



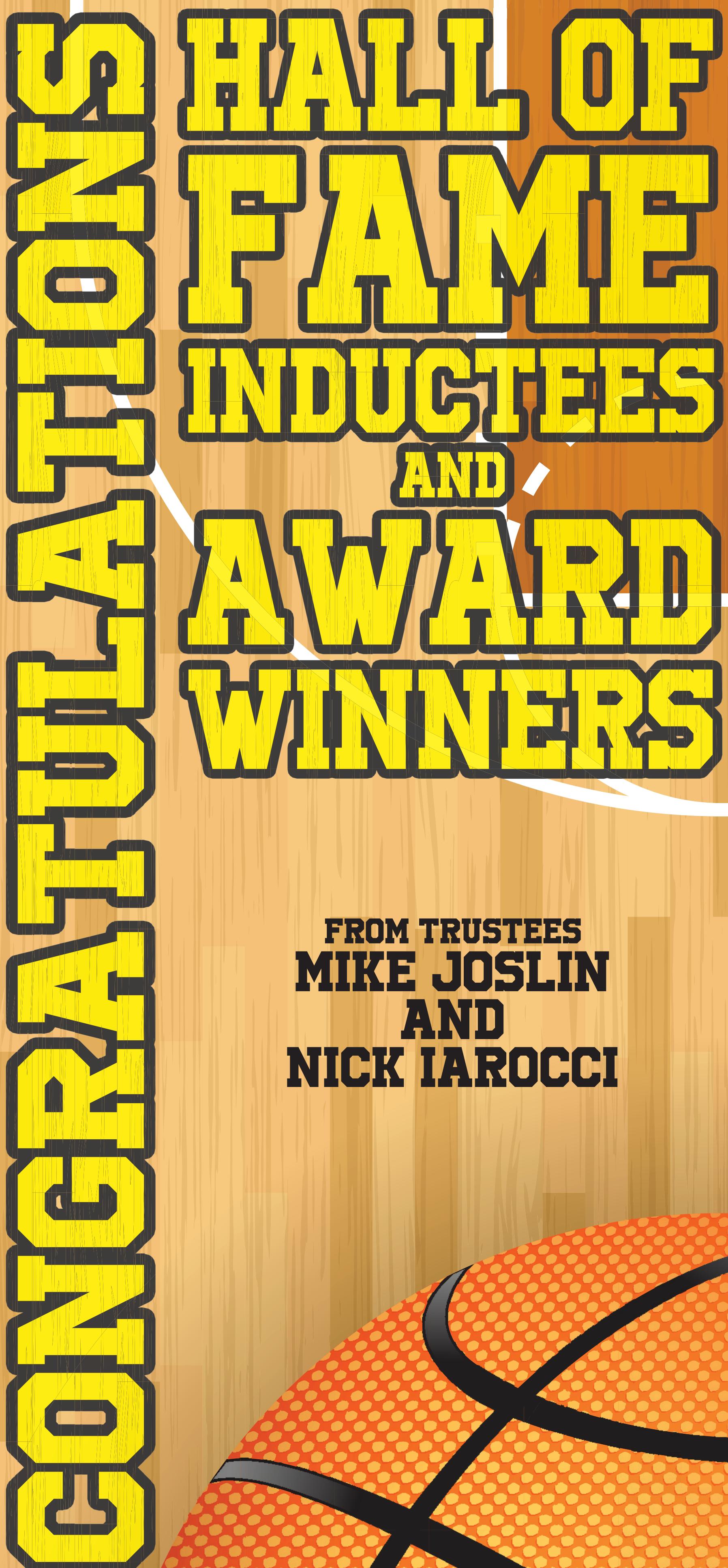
ASHTABULA COUNTY BASKETBALL FOUNDATION

AWARDS BANQUET AND HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

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April 13th
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Vanyo elevated his game as a senior at Harbor

BY CHRIS LARICK
SPORTS@STARBEACON.COM

Many athletes from Harbor and Ashtabula High Schools were overjoyed when the two schools merged.

Suddenly, the new high school in Ashtabula, Lakeside High School, was a force to be contended with in most sports.

So you might think that players who barely missed the consolidation, such as 1999 Harbor graduate Kenny Vanyo, would be disappointed that they didn't make it to the merge.

Think again. "We didn't like Ashtabula," Vanyo said succinctly when asked about that very topic recently.

Of course, Vanyo, who will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame Sunday at the New Leaf Event Center in Conneaut, had very little to be displeased about since the Mariner basketball and football teams he starred on were always very competitive.

Vanyo got started in basketball when one of his neighbors, Tony Presciano, who also played football with Vanyo, introduced him to the game.

"I was just hanging out with [the neighborhood kids], and I found I loved it," Vanyo said.

He played travel basketball as a youngster, then with the school team when he reached junior high.

Pat Colucci, a former Harbor basketball player himself, coached the seventh graders and John Candela the eighth graders. The Mariners won the league championships as eighth graders.

When he was a freshman at Harbor under coach Dan Craft, another ABCF Hall of Famer, Vanyo stood about 6'0 or 6'1" and played center.

"He was one of the best coaches I ever had," Vanyo



Submitted Photo

Harbor graduate Ken Vanyo, front left, will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame during its ceremony Sunday at the New Leaf Center in Conneaut. Pictured with Vanyo, are Angela Vanyo in the front row; in the back, from left, are Kenny, Payton, Parker, Hannah (step-daughter), Cody (Hailey's husband) and Hailey (step-daughter).

said of Craft. "He was real strict. If you didn't give 100%, you didn't play the way he related to you in practice and didn't do your grades, he was on you. He'd find the right

way to get to you as a coach." As a sophomore, Vanyo scored eight to 10 points and added 10 or 12 rebounds per game.

When Vanyo was a junior,

Ryan Turner, who had shown great potential as a junior himself, was killed in a car accident in the summer,

SEE VANYO, B6

ACBF Player of the Year candidates

Conneaut

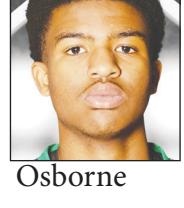


Hamm



Fix

Lakeside



Osborne



Anderson

Edgewood



Thorr



Kray

Pymatuning Valley



Britton



Painter

Geneva



Barbo



Buck

Saint John



Narducci



Holler

Grand Valley



Carter Turk



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ACBF Class of 2025

3. Ken Vanyo	Harbor
3. Tim Scanlon	Ashtabula
4. Tim Humphrey	Conneaut
4. Doug Hladek	Ashtabula
Contributor	
5. Rashad Wells	Ashtabula
5. Pat Kilker	Saint John
6. Dan Chandler	Edgewood
6. Rick Malizia	Geneva
7. Lizzie Ziemski	Jefferson
7. Geneva 1972 boys team	
8. John Zupancic	Grand Valley
8. John Lipani	Pymatuning Valley
9. Angie Pashley Dick	PV

Ashtabula grad Scanlon showed persistence with athletics

BY CHRIS LARICK
SPORTS@STARBEACON.COM

Tim Scanlon was not an immediate success playing golf. The first round he played he shot well over 100.

But Scanlon spent time tinkering with his grip in his spare time. The next time he went out, he shot in the 60s and recorded a rare double eagle.

So it was for Scanlon, the 1962 Ashtabula High School graduate who will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation's Hall of Fame Sunday at the New Leaf Event Center in Conneaut.

When Scanlon was confronted with a challenge, he attacked it. Early in his basketball career, he saw the importance of dribbling and could be found dribbling a ball all over the city of Ashtabula.

Perhaps persistence was a necessity for Scanlon. He grew in a financially-challenged family on 32nd Street in Ashtabula and fought for everything in his life.

He began playing bas

'Frank Farelo was a 'gift' in my life. He left an incredible mark on my life, not only as a teacher and coach but for his selflessness as a mentor and trusted confidant.'

Tim Scanlon
Ashtabula graduate

ketball competitively in the eighth grade

"The program was more like a gym class pick-up game," Scanlon said. "I learned the fundamentals of the game by playing with older and more talented players at the YMCA."

By the time he was a senior, he was 6'0 tall. Naturally, he played guard.

Scanlon earned All-Ashtabula County and all-conference honors as a

SEE SCANLON, B8

Conneaut's Humphrey adds to family name with Hall of Fame legacies

BY CHRIS LARICK
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Ashtabula County high school athletics has boasted several families with Hall of Fame legacies. Among them are the Hitchcocks from Pymatuning Valley, the Hensons from Grand Valley and the DeJesus from Geneva.

This year, the elevation of one of its members to Hall of Fame status, cements the Humphrey name in that list.

Scott Humphrey, a 1970 Conneaut graduate, scored 1,049 career points and was inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame in 2009. Scott's father, Stanley, coached basketball and baseball at Rowe High School in Conneaut before it merged with the other high school in town.

"If there was a baseball Hall of Fame, he would be in it," Tim, another of his sons, said of his father. "He coached two teams from a very small school to the high school state finals."

Tim will be inducted into the ACBF Hall of Fame during its induction ceremony Sunday at the New Leaf Event Center in Conneaut.

A 1973 graduate of Conneaut, Tim Humphrey was a key player on the Spartans team that finished second in the Northeastern Conference to Ashtabula his senior year.

"We went on to play Barberston in the district," Humphrey

'I'm sure I learned most of the fundamentals from my father and brother.'

Tim Humphrey
Conneaut graduate

said. "They were ranked No. 1 in the state [large school AAA, there were only three divisions at the time]. We only lost by 20 points."

That year was a memorable one for the Spartans.

Ashtabula had come into Conneaut undefeated during the regular season until the Spartans avenged that loss.

