Hall of Fame. Additional nomination forms available at all Bethel School District high schools.

B. The following items may be considered as a possible basis for nomination. These items are not meant to be inclusive nor does attainment make membership automatic.

1. Athletes:

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

Additional considerations:

- Member of a state championship team
- Qualified for state playoffs at least twice
- An individual or member of a team winning a district or above tournament or meet
- An individual or member of a team placing in the top four in a state tournament
- Selected to an all-league, area, district, regional or all-state team
- Received multiple varsity 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 leaving the district

3. Team

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

4. Contributor

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

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

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME PAST INDUCTEES

ATHLETES

Garrett Alwert
Roxane Asay
Yvette "Henry" Barnes
Ryan Barrett
Mike Blowers
Felix Brodigan
Darin Borden
Darrell Borden
Shawn Butler
Cal Christoph
Gene Curbow
Jan Dempsey
Amanda DuRocher
Johnny DuRocher Jr.
Marjorie Goddard
Jeff Gotcher
Larry Gotcher
Lisa Graber
Gary Gregg
Blain Guenther
Ed "Eddie" Hagen
Bill Harr
Herb Jones
Gene Ketter
Larry Ladowski
Mike Matheny
Anthony Meray
Jody Miller
Susie Morehart
Bob Niehl
Sadena Parks
Dan Pitch
Greg Powell
Caesar Rayford
Steve Reopelle
Carl Schriver
Bryan Stresleski
Oscar Springsteen
Brad Sweet
Chris Tompkins

COACHES

Bob Fincham
Paul Greeley
Jack Justice
Ed Niehl
Frank Pavia
Doug Wisness

CONTRIBUTORS

Jim Ball
Beth Bardwell
Sonny Beegle
Ed Burmester
Art Crate
Mike Macdonald
Cody Miller
Earl Platt
Lavada Roy
Tynne Swick

FAMILY

The Mullen Family (Mike, Pat, Molly and Nick)
The Tingstad Family (Ed, Darlene, Eddie, Mark, David)

TEAMS

1955 Bethel High School Football Team

Coach: Ed Niehl, Assistant Coach: Jack Justice
Managers: Gregory Spivey, and Mickey Malcahey
Roster: Robert Arends, Morris Bush, Wayne Bush, Phil Caldwell, Allen Cantrell, James Dean, Howard Funkhouser, Bob Huddleston, Dave Johnson, Don Jorgensen, Buck Lathrom, Jim Lyons, Larry McGee, Dan McGraw, Dennis McGraw, Tim McGraw, Ron Meadors, Gerald Plumb, Rodney Redford, Howard White, Terry Whittlesey, Gene Ressler, Charlie Parham, Gerald Crippen, George Bennett

1958 Bethel High School Football Team

Coach: Ed Niehl, Assistant Coach: Jack Justice,
Managers: King Phelps, David Rennie, Don Leigh, Jim Nichols
Roster: Farrell Ressler, Terry Whittlesey, Gary Justice, John Phelan, Bill Bell, Ed "Eddie" Hagen, Marcus Wickline, Clyde Baker, Don Raper, Rod Parham, Richard Dittbenner, Larry Gehring, Bill Scott, Lloyd Williams, Mike Wharton, Dale Curtiss, Gerald "Jerry" Crippen, Jim Metzener, Neil Lambertsen, Gary Gregg, Gary Pierce, Bayard Crate, Bruce Moore, Tom Jones, Miland Krumpas, Jay Brown, Carl Schriver, Larry Stearns, Dave Belvin, Doug Woods

1962 Bethel High School Wrestling Team

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

1970 Bethel High School Boys Basketball Team

Coach: Bob Fincham, Assistant Coach: Don Ash,
Managers: Bob Nelson, Ray Feddersen
Roster: Skip Thiel, Dick Platt, Mike Morehart, Doug Wilson, Bob Niehl, Jerry Connelly, Mark Belvin, Tom Bullion, Dennis Jasmer, Ken Krumpas, Chuck Brown, Ken Lightenwalter, Al Ketter

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, John DuRocher, Mark Martin, Jim Moore, Dave Morgan, Murph Nelson, Tom Pierce, Mark Stambaugh, Matt Piper, Jeff Valentine

1996 Bethel High School Volleyball Team

Coach: John Reopelle, Assistant Coaches: Monica Farley, Christine Nelson, Manager: Kalani, Vera Wright (scorekeeper)
Roster: Malissa Reed, Valerie Lee, Katy Zurfluh, Donja Walker, Joanna Johnson, Heather Mayo, Rachelle Gienger, Jordan Gienger, Corrin Breon, Michelle Barlow, Jennifer Ladwig, Dori Bratusch, Holly Hobbs

2001 Spanaway Lake High School Wrestling Team

Coach: Paul Greeley, Assistant Coaches: Chris Shead, Scott Stirts, Managers: Sarah Johnson, Kay Cisneros, Kelly Hoosier, Olga Petrenko, Nathan Harper
Roster: Jesus Maldonado, Micky Elliot, Casey Cox, Kurtis Giovannini, Chris Caseman, Mike Easterly, Brandon Stover, Muhammad Shamsid-Deen, Pat Pitsch, Rick Johnson, Dan Pitsch, Yuri Malamura, Gavin Winter, Jimmy Llyod, Ty Saticum

2005 Bethel High School Boys Basketball Team

Coach: Pat Mullen, Assistant Coaches: Russ Leslie, Ken Iverson, Mike Mullen. Managers: Lance Nelson, Mike Herring, Chris Ball, Matt Wanderscheid, Earl Brothers
Roster: Mike Vargas, Chuck Hogue, Jordan Sutton, Ryan Purugganan, Mike Yusko, Marquis Matthews, Jamil Turner, Scott Stanley, Alex Tiefenthaler, Kevin Cattage, Brandon Moore, Robbie Betschart, Scott Tiefenthaler

2005 Spanaway Lake High School Special Olympics Basketball team

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

2009 Spanaway Lake High School Special Olympics Basketball team

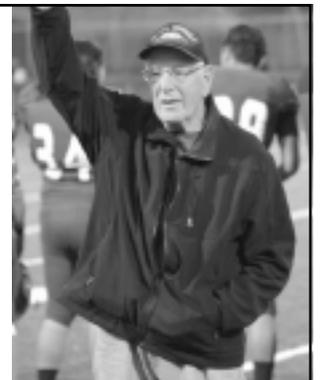
Coach: Lawrence Reed, Marlene Hedgpeth
Assistant Coaches: Thomas Dill, Ryan Kolowinski, Gary Milbradt, Caroline Cohea, Tami Wooten, Amber Wiegard
Roster: Jillian Almodovar, Sylvester Berry, Gregory Patengale, Phillip Rice, Sandra Simpson, Kyle Stoner, Michael Williams, Amber Class

The Bethel School District
Athletic Hall of Fame would like to wish

Ed Niehl

Happy 100th Birthday!!

Thank you for all the great things you have done
for our school district!!





Congratulations

*to the 2024 inductees into
The Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame*

Call Mark if you have questions
or need new equipment.

Mark Torgerson

mtorgerson@bsnsports.com

253-212-7381



HALL OF FAME CONTRIBUTOR



DAN CARAMANDI, (Contributor)

Dan played an active role behind the scenes in the Bethel School District for 35 years up until his death in 2019.

Dan began coaching Bethel Rec when his son Dusty was five. He coached baseball and football at Naches Trail Elementary and Cedarcrest Junior High in the late 90's. Using his own money, he built a backstop and an extra baseball field at Naches Trail and batting cages at Cedarcrest. As a coach, Dan showed zero favoritism. He knew

the kids' abilities, including Dusty's, and treated them all the same. Dan was always so supportive and a solid coach to all kids. He always wanted kids to have everything they needed to experience sports. He personally paid for any kid that could not afford the registration fee and made sure they "got the t-shirt."

When Dan's kids, Dusty and Kaitie, were in elementary school, Dan joined the Naches Trail PTA. He always helped with fund-raisers and would bring batting cages to the carnivals so kids could "play ball," as well as carnival games.

He joined Bethel Recreation Association and served as a board member from 2010-2014 and President from 2014-2019. Under his tenure he helped shape rules and regulations to reflect current trends. He donated materials for improvement and maintenance of the athletic fields, helped distribute athletic uniforms to Bethel Rec teams, provided awards for participants and was known to coach a team that didn't have a coach... just so kids could play. Dusty recalls years of helping his dad line the fields at night and on weekends; a task no one thinks about but is a necessity for Bethel Rec sports to take place.

Dan owned a trophy and t-shirt shop called The LineUp. He donated copiously to Bethel Athletics. He donated t-shirts when Bethel High had state play-off games, donated t-shirts and air miles to Bethel's Winter Wishes program, all the plaques for the Athletic Hall of Fame.



Dan would go to the swap meet and purchase baseball gloves and cleats and

donate them to any child that didn't have the proper equipment. He would pick up catcher's gear that he could score a good deal on and donate to the Bethel Rec program.

Dan was known to be on the phone and traveling from field to field or gym to gym all over the Bethel School District to supervise, drop off equipment or shirts, or provide whatever was needed for Bethel Rec. He spent much of his time doing what he loved... being involved in athletics for kids.

When the Bethel Rec season ended, he organized annual youth baseball tournaments at Sprinker Recreation Center, so that kids could continue to play



HALL OF FAME CONTRIBUTOR CONTINUED



during the summer.

Dan was a community icon. He was a Spanaway legend. Everyone knew Dan and The Lineup. People would stop into the “shop” just to chat with Dan. The community would come in just to say hi. Not only did he supply athletic wear and awards for the community, but he also had the latest and greatest gossip.

He did school pride-wear shirts, various awards, and athletic shirts. He was the face in many Bethel schools making deliveries from school to school on a nearly daily basis. He knew all the ASB clerks, including the latest happenings with their families.

He was a member of the Spanaway business community and was inducted into the USSSA Hall of Fame in 2017.



Hall of Fame

Bethel Recreation Association



Congratulations to Dan Caramandi for being inducted into the Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame.

The Bethel Community lost a true friend when Dan Caramandi passed away in March, 2019.

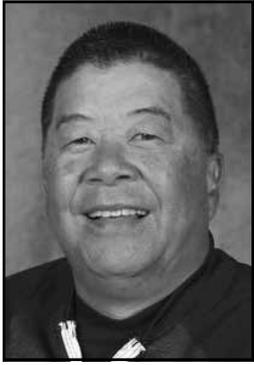
In addition to owning and operating The Lineup in Spanaway, Dan was also a long-time Bethel Recreation Association board member and board president. He was an avid supporter of Bethel Rec. and had been part of the organization for over 30 years since coaching his own children in the program. After his children were grown, he continued to support Bethel Recreation and the youth through his generosity as owner of The Lineup and volunteering for the organization.

Many community members are unaware of all Dan did to support Bethel Recreation. Dan always went above and beyond expectations by driving around on a Saturday morning delivering supplies and equipment to games and uniform shirts to teams that were not able to pick them up. He would help supervise games, set up fields, line fields, pick up garbage, register participants and work in the concession stand. He would find slightly used baseball equipment and have it available to give to children in need. These are just a few of the many ways that Dan went above and beyond to support Bethel Recreation.

His support, inspiration and leadership has had a positive impact on all those he came in contact with. His legacy will live on through the relationships he fostered. To honor Dan, a scholarship fund was set up in his name for youth to participate in Bethel Rec. programs that have financial need. Dan Caramandi scholarships are for families with extreme circumstances/hardships that prohibit students from participating in sports programs. Those families interested in a scholarship must supply written documentation to the nature of the hardship. Donations to the “Dan Caramandi Scholarship Fund” can be made at Harborstone Credit Union.

If you would like more information please contact us at 253-800-4301 or email bethelrecinfo@bethelrec.org.

HALL OF FAME COACH CONTINUED



KEVIN AOKI, (Coach)

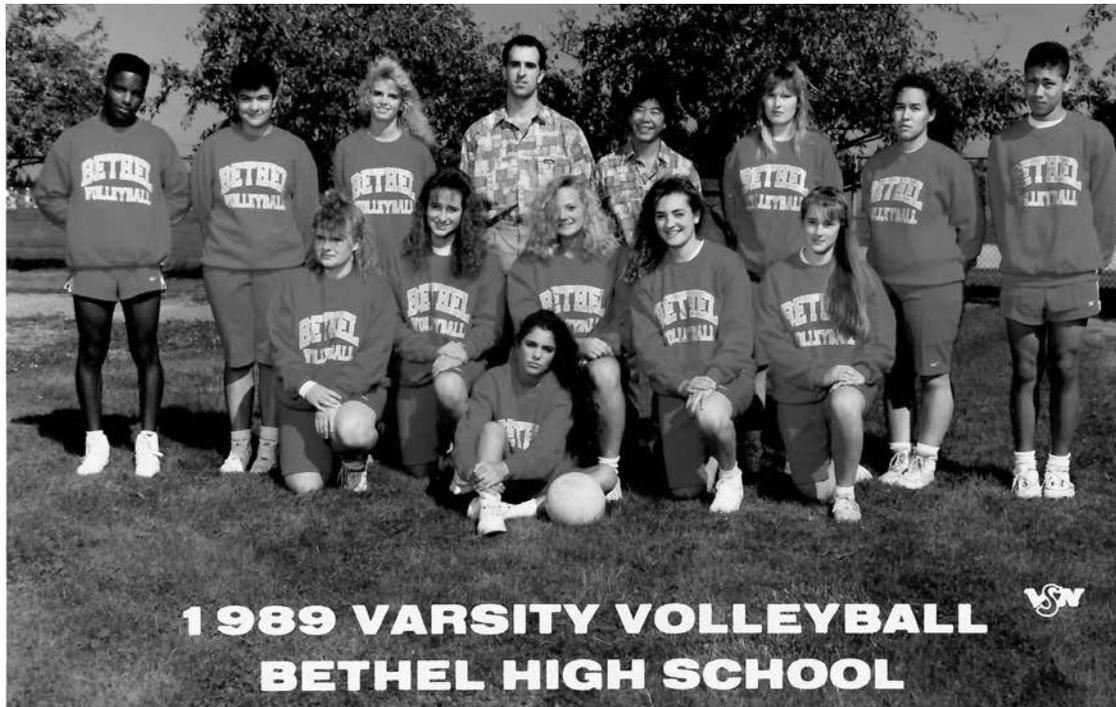
Kevin Aoki worked for the Bethel School District at Bethel Jr. High for 35 years (1984–2019).