Pymatuning Valley was also unbeaten when the Spartans invaded the Lakers' court and knocked them from the ranks of the undefeated.

Then, they put Ashtabula out of the tournament with only its second loss of the season (both of them to Conneaut).

Considering his family, with a father who coached both basketball and baseball and a brother who starred in the game, it's no surprise that Humphrey started the game very young, playing in the backyard or by throwing balls into the laundry basket in the winter.

He played baseball all through grade school and junior high, then made the varsity team as a sophomore.

After that, Humphrey stopped

that game to concentrate on basketball.

"I joined the track team my senior year after basketball season just for fun," he said.

With that limited experience, he still managed to place fourth in the county in the long jump and ran in a sprint relay.

Concerning basketball, Humphrey was already playing organized ball in grade school.

"The coach was the principal and I think he just got stuck with job because no one else was available," he said. "I'm sure I learned most of the fundamentals from my father and brother."

Humphrey played shooting guard at 6' at Conneaut.

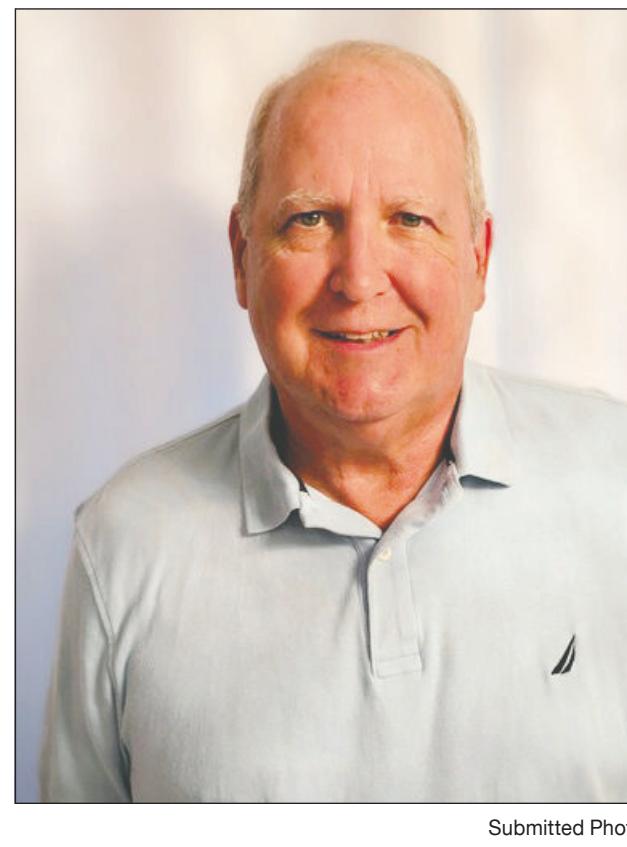
As a junior, his teammates consisted of fellow guard Tim Richards, and forwards Rob Ferl, who are both members of the Hall of Fame, and Tim Church.

In Humphrey's senior year, guards Jon Stolson and Denny Sabo joined him, along with forward Tim Wheeler and center Ron Grubke.

At the time, the Spartans were coached by future Hall of Famer Paul Freeman.

"He was excellent," Humphrey said. "What I remember most about coach Freeman was his intensity and serious attitude, which translated to a team with discipline [relative to 17- and 18-year-old males], good fundamentals and strong teamwork."

"We worked hard and I realized goofing around wasn't as



Submitted Photo

Conneaut graduate Tim Humphrey will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame during its ceremony Sunday at the New Leaf Event Center in Conneaut.

much fun and rewarding as playing hard and winning."

As a senior, Humphrey averaged about 17.5 points per game and was first-team all county and All-Northeastern Conference.

At the time, some teams didn't keep track of rebounds, assists or steals. Newspaper

accounts referred to Humphrey's "all-around" game.

"These, and defense, were just as, if not more, important to our success than scoring," Humphrey said.

"I don't remember being recruited by anyone, but when I expressed an interest in Case Western Reserve

University, they were very interested in me joining the basketball team and I did go there," he said.

Humphrey played on the CWRU JV team as a freshman and the varsity squad as a sophomore.

"I retired 'professionally' after that year," he quips.

Humphrey graduated in 1977 with a bachelor of science in civil engineering.

"I worked for BP Chemicals in Lima, Ohio out of college as a project engineer in the agricultural chemicals business," he said.

After about 10 years, he moved to Columbus, and started working in commercial construction as a project manager.

Humphrey held that position for about 35 years for several different construction companies.

"I'm on my second marriage [Vicky] and we had our 18th anniversary in June of 2024," he said. The couple met through friends at the Columbus Ski Club.

Humphrey has no children from that marriage, but has a son and daughter from his first one.

Adam, 40, is married to Katherine.

They have a son, Ethan, who is 2 1/2. Tim's daughter, Amy, 38, is a doctor of psychology.

"The only sport I play these days is golf," Humphrey said. "Vicky and I like to travel and I also like to fish."

Hladek influenced, was influenced by county events, people

BY CHRIS LARICK
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Doug Hladek may have never compared life to a box of chocolates, but in many respects he's about as close to Forest Gump as Ashtabula County can offer.

That's not a comment on his intelligence or running ability, but rather to the events he's witnessed and people he's dealt with in his many years in Ashtabula County sports.

Yes, the canvas Hladek painted on was smaller than Gump's. He never witnessed Watergate or the Vietnam War and never met Richard Nixon or John Lennon.

But throughout his career, Hladek, who will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation's Hall of Fame as a contributor Sunday, influenced and was influenced by the county events and people of his time.

Hladek began playing basketball in a familiar fashion.

"I got introduced to the game when I was about eight or nine years old when my two older brothers hung a homemade backboard on the garage and we started to shoot in the driveway, dribbling around puddles and shoveling snow it off in the winter, turning on one dim light to play at night," he said.

"You have to understand, I have eight brothers and three sisters, so we could always find a game among all those brothers or neighbors in Plymouth."

Hladek started playing basketball at Plymouth

'I have eight brothers and three sisters, so we could always find a game among all those brothers or neighbors in Plymouth.'

Doug Hladek
Contributor

Elementary School in the fifth and sixth grades in the Rotary Elementary Basketball League.

"A guy brings his State Road team over, a guy by the name of Ange Candela," Hladek said. "He was the principal at State Road at the time. Those kids were pretty well-conditioned and they ran roughshod over us."

"Another team that I remember coming was West Elementary and they had a future ACBF Hall of Famer named Jim Hood. I got to be on the undefeated West Jr. High team with him in the seventh grade. I was about 23rd string and he was one of the giants."

When Hladek reached Ashtabula High School, where he graduated in 1971, he met two more Hall of Fame legends — coach Gene Gephart and Bob Walters, in addition to players who would become Hall of Famers like Dan Craft, Eugene Miller and Hood.

"I didn't even try out until I was a senior," Hladek said. "By that time, it's kind of late to make the team."



Submitted Photo

Doug Hladek, fourth from left, is pictured with his family. He will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame during its ceremony Sunday at the New Leaf Event Center in Conneaut.

Hladek played college ball at Kent State Ashtabula, coached at that time by Hall of Famer Ed Armstrong.

He played there two years with players like the Landphair brothers (Al and Charlie) from Geneva, Bill Kaydo and Randy Pawlowski from Ashtabula; John Colson and Dave Simpson from Conneaut; Ned Roach from Pymatuning Valley and Billy Johnston and John Wheelock from Saint John.

At that time, Kent State's branch campuses had teams that competed against each other in basketball, baseball, tennis and cross country, with Don Gill acting as athletic director.

There he met, courted and later married Pat Thorpe, the cutest cheerleader at Kent State-Ashtabula.

After Hladek finished his two years at the Ashtabula branch, he transferred to Kent State's main campus. During that time, Hladek also got his basketball official's certificate. He recently received his 50-year pin as an official.

Later, when he began teaching, Hladek returned to KSU Ashtabula as a coach and coached outstanding players, including Hall of Famers Wil-

lie Osborne, Eugene Miller, Tim Bowler, and John Lipani. Other players included John Bowler, Phil Sholtis, Dave McCoy, Dale Keep and Tom Juhola. Bob Dulak was athletic director at that time.

After earning his teaching degree at Kent, Hladek returned to Ashtabula to teach and coach.

He was Harbor freshman and eighth grade basketball coach under Hall of Famer Andy Isco and junior high girls volleyball assistant for Hall of Famer Frank Roskovich while Dick Pavolino served as AD.

In 1987, he became assistant principal at Columbus Junior High School, then principal at State Road and McKinsey Elementary schools and served as assistant superintendent to Dr. William Licate from 2002-2006.

In 2006, Hladek took a job as superintendent at Jefferson Area Local Schools and served there for seven years before retiring.

For many years, he moved through the ranks of basketball officiating, making it as far as the varsity district state tournament games.

During his time as an official, Hladek worked with such notables as Tony Tulino, Tom

Carr, Joe Rich, Mike Hassett, Don Condon, Jerry Raffaud, Ed Bento, Dave Sheldon, Al Runyan, Becky Olmstead, John Powers, Mike Czup, Ray Heidecker, Tom Cooney, Rawley Huskey, Gene Mileusnick, and Wilson Santiago.

"It was exciting to be out there in some of those bigger games and to officiate district games at Lakeland," Hladek said.

As a referee, Hladek has worked with the most well-known athletic directors in county history, including Hall of Famers Andy Garcia, Ed Batanian, Adam Holman, Bob Hitchcock, Jon Hall, Sr., and Al Goodwin. Other ADs included Larry Carlson, Sue Herpy, Pavolino, Steve Loci, and Bill Fails.

He continued to play recreational basketball with a group which included Hall of Famers like Jim Chiacciero, Andy Juhola, Dave Golen, Dana Schulte, Augie Pugliese and Tim Tallbacka.

Hladek's time as a recreational basketball player came to a sad and abrupt end in June, 2021, when he suffered a stroke.

He initially thought he was too healthy to suffer complications from it for very long.

"I thought I'd be back in no time," Hladek said.

The stroke has had its physical effects, but he remains sharp mentally. Andy Holoman, another official, had a stroke not long after Hladek, and Hladek feels a kinship with him.

Since the stroke, Hladek has been unable to drive. His kids think Pat has become, among so many other things, his chauffeur, though other friends, like Andy Juhola and John Higgins also gladly help him get around.

"Pat deserves all the credit," Hladek said. "We've been together since college and got married in 1977. She was an Edgewood girl who was cheerleading at Kent State and has stayed with me through all this."

Doug and Pat have two children.

Kelly graduated from Ashtabula in 1999 and played basketball for Roby Potts, and Ryan graduated from Lakeside in 2003 and played basketball for Jim Hood.

Kelly and her husband, Mike, have two sons who play basketball and soccer, Logan, 11 and Colin, 9. Ryan and his wife, Melissa, have three daughters, Reggie, 6, Gordie, Kate, 4, and Nellie, 3.

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Ashtabula graduate Wells still utilizes fundamentals from basketball today

BY CHRIS LARICK
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In 1996, the Ashtabula Panthers were cruising along, possibly headed for a championship season, when the bottom fell out of the season.

"We didn't finish my senior year well due to having to forfeit 11 games due to [using] a five-year student," Rashad Wells, the best player on that team, said. "Our record before the forfeit was 12-3."

Wells will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame Sunday at the New Leaf Event Center, one of 12 athletes, men and women, to be so honored.

Wells got an early start in the game of basketball when his father, Larry Wells Sr., began playing the game in his back yard with his young son, who was 4 years old at the time.

"I was in the first grade when I started playing organized basketball at the YMCA," Wells said. "My father and my uncle, Rev. Willie Scruggs, were my first coaches. As a youth, they taught me effort, discipline

and patience will take you far in life and on the court."

"The fundamentals I was taught as a child I still use. Truly phenomenal fundamentals were instilled in me."

Wells became so good so fast he started on the varsity as a freshman at Ashtabula, from which he graduated in 1996.

As he advanced through high school, Wells' teammates varied as some graduated and others replaced them.

But among those teammates, at times, were James Hood, Lydell Hunt, Shawnell Bradley, Maurice Carlton, Randy Vencill and Rico Baker.

Wells was coached by head coach Bob Walters and assistant Jim Hood for the Panthers. Both are members of the ACBF Hall of Fame.

"Mr. Bob Walters and Mr. Jim Hood showed me that it takes team to be successful on the court," Wells said. "What you do in practice makes the games easy. They always said how you practice is how you play."

He played football for an undefeated Panther team as a freshman, but concentrated on basketball thereafter.

'Both my mother and father get all of the credit for my success in basketball, and the man I've grown to be.'

Rashad Wells
Ashtabula graduate

"After that season, I knew my passion was basketball," Wells said.

At 6'2, he played guard and forward. He always tried to play his best against cross-town rival Harbor.

"I always loved playing Harbor High School," Wells said. "They always brought the best out of me. The rivalry Harbor vs. Bula was always a packed gym."

"Jamal Harris was a monster on the basketball court. As a freshman, he told me you can straight play ball. I miss him dearly."

Wells was voted Star Beacon Ashtabula County Player of the Year as a senior, in addition to being named third-team on the All-Ohio squad.

He was recruited by schools like Iowa and Providence, but decided to enter the work force instead.

"I have been working in a management position for the last 19 years at TS Tech USA, a supplier to Honda Plant in Marysville, Ohio," Wells said.

"My family is my world. I met my beautiful wife at the Ashtabula Mall. We have been married for 18 years. I am a proud father of four sons: Rashad, Ravon, Braylin and Bryce, and one daughter, Londyn. I am Papa to a granddaughter and grandson. My twin brothers, Roo and Ron, are also like sons to me."

Rashad Sr. keeps active playing basketball in adult men's leagues. He also bowls in a league.

"I love working with the youth, coaching football and basketball," Wells said. "I was blessed to have two very supportive parents who encouraged me to follow my dreams."

"Both my mother and father get all of the credit for my success in basketball, and the man I've grown to be."



Submitted Photo

Ashtabula graduate Rashad Wells will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame during its ceremony Sunday at The New Leaf Event Center in Conneaut.

Saint John's Kilker's basketball memories began early

BY CHRIS LARICK
SPORTS@STARBEACON.COM

Pat Kilker's treasured memories of his basketball days are many, taking him back to the time in grade school when he was first introduced to the game.

Kilker, a 1970 Saint John High School graduate who will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation's Hall of Fame Sunday, began playing the game of basketball in 1961 as a fourth grader at St. Joseph grade school in Ashtabula.

His first coach was Dick Diggs, a recent graduate of Ashtabula High School who generously volunteered his time.

"Dick really knew his basketball. He was very capable and patiently introduced us to the fundamentals of the game," Kilker said. "Dick would always try to get all of us team members off the bench and out on the court in each game, including us rookies, even if only in the fourth quarter."

"During one of our Rotary League games played later in that season at Chestnut Elementary School, I somehow managed to grab a rebound under our basket and then tossed the ball back up toward the rim. To this day, I can still picture in my mind the ball I had shot as it was going up, over, and down through the hoop, as if in slow motion. I couldn't believe it. It was the first time I had ever made it into the scorebook. In that moment, at the age of 9, I was seriously and forever hooked on the game of basketball."

The next year, Kilker became a starter on St. Joseph's Rotary League team for the first time. Phil Slavic was the volunteer coach of the team that year (1962-63).

He taught his charges the 'run and gun' style of basketball.

St. Joseph dominated the Rotary League that year, going undefeated to win the League title.

"Tom Brace was the dominant rebounder on our team who most often was throwing the ball down to our cherry-picking teammate, Rob Bouffard," Kilker said. "In addition to Bouffard, teammates Mike Wisnayai and John Wheelock [a member of the ACBF Hall of Fame] were our team's prolific scorers."

St. Joseph won all its regular season games that year by scores of 67-8, 65-15, 68-27, 42-7, 49-17 and 72-24.

In the end of the regular-season tournament, they went on to beat State Road 26-16 and Bunker Hill 33-10.

The following year, Mike

'During one of our Rotary League games played later that season at Chestnut Elementary School, I somehow managed to grab a rebound under our basket and then tossed the ball back up toward the rim.'

Pat Kilker
Saint John graduate

Castrilla became his coach and St. Joseph once again took the Rotary League title. But this time, they had a more traditional style of offense.

Kilker spent his junior high years on St. Joseph's basketball team in the now-defunct Parochial League.

"As in my years playing in the Rotary League, I was also a starter in the Parochial League in seventh and eighth grade, winning the league championship in both seasons," he said.

During Kilker's seventh-grade season, St. Joseph was coached by Denny DeGennaro (a member of the Ashtabula County Touchdown Club Hall of Fame), who was known in Kilker's Depot neighborhood as 'Dege.'

He heavily emphasized physical conditioning, mostly by running the halls of the school in preparation for playing the game. As Kilker said, "Dege had a great impact on me, encouraging me to always work hard and give it my best effort."

During eighth grade at St. Joseph, the head coach was Kenny Petrochello, who also emphasized physical conditioning, especially running, as the primary key to winning basketball games.

As Kilker said, "Between coach DeGennaro's and coach Petrochello's focus on running, I also became prepared to later run the mile on St. John's track team, finishing second at the NEC meet as early as my sophomore year when I made it through the district meet at Chagrin Falls and then on to the regional meet at Baldwin Wallace College."

So in Kilker's last four basketball seasons, from grades 5 through 8, he started on St. Joseph's teams which all won championships.

In 1966, he began attending Saint John High School where he became a starter on the freshman team that was coached by Paul Kopko, a teacher at the school.

"It was Mr. Kopko who provided me with that final ingredient I had been lacking for playing hoops at the high school level — the jump shot," Kilker said. "What a difference having the jump shot made in my game."

Kirtland in his sophomore and junior years.

The first victory was on the road in 1968 over a Kirtland team that was 10-2 at the time and ranked 24th in the Ohio State UPI Class A ratings.

The second, and bigger, win over Kirtland was in 1969 in Saint John's gym. Prior to the start of the game, Kirtland was 15-0.

In Kilker's senior year, the Heralds notched a win over Jefferson at the Falcons' gym, where Kilker scored 30 points for the first time.

In the fourth quarter, he made all seven jump shots, which he took from beyond 20-feet out (now 3-point range). As the Star Beacon sportswriter described it, "Kilker hit like crazy."

In the 1970 Fairport Sectional Tournament during his senior year, Kilker led the Heralds to a 73-62 win over Grand Valley with 32 points.

According to the Star Beacon sportswriter covering the game, "Kilker was deadly from anywhere on the floor, but especially with his jump shots."

During his senior year at Saint John, Kilker averaged 16 points per game for all games played, and had among the top five highest per game scoring averages in Ashtabula County.

As team captain, he scored in double figures against every high school team within the county, as well as every high school team Saint John played from outside the county.

Kilker was named All-City, All-NEC, and all-county in basketball for the 1969-70 season.