Kevin was born April 21, 1961 in Honolulu, Hawaii. He graduated from Iolani High School where he learned to play the sport of volleyball. He then attended Pacific Lutheran University. After graduating in 1984 with a BA in Education, he was hired by Bethel School District to teach, anything and everything at Bethel Jr. High.

He quickly started his coaching career becoming the Bethel Junior High girls' varsity basketball coach for 16 years (1995–2010). He was the boys' basketball assistant coach from 1995–2014, a twenty-year period. He was also the assistant baseball coach for ten years (1986–1996).

Kevin moved to Bethel High School to coach junior varsity girls' basketball 1984–1988 and then became the varsity coach for five years in 1989–1995. He was the first girls' basketball coach at Bethel to take his team to the 3A State tourney in 1991.

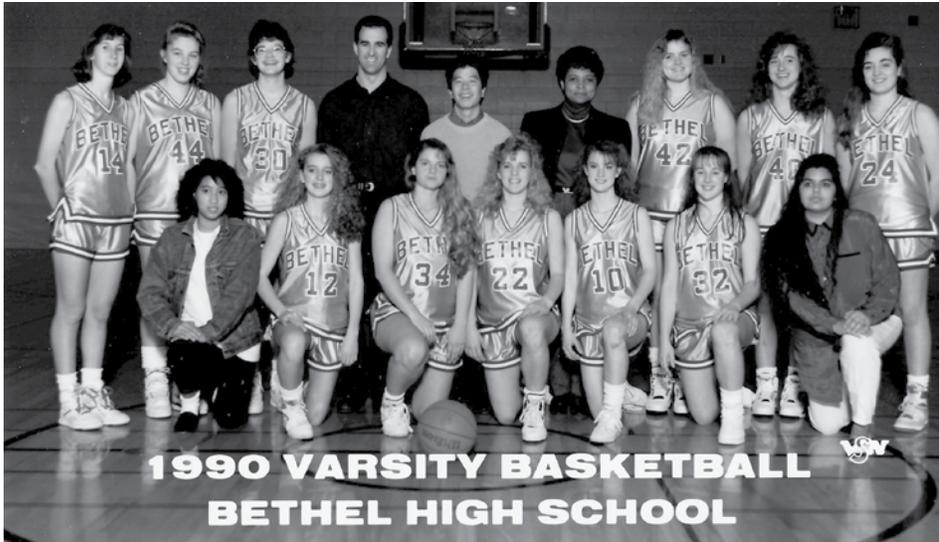
Volleyball is what Kevin is known best for. He started coaching volleyball at Bethel High School as the junior varsity coach for two years (1981–1982). He then took over the varsity position and held it for 12 years (1984–1995) creating a dynasty. He left a lasting impression on Bethel volleyball players throughout his tenure compil-



ing a career record of 171–82. During this time the Braves earned five league championships, one district championship and nine state tourney appearances, with a fourth-place finish at State in 1992.

In 1996 Kevin left Bethel to become the Head Volleyball Coach at Pacific Lutheran University where he is still coaching. He continues his winning record with 471–214. He has eleven conference championships, ten conference coach of the year awards and three region coach of the year awards. This past year his team won the Northwest Conference 16–0 and winning the NWC Tournament and making it to the NCAA Regional where they won their first-round match and lost in the second round.

HALL OF FAME COACH CONTINUED



Kevin lives in Puyallup and has been married to his wife Bethany for twenty years. They have two boys. Aiden, their oldest is a first year student at California Lutheran University and on the golf team. His youngest Brennan is a junior at Emerald Ridge High School where he plays varsity basketball for former Bethel Alum/Coach Pat Mullen, and also plays varsity baseball.

Hall of Fame

Congratulations
Inductee Dan Caramandi



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HALL OF FAME FAMILY

THE DUROCHER FAMILY

The Hall of Fame has selected the DuRocher family for induction into our Hall of Fame. Their accomplishments are many for four great reasons: John (senior) Bethel 1981, Corrina, also Bethel 1981, their son Johnny (BHS 2003) HOF inductee 2018 and daughter Amanda (BHS 2005) HOF inductee 2022.

John and Corrina's life path paralleled each other. They both attended Spanaway Elementary, Spanaway Junior High, where they started dating, and Bethel High School. They married in 1982.

John DuRocher was born August 3, 1962. He had two older sisters, Marylene and Miranda, both graduates of Bethel High School. In elementary school John's



mom kept him busy signing him up for Bethel Rec sports such as flag football, basketball and baseball. By the time John entered Spanaway Junior High he played football as a fullback and defensive end. On the basketball team he played forward and he played the outfield and pitched on the baseball team. Stepping into high school John continued to excel in three sports.

John made the varsity football team his sophomore year. Coached by Rob Andrea, John played fullback, defensive end and was the third string quarterback. John was inserted into the season's first game after half time and held the position until he graduated. During his football career he was a three-time SPSL All-League quarterback and the Total Offense Leader his sophomore and junior year. John led the SPSL three years in passing attempts, completions, touchdowns, passing yards and completion percentage. He also received the Coaches Award his senior year. He graduated as the all-time passing leader for the SPSL

and Bethel High School. Steve Reopelle (HOF 2022) broke his records and then his son Johnny DuRocher Jr., (HOF 2018) broke those of Steve Reopelle. John was voted team captain his senior year and then received a full ride scholarship to play football at Eastern Washington University

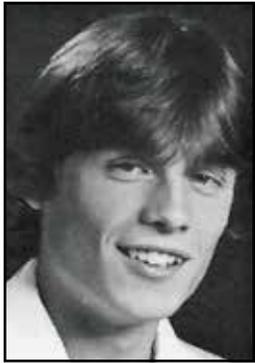
John made the Bethel varsity basketball team his sophomore year. He played the forward position and was a swing player, playing a couple quarters in the JV games with Ed Burmester as coach and suiting up for varsity games with coach Mike Mullen. John was voted as most inspirational his junior and senior year and was also chosen as team captain his senior year. John led the team in steals his senior year and was selected Second-Team All-Valley his senior year.

John played American Legion baseball his sophomore and junior year pitching and playing outfield. He turned out for the high school track team his junior year and lettered. Coached by Terry Leifson, John ran the 440, 880 and competed in the high jump. John also worked as an official for Bethel Rec. At the end of his senior year John received the Coaches Award and Male Athlete of the Year.

After graduation John coached youth sports in the area and coached one year of football at Spanaway Junior high school. He played football on an Eastern Washington scholarship for one year. John then came home, entered the police academy and was hired by the Tacoma Police Department, where he worked for 33 years, retiring in 2018 as a Sergeant. He also played quarterback for the police Bacon Bowl Fund-raiser for seven years.

Corrina (Harper) DuRocher was born November 12, 1962 and has two younger sisters, Kim and LeeAnn, one of which graduated from Spanaway Lake High School. The Harpers kept Corrina busy in elementary school with Bethel Rec basketball and softball. She continued in junior high playing basketball and softball.

While at Bethel High School, Corrina received 12 varsity letters



HALL OF FAME FAMILY INDUCTEE CONTINUED

(Tennis (1), Soccer (2), Basketball (3), Softball (3), statistician (3). Corrina had never played tennis but decided to turn out for the high school tennis team her sophomore year. Coached by Ms. Baginski, she made varsity, playing both singles and doubles.

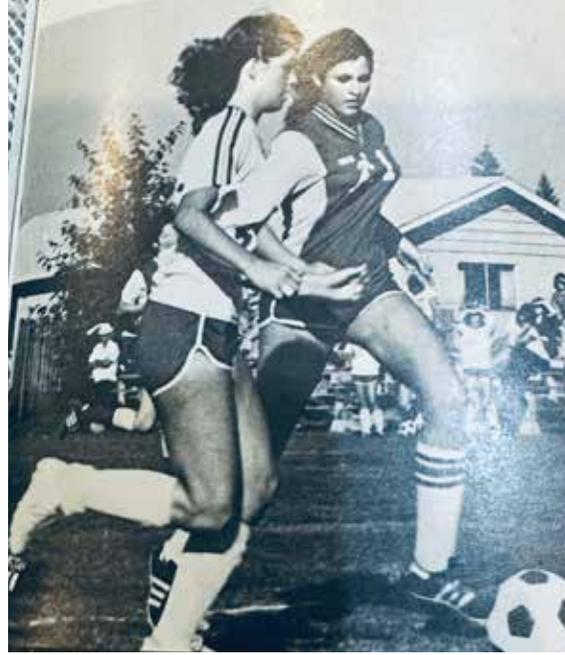
Coached by Gene White, Corrina lettered two years in soccer. As a forward, she led the team in scoring both her junior and senior years and was voted team captain by her peers.

On the basketball court she played guard, starting and lettering all three years. Coached by Rob Andrea, Corinna was named All-League her sophomore, junior and senior year. She led the team in assists and steals all three years and was voted team captain her senior year, winning the Coaches Award as a junior and senior.

Ed Tingstad coached her in softball where she started all three years. As a short-stop and third baseman, Corrina led the team in batting and fielding percentage her senior year, was voted team captain and selected All-League.

The amazing part of Corrina's athletic career is not only did she letter 9 times as an athlete, but she was a starter in every sport and played in every game of soccer, basketball and softball. Corrina also received letters for being a boys' basketball and football statistician. All that did not keep Corrina busy enough, so she worked for Bethel Rec as an official.

At the end of Corrina's senior year, she received the Ben B. Cheney Award Scholarship for Athletic, Scholastic and Community



Service. She was selected as the Female Athlete of the Year for the class of 1981 and received the Female Coaches Award her senior year.

After Corrina graduated from high school, she became a coach in the Bethel School District. She coached the Cedarcrest varsity basketball team to three undefeated, consecutive league titles (Kim Liefson, HOF recipient this year was a player on those teams.) She was the assistant JV basketball coach at Spanaway Lake High School the assistant softball coach for two years at Spanaway Junior High.

Corrina continued her college education receiving a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and a Master of Arts in Education (PLU). She worked for the Bethel, Franklin Pierce and Yelm

School Districts, retiring from Yelm as an Assistant Director, Safety and Student Support in 2021.



Johnny DuRocher Jr. (BHS '03), was an exceptional student and graduated with a 3.64 grade point average.

At Bethel High School Johnny started three years as quarterback (2000–2002), coached by Eric Kurlle. His career record while at Bethel was 35–5. Johnny led the team to three SPSL championships and was undefeated in the league in 2001 and 2002. They made it to the state playoffs three consecutive years. In 2000 they played in the championship game and in 2001 and 2002 they made it to the semi-finals.

In his sophomore year, he was awarded All-League Second-Team Quarterback. During Johnny's junior and senior year, he was awarded All-League First-Team Quarterback and All-Area First-Team Quarterback. His senior year he also was awarded First-Team All-State Quarterback Offensive Player of the year for the SPSL, MVP of the SPSL, Tacoma News Tribune Player of the Year, Gatorade State Player of the Year, US Army All-American and played in the All-American game in San Antonio. Johnny was also an All-American for PrepStar and Super Prep magazine.

At the time of high school graduation, Johnny was the first player to be a Gatorade player of the state and US Army All American in the same year. He also was ranked ninth in career passing for 11-man football. After high school Johnny played one year in Oregon and then transferred to the University of Washington. He played eight games and lettered at UW in 2006 before a career-ending head injury.

Hall of Fame

HALL OF FAME FAMILY INDUCTEE CONTINUED

As a basketball player he was a three-year letterman, two-year starter and played on the SPSL champion team his senior year. Johnny received the 6th man award his sophomore year; Second-Team All SPSL his junior year and First-Team All WCD his junior year; First-Team All-SPSL and Second-Team All-Area his senior year.

Johnny was also a great baseball player, splitting time at catcher and shortstop. He went on to play one year of baseball at UW. Drafted in the 32nd round by the Seattle Mariners he was a pitcher on the Seattle Mariners Rookie League Championship team and was promoted to the Everett Aquasox and Wisconsin Rattlers. He suffered a career ending Tommy John injury in his second year.

Johnny is married to Whitney and has two little girls, Emery 9 and Colby 6. He lives in Eatonville, works as a fireman with the Lacey Fire Department, coaches football at PLU and works for HomeTrust Financial.



Amanda DuRocher (BHS '05), was an exceptional athlete while excelling in the classroom with a 3.88 grade point average. She earned varsity letters in soccer, basketball and track. 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-time First-Team All-League soccer goalie, and twice First-Team All-Area. Her junior year she was League MVP and All-League goalie. She repeated as 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 hurdler, 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 twice First-Team All-Area and First-Team All-West Central District. 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 League Championship, Washington State Championship appearance and was named League MVP.

Known for her step back three-point shot. Amanda amassed nearly 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.

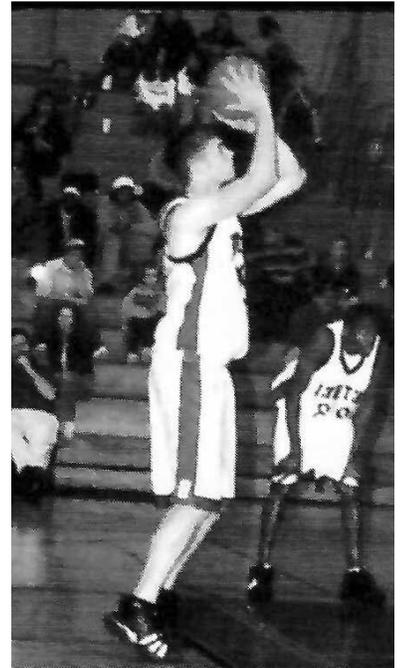
Recruited to play Division 1 in both soccer and basketball, she chose to play basketball at Washington State University. As a two-year starter, she set the single season record for three-point shots made in a game and season. She made the All PAC-10 Freshmen Team, and twice was All-Academic First-Team.

Transferring 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.

Amanda was also a soccer 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 following year, Amanda was recognized as First-Team All-League again and named a Kodak All-American at the goalie position.

Amanda works for Velocity Systems, is married to Tyler Diamond and lives in Simi Valley. She is mom to two boys, Tate, 8 years and Bear, 5 years.



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HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



LONI AINSLIE (PARKS), (BHS '01)

Loni's athletic career began when she could barely walk. Her dad, John, was a basketball, track and golf coach. Loni grew up in the back gym and basically never left! As a child she sat behind the bench when her dad coached. She earned nine varsity letters at Bethel High School, three each for volleyball, basketball and softball. Sports were ingrained in her. She practiced basketball with her sister Dawn and brothers Ryan and Corey. Even though she was the youngest, they didn't cut her any slack. And she was known to often beat them at HORSE, although her dad

maintains that he never let her win!!

Loni was a scholar athlete. She worked equally hard at school and sports. She said she enjoyed the challenge and experience of AP classes and really valued the experience of higher learning. She was voted "Most Athletic" by her classmates. She was homecoming royalty her sophomore and senior year.

As a junior Loni was named Second-Team SPSL for volleyball and First-Team ALL SPSL in her senior year. She was known for her scrappiness on the court and her ability to spike the ball for the kill. Her senior year the team placed 5th in state partly due to Loni's leadership on the court. In the yearbook she credited BHS fans for cheering them on and helping them gain the confidence they needed to beat Decatur for the league championship.

Basketball was Loni's forte. She started playing at six years old and by her senior year had a season high of 27 points, averaging 14.2 points per game her junior year and 16.4 points her senior year. Her basketball stats include:

Sophomore year:

- First-Team ALL-SPSL

Junior year:

- First-Team All-League
- SPSL MVP
- First-Team All-Area
- District All-Tournament Team
- Second-Team All-State

Senior year:

- First-Team All-League
- SPSL MVP
- First-Team All-Area
- District Tournament MVP
- First-Team All-State



Loni had the unique experience of being coached by her dad John. She had it harder than the other girls because she had to make sure everyone knew she was the best player on the court...not just the coach's kid. She would practice at 6:00 o'clock in the morning before school. She put in the practice time she needed to be the best. A fellow teammate said she recalls how good Loni was at ball handling and bringing the ball down the court. Also, how loud she was! This was part of the defensive scheme—screaming Ball-Ball-Ball!! Her tenacity and aggressiveness were known throughout the league. But Loni was also a team player—she would execute a fast break and then pass it off to



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE CONTINUED



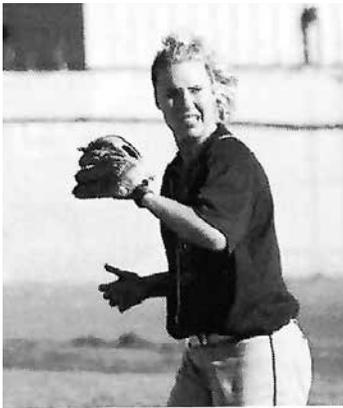
her teammate. She had lots of assists and was respected for not being a ball hog.

She was recruited to play basketball at several small D-1 colleges. St. Francis, St. Regis and the University of Portland wanted her. But, being so close to her family, she chose an in-state school—Central Washington University

where she completed a degree in Family and Consumer Science. While playing for Central she was the all-time 3-point shooter. She started as a junior and senior.

Loni has come full circle in the Bethel Athletic Community. She is currently a Family and Consumer Science teacher at Graham-Kapowsin High School and coaches volleyball. Her team took first at state in 2022.

She lives in Graham with her three children; Jackson, Aspen and Blakely. She also coaches their rec teams.



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HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



KAYLA RENO (WALDAUSER), (GKHS '09)

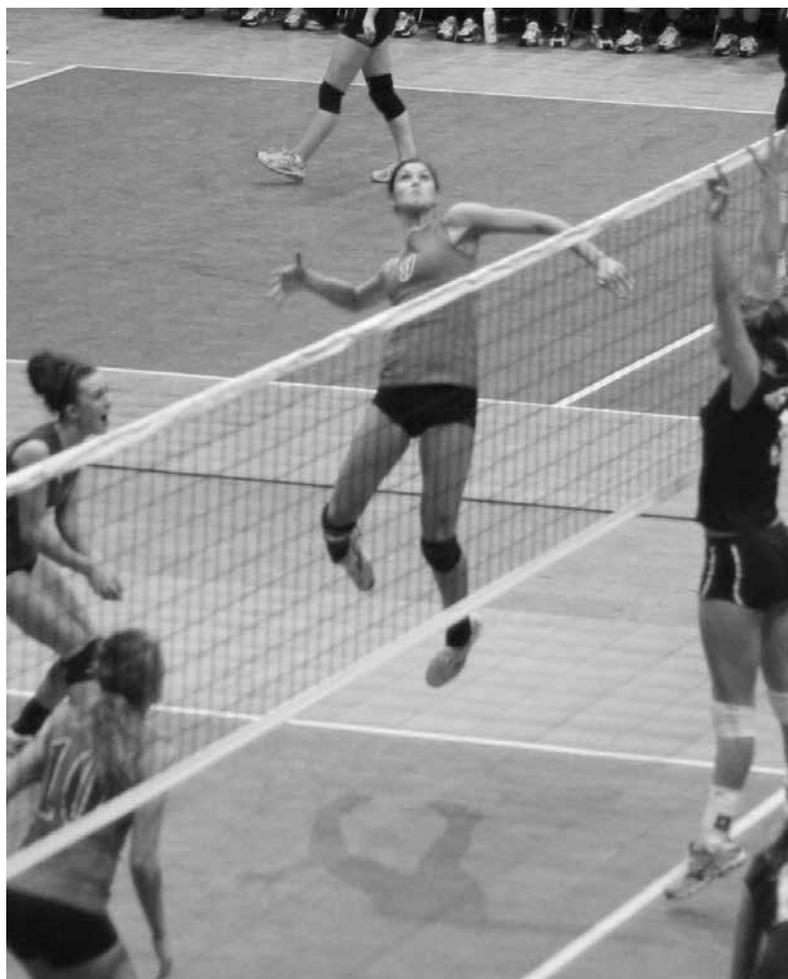
Kayla's career began with a remarkable sophomore year, where she first began to distinguish herself as a force to be reckoned with on the volleyball court by achieving First-Team All-SPSL for volleyball.

Her junior year saw Kayla's star continue to rise, as she not only secured First-Team All-League honors for volleyball, but also demonstrated her prowess on the basketball court by earning another First-Team All-League accolade. This dual accomplishment showcased her versatility and determination to excel across different sports.

Kayla's senior year was where she truly left an indelible legacy at Graham Kapowsin High School. She led her team



to an undefeated season, clinching the SPSL Championship. Kayla secured First-Team All-SPSL for volleyball and was also named the SPSL MVP, All-Area Player of the Year, and received the honor of First-Team All-State. Her exemplary performance extended to the state tournament, where she made the All-State Tournament Team while helping secure a 6th place finish and garnering a nomination for the prestigious Gatorade Player of the Year award in volleyball.



Not only did Kayla excel in leading her team to victory, but she also rewrote the record books at Graham Kapowsin High School. Her name will forever be etched in the school's history as she held the records for kills per game, season record kills, and career kills, boasting an astonishing 16.6 kills per game in her senior season.



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE CONTINUED

Following her stellar high school career, Kayla took her talents to the University of Montana, 2010–2013, where she continued to shine. Her outstanding performance earned her First-Team All-Big Sky Conference in 2013 and Second-Team All-Big Sky Conference in 2011. She finished as Montana's All-Time leader in attacks and sixth in all-time kills all while being a Four-Time Academic All-Big Sky selection.



Hall of Fame

Bethels Most Loyal Fans



Photo by Glenn Marzano

Often seen at Bethel's games, two of the Braves' most loyal fans, Ed and Edith Niehl, will be retiring this Spring.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



COREY BELSER (BHS '01)

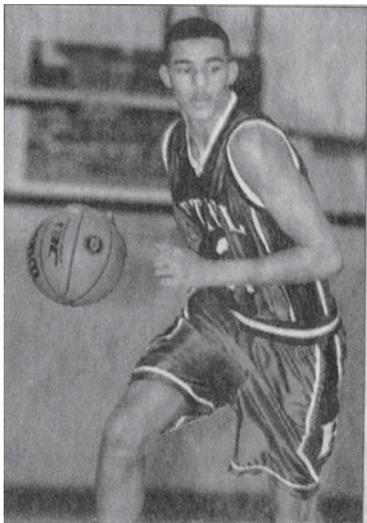
Corey Belser was born on November 22, 1982, in Nurnberg, Germany to a military family stationed there. His family moved to Spanaway when his father was reassigned to Fort Lewis. Corey's career was guided by his intense desire to improve. Throughout his career, he rose to the challenges he faced.

Corey's football career started in the seventh grade. It wasn't until high school as a sophomore, when he played on the JV team that he displayed potential. He was still just not big or strong enough to have much impact at the varsity level.

As a junior Corey gained enough size and strength to start at wide receiver on offense and free safety on defense. The Braves won the league with a 10 and 0 record, which sent them to the State '4A' playoffs for the first time since 1983. A win in the first round sent them to the semi-finals where they lost to eventual state champ Richland.

As a senior Corey was chosen as team captain and started at wide receiver. He led the team in receptions and receiving yardage with 39 catches 779 yards and 9 touchdowns. The Braves posted a regular season record of 10-2 and moved on to the State '4A' State Playoffs. Corey scored a touchdown in each of their first two wins over Spanaway Lake and Kamiak. This sent the Braves to the championship game where they lost to undefeated Pasco 20-3 finishing second in State.

When the season was over, Corey was selected First-Team All-League, First-Team All-Area, First-Team All-State and was nominated as a Wendy's High School Heisman candidate.



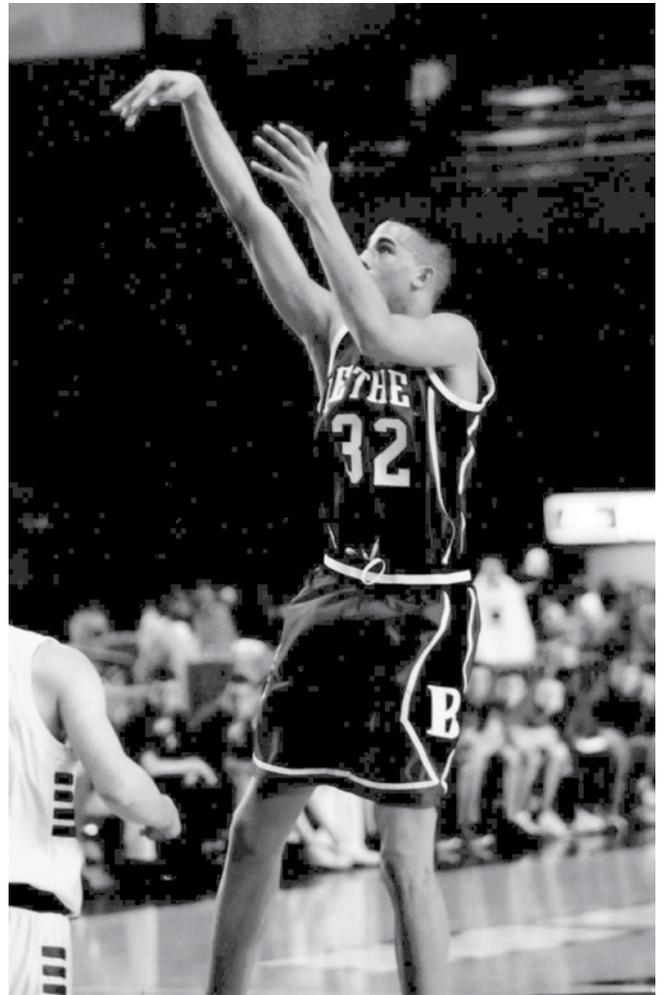
Winter each year brought Corey's real love, basketball. His interest in the sport began at a young age. With his father stationed at Fort Lewis, he had access to the gyms on post. He spent hours there playing basketball. Whether it was just shooting with his brother or playing with the older players, he was constantly playing. His first game in a Bethel High School uniform came when he was in the seventh grade. He constantly tagged along with his older brother, Chris, to summer practices and games. He was always ready to step in when they needed another player. A shortage of players at a TCC summer league game provided him with his first opportunity to play in a real game with the high school team.