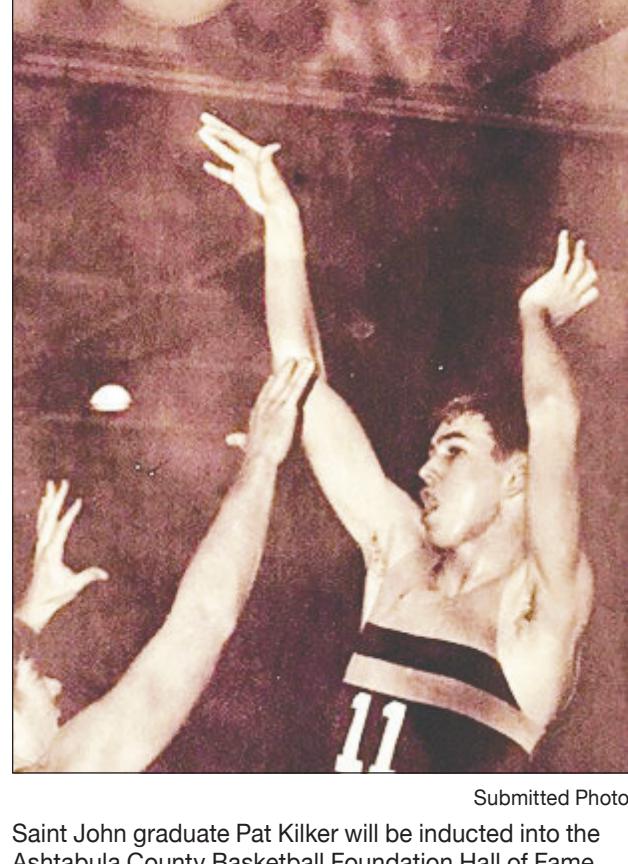
He was also selected to the all-tournament team following games played in the 1970 sectionals at Fairport, scoring 25 points in one game and 32 in the other.

Kilker was named to the All-Diocese of Youngstown team for the 1969-70 season, and recipient of the Saint John High School Most Valuable Basketball Player, Best Shooter, and Best All-Around Athlete (basketball/football/track) awards during his senior year.

With his days at Saint John coming to an end, Kilker was recruited to play basketball by several colleges throughout Ohio, but did not explore those opportunities.

He chose to enter St. Gregory Seminary in Cincinnati. Kilker later transferred to John Carroll University in the second semester of his junior year where he tried out for, and was chosen to be a member of, the university's basketball team.

After graduating from John Carroll University in 1974 with a bachelor of arts in classics degree, he attended night school while working. He



Submitted Photo

Saint John graduate Pat Kilker will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame during its ceremony Sunday at New Leaf Event Center in Conneaut.

eventually earned a masters of business administration degree from Youngstown State University, as well as a Juris Doctor degree from Duquesne University School of Law.

During his professional career, Kilker held various positions involving industrial sales and management, ultimately practicing law. He was promoted to the status of Equity Partner in the law firm of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, from which he has since retired.

Even after he had graduated from law school and began working as a lawyer, Kilker missed playing basketball so much that he somehow found the time to continue playing the game as a member of the team sponsored by his law firm.

"I was the player-coach of the team, and we went undefeated on the way to winning the Allegheny County Bar Association League title," Kilker said.

Kilker has been a supporter of Saint John School, including its athletic programs, and is active in the school's alumni organizations.

He is a member of the Saint John School Hall of Fame and a supporter of the Warren Andrews Memorial Scholarship, as well as the Chuck Benedict Memorial Scholarship.

Kilker summarized his life like this: "While I was growing up in Ashtabula, my father

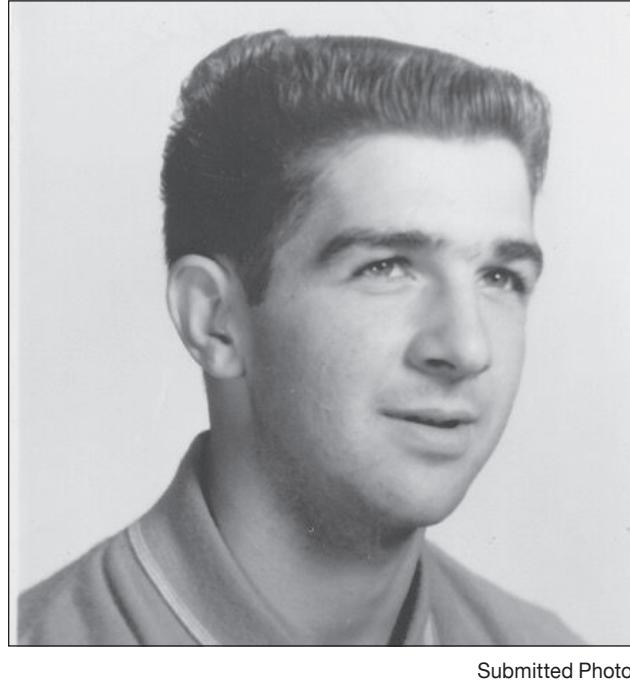
first and foremost prioritized my academic studies at St. Joseph and St. John schools.

"Even more so did my mother, who taught in several of the area's Catholic grade schools. Right behind my father's emphasis on academics, however, was his encouragement of my participation in sports with the life's lessons it was sure to provide, though, at that time, my mother did not share the same perspective. In fact, my father had himself participated in sports, playing college football at John Carroll University before heading off to World War II.

"It took my mother much longer to appreciate the valuable impression that sports had upon me, though she always came to my games. Years after my basketball playing days were over, however, Mom told me that, when it came to the value and benefits of playing sports, 'Your father was right,' and so Dad was, especially when it came to playing hoops."

"Encouraged by my father, and blessed with the lessons learned from all my coaches, I thoroughly enjoyed my years playing sports, especially basketball. Years later, I shared that same message with my daughter, Kathryn, who took it to heart in playing sports while in school, then moving on to build a successful life and career in Manhattan."

Edgewood graduate Chandler to take his place in ACBF posthumously



Submitted Photo

Dan Chandler will be posthumously inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame during its ceremony Sunday at the New Leaf Event Center in Conneaut.

BY CHRIS LARICK
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Like any other endeavor, an enterprise that deals with (somewhat) dated information is certain to have some information slip through the cracks.

So it is for the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation in its effort to find and honor the best male and female basketball players in county history for induction into our Hall of Fame.

One thing that can be said in our defense, though, is that when we make a mistake we'll do our best to correct those errors.

So when we found out we had done an injustice (or, more accurately, an omission because of lack of information), we do our best to correct it.

In this case, we discovered that Dan Chandler, Edgewood Class of 1963, deserved ACBF Hall of Fame installation.

That will be done Sunday at the New Leaf Event Center in Conneaut.

Charles Daniel Chandler, always called "Dan" or "Danny", was born in 1945 in Painesville.

He began playing basketball at home in Pierpont, shooting in the barn.

"There was no organized basketball for young people in Pierpont at the time," his brother, Gary, the source of all the information below, said.

"Dan played basketball in ninth grade at Pierpont," Gary Chandler said. "He played one game JV and then got moved up to varsity in ninth grade."

A four-year starter as a 5'1" guard, Chandler was known for his shooting.

He was coached by Jim Degasburn in the ninth grade and Dick Bruckman his sophomore and junior years. Dave Bogart was the center on those teams.

'He played one game JV and then got moved up to varsity in ninth grade.'

Gary Chandler
Brother of Edgewood graduate Dan Chandler, who is a 2025 ACBF Hall of Fame inductee

In his senior year, Bob Larkin took over as head basketball coach.

As a senior, in basketball, Chandler was selected first-team All-Ashtabula County, All-NEC, and All-City Series.

He also played baseball his senior year under coach Walter Higgins.

Chandler was recruited by Marietta College, but chose to start his job at Rockwell Brake Plant in Ashtabula.

He worked there from 1963 to 1986 when Rockwell moved to Rock Hill, South Carolina.

After Rockwell closed, Dan, and his wife, Barb, opened an antique shop in

Ashtabula called "Back In Time Antiques."

Later, they traveled all over the country doing antique shows until his health got bad.

Chandler married the love of his life, Barbara Ann Spicer March 7, 1986.

The Chandlers had five children — Danny Lee, Gregory, Melissa, Tracy and Lloyd. They have four grandchildren.

After high school, Chandler enjoyed playing basketball in the Rockwell Industrial League, golf and going to casinos.

Chandler died April 28, 2021.

Geneva graduate Malizia to join another county athletics Hall of Fame

BY CHRIS LARICK
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In Ashtabula County it's common for athletes to play three varsity sports — one for each season — each year.

Few have done that as well as Geneva High School's Rick Malizia, though.

Malizia was voted Star Beacon Player of the Year in three sports — football, basketball and baseball — in his senior year of 1981.

He will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame Sunday at the New Leaf Event Center in Conneaut. Malizia is already a member of the Ashtabula County Touchdown Club Hall of Fame.

He began playing organized basketball in the seventh grade, coached by Alex Stuetzer in the seventh grade; Bob Herpy, eighth grade and Jeff Pizon, freshman.

"They all were great leaders and coaches," Malizia said. "They were able to teach how the game of basketball should be played."

At Geneva, Malizia played for Hall of Fame coach Bill Koval.

"I have been fortunate to have many coaches on all levels," Malizia said. "I put Bill Koval on the very top. He taught me so many things that I continue to use every day in my life."

Every summer, Malizia attended Koval's Bronko basketball camp. He became only the second freshman Koval ever used on the varsity team (Jay McHugh was the first).

In that freshman year, Malizia was the fifth or sixth man, a defensive specialist.

"I played with Jay McHugh against the very best all-time," he said. "It was tough playing against those guys, but my athletic ability let me give Jay a good go. Meanwhile, I was getting better and better."

'We were always out in the yard playing ball, tag or kickball. That's how you grew up.'