As a sophomore he was gangly like so many young players. He split time between the junior varsity and varsity basketball teams. Each night he would play two quarters for the JV team so he was available for two quarters, if needed, on the varsity. There were several games where he scored 20 points in two quarters for the JV team. His skills were there but his size and strength again seemed to limit how much he was able to contribute on the varsity level.

Corey's junior year was highlighted by a trip to the District and State Tournament where they placed second to Foss in both tournaments. The Braves finished the season with a record of 23-6. Corey averaged 11.8 ppg and 7 rpg on a very balanced team that had four players averaging between 10.4 and 13.8 ppg.

As a senior his game exploded. All the hard work on the court and in the weight-room paid off. He emerged as the team leader and was selected as team captain. As a senior Corey averaged 19.4 ppg and 9 rpg. He shot 40% from 3pt and 75% from the free throw line. The team finished first in the league with a record of 22-7 and advanced to the district playoffs. By finishing second at District, they advanced to the State Tournament where they lost to Prairie and then beat Enumclaw before losing to Redmond 42-39 to finish the tournament. Corey, unfortunately, suffered an ankle sprain in the first game that ultimately limited his production and tournament success.

After the State Tournament, the honors poured in: MVP of the league, First-Team All-District, TNT First-Team All-State, TNT All-Area Player of the Year, and a nomination for the McDonald's All-Star



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE CONTINUED

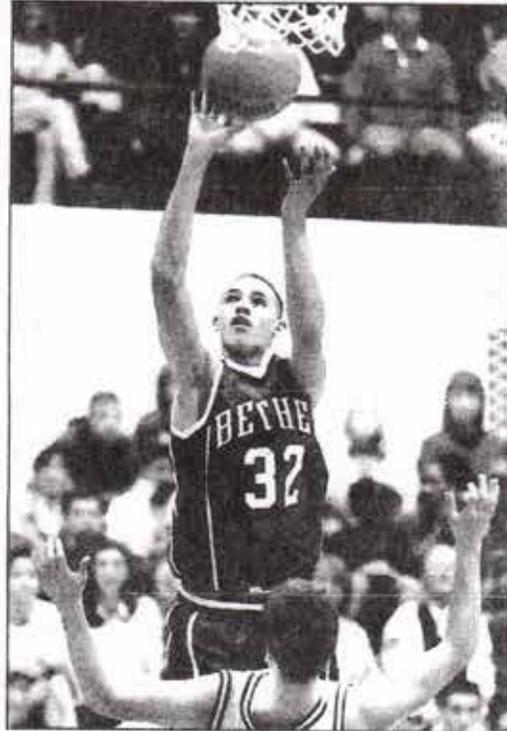
game. The Tacoma Athletic Commission selected Corey Athlete of The Year. This award reflected his talents in both football and basketball along with his GPA.

In the end Corey decided to play basketball at the college level but it was not because of a lack of opportunity in football. He was recruited by schools such as Notre Dame, University of Washington and Stanford. Corey was a very talented football player, but his true love was basketball.

In 2001, Corey 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 by College Insider as the National Defensive Player of the Year. He was also selected as an Arthur Ashe Academic All-American Athlete Award recipient, which is chosen in combination of athletic accomplishments and GPA. Corey was also a two-time Defensive Player of the Year in the West Coast Conference. Beating Gonzaga to win the conference tournament title still sits high on his life time basketball achievements.

After graduating in 2006 with a bachelor's in urban development studies and a master's in leadership, Corey started his quest to make the NBA. After a tryout with Dallas and the LA Clippers, as well as a summer with the Dallas summer league team, he accepted an appealing contract to play in Europe. From 2006–2012, he played professional basketball for several European Teams. In 2012, he was selected Second Team All-League in Greece. As well as taking home a championship in Finland and France along the way.

Later in 2012 Corey moved from the court to the bench, as he took a position with first the Cleveland Cavaliers then the Miami Heat, as an assistant video coach and player development coach in the NBADL. During his time in the NBADL, he won three Conference Championships and one League Championship. In 2018 Corey took his coaching talent overseas, coaching in



China, and Malaysia, as well as the Head Coach of the Maldives men's national team.

Corey currently works at Seattle University serving as their Assistant Director of Equipment and Events, and Color Commentator for the men's basketball games on ESPN+. He also continues to work with the Maldives National Team as an advisor as well as serving as the Executive Director for the DREAM Foundation a non-profit organization he created to provide developmental resources and mentoring to youth in Pierce County.

Corey Belser, through his drive and determination, proved that a skinny kid from Spanaway could have a dream come true. These same traits have continued to help him overcome every challenge in his path toward success in his career. He acknowledges and attributes the support of his teammates, coaches, and family along the way for his ultimate success in athletics.

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HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



MARK BELVIN (BHS '70)

Mark Belvin loved basketball and played every chance he got. In the 1960s the Bethel High School gym was not the most secure building on campus. This allowed the basketball team members who did not play a fall sport to get in the gym most days after school. Each day the game would start as soon as the building cleared out and would last until one of the custodians or a school staff member would throw them out. These daily games were not enough for Mark, as he would then head to

the North Fort Gym on Fort Lewis to find another game.

As a freshman, Mark was the leading scorer for the undefeated Freshman team. A dream emerged from this team. They started to talk about a State Championship. They all believed the dream, but the drive came from Mark.

As fate would have it, the 1967–68 team was not one of the better teams in Bethel history. They were missing some scoring punch. The team's shortcoming opened the door for both Mark and fellow sophomore, Bob Niehl, to gain great experience at the varsity level. Even though Mark was just a sophomore he started every game that season, leading the team in scoring at 15.7 ppg and second in rebounding at eight per game. The team finished the season tied for 8th in a 12-team league, with a league record of 4–7 and overall record of 7–10. His efforts weren't always rewarded with wins but coaches around the league took note and Mark was selected as the only sophomore on the All-League team.

The 1968–69 team made great improvement. As a junior class dominated team, the Braves went 12–5 overall and 9–2 in the Seamount League. The league season ended with Bethel beating Sumner in the final game of the league season to share the Seamount League Championship at 9–2 and a trip to the 'AA' Regional Tournament.

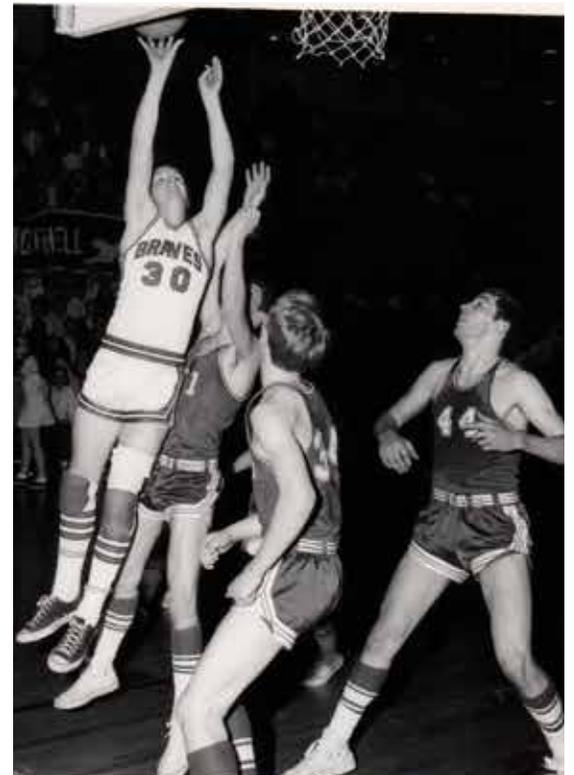
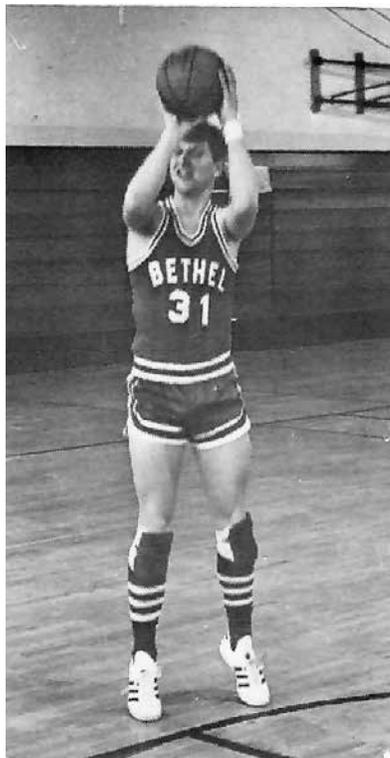
In the 60s, the State Tournament began with four teams going to each of four regional sites. One team then moved on from each site to the Final Four held at UPS. In the first game, Bethel defeated Bothel 54–49. In the Regional Championship game, the Braves lost to Central Kitsap 85–65, ending the Braves quest for the State Championship. Central Kitsap went on to win the State 'AA' Championship game the next weekend. Being so close, yet not quite making the State Finals, just added to the team's obsession of winning a State Championship.

Mark was second on the team in both scoring at 16.8 ppg and rebounding. His performance gained a First-Team All-League award.

The 1969–70 team powered through the season winning their first fifteen games. Only one game finished with less than a 10 pt victory for the Braves. This winning streak kept Bethel rated in the top three for the entire season, with a number of weeks rated #1 in the State.

The final league game was at Sumner. With five minutes left in the final quarter and the Braves up by four, Mark fouled out as he scrambled after a missed free throw. Two minutes later the Spartans tied the game at 55–55 and went on to win the contest 70–63, handing Bethel their first loss of the season and a very bitter second place finish in the Seamount League.

Bethel's next stop was the Regional Tournament at Saint Martin's College. In the first game, the Braves scored a come from behind win in double overtime over Mark Morris 72–67. The Regional Championship game followed the next night against Centralia. The Braves trailed at half but found



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE CONTINUED

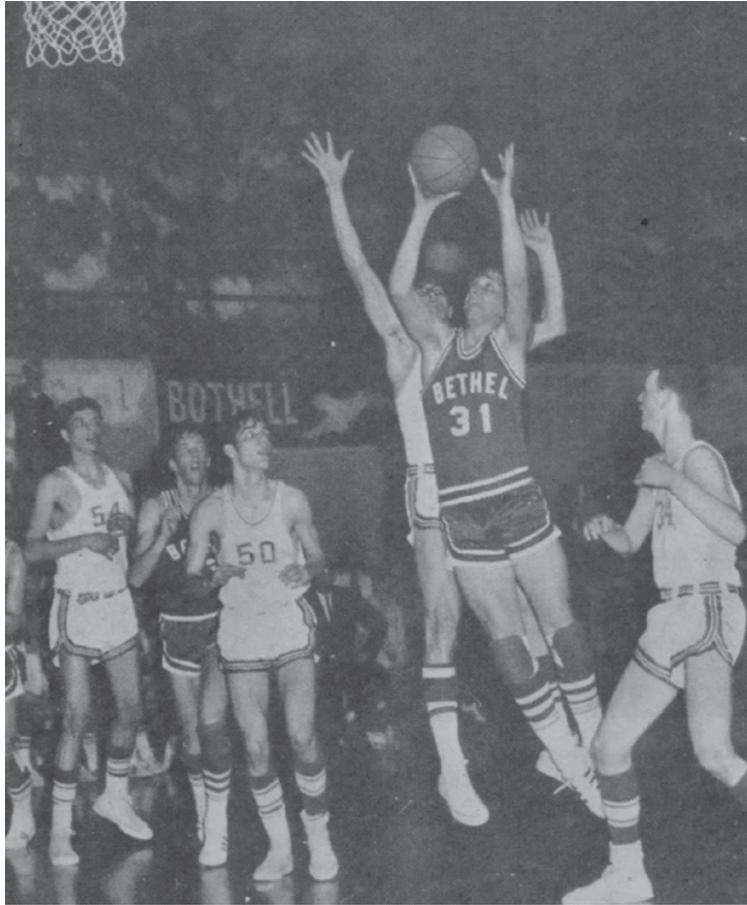
their stride in the second half winning the game 72–56. This win sent Bethel to the Final Four at UPS the next weekend.