Rick Malizia
Geneva graduate

Malizia teamed with Ralph DeJesus at the guard positions in his junior and senior seasons.

At that time, the Eagles had some big men in Tim Leary (6'4"), Rob Merrell (6'4") and sophomore Tim Brueggeman (6'6").

Those three didn't shoot a lot, but rebounded and got the ball to Malizia and DeJesus.

Malizia scored about 24 points per game as a senior and DeJesus added 20. At the end of the season, Malizia was named Star Beacon All-Ashtabula County Player of the Year, just as he had done in football and was about to do in baseball.

Malizia has only nice things to say about Koval.

"Bill Koval taught me the life lessons I learned at Geneva High School," Malizia said. "He had a strong personality. I was going to do it his way or sit the bench. That was exactly what I needed at the time to prepare me for my college career."

"He was a man when he was a coach out there. He didn't kid around with the players. I learned a lot from Bill Koval."

In one of Koval's drills that Malizia recalls, he would have Pizon, a 6'5" assistant, stand on a chair with a broom. Malizia would have to shoot over him 50 times a night.

At the end of Malizia's senior year, he played in the Star Beacon Senior Classic with Koval as his coach.

Malizia had been in baseball practice for three weeks and was rusty. He scored only a few points in the first half.

"At the half, Bill Koval said, 'When are you going to start to play?' I scored 20 points in the second half and made the

winning shot," Malizia said.

Because of his defensive skills, Malizia was always assigned the opponent's best scorer and was always the 'one' when Koval used a box-and-one against the other team.

Conneaut's Brad Gee, one of the best players in the league, scored just four against him.

"If I was going to shoot a lot, I ought to play defense, too," Malizia said. "It wasn't something that I'd think about, I'd just go in and play."

Malizia played point guard at an even 6'.

"My teammates were the class of 1979, '80, '81, '82, '83," he said. "There are many outstanding players. I believe three of them are already in the Hall of Fame."

"Of my three years in high school basketball, the teams I participated on won the championship my 10th grade year and my 12th grade year. Our fans were always there to do in baseball."

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"He was a man when he was a coach out there. He didn't kid around

Jefferson graduate Ziemski 'quickly fell in love with the game'

BY CHRIS LARICK
SPORTS@STARBEACON.COM

Most athletes will tell you that the greatest victories are the ones few people expect.

So it is with Jefferson's Lizzy Ziemski, the Class of 2010.

"During the 2009-2010 season, we beat the Geneva Eagles on their home court," Ziemski, who will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation's Hall of Fame Sunday at the New Leaf Event Center, said. "We had played against the same group of girls for seven years and finally beat them on their home turf. Nothing felt better than seeing the look on their faces after we beat them."

Ziemski began playing basketball when her best friend's father started a basketball team when she and her classmates were in the fifth grade.

"I initially joined to be with my friends, then quickly fell in love with the game," she said.

She and her friends were initially coached by Scott Landis.

"I was fortunate to learn the skills of the game through my coach and other parents," Ziemski said. "Now-retired Jefferson School teacher Mary Ford taught me how to do my first layup."

When she reached Jefferson High School, Hall of Famer Rod Holmes was Ziemski's

'Now-retired Jefferson School teacher Mary Ford taught me how to do my first layup.'

Lizzie Ziemski
Jefferson graduate

head coach.

"The Legend," she said. "He was a man of few words, but one of the most knowledgeable coaches of the game. He was famous for his three things he told his players each game and his red sweater."

At 5'8", Ziemski played the 'three' guard for the Falcons.

"I was fortunate to have a large graduating class," she said. "My teammates included Jillian Kern, Shelly Ford, Joslin Landis, Hannah Francis, Gina Chiachiero, Courtney Stowe, Clara Hawkins, and Kaylee Cellitti."

"As young kids, we constantly rotated, but as we reached the end of our high school career Shelly and Jill were in the post, Joslin-Hannah-Gina were rotating point guards and shooting guards."

"Courtney and Kaylee were our long-range shooters and Clara also played in the post. I hit my growth spurt between ages 10-15. I played with the above group of girls for upwards of seven years."



Submitted Photo

Jefferson graduate Lizzie Ziemski will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame during its ceremony Sunday at the New Leaf Event Center in Conneaut.

In addition to playing basketball, Ziemski was a fine volleyball and track athlete. She started at the varsity level for three years in volleyball.

In track, Ziemski became the state runner-up in girls high jump in both 2009 and 2010.

Ziemski raked in many ath-

letic awards during her high school career.

In basketball, she was all-county, all-conference, all-district and all-Ohio multiple years.

In volleyball, she was all-county, All-NEC and all-district as a senior.

Ziemski also won district

high jump and long jump championships in 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Most Division III colleges in Ohio and Pennsylvania recruited her for basketball.

She finally chose Baldwin Wallace College in Berea.

"I played basketball for two seasons prior to tearing my

ACL," Ziemski said. "It ultimately ended my career at the time, but I don't regret my experiences. I later got my degree in business from Kent State University."

Ziemski has spent most of her time since working for Pepsico, 10 years in July.

"I'm currently a Regional Transportation Manager in Mountain Top, Pa.," she said. "I am responsible for distributing Gatorade and Quaker products across the country for nearly \$80,000,000 in annual carrier spend."

Ziemski will soon move, however, since she has received a promotion that will take her to Pepsico Headquarters in Plano, Texas.

"I will be relocating to Texas in the next month or two," Ziemski said. "My new role will be leading a team of supervisors for Pepsi Driver efficiency projects while managing owned/rented assets, driver behaviors, driver technology, and driver hiring."

She has been dating her girlfriend for about a year.

"We have no human children, but a yellow lab named Stormy and a Boston Terrier named Kona," Ziemski said. "I've recently started running."

"I ran my first half-marathon in Scranton, Pa. last year. Outside of running, I love to cook, go to concerts, and play video games with my friends in the US and Canada."

Team play lifted Eagles 1972 boys basketball squad to regional tournament

BY CHRIS LARICK
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It isn't too much of a stretch to say the seeds of the 1972 Geneva Eagles' boys basketball team were sown the previous year.

Although the Eagles finished second to the Ashtabula Panthers in the 1970-71 season and were only 13-8 overall, they proved they could play with the big boys in the season-ending tournament, upsetting Cleveland Heights, 44-41 behind fourth-year head coach Bill Koval, to earn a trip to districts.

Ernie Pasqualone, who was selected to the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame in 2010, was an important cog on that team although only a sophomore at the time.

Seniors Mike Blauman and Norm Urcheck, both now members of the ACBF Hall of Fame, were better-known members of that squad which helped pave the way for Geneva's regional-qualifying team in 1972.

"Ernie and Don Craine were both up with us as sophomores," Koval, who died in 2015, told Karl Pearson in 2010. "Cleveland Heights was big and quick. I told Ernie and Don that as soon as we took a shot, they were to sprint back to halfcourt to stop their fast break. They intercepted a whole bunch of that way."

Geneva players were expected to play basketball Koval's way.

"Coach Koval was a real disciplinarian," Pasqualone has said. "He stressed the fundamentals of team play. Nothing was more important than team play."

"We ran a deliberate offense, a 2-2-1 press and played good, solid defense. I always had personal goals, but I always tried to not let them conflict with team goals."

Before Pasqualone reached high school, he developed a close association with Al Graper, the JV coach.

"Coach Graper was pretty intense," Pasqualone said. "He'd really get fired up. He was passionate and truly believed in us. He was an avid runner, and he always made sure we were in shape."

"I was a real gym rat. He used to come and open up the gym and play with me. He was the coach that really empha-



Submitted Photo

Members of the 1972 Geneva boys basketball team included, from left, Dave Brunner, Dwayne Tingley, Jeff Starkey, Scott Spangler, Mark Knowles, Greg Hunt, Dennis Coy, Mike Hogan, Jeff Mormon, Louis DeJesus, Ed Pizzuto, Don Crain and Ernie Pasqualone. The team will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame during its ceremony Sunday at the New Leaf Event Center in Conneaut.

sized foul shooting, too. He used to have us shoot 50 a day and he expected you to make at least 80%."

For his part, Koval appreciated Pasqualone's work ethic.

"Ernie was one guy who was always willing to work hard," Koval once said from his winter home in Florida. "He really worked at the game. He became a great team player. He was a pleasure to coach."

"Ernie wasn't as gifted as some people, but he just worked his tail off to become a very good player. I remember he used to play all the time on those outdoor courts with the older guys. He was a good assist man and a real fine shooter. He fit the mold of the kind of player I was looking for."

The make-up of the Geneva team changed significantly in the 1971-72 season, mainly by adding height.

"We had a lot of guys who could average 10-12 points per game," Pasqualone said. "We were able to score at a much higher rate than we had the year before."

"We also had a lot of size

with guys like [seniors] Denny Coy, who was 6-foot-6; Greg Hunt, who was 6-5, and Al Landphair, who was 6-3, plus Jeff Starkey, who was another guard and was 6-1. I thought we were going to be a good solid team in the NEC [Northeastern Conference]. And we had beat a team like St. Joseph in the varsity and JV games as sophomores, along with Cleveland Heights."

Reached recently, Pasqualone described his teammates this way:

• Jeff Starkey: senior point guard, 6'0: Vocal leader of the team. Ran the offense. Good ball handler, assist leader and defender.

• Greg Hunt: senior forward, 6'4: Strong and tough rebounder, defender. Great scorer from around the basket.

• Denny Coy: senior center, 6'5: Good presence in the middle. Good rebounder and defender. Nice touch around the hoop.

• Mike Hogan: senior for-

ward, 6'3": Nice scorer from mid-range. Good rebounder.