Here they were, a team that had dreamt for four years of winning a State Championship and was now on the biggest stage of their lives. On this stage, Mark put together the best two game series of his career. The first game was against Quincy. Quincy made the State Tournament on the strength of their full court press. In the first half the Braves struggled against the press and went to the break trailing 35–33. In the second half the Braves figured out the press and Mark found himself repeatedly with the ball at the top of the key in a 1 on 1 situation. The Braves scored 23 points in the third quarter with scoring 16 of the last 18 points of the quarter. Mark was unstoppable, ending up with 36 points to set a 'AA' State Tournament single game scoring record and a 77–67 Braves win.

The next evening Bethel met Bothel for the State 'AA' Championship. Mark led all scorers with 20 points, as the Braves won their final game of the year and the State 'AA' Basketball Championship. The combined total of 56 points in two games was also a record for the 'AA' State Final Four. What had begun as a dream for a group of young boys four years earlier had turned into a reality. Mark's skills and constant drive to be better was a vital factor as he pushed himself, and teammates, to reach for their goals.

Individual honors were received by several players. Mark, along with teammates Dick Platt and Bob Niehl, were selected to the 'AA' All-Tourney team. Both Belvin and Niehl were First-Team All-League. Mark finished third in the league in scoring and was the team's second leading rebounder. He also set a new school record for points in a career. Maybe his most prized award was the fact his teammate's voted him as 'Most Inspirational.' It was their way of saying thank you for the grit and drive he provided the team over the last six years.

Mark and his teammates proved that dreams could come true. This team had talent, but many teams have talent. They also had an unrelenting fire that drove them to get better every time they walked onto the court. They also had Mark Belvin.



Hall of Fame



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



KIM STONE (CUZNER), (BHS '99)

Kim was born in Springfield, Missouri in 1980. The family moved into the Bethel School District in 1990. In her early years, Kim was not involved in sports. Instead, beginning in grade school, she sang in the school choir which she continued to do through graduation. She loved the choir, but her competitive nature needed more.

In the seventh grade she went out for track and wanted to be a sprinter. She trained for both the 200m and 400m dashes. Over the next two years she decided she did not have the speed to be a competitive sprinter. Gwen Hundley, who

coached the junior high track team and the Bethel High School Girls Cross Country team suggested she try long distance running. Kim joined the Sound Running Club which was coached by Gwens father, Neal Hundley. This gave her a coach and a team to work out with in the off season. Her goal was learning how to run distance.

In her freshman year she went out for the Girl's Cross-Country team. This allowed her to work with Gwen Hundley again, as she was the Bethel High School Girl's Cross Country coach. Although her stride was a bit awkward, her hard work allowed her to place in the first fifteen finishers of the district meet. This qualified her to run in the State '3A' Cross Country Meet. In her first state competition she finished 59th in a field of 144. This stoked her competitive fire. She now knew she had talent, and she was willing to do the hard work it would take to be successful.

Between the end of her freshman year, cross country season and the beginning of her sophomore year, she worked with Neal Hundley to change her stride and to keep her head steady. Her openness to learning from her coaches and wanting to work hard transformed her from an awkward freshman to a smooth and efficient runner as a sophomore.

As a sophomore she burst onto the scene as a force to be reckoned with. Her stride was smooth, and her head was motionless. She had spent the summer logging miles and was ready to compete. She was also learning to be a long-distance runner. After each meet, she would evaluate her performance searching for any minor change she could make before the next race. Such things as pace and where to start her kick to maximize her performance were studied to find a way to cut her time.

At the district meet she finished second to Alicia Savage from Spanaway Lake High School, the other top runner in the league. They had battled back and forth in several meets that season as they traded back and forth who would be the winner. A week later they competed at the State '3A' Championship and Kim won the battle and the State '3A' Championship.

That summer she again competed for Sound Running, logging her miles and competing in various summer races. The highlight of the summer was a trip to Orlando, Florida for the USA Track and Field Youth National Championships. Kim finished first in the 3000m and third in the 1500m.

Kim came into her junior year as the reigning State Champion. Being the State Champion brings a confidence to any athlete, but to Kim it also brought pressure. This pressure did not come from any outside source but from herself. She felt like she had to win every race and it was becoming a heavy weight to carry. The state had just finished an adjustment of the classification for all schools and Bethel moved up from '3A' to '4A.' This meant Kim had a new group of competitors to face. She placed second at Districts and the following week she placed third at the State '4A' Championship Meet. Had she not won the State Championships the year before she would have been overjoyed to finish third, but she had tasted the thrill of winning it all the year before and her third-place finish left a void.

Instead of looking for excuses, she looked for solutions. She revisited her goals and evaluated what had to



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE CONTINUED

be done to improve. She came to two conclusions. First, she needed more miles in her conditioning. From here on out, five days a week, she was up at 5:00am for a workout. This added training was now part of her prep for the year as she continued it up until about two weeks before the state meet. This was in addition to the same afternoon workouts she had always done. Second, she changed her attitude. She wanted to run for fun. Just run to please herself. She wanted to shed the pressure and run every race for the enjoyment she got from competing.

Her cross-country season went as planned as she won both the District Meet and the '4A' Cross Country State Championship. She now had a State Championship at both the '3A' and '4A' level. The extra morning work along with the new relaxed Kim had been the solution and allowed her to reach her goals.

In the spring of her senior year Kim competed for the Bethel Girl's Track and Field team. She qualified in both the 1600m and 3200m for the State '4A' Track and Field Championships where she finished top ten in both races. By the time the year was over Kim owned the school records in both the 1600m and 3200m.

Kim was certainly one of the best distance runners in the history of the Bethel School District, but she was much more than that. As a senior she was a member of the National Honor Society, recipient of a Leadership Award, a Bethel Good Citizen Award winner and a Presidential Service Award. She always found time for her love of music and was a member of the Honor Choir every year of her high school career.

Upon graduation Kim picked Northwest University for her continuing education.

She was contacted by 57 colleges and universities about competing for their schools. Her deep faith drew her to Northwest University. Its smaller size and faith-based curriculum fit her perfectly.

Her success at Northwest University began as a freshman as she won the Individual Championship at the NCCAA (National Christian College Athletic Association) Cross Country Championship, and the team finished second. In the spring of her freshman year, she was picked as the South Division Track Athlete of the Year.

As a sophomore she again won the Individual Cross Country Championship and her team finished fourth at the NCCAA Championship. In the spring she ran on the track team and won both the 1500m and 3000m.

In her junior year she was the NCCAA Athlete of the Year as she won the individual championship and her team won the NCCAA Championship. In NAIA competition her team won the Region 1 meet and finished seventh at the NAIA National Championship.

During track sea-

son she won NAIA All-American Honors in the 4x800m relay at the NAIA Track and Field Championships.

As a senior Kim again won the NCCAA Individual Cross-Country Championship, as her team won the team title. In NAIA competition, Northwest University won both the Region #1 Championship and the NAIA National Championship. Kim was selected as a NAIA All-American.

Kim Stone epitomizes the term Student Athlete by reaching her spiritual, academic, athletic and social accomplishments. Kim used the same strategy in all aspects of her life. When obstacles present themselves rather than look for excuses, she looked for solutions. During her years at Bethel and Northwest University she certainly found a lot of solutions. We are proud to induct her into the Hall of Fame.



Hall of Fame

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



KIM LEIFSON (DICKERSON) (BHS '90)

Kim has been involved in athletics her entire life with the majority of that time being in the Bethel School District. She has been active as a participant, as a coach and as a parent watching her girls play sports both through Bethel Recreation and as members of interscholastic athletic teams in the district.

Kim was born May 26, 1972 in Tacoma to parents Terry and Karen Leifson. The family moved to a home within the Bethel School District prior to Kim beginning kindergarten and she attended school in the district until graduation from Bethel High School in 1990. She currently lives in Graham with her husband Chad and two daughters Kaylie and Karlie who both attend Graham Kapowsin High School.

Kim has always been a supporter of the Bethel Recreation program seeing it as a way for younger kids to be introduced to a variety of sports. She became involved in Bethel Recreation as a participant while in elementary school and played on basketball and softball teams. Later she coached both volleyball and basketball for her daughter's teams through the program and umpired softball for several years while in high school. Kim also served on the Bethel Recreation board between 2018 and 2023.

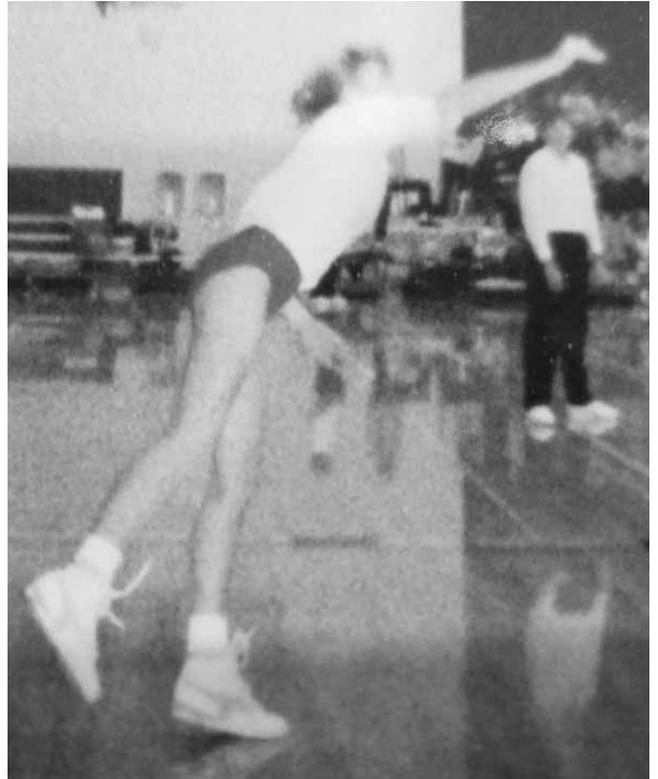
Kim attended Cedarcrest Junior High where she earned nine varsity letters. She earned three varsity letters in gymnastics, two in volleyball, two in basketball and two in softball.

At Bethel High School Kim earned eight varsity letters. In volleyball, she was a swing player her sophomore year as she played both junior varsity and varsity. Her junior and senior years she was an outside hitter on the varsity team and they were state contenders. She was selected to be on the SPSL

First-Team both her junior and senior years and was nominated for the All-State Team as a senior. She also made All-Tournament Teams in two volleyball tournaments as a senior.

As a varsity basketball player, Kim played guard and was selected to the SPSL Second-Team as a sophomore and to the First-Team as both a junior and a senior. As an outfielder on the softball team, she was selected to the SPSL Second-Team as a sophomore and made the First-Team selection in both her junior and senior years.

Upon graduation from Bethel High School, Kim attended Central Washington University where she played volleyball from 1990 to 1992 until she was forced to give it up due to injuries. She also received her teaching degree and has been teaching and coaching in the Bethel School District for the last 24 years. Prior to beginning her teaching career at Frontier Junior High, Kim coached girls' basketball at Cedarcrest Junior High. She has taught and coached at Frontier Junior High/Middle School and Graham Kapowsin High School. She coached a number of sports at Frontier including volleyball, girls' soccer, girls' basketball, cross country and fast-pitch. She also coached volleyball at Graham Kapowsin for two years and is currently the varsity



Lacrosse coach at Graham Kapowsin High. As anyone can readily see, athletics has been and continues to be an integral part of Kim's life.



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Hall of Fame Inductees*

Congratulations

to all the Athletes, Coaches,
Contributors, Family and Teams
for being Inducted into the
2024 Bethel Athletic Hall of Fame

Kellie Ham

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HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

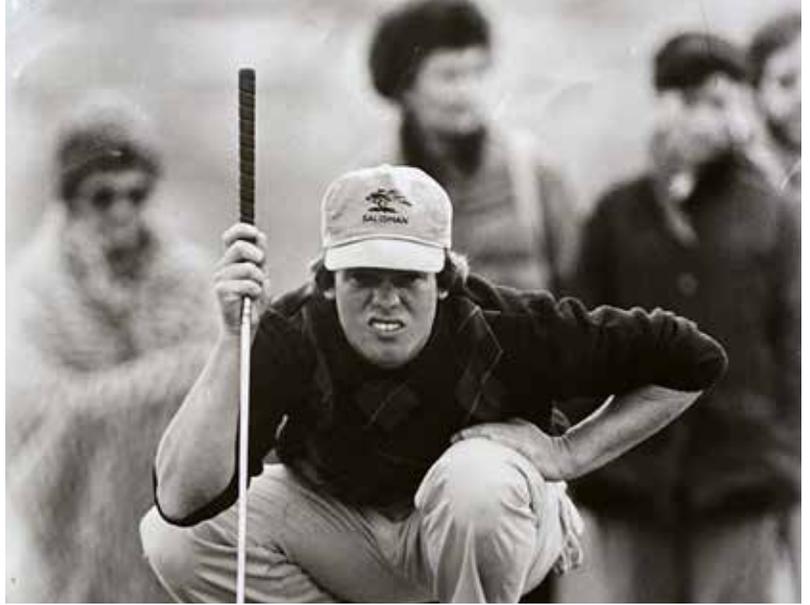


JOHN DOYLE, (BHS '80)

John Doyle is a shining example that hard work and dedication to one's craft can accomplish tremendous things. The countless hours at the golf course during summers and after school led to a life of personal and professional achievement few can match.

John was born July 7, 1961 in Tacoma, Washington to parents Joe and Jackie Doyle. He is the youngest of four, a trio of older sisters supporting and challenging him in countless ways throughout his upbringing. He graduated Bethel High School in 1980 after a decorated career in multiple sports, golf his unquestionable standout arena.

John started playing golf at a young age with his dad. By the time he was in junior high he was playing a lot of junior golf and had many wins under his belt. When John became a fresh-



man at Spanaway Jr. High, golf was not offered. John was then able to turn-out for the high school team, coached by Bob Anderson. John made the varsity squad and played varsity golf for Bethel for four years (1976–1979). Each year the team did better than the previous year. John's best year was his senior year. He averaged a score near even par during his senior campaign.

The team placed second in the league.



Back then the only way to go to state was if your team took first place in league. They missed it by one point. John was given the team medalist award both his junior and senior year. When John graduated, he held four of the six career records at Bethel High School, as well as a school record 23-point showing at Oakbrook Country Club. He also won the Tacoma City Jr. Championship in 1978.

John accepted a golf scholarship to Washington State University where he played all four years (1981–1984). He qualified and played in four Pac-10 championship tournaments and won multiple collegiate tournaments in his career. He studied Criminal Justice and earned his bachelor's degree in Pullman, Washington. He also met his wife, Suzanne, at Washington State University. They married in 1987. Suzanne is a long-respected teacher at Bethel High School having spent more than two decades at the school.

Upon graduating and leaving Pullman, John pursued a career in professional golf. He turned pro in 1985 and played pro-



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE CONTINUED

professionally for five years. He played in the Houston Open and several other tour events. At times, Suzanne would caddy for him on tour. His talent and performances on the golf course landed him sponsorships with revered golf brands like Titleist. John has also won titles in the Tacoma City Championship, as well as six club championships at multiple courses in his career. He stopped playing professionally full-time in 1991 to focus on family and taking over the family business, Doyle Printing. To this day, John and his sister Jan have kept Doyle Printing operational as one of the more respected printing companies in Pierce County.

John continues to enjoy golf and remains a talented competitor at Lake Spanaway Golf Course and in the South Puget Sound area.



Happily married for 36 years, John and Suzanne call Graham, Washington home and have three children, Joseph, Ian and Sam. All three boys attended Bethel High School and WSU like their mom and dad. John welcomed his first grandson into the family in 2023, Liam Doyle.

Bethel Athletic Hall of Fame

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HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



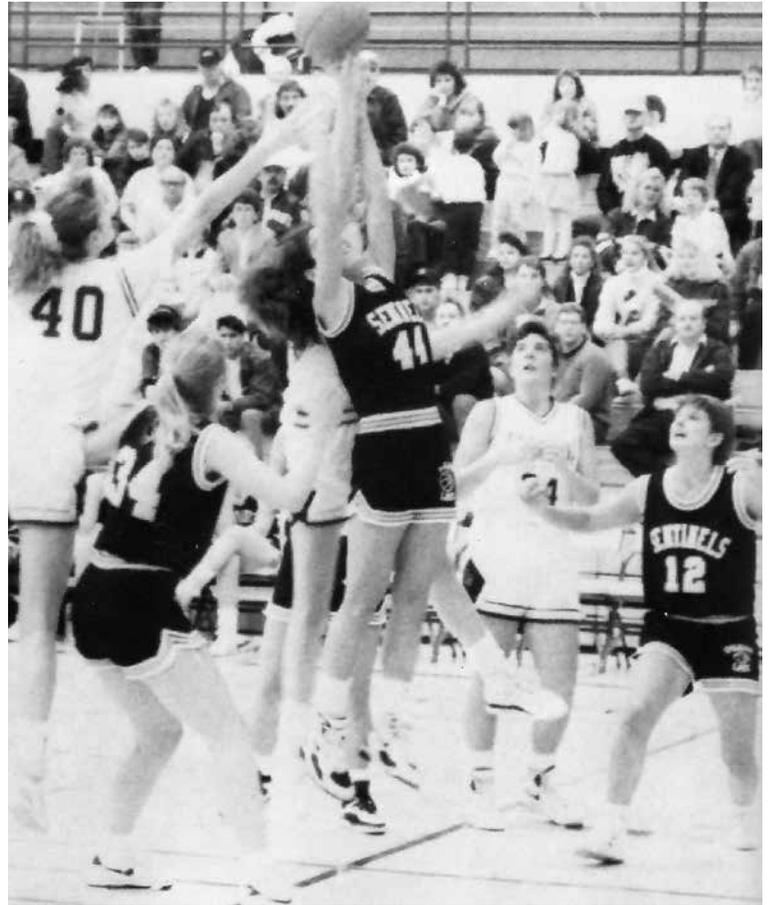
KIM GEORGIA (VARGAS), (SLHS '90)

Kim Geofrgia was born in 1971 to parents Bill and Patricia Georgia. The Georgia family consisted of Kim, Holly, Eric, Eli and Emily. When Kim was ten, the Georgia's moved to Spanaway where she enrolled in Thompson Elementary. Kim was a solid academic student but also was thoroughly immersed in extracurricular activities. As a fourth grader, Kim entered the Bethel School District Elementary track meet and won three blue ribbons. During her fifth-

grade year Kim noticed one of her teachers, Ms. Sammons enjoyed running after school. Kim asked if she could join her, and her father, and soon thereafter Kim was running and eventually training to run the Sound to Narrows. Kim enjoyed all sports, and during her sixth-grade year she asked to join the boys flag football team in the Bethel Recreation program. Permission was granted and Kim became a very good wide receiver and co-team captain. Basketball followed the football program but Thompson did not have enough girls sign up to create a team. Kim and another girl joined a team from Spanaway Elementary coached by Mr. Wally Platt. This relationship with Mr. Platt, along with the continued support from her step parents, and the impression she experienced by attending Bethel High School basketball games with her grandmother, that really left a clear path as to the direction she wanted to pursue approaching junior high.

Kim next attended Spanaway Junior High. Partly due to the encouragement provided by Mr. Tanji and Mr. Best, Kim's competitive spirit and athletic abilities really began to shine. During her freshman year, Kim earned a varsity letter in volleyball, basketball and softball. Because of her leadership and athletic abilities, Kim was voted team captain and MVP of both her volleyball and fast-pitch teams. Not forgetting her academic responsibilities Kim was an Honor Roll student, Academic All American, Vice president of the Honor Society, and won a Presidential Fitness Award. All of these accomplishments helped to lay the foundation for a successful high school career to come.

At Spanaway Lake High School, Kim's athletic abilities were on full display at a high level during each season. Kim earned a combined seven varsity letters in volleyball, basketball and softball. As a sophomore, (87-88) Kim made the varsity volleyball team and became an instant starter. The team was successful and went on to the state tournament in Wenatchee, WA. As a junior, Kim was voted team captain and her team enjoyed another competitive season. Her senior year saw Kim earn her proper recognition. In a match against Lakes High School Kim had a remarkable performance recording 18 kills which earned her Honorable Mention Prep Athlete of the Week. Kim was voted team captain,



September Athlete of the Month, Honorable Mention All South Puget Sound League, and recipient of the team's Coaches Award.

Playing basketball was also a passion of Kim's. During her sophomore year, (87-88) she made the varsity team where she played for Coach Ainslie and assistant coach Corrina Harper DuRocher. The highlight of the season came with a 25-point performance in an upset win against perennial power Curtis High School. Kim was voted Prep Athlete of the Week. Her season concluded with being nominated Honorable Mention All South Puget Sound League. As a junior Kim was voted team captain and joined up with Bethel Hall of Fame inductee, Lisa Graber. The back-court combination of Kim and Lisa earned the team a 9-9 record in a very competitive South Puget Sound League. During the season, Kim led the team in assists and averaged double digits in scoring and was recognized Athlete of the Month. (January) At the season's conclusion, Kim received the Coaches Award and was selected First-Team All SPSL. As a senior Kim reached pinnacle performance level. She finished in the top five in the league for assists and steals, top ten in scoring average, (13 points per game) and

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE CONTINUED

greatly improved her 3-point shooting percentage. Along with Lisa, Kim helped propel Spanaway Lake to a 14–6 record, (8–4 in league) good enough for a third-place league finish. The team earned a district tournament berth but missed advancing to the state tournament by one game. Kim was selected News Tribune Athlete of the Week and culminated her high school career by being voted First-Team All SPSL for the second consecutive year.

In the spring, Kim shifted her attention to playing softball. As a freshman, Kim played shortstop and at the season's conclusion was voted the MVP award. During her sophomore year, Kim made the varsity team and lettered. The following year, Kim decided that it would be in her best interest to curtail her softball pursuits to concentrate on her academics.

Kim took her academics responsibilities seriously. During her high school career, Kim won a scholar athlete award in volleyball and basketball in all three years of her participation. She was a three-year member of the National Honor Society, as well as a participant in numerous A.S.B. clubs. Kim graduated with a 3.6 g.p.a. To sum up her high school career, Kim received special recognition in the form of a Principals Award with the inscription, *“Because of you our school is a better place. Your actions have proven to me that one person can make a difference. I appreciate your positive attitude because the Lake (Spanaway Lake High School) is at its best when you are at your best.”* (J. Naegele)

Today Kim lives locally and has a family consisting of Andrew, Zach, and Mariah.



Hall of Fame

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Congratulates
all of the 2024 inductees into
The Bethel School District
Athletic Hall of Fame

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



DAVE RICH, (BHS '55)

In our offensive scheme he was an end and he could catch the ball. When he did, that's when things got interesting—Dave had blinding speed and I can't remember any defensive back ever catching up to him when he had an open field in front of him.

—Ed Niehl, Bethel High School Football Head Coach (1951–1965)
and a member of The Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame

In 1955, as a sophomore, I turned out for track. Dave was a senior and we competed against one another in the 100 and 220 yard dashes. I was always a couple of steps behind Dave right from the start of the race. He had the ability to come out of the blocks like a rocket and I never could catch up to him.

—Wayne Bush, B.H.S. '57, football and track teammate and a nominee for
The Bethel School District Athletic Hall of Fame

Dave Rich, like many athletes of his day participated in three sports a year. Dave was a two-year letterman in football; a four-year letterman in basketball; and a two year letterman in track. He was outstanding in each.

David Clarence Rich was born on January 10th, 1937 in Tacoma. His parents were Emmitt and Dorothea Rich and they had one other child, Dave's sister, Rebecca. He attended Elk Plain Elementary School through the eighth grade and entered Bethel High School in the Fall of 1951, graduating in the Spring of 1955.

Dave was awarded varsity letters in football after the 1953 and 1954 seasons. He was an end on offense, a halfback (now called a cornerback) and a safety on defense. The 1953 team finished second in the West Central League to Federal Way, losing a 13–6 decision to the Eagles in the final game of the season. The Braves were 6–1–1 in league play and 7–1–1 overall. While Bethel was primarily a running team they did pass on occasion and Dave managed to garner two touchdown passes, one in the Fife game, a 14–0 win and the other in a 46–0 win over Yelm the following week. The 1954 season saw Bethel tie Fife for the league title and the teams only loss was to the Trojans 14–6. In that game the Braves' only score was a 31 yard touchdown pass to Dave from Gene Ketter. Now for some history. Bethel beat their old nemesis Federal Way, 51–0 and in that game Dave caught four touchdown passes, three from Gene Ketter and one from Gene Curbow. This may still be a Bethel school record.



As a freshman in the fall of 1951 Dave, along with fellow freshmen Walt Leigh and Gene Ketter, turned out for basketball. The new coach was Hall of Famer Bob Fincham. All three made the team and each of them received varsity letters and they were the only ones to receive four varsity letters in basketball during the decade of the '50's. In the 1950–51 season the Braves played twelve league games and lost all of them. But the next four years would be much different. Under Coach Fincham's guidance (and hard work) the 1951–52 team finished 5–7 in league play (7–10 overall), and the next year saw the Braves finish with their first winning season at 8–6. The next two years would prove to be indeed, magical. The 1953–54 basketball season furnished Coach Fincham with the luxury of having four of his five starters returning along with a solid bench of sophomores and juniors. The three freshmen who started out on this journey in 1951 were now juniors, and Dave, Walt Leigh and Gene Ketter would be an integral part of two of the greatest teams in the history of Bethel High School.

The 1953–54 team won all 16 of their league games and won the newly formed West Central League. In the league games Dave averaged 8.6 points and was fourth in scoring behind Walt Leigh, Gene Ketter and Felix Brodigan. The 1954–55 team finished 15–1 and repeated as the league champions. Dave finished with a 9.0 per game scoring average, good for third on the team behind—you guessed it—Gene Ketter and Walt Leigh. Over those two seasons the Braves won 31 out of 32 league games which is believed to be unmatched to this day. In his senior year (1954–1955) Dave was team captain, won the team's inspirational award and was also the student body president.