• Louie DeJesus: junior forward, 6'1": Undersized for a forward; however, he could outjump anyone on the court. Great defender and rebounder. Intense competitor.

Don Craine: junior point guard, 6'0: Played outside at the guard position. Quick, good defender.

Coy said of his teammates, "I was the center. I wasn't a strong rebounder, but could shoot inside. Greg Hunt and Al Landphair were our starting forwards. They rebounded and shot inside."

"Ernie Pasqualone and Jeff Starkey started at the guards. Jeff Starkey was a great ball-handler, who meshed with everyone very well. Ernie was a junior who did everything for us, especially shooting from the outside."

"As far as our bench went, Louie DeJesus was a junior who was always prepared to go into the game as an inside player. Donnie Craine, another junior is in the football Hall of Fame and was a heck of a football player. He was a valuable reserve."

But those defeats were by scores of 61-59 and 60-59. Geneva's third loss came to Erie McDowell, 49-48, meaning if the Eagles had scored seven more points in those three games, they would have been undefeated.

A 68-61 win over Pymatuning Valley brought them the league title.

Coy continued the talk of that team.

"Mike Hogan was thin like myself but played very well," he said. "Jeff Mormon and Scotty Spangler, whose brother, Rich went on to kick for Ohio State, were valuable juniors on the bench, as was Ed Pizzuto. David Brunner came in as a backup guard."

"We were a multi-faceted team with [the equivalent of] two starting teams."

The Eagles went 15-3 in the 1971-72 regular season, as teams were restricted to 18 games in those days, and won the Northeastern Conference championship.

They lost twice to Harbor, led by county great athletes like Jim Bollman, Dave Peet, [future Detroit Tiger] Mark Wagner and [ACBF Hall of Famer] John Coleman.

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It was two or three weeks after everyone else had started preparing for spring sports and we were still practicing for basketball.'

Ernie Pasqualone
Geneva player who was on the 1972 boys basketball regional team

Pasqualone would later say that his eyes really lit up when he saw Geneva's draw for the sectional-district tournament at Mentor High School.

"I saw the draw and felt we had as good a chance as anyone," he said.

The Eagles clobbered Edgewood, 78-53, in the first game of the sectionals and claimed the sectional championship with a hard-fought 59-57 win over Ashtabula.

They went on to defeat Wiloughby South, 59-52, in the district semifinals behind 19 points from Hunt and 12 from Pasqualone, and Chardon, 54-51, for the district championship as Pasqualone led the way with 17.

That brought Geneva a trip to the Canton Memorial Fieldhouse for a return bout from the previous year with Cleveland Heights.

"[That trip] was huge," Pasqualone said. "There was a lot of pride in the community. It was two or three weeks after everyone else had started preparing for spring sports and we were still practicing for basketball."

I remember having [the late] Dale Arkenburg [a member of the 1950 state team and an ACBF Hall of Famer] walk up and congratulating some of us.

"They had a huge pep rally at the end of the school day [March 16, 1972]. We went to the [Pro Football] Hall of Fame before the game, too."

Because Geneva played Cleveland Heights, the game was also televised by WVIZ, Cleveland's public access channel.

SEE EAGLES, B9

Zupancic had strong senior season at GV

BY CHRIS LARICK
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Players usually choose their favorite game because it is the one they performed best in.

For John Zupancic, it was because of the opponent — not the team or the player, but the opposing coach.

"Our game against Saint John my senior year [is the game I remember best]," Zupancic, a 1996 Grand Valley graduate, said. "Nor so much [for] the game itself, but rather who we were going up against — Tom Schamberg, the father of one of my best friends growing up."

"To see him on the other side, as the head coach for Saint John, I felt I had to prove myself and push myself even harder."

Zupancic, who will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame Sunday at the New Leaf Event Center in Conneaut, actually had 26 points, his second-best point total in that contest. But he scored 18 against Fairport a few games later.

He began playing basketball when he was about seven years old.

"My dad placed a piece of plywood with a rim on a tree where I would shoot for hours and fell in love with the game," Zupancic said.

He began playing organized basketball in the fourth grade and continued throughout his



Submitted Photo

Grand Valley graduate John Zupancic, back left, is pictured with his family, front left, son, Parker, and wife, Jackie. Next to Zupancic in the back row is son, Ashton. Zupancic will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame during its ceremony Sunday at New Leaf Event Center in Conneaut.

scholastic career.

"I also played football in high school, but I only played through my sophomore year, so I really focused on basketball," Zupancic said.

As he approached his high school years, Zupancic caught

the eye of GV's Hall of Fame coach, Tom Henson.

That will happen when you're the tallest boy in your class.

As a freshman, Zupancic stood 6'2". He shot up from that to about 6'6" as a junior.

At GV, he was joined by teammates Sean Moses, Larry Cassesa, Mike Likavec, Ben Rogers and Sam Meister under the coaching of Henson.

"Anyone who knew Tom or even the name, knew he was

one of the greatest," Zupancic said. "Tom was very gritty and pushed us very hard until our execution was great. We had some really good practices."

Zupancic started as a junior and senior, years when the Mustangs went 16-6 and 19-3, two of the best seasons in Grand Valley history.

In his senior year, GV lost to Perry in the district semi-finals.

Describing his teammates, Zupancic said, "Sean Moses started at point guard as a sophomore. He was a gifted athlete and controlled our offense.

"Larry Cassesa was our two guard, a great shooter and very good on defense. I didn't shoot [long shots] ... I only shot 10 3-pointers my senior year."

He averaged 11.7 points and about 7 rebounds as a junior.

In Zupancic's senior year, he became the East Suburban Conference Player of the Year, in addition to being selected first-team Star Beacon All-Ashtabula County and first-team Northeast-Lakes District Division III.

That year, he averaged 18.7 points per game and added 181 rebounds, 55 blocks, 42 assists and 28 steals.

Zupancic believes he had some Division III college offers and possibly DII mixed in there, but made another choice.

"Although I intended to go to college to continue my basketball career, I chose to go

'My dad placed a piece of plywood with a rim on a tree where I would shoot for hours and fell in love with the game.'

John Zupancic
Grand Valley graduate

into the workforce instead," he said.

"I started working in construction right out of high school and have continued in that career to this day. I am now a project manager with a reputable company in Chardon, which I have been with for 20-plus years."

Zupancic's wife, Jackie, graduated from GV four years after he did. The couple has two boys — Ashton (22) and Parker (14).

"Jackie has been a great help to me," Zupancic said. "We still live in the Grand Valley area. Our son, Ashton has also accomplished many successes in basketball, including being a part of the 1,000-point club."

"We're now waiting to see if Parker can show us both up as he begins his freshman year next year."

Ashton scored 1,026 points during his high school career.

These days, Zupancic doesn't play organized sports, but enjoys playing golf as a hobby.

SCANLON: Ashtabula graduate to be inducted into ACBF as part of the Class of 2025

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senior, averaging about 16 or 17 points a game.

"I believe I still hold the Ashtabula foul-shooting record at 91% [plus]," he said.

Scanlon feels he would have scored more if he hadn't been pulled early from some games.

"Our senior year, I believe our record was 12-8," Scanlon said. "There were four or five games that left a lasting adverse effect on me as a player and young man."

In addition to basketball, Scanlon may have been an even better baseball player.

"Several Division I and others recruited me for both baseball and basketball — Kent, Pitt, Miami Ohio, Bowling Green, Ohio, Youngstown State, etc. . . ." he said. "I signed with Miami, but my father became ill and not long after passed away. I had to put college off and get a job. We were not a family of means."

About a year and a half later, Don Cannell contacted Scanlon about going to Youngstown State.

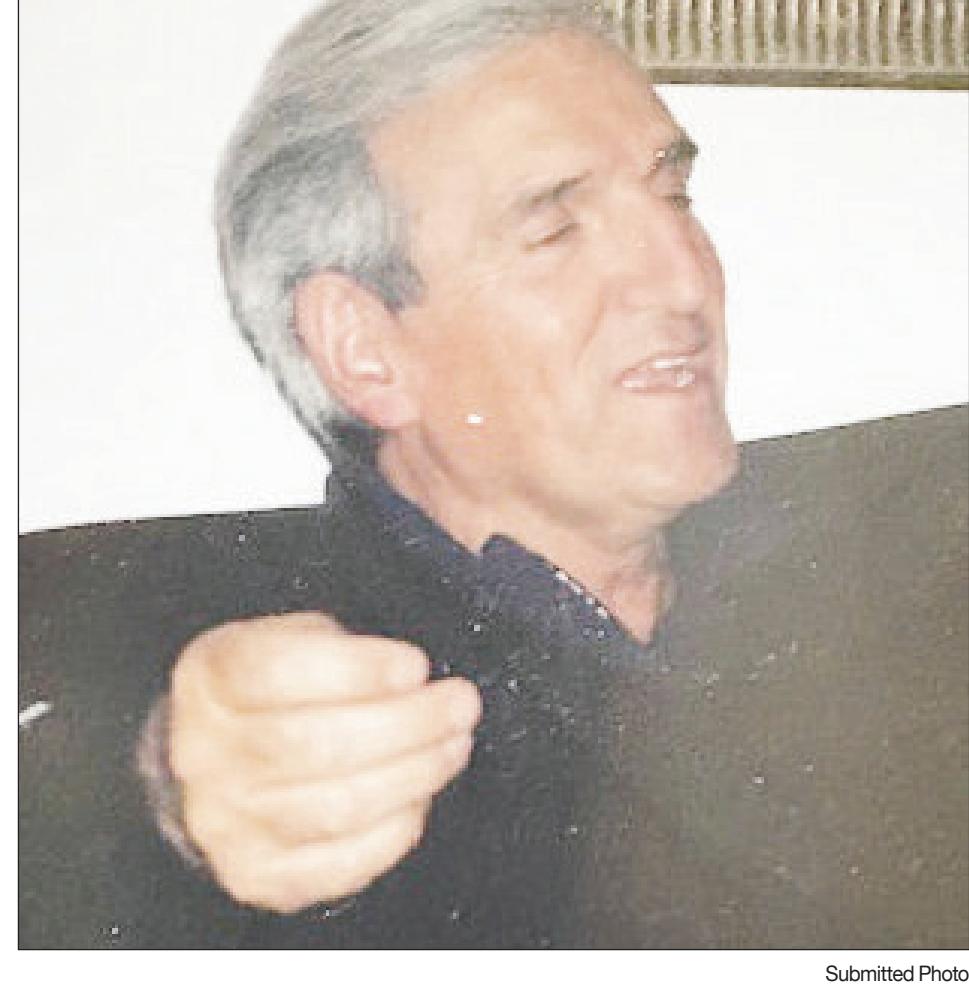
"I was able to retain my job at Rockwell Brake, but was able to play only two years of baseball," he said. "I played only home games in order to drive back to Ashtabula."

Scanlon graduated with a bachelors of science in education. He taught eighth grade at Kingsville, then high school math at Harbor for 2 1/2 years, all while working his factory position in the afternoon.

For the next 31 years, he worked in Florida and Maryland. Scanlon became an excellent salesman, particularly of telecommunications (coaxial cable, etc ...).

At that point, he had to return to Ashtabula to help his seriously-ill mother. Scanlon also accepted a part-time position at Village Green Golf Course.

"I spent 12 years there with the last nine years as general manager," he said. "I still help out instructing golf, but I don't charge money. I teach



Submitted Photo

Ashtabula High School graduate Tim Scanlon will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame during its ceremony Sunday at the New Leaf Event Center in Conneaut.

golf for food [sweets]. I have health issues and no longer play actively.

"I will join different groups and ride along. It's always a pleasant experience seeing friends and former customers.

"My parents provided a home environment of love and support for my two siblings and me. Beautiful souls. Outside of my parents, the people who made a profound impact and embraced me as a child were Dan Farone and Dave Cimini, my Little League coaches; Frank Sposito, my Senior League manager and Father Malik and Angelo Candela. Both of the latter two provided opportunities to use their school facilities to play and meet other children."

Scanlon has a special fondness for Frank Farrello.

"Frank Farrello was a 'gift' in my life," Scanlon said. "He left an indelible mark on my life, not only as a teacher and coach but for his selflessness as a mentor and trusted confidant. He encouraged me to always remember that my success in life will not be determined by what people think of me but by how hard I'm willing to work and the heart I bring to whatever I do in life."

"Sixty plus years later, I still remember his words of support and encouragement and how he had been my mentor as I navigated the challenges as a student-athlete and in my professional career. I'm

very thankful to my beloved parents and the power of mentorship that shape my life journey."

Scanlon also singled out one basketball opponent for special mention.

"I would like to give out a shout to Billy Coy," he said. "Bill was an excellent basketball player and was the best defensive player I played against in high school [Geneva] and throughout my playing career. Billy anchored coach [Al] Bailey's defense and was always assigned to guard the opposing team best player. Billy was Geneva's best two-way player."

"Often when awards are given in basketball, defensive standouts are overlooked."

Smith's joy didn't last long. Not too long after fall practices began, on Nov. 8, Miller went down with a torn Achilles tendon.

"We were just putting in a press break," Lipani said.

"[Miller] ran to the half-court line and I threw him the ball. Nobody was on him, but he came down [awkwardly] and snapped his Achilles."

Shortly thereafter, again on a Thursday, Lipani sprained his ankle.

Lipani healed in time to be a valuable asset. Miller didn't.

Dan Lautanen, at 6'3" but only 150 pounds, took over for Miller.

Lipani and Robin Martin started at forward and Marvin Moschell and Mark Lippis played guards, and Eric Vancourt came off the bench.

Lipani responded, "Hey, I wouldn't want it any other way."

Lipani, who would top out at 6'1", began playing basketball on the playgrounds and basketball courts in Andover.

"There was no organized basketball under seventh grade," he said. "I started at

'In my senior year, we beat our big rival — Jefferson — on their home court. It was standing room only.'

John Lipani
Pymatuning Valley graduate

more Maurice McDonald began to show his talent, especially on the boards. PV went 8-9 in its first 17 games, nearly reaching .500.

Lipani, who will be inducted into the 2025 Ashtabula County Basketball Hall of Fame during its ceremony Sunday, was special throughout, averaging 21 points a game in league play and surpassing 30 three times.

One of those occasions, a 38-point performance against Jefferson, which resulted in a 78-65 Lakers win, prevented the Falcons from winning the Grand River Conference outright.

Lipani, a 1980 PV graduate, was 13-of-19 from the field and 12 of 13 from the foul line in that game.

Jefferson coach Rick Nemet congratulated Lipani on the effort after the contest.

"Sorry, coach, Hadda," Lipani said.

Nemet responded, "Hey, I wouldn't want it any other way."

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"There was no organized basketball under seventh grade," he said. "I started at

SEE LIPANI, B9

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PV graduate Pashley Dick tells own story before being inducted into ACBF HOF

BY ANGIE PASHLEY DICK

EDITOR'S NOTE: Chris Larick sent a questionnaire to all the ACBF inductees. Angie's responses were so good he decided he couldn't improve on them and just let her tell her own story, which is below.

Growing up we had a basketball hoop at our house where I spent a lot of time playing PIG, Around the World and 21 with my parents and sisters. My dad loved watching basketball and played on the church team and at a young age, I realized I loved the game as much as he did.

I started playing basketball at Corinth Christian Academy in Kinsman, Ohio. Being a smaller school, I was able to play in some varsity games my sixth- and seventh-grade year. Not only was I learning the fundamentals, but I gained some experience playing in fast-paced, high-pressured games, which helped with my confidence and ability as a player.

Standing only 5'2 1/2 tall, I knew how important having the skills of ball-handling and outside shooting would be.

I transferred to PV my eighth-grade year, where I joined a very talented team that carried through high-school and led to a strong eight-man team my senior

year: Jennifer Smith, Heather McGann, Kim Hitchcock, Danielle McGuiness, Ann Hitchcock, Kelly Hitchcock and Caroline Frojd (a Sweden foreign exchange student that stayed with my family).

Without my teammates, I would not have had this honor of being inducted into the ACBF (Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation) Hall of Fame. I can honestly say there was not a single one of us that did not stand firm on the saying, "There is no I in team."

When we stepped on to the court, we were all there for the same reasons — to have fun and win. I was a firm believer, as well as my teammates, that defense held an equal importance as offense and keeping our opponents' score low was something we strived for.

Full court man-to-man pressure was our thing. Offensively, we moved the ball around a lot. In fact, there would be some games that coach (Beth) Helfer (a member of the ACBF Hall of Fame) would tell us we had to move the ball around a certain number of times before shooting.

By doing that, it allowed us more opportunity for scoring outside, which is where the majority of my points came from.

Coach Helfer loved the game as much as we did and we appreciated the trust and



Submitted Photo

Pymatuning Valley graduate Angie Pashley Dick will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame during its ceremony Sunday at the New Leaf Event Center in Conneaut.

confidence she had in our ability as a team if we asked to switch things up. Her name for me was "Pashley" and I heard it often, ha ha.

I knew it either meant 'Get the defense going,' 'Shoot the ball' or 'Good job.'

We finished our senior year (six out of eight seniors) with a record of 21-2, making it to the Division III championship game, as well as becoming the first girls team in PV school history to advance that far.

We were briefly ranked No. 1 and finished No. 3 among the Division III teams in Ohio.

The support we had from our classmates, parents and community was amazing. They would pack the gymnasium which took on the name "Theatre of Pain," and that is something I will never forget.

One of the games that stand out for me was a game against Fairport my junior year when we won 102-21 and set a school record for most points

scored in a game.

Another game, also against Fairport, my senior year, I set the Ashtabula County and PV school record for seven three-pointers in a single game.

Throughout my basketball career, I acquired several honors or awards.

I received the PV girls Hustle award, a Mike Scully award, had an Angie Pashley day on the radio station 102 ZOO, made All-ESC first team, set the Ashtabula County and PV school record for 73-pointers in a single game, and finished with a Special-Mention Division III All-Ohioan in which I felt honored as there were so many great players in the county.

I had several years of either volunteering or coaching at PV, including a year beside

coach Paul Freeman (an ACBF Hall of Famer), who, at the time coached girls junior

high basketball.

I had much respect for Mr. Freeman and still today talk about his coaching techniques.

I also coached a year of fresh-

men girls basketball and had the privilege of a couple years

sitting alongside JV coach

Kim Triskett and varsity coach Melody Nowakowski, who are both members of the ACBF Hall of Fame.

I come from a family that enjoys athletics — my sisters, Vanessa, Lisa, and Erica; my three boys, Mitchell, Brendon and Kurtis, and now my

nieces and nephews.

Family picnics turn competitive at times, whether it's playing basketball, volleyball, kickball, wiffle ball or cornhole. I am so honored and humbled for the induction into the ACBF Hall of Fame. To say I was thrilled 34 years after graduation would be an understatement.

Thank you to my parents, Bob Pashley and Barb Miller Pashley for the unselfish hours spent on my sisters and me.

My dad worked on the railroad, but only missed one single basketball game our entire family era because of work.

He was always in the stands

passing out fireballs and yelling 'hustle' with a smile on his face and then to my mom, who

ran us to every single practice,

hosted pre-game dinners for our teams and never missed a game.