If anyone wants to talk about track stars in Bethel's history, you must include Dave Rich. Bethel did not have a track team until 1954. Consequently, Dave could only be awarded two varsity letters in that sport. Regardless, his statistics speak for themselves. Dave competed in both track and field events, i.e. the 100 and 220 yard dashes, the pole vault and the high



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE CONTINUED

jump. He was also the anchor in the 880-yard relay. Since 1954 was Bethel's first year in league track competition there weren't many meets that they could compete in during the regular season. The team competed in five events including the West Central League Championship Meet. Dave had five first place finishes, one each in the 100-yard dash, the 220-yard dash, the pole vault, the high jump and the 880 yard relay team. Dave's senior year was in 1955 and Bethel unveiled its brand new cinder track—at that time "state of the art." It was also Dave's banner year.

Now competing against a full slate of league opponents as well as non-league teams, Dave went on to record twenty-three first place finishes in eight meets (seven in the 100-yard dash, four in the 220 yard dash, two in the pole vault, six in the high jump and four in the 880 relay). Dave set several records during that season and the list is impressive, to-wit:

1. In the West Central League Championship Meet in Fife, Dave and Fred Ward (Federal Way) ran a dead heat in the 100-yard dash in 10.1 seconds. This was a new field and league record;

2. At the same meet Dave also set a new field and league record in the 220-yard dash—22.8 seconds;

3. In the sub-district meet also at Fife, Dave tied his own record of 10.1 seconds in the 100 yard dash and 22.8 seconds in the 220 yard dash set earlier during the League Championship Meet. Now, in the opinion of many, the best of Dave's accomplishments is as follows.

At the sub-county meet at Bethel just before the league championships Bethel, Peninsula and Eatonville met to determine just who was going to advance further. Dave set the school and Bethel track record in the 100-yard dash in 10.1 seconds. Remember, this was in 1955 and that Bethel track record stood until 1969 when Bellermine's Doug Boughal, in a non-league meet, ran a 9.9 100-yard dash. In 1970 Jody Miller broke Dave's school record with a 10.0 second dash at Spanaway Park in a meet between Bethel, Franklin Pierce and Washington. Finally, Dave qualified and participated in the West Central and Tacoma District Meet in order to determine who would go to the State Meet in Pullman. Dave made it to Pullman and against the best that all of the state high schools had to offer Dave placed second in the 220-yard dash and fourth in the 100 yard dash. He ran a 22.0 time in his heat (prior to the finals) at the state championships which would have been a record.

He was the first Bethel Brave to compete at the state level. Not too bad for a dinky little Class "A" school stuck somewhere between Spanaway and Eatonville and only in the second year of even having a track team!

Dave obtained an athletic scholarship and entered Washington State College in the Fall of 1956 and graduated in the Spring of 1959 with a degree in Physical Education. While at W.S.C. he was awarded four varsity letters in track and competed in the 100, 220 and 440-yard dashes. As a side bar to all of this, Dave often remarked that the 440-yard dash was the most brutal race that he ever had to run. After his graduation Dave taught at Snohomish High School, the Job Corp Center in Astoria, Oregon, and Marysville High School. He continued to be involved in athletics and was an assistant coach in football, track and wrestling and a head coach in wrestling and track. While at Marysville High School he was also a counselor and assistant principal. In 1970 Dave received a Masters Degree in school administration from the University of Washington and was the principal of Orting High School for four years and in 1976 became the principal of Bethel High School, a position he held until his retirement in 1994. His devotion to public service as well as athletics is indeed laudable.

On November 25th, 1970 he married his wife Jan and together they were blessed with five children (two boys and three girls) along with thirteen grandchildren and several great grandchildren. His ninth will arrive in March. They recently celebrated their 53rd anniversary. They currently reside in Lakewood.

Dave Rich was an integral part of two football teams whose combined record was 14-2-1 and won a League Championship; a four year letterman in basketball who was again an integral part of two of the best League Championship teams that Bethel ever put on the court; and was the first true Bethel High School's track star. His induction into The Bethel High School Athletic Hall of Fame has been long overdue.



Bethel Hall of Fame



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



JAMIE LEE WALKER (FULLER), (GKHS '09)

Jamie Lee Walker was born in 1991 to James and Peggy Walker and raised in Graham, Washington. Jamie began playing soccer at the age of four and competed at the premier level throughout her youth and high school career. From an early age, she participated in several sports through the Bethel Recreation program, growing to be a very successful all-around athlete. During that time, she won several championships, as well as in-state and out of state tournaments. She also won several titles including Washington Olympic Development Program Defender of the Year and Northwest Soccer Club Most Valuable

Goalkeeper.

Aside from sports, Jamie was very involved in extra-curricular and academic activities at GKHS. Jamie served as Sophomore Senator from 2006–2007, Secretary for the GKHS Orchestra from 2007–2008, participated in the 2008 State Solo Ensemble competition and was an active member in the Tacoma Youth Symphony playing the viola. Jamie was the Seeds of Compassion Essay Winner in 2007 and completed over 500 hours of community service during her time at GKHS.

Jamie's accolades stem beyond soccer exclusively. Jamie was a multi-letter varsity athlete. As a freshman, while still a student at Frontier Junior High, Jamie competed and attained Most Valuable Player of the Year for the 2006 GKHS Cross Country team—she also earned 6th place in the WA state Cross Country meet. In soccer, Jamie achieved Most Valuable Defensive player of the year during both the Fall 2006 and 2007 soccer seasons and captained the team to a state playoff campaign. In lacrosse, Jamie earned the Most Valuable Player award in 2009 for the GKHS lacrosse team all the while leading the team in goals and serving as captain from 2007–2009. She received recognition from the South Puget Sound League (4A) and was awarded Second-Team in 2006 and SPSL First-Team in 2007 and 2008. She also played on GK's basketball team her senior year so she

could spend time with her friends and stay in shape during the off-season between her main high school sports. Most notably, Jamie achieved the Female Athlete of the Year award at Graham-Kapowsin High School in both 2007 and 2009.

Jamie continued to grow as an athlete at Eastern Washington University (D1), where she attained a full-ride scholarship and

played in the goalkeeper position—this was a big step for GKHS at this time, as Jamie was the first female at GK to sign a full-ride athletic scholarship at the Division 1 level. Jamie received attention in the Big Sky All-Conference, starting as a freshman. During her time at Eastern, she earned Player of the Month, and was Player of the Week on four occasions. She received Big Sky Honorable Mention in 2009 and Second Team in 2010 and 2011. For EWU, Jamie earned the Most Improved Player award in 2010, the Silver Eagle Award in 2010, the Defensive Most Valuable Player award in 2011. She also earned the highest honor, the Golden Eagle Award (MVP), in 2012. Following her time at EWU, Jamie participated in the inaugural Peak Performance Women's Soccer Combine among an audience of professional coaches and scouts. Jamie earned a spot on the Seattle Sounders FC team in 2012 and traveled



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE CONTINUED

nationwide to play other teams in the USL W-League, all the while working for Bethel School District as a para-educator. Jamie then took her talents internationally and played soccer in Australia for six months. Her team, Annerley FC, won the Women's City League Cup and Women's City League Grand Final in 2013. Following her time down under, Jamie played for the Carolina Elite Cobras (USL W-League) in South Carolina, before going for another international adventure, playing for FC Neunkirch in Switzerland, in the top Swiss league in women's soccer. With her international player visa, Jamie played with FC Neunkirch for four seasons and retired from professional play on a high a note, following FC Neunkirch's 2nd place finish in the Swiss Women's World Cup in 2016.

Following her retirement from professional soccer, Jamie returned to the United States and married Andrew Fuller (Bellarmine Alum '09) in 2016. Since then, Jamie has earned her Master of Science degree in Special Education with an emphasis in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). She currently works full-time at a non-profit organization as a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and Area Operations Manager for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Western North Dakota region. She also works part-time at a for-profit as a BCBA, where she works with children with Autism. Jamie is also an entrepreneur, working as a 1099 contractor for her own company as a BCBA. Jamie and Andrew are excited to grow their family, as they are expecting their first child in February 2024! Jamie holds fond memories of her time in Bethel School District athletics and looks forward to the future as she begins this next chapter in her life.



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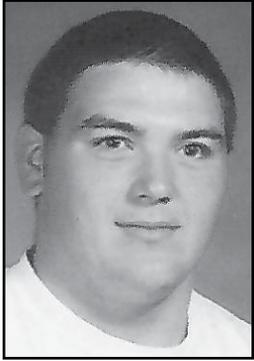
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HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



TRAVIS BROCK (BHS '98)

"I believe that Travis's greatest strength is his personal character! He has wonderful character: polite, kind, humble,

giving, focused, committed and honest. After 27 years of educating and leading high school students, I would rank Travis in the Top Ten on any list of Students with Outstanding Character."

—Terry Pullen, Principal 1998

Travis excelled as a school leader and in athletics. He earned nine varsity letters in football, wrestling and track. He was also a state champion at the FFA Logging Rodeo.

Coached by Bill Wernofofsky, John Ainslie, Larry Gliege and Mark Torgeson, Travis was a lineman on the football team, Travis brought fear to the opposing team. At 6'3", 275 lbs., he was physically imposing and his agility made him hard to manage. He was the player opposing coaches had to figure out how to stop, all failed.

During his senior year, 1998, Travis was elected captain of his team and led

them to the state playoffs. He also earned South Puget Sound First-Team honors, All-Area Team honors and named First-Team All-State. He was also awarded the Tacoma News Tribune Athlete of the Year and the Tacoma Athletic Commission Athlete of the Year. Travis accepted a scholarship to play football at Central Washington State University where he was a four-year letterman and was inducted into their Athletic Hall of Fame.

Travis also excelled in wrestling, coached by Scott Wheeler and Russ Netter. During his junior year he compiled a 34–4 record placing fifth in state. His senior year he dominated with a 35–1 record placing first in state. His only loss was in regionals to a wrestler who Travis beat in the state finals for the championship. Travis represented the U.S.A. in Norway winning his weight class in international competition.





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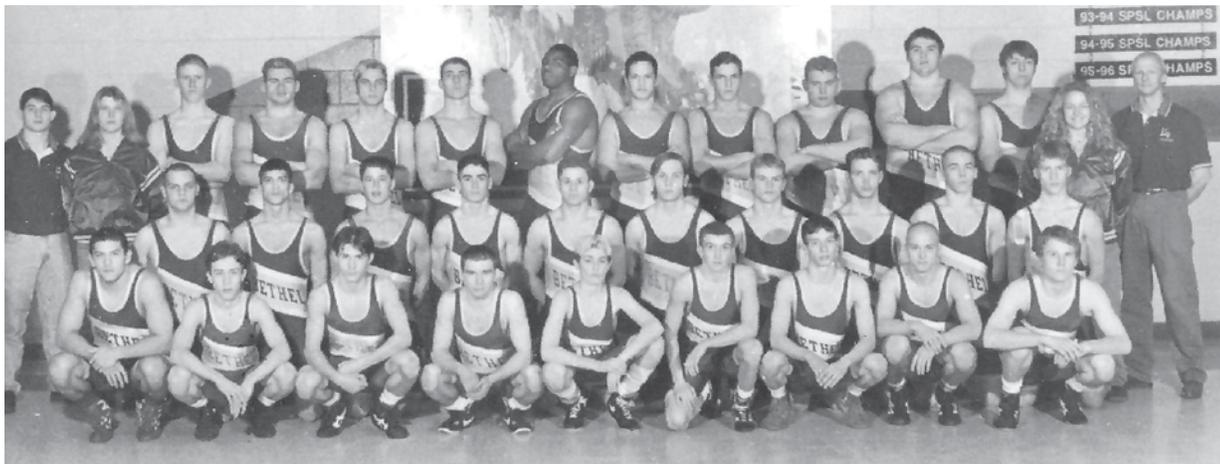
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE CONTINUED

Travis was not done competing. He qualified for state in the discus. He was coached by Steve Cameron and as a junior he placed 5th in state his senior year.

Travis did it all! He was also a member of Bethel's FFA where he competed in the ten event state logging rodeo held at the Puyallup fairgrounds and coached by Tom Argetes. Yes, Travis was named state champion.



Travis received a B.A. degree from C.W.S.U. in Law and Justice and his M.A. from Concordia University in Human Services. He owns and operates Shield of Armor in Lacey, Washington and is married to his wife Lyndsey. They are parents to Lexie, Liam, Norah and Evangeline.