Even though she is no longer here, I know she would be smiling and as always, my No. 1 supporter.

Edited by CHRIS LARICK

LIPANI: PV graduate to be inducted into ACBF HOF as part of 2025 class

FROM PAGE B8

that time. The seventh grade basketball coach was Mr. Oberdick, eighth grade was Mr. Marinach.

"In high school, I had Jerry Bryan, freshman year; John Davis for JV; and Terry Marsh and Dennis Smith for varsity. They were all great coaches and teachers and provided good fundamentals.

"[Smith] was a good coach, good person, and had a way of getting the best out of his players. Most of my teammates I played with all through school."

The games he remembers best included the win previously mentioned.

"In my senior year, we beat our big rival — Jefferson — on their home court. It was standing room only," he said. "In my junior year, we beat Edgewood at home. That was a big win for us beating a city team."

Lipani was selected county player of the year his senior year, in addition to earning first-team all-district and special mention all-state. He was first-team all-county and all-GRC as a junior.

In Lipani's senior year, he averaged 22 points, 10 rebounds and 8 assists per game.

"That was before the 3-point shot and that was one of my favorite shots," he said.

Lipani also played baseball and golf at PV.

"I was a pitcher and third baseman, and made first team all-county my senior year," he said. "I was on the golf team, but do not remember much about the golf stats."

He may not recall it, but one newspaper article credited him with being MVP on the golf team his freshman year.

Lipani received many letters of intent from small colleges for basketball.

"My top pick would have been Allegheny, but I chose to not attend college," he said.

Lipani has been employed at Ohio Edison for the last 40 years.

"I have been married to Tammy for 30 years, after an incidental meeting at her workplace," he said.

Lipani has three children — a stepson Brett, 38; Mason, 29 and Claire, 26.

"At 63 years old, I still enjoy playing basketball one night a week against the youngsters, but now Tylenol is needed before and after," he said. "I enjoy archery hunting, cutting firewood and taking walks to get my steps."

"Sports are a lot of hard work, dedication and hours practicing. I was outside on the town courts until dark most evenings in the warm months. I know many of the players in the Hall of Fame and consider it an honor to be elected as one of them."

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"The Geneva teachers went on strike that year and coach Koval didn't coach for awhile. In probably at least half of the games, I was seeing a lot of box-and-ones."

Geneva, coached by then-principal Lee Hoeffel, tried to play in the tournament, but without success.

Still, Pasqualone did well individually, averaging 20.7 points to finish the season third in county scoring.

He tied for the most votes on the all-county team with Conneaut's Tim Humphrey, was first-team All-NEC and

EAGLES: Geneva boys basketball team advanced to regional tournament in 1972

FROM PAGE B7

"I remember the fieldhouse was jammed," Pasqualone said. "Coach Koval talked about hustling back on defense. I think we went in pretty confident."

Geneva started well, opening up a 14-7 lead after the first quarter, but Heights came back to tie the game at 25 by halftime.

The Tigers scored the first 10 points of the third quarter and the Eagles never caught up, falling, 58-51 to finish 19-4 on the season.

The scoring stars for both teams struggled. Pasqualone finished with just seven points. Heights' Dennis Grenewald, who entered the game averaging nearly 30, had eight points.

But Leicester Stovell had a monster night with 23 points and 17 rebounds for the Tigers (22-1), offsetting Hunt's 14 points and 13 rebounds for Geneva.

Pasqualone is realistic about the finish.

"It probably was good we got beat by Heights because we would have had to play East Tech in the finals, and they won the state championship that year," he said.

In his senior year, with most of the regional team lost to graduation, Pasqualone became the main man for the Eagles. The Eagles were 10-9 that year.

"I was the only returning starter," he said. "We had Don Craine, [football hall of famer] Ed Pizzuto and my best friend, Louie DeJesus. We went into the season with a lot of expectations, but about 10 games into the season, I realized it probably wasn't going to happen."

"The Geneva teachers went on strike that year and coach Koval didn't coach for awhile. In probably at least half of the games, I was seeing a lot of box-and-ones."

Geneva, coached by then-principal Lee Hoeffel, tried to play in the tournament, but without success.

Still, Pasqualone did well individually, averaging 20.7 points to finish the season third in county scoring.

He tied for the most votes on the all-county team with Conneaut's Tim Humphrey, was first-team All-NEC and

was also honorable-mention All-Ohio.

He was the leading vote-getter on the Star Beacon All-Ashtabula County team, and first-team All-NEC.

Despite being just 5'11", Pasqualone went on to play Lakeland.

He became more of a point guard there, distributing and scoring inside and out for coach Don Delaney, who later coached the Cleveland Cavaliers.

After taking his associates degree at Lakeland, Pasqualone moved to Hiram to play basketball and earn his bachelor's degree.

In his junior year, Hiram won the PAC title, while Pasqualone averaged 18 points per game and was chosen conference Player of the Year.

In his senior year, he averaged 20 points per game and earning first-team All-PAC honors.

After graduating from Hiram, Pasqualone worked as an assistant coach at Lakeland for a year, then became the head coach at Ledgemont.

"I was employed with Avery

He later worked for the Cavaliers before his old friend, Louie DeJesus, got him interested in sales.

"Sales in the medical industry were growing at that time and I told him I was interested in sales and pharmaceuticals," Pasqualone

"That's when I started working with Roche."

The Pasqualones maintained a home in Geneva even while their family was growing and stayed there until 1997 while wife, Sarah, was completing her medical studies at Case Western Reserve University.

Most of the Eagles on those teams have moved away from Geneva. Coy, who still lives in Geneva, and Pizzuto, who resides in Austenburg, are exceptions. Pasqualone still communicates with DeJesus, who now lives in North Carolina.

"Personally I stayed in the Geneva area and my wife, Michele and I raised our two children here," Coy said. "They also graduated from Geneva before heading off to college to further their education."

"I was employed with Avery

Dennison in Mentor for a few months shy of 40 years, working with the R&D group before retirement."

Though Koval coached the Eagles for 23 more years, his teams never again reached the regionals.

He finished with seven sectional titles and one district crown.

Koval coached 11 future ACBF Hall of Fame players, consisting of Jay McHugh, Gary Kreilach, Randy Knowles, Pasqualone, Norm Urcheck, Brad Ellis, Mike Blauman, Wayne Games, Richey and Antonio DeJesus and, as of this year, Rick Malizia.

The Eagles reached the district finals in 1986, with a team led by Richey DeJesus, Mark Malizia, Shaun McHugh, Bill Ball, Norm Potter and John Opron.

Koval died in 2015 at the age of 79, a victim of stomach cancer.

Geneva didn't have a winning team again until his son-in-law, Brad Ellis, coached the Eagles to eight non-losing seasons in a row, starting in 1999.

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John Lipani, shown in his Pymatuning Valley playing days, will be inducted into the Ashtabula County Basketball Foundation Hall of Fame during its ceremony Sunday at the New Leaf Event Center in Conneaut.

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Enjoy these boys basketball photos by Warren Dillaway from the 2024-25 season



WARREN DILLAWAY | Star Beacon

Lakeside's Jason Lopez (21) drives to the basket while defended by Madison's Jay Dewy (14) during a Chagrin Valley Conference Lake Division boys basketball game in December at Madison.



WARREN DILLAWAY | Star Beacon

Grand Valley's Ben Cozad, 3, Braden Hart, center, and Sammy Goforth, right, celebrate a boys basketball win over Saint John in January at GVHS



Warren Dillaway | Star Beacon

Edgewood's Dallas Patterson drives to the basket during a county boys basketball game against Saint John in December at EHS



WARREN DILLAWAY | Star Beacon

Conneaut's Davonte Harris pulls down a rebound between Saint John's Dyln Newsome (3) and Grayson Petros during a county boys basketball game in January at Conneaut.



WARREN DILLAWAY | Star Beacon

Pyatuning Valley's Ryan Croston (12) looks to shoot over Grand Valley's Payton Plizga during a Northeastern Athletic Conference boys basketball game in January at PVHS.



WARREN DILLAWAY | Star Beacon

Geneva's Ricky Dipetta (22) drives to the basket against Jefferson's Luis Padilla (3) and Anthony Covetta in a county boys basketball game in February at JHS.

Enjoy these girls basketball photos by Warren Dillaway from the 2024-25 season



WARREN DILLAWAY | Star Beacon

Edgewood players lock arms during the latter stages of a Division IV sectional girls basketball game against Firelands in February at EHS.



WARREN DILLAWAY | Star Beacon

Jefferson's Abby Feick, right, battles for the ball against Niles during a girls basketball game in January at JHS.



Warren Dillaway | Star Beacon

Saint John's Izzy Holler drives to the basket during a 2024-25 girls basketball game against Chalker at Saint John School.



WARREN DILLAWAY | Star Beacon

Conneaut's Addison Kennedy drives to the basket during a Chagrin Valley Conference Lake Division girls basketball game in December at CHS.



WARREN DILLAWAY | Star Beacon

Lakeside's Emily Olson, left, and Madison's Leah Brock (12) battle for the ball during a Chagrin Valley Conference Lake Division girls basketball game in January at Madison High School.



WARREN DILLAWAY | Star Beacon

Pymatuning Valley's Zoey Painter (5) and Grand Valley's Reese Nims battle for the ball during a Northeastern Athletic Conference girls basketball game in January at PVHS.



WARREN DILLAWAY | Star Beacon

Lakeside's Addy Reece (21) leaps for a pass while Madison's Amara Morant pursues the play during a Chagrin Valley Conference Lake Division girls basketball game in January at Geneva.



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