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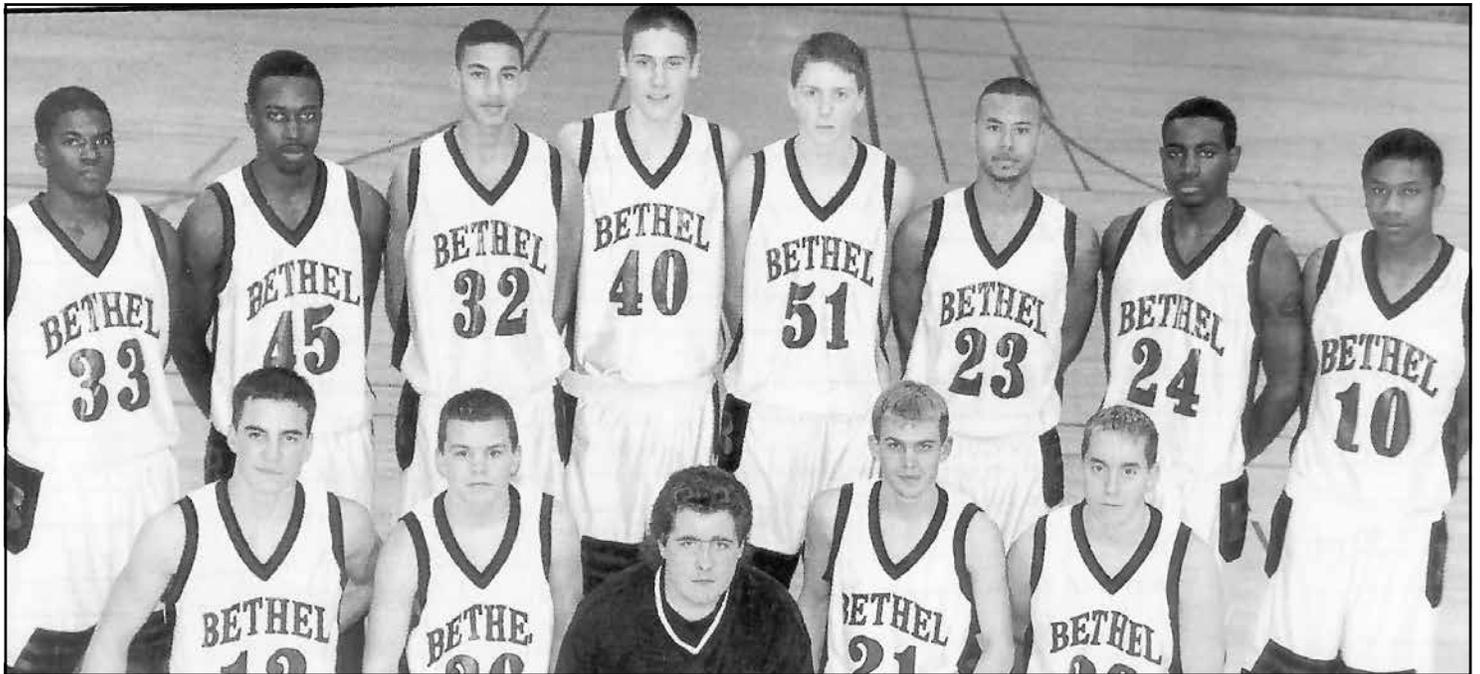
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HALL OF FAME TEAM INDUCTEE



2000 Bethel High School Boys Basketball Team— Coach Pat Mullen, Assistant Coaches Russ Leslie, Ken Iverson, Managers Denise Clements, Heather Coatney, Lacey Lindsay, the Earl Brothers. Roster: Virgil Matthews, Ron Hobbs, Jimmy Ball, Josh Allar, Dwayne Barnes, Jerrell Everson, Nate Gall, Corey Belser, Kevin Hill, Kaelen Moore, Duane Hill and Nick Moore.

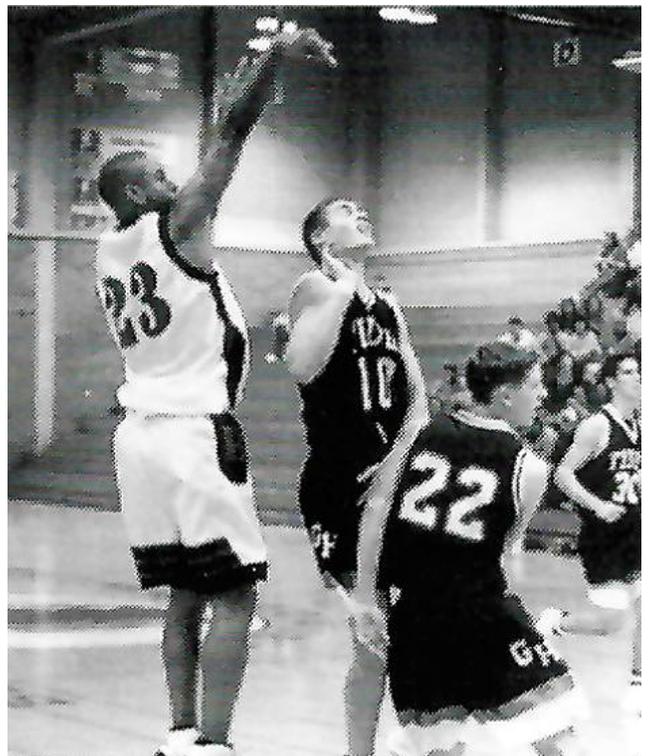
2000 BOYS BETHEL HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM — STATE RUNNER-UP

In anyone's book, the 1999–2000 Bethel High School basketball team stands as a testament to the power of teamwork, leadership, and spirit. Their journey to the state runner-up title in 2000 is a story of remarkable achievement.

Guided by a cohort of exceptional seniors, including Jerrel Everson, Kevin Hill, Ronald Hobbs, Jimmy Ball, Josh Allar, and Kalen Moore, the team combined a blend of skill, experience, and leadership that secured their success. These seniors set a standard of excellence for their younger teammates that would inspire future Bethel teams.

Team unity and camaraderie set the 2000 Bethel basketball squad apart. Games were not just a display of skill but a celebration of the bond shared among the players. Their synergy on the court was readily apparent, resulting in a brand of basketball that was as effective as it was enjoyable to watch. This camaraderie fostered an environment of trust, cooperation, and resilience, essential ingredients in their journey to the state finals.

As intimated earlier, the 2000 team's influence extended far beyond their achievements and triumphs; it left an indelible mark on the Bethel High School



“Our 2000 team epitomized peaking at the perfect moment. We showcased our best performance when it counted most. As everyone found their roles, embraced ball sharing, and dedicated themselves to collective, physical team defense, we became formidable opponents. Coach Mullen’s dedication during fall practice laid the groundwork, pushing us tirelessly and holding us to his exacting standards. This combination of physical and mental fortitude formed the bedrock of our SPSL Championship triumph and our run in the state playoff campaign.”

—Senior Shooting Guard Jimmy Ball

HALL OF FAME TEAM INDUCTEE CONTINUED



"The word 'preparation' perfectly encapsulates that season for us. Jerrell and I learned from the previous season's losses, knowing exactly what we wanted to achieve. We utilized every resource available to us, seeking improvement and setting examples for our teammates. Through leading by example, we established a culture of dedication to skill development. Playing alongside Hammond and Coach Iverson, we absorbed invaluable tips and techniques, refining our skills. Having come up through the Bethel system, I shared a longstanding bond with teammates like Ron Hobbs, and others I'd known since elementary school. Jerrell and I formed a connection in junior high that translated seamlessly onto the court, where our familiarity with each other's tendencies became second nature, contributing significantly to our success."

—Senior Power Forward Kevin Hill

basketball program Their dedication to excellence set a new standard for future teams, shaping the program's culture for years to come. Led by the



forementioned seniors, they instilled values of discipline, dedication, and perseverance, ensuring that the memory of their team would endure long after their final game. Despite facing formidable opponents and often being cast as underdogs, they embraced the challenge with grit and camaraderie, earning them the moniker "Ruff Ryders."

For the coaching staff, guiding the 2000 Bethel basketball team was not just a duty but a privilege. The players' infectious enthusiasm, passion for the game, and receptiveness to coaching made every practice and game a joy. Their willingness to learn and grow, coupled with their natural talent, transformed the coaching journey into a memorable and rewarding one, leaving an indelible

mark on the hearts of the coaching staff.

Reflecting on our journey as a team, I'm filled with immense pride and gratitude for the opportunity to be a part of something truly special. The seniors set the tone for us, demonstrating what it means to compete with heart, determination, and a never-say-die attitude. Their leadership inspired us all to rise to the occasion, pushing ourselves beyond our limits and forging bonds that will last a lifetime."

—Nick Moore, Sophomore



As we honor the achievements of the 2000 Bethel High School basketball team, we pay tribute not only to their on-court success but also to the enduring dedication to teamwork, leadership, and unity that defined their journey. The 2000 State Runner-up Basketball Team holds a cherished place in the halls of Bethel High, inspiring generations of players to strive for greatness both on and off the court.

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BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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The History of Bethel School District

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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 this 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 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

continued on next page

HISTORY OF BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTINUED

homes by violent wind storms. Soon there were 125 students at the crowded school, and the students were housed in a third room made by converting parts of a play shed into a classroom. Following this, part of the students were moved into a deserted gas station.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The school was first held for the youngsters in the baggage room of the

depot until a school could be built. The children were later transported to an old building near Electron for their schooling.

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

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

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

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

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

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

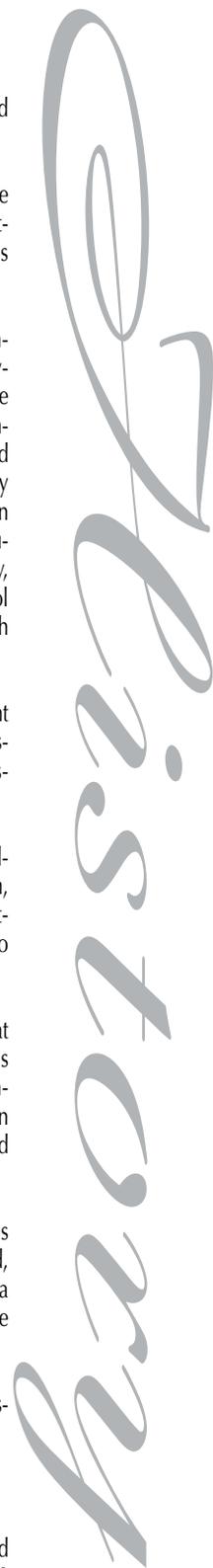
Recent additions to the Kapowsin Grade School have made it the present size school, housing over 450 students.

Roy Founded in 1884

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

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

continued on next page



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:

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



Roy and Kapowsin Unite

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

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

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

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

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

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HISTORY OF BETHEL SCHOOL DISTRICT CONTINUED

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 Dis-

trict #324.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

After its annexation in 1963 to the Bethel District, the Lacamas School changed from 1st to 8th grade school to a 1st to 6th grade

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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 graduat-

ing class from Spanaway Lake came in June 1983.

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

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

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

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

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

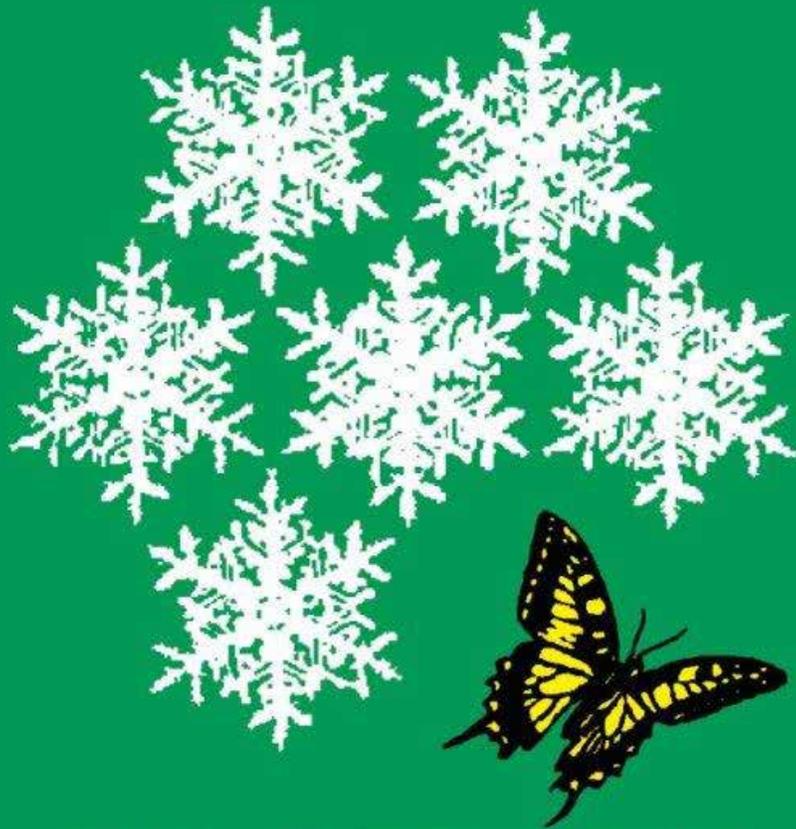
Go Sentinels!!



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

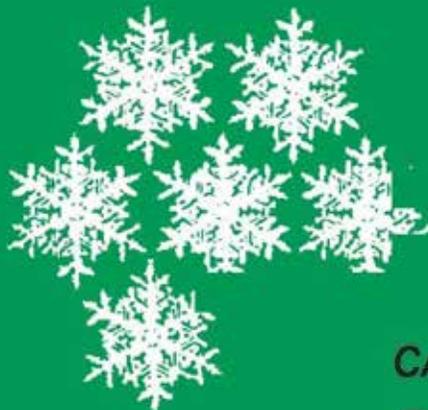
Graham-Kapowsin opened its doors with many strong programs with state appearances in year one from the girl's swim team, the wrestling team and boys track. In year two, GK crowned their first individual state champions in wrestling (Brad Sweet) and boys track (Relay Team—Ryan Barrett, Ryan Ancheta, Matt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

